

# Germany

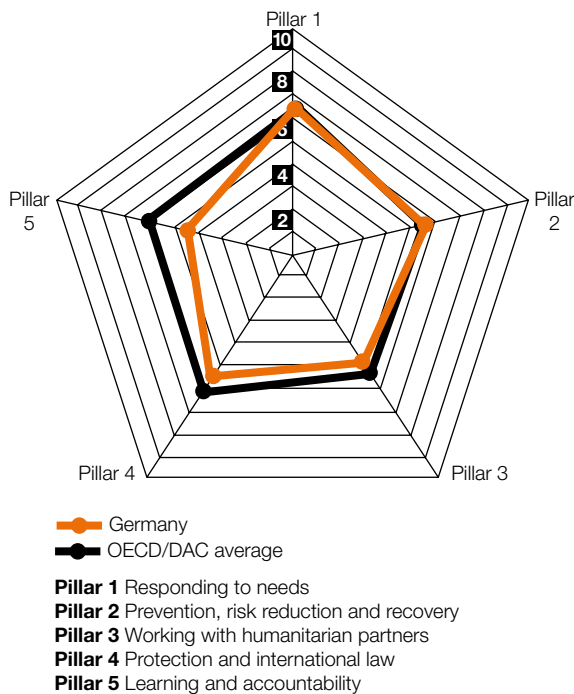
HRI 2010 ranking: 14th

## Policy framework

Germany's humanitarian assistance falls under the overall responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office. The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) handles food aid and transitional assistance. Within the Federal Foreign Office the Federal Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid is the focal point for coordination of humanitarian aid. Germany does not have a formal and comprehensive humanitarian policy, but *Twelve Basic Rules of Humanitarian Aid Abroad* were set out in 1993 by the Humanitarian Aid Coordinating Committee – the platform for inter-ministerial coordination of humanitarian aid. Germany recently established a crisis response centre to speed up response to sudden onset crises. Germany's humanitarian aid prioritises rapid response to the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons and aims to allocate between 5% to 10% of its annual aid budget to disaster risk reduction. Despite the overall size of its development budget, Germany's ODA/GNI ratio is relatively low and decreased by 3% in 2009 to 0.35%, bringing it only halfway to the UN target of 0.7%. Humanitarian assistance represented 4.44% of its ODA and 0.010% of its GNI.

Germany was active in the creation of the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid* during its EU Presidency in 2007 and subscribes to the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* (GHD). However, it has not developed a GHD domestic implementation plan nor indicated an intention to do so.

## HRI 2010 scores by pillar



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

## Performance

Germany ranked 14th in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Germany is classified as a Group 2 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform around average in all pillars, with slightly better scores in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), and somewhat poorer in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). Other donors in this group are Australia, Canada, European Commission, Greece (based on quantitative scores only), Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

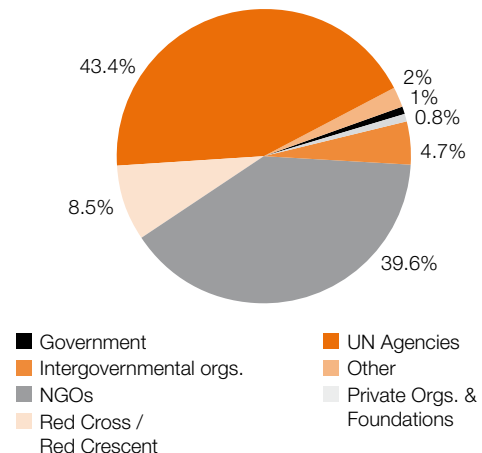
Germany scored overall close to the OECD/DAC and Group 2 average marks. Its average score in Pillar 1 exactly matched the OECD/DAC average and was close to the Group 2 average. Its overall score in Pillar 2 was close to the OECD/DAC and above the Group 2 average. However, it scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 2 average in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners) and in Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Its score in Pillar 4 (Protection and international law) was close to the group's but below the OECD/DAC average.

Germany did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on *Funding to NGOs*, *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*, *Accountability towards beneficiaries* and *Impartiality of aid*. Its scores were lowest in indicators on *Un-earmarked funding*, *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*, *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, *Timely funding to complex emergencies* and *Facilitating humanitarian access*.

## Recommendations

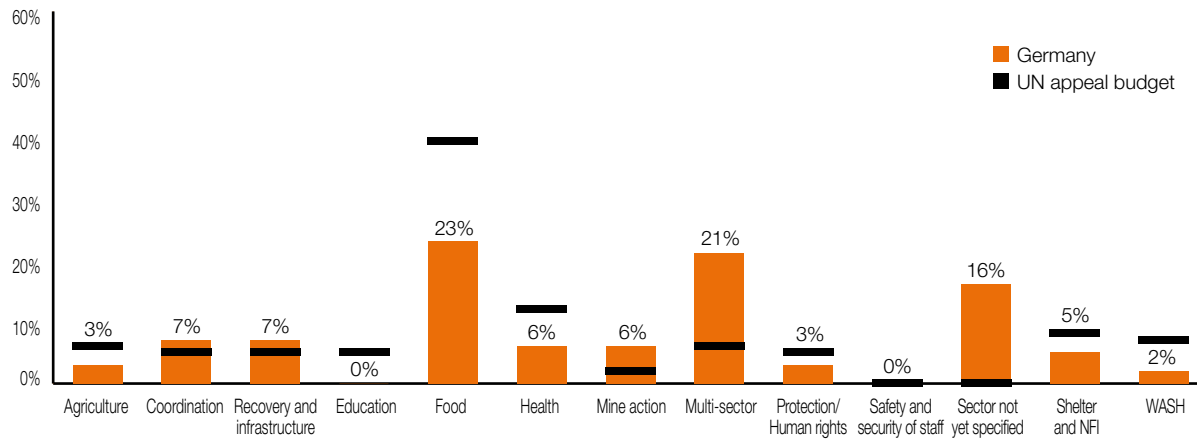
Germany's rapid response instruments have proven to be effective for sudden onset disasters. It is important to achieve the same capacity for timely funding for complex emergencies, aiming at the transfer of funds within the first three months following the launch of an appeal. Germany provided 16% of its funding within this time period, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 33% and Group 2 average of 41%.

## 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.

- Germany is encouraged to include response to complex emergencies in its rapid response instruments.

Lack of flexibility is a weak point in Germany’s funding. Germany’s partners perceive it to be below average in the qualitative indicator *Flexible funding*. It also scored below average in the quantitative indicator *Un-earmarked funding*. Germany provided 10% of its funding without earmarking, while the OECD/DAC average is 35%.

- Germany should consider decreasing the degree of earmarking of its contributions and supporting country-based pooled funding mechanisms. It should also engage in a dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions regarding the flexibility of Germany’s funding.

Also within Pillar 3, Germany scored below average on the indicator *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*. Germany provided 36% of its fair share to UN appeals compared to the OECD/DAC average of 135% and the Group 2 average of 117%. Germany provided 20% of its fair share to Red Cross Red Crescent appeals, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 128% and Group 2 average of 61%.

- Germany should consider finding ways to increase its support to UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals.

In Pillar 4, Germany’s partners consider it below average when it comes to promoting international humanitarian law. Although Germany should be praised for signing and ratifying all international humanitarian treaties, its funding of the ICRC, as a guardian of international humanitarian law, was particularly low with only 0.001% of every billion dollars of its GDP, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 0.005%.

- Germany should look into ways to increase its support to the ICRC and promotion of IHL.

In Pillar 5, Germany’s partners consider it an average donor in regard to *Support for learning and evaluations*. It received one of its lowest scores, however, in *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, which measures the number of evaluations and the existence of evaluation guidelines. Germany participated in four joint evaluations and one individual evaluation, but does not have evaluation guidelines.

- Germany should consider developing evaluation guidelines and increasing the use of evaluations.

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

Strengths			
Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% over average
Funding to NGOs	8.13	4.40	85%
Funding for accountability initiatives	4.17	2.75	52%
Timely funding to sudden onset disasters	8.48	6.97	22%
Accountability towards beneficiaries	5.83	5.38	8%
Impartiality of aid	7.89	7.30	8%

Areas for improvement			
Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% below average
Un-earmarked funding	1.02	3.45	-71%
Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals	1.53	5.05	-70%
Funding and commissioning evaluations	1.44	4.25	-66%
Timely funding to complex emergencies	2.26	4.35	-48%
Facilitating humanitarian access	4.19	5.22	-20%