Spain ranked 15th in the HRI 2011, improving two positions from 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Spain is classified as a Group 3 donor, "Aspiring Actors". Donors in this group tend to have more limited capacity to engage with the humanitarian system at the field level, but often aspire to take on a greater role in the sector. They generally focus on a few core strengths, such as in the area of prevention, preparedness and risk reduction, or on specific geographic regions. Other donors in the group include Australia, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan and Luxembourg.

Spain’s overall score fell below the OECD/DAC and Group 3 averages. Spain scored below the OECD/DAC and Group 3 average in all pillars, with the exception of Pillar 1, where it was above both averages, and Pillar 4 (Protection and international law), where Spain scored below the OECD/DAC average, but above the Group 3 average. Spain did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on Funding vulnerable and forgotten emergencies and Timely funding to complex emergencies. Its scores were relatively the lowest in indicators on Funding NGOs, Reducing climate-related vulnerability, Funding international risk mitigation, Implementing evaluation recommendations and Donor capacity and expertise.