Humanitarian Organisations and Climate Change Adaptation

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Fachhochschule Köln
Campus Deutz, Alter Senatssaal (ZS8-8; Südflügel, 8. Stock, Raum 8).
Outline

1. Presentation of the IFHV
2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action
3. Introduction to my Research Question and Research Methods
4. Research Findings from Southern Thailand
5. Conclusion on Reasons for Humanitarian Engagement on the Topic of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)
6. Joint Discussion
Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict

- Founded in 1988 by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Knut Ipsen
  - Former Rector of the Ruhr University Bochum
  - Former President of the German Red Cross
- Established as a central research unit
  - Directly responsible to the Rectorate
- Close cooperation with different faculties
  - Law, Social Sciences, Geosciences, Medicine
- 28 staff members

www.ifhv.de
www.facebook.com/rub.ifhv
Research

Research on global political challenges and their implications for international law, in particular international humanitarian law, and on the dynamics of the humanitarian complex

- Traditional focus on international (humanitarian) law and the study of war and peace extending into the field of ‘Humanitarian Studies’ from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Dedicated to international cooperation and exchange in research and teaching
- Contributing to exchange between research and practice through fieldwork based research and cooperation with humanitarian organizations and international policy actors in research, consulting, teaching and dissemination
Teaching – NOHA Master in Humanitarian Action

- The Joint European Master’s Programme in International Humanitarian Action is an inter-university, multidisciplinary postgraduate programme
- Providing academic education and professional competencies for future personnel working in humanitarian action
- Cooperation with leading NGOs and institutions
- Created in 1993, working in close collaboration with two Directorates-General of the European Commission:
  - DG for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
  - DG for Education and Culture

www.nohanet.org
Teaching – NOHA Curriculum

1\textsuperscript{st} Semester:
Introduction to the core relevant academic fields
- Anthropology
- International Relations
- Law
- Management
- Public Health

2\textsuperscript{nd} Semester:
Six learning stations including four to five working groups
- Standards of Humanitarian Action
- Institution Building
- Programming
- Project Design
- Leadership in Humanitarian Assistance
- Simulation Exercise Week

3\textsuperscript{rd} Semester:
Master Thesis & internship or research stay abroad

www.nohanet.org
Contact at IFHV: Katharina.Behmer@rub.de
The Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (Institut für Friedenssicherungsrecht und Humanitäres Völkerrecht, IFHV) was established in 1988 by decision of the University Senate as a centralized research unit ("Zentrale Wissenschaftliche Einrichtung") of the Ruhr-Universität Bochum. The IFHV is responsible directly to the Rector and the Senate of the university, but works in close cooperation with the different faculties, in particular the faculties of law, social science, geosciences and medicine.

The IFHV carries out research and teaching on the problems of peace and armed conflict from an interdisciplinary perspective. Based on its strong international humanitarian law tradition, the IFHV is the only institute in Germany, and one of very few in Europe and the world, which is dedicated to the discipline of humanitarian studies. The IFHV combines its strong emphasis on international humanitarian law, the law of peace and human rights law with sociological and political perspectives on humanitarian crises, actors and activities.
Why do humanitarian Organizations adapt themselves to the topic of climate change?
As the global climate is changing, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement needs to change as well. Climate change directly affects the Red Cross and Red Crescent’s core mandate: assistance to the most vulnerable.

Inaction is not an option: either we address the rising risks, or we fail to address our own mandate”.

(RCCC (2007), p. 17)
2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

INCREASING NATURAL CATASTROPHES

3. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

MULTIPLE THREATS

**Climate Change**

- **Sea level rise** → food and water security, low islands, urban areas, migration
- **More precipitation and more floods** → early warnings needed, soil erosion, pressure on public and private flood insurance systems
- **More droughts** → food and water security, livelihoods, migration, conflict
- **More heatwaves** → health (elderly), stress on livestock, crops, fires
- **More intense tropical storms** (cyclones, typhoons) → early warning, shelter, massive damage to buildings and ecosystems, risk to human life

**More humanitarian disasters**

... most vulnerable most affected ...

Source: Adapted from Klose (2013)
2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

**SECTORAL IMPACTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Climate Change Impacts</th>
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| Health Care                     | ➔ Changes in disease patterns  
                                         ➔ Increase of malnutrition from drought/crop failure                                                                                             |
| Food Security and Livelihood    | ➔ Deterioration in water resources and soil quality  
                                         ➔ Increased crop failure  
                                         ➔ Downgraded livestock living conditions                                                                                                           |
| Water and Sanitation            | ➔ Increased droughts and water shortages  
                                         ➔ Degradation of water quality  
                                         ➔ Increased flooding with flow-on effects for water purity and sanitation security                                                               |
2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

OBSERVED TRENDS

**Trend** → rapidly changing organizational field in which the majority of humanitarian actors are developing **new approaches** to prepare for the challenges of a changing climate

→ differing **practical foci** that are influenced by each organization’s **expertise and mandates**

**Cross-cutting issue** → affects all humanitarian sectors

→ Integrated approach necessary
2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

CLIMATE SMART ENTRY POINTS

• The **Climate Smart Entry Points** are comprised of a six-point check list:
  - **One**: Assessing and addressing current and future climate risks at national level
  - **Two**: Assessing and addressing current and future climate risks with communities
  - **Three**: Education and awareness raising
  - **Four**: Non-traditional partnerships and networks
  - **Five**: Advocacy
  - **Six**: Integrating climate change into existing training, plans and strategies

2. Linking Climate Change and Humanitarian Action

‘NEW’ CHALLENGES FOR HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

• ‘New’ challenges in the area of disaster preparedness
  ➢ Deal with uncertainties, involve local communities, follow the
    Hyogo Framework for Action
• Security implications mostly seen in the context of human security
  ➢ Focus on vulnerability and capacity ➔ New focus on resilience
• Need for new partnerships (e.g. meteorological data needed)
  ➢ Humanitarian organizations as an important link between
    science and politics

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3. Introduction to my research project
RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

How and why do humanitarian organizations adapt themselves to the topic of climate change?

- Employing the perspective of organizational sociology in order to analyze internal and external factors that can explain organizational change
  - Combining insights from neo-institutionalism and social movement research on the level of the organizational field
    - Which expectations, opportunity structures and discourses is the organizations confronted with?
  - With analyses on the role of decision makers and change agents within an organization
    - What is the organizational internal potential in the area of CCA?
• Research Methods: Conducting interviews, document analyses, and participatory observations

  ➢ International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and CARE International as contrasting cases

  ➢ Inter-organizational cooperation in Germany (German Red Cross Youth Section campaign ‘Klimahelfer’)

  ➢ Intra-organizational cooperation at the international level (German Red Cross Workshop on CCA in Kampala, Uganda)

  ➢ Project design, execution and local perceptions of CCA projects in Southern Thailand by Raks Thai a member of CARE International
4. Research Findings from Southern Thailand

THEY'RE READY. ARE YOU?
TURN EARLY WARNING INTO EARLY ACTION!

www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/climatecrab
4. Research Findings from Southern Thailand
Field Research 14 Days (June/July 2014)

Fotos: KRW
• **3 year** project (2011-2014) in Sulawesi/Indonesia and Southern Thailand, implemented by CARE Deutschland Luxemburg e.V., Raks Thai Foundation and CARE International Indonesia and financed by the European Union.

→ Aims to **strengthen the capacity** of coastal authorities and civil society organizations in order to enhance resilience to the negative aspects of climate change in the target areas.

→ The project has been implemented with **active consultation** among partners at the policy and provincial levels, including local administrative organizations in four Southern provinces of Thailand.

→ One component of the project is **to build community understanding** on the local impact of climate change and help affected communities to **implement strategies for adapting** to a changing environment.

(CARE Germany-Luxemburg, Raks Thai Foundation 2013: 8)
4. Research Findings from Southern Thailand

PROJECTS SITES VISITED

Field visit:
3 villages in the province Krabi
2 villages in the province Trang
→ Coastal communities
3. Research Findings from Southern Thailand
VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENT
(CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS)

• In-shore fishery:
  – The subsistent in-shore fishery using small fishing boat is limited by the wave activity. Especially in the Western coast i.e. Krabi and Trang provinces, where Southwest monsoon tends to be stronger this hampers fishermen to go out of the sea.

• Agriculture:
  – Main crops, oil palm and rubber, may not be seriously affected by future change in climate pattern as total annual rainfall and monthly distribution of rainfall will not significantly change. Moreover, number of rainy days in some provinces, may reduce which will be positive for the rubber production.

• Coastal settlement:
  – Every province in this study tends to experience sea level rise in the future, which will threaten coastal erosion to be more severe. Moreover, stronger wind during the Southwest monsoon may also induce stronger wave, which will be an additional driver for more severe coastal erosion.
  (CARE Germany-Luxemburg, Raks Thai Foundation 2013: 25)
4. Research Findings from Southern Thailand

PROJECT COMPONENTS
3. Research Findings from Southern Thailand
WHY DO HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS ADAPT THEMSELVES TO THE TOPIC OF CLIMATE CHANGE?

• EXTERNAL RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC
  – Donor driven CCA,
  – Relevance for beneficiaries,
  – Relevance in political discourse,
  – Relevance in public discourse,
  – Relevance in scientific discourse.

• INTERNAL RELEVANCE OF THE TOPIC
  – Organizational profile,
  – Relevance for organizational decision makers,
  – Organizational restructuring,
  – Personal motivations.
5. Conclusion on Reasons for Humanitarian Engagement on the Topic of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

- **Bottom-up**
  
  - Need for CCA articulated on the ground
    - Participatory perspective of local populations and partners
  
  - Organizational advantages perceived by decision makers
    - Establish long-term perspectives for projects, develop new expertise, acquire new funding, taking the lead in advocacy
  
  - Important influence of change agents that push the topic internally
    - Informed and motivated individuals within organizations can have a key role in facilitating preparedness action
    - Bridging science and practice, central position to educate and monitor
5. Conclusion on Reasons for Humanitarian Engagement on the Topic of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

- **Top-down**
  - The international discourse on climate change opens up new opportunity structures
    - Financial incentives
      → New funding lines and donor interests
    - Structural support
      → New partners such as ministries, insurance companies, local implementation partners, scientists and meteorologists → new information/technologies
    - Societal support
      → New advocacy coalitions and framing opportunities → no longer limited to environmental NGOs/scientists

- Humanitarian organizations have to position themselves in this organizational field and (re)define their strategies for the future
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- Mercator Foundation (MERCUR Starting Grant),
- The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
References


• Klose, Thorsten, *Introduction; The Concept of Resilience*; 2 Presentations given at a Workshop on DRR and CCA, Kampala, Uganda. 24 September.


• Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC) (2007) Climate Guide. The Hague.