K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.25

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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
2022	Twelve issues for 2022: what states can do to improve respect for international humanitarian law	ICRC

Discourse | Outlines 12 key humanitarian issues and the protections from and challenges to humanitarian law arising.: urban warfare; explosive weapons in populated areas; missing persons and their families; IHL and non-state armed groups; children associated with non-stated armed groups; new technologies of warfare; nuclear weapons; the environment; gender; disability; private military and security companies; and preserving humanitarian space. Also discusses how to build a culture of respect for IHL and provides resources on IHL. | ⭐ |
| March 2022 | Partnerships and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse: an analysis of recent case studies | Mary Robinson and Conilleau Jérôme; GCPS Consulting

Evidence | Case studies on the role played by partnerships (e.g. between donors and charities) in addressing allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) against aid workers. | |

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March 2022	No one is spared: abuses against older people in armed conflict	Human Rights Watch Evidence 🔬	Research on abuses against older people during conflict in a number of contexts between 2013 and 2021. It calls for conflict parties and the UN, as well as humanitarian agencies, to do more to protect older people.	
8 March 2022	State positions on the draft principles on the Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts after first reading	Doug Weir; Conflict and Environment Observatory Evidence 🔬	Analysis of states' positions on the International Law Commission's (ILC) draft principles (DPs) on the Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts (PERAC), before the second reading and finalisation begins in April 2022. Seeks to understand opposition and prospects for the implementation of a meaningful PERAC. Outlines suggested amendments to each issue, as well as broader approaches.	
March 2022	Legal accountability for environmental destruction in Ukraine *and* Environmental trends in the Ukraine conflict, 10 days in	Rachel Killean, Doug Weir and Eoghan Darbyshire; Conflict and Environment Observatory Evidence 🔬	Blogs on the possible legal avenues for accountability and redress for environmental damage in the Ukraine war, surveying domestic and international instruments and possibilities for accountability; and an overview of current information on environmental incidents caused by the war, including nuclear sites, water supplies and explosive weapons in commercial and industrial areas.	
15 March 2022	Consumer drones in conflict: where do they fit into IHL?	Faine Greenwood; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 💬	Given widespread reports of consumer drones being used in the Ukraine war to attack targets as well as transport medicine and other non-military uses, the blog outlines how IHL might apply.	
March 2022	The next ten years of the Mosaic Effect: minimizing disclosure risk from multiple sources in an ever-growing data ecosystem	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Discourse 💬	Podcast on using high-quality data in humanitarian programmes, while maintaining data protection standards.	
March 2022	Risk List	ACAPS Policy/guidance 🔺	Tool on how risks might affect humanitarian crises with risks assessed by ACAPS across the world.	

Prioritise

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Date	Title	Author/Source	Summary	
10 March 2022	Tracking social protection responses in Ukraine and neighbouring countries Evidence	Ugo Gentilini et al.; World Bank 'living paper'	Ongoing overview of social protection measures in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries. Reports on cash transfers; in-kind transfers; labour markets; other select measures related to food, housing, subsidies, and social services; and budget support. It also reports on humanitarian assistance in similar forms.	
March 2022	OUTBREAK READY! Policy/guidance	Ready Initiative	A digital simulation to help humanitarian actors prepare for large-scale disease outbreaks in humanitarian contexts. Works alongside other training materials.	
March 2022	DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document No 3 Cash Transfers Policy/guidance	ECHO	Guidance on the use of cash transfers in humanitarian settings.	⭐
March 2022	Blog: ECHO's new cash policy – what's good and what's missing? Discourse	Paul Harvey, Valentina Barca, Louisa Seferis, Calum McLean; Humanitarian Outcomes	Analyses the new ECHO cash transfer policy (above). It highlights key changes in the policy, such as a focus on linking cash with social protecting, supporting social insurance and cash over vouchers; and key gaps, such as a lack of mention of climate change, accountability to the excluded, and the peace dimensions of the nexus.	
February 2022	International evidence to inform decision making on implementing social protection measures during a crisis Evidence	Kate Orvak et al.; Blavatnik School of Government	Rapid review of evidence on cash transfers in times of crisis, discussing cash as social protection during Covid-19; key areas affected by cash transfers; and design choices. Its policy highlights are: In times of crisis, cash transfers have wide reaching benefits for children, adults and the wider economy; Unconditional cash transfers are particularly well suited to crisis response; During a crisis, cash grants are high value-for-money and more flexible than most other social welfare programmes.	
15 March 2022	Ukraine – can social protection be sustained and support a humanitarian response? Evidence	Bozena Sojka, Paul Harvey and Rachel Slater	A review of Ukraine's social protection system, how it has been affected by the war and is responding, and unknowns, to consider how humanitarian and long-term support can complement each other.	
March 2022	How cognitive and psychosocial difficulties affect learning outcomes: a study of primary school children in Syria Evidence	Grace Anyaegbu et al., The Journal on Education in Emergencies	Examination of the effect of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing on the learning of children affected by war, dislocation and trauma in NE Syria.	

March 2022	Shock-responsive social protection: what is known about what works in fragile and conflict-affected situations?	Daniel Longhurst and Rachel Slater; BASIC Research Evidence 🔬	Review of evidence on shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) in fragile contexts, including a summary of SRSP, and issues including legal, political and ethical factors, inclusivity, delivery capacity, programme alignment, coordination, and when not to use SRSP.	
March 2022	Value for money of social assistance in fragile contexts: considerations, evidence, and research priorities	Emily Wylde; BASIC Research Evidence 🔬	A thematic review on value for money considerations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.	
March 2022	The politics of donor and government approaches to social protection and humanitarian policies for assistance during crises	Paul Harvey and Habiba Mohamed; BASIC Research Evidence 🔬	Paper on the politics of social protection during crises. Examines the policies of 21 countries as well as humanitarian organisations. Finds that 'social protection policies are prone to conflict blindness'.	
March 2022	Key considerations for targeting social assistance in situations of protracted crises	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Carolina Szyp; BASIC Research Evidence 🔬	Examines existing approaches and the key considerations and dilemmas involved.	⭐
March 2022	Accountability in crises: connecting evidence from humanitarian and social protection approaches to social assistance	Louisa Seferis and Paul Harvey; BASIC Research Evidence 🔬	Discusses accountability mechanisms, in terms of effectiveness, exclusion, use of data and differences between humanitarian and social protection approaches.	
March 2022	Understanding Sex Differences in Childhood Undernutrition: A Narrative Review	Susan Thursans et al.; Nutrients Evidence 🔬	In response to findings that boys are more likely to be wasted, stunted and underweight than girls, the paper reviews the evidence. It finds 'that the evidence on why sex differences occur is limited but that a complex interaction of social, environmental, and genetic factors likely underlies these differences throughout the life cycle'. The paper complements a systematic review and meta-analysis.	⭐
8 March 2022	People Around the World are Booking Airbnbs in Ukraine to Help People In Need. Will it Work?	Anit Mukherjee and Alan Gelb; CGD Discourse 💬	Blog on the method of booking Airbnb rooms in Ukraine as a method of transferring money to help in the crisis. Suggests that, although evidence is scarce so far, the money may go to wealthier Ukrainians and may fuel inflation, but that the method is an innovative option.	
December 2021	Principled humanitarian programming in Yemen: a	Marzia Montemurro & Karin Wendt; HERE Geneva Evidence	Research on a number of humanitarian actors to understand challenges to humanitarian principles around access and coordination negotiations. Minority	

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	'prisoner's dilemma'?		groups are excluded from aid as a result of both conflict dynamics and shortcomings in the delivery of aid. It argues that a lack of trust is preventing agencies from enacting a coordinated principled approach.	
March 2022	Gender, power and principles in humanitarian action	Megan Daigle; ODI Evidence	Noting that 'gender analysis is rarely applied to those programmes acknowledged as life-saving, such as food or shelter,' the report assesses gender responsiveness in the sector.	
March 2022	Inclusion and exclusion in urban refugee displacement in Jordan	Amanda Gray Meral, Marcus Langley and Veronique Barbelet; ODI Evidence	Research on urban displacement finds 'a humanitarian response that was not systematically inclusive'. Reasons include differences in treatment of non-Syrians; funding priorities; a focus on quantity of aid over impact, quality and equity; and a failure to consider urban drivers of exclusion.	
March 2022	Complementary approaches between international and local protection advocacy: 'Don't speak for me, I'll speak for myself'	Gemma Davies and Alexandra Spencer; ODI Evidence	The briefing note examines advocacy efforts of international and national actors on protection issues in conflict, focused on Jordan and South Sudan.	
March 2022	Children as agents in crises: re-assessing adult-child power dynamics in humanitarian action	Sofie Lilli Stoffel and Kirstin Kreyscher; Alternatives Humanitaires Discourse	The blog argues that humanitarians' 'focus on adults' perspectives rather than those of children leads to severe shortcomings in assisting children through crises, from missing issues relevant to children to denying them the benefits of active engagement in matters that affect them'. It gives examples of programming successfully informed by children's views, and suggests questions for humanitarians to consider when reframing programming.	
29 March 2022	Will the Ukraine crisis mean EU aid is pulled from the rest of the world?	Mikaela Gavas and Samuel Pleeck; CGD blog Discourse	Although the EU Commission has said it will not pull aid from other parts of the world to fund aid to Ukraine, the blog suggests this may be difficult in practice.	
18 March 2022	Price spike caused by Ukraine war will push over 40 million into poverty: how should we respond?	Ian Mitchell , Sam Hughes and Samuel Huckstep; CGD blog Discourse	Argues that to reduce and mitigate the humanitarian need from food price spikes, policymakers should avoid export restrictions, seek to reform agriculture policies, and fund humanitarian agencies in anticipation of increased needs.	

Prevent

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16 March 2022	Machine learning and phone data can improve targeting of humanitarian aid	Emily Aiken et al., Nature Evidence	Discusses how data from mobile phone networks can improve the targeting of humanitarian assistance. The authors train machine algorithms to recognise signs of poverty in mobile phone data. It is tested in Togo and found to reduce errors of exclusion by 4–21%.	
10 March 2022	OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data webinar on flood modelling for anticipatory action	OCHA Policy/guidance	A webinar exploring the use of flood models for anticipatory action in humanitarian contexts. With experts from Google, academia and the Red Cross and Crescent.	
2022	Second research conference on forced displacement	Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement Discourse	Summary of recent conference with themes including IDPs; the relationship between research and policy; statelessness; sub-Saharan Africa; displaced children; and service delivery. Papers include studies of separated siblings, on the short-lived effects of cash transfers, the effect of family size criteria in cash programmes, refugees in Chad, and the effect of cash on school attendance in Turkey.	
March 2022	Inclusion across the nexus in protracted conflicts	Becky Carter; K4D Evidence	Briefing note on the inclusion of the most vulnerable people affected by intersecting inequalities in coordinated humanitarian, development and peacebuilding assistance (the 'nexus') during protracted conflicts.	⭐
March 2022	Outsmarting La Niña: lessons and recommendations for strengthening resilience through the drought response in the Horn of Africa	Mercy Corps Evidence	Brief on the La Nina-driven drought in the Horn of Africa that, discussing needs and lessons from previous responses in terms of building resilience, early warning, flexible finance, and adaptive management.	
March 2022	Climate crisis and displacement: from commitment to action	Forced Migration Review issue Evidence	Articles on taking action on climate and displacement with lessons from a number of contexts, as well as cash transfers in Turkey, the women, peace and security agenda, and accomodation centres in the UK.	

24 March 2022	Displacement diplomacy: five ways to improve policy and practice on internal displacement in Africa	Judith I. Oputu; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse	In response to a stalling of action on IDPs, the blog suggests diplomatic approaches to encourage states to focus more on implementing frameworks and solutions for IDPs.	
14 March 2022	Multilateral development banks' crisis response: what instruments do MDBs offer and how fast do they act?	Rakan Aboneaaj , Azusa Sato and Scott Morris; CGD Evidence	Comparison of the speed of MDBs' crisis response funding mechanisms, measured with a relative disbursement rate. It 'finds that at both the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), budget support operations are by far the fastest instrument, in some cases even outpacing crisis-specific instruments.' Many disbursements are contingency based, and thus approved ahead to time, which helps reduce overall response time.	
March 2022	Financial services in the Uganda refugee response 2022: an assessment of user perspectives	U-Learn Evidence	Assessment of user experiences to highlight preferences and barriers to financial services.	

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
COVID-19 Armed Non-State Actors' Response Monitor	Geneva Call	Resource tracking Covid-19 responses by armed non-state actors globally.
Global Database of Humanitarian Organisations	Humanitarian Outcomes	Database of humanitarian providers and resources.
Evidence database	Anticipation Hub	Database of evidence on the effectiveness of early actions.
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.

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).