



# 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 Medical and Human Sciences 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

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### Esteem highlights

Dr Amy Hughes MBE who led the first wave of NHS volunteers for the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone was named the UK's 200th Point of Light by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Professor Mukesh Kapila CBE is Special Representative of the Aegis Trust for the prevention of crimes against humanity, and Chair of Minority Rights Group International.

Professors Roger MacGinty and Oliver Richmond are founding editors of the journal *Peacebuilding*.

Professor Tony Redmond OBE is founding director of UK-Med and was awarded the Humanitarian Award by the International Federation for Emergency Medicine in 2010.

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



Credit: MAG Sean Sutton

## Making Peacekeeping Data Work

We are looking at how the United Nations and humanitarian organisations collect information on security incidents and what is done with the data. The project brings together quantitative and qualitative scholars and mixes dataset analysis with anthropological fieldwork. Using incident data from the UN and the African Union mission in Darfur, the project aims to help the UN better use peacekeeping data to increase future effectiveness.

## Supporting Health Professionals

Our studies on the history and political context of amputation led to involvement with Handicap International and the UK evaluation of the Haiti relief effort in 2010. This qualitative assessment brought into sharp relief Haitian perspectives on the standards of surgical interventions and poor levels of documentation and coordination in the international effort. The results of this research led to the creation of UK International Emergency Trauma Register (UKIETR) to support health professionals wanting to assist in overseas emergencies. HCRI is also a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Emergency Medical Teams and Emergency Capacity Building.



## Humanitarian Effectiveness

In partnership with Save the Children UK, we are exploring 'top-down' approaches to humanitarian efforts, and proposing a framework that is more informed by the needs and aspirations of an affected community. The project involves fieldwork across seven studies including research on the Syria crisis, Ebola, the slow onset food crises in West Africa, and the Philippines post-Typhoon Haiyan. Research findings will inform Save the Children UK's humanitarian strategy and have influenced the Humanitarian Effectiveness discussions at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

## 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 policy-makers 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.

“ I like the fact that colleagues come from such very different methodological backgrounds. I can have coffee with a historian in the morning and talk to a statistician in the afternoon. ”

Professor Roger MacGinty



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