



Humanitarian evidence summary


No.13

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This is the 13th 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
18 March 2021	Understanding the New U.S. Terrorism Designations in Africa	Crisis Group; report	The US has designated the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the DRC, and Ahlu Sunna Wal Jammah (ASWJ) in Mozambique as terrorist organisations. The report provides contextual information on the groups aims and tactics and suggests links with ISIS are weak. It suggests the designation may lead humanitarian agencies to shrink from giving aid in regions where the groups operate, or for government officials to be wary of helping the groups participate in peace processes, for fear of counter-terrorism	

			prosecution. The approach may also encourage a militarised approach to the groups, and neglect root causes of the insurgencies.	
March 2021	ACLED 2020: the year in review	ACLED; annual data summary	Findings include that conflict levels fell overall, although they rose in around half of the countries in the world - a similar finding applies for civilian targeting. Conflicts continued in Syria, Yemen, Ukraine, Afghanistan and Mexico, among others. The activity of 'identity militias' increased. Demonstrational also increased. The report combines statistics on conflict events, the actors involved, as well as analysis of specific countries.	
30 March 2021	The 'fog of war'...and information & Digital Dilemmas Debate #3: Information disorder and conflict - the humanitarian dimension	Sandrine Tiller et al; ICRC Law & Policy blog	Argues that humanitarian actors have a 'blind spot' for misinformation, disinformation and hate speech (MDH) in the developing world. It can undermine humanitarian response and compromise safety. Calls for more discussion and research in the sector and among other actors such as tech companies.	
March 2021	Alarm Phone Report: One year of pushbacks and	Alarm Phone; report	A report on attacks on migrants in the Aegean Sea and Evros/Meric land	


	systematic violence in the Aegean region		border between February 2020 and March 2021.	
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Needs assessment and analysis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
March 2021	Seeing in the Dark: Real-Time Monitoring in Humanitarian Crises	Daniel Maxwell et al; Tufts Feinstein Centre; report	Outlines the functions of real-time monitoring (RTM) systems in humanitarian action, the key issues (e.g. linking data to analysis and action). Shows that RTM is possible in complex crises, and is adding value to humanitarian response. Includes 9 case studies.	
March 2020	Transforming Livelihood Systems: Meeting needs in a changing world	Merry Fitzpatrick et al; Feinstein International Centre; report	Summarises research on changing farming, agro-pastoralist and pastoralist livelihoods in Darfur, Sudan.	
24 Feb 2021	Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity	FAO/WFP; report	Projections of food insecurity for the next 6 months. Insecurity will be driven by 'conflict dynamics, economic shocks, the socio-economic impacts of COVID19, weather extremes and the diffusion of plant pests and animal diseases'. Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the	


			<p>Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Nigeria, the Sudan, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Zimbabwe are particularly at risk.</p>
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Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
23 Feb 2021	Social protection during conflict: reflections on Tigray	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Jeremy Lind; Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) Research programme; blog	<p>Outlines the difficulties of implementing a shock responsive social protection programme during conflict, using the example of Tigray. Most successful shock responses have built on social protection programmes, of which Tigray has a high-performing example. However, the conflict has displaced administrative personnel, shut shops used to provide payments and disrupted markets, curtailing social protection significantly. The destruction of assets, loss of harvests etc are greater than gains built up by social protection programmes over the last 15 years.</p>	
March 2021	Data responsibility toolkit: a guide	CaLP; toolkit	A toolkit on data responsibility.	

	for cash and voucher practitioners			
March 2021	Case study: responsible data sharing with governments	CaLP; case study.	Suggests strategies for CVA actors to mitigate potential harms from sharing CVA beneficiary data with governments.	
March 2021	CVA and health: Case studies from Jordan, Burkina Faso and Bangladesh	CaLP; case studies	Case studies on the effect of CVA on health outcomes in these contexts.	

Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
March 2021	Chiefs' Courts, Hunger, and Improving Humanitarian Programming in South Sudan	Chris Newton et al, Conflict Research Programme report.	Noting that humanitarian information systems frequent fail to provide timely early warning for famines in South Sudan, the report considers the potential for chiefs' courts to provide additional information. The courts are the most common legal institution in the country and claimants bring hunger-related cases during times of food insecurity. They can thus provide insights on real-time conditions, vulnerabilities and distribution systems. It compares data from	


			household surveys with data from courts, and shows that courts provided detailed and precise profiles of household food security.	
	<p>Connecting With Confidence</p> <p>Managing Digital Risks to Refugee Connectivity</p>	UNHCR report.	The report outlines digital risks that refugees and other crisis-affected people may be subject to. Connectivity initiatives can be very positive for these groups. However, refugees have little means to protect against digital threats (such as hacking and surveillance). 80 interviews with refugees and some host community members in Kenya and Uganda as well as observations were used to understand digital use.	
24 March 2021	Approaches to 'vulnerability' in eight European disaster management systems	Kati Orru et al; Disasters; journal article.	Chart different approaches to disaster vulnerability in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Estonia. Notes differences between categorical and contextualised approaches. Sources of vulnerability are typically seen as: individual capacities, communication behaviour and social networks, but rarely seen as triggered by local strategies, procedures and structures.	
March 2021	Preparing for extreme weather in the Eastern Caribbean What role for forecast-	Emily Wilkinson et al, ODI working paper.	A scoping study of forecast-based early action (FBA) in the Eastern Caribbean finds that there are gaps. Preparedness plans are out of date and there is 'huge potential to pool resources	

	based early action?		and strengthen coordination of preparedness at the regional level, as well as enhancing national preparedness systems.'
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Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
10 March 2021	One year on: How the pandemic has affected refugees, asylum seekers, and migration	Eric Reidy; The New Humanitarian; analysis	While deaths from covid in refugee settings have been much fewer than expected, economic and political effects have been significant.	
March 2021	Data and Research on Children and Youth in Forced Displacement: Identifying Gaps and Opportunities	Joint Data Center; WB/UNHCR; literature review	Reviews recently published literature, noting that 'traditional approaches to managing migration and forced displacement remain largely child blind'. It notes more data and research is needed to help practitioners. Covers physical and mental health, protection, mobile phone use, among others.	
11 March 2021	Formalising Land While Promoting Social Justice and Economic Benefit	James Kavanagh; Urbanet; blog	Formalising land and property rights can bring increased security to refugees, IDPs, and millions of others in the developing world. However, large-scale projects often fail to work on the local level. The blog	

			suggests a 'localised and improved governance approach' instead.	
1 Feb 2021	Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration in Violent Conflict Settings	Clarissa Augustinus and Ombretta Tempra; Land; journal article	Outlines a fit-for-purpose land administration (FFP LA) system for violent conflict contexts. Discusses Darfur/Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Honduras, Iraq, Jubaland/Somalia, Peru and South Sudan. FFP LA supports peacebuilding as well as 'xtra-legal transitional justice mechanisms to protect people and their land rights and to address historical injustices and the politics of exclusion that are the root causes of conflict.'	
19 March 2021	Exploring Migrants' Trust in Humanitarian Organisations	IMREF; report	Analyses why migrants may trust or mistrust humanitarian organisations on the Central Mediterranean Route. Based on interviews with 90 migrants and 16 field workers. Mistrust was linked with fears that aid colluded with police and that aid lacked relevance. Influences included past experience, friends and family and other migrants, information from aid workers,	
18 March 2021	Locked Down and Left Out? Why Access to Basic Services for Migrants is	Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Global Migration Lab; research report	Based on research from Red Cross/Crescent societies in Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sudan, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Finds that	

	Critical to our COVID-19 Response and Recovery		migrants have experienced disproportionate impacts of covid-19 due to being unable to access economic support and being concentrated in work sectors hit hard by anti-pandemic measures.	
March 2021	Covid-19 and the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CCTE) programmes	Simon Little et al; SPACE; research	Assess the impact of C19 on the ESSN and CTTE programmes in Turkey and adjustments made. Disruptions included school closures (affected an 80% attendance condition for some payments) and shifting state services online. Economic conditions necessitated an increase in payments	
March 2021	The triple nexus in Mali: coordination, securitisation and blurred lined	Andrea Steinke; Centre for Humanitarian Action; report	A report on different actors' perceptions of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in Mali. It finds confusion and frustration. Based on interviews with UN and NGOs in Mali.	

Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
15 March 2021	Will this pandemic be the catalyst to finally reform	Paul B. Spiegel, <i>Nature</i> , opinion	Briefly discusses prospects for humanitarian reform (e.g. localisation) with a particular focus on data. Argues that the effect of covid-19 on low-income countries is too early	

	humanitarian responses?		to tell. It is possible that the lower-than-predicted deaths in low-income contexts are the result of poor data, or will be outweighed by indirect mortality. Also points to the trend of anti-migrant policies, which may lead to their exclusion from vaccine provision.	
19 Feb 2021	Localisation Requires Trust: An Interface Perspective on the Rohingya Response in Bangladesh	Kristina Roepstorff; Disasters; journal article.	Analysis of divergent understandings of localisation in the Rohingya Response in Cox's Bazar. It finds little implementation of localisation, which it attributes to a lack of trust. Emphasises the need for trust building.	
30 March 2021	Beyond the Visual: Media Exposure and Coordination in Humanitarian Emergencies	CGDev blog	Discusses research showing how 'donations are influenced by humanitarian organizations' media exposure rationalizing why humanitarian organizations compete for media attention and avoid coordination'. It suggests a stronger focus on performance outcomes; new coordination models; and cash programming, as potential solutions.	

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	World map of covid cases and various vulnerability and socio-economic risk factors (including vaccine rollout, food security, school closures, CERF allocations etc.).
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 Mobility Impact Reports	UN IOM	Frequently updated reports on migration restrictions.
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.

<p>Attacked and Threatened: Health care targeted in conflict and COVID-19 https://www.covid19humanitarian.com/</p>	<p>Insecurity Insight</p>	<p>Map of violence and threats against health care across the world.</p>
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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 FCDO 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

The monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summaries are not intended to replace professional advice and the researcher or the K4D consortium cannot be held responsible for any decisions made on the basis of the summaries alone.

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