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**British Red Cross**

**Infrastructure accessibility index - Topic Project Brief (2020-21)**

**British Red Cross Advisor for MSc Student:**

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**British Red Cross background:**

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| The British Red Cross helps anyone, anywhere in the UK and around the world, get the support they need if crisis strikes: connecting human kindness with human crisis. We enable vulnerable people in the UK and abroad to prepare for and withstand emergencies in their own communities. And when the crisis is over, we help them to recover and move on with their lives. We are part of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian network. |

**Project title (welcome rewording):**

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| Mapping and analysing the accessibility of social infrastructure in the UK |

**Project description:**

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| The British Red Cross is designing a new approach to targeting our services towards vulnerable communities with the least capacity to cope with crises. However, what we mean by “communities” is not well-defined. To date, we have been using administrative boundaries (e.g. Local Authorities and wards) or other institutional geographies (e.g. GP practice catchment areas) for service delivery.  This project will help us attain a more ‘naturalistic’ understanding of community boundaries by mapping and analysing potential access to key infrastructure in the following domains:  Social infrastructure: libraries; places of worship; schools; post offices; cafes; high street shops  Food services: supermarkets; food banks and food-providing charities (e.g. community kitchens)l  Health and care services: GPs; hospitals; clinics and other community health services; dentists  And potentially digital infrastructure, e.g. broadband or mobile coverage.  From these domains, you can create an index of “infrastructure deprivation” to aid our community mapping. The student may well want to explore ideas around vernacular or fuzzy geographies and natural neighbourhoods, for example work by Evans and Waters (2007) - <http://www.inderscience.com/offer.php?id=14547> and the local government association <https://home.esd.org.uk/news-item/149?s=03> |

**Deliverables:**

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| * Dissertation in full * Executive summary on benefits and limitations of your approach for strategic working group * Access and sharing of code/data on BRC GitHub |