K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence summary No.8

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This is the 8th monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summary (HUMES) to signpost FCDO and other UK government departments to the latest relevant evidence and discourse on humanitarian action to inform and support their response. It is the result of 1 day of work per month and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of available evidence on humanitarian action but aims to make original documents easily accessible to decision-makers which, if relevant to them, they could refer to before making decisions.

Enhancing protection and humanitarian access

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
	Fully revised code of conduct on using UAVs in humanitarian action	We Robotics and Harvard Humanitarian Initiative	A draft version of the code, asking for feedback by January 2021.	
14 October	What is Externalization and Why is it a Threat to Refugees?	Jeff Crisp; Chatham House; Blog	Outlines the 'externalisation' policies of many Western countries whereby asylum seekers are intercepted then detained in offshore locations. It argues that such policies are a way to avoid obligations in international law, and that they encourage the use of human smugglers.	
November	Protracted conflict	International Review of the Red Cross, No. 912	Articles examine protracted conflict and: -the effect on individuals across	⭐

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			a lifetime; -engaging with NSAGs; IDPs in Iraq; infrastructure; discussion of the nexus; and IHL.	
	IHL in Action	ICRC; Case study database	New case studies include detainee exchange agreements in Yemen; child soldiers in the DRC; AMISOM and POC in Somalia.	
5 November	COVID-19 vaccines and IHL: ensuring equal access in conflict-affected countries	ICRC; blog	The blog suggests that people living in conflict zones may not get equal access to any covid-19 vaccine, and argues that IHL should be a key tool in facilitating access for conflict-affected populations. It therefore outlines the obligations within IHL regarding the prevention of communicable disases in conflict, as well as human rights law. It also emphasises that health workers are protected from attack under IHL.	
October	Global Risk Analysis	ACAPS; report	Identifies **high risks** in Lebanon/Syria (socio-economic), Haiti (hurricane season), Yemen (inflation) and Sudan (economic crisis); **medium** in Cameroon (violence and IDPs), CAR (armed groups), Lesotho (covid mitigation measures) and Venezuela (migration to Colombia); and **low** in Myanmar (conflict between NSAGs and state forces).	

Needs assessment and analysis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
October 2020	Disability inclusion in humanitarian action	ODI HPG; Humanitarian Exchange; journal issue	Discusses the barriers to inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD), including analysis of programmes in Nigeria, Cox's Bazaar, organisational approaches (the IRC, Islamic Relief, CAFOD, DFID); the importance of training in local languages; the importance of data.	
	Images from above: A review	IFRC; website	The resource looks at how aerial assessment has been used and can	

			be improved. It outlines the technologies used, and the uses (context awareness, rapid situational awareness, media coverage; monitoring of slow onset disasters; identifying critical incidents; inspecting difficult-to-access locations, among others). **Challenges** include the need to get information quickly in disasters; the need for community engagement and permission; the costs of buying and transferring images, and the skills needed to interpret them; limits on infrastructure availability (e.g. planes, drones); lack of co-ordination between organisations; and linking the data to decision-making.	
14 October	Food security and mental health under the Covid-19 syndemic	Joseph Burke, Dr. Shaher Abdulateef, Prof. Lisa Boden and Dr. Clara Calia; Humanitarian Practice Network; blog	Summarises Edinburgh University research on the links between food security, covid-19 and mental health. It argues that covid is a syndemic (characterised by 'biological and social interactions between conditions and states, interactions that increase a person's susceptibility to harm or worsen their health outcomes') and is exacerbating the already high prevalence of mental health problems among Syrians in Syria and abroad. It argues for responses that connect sectors, and using Syrian researchers more.	

Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
October 2020	Collective approaches to risk communication and community engagement in the Ebola	Anne-Lise Dewulf, Antoine Mushagalusa Ciza, Léon Irenge, Emmanuel Kandate and Véronique Barbelet; ODI HPG; Report	Finds that there was limited progress on a collective approach to risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) in the 2018 Ebola outbreak in the DRC. Argues that more focus should be put on RCCE and coordination between NGOs, local actors, state bodies.	

	response in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo			
October 2020	Collective approaches to communication and community engagement Models, challenges and ways forward	Kerrie Holloway, Veronique Barbelet, Amanda Gray Meral, Oliver Lough, Alexandra Spencer; ODI HPG; Report	The report analyses current use of collective communication and engagement (CCE), finding that implementation has been 'sporadic' so far. It identifies the following barriers: 'collective approaches to CCE are not understood in the same way by all stakeholders; they lack buyin at the leadership level; they lack access to predictable funding; and they are not well informed by existing local CCE practices, in large part because they fail to adequately involve local actors'. Based on a desk-review, key informant interviews, and case studies (published separately), the study discusses the terminology, different models of CCE, and principles for successful CCE.	
October 2020	Funding collective approaches to communication and community engagement in humanitarian action	Oliver Lough and Alexandra Spencer; ODI	Seeks to understand why collective communication and community engagement (CCE) struggles to secure enough funding. Based on document analysis and interviews, the report outlines the costs of different models and components of CCE; issues in the funding landscape; and considers current funding modalities.	⭐

Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
22 October	Value for Money for whom? Insights into the recipients' perspective	Birte Vogel; ALNAP; blog based on earlier report.	Considers whether value for money (vfm) can include views of recipients based on research in Colombia, Jordan, Kenya and Turkey. Findings include that difficulty of making sure the money met needs, especially when integrated in national social protection systems; the variability of direct and indirect 'cash out costs' (e.g. rural and urban); the benefits and risk of single payment instruments; the need for good communication.	
30 October	Weekly Social Protection Links	Ugo Gentilini; blog	Summary of recent evidence including on How to adapt cash transfers design parameters in crisis situations; the impact of C19 on food prices; and others.	
26 October	Is cash transforming the humanitarian system or is the system limiting how cash is used?	Sophie Tholstrup and Jose Jodar	Discusses recent evidence of the use of cash transfers demonstrating their value in allowing recipients to meet their needs, in the light of the main barrier to CVA: lack of agreement on cash coordination between donors. Significant change in the humanitarian system will be required.	⭐
6 November	Children on the Move : Progressive Redistribution of Humanitarian Cash Transfers among Refugees	Berk Ozler et al.; World Bank; Working Paper	A review of the ESSN in Turkey. Findings include that: -'the programme quickly caused substantial changes in household size and composition, with a net movement of primarily school-age children from larger ineligible households to smaller eligible ones' -Improvements in food consumption. -gains in school enrolment among most vulnerable beneficiaries.	

Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
15 October 2020	Why COVID-19 must reshape global crisis funding	Jan Egeland; World Economic Forum; blog	Finds that covid-19 funds have done little do address the economic shocks. Currently, 'flexible funds remain a marginal portion of funding'. Argues that the system should be fundamentally reshaped with more focus on preparedness for systemic shocks.	
28 October	OCHA-Bucky: A COVID-19 Model To Inform Humanitarian Operations	HDX; blog	The model, OCHA-Bucky, orecasts the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths over two or four weeks, at the subnational and national levels. It notes that short-term projections, regularly updated, are most helpful. Projections for Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan using OCHA data. The code and methods are available.	

Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
September	Monthly Update of Forced Displacement Literature Review	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement; Literature review	Papers summarised include a CGD report on the impact of c-19 on economic inclusion; labour markets; housing; education; effect on host economies; targeting aid.	
October	Monthly update of forced displacement literature review	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement; Literature review	Papers summarised include: analysis of the effect of peacekeepers on displacement in South Sudan; survey data on the living conditions of Afghan returnees; how big data can inform migrant policy in Ecuador; the role of Venezuelan migrants in the	

			Ecuadorian market; labour market integration of Syrians in Jordan; the impact of covid-19 on forcible displacement in developing countries; refugee inclusion in the World Bank's covid-19 response; the effect of refugees on vegetation in Africa; School participation of Syrian children in Lebanon; the effect of economic transfers to refugees in Ecuador on cohesion.	
9 October	Understanding the social processes underpinning child marriage: The impact of protracted displacement in Lebanon on Syrian refugees	Terre des hommes	A small study based on 10 interviews with married Syrian refugee girls to understand the experiences and dynamics of child marriage, and the effect of displacement	
25 October	Thematic focus: Rohingya crisis	Forced Migration Current Awareness Blog	A summary of recent blogs and articles on the Rohingya crisis.	
November	Recognising refugees: challenges and innovations in refugee status determination	Forced Migration Review, issue 65	Articles discuss refugee status determination (RSD) systems in different contexts. There are also articles on the 2018–20 GP20 Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for IDPs.	
September 2020	Paradoxes in livelihood interventions A synthesis of evidence from selected conflict-affected areas in Africa and Asia	Vagisha Gunasekara	The research uses case studies in Afghanistan, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uganda. It finds 4 livelihood strategies: migration for work; self-employment; casual wage labour; borrowing or debt. It shows how: '-violence and destruction of public infrastructure weaken the capacity of governments to ensure security,	⭐

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			provide basic services and collect taxes. -Conflicts disrupt production patterns, at times inducing a forced seizure of land from communities, displacing them from existing arrangements. -Conditions of war and conflict also modify the functioning of socio-cultural structures upon which local economies are built, creating conditions in which assets are transferred to power brokers and their allies in a given locality.'	
21 October	Triple Nexus In South Sudan	Martin Quack und Ralf Südhoff; Centre for Humanitarian Action; Report.	A case study of the feasibility of nexus approaches in South Sudan. It argues that a number of factors make it possible to implement the triple nexus in South Sudan, such as positive perceptions of the nexus at a local level; the presence of local peace actors, the possibility of linking 'conflict levels'; and notes that humanitarian actors do not consider compromising humanitarian principles to be a risk in this context	

Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
October	Covid-19: tracking local humanitarian action and complementary partnerships	ODI; webpage	A tool mapping examples of local action and partnerships in different countries.	
20 October	COVID-19 and BLM: A New Era for Aid? Rethinking Humanitarianism Episode 1	Heba Aly and Jeremy Konyndyk; Center for Global Development and the New Humanitarian; Podcast.	Discussion of covid-19, Black Lives Matter and changing the aid sector.	

22 October	Alphabetical list of concepts	Humanitarian Encyclopaedia	Links to 'a collaborative effort to come up with a standard set of explanations to common concepts in the field of humanitarian action'.	
9 October	Unsettled authority and humanitarian practice: reflections on local legitimacy from Sierra Leone's borderlands	Luisa Enria; Oxford Development Studies	The initial response to Ebola saw 'culture' (e.g. around burial rites) as an obstacle to an effective public health effort that could be overcome with better communication. However, this view 'failed to take into account the social, political and economic factors that structured collective and individual experiences of the outbreak and its control measures'. The response later aimed to win 'buy in' from community leaders. However, the understanding of local leadership as 'traditional' and static 'could not effectively take into account how power dynamics and the legitimacy of local leadership were contested, re-negotiated and produced, including through community engagement efforts and Ebola regulations themselves'.	
October	Network Analysis of Actors Working to Support Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in the Philippines	Harvard Humanitarian Initiative/Root Change; Report	Report of a network analysis of actors working to support disaster preparedness and resilience in the Philippines. Findings indicate that there are many local actors working in distinct groups isolated from the larger system. International actors and government 'were found to be helping to connect local organizations within the larger disaster preparedness and resilience system'. However, this meant that local actors were often reliant on international actor, who should work to help improve connectivity between local actors. Relationships were mainly one-way rather than recipircol.	

October	Field Exchange, issue 63	Field Exchange; journal	The issue is focused on child wasting in South Asia. There are 25.1 million wasted children in the region.	

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
Covid-19 Platform: Temporary Measures and Impact on Protection	UNHCR	Global overview of covid-related restrictions to access for asylum seekers.
IDMC Internal Displacement Updates	Internal displacement monitoring centre	Global data on internal displacement
ACAPS Crisis in Sight	ACAPS	Global overview of crisis, including covid and conflict; as well as access constraints.
CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions	CaLP	Guidance and resources on covid and cash transfers
IASC: COVID-19 Outbreak Readiness and Response guidance	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	IASC principles and protocols adapted to covid-19
OCHA COVID19 Resource Material	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	A wide range of guidance and resources from WHO, IASC, the EU, IFRF and others, as well as country-specific information.
Humanitarian Data Exchange: COVID-19 Pandemic in Locations with a Humanitarian Response	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	Global data on infections and deaths; a list of data sets on cases and prevention/mitigation measures.
Humanitarian Data Exchange: Government Measures Dataset	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	Global data on government covid-19 measures under 5 categories: Social distancing; Movement restrictions; Public health measures; Social and economic measures; Lockdowns.

IEG Lesson Library: Evaluative Resources and Evidence to inform the COVID-19 Response	World Bank Independent Evaluation Group	A library of Evaluative Resources and Evidence to inform the COVID-19 Response
Relief Web: regional topic pages for Covid-19 and global topic pages	Relief Web	Regional and global reports and resources on humanitarian needs and response.
IASC Accountability and Inclusion Resources Portal	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	A library of resources on accountability and inclusion.

Suggested citation

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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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