



JOB PROFILE

Job Title:	Humanitarian Research and Learning Lead UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub (UKHIH)
Location:	Home based and/or Elrha office sites in London or Cardiff Full time, fixed term until March 2023
Child Safeguarding Level:	Level 1

ABOUT THE ROLE

The Humanitarian Research and Learning Lead will take a lead role in the delivery of the UKHIH research agenda and portfolio, alongside the delivery of innovation technical support to major accelerated collaborations formed by UKHIH.

UKHIH PURPOSE AND ORGANISATIONAL OVERVIEW

Global humanitarian needs are at an all-time high and expected to continue to rise during the next decade – driven by more complex and longer conflicts, and by fragility and climate change. In response, the humanitarian system needs to make the best use of expertise and available funding - to be more efficient, effective, and accountable - so that appropriate protection and assistance is provided to those that need it, when they need it. Meeting these challenges requires new ways of working: innovation is essential.

In 2018 the Secretary of State for International Development announced the creation of the UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub (UKHIH), recognising that as a global leader in science, technology and innovation, the UK has remarkable capabilities that could be of significant value to addressing humanitarian needs and challenges.

Newly formed, UKHIH is now working to support the development and delivery of impactful responses for crisis affected communities through humanitarian innovations, including digital innovations, across four major focus areas (1) satellite technology (2) global humanitarian surgery (3) artificial intelligence and (4) vaccine delivery. Through a model of Accelerated Innovation Collaborations, UKHIH is funding and working closely with diverse partnerships to design and deliver systematic and transparent processes of evidence-based in each of the focus areas.

UKHIH is hosted by Elrha and is funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). UKHIH is an entity with distinct governance and management that, though subject to oversight from Elrha Board of Trustees, determines its priorities, work plans and activities. UKHIH will follow Elrha's operating policies and procedures, with day to day responsibility lying with the Executive Director who will organise and manage staff and administration.

JOB PURPOSE

The Humanitarian Research and Learning Lead manages the design and delivery of innovation research within the Hub. The role is responsible for synthesising and communicating research and providing technical innovation expertise (particularly digital innovation), to drive and facilitate impactful accelerated collaboration between multiple stakeholders including government, public sector, private sector, universities, and NGOs.

The post-holder will further strengthen our good connections across the international humanitarian and development research community and contribute knowledge and expertise to the existing evidence/learning and the evolving research landscape. The role will greatly contribute to our partner outreach, network building and coordination with the aim of convincing others to adopt new, evidence-based ways of working, by employing a range of advocacy and communication approaches and mechanisms.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

RESEARCH AND LEARNING AGENDA ON HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION

- Undertake foresight research and horizon scanning in order to effectively scope new and emerging areas of interest to UK actors working on digital humanitarian innovation, and inform UKHIH investments and programme direction.
- Broaden the evidence base by designing and/or delivering novel research aligned to UKHIH focus areas, ensuring appropriate research methodologies and methods, evaluation strategies and research tools are appropriately applied.
- Develop and manage a directory of learning from UK-funded digital and technological innovation investments.
- Review and synthesise findings from the latest research and evidence on digital humanitarian innovation, across a range of research digests, policy briefs and other knowledge products.
- Support the dissemination and uptake of the results from UKHIH-funded learning processes through peer-reviewed journal articles, networking, events, reports, media articles, blogs, and presentations delivered by partners.
- Develop and maintain UKHIH relationships and high-level advocacy with researchers and practitioners to build the evidence base around what works to advance innovation in humanitarian settings.
- Participate in relevant research fora, humanitarian innovation platforms and with communities of practice to facilitate dialogue on research needs and priorities, and to identify further opportunities for strategic engagement.

HUMANITARIAN INNOVATION EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT

- Take a lead role in coordinating efforts to ensure major innovations by UKHIH investments are inclusive, responsible, and built on previous lessons from the sector.
- Provide UKHIH investments with best practice advice on enabling factors, techniques, and cost-effectiveness of digital innovation activities.

- Facilitate UKHIH investments to connect with other actors and networks, supporting collaborative approaches and capacity building.
- Facilitate a network of UKHIH investees and fellows, supporting cross-learning and peer-to-peer support.
- Contribute towards catalysing new UKHIH accelerated collaborations and partnerships for humanitarian innovation, involving government, public sector, private sector, universities, and NGOs as required.

CONTRIBUTING TO OVERALL WORK OF THE HUB

- Contribute to the development and delivery of the UKHIH monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) strategy.
- Support the development and formation of a UKHIH network to develop and enhance humanitarian innovations, including digital innovations.
- Contribute towards the formation and oversight of sub-groups, communities of practice and other innovation working groups within the UKHIH network where required.
- Lead cross-programme collaboration with Elrha's innovation and research programme teams to ensure synergies and complementarity with existing and foreseen thematic innovation focuses.
- Support UKHIH on convening, investment and capacity strengthening initiatives of humanitarian innovation stakeholders.
- Contribute towards high quality updates and reports for the Hub's stakeholders and contribute towards donor reporting as required.
- Develop content for UKHIH external communications channels and support responses to media requests and external enquiries
- Contribute to the Hub's work in other priority areas.

The principal accountabilities are not meant to be an exhaustive list of tasks. The need for a high degree of flexibility is required as UKHIH grows and develops.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL

- Post-graduate qualification in a relevant area (such as public policy, development studies, innovation studies, humanitarian studies, international relation human rights, refugee rights and issues) OR proven experience in a related field.
- Substantial experience in a humanitarian innovation research and advisory role, with proven ability of leading research through all stages and the delivery of technical advice on humanitarian invocation, particularly digital innovation.

- Strong track record of published research and experience of synthesising and communicating research to multiple stakeholders.
- Strong track record of driving cross-organisational collaborations and networks involving humanitarian innovation, with experience in one or more of the four major UKHIH focus areas i.e. (1) satellite technology (2) global humanitarian surgery (3) artificial intelligence and/or (4) vaccine delivery.
- Substantial experience of working with different sectors and partners: public and private sector, civil society, academia, multilateral agencies, and donors.
- Credible expertise in partner outreach, network building and coordination, with the ability to employ a range of advocacy and communication approaches and mechanisms to convince others to adopt new ways of working.
- A good understanding of research ethics.
- Experience in delivering a multi-sectoral grants programme.
- Experience in working with FCDO and other UK Government Departments.
- Proven ability to manage a large and complex workload and work flexibly within a fast moving environment
- Proficiency in the latest versions of MS office suite.

DESIRABLE

- Field experience in a conflict, disasters, or other humanitarian setting.
- Policy and/or programme experience of operational / field innovation in humanitarian settings
- Experience of grant management
- Experience of working in start-ups and feels comfortable in an evolving environment

Child Protection level

Level 1 - the responsibilities of the post do not require you to have contact with children or young people.

We are committed to the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable people in our work. We will do everything possible to ensure that only those who are suitable to work with children and vulnerable people are recruited to work for us.