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**EVALUATION
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE INDEX

As a result of the growing number of natural disasters and conflicts, humanitarian aid has increased significantly in the past decades, thereby constituting an increasingly important component of international aid. Emergencies will continue to increase and humanitarian aid will be ever more needed. In order to reduce the vulnerability to disasters, in line with the purpose of humanitarian assistance of saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity, DARA has undertaken to develop a Humanitarian Response Index (HRI). The main goal of this project is to establish a process with a view to assessing donor humanitarian response, and presenting the findings by means of an Index. This process will initially assess the twenty-three members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) against their commitment to the Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD), as laid out by the donors in Stockholm in 2003. The HRI is conceived as an essential tool to support and assist donors in their implementation of the GHD principles. The HRI intends to improve the quality of humanitarian aid by helping the international donors better understand the strengths and weaknesses in their own implementation, with a view to, ultimately, improving the efficiency and quality of their activities and initiatives. The HRI is also expected to raise awareness about the increasingly important role of humanitarian action and to strengthen good practices among a wider group of donors. Furthermore, in the advent of our growing exposure to disasters, it will help improve enhanced humanitarian response through accountability and greater public awareness.



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What is the Humanitarian Response Index?

The Humanitarian Response Index (HRI) measures humanitarian donor performance based on the established Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD). The objective of the HRI is twofold. The first objective is to raise awareness about the importance of humanitarian action and to help increase the transparency and accountability of donors. The second objective is to promote good donorship and to help operationalise principles that will lead to improved humanitarian responses.

Whom are we measuring?

The HRI will rank the 23 members of the OECD-DAC against their commitment to the GHD Principles. Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

What is the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)?

The GHD is a set of 23 Principles aimed at establishing a framework to inform donor practices as well as promoting accountability and transparency mechanisms in relation to their actions. A group of donors agreed to the Principles in Stockholm in 2003, and in 2005 they were agreed by all the 23 OECD-DAC members. The GHD is the only existing donor quality and accountability initiative in the humanitarian sector.

What is DARA?

Development Assistance Research Associates (DARA) is an independent non-profit organisation committed to the quality of humanitarian action and development aid through evaluation and research. With its work, DARA contributes to improving the effectiveness of aid responses and global efforts to reduce human suffering, vulnerability, and poverty. As part of its mandate, DARA also strives to promote a forward looking and action-oriented, inclusive evaluation culture focused on dissemination and knowledge management as an integral part of the evaluation process.

DARA is Full Member of ALNAP.

The Survey

DARA has developed a survey with the purpose of gathering information at the field level. The aim of this questionnaire is to collect the views of individuals working for humanitarian organisations based in the field on how donors have performed in relation to the Principles. DARA's team will be assessing the following eight countries between April and June 2007: Niger, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Lebanon, Haiti, Colombia, Timor Leste and Pakistan.

A pilot study will be undertaken in Mozambique in April, focusing on the February 2007 floods. The emergency selection criteria combine elements such as the type of crisis, the representative geographical spread, the magnitude of the emergency and the amount of funds attributed.

For more information about the Humanitarian Response Index, visit www.daraint.org