K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence summary No.7

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This is the 7th of a monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summary to signpost the FCDO and other UK government departments to the latest relevant evidence and discourse on humanitarian response to inform and support their response. It is a result of 1 day of work per month and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of available evidence but aims to make original documents easily accessible to decision-makers, which, if relevant to them, they could refer to before making decisions.

The scope of Humanitarian Evidence Summary includes emerging evidence on seven themes identified as priorities by the FCDO's Conflict Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE) team: enhancing protection and humanitarian access; needs assessment and analysis; accountability to affected populations; cash programming; managing risk, preparedness and anticipation; resilience and protracted crises; issues related to the Grand Bargain Commitments.

Enhancing protection and humanitarian access

The intersection of gender and disability: A primer for international development practitioners

| Gadnetwork | August 2020 | primer
https://gadnetwork.org/gadn-resources/the-intersection-of-gender-and-disability-a-primer-for-international-development-practitioners

The primer provides a concise overview of women and girls with disabilities in development, arguing that their needs are often overlooked. It outlines the barriers for women and girls with disabilities in society and in programmes in the following areas: education; sexual and reproductive health and rights; water, sanitation and hygiene; violence against women and girls; economic empowerment; participation, decision-making and leadership; and situations of risk and humanitarian crisis.

The brief also provides definitions, outlines the models for understanding PWD, including the social model supported by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (it seeks to remove social and cultural barriers to PWD participation in society, and often works with an approach that posits disability participation as a right), and useful references to further resources.

Twenty years on: International humanitarian law and the protection of civilians against the effects of cyber operations during armed conflicts

Laurent Gisel et al| International Review of the Red Cross | September 2020 | article
https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/twenty-years-ihl-effects-of-cyber-operations-during-armed-conflicts

Legal advisers from the ICRC outline the multilateral discussions on the legal framework regulating cyber operations in war, and the applicability of IHL. They note the increasing importance of cyber attacks. They argue that IHL certainly applies to cyber warfare, as to any other weapon or method of warfare. It outlines discussion on the thresholds for an attack to qualify as a international conflict and be subject to IHL; the difficulties of attributing cyber attacks; how an attack (rather than interference) is defined; and whether civilian data is protected; among other issues, noting relevant legal discussion and state positions.

International Cyber Law in Practice: Interactive toolkit

ICRC et al. | 2020 |toolkit
https://cyberlaw.ccdcoe.org/wiki/Main_Page

The toolkit has 19 hypothetical scenarios based on real-world cyber incidents, accompanied by legal analysis on how IHL applies.

It has been developed by the Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency (NÚKIB), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCD COE), the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, and Wuhan University, China.

MSF and kidnappings - the secrets and the dilemmas

Fabrice Weissman| MSF CRASH | September 2020 | blog
https://www.msf-crash.org/en/publications/war-and-humanitarianism/msf-and-kidnappings-secrets-and-dilemmas

This short blog outlines MSF's procedures and experiences for negotiating the release of its staff taken hostage. In most cases, MSF takes the lead in seeking release. MSF favours political pressure rather than ransoms, which raise legal, ethical and operational issues. However, it notes that no NGO has been prosecuted for paying a ransom, even though it could be taken as support to terrorism in many cases. It points to studies that have also shown that 'nationals of countries whose policy is not to negotiate are no less targeted than others', although their chances of survival are lower as they are less 'tradable'. However, MSF does not rule out payments. It argues that public communication can be effective in 'raising the stakes' to ensure kidnappers keep hostages alive and states help.

Data Environment Mapping To Assess The Mosaic Effect

Carol McInerney | Centre for Humdata | 28 September 2020 | blog
https://centre.humdata.org/data-environment-mapping-to-assess-the-mosaic-effect/

The author developed a data environment mapping tool to explore the issue of the 'mosaic effect' in humanitarian data (where identifying information about individuals can be deduced by comparing different data sets). The tool enables humanitarian organisations to assess their own data to see how the problem may affect them.

Needs assessment and analysis (including data)

COVID-19 and Violence against Women and Children: A Second Research Round Up

Amber Peterman and Megan O'Donnell | Center for Global Development | 23 September 2020 | article
https://www.cgdev.org/publication/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-and-children-second-research-round

The article reviews 44 studies in violence against women and children (VAWC) and covid-19, summarising methods and findings. More papers rely on respondent data than reported incidents than previous publications earlier in the year, leading to increased confidence in the findings. Overall they show that covid-19 policies are leading to increased VAWC. Some papers seek to understand how different forms of reporting impact the data, and a small number look at interventions to prevent VAWC.

Cox's Bazar Upazila profiles

ACAPS | September 2020 | report
https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/products/files/20200917_acaps_coxs_bazar_analysis_hub_upazila_profiles.pdf

Considers the 8 upazilas in Cox's Bazar district (ie not just the communities bordering the Rohingya camps). It is based on secondary data such as government censuses, humanitarian reports, and articles. For each upzila, it provides data on populations, poverty, literacy, food security and livelihoods, seasonal risks, and notes information gaps. It also discusses the emerging and likely effects of covid following lockdown.

The intergenerational impact of war on mental health and psychosocial wellbeing: lessons from the longitudinal study of war-affected youth in Sierra Leone

Theresa S. Betancourt et al. | Conflict and Health | 01 September 2020 | article
https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-020-00308-7

A longitudinal study of the mental health and wellbeing of male and female former child soldiers from 2002 to 2016-17. Information about exposure to war, psychosocial development, family relationships, community acceptance, access to skills, were also gathered. Findings included that lower levels of prosocial behaviour were associated with having killed or injured others; and those who had been raped exhibited heightened post-war anxiety and depression. Some initial correlations were found between parental emotion dysregulation and that of offspring. Contextual and individual factors influence resilience; more research is needed to understand these factors. The article also reflects on the practical and ethical challenges of conducting such research in humanitarian settings.

COVID-19 and its impact on persons with disabilities

Jess Markt | ICRC Law & Policy | 17 September 2020 | blog
https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2020/09/17/covid-19-disabilities/

Outlines the difficulties faced by persons with disabilities (PWD) in fragile and conflict areas. It notes that this is sometimes from a fear that disabilities are contagious, but often from assumptions that PWD must be protected, limiting their opportunities and dignity. The seclusion brought about by lockdowns and restrictions threatens to close doors that may only have recently opened for PWD. It argues that governments should continue inclusion efforts, and points to the ICRC/Adecco Career Development Programme (CDP) that helps PWD access the labour market.

Private Sector Data for Humanitarian Response: Closing the Gaps

Jos Berens | Bloomberg New Economy Forum | blog
https://www.neweconomyforum.com/news/private-sector-data-for-humanitarian-response/

Argues that humanitarian actors should make more use of private sector data, which is barely used in the humanitarian data exchange at the moment. The main barrier is privacy and data

ethics concerns. The blog argues that data sharing partnerships should therefore be created before emergencies so they can overcome such issues. It argues that private data organisations and humanitarian organisations should designate focal points who can share data in emergencies, and build trust; increase organisational buy-in; and negotiate governance and contracts in advance, citing Contracts for Data Collaboration as an example.

Accountability to affected populations

How to build a Humanitarian Response Plan that makes a difference: tips on accountability and cash

Sophie Tholstrup and Meg Sattler | CaLP | 23 September 2020 | blog
https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/how-to-build-a-humanitarian-response-plan-that-makes-a-difference-tips-on-accountability-and-cash/

The blog makes suggestions for improving accountability in HRPs. They include: perception indicators, making the whole organisation accountable (not just an accountability committee), assessment criteria for plans. It also includes recommendations on cash programming, including the centrality of cash working groups, market assessments should be built into humanitarian needs overviews, response analysis, plan for multipurpose cash, and coordinate with national safety nets.

Humanitarian Accountability Report 2020

CHS Alliance | 6 October 2020 | report
https://www.chsalliance.org/get-support/resource/har-2020/

Assesses how far aid organisations are meeting the CHS 9 commitments, scored between 0 and 4. Self-reported assessments, along with independent verifications and data on crisis-affected peoples' views from Ground Truth Solutions are used. The average scores for the 9 commitments are all between 2 and 3 (2 is ' Your organisation is making systematic efforts towards applying this requirement, but certain key points are still not addressed), with only 'commitment 5: welcomes and addresses complaints' scored lower (1.91). The report points to positive changes over time, but suggests that systemic change has still not been achieved. The report includes discussion of each of the commitments, as issues such as localisation and LGBT inclusion.

Syrians ask German prosecutors to look into chemical attacks

Reuters | 6 October 2020 | news
https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-syria-germany-chemicalweapons/syrians-ask-german-prosecutors-to-look-into-chemical-attacks-idUSKBN26R10I

A complaint has been filed by victims of chemical weapons attacks in Syria with Germany's public prosecutor. Germany has universal jurisdiction for crimes against humanity.

Cash programming (including links to social protection, but not core social protection)

Ugo Gentile blog

Ugo Gentile | 25 September 2020 | blog
https://www.ugogentilini.net/

Summary of recent evidence, including means testing v community targeting v food consumption scores; digital payments; cash in conflict; and links to employment schemes.

Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation (including risk financing, early warning/early action, predictive analytics etc

Catalogue of Predictive Models on the Humanitarian Sector

Centre for Humanitarian Data | ongoing | catalogue
https://centre.humdata.org/catalogue-for-predictive-models-in-the-humanitarian-sector/

Provides a list of the predictive models available, including descriptions, and the partners, sectors and geographical areas involved.

Predicting Food Crises

Bo Andree et al. | World Bank working paper | September 2020 | working paper
http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/304451600783424495/pdf/Predicting-Food-Crises.pdf

Shows how statistical models can effectively predict food crises. Data from FEWS NET from 2009 to 2020 in 21 developing countries is used alongside the Integrated Phase Classification system. Structural, environmental, conflict and food price inflation factors are used as covariates in their model. The model also includes the possibility of altering the tolerance for false positives and negatives. They argue that it is possible to use such methods to predict up to 12 months in advance.

An Agenda for Expanding Forecast-Based Action to Situations of Conflict

Marie Wagner and Catalina Jaime |GPPI | 22 September 2020 | Working paper
https://www.gppi.net/media/Wagner_Jaime_2020_Expanding-Forecast-Based-Action.pdf

Considers how Forecast-based Action (FbA) could be expanded to situations of conflict. It briefly outlines how FbA is undertaken for natural hazards before seeking to show how it can be applied in conflict. It suggests FbA in conflict falls into two categories: forecasts of natural hazards in conflict; and forecasts of conflict. Each category is analysed using the 'building blocks' of FbA:

data/forecasts and decision-making; actions; funding and funding mechanisms; champions; delivery channels. The report shows the 'knowns' and 'unknowns' in each case. It includes examples of where FbA can be expanded. It cautions that FbA implementers should remain conflict-sensitive and 'do no harm', but advocates for more use of FbA and investment.

Towards an International Architecture for Managing Global Threats

Humanitarian Futures/RUSI | September 2020 | project proposal
https://www.humanitarianfutures.org/towards-an-international-architecture-for-managing-global-threats-2/

The project aims to consider new international architecture to anticipate, monitor and mitigate global threats. Argues that ' there are few conceptual or operational initiatives that to date have captured the full range of plausible long-term global threats, their consequences and – most importantly -- ways to mitigate their effects'

Anticipatory Action In Bangladesh Before Peak Monsoon Flooding

Centre for Humanitarian Data | September 2020 | Blog
https://centre.humdata.org/anticipatory-action-in-bangladesh-before-peak-monsoon-flooding/

This impact story describes the use of HDX work to release funds for flooding in Bangladesh in July 2020 after certain triggers were hit. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund released funds more quickly than it had ever done before as part of a pilot. The Bangladesh pilot involved a two-step trigger system: a pre-activation trigger, based on the Eu Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS) forecast, and an activation trigger, based on the Government of Bangladesh's Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) forecast. HDX used historical flood data to test the models and produce estimates for appropriate triggers. Following GloFAS and FFWC triggers, funds were released. An evaluation is being undertaken. Similar frameworks are being developed by OCHA for other countries.

Resilience and protracted crisis (including forced displacement, nexus etc)

Synthesis of Evaluations in South Sudan: Lessons Learned for Engagement in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States

Logan Cochrane | Journal of Humanitarian Affairs | 21 September 2020 | article
https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/view/journals/jha/2/1/article-p21.xml#ref4_32

The article synthesises lessons learned in evaluation reports in South Sudan. Notes the variable quality, availability and methodological transparency of evaluations. Synthesis of the reports shows that lessons relevant to South Sudan programming include: a lack of rigorous data because of conflict and poor infrastructure, and calls for needs assessments and rigorous context analysis; the need for systems thinking and theories of change; a lack of data on gender;

the need to consider seasonality; the need for flexible programming; a need for better communication with government, more collaboration between NGOs, and greater alignment with the government; the need for long-term commitment to ensure sustainability gains; the need for long-term plans to build capacity and move programmes to government control; and a need to acknowledge trade-offs and dilemmas.

Other articles include:

- A framework of indicators that can be used to measure effectiveness in humanitarian civil–military engagements (https://doi.org/10.7227/JHA.029);
- An analysis of humanitarian security policies with respect to aid worker safety based on interviews (https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/view/journals/jha/2/1/article-p11.xml). It notes efforts to seek legal accountability, engage in advocacy, use 'red lines', as well as protection and risk management approaches.
- An analysis of 'building back better' and 'building back safer' in recovery efforts after typhoons Haityn and Haima in the Philippines, and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal (https://www.manchesteropenhive.com/view/journals/jha/2/1/article-p35.xml#affiliation0).

The Currency of Connections: Why Do Social Connections Matter for Household Resilience in South Sudan?

Jeeyon Kim et al. | Mercy Corps | August 2020 | report
https://fic.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/CoC-Final-Report-to-share-1.pdf

The report seeks to consider how social connectedness can be used in programme cycles. Social connections are widely shown to be a key source of resilience in emergencies, but may favour some over others. Based on research with IDP and host communities in South Sudan and Uganda (929 households), and using interviews and household surveys. Its findings included that households helped each other during hard times, but that the violation of certain norms could see a household excluded from support; levels of connectedness varied by age, gender, wealth, livelihood, etc.; households share aid; aid, especially cash, can disrupt social connections and create tensions.

Monthly Update of Forced Displacement Literature Review

Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement | August 2020 | report
https://www.jointdatacenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/07-Literature-Review.pdf

Surveys recent publications including the 2020 Global Report on Internal Displacement with global and national statistics for 2019, and lessons learned; UNHCR data on forced displacement in 2019; an analysis of Covid-19 symptoms and risk factors among refugee's in Cox's Bazaar; Covid-19 challenges facing Rohingya in Bangladesh; a World Bank report on jobs interventions for IDPs; reports on estimating poverty among refugees; the economic impact of Syrians in Turkey; migration patterns in Libya; the long-term effects of migration barriers in Germany since WW2; analysis of the effect of aid on anti-refugee violence in Lebanon.

When Disaster Meets Conflict

International Institute of Social Studies | 14 October 2020 | online webinar
https://www.kuno-platform.nl/events/online-conference-when-disaster-meets-conflict-lessons-on-disaster-governance-and-humanitarian-action/

A webinar discussing findings from research on the nexus between humanitarian aid and disaster governance. Case studies were done in high-conflict settings in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Yemen; in low-intensity conflict settings in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Myanmar, and in post-conflict settings in Nepal, Sierra Leone and Haiti.

States of fragility 2020

OECD | 2020 | Report
https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/states-of-fragility-2020
The report shows that extremely fragile contexts have fallen further behind in SDGs. Nicaragua, Togo, Lesotho and Cambodia have entered the index; Egypt, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Malawi and Rwanda have left the index.

Early evidence suggests covid-19 is worsening fragile context. The report notes the likely negative effect of covid, including that 'early projections suggest that the pandemic will result in 26 million additional people falling into extreme poverty by the end of 2020 in fragile contexts', and is likely to affect women and children worse. Covid is likely to aggravate multidimensional risks

The rhetoric and reality of localisation: refugee-led organisations in humanitarian governance

Kate Pincock et al. | Journal of Development Studies | 21 September 2020 | article
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00220388.2020.1802010

Refugee-led organisations (RLOs) provide much help to refugees but rarely get international recognition or funding. The article is based on ethnographic fieldwork in Uganda, which shows that as the country has no localisation policy, RLOs are often excluded in practice.

Help-seeking, trust and intimate partner violence: social connections amongst displaced and non-displaced Yezidi women and men in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq

Alison Strang et al. | Conflict and Health | September 2020 | article
https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-020-00305-w

Provides an analysis of social trust with respect to help for women victims of violence among Yezidi populations in Iraq. The research used focus groups and interviews with displaced and

settled Yezidis. It seeks to map where help is sought and trust is highest, to understand coping strategies and barriers to offering help. It showed that God, followed by family and community, were the most trusted sources of help. NGOs were the least. It also shows trust varies by types of help, with differences between emotional support and practical solutions. Argues that a faith-sensitive approach is therefore needed from NGOs.

Other - Grand Bargain etc

Look back and learn: Notable humanitarians who took sides

Hugo Slim | The New Humanitarian | 22 September 2020 | opinion article
https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2020/09/22/humanitarians-who-took-sides

Slim argues the neutrality is not necessary to good humanitarian work - it is neither required in IHL, feasible in many contexts, or always ethically desirable (https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2020/08/27/humanitarian-principles-neutrality). He provides examples of the British nurse Edith Cavell, Swiss rescuers of Jews in WW2, the humanitarian wing of the Tigray People's Liberation Front, and Egyptian medicals in the Arab Spring.

Resource Hubs

Johns Hopkins Humanitarian Health Digest, January-June 2020
http://hopkinshumanitarianhealth.org/assets/documents/HHD_1H_20201.pdf

IDMC Internal Displacement Updates
https://www.internal-displacement.org/#Internal_Displacement_Updates

ACAPS Crisis in Sight
https://www.acaps.org/countries

CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions
https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/cva-and-covid-19-resources-guidance-events-and-questions/

IASC: COVID-19 Outbreak Readiness and Response guidance
https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/covid-19-outbreak-readiness-and-response

OCHA
COVID19 Resource Material
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/clusters/covid19-resource-material

Humanitarian Data Exchange: COVID-19 Pandemic in Locations with a Humanitarian Response
https://data.humdata.org/event/covid-19

Humanitarian Data Exchange: Government Measures Dataset

https://data.humdata.org/dataset/acaps-covid19-government-measures-dataset

IEG Lesson Library: Evaluative Resources and Evidence to inform the COVID-19 Response
https://ieg.worldbank.org/topic/covid-19-coronavirus-response

Relief Web: regional topic pages for Covid-19
https://reliefweb.int/blogpost/reliefweb-launches-regional-covid-19-topics-pages

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Methodology

Given the wide range of topics covered, this monthly summary includes guidelines, blogs, news articles, dashboards, data, and editorials, in addition to policy and academic literature. The sources included are found through searches of academic literature, humanitarian think tanks, resource hubs and NGO websites. The searches are restricted to articles published in the previous month, in English. This is complemented by email recommendations from DFID advisors and leading experts. This is trial and error approach, which will be refined and changed over the coming weeks. If you have literature to include in the weekly summary, please email – luke.kelly@manchester.ac.uk.

About this report

This monthly humanitarian evidence summary is based on one day of desk-based research. The K4D research helpdesk provides rapid syntheses of a selection of recent relevant literature and international expert thinking in response to specific questions relating to international development. For any enquiries, contact helpdesk@k4d.info.

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