



# Humanitarian evidence summary

## No.18

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*This is the 18th 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.*

Click on the following hyperlinks to bring you down to the relevant literature. Note that not all sections are populated every month - blank indicates that there is nothing new this month:

### Table of Contents

[Enhancing protection and humanitarian access](#)

[Needs assessment and analysis \(including data\)](#)

[Accountability to affected populations](#)

[Cash programming \(including links to social protection, but not core social protection\)](#)



[Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation \(including risk financing, early warning/early action, predictive analytics etc\)](#)

[Resilience and protracted crisis \(including forced displacement, nexus etc\)](#)

[Other](#)


[Resource Hubs](#)

## Enhancing protection and humanitarian

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
19 August 2021	<a href="#">Why action on climate change presents an opportunity for protection actors concerned about conflict</a>	Katie Peters; ODI; blog	Blog outlining upcoming research on the links between climate change, conflict and displacement. Argues that the humanitarian system needs to consider and act upon the links between protection, climate and displacement more.	
August 2021	<a href="#">Neutrality: principle or tool?</a>	Sean Healey; ODI HPG; blog	A short blog discussing humanitarian neutrality. Notes the limitations of neutrality in times of injustice, as well as its value as a tool in winning access and reminding humanitarians not to make quick judgements. Highlights the importance of 'speaking out' against atrocities.	
29 August 2021	<a href="#">The Troubled History of Vaccines And Conflict Zones</a>	Madeline Dexter; NPR; article	Discusses the importance of public health diplomacy to allow conflict zones to get access to vaccines and support. Noting the success of Cold War cooperation against smallpox, a 1995 Guinea Worm Ceasefire in Sudan, and 'days of tranquillity' to allow child immunisation in El Salvador in the 1980s, the blog suggests reasons for optimism, but notes the difficulties of working with non-state armed groups, the problems of misinformation, the presence of other pressing problems in conflict contexts, debates around linking peace and humanitarianism, and a limited supply of vaccines.	

31 July 2021	Humanitarian Access in Armed Conflicts: Main Takeaways	Mina Radoncic and Ximena Galvez; Geneva Call; blog	Outlines the main rights and responsibilities of conflict parties and humanitarian actors in the delivery of humanitarian aid in conflict, and offers broad recommendations.	
26 August 2021	Contingency Planning in the Digital Age: Biometric Data of Afghans Must Be Reconsidered	Katja Lindskov Jacobsen and Karl Steinacker; PRIO; blog	Discusses the risks of the biometric identity systems used for Afghan IDPs by UNHCR and the US military. One risk is that the Taliban could use the data for reprisals. Highlights the risks and weaknesses in such systems.	

## Needs assessment and analysis


Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal /Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
2021	The Reliability and Feasibility of the HESPER Web to Assess Perceived Needs in a Population Affected by a Humanitarian Emergency	Karine Heugelius et al; International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; journal article.	Evaluation of the Humanitarian Emergency Settings Perceived Needs Web (HESPER Web) needs analysis tool. The tool was tested in Dadaab camp, Kenya and found to be reliable.	
September 2021	Use of verbal autopsy for establishing causes of child mortality in camps for internally displaced people in Mogadishu, Somalia: a population-	Andrew Seal et al., The Lancet; journal article	Based on a prospective cohort study of all children 6-59 months in 25 camps around Mogadishu. Health workers visited monthly to ascertain health status, and verbal autopsy interviews were conducted. Diarrhoea, measles and malnutrition were the leading causes of death. The research finds that it is 'feasible to establish a health and nutrition	

	based, prospective, cohort study		surveillance system that ascertains causes of death, using verbal autopsy, in this humanitarian context.'	
23 August 2021	Afghanistan: humanitarian impact and trends analysis	ACAPS; thematic report	Analyses needs in Afghanistan with respect to the recent Taliban takeover, and notes information gaps. Provides data on causalities, health, food, displacement and protection concerns, humanitarian access constraints,	

## Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal /Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
17 August 2021	How NATO Contributors are Resettling their Afghan Allies	Rose Worden and Helen Dempster; CGD; blog	Notes the customary international humanitarian law includes protection for journalists and aid workers but not interpreters and others. Discusses what each NATO country with troops in Afghanistan is doing to protect and resettle Afghans who have worked for them, and argues that they should expand eligibility criteria.	

## Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
August 2021	Framework for shifting bilateral programmes to local actors	Courtenay Cabot Venton, Sophie Pongracz, Stephen Williams and Harri Lee; SPACE; report	Bilateral aid is typically delivered through consortiums, with local actors as subcontractors. The paper discusses frameworks to analyse re-designing delivery models, separating functions, value for money, risk assessment and mitigations, and engaging community voice. It is based on anonymised data from FCDO country investments.	
August 2021	Direct support to local actors: consideration for donors	Courtenay Cabot Venton	A short document providing examples of humanitarian cash and social protection responses led by, or with a central role for, local actors. Also discusses constraints and entry points for action on more local leadership.	
6 August 2021	The nutritional benefits of cash transfers in humanitarian crises: evidence from Yemen	Sikandra Kurdi; World Development; journal article	The study is a cluster randomized control trial of a pilot cash-plus intervention. Estimates show the 'intervention significantly increased purchases of non-staple foods which translated into large positive impacts on child dietary diversity scores' and other nutritional benefits. The study included 95 treatment villages and 95 control villages.	
August 2021	Improving humanitarian payments through digital innovation challenges	Better Than Cash Alliance; report	Discusses evidence on using mobile money, artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technology, QR codes, and super platforms in humanitarian cash assistance. Based on evidence from existing use.	

	and opportunities			
August 2021	Disability inclusive cash assistance: Learning from practice in humanitarian response	Manuel Rothe, Polly Bodgener, David Brown; CBM global; report	Discusses lessons on disability inclusion in cash assistance, including in needs assessment, targeting, project design, evaluation, and other aspects. Based on evidence from programmes.	

## Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
August 2021	Towards an International Architecture for Managing Global Threats: A Systems Compendium	Humanitarian Futures; report	A compendium of systems which manage and reduce global risks. Categorised into: biological, technological, environmental, extraterrestrial, social, chemical, geohazard, cross-sectoral, and meteorological.	
19 August 2021	The future is now: artificial intelligence and anticipatory humanitarian action	Christopher Chen; ICRC Law & Policy blog	Outlines some of the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) such as better predictions; as well as problems including biases in algorithms and a lack of data in many humanitarian settings.	
9 August 2021	The Physical Science of Climate Change: Seven key humanitarian insights from	Pablo Suarez et al.; IFRC; factsheet	Lists the humanitarian implications of the recent IPCC report on climate change, including increased frequency and severity of climate-related shocks, the possibility of catastrophic tipping points, and the need for action.	


	the latest IPCC report			
29 July 2021	Financing the Global Humanitarian Public Good: Opportunities for Change	Rose Worden, Patrick Saez and Claus Sorensen; CGD; discussion	A summary of a private discussion between donors, UN agencies and NGOs on humanitarian financing. Issues included the need for more stable funding, a definition of core costs, pooled funds, independent measurement, and the need for joint action.	
July 2021	Machine learning and mobile phone data can improve the targeting of humanitarian assistance	Emily Aiken et al.; NBER working paper	Evaluates the use of big data from satellites and mobile phones to target anti-poverty programmes. It uses data from Togo's emergency cash transfer programme. It finds that machine learning reduces exclusion errors by 4-21% compared to the government's geographical approach, and 9-35% compared to methods requiring a comprehensive social registry. Argues that this has significant potential for humanitarian response.	

## Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
August 2021	Monthly Update of JDC's Forced Displacement Literature Review	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement; literature review	Review of recent articles, including trends in forced displacement; over- and under-researched refugee groups; refugee livelihoods in Kenya; the impact of living in- or out of camps in Jordan; and others.	
August 2021	Contemporary Perspectives on Internal	David Cantor and Nicholas Maple; Refugee Studies	Online 'collection' of five previously published articles on internal displacement in Africa. Articles	

	Displacement in Africa	Quarterly; journal special collection	discuss the effect of the Kampala convention for children's rights and IDPs, market access for IDPs, reproductive health, and government-led resettlement following a disaster.	
August 2021	Answering the call: forcibly displaced during the pandemic	Jeffery Tanner et al.; Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement; report	Summarises data on forced displacement during covid, including statistics on movement across borders and projections of socio-economic impact. It finds negative effects from covid-19, as displaced populations are often more vulnerable in various ways.	
July 2021	Forced Migration Review: Public health and WASH / Non-signatory States and the international refugee regime	Forced Migration Review; journal issue.	Sections on public health and WASH; and non-signatory states and the international refugee regime.	

## Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/ Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
	Impact evidence and beyond: using evidence to drive adoption of humanitarian innovations	K Dodgson and C Crowley; ELRHA; report	A learning paper on how to use evidence for innovation in humanitarian work. It focuses on how to effectively gather evidence and target it at stakeholders to ensure it has an effect.	



26 July 2021	<a href="#">Global Emergency Medicine: A Scoping Review of the Literature from 2020</a>	Indi Trehan et al.; Academic Emergency Medicine; literature review	Scoping review of articles on emergency medicine in 2020, including brief summaries of selected articles.	
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## Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
<a href="#">Covid-19: tracking local humanitarian action and complementary partnerships</a>	Overseas Development Institute, Humanitarian Policy Group	Map of complementary partnerships and local humanitarian action across the globe.
<a href="#">Social protection responses to compounding risks: Lessons from Covid-19 and climate-related disasters</a>	Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre	A data dashboard of social protection responses to covid-19, at the national and international level.
<a href="#">COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations</a>	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.).
<a href="#">Covid-19 and Humanitarian Crises</a>	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](mailto: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).*

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