K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence summary No.10

Luke Kelly
University of Manchester
06 January 2021

This is the 10th 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 that, 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
December 2020	Humanitarian Access Overview	ACAPs; report	An update of ACAPs monitoring of access constraints. There are 'extreme constraints' to access in Eritrea, Libya, Syria and Yemen, 'very high' constraints in 13 countries, and 'high constraints' in a further 17 countries.	
9 December 2020	Will the COVID-19 vaccine ever reach forcibly displaced populations?	Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies at the University of Geneva, and the Center for Humanitarian Health at	1 hour webinar on the covid-19 vaccine and forcibly displaced populations.	⭐

		the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; webinar		
13 December 2020	'Sea of Blood': The Intended and Unintended Effects of the Criminalisation of Humanitarian Volunteers Rescuing Migrants in Distress at Sea	Eleanor Gordon and Henrik Kjellmo Larsen; Disasters; journal article	Argues that criminalising search and rescue (SAR) operations in the Mediterranean increases the commitment of volunteers. Based on interviews with volunteers in Greece. Criminalisation also has the effect of making passage less safe as SAR operations are reduced by regulations and declining funds.	
December 2020	Experiences and investigations of extreme violence	Journal of Humanitarian Affairs; journal issue	Articles explore issues including data on attacks on healthcare in Syria, how MSF conducted operations in Syria, and the brokerage role and risks faced by local staff employed by MSF in the DRC.	
December 2020	Inviting non-state armed groups to the table Inclusive strategies towards a more fit for purpose international humanitarian law	Ezequiel Heffes and Jonathan Somer; ODI; briefing note.	Argues that non-state armed groups (NSAGs) should be involved in humanitarian norm development. The authors propose a model for NSAG involvement, based on levels of participation: inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower. Provides examples of where NSAGs have participated.	

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
30 December 2020	Video – 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2021	International Crisis Group; video	A 5-minute video covering Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sahel, Venezuela, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, the US/Iran, Russia/Turkey, and the issue of climate change and conflict.	
10 December 2020	Regulating Humanitarian Governance: Humanitarianism and the 'Risk Society'	Stuart Gordon; Politics and Governance; Journal article	Argues that bank counter-terror 'de-risking' practices and NGO risk management are distorting patterns of humanitarian assistance. Interviews of Syrian, Islamic and US and European NGOs working in Syria were used to demonstrate less engagement by banks with NGOs working in Syria, particularly affected Islamic and smaller NGOs.	

Needs assessment and analysis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
December 2020	Independent Review of Individual Donor Assessments in Humanitarian Operations	Alexander Gaus et al.; Global Public Policy Institute; review	Analyses assessments conducted by OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and the ICRC between 2016 and 2019 in the light of grand bargain commitment 4.5 to spend more aid on affected people. It finds that donors have failed to reduce the number of individual assessments as a whole, with only 2% jointly	

			conducted. Domestic accountability and reduced multilateralism are the main reasons for this trend. However, assessments can lead to learning and change.	

Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
December 2020	Perception survey of aid recipients in Somalia	Ground Truth Solutions; report.	The results of a survey in September 2020 showed that more information on how to access aid and healthcare was needed; CVA and remittance incomes have declined; most felt aid providers treated them with respect, although many did not believe aid agencies took their views into account. Most felt that aid was distributed fairly.	

Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
18 December 2020	Top Papers of the Year 2020!	Ugo Gentilini blog	Highlights from 2020 including papers on cash transfers and covid-19; labour markets; displacement and humanitarian assistance; and other topics.	
December 2020	Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence Risk Mitigation in Cash and Voucher Assistance	Maya Tonning; Gender and Cash Sub-Workstream; case study	Reports on Oxfam's Unblocked Cash project in Vanuatu, which used blockchain to provide vouchers for an area not fully monetised. It was developed in response to Cyclone Harold and Covid-19. Discusses how the project sought to target women and reduce the risks of gender based violence.	

Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
December 2020	2020 Hindsight? The Ecosystem of Humanitarian Diagnostics and Its Application to Anticipatory Action	Eric Lentz et al.; Feinstein International Centre; Report	It highlights persistent difficulties in implementing early warning systems (e.g. poor sharing, late information, biases, political influence, and difficulties linking to action). It outlines changes to humanitarian diagnostics over the past few decades. It discusses ways to more effectively use early warning systems.	⭐

Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
July 2020	Preventing and Mitigating Indirect Health Impacts of COVID 19 on Displaced Populations in Humanitarian Settings	Ling San Lau et al.; Building the Evidence on Protracted Forced Displacement: A Multi-Stakeholder Partnership; knowledge brief	The brief outlines indirect health effects of the covid-19 pandemic, as well as indirect health effects of previous epidemics. These include shocks to the health system and the effects of lockdowns. Lessons include maintaining essential health services; engaging displaced populations; seeking to avoid unintended consequences from disease prevention measures through contextual understanding. It highlights the unique impacts on displaced populations and suggests strategies for service delivery, support of health workforce, financing, governance and engagement strategies.	
12 December 2020	Highly vulnerable yet largely invisible Forcibly displaced in the COVID-19-induced recession	Tara Vishwanath et al.; Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement; literature review.	The paper reviews the evidence on the economic effects of covid-19 on the forcibly displaced, finding a significant impact. Although there is limited data on livelihoods of the forcibly displaced, but evidence suggests high levels of vulnerability and likely shocks due to falls in remittances, reliance on aid and other factors.	⭐
17 December	Multi-Sector Market	UNHCR; guidance	Step-by-step guidance on making market	

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
2021	Assessment Guidance and Toolkit	document	assessments, with examples, to inform programme design.	
December 2020	Lessons learned: responding to disaster displacement in the time of covid-19	Manuela Kurkaa; Internal displacement monitoring centre; blog	It outlines methods used to protect against covid-19 spread when dealing with disaster displacement, including testing, sanitation and shelter.	
18 December 2020	What we got wrong about COVID-19 and refugees	Jan Egeland; Al Jazeera; blog	Argues that the spread of covid-19 in among displaced people has been kept low and health systems have not been strained, but the economic effects on displaced people are significant.	⭐

Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
18 December 2020	Responding to Ebola epidemics: an ALNAP lessons paper	G. Lamoure and H. Juillard; ALNAP	The paper reviews lessons for humanitarian response derived from the Ebola response in the DRC from 2017 to 2020. It is divided into lessons on WASH; health communication and community engagement; effects of Ebola response on non-health issues; and coordination and funding.	

Date	Title	Source	Summary	
10 December 2020	It's time to invest for the 21st century and repurpose humanitarian bureaucracies	Hugo Slim; Humanitarian Practice Network; blog	Argues that donors should switch funding from the big humanitarian bureaucracies (UNOCHA, UNHCR and ICRC) to civil society organisations, mutual aid groups and local government departments. He argues that this is particularly relevant given the importance of covid-19 vaccination; the ability to base action on climate change on community action built for covid-19; using a global vaccination platform as a network for social protection for the climate crisis.	
9 December 2020	Money Talks: Rethinking Humanitarianism Episode 5	Jeremy Konydyk and Heba Aly; The New Humanitarian	Discusses financing models.	⭐
4 January 2021	Aid policy trends to watch in 2021	Ben Parker and Jessica Alexander; The New Humanitarian; article	Discusses 4 trends to watch for 2021: the intersection of state safety nets and humanitarian aid; global multilateralism; diversity, equity and inclusion; and whether the humanitarian system will improve its forecasting and preparations capacities for mega-crises.	
December 2020	Responsible approaches to data sharing	UNOCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data; guidance note	Discusses ways to share humanitarian data. It also outlines the dangers of sharing some types of	

			non-personal data.	
29 December 2020	What natural disasters cost the global economy in 2020	Tim McDonnell; Quartz; blog	A short blog using data from the insurers Swiss Re, and Christian Aid, to estimate the costs of disasters in 2020 at $175 billion globally. Most of the damage caused by disasters in low-income countries was not insured.	

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
Covid-19 and Humanitarian Crises	Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health, Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and the University of Geneva	Website for the exchange of field-based COVID-19 programme adaptations and innovations.
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,	CaLP	Guidance and resources on covid

events and questions		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

Kelly, L. (2020). *Monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summary No.10.* K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

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