

New: The Global Database of Humanitarian Organisations

Humanitarian Outcomes has launched a newly improved, public version of the [Global Database of Humanitarian Organisations](#) (GDHO), providing the humanitarian sector with a centralised source of basic information on providers and resources across the globe.



At HO, we believe that an important part of evidence-based research is to generate evidence where it is lacking. Our Aid Worker Security Database, for example, was a response to a lack of hard numbers on the incidence of violence against aid operations, and by systematically compiling and verifying attack data, it supports more rigorous analysis and responses to a problem that were previously based on perceptions and anecdote.

Despite a proliferation of disparate datasets on various humanitarian indicators, the sector as a whole is starved of metadata; that is, basic information about itself. As a result, seemingly straightforward questions about the size of the sector in terms of personnel and resources, and the scope of operations globally and within countries, have been impossible to answer. This is more than just an information problem—the lack of data obscures the gaps in coverage within and across crises and the extent to which the system provides an impartial response according to need. We built the GDHO to help fill this gap.

As a regularly updated, publicly accessible database, the GDHO serves three main goals:

1. to provide a clearer picture of the size, operational scope, and composition of global humanitarian resources;
2. to give visibility to the national and local NGOs that play a principal role in humanitarian response yet whose work too often goes unseen; and
3. to better estimate the aid worker population in order to calculate rates in analysis.

The GDHO's unique algorithm allows HO researchers to impute missing organisational data (common especially among smaller NGOs with no web presence) by using a formula based on averaging hard data from other years and comparable organisations. This is aided by humanitarian organisations who have been helping us to fill the gaps. With each new addition of hard data, the algorithm gets smarter and improves the accuracy of the estimates.

The GDHO is the third of our shared data assets made possible through the USAID-funded CORE project. It has been a long time in the making and remains a work in progress.

Whether you are a humanitarian practitioner, policymaker, or fellow researcher, we hope you will find the GDHO to be a useful informational tool, and we welcome all [feedback and suggestions](#)!

