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2022 in numbers

58 Members

CHF 609,558
Total funds allocated to member projects

78% of the members ran collaborative projects with other members

14
Funded member projects

3
H2H Fund Activations
Welcome note

As the world grapples with the effects of the invasion of Ukraine, inflation, COVID, climate change, and new conflicts popping up in previously peaceful regions, the humanitarian relief sector is stretched in unprecedented ways. Needs have grown on such a scale that the gap between the cost of response and the financing available is five times more than it was a decade ago, according to Development Initiatives. UN appeals for funding faced a record $20 billion shortfall.

In the face of this picture, the sector can – and often does – simply appeal for more money. But it has another option: it can find ways to work more effectively, accountably and inclusively. H2H Members play an extremely relevant role in this landscape – helping to improve humanitarian response in targeted and specialized ways. The H2H Network has become an increasingly important pillar of support for those efforts.

In 2022, the network funded 14 member projects to support crisis response, hosted 13 community events, and became increasingly visible in the wider humanitarian sector through media engagement and participation in major networking events.

We professionalized the governance of the network, with three new member representatives joining the H2H Board, providing an important link between the membership and the H2H Team. With strategic input and advice from the Board, and in consultation with members, the H2H Team developed a new strategy to guide the network’s work in the years to come. By providing resources, building community and brokering and facilitating relationships with the wider sector, we hope the network will support its members to play an even more important role moving forward.

When the H2H Network was launched informally years ago, we weren’t sure it would ever become more than an idea. Today, following the consolidation that took place in 2022, it is an evolving and sustainable network, well-placed to fulfill its mission – one that is more important than ever.

Heba Aly
CEO, The New Humanitarian
Chair of the H2H Board
We are pleased to present the H2H Annual Report for 2022, a reflection of our collaborative efforts and shared vision to enhance humanitarian response globally. The year saw much progress in the development of the network, equipping us to move forward in our mission to ensure humanitarian responders have access to independent, high-quality services and expertise that collectively enable them to better serve people affected by crises.

At the centre of this was the finalization of our strategy for 2022-2025, allowing us to focus our energies and resources on delivering value for our members and the wider community. During the year, we solidified our donor base and grew the H2H Team to be able to deliver on the growing needs of the membership. We also welcomed Medical Aid Films as our 58th member, increasing the breadth of our network and the diversity that is our strength. I look forward to welcoming other new members to the network in 2023 and beyond.

While it’s crucial to acknowledge these internal developments, we must also stay attuned to external events. Crises around the world remind us of the importance of our work but also the scale and complexity of the challenges we face.

I’m proud to see the H2H Fund supported work of H2H Members, whether this be in CLEAR Global and HelpAge International’s work ensuring the inclusion of marginalized population groups in the response to devastating floods in Pakistan, or the impact on decision making of analysis by ACAPS and IMPACT in the response to the drought in the Horn of Africa.

Despite these examples, we’re acutely aware of the instances where we’ve not been able to extend the support we’d like as a network. The new strategy reaffirms the H2H Network’s ambition to expand the size, scope, and usability of the H2H Fund, alongside efforts to strengthen our H2H community and support members to engage with the wider system.

We are grateful for the continued support of our members, partners, and friends, and we are excited to be moving forward together.
About the H2H Network

Vision
Our vision is that all people affected by crises and disasters are supported by effective, efficient and accountable humanitarian action. It’s enabled by a system that is capable of meeting today’s challenges while preparing for and adapting to those on the horizon.

Mission
The H2H Network makes it easy for humanitarian responders to access independent, high-quality services and expertise that collectively enable them to better serve people affected by crises. We strengthen our members by fostering community, providing resources and brokering relationships that enable and catalyze change in the wider humanitarian system.

How We Work
The H2H Network brings together 58 specialized independent humanitarian service providers who enable efficient, impactful and accountable aid during a crisis by facilitating and resourcing humanitarian-to-humanitarian (H2H) services for the wider system. These independent, cross-cutting services are well-suited to address many of the gaps and challenges that continue to hamper humanitarian action in specific emergencies.

Together, these organizations are leading efforts to reform and improve the global humanitarian response.

The H2H Network supports its members by enabling collaboration, fostering community and allocating resources. In response to crises, we identify and create synergies between our members, and then we activate and disburse funds to them to meet the specific needs in the wider humanitarian system. For example, our members are creating better information, mapping, data, logistics, situation analyses, security, translations and accountability for humanitarian actors, as well as communication and engagement with the affected people.

Donors
In 2022 the H2H Network was supported by:
During 2022 our membership constituted of 58 members.
Our members serve other humanitarians during crises and beyond. They can be categorized by the type of services they provide:

**Data, Information Management, and Analysis:** Independent data providers contribute with impartial analysis to inform policy and decision-making at all levels. Their services are publicly accessible to all humanitarian responders, supporting objective assessments of needs, program quality and response effectiveness.

**Community Engagement and Accountability:** H2H Members strive to understand, communicate with and be accountable to affected communities. Through mechanisms to track needs, gather feedback and address complaints, they ensure that timely and relevant information reaches all stakeholders in accessible languages, formats and channels.

**Security, Logistics and Program Support:** Catering to the needs of humanitarian organizations, H2H Members offer diverse services in security, logistics and program support. Their accessible expertise empowers both international NGOs and smaller agencies, promoting localization and strengthening operational capacities.

**Quality and Sector Professionalization:** H2H Members play a vital role in professionalizing the humanitarian sector. They establish competencies, standards and systems, providing direct support for capacity building. By ensuring adherence to universal minimum standards, they enable crisis-affected communities to hold humanitarian responders accountable.

The H2H Network emerged as a shared space for these service providers to discuss common challenges and explore solutions.
Our member organizations vary in many ways, such as origin, legal status, size, and way of operating.

**The legal status of our members**

- Independent Non-Governmental Organization: 36 members (69.2%)
- Hosted project: 7 members (13.5%)
- Private company: 6 members (11.5%)
- Foundation: 3 members (5.8%)

In addition, 44 members implemented cross regional projects.

**Where members implemented projects and activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern and Eastern Africa</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEMBER SNAPSHOT

**Statistics Without Borders:**  
Providing pro bono services in statistics and data science

Statistics Without Borders (SWB) is a volunteer outreach group of the American Statistical Association, supporting humanitarian actors by providing pro bono services in statistics and data science. They work to improve human welfare through empirical knowledge using the best applications of statistical principles and practices to enable their clients to make informed decisions. Through project based services, they help resource-limited organizations by partnering with them and sharing their expertise.

I thought we’d get maybe 30 statisticians interested in volunteer work. I continue to be blown away that we now have 1600 people who want to do this kind of volunteer work.

**GARY SHAPIRO**
co-founder of SWB
Members’ end users

- International NGOs: 43 members
- Local and national organizations: 43 members
- UN agencies: 32 members
- Donors: 24 members
- Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement: 23 members
- Other: 16 members

How many paid employees members had

- 17 members have 1 - 9 Employees
- 23 members have 10 - 49 Employees
- 5 members have 50 - 249 Employees
- 3 members have 250 + Employees

Four members do not have any paid employees

H2H Network’s largest members tend to undertake direct programming and/or be multi-mandated

How many volunteers members had

- 16 members have 1 - 9 Volunteers
- 6 members have 10 - 49 Volunteers
- 2 members have 50 - 249 Volunteers
- 5 members have 250 + Volunteers

23 members do not have any volunteers

Three members have close to 2000 volunteers

The member with the most volunteers, CLEAR Global, has up to 106,000 volunteers
In 2022, the H2H Network was pleased to welcome Medical Aid Films as a new member. Medical Aid Films bring together health experts with creative content makers to create engaging, accessible digital content, empowering health workers and communities with vital knowledge and skills. Over 300 organizations and 2,200 health professionals and trainers are using their work for education and training, enabling them to reach 5 million views in over 145 countries each year. Their rich experience in communications and community engagement makes a valuable contribution to the network.

“We are looking forward to benefiting from the connections and resources we will be able to make through the H2H Network and contributing in every way we can.”

CATHERINE MCCARTHY
CEO of Medical Aid Films

MEMBER SNAPSHOT

DEMAC - Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination: Fostering a deeper understanding of diasporas as humanitarian actors

DEMAC is a global initiative aiming to enhance coordination among diaspora organizations involved in humanitarian assistance. With over 120 members, DEMAC seeks to increase engagement and visibility for diaspora organizations in the humanitarian system through workshops, seminars, peer-to-peer networking events and evidence-based research.

“DEMAC challenges traditional ways of working in the humanitarian system in three main ways. First, by enhancing knowledge between diasporas and humanitarian institutions. Second, by increasing awareness of diaspora-led humanitarian interventions. Third, by improving the coordination, communication and coherence of humanitarian responses.”

ALEXANDRA SINGPIEL
DEMAC Co-Coordinator
The H2H Network is governed by an advisory board comprised of elected network members, one representative from Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and one independent. In 2022, six H2H Board meetings were held. During the year, the network was delighted to announce the appointment of three new member representatives to its board. The elected members were Christina Wille, Director of Insecurity Insight; Ewan Oglethorpe, Former Executive Director of Data Friendly Space; and Mary Ana McGlasson, Executive Director of the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership. This brought the total number of board members to seven. We’re extremely grateful to both Dany Egreteau, Director of Atlas Logistique, and Nick van Praag, Executive Director and Founder at Ground Truth Solutions, for serving their terms.

I am looking forward to serving on the Board to help strengthen the H2H Network and, in particular, the opportunities it brings for small H2H organizations. H2H Network offers invaluable collaboration opportunities to ensure that we collectively bring more than our unique contributions to the table. I am particularly interested in ensuring that the network strikes the appropriate balance between being a service provider and a disrupter of the existing humanitarian system.

CHRISTINA WILLE
Insecurity Insight
I am enthusiastic about serving on the H2H Board and becoming more involved in helping the network execute its mission and thus assist the world’s most vulnerable. Having grown quite disenchanted with the more traditional top-down approach, H2H Network’s mission has inspired and intrigued me since I first came across it, in particular with regard to uniting smaller actors.

EWAN OGLETHORPE  
Data Friendly Space

The H2H Network brings together a unique collaboration of humanitarian actors that is unmatched by other networks as it values local leadership, accountability, collaboration and use of technology to improve humanitarian response in a changing world. As a board member, I want to keep increasing H2H Network’s global brand and reach in service of more effective partnership and locally-led responses.

MARY ANA MCGlasson  
Centre for Humanitarian Leadership

THE H2H TEAM

The H2H Team is the secretary of the network, located in Geneva, Switzerland. This year the team added three new positions - Fund Coordinator, Finance and Compliance Officer and Communications Officer - bringing the H2H Team to six.
2022 in focus

This year showed us that protracted crises and climate change are the new normal. With drought in the Horn of Africa and flooding in Pakistan, the year was marked by a record number of natural disasters. The Russian invasion of Ukraine led to one of the fastest and largest displacements of people since the Second World War. Humanitarian needs have never been higher. Meanwhile, funding for humanitarian action dropped, and we saw skyrocketing prices due to the pandemic and the ongoing war in Europe.

Experience, and increasingly, evidence shows that H2H organizations are well suited to meet these challenges. H2H organizations developed new solutions to the problems facing the system, simultaneously delivering services and demonstrating new ways of working.

Throughout the year, H2H Network also worked hard to enable a humanitarian system that’s adapting to what’s on the horizon. Changing the existing system requires a lot of work, and this year we focused on creating strategies and support to implement these lofty, yet necessary, changes together. With an emphasis on building stability, H2H wants to be part of building the new humanitarian model.

In the first half of 2022, H2H launched a new three-year strategy to further support members in meeting these emerging humanitarian challenges. The strategy created the framework for the sustainable development of the network through three focus areas: Building Community; Providing Resources; and Facilitation and Brokering, each supported by the crosscutting focus of Impact and Learning.

During the second half of the year, we aimed to implement the strategy within these three focus areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Community</th>
<th>Providing Resources</th>
<th>Facilitation and Brokering</th>
<th>Impact and Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building and sustaining a vibrant H2H Network community</td>
<td>Providing value-added resources to enable our member’s work</td>
<td>Building stronger engagement with the wider humanitarian system</td>
<td>Catalyzing change with research and experience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the second half of the year, we aimed to implement the strategy within these three focus areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providing resources (including HR)</th>
<th>618,311</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Building community (including HR)</td>
<td>147,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support costs (HR, travels, hosting fees, running costs)</td>
<td>289,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,055,200</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overhead</td>
<td>82,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,137,266</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The H2H Network is hosted by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and is integrated with DRC’s financial systems. DRC accounts are externally audited on a yearly basis, in accordance with the Danish Financial Statements Act.
Providing Resources

Recent decades have seen significant shifts in the operational architecture of humanitarian response. Notably, the budgets of the largest humanitarian agencies and international NGOs have continued to grow, while the sector has seen a plateau in funding overall, despite rising needs. This indicates a significant concentration of resources and less diversity. While this has resulted in greater efficiency and reach, such consolidation limits the system’s ability to innovate, adapt and remain agile. For this reason, the H2H Network provides its members with targeted resources in response to that need. One such resource is the H2H Fund.

The H2H Fund is a financing mechanism that disburses targeted funding to members of the H2H Network to provide specialized services to enhance quality, effectiveness and accountability, and address key gaps and priorities in humanitarian response. In 2022, the H2H Fund was activated in response to the floods in Pakistan and the drought in the Horn of Africa. The fund was also activated to support an innovation accelerator programme, aiming to develop new services to unlock change and drive improvements across the wider humanitarian system.

The H2H Fund made the sector more inclusive and diverse.

FINDINGS FROM A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF H2H MEMBERS’ EVALUATIONS

Admin support fantastic: efficient and human. When the H2H Team visited the project area to engage other stakeholders, it increased awareness and uptake of services and helped build a shared analysis across member organizations (...) Generally a good balance between not overburdening while still supporting and ensuring due diligence, which is a tricky balancing act to achieve.

H2H MEMBER SURVEY
Flooding in Pakistan

In response to the devastating floods in Pakistan, the H2H Network activated its fund mechanism to strengthen the humanitarian response in the country. The H2H Fund enabled four members to fill essential gaps in information sharing, inclusion and accountability.

**WHERE:** Pakistan  
**WHEN:** October 2022 - March 2023  
**FUNDING:** CHF 211 k

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of service</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Service providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community engagement and accountability</td>
<td>Improving the evidence basis for language-aware community engagement and accountability</td>
<td>CLEAR Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ensuring that older people and persons with disabilities have improved access to life-saving assistance and increased resilience</td>
<td>HelpAge International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Producing and disseminating life-saving content and in-depth reports on the floods via radio stations, online media, television, print and social media across the country</td>
<td>Fondation Hirondelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and sector professionalization</td>
<td>Strengthening local response capacity, as well as building resilience and promoting disaster risk reduction</td>
<td>RedR UK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPACT:** The international response lacked the capacity to complement the government-led response in Pakistan as well as providing sufficient technical expertise support to fill gaps in information sharing, inclusion and accountability. In this context, H2H Members’ nimble and agile services were able to fill gaps in inclusion, access of information, community engagement and accountability. CLEAR Global spotlighted barriers for minority language groups to access information and assistance. This resulted in better language support and translation of information on flood-related risks and assistance for the affected people. HelpAge International provided a platform for better inclusion and representation of people with disabilities and older people to the response by coordinating the Age Disability and Diversity Task Force (ADDTF). Fondation Hirondelle bridged the gap between humanitarian actors and local media, providing information to the affected communities on the humanitarian situation and aid programmes through a local network of journalists, Tribal News Network. RedR UK’s work included building long-term capacity for resilience, adaptation and risk reduction, which helped local civil society actors to better prepare for the next emergency and develop long-term climate adaptation strategies.

Thanks to the H2H Fund, the data of people with different types and extent of disabilities and older people (...) was collected from the beginning. This greatly helps to identify the needs of diverse groups.

**MUHAMMAD WASEEM AYYAZ**  
Country MEAL Manager, Secours Islamique France (SIF) Mission Pakistan

Training on the standards for inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons helped our organization to gain technical knowledge and apply them in our own programs.

**LOCAL PARTICIPANT**  
HelpAge International [training programme](#)
In response to drought and severe food insecurity in the Horn of Africa, the H2H Fund was activated to support humanitarian efforts in Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. Seven H2H Members provided broad-ranging services to the humanitarian response in the region, enabling better decision-making and more tailored crisis aid.

**IMPACT:** Thanks to the H2H Fund, members were able to provide quality logistics, improved access to information and capacity strengthening. For example, IMPACT Initiative’s first-hand data collection in Marsabit and Turkana in Kenya were used by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) to determine the classification of these counties on the IPC scale. Insecurity Insight’s data helped build awareness among food security actors on food delivery in conflict contexts and how warring parties may instrumentalize communities’ access to food as a weapon of war, even affecting aid organizations. CLEAR Global’s research demonstrated that speakers from minority language groups do not necessarily understand the dominant language – as has often been assumed by aid actors and compounds factors of exclusion and marginalization.

This is a fantastic opportunity to improve the quality of humanitarian response by NGOs and INGOs. It is timely for localization and achieving the grand bargain goals.

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**Any dataset that helps us to understand specific triggers is extremely useful and so valuable for my job. I will make sure to pass the Somalia study to all my colleagues and make sure we discuss how this data might help us in our upcoming meetings.**

*FAO CONFLICT SENSITIVE ADVISOR BASED IN NAIROBI*

Interview by Insecurity Insight

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**PARTICIPANT**

RedR UK’s **training programme**
H2H Network Innovation Accelerator:

Aimed at unlocking change and driving improvements across the wider humanitarian system, the H2H Network activated its fund mechanism in December 2022 to support members in developing new services. Three H2H Members received financial support and guidance on how to bring their innovations to scale.

**WHEN:** December 2022 – March 2023  
**FUNDING:** CHF 44 k

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of service</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Service providers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security, logistics and programme support</td>
<td>Developing a new tool to enable aid agencies to better support local markets and businesses through a local procurement learning framework</td>
<td>Humanitarian Logistics Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data, information management and analysis</td>
<td>Developing a data management solution to offer a digital application builder to enable humanitarian organizations to manage the whole data cycle with only one integrative tool</td>
<td>Relief Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality and sector professionalization</td>
<td>Enhancing the impact and implementation of a climate and humanitarian crisis initiative, ADAPT, dedicated to improving preparedness and response to environmental related disasters</td>
<td>Groupe URD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULT:** The H2H Fund accelerated effective management of multiple humanitarian datasets, improved humanitarian climate crisis response and preparedness, as well as localized production and procurement in humanitarian action. Groupe URD put together an approach for their climate initiative, ADAPT, that draws heavily on local learning, high-level expertise and flexible multi-actor governance to improve preparedness and response to environmental related disasters. Humanitarian Logistics Association was able to get project insights and evidence from a pilot in Kenya, which provided a broad systems view of all the pieces needed for local procurement and illuminated the paths for building out this new aid sector capability. The Relief Applications team explored how to move beyond technical development, understanding and addressing other factors that influence adoption of their systems and tailoring their narrative to focus more on the complex needs and challenges of getting organizations to adopt their tools.

“Solutions to complex challenges need not only to be transformative or innovative, but they need to take into account a holistic approach, a collaborative approach, and H2H is just the perfect example of this.”

**CAMILLE GALLET**  
Relief Applications

Most valuable engagement to date for us has been with the H2H Innovation Accelerator

**H2H MEMBERS SURVEY**
Fund Allocations

Total Funds Allocated: CHF 609,558
Average Grant Amount: CHF 43,540
Projects Funded: 14
Members Funded: 12

MEMBER SNAPSHOT

Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF):
Influencing security risk management

GISF (Global Interagency Security Forum) is an NGO-led peer network of over 140 NGOs. GISF supports NGOs to promote safe humanitarian operations and facilitate access for crisis-affected communities by providing original research and events, as well as a platform for organizations to share their experiences, knowledge and best practices on humanitarian security risk management (SRM).

In particular, national NGOs and staff are exposed to security risks, and we remain deeply committed to advancing research, tools and workshops for local and international NGOs in partnerships to achieve equitable risk sharing in NGO partnerships and enable more locally-led response.

CHIARA JANCKE
Research Advisor at GISF

Number of employees: 13
Legal status:
Hosted project
Year the organization was founded: 2006
Building Community

As a shared space for independent humanitarian service providers to discuss common challenges and explore solutions, community building is core for the H2H Network. Working together as a community of service providers has the potential to improve quality, reduce duplication and drive innovation by introducing new options and perspectives.

There were many ways that members shared and discussed their projects, challenges and collaboration insights in 2022. H2H Members accessed information and support through our SharePoint hub and newsletters, as well as over 15 collaborative engagement events, including calls, webinars and face-to-face gatherings. 80 percent of the members reported that they collaborated with other H2H Members during the year.
Regular check-ins (collaboration calls) were great, as I would not have otherwise had the capacity to reach out. Even small bits of collaboration are already helpful and interesting.

RIEKE VINGERLING
Ground Truth Solutions
Percentage of members who ran collaborative projects with other members

78%

Ways in which members collaborated

- Informal collaboration: 29 members
- Formal collaboration: 24 members

MEMBER SNAPSHOT

EDGE EFFECT: Assisting humanitarian and development organizations to work in genuine partnerships with sexual and gender minorities

Edge Effect supports people with diverse SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics) to access their economic, social and cultural rights with safety and dignity. Edge Effect builds a broader, deeper and more accessible evidence base to support humanitarian actors through training and organizational development, program design and implementation for diverse SOGIESC civil society organizations.

Why should people with diverse SOGIESC be part of inclusion efforts in humanitarian (and development) sector programs? A better question is: why would any humanitarian (or development) sector program exclude people with diverse SOGIESC?

LANA WOOLF
Cofounder, Edge Effect

Number of employees: 2
Legal status: Social enterprise
Year the organization was founded: 2016
The H2H Network strives to drive change across the humanitarian system, contributing to system reform efforts, to give more to those affected by crises. We do this by building stronger engagement with the wider humanitarian system, by promoting H2H Network organizations and services while convening humanitarian-to-humanitarian support.
During 2022, we increased H2H Network activities to link our members to the wider humanitarian system. In doing so, we increased the relevance, visibility and impact of their work. H2H expanded its reach via social media and monthly newsletters, including UN OCHA’s humanitarian information service ReliefWeb. We also participated in major networking events across the sector, such as the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week and the humanitarian and development data forum, GeONG. 68 percent of the members believe that there is greater awareness within the humanitarian system of the network than one year ago, according to the H2H Member Survey. We are building our reach through communications and external engagement activities at international, regional and local response levels.

49% increase in social media followers

9 newsletters

9 blogs

three external panels

I think awareness could still improve. I think many know of H2H but don’t quite ‘get’ it.

H2H MEMBER SURVEY

I have heard more people speaking of the H2H Network, especially in INGO circles.

H2H MEMBER SURVEY

H2H feels like it has really established itself as a key network in the sector. There is really strong brand recognition in a short period of time.

H2H MEMBER SURVEY
Impact and Learning

H2H Members are doing things a little differently. They have all spotted a gap in the humanitarian system or identified a need for a new way of working and developed creative solutions leading to a wide range of specialized services, tools and products.

A common challenge, however, is that it can be hard for organizations that work like this to show their impact. The humanitarian system’s go-to approach to measuring programme effectiveness is not designed for forward-leaning H2H organizations. Rigid logframes and simplistic output-level indicators are typically a bad fit for measuring system-changing impact. It is easier to count vaccines administered or blankets distributed than to calculate and demonstrate how a training programme for frontline responders, an open-source geospatial mapping service, or independent news and analysis from the heart of a crisis contributed to a better humanitarian response for people affected by conflict or disaster.
Yet H2H Members need good monitoring, evaluation and learning systems (MEAL) to show the impact of their work, to fundraise and to make sure that what they learn is being used to create system-wide improvements. In 2022, H2H continued to support members to develop stronger learning systems, enabling members to tell their stories of collective and individual impact. Early in the year, the MEAL Advisory Group met for a series of workshops, where we heard from members, the H2H Team and external consultants about how H2H Members develop humanitarian value propositions and logic models, evidence generation and learning, resourcing and coordinating MEAL activities. The working group continued to unpack and road test the H2H MEAL Model and Guide (working document), along with the accompanying tools that had been published 6 months earlier.

In April, a systematic review of evaluations was completed by external consultants. It aimed to assess the evidence for the H2H model’s effectiveness in action, its alignment with the broad strategic aims of the network and its contribution to humanitarian action globally. The review highlighted gaps in the evidence base, but nonetheless found “moderate to high” evidence that “H2H is meeting its objectives, through contributing to and furthering an enabling environment for humanitarian action, contextually adapted humanitarian action and improved collaboration and connectedness between humanitarian actors. Moreover, evidence suggested that the H2H model supports members, adding value in key programmatic and operational areas.”

Later in the year, four case studies were published, enabling us to better understand the impact of the H2H Fund activations in support of the humanitarian response to war in Tigray, the escalation of hostilities in the occupied Palestinian territories and the earthquake in Haiti.

Here’s what we learned:

**Haiti earthquake activation:**

The H2H Fund activation for the earthquake that occurred in Haiti on 14 August 2021 was able to rapidly fill gaps in the humanitarian response. The case study demonstrated the function of the H2H Fund as seed funding to kick-start action with the possibility of carrying on past the project implementation phase. Unfortunately, most grantees were unable to mobilize new funding, and instead committed to utilizing their own core funding to extend activities that were initiated by the H2H Fund activation. The organic growth of the H2H Network did, among other things, lead to innovative and novel ideas on how to facilitate collaboration, jointly build capacity and benefit from the uniqueness of each network partner to create something where the sum is indeed greater than its parts.

> The rapid-release nature of H2H funding has been critical for our organization, notably for this Haiti project but also for our work on COVID-19. By comparison, most funding we apply for takes us an average of two years to get (…) which means we miss opportunities to spark real changes – of the Haiti ilk – when it comes to humanitarian quality and effectiveness. And that is the whole point of organizations like ours.

**MEG SATTLER**

Director Ground Truth Solutions
Escalation of conflict in the occupied Palestine territories (oPt)

This case study showed that H2H Fund recipients were able to implement relevant and appropriate projects in the immediate aftermath of the acute escalation of the conflict in oPt. The services provided were individually strengthened by coordination and collaboration between the H2H Fund recipients themselves, the wider H2H Network and other actors across the humanitarian coordination system. When needed, H2H Grantees adapted their projects to better meet the needs identified during the implementation period.

ACAPS products were very appropriate, very accessible, and timely. A report was published almost immediately after the escalation of violence in May - far more timely than much of the other reports published (outside of the media).

JUDE SWEENEY, Former Co-lead for the Global Protection Clusters Analysis Working Group in Palestine

It felt valuable in this response to have a mix of partners – providing new and exciting opportunities for cross-specialization, collaboration and innovation.

ANNA TAYLOR
International Health Partners

H2H Fund Activations: Conflict in Tigray 2021

The H2H Network Fund activations for the conflict in Tigray, one from January to March 2021, and another one from June to August 2021, allowed H2H Fund recipients to provide timely and relevant services at a point when the (predominantly development-oriented) aid community in Ethiopia and Sudan needed urgent support to scale up or transition their operations to life-saving services.

The case study showed that the second activation could have been more effective in sustaining the services that had been provided in the initial Tigray fund activation if it would have followed directly as an extension to the first one, as opposed to a separate activation at a later time. The impact of the relatively small budgets of each H2H Fund recipient was maximized by the strong level of collaboration between the fund recipients, operational agencies and the coordination and collaboration with the wider humanitarian community. Striking in all key stakeholder interviews was the emphasis placed on the multiple benefits - outside the opportunity to receive funding - of being a member of the H2H Network. However, the complex Ethiopian and Sudanese contexts, exacerbated by the SARS-COV-2 pandemic, proved challenging for all H2H Fund grantees.

We were observing the beginning of the crisis, and we already developed a concept to support the humanitarian response, but we didn’t see any funding opportunity. When we learned about the H2H Fund activation, we realized that it was possible to do something rapidly.

SARAH SIMON
iMMAP Africa Desk Coordinator
While improving information sharing, inclusion, community engagement, accountability, capacity-strengthening, decision-making and quality logistics in the humanitarian system, the H2H Network has enabled members to fill essential gaps in the global aid system throughout the year. The network also accelerated more effective management of humanitarian datasets, improved humanitarian climate crisis preparedness, as well as increased localized humanitarian production and procurement.

The year ahead looks to be another evolving one, as we help the humanitarian sector to cope with the changing scale and nature of crises. In particular, we will seek to foster a stronger community of members, built on active participation and collective action, as well as increase the facilitation of external relationships at the local level and outside the formal humanitarian architecture.

We invite you to join us in this journey by helping us promote and spread the H2H concept, following our social media channels and signing up for our monthly newsletter, or enabling more funds to improve the response to those impacted by crises.

The H2H Network will continue to work for our vision that all people affected by crises and disasters are supported by effective, efficient, and accountable humanitarian action.
H2H Network
Humanitarian Action Support

Get in touch, we’d love to hear from you at info@h2hnetwork.org

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