

The ELRHA Project

Enhancing Learning and Research
For Humanitarian Assistance

Hosted by Save the Children

What is the relevance of humanitarian response to Disaster Education in the UK?

- An international Humanitarian response- when an 'event' effects such significant numbers that a state is no longer able to cope.
- Event = Natural disasters, conflict & rehabilitation, Insecurity
- Humanitarian Agencies respond under UNOCHA
- Minimum standards and recognising the impact of vulnerability
- Non-state partners- the importance of community preparedness
- Two examples:
 - cyclone Nargis (Burma)
 - Extreme winters and flooding (Afghanistan)
- Hurricane Katrina, Australian Fires

ELRHA's long-term vision

'Globally, NGOs and Humanitarian actors will be actively collaborating with Higher Education and other centres of expertise to develop highly professional responders, share expertise and carry out research which noticeably reduces the risk facing those living in disaster prone countries and ensures that those suffering from the impact of disasters receive more timely, relevant and sustainable humanitarian assistance'.

The two-year ELRHA Project Objective

'To build by 2010 an effective and active interface between UK HE teaching and research activities and humanitarian agencies, and to produce a clear plan for professionalisation, shared expertise and research'.

Project Governance

- Independent
- Funded by four UK HE funding bodies
- Managed by a representative steering committee
- Annual reporting to stakeholders group.

Is there a need for ELRHA? *The humanitarian agency*

- Funding climate
- Difficulty in funding 'non-essential' research
- Lack of knowledge and time to engage in HE
- Changing humanitarian environment
- Ability to engage and respond to developments in science and technology

Is there a need for ELRHA? The HE institution

- Limited contacts in the humanitarian sector
- Opportunity for real data for research and teaching
- Student career pathways to humanitarian agencies
- Development of relevant courses
- Knowledge transfer opportunities

The priority challenges

Collaboration in learning and research that supports improved and consistent performance in humanitarian assistance

- The humanitarian business model
- The international Code of Conduct and IHL
- Science, technology and innovation
- Preparedness and future planning
- Economic analysis and modelling
- Information management and communication
- Accountability and achieving synergy with social science methodology

Core activities

- Building an effective interface
- Small-grant facility and funding coordination
- Information mapping
- Scoping exercise for future collaboration

Building an effective interface

- Central point of coordination and information
- Developing a stakeholders' network
- Launching the website
- Seminar and workshop series
- Case studies and a resource library

Small-grant facility and funding coordination

- Workshop with humanitarian agencies
- Funding collaborative projects that address core challenges
- Up to £50,000 grants
- Funding advice unit

Information mapping

- Understand and map the research and training needs of the agencies and HE
- Map and match the resources and expertise available within HE
- Develop a 'key contacts' group
- Ensure that there is an effective referral system in place

Scoping exercise

Commission research that will:

- Establish whether a recognised professional training/verification system is desired within the industry.
- Examine possible models for such a system
- Identify suitable partners
- Publish results and recommendations to the wider stakeholder network.
- Secure funding for going forward.

How does this relate to disaster education in the UK?

- Parallel model for bringing academics and practitioners together
- Contacts in a range of agencies
- Case studies of child- focused/child lead DRR
- Future planning and scenario development
- Disaster risk reduction outside of highly developed countries relies heavily on community resilience and community planning

Contact ELRHA

Jess Camburn
ELRHA project Manager
j.camburn@savethechildren.org.uk

Tel: 07500226066