

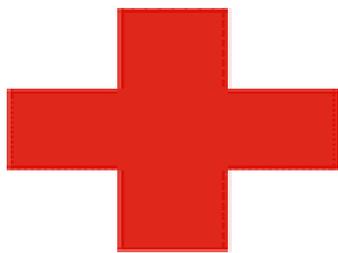


# THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOCIETY Newsletter - Special Edition - ISSUE 8 - May 2019

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*A TIEMS Special Issue Covering*

*10 years of successful research performed by the German Red Cross (GRC)*



# German Red Cross

## The International Emergency Management Society Newsletter - Special Edition

*TIEMS network constitutes a large international multidisciplinary group of experts, with different educational backgrounds and various experiences. Their knowledge and experience are important to share with other experts worldwide. TIEMS has therefore decided to issue this additional newsletter, which we now call TIEMS Newsletter - Special Edition. This is the seventh issue, which we have dedicated to TIEMS 25th Anniversary and 2018 Annual Conference in Manila 13 - 16 November 2018. We invite other conferences and workshops, and RTD projects to use the opportunity to present the conference and workshop presentations and RTD projects to present articles of their results in the upcoming Special Edition Newsletters. We plan to have an issue three times a year. Please, give us feedback, and send us new articles for publication.*

**Alex Fullick**  
TIEMS Scientific Newsletter Editor

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### Articles in this issue

*This issue is dedicated to 10 years of successful research performed by the German Red Cross (GRC)*

- ✓ *10 years of Research at the German Red Cross*
- ✓ *The Vulnerable Group “the Elderly and those Needing Care” during Crises, Large-scale Emergencies, and Disasters*
- ✓ *Strengthening of Community Resilience - The German Red Cross Disaster Services*

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## Message from TIEMS President

I am proud and honoured to introduce you to this special edition of TIEMS Newsletter, where we cover the German Red Cross Research activities over 10 years.

Red Cross does a remarkable job worldwide, with their humanitarian aid to suffering people due to wars and conflicts and disasters or elsewhere where humanitarian assistance is needed. This is something I think most people are aware of worldwide. However, Red Cross, and in this respect the German Branch, also does important Research activities. It is therefore a pleasure to describe their research activities and results in this special TIEMS Newsletter, and distribute it through TIEMS worldwide network. I also like to congratulate them with this valuable contribution.

### Red Cross and TIEMS

Red Cross and TIEMS are complimentary organizations, where as Red Cross focus on humanitarian assistance where needed, TIEMS focus is on education, training and certification in emergency management and disaster response and through this contribute to build more resilient societies worldwide.

We meet Red Cross in many settings worldwide, and we cooperate when the opportunity is there, and thus recognize each others competences and skills. We both focus on improving preparedness and readiness, but also on reducing the suffering of those hit by a disasters.

For both of us, volunteers are important, and they do a remarkable job by their dedication and passion for helping others and striving towards building more resilient societies worldwide. We are both thankful for this contribution from volunteers and only like to encourage more people to join these volunteer forces.

Besides, getting the feeling of doing some good, and helping those in worse situation

than ourselves, it is also a BIG family their to join, and finding friendship with other volunteers.

Both Red Cross and TIEMS welcome more volunteers to join us worldwide.

### TIEMS is a Small Worldwide Actor

When above is said about Red Cross and TIEMS, I like to underline that TIEMS is a small and young worldwide actor, compared to Red Cross with their long history, track record and size worldwide. TIEMS has only been around for 26 years, since our inauguration in Washington DC in 1993. We also concentrate on the educational element and is not operative during disaster like Red Cross worldwide.

However, TIEMS International Network of Experts (TIGE), see:

<http://www.tiems.info/images/pdfs/TIEMS-2017-International-Group-of-Experts-ex-emails.pdf>

comprises around 100 experts from more than 25 countries with different education, background and experience, and they are all important ambassadors for TIEMS when their expertise is needed. They also create local activity in TIEMS chapters and thus achieve improving the communication between the locals and international experts. This communication is seeing to it that the different cultural aspects of emergency management and disaster response are added value.

Have a Good reading !



Oslo 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
K. Harald Drager  
TIEMS President

## Editor's Message



**Alex Fullick**

Hello and welcome dear readers to the latest installment of the TIEMS Special Edition Newsletter! Today I'd like to welcome and congratulate the organization that is our focus of this edition; The German Red Cross (GRC) for 10 years of amazing research!

The GRC team approached TIEMS and asked if we'd be interested in publishing something about their research success and milestone and after reviewing some of the material on their website, which you can download for FREE, we thought it would be a great idea to help get their work out to you, our readers.

As their site states, "the GRC has a central role as a mediator between science, industry and participants in civil protection", which is more than what we usually hear when it comes to the Red Cross. Like me, you're probably used to seeing the Red Cross responding to disasters and offer aid to people in dire straits as a result of a calamitous event so it's wonderful to know the organization continues to grow not just in disaster response but in research.

Their website ([www.grc-research.de](http://www.grc-research.de)) offer lots of information and includes several research papers that are available to the public and private sectors - for free. In this newsletter and with the permission of the GRC, we're providing two (2) volumes of their research; the first on Vulnerable Groups and the second on Strengthening Community Resilience.

I hope you enjoy the papers enclosed and benefit from the great work performed by the German Red Cross. Congratulation to the GRC team for 10 great years of work - and many more to come.

Don't forget, the next Annual TIEMS Conference will be held in Seoul, Korea November 12-15, 2019 so keep an eye out for announcements and details. See you in Seoul! #seeyouinseoul

Thanks for reading and enjoy!

Alex Fullick

Editor - TIEMS Special Edition Newsletter

## 10 Years of Research at the German Red Cross



The German Red Cross (GRC) started its first research project together with partners from the civil security research in March 2009. This marked the beginning of the successfully ongoing research and development work. For ten years now, GRC national headquarters actively participates in all academically relevant discourses and conducts application-oriented research, either in cooperation with partners or independently. The main research interest is on observing and analysing societal development and technical innovations informed by knowledge gained from GRC operations on the ground. The GRC Research department has developed a viable method of applying research findings in practice already during research implementation.



Between 2009 and 2019, 10 research projects have been successfully implemented while 3 others are currently in progress. Through its research engagement, GRC has been cooperating with 118 different project partners from academia, industry, health and welfare as well as administrative and public authorities and organizations responsible for public safety. Since 2014 the findings are being published in a research publication series. As of December 2018, around 65.000 copies have been ordered by entities of the GRC federal structure. Additionally, copies were requested from public authorities and organizations responsible for safety in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. To meet the growing interest in GRC's research engagement from non-German-speaking regions two research publication series have been translated into English as well.

Since the middle of 2018 the website [www.grc-research.de](http://www.grc-research.de) is online. Here, all information, applications and videos of the current and completed projects as well as the research publication series and further publications can be found (**FREE DOWNLOAD!!**).

# The Vulnerable Group “the Elderly and those Needing Care” during Crises, Large-scale Emergencies, and Disasters

German Red Cross  
National Headquarters



## The Vulnerable Group “the Elderly and those Needing Care” during Crises, Large-scale Emergencies, and Disasters

Findings and Possible Solutions - Moving toward a Socio-spatial Approach to Civil Protection



Research Writings

The elderly and those needing extra care and nursing are currently given little consideration in disaster management. Experience from disaster management deployments clearly show that these groups are not given direct consideration and responders often are not aware of what their special needs for care are. The sixth volume of the “Research Writings” from the German Red Cross (GRC) therefore examines the target group “the elderly and those in need of care during crises, large-scale emergencies, and disasters” and their place in the German disaster management system. Here, the focus is on the elderly requiring care who are being cared for at home.

This volume in the publication series aims to help draw more of the attention of agencies and organisations with safety-related duties toward “elderly persons receiving care at home”, to illuminate the needs of people requiring care and assistance, and to present proposed solutions. This is because neither research nor practical measures up to this point have considered this topic in detail. Reference is also made to two topics central to the future of disaster management: The ageing of society with the associated changes and challenges for the German disaster management system as well as an equal and network-based collaboration with the public health sector to manage crises and disasters, with particular consideration given to the increasing number of people receiving medical care at home. As a national aid society and charity organisation, the GRC has unique requirements for mediating between the two areas.

The “Research in Civil Protection” carried out by the German Red Cross therefore ties in to the organisation’s own findings and research needs. In 2012, a needs survey was carried out across the entire organisation to find out which research topics and questions should be considered most important, based on experience (in the field). Those surveyed listed, among others, “the effects of demographic change on civil protection”, “the strengthening of a population’s ability to help itself”, and “improved risk communication before and during emergencies” as topics that should be the focus of future research.

Furthermore, as part of the “Flood Work Group” established in 2013, the GRC provincial branches formulated concrete evaluation focuses based on direct experience from field work responding to the floods in 2013 in Germany (and other European countries). The work group made it clear that the already high number of people, which is expected to increase further in the future, needing care or assistance at home is a big challenge for responders. This was also confirmed in a survey of the 19 GRC provincial branches in the winter of 2016/2017 regarding vulnerable groups. Many of the people interviewed stated that, among others, the elderly and those needing care had more of a need for help in response situations. Some of the people surveyed stated that the numbers of people needing care at home, so those receiving home care, is increasing. The needs formulated by the operative units of the GRC served as a guide for these research activities and therefore also for this volume of the publication series.

Based on the organisation survey and findings from past field work, the German Red Cross was involved in initiating and leading the development of a research project aiming to support people needing care and assistance, and their friends and family during crises, which also took into consideration the described research needs of the GRC. The research project KOPHIS4, which is an acronym for the German phrase meaning “Contexts for Supporting Persons Needing Care and Assistance”, is being led by the GRC from 2016 to 2019 and is executed together with four other research partners from science and business. KOPHIS was supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of its research for civil safety. KOPHIS was the first research project nationwide to explicitly address the group of people needing care and assistance during crises and disasters. During this project, the participative research approach transformed the vulnerable population into participants and practically promoted socially-oriented networking of relevant actors to

support the target group in the model region. With this target group, the participative nature of the research, and the concrete networking activities, KOPHIS goes far beyond current discussions in civil protection to interlace scientific demands with practical application. The collected articles from organisation partners of KOPHIS were published in a book of collected works. The elderly and those needing care at home are not a uniform group. Particularly when it comes to age, needs and personal resources can vary considerably, as can the social and economic conditions. It can, however, generally be assumed that the elderly and those needing care are particularly prone to injury and are highly vulnerable during crises or disaster situations. In disaster research, the term “vulnerability” has been under discussion for some years now. In the research project INVOLVE, in which the German Red Cross is participating as a project partner, vulnerable people are defined as those who, for various reasons, are more exposed to the negative effects of a crisis or disaster than other populations might be. For this publication in particular, a group-oriented understanding of vulnerability is used. The advantage of this is that the group defined in this way receives special attention in disaster management and supportive disaster management measures will also be implemented to help this group specifically. Throughout the rest of the text, we would therefore like to suggest the following definition, with consideration given to protecting the population.

According to the suggested definition, persons in need of extra care are considered vulnerable. This is because needing care - particularly as specified in the Long-Term Care Insurance Act on a daily basis indicates that a person is dependent on support; meaning that persons needing care require assistance from others. The orientation of this GRC volume of writings on the vulnerable group of the elderly and those needing care corresponds to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 by the United Nations. There it states that low-threshold, non-discriminatory, and inclusive participation of all people is essential to disaster risk reduction and that special attention should be given here to those who are disproportionately affected by disasters. Within the process, the perspective, age, gender, disabilities, and culture should be taken into account and integrated into all corresponding areas of policy and practice.

Elsewhere in the document, it also states that people with life-threatening and chronic illnesses should be taken into consideration on national and local levels in all policy concepts and plans according to their specific needs, in order to manage their risks before, during, and after disasters.

This part of the research publication series is based on literature and internet research as well as discussions with experts and field reports. It serves as an introduction to the content of the topic and introduces the formats and solution approaches developed during the course of the KOPHIS research project. The article is divided into the following chapters: Starting with

Chapter 2, information is first presented on the topic of age, need for care, and the ways in which this may uniquely affect the disaster situation. Chapter 3 showcases experience and challenges associated with the elderly needing care during crises, large-scale emergencies, and disasters. Chapter 4 utilises research to explore the question of how elderly people and those needing care being looked after at home can be supported during crises, large-scale emergencies, and disasters. Finally, Chapter 5 outlines the KOPHIS research project and in the final Chapter 6, the results are summarised giving consideration to a socio-spatial approach (“Sozialraumorientierung”) to civil protection.

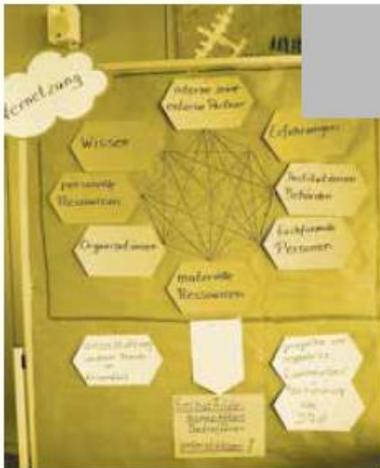
The document in full is openly available via [this link](#).

# Strengthening of Community Resilience - The German Red Cross Disaster Services

German Red Cross  
National Headquarters



## Strengthening of Community Resilience - The German Red Cross Disaster Services



### Recommendations for Action Based on Research Results



Research Writings

## Research findings concerning the conditions for sustainable GRC disaster services

This volume of the Research Writings in the German Red Cross (GRC) summarises the results of the project INVOLVE - Initiate Volunteerism to counter Vulnerability. The project arose within the context of needs communicated by the organisation and experiences from field assignments.

In 2012, the needs assessment of the GRC National Headquarters Unit Research in Civil Protection asked the entire association for topics that would contribute to the future topic portfolio and should be more closely examined. The topic “Strengthening the Resilience and Self-Help Capacities of the Population through Disaster Management” was specified as one of the three points of emphasis.

Resilience is a focal point which has been a prominent research and discussion topic in disaster research for some years now. Vulnerability is a concept closely associated with the topic of resilience, which is at times understood as the opposite of vulnerability. In the INVOLVE project, these terms have been assigned the following definitions:

**Vulnerability** generally refers to the susceptibility to injuries and disturbances. Vulnerable therefore means susceptible to injury or in need of help. Within the context of crises and disasters, those people who are especially susceptible to the negative effects of a crisis or disaster for various reasons are considered vulnerable persons.

**Resilience** describes the ability of individuals and communities to prevent emergencies, mitigate and manage their effects, and recover in a timely manner following a crisis, conflict or disaster (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, 2014: 6).

**Definition of disaster services:** The GRC disaster services serve the purpose of providing help to those who are in an emergency situation, but who do not need immediate acute medical treatment (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, 2011: 7). Disaster services complement and support welfare and social work services. The aim is to restore the daily living environment as quickly as possible while maintaining or restoring the physical, mental and social well-being of affected individuals. Self-help and self-determination of affected individuals are of first priority and deserve special support (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz 2018: 4).

The needs survey specifically referred to the strengthening of resilience *through disaster management*. Due to the flood water field assignments in 2013 and later the refugee assistance, the focus shifted to a special service associated with disaster management: disaster services. The high importance of disaster services in handling emergencies was apparent during both assignments.

The purpose of disaster services is to assist people in managing emergency situations and thus promote social resilience. As an aspect of disaster management, disaster services offer a central point of contact for measures designed to promote people’s resilience in crises and disasters. During the survey carried out as part of the INKA 3 project, it became clear that many unaffiliated volunteers 4 were interested in activities that fall within the range of tasks covered by disaster services (Deutsches Rotes Kreuz, 2015: 29). This specialised service is therefore a point of contact for new forms of involvement.

The INVOLVE project takes these developments up: the goal of the project is to reduce social vulnerabilities by developing new strategies for disaster management, particularly for disaster services. The necessary empirical research for the project was carried out in three regions that were selected as reference regions for Germany as a whole:

- Large city (Berlin)

- City (Jena)
- Rural area (Elbe-Havel-Land)

The document in full is openly available via [this link](#).

## Next TIEMS Newsletter

The next TIEMS Newsletter is planned for September 2019

TIEMS issues two electronic newsletters quarterly, the Regular Newsletter and the Newsletter - Special Edition, and they are distributed to more than 160 000 experts worldwide, with articles on global emergency and disaster management events and activities, TIEMS news, etc.

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Contact TIEMS Secretariat at [secretariat@tiems.info](mailto:secretariat@tiems.info) or fax: +32 2 286 80 39.

TIEMS Editors are:

1. Snjezana Knezic (Proceedings), Croatia, [snjezana.knezic@gradst.hr](mailto:snjezana.knezic@gradst.hr)
2. Joseph Pollack, (Newsletter), USA, [josephrichardpollack@gmail.com](mailto:josephrichardpollack@gmail.com)
3. Alex Fullick, (Newsletter - Special Edition), Canada, [alex@stone-road.com](mailto:alex@stone-road.com)

Please, contact one of the editors or TIEMS Secretariat if you have news, articles of interest or like to list coming events of interest for the global emergency and disaster community or like to advertise in this coming issues.

