



Knowledge, evidence
and learning for
development

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.21

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Monthly Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summaries aim 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.




Protect

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	HoP Top reads
2021	Power in forced migration research methods	Adam Saltsman and Karen Jacobsen, eds., <i>Journal of Refugee Studies</i> Evidence 	Considers how the power imbalance between refugees and researchers affect research. Articles discuss the use of refugee stories; the power dynamics of research collaborations between the global north and south; and diaspora storytelling focused on movement rather than return to settled life. It argues that insights from such research perspectives can help shift understandings of refugee needs, agency, and the structures that govern refugee rights and aid.	
22 November 2021	General Issue with Special Focus on Humanizing Studies of Refuge and Displacement	Refuge Evidence 	Articles on the broad theme of 'humanising refugees'. Questions the relationship between refugee research and humanitarian organisations, and the focus on market-based solutions which mask the exclusion of refugees and erosion of rights.	




November 2021	Forced Migration Review: externalisation	Forced Migration Review Evidence 	Articles on externalisation in law and policy, including the EU, Australia, Canada and the role of the UNHCR.	
November 2021	Update of Forced Displacement Literature Review	Joint Data Center Evidence 	Includes articles on reasons for refugee return; education in Kenya; infectious diseases; intimate partner violence; conflict-related violence; mental illness in young refugees; social networks and relocation; refugee flows in conflict; refugee camps and deforestation; and attitudes to refugees in Jordan.	
9 November 2021	Thematic Focus: ICTs & Other Technologies	Elisa Mason; Forced Migration Current Awareness Evidence 	Lists recent evidence and discussion on ICTs and refugees, including articles on digital identity and biometrics, humanitarian AI; social inclusion; remittances; and others.	
18 November 2021	Proximate 'human shields' and the challenge for humanitarian organizations	Neve Gordon and Nicola Perugini; ICRC Law & Policy Evidence 	Based on research into recent conflicts, the blog argues that most people labelled as 'human shields' are labelled as such because of their proximity to fighting, and are neither voluntary shields or coerced into acting as shields by belligerents. States have sought to use the idea of human shielding to justify attacking civilian areas, and that humanitarian and human rights organisations often do not contest the 'human shield' justification.	
16 November 2021	Human shields under IHL: a path towards excessive legalization	Zoi Lafanzani; ICRC Law & Policy Evidence 	Outlines international humanitarian law relating to human shields.	
25 November 2021	Walking the talk on SGBV: an implementation checklist to narrow the gaps between international law and domestic practice	Rachael Kitching, Vanessa Murphy and Kelisiana Thynne; ICRC Law & Policy Policy/guidance 	A concise summary of the ICRC's Checklist on the Domestic Implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Prohibiting Sexual Violence.	
3 December 2021	Humanitarian action in 2021: tensions, trade-offs and dilemmas	Sorcha O'Callaghan; Martin Griffiths, Orzala Ashraf Nemat; ODI Discourse 	Online discussion on the politics, principles and pragmatism of humanitarian action in the face of reduced access and threats to rights and protection.	








Prioritise





Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
2021	Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement (GDFD) Research Program	various; World Bank Group Evidence 	Outlines a research programme on gender dimensions of forced displacement. Papers so far include gendered livelihoods in Darfur , the role of gender norms on education and domestic work outcomes of Syrian refugee adolescents in Jordan , whether gender norms change with displacement , as well as intimate partner violence in other contexts, and multidimensional poverty. Other research is ongoing.	
November 2021	Understanding Inclusivity of Religious Diversity in Humanitarian Response	Olivia Wilkinson and Jennifer Philippa Eggert; CREID working paper Policy/guidance 	Reviews existing tools and guidance on humanitarian response and religious diversity. Finds that while it is not often addressed, humanitarian guidelines do emphasise inclusion and safeguarding of marginalised groups. It also includes a set of recommended questions for the inclusion of religious diversity.	
19 November 2021	Use of COVID-19 evidence in humanitarian settings: the need for dynamic guidance adapted to changing humanitarian crisis contexts	Alex Odum et al., Conflict and Health. Evidence 	Research into how humanitarian organisations adapted to changing Covid-19 guidance. It found that adopting guidance to local contexts is 'a complex interplay', shaped by access and availability, coherence and coordination, contextual relevance, and trust and credibility. They argue for more incorporation of contextualised field experiences in guidance.	
November 2021	Why is inclusion of older people still a weakness of the humanitarian sector?	Sarah Nduu; Humanitarian Advisory Group Discourse 	Questions why the humanitarian sector has not sufficiently measured or provided for older people's needs. Reasons include a lack of data (more for NGOs than the UN) and false preconceptions.	
15 November 2021	How do communities think we should be measuring success?	Helen Guyatt; ALNAP Discourse 	Shows that ideas of success are highly context-dependent. Based on experience in Pakistan it argues that community perspectives on success should be gathered by observing, keeping it simple and taking time to explore. This process is better undertaken in person than remotely.	
November 2021	Assessing the severity of internal displacement 2021 report	Alesia O'Connor and Chloe Sydney; IDMC Evidence 	Provides assessment of IDP conditions in over 30 countries, measured through: safety and security; livelihoods; housing; services; civil and social rights; and severity. Findings include worsening conditions, particularly livelihoods. Access to services has deteriorated.	
20 November 2021	Gender-based violence and infectious disease in humanitarian	Melissa Meinhart et al., Conflict & Health Evidence	Based on evidence from the Ebola, Zika and Covid-19 outbreaks, the article shows that 'women and girls living in humanitarian settings have	

	settings: lessons learned from Ebola, Zika, and COVID-19 to inform syndemic policy making		‘faced bi-directional syndemic vulnerabilities between GBV and infectious disease’.	
November 2021	Messaging for Inclusion: Identifying relevant factors for disability and age inclusive disaster preparedness	ELHRA Evidence 	Research on how people with disabilities and older people access disaster preparedness messaging in Bangladesh. Includes discussion of accessibility and meaningful participation, and recommendations on how to create and disseminate effective communications.	
November 2021	Field Exchange 66: Nutrition of adolescents and school-age children	Field Exchange Evidence 	Special issue responding to a lack of international targets or systematic research on adolescent and school-age nutrition. Articles discuss, among other things, new indicators and monitoring, programmes, food systems, inclusion, through research and case studies.	

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
September 2021	From alignment to Integration: Lessons from Iraq on Linking MPCA and Social Protection Programming	World Bank Group Evidence 	Discusses ongoing efforts to link humanitarian actors’ cash transfer programmes and national social safety nets in Iraq. It identifies how early harmonisation in targeting and programme design across the humanitarian community laid the groundwork for the collective efforts towards transition.	
November 2021	The Climate Crisis: Mobile-enabled solutions in humanitarian emergencies	Jenny Casswell and Zoe Hamilton; GSMA Evidence 	Discusses five uses of mobile-enabled initiatives for climate mitigation or resilience: clean energy, mobile financial services; agritech; early warning; and targeting disaster relief.	
6 November 2021	#EnvConflictDay 2021: It takes a community to protect the environment from war	Doug Weir; Conflict and Environment Observatory Discourse 	Blog discussing the progress made in mainstreaming environmental protection in war and peace. Gives an overview of the many NGO, citizen, donor and legal efforts to improve protection for the environment.	

November 2021	Being Prepared and Acting First: A series of case studies on UNICEF's role in the delivery of effective social protection responses to COVID-19	UNICEF Evidence 	Case studies of UNICEF's social protection responses to Covid-19 in Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Jordan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Yemen.	
November 2021	Financial literacy training in Uganda's refugee response A learning brief	Uganda Cash Working Group Evidence 	Discusses published and unpublished reports and interview data on financial literacy training in Uganda. Outlines the training used, curriculums, participants, trainers, and links to financial service providers. It argues more training is needed, as are minimum standards and coordination, more access for people with disabilities, better links with financial service providers, among others.	
16 November 2021	The problem of breakage and liability in E-Transfers for Humanitarian agencies. An unrecognised risk?	Market Impact Ltd. Policy/guidance 	Outlines the issues of breakage (unspent money being taken by the bank) and liability (related issues of accountability arising from unspent money) for humanitarians using e-transfers.	
November 2021	Towards durable solutions to displacement: Understanding social acceptance of returnees in post-ISIS Iraq	Mercy Corps Evidence 	The report identifies a lack of social acceptance as a barrier to IDP return and uses survey data to explain acceptance levels. Whether individuals left or stayed under ISIS was found to be more important than group identity, with more acceptance of 'leavers'. Inclusive victimhood narratives could help increase acceptance. Yazidis who were displaced with Sunnis were more likely to accept them.	
November 2021	Complex Systems Modelling for Humanitarian Action: Methods and Opportunities	Roberta Rocca; OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data Policy/guidance 	Summarises the main findings from research on using complex systems modelling in humanitarian crises. It outlines definitions and modelling techniques, before outlining criteria to help assess whether humanitarian problems would benefit from complex systems modelling.	
November 2021	From Displacement to Development: How Kenya Can Create Shared Growth by Facilitating Economic Inclusion for Refugees	Jimmy Graham and Sarah Miller; Center for Global Development/Refugees International Evidence 	Outlines the barriers to economic inclusion for refugees in Kenya, including encampment, policy, political and economic barriers. Kenya signing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) suggests greater willingness to allow refugees to work. Includes recommendations for the government, NGOs and international organisations.	

24 November 2021	Community engagement in pastoralist areas: Lessons from the public dialogue process for a new refugee settlement in Turkana, Kenya	Cory Rodgers; Pastoralism Evidence 	Discusses lessons from a 2015 consultation between the UNHCR and local pastoralists and other stakeholders over the building of a new refugee settlement. Findings include that the UNHCR tended to 'overlook the complexity of overlapping and often contested access rights' and that an over-reliance on urban professionals as intermediaries may create bias. Argues for a more explicit engagement strategy from the UNHCR.
November 2021	A Changing Landscape: Trends in official financial flows and the aid architecture	World Bank Group Evidence 	Analysis of global aid funding from public and private sources. Findings include that funding not allocated to a specific country has quadrupled over 20 years, partly because of support for emergencies. Aid for emergencies was one of the fastest growing sectors since 2000, from 5% to 19% of the total.
25 November 2021	The development-humanitarian nexus: Linking development and disaster risk reduction with relief in Yemen as a case of high-intensity conflict	Rodrigo Mena and Dorothea Hilhorst; Disasters Evidence 	Discusses 'how development and DRR activities adapted to the emerging humanitarian crisis' by analysing governance and actors. Finds that many international development actors left or scaled down work, leaving Yemeni NGOs to operate with reduced capacity. Most shifted to emergency aid, driven by funding. However, development expertise remained and some projects continued, pointing to opportunities for longer-term solutions. All actors call for more integration of development and emergency responses, but it is unclear how much stability is required for this to be possible.
9 November 2021	A disaster relief insurance system shows how well international alliances can work – new research	Paula Jarzabkowski et al; The Conversation Evidence 	Summarises research on the benefits of disaster liquidity insurance supported by the World Bank and donor countries. Multi-lateral agreements can make such insurance available to poor countries. Disaster liquidity insurance responds to pre-agreed triggers rather than a claims process.

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.

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:

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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