

Humanitarian Policy Group  
**Annual report**

**2019-  
2020**

**HPG**

Humanitarian  
Policy Group



# About HPG

The Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) at ODI is one of the world's leading independent research teams working on humanitarian issues. We are dedicated to improving humanitarian policy and practice through a combination of high-quality research, dialogue and debate.

Our analytical work is directed by our Integrated Programme (IP), a body of research grounded in field studies that span a range of countries and emergencies. IP projects cast a critical eye over the pressing issues affecting humanitarian policies and operations.

Our dynamic communications and public affairs programme promotes and disseminates HPG's research findings, links our research to current humanitarian debates and works with local and global media outlets to bring humanitarian concerns to the wider public.

We provide a critical link between policy and operations on the ground through the Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN), an independent forum for humanitarian practitioners to share and disseminate information and experience.

Learning and academic engagement are also central areas of our work. We edit *Disasters* journal and offer annual courses for senior policy-makers and practitioners in the sector.

We also offer consultancy services, policy advice and bespoke research and analysis related to our core themes and objectives.

Our donors provide the funding that enables us to pursue the research projects of our IP. The donors to HPG's 2019–2021 IP are: the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the British Red Cross, Global Affairs Canada, the IKEA Foundation, Irish Aid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oxfam GB, the Swedish International Development Agency, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance and World Vision International.

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# Welcome



## From the Director of HPG

I am delighted to present HPG's annual report for 2019–2020. This report highlights HPG's important role in shaping and informing humanitarian action over a critical year when the Covid-19 pandemic is compounding record-high levels of humanitarian need. HPG's independent analysis is needed now more than ever. It is therefore an especially significant time for me to have re-joined ODI as the Director of HPG, leading a talented team dedicated to improving humanitarian policy and practice in crisis settings.

As this report outlines, this year we concluded research on our Integrated Programme (IP) on humanitarian action *From the ground up* and embarked on a new IP focused on *Inclusivity and invisibility*. HPG brought new evidence on local humanitarian action and challenged assumptions on the significance of international humanitarian financing in crises. We started research on gender, digitalisation, inclusion and protection advocacy, bringing to light new thinking through a lens of inclusion.

Outside the IP, we undertook a significant body of work on displacement as we geared up for the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. Work included a review of the Global Compact on Refugees in East Africa, an analysis of refugee perspectives in Bangladesh and a multi-country review of narratives on refugees. The third annual review of the Grand Bargain found uneven progress and a lack of transformative change. We also embarked on a major five-country study of community engagement – a new area for HPG.

Humanitarian action in Yemen, urban programming, and protection and the nexus were just three of the many topics covered by the Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN). We also maintained our academic links through editorship of *Disasters* journal, and our senior-level course on conflict and humanitarian response.

In all, we published 41 publications, hosted or spoke at 56 events and had nearly 700,000 views on Twitter. With aid budgets under pressure at a time of growing need, widening inequality and heightened global attention to racial injustice, questions continue about future humanitarian business models, concepts of vulnerability and solidarity and the identity of aid actors. This annual report, featuring work undertaken before the pandemic took hold, demonstrates how HPG's work challenges assumptions and provides independent perspectives and constructive advice on the issues that matter most to people in crisis.

Sorcha O'Callaghan

## HPG in numbers 2019–2020



Europe 58% | Americas 20%  
Asia 11% | Africa 8% | Oceania 3%



**7**  
blogs on odi.org



**676,300**  
content views on Twitter

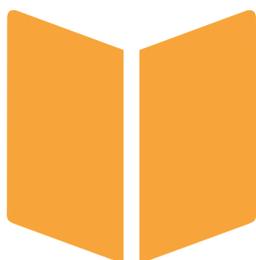


**18,754**  
content views on Facebook



**27**

HPG publications



Most downloaded publications



Rohingya refugees' perspectives on their displacement in Bangladesh: uncertain futures



Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019



The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in four East African countries



The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: responsibility-sharing and self-reliance in East Africa



New financing partnerships for humanitarian impact

# Highlights of the year

**HPG combines long-term, granular research with cutting-edge thinking on emerging issues; we provide expert, independent analysis on global policy processes and debates; and we convene with impact at both country and global levels. The following three highlights illustrate how we put this into practice in 2019–2020.**

## **Combining high-level convening with cutting-edge research: humanitarian financing**

Amid increasing funding gaps and growing humanitarian needs in crises around the world, the humanitarian system is having to find new ways to finance effective responses. This year, our work shone a light on new approaches to understanding global- and local-level finance, which could fundamentally change the system's business model.

### **Championing innovative finance through high-level convening**

There is growing appetite within the humanitarian sector to use a wider range of financial tools beyond grants, including insurance and investment, and among traditional donors to explore different uses of grant funding to attract investor capital. Meanwhile, capital markets are interested in investing in so-called 'frontier markets', where risks have traditionally been perceived as too high, and are increasingly aware of the need to generate social returns alongside market returns. But the innovative finance sector is undeveloped in humanitarian crises and fragile contexts, is still unproven and is sometimes met with scepticism, even for pilot projects.

Through our participation in the World Economic Forum (WEF)'s **Global Future Council on the Humanitarian System** and our membership of the high-level group and community of practice of the WEF's **Humanitarian Investing Initiative**, HPG has positioned itself as a key thought leader in the emerging space for innovative financing in the humanitarian sector. HPG experts have provided a humanitarian voice in workshops organised by WEF and the Boston Consulting Group. We have briefed donor groups on how to incorporate these approaches and provided advice on how to implement innovative finance, including through work to understand the elements of organisational readiness needed to do this.

To contribute to bridging the gap in understanding between the humanitarian and finance worlds, HPG launched a highly successful report on **New financing partnerships for humanitarian impact** at the WEF Annual Meeting in Davos in 2019, and continued to influence the debate around 'responsible finance' and environmental, social and governance standards for finance during 2019–2020, including at the 2020 WEF Annual Meeting.

“ A superb report ... it surfaces issues that are critical in the ongoing process of decolonising aid, and I can share that it’s already impacting on IRC’s thinking and approaches.”

Shane Scanlon, Regional Partnerships Director, Middle East, International Rescue Committee (on the report *Rethinking capacity and complementarity for a more local humanitarian action*)

### Changing the narrative on local funding

The more traditional \$27 billion of international humanitarian assistance given in grant funding in 2018 supported almost 100 million people affected by conflict and disaster. But HPG’s two-year research project, which was completed in 2019, finds that this international support for crisis response represents only a small portion of a larger set of resources that the international system does not see or ‘count’: what we know about is only ‘the tip of the iceberg’. At the global level, our research estimates that international humanitarian assistance comprises as little as 1% of resource flows to countries affected by crises. For example, remittance flows to countries affected by crisis that bypass the humanitarian system altogether amount to at least \$400 million annually.

Using an animated infographic and blog summarising the research, we engaged with thought leaders and policy-makers to push the humanitarian system to incorporate a broader understanding of what resource flows actually make a difference to people in need.

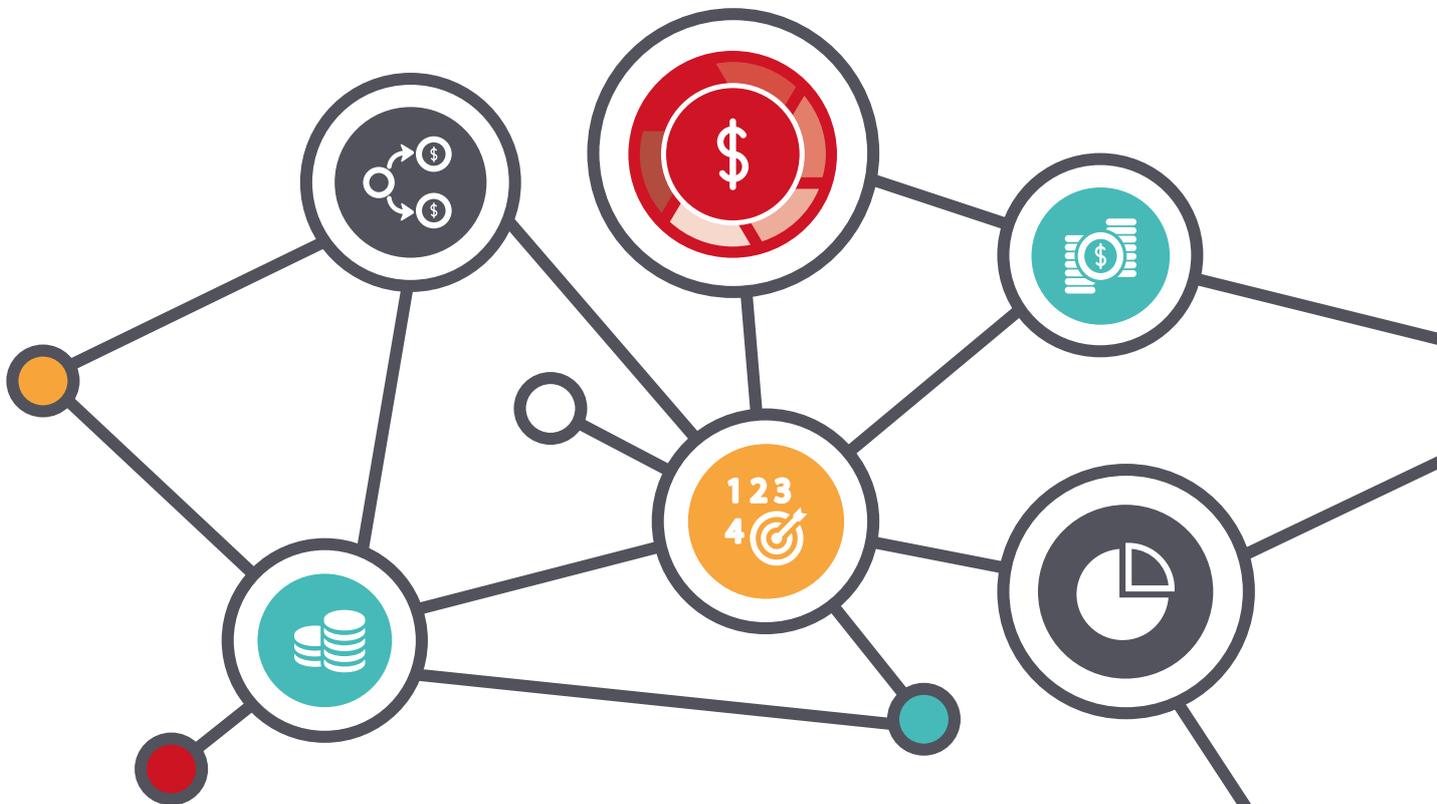


Illustration for the HPG booklet *Private finance for good: investing in humanitarian impact*

## In-depth, grounded research on issues that matter: local humanitarian action

HPG continued its long-standing work on reshaping humanitarian action. In 2019–2020 we explored how to support more effective humanitarian response through moving towards more local humanitarian action, leadership and complementarity.

### Shifting the focus from ‘localisation’

Instead of examining the localisation of aid, HPG’s work centred on humanitarian action ‘from the ground up’. Research on ‘**capacity and complementarity**’ focused on what capacities are considered important in crisis contexts, as well as what capacities exist and are recognised among local and international actors. Questions around capacities tend to be overlooked when considering how to improve the way international and local actors work together, and are often tied up in questions of power dynamics, trust and legitimacy, as well as perverse incentives and the legacies of colonialism. Different values are attached to different elements of capacity by local and international actors, and their understanding of where capacities are and where they are lacking often diverge.

### Shaping policy and practice

HPG critically informed the work of the Grand Bargain’s localisation workstream through sharing findings and recommendations with a focus on how capacity definition, mapping and strengthening could be approached differently to truly harness what local actors can contribute to humanitarian outcomes. This was done through HPG’s participation at four regional consultations in 2019 in Addis Ababa, Amman, Jakarta and Brussels.

HPG collated perspectives and priorities of local actors into a ‘guidance note’ that was one of the Grand Bargain’s localisation workstream’s **key outputs**. This note informed the new **Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines on localisation and the Covid-19 response**. HPG continues to drive change through convening an international NGO (INGO) localisation reflection and exchange group, with at least two INGOs using HPG’s recommendations on capacity and complementarity to inform their partnership policies.

## Independent analysis shaping policy processes: the Global Compact on Refugees

Heralded as a ‘milestone of global solidarity’, the Global Compact on Refugees was designed to shift refugee responses away from short-term relief towards greater rights and development for refugees. Through work commissioned by key partners – the IKEA Foundation and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – HPG’s work pointed to fundamental flaws in how the Compact is being rolled out in practice.

### Global solidarity or perpetuating current systems?

HPG’s review of the application of **the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda** indicated some positive progress, but found that overall – due to lack of sufficient, predictable, long-term funding and resettlement places – high-income countries and donor governments are largely failing in their commitment to share responsibility for refugees. In refugee-hosting contexts, we showed how, by not tackling mobility or supporting self-reliance in urban



South Sudanese refugees en route to Dzaipei transit centre, Uganda in 2014. Photo: UNHCR Photo Unit/F. Noy

environments, this new way of working risks perpetuating the current system of isolating refugees in remote, impoverished regions where continued dependence on humanitarian assistance is a likely outcome. HPG's analysis influenced [recommendations of the Experts Group on the Global Compact on Refugees](#) and directly informed the refugee strategy of the IKEA Foundation in East Africa. Launched in Nairobi and New York to an audience of refugees, practitioners, donors and private sector actors, the findings were also promoted through [the media](#) in advance of the Global Refugee Forum.

### **Supporting return and access to third-country solutions?**

[In the Rohingya displacement crisis](#), we found that the Global Compact on Refugees had not been systematically used to provide a strategic direction to the response, despite the crisis being one of the first test cases of the Compact. We highlighted how the Compact is weighted towards local integration and refugee self-reliance – to the detriment of third-country solutions and return. Looking at the Global Compact on Refugees from the ground up provided some valuable lessons that could support [a more effective use of the Compact in the future](#) if it were to address a number of challenges identified. The Compact lacks clarity in its scope, character and purpose, and unresolved questions remain around leadership and accountability; it also relies on a misplaced assumption that financial incentives alone will ease pressures on refugee-hosting states and enhance refugee self-reliance. HPG's work informed discussion and engagement with donors and operational organisations in the run-up to the Global Refugee Forum.

# Principles, politics and the international humanitarian system

HPG continues to undertake ground-breaking work aimed at challenging the assumptions, practices and ethos of a humanitarian system that has proven highly resistant to reform. Work this year ranged from debunking assumptions about the centrality of international financing and support to people in crisis, to turning the spotlight on HPG's own role in the humanitarian research system through documenting inequalities in our research partnerships.

## Integrated Programme projects

### Local humanitarian action

HPG continued its longstanding work on local humanitarian action. The policy brief *Beyond local and international: humanitarian action at the margins* critically assessed the dichotomy of 'local' and 'international' actors, and considered the many intermediary individuals, organisations and networks that act as brokers, translators and negotiators with aid-givers.

HPG also reflected on its own role in the humanitarian system. *Researching local humanitarian action through partnerships with local actors* assessed the research process HPG undertook alongside local and nationally-based policy organisations and think tanks. With a range of experiences to draw from over this IP, it was clear that successful research partnerships require an investment of time, clear expectations and feedback. Even then, this process involves unequal power dynamics, levels of authority and relationships that necessitate reflection, even as local actors deliver clear benefits for understanding context and adding nuance.

Based on these engagements, the policy brief *Mapping local capacities and support for more effective humanitarian responses* drew upon findings from IP studies on both capacity and finance in local responses. It recommended the development of a more context-specific understanding of what capacities exist in a humanitarian crisis through mapping to demonstrate to would-be international responders what is already in place before they arrive, and suggesting what gaps may need to be met.



Illustration for the animated infographic *Understanding humanitarian resource flows in crises*

### The tip of the iceberg? Understanding non-traditional sources of aid financing

This two-year project was completed in October 2019 with the publication of the final paper *Valuing local resources in humanitarian crises*. This built on earlier case studies on the [floods in Nepal](#) and the [crisis in Mosul, Iraq](#), as well as earlier papers on [refugees in northern Uganda](#), and on [remittances in humanitarian crises](#). The project found that humanitarian agencies take a narrow view of how households use and mobilise resources in crisis, focusing on their own role and that of aid organisations, rather than a wider set of actors. International humanitarian assistance amounts to as little as 1% of resource flows to countries in crisis; other flows through local-level community support or globally through remittances can be much more important to affected people than international aid. However, these are insufficiently studied and understood. These findings were shared widely through expert briefings and consultations and [a blog and an animated infographic](#).

### The humanitarian ‘digital divide’: understanding the impact of technology on crisis response

The first output of the 2019–2021 IP project on digital technology and inclusive humanitarian action reviewed the existing landscape and identified key themes and issues for deeper research. As digital transformation affects every aspect of global society, new technologies are transforming parts of humanitarian action through data analysis, artificial intelligence, digital payments and biometric verification. But it is still unclear to what extent current approaches in the sector are questioning ‘techno-solutionism’. This is particularly relevant when considering ways in which technology can exclude certain groups from receiving aid, or rendering them even less visible to aid deliverers. Such unintentional exclusion has not been explored as much as the very present digital risks from the sharing (and abuse) of personal data, for example. The role of local technology hubs and entrepreneurs is also underexplored, although they are providing more appropriate solutions than the global technology platforms designed by Silicon Valley.

The project’s first paper, *The humanitarian ‘digital divide’*, has been used as an entry point to discussions with technical and policy experts. The HPG team has discussed the project at conferences including the ICT for Development conference in Abuja in April 2019, and through a range of online fora.

## Commissions

### **Innovative financing**

Building on the innovative financing workstream and participation in the WEF Humanitarian Investing initiative, HPG developed a briefing note on innovative financing for Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD). At the GHD Annual High-Level meeting in Geneva in June 2019, the briefing note was presented to the 40 donors participating in the GHD and its findings were discussed with GHD principals including the then GHD's co-chairs: the heads of Swiss Development Cooperation and DG ECHO. The paper and presentation identified gaps in evidence, trust and expertise relating to innovative financing, as well as opportunities to build a financing 'ecosystem' and invest in new non-grant approaches, such as bonds and insurance involving the private sector. The note received considerable positive feedback from GHD members and has contributed to their increased engagement in this emerging area of humanitarian action. Innovative financing's potential remains uncertain, but HPG's role in supporting its growth has been critical by combining research, convening and policy engagement across different communities of practice.

### **Independent evaluation of the Grand Bargain in 2018**

Outside of the IP, we continued our work on system-level issues, including as the official evaluation team for the **third annual independent report (AIR) of the Grand Bargain**, covering the 2018 calendar year. The report, commissioned by the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, noted that signatories' efforts to meet commitments were starting to bring dividends, particularly on cash, local action, multi-year funding and harmonised reporting. But the report also highlighted that further efforts are needed to address underlying problems in the structure, vision and focus of the Grand Bargain. HPG presented the report at the Grand Bargain annual meeting in Geneva in June 2019. Reactions to the report have been very positive and the recommendations have been used to catalyse further action on commitments and the strengthening of the leadership and governance processes of the Grand Bargain in 2019. HPG presented the preliminary findings at the annual cash workstream meeting in Rome in early June 2019 and the final report was presented at regional localisation conferences in Addis Ababa, Amman and Jakarta in July and August 2019, prompting further discussion and debate among the more than 100 attendees at each meeting.

During the last quarter of 2019, the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group commissioned HPG to conduct the fourth Grand Bargain AIR, and an accompanying 'think piece' focused on the future focus and format of the Grand Bargain.

### **ReliefWatch: accountability in aid**

In 2019, HPG designed an independent service for the users of humanitarian assistance. 'ReliefWatch' was inspired by HPG's work applying design methodologies to reimagine the humanitarian system as one more open and accountable to its users. The service allows aid recipients to provide qualitative feedback on the assistance they have received, collating their perspectives and making them publicly available to donors and humanitarian responders.

HPG brought together senior humanitarians and designers to drive the development of the project. A key achievement was the involvement of aid users in Mosul and displacement camps in northern Iraq in the design process. HPG's work has produced a prototype of the service, **a report documenting the process and an accompanying short film** that details the concept and design process. Key issues considered include whether the service should be independent of or integrated into the existing humanitarian system, how to incentivise users and replies, and how an accountability service could be made sustainable.



Workstream meeting in October 2019, has led HPG (in partnership with Accelerating Localisation Through Partnerships) to convene a number of closed-door meetings with a small group of INGOs to discuss and share learning.

### **Opportunities and challenges in humanitarian–development programming in the MENA region: an informal learning review**

Commissioned by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, HPG undertook a learning review of humanitarian–development programming by UNICEF offices in the region. The research found that the agency has a wealth of experience in working across the nexus, with country office leaders and staff taking the initiative and designing programmes that respond to their operational context. It also identified working with governments and national systems as a particular comparative advantage of the agency. The research indicated areas for further investment, including in engaging affected populations in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes and working more closely with local civil society as well as government actors.

### **Systematic and collective approaches to communication and community engagement**

Through this research, HPG is supporting a group of 13 organisations seeking to support more systematic and collective approaches to communication and community engagement (CCE). The **ongoing research** has found that there is a lack of understanding of what a collective approach to CCE means and how it should be put into practice.

The study will inform how the humanitarian sector enables the effective participation of people affected by crises by developing key principles for a collective approach. By focusing on understanding how different contexts, crises and response systems – particularly coordination structures – interact, the research will look at how these principles need to be contextualised to make a collective approach possible.

The project has engaged with donors, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s Results Group 2 on inclusion and accountability, and the Grand Bargain Workstream 6 on the participation revolution. These relationships will be used to disseminate the study’s final recommendations. HPG’s independent research is seen as particularly helpful in supporting the way forward where organisations’ mandates and visions for collective approaches to CCE have at times worked at cross-purposes.



HPG Senior Research Fellow Veronique Barbelet speaks on the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week CCEI panel, February 2020

# Civilian security and protection

**Under this theme we explored the complex and often contradictory ways that the humanitarian system intersects with people's safety. We looked at protection from the ground up, by analysing how people's decision-making is influenced by non-state protection actors; we studied the role of networks in countering violent extremism; and assessed the impact of 20 years of protection at the UN Security Council.**

## Integrated Programme projects

### Understanding the role of informal non-state actors in protecting civilians

Our report, drawing on case studies in Libya and issued as a conclusion to the 2017–2019 Integrated Programme of work on protection, indicated that local actors are critical to protection of civilians in situations of armed conflict and generalised violence. Yet their roles are still ignored, dismissed or downgraded by international humanitarian organisations. It also highlighted that determining just how 'local' a protection response can be should be based on a solid analysis of the context and existing local capacities, and that, even where local actors have substantial capacity, international humanitarian organisations need to play a crucial complementary role to support local protection efforts, including echoing the protection messaging of local actors and their communities up to the national, regional or global platforms to which only they have access.

The findings have informed the work of the Global Protection Cluster and several of its members and has been used as background in the 2020 scoping study on the role of the GPC and field-based clusters in protection advocacy.

“

I've very much appreciated this HPG series of papers, it has changed the way I look at our work, and is informing our strategy.”

Shane Scanlon, Regional Partnerships Director, Middle East, International Rescue Committee (on the 2017–2019 Integrated Programme)

### **Twenty years of protection of civilians at the UN Security Council**

2019 marked the 20th anniversary of the landmark UN Security Council resolution on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. While the international community has come a long way since 1999 in improving protection, civilians continue to account for the majority of casualties in armed conflicts. In May 2019, HPG published a [policy brief](#) calling for stronger reporting on civilian harm, more robust accountability and enforcement, consistent and transparent use of vetoes within the UNSC and implementation of national-level policy frameworks. This coincided with the third in a series of roundtable discussions, convened by HPG and Save the Children UK, which brought together attendees from a number of organisations alongside representatives from the UK government, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development (DFID) and the Ministry of Defence.

### **Humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas**

Commissioned by UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, this study aimed to assess the extent to which access constraints have impacted the operations of country offices in Yemen and Libya, primarily focusing on their ability to achieve their humanitarian targets and reach children in greatest need. Although there was no clear picture in Libya due to data constraints, findings showed a relationship between accessibility and the severity of needs in Yemen, suggesting that UNICEF should target its assistance to hard-to-reach areas. Access constraints have contributed to the failure to achieve UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children indicators in certain sectors, notably child protection and health programmes. Other contributing factors include target setting, funding and partner capacity. Overall, the study has started to explain the relationship between accessibility, severity of needs and humanitarian reach. The research proposes that the analytical framework should be transformed into an operational tool to enhance analysis in this area.

### **Regional Platform on Gender and Prevention of Violent Extremism**

ODI has led in the development of the 'Expert platform on gender and preventing and countering violent extremism in north Africa' in 2018–2020. The Platform, convened jointly with UN Women and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, brings together experts from North Africa in a series of in-person and online discussions to share expertise and learning on gender and countering and preventing violent extremism (C/PVE) in the region. Efforts to counter and prevent violent extremism in North Africa and beyond have yet to adequately understand the roles women and men play in violent extremist groups, and how such groups manipulate gender norms and socially constructed concepts of masculinity and femininity in their recruitment efforts.

Key findings from the Platform include the need for continued strategic exchange and learning in North Africa on gender and C/PVE; a more robust understanding of gender dynamics and their links to violent extremism; more data on violent extremism in the region; and drawing together learning around potential ways to support C/PVE programmes on the ground.

The Network's impact has been visible in the ongoing interest among regional experts in continued strategic engagement. The Platform continues to serve as a flexible space for knowledge exchange both at national and regional levels across North Africa, with a [dedicated page on UN Women's website](#).



Herat, north-west Afghanistan. Photo: US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan

### **Access to justice in Afghanistan**

Based on more than 200 interviews with claimants and defendants in civil cases in Taliban courts, **this research traced the evolution of the post-2001 Taliban justice system and explored civilian experiences in the courts.** Taliban courts are becoming increasingly widespread across Afghanistan and were seen by those interviewed as more accessible and easier to navigate than state courts, as well as quicker, fairer and less corrupt. However, those living in Taliban areas do not have much choice but to pursue their claims through Taliban courts.

The research shed light on the constraints on access to justice for millions of Afghans living under Taliban control. It helped inform access to justice programming undertaken by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), who commissioned the work. Understanding this system is becoming increasingly important, particularly for the prospect of peace talks and any intra-Afghan negotiations in the future. It also has implications for the future of justice in Afghanistan, as well as the legal norms and rights embodied in the current Afghan constitution. In partnership with ODI's Lessons for Peace programme, we convened a closed-door online roundtable with more than 50 experts and practitioners to discuss the findings and their implications for the larger peace process.

# Displacement, urbanisation and migration

**Under this theme we continued HPG's long-standing interest in analysing refugee movements and forced displacement, particularly in protracted crises. In-depth country studies in Bangladesh and East Africa were complemented with more conceptual analysis of assumptions around crisis, focusing on the implications of displacement for gender norms.**

## Integrated Programme projects

### How gender roles change in displacement

While it has long been established that gender matters in humanitarian action, gender programming is still largely side-lined and implemented without regard for local norms and culture. This year, HPG is deepening our understanding of **how gender works in displacement** and what role humanitarians should play.

While there is a tendency to focus on harm to women, our **survey of existing knowledge** highlights complex challenges and opportunities for men, women and gender-diverse people in crises. The risks faced by women and gender-diverse people – multiple forms of violence, restrictions on sexual and reproductive autonomy, lack of economic independence, limited work and educational opportunities – are also not unlike those observed before crisis hits, or in 'non-crisis' settings.

In the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) region of Pakistan, forthcoming HPG research is showing dramatic and sustained progress in areas including economic justice, choice in marriage, access to education, household decision-making and domestic violence. Working with men and women across multiple age groups, our findings highlight the importance of making a local case for change: internally displaced people (IDPs) from remote areas were displaced to Peshawar, where they lived among extended family and neighbours who were part of the same religious and ethnic group – but who practised markedly different gender relations, making new ways of being and interacting both conceivable and more desirable.

## Commissions

### The Global Compact on Refugees: lessons from Bangladesh

Examining how far the Global Compact on Refugees has informed the response to the Rohingya displacement crisis in Bangladesh and the region more widely enabled us to **identify lessons for the more effective implementation of the Compact globally**, and specifically the **opportunities for harnessing the Compact in the response to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh**. Generally, the research found that a significant obstacle for implementing the Compact was the lack of guidance on how to contextualise its objectives and principles beyond the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The Compact instead relies on misplaced assumptions around how the principles and objectives of the Compact interact with each other. Examining the Compact's implementation also shed light on the lack of clear options and opportunities for third-country solutions beyond resettlements and creating conditions for return.

This in-depth research was the result of a partnership between HPG and the British Red Cross, the International Federation of the Red Cross, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), a Bangladeshi think tank.



Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Photo: UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

### **Rohingya refugees' perspectives on their displacement in Bangladesh: uncertain futures**

This study was part of a larger convening that HPG has been doing over the last few years on national-level compacts and the Rohingya crisis through its partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Past convening on the Rohingya crisis with key global and regional policy-makers, as well as analysis done through past Integrated Programme research on refugee lives and livelihoods and research on the Jordan Compact, highlighted the importance of integrating the perspectives of refugees in global- and national-level policy discussions to inform, rather than assume, policy solutions. The research identified that access to education and work would make the most difference to Rohingya refugees' lives, while their goals and aspirations centred on safe return to Myanmar, a better future for their children, improved living conditions and supporting themselves through work.



**It's a tour de force!  
You've compiled  
so much and it's so  
comprehensive."**

*Dr Aisling Swaine, LSE Centre  
on Women, Peace and Security  
(on the literature review *Gender in  
displacement: the state of play*)*

We found that Rohingya refugees were concerned about who was representing them at global, regional and national discussions on medium- to long-term solutions, as they did not feel their voices were being heard. Refugees felt that research on their perspectives (based on visiting them in their homes and communities and interviewing them individually) may be a better way to shape policy dialogues and solutions. This research has directly informed the IRC's work around the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh, the region and globally, and has been the basis of conversations around what would be most helpful to impact medium- to long-term solutions at the national level.

### **The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in four East African countries**

Commissioned by the IKEA Foundation, this project took stock of progress in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda towards realising the goals of the CRRF and identifying opportunities for action. We found that there is now greater acceptance among host governments, donors and aid actors of a more inclusive approach to refugees and recognition that development, not just humanitarian, support is required. There is momentum in relation to some refugee rights and freedoms, while new donors, actors and initiatives in support of refugees have emerged. However, the research also indicates that governments and donors from the global North are not meeting their collective responsibilities for refugees as envisaged by the CRRF. By not tackling mobility or supporting self-reliance in urban environments, the CRRF approach risks perpetuating the current system of isolating refugees in remote, impoverished regions where continued dependency on humanitarian assistance is a likely outcome.

# Resilience, livelihoods and food security in crises

**Financing – and the implications of multi-year, predictable funding for people’s resilience and for managing disaster risk – was a central feature of work under this theme in 2019–2020.**

## Commissions

### **Thematic study on multi-year humanitarian funding**

HPG’s four-year partnership with Valid Evaluations, studying the potential of multi-year humanitarian funding (MYHF) to improve the quality and value for money (VFM) of humanitarian assistance on a DFID commission, concluded with the publication of four reports: country reports on [MYHF in Pakistan](#) and [in Ethiopia](#); a study of the [impact of early response and resilience investment on people’s ability to cope with drought in Ethiopia](#); and the [overall study report](#). There have been hopes that MYHF would improve the quality of programming and the VFM of humanitarian assistance, and support resilience by addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability. One common theme of the four papers was that MYHF did provide some improvements in aid quality, and that it opened up the possibility for far deeper change, but these hopes must be tempered with realism. Ultimately, humanitarian assistance needs to be set within the suite of investment and aid instruments, rather than seen in isolation. Having followed more than 200 households over the lifetime of the study to better understand the sources of resilience, the study’s headline finding was that the single biggest determinant of a person’s resilience is their gender.

### **Anticipatory action for drought**

Following HPG’s partnership with ODI’s Risk and Resilience programme on forecast-based action (FbA) in 2018–2019, which piloted a new methodology for assessing value for money, HPG embarked on a new report commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on anticipatory action for droughts. The study analysed the potential for acting in advance of a crisis by using a new way of categorising anticipatory actions (AAs).

The study showed how AA could only fulfil its potential if it was part of an overall nexus approach, with its incorporation in disaster risk management requiring a change in attitude and in management and incentive structures outside the humanitarian world, often with government services and development interventions. The most important AAs in many situations were seen to be investing in heightened preparedness (and surveillance/crisis monitoring) much earlier and in providing timely information to people likely to face crisis, in order to support their own anticipatory actions. It is

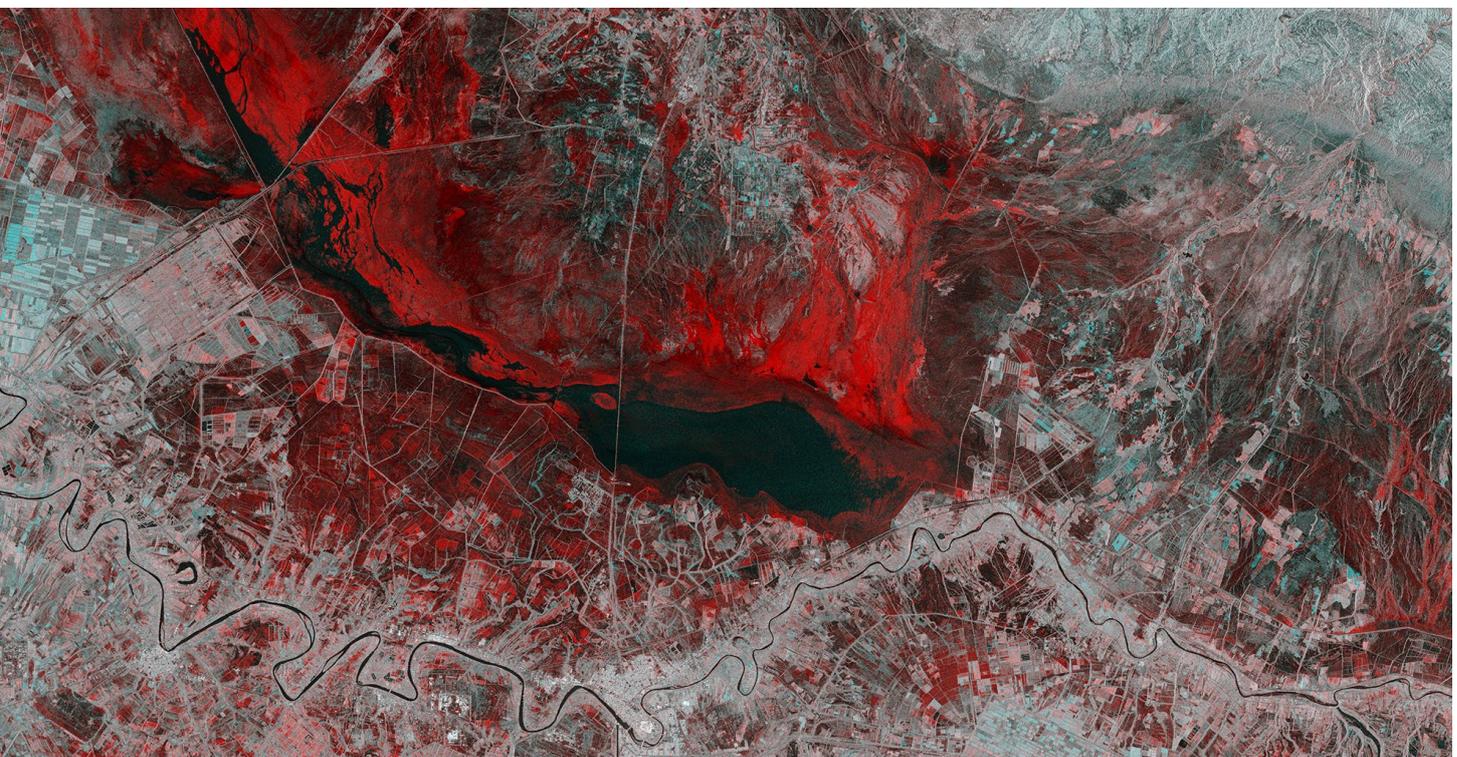
hoped that the paper will be an important reference work informing a new approach to AA, where humanitarians increasingly look outside their own community of practice and seek to root AA in mainstream service delivery.

### **Cost of ill-health in places affected by crises**

HPG worked in collaboration with Valid Evaluations to develop a quantitative methodology to calculate the **full economic cost of ill-health**, including both the costs of accessing healthcare and the costs of lost labour as a result of sickness and caring for the sick. The study broke new ground both in its findings and methodology. The research found that, even for families who had no unusually serious health problems, ill-health was depriving them of around a third of their potential income. Since the direct costs of healthcare made up a minority of this cost, better-quality healthcare and disease prevention are even more important than schemes to provide free healthcare. A standard statistical analysis of the costs gave results that were highly skewed by the few cases of very high costs, so the study had to develop innovative ways to calculate what would be typical costs for a household. The development of new quantitative methodologies that do not detach the data analysis from ‘the story’ is potentially rewarding new research territory for HPG.

### **Using risk finance tools to build resilience and reduce disaster risk in developing countries**

Under the INSPIRE policy support consortium for DG ECHO, HPG and ODI’s Risk and Resilience team produced an internal briefing paper and presentation on risk financing for humanitarian action. This explained the state of play of disaster risk financing, its critical elements and how ECHO is approaching this growing area. Based on expert consultations, the team recommended that ECHO develop an operational framework to position risk-informed approaches more strategically in the organisation, to pilot a number of risk-based instruments such as insurance, and to build ECHO’s capacity and profile in this area. Through a workshop in Brussels in December 2019, the team jointly developed meaningful recommendations, which are being used to inform ECHO’s decision-making on its future positioning on disaster risk financing.



Satellite image composite showing the extent of flash floods (in red) near the town of Kut, eastern Iraq in November 2018. Modified Copernicus Sentinel data, processed by European Space Agency

# Influencing humanitarian practice

**The Humanitarian Practice Network (HPN) is a global forum for policy-makers, practitioners and others working in the humanitarian sector to share and disseminate information, analysis and experience. HPN publications and online articles are written by and for practitioners and play an important role in examining policy developments and distilling and disseminating practice.**

HPN published and launched three editions of *Humanitarian Exchange* magazine: *HE 75*, ‘Making humanitarian action work for women and girls’; *HE 76*, ‘The crisis in Yemen’; and *HE 77*, ‘Responding to Ebola in Democratic Republic of Congo’. *HE 75* was promoted at the triennial Women Deliver conference in Vancouver in June, which was attended by more than 6,000 delegates, and *HE 77* at HPN’s first online webinar held just before the coronavirus lockdown, which had around 160 attendees. This was also the first fully remote-run webinar to be held on ODI’s platform, as part of ODI’s transition to a digital-first organisation in light of Covid-19.

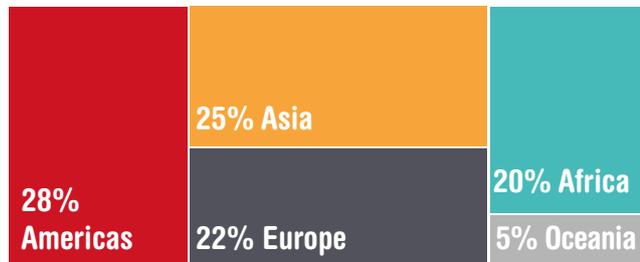
HPN published and promoted 12 online articles over the year, fostering greater interest and engagement with the website. Future *Humanitarian Exchange* themes under consideration include disability inclusion, localisation in humanitarian response, addressing the humanitarian needs of Venezuelans and responding to Covid-19 in humanitarian crises. Network Papers in the pipeline for 2020–2021 include protection and the nexus, disability data collection and use in humanitarian response, the organisational history and impact of SOS Sahel, and supporting survivor- and community-led crisis response. In partnership with the Global Interagency Security Forum (GISF) and Humanitarian Outcomes, HPN will also explore demand for a revised *Good Practice Review (GPR)* 8 on operational security management in violent environments.

In partnership with ALNAP, and with funding from the IP and ECHO, in July 2019 HPN published and launched at ODI a new *GPR* on urban humanitarian response, which provides evidence-based practical guidance for practitioners in designing, implementing and monitoring programmes in urban contexts. The *GPR* has been discussed and distributed at events in Canberra, Suva and other locations. In addition to the distribution of hard copies, HPN created a **dedicated interactive microsite for the *GPR*** and produced a whiteboard animation on **10 things to know about urban humanitarian response**. In 2020, the lead author and his institution, the University of New South Wales, plans to extend the reach of the *GPR* further by developing 10 four-minute videos, which will expand on each of the 10 takeaways from the whiteboard explainer. The content will be co-branded with HPN, open access and geared towards viewing on smartphones, using platforms popular in Asia and Africa in particular.

## HPN in numbers 2019–2020

**266,889**

visits to the HPN website



**124,600**

content views on Twitter



**16,832**

content views on Facebook

## Most popular posts and publications

-  **The impact of refugees on the environment and appropriate responses**  
31,436 views
-  **'We are not treated like people': the Roll Back Xenophobia campaign in South Africa**  
11,846 views
-  **Assessing early warning efforts for Typhoon Haiyan in Leyte**  
11,483 views
-  **The evolution and impact of Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin**  
10,856 views
-  **Corruption in the NGO world: what it is and how to tackle it**  
10,195 views

# Academic engagement

**HPG has strong ties to the academic community. Its collaborations and contributions are wide-ranging and include hosting an annual course on conflict and humanitarian response, editing a leading academic journal and undertaking collaborative research with academic partners.**

## ***Disasters* journal**

*Disasters* is a major, peer-reviewed quarterly journal reporting on all aspects of disaster studies, policy and management. It provides a forum for academics, policy-makers and practitioners to publish high-quality research and practice concerning natural hazard-related disasters, anthropogenic disasters, complex political emergencies and protracted crises around the world.

It was another prolific year for the journal. Alongside the four regular journal issues (Volume 43, Issues 2, 3 and 4 and Volume 44, Issue 1), we published three guest-edited special issues and four themed virtual issues, three of which were in collaboration with *Development Policy Review* (DPR), another ODI-owned journal.

### **Virtual issues**

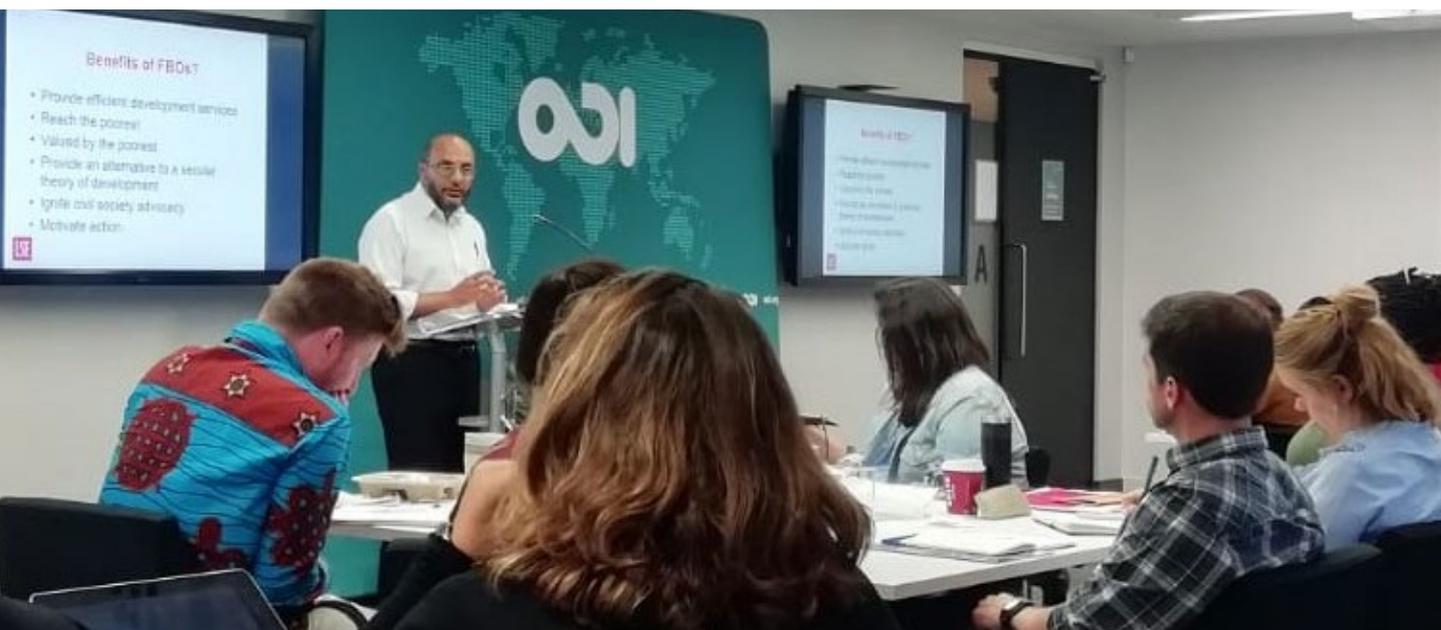
We have collated several virtual themed issues this year, as a way of making published content open access for a limited time and drawing attention to published content, boost citations and promote our authors. The **World Humanitarian Day** issue (August 2019) was a joint collection with DPR. The **technology** issue (October 2019) was another collaboration with DPR, with an introduction by HPG staff. This issue has been successfully promoted by Wiley, HPG and individual authors on social media. The **World Mental Health Day** issue (October 2019) brought together papers on mental health interventions for humanitarian aid workers, disaster-affected people and communities. To celebrate International Women's Day, DPR and *Disasters* collaborated on a themed issue entitled '**Empowering women and girls in development and humanitarian practice: two steps forward, one step back?**' (February 2020).

Global text downloads for this reporting period were 153,180, up from 100,630 the previous year. *Disasters* is now available in 6,782 institutions (up from 5,770 last year). We are also seeing a consistent increase in the number of open access papers published each year. Our impact factor (which reflects the number of citations in relation to recent articles) rose during this reporting period from 1.596 to 1.797.

## HPG/LSE senior-level course on conflict and humanitarian response

The senior-level course on conflict and humanitarian response, taught by HPG in conjunction with the London School of Economics, provides an opportunity for senior professionals in the sector to learn and reflect on critical issues in humanitarian response. The course features lectures by distinguished academics and practitioners, alongside group discussions and exercises.

Seventeen participants attended this year's course, with extensive experience in countries including the Central African Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, South Sudan and Syria. Organisations represented on the course included the International Committee of the Red Cross, Medair, Tearfund, World Vision, DanChurchAid, and the UN Population Fund. Speakers included Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou (Professor of International History at the Graduate Institute in Geneva), Professor Alex de Waal (Executive Director at the World Peace Foundation and Research Professor at Tufts University), Sara Pantuliano (Chief Executive, ODI) and Emanuela-Chiara Gillard (Associate Fellow, International Law Programme, Chatham House). Participants delivered presentations to Sir John Holmes, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and former Director of the Ditchley Foundation.



Professor Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou speaking at the senior-level course in July 2019

# Communications and public affairs

**Communications and public affairs are central to HPG’s efforts to influence policy and practice. Through a vibrant communications programme, we continued to promote and disseminate our research findings, encourage debate among policy-makers and practitioners and influence perceptions and understanding of humanitarian issues among the wider media and public.**

## Convening with impact

HPG researchers spoke at 56 ODI-hosted and external events around the world, including the WEF in Davos, the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Good Humanitarian Donorship meetings. Below are some examples from an active year.

### **Webinar: Lessons learned? Responding to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

In March 2019, just before the UK’s coronavirus lockdown, HPN held its first online webinar to launch the 77th edition of *Humanitarian Exchange* magazine, which focused on the Ebola epidemic in DRC. We were joined by panellists from USAID, CAFOD, MSF and IRC based in DRC, France and the UK, as well as more than 160 online participants.

### **The HPG Annual Lecture**

In December 2019, HPG hosted its Annual Lecture. The lecture, **Challenging the humanitarian status quo: a gender equality revolution**, was delivered by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan –



“A really great discussion and well done on chairing so well. I hope we can stay in touch on how to deal with the many challenges for the sector going forward.”

Stephanie Draper, Chief Executive, Bond (on the HPG/ICRC roundtable on aid in the national interest).



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarah Zeid of Jordan in conversation with Sorcha O'Callaghan, Director of HPG, at the HPG Annual Lecture in December 2019.

UNHCR Patron for Maternal and Newborn Health, Special Advisor for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition to the World Food Programme, and lead convener of the Roadmap to Accelerate Progress for Every Newborn in Humanitarian Settings 2020–2025. She made a passionate plea to change the current humanitarian system and put women and girls at the centre of programmes, policies and investments. The event was attended by 105 people at the ODI office in London, as well as an online audience.

### **Roundtables on refugee integration in Nairobi and New York**

Drawing on HPG's work on the application of the CRRF in East Africa, HPG collaborated with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat in Nairobi and SOAS/EUTF Refugee Evidence Facility (REF) to draw together 80 representatives from refugee communities, government officials, aid organisations and academia from Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya for a dynamic discussion on our research findings and the implications for the Global Compact on Refugees. A second launch meeting was held in New York with the 'Global Refugee Expert Group' hosted by the Zolberg Institute at The New School and the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, which brought together global refugee experts to discuss the report's findings.

### **World Humanitarian Day/Humanitarian Memorial**

World Humanitarian Day commemorates aid workers who have lost their lives in humanitarian service. In 2019, HPG organised the annual World Humanitarian Day event at Westminster Abbey. In

addition, over the last five years HPG has supported the commission of a memorial honouring past and present humanitarian workers from the UK and around the world.

## Media engagement

Engagement with the media remains a core part of our work in bringing insights and expertise around key humanitarian issues to the wider public. During the year, our work was covered in the media more than 300 times. Drawing on ongoing research, researchers responded to topical crises and issues facing the humanitarian sector. Coverage spanned a range of issues, including our research on Taliban governance in Afghanistan, local participation in humanitarian aid, and the Global Compact on Refugees in the context of Bangladesh. HPG's work and experts featured in multiple media outlets, including the *Washington Post*, *The Economist*, NBC News, *The New Yorker* and Devex.

HPG is increasingly drawing on the creative use of media to reach new audiences and drive our impact. One example was our work on World Humanitarian Day in August 2019, where we held a Twitter chat on 'risks and rewards for women humanitarians'. The event was watched by 61,000 people and resulted in more than 1,000 engagements and replies from more than 70 aid organisations.



HPG Advisory Group annual meeting, December 2019.



I need to compliment you and your team for the day of presentation of your report and the report itself! I found both extremely interesting and relevant and I am so happy I travelled from Uganda to be part of the launch. The insights in the report are very relevant for our work.”

Peter Bo Larsen, Country Director, Danish Church Aid Uganda (on the Nairobi roundtable on refugee integration)

# Summary of IP budget and income spent

(as at 31 March 2020)

Project detail	2019–2021		Revised budget		Actual final IP income spent up to 31/3/2020	Carry forward of income to 2020–2021
	original budget	revised budget	Financial year 2019–2020	Financial year 2020–2021		
<b>Research</b>						
'As local as possible, as international as necessary': understanding capacity and complementarity in humanitarian response	£0	£49,685	£49,685	£0	£49,685	£0
The tip of the iceberg? Understanding non-traditional sources of aid financing	£0	£65,413	£65,413	£0	£65,413	£0
Informality and protection: understanding the role of informal non-state actors in protecting civilians	£0	£38,065	£38,065	£0	£38,065	£0
Dignity in displacement: from rhetoric to reality	£0	£10,195	£10,195	£0	£10,195	£0
Synthesis paper	£0	£54,581	£40,889	£13,692	£40,889	£0
Falling through the cracks: inclusion and exclusion in humanitarian action	£446,483	£446,483	£145,392	£301,091	£80,845	£64,547
How gender roles change in displacement	£436,845	£436,845	£215,329	£221,516	£170,446	£44,883
The humanitarian 'digital divide': understanding the impact of technology on crisis response	£443,875	£443,875	£185,476	£258,399	£156,022	£29,454
Advocating for humanity: opportunities for improving protection outcomes in conflict	£452,375	£452,375	£186,720	£265,655	£186,720	£0
Synthesis paper	£242,790	£242,790	£2,897	£239,893	£2,897	£0
<b>Total research</b>	<b>£2,022,368</b>	<b>£2,240,307</b>	<b>£940,061</b>	<b>£1,300,246</b>	<b>£801,177</b>	<b>£138,884</b>
<b>Non-research</b>						
Humanitarian Practice Network	£466,680	£423,492	£196,672	£226,820	£196,672	£0
Policy engagement and representation	£434,920	£470,254	£254,539	£215,715	£254,539	£0
Public affairs, rapid response and media	£330,340	£260,395	£94,445	£165,950	£94,445	£0
Senior-Level course on conflict and humanitarian response (LSE)	£40,000	£30,000	£15,000	£15,000	£15,162	£0
<i>Disasters</i>	£20,000	£10,000	£0	£10,000	£0	£0
Reprinting	£10,000	£7,097	£2,097	£5,000	£2,097	£0
<b>Total non-research</b>	<b>£1,301,940</b>	<b>£1,201,238</b>	<b>£562,753</b>	<b>£638,485</b>	<b>£562,915</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,324,308</b>	<b>£3,441,544</b>	<b>£1,502,814</b>	<b>£1,938,731</b>	<b>£1,364,092</b>	<b>£138,884</b>

# IP income: 2019–2020

<b>Integrated Programme donors</b>	<b>Income in advance for 2019–2020 (carried forward from 2018–2019)</b>	<b>IP grants in the year 2019–2020</b>	<b>Income in advance for 2020–2021 (carried forward from 2019–2020)</b>
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	£63,175	£256,126	£109,033
British Red Cross	–	£5,000	–
Global Affairs Canada	–	£143,207	£109,622
IKEA Foundation	£79,479	£374,651	£268,078
Irish Aid	–	£129,156	£129,156
Oxfam UK	–	£15,000	–
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Denmark	–	£144,007	£121,116
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	£83,489	£171,177*	£121,311
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	–	£266,000	–
United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance	–	£429,101	–
World Vision International	–	£8,215	–
Undisclosed	–	£198,470	£143,847
<b>Total</b>	<b>£226,142</b>	<b>£2,140,111</b>	<b>£1,002,161</b>

\*Payment was made in advance in FY18-19 and deferred to FY19-20

# Publications

## Reports and working papers

*Robingya refugees' perspectives on their displacement in Bangladesh: uncertain futures*  
HPG working paper | June 2019 | Caitlin Wake, Veronique Barbelet and Marcus Skinner

*The humanitarian response in Iraq: support beyond international assistance in Mosul*  
HPG working paper | July 2019 | John Bryant

*Protection of displaced Libyans: risks, responses and border dynamics*  
HPG working paper | August 2019 | Sherine El Taraboulsi-McCarthy and Ghada Al-Bayati with Victoria Metcalfe-Hough and Sarah Adamczyk

*The 2017 Nepal flood response: resources beyond international humanitarian assistance*  
HPG working paper | August 2019 | Barnaby Willitts-King and Anita Ghimire

*Humanitarian Policy Group Annual Report 2018–2019*  
August 2019

*Rethinking capacity and complementarity for a more local humanitarian action*  
HPG Report | October 2019 | Veronique Barbelet

*Valuing local resources in humanitarian crises*  
HPG Report | October 2019 | Barnaby Willitts-King, John Bryant and Alexandra Spencer

*Localising protection responses in conflicts: challenges and opportunities*  
HPG Report | November 2019 | Victoria Metcalfe-Hough

*The humanitarian 'digital divide'*  
HPG Working Paper | November 2019 | Barnaby Willitts-King, John Bryant and Kerrie Holloway

*Gender in displacement: the state of play*  
HPG Working Paper | December 2019 | Kerrie Holloway, Maria Stavropoulou and Megan Daigle

## Policy briefs and briefing notes

*Twenty years of protection of civilians at the UN Security Council*  
HPG policy brief | May 2019 | Sarah Adamczyk

*Researching local humanitarian action through partnerships with local actors*  
HPG briefing note | August 2019 | Larissa Fast

*Mapping local capacities and support for more effective humanitarian responses*  
HPG Briefing Note | November 2019 | John Bryant

*Beyond local and international: humanitarian action at the margins*  
HPG Briefing Note | December 2019 | Larissa Fast

*The Global Compact on Refugees: lessons from Bangladesh*  
HPG Briefing Note | December 2019 | Karen Hargrave and Veronique Barbelet

## ODI and external publications

### *Localising emergency preparedness and response through partnerships*

HPG commissioned report | April 2019 | Caitlin Wake and Veronique Barbelet

### *Scaling up early action: lessons, challenges and future potential in Bangladesh*

ODI working paper | April 2019 | Thomas Tanner, Bill Gray, Kiswendsida Guigma, Jafar Iqbal, Simon Levine, David MacLeod, Khairun Nahar, Kaiser Rejve and Courtenay Cabot Venton

### *Reducing flood impacts through forecast-based action: entry points for social protection systems in Kenya*

ODI working paper | April 2019 | Lena Weingärtner, Catalina Jaime, Martin Todd, Simon Levine, Stephen McDowell and Dave MacLeod

### *Disaster risk reduction in conflict contexts: the state of the evidence*

ODI working paper | May 2019 | Katie Peters, Kerrie Holloway and Laura Peters

### *Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019*

HPG commissioned report | June 2019 | Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Wendy Fenton and Lydia Poole

### *Multi-year humanitarian funding in Ethiopia*

HPG commissioned report | July 2019 | Lewis Sida, Simon Levine, Bill Gray and Courtenay Cabot Venton

### *Multi-year humanitarian funding in Pakistan*

HPG commissioned report | July 2019 | Simon Levine and Agata Kusnierek

### *Early response and resilience investments: the case of drought in eastern Ethiopia in 2015–16*

HPG commissioned report | July 2019 | Simon Levine, Agata Kusnierek and Lewis Sida

### *Multi-year humanitarian funding: a thematic evaluation*

HPG commissioned report | July 2019 | Simon Levine and Lewis Sida with Bill Gray and Courtenay Cabot Venton

### *Engaging companies in manmade disasters – a guidance toolkit for private sector networks*

HPG commissioned project | July 2019 | Barnaby Willitts-King

### *Disaster risk reduction, urban informality and a ‘fragile peace’: the case of Lebanon*

ODI report | August 2019 | Katie Peters, Nuha Eltinay and Kerrie Holloway

### *Pursuing disaster risk reduction on fractured foundations: the case of Chad*

ODI report | August 2019 | Katie Peters, Anne-Lise Dewulf, Veronique Barbelet, Colette Benoudji and Virginie Le Masson

### *The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in Ethiopia*

HPG commissioned report | September 2019 | Alemu Asfaw Nigusie and Freddie Carver

### *The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in Kenya*

HPG commissioned report | September 2019 | Sorcha O’Callaghan, Farah Manji, Kerrie Holloway and Christina Lowe

### *The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in Rwanda*

HPG commissioned report | September 2019 | Nicholas Crawford, Kerrie Holloway and Christina Lowe

### *The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: progress in Uganda*

HPG commissioned report | September 2019 | Nicholas Crawford, Sorcha O’Callaghan, Kerrie Holloway and Christina Lowe

### *The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: responsibility-sharing and self-reliance in East Africa*

HPG commissioned report | September 2019 | Nicholas Crawford and Sorcha O’Callaghan

### *‘Repatriation with dignity’*

Journal article in *Forced Migration Review* 62: 43–45 | October 2019 | Kerrie Holloway

*Public narratives and attitudes towards refugees and other migrants: UK country profile*

ODI briefing paper | November 2019 |  
Kerrie Holloway and Christopher Smart with  
Marta Foresti and Amy Leach

*Financial flows mapping: the potential for a risk finance facility for civil society*

ODI/Start Network working paper |  
Lena Weingartner and Alexandra Spencer

*Public narratives and attitudes towards refugees and other migrants: US country profile*

ODI briefing paper | March 2020 | Kerrie  
Holloway with Marta Foresti and Amy Leach

## **Blogs, op-eds, infographics and multimedia**

*‘Three ways humanitarians can support the Rohingya in Bangladesh, two years on’*

ODI blog | August 2019 | Kerrie Holloway

*‘The tip of the iceberg: why 99% of humanitarian resources in crises are ignored’*

ODI blog | November 2019 |  
Barnaby Willitts-King

*‘New technologies are changing humanitarian action, but don’t assume they’re inclusive’*

ODI blog | November 2019 | John Bryant

*‘Countering the caliphate in North Africa: three expert views on gender and the need for collective action’*

ODI insight | November 2019 |  
Sherine El Taraboulsi-McCarthy, Rachel George,  
Melanie Pinet

*‘Five tests for success at the Global Refugee Forum’*

Devex | December 2019 | Sorcha O’Callaghan

*‘Six global trends to watch in 2020’*

ODI comment | January 2020 | Alina Rocha  
Menocal, Andrew Scott, Rebecca Nadin,  
Sorcha O’Callaghan, Dirk Willem te Velde,  
Caroline Harper

*‘Learning the lessons from the EU–Turkey deal: Europe’s renewed test’*

ODI blog | March 2020 | Amanda Gray Meral

*‘Covid-19: five lessons from Ebola’*

ODI blog | March 2020 | Sorcha O’Callaghan

*‘Dealing with Covid-19 in conflict zones needs a different approach’*

Thomson Reuters Foundation | March 2020 |  
Katie Peters and Sherine El Taraboulsi-McCarthy

## **Disasters journal issues**

Volume 43, special issue 1

*Disasters journal* | The future of disasters studies |  
April 2019

Volume 43, issue 2

*Disasters journal* | April 2019

Volume 43, special issue 2

*Disasters journal* | Humanitarian governance |  
April 2019

Volume 43, special issue 3

*Disasters journal* | Resilience from the ground  
up | April 2019

Volume 43, issue 3

*Disasters journal* | July 2019

World Humanitarian Day virtual issue

*Joint Disasters/Development Policy Review*  
*journal* | August 2019

World Mental Health Day virtual issue

*Disasters journal* | October 2019

Volume 43, issue 4

*Disasters journal* | October 2019

Technology virtual issue

*Joint Disasters/Development Policy Review*  
*journal* | October 2019

Volume 44, issue 1

*Disasters journal* | January 2020

## HPN publications

### **Humanitarian Exchange magazine**

**Making humanitarian action work for women and girls**

*Humanitarian Exchange* 75 | May 2019

**The crisis in Yemen**

*Humanitarian Exchange* 76 | January 2020

**Responding to Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo**

*Humanitarian Exchange* 77 | March 2020

### **Good Practice Review**

**Urban humanitarian response**

*Good Practice Review* by David Sanderson | June 2019

### **Online articles, blogs and multimedia**

**‘10 things to know about urban humanitarian response’**

Animation | July 2019

**‘MSF in Borno, Nigeria: taking a critical look’**

Elba Rahmouni | November 2019

**‘Working with local actors: MSF’s approach’**

Sean Healy, Urvashi Aneja, Marc DuBois, Paul Harvey and Lydia Poole | November 2019

**‘Out of the shadows: the precarious lives of Venezuelan LGBTQI+ asylum-seekers in Brazil’**

Tyler Valiquette, Yvonne Su and Emilio Felix | March 2020

### **Blogs**

**‘Dignity in humanitarian action: an Islamic perspective’**

Sahedul Islam | May 2019

**‘Environmental conservation in a refugee crisis: when calling it a cross-cutting issue is not enough’**

Haseeb Md. Irfanullah | May 2019

**‘We are all data people: insights from the data literacy survey’**

Data Literacy Team | June 2019

**‘Sexual violence and aid work: prevention and response’**

Paul Harvey | July 2019

**‘Conflict, gender inequality and disasters: how to respond’**

Suzy Madigan | July 2019

**‘Is a humanitarian crisis the time and place for women’s economic empowerment? Research from Niger suggests it is’**

Suzy Madigan | August 2019

**‘Sudan and Yemen: why strengthening collaboration, fostering trust and sharing risk is key’**

Simon O’Connell | September 2019

**‘Inhumanity unlimited: should citizens acquiesce or object?’**

Norah Niland | October 2019

**‘Understanding the Covid-19 crisis: insights from risk management on choices, preferences and trade-offs’**

Emily Wilkinson, Katie Peters and Sarah Opitz-Stapleton | March 2020

# Public engagement

## Belgium

**Moving beyond emergency: an inclusive and sustainable approach to the Rohingya response**  
IRC | Brussels | September 2019

**Grand Bargain Localisation Workstream global meeting**  
Brussels | October 2019

**Workshop on risk financing**  
Brussels | December 2019

## Ethiopia

**Opening plenary session: the Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Addis Ababa | July 2019

**Capacity and complementarity**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Addis Ababa | July 2019

## Germany

**Relevance for all affected people: tailoring services and assistance to ensure relevant support to different demographic groups**  
ALNAP 32 Annual Meeting | Berlin | October 2019

## Indonesia

**Opening plenary session: the Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Jakarta | August 2019

**Capacity and complementarity**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Jakarta | August 2019

## Italy

**Grand Bargain cash workstream annual meeting**  
Rome | May 2019

**Women's leadership in the humanitarian sector**  
IFRC and Italian Red Cross national conference | Milan | October 2019

## Jordan

**Humanitarian investing: unlocking new capital**  
World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa | Dead Sea | April 2019

**Opening plenary session: the Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Amman | July 2019

**Capacity and complementarity**  
IFRC regional conference on the localisation of aid | Amman | July 2019

## Kenya

**Refugee integration roundtable**  
HPG with the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat and SOAS/EUTF Refugee Evidence Facility | Nairobi | November 2019

## Spain

**Challenges and opportunities to tackle child malnutrition: towards the 2030 Agenda**  
La Caixa Foundation and UNHCR conference | Barcelona | October 2019

## Switzerland

**Capacity and complementarity roundtable**  
Coordination and localisation | HPG, Global Education Cluster, Child Protection Area of Responsibility | Geneva | April 2019

### **Innovative financing**

GHD Group, ECHO/SDC | Geneva | May 2019

### **Launch of the Grand Bargain annual independent report 2019**

Geneva | June 2019

### **Humanitarian Investing Initiative workshop**

World Economic Forum | Geneva | June 2019

### **Innovative financing and Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD)**

GHD initiative | Geneva | June 2019

### **Humanitarian implications of counter-terrorism legislation**

Red X International Meetings, 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent | Geneva | December 2019

### **Strengthening the Red Cross Red Crescent work on migration**

Red X International Meetings, 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent | Geneva | December 2019

### **Roundtable on digital civil society**

Techsoup | Davos | January 2020

### **High-level group on humanitarian investing**

WEF | Davos | January 2020

### **Launch of Connecting Business Initiative**

Humanitarian Partnerships | Geneva | February 2020

### **Tunisia**

**Rethinking approaches to peacebuilding in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region**  
USIP | Tunis | April 2019

### **Sanctions, bank derisking and the squeeze on human rights: what's to be done?**

RightsCon | Tunis | June 2019

### **Turkey**

**Unlocking Islamic social finance (ISF) for humanitarian action: instruments, potential and challenges**

World Humanitarian Action Forum | Istanbul | October 2019

**Innovations in Islamic social finance (ISF): case studies and testimonials from the Gulf countries and Turkey**

World Humanitarian Action Forum | Istanbul | October 2019

### **Plenary: Humanity Challenge panel discussion**

World Humanitarian Action Forum | Istanbul | October 2019

**Conflicts: from silos to synergies – how peacebuilding, humanitarian and development actors can learn from each other**

World Humanitarian Action Forum | Istanbul | October 2019

### **United Kingdom (London)**

**Localising emergency preparedness and response through partnerships**

Report launch, Islamic Relief | April 2019

### **Ethiopia and Sudan: the 1980s**

Politics, Humanitarianism, and Children's Rights Conference | LSE | April 2019

**Accidental and intentional humanitarian innovation**

Communication with Disaster Affected Communities | May 2019

### **The nexus in practice: experiences from the field**

HPN roundtable | ODI | May 2019

### **UK Protections of Civilians Strategy**

RUSI | May 2019

**British Red Cross Complementarity launch at DFID**

British Red Cross and DFID | May 2019

### **Cash assistance and empowering people in crisis**

Food Assistance Committee/SDC | June 2019

**APPG Rohingya crisis**  
APPG | June 2019

**An urban future: humanitarian preparedness.**  
**Launch of *Good Practice Review 12: urban humanitarian response***  
HPN public event | July 2019

**Digital aid workshop**  
GCRF | September 2019

**DFID CHASE humanitarian policy forum**  
DFID | September 2019

**Enhancing the humanitarian agenda: partnerships and agreements**  
RedR | Royal Academy of Engineering | September 2019

**Digital risks conference**  
Wilton Park/Swiss Development Cooperation | October 2019

**DFID's Community of Practice on Countering Violent Extremism**  
DFID | October 2019

**WEF Humanitarian Investing Initiative focal points meeting**  
Boston Consulting Group/WEF | November 2019

**Modernizing Humanitarian Finance roundtable**  
CGD | November 2019

**Challenging the humanitarian status quo: gender, equality, revolution**  
HPG Annual Lecture | December 2019

**Briefing on IP to WFP Country Directors in southern Africa**  
WFP | January 2020

**Partnerships for humanitarian action: challenges for large INGOs without a traditional partnership approach**  
HPG roundtable co-organised with Accelerating Localisation through Partnerships | January 2020

**The state of the humanitarian system**  
London School of Tropical Medicine lecture | February 2020

**ICRC and HPG roundtable on aid in the national interest**  
February 2020

**Implementation the IASC Guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action**  
HPG roundtable co-organised with the interim co-chairs of the Reference group on inclusion of persons with disabilities and Islamic Relief Worldwide | March 2020

### **United States**

**High-Level Task Force on Humanitarian Access**  
United States Senate | Washington | May 2019

**Refugee integration roundtable**  
HPG with the Zolberg Institute at The New School and the Center on International Cooperation at New York University | New York | October 2019

### **Online**

**Lessons learned? Responding to Ebola in the DRC**  
Launch of *HE 77* | March 2020

# HPG commissioning partners

- Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- British Red Cross
- Development Alternatives Incorporated
- European Civilian Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Global Affairs Canada
- Humanity United
- IKEA Foundation
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Rescue Committee
- La Caixa
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- UN Women
- United National Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID)

# HPG Advisory Group members

As of 31 March 2020

Name	Organisation	Position and department
Abdurahman Sharif	Federal Government of Somalia	Senior Special Advisor, Development & International Relations, Office of the Prime Minister
Alexander Matheou	British Red Cross Society	Executive Director of International
Ambassador Tarig Bakheet	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Assistant Secretary General responsible for Humanitarian Affairs
Colum Wilson	United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)	Group Head – CHASE Humanitarian and Protracted Crisis Policy
	Tufts University	Professor in Food Security, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Feinstein International Center
Dennis McNamara	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue	Senior Humanitarian adviser
Dr Klaus Schreiner	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Head of Unit Competence Centre Peace and Emergency Aid
Ewen MacLeod	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Special Adviser to the High Commissioner
Hansjoerg Strohmeyer	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Chief, Policy Development and Studies Branch
Hany El-Banna	The Humanitarian Forum	Founder & President
Helen Young/ Daniel Maxwell (alternate years)	Tufts University	Research Director for Nutrition, Livelihoods and Conflict/Professor in Food Security
Jehangir Malik	Muslim Aid	Chief Executive Officer
John Mitchell	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)	Director
Leonor Nieto	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO)	Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies
Luca Alinovi	PP Sherpas Ltd	CEO and Founder
Maja Messmer Mokhtar	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Head, Humanitarian Policy Section
Margie Buchanan-Smith	Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant
Markus Geisser	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Senior Humanitarian Affairs and Policy Advisor
Mia Beers	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)	Director, OFDA Humanitarian Policy and Global Engagement Division
Myeonjoa Kim	South Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	Humanitarian Assistance Specialist (Emergency relief and DRR)
Nigel Timmins	Oxfam	Humanitarian Director

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Position and department</b>
Patrick Haughey	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland	Director, Humanitarian Unit
Per Heggenes	IKEA Foundation	Chief Executive Officer
Roger Zetter	University of Oxford	Emeritus Professor of Refugee Studies, Refugees Studies Centre
Seema Chandra	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	Director   Humanitarian Reform and Performance Section
Stephen Salewicz	Global Affairs Canada	Director-General
Sultan Barakat	The Doha Institute	Director of the Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies
Susanne Mikhail	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	Head of Humanitarian Aid
Thomas Lid Ball	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director of Humanitarian Affairs
Thomas Thomsen	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Chief adviser, Humanitarian Section
Valerie Guarnieri	World Food Programme (WFP)	Assistant Executive Director
Vickie Hawkins	Médecins Sans Frontières UK (MSF UK)	Executive Director

# HPG staff



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**Sara Pavanello**  
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# HPG

## Humanitarian Policy Group

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The Humanitarian Policy Group is one of the world's leading teams of independent researchers and communications professionals working on humanitarian issues. It is dedicated to improving humanitarian policy and practice through a combination of high-quality analysis, dialogue and debate.

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