

International Conference A Quest for Humanitarian Effectiveness?



Debating the Evolution of Humanitarian Action: History, Practice, Politics and Performance

This conference, organised by the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) and Save the Children's Humanitarian Affairs Team (HAT), will reflect on the evolution and consequence of existing approaches to understanding and improving humanitarian effectiveness. But it will also explore effects of humanitarian action that tend not to be captured by the conventional discourse on effectiveness. Indeed, this conference will use the theme of humanitarian effectiveness to frame a critical and constructive interdisciplinary conversation on the politics and practice of humanitarian action.

14 - 16 September 2015
University of Manchester, UK

Call for Papers and Posters

Deadline 15 May 2015

We welcome paper submissions and poster outlines on the following (or related) themes:

Security management, remoteness and performance:

The evolution of humanitarian aid, and managerial approaches to improving its effectiveness in difficult-to-access and insecure regions.

Knowledge, evidence and best practice:

How the generation and use of knowledge and evidence shape understandings of humanitarian effectiveness and humanitarian practices; and how the management and ownership of information relate to the development of 'best practice'.

Voice and perspective:

Whose voice shapes the way humanitarian effectiveness is understood? What efforts have been made to consider other voices, particularly those of crisis-affected populations? Can the humanitarian effectiveness agenda be democratised?

Humanitarian aid and peacebuilding:

What should be the role of effective humanitarian action in the pursuit of peace?

Professionalisation - improving humanitarian action through the development of expertise and competitive advantage:

The implications of professionalisation, particularly for improving the quality of humanitarian aid; the role of technical proficiency in humanitarian action.

Humanitarian governance and the political economy of humanitarian aid:

The politics of financing, allocating and regulating humanitarian aid.

Resilience - solution or submission?

Is building the resilience of people, institutions and systems the solution for the shortcomings of humanitarian action or is it a concession to the inevitability of shortcomings in the face of crisis?

Between the global and the local:

How the relationship between international and local institutions and norms shapes the effects of humanitarian action.

Register online: www.humanitarian-quest.org



Cultural Programme

The cultural programme surrounding the conference will feature work by local and international artists such as:



Story-telling: **Jebel Marra** by Michelle Green

Michelle Green, author of *Jebel Marra*, will be reading from and talking about her book which is based on her experiences in Darfur. Fiction, based on real experiences of the author as an NGO volunteer during Darfur crisis, explores and exposes the causes, consequences and conditions of the Sudanese/Darfur situation.



Photography Exhibitions

MSF's photography exhibition presents a series of highly evocative photographs highlights the serious ongoing problems of accessing basic health care in Afghanistan. The second exhibition features images by Dan Vernon showing the work of organizations such as the Sir William Beveridge Foundation and Jordan Red Crescent Society.



Lexxus Legal

Lexxus Legal, a hip-hop artist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, has been working with young people to encourage them to express themselves through music rather than violence. He will be performing and talking about his work.

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