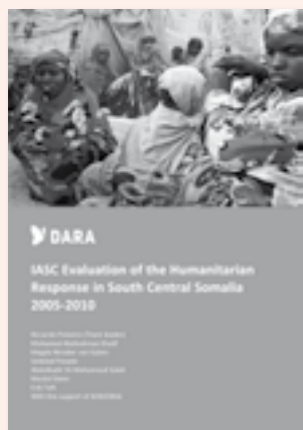


# EVALUATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

HELPING ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF THEIR AID PROGRAMMES



## DARA'S EVALUATION SERVICES: INDEPENDENT AND OBJECTIVE EXAMINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

DARA has carried out evaluations of humanitarian aid in more than 50 countries. Through our evaluations and technical assistance we help governments and international aid organizations evaluate and understand how their programmes contribute to improving the lives of people affected by disasters and conflicts. Our approach combines rigorous desk and field research, and participatory methods to identify strengths and areas for improvement, and develop practical recommendations to maximize the effectiveness of aid efforts. DARA specializes in real-time, system-wide, impact, policy and programme evaluations.

## OBJECTIVES TO HELP THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM LEARN AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

Our aim is to draw lessons and provide forward-looking, practical and actionable recommendations to aid humanitarian actors re-orient their policies and programmes. Through our evaluations and technical assistance we seek to:

- Improve the humanitarian sector's ability to respond to humanitarian crises through better learning and accountability
- Influence humanitarian policy and operations, contributing to change in the humanitarian system

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2011 CONTRIBUTING TO SYSTEM-WIDE LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENTS IN AID PROGRAMMING

- Many of our 2011 evaluations findings and conclusions not only guided aid programmes, but were taken on in the context of the transformative agenda adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which brings together the main humanitarian UN agencies and NGOs.
- UNICEF listed two of DARA's Inter-Agency Real-Time Evaluations (2010 Pakistan Floods & 2009 Pakistan Displacement Crisis) among the best evaluations.

- Key involvement in the UK Government's independent Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR), directed by DARA's Director General Ross Mountain. **Recommendations were adopted virtually in full by the UK** and are now in the process of being implemented.
- DARA carried out a real-time evaluation in Pakistan and a system-wide evaluation in South Central Somalia, **two of the largest disasters of the 21st century** and most challenging regional contexts.
- The highly influential Inter-Agency Real-Time Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to Pakistan's 2010 Flood Crisis **helped to reshape the international response from the emergency relief to the recovery phase.**
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response in South Central Somalia 2005-2010 was the largest system-wide and joint donor evaluation DARA has carried out. It was funded by Danida, DFID, SDC and SIDA. The report is one of **the most comprehensive evaluations of aid in the country to date.** DARA's recommendations were incorporated in the 2012 humanitarian strategy for Somalia, which will help aid actors more effectively address conflict, famine and hunger.
- DARA's Director General, Ross Mountain, participated in several trainings, including of the United Nations Humanitarian/Resident Coordinators.
- We expanded the scope of our trainings to **new and non-traditional donors.** In December 2011, the UAE Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid (OCFA) hosted a workshop in Abu Dhabi for the UAE's humanitarian donor community on the principles and practices of evaluating humanitarian action. The workshop was chaired by the UAE Red Crescent Authority and held in partnership with DARA.

## LOOKING AHEAD STRATEGIC AND INFLUENTIAL EVALUATIONS

- Overall, DARA is receiving an increasing number of requests for evaluations, technical assistance and advisory services, which we will continue to respond to, taking up new and non-traditional donors in the process.
- In 2012 DARA will carry out an evaluation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) work in disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and two impact evaluations of the World Food Programme's food assistance to Bangladesh and Chad.

## 2011 EVALUATIONS & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- **Impact Evaluation of the National School Feeding Programme in Cambodia.** For the World Food Programme (WFP)
- **DARA Director General directed Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR).** For the Government of the United Kingdom
- **Inter-Agency Real-Time Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response to Pakistan's 2010 Flood Crisis.** For the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Research Study to Assess how Gender Equality Programming Influences Humanitarian Outcomes.** For the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Sub-Working Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action, United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Evaluation of the Humanitarian Response in South and Central Somalia 2005-2010.** For the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- **DARA Director General acted as Senior Advisor to the Evaluation of the Complementarity of Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) Instruments in Fragile Contexts.** For the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC)
- **DARA was involved in the Thematic Review and Capacity Assessment of Save the Children Denmark.** For the Danish International Development Agency (Danida)
- **DARA participated in the Evaluation of Capacity Development Initiatives in Education in Emergencies in West and Central Africa.** For the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

"IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS WILL IMPROVE OUR EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE THE EFFECTS OF FAMINE, DROUGHT AND CONFLICT ON THE LIVES OF FOUR MILLION PEOPLE IN SOMALIA."

MARK BOWDEN, HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR FOR SOMALIA, ON THE IASC EVALUATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN SOUTH CENTRAL SOMALIA