



# ENCYCLOPEDIA

of

# HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND DYNAMIC ONLINE PLATFORM TO REFLECT ON HUMANITARIAN CONCEPTS AND PRACTICE

The **Encyclopedia of Humanitarian Action** will explore the different ways key humanitarian concepts are understood across space, time, and disciplines. It will provide tools and a dynamic platform for national and international practitioners, community leaders, policy makers and academics to reflect on humanitarian concepts and practice for the 21st century.

With a greater conceptual clarity and an improved mutual understanding, stakeholders in humanitarian settings will benefit from enhanced dialogue and collaboration.

The **Humanitarian Online Encyclopedia will contribute to improving the quality of humanitarian policies and operational responses**. This initiative will also be a much-needed bridge between academia and humanitarian actors, supporting innovation and empowering a broader-based humanitarian movement.

## PARTNERSHIPS ARE THE DNA OF THIS PROJECT.

> PRACTITIONERS, POLICY MAKERS, ACADEMICS, COMMUNITY LEADERS - **GET INVOLVED!**

## KEY FEATURES

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As a repository of humanitarian knowledge on an open-access online platform, the Encyclopedia of Humanitarian Action will provide a collaborative space for reflection, theorisation and modelisation. Confronting concepts with practice, the Encyclopedia is also expected to constitute a milestone in the scholarship of contemporary humanitarian action.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

- > An **interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, and multi-sectoral** approach to analysing complexity in humanitarian action
- > A collaborative effort, combining **theory and practice**, to assess current international humanitarian realities

### OPEN ACCESS ONLINE PLATFORM

- > A **source of information** to enhance critical analysis, informed decision-making and debate
- > A **dynamic platform** for stakeholders to discuss problematic aspects of key notions
- > A **living platform** offering scientific substance, interactive co-creation tools and multimedia content

## STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR BENEFITS

In the context of growing professionalization, it is necessary to develop a critical analysis of core humanitarian concepts. Through the involvement of practitioners, policy-makers, affected community leaders, and academics, a common understanding of key terms will lead to **practical improvements on the ground** in terms of effectiveness, collaboration and coordination.

### AFFECTED POPULATIONS

- Empowerment in interaction with aid workers

### HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATIONS

- Enhanced critical analysis and more informed decision-making
- Improved programming, dialogue, and partnerships
- Facilitated staff training and better evaluation of the operational environment

### POLICY MAKERS

- Relevant and informed decision making

### HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT GROUPS

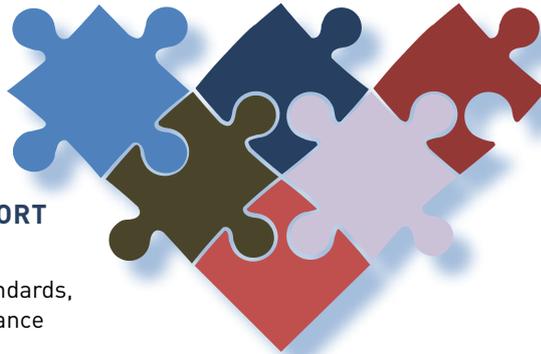
- Support to enhanced standards, evaluations and performance

### ACADEMIA

- A milestone in the scholarship of contemporary humanitarian action

### AND OTHERS

Private sector, journalists etc.



### BENEFITS FOR ALL

- Access to a clarified conceptual framework
- Professionalization of the humanitarian sector
- Operational staff empowered to reflect on core concepts across space, time, cultures and disciplines
- Support for innovation
- Better evaluation of the operational environment
- A bridge between academia and humanitarian actors
- Interactive platform and dialogue

## STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT

The project is in its initial phase of conception and design, thanks to the support of the Swiss government.

The focus at this stage is on **piloting the concept selection** and **initiating partnerships** envisaged with academia and humanitarian stakeholders.

These partnerships will underpin the collaborative effort to assess past and current humanitarian realities at international and national level, and to deliver a dynamic process of reflection on the conceptual framework with experts, practitioners and other stakeholders.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

- Academic scholars: consider writing on a concept, based on your expertise or field research.
- Humanitarian practitioners: join the discussion to challenge the conceptual analysis and confront it with your operational reality.
- Leaders of international, national or local humanitarian organisations: inform the design of the project and plan with us how your teams may gain knowledge while adding value to the Encyclopedia. Take our survey at [www.cerahgeneve.ch/survey](http://www.cerahgeneve.ch/survey)

If you want to take part in the project or are interested in more information, please contact:

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