NGO perspectives on the Grand Bargain

Good practices from EU Member States
85 NGOs from 19 European Countries
VOICE engagement with the Grand Bargain

✓ A dedicated project: “Fostering NGOs and frontline responders’ engagement in the Grand Bargain”
- provide space for NGO engagement at field level
- strengthen NGO advocacy and communication
✓ A committed Task Force: 18 members representing 47 NGOs

Objective: Contribute to the implementation of the GB at EU level

Priority issues:
- Simplification via harmonized reporting
- Localisation
- Multi-year planning and funding
VOICE and the Grand Bargain

Capturing Good Practices at EU level

- CARE presentation on behalf of the Dutch Relief Alliance
- NRC presentation: the SIDA approach

Lessons learnt and recommendations:

- Simplification through harmonization to reduce the administrative burden for all human actors (incl. donors) and reduce management costs.

- Funding quality: multi-year funding and flexibility are essential elements to increase the quality of our programmes (thanks to longer term planning and increased agility)

- Partnership and trust between donors and NGOs: a basis for delivering on the GB and increasing efficiency and effectiveness of HA
The Dutch Relief Alliance is a coalition of 16 Dutch humanitarian NGOs funded by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The structure of the DRA allows for the rapid delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance.
Strategic priorities

I. More accountable humanitarian action
II. Innovation and learning
III. Collaboration for increased effectiveness
IV. More effective support for locally-led responses
Grand Bargain contributions:

1. Increased transparency
2. More support and funding tools for local and national responders
3. Increase in the use and coordination of cash-based programming
4. Reduce Duplication and Management Costs
5. Improve joint and impartial needs assessments
6. A participation revolution
7. Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning & funding
8. Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions
9. Harmonize and simplify reporting requirements
10. Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors
Increase collaborative humanitarian multi-year planning & funding

- 4-year funding commitment by NL MoFA
- Multi-year planning has started (protracted crises)
Reduce the earmarking of donor contributions

- Donor does not earmark for specific crises or sectors
- Internal needs-based DRA-mechanisms decide allocations
More support and funding tools for local and national responders

- 23% of funding to local organizations. Aim is 35% by 2020
- 3-5% of country budgets for capacity strengthening
- Now looking to go beyond these two elements...
Increase in the use and coordination of cash-based programming

- Cash is on the rise and used when appropriate
- Two cash innovation projects about to be launched
Results:

€202 million: 12 million people in 17 countries
Thank you for your attention!
NRC @ COHAFA 2018

31 programme countries
9,000,000 beneficiaries
14,000 staff members
NRC @ COHAFA 2018

JOINT PRIORITIES

PARTNERSHIP & TRUST

FLEXIBILITY & UNEARMARKING

Simplification & Harmonisation

BEFORE WE START...

RISK MANAGEMENT

INCREASED ADMIN BURDEN

SIMPLIFICATION

LESS TRANSPARENCY OR ACCOUNTABILITY

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ALL PARTIES NEED TO EMBRACE RISKS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF DELIVERY AND UNLOCK THE GRAND BARGAIN POTENTIAL

GOOD PRACTICE
Donor builds strategic partnerships and reduces administrative burden

BAD PRACTICE
Donor increases due diligence and administrative burden to manage risks
SIMPLIFICATION & HARMONISATION

HARMONISE PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND PROCESSES:
- Assessment
- Due diligence
- Proposal
- Budgeting and financial reporting
- Narrative reporting

GOOD PRACTICE
Donor participating in the harmonised narrative reporting pilot

MONEY WHERE IT COUNTS
NRC-led initiative to harmonise cost classification and financial budgeting and reporting in line with GB WS 4 and 9
FLEXIBILITY & UNEARMARKING

HOW

- PROVIDE SOFTLY- OR UN- EARMARKED FUNDS
- WORK WITH PARTNERS TO DESIGN AND FUND ON A MULTI-YEAR BASIS
- ENSURE THOSE BENEFITS ARE PASSED DOWN THE IMPLEMENTATION CHAIN

GOOD PRACTICE
Funds at global, regional, country level allowing partner to intervene based on assessed needs (e.g. PBA)

BAD PRACTICE
Tight activity/sector or geographical earmarking and short-term commitments.

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Partnership & Trust

Simplification & Harmonisation

Flexibility & Unearmarking

Programme Based Approach (PBA)

Country-level funding aligned with partner’s internal systems and processes

Key Advantages

- Flexibility (hard to reach, neglected crisis, follow the needs)
- Trust and increased ownership amongst communities and local authorities (WS 6)
- In line with shared cost approach and simplification (WS 4, 9)
- Instrumental in transition from humanitarian to development (WS 10)
- Efficiency

Key Challenges

- PBA requires a mind shift within the organisation and donor
- Systems and tools may need to be adapted
- Specific earmarking may undermine the benefits of PBA
- Leadership in managing PBA is key
Some additional examples

- **Simplification WS 9: Harmonized Reporting**
  - Great leadership from Germany and ICVA
  - France, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom took part in the pilot phase – as well as UN agencies (OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, etc)

- **Funding Quality & Partnership**
  - Positive feedback from NGOs in Belgium
  - Regular exchanges with NGOs: discussing commitments like cash, transparency, localization.
    Outcomes: Increase in multi-year funding
    - The Financing of NGO pooled funds
    - Alignment with definitions to monitor adequately the use of cash and localization

- Towards the next FPA: ongoing consultation with DG ECHO
- Open and in-depth consultation with the FPA Watch Group
- Exploring avenues for MYF, harmonized reporting, etc.
NGO Perspectives and Recommendations

- **Simplification through harmonization** to reduce the administrative burden for all human actors (incl. donors) and reduce management costs.

- **Funding quality**: more multi-year funding and flexibility are essential elements to increase the quality of NGO programmes (thanks to longer term planning and increased agility)

- **Partnership and trust** between donors and NGOs: a basis for delivering on the GB and increasing efficiency and effectiveness of human assistance.
Thank you!