



Second Quarterly Report 2019 (April - June)

I. Introduction and highlights

The development of the Humanitarian Encyclopedia (HE) project focused mainly on research during the second quarter of 2019. The initial construction of the humanitarian organisations database reached its end with 2'525 organisations included. A large documentary corpus of more than 5'000 categorised documents was built and is now ready for the linguists' analysis.

Geneva hosted some relevant international events in which several HE Advisory Board members and the project team took part - the consultation of the UN Network on Migration with Civil Society and other Stakeholders in April, the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May, and the Humanitarian Affairs Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC HAS) in June.

The long-time-due revision of [the Humanitarian Encyclopedia's website](#) was finalised in June by the new team of Communications Managers of the Geneva Centre of Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH).

Two new members will be joining the Advisory Board of the Humanitarian Encyclopedia in July 2019. Welcome to the United Nations World Food Programme and InterAction!

II. Research

Corpus

Based on a clear list of criteria, the pilot corpus was considerably expanded by the project team. Organisational strategies available in English were added from 2005 onwards and general documents were updated with more recent documents published in 2018 and 2019. Websites of 2500 organisations were scanned for activity/annual reports. If available in English, reports were included from 2005 onwards. The corpus now includes more than 5'000 relevant documents – 311 general documents, 552 strategic documents, and 4'331 activity reports.

On 4th June, a meeting to discuss the linguistic research method was held with professors from the University of Groningen, University of Granada and University of Geneva¹, and the project team, including three research assistants. Results to be expected from the corpus analysis and the mode of collaboration with expert-authors were agreed upon.

Humanitarian concept analysis

Based on the list of 129 humanitarian concepts and their associate concepts and the priorities defined by its governing body, the project is moving into the concept production phase.

¹ In order: Prof. Clara Egger, Prof. Pilar Leon, and Prof. Aurélie Picton.

Eleven scholars have already committed to producing one or more conceptual entries, and some more are joining. They gathered virtually on 19th June to discuss the “Guidance note for authors” for the concept analysis and to agree on the method for the pilot test.

It is agreed that the first set of about 15 concepts will be analyzed during the third quarter of 2019. Conceptual entries will then be produced by the end of 2019 and be available for comments by members of the governing body.

Humanitarian organizations database

To ensure its accuracy, the database containing information of more than 2’500 organizations has gone through verification and was validated at the end of June.

We strive to make the Humanitarian Organization Database available for public consultation on the Humanitarian Encyclopedia’s website during the third quarter of 2019. The project team in close collaboration with the University of Geneva is inspecting the possibilities for the database to be presented in a user-friendly manner.

III. Development of the online platform

The University of Geneva agreed recently to support the development of the Humanitarian Encyclopedia platform as part of a larger project “Digital Humanities”. This is highly appreciated as it not only decreases the need for external funds, but also provides the team with much needed digital expertise. In addition, it guarantees long-term support for data storage and maintenance.

IV. ECOSOC HAS

The ECOSOC HAS took place in Geneva from 24 to 26 June on the theme “Promoting action to

save lives, reach those in need and reduce humanitarian risk, vulnerability and need”. This annual event gathers relevant actors in the humanitarian field to discuss emerging and pressing humanitarian issues. Among these some were spotted as particularly relevant in relation to the Humanitarian Encyclopedia, including:

- Cooperation across sectors (humanitarian, development, and peace), and effective partnerships across levels
- Inclusive participation in coordination at the local and national levels for operations
- Explanation on terminologies to facilitate mutual understanding
- Strong analyses for better knowledge of local contexts, stakeholders, and needs
- A common platform for organizational learning.

The project team was able to exchange thoughts with visitors at the Humanitarian Encyclopedia stand.

V. Acknowledgement

We sincerely thank Mr Gabriel Serex, research assistant, for his invaluable contribution, including constructing the large corpus and managing exhibition stands in various events. As his service as ‘civiliste’ took end in June, we wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

