

TWG FCAS



September 2022

Introduction

Welcome to the 3rd newsletter of the *Thematic Working Group on Health Systems in Fragile and Conflict Affected Settings*, in short TWG FCAS!

Dear TWG FCAS members,

The TWG FCAS continues to grow in numbers, thanks to the multiple ways of engaging and communicating available for you, our valued members and this newsletter is one way of engaging and communicating with our membership. We continue to communicate via the [LinkedIn group](#) and the [Google Group](#) (Please join there if you have not yet done so!), this **newsletter** features 2 key events the TWG will organize prior and during the HSR2022 symposium. In this journey, the newsletter continues to serve as a way to make communication between members easier and encourage exchange, and we continue to seek your ideas, contributions, and suggestions to add value and make our next and subsequent **newsletters** relevant to you. Do get in touch with us, at twgfcas@gmail.com and twgfcascomms22@gmail.com

We hope you enjoy the reading!

From the team:

Enock - TWG FCAS Communications Coordinator

Egbert, Maria, Barbara, Ali and Sharon - TWG FCAS Steering Committee

HSR2022 Symposium

The HSR2022 symposium is taking place from 31 October to 4 November 2022, in Bogota, Colombia. More info and opportunity to register for live or virtual participation can be found [here](#).

Two specific events will be hosted by the TWG – FCAS during HSR2022, and we encourage you to take interest and participate in these important events for your TWG. One is to discuss content relevant to our TWG's mission, the other an opportunity to meet TWG FCAS members and discuss its future.

1. The **TWG -FCAS organised session** is scheduled for Thursday 3 November 14.00-15.30 Colombia time- (or 19.00-20.30 GMT) under the title **“Reducing conflict, confronting pressure: Health system and policy response to the humanitarian and health crises as a result of international migration in Latin America”**.

The session will discuss health system response and need for adaptation based on presentations of research conducted in three different settings: Mexico, Ecuador, and Colombia. The presentations will be followed by discussions with the audience and concluded by a reflection on international experiences with large numbers of migrants that make use of host-country health systems.

The session will also act as the kick-off of the theme we aim to address more widely over the coming year related to integration of migrants/refugees into local health systems.

Speakers during the organised session include:

- 1) Barbara Profeta, Chair (TWG FCAS, Niger/Switzerland)
- 2) Irene Torres, Fundación Octaedro, Ecuador
- 3) Daniel Lopez-Cevallos, University of Massachusetts Amherst, USA
- 4) Andrés Cubillos, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá, Colombia
- 5) Ietza Bojorquez, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, México

2. The **TWG-FCAS Business meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday 2 November 12.45-13.45 Columbia time- (or 17.45-18.45 GMT). Here existing and would-be members meet each other and members of the Steering Committee and Advisory Group. An overview of past achievements and current plans will be given. Input from members will be asked on the themes the TWG-FCAS should address in the coming two years and how the TWG can best fulfil members' needs.

Early 2023, a follow up to this meeting will be organised with all members in an online event.

The HSR2022 Symposium programme will soon be available [here](#).

Prior to the Symposium, we will share a list of those sessions and events that are relevant to the TWG-FCAS and may be of specific interest to our members.

HSG Statement on the situation with Visas for Colombia

With almost one month to go to the 7th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR 2022), the HSG is very disappointed to learn about the temporary shutdown of the online visa application portal by the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please consult the full [statement](#), with more background and implications of this shutdown.

Recent events and activities organised by members and stakeholders

- From LSHTM's Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, Palwasha Anwari, an LSHTM DrPH candidate, shares her views and personal experiences, one year since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan under the title "A year on from the Taliban takeover, what is the state of the health system in Afghanistan"? Commentary available [here](#)
- Michelle Lokot and Neha Singh, Co-Directors for the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, on World Humanitarian Day reflect on how the idea of humanitarian heroes persists. Further details available [here](#)

*Do you have ideas? Want to follow up on any of these activities and themes, or propose new ones?
Get in touch with us (twgfcas@gmail.com)*

Upcoming events

- 3rd Symposium on diabetes in humanitarian crises taking place from 20-21 October, 2022, in Kraków, Poland and further details available [here](#)
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health organises a series of four webinars on “One Year On: The Pervasive Health Challenges in Afghanistan”. The first webinar will take place 25th October and registration can be done [here](#).
- The fourth ‘**Research for Health in Syrian Conflict**’ Conference to be held at King’s College London and virtually in the week of the 21st of November 2022 and further details are available [here](#)
- Sexual and Reproductive Health in Epidemics: What can we do to protect women’s and girls’ health services in times of crisis event planned for 24 November 2022 from 17:30 – 19:00 UK time. The event will take place in Rose Room at LSHTM Keppel Street & online (TBA).

Opportunities

- The CDC-funded Afya Consortium is a multidisciplinary partnership between LSHTM in the UK; the Université Catholique de Bukavu in DRC, SIMAD University in Somalia, the Bridge Network Organisation in South Sudan, and the Youth Peer Education Network (Y-Peer) in Sudan. The consortium aims to identify crucial opportunities for methodological innovation in monitoring threats to public health and working with communities to strengthen their capacity. More details are available [here](#)

Publications by TWG FCAS members and collaborating partners

- A publication by Nigel Pearson (TWG-FCAS Advisory Group member) and colleagues on engaging faith communities in public health messaging in response to COVID-19: Lessons learnt from the pandemic in Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo available [here](#)
- Dr Muhammad Alkasaby, Research Fellow in Mental Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) publication on how to integrate mental health into outbreak response: five lessons from the COVID-19 response in Africa. Further details available [here](#)
- Francesco Checchi, Séverine Frison, Abdihamid Warsame, Kiross Tefera Abebe, Jasinta Achen, Eric Alain Ategbo, Mohamed Ag Ayoya, Ismail Kassim, Biram Ndiaye, Mara Nyawo. Can we predict the burden of acute malnutrition in crisis-affected countries? Findings from Somalia and South Sudan. BMC Nutrition, Volume 8, Article number: 92 (2022).
- Alena Kamenshchikova, Ioana Margineau, Shazia Munir, Felicity Knights, Jessica Carter, Ana Requena-Mendez, Yusuf Ciftci, Rosemary A James, Miriam Orcutt, Karl Blanchet, Apostolos Veizis, Bernadette Kumar, Teymur Noori, Sally Hargreaves. Health-care provision for displaced populations arriving from Ukraine. The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Volume 22, Issue 6.
- Jessica King, Pallavi Prabhakar, Neha Singh, Munshi Sulaiman, Giulia Greco, Sandra Mounier-Jack, Josephine Borghi. Assessing equity of access and affordability of care among South Sudanese refugees and host communities in two districts in Uganda: a cross-sectional survey. BMC Health Services, Research 22, no. 1 (2022): 1-12
- Katie Leach, Francesco Checchi. The utilisation of vaccines in humanitarian crises, 2015–2019: A review of practice. Vaccine, Volume 40, Issue 21
- Sally O’Brien, Margarita Marin Jaramillo, Bayard Roberts, Lucy Platt. Determinants of health among people who use illicit drugs in the conflict-affected countries of Afghanistan, Colombia and Myanmar:

a systematic review of epidemiological evidence. Conflict and Health, Volume 16, Article number: 39 (2022)

- Mariana Rodo, Diane Duclos, Jocelyn DeJong, C Akik, Neha S Singh. A systematic review of newborn health interventions in humanitarian settings. BMJ Global Health, Volume 7, Issue 7.

*Remember to share your publications, events and opportunities
with us to be featured in the newsletter!*

Leadership, management, and coordination

The TWG FCAS is managed by a Steering Committee made up of 5 members and supported by an expert advisory group made up of 7 members and a volunteer Communications Coordinator. More details are found [here](#).

Contact details

Members are welcome to contribute to the TWG with ideas or supporting specific activities and tasks.

Contact the Steering Committee at twgfcas@gmail.com