IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION
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.

**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.

**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.

**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

- 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

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.