

HUMANITARIAN HORIZONS RESEARCH PROGRAM 2021-24: Achieving better outcomes for crisis-affected people

Humanitarian Horizons 2021–24 is Humanitarian Advisory Group's (HAG) strategic, sector-wide research program. Focusing on the Indo-Pacific region, Humanitarian Horizons aims to progress thinking on the role of the humanitarian sector and produce evidence on how to achieve better outcomes for affected communities.

The program has been at the forefront of humanitarian thinking and practitioner-based research in our region over the past five years. The 2021-24 program builds on our experience and research work from the pilot phase (2017–18) and the Humanitarian Horizons 2018– 21 program.

What is Humanitarian Horizons 2021-24?

The proposed research program for 2021–24 builds on achievements to date via three interlocking research streams. All streams reflect our commitment to locally informed humanitarian research and approaches that support constructive change.

The intended outcome of all research streams is evidence and action to support effective humanitarian action in the Indo-Pacific region.



RESEARCH STREAM 1 Power, People and Local Leadership

Objective

To support the shift to a more localised and equitable system that facilitates more ethical and effective humanitarian action

1. What is the potential impact of a more localised and equitable humanitarian system?
2. What role does knowledge and evidence play in distorting or supporting a more equitable humanitarian system?



RESEARCH STREAM 2 Greening the System

Objective

To support the sector to measurably reduce the negative environmental impact of humanitarian response

1. How does humanitarian action impact on the environment?
2. What could a green humanitarian response look like?
3. How can humanitarian actors tangibly move towards a greener response?



RESEARCH STREAM 3 Real time Analysis and Influence

Objective

To inform and influence humanitarian practice and policy in real time

1. What are the opportunities for rapid assessments to inform operations in real time?
2. What needs does the sector have in analysing and reacting to emerging issues and debates?



GOVERNANCE STREAM Learning, Sharing and Accountability

- Project management and reporting
- Research Advisory Committee (RAC)
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning
- Partner Accountability mechanisms
- Communicating for impact

Who we are trying to reach

- Policy and program decision-makers and donors – sharing evidence and ideas to inform decision making and approaches
- Operational humanitarian actors – creating conversations for change and providing concrete tools and approaches
- National and local research individuals and organisations – delivering shared research practice and capacity exchange

Our guiding principles

How we conduct our research is just as important as what we produce, and we believe the research process is strongly linked to uptake and outcomes. Our guiding principles underpin the research program and will also inform and guide the development of our research partnerships.

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|  Ethical |  Evidence-based behavioural understanding |
|  Equitable and partnership-based |  Replicable and open-source methods |
|  Localised and inclusive |  Climate conscious and COVID cognisant |
|  Ahead of the curve |  Accessible and practitioner-oriented |

Our commitment to accountability

We believe that those who guide us, and those who hold us accountable, have a critical role in helping us to deliver challenging and impactful research that strengthens effective humanitarian action. Our commitments:

- To be guided and supported by a Research Advisory Committee with diverse representation
- Use of ethics processes to review methodologies and methods
- Use of engagement processes to hold ourselves accountable to our local and national research partners
- To allocate 25% funding to local and national organisations in research projects with a partner component
- To track and report our research impact and influence

Our approach to partnerships

Partnerships are central to our way of working and we believe that working in partnership enables a collective contribution that can more effectively drive positive change in the humanitarian system. That is why we are committed collaborating with other organisations – particularly national researchers and organisations – so that support collective impact in a meaningful, mutually beneficial way. We are guided by our [Partnership Framework](#) which provides a basis for us to engage with existing and prospective partners.

Who we are

Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) is a social enterprise that aims to elevate the profile of humanitarian action in the Indo-Pacific. Founded in 2012, HAG provides a unique space for thinking, research, technical advice, and training that positively contributes to excellence in humanitarian practice. HAG brings fresh thinking to challenge the status quo of humanitarian aid, and as an ethically driven business, we combine humanitarian passion with entrepreneurial agility to think and do things differently.



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Humanitarian Horizons is a three-year research program designed and delivered by Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) in partnership with trusted regional partners and funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The views expressed in this research are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.