



CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND  
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

هيئة تنظيم الأعمال الخيرية  
Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities  
State of Qatar • دولة قطر



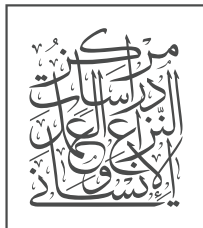
# Conference

## Towards Effective Integration: Enhancing the Impact of Research on Field Practice in the Third Sector

19 November 2024

[About the Conference](#) | [Agenda](#) | [Speakers](#) | [Moderators](#)





CENTER FOR CONFLICT AND  
HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

هيئة تنظيم الأعمال الخيرية  
Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities  
دولة قطر • State of Qatar



# Conference

## Towards Effective Integration: Enhancing the Impact of Research on Field Practice in the Third Sector

19 November 2024

[About the Conference](#) | [Agenda](#) | [Speakers](#) | [Moderators](#)

# About the Conference

## 1.0. Background

Evidence-based research in humanitarian and development work helps to build trust, manage relationships with stakeholders, and demonstrate that organisations are committed to transparency and accountability. Globally, the focus on research in the humanitarian sector has been critical in designing effective, contextually-tailored interventions that meet the unique needs of affected populations. For instance, in areas of armed conflict, research has helped identify the most urgent needs, while in disaster-affected contexts, research has been key to informing resource allocation and emergency response strategies, ensuring that aid is delivered efficiently and promptly.

Establishing the practice of evidence-based research amongst third sector organisations contributes to enhancing the relevance, impact, and sustainability of their programmes, ultimately improving the impact and outcomes of their humanitarian and development interventions in vulnerable communities. However, this practice still requires further enhancement within humanitarian and development charitable organisations.

## 2.0 Objectives

The overall objective of the conference is to explore ways to enhance the integration of research into the practices of the humanitarian and development charitable sector in order to improve the quality of its activities and programmes. The objectives of the conference can be summarised as follows:

- Studying global experiences regarding the impact of research on field practice in the humanitarian and development sectors, and extracting lessons learned.
- Exploring successful experiences, tools, and research methodologies to improve policies, innovation, and decision-making in humanitarian and development organisations, and identifying priorities for evidence-based approaches.
- Assessing the challenges and opportunities for integrating research into humanitarian and development work in Qatar, highlighting key actors and their roles.
- Proposing strategies for capacity-building and enhancing cooperation between academics and field practitioners in Qatar and exchanging knowledge and expertise between local and international entities.

# Agenda

## Tuesday 19 November 2024

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:15	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Ghassan Elkahlout</b>, Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies</p> <p><b>Saud Mohammed Al-Adhba</b>, Director of the Legal Affairs Department at the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities</p> <p><b>Keynote Speaker</b></p> <p><b>HE. Dr. Majed Al Ansari</b>, Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - State of Qatar</p>
9:15 – 10:45	<p><b>Session 1: Advancing Research-Practice Synergy for Impactful Field Practice in Humanitarian and Development Work (1)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ghassan Elkahlout</b></p> <p><b>Sheirne El Taraboulsi – McCarthy</b>, Director of Impact and Change of Start Network – U.K.</p> <p><b>Slim Salama</b>, Chief Executive Officer of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) at Qatar Foundation</p> <p><b>Khaled El Shati</b>, President of the Kuwait Center for Documenting Humanitarian Work (Fanar) and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Kuwait Endowment for Humanitarian Work</p>
10:45 – 11:00	Break

11:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 2: Advancing Research-Practice Synergy for Impactful Field Practice in Humanitarian and Development Work (2)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Sherine El Taraboulsi - McCarthy</b></p> <p><b>Antonio De Lauri</b>, Research Director at the Chr. Michelsen Institute and President of the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA) – Norway</p> <p><b>Khaled El Sirehi</b>, Director General of the International Center for Research and Studies (Medad), and an expert in the principles of Islamic jurisprudence and non-profit sector management – K.S.A.</p> <p><b>Nader Kabbani</b>, Senior fellow and director of research at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs – Qatar</p>
12:30 – 12:45	Break
12:45 – 14:15	<p><b>Session 3: Advancing Research-Practice Synergy for Impactful Field Practice in Humanitarian and Development Work (3)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Aiham Al Sukhni</b></p> <p><b>Sandra Pertek</b>, Senior Research Fellow at the International Development Department (IDD) at the University of Birmingham – U.K.</p> <p><b>AbdulRahman AlMutawa</b>, General Supervisor of the Global Center for Philanthropy Studies – Kuwait</p> <p><b>Andrew Adam-Bradford</b>, Consultant and Researcher - U.K</p>
14:15 – 14: 30	Closing Remarks



# Speakers



## **Abdulrahman Al Motawe**

---

Deputy Director-General of the International Islamic Charitable Organization since 2017 and General Supervisor of the Global Center for Philanthropy Studies, he brings extensive experience in philanthropy and institutional development. He holds a bachelor's degree in Sharia from Kuwait University with distinction, along with professional diplomas in social leadership, human resources, Islamic banking, and a fellowship in non-profit management from Spain. He spearheaded the «Tamkeen» initiative, which aims to enhance the skills of charity sector professionals through specialized training programs in collaboration with Kuwait's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. He is deeply committed to philanthropy, technology, innovation, development, and documenting best practices.



## **Andrew Adam-Bradford**

---

Independent consultant and researcher, with over two-decades of experience, specialising in humanitarian action and stabilisation agriculture, with a focus on urban agriculture and food security in extreme environments, including wars, conflicts, urban sieges and postconflict settings. Andrew has worked on urban agriculture and food security programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, occupied Palestinian territories (Gaza Strip) and Rwanda. He has deployed on various humanitarian missions in conflict zones, including: the Lebanon War (2006); Mogadishu, Somalia (2012-2014) and; Iraq (2015-2018). Andrew is one of the editors of the forthcoming Springer book: Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement: Food Security in Extreme Environments



## **Antonio De Lauri**

---

Research Director at the Chr. Michelsen Institute (Norway), and the President of the International Humanitarian Studies Association (IHSA). Between 2021 and 2023, he was the Director of the Norwegian Center for Humanitarian Studies. Antonio is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Public Anthropologist* and the General Editor of Berghahn Books' series *Humanitarianism and Security*. He has conducted ethnographic research in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Europe and has published on issues related to war and post-war, humanitarianism, diplomacy, human rights, and borders. Antonio's research has been supported by prestigious national and international grants and fellowships from the European Research Council, the Research Council of Norway, the Forum Transregionale Studien, and the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme among others.



## **Khaled El Shati**

---

The Founder and President of the Kuwait Center for Documenting Humanitarian Work (Fonar), and Founder and "Waqf" for humanitarian work. He holds a Ph.D. in Volunteerism and Islamic Law from the University of Al-Qarawiyyin, with over 30 years of experience in higher education and volunteerism. His contributions have been instrumental in developing Kuwait's non-profit sector and enhancing the role of humanitarian organizations, along with directing and advancing various humanitarian initiatives. Moreover, he served as an Assistant Professor at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. He also participated in multiple committees focused on strengthening the social contributions of charitable institutions. Dr. Khaled co-authored and prepared numerous specialized books and studies in the field of humanitarian work.



## **Khaled El Sirehi**

---

Director General of the International Center for Research and Studies (Medad), General Supervisor of the Scientific Center for Teaching the Quran and Sunnah in Jeddah, and an expert in the principles of Islamic jurisprudence and non-profit sector management. He earned his Ph.D. from Omdurman Islamic University and has contributed significantly to the development of Saudi Arabia's non-profit sector through research and consultancy projects aimed at enhancing institutional capacities and supporting strategic studies. He is an active member of several scientific associations, including the Arab Association for Future Studies and the Saudi Scientific Association for Endowment.



## **Nader Kabbani**

---

Senior Fellow and Director of Research at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, and Research Fellow with the Economic Research Forum in Cairo, with over 20 years of experience in development research and practice. He previously held multiple roles, including Director of Research at the Brookings Doha Center, Senior Fellow in the Global Economy and Development Program, and Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy Program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He also served as Director of Policy and Research at Silatech and was the founding Director of the Syrian Development Research Center. He has published numerous policy papers and academic articles on development issues, most recently a chapter titled «The Economic Dimensions of the Social Contract» in *The Modern Arab State*. He has served as a consultant and led the preparation of reports and studies for international organizations such as the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the United Nations Development Programme.



## **Sandra Pertek**

Sandra is UKRI Future Leaders Fellow at the School of Government and School of Social Policy, and Senior Research Fellow at the International Development Department at the University of Birmingham. Previously, she held academic and research positions at Queen Margaret University and the Institute for Research into International Migration and Superdiversity (IRiS). Her doctoral research explored the intersection of religion and gender-based violence in forced migration. She has led several research projects across the Middle East, Africa, and Europe and coordinated a roundtable with the Women's Refugee Commission to enhance migrant protection. She consulted various international organizations on issues of gender, religion, protection and inclusion. Currently, she leads a UKRI-funded project aimed at integrating Islamic philanthropy with the international humanitarian system to improve support for displaced women.



## **Saud Mohammed Al-Adhba**

The Director of the Legal Affairs Department at the Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA) in Qatar. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Law from Qatar University and brings over 15 years of legal and regulatory expertise. His career began at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, where he served from 2008 to 2019, before joining RACA in February 2019. Mr. Saud plays a pivotal role in developing legal and regulatory frameworks that strengthen charitable work in Qatar. He has actively participated in several initiatives and workshops organized by RACA.



## **Sheirne El Taraboulsi – McCarthy**

---

Director of Impact and Change at the Start Network, a global network of over 100 aid agencies aiming to transform the humanitarian system. Prior to that, she was the founding Director of NatCen International, the global social policy arm of the National Centre for Social Research. Earlier in her career, she was a Senior Research Fellow in Politics and Governance at ODI Global and a Politics Fellow at Keble College, University of Oxford. She holds a DPhil from the Department of International Development and St. Cross College at the University of Oxford. She also sits on the Board of Trustees of Protection Approaches, a UK charity dedicated to combatting identity-based violence in the UK and globally.



## **Slim Slama**

---

The Chief Executive Officer of the World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH) at Qatar Foundation. A specialist in internal medicine and a public health expert, he brings over 25 years of experience in global health. He began his career as an Assistant Professor in Internal Medicine at the University Hospital of Geneva, where he contributed to establishing global health as an academic field and co-founded the Geneva Health Forum. He spent more than a decade at the World Health Organization (WHO), serving as Regional Advisor for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention, before leading the Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Management of Diagnosis and Treatment Unit at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. He has provided consulting to numerous countries on chronic disease prevention, especially in humanitarian settings.

# **Moderators**

## **Aiham Al Sukhni**

Aiham Al Sukhni, an expert and humanitarian leader with over two decades of experience, is dedicated to fostering peace, stability, and effective crisis management in conflict-affected regions. He is a lawyer, holding dual master's degrees in Demographic Studies and Conflict Management & Humanitarian Action, and a PhD researcher in International Relations. He brings a wealth of academic and practical knowledge to his work.

Since 2010, Al Sukhni has played a pivotal role at the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), initially as the Head of Disaster Management. He leads disaster preparedness and response units and supervises relief missions globally. In 2020, he took on the role of Head of Planning and Studies, driving the development of strategic plans that have significantly improved sector performance. In early 2024, he assumed the role of Head of International Relations, where he focuses on advancing QRCS's regional and international positioning and amplifying its influence in global forums in support of humanitarian causes. His current work emphasizes building international partnerships, fostering effective humanitarian diplomacy, and promoting international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

## **Ghassan Elkahlout**

Dr. Ghassan Elkahlout is the Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and an Associate Professor at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. With nearly three decades of experience, his expertise covers humanitarian response, post-war recovery, and capacity building. He earned his PhD in Post-War Reconstruction and Development Studies from the University of York, UK. Throughout his career, Dr. Elkahlout has worked with organizations such as the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Islamic Relief Worldwide. His field experience spans conflict zones and disaster-affected areas, including Palestine, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya. In addition, his scholarly work has made significant contributions to the fields of conflict management and recovery, offering practical insights that bridge theory and humanitarian practice.

## **Sheirne El Taraboulsi – McCarthy**

Director of Impact and Change at the Start Network, a global network of over 100 aid agencies aiming to transform the humanitarian system. Prior to that, she was the founding Director of NatCen International, the global social policy arm of the National Centre for Social Research. Earlier in her career, she was a Senior Research Fellow in Politics and Governance at ODI Global and a Politics Fellow at Keble College, University of Oxford. With over 20 years of experience across academia and policy, Sherine is widely regarded as an expert in humanitarian and development policy, conflict, security and evidence uptake with a focus on Africa, the Middle East and the United Kingdom. She holds a DPhil from the Department of International Development and St. Cross College at the University of Oxford. She also sits on the Board of Trustees of Protection Approaches, a UK charity dedicated to combatting identity-based violence in the UK and globally.



## **The Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies (CHS)**

Is an independent research center based in Doha, Qatar. The Center produces research, informs policy, enhances capacities of local, regional and international actors, and multi-track dialogue for peacemaking. The center is committed to bridging theory and practice in conflict and humanitarian studies through engaging with a wide range of actors at the local, national, regional, and global levels.

## **The Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities (RACA)**

The Regulatory Authority for Charitable Activities is an independent governmental body. RACA works on developing, promoting, supporting, and improving charitable and humanitarian activities to bring them to a high level of efficiency and transparency, and regulate them by developing standards, instructions and guidance, to foster a culture of charitable and humanitarian work, raise awareness about them, and build collaborative channels among actors in this field, to raise the level of charitable and humanitarian work in the State of Qatar.