

# The Global Interagency Security Forum – GISF

Member & associate  
information package



gisf



# Welcome to the GISF community...

Whether you are a long-time member or associate of GISF, or if you are hearing about us for the first time, I am pleased to welcome you to our community.

The Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) is a member-led organisation that drives change for security risk management in the humanitarian sector. Our vision is a world where NGOs have safe and sustainable access to people in need, enabled by robust and relevant security risk management practices.



Our community of over 130 members and associates is critical to achieving that vision.

Together, we maintain a thriving network of experts in the humanitarian security sector, coming together at exclusive events to exchange ideas and strategies for the best security risk management practices. We collaborate on research projects to ensure a constant progression of our shared understanding of humanitarian security. And, we advocate with governments, donors and other decision-makers on behalf of NGOs to ensure policies and resources meet their evolving needs.

This document provides a comprehensive overview of all you need to know about GISF's membership and associate network.

If you are new to GISF, you will find detailed criteria on your eligibility for joining, as well as instructions on how to apply. And, if you are already a member or associate, you can find a complete overview of the benefits you are entitled to and how to access them.

While GISF's members and associates get the most benefits, and provide us with direction for our priorities, we work for the benefit of all NGOs. So, I hope the information in this pack will be useful to you – whether you are a member or associate, or not. As you will see, we have a wide range of resources available to support all NGOs to maximise the safety and security of aid workers.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GISF. Together, we can continue to strengthen security risk management in the humanitarian sector and help create a world where every aid worker is protected from harm.

Yours sincerely,

  
**Jon Nevakovic**  
 GISF Executive Director



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Photo credit: ChildFund/Jake Lyell



**Sri Lanka**  
A staff member from ChildFund visits an aid programme for children with disabilities.

# Categories for joining GISF

GISF has two categories for joining, allowing our community to engage with organisations directly engaged in humanitarian security risk management, as well as those working more broadly to support GISF's vision.

## Membership

Membership is limited to operational NGOs working in more than one country. As well as benefiting from all GISF services, our members govern and guide GISF.

Qualifying organisations include:

- Operational international NGOs.

## Associate status

Associate status allows other organisations working in the public interest to support GISF's vision. For a reduced fee, they receive access to some of GISF's events and services. Associates have no voting rights with regards to GISF's governance.

Qualifying organisations include:

- Think tanks and policy institutes working on foreign aid and security risk management.
- Universities and research institutions teaching or conducting research on foreign aid or security risk management.
- NGO coordination platforms.
- International organisations, such as the The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Government-affiliated aid and development organisations.



Photo credit: UN Women/Ilkin Eskipehliyan

### Türkiye

"We require the leadership of women not only in times of crises but consistently," says aid worker Selin.

# Membership eligibility criteria

Membership is open to organisations that meet the following criteria...

## ❑ Be an international NGO

- Be a registered charity or equivalent in its HQ's jurisdiction.
- Have persistent operations outside of its HQ country.
- Not be connected to a public authority either de-facto or under its constitution.
  - If established by a public authority, has since become independent.
- Serve the public interest by actively working in the international aid and development sector and/or related sectors (including human rights, health provision, environment, academic institutions with development or humanitarian programmes, etc.).

## ❑ Have an operational presence that requires a full-time security risk management capacity

## ❑ Employ a person responsible for security or access to be the focal point for interactions with GISF

## ❑ Be an organisation of good standing

- Be governed by an independent, voluntary, and active board of directors.
- Have a record of financial responsibility and accountability.
- Have a record of accomplishing its objectives.
- Not be listed or associated with organisations or individuals listed on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List (those subject to sanctions and measures).

## ❑ Demonstrate commitment to the 'Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief' or similar declaration

# Associate eligibility criteria

Associate status is open to organisations that meet the following criteria...

## Be one of the following organisation types

- Think tanks and policy institutes working on foreign aid and security risk management.
- Universities and research institutions teaching or conducting research on foreign aid or security risk management.
- NGO coordination platforms, such as Coordinadora, ICVA, and others.
- International organisations, such as the The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Government-affiliated aid and development organisations.
- Other organisations will be assessed on an individual basis with reference to the remaining criteria.

## Work in the public interest

## Have a demonstrated interest in NGO security risk management, with complementarities to the work of GISF and its members

## Be an organisation of good standing

- Be governed by an independent and active board of directors.
- Have a record of financial responsibility and accountability.
- Have a record of accomplishing its objectives.
- Not be listed or associated with organisations or individuals listed on the United Nations Security Council Consolidated List (those subject to sanctions and measures).

## State its commitment to participate in GISF activities

## Be non-partisan (operate without discrimination with regard to race, nationality, gender, political or religious conviction or social and economic background)

# How to join

To become a member or associate you will need to complete the application form and be approved by our Steering Group.

## Five easy steps to apply

1. Read through the eligibility criteria to make sure your organisation can apply to become a member or associate.
2. If you are interested in applying, please contact our Membership Team at [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo). We'll respond to your email and provide you with the application information needed.
3. Complete your application form and return it to the Membership Team. If you are applying to become a member, you will need to obtain sponsorship (references) from two existing members of GISF. You can see a list of existing members at [our website](#).
4. Once you have completed your application, our Steering Group will review it. The Steering Group assess applications on a quarterly basis. Your application will be reviewed at the first meeting following your submission date and you'll receive the outcome via email.
5. If your application is successful, we'll be in touch with all the necessary information to set up your accounts and discuss the benefits you can now enjoy as a member or associate.



### Ireland

Attendees join GISF's first-ever Global Security Risk and Policy Conference to discuss the issue of resourcing for security.

# Subscription fees

To ensure GISF's sustainability, we ask our members and associates to pay an annual subscription fee. Our fee structure has five tiers based on organisations' average annual incomes.

## Euros

Annual income	Subscription fee
< €5 million	€345
€5 million - €15 million	€690
€15 million - €40 million	€1,390
€40 million - €100 million	€2,195
> €100 million	€2,920

## US dollars

Annual income	Subscription fee
< \$5.2 million	\$365
\$5.2 million - \$15.8 million	\$730
\$15.8 million - \$43 million	\$1,465
\$43 million - \$105.2 million	\$2,310
> \$105.2 million	\$3,075

- A **30% discount** is applied for **associates** in their relevant tiers.
- **Organisations with four or more 'sister organisations'** as members of GISF are eligible for a **15% discount** on their subscription fee. This is not applicable to associates.
- **Annual memberships start** in the **first quarter of each year**. Any organisation joining after this point will have their subscription fees pro-rated quarterly, in line with quarterly acceptance from GISF's Steering Group.



# Membership benefits

Members receive the full range of benefits on offer from GISF...

## Events

- 2x seats at GISF's Autumn Forums
- 2x seats at GISF's Global Conference
- Members-only sessions at the Autumn Forums
- Access to all webinars, roundtables, and more
- Access to specialist trainings and workshops



## Resource library

- Full access to GISF's resource library
- Fortnightly newsletter exclusive to members and associates



## Training hub

- Full access to a range of specialist online services, such as Conductrr crisis simulation training



## Real time information sharing

- Full access to the online GISF Exchange.



## Governance

- Voting rights at GISF's AGM
- Reserved seat on the Board of Directors
- Eligible to join the Member Steering Group



## Global advocacy and policy

- Raise issues via GISF at the Saving Lives Together (SLT) global committees
- Eligible to join the Policy Sub-Committee and support global security risk management policy development



## Complementary services

- Unlimited safety, security and access job posts
- Unlimited posting on GISF's tender portal for security risk management (SRM) services
- Full access to GISF's SRM Supplier Directory
- Access to the GISF Directory (country-level security focal point platforms and peer contact details)
- Participation in the development of new technical SRM guides and other publications



# Associate benefits

Associates receive a select range of GISF's benefits...

## Events

- 1 x seat at GISF's Autumn Forums
- 1 x seat at GISF's Global Conference
- Access to all webinars and most roundtable sessions



## Resource library

- Access to the resource library (operational member information is limited)
- Fortnightly newsletter exclusive to members and associates



## Training hub

- Limited access to a range of specialist online services



## Real time information sharing

- Access to the online GISF Exchange (access levels may differ on a case-by-case basis and restrictions may apply to members' operational information sharing)



## Global advocacy and policy

- Eligible to contribute to the Policy Sub-Committee and support global security risk management policy development



## Complementary services

- Unlimited safety, security and access job posts
- Full access to GISF's Security Risk Management (SRM) Supplier Directory
- Participation in the development of new technical SRM guides and other publications



Photo credit: OCHA/Marc Belanger

### Peru

Aid workers help to address immediate livelihood needs that could lead to longer-term food security challenges after an oil spill.

# Security focal points (SFPs)

The primary contact point between your organisation and GISF is known as the security focal point (SFP).

- SFP means a point of contact for security issues. An SFP's roles and departments may differ depending on your organisation. Your organisation can determine the best role to serve as the global primary SFP, regardless of where the position may sit within the organisation.
- Your organisation can assign multiple SFPs, who can help make decisions about your engagement with GISF and who have access to all member services.
- Organisations may add regional security contacts, separate to the primary SFP contacts, who will also receive access to member services, including the website and the GISF online chat.
- If you wish to change or add a new SFP at any point, please e-mail [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo).






































## Edinburgh

Security focal points (SFPs) come together at a GISF's Autumn Forum to discuss the latest opportunities and challenges for security risk management.

# Access to GISF benefits

Access to GISF benefits will differ between the staff members of your organisation, with global and regional security focal points (SFPs) having the highest level of access.

MEMBERS	Global and regional SFPs	Country SFPs	All organisation staff
Members-only website access			
GISF Exchange		Case by Case	Case by Case
Roundtables			As determined by SFPs
Webinars			
Workshops		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
Autumn Forums		As determined by primary SFP	Case by case
Global Conference		As determined by primary SFP	Case by case
Publications			
Toolkits			
Factal		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
GISF Exercise Platform (GEP)		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
Exclusive newsletter			

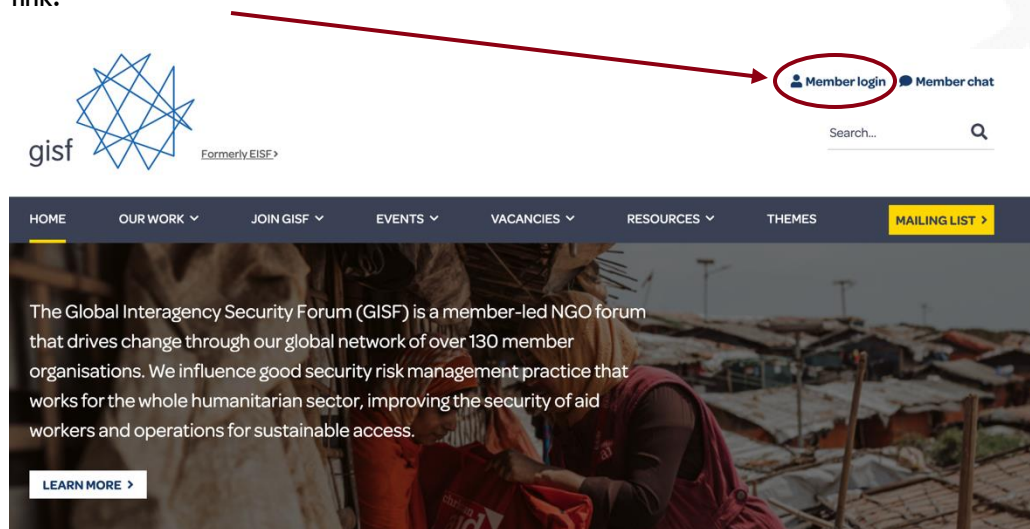
ASSOCIATES	Global and regional SFPs	Country SFPs	All organisation staff
Members-only website access			
GISF Exchange	Limited access		
Roundtables	Most sessions		
Webinars			
Workshops		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
Autumn Forums			
Global Conference			
Publications			
Toolkits			
Factal		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
GISF Exercise Platform (GEP)		As determined by SFPs	As determined by SFPs
Exclusive newsletter			

# Navigating the GISF website

As a member or associate of GISF you can access the members-only side of our website, where you will find exclusive resources, events and much more.

## How to log in

In the top right-hand corner of the website, you will find a 'Member login' link.



## What to do if you forget your password

- On the login page, under the details form, there is a link for 'Password recovery'. Select this link to receive an email allowing you to update your password.
- If you are still having issues, please contact the Membership Team at [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo).

Please note that access to the members' area of the GISF website is limited to up to three primary GISF points of contact, in addition to regional security focal points.

# Website facilities

From the homepage of the members-only side of the website, you can access a range of facilities.



## Affiliate service providers

Browse our affiliate consultants, available for a range of security risk management projects.



## Contacts

Find a list of contacts for all the registered security focal points from our members and associates.



If you would like to submit a resource, please contact a member of the GISF team.

## Resources

Search and download a range of original publications, as well as member-only resources from GISF and beyond.

# GISF Exchange

The GISF Exchange is a platform where members and associates can chat about different security-related subjects through dedicated forums and channels.

## Register for your account

- Register for an account using this URL: <https://exchange.gisf.ngo/signup>
- A member of the admin team will review your registration, this is to confirm that you fulfil a security role at a member or associate organisation. If you aren't already in our database, we will reach out to our primary point of contact for your organisation to double check.
- Once your registration has been confirmed, you'll be sent an activation email. Click 'Activate my Account' to enter the platform.

Access the GISF Exchange here!



**exchange.gisf.ngo**

## Homepage

Once logged in, you will be taken to the 'Homepage'. This provides a broad picture of the site, including:

- Upcoming events
- The channels that you have joined
- Members of the network who have recently joined
- GISF news

Access to the GISF Exchange is automatically granted for your SFPs and regional contacts. Technical specialists are also permitted in select channels on request (for instance, a country director or SFP for a specific context). Please contact the Membership Team at [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo) to request access.

# GISF Exchange

The GISF Exchange is a platform where members and associates can chat about different security-related subjects through dedicated forums and channels.

## Live feed

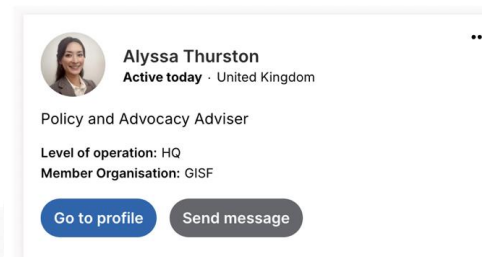
- The Live Feed shows ‘global’ updates from across the site, including events and new network members, and news items.
- To view updates from specific regional channels or communities of practice, visit those tabs.

## Member directory

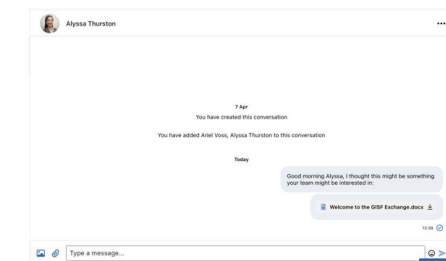
- The member directory shows the profile cards of members of the network.
- On each card, you can see the name, level of operation, and organisation of each user who has registered.
- Use the map view to see if there are any opportunities for local, in person collaboration, or if you’d like to get in touch with someone in that area.
- You can adjust how much information is visible to other users in ‘My settings’ when you open the profile drop down on the top right of your screen.

## Direct messaging

- There are two ways to access the direct messaging screen.
- You can either head to the member directory and find the person you’d like to message through the search function, map, or using the filters. Click the ‘Send message’ button on their contact card to bring up the direct messaging screen. You can send messages, images and documents.
- You can also click the little ‘speech bubble’ icon in the top right corner to bring up the messaging screen. Click the blue pencil icon to create a new chat, and if you’d like to make a group chat, use the search function to find the contacts you’d like to add.



A contact card



A direct message



# GISF Exchange

The GISF Exchange is a platform where members and associates can chat about different security-related subjects through dedicated forums and channels.

## Discussions

- There are various places where users can engage in discussions.

### The knowledge exchange

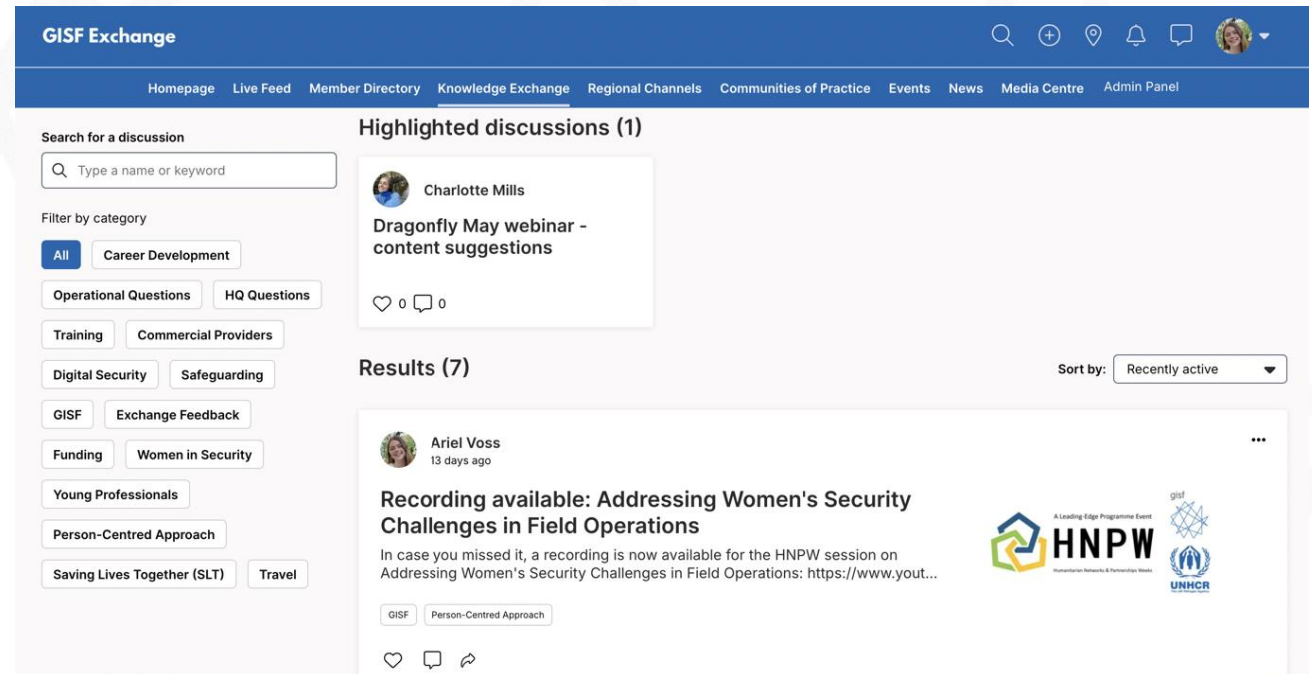
- This is where users can start discussions on any number of topics, including digital security, funding, and commercial partners. The feed on this page can then be filtered by category, so questions and discussions on similar themes can be grouped together.

### Regional channels

- These are eight channels that each correspond to a region, that any member of the network can join. In the description of each channel, there is an indicator of which countries are covered. In each regional channel there is a 'Forum', where users can start discussions on a particular country, crisis, or theme.

### Communities of practice

- These channels are more private, and users will have to request to join these groups. Current communities of practice include training for SRM and the policy working group. If you'd like to set up a community of practice based on a theme, please get in touch with [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo).



The screenshot shows the GISF Exchange website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Homepage, Live Feed, Member Directory, Knowledge Exchange, Regional Channels, Communities of Practice, Events, News, Media Centre, and Admin Panel. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a filter section. The filter section includes a search bar with the text "Type a name or keyword" and a "Filter by category" section with buttons for "All", "Career Development", "Operational Questions", "HQ Questions", "Training", "Commercial Providers", "Digital Security", "Safeguarding", "GISF", "Exchange Feedback", "Funding", "Women in Security", "Young Professionals", "Person-Centred Approach", "Saving Lives Together (SLT)", and "Travel".

On the right side, there is a "Highlighted discussions (1)" section featuring a post by Charlotte Mills titled "Dragonfly May webinar - content suggestions". Below this, there is a "Results (7)" section with a "Sort by: Recently active" dropdown menu. The first result is a post by Ariel Voss titled "Recording available: Addressing Women's Security Challenges in Field Operations". The post includes a description: "In case you missed it, a recording is now available for the HNPW session on Addressing Women's Security Challenges in Field Operations: https://www.yout...". The post also features logos for GISF, HNPW (A Leading Edge Programme Event), and UNHCR.

*The knowledge exchange*

# Access to GISF publications

All our publications are available to members and associates on our website, but you can also request printed copies of select publications.

- Alongside access to our resources through the website, members are also be eligible to receive printed copies of our newest publications.
- GISF brings printed copies of its publications to all in-person events, where members may take copies for free.

## Recent publications:

**Neutrality, Access, and Making Localisation Work (2024)**

**Security Risk Management (SRM) Strategy and Policy Development: A Cross-Functional Guide (2024)**

**State of Practice: The Evolution of Security Risk Management in the Humanitarian Space (2024)**



# GISF events

GISF hosts a wide range of events throughout the year for our members and associates.

## Autumn Forum

- This event brings our members and associates together with experts to explore cutting-edge issues affecting NGO security risk management.
- The Forum takes place in person, but may include a virtual element to allow for greater accessibility. It is an excellent opportunity to network with counterparts from other NGOs, as well as experts from academia, industry, and more.

## GISF Global Conference

- This event brings together all GISF's members and associates from around the world. They are joined by representatives from other relevant organisations and academia to discuss strategic and cross-cutting security issues and strengthen collaboration.

## Workshops

- At GISF, we organise at several workshops each year.
- Our workshops offer organisations development opportunities beyond security, for example, for staff from different backgrounds and departments.

## Roundtables

- The aim of these events is to provide a safe space for peer-to-peer engagement and information exchange.
- Occasionally an external speaker will provide a technical update or members will be asked to start the conversation with their own observations to share their insights and experiences.

## Webinars

- Webinars aim to facilitate information dissemination and discussion around a particular topic or context of interest.
- Technical experts, academics, and members present, followed by an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the points raised.

## External events

- GISF maintains a presence at many of the biggest events in the humanitarian, development and NGO sectors throughout the year.
- These include AidEx, Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW), the European Humanitarian Forum, and more!



# Factal

GISF members and some associates can get free access to Factal, a breaking news platform that provides alerts and updates on security contexts around the world in real-time.

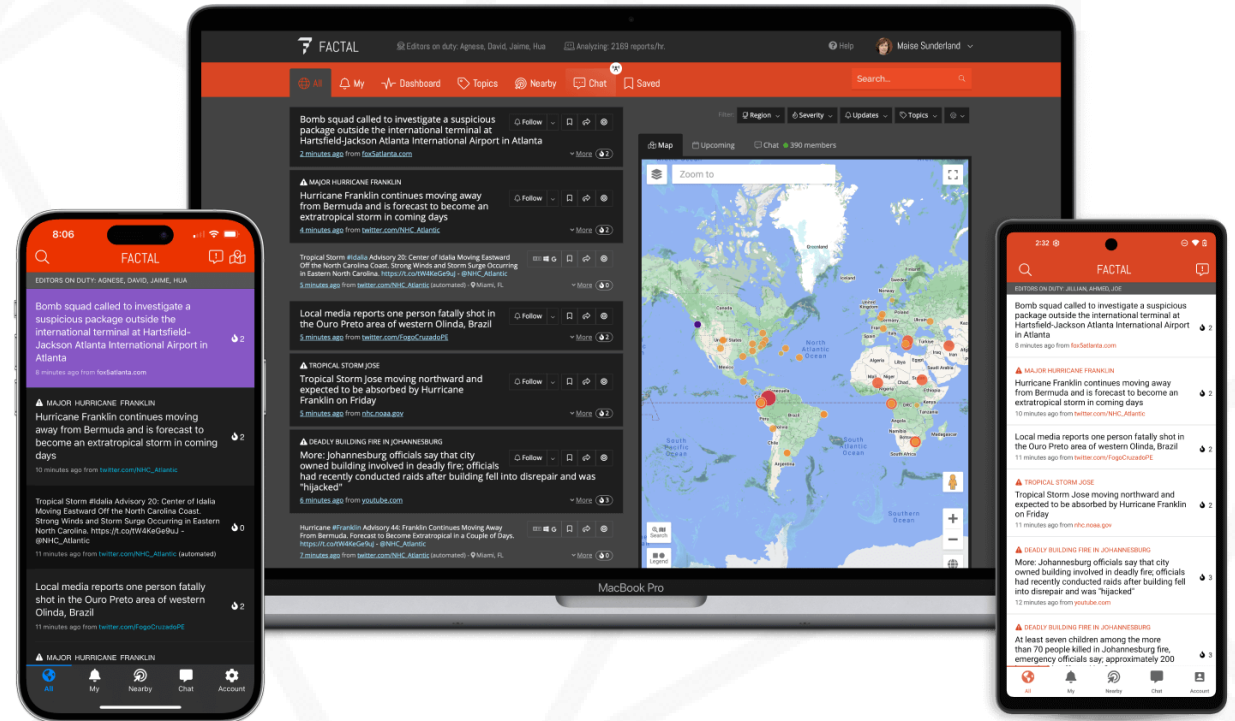
Factal is a breaking news technology company that helps the world's largest organisations protect people, avoid disruptions and expedite disaster relief when global events put them at immediate risk.

Over 230 NGOs use Factal's fast, verified updates. You'll be able to move faster to help protect staff, direct emergency resources, and keep tabs on fast-moving developments.

Chat with their 24/7 newsroom and other security pros to get the situational intelligence you need. Receive alerts anywhere you need them, including via the Factal mobile app.

GISF members can access Factal's unlimited real-time risk intelligence platform for free and bypass the additional Factal vetting process.

GISF associates will also receive access. However, full unlimited access to the platform may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Factal's internal definitions.



# GISF Exercise Platform (GEP)

The GEP allows members to access a range of engaging play-on-demand crisis scenarios, free of charge, that are relevant to the humanitarian and development sector.

The GISP Exercise Platform (GEP) is an exciting addition to the services GISF offers to its members, delivering innovative and realistic crisis management training.

The GEP is hosted by Conducttr, a crisis simulation platform. The simulations take place in a self-contained, high-fidelity space, enabling the exercising of crisis management skills and plans in a constantly evolving and dynamic environment. Members can run scenarios at their own pace, adjusting the length and intensity of the exercise to suit their needs.

Members who are interested in accessing the GEP platform should complete [this form](#).

GISF only has a set number of licenses available to share with members to access the GEP. To monitor these licenses, upon request each member organisation will be given a unique URL to access their own facilitation hub on the platform. There will only be one license available per member organisation, and it is the responsibility of the organisation itself to monitor and keep hold of this link. Only one person at a time can access a facilitation hub to run an exercise, but multiple colleagues can join a simulation to support the facilitator by sending content during an exercise.



Each organisation will be able to access their hub for six months, starting from when they first receive their link. If an organisation requires their hub for longer, please reach out to [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo).

# Frequently asked questions

## I can't log into the GISF member and associate area.

- If you are a new member or associate, please check your junk folder for a WordPress email if you have not received your login details. You can contact [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo) for assistance.
- Please note that access to the member and associate area is limited to up to three points of contact from your organisation. Your name, organisation, and email address will be visible to other GISF members and associates.

## How do I sign up to the GISF Exchange?

- Register for an account using this URL: <https://exchange.gisf.ngo/signup>
- A member of the team will review your registration and once your registration has been confirmed, you'll be sent an activation email. Click 'Activate my Account' to enter the platform.
- Please contact [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo) for assistance.

## How can I keep in touch with GISF?

- Our GISF Membership Team is available to connect with you! If you would like to schedule a coffee chat, meeting, or any other query please contact the team at [members@gisf.ngo](mailto:members@gisf.ngo).

## What is the Saving Lives Together (SLT) initiative?

- SLT is an initiative to enhance security collaboration between the UN Security Management System (UNSMS), international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and international organisations (IOs).
- At your request, your organisation will have the opportunity to participate in one-on-one SLT introductory sessions with a GISF staff member.

# Frequently asked questions

## How can I collaborate with GISF?

- At GISF, we actively encourage our members and associates to become involved. If you are interested in collaborating with GISF through events or our blog, please contact [info@gisf.ngo](mailto:info@gisf.ngo).
- If you would like to collaborate with GISF through research projects, please contact [research@gisf.ngo](mailto:research@gisf.ngo).

## How can I stay up to date with GISF events?

- As a member or associate, you will be automatically added to our regular newsletter so you can stay up-to-date with the latest GISF resources and events, including roundtables, webinars, workshops, trainings, the Autumn Forum, and more.
- You can also join our online community on the GISF Exchange which includes groups on various topics and regions.
- You can also follow us on LinkedIn 'GISF - Global Interagency Security Forum'.

## Can I invite a colleague to a GISF event?

- GISF roundtables are for members and associates only. However, members may invite other colleagues (beyond their SFPs) from within their organisation to attend.
- GISF webinars may be for members and associates only, or they may be open access. The event description will note this.
- GISF workshops are for members and associates only and space is limited on a first come basis.
- GISF Forums are for members and associates only. However, they may include prospective members, invited guests, and external network speakers.



### United States

Members and associates come together at a GISF event in Washington, D.C.

# Tips for getting the most out of your membership or associate status

- Use GISF member and associate services.
- Actively participate across GISF platforms.
- Share relevant information with your organisation.
- Collaborate and engage candidly with peers.
- Volunteer for GISF working groups for new research projects and initiatives.
- Maintain discretion with member-only information. This includes NOT sharing member information, resources or events beyond the GISF membership.
- Follow the Chatham House rule.
- Keep up to date and let the GISF Secretariat know of organisational changes that may impact your membership, such as a change in security focal point (SFP) status or a change in invoice address.
- Share your thoughts and input on GISF priorities.
- Register for events with your work email address. Using a non-work email may delay or prohibit your admittance to member events.
- Communicate in advance any cancellations for GISF events (particularly for workshops, Forums, events with limited capacity and in-person activities).
- Follow the [GISF Information Sharing Policy & Protocol](#) (example: do not screenshot presentations from events).
- Ask questions, share comments and contribute to the discussion during events.
- GISF is responsive to your needs. Reach out if there is a gap where GISF may be able to support.
- Enrich the network and share information about joining GISF with other organisations.
- Stay current and engaged. Do reach out to the GISF secretariat if you ever have any questions!



*Photo credit: OCHA / Matteo Minasi*

**Ukraine**  
Humanitarian worker Alyona comforts a local resident affected by conflict.



# Thank you for your interest in the GISF membership and associate community!

gisf



**The Global Interagency Security Forum**

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