Humanitarian Outcomes

GDHO CODEBOOK

Last updated May 2024

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1. Overview

Humanitarian Outcomes' *Global Database of Humanitarian Organisations* (GDHO) is a compendium of organisations that provide aid in humanitarian crises.

The purpose of the GDHO is to compile basic information on humanitarian providers and the global deployment of their resources in order to measure and map the size, reach, and distribution of humanitarian presence and coverage.

The organisations include UN humanitarian agencies, the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and religious federations that work in emergencies. To maintain and update the database, Humanitarian Outcomes researchers gather this information from publicly available sources and directly from the organisations through information requests.

2. About the data

The publicly available categories of information compiled by the GDHO include the following:

By Organisation (static fields)
- Year founded (and year closed, if applicable)
- HQ country
- Primary humanitarian sector or focus of operation (or "multisector")
- Religious or secular orientation
- Year closed (if applicable)

Annual Figures (updated fields)
- Overall/operational program expenditure
- Humanitarian expenditure (i.e. expenditure for operational activities in the standard humanitarian sectors)
- Total field staff (global)
  - National staff
  - International staff
- Countries of operation

Because not all organisations make their operational data available, missing data are imputed using the GDHO's imputation algorithm to extrapolate values. All INGOs/NNGOs in the database are divided into one of 13 private tiers. The tiers are used to calculate staff and budgetary averages for the purpose of filling in missing data, on the reasoning that similarly sized organisations have similar operational configurations, presence levels, and staff-to-budget ratios. For the following fields, if actual data is not available, figures are then populated using tier averages:

- Total number of staff
- Number of international staff
- Number of national staff
- Overseas program expenditures (OPE)
- Humanitarian expenditures (HE)

The database also includes UN and Red Cross/Crescent societies in their own respective tiers. These imputed figures are used to calculate a global humanitarian staff denominator relevant for analysis on budget, security, presence etc. Approximate annual humanitarian expenditure for UN agencies is take from OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

The primary focus of the GDHO is to catalogue and monitor humanitarian organisations, thus any organisation with a percentage of humanitarian expenditure out of total program expenditure below 20% is placed in a separate tier for primarily development organisations.

For more information on access to GDHO imputed figures and the global humanitarian staff denominator please contact meriah-jo.breckenridge@humanitarianoutcomes.org.

2.1 Budget figures

Annual budget numbers are drawn, in order of preference, from the organisations' annual reports, financial statements or other online publications, such as its website 'facts and figures.' For multi-chapter international federations, figures are compiled from consolidated annual reports (Such 'MSF International' Annual Report) if available. In cases where the federation has no chapeau report or figures, the database will record the combined expenditure of the largest member(s).

The database tracks two budget measures:
1. **Overall/Operational Program Expenditures (OPE)**. This is the total annual expenditure 'in the field', i.e., excluding fundraising and all headquarters spending.
2. **Humanitarian Expenditure (HE).** This is the portion of OPE spent on humanitarian (or 'emergency' or 'relief' activities as opposed to other types of aid such as 'development', 'anti-poverty', 'advocacy', 'human rights' or 'justice'.)
Calculation methods include:
   o The OPE minus clearly non-humanitarian expenditures
   o Non-numerical descriptions, indications from organisational publications
   o Past years' portion of humanitarian spend
   o OCHA FTS reports (for UN agencies only)

2.2 Staffing figures

Staff numbers are sometimes available on organisations' websites or in annual reports, but frequently these numbers must be requested directly from the organisation. UN agency staffing information is drawn from the UN System Chief Executive Board for Coordination. Staffing numbers for the National Red Cross/Crescent Societies are drawn from IFRC's

Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System. Where available, GDHO records the actual numbers of field staff (non-HQ) as:

1. Total (global)
2. National staff members
3. International (or 'mobile' or 'expat') staff
*due to tracking inconsistencies among organisations daily works are not included

3. Process for data gathering and entry

The GDHO is updated annually, using an ordered process of steps including manual research and a proprietary web scrapper.

A manual update of all organisations listed in the database begins each summer for the previous year, as organisations begin to release annual reports and financial statements. The manual updating process follows this order:

1. UN agencies
2. INGOS
3. National NGOs
4. ICRC
5. IFRC
6. Red Cross societies (from IFRC published data)

The largest INGOs are contacted in November of every year to confirm the information collected by the research team is correct.

3.1 Country Research

National NGOs are added to the database via individual country research projects that are manually completed by the research team each year. Countries are chosen based on the OCHA emergency country list (https://hum-insight.info/), and organisation lists are found through UN 3w partner lists available online. These organisations are then individually researched by a member of our team and all are directly contacted if contact information is available.

National organisations are encouraged to fill out their information in a survey link that is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Ukrainian, Somali, and Kiswahili. Access the survey here - https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDHO

4. GDHO data columns table

Column name	Content description

Id	A unique Id for each organisation
Year	Latest year information is available for
Name	Full organisation name
Abbreviated name	Organisation abbreviation or acronym
Type	National NGO (NNGO), International NGO (INGO), UN, Red Cross/Crescent classification
International or national	Organisation's reach
Website	Organisation page url
HQ location	Country where HQ office is located
Year founded	Year of organisation's creation
Year closed	Year closed or last year of visible activity
Countries of operation (count)	Number of countries operational in
Sector	Children/youth, coordination, disabilities, education, environment, food security/agriculture, health, landmines, livelihoods, logistics/communications, nutrition, refugees, shelter, veterinary, water/sanitation, women
Religious or secular	Organisations religious affiliation
Religion	Specific religious affiliation (ex. Catholic, Islamic, Jewish)
Red Cross Code of Conduct Signatory	Signatory status of the organisation
CHS member	Signatory status to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability
InterAction member	Membership status
ICVA member	Membership status
Staff	Actual number of total staff
Staff Imputed	Imputed number of total staff
Natl	Actual number of national staff
Natl Imputed	Imputed number of national staff
Intl	Actual number of international staff
Intl Imputed	Imputed number of international staff
% Intl	Percent of total staff that are international
OPE approx (USD)	Actual approximate annual operational program expenditure in USD
OPE Imputed	Imputed approximate annual operational program expenditure in USD
OPE/Staff	Percent of operational program expenditure per staff member
OPE (inflation adjusted)	Operational program expenditure adjusted for inflation
OPE (original currency)	Actual approximate operational program expenditure in original currency used by organisation
HumExp approx (USD)	Approximate humanitarian expenditure in USD
HumExp Imputed	Imputed approximate humanitarian expenditure in USD
HumExp (inflation adjusted)	Approximate humanitarian expenditure adjusted for inflation
Columns AH to JM	Individual countries where organisations are operational

☐ Imputed figures hidden and available upon request