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Everyday Humanitarians: Recognising a Diverse Landscape



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Over the past three years of the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed unprecedented challenges in our societies from the general disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on disadvantaged groups laying bear inequities to the specific restrictions on face-to-face interactions. As some enter a staggered opening of their societies, others remain with restrictions in place. The role of essential workers and local support networks, which keep societies running and help those most in need, is one critical component throughout the different phases of the pandemic that, for a time, was recognised.

As time moves on, the efforts of

essential workers and local support networks exposing themselves to the unknown impacts of the pandemic for benefit of the wider community will fade. This month we mark World Humanitarian Day on 19th August to recognise humanitarian workers around the world. It offers us a day to remember and reflect on the efforts of the essential workers and local support networks during the pandemic. The theme for 2022 'It takes a village' recognises the collective efforts of people around the world working to support those most in need.

They are the affected people themselves, family members, friends and neighbours who are the first responders. Often these efforts fall

outside the 24-hour news cycle and cacophony of voices on social media. They are what have become known as everyday humanitarians.

The idea of everyday humanitarians rejects the dominant reliance on the legal foundations of the 1864 Geneva Conventions' recognition in international law of the humanitarian principles to provide the laws of war. It rather sees it as one of many ways to understand global humanitarianism. It is a movement away from the recent dominant history of humanitarianism as shaped by international non-governmental organisations and self-identified 'humanitarian' actors towards one that appreciates the permutations and nuances of what happens in people's daily lives when their friends, family and neigh-

bours need help.

These human connections are not relegated to those in immediate physical surroundings as a quaint view of life in another time. These connections span across physical and digital domains to include not only your next-door neighbours but also those relationships built and maintained in virtual spaces. These relationships have ensured that human bonds remain strong despite the physical distances between them. It has facilitated the increasing importance of sending digital money to family in need elsewhere in the world through money transfer organisations. These efforts remain outside of the legalistic and formalised humanitarian system where financial transactions are monitored, evaluated, and analysed but no less im-

portant in supporting those family, friends, and neighbours during their times of need.

As we mark the 19th World Humanitarian Day in 2022, let us recognise the efforts made by those in formal humanitarian organisations and those everyday humanitarians whose support are mutually reinforcing. At the same time, we should recognise that these efforts are disproportionately focused on those that have the well-oiled, media-driven, and commercially sound campaigns generating funds from high profiled individuals and corporations. We should recognise the everyday humanitarians and the work they do outside this formalised humanitarian system. Only then will we reflect on the efforts of all humanitarian workers worldwide and understand the different human connections that exist in the world today.

Suggested Readings

- Lisa Ann Richey (2018) Conceptualizing "Everyday Humanitarianism": Ethics, Affects, and Practices of Contemporary Global Helping, *New Political Science*, 40:4, 625-639, DOI: 10.1080/07393148.2018.1528538.
- Samuel Wilson, Diane Sivasubramaniam, Jane Farmer, Amir Aryani, Tracy De Cotta, Peter Kamstra, Viktoria Adler, Jasmine Knox, Everyday humanitarianism during the 2019/2020 Australian bushfire crisis, *Social Innovation Research Institute*, 30 April 2020: <https://apo.org.au/node/303465>.
- Anne-Meike Fechter & Anke Schwittay (2019) Citizen aid: grassroots interventions in development and humanitarianism, *Third World Quarterly*, 40:10, 1769-1780, DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2019.1656062.
- D. McAvoy, A. Ingram, and L Bearup (2022) "Humanitarianism at home: Exploring practitioners' perspectives on the relevance of humanitarianism in Australia", *The Humanitarian Leader*, p. *Working Paper* 022, Feb 2022. doi: 10.21153/thl2022art1527.

CLIMATE CHANGE

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Vietnam works to ensure water security, dyke, reservoir safety

The Politburo has recently issued Conclusion No.36 on ensuring the security of water sources and safety of dykes and reservoirs by 2030, with a vision to 2045. The issuance aims to ensure enough water to serve people's lives in all circumstances, meeting the demand for water use in production and business in all sectors, especially essential services.

VNA

Vietnam Plus

16 July 2022

Protesters take to the streets in Britain to decry climate change after record heatwave

Activist groups including Just Stop Oil and Insulate Britain led protesters in a sit-in on Parliament Square in London to demand that the Conservative government stop giving new licences for oil and gas production, tax big polluters and help people install more energy efficient heating in their homes.

AP

South China Morning Post

24 July 2022

US to plant more trees as climate change kills off forests

The Biden administration announced plans to replant trees on millions of acres of burned and dead woodlands as officials struggle to counter the increasing toll on the nation's forests from wildfires, insects and other manifestations of climate change.

AP

Channel News Asia

26 July 2022

How is climate change affecting floods?

Flooding, like other disasters, involves a number of competing factors that may affect its frequency and intensity in opposing ways. Climate change, which is worsening extreme rainfall in many storms, is an increasingly important part of the mix.

Elena Shao

The New York Times

26 July 2022

Climate change: UK sea level rise speeding up - Met Office

Sea levels are rising much faster than a century ago and higher temperatures are the new normal for Britain. Sea levels have risen by around 16.5cm since 1900, but they are now rising by 3-5.2mm a year, which is more than double the rate of increase in the early part of last century.

Georgina Rannard

BBC

29 July 2022

The Guardian view on fishing: Marine protection should mean what it says

90% of Britain's marine protected areas are still being fished using the most destructive methods, and should serve as a wake-up call. The UK government is officially signed up to a target of protecting 30% of the UK's territorial waters by 2030. So far, action is lagging a long way behind words.

The Guardian

31 July 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Global collision-risk hotspots of marine traffic and the world's largest fish, the whale shark

Potential high levels of undetected or unreported ship strikes may explain why whale shark populations continue to decline despite protection and low fishing-induced mortality. Collision mitigations in high-collision-risk areas appear necessary to help conserve this iconic species.

Freya C. Womersley, et al.,

PNAS, Vol. 119, No. 20

2022

Blue economy and blue finance: Toward sustainable development and ocean governance

The book focuses on the blue economy and blue finance, including issues related to governance, planning, sectoral management, and risk management. Topics include innovative ocean financing schemes and strategies for mitigating the impacts of climate change and unsustainable practices on communities that rely on a healthy ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Peter Morgan, et. al. (eds)

Tokyo: Asian Development Bank

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

Air pollution is a global problem with far-reaching impacts owing to its transport over long distances. In the absence of aggressive intervention, the number of premature deaths resulting from ambient air pollution is estimated to be on track to increase by more than 50% by 2050.

Worldwide

7 September 2022

7th International Marine Debris Conference (7IMDC)

The 7IMDC will build on the momentum of past IMDCs by bringing together governments, industry, academia, civil society, and all relevant stakeholders, to discuss the latest findings, strengthen collaborations, find solutions and catalyse action to address the urgent, global problem of marine litter and plastic pollution.

Busan, Republic of Korea

18-23 September 2022

ENERGY SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Potential curb on Australian LNG exports is another blow to Asia-Pacific gas markets

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission called for Canberra to protect domestic gas supplies and curb exports after projecting the east coast of the country could suffer a shortfall next year.

Su-Lin Tan
CNBC

7 August 2022

Philippines to look into modular nuclear power plants —Amb. Romualdez

The Ambassador of the Philippines to Washington DC said that the US has offered small modular nuclear power plants and that it is being developed “rapidly.”

Joahna Lei Casilao
GMA News

8 August 2022

Carbon prices in Asia are too cheap to help curb emissions

Carbon prices in China and South Korea are at just fractions of where they are in the European Union and also well below levels estimated to have a meaningful impact on the climate, while taxes in Japan and Singapore have been set at very low levels.

The Business Times
8 August 2022

'The Sacrifice Zone': Myanmar bears cost of green energy

An AP investigation has found that the universal use of rare earths hides a dirty open secret in the industry: their cost is environmental destruction, the theft of land from villagers and the funnelling of money to brutal militias, including at least one linked to Myanmar's secretive military government.

AP

Channel News Asia

10 August 2022

Lawmakers in India pass energy conservation Bill

The Indian parliament's lower house approved legislation that would require greater use of renewable energy and force industrial polluters to pay a price for the carbon they emit.

AP

Channel News Asia

10 August 2022

PH Nuclear Research Institute: Bataan nuclear plant can be operated in 4-5 years if approved

Some of the issues to be settled are possible revisions to the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, and getting the approval of the local government of Bataan to let the power plant run.

CNN Philippines
10 August 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Nuclear governance in the Asia-Pacific

This edited book explores approaches to building a framework for nuclear governance in the Asia-Pacific – encompassing nuclear safety, security, and safeguards/non-proliferation. (Code for 20% discount is FLE22)

Mely Caballero-Anthony and Julius Cesar Trajano
London and New York: Routledge
2022

Forced displacement and economic development: Assessing the impacts of China-funded projects in Myanmar

This chapter analyses the human security impact of China-funded projects in Myanmar, such as hydropower dams, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, resource extractive industry, and plantation business.

Julius Cesar Trajano

Chap 3 in The Displaced: Disrupted Trade, Labour, and Politics in the Mekong River Basin
Tokyo: Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Japan
2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers: Energy and Decarbonisation in Southeast Asia Compendium

This workshop will facilitate social, political, environmental, and economic analyses of energy transition and decarbonisation in Southeast Asia.

Singapore

26 August 2022 (deadline of submission of abstracts)

2nd ASEAN International Conference on Energy and Environment (AICEE)

In this conference, researchers, energy practitioners and environmental scientists will share findings from their research studies on various issues affecting both energy security and environmental security.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Hybrid)

14-15 September 2022

FOOD SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Ranil Wickremesinghe elected president in crisis-hit Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's new president inherits a crisis-hit country, with over 22 million struggling with shortages in essentials including food, fuel and medicine.

AP
CNBC News
 20 July 2022

Food crisis: Ukraine grain export deal reached with Russia, says Turkey

During talks held in Turkey, Russia agreed to allow Ukraine to resume grain exports in the Black Sea. Parties agreed to unblock some 20 million tonnes of grains previously stuck in the country.

BBC News
 22 July 2022

The long-term threats to global food security go far beyond Ukraine

The author argues that the agreement to release grain exports from Ukraine offers only a temporary respite as structural challenges continue to plague global food security. Challenges include shrinking farmlands as aging farmers exit agriculture, climate change impacts on yields, and superweeds/superbugs, among others.

Evan Dyer
CBC News
 23 July 2022

First cargo ship passes Russia's Black Sea blockade under grain deal

The first grain shipment from Ukraine, in months since the war started, parted Odesa Port in the morning of 1st August, local time, carrying over 26,000 tonnes of corn.

Michael Schwartz, Matina Stevis-Gridneff, and Matthew Mpoke Bigg
The New York Times
 1 August 2022

China bans 35 Taiwanese food exporters in warning ahead of Pelosi visit

As a warning to Taiwan in relation to the visit of US Congress Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, China suspended its imports from 35 Taiwanese exporters of biscuits and pastries, alongside some more than 2,000 other Taiwanese companies food exporters.

Meg Shen
Reuters
 2 August 2022

China's food-security push gets a boost with new list of 276 state-supported breeders, seed producers

The move was taken by China's agricultural authorities to strengthen its food supplies and feed its 1.4 billion population, amidst climate risks to agriculture. The said companies form part of a "national seed industry formation" towards developing a strong and internationally competitive local seed industry cluster.

Orange Wang
South China Morning Post
 9 August 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2022-2031

Glaringly, this report suggests that average global agricultural productivity would need to increase by 28% over the next decade in order to meet the Zero-Hunger SDG#2. This is more than triple the increase recorded in the last decade, however, and requires concerted effort and comprehensive action to boost agricultural investment and innovation.

OECD/FAO
Paris: OECD Publishing
 2022

Impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity using multiple waves of high frequency household surveys

This paper tracks food security and its determinants using multi-country and multi-wave evidence across 11 countries and six waves of surveys. It highlights the importance of improving household resilience to future systemic crises, among others.

S. Dasgupta, and E. Robinson
Scientific Reports Vol. 12, No. 1865
 2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food Crisis

The high-level special event co-organised by the Committee on Food Security, sought to foster coordinated global policy responses to the current food crisis. The event contributed to building synergies and connecting the multiple efforts being developed, and identified emerging areas of convergence in response to the food crisis, among others.

Recorded Webinar
 18 July 2022

Multidimensional Digitally-enabled Agricultural Extension in Africa: Accelerating Agricultural Transformation in the face of Global Crises

This symposium will highlight trends, good practices, and recommendations for multidimensional, digitally-enabled agricultural extension and transformation in the African context.

Webinar
 26 August 2022

HEALTH SECURITY

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

WHO plans to rename monkeypox over stigmatization concerns

The World Health Organization is holding an open forum to rename the disease monkeypox, after some critics raised concerns the name could be derogatory or have racist connotations.

AP

ABC News

13 August 2022

UK first to approve Moderna vaccine that targets original and Omicron variants of Covid-19

Britain, the first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine in late 2020, has now also given the first green light to a variant-adapted shot that targets both the original and Omicron version of the virus.

Reuters

The Straits Times

15 August 2022

From nasal vaccines to pills: The next defences against Covid

This article looks at several new COVID vaccination strategies in the pipeline.

Hannah Devlin

The Guardian

15 August 2022

Coronavirus: Marshall Islands declares health disaster as Covid spreads 'like wildfire'

A health disaster has been declared on the Marshall Islands after the fast-spreading Covid variant Omicron infected more than one-tenth of residents in the capital Majuro in one week.

AFP

South China Morning Post

15 August 2022

Artificial intelligence was supposed to transform health care. It hasn't.

Machine learning could improve medicine by analyzing data to improve diagnoses and target cures, but technological, bureaucratic, and regulatory obstacles have slowed progress.

Ben Leonard and Ruth Reader

Politico

15 August 2022

One Health: Why we need to combine disease surveillance and climate modelling to preempt future pandemics

This article argues that the answer to predicting and preempting future outbreaks and pandemics lies in a One Health approach.

Arindam Basu

The Conversation

15 August 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for patient safety: A rapid review

This review explores impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic did have on patient safety in terms of risks and avoidable harm, specifically in terms of diagnostic, treatment and care management related issues as well as highlights the main patterns of these implications within the broader health system context.

World Health Organization

2022

Innovation in diagnostics: Addressing gaps in low- and middle-income countries

This article argues that diagnostics research and development in low- and middle-income countries is one of the most neglected topics in global health.

Claudia Chamas et al.

Bulletin of the World Health Organization, Vol. 100, No. 8
2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Health Equity Panel

The discussion focused on actions the broader public health community and early career scientists can take to enhance equity and justice in global health research and practice.

Recorded Webinar

19 July 2022

WHO EPI-WIN Webinar: "How is Monkeypox Spreading? What we know so far"

This webinar provided an update on the monkeypox outbreak including protection, diagnosis, treatment.

Recorded Webinar

27 July 2022

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

'They are not slowing down': The rise of billion-dollar disasters

As climate change intensifies and the damage caused by disasters increases, governments are scrambling to reinforce and rebuild failing infrastructure. In the midst of this, the impact of these disasters often hit those who can least afford it.

Brady Dennis

The Washington Post

4 August 2022

Southeast Asia Flash Flood Guidance System launched

Covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, the Southeast Asia Flash Flood Guidance System has been officially launched. This regional centre will provide flashflood guidance, forecast data and training – all important in a region significantly affected by flooding.

World Meteorological Organization

10 August 2022

Policymakers and racial justice activists came together to discuss decolonising aid. Here's what happened...

As the issue of decolonisation becomes more prominent in the humanitarian sectors, discussions regarding the concept are emerging. In particular, there is a tension between two objectives: making aid better and ending aid altogether.

Heba Aly

The New Humanitarian

11 August 2022

Climate complacency is no option for defence and national security

Although awareness is growing of the effects of the climate crisis, if climate security is not quickly and adequately integrated into defence planning, resources could be diverted away from core defence functions as the climate crisis intensifies.

Alistair D.B Cook

IDSS Paper

12 August 2022

More than 140 aid workers killed in 2021 as crises soar worldwide

In 2021, more than 460 aid workers were victims of attacks with over 140 deaths. This represents the highest number of aid worker fatalities since 2013 with national staff particularly affected. With humanitarian needs at an all-time high, the danger is also increasing.

UNOCHA

12 August 2022

Increasing climate disasters could drive the EU to revamp its crisis response

With mounting calls for disaster assistance across Europe, it may be time for the EU to rework its emergency response framework, in particular the way resources are managed under RescEU.

Alexandra Brzozowski

Euractiv

12 August 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2022

This report provides a critical, system-wide and long-term overview of how financing has been organised and delivered to respond to crises.

Angus Urquhart et al.

Development Initiatives

2022

Multilateral development bank support for disaster-resilient infrastructure systems

This publication explores how multilateral development banks (MDBs) can help improve the resilience of infrastructure given increasing climate and disaster risks. It highlights opportunities in three areas: risk-informed planning, financing assistance, and knowledge building through regional and global networks.

Steven Goldfinch

Manila: Asian Development Bank

2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shocks to the System: Humanitarian Financing and Rising Needs

This webinar consisted of presentations on the latest trends in global humanitarian assistance from UN OCHA and DI, followed by a discussion bringing together representatives from across the humanitarian community.

Recorded Webinar

23 June 2022

IFRC Webinar - Climate, Environmental Crises and Humanitarian Action Day 1

This webinar discussed the following questions: What do environmental and climate crises mean for humanitarian work? How should we incorporate such considerations into resilience-building efforts? How can we avoid negative impacts to the environment when we conduct humanitarian activities?

Recorded Webinar

26 July 2022

MIGRATION

NEWS & COMMENTARIES

Is Ukraine the next tipping point for humanitarian aid reform?

Mega-crises such as the Ukraine war can provide an opportunity for reform. In this case, there are questions surrounding the relevance of neutrality concept, localisation and the operational standards of aid delivery to a largely middle class population.

Jessica Alexander

The New Humanitarian

25 July 2022

Q&A: The EU's 'racist' refugee system, and how to fix it

Europe's response to the Ukrainian refugees has highlighted the double standards in their arguments to justify policies regarding restricting migration from the Middle East, Africa, South Asia and elsewhere.

Eric Reidy

The New Humanitarian

26 July 2022

Human trafficking: 'All-out assault' on rights, safety and dignity, says UN chief

COVID-19 has increased people's vulnerability to human trafficking by using sophisticated technology to identify, track, control and exploit victims. Refugees and migrants are particularly vulnerable due to protection gaps on migration routes.

UN News

29 July 2022

For Asia's migrant workers, extreme heat is 'a matter of life and death'

As many parts of the world are experiencing dangerous levels of heat, migrant workers are more vulnerable due to their living and working conditions. This is also reflected in the widening gap between richer and poorer nations in access to convenient cooling systems.

Heather Chen

CNN

2 August 2022

Trafficking in tiers and fears

Although Thailand has moved upwards to Tier 2 in the recently released US Trafficking in Persons Report due to mechanisms such as a new trafficking victim identification centre and new guidelines to better protect survivors, more can be done.

Bangkok Post

7 August 2022

Bangladesh: 'Migrant-friendly' cities offer hope for climate refugees

The city of Mongla in Bangladesh is acting as a model for cities to adapt to climate change. As the climate crisis is poised to accelerate migration, Mongla has adopted ICCCAD's recommendations in an effort to provide sustainable employment to incoming migrants.

Catherine Davison

DW

11 August 2022

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Trafficking in persons report

This report looks at the state of human trafficking in the world. In particular, it provides an account of 188 countries' efforts to hold perpetrators accountable, provide survivors services, and prevent trafficking.

United States Department of State

2022

Return and reintegration key highlights 2021

As COVID-19 restricted global mobility around the world, returnees were severely affected. This report highlights some of the practices implemented by the IOM worldwide in 2021. It also provides an overview of regional and global trends in IOM-supported return and reintegration programmes.

International Organization for Migration
2022

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Far(ther) from home: Pathways to protection beyond the EU for those fleeing Ukraine

This webinar explored the political and technical aspects of pathways to protection in reference to Ukraine. In particular, it looks at the way in which countries beyond Europe have opened new migration channels and how this might look like in the long-term.

Recorded Webinar

6 July 2022

Migration Policy Centre Seminar Series 2022-23

The MPC seminar series aims to enhance understanding of new patterns and trends in migration and mobility and to examine the factors that shape them; as well as the factors that shape social, legal, political and economic responses to international migration in its various forms.

Seminar

16 September 2022 (deadline of submission of abstracts)