



## Fourth Quarterly Report 2019 (October - December)

### I. Introduction and highlights

The last quarter of 2019 was intense in the international humanitarian arena. A number of multilateral conferences took place in Geneva, e.g. the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference, the 1<sup>st</sup> United Nations Network on Migration, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Forum on Refugees.

CERAH staff, including the Humanitarian Encyclopedia (HE) team participated in some of these meetings. For instance, [a statement](#) to highlight the importance of continuous training for better humanitarian outcomes was delivered by Sian Bowen at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference.



The Humanitarian Organisation Database (HOD), with over 2,500 organisations listed, was launched online on 10 October. Since then the HE team has been communicating with listed organisations to collect further information on organisations' activities.

### II. Activities

#### Concept entries

The first concept entry 'dignity' was produced by Dr Kerrie Holloway from the Humanitarian Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute.

This concept entry was reviewed by the Advisory Board members during its fourth meeting. The members suggested that in addition to the academic concept entry, the HE translate it in a shorter version for the use of humanitarian professionals.

#### Knowledge management strategy

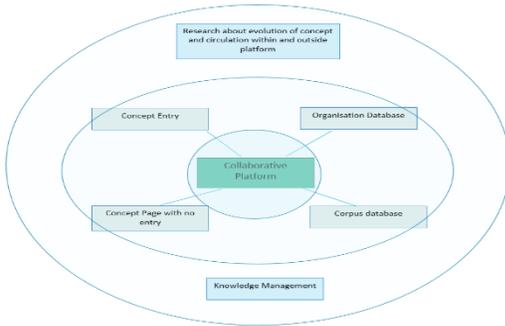
The strategy, validated by the Advisory Board in December 2019, identifies knowledge gaps in the humanitarian sector, proposes knowledge products for the HE's online platform, and approaches for knowledge transfer to humanitarian actors.

#### Development of the HE online platform

Prof. Karl Blanchet, Dr. Clara Egger, Skoli<sup>1</sup>, and the HE team gathered on 6 December to revisit the HE and its components. Prof. Blanchet shared his vision and suggested a mind-map to guide further development of the HE. This mind-map puts the HE platform as the centre of the project for users to navigate through 1) concept entries, 2) discussion forum for concepts (without entries), 3) humanitarian organisation database, and 4) concept reference corpus. Research and knowledge management (the 3<sup>rd</sup> circle) will be a

<sup>1</sup> Skoli, a consultancy firm, who is in charge of managing the links with the developers of the platform at the University of Geneva.

means for the platform to analyse and collect relevant information.



The Digital Humanities team of the University of Geneva (UNIGE) is developing the new collective digital platform platform to allow it to capture this vision. A Proof-of-Concept for the platform will be presented in January 2020.

### III. Governance

Prof. Karl Blanchet took over the Director position of CERAH in December. On 2 December the HE's Advisory Board (AB) had its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board agreed on the broad strategic direction presented in the knowledge management strategy, and the need to review the HOD and the overall vision of the Humanitarian Encyclopedia.

### IV. External representations

CERAH participated, as an observer to the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference** from 9 to 12 December.

In addition to its statement, the CERAH exhibition booth received visitors from the Movement. The latter were interested in training opportunities and were able to search through the HE and found online information of their National Societies in the [Humanitarian Organisation Database](#).

At the **HNPW** conference in February 2020, CERAH will have an exhibition booth and two sessions (including one in collaboration with ACAPS) to promote the importance of continuous training and CERAH's role in the capacity development of humanitarian actors, as well as raise awareness of tools provided by the HE. Stakeholders are welcome to visit the CERAH stand and are invited to participate in the CERAH

sessions. The first session is on Monday 6 February at 10am entitled 'Role of Education in an evolving humanitarian space' will take place in rooms 3 from 10-10.30am – to register visit: [https://vosocc.unocha.org/Reg/I5783\\_BS\\_RoleOfEdu.html](https://vosocc.unocha.org/Reg/I5783_BS_RoleOfEdu.html). The second session with CERAH and ACAPS on 5 February, entitled 'Learning and partnering for better local humanitarian outcomes' will take place in room 15 of CICG from 14:00 to 15:30. To register visit: [https://vosocc.unocha.org/Reg/I5977\\_Learning\\_and\\_Partnering.html](https://vosocc.unocha.org/Reg/I5977_Learning_and_Partnering.html).

The HE team in collaboration with UNIGE has submitted the HE project to be included in the **World Summit on the Information Society** (April 2020). The HE relates closely to the WSIS action line 3 "Access to information and knowledge", the action line 7 "benefits in all aspects of life regarding e-learning", and the action line 11 "international and regional cooperation".

The advancement of technology has created a wide range of possibilities for the academic sector to increase its societal impact and to collaborate with other sectors. The Humanitarian Encyclopedia is a perfect example.

### V. Acknowledgement

Prof. Blanchet and his team thanks the governments of Germany, Luxembourg, and Switzerland for their support, as well as members of the Advisory Board and Scientific Committee. The support will be indispensable for the HE to take concrete steps in 2020.

CERAH wishes all its supporters a wonderful 2020.