

Humanitarian evidence summary


No.14

Luke Kelly
University of Manchester
May 2021

This is the 14th 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
April 2021	Over troubled waters: maritime rescue operations in the Central 16. Mediterranean Route	Eugenio Cusumano and Matteo Villa; Institute of Migration; book chapter	Analyses the role of search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean and border enforcements. The 'findings suggest that SAR operations by European authorities and NGOs have played an important role in reducing the deadliness of sea crossings without significantly contributing to incentivizing irregular migration.'	
April 2021	The impact of covid-19 on humanitarian access	Rebecca Brubaker, Adam Day and Sophie Huvé; United Nations University; report	Analyses humanitarian access restrictions arising from covid-19 during March-November 2020, as well as the relationships between different actors in the humanitarian sphere. It also shows the impacts of	

			reduced access, adaptations made, and provides recommendations.	
April 2021	<p>Humanitarian Access SCORE Report: Tigray, Ethiopia and</p> <p>Global database of humanitarian organisations</p>	<p>Abby Stoddard, Paul Harvey, Monica Czwarno and Meriah-jo Breckenridge; Humanitarian Outcomes; Report</p> <p>Humanitarian Outcomes, database</p>	<p>Findings from a telephone survey of 614 people in the Tigray region of Ethiopia between 17 February and 8 March 2021, as well as interviews. It finds a large majority in need of aid, and access constraints.</p> <p>Database developed as part of CORE initiative on national and international humanitarian organisations, arranged by state of HQ, countries of operation, size, organisation type, sector, and</p>	
March 2021	<p>Conflict Sensitivity Analysis: United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) Protection of Civilian (PoC) Sites Transition: Bentiu, Unity State, and Malakal, Upper Nile State</p>	<p>Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility; report</p>	<p>Looks at conflict sensitivity considerations for protection of civilian (PoC) sites in South Sudan, in light of the withdrawal of UN forces. It focused on Bentiu and Malakal, where there is a history of inter-communal violence.</p>	
27 April 2021	<p>Urban warfare: an age-old problem in need of new solutions</p>	<p>Laurent Gisel et al; ICRC Law & Policy blog</p>	<p>The first blog in a new series on urban warfare. Outlines the reasons for increased urban warfare, its costs, the stance of IHL, and how civilians can be better protected.</p>	


22 April 2021	A common enemy: aggregating intensity in non-international armed conflicts	Chiara Redaelli; ICRC Law & Policy blog	Considers new ways of determining how violence involving many non-state armed groups can be characterised in legal terms. Designating a 'non-international conflict' means IHL applies, but in cases where multiple armed groups are operating, this may not be applied. It suggests that 'aggregating intensity' of fighting is a more accurate way of determining whether there is a conflict, and thereby appropriately applying IHL.	
April 2021	The pandemic's impact on global conflict and demonstration trends	ACLED; report	Report outlining conflict and demonstration trends, with links to country specific reports.	

Needs assessment and analysis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	Top reads
12 April 2021	Violence Against Women and Children During COVID-19— One Year On and 100 Papers In	Shelby Bourgault , Amber Peterman and Megan O'Donnell; Center for Global Development; literature review	Discusses 26 papers on violence against women and children in low- and middle-income countries since December 2020. Most report increases in violence, with lost income seen to increase the risk. Few evaluate interventions.	
April 2021	Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)	U-LEARN; report.	Focused on refugee communities during covid-19. It finds that information about covid-19 is available, but some data on infection and death rates is missing, and some	

	assessment: Uganda 2020		groups report barriers to information. Radios are the most common source of information.	
April 2021	Impact of Social Inequalities and Discrimination on Vulnerability to Crises	Becky Carter; K4D; literature review	Reviews the literature on the effect of social inequalities and discrimination on vulnerability to crises. It focuses on inequalities among groups in society arising from the discrimination of people based on their gender; age; disability; sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, and sex characteristics; and religious belief. It finds that certain groups are more vulnerable to crises and less able to access humanitarian aid.	

Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	Top reads
20 April 2021	Everyone's doing stuff but nobody's accountable – will Grand Bargain 2.0 set us right?	Nick van Praag and Meg Settler; ODI HPN; blog	Argues that current attempts at accountability to affected populations (AAP) are limited in scope and application. A more meaningful form of AAP would be based on a 'results culture'. The authors recommend a longer 24-month programme cycle, and a participatory review as a precondition for inclusion in the Global Humanitarian Overview.	
22 April 2021	Opinion: What's wrong with the humanitarian aid system — and how to fix it	Mark Lowcock; Devex blog and CGDEV webinar	Recommends reforms including a 'three-year pilot of an Independent Commission for Voices in Crises to hold the system to account.' It would issue reports on needs, grade humanitarian response plans and publish interim and final evaluations. He emphasises that it should be	

			genuinely independent and transparent.	
10 April 2021	Healthcare governance during humanitarian responses: a survey of current practice among international humanitarian actors	Prudence Jarrett et al; Conflict and Health; journal article.	It finds limited accountability for international humanitarian actors' public health practice. Governance activities are inconsistently applied. It is based on humanitarian actors' healthcare governance practice and interviews with senior health professionals. There is a need for consensus on governance. Despite covid being seen as a threat, behaviour change is limited.	


Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
	Towards shock-responsive social protection	Maintains; reports.	Examines social protection programmes in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Uganda, and how they have responded to Covid-19. Looks at national and humanitarian responses and their effects; how the responses were operationalised; and several types of outcome.	
1 April 2021	Cashing in: Turning challenges into opportunities when evaluating humanitarian cash assistance	N Dillon et al; CaLP/ALNAP; report	Discusses the challenges of evaluating cash transfers. Findings on: the outcomes of multipurpose cash transfers; outcomes for markets and multiplier effects; the role of cash coordination mechanisms; collaboration in cash assistance: the impact of operational models; linkages between cash	

			assistance and social protection; working with private sector partners in the delivery of cash transfers; efficiency and cost-effectiveness	
April 2021	Social Protection at the Humanitarian-Development Nexus: Insights from Yemen	Yashodhan Ghorpade and Ali Ammar; World Bank papers	Compares humanitarian and development social protection programmes in Yemen. Includes data on recipients and area. It finds considerable convergence and blurring between the two. It also finds likely exclusion of many poor households. It suggests ways humanitarian and development actors can cooperate.	
15 April 2021	Seven years of Cash and Voucher Assistance: Parting words of wisdom from two amazing CaLPies + A short history of cash and voucher assistance	Nathalie Klein and Sophie Tholstrup; CaLP; blog and podcast	Blog discussing changes in cash programming over the past 7 years. They note the widespread acceptance of cash, but the continued need for localisation and demand-led delivery, as well as more mitigation of digital risks.	
April 2021	Cash&Voucher Assistance for Health: a case study from Jordan	Medair; report	Report on the effect of Medair's cash transfers in 2017-2019 on health in vulnerable refugee and host populations in Jordan. Recommendations include the need for standard definitions of 'quality care' and monitoring	

			tools; and to consider the integration of refugees into the national health insurance scheme.	
--	--	--	---	--


Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	Top reads
April 2021	2020: the non-covid year in disasters	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; report	Provides data from the EM-DAT database. Finds that disasters in 2020 were worse than average in terms of number and cost, but with fewer deaths.	
March 2021	Saving lives and livelihoods: The benefits of investments in climate change adaptation and resilience	Sophie Dicker, Sam Unsworth, Rebecca Byrnes and Bob Ward; Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment; Report.	Six case studies of successful climate change adaptation and resilience, in the UK, Kenya, Mozambique, India (2) and Vietnam. Analyses reasons for success, effects and lessons.	
April 2021	A case for transformation ? The longer-term implications of the covid-19 pandemic	UN Global Humanitarian Policy Forum; report	Report based on the December 2020 forum. Concludes that greater preparedness for systemic problems is needed, as well as more preparedness; localisation; diversity and inclusion; the responsible use of digital technologies and collaboration across siloes are all needed.	
April 2021	Reducing the humanitarian financing gap: review of	Barnaby Willitts-King and Alexandra Spencer;	Reports on the UN's 2016 Humanitarian Financing Panel's recommendations to reduce need by bringing more	


	progress since the report of the High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing	Overseas Development Institute; Report	development finance into crisis situations; and attract more donors. Finds that progress on reducing need is uneven, and limited on widening the resource base. Recommends a focused approach in the short-term.	
April 2021	International Development Association (IDA) Countries: Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Stories	World Bank/GFDRR; report	Brief stories of successful disaster risk reduction in various countries.	
April 2021	The climate crisis and humanitarian need: taking action to support the world's most vulnerable communities	Sorcha O'Callaghan, Mark Lowcock and Fonteh Akum; ODI HPG Webinar recording w	Discussion of the impact of climate change in the world's most vulnerable places, and what needs to be done about it (including strong reference to anticipatory finance).	

Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	Top reads
1 April 2021	Development actors at the nexus: Lessons from crises in Bangladesh, Cameroon and Somalia	Charlotte MacDiarmid, Sarah Dalrymple and Sarah Hanssen; Food and Agriculture Organization, Development Initiatives and Norwegian	Analyses humanitarian-development-peace cooperation on issues of: 1) partnerships and strategy, 2) coordination and joined-up planning, 3) programming, 4) financing and 5) organizational issues.	

		Refugee Council; report		
2 April 2021	The Politics of Return: Understanding Trajectories of Displacement and the Complex Dynamics of 'Return' in Central and East Africa	Anna Macdonald and Holly Porter, eds.; Journal of Refugee Studies; special issue	Noting that few forcibly displaced persons return to their country of origin or are resettled, the articles use a number of case studies from Central and East Africa.	
April 2021	Managing the journey out of violent extremism in the Lake Chad Basin	Fonteh Akum, Remadji Hoinahty and Malik Samuel; Institute for Security Studies; report.	Based on interviews with ex-Boko Haram associates and peer group non-associates, as well as stakeholders involved in policy. Reasons for disengagement are based on circumstances, opportunity and expectations. It finds that programmes do not address women comprehensively, or the regional nature of the crisis.	
April 2021	"I could not sleep while they were hungry": Investigating the role of social networks in Yemen's humanitarian crisis	Jeeyon Janet King et al; Feinstein International Center; Report	The initial findings on the role of social networks as a source of support in Yemen. Shows that they are crucial, but are under pressure from the conflict. Humanitarian aid has helped maintain networks, but sometimes has prompted tensions.	

Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	Top reads
April 2021	From digital promise to frontline practice: new and emerging technologies in humanitarian action	Leonie Arendt-Cassetta; UNOCHA; report	Outlines the opportunities and challenges of new and emerging technologies: AI and predictive analytics; mobile applications and social media; digital cash transfers; crisis maps; biometrics; UAVs; blockchain; internet of things; 3D printing.	
April 2021	Epidemics that didn't happen	Preventepidemics.com; website	Website with lessons from successfully controlled epidemics in low- and middle-income countries, including several examples of covid suppression	
15 April 2021	Sharing the Keys to the Localization House	Oheneba Boateng and Claudia Meier; GPPI; blog	Argues that donors, UN agencies and international NGOs' incentive structures work against real localisation. They argue for a Localization Index to objectively evaluate efforts.	

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	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	Global data on infections and deaths; a list of data sets on cases and prevention/mitigation measures.

with a Humanitarian Response		
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.
Attacked and Threatened: Health care targeted in conflict and COVID-19 https://www.covid19humanitarian.com/	Insecurity Insight	Map of violence and threats against health care across the world.

Suggested citation

Kelly, L. (2021). *Monthly Humanitarian Evidence Summary No. 14*. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies. DOI: [10.19088/K4D.2021.069](https://doi.org/10.19088/K4D.2021.069)

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.

K4D services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations working in international development, led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), with Education Development Trust, Itad, University of Leeds Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), University of Birmingham International Development Department (IDD) and the University of Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI).

This humanitarian evidence summary was prepared for the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and its partners in support of pro-poor programmes. Except where otherwise stated, it is licensed for non-commercial purposes under the terms of the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#). K4D cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions or any consequences arising from the use of information contained in this humanitarian evidence summary. Any views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of FCDO, K4D or any other contributing organisation.



© Crown copyright 2021.