

INTERVIEW GUIDE: GLOBAL PRIORITISATION EXERCISE FOR HUMANITARIAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION REGIONAL CONSULTATION

Interview date and time:

Interview number:

Facilitator/interviewer name:

DEMOGRAPHICS

I'd like to start with some general introductory questions about the type of organisation you work in and the duration of your own engagement with humanitarian research and innovation (R&I).

1. Firstly, as discussed, in writing up the results of this consultation, we may refer to your organisation type. Can you please clarify that your organisation is best described as (...insert organisation type...) (eg, an academic institution, international / national or local NGO, UN agency, government, private sector, international financial institution etc.)
2. Does the organisation work in / engage with humanitarian research, humanitarian innovation or both humanitarian research and innovation (including research about innovation)?
3. Approximately how long have you been working in this role / sector?

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

I'd like to explore the role of R&I in humanitarian crises, and how research and innovation can be best used.

1. Thinking about all phases of a humanitarian emergency and activities across these phases, from preparedness to response and recovery, what roles can R&I play in crises?
 - Is humanitarian research and innovation (HRI) enabling humanitarian responses to better address the needs of population affected by crises? And if so, how?

- It is sometimes said that HRI during an acute crisis, such as in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster or during active conflict, can serve to distract from operational and life-saving humanitarian interventions. What do you think is the role of research and innovation during humanitarian crises? How R&I be better used to help inform humanitarian action?

NEEDS

We will now explore HRI needs in the xxxx region. Note that this region spans from (insert details of geographic boundaries).

1. What do you think are the main R&I needs in the humanitarian sector in the (insert) region, and do these needs differ across the region?
 - Why do you think these are needs? That is, why do you think these issues should receive additional R&I attention? Why do you think these issues have not received sufficient attention to date?
 - What problem(s) could R&I on the areas you have mentioned above solve within the humanitarian sector in this region?
2. If you had to name the top three humanitarian research / innovation priorities / needs in this region, what would they be and why?

ALIGNMENT

Thank you for sharing your views about the HRI needs in the region. I'd like to now explore alignment of R&I investments with actual research and innovation needs.

1. Do you think that investments into R&I match the HRI needs that you mentioned earlier?
 - If investments are not aligned with where you think the R&I needs are, why do you think this is the case?
2. Some humanitarian crises receive disproportionately more research attention than other crises of similar devastation and magnitude. In other words, the level of research attention is not always proportional to the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis. Why do you think this might be the case? What other factors influence research funding and research attention?

ENGAGEMENT

I'd now like to explore stakeholder engagement with research and innovation and priority-setting.

1. How well are regional and national actors engaged in HRI?
 - For those that are engaging regional and national actors successfully, what strategies / approaches have been used to promote such engagement rather than engagement with international collaborators?
 - For those that report not engaging regional and national actors successfully, what are the barriers?

PROCESSES

I'd now like to explore some of the processes and structures for identifying research and innovation needs and priority-setting.

1. Could you please describe how your organisation identifies and prioritises the focus of humanitarian research and / or innovation work? For example,
 - What is the rationale for the prioritisation?
 - What evidence do you consider?
 - Who is involved in determining priorities?
 - To what extent are regional, national, and local actors involved with the priority setting process?
 - Are there any particular groups that you think do not have a spot at the priority-setting table?

FOR DONORS / FUNDERS ONLY

The following questions in this module are for those stakeholders who identified as funders or represent organisations that fund HRI.

1. What could constitute some barriers to investment in the HRI needs that you identified earlier? What are the enablers?

2. How do you coordinate among various funders of humanitarian research / innovation in the region?

- If coordination mechanisms exist, what are the strengths of the coordination mechanisms?

- What are the weaknesses of the coordination mechanisms?

- How is information about who is funding what being shared among donors?

- What happens if multiple funders are interested in a specific subject area / issue / crisis and there is little or no interest in another important area?

RESPONSIVENESS

Just as the humanitarian operational sector needs to rapidly respond to new crises as they arise, the HRI sector is also impacted by new and emerging crises. I'd like to now explore responsiveness of the R&I sector to new and critical issues.

1. Many factors may impact the ability of the R&I sector to respond to priorities as they emerge (for example, these may include national capacity, funding availability, short project cycles, etc.). What factors support and what factors impede timely responsiveness to emerging priorities in the region?

2. COVID-19 has had an enormous impact on the world at large and on the humanitarian sector.

- How well do you think R&I has responded to humanitarian needs during the pandemic and what could have been done to be more effective in supporting the response to date?

3. Climate change is another key issue confronting the sector. How is your organisation responding to climate change? What has been the impact of climate change on investment priorities in HRI projects?

CLOSING QUESTION

- Are there specific questions that you would like to ask me or additional comments that you would like to make?