

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## ROSS MOUNTAIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF DARA

I would like to acknowledge the contributions and support of the hundreds of individuals and organisations that make the HRI possible.

It is an honour for DARA to have the contributions of both Valerie Amos and Michelle Bachelet in this year's Humanitarian Response Index (HRI). They have shared their thoughts on the importance of gender in humanitarian crises, and ideas on what we collectively must do to ensure the different needs and concerns of all affected and vulnerable populations are met in our responses to crises. We are highly appreciative of their support and endorsement.

I also want to thank the hundreds of people from United Nation (UN) agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, and host and donor governments working in humanitarian crises, who took time out of their heavy workloads to share their first-hand perspectives with our field research teams. The HRI would simply not exist without their generous collaboration and valuable insights.

Our field research teams benefited from the administrative and logistical support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UN OCHA, who helped our teams find their way around safely and efficiently. Our sincere thanks for this.

We are also grateful for the support from Development Initiatives (DI), the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), and Bochum University who collaborated with us on our field research in several crises, and have provided feedback, advice and ideas on how to ensure consistent approaches to achieve our common goal of improved humanitarian action. Sincere thanks also to Magda Ninaber for leading our field research in the occupied Palestinian territories and sharing her expert advice with us.

Special thanks also go to dozens of headquarters staff of humanitarian organisations in Geneva, New York and Washington who shared their perspectives of good practice and provided highly useful guidance to improve the quality of our analysis. UN Women and Gen Cap and the IASC Sub-

Working Group on Gender in Humanitarian Action provided essential insight to help us prepare our research on gender. We also interviewed dozens of representatives of OECD/DAC donor agencies in our field research, and many others in donor headquarters. Understanding the perspectives of donor agencies and the challenges they face in responding to humanitarian crises has been essential to our analysis. We want to reiterate once more our conclusion that staff of donor governments' humanitarian departments are fully committed to achieving the aims of the Good Humanitarian Donorship principles, and are actively engaged in making the sector work more effectively. They deserve the full respect, understanding and support of their governments to help them achieve these aims, and we look forward to continuing to engage with the donor community in the next phase of the HRI.

The Peer Review Committee has provided technical advice, strategic guidance and moral support for the HRI. Our sincere gratitude goes to Jock Baker, Wolf-Dieter Eberwein, Veronique de Geoffroy, Randolph Kent, Sara Pantuliano, David Roodman, Ed Schenkenberg and Hansjoerg Stromeyer. We also want to thank former committee members Eva von Oelreich and James Darcy for their inspirational support over the past five years.

Our Advisory Board helps us connect the HRI to wider debate on humanitarian and global affairs. We are truly grateful to José María Figueres, António Guterres, Diego Hidalgo, Larry Minear, Iqbal Riza, Mary Robinson and Pierre Schori for their dedication to the HRI.

DARA's Board of Trustees has been a source of encouragement for us. I would like to thank all of them for their enthusiasm and motivation, specifically Aldo Ajello, Emma Bonino, Jan Eliasson, José María Figueres, Beatriz Iraburu, José Manuel Romero and Juliet Pierce, with a special thanks to the President of the Board, Diego Hidalgo, for his extreme generosity and support for DARA and the HRI over the years.

Sincere thanks go to AVINA STIFTUNG and the Dutch Postcode Lottery (Nationale Postcode Loterij) for their generous support of the HRI.

I want to specifically express my gratitude to Silvia Hidalgo, DARA's founding Director, who had the vision and initiative to create the HRI. It is because of her enthusiasm and perseverance that the HRI came into being. Her recognition that the sector needed a tool to assess the role of donors, promote good donor practices, and encourage greater accountability to those affected by crises remains as valid today as it did when the HRI was created five years ago. Thank you, Silvia.

Finally, I would like to recognise all of DARA's staff for their contributions to the HRI. Producing the HRI is a momentous task, and it would not be possible without a team effort. I would like thank Philip Tamminga for his leadership of the initiative over the past four years and for contributing to its increasing recognition in the sector, Fernando Espada for managing the field missions and building stronger connections to humanitarians in the field, Daniela Ruegenberg, Covadonga Canteli and Beatriz Asensio for their remarkable work on the HRI methodology and for carrying out the data analysis and Marybeth Redheffer for her work in deepening our analysis of donor policy frameworks. Eva Cervantes, Miguel Gonzalez, Susana Vicario and Nacho Wilhemi provided logistical and administrative support, without which the project would not be possible. DARA also benefited from the support of several interns, many from the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), whose enthusiasm and dedication was of great assistance. Thanks to Daniel Barnes, Ana Bernthsen, Sophie Broach, Ana del Toro, Caitlyn Hughes, Christina Jang, Ralph Meyers, Rebecca Moy and Laura Schaack.