

“The Humanitarian Response Index is an innovative means of highlighting the *Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles* in order to encourage best practice and maximise the benefit of assistance to victims of crises and catastrophes.” - **Ross Mountain**.

In 2009, donors provided over US\$11.5 billion to respond to the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts and natural disasters around the world. Ensuring that aid is used correctly is no easy task, with humanitarian crises increasing in number and complexity. Today, humanitarian actors today face daunting challenges to provide protection and assistance to those in need, and often enter into a complex interplay of competing national and international interests related to political, military, security or development concerns. Add tighter budgets to this scenario, and the need for effective and efficient humanitarian assistance becomes more important than ever.

Based on nearly 2,000 surveys on donor performance and more than 500 interviews with humanitarian actors in 14 humanitarian crises (Haiti, Pakistan, Afghanistan, DRC and Sudan, among others), the Humanitarian Response Index seeks to be the reference for donors to assess the quality of their aid. Now in its fourth year, the Humanitarian Response Index is the world’s foremost independent instrument for measuring the individual performance of government donors against *Good Humanitarian Donorship Principles*. The Humanitarian Response Index provides an objective overview of donor performance, which can assist governments in ensuring that their humanitarian funding has the greatest possible impact for people in critical need of aid.

Founded in 2003, DARA is an independent organisation committed to improving the quality and effectiveness of aid for vulnerable populations suffering from conflict, disasters and climate change. DARA has recognised expertise in providing support in the field of humanitarian aid as well as climate change and disaster risk reduction management. We have conducted evaluations of humanitarian operations in over 40 countries across five continents for a variety of government, United Nations, and European Union agencies, as well as other major international humanitarian organisations, such as the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.