

POWER, PEOPLE AND LOCAL LEADERSHIP: Supporting an equitable sector

As part of our new Humanitarian Horizons 2021–24 Research Program, Humanitarian Advisory Group is undertaking research on power and inequalities in humanitarian response and sector analysis. This stream aims to support the shift to a more localised and equitable system that facilitates more ethical and effective humanitarian action.

What do we mean by power, people and local leadership?

This research stream will explore the politics and impact of different power dynamics in humanitarian response and analysis. It asks us to consider whose priorities shape humanitarian action, who is setting goals, and who is determining what success looks like, as well as the impact of specific practices on inequalities. The stream has two tracks: one looking at power dynamics in humanitarian response, which will explore the impact of local leadership; and one looking at power dynamics in humanitarian analysis, which will unpack evidence and knowledge production and use.

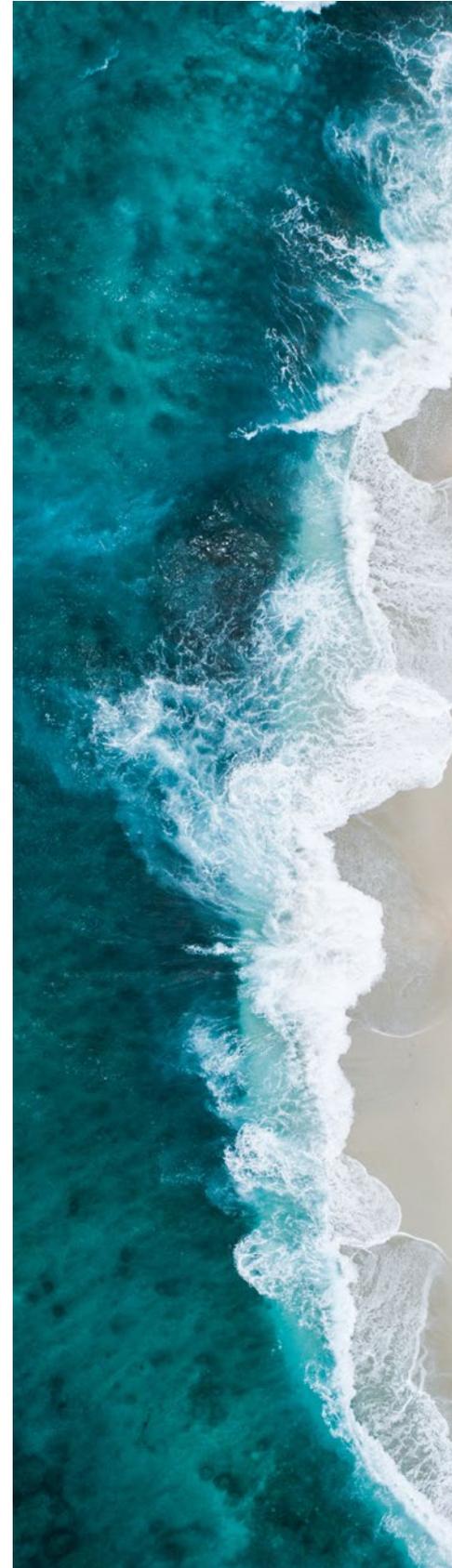
These two tracks complement each other and interact as we seek to understand whether current systems for generating, owning and using knowledge are driving practice towards more equitable humanitarian response (including locally led) or reproducing the inequalities that lay within the system. Together they will help to support an informed and meaningful shift of power.

Why is this important?

The localisation agenda, #metoo and #aidtoo movements, and the global Black Lives Matter movement have raised challenging questions for our sector on who sets the humanitarian agenda; who decides on the definition and measurement of positive humanitarian outcomes; and who produces, owns and shares evidence and knowledge that our sector uses as the basis for decision-making. They have shone a spotlight on the biased and inequitable treatment that many people in the sector experience, as well as those the sector seeks to serve. There is much greater recognition of the need for change and actions are underway. But to take this transformation further requires a better understanding of the foundations and impacts of decision-making in the humanitarian sector. This must be done through a power-sensitive lens.

What are we exploring?

- What are the existing shifts towards, and the potential impacts of, a more localised and equitable humanitarian system?
- What role does knowledge and evidence play in distorting or supporting progress towards a more equitable humanitarian system?



Who we collaborate with

Collaborate Consulting Pte Ltd (CoLAB) is a Fiji-based development consultancy company that has delivered consultancies with diverse partners in the Pacific, Asia, Africa and European regions. CoLAB's vision is localised responses to development that is inclusive and sustainable, enabled through genuine collaboration amongst all partners.

GLOW Consultants, based in Pakistan, is a leading national entity providing practice solutions and field implementation support to donors, their implementing partners and research institutions. GLOW has successfully completed more than 100 third-party monitoring and evaluation (M&E) assignments.

inSights (the Institute of Innovation for Gender and Humanitarian

Transformation) is a Bangladesh-based social enterprise providing insights that challenge the current ways of working in humanitarian aid and gender affairs. inSights aims to transform ideas within the humanitarian, social and businesses sectors, and turns them into innovations, knowledge and strategies.

The Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO)

functions as a regional secretariat to a network of umbrella organizations or platforms that are registered in 24 countries, territories, and states across the Pacific region. PIANGO has its primary role as a catalyst for collective action, to facilitate and support coalitions and alliances on issues of common concern, and to strengthen the influence and impact of NGO efforts in the region.

The Pujiono Centre (PuCen) is an Indonesian not-for-profit company in the field of knowledge established by disaster management practitioners in Indonesia as a new modality, institutional arrangement, and platform for obtaining, sharing and disseminating knowledge about disaster management by supporting evidence-based assessments for policy makers in disaster management.



Working in partnership

How we do our research is as important as what we produce, 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 to building and working through partnerships with local organisations, networks and consultants in the countries where we work. As part of this commitment, the research stream will closely collaborate with our partners, from inception and methodology development to dissemination and communication.

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.