

Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute

How can humanitarian relief work and peacebuilding best serve those who need it most?

A novel configuration for research

The humanitarian system is facing rapid growth and unprecedented challenges. Despite advances in technology, science and medicine there are many physical, cultural and systemic barriers that limit the ability to deliver peace and relief when people are at their most vulnerable.

We work closely with humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations to explore the challenges facing the sector. We have a track record of staff moving between the academic and practitioner realms to work in sudden onset disasters alongside international aid agencies.

Our approach at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) is to combine ethically sensitive research and real life situations with rigorous scientific, theoretical and conceptual methodologies.

We bring together academics and practitioners from across The University of Manchester's faculties of Humanities and Biology, Medicine and Health to explore humanitarian action and the experiences of vulnerable populations.

Our corridors house medical doctors next to anthropologists, sociologists, disaster management experts, historians, and peace and conflict scholars. Together our research influences humanitarian practices in the field.

HCRI is ideally placed to provide students with educational opportunities perfectly suited to the modern aid climate. We offer learning opportunities for undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research courses in global health, humanitarianism, disaster management and peace and conflict studies.

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HCRI is proud to be in partnership with world-leading organisations, helping them think through and reshape humanitarian practices in the field.

Professor Bertrand Taithe
Humanitarian Conflict and Response Institute

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Esteem highlights

HCRI jointly hosts The Journal of Humanitarian Affairs with The Humanitarian Affairs Team at Save the Children UK, and Centre de Réflexion sur l'Action et les Savoirs Humanitaires Médecins Sans Frontières.

A consortium of researchers, led by HCRI in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Johns

Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, have been awarded £2.5m by the Department for International Development for a new research programme: Researching the Impact of Attacks on Healthcare.

HCRI is a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Emergency Medical Teams and Emergency Capacity Building.



Making peacekeeping data work

We are looking at how international organisations - especially United Nations peacekeepers - collect, store, interrogate and collate data - and how different types of data can be collated to give a fuller picture. The project sought to investigate if the data collected by international organisations matched how people on the ground saw the conflict, addressing an urgent policy question: if international organisations do not respond to the situation on the ground, and local perceptions, then can they sustain their operations?

Supporting health professionals in Uganda

Working to support the training of health providers in the management of traumatic injury has led HCRI to work with the Ministry of Health in Uganda and the World Health Organization (WHO) to design and support the development of a robust emergency care system. This includes pushing for parliamentary legislative change to create a National Ambulance Service and working with partners to create a postgraduate system in Emergency Medicine.

We are collaborating with Health Education England to create a sustainable Circular Migration programme where National Health Service (NHS) staff will support emergency care development in Uganda and senior Ugandan trainees will come to the UK to experience our developed health system.

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It is exciting to be part of an institute that examines contemporary problems from various academic disciplines, and that engages in conversations that transcend the realities of the academic, policy, and practice worlds.”
Dr Larissa Fast



Researching the impact of attacks on healthcare

HCRI is looking into ways to improve data collection and analysis to measure the impacts of attacks on healthcare in conflict settings. The project brings together academic partners who are leading existing data collection efforts. By building consensus on data collection and analysis methodologies we hope to improve understanding of the longer-term and wider impact of attacks. Doing so will allow decision and policymakers to use this information in advocacy efforts and influence future efforts to avoid attacks and mitigate their effects.

Working with stakeholders

HCRI has formal partnerships with leading peacebuilding and humanitarian organisations including: International Alert, UK-Med, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Save the Children UK, Mines Action Group, Handicap International, Médecins Sans Frontières and the British Red Cross.

Through partnerships with cultural institutions, NGOs, industry bodies and policymakers we are able to make a meaningful impact in the field beyond our direct research. For example, we have contributed significantly to interactive displays of controversial topics which are now part of the Imperial War Museum North's permanent main display.



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