

THE  
HUMANITARIAN  
RESPONSE  
INDEX 2009

DARA

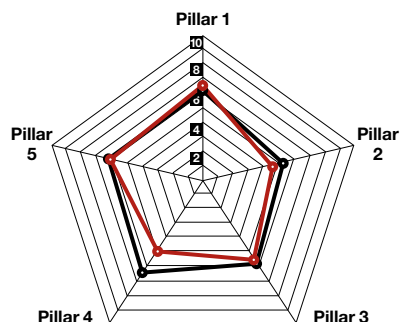
Donor profile: United States



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# United States

HRI 2009 Ranking: 14th



## HRI 2009 scores by pillar

- Pillar 1** Responding to needs
- Pillar 2** Prevention, risk reduction and recovery
- Pillar 3** Working with humanitarian partners
- Pillar 4** Protection and International Law
- Pillar 5** Learning and accountability

- **United States**
- **OECD-DAC average**

The United States ranked 14th this year, up one position from 2008. It received its highest ranking in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), at 9th place, an improvement of six positions from 2008. It ranked 15th in both Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners) and in Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability) and 18th in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners). Its lowest ranking was in Pillar 4 (Protection and International Law), ranking 22nd out of the 23 donors. The US ranked 13th for generosity and burden sharing.

In the specific indicators of the HRI, some of the US' best and worst rankings were within Pillar 1, with a 1st place ranking for funding to forgotten emergencies and those with low media coverage and for equitable distribution of funding against level of crisis and vulnerability, 2nd for timely funding of sudden onset disasters, 3rd for donor capacity for informed decision-making and 4th for beneficiary involvement. In contrast, the US was 19th for neutrality and impartiality, 20th for non-discrimination

and 22nd for independence from non-humanitarian objectives. Other notable poor rankings were related to international laws; it ranked 20th in implementing refugee law, 21st for international humanitarian law and 22nd for international human rights law. It also ranked poorly for conditionality that does not comprise humanitarian action (19th), funding to CERF and other quick disbursement mechanisms (22nd) and un-earmarked funding (23rd). On the positive side, the US ranked well for adapting to changing needs (1st), promotion of good practice and quality standards and monitoring adherence to quality standards evaluations of partners programmes (3rd).

Overall, the US performed slightly below the donor average in the crises studied, with above average scores in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad and Somalia, and below average scores in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Georgia, Sri Lanka and the occupied Palestinian Territories.

## HRI 2009 results

Highest scores	Score*	Rank**
<b>Responding to needs</b>		
Equitable distribution of funding against level of crisis and vulnerability	10.00	1
Funding to forgotten emergencies and those with low media coverage	10.00	1
Timeliness of funding to sudden onset disasters	9.34	2
Equitable distribution of funding in accordance to needs in the crisis	8.44	6
<b>Learning and accountability</b>		
Promotion of good practice and quality standards	8.68	2

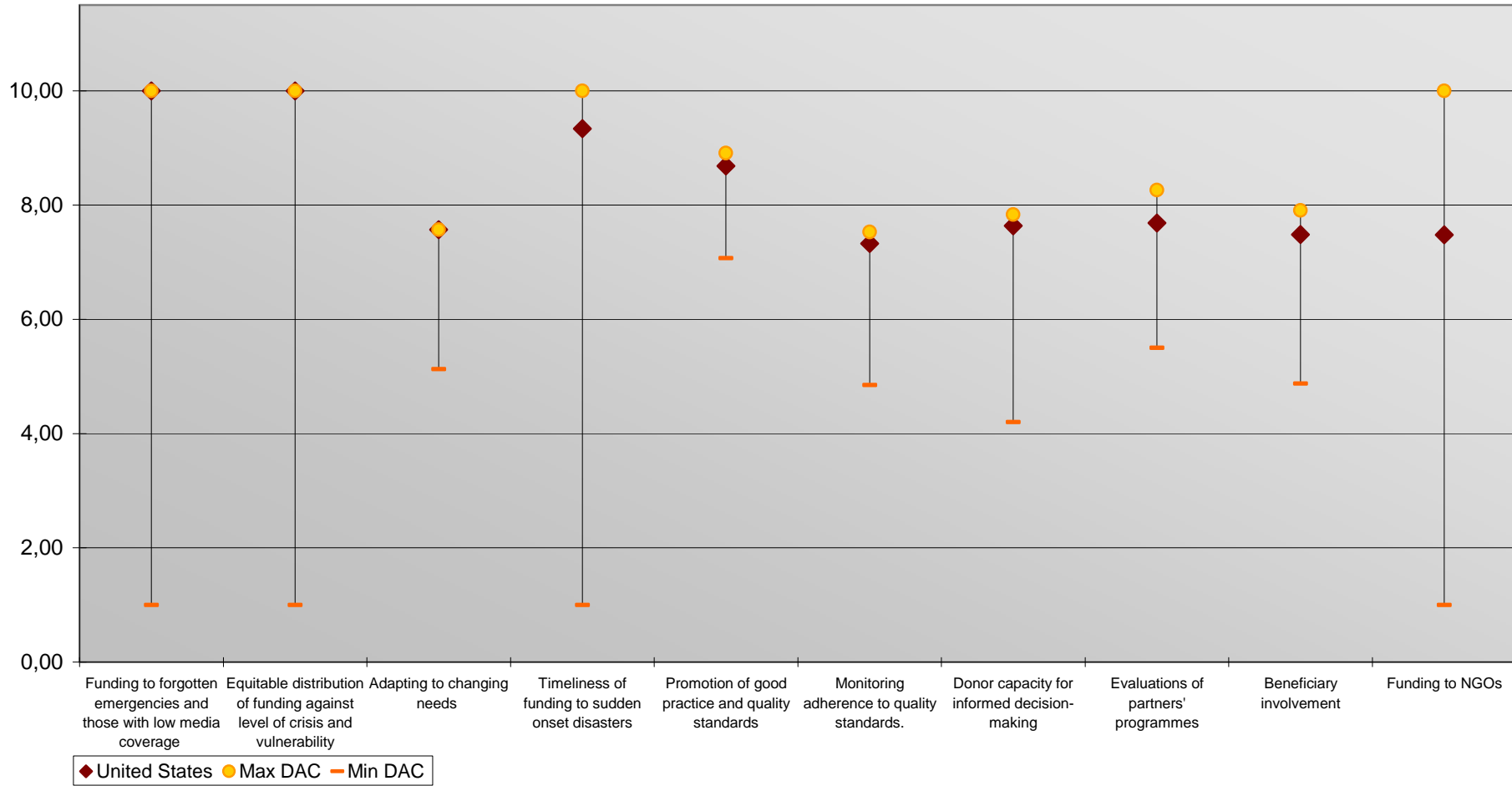
Lowest scores	Score*	Rank**
<b>Prevention, risk reduction and recovery</b>		
Funding international disaster risk mitigation mechanisms	1.10	17
<b>Working with humanitarian partners</b>		
Funding to CERF and other quick disbursement mechanisms	1.00	22
Un-earmarked funding	1.00	23
<b>Protection and International Law</b>		
Respect for human rights law	1.00	22
<b>Learning and accountability</b>		
Conducting evaluations	1.03	21

\* Based on HRI ten-point scale

\*\* Ranking in comparison to peers

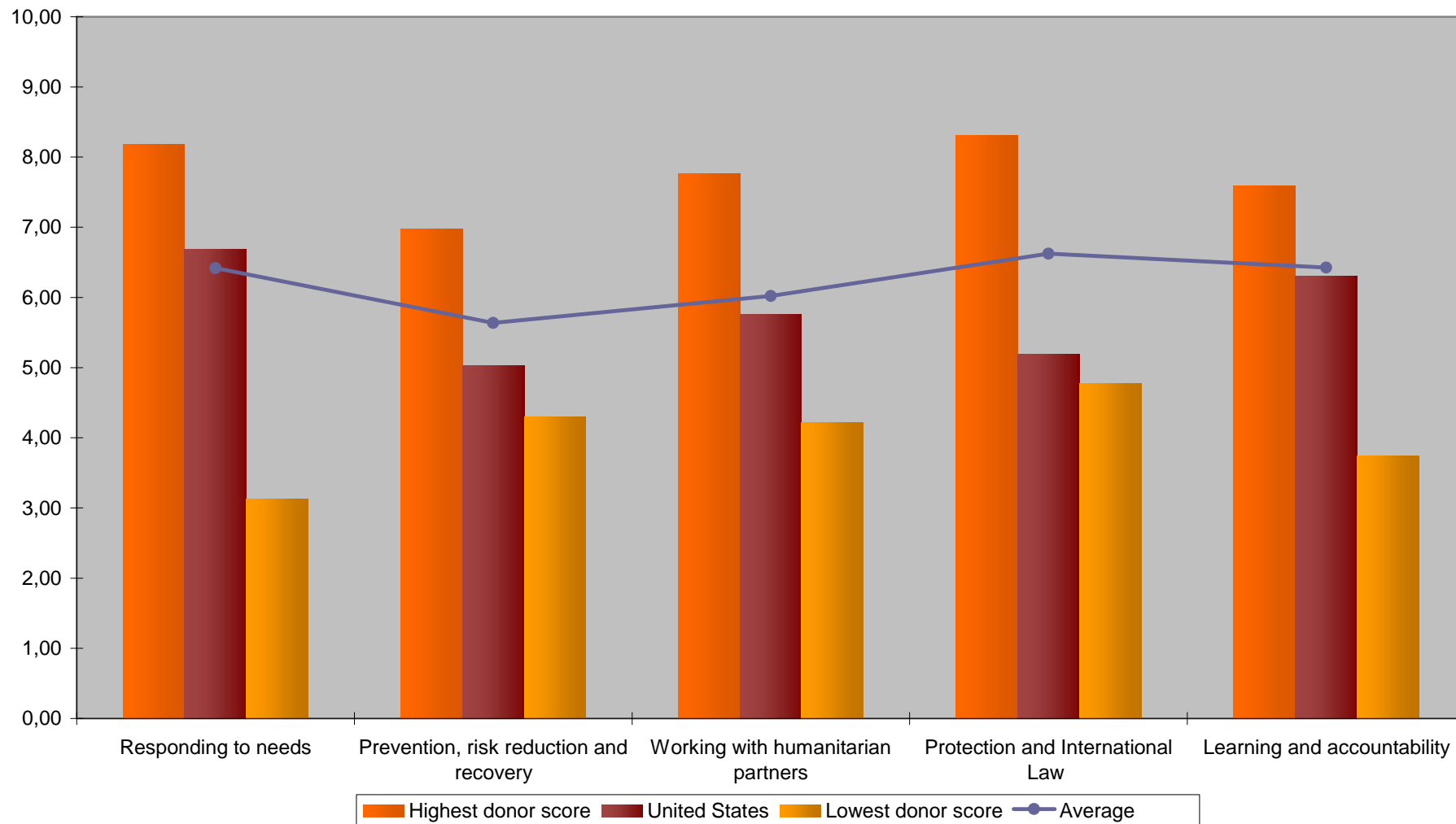
HRI Indicator			USA		DAC Average	Max DAC	Min DAC
			Rank	Score			
Pillar 1	1	Saving lives and maintaining human dignity	15	8.12	8.15	8.92	7.31
	2	Neutrality and impartiality	19	7.40	7.85	9.00	6.78
	3	Non-discrimination	20	7.73	8.31	9.37	7.33
	4	Independence from non-humanitarian objectives	22	4.69	5.95	8.11	4.69
	5	Needs-based responses	14	7.93	8.05	8.94	6.67
	6	Assessing needs	14	6.43	6.58	8.06	5.23
	7	Funding decisions based on needs assessments	13	7.40	7.44	8.23	6.04
	8	Support not affected by other crises	16	6.86	7.15	9.23	6.22
	9	Beneficiary involvement	4	7.49	6.65	7.91	4.88
	10	Donor capacity for informed decision-making	3	7.64	6.28	7.83	4.20
	11	Timeliness of funding	8	6.91	6.42	7.54	5.06
	12	Equitable distribution of funding to different crisis countries	14	7.74	6.76	10.00	1.00
	13	Funding to forgotten emergencies and those with low media coverage	1	10.00	6.87	10.00	1.00
	14	Timeliness of funding to complex emergencies	6	7.62	6.29	10.00	1.00
	15	Timeliness of funding to sudden onset disasters	2	9.34	5.32	10.00	1.00
	16	Generosity and burden sharing	13	3.53	4.45	10.00	1.00
	17	Equitable distribution of funding in accordance to needs in the crisis	6	8.44	6.87	10.00	1.00
	18	Equitable distribution of funding against level of crisis and vulnerability	1	10.00	8.70	10.00	1.00
		<b>Pillar Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7.51</b>	<b>6.90</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>3.90</b>
Pillar 2	19	Mainstreaming risk reduction and prevention into the response	12	6.56	6.54	7.17	4.95
	20	Crisis prevention and preparedness measures	14	6.18	6.32	7.27	4.91
	21	Strengthening local community capacity for disaster and crisis preparedness	17	6.85	7.04	7.93	5.88
	22	Supporting the transition between relief, early recovery and development	18	5.78	5.98	7.04	5.02
	23	Building local capacity to work with humanitarian actors	9	7.00	6.75	7.53	5.14
	24	Funding local capacity	17	1.73	3.12	10.00	1.00
	25	Funding international disaster risk mitigation mechanisms	17	1.10	3.80	10.00	1.00
		<b>Pillar Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5.03</b>	<b>5.63</b>	<b>6.97</b>	<b>4.30</b>
Pillar 3	26	Adapting to changing needs	1	7.57	6.46	7.57	5.13
	27	Reliability	5	7.97	7.36	8.19	5.49
	28	Coordination	8	7.52	7.06	8.00	4.54
	29	Advocacy for local and government authorities to carry out their responsibilities	13	6.88	6.78	8.80	5.41
	30	Support local and government authorities' coordination capacity	6	6.16	5.73	6.48	4.22
	31	Respect for the roles of the different components of the humanitarian sector	16	7.77	7.92	8.86	6.70
	32	Conditionality that does not comprise humanitarian action	19	6.61	7.32	8.98	5.98
	33	Flexibility	15	6.59	6.76	8.09	5.60
	34	Longer-term funding arrangements	12	4.92	4.78	6.29	3.50
	35	Strengthening humanitarian response capacity	11	5.51	5.51	6.20	4.17
	36	Funding UN coordination mechanisms and common services	12	2.09	3.28	10.00	1.00
	37	Funding to NGOs	4	7.48	4.80	10.00	1.00
	38	Funding to CERF and other quick disbursement mechanisms	22	1.00	5.61	10.00	1.00
	39	Un-earmarked funding	23	1.00	3.62	10.00	1.00
40	Funding UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals	9	8.06	6.34	10.00	1.00	
41	Funding IFRC and ICRC Appeals	14	5.01	6.88	10.00	1.00	
		<b>Pillar Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>6.02</b>	<b>7.77</b>	<b>4.22</b>
Pillar 4	42	Protection	12	7.63	7.62	8.60	5.95
	43	Advocacy for the respect for human rights	18	6.88	6.92	8.05	6.17
	44	Advocacy for the respect for and implementation of IHL	20	6.66	7.13	8.75	5.99
	45	Supporting needs of refugees	10	7.24	7.08	9.05	5.50
	46	Supporting needs of internally displaced persons	11	7.28	7.15	8.33	6.18
	47	Facilitating safe humanitarian access	8	6.84	6.57	7.35	5.43
	48	Respect for international humanitarian law	21	1.12	5.87	10.00	1.00
	49	Respect for human rights law	22	1.00	6.50	10.00	1.00
	50	Implementation of refugee law	20	2.06	4.64	10.00	1.00
			<b>Pillar Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>6.62</b>	<b>8.31</b>
Pillar 5	51	Accountability towards affected populations	14	6.43	6.20	7.58	4.53
	52	Transparency of funding and decision-making processes	13	5.85	5.75	7.54	4.50
	53	Evaluations of partners' programmes	3	7.69	6.69	8.26	5.50
	54	Support for monitoring and evaluation	10	7.27	6.87	7.93	6.22
	55	Use of recommendations from evaluations	10	6.06	6.00	7.09	4.88
	56	Promotion of good practice and quality standards	2	8.68	7.91	8.91	7.07
	57	Monitoring adherence to quality standards.	2	7.33	6.26	7.53	4.85
	58	Reporting requirements for humanitarian actors	14	7.71	7.78	8.40	6.68
	59	Participation and support for accountability initiatives	9	5.05	4.07	10.00	1.00
	60	Conducting evaluations	21	1.03	6.71	10.00	1.00
		<b>Pillar Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6.31</b>	<b>6.43</b>	<b>7.60</b>	<b>3.74</b>

## United States: ten main strengths



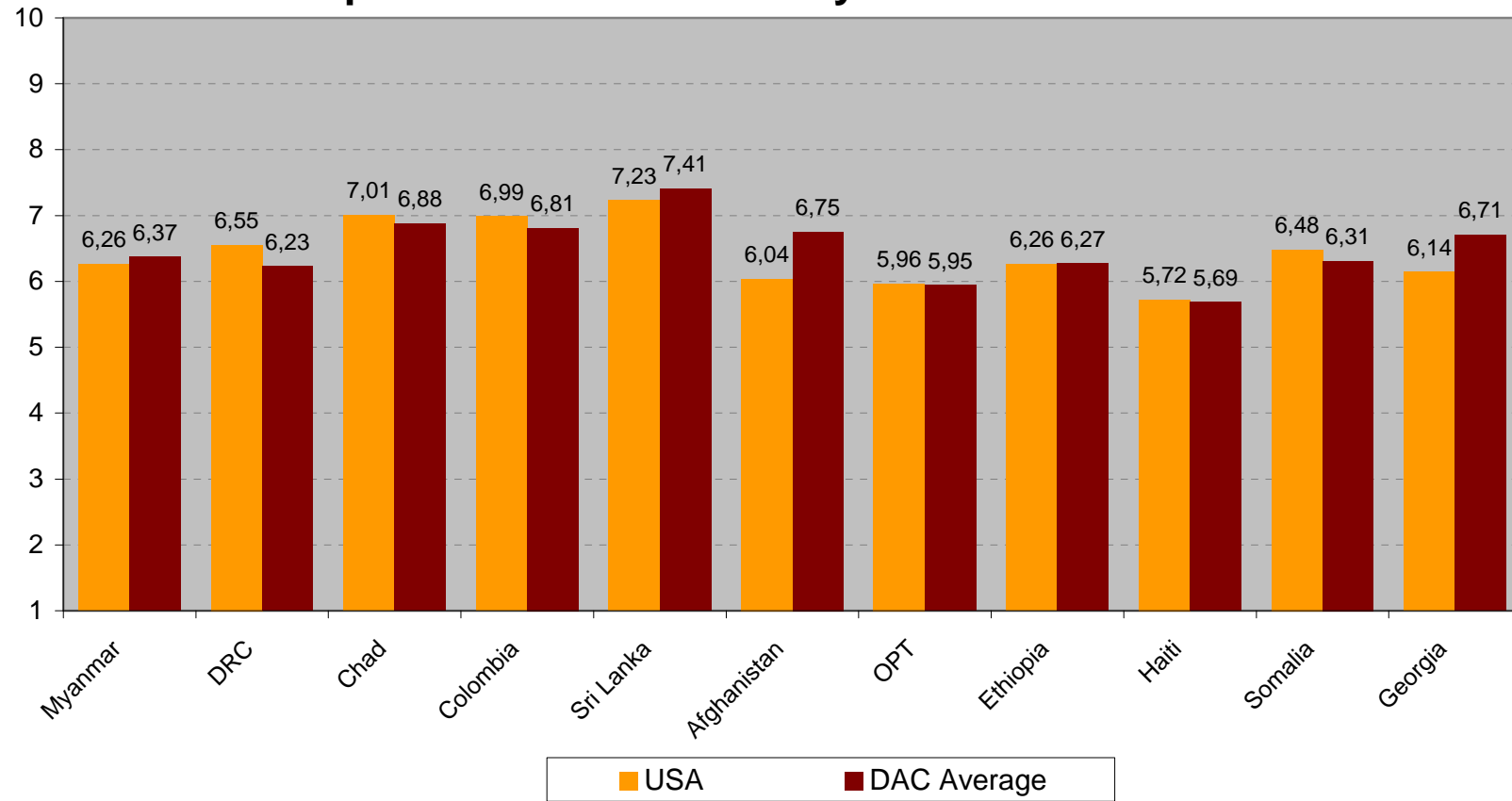
**Note:** This graph compares the ten highest scored indicators for the United States compared to the highest and lowest scores in the DAC group.

## United States scores by pillar



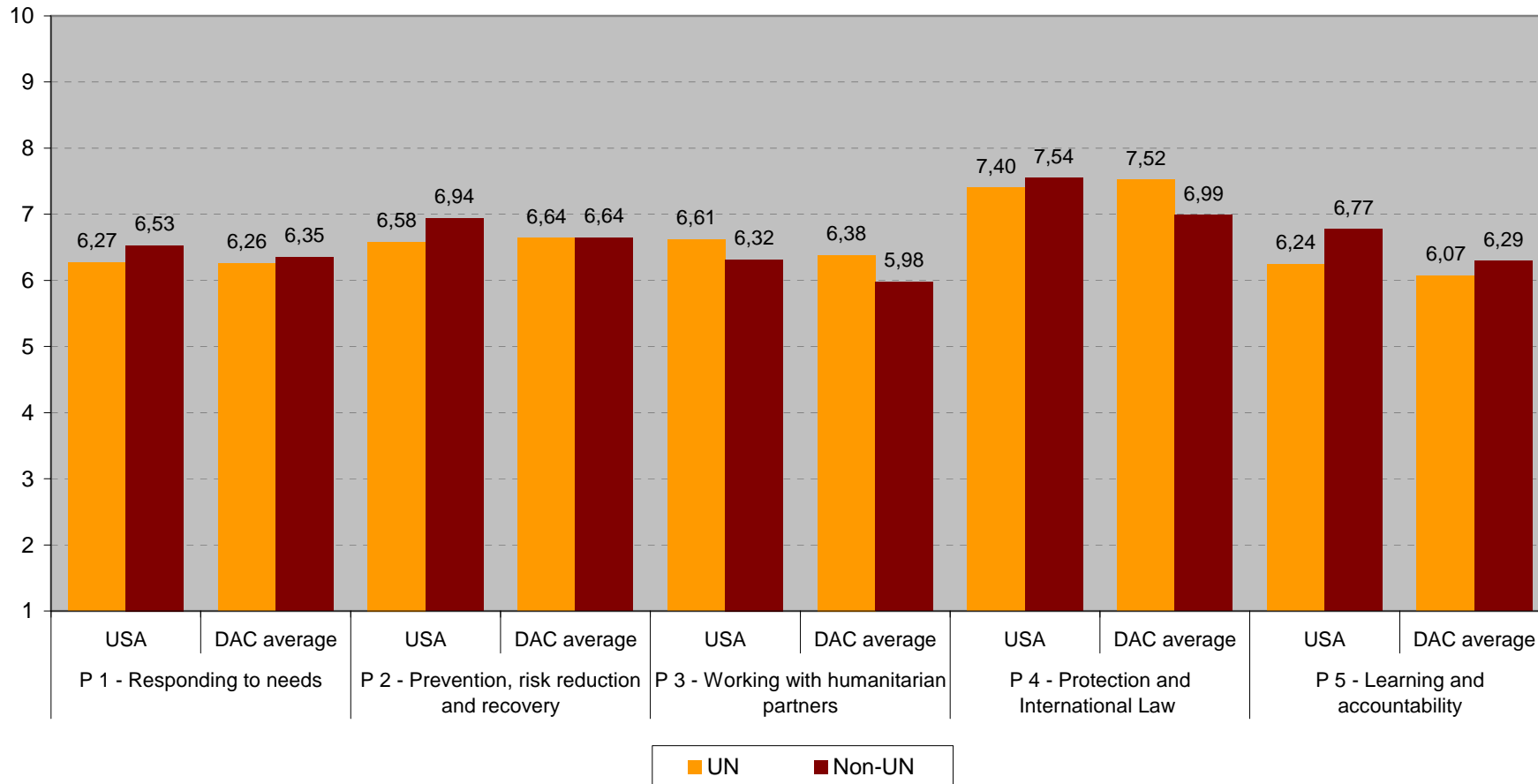
**Note:** This graph compares the average scores by pillar for the USA compared to the highest and lowest scores by pillar in the DAC group.

## United States: Comparison of overall survey scores in selected crises



**Note:** This graph compares the HRI 2009 survey scores for the US compared to the overall DAC average. Data is from 216 survey responses (of a total of 223) from organisations that received funding from the US (only crises with a minimum of 8 responses are included). Data is not disaggregated in order to protect the confidentiality of respondents.

## USA: Comparison of survey responses by type of organization



**Note:** This graph compares HRI 2009 average survey responses by pillar of UN agencies versus non-UN agencies (includes INGOs, local NGOs and Red Cross Red Crescent), compared against overall DAC averages. Data is based on responses from 226 organisations funded by the USA in 13 crises (62 UN agencies, and 164 non-UN organisations).