



Strategic Foresight for the Humanitarian Sector: The Inter-Agency Regional Analysts Network

The Inter-Agency Regional Analysts Network (IARAN) first originated in 2012 in the French think tank, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS). Since then it has grown to two test phases, within operational organizations, Save the Children and Action Against Hunger/ Action Contre la Faim. The IARAN operating model is to create an analytical capacity in humanitarian organizations that can exploit both qualitative and quantitative methods, tools and approaches to drive strategic foresight for the sector. It is defined by several key elements, its partnership approach, innovation in tools and methods, and continuous learning.

To date the structure of the IARAN has centered on a team of globally-dispersed Regional Analysts who are embedded in the operations teams of a single humanitarian agency, based at regional level, working with teams on the ground to conduct produce demand-driven analysis, coordinated by a Chief Analyst.

The ambition for the longer term is to grow the IARAN to include other operational and academic agencies, cutting across sectors. The IARAN model will allow agencies with differing levels of analytical human resources to join the consortium and work together. The structure will support agencies who would like to create their own analytical departments (including regionally based analysts, a Chief Analyst, a data scientist etc.) to work alongside their operations teams. The agencies that are able to invest more in managing and coordinating roles can lead on training, methodological guidance, tool development and information sharing. As the IARAN is still in its testing and learning phase, a select group of partner agencies will be chosen to form the core members of the consortium. If you would like to know more about the IARAN, set up a partnership, find out about current partners or our plans for expansion, please [email us](#).