Prospective Member Information Packet

GISF

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A GISF MEMBER?

About us

GISF is committed to achieving sustainable access for populations in need and keeping aid workers safe. We drive positive change in humanitarian security risk management through original research, collaboration, and events. As an NGO-led forum, our work reflects the needs of over 140 member organisations. For us, 'humanitarian' describes not-for-profit activities that seek to improve lives and reduce suffering.

Mission

We believe that through innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration, we can improve humanitarian security risk management and achieve sustainable access to populations in need.

Our aim

As an independent, NGO-led network for global security focal points, our aim is to have a positive impact on humanitarian security risk management (SRM) to keep aid workers safe and achieve sustainable access to populations in need.

We recognise our role as thought leaders in the humanitarian SRM community, and as such, strive to make our research, events, and all of our work, as inclusive, collaborative, and innovative as possible.

GISF reflects the needs of our members, SRM professionals, and the broader aid sector.

Our values

INNOVATION

COLLABORATION

INCLUSIVITY

GISF MEMBERSHIP
BENEFITS

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Our members enjoy access to a growing network of NGOs seeking to improve their security practices. With over 140 members, we provide ample opportunities for members to get involved and engage with each other. Our forums and workshops allow members to meet and develop impactful relationships with their peers. Our GISF chat, website, and events create a year-round flow of information and expertise. Through our leading research, digital resources, and original training and events, we work with and for our members to drive change in the NGO sector.

Services offered to GISF members include:

Online Members' Area

We provide up to three logins per organisations for the members' area of our website, which enables access to:

- Exclusive resources from an extensive library of SRM essentials,
- Contact details of member organisation Security Focal Points (SFPs) and affiliates,
- Free advertisement of vacancies for security professionals in the sector,
- Select security training courses run by NGO-appropriate providers,
- Exclusive in person and virtual events covering a variety of essential and trending SRM topics.

Events

Forums | Roundtables | Workshops | Webinars | Trainings

Each year we host two forums, bringing our members together with experts to explore cutting-edge issues affecting humanitarian SRM. These forums take place in person but some include a virtual element to allow for greater accessibility and are an excellent opportunity to network with counterparts from other NGOs.
We organise at least four workshops each year, offering organisations development opportunities beyond security, for staff from different backgrounds and departments.
We welcome staff from across our member organisations to join member-only events, so feel free to invite colleagues.

GISF Chat

The GISF chat enables our members to communicate with the whole network at the touch of a button:

- Communicate directly with one another and the wider GISF community,
- Coordinate during rapid onset crisis,
- Share useful documents,
- Contribute feedback,
- Arrange visits and meetings,
- Exchange updates on key contexts,
- Share knowledge on thematic topics and channels,
- Ask questions that are tailored to your needs.

Research

Our cutting-edge research offers guidance on a vast array of practical and conceptual topics. Find easy-to-follow checklists, editable tools, and research papers exploring the latest issues impacting humanitarian SRM.
We make sure to include our members in the research process. This includes:

- Identifying new topics to explore,
- Completing questionnaires or benchmarking surveys,
- Joining a peer review team or working group to accompany a research project, and
- Sense-checking translations of our resources.

GISF MEMBERSHIP ACCESS

	GLOBAL SFPS	REGIONAL SFPS	ALL ORGANISATIONAL STAFF	NON MEMBERS
WEBSITE	✦	✦	✦	✦
MEMBER WEBSITE	✦	✦		
GISF CHAT	✦	✦		
ROUNDTABLES	✦	✦		
WEBINARS	✦	✦	✦	OPEN ACCESS ONLY
WORKSHOPS	✦	✦	AS DEEMED RELEVANT BY GLOBAL/REGIONAL SFPS	
BI-ANNUAL FORUMS	✦	✦	CASE BY CASE	
PUBLICATIONS	✦	✦	✦	OPEN ACCESS ONLY
TOOLKITS	✦	✦	✦	OPEN ACCESS ONLY
MEMBER NEWSLETTER	✦	✦		
NETWORK NEWSLETTER	✦	✦	✦	✦

GISF MEMBERSHIP
PUBLICATIONS

Access to Publications

Alongside access to our resources through the website, members can request to receive a printed copy of our publications when they join GISF. Extra copies of publications can also be requested, in addition to the member's copy. Fees for supplemental copies can be provided upon request. *Members will also be eligible to receive new publications for free as they become available.

Prospective and non members can request copies of our research for a fee.

Some of our recent publications include:

NGO Crisis Management Exercise Manual

Achieving Safe Operations Through Acceptance: challenges and opportunities for security risk management

Partnerships and Security Risk Management: from the local partner's perspective

Partenariados y gestión de riesgos de seguridad: guía de acción conjunta para organizaciones de ayuda locales e internacionales

Managing the Security of Aid Workers with Diverse Profiles

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GISF Research and Guides

Global Interagency Security Forum

How to join

1. Please read all of the information provided below before applying.
2. Contact GISF's Projects and Membership Officers at members@gisf.ngo if you have any questions before applying.
3. Complete the online application form. Remember to have contact details available for your two sponsoring organisations – who must be current GISF members.
4. We'll email you to let you know that we've received your application, and our Steering Group will review it.
5. We aim to make a decision on your application within eight to twelve weeks – you'll receive this via email.
6. If your application is successful, we'll be in touch with all the necessary information to set you up.
7. Welcome to the GISF network! You can now enjoy all the benefits of membership.

Membership types

GISF's membership comprises a range of humanitarian organisations. By this, we mean that they are all non-profit organisations that seek to improve lives and reduce suffering. We categorise our members as either 'full' or 'associate'; while the joining criteria differ, both types have equal access to all aspects of GISF membership.

Full Membership

Full membership is open to organisations that meet each of the following criteria:

Not-for-profit, non-governmental organisations that:

- Manage, and are responsible for, staff and significant relief or development programme activities in several countries;
- Are committed to the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, including humanitarian principles;
- Have a security focal point with global security risk management responsibilities who can represent them within GISF;
- Can demonstrate an inclusive approach to SRM; and
- Can obtain sponsorship (references) from two existing members of GISF.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to organisations that meet each of the following criteria:

Not-for-profit organisations that:

- Have similar interests to full members regarding staff safety and security in multiple countries;
- Are committed to the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief, including humanitarian principles;
- Have a security focal point with global SRM responsibilities who can represent them within GISF;
- Can demonstrate an inclusive approach to SRM; and
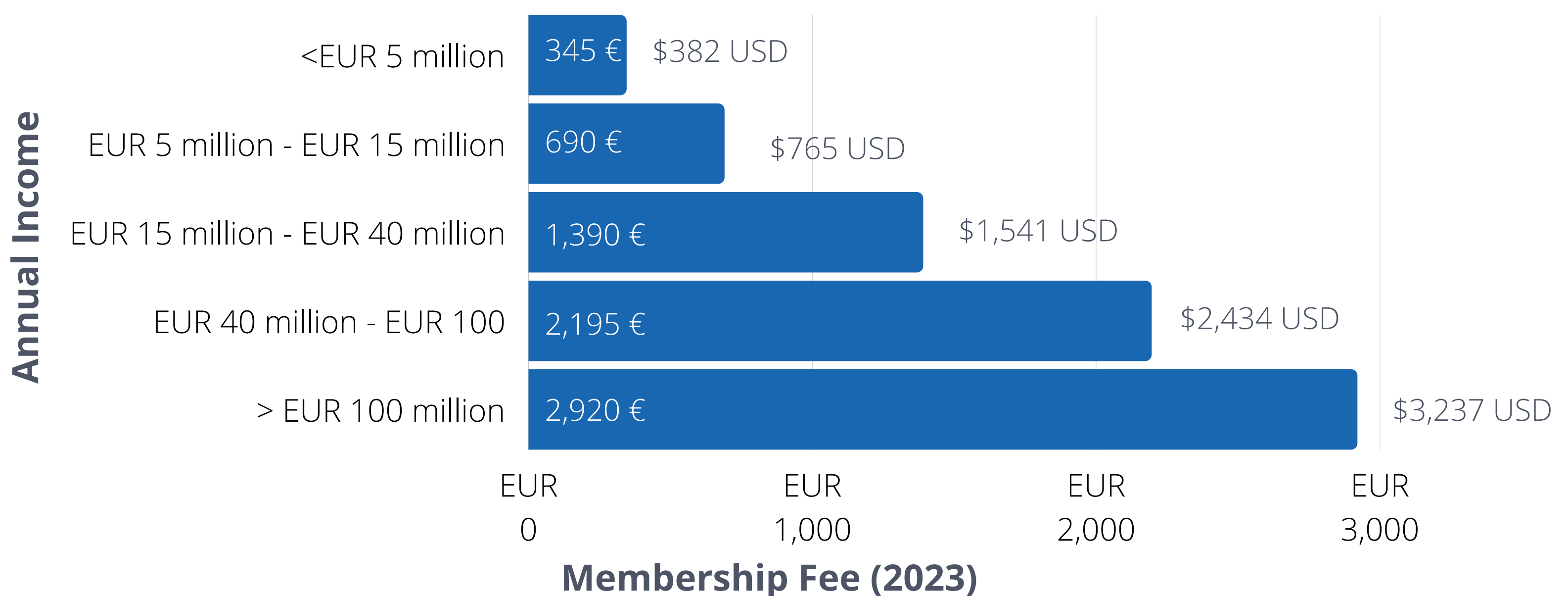- Can obtain sponsorship (references) from two existing members of GISF.

All organisations accepted for full or associate membership will:

- Agree to comply with the GISF information sharing policy;
- Promote good practices for SRM within their organisation and across the broader relief and development sector;
- Actively engage and collaborate with GISF Secretariat and other members.

Membership fees

To ensure the forum's sustainability, we ask our members to pay an annual subscription fee. Our fee structure has five tiers based on member organisations' average annual income.

Annual Income

Tier	Fee (EUR)	Fee (USD)
<EUR 5 million	345 €	$382 USD
EUR 5 million - EUR 15 million	690 €	$765 USD
EUR 15 million - EUR 40 million	1,390 €	$1,541 USD
EUR 40 million - EUR 100	2,195 €	$2,434 USD
> EUR 100 million	2,920 €	$3,237 USD

EUR 0   EUR 1,000   EUR 2,000   EUR 3,000

Membership Fee (2023)

Organisations with four or more 'sister organisations' as members of GISF are eligible for a 15% discount on their membership fee.

Any organisation joining after the first bi-annual forum of the year will be charged 50% of the total fee. At GISF, inclusivity is one of our core values. If you feel your organisation will be unable to pay the required fee, please email us to discuss options.

If you'd like to discuss becoming a GISF member in more detail, please reach out to our Projects and Membership Officers at members@gisf.ngo.