



## Diaspora Humanitarians: How Australia-based migrants help in crises abroad

**Work type:** 8 Community Researcher – (University of Melbourne Casual RA1)

**Location:** Online and remotely – must be based in Australia

**Division/Faculty:** School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne

**Salary:** \$44.67/hour

**Duration:** 90 hours over 18 months from Apr 2022 to Oct. 2023.

### About the Diaspora Humanitarians project

Australia is home to many migrant communities (diasporas) that are closely connected to people living in humanitarian crisis hotspots. We know that diaspora communities in Australia do a lot to help their family, friends and communities in times of need, such as during or after conflict or disasters.

*Diaspora Humanitarians* is a collaborative research project that will contribute to how different humanitarian actors (governments, NGOs, the UN) understand, work with and support the contributions of Australia-based migrants who are responding to conflict, disasters and displacement affecting their family, friends and communities in other parts of the world.

The *Diaspora Humanitarians* project brings together different stakeholders - University researchers, diaspora communities in Australia, NGO, UN and government organisations involved in humanitarian responses – as partners in this project.

The project's key objectives are to:

- Describe and explain where, how and why Australia-based migrants are responding to humanitarian crises overseas;

- Identify what needs to be done to ensure diaspora responses are as effective as possible;
- Support diaspora and mainstream humanitarian organisations to develop tools to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian responses.

This project focuses on communities from Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, Lebanon and the Pacific Islands so we can better understand diaspora humanitarianism in different contexts.

## Community Researchers

### About the role

We are committed to a collaborative process to design this project to ensure that the outcomes are useful and relevant to migrant communities in Australia. We are therefore recruiting eight (8) Community Researchers.

As a Community Researcher you will join us to provide input into the design of the project, facilitate connections with diaspora communities in Australia who are involved in humanitarian responses, and help to gather and interpret insights from community members.

The main duties of Community Researchers will be to:

- Participate in 1-2 project co-design workshops
- Recruit, engage and support community members to participate in a small number of workshops and focus group discussions
- Recruit participants and administer a survey to gather insights into how diaspora community members in Australia respond to crises overseas

Community Researchers are expected to work 90 hours spread over an 18-month period. This includes being paid to participate in training. This work will be paid at a Casual Research Assistant rate by the University of Melbourne.

Ongoing supervision and support will be provided by project staff: A/Professor Bina Fernandez (Chief Investigator), Dr Louise Olliff (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow) and Lorenza Lazzati (Project Officer).

### Who are we looking for?

We are looking for Community Researchers who have strong connections with diaspora communities from one of the following countries or regions:

- Afghanistan
- Syria
- South Sudan
- Myanmar
- Indonesia
- Nepal
- Lebanon
- Pacific Islands

Ideally, you will have been involved in or have a good understanding of how diaspora communities in Australia respond to humanitarian crises overseas.

You will have strong community networks and know how to reach out to and engage diaspora members from one of the focus countries or regions. Ideally, you will be able to connect with people from diverse ethnic, religious, language, gender, age and other backgrounds from this country or region.

You will have strong communication skills and be able to effectively engage community members with different language, literacy and accessibility requirements.

You will be interested and excited about improving humanitarian response systems and ensuring diaspora communities in Australia are able to contribute to more effective international responses to conflict, disasters and displacement.

### ➤ **Key responsibilities**

- Participate in Community Researcher training.
- Participate in co-design of research process.
- Assist project team with the recruitment of community members and facilitate their participation in workshops, group discussions and interviews as required.
- Recruit participants from diaspora communities and administer survey to collect insights on community responses to crises overseas.

## Key selection criteria

### Essential Criteria

- Established connections with communities from one of the case study countries.
- Strong communication skills in English and one or more of the languages from a case study country/region.
- Knowledge of how diaspora communities in Australia respond in times of conflict, disaster or displacement.
- Ability to communicate effectively with people from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds.
- Ability to complete tasks to a deadline.

### Desirable Criteria

- Experience working as a researcher and/or understanding of data collection processes.
- Experience working as interpreter and translator.
- University qualification.

## How to apply

Please send your **Curriculum Vitae** and a **letter answering the following questions** to Lorenza Lazzati ([dl@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:dl@diasporaaction.org.au)) by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**.

1. Which focus country or region are you strongly connected with: Afghanistan, Syria, South Sudan, Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal, Lebanon, Pacific Islands (specify) ?
2. Describe your community networks and any roles you have with your community.
3. How would you let members of diaspora communities know about this project and how they can get involved?
4. What steps need to be taken to make sure different members of diaspora communities are able to share their views and experiences (e.g., can participate in workshops or are able to respond to surveys)?
5. What skills, experience and knowledge do you hope to contribute to the project?
6. What, if any, involvement have you had in transnational diaspora humanitarian work?
7. What, if in any, involvement have you had in research work?
8. Please provide names and contact details for two (2) independent referees who can comment on your community work, skills, experience and approach to community engagement.

If you have any questions about the Community Researcher position or about the application process, you can contact Lorenza Lazzati on [dl@diasporaaction.org.au](mailto:dl@diasporaaction.org.au)

**Application Deadline:** 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022

**Subject line:** Community Researcher position SP1 - [country of reference, e.g., Afghanistan]

<http://diasporaaction.org.au/our-work/research/>