Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.20

Luke Kelly
University of Manchester
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This is the 20th 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.

This aims to signpost FCDO and other UK government departments to the latest relevant evidence and discourse on humanitarian action. **It is structured around three themes:**

- **Protect***: Protect civilians, IDPs, refugees, marginalised groups including women and girls, and humanitarian access.*
- **Prioritise**: *Prioritise effective humanitarian assistance to people in greatest need*
- **Prevent***: Prevent and anticipate future shocks and rebuild resilience in protracted and recurring crises*

Further detail on methodology, scope and resource hubs at the end. 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:

Protect

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	HoP Top reads
22 October 2022	Collaborative advocacy between humanitarian and human rights actors: opportunities and challenges	Victoria Metcalfe-Hough; ODI Evidence 	Discusses how humanitarian and human rights actors collaborate in advocating for protection of civilians. Identifies instances of good practice, barriers and recommendations.	
October 2021	Ministerial Event: International Humanitarian Law - Enhancing Monitoring, Improving Compliance	Delegation of the EU at the UN; seminar Discourse 	Recording of a 75 minute seminar in September on monitoring violations of IHL	

Date	Title	Source / Type	Description	
19 October 2021	Supporting conflict sensitivity through country-focused facilities Lessons from Libya, Lebanon, South Sudan and Yemen	conflict Sensitivity Community Hub Evidence	Summarises findings and lessons from a review of three conflict sensitivity mechanisms: The Conflict Sensitive Assistance Forum (CSA Forum) on Libya; The Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility (CSRF) on South Sudan;The Yemen Conflict Sensitivity Platform (YCSP) on Yemen, and the Lebanon CS Forum (LCSF)	
October 2021	Adding salt to the wound: the experience of MSF frontline workers providing impartial healthcare in counter-terrorism environments	Médecins sans frontiers Evidence	A report on the effects of counter-terrorism wars on MSF's frontline workers in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Iraq. It finds that medical staff have been threatened for treating 'terrorists', and armed actors have used violence to prevent medical treatment, and access to communities is denied.	
6 October 2021	Humanitarian values in a counterterrorism era	Naz K. Modirzadeh and Dustin A. Lewis; International Review of the Red Cross Discourse	Opinion note arguing that 'counterterrorism concerns have been elevated over the humanitarian imperative' and that winning humanitarian 'carve-outs' may be ultimately counterproductive in that it accepts the primacy of counter-terrorism. It argues that humanitarians should seek to articulate humanitarian values more.	
October 2021	Back to the future? Twenty years of Western engagement in Afghanistan	Disasters journal Evidence	Virtual journal issue featuring articles on conflict and humanitarian aid in Afghanistan over the previous decades. Themes include risk management, stabilisation, access, and others.	
October 2021	The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction	Journal of Conventional Weapons; issue 25.1 Evidence	Journal issue with articles on, among other things, landmine clearing capacity in Ukraine, the impact of C-19 on demining in Colombia, data-driven decision-making, and increasing women's empowerment.	
October 2021	Aid Worker Security Report 2021	Abby Stoddard et al., Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence	The report provides data on threats to aid workers from non-state armed actors involved in conflict and holding ideological motives, as well as violent criminals with economic motives. Includes figures on security incidents, victims, types of attack, motives, causes, and aid organisation risk management. It also discusses potential alternative approaches (direct negotiation and community-level programmatic interventions aimed at reducing crime and violence).	

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October 2021	OCHA DATA RESPONSIBILITY GUIDELINES	OCHA Policy/guidance	Guidance on concepts and practice in data responsibility in humanitarian action.	
6 October 2021	Digital identity, biometrics and inclusion in humanitarian responses to refugee crises	Kerrie Holloway, Reem Al Masri, Afnan Abu Yahia; ODI Evidence	Analysis of biometrics in humanitarian action, based partly on the perspectives of Syrian refugees in Jordan. Provides background, definitions and discusses the risks and potential benefits.	

Prioritise

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2021	The impact of cash transfers on Syrian refugee children in Lebanon	Wael Moussa et al., World Development Evidence	Evaluates the impact of multi-purpose cash assistance on Syrian children in Lebanon, showing a transition from non-formal to formal schooling, away from child labour; improved health outcomes for children and reduced likelihood of child marriage among recipients.	⭐
5 October 2021	Good Practice Review on Cash Assistance in Contexts of High Inflation and Depreciation	CaLP Policy/guidance	Key concepts and guidance on using cash programmes in situations of high inflation or depreciation, including lessons learned from existing programmes.	⭐
28 October 2021	Participation and inclusion in the Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: 'We never speak first'	Oliver Lough et al. ODI Evidence	Analyses whether and how Rohingya are involved in decisions on humanitarian aid. It finds no evidence of increased participation, and a lack of alignment between aid and Rohingya priorities.	
October 2021	Localisation Re-imagined: Localising the sector vs supporting local solutions	Arbie Baguios; ALNAP Discourse	Gives an overview of the different definitions of localisation, including those sidelined by the Grand Bargain Commitments, and notes a divergence between those from the global north and global south. Calls for more research based on wider conceptions of localisation.	
October 2021	UN Principles for Responsible Digital Payments	Better Than Cash Alliance Policy/guidance	9 principles for responsible digital payments.	
October 2021	Is aid really changing? What the Covid-19 response tells us about localisation,	British Red Cross Evidence	The report is based on a survey from 23 countries on the effect of Covid-19 on localisation, finding some progress but little change in the overall power dynamics of the humanitarian system. Discusses opportunities and	

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	decolonisation and the humanitarian system		constraints brought by Covid-19, shifts in funding, differences in actors' approaches, and case studies of Red Cross work.	
October 2021	Moving forward localisation of humanitarian action in the Philippines: empowerment leads to better humanitarian outcomes	Philippines Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

Evidence

🔬 | Findings from discussion on localisation in the Philippines, with issues including relationships, accountability, funding, capacity, coordination, humanitarian standards, and visibility. | |
| 26 October 2021 | Gaps in wash in humanitarian response: 2021 update | ELHRA

Evidence

🔬 | Analysis of the WASH challenges, based on a literature review, and surveys of 1,700 people affected by crisis and 700 WASH practitioners. | |
| 26 October 2021 | Responding to Shocks Using Social Protection: Principles and a Framework for NGOs | Collaborative Cash Delivery Network - Social Protection Working Group

Policy/guidance

🔺 | A framework for NGOs to engage with social protection systems. | |
| 14 October 2021 | Digital mapping and inclusion in humanitarian response | John Bryant; ODI

Evidence

🔬 | Studies the effects of digital mapping and for beneficiaries, arguing that while maps are useful for humanitarian actors, access for beneficiaries is often limited; and the process of mapping often creates distance between givers and receivers of aid. | |

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
6 October 2021	Explicability of humanitarian AI: a matter of principles	Guilio Coppi, Rebecca Moreno Jimenez and Sofia Kyriazi; Journal of International Humanitarian Action.

Evidence

🔬 | Assesses how humanitarian principles operate when decision-making is automated through artificial intelligence (AI) and automated decision-making (ADMs). It finds that 'existing flaws in accountability and epistemic processes' are replicated by opaque algorithms. It therefore calls for 'explicability', auditable standards and guidelines in the use of automation. | |
| 25 October 2021 | 1. It's time to pivot from war aid to climate aid | Hugo Slim, New Humanitarian

Discourse

💬 | Argues that humanitarians have focused mainly on armed conflicts in the last 30 years and now need to pivot away more to climate related disasters. | |

15 October 2021	Seven ways to save lives on the frontline of the climate crisis	Stephanie Sodero, Bertrand Taithe and Ram Vadi; The Conversation Discourse	Lessons on how to prepare for climate changed-induced disasters based on interviews with aid workers.	
14 October 2021	Addressing the inhumanity of internal displacement	Jeff Crisp; United Against Inhumanity Discourse	A response to a recent UN report on internal displacement, the blog criticises the report's failure to name and shame governments responsible for displacement, and a lack of criticism of the cluster system, which he argues is ineffective. It also questions the utility of the IDP label, which can lead to aid actors ignoring those who cannot move. It also highlights the difficulties of implementing its recommendations.	
21 October 2021	From Real-Time Evaluation to Real-Time Learning Exploring new approaches from the COVID-19 response	Maggie Buchanan-Smith and Susanna Morrison-Métois; ALNAP Evidence	Outlines the approaches taken to real time evaluation (RTE), including Covid-19 adaptations. Reviews these approaches and provides insights and recommendations.	
27 October 2021	Adapting humanitarian action to the effects of climate change	Veronique de Geoffroy, Paul Knox Clarke, Mihir Bhatt and François Grunewald; ALNAP Evidence	Summarises lessons from previous experience which will help mitigate some of the disasters that result from extreme weather events (some of which continue to follow familiar patterns), but new guidance - new lessons - are needed in the face of inevitably more complex disasters, some of them not yet imagined, much less understood	⭐
October 2021	Follow the Money: Investing in Crisis Prevention - What the Spending Patterns of Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union Reveal About Strategies and Priorities	Philipp Rotmann, Melissa Li and Sofie Lilli Stoffel; GPPI Evidence	Analyses spending on prevention between 2004 and 2019, and specific crises. It finds spending is 'scattershot' and seldom concentrated on particular countries, and often reactive to escalation rather than to warnings.	
October 2021	Checklist 2.0: Scaling Up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	UNDRR Policy/guidance	A condensed version of UNDRR's recommendations on DRR in humanitarian action. Provides guidance on integrating DRR in humanitarian planning and programming.	

	Recommendations for the Humanitarian Programme Cycle			
October 2021	Contending perspectives and humanitarian paradigms	Randolph Kent; Humanitarian Futures Discourse	Discusses the view that the current multilateral architecture of aid and threat protection is becoming irrelevant in the face of a more globalised world involving non-state actors. It suggests GAVI and Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) as examples of non-conventional actors and networks dealing with complex crises.	
11 October 2021	Reducing mortality in disaster response and recovery: Evidence from Mexico	Alejandro Del Valle; VoxDev Discourse	Summarises research showing that Mexico's Fonden programme, using pre-financing, rules-based disaster funding, is effective in saving lives.	
29 October 2021	Understanding the role of anticipatory action in Somalia	Simone Levine et al., SPARC Evidence	Evidence derived from a longitudinal study of anticipatory action in Somalia. Findings include the difficulty of anticipating weather-related shocks (as opposed to predicting weather); a mismatch between diversified livelihoods and EWS focusing on narrow parameters; and the need to acknowledge that difficulties begin long before humanitarian action can occur.	⭐
28 October 2021	Effective Humanitarian Governance	Patrick Saez, Jeremy Konyndyk and Rose Warden; Centre for Global Development Discourse	Noting that power in the humanitarian system is imbalanced and fragmentary, making accountability difficult, the paper suggests that governance structures should be reformed so that they are representative, nationally and locally led, inclusive and accountable.	

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.
International Review of the Red Cross	International Review of the Red Cross	Journal focusing on international humanitarian law, policy and action in situations of conflict.

Suggested citation

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. Resources are selected based on their relevance to the themes of protect, prioritise and prevent. Entries are categorised as evidence (academic peer-reviewed articles or reports that have gone through a quality assurance process); discourse (opinion and discussion of key issues in the humanitarian sector); and policies and guidelines (newly published policies and guidelines on humanitarian response). 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. 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. 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