

RCRC MOVEMENT EVIDENCE-BUILDING ACTORS WITH SOME FOCUS ON MHPSS

IFRC [*Psychosocial Centre*](#)

The primary task of the Psychosocial (PS) Centre is to enable and support NSs to understand, respond and utilise evidence-based practice in meeting the psychosocial needs of vulnerable groups. In recent years, the PS Centre has become actively involved in collaborative research in partnership with academic institutions, NSs and other stakeholders to investigate questions of both scientific relevance and operational importance to the Movement. The aim of the research collaborations is to contribute to the development of new knowledge in the MHPSS field that can be translated into practical tools and guidelines for field use, with the aim of increasing the quality of MHPSS interventions within the Movement. There has been a focus recently on 'co-creation' of research outputs (e.g., as used in the FOCUS EU Horizon 2020 funded project), involving NS representatives to ensure that the project results in outputs that practitioners can use to improve their MHPSS services.

[*Red Cross and Red Crescent Research Consortium*](#) (RC3)

RC3 began in 2019 as an initiative of the French Red Cross Foundation. The founders wanted to know who else was doing research around the Movement, discovered various initiatives and connected them, creating RC3. It is unfunded, with members, all of whom are involved in research, contributing in-kind. RC3 members have so far collaborated on two large research projects, one on heatwaves and one on volunteering.

RC3 is still developing its goals and format. At their next meeting (September 2023) they will discuss the following four potential areas of focus:

1. Connecting/ networking amongst RC3 members to encourage collaboration and support
2. Producing knowledge as a team
3. Valorising research knowledge within the Movement
4. Being research champions within the Movement – supporting NSs to do research, building their capacity

ICRC [*Centre for Operational Research and Experience*](#) (CORE)

CORE was developed to improve the uptake of research within ICRC, strengthen ethics of research and increase publication rate. CORE activities include:

- Conducting research
- Offering research advice across ICRC, mainly around methodology but support goes 'from protocol to publication'.
- An Ethical Review Board process (since Jan 2021). Research proposals which include an ICRC partnership are screened and then reviewed by both internal and external reviewers. The board meets monthly and can give feedback on a proposal very quickly.
- Commissioning research projects from partner research institutions.

[*Research Network*](#)

The Red Cross Red Crescent Research Network was established in June 2016 with the vision to facilitate effective MHPSS services for beneficiaries, volunteers and staff through a strengthened evidence-base in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Hosted by the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support and co-led by the British Red Cross, the Research Network is intended to be a space for collaboration and shared learning that brings together MHPSS researchers and practitioners affiliated with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Membership is open to individuals engaged in research on MHPSS in humanitarian settings, with an interest and influence in promoting research and evidence-based work to support the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

[International Centre for Humanitarian Affairs](#) (ICHA).

ICHA is an independent commercial unit affiliated to the Kenya Red Cross. They do research, policy and advocacy, innovation and other activities. They have good research skills and capacity.

Other relevant initiatives

The Technical Quality & Impact Unit of the Danish Red Cross International Department are in the process of developing a platform with simple MHPSS indicators and tools, which will lead people through the programme design process. The intention is for this user-friendly design tool to be openly available to all NSs and others who may find it useful.

The Health Intelligence Research and Development Unit, Canadian Red Cross, focuses on research related to health in emergencies and has an interest in MHPSS-related research.

The [Humanitarian Observatory](#) of the Argentine Red Cross is a research, knowledge and awareness space that collects, analyses and interprets information on a variety of humanitarian themes. It designs projects on the basis of this analysis and conducts advocacy activities, working in partnership with others. There is currently no specific MHPSS focus to its activities, but MHPSS concerns are integrated into some of their studies.

The [Swedish Red Cross University](#) has a focus on 'Health Sciences in a Global Perspective' and conducts research on nursing and health. They have conducted a six-year research programme on 'Resiliency, Mental Health and Social Participation among Refugees' (RMSR) and international studies on adolescent mental health.

The [Centre for Evidence Based Practice](#) (CEBaP) aims to support policymaking in Belgian Red Cross-Flanders, with a view to bridging the gap between science and its practical application to serve the best interests of the particular target group. CEBaP conducts evidence-based work and primary research into a wide range of humanitarian aid activities, although it tends to focus on four priority areas: first-aid education and hygiene promotion; first aid assistance and disaster preparedness; blood platelets; blood donors. Although MHPSS is not one of its priority areas, it does fall within its remit, with recent studies addressing questions including 'What are the most effective ways to tackle loneliness among the elderly?' and 'What type of psychosocial first aid can you offer to a disaster victim?'

The [Global Disaster Preparedness Centre](#) website maps research conducted by the global Red Cross Red Crescent network, and is related to the RC3 consortium. An interactive map displays current research activities, studies and academic papers that are supported by the members of the Research Consortium. There are currently 500 research projects in the database, and these can be filtered by sector. There is currently no 'MHPSS' tag, but a number of projects and activities relevant to the MHPSS field can be found within the 'Health' category.