**Data documentation:**

**Countries of overseas operation of charities registered in England and Wales**

**1. Data source**

The information provided in these data is extracted from the Register of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Register is collated from information provided by charities in their annual returns to the Charity Commission, which registers and regulates charities in England and Wales. In the annual return each charity must indicate their ‘areas of operation’, including each country outside England and Wales in which the charity operates. The ‘area of operation’ is ‘the geographical area where the charity does its work or provides its benefit.’

There are certain factors which promote confidence in the overall quality of the information on charities’ country of operation:

* There are no implicit incentives for charities to understate or overstate the number of countries in which they operate.
* It is straightforward for charities to update the information annually. The Charity Commission annual return provides a facility through which charities can remove countries from the previous year’s information, and add further countries from a standardised list.

**2. Scope of the data**

Please note:

* Only information on registered charities is provided. According to charitable law, charities are voluntary organisations that work for public benefit and have charitable purposes. Non-charitable voluntary organisations, and charities that are ‘excepted’ or ‘exempted’ from registration with the Charity Commission, are not included.
* Only charities registered in England and Wales with the Charity Commission are included. Charities registered in Scotland or Northern Ireland, and not with the Charity Commission in England and Wales, are not included.
* This information is based on data extracted from the Charity Commission in March 2014, based on the most recent annual returns completed by charities at that point. It includes ‘active’ (currently registered) charities as of March 2014. ‘Dissolved’ charities that have been removed from the Register are not included.
* The data provide information on overseas charitable operation at the country level. Information on overseas operation at the sub-national level is not provided.
* These data relate to 16,274 charities that operate outside the UK, and includes information on their operation across 201 countries. The data do not include information on charitable operation in a further 46 minor territories originally listed in the Charity Commission dataset. In addition, we have excluded from the data 165 charities that implausibly indicated operation in every single country worldwide – including Antarctica and each of the minor territories.

**3. Files provided**

There are two different kinds of files. All files are provided in .csv format.

1. **201 x Country files**: listing charities operating in each of the 201 countries considered. The relevant ISO country code forms the name of each of the 201 files. (Please see the ‘Key\_ISO\_country\_codes’ file, which provides a list of the country names associated with each of these country codes).
2. **1 x Collated file:**  Listing all 16,274 charities that work across the 201 countries.

Variables common to all files:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *regno* | Charity Commission registration number |
| *name* | Charity name |
| *income\_2012* | Headline income (£) for financial years ending at some point in the 2012 calendar year. Income data are not available for all organisations: some charities are recently registered organisations; others have missing data for another reason |
| *reg\_year* | Year of registration with the Charity Commission |
| *total\_countries* | Of the 201 countries considered, total number of countries in which charity operates (not including England and Wales/ Scotland/ Northern Ireland) |

In addition, the ‘collated file’ includes a series of 201 country binary variables (1: charity operates in that country; 0: charity does not operate in that country).

Each file is sorted, with the biggest organisations (as measured by 2012 headline income) at the top.

**4. Associated research project**

These data have been generated as part of an ESRC-funded project, which examines data on charities registered in England and Wales that work internationally, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (Grant reference: ES/K00137X/1). The data form the basis for the analysis in the paper: Clifford, David (2016) ‘International charitable connections: the growth in number, and the countries of operation, of English and Welsh charities working overseas’, *Journal of Social Policy*. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0047279416000076> .

**5. Licence**

These files are based on the analysis of data provided by the Charity Commission, are subject to Crown database copyright or Crown Copyright and contain public sector information licensed under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/).