



Annual Report 2020



international
Humanitarian  **Studies**
association

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Foreword

I am pleased to present the 2020 annual report of the International Humanitarian Studies Association.

The year came and went under the shadow of the major global challenge of the COVID pandemic. While many of our members were coping with health and economic issues in their personal life, we have also seen many members engage in the global debates and publications spurred on by the pandemic.

For IHSA, the immediate effect of the pandemic was that we had to postpone our bi-annual conference. The conference will now be held from 3-5 November 2021 and co-organized with Science-Po in Paris.

We have used the time to increase the online community. Firstly, we have started sending IHSA members a blog selection relevant to humanitarian studies every week. We strive to present a large diversity of posts, with different opinions and from different types of authors – representing the broad membership of IHSA. Secondly, we have made our website ready to accommodate hybrid conferences. The conference in Paris will be hybrid, not only allowing people to attend from a distance but also enabling participation in different languages.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the Fondation Croix Rouge that endowed me with an honorary award to honor the importance of IHSA. We are proud to continue to be a global community bringing together scholars, applied researchers and reflexive practitioners engaged in humanitarian studies.

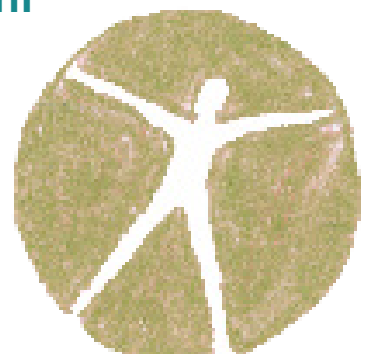
Finally, my thanks go to Marloes Viet and Nicolas Caso who have dedicated themselves to the secretariat and the weekly blog selection and to my fellow board members.

Dorothea Hilhorst

President IHSA



Prof. Dorothea Hilhorst
IHSA President





About the International Humanitarian Studies Association

The International Humanitarian Studies Association is a network engaged with the study of humanitarian crises caused by disaster, conflict or political instability. Humanitarian studies concern how humanitarian crises evolve, how they affect people and their institutions, communities and societies, and the responses they trigger.

IHSA forms a platform for the different disciplines that address humanitarian studies. It offers a venue where these scholarly communities can meet and debate their different insights and understanding of humanitarian crises, in dialogue with policy actors and implementing agencies. IHSA equally welcomes academic scholars, consultants, policy researchers, and reflective practitioners among its membership.

Governance

Executive Committee



Dorothea Hilhorst
- President



Susanne Jaspars
- Secretary



Andrew Cunningham
- Treasurer

Board Members



Christopher Cushing



Rodrigo Mena



Kristin Bergtora Sandvik



Virginie Troit



Diego Otegui



Mohamed Jelle



François Grünewald

Institutional Members



Julia Steets
- The Global Public Policy
Institute (GPPi)



Mihir Bhatt
- All India Disaster
Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)



Tanja Müller
- Humanitarian and Conflict
Response Institute (HCRI)

2020 Activities

Humanitarian Blog Post Selection

When the Covid-19 crisis hit, and most of us and our colleagues went into quarantine, the idea came to mind to start bundling blogs and op-eds from colleagues and partners in the field to create a way to connect with one another. We started making a weekly selection of writings from all over the world and emailed them to our members, as well as creating a separate webpage on blog sites with posts relevant to humanitarian studies.

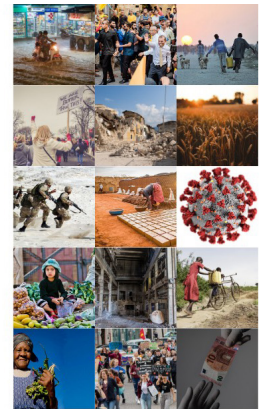
What started as a six week idea, grew in popularity every week, as more and more subscribers found out about the selection. The short-term blog selection project turned into a long-term project that went further than just focussing on Covid-19.

international
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Would you like to
receive our weekly
humanitarian blog
posts selection?

Subscribe!

New selections every Wednesday!



Online

As live events were cancelled during the pandemic, our focus shifted to our online presence. Our weekly blog selections reached more than 1,700 subscribers that combined read more than 6,400 posts suggested by us during 2020. During the same year our subscribers list increased by 10%, our emailed selection kept at a stable opening rate of more than 17% and our social media following grew by 18%. We are active on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and as of today, IHS is proud to have more than 6,500 social media followers.

Preparation for 6th Conference on Humanitarian Studies

Due to the pandemic our 2020 conference, originally planned for November in Lebanon, in collaboration with the American University of Beirut was cancelled. We explored new options and decided to focus on a successful conference in 2021.



Regional Networks

IHSA has been working to establish a network of Regional IHSA Associations (IHSA-RegNets) to further our aims and objectives around the world, and more specifically to facilitate knowledge exchange, shared learning, joint research, cooperation, and partnerships.

In 2020, IHSA hosted two discussion webinars with members and stakeholders from Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia, and North-South America to produce a Terms of Reference for IHSA-RegNets. Each webinar started with reflections on the gap between humanitarian studies and action, the new frontiers of humanitarian justice (for example Artificial Intelligence), and the pedagogy and methodologies in humanitarian research. The second part elicited participants thoughts on the need for regional initiatives, and to gather information on existing networks. As a result of the meetings, the IHSA board is working on a revised Terms of Reference for IHSA-RegNets.

IHSA also invited members to organise thematic discussions during 2021 to delve into topics highlighted during the webinar, such as partnership and collaboration strategies between “north” and “south” organisations, and ways to strengthen the linkages between practitioners and academics.

Editorial Collaboration with Humanitarian Alternatives

Humanitarian Alternatives is an international bilingual review (English/French) supported by:

Fondation Action Contre la Faim • Fondation Croix-Rouge française • Fondation de France • Fondation Mérieux • Institut HI pour l'Action Humanitaire

In 2020, IHSA was invited to join in a editorial collaboration for their 15th issue on: *Covid-19: Lessons learned and future challenges*. François Grünewald - Strategic foresight Director of the URD Group, Coordinator of the Covid-19 Observatory and member of the Board of the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA), joint editor in chief Boris Martin in this collaboration.



Working Group on Ethics

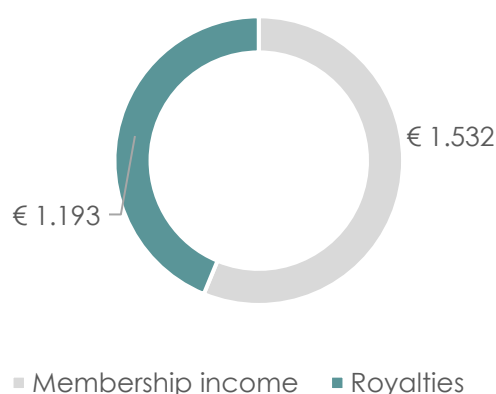
The working group on Ethics held a number of discussions on power relations and research methodology when conducting research in the Global South. How can data at the core of humanitarian studies be collected through co-production that addressed imbalances of power and resources in ethical and accountable ways? While the COVID pandemic put on hold plans for concrete regional activities, some panels in the upcoming conference focus on these questions and how to take these forward.

Financial Summary

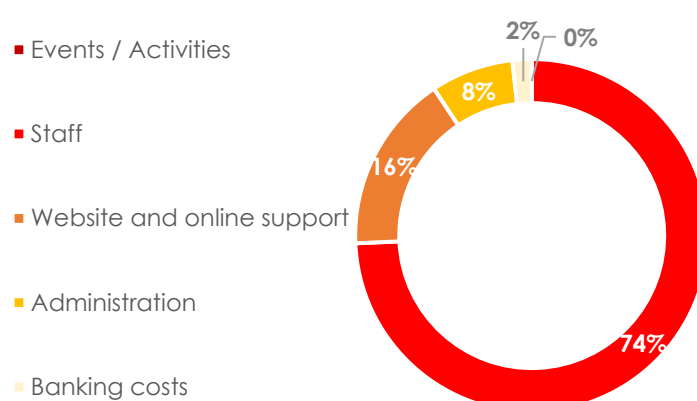
IHSA's main source of income is generated through our conference. As the conference on average is held every two years, it means that in our so-called off year when we do not organize a conference the source of income is significantly lower. Outside of conferences, IHSA has two other forms of income, the first is membership subscriptions. We offer different types of subscriptions; 25 euros for individuals and 100 to 250 euros for institutions depending on their size. In 2020, we generated 1532 euros through subscriptions. We want to develop our membership further in the years to come. Another source of income is the royalties from the Book Series that IHSA has with Routledge. More information on the book series can be found on our website.

Originally 2020 was supposed to be a conference year, however this had to be cancelled due to the pandemic outbreak. Therefore there was no income from the conference this year. Fortunately the reserves were enough to cover the difference of income and costs.

Origin of funds 2020
(+€ 2,725)



Use of funds 2020
(-€ 9,571)



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