

Humanitarian Research Group

In the current international climate, natural and man-made disasters are on the rise and companies are under increased pressure to engage in corporate social responsibility activities. Humanitarian organisations are continually working to increase organisational capacity and improve their ability to respond effectively to disasters. Private sector companies need a better understanding of the humanitarian sector to learn how to engage effectively.

Our mission

The ultimate objective of the INSEAD Humanitarian Research Group is to facilitate cross-learning between private companies and humanitarian organisations to raise the overall effectiveness of humanitarian response. Our work is organised into three main themes:

- **Disaster preparedness** How humanitarian organisations work between disasters
- **Response coordination** How humanitarian organisations work during disasters
- **Inter-sectoral collaboration** The role of different sectors (e.g. private, military, media) between and during disasters

Our services

We seek to improve humanitarian practice through the four strands of our work:

- Research
- Evaluations
- Advisory work
- Education and training

We provide practical advice and recommendations based upon an independent research agenda which we have developed in consultation with both humanitarian organisations and private sector firms.

“A successful humanitarian operation is one that mitigates the urgent needs of a population with a sustainable reduction of their vulnerability in the shortest amount of time and with the least amount of resources.”

Luk Van Wassenhove
Professor of Operations Management
INSEAD

Our experience

We have produced award-winning reports on humanitarian supply chains and have developed a range of teaching materials used in leading universities.

We have built up close relationships with several UN agencies, as well as non-governmental humanitarian organisations, enabling us to conduct academic research at field and headquarters level.

We combine this with close collaboration with the private sector, to produce a unique set of materials which addresses operations management and corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the humanitarian context. We examine CSR partnerships to assess what value they can bring to both the humanitarian and the corporate partners, and at what cost to each.

Management in the humanitarian sector

This five day Executive Education programme gives top level management training to humanitarian sector managers with the goal of increasing their organisational capacity to prepare and respond effectively to humanitarian disasters. It also provides companies seeking to develop their social programme in this area with a better understanding of how the humanitarian sector operates and what is actually required from them to be successful.

Fleet management at the ICRC

In this project with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), we help them optimize the replacement of their fleet vehicles. The results of this project will be to reduce risk of breakdown, improve the environmental impact of the vehicles and contribute to increased road safety throughout the organisation, all while reducing costs. Ultimately this project will lead to overall improvement in vehicle fleet management across the humanitarian sector.

Corporate responses to human disasters

Recent major global disasters have prompted many companies to consider long-term disaster response partnerships with the humanitarian sector. To examine changing corporate responses to humanitarian disasters, and particularly how to build successful links with humanitarian organisations, we are engaged in a year-long working group with leading multinational corporations, NGOs and governmental organizations.

INSEAD Social Innovation Centre

Founded in 2007, the INSEAD Social Innovation Centre is an inclusive platform for cross-disciplinary research and engagement in the area of social innovation.

The Centre brings together a diverse group of leading INSEAD research teams focused on the innovation of business models and market-based mechanisms that deliver sustainable economic, environmental and social prosperity.

This research is disseminated in our educational programs and forms a basis for collaboration with alumni, companies, NGOs and other organizations, establishing an open community through which we can have a real impact.

Learn more at <http://www.insead.edu/isic>

For more information

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