

Humanitarian Assistance: Improving U.S.-European Cooperation

Edited by

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You can access all individual chapters of this book, as well as other publications created in the context of the Raising the Bar project, including an Action Paper, three Policy Papers and Conference Reports at:

www.disastergovernance.net

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Cover Images

Left: USAID blankets being distributed by Mercy Corps wait to be loaded onto trucks at Chaklala airport on October 31, 2005 in Islamabad, Pakistan. Photo by Paula Bronstein/Getty Images.

Right: Rice is distributed as relief aid to internally displaced ethnic Tamils at a center in Valaichenai in government-held territory of northeastern Sri Lanka on December 9, 2006. Photo by John Moore/Getty Images.

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www.daraint.org

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Paris, France
www.urd.org

Welthungerhilfe

Bonn, Germany
www.welthungerhilfe.de

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Foreword

This book analyzes the policies and approaches of the European Commission and the U.S. Government to humanitarian assistance and develops recommendations for enhancing transatlantic cooperation and mutual learning in this field.

The contributions to this book were created as part of the project “Raising the Bar: Enhancing Transatlantic Governance of Disaster Relief and Preparedness.” This project was mainly funded through the European Commission’s pilot program on transatlantic methods for handling common global challenges and was also supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The “Raising the Bar” Project was designed to support enhanced cooperation and mutual learning in humanitarian assistance between the European Commission and the U.S. Government and to develop recommendations for the 2010 EU-U.S. summit. It was based on a broad network of relevant institutions on both sides of the Atlantic, led by the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) and the Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) at Johns Hopkins University, and closely involving the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Groupe Urgence, Réhabilitation, Développement (Groupe URD), Welthungerhilfe and Development Assistance Research Associates (DARA) as partner organizations. The findings of the project are based on the insights of 16 field-level case studies that were commissioned for the project. Decision-makers and experts in humanitarian assistance from both sides of the Atlantic were actively involved in the project through a series of Transatlantic Dialogues on Humanitarian Action, the project’s Steering Committee, as well as a series of other discussion events.

The chapters in this volume describe the current state of the transatlantic relationship in humanitarian assistance and pay particular attention to four central questions:

- How could the transatlantic partners promote the linking of relief, rehabilitation, and development?
- How could the transatlantic partners improve humanitarian performance through the implementation of lessons learned?
- What role does business play – and how could it be more effective – in disaster relief and preparedness?
- How could the transatlantic partners improve civil-military engagement when responding to disasters?

The 16 case studies in this book were created to help address these questions. The case studies focus mainly on humanitarian assistance to third countries, but they also include a domestic emergency situation that holds important lessons for emergency response and preparedness. The case studies cover diverse regional settings ranging from the U.S. to Indonesia, as well as different types of crises, including natural disasters, complex emergencies, and protracted crises. Table 1 provides an overview of study group topics and related case studies.

Table 1. “Raising the Bar” Study Groups and Case Studies

Study Group	Case Study Focus
Improving Humanitarian Performance through the Implementation of Lessons Learned	Enhancing Gender Programming – Nepal Enhancing Gender Programming – Darfur Strengthening Local Capacity – Nicaragua Strengthening Local Capacity – Occupied Palestinian Territories
Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development	Southern Sudan The Democratic Republic of Congo (Northern Kivu) Afghanistan Chad
Business Engagement in Humanitarian Action	Commercial business engagement in emergency response Commercial business engagement in emergency preparedness Humanitarian assistance and corporate social responsibility Corporate social responsibility in emergency preparedness
Civil-Military Relations	The Democratic Republic of Congo (Kivu) The Balkans / Kosovo The 2004 Tsunami Hurricane Katrina

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Authors write in their personal capacity and do not necessarily represent the views of their respective organizations or governments.

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