



# IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

 **DARA**  
IMPACT  
MATTERS

OUR RESEARCH, EVALUATIONS  
AND POLICY STUDIES PROVIDE  
CLEAR ANALYSES AND FINDINGS  
SO THAT HUMANITARIAN  
ACTORS CAN IMPROVE  
THEIR PERFORMANCE



DARA is an independent non-profit organisation committed to **improving the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action** for vulnerable populations affected by armed conflict and natural disasters.

Through **research and evaluations**, we encourage organisations to reflect on the impact of their work and help them take evidence-based decisions at the policy, strategy and programming levels, and in critical moments of delivering assistance.

DARA actively promotes **humanitarian principles, learning and accountability** and supports innovative approaches.

In our work with **governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and other actors** in over 60 crisis countries, too often we have found that the reality on the ground does not match political commitments and declarations.

GAPS IN THE DELIVERY  
OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE INCLUDE:

- ⊖ A LACK OF RESPECT  
FOR HUMANITARIAN  
PRINCIPLES AND SPACE
- ⊖ INCREASED  
ENCROACHMENT  
OF POLITICAL AND  
MILITARY ACTORS  
ON THE HUMANITARIAN  
DOMAIN
- ⊖ UNPREDICTABLE  
AND UNEVEN FUNDING  
AMONG CRISES
- ⊖ INCREASED FINANCIAL  
CONTROLS AND  
REPORTING OBLIGATIONS  
THAT INHIBIT RISK-TAKING  
AND FLEXIBILITY AMONG  
OPERATIONAL AGENCIES
- ⊖ INSUFFICIENT  
ATTENTION TO THE  
ROLE OF LOCAL ACTORS IN  
DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN  
RESPONSE



# HOW OUR WORK HELPS THE HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY DELIVER MORE EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION



## THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE INDEX (HRI)

The HRI independently analyses whether donor governments follow through with their commitment to respect humanitarian principles when allocating financial resources to crises. With the group of donors becoming larger and more diverse, the HRI has been updated and improved to continue to assess whether priorities are backed by humanitarian principles and evidence, and whether humanitarian funding addresses the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations.



## RESEARCH AND POLICY STUDIES

Investigation areas for the 2013-16 period include improving humanitarian performance, particularly in conflict settings, advocating for better humanitarian donorship, and strengthening the role and responsibility of host governments and local and regional actors in addressing humanitarian challenges.



## INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Through evaluations, we provide a body of evidence on what works and what changes should be considered for humanitarian policies and programmes to be more effective.

Examples include the WFP-UNHCR Impact Evaluations in Chad and Bangladesh, and the IASC Real-Time Evaluation of the 2010 Pakistan floods. In 2013, we were involved in the Real-Time Evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Syrian refugee emergency.



## THE RISK REDUCTION INDEX (RRI)

The RRI helps governments and civil society understand the risks that lead to disasters so that they can be fully addressed. In Central America and West Africa, the RRI has identified links between underlying risk factors and increased vulnerability, raising awareness around the need for greater risk management initiatives.

# WHO WE'VE WORKED WITH RECENTLY

## GOVERNMENTS, UN AGENCIES, NGOs AND FOUNDATIONS

- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Danish International Development Agency (Danida)
- Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
- European Commission Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)
- The Start Network
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE)
- World Bank (WB)

# OUR TEAM



## EXPERIENCE IN RESEARCHING & EVALUATING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Since early 2013, **Ed Schenkenberg** has been the Chief Executive of DARA. Ed brings DARA 20 years experience in humanitarian policy and practice. In his previous role as ICVA Executive Director (1999-2012), he worked extensively on issues such as humanitarian principles, coordination, and protection in close collaboration with governments, UN agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent Movement, and NGOs. Before ICVA, Ed worked with MSF in Amsterdam and overseas.

DARA's team is composed of **committed, multicultural professionals** with experience in humanitarian and disaster risk reduction policy and practice, evaluations, and mixed-method approaches. We combine rigorous field and desk research.

We also rely on an additional **core network of 50 experts** who work collaboratively across borders, drawing upon their extensive field and policy experience in our main practice areas.



Cover: First day of voting in Southern Sudan Referendum - **UN Photo** / Tim McKulka

Back Cover: A woman rides a bicycle to work, Myanmar - **IRIN** / Jason Gutierrez

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