

# France

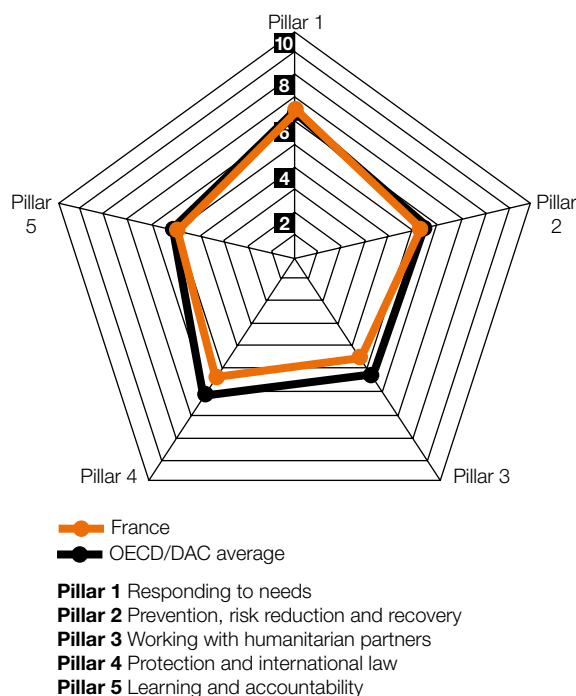
HRI 2010 ranking: 15th

## Policy framework

France's humanitarian action is overseen by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs through three separate agencies. The Crisis Centre (CDC) assesses the need for and organises the initial response and follow-up to sudden onset emergencies, having access to the Humanitarian Emergency Fund. It also channels funds to French NGOs and for government-implemented interventions. The United Nations and International Organisations Department (UNIO) provides funds to UN agencies as well as to the ICRC and IFRC. The Development Policy Department (DPDEV) coordinates contributions for food aid. France has recently adjusted the target date for reaching the UN target of providing 0.7% of its GNI in ODA from 2012 to 2015. Despite major budgetary challenges, its ODA/GNI ratio has improved from 0.39% in 2008 to 0.46% in 2009 with a 14% increase in absolute terms. However, humanitarian assistance represented only 0.84% of its ODA and 0.002% of its GNI.

France endorses the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* (GHD). It is preparing a GHD domestic implementation plan, but lacks an overall policy framework to guide the humanitarian action of the various components of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government departments.

## HRI 2010 scores by pillar



\* The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

## Performance

France ranked 15th in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, France is classified as a Group 3 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform poorly in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners), Pillar 4 (Protection and international law), and Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Other donors in this group are Austria, Belgium, Italy, Japan, Portugal and Spain.

France scored above the Group 3 average in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs) and close to the OECD/DAC average. It scored lower than both averages in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). Its score in Pillar 3 was above the Group 3 average, but below the OECD/DAC average. In Pillar 4, France scored close to its group average but below the OECD/DAC average, while in Pillar 5, it scored close to the OECD/DAC average and had the highest score of the group.

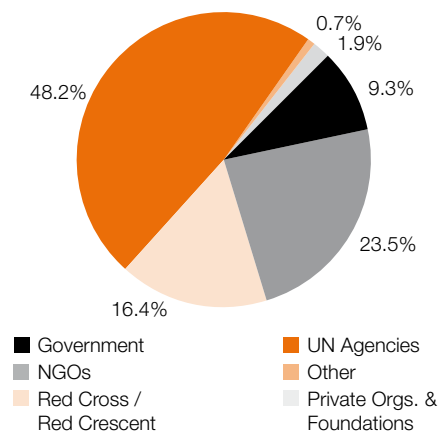
France did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, *Timely funding to complex emergencies*, *Funding to NGOs*, *Un-earmarked funding* and *Reducing climate-related vulnerability*. Its scores were relatively the lowest in indicators on *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*, *Participation in accountability initiatives*, *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Funding for reconstruction and prevention* and *Support for coordination*.

## Recommendations:

France scored above average in the quantitative indicators on timeliness and was close to average in *Funding based on level of vulnerability and to forgotten crises*. France's partners scored it below average in the qualitative indicators *Impartiality of aid* and *Adapting to needs*.

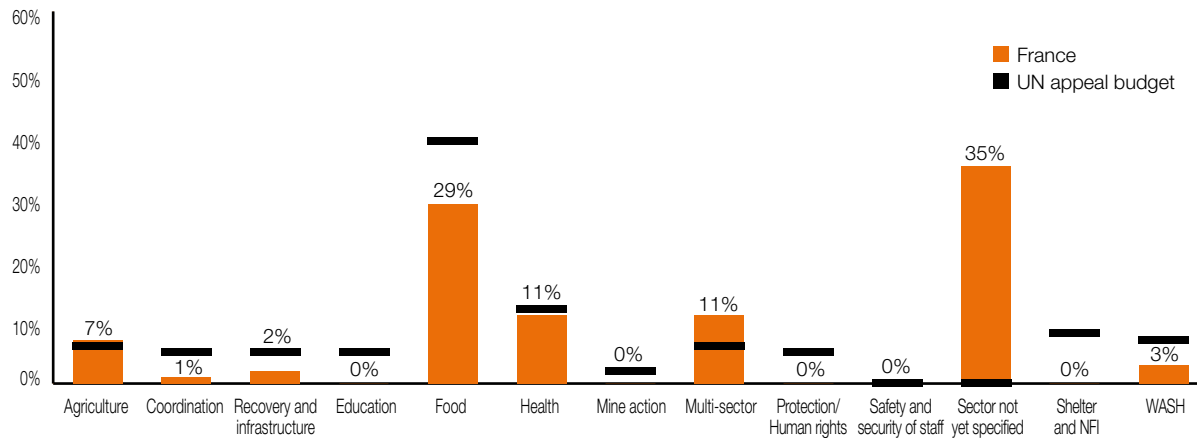
- France should engage in dialogue with partners to discuss their perceptions about the impartiality of its humanitarian assistance.

## Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

## Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



\* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.  
Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

France scored below average in most of the indicators that constitute Pillar 2. France received its lowest score in this pillar in *Funding for reconstruction and prevention*. This represented only 11% of its aid, compared to the Group 3 average of 25% and the OECD/DAC average of 17%.

- France should consider finding ways of increasing its support for reconstruction and prevention.

Also within Pillar 2, France scored below average in the qualitative indicators on *Beneficiary participation in programming* and *Beneficiary participation in monitoring and evaluation*.

- France should engage in dialogue with partners to discuss their perceptions of its performance in the area of supporting beneficiary participation.

In Pillar 3, France received high marks for its support to NGOs. It was below average, however, in *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*. France provided 11% of its fair share to UN appeals, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 135% and Group 3 average of 42%. It provided 14% of its fair share to Red Cross/Red Crescent appeals, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 128% of fair share and the Group 3 average of 22%.

- France should consider exploring options to increase its support to UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals.

France received the lowest score of OECD/DAC donors in the qualitative indicator *Support for coordination*. It received the second-lowest score in *Donor capacity for informed decision-making*.

- France is encouraged to engage with partners to discuss their perceptions regarding its support for coordination and its capacity for informed decision-making.

In Pillar 5, France received the highest score of all OECD/DAC donors in *Funding and commissioning evaluations*. It was below average, however, in *Funding for accountability initiatives* and *Participation in accountability initiatives*. France allocated 0.22% of its humanitarian aid to accountability initiatives, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 0.47% and Group 3 average of 0.29%. France currently only participates in or supports two (ALNAP and Quality COMPAS) of the seven accountability initiatives included in the *Participation in accountability initiatives* indicator.

- France should consider finding ways of increasing its funding support of, and participation in, accountability initiatives.

For more information, please see [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org).

| Strengths                              |             |                        |                |
|--|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Indicator                              | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % over average |
| Funding and commissioning evaluations  | 10.00       | 4.25                   | 135%           |
| Timely funding to complex emergencies  | 7.80        | 4.35                   | 79%            |
| Funding to NGOs                        | 6.46        | 4.40                   | 47%            |
| Un-earmarked funding                   | 4.60        | 3.45                   | 33%            |
| Reducing climate-related vulnerability | 9.53        | 7.19                   | 33%            |

| Areas for improvement                         |             |                        |                 |
|---|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Indicator                                     | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % below average |
| Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals | 0.44        | 5.05                   | -91%            |
| Participation in accountability initiatives   | 1.44        | 4.73                   | -69%            |
| Funding for accountability initiatives        | 1.50        | 2.75                   | -45%            |
| Funding for reconstruction and prevention     | 2.70        | 4.12                   | -34%            |
| Support for coordination                      | 3.84        | 5.56                   | -31%            |