K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence summary No.17

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This is the 17th 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

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
July 2021	Humanitarian access overview	ACAPs; report	An update on ACAPS' access rankings, with analysis of the access constraints in 34 countries with high, very high or extreme constraints on humanitarian access.	
22 July 2021	Relevant or redundant? The future of the international refugee protection regime	Jeff Crisp; Refugee Law Initiative; blog	Argues that the 'international refugee protection regime' is often invoked unthinkingly, but that it is in practice limited by several factors. Outlines a decline in respect for refugee protection norms, refugees' loss of confidence in the regime, and the difficult position of UNHCR, among others,	

			and suggests future changes.	
22 July 2021	Drones and distrust in humanitarian aid	Faine Greenwood; ICRC Law & Policy; blog	Given the potential benefits of drones for data gathering for humanitarian purposes, the blog discusses ways to overcome popular distrust of drones. It highlights the importance of research into perceptions, and community engagement.	
July 2021	Advocating for better protection for conflict-affected populations Legal action against UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in the Yemen conflict	Gemma Davies; ODI HPG; briefing note	Examines the effectiveness of legal action taken by humanitarian and human rights organisations against the UK government for selling arms to Saudi Arabia for use against Yemen in 2017. Finds that legal action can be an effective tool, but must be carefully considered as part of broader advocacy campaigns, and risks must be taken into consideration.	
July 2021	Aid Worker Security Report Figures at a glance	Humanitarian Outcome; report	Update on attacks on aid workers for 2020. Finds 475 aid workers were the victims of major attacks, with 108 killed, 242 wounded and 125 kidnapped.	

July 2021	Humanitarian Access SCORE Report: Iraq Survey on the Coverage, Operational Reach, and Effectiveness of Humanitarian Aid	Abby Stoddard, Paul Harvey, Monica Czwarno, and Meriah-Jo Breckenridge; Humanitarian Outcomes; report	Finds that humanitarian aid is not able to meet needs in Iraq. Barriers include bureaucracy; favouritism and partiality; humanitarian focus on IDPs; restrictive UN risk management; and a focus on familiar areas. Data on amounts and types of aid, and obstacles to access.	
July 2021	The international governance of refugee work: reflections on the Jordan compact	Jennifer Gordon; Global Public Policy and Governance; journal article	Argues that refugee employment initiatives, such as the Jordan Compact's goal of helping Syrians in Jordan to work, should include labour standards. Currently the International Labour Organisation supports migrants but not refugees, which is problematic as refugees are increasingly being enabled to work.	
22 July 2021	Convoys, COVID, And Negotiation In Afghanistan	Jan Powell and Peter Scott-Bowden; World Food Programme; podcast	The former Director & International Strategic Advisor of the World Food Program (WFP), and the Centre for Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation (CCHN), discusses the difficulties of delivering aid in Afghanistan during the covid pandemic.	
July 2021	Harmful Information – Misinformation, disinformation and hate speech in	ICRC; report	Outlines the dangers to humanitarian work of misinformation and disinformation arising from digital technologies. Discusses the difficulties of	⭐

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	armed conflict and other situations of violence: ICRC initial findings and perspectives on adapting protection approaches		assessing and responding to such challenges, and offers recommendations for dealing with them.	
July 2021	Handbook On Best Practices For Civilian Harm Mitigation And Response In U.S. Military Operations	Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance; handbook	.Lessons and best practices on mitigating harm to civilians during US military operations, from the military perspective.	
May 2021	Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa	Lutz Oette, Sope Williams-Elegbe, Olivia Lwabukuna (eds.); Journal of African Law; special issue	Articles discuss the development of refugee and IDP law and policy in Africa, including the Global Compact, the Kampala Convention on IDPs, and protection issues.	

Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
July 2021	Local humanitarian action during	Veronique Barbelet, John Bryant and Alexandra Spencer; ODI HPG; working paper	Diarists from NGOs and local humanitarian actors documented changes or barriers to a more local aid model during covid-19. It finds generally slow change	

	Covid-19 Findings from a diary study		since the Grand Bargain, but some progress, including changes necessitated by Covid-19, and more policy commitment, but also continued barriers in attitudes to risk and funding arrangements.	
July 2021	Localizing Global Solidarity: Humanitarian Aid in Lesvos	Lee Michael Shults, Hanne Haaland and Hege Wallevik; *Frontiers in Political Science*; academic article.	Citizen Initiatives for Global Solidarity (CIGS) have the potential to overshadow the local ownership of crises. Based on a conceptual discussion of different types of global solidarity, and research from the response to refugee landings on Lesvos, it shows disputes between international NGOs, CIGS and local government in Lesvos on the management of relief.	
July 2021	The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) Good Practice Study	Dzuy-Tâm Trân and Marijke Deleu; U-Learn; report	The forum includes 37 elected refugee leaders, meets quarterly and reports to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Steering Group (CRRF SG). The study uses it to identify lessons for similar structures.	
July 2021	Humanitarian Practice Network: A conversation on 'Accelerating localisation through partnerships'	ODI; podcast	Podcast on localisation.	

15 July 2021	How can we make sure Covid-driven localization in aid endures after the pandemic?	Duncan Green; FP2P; blog	Briefly discusses the prospects for continued localisation as international travel within the aid industry can return to previous levels. Including funding laws, rules, reporting requirements, and what is required for full-spectrum localisation.	
28 July 2021	Localisation in the balance - Syrian medical-humanitarian NGOs' strategic engagement with the local and international	Sophie Roborgh; Disasters; journal article	Based on interviews with Syrian medical NGOs, the article explores how 'local' organisations understand and use labels of 'local' and 'international'	
23 July 2021	Skewed Allegiances: Recalibrating Humanitarian Accountability towards Gender	Michelle Lockot; Refugee Survey Quarterly; journal article	Using fieldwork with Syrian refugees in Jordan, the article shows how current quantitative approaches to gender are focused on 'upwards' accountability. Current approaches may make assumptions about gender, and may focus on individual 'empowerment' over structural change, for example. Humanitarian actors should pay more attention to the views of recipients.	

Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
14 July 2021	Screening recipients of humanitarian cash and voucher assistance: necessary precaution or wasted resources?	Nina Newhouse; CaLP; blog	Blog discusses the efficacy and effects of screening recipients of cash transfers. Screening is carried out to reduce risks of inadvertently financing terrorism. The blog argues that, given the small number of sanctioned individuals, who are usually in leadership positions in sanctioned groups, it is highly unlikely that any one on a sanctions list would also be on a humanitarian recipient list. However, the existing recipient-selection process is itself a risk mitigation process (identifying vulnerability criteria and dialogue with citizens and authorities). Screening is still likely to be used as a way to signal commitment to anti-terrorism laws.	
June 2021	Deciding when and how to link humanitarian assistance and social protection: guidance and tools for response analysis	Gabrielle Smith; SPACE; tools and guidance	Guidance on analysing the feasibility and pros and cons of linking humanitarian assistance and social protection.	

June 2021	Overcoming barriers to coordinating across social protection and humanitarian assistance – building on promising practices	Gabrielle Smith; SPACE; tools and guidance	Discusses promising practices for co-ordinating actors - humanitarian, development, and government - in social protection and humanitarian assistance. Experiences from Covid-19 include joint assessments, forums, funding mechanisms, data sharing, and others. Provides lessons and recommendations on good co-ordination.	
July 2021	Social protection response to Covid-19 and beyond Emerging evidence and learning for future crises	Francesca Bastagli and Christina Lowe; ODI HPG; working paper	Analyses social protection as a crisis response tool, following a massive expansion since Covid-19. It focused on informal workers, women, urban dwellers and refugees in low- and middle-income countries during March-May 2020, and includes discussion of both state and humanitarian delivery.	

Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
8 July 2021	Beyond the UN: Closing the humanitarian funding gap	Armida van Rij; Chatham House; blog.	Noting the growing funding gap for humanitarian assistance, the blog discusses the role of emerging economies, which tend to avoid the humanitarian system in preference for bilateral aid and partnerships. It recommends a more comprehensive UN funding system that recognises the different ways humanitarian aid is given.	
7 July 2021	Financing the Humanitarian Public Good: Towards a More Effective Humanitarian Financing Model	Patrick Saez, Jeremy Konyndyk and Rose Worden; Center for Global Development; policy paper	Discusses different ways for donors to fund humanitarian aid more predictably and fairly: a multi-year common replenishment model for protracted and predictable crises; rebalancing country-level pooled mechanisms; and aligning core funding to agencies with agreed core functions. Based on data on current funding and interests and institutions driving current arrangements, as well as analysis of potential benefits of new models.	⭐

July 2021	From knowing to doing: evidence use in the humanitarian sector	Anna Paterson, Fred Carden and Teresa Hanley; ELRHA; learning paper	Explores the challenges of using research to inform humanitarian practice. Finds four key barriers: time pressures, funding constraints, lack of relevance to humanitarian policy and practice, and lack of relevance to humanitarian actors in the Global South. It provides case studies of successful evidence use and recommendations for better uptake.	⭐
May 2021	Funding disasters: tracking global humanitarian and development funding for response to natural hazards	Elle Crossley et al; Centre for Disaster Protection/Development Initiatives; working paper	Analyses international funding for disasters in Kenya, Lesotho, Peru, Mozambique, Haiti, Vanuatu, Nepal, Indonesia, and DRC. Its findings include that preparedness could be improved; funding is often late; 2.8% is fast humanitarian funding; there is more money for rapid-onset crises, but less for droughts; development actors provide significant amounts of funding (74%) but it is often slow; 53% of funding is loans.	
June 2021	Exploring a role for

triggers and risk-informed financing in complex crises | Centre for Disaster Protection; report | Analyses the IRC's approach to financing covid-19 responses; and different triggers for disaster response. | |

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
	COVID-19 as a case study			
21 July 2021	Climate change, disaster displacement and (anticipatory) humanitarian action: challenges ahead	Sören Schneider, Katrin Radtke and Daniel Weller; Centre for Humanitarian Action; blog	Outlines the importance of anticipatory action and gaps in data (e.g. the need for more community data to determine impacts) and practical challenges (e.g. funding, training and the need for longer-term solutions).	
July 2021	Tracking and reporting finance for locally led adaptation to climate change	Tamara Coger at al; World Resources Institute; working paper	Noting that finance for locally led adaption (LLA) is not systematically tracked, the working paper suggests some ways to do this	

Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
July 2021	Resilience and the role of equids in humanitarian crises	Cara Clancy, Tamlin Watson, Zoe Raw; Disasters; journal article	Argues that working equids are both key to livelihoods and humanitarian crises in low- and middle-income countries, and as such should be included in conceptions of resilience. Based on policy analysis and case studies of equids in disasters.	

| June 2021 | Compendium of good practices for a greener humanitarian response | European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations; report | Case studies of 12 environmentally friendly projects implemented by humanitarian actors. Discusses the benefits, challenges and lessons of each. | ⭐ |

[Other]

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
July 2021	The covid-19 pandemic: how are humanitarian and development co-operation actors doing so far? How could we do better?	COVID-19 Global Evaluation Coalition; report	Synthesises 200 reports from March 2020 to February 2021. Lessons are grouped into: partnerships and operations, management, communications, human resources, and opportunities for innovation	⭐

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
Covid-19: tracking local humanitarian action and complementary partnerships	Overseas Development Institute, Humanitarian Policy Group	Map of complementary partnerships and local humanitarian action across the globe.
Social protection responses to compounding risks: Lessons from Covid-19 and climate-related disasters	Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre	A data dashboard of social protection responses to covid-19, at the national and international level.
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.
Attacked and Threatened: Health care targeted in conflict and COVID-19	Insecurity Insight	Map of violence and threats against health care across the world.
Conflict and Health	Conflict and Health	Open-access journal on the health impacts of conflict.
International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction	International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction	An interdisciplinary journal of DRR.
Journal of Refugee Studies	Journal of Refugee Studies	Research on forced migration and responses to it.
Disasters	Disasters	Focuses on disaster management and policy from academic and field perspectives.

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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