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# GISF ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Image credit: UN OCHA

Key Highlights  
January - December 2022

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## 01. OVERVIEW

## WHO WE ARE &amp; WHAT WE DO

**GISF is an NGO-led forum that drives positive change through our global network of over 145 humanitarian, development, and human rights member organisations operating internationally. GISF strives to strengthen the security risk management (SRM) capacity and effectiveness of organisations promoting the physical and psychological wellbeing of all staff through networking, coordination, collaboration, and information sharing. GISF builds and strengthens collective knowledge and skills and believes that breaking down silos and pooling expertise from a variety of sectors is crucial for improving humanitarian SRM. We are committed to achieving sustainable access to populations in need and keeping aid workers safe, through driving improved security risk management policy and practice.**

GISF provides a balance of many types of products, services, opportunities for engagement, networking, sharing of good practice and learning, including:

- Production of original research reports, guides, articles, podcasts, and blogs;
- Delivery of workshops and events that aim to strengthen capacity and provide networking opportunities, bringing together GISF members with those of other networks, and experts from academia, the private sector and elsewhere;
- GISF website and library, providing on-line resources and services;
- GISF Chat, providing an opportunity for members to share information and direct support; and
- Participation in a wide range of thematic and sectoral events, meetings, networks and groups to ensure that security risk management is considered, silos are broken down, the needs of GISF members are met and their voice is heard in global debates.

GISF continues to provide an effective trusted network both within its membership and to the broader humanitarian community which enables the development and dissemination of good practice throughout the sector.

A short film outlining the history and values of GISF and the transition to GISF can be found here: <https://gisf.ngo/about/who-is-gisf/>



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Image credit: UN OCHA

The continued growth in GISF and participation by current members and other stakeholders across the wide range of our activities, demonstrates GISF's strengths in terms of influence on operational practice in SRM and our meaningful contribution to improving humanitarian access.

## OUR VALUES

INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

INCLUSIVITY

GISF has continued to attract institutional funding enabling us to meet our goals and objectives. This has been key to delivering projects that respond to existing needs in the sector, strengthening GISF as a centre of excellence, and extending our reach as a global actor through networking, coordination, collaboration, and information sharing, whilst upholding our values of innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity.

## THE PROGRAMME OUTCOMES THAT DRIVE GISF

1

### Outcome One

Information shared, and networks strengthened to improve humanitarian SRM

2

### Outcome Two

Stakeholders have recognised the importance of good practice for inclusive and effective SRM in the humanitarian space.

3

### Outcome Three

SRM skills and knowledge improved within the humanitarian space.



## GISF AMERICAS

**In 2022 our Americas office began to connect in-person with members again.**

In July, our Executive Director, Lisa Reilly facilitated a workshop in New York in partnership with the UNDSS training team on Improving Inclusivity in Security Risk Management. More than 20 NGO and UN participants attended this one-day event.

GISF's Senior Project Officer, Tara Arthur, facilitated a three-day workshop in Panama City to support our growing community of NGO security professionals in the Latin America and Caribbean region. With the support of trainers from Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and PSI, GISF delivered two workshops on Managing Sexual Violence, and Partnerships and Security Risk Management. The third day brought together LAC Regional Security Directors/Managers, and invited colleagues from the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) to share knowledge and experiences about their regional collaboration platform.



**+70**

GISF Events

**3**

New Affiliates

**1**

New Business Partner

## Affiliate Programme

**Three new affiliates joined GISF, bringing the total to 22 Affiliates. They have access to a specific range of information and benefits but are not members.**

The affiliate programme enables sharing and knowledge transfer and provides an opportunity for communication and collaboration for the benefit of the sector and SRM as a whole. GISF Affiliate (Service Provider) status is available to individuals and organisations with specific experience in supporting NGO SRM in the humanitarian and international development sector.

## Business Partnership Programme (BPP)

**GISF's BPP continued to engage with new prospective Business Partners.**

Current Business Partners include Dragonfly (formerly Risk Advisory), Proelium Law LLP, RSM Consulting, Control Risks, and Conductrr.

# 02. HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of the Programme: Key Achievements and Challenges

## 021. OUTCOME 1: INFORMATION SHARED AND NETWORKS STRENGTHENED TO IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN SRM



### FORUMS

The GISF forums are a primary mechanism that foster strong relationships and improve trust throughout the humanitarian SRM sector. They are well attended, and rated highly on quality and relevance, scoring an average of 3.35/4.

GISF held two hybrid forums in 2022:

**March** The Spring hybrid forum focused on Digital Security with three components: virtual, and in-person in Washington D.C., and Brussels.

**Sept** The Autumn hybrid forum focused on Collaboration, and was also held virtually, and in-person in Washington D.C., and Brussels.

Managing a global event across three time zones required a lot of planning but was managed successfully and received positive feedback from members. Offering an online element of forums has enabled wider participation, for example from regional

Security Focal Points, and brought a rich and fruitful level of experience and knowledge to discussions. Both forums maintained the essence of GISF's in-person events and included networking opportunities and a chance to feed into upcoming research, initiatives and priorities for 2023.



**“** I think organising an event in three time zones, in 2 locations + virtually and delivering it seamlessly, almost with perfection was no mean feat! it was probably the best-organised virtual/hybrid event that I have attended, ever! Well done to everyone involved especially those behind the scenes. Great Job Folks!”

### A few topics covered at our 2022 Global Forums:

- Operational Considerations in Ukraine
- Context Session: Afghanistan
- Sharing resources with local partners
- Working with different government bodies on crisis response
- Data-driven decision making and platforms to support security analysis
- Advocating for safe humanitarian access (ICVA Project)



## Membership

**145 members | 89% of members engaged**

GISF membership continues to expand, from 45 members 10 years ago to 145 by the end of 2022, with 96 full members and 49 associate members.

In 2022 alone, GISF accepted 12 new members (eight full and four associate), including four in North America. GISF continues to explore membership and networking opportunities to ensure that the organisation reflects a truly global perspective.



**12 New Members**

**Full**

**Associate**

- Alight
- Gret
- Corus International
- Project HOPE
- Fauna and Flora
- SOS Children's Villages
- MEDA
- Shelterbox
- Danish Red Cross
- IFDC
- The Hague
- Legal Action Worldwide



## MEMBERS

The comprehensive range of members and stakeholders that utilise GISF services, demonstrates GISF's unique position as the key trusted NGO security organisation with a wide range of global members, an expansive network, and extensive relationships with essential stakeholders. The close relationship maintained with members ensures our actions remain relevant.

Since going global in 2020, GISFs ability to meet objectives and better serve the needs of members and the wider humanitarian sector has gone from strength to strength. The North America office is pleased to be building momentum and engaging new members.



*"Thank-you to you and all at GISF as well, we really value your support and the relationships it builds with other organisations" (Member)*



## MATTEROST: GISF\_CHAT CHANNEL

**390 Registered users**   **7 New channels**

Our chat facility continues to thrive as an extremely useful resource for members to directly share information and questions as well as for the Secretariat to share updates and increase members' awareness of new tools and resources. Existing channels continue to engage members through discussions and sharing of policies and practice and provide an active and useful space for member coordination, including Digital Security, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan. Seven new channels were created in 2022: Ukraine (101 members), Burkina Faso (25 members), Pakistan (25 members), as well as new regional channels: West Africa Regional (35 members), LAC (31 members), MENA (32 members), East Africa (31 members).

## PEER MONTHLY LEARNING AND EXCHANGE

As we continue with virtual working, these monthly sessions provide members with an opportunity for informal chats and discussions that previously took place in event and forum breaks. They have helped members connect on specific issues, and have kept the Secretariat in touch with members concerns and priorities.

## Website and Library

GISF's online resource centre is an internationally recognised knowledge-sharing platform on SRM for the humanitarian sector. Consisting of an extensive library of documents, original resources, the GISP Blog and more, it also provides easy access to NGO-appropriate training providers, events, consultants, and improved recruiting of NGO security staff.

The member area of the website enables sensitive information and documents to be shared easily within the membership and not to the wider public. We continue to add relevant resources, vacancies, and new themes.

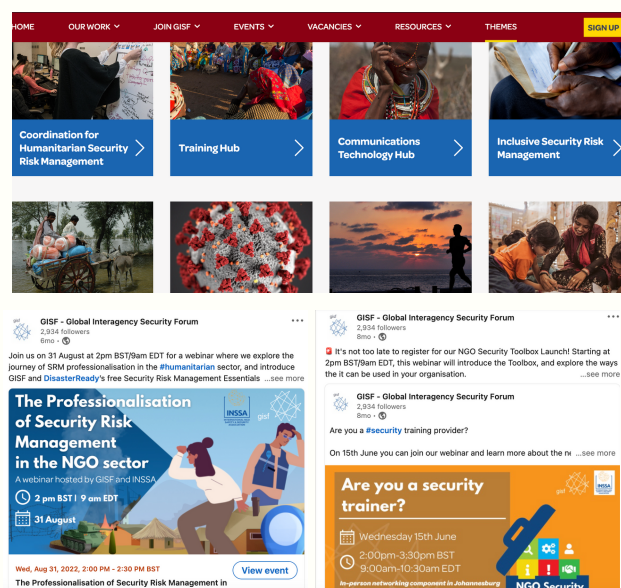
Two new themes were added: 'Ukraine and Environs' and 'Safeguarding Aid Workers' which includes useful, and continually updated, security and safeguarding resources to ensure security and wider humanitarian staff have the security knowledge necessary to implement necessary policies and carry out sustainable aid.

## Social Media

# 1,045

new followers and subscribers

Social media has continued to play a key role in GISP's engagement with members, other actors in the NGO community and organisations outside the humanitarian and development sectors, enabling GISP to broadcast our work to a wider audience.



## GISF BLOGS

# 24

GISF blogs published

The blogs produced by the Secretariat and guest writers are designed to provoke thought and debate, and improve knowledge and practice on humanitarian security risk management, as well as increasing engagement between the Secretariat, GISP members and the wider sector.



## JUST A FEW OF OUR BLOGS RELEASED IN 2022:

- Maintaining a Commitment to Communities in Haiti
- Of Black Swans and Worst-case Scenarios: how humanitarians contend with collateral violence and catastrophic risk
- Storytelling for learning: using engaging, ethical stories for effective security training
- Effective Security in Emergencies: responding to the Pakistan Floods



# 022. OUTCOME 2: STAKEHOLDERS HAVE RECOGNISED THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE SRM IN THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE.

## PRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL RESEARCH



### INCLUSIVE SECURITY

**Toward Inclusive Security: the impact of 'race', ethnicity, and nationality on aid workers' security**



### RISK MANAGEMENT

**Risk Management Under Uncertainty During the Afghanistan Crisis 2021**

GISF continues to be widely recognised for original research and translations, bringing new thinking into the sector as well as sharing good practice and lessons learned. In May, GISP published 'Toward Inclusive Security: the impact of 'race', ethnicity, and nationality on aid workers' security'. Presented during a session at Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW), held by United Nations OCHA, the extended article received great feedback as well as prompting some impactful conversations that we will continue to build on in 2023.

GISF supported the publication of a new report 'Risk Management Under Uncertainty During the Afghanistan Crisis 2021'. It examines lessons learnt from the international response to the Taliban take-over of Kabul in August 2021 and assesses how these can be used by SRM practitioners in today's complex operational environments.

## GISF STORY VIDEO

A new GISP Story video was released in September highlighting why Humanitarian SRM matters, and summarising the importance of the work GISP carries out. It can be used to provide an overview of security risk management in your organisation and to the wider sector. You can access it, [here](#).



## NGO SECURITY TOOLBOX

+ two 'long read' resources

**The GISSF NGO Security Toolbox, published in April, was designed to provide accessible guidance, resources, and tools to help NGOs integrate good SRM practices into their operations in-country during humanitarian responses.**



Two 'long reads' are incorporated: the 'NGO Security Collaboration Guide', which provides advice and practical resources to support effective security collaboration and the 'GISF Security and Safety

Training Pack' which provides ready-made resources and guidance to support the delivery of security training.

GISF and INSSA formally launched the Toolbox in June, during an engaging and well-attended webinar (155 attendees). The toolbox and the long-reads have provided country-level security staff and programme decision-makers with a range of easily accessible resources to enable comprehensive SRM, better security collaboration, and quality security learning programmes to be built into immediate humanitarian responses.

### We have received great feedback from members and external stakeholders:

“Tearfund loves the certificate and toolbox, certificate is now distributed across all country directors and in-country SFPs.”  
(SFP, Tearfund)

“It been great to see GISSF progress from what was fairly academic content 5y ago to practical, operationally focused resources. Bravo” (Member)



## SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT ESSENTIALS (SRME) CERTIFICATE

with Insecurity Insight and Disaster Ready

In July, GISSF launched the Security Risk Management Essentials (SRME) Certificate with Insecurity Insight and Disaster Ready, a free online learning tool which provides humanitarian and development professionals with an introduction to vital security processes and policies.

We have started working on translating the certificate with Disaster Ready to ensure that the programme reaches a large number of humanitarian staff across the world.

Between July and December, it received:

**10,960**

Registrations

**1,867**

Completions

“I recently completed the SRM certificate course and found it comprehensive and practical. It offers a thorough SRM review and useful tutorials that offer the learner practical information and thoughtful questions. A great primer for those considering the INSSA SRMP certification.”





## EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

**GISF's reputation as the global coordination and resource hub, and centre of excellence for humanitarian security risk management continues to encourage high-level external engagement in strategic as well as practical discussions and events.**

GISF promotes the voice of member organisations through regularly engaging in sector working groups and external events, ensuring that the NGO voice is both heard and listened to in debates which have implications for humanitarian security and access. Key regular groups include: H2H network, Security Institute - Inclusive Security Group, Saving Lives Together Working Group and Oversight Committee, WCAPS Orgs in solidarity, BOND groups on counter terrorism and sanctions, resilience and conflict sensitivity and gender.

Regular meetings have continued with major donors on security risk management issues including, FCDO, ECHO and OFDA.

## AidEx

November

2

Workshops

GISF exhibited at AidEx, the largest international event for the humanitarian sector, in Brussels. We ran two workshops on 'Ensuring risk sharing and equitable SRM for all aid sectors: working with local partners and staff'. The first workshop looked at ways to build equitable SRM in partnerships between international and local partners. The second organised alongside Insecurity Insight, examined security incident sharing between international and local partners and assessed how this information can be used to protect health workers working through local partner organisations and national health structures.



## Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week

216

Participants



HNPW 2022. Image Credit: UN OCHA

**For the second time, SRM was one of HNPW's 9 priority topics this year. Recognising GISS's leading role in supporting collaboration on SRM and improving aid workers' protection, GISS was selected to lead sessions on this critical topic.**

Bringing together experts from across the aid world, GISS co-hosted nine in-person, hybrid, and virtual sessions focusing on Security in a Digital World and an Inclusive Approach to Security Risk Management in partnership with different actors such as the UN, ICRC, Dragonfly, WCAPS, Disaster Ready. Session topics included: Tackling misinformation and dis-information in humanitarian response; How does race and racism impact aid workers; Improving staff safety through effective donorship; Building an Organisational Culture for Effective SRM. Across the three weeks, 216 people participated in GISS sessions.

## 023. OUTCOME 3: SRM SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IMPROVED WITHIN THE HUMANITARIAN SPACE.

7

Workshops

22

Roundtables

25

Webinars

### WORKSHOPS



In 2022, we organised two workshops in Spanish on Partnerships and Managing sexual violence, and one in French also on Partnerships. All received great feedback and allowed us to reach a wider global audience. GISF will continue hosting a range of non-English speaking workshops as and when resources and translations of GISF guides permits.

GISF delivered 10 highly rated capacity building workshops for members and other invited stakeholders. GISF's unique position enables the bringing together of expert facilitators and a wide variety of NGOs to share expertise and good practice, and to develop skills and encourage collaboration between individuals and agencies.

#### GISF WORKSHOP & TRAINING EVENTS 2022

- Partnerships and SRM (French and Spanish)
- Security, Resilience, and the aid sector. (Two-part)
- Improving Inclusivity in Security Risk Management: Taking a Person-Centred Approach
- Managing Sexual Violence (Spanish)
- Training for Security in Today's World: Security, Inclusion and Resilience
- Working towards risk sharing and equitable security risk management in partnerships

### ROUNDTABLES AND WEBINARS

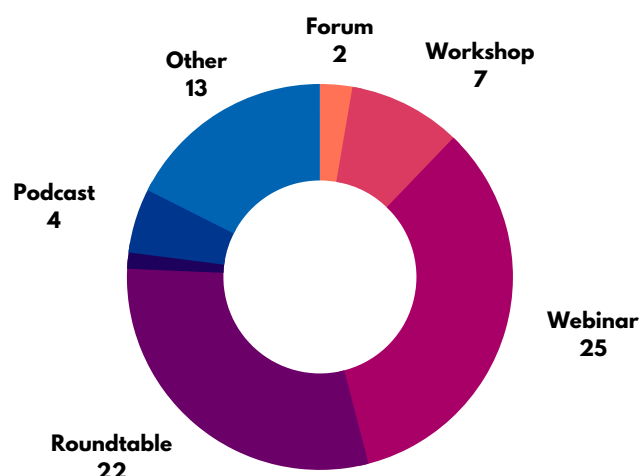
**Webinars and roundtables have proved to be an effective and impactful way of engaging members in specific topics of interest, allowing participants to exchange information and discuss operational challenges during acute crises with other members, and invited experts.**

As well as member only events, GISF conducted open access events, to enable outreach to non-members, and other interested parties. GISF developed and delivered 22 roundtables on contexts as they evolved and unfolded such as: Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, West Africa, and Haiti.

25 webinars were held, in collaboration with external partners, on topics ranging from Supporting families of hostages – best practice from the family perspective; The challenges of humanitarian acceptance; Road Safety; and Professionalisation of SRM in the NGO sector. Dragonfly facilitated four webinars for GISF on topics including the strategic outlook for 2022, Ukraine, the Kenya Elections, and Rising authoritarianism in Central America.



## GISF EVENTS 2022



## COVID-19: ESSENTIAL GUIDANCE FOR NGO SECURITY RISK MANAGERS

In 2022, GISF produced a final module 'December 2022: COVID-19 – Where are we now?' in the guidance series 'Keeping up with Covid: essential Guidance for NGO security risk managers'. The module gathers experiences and perspectives to assess the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the world of humanitarian SRM to understand where we are now.



## PODCASTS



The fourth GISF podcast series, **Inclusive Security**, continued, exploring the theme through the lens of security risk management.

It looked at elements of inclusive security, including aid workers personal characteristics and unique risk profiles, what it looks like in the humanitarian context and how these factors can impact personal security. This series identifies the challenges that operationalising inclusivity can bring and asks 'What do security managers need to know, and how can they stay up to date and keep producing and designing inclusive security procedures?'

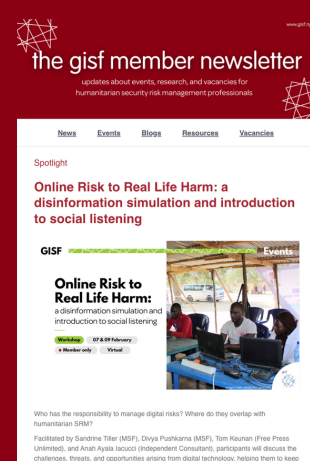
### Podcast episodes

|      |   |
|------|---|
| Jan  | Inclusive Security E3: Inclusivity at the UN          |
| Feb  | Inclusive Security E4: Inclusive psychological safety |
| May  | Inclusive Security E5: Reflections on Inclusive SRM   |
| July | Inclusive Security E6: Security Managers of Today     |

This series, and previous GISF Podcast series, can be found on the GISF website under Resources, as well as YouTube, Spotify, and Apple music.

## NEWSLETTER

GISF keeps members and other stakeholders up to date via our newsletters, focused on themes ranging from training opportunities, job vacancies, current research, blogs, opportunities for engagement. It spotlights specific issues and topics related to SRM. We have continued to receive positive feedback from members about the format launched in March, with Newsletters being listed as the primary platform for keeping up to date with GISF research and events.







## ENGAGING YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

### University Engagement

We have continued to collaborate with the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at Manchester University, and Lille University, with our Executive Director attending as a guest lecturer to advocate for the exploration of master's degrees in Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Security, and raise students' awareness of the topic.

## GUIDES AND TRANSLATIONS

GISF dedicates time to ensuring resources are made accessible to a wider audience through translation. French and Spanish translations of 'Partnerships and Security Risk Management: a joint action guide for local and international aid organizations (2021)', and an Arabic translation of 'Security Risk Management: a guide for smaller NGOs' were made available. The translations have been well received by members.



GISF took its university programme forward, to increase awareness of the importance of SRM for enabling sustainable access to populations in need and SRM as a profession amongst the future humanitarians of tomorrow. A virtual webinar, led by a panel of experts, discussed career opportunities in SRM and covered essential topics relevant to aid delivery. It highlighted the importance of SRM, to introduce students and young professionals interested in the sector to the basics of SRM and why it's so important for safe humanitarian operations.

**“I found it super helpful and interesting, particularly when the participants shared their experiences in the field and gave some tips for people who might be interested in getting involved in the sector”**  
(Student)

## Internship Portal

In June, GISF launched an internship portal on the website that allows members and young professionals to find well suited candidates for internship roles, and permit students to seek areas of interest to gain valuable experience in humanitarian SRM.



## 03.

## OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

## STRATEGIC DIRECTION



## GISF move towards independence

In the UK, we are hosted by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) based in Manchester. ChildFund are the host of our team in the US. The Steering Group and secretariat met in December to discuss the new strategic direction for GISF for the next two years.

Following an in-depth look at our values and strategic objectives, it has been decided that GISF will continue its move towards independence when the current UK hosting arrangements with MAG are due to end in October 2023. The decision to become an independent NGO signifies an opportunity to expand our donor base, focus on our mission, future proof GISF.

The Steering Group is leading the recruitment of a new Executive Director as Lisa Reilly, who has grown GISF globally over the last ten years, is leaving in March 2023.

The secretariat has expanded in 2022, creating and employing three additional positions:

- Dan Ford: Research and Comms Assistant, Americas
- Linda Ineza: Projects and Admin Assistant, Americas
- Abby Fogarty: Admin Officer, UK

## GISF Steering Group 2022:

## Chair:

- Phil Candy (Medair)

## Members:

- Javier Teofilo-Sanchez (MAG International)
- Shannon Fariel-Mureithi (ChildFund)
- Frances Andrews (World Vision International)
- Marek Stys (People in Need)
- Frederic Bardou (Action Contre la Faim)
- Marcial Rodriguez (Medicos del Mundo)
- Jamie Monteith (CAFOD)
- Oliver Sudbrink (GIZ)
- Brian Kerr (HIAS)

## 04.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We continue to monitor forums and events for quality and relevance to participants work; workshops are also evaluated for the impact and change-created in the participants approach to SRM. We incorporate event feedback from our members into subsequent activities. We collect such data through the member consultation and priority setting discussion at the Autumn Forum, member surveys, evaluations and feedback forms, and polls after events.

Salesforce, the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database, allows the Secretariat to capture the level of engagement of members, and provides a central database to source information about our various stakeholders. We have used it as a project management tool to support research and other projects to enable a more streamlined event management process. In 2022 we have continued to work with an IT specialist and receive team trainings to integrate our systems (i.e., salesforce and zoom) and streamline our efficiency in tracking and monitoring members, events and engagement going forward.



# 05. FINANCE

## GISF BUDGET

GISF's budget is reviewed by the Steering Group on a quarterly basis, and GISC's finances are independently audited as part of the Host organisation's annual audit.) Cost effectiveness is considered in all activities, and was kept under review throughout the. Any external contracts awarded, considered cost efficiency as one of the criteria and any significant changes in planned budgets were discussed and agreed. Wherever possible GISC utilises the resources of members and other network members to remain cost effective.

### 2022 Income and Expenditure UK/EU (GBP)

|             |  |         |
|-------------|--|---------|
| INCOME      |  | 678,406 |
| EXPENDITURE |  | 598,626 |

### 2022 Income and Expenditure Americas (USD)

|             |  |         |
|-------------|--|---------|
| INCOME      |  | 763,758 |
| EXPENDITURE |  | 500,576 |

## DONORS

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

\*FCDO is only a donor for only UK/EU



# OUR MEMBERS

as of 31 December 2022

