K4D
Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.31

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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
September 2022	From words to deeds a study of armed non-state actors' practice and interpretation of international humanitarian and human rights norms research and policy conclusions	Annyssa Bellal, Pascal Bongar and Ezequiel Heffes; UKRI Evidence	Research on how armed non-state actors (ANSAs) interpret and practice IHL norms, including protection of civilians, humanitarian access, protection of healthcare, and others. Further detail on case studies (e.g. FARC, MNLA, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Al Qaeda, MILF and the Islamic State group) available here	⭐
8 September 2022	Collaborative advocacy on the protection of civilians: children and armed conflict and explosive weapons in populated areas	Gemma Davies and Alexandra Spencer; ODI Evidence	Looking at protection advocacy related to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and children and armed conflict, the report analyses current advocacy mechanisms and strategies and lessons. Argues that 'Multilateral approaches involving a broad and diverse set of actors, strategies and tactics are required to develop and maintain protections and norms at the international, regional and national levels.'	

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September 2022	Humanitarian resistance Its ethical and operational importance	Hugo Slim; Humanitarian Practice Network Evidence	The paper discusses the practice of humanitarian resistance. Using historical and recent examples, it argues that such activity plays and has played an important role in protection, and that neutrality is not necessary under IHL.	
September 2022	Advocating together to strengthen protection – Collective efforts of international and national organisations:	Gemma Davies and Alexandra Spencer; ODI Evidence	Briefing note explores of examples of international and national humanitarian actors engaging in collaborative advocacy efforts, highlights good practice and suggests opportunities for change	
July 2022	Humanitarian Considerations in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)	Luke Kelly, K4D Evidence	Rapid literature review finds that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) raises a number of humanitarian considerations, centred on the treatment of participants and the unintended consequences of the programmes (including externally)	
13 September 2022	Aftermaths of battles and conflicts: from challenges to solutions	Christian Cardon de Lichtbuer, Thomas de Saint Maurice, and Kelisiana Thynne, ICRC Discourse	The end of intense combat during armed conflict does not automatically correlate with an end to human suffering. This blog proposes some concrete recommendations as to what can be done before, during and after conflict to reduce human suffering.	
11 September	The Vanishing Point of the Laws of War	Alex de Waal; The New York Review Discourse	In discussing how best to protect victims of war-induced starvation, the article outlines the use of blockades as a war tactic over the last two hundred years, and how their appeal to warring powers as a 'measure short of war' has limited legal and popular recognition of 'starvation crimes'. Since the passing of UNSCR 2417 (2018), stating "that using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare may constitute a war crime," several states have resisted enforcing it, while international organisations have been muted in denouncing the blockade in Tigray. Based on a recently published book.	

Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	HoP Top reads
September 2022	The Ukraine crisis and diverted aid:	Development Initiatives Evidence	Data on proportion of humanitarian requirements met, comparing Ukraine with other contexts. Finds that there is	

	What we know so far		evidence of diversion from other contexts to Ukraine.	
June 20220	Humanitarian Ration Cuts: Impacts on Vulnerable Groups	Huma Haider, K4D Evidence 	Explores the evidence regarding the impact of ration cuts – the focus is primarily on refugee populations and sub groups of refugees.	
September 2022	Pooled funds: the new humanitarian silver bullet?	Manisha Thomas; Norwegian Refugee Council Evidence 	The study looks at the benefits and challenges of using pooled funds in order to send funds quickly to emergencies. Examines issues of coordination, risk sharing, knowledge sharing and others.	
7 September 2022	Opinion: Are we finally ready to shake up humanitarian financing?	Harpinder Collacott and Pierre Micheletti; DevEx Discourse 	Blog discusses the possibility of a common humanitarian fund driven by mandatory contributions.	
August 2022	Beyond borders: satellite applications for humanitarian emergencies	Giulia Costella; Caribou Space Evidence 	The report outlines the many satellite applications and actors already involved in humanitarian response. However it finds limited evidence on their effectiveness to guide future use.	⭐
August 2022	Lesson of lessons: A window into the evolution of the humanitarian system	Jessica Alexander and Emmeline Kerkvliet; ALNAP Evidence 	The report analyses 15 lessons papers from the past 25 years to identify themes on the most common lessons and where progress has or has not been made.	⭐
September 2022	Tracking cash and voucher assistance	Development Initiatives Evidence 	Provides data on the use of CVA in humanitarian crises; how CVA use is currently reported (e.g. whether it is disaggregated, whether it shows sectoral objectives, and , and how this can be improved.	
6 Sept 2022	Guiding Principles on Interoperability of Data Systems in Humanitarian Cash Programming	Donor cash forum Guidance 	Details of the ten principles on data interoperability in cash programming are relevant across the spectrum of sector and sub-sector programming along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. The DCF's principles will also assist donors in determining funding levels and with performance assessments and evaluations of interoperability initiatives.	⭐
April 2022	Cash and In-Kind Transfers in Humanitarian Settings: A Review of Evidence and Knowledge Gaps	Dahyeon Jeong and Iva Trako; World Bank Working Paper Evidence 	A literature review of non-contributory humanitarian assistance interventions in low-and-middle income countries.	

September 2022	Adjusting social protection delivery to support displaced populations	Christy Lowe et al.; ODI Evidence 🔬	The report highlights the need to modify social protection systems so that IDPs can access them. Based on research in Cameroon, Colombia and Greece.	
14 September 2022	Examining ways to promote mobile money use in refugee-hosting areas in Ethiopia	Alan de Brauw and Shalini Roy; IFPRI Evidence 🔬	Short blog outlining an ongoing trial to test whether incentives can be used to increase mobile money usage. This is designed to overcome previously identified disparities in mobile money usage.	
1 November 2022	Expanding Social Protection Coverage with Humanitarian Aid: Lessons on Targeting and Transfer Values from Ethiopia	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler et al.; Journal of Development Studies Evidence 🔬	Analysis of the data from the Ethiopian government's social protection and emergency food assistance transfers. Finds that the country's social protection has been able to effectively scale-up during emergencies, and that social protection and humanitarian assistance were complementary	
14 September 2022	Data sharing and third-party monitoring in humanitarian response	Stephanie Diepeveen et al.; ODI Evidence 🔬	The report explores risks and opportunities around third-party monitoring of humanitarian work.	⭐
September 2022	Validating humanitarian data analysis through collective intelligence: a pilot study	Robert Trigwell et al.; IOM Evidence 🔬	Advances a new method for affected populations to validate data collected in humanitarian settings. A form of collective intelligence (CI) involving the use of digital technology allows affected populations to validate previously collected data and conclusions, and provide open-ended input to provide both more disaggregated data and more in-depth engagement.	
September 2022	Report of the evaluation of the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine, 2022	François Grünewald; Groupe URD Evidence 🔬	Updated real time evaluation of the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine, including national and international responses, and particular challenges and issues such as aid in areas under bombardment, population movements, aid modalities, coordination, and others.	
8 September 2022	Caught between two stools: humanitarian aid in the Sri Lanka crisis response	Paul Harvey and Gayathri Lokuge; Humanitarian Practice Network Discourse 💬	Sri Lanka's economic crisis and high rates of food insecurity but the nature of the crisis means that humanitarian actors have been able to offer relatively little support. Discusses the need for international support for local volunteer action	
8 September 2022	Locked out. What do local leaders say about reforming the humanitarian system?	Duncan Green; From Poverty to Power Discourse 💬	Blog highlighting some ideas from the Global Summit on Local Leadership, which discussed barriers and drivers to localisation.	

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
8 September 2022	If the humanitarian system is to meet the growing needs of people affected by crises, we need transformation not tinkering	Tanya Wood et al.; Start Network

Discourse | Blog recommending six key changes to transform the humanitarian system. | |
| 28 September 2022 | Registration, targeting and deduplication: emergency response inside Ukraine thematic paper | CALP network

Evidence | Thematic evaluation of the USD 492 million cash response to the Ukraine crisis, focused on registration, targeting and deduplication. | |
| 15 September 2022 | Humanitarian action in an evolving Russia–Ukraine conflict Virtual roundtable, 15 September 2022 | John Bryant, Patrick Saez and Sarah Redd; ODI

Discourse | Summary of a recent discussion on prioritising aid in Ukraine, including the different contexts within the country, increased needs in winter, the need for long-term planning, and funding to local actors. | |
| 28 September 2022 | Humanitarian Accountability Report 2022: Accountability is Non-negotiable | CHS Alliance

Evidence | Report on accountability to affected populations, discussing trends in the sector and issues such as sexual abuse, leadership and climate change. | |

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
August 2022	Forced Migration Review issue: Knowledge, voice and power	Various; Forced Migration Review

Evidence | Articles on knowledge, voice and power, as well as social cohesion. | |
| September 2022 | Refugees welcome? Inter-group interaction and host community attitude formation | Alexander Betts et al.; World Development

Evidence | Research showing a 'small positive correlation between refugee-host interactions and host community attitudes towards refugees in Uganda.' | |
| September 2022 | The impact of forced displacement on housing and urban settlement in host communities | Joint Data Centre Quarterly Digest, World Bank/UNHCR

Evidence | Literature suggests that the nature of refugee inflows has the potential to affect housing prices and generate substantial changes in housing preferences, neighborhood quality/amenities, mobility patterns of hosts, and host attitudes toward refugees. This may lead to residential segregation, urban poverty, economic inequality, and unsustainable cities. A range of policy lessons are suggested. | |

September 2022	Data and displacement assessing the practical and ethical implications of data-driven humanitarianism for IDPs in camp-like settings	Vicki Squire et al.; Warwick University Evidence 🔬	The report, based on interviews with data experts and humanitarian workers, and IDPs, finds that data is not always collected in line with international standards. It raises operational concerns related to inconsistent collection practices, and ethical concerns around informed consent and data use.	
September 2022	Towards the "perfect" weather warning bridging disciplinary gaps through partnership and communication	Brian Golding, ed.; Springer Evidence 🔬	The book discusses how to make effective weather warnings through interorganisational communication and cooperation.	
September 2022	The state-of-the-art on drought displacement modelling	IDMC Policy/guidance 🔺	Report on data methodologies used to forecast the risk of drought displacement episodes. Outlines the models currently used, strengths and weaknesses, and gaps in the data.	
September 2022	Trauma-informed anticipatory action: considerations for refugees and other displaced populations	Evan Easton-Calabria; Feinstein International Center Evidence 🔬	Discusses trauma-informed anticipatory action for displaced populations. Considerations of trauma should inform risk communication.	
September 2022	Disaster Risk Financing: An Overview From Lesotho	Relebohile Agnes Mojaki, Evan Easton-Calabria, Erin Coughlan de Perez; Feinstein International Center Evidence 🔬	Brief looking at the disaster risk management landscape in Lesotho following the Disaster Risk Management Bill in 2020.	
29 September 2022	Anticipating drought-related food security changes	P. Krishna Krishnamurthy R; Nature Sustainability Evidence 🔬	Uses lag-1 autocorrelation diagnostics into remotely sensed observations from the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) mission and food prices to help forecast drought more accurately (outside of conflict settings).	
30 September 2022	Adapting to fragility: Lessons from practitioners	Ed Laws, Samuel Sharp and Pablo Yanguas; ODI Evidence 🔬	The report seeks to characterise different forms of fragility, and lessons on how development programmes can effectively work in such situations. Based on research in Afghanistan, Libya and Lebanon.	

Date	Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary	
September 2022	Risk management & decision making under uncertainty during the Afghanistan crisis 2021	Araba Cole & Panagiotis Olympiou; GISF Evidence 🔬	The report analyses crisis management practices employed by humanitarian organisations during the Taliban takeover in 2021. Includes an overview of contemporary thinking on risk and uncertainty, and crisis management, and argues that it can help humanitarians worked more effectively in insecure situations. In particular, humanitarian organisations need to engage more with uncertainty.	
September 2022	Lessons for peace: engaging with Afghanistan after four decades of conflict and one year of new Taliban administration	Alastair McKechnie, Mark Bowden and Ed Laws; ODI Evidence 🔬	Lessons on engaging with Afghanistan's political structures to deliver aid.	
30 September 2022	Learning from disruption: Evolution, revolution, or status quo?	A Khan et al.; ALNAP Discourse 💬	Based on discussion from a 2021 ALNAP meeting, the paper analyses the effect of covid-19 and the decolonise aid debate on the aid sector.	
October 2022	The emerging world of humanitarian energy: A conceptual research review	Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen; Energy Research & Social Science Evidence 🔬	A literature review of research on energy in contexts of displacement, finding a significant body of research.	
14 September 2022	The Lancet Commission on lessons for the future from the COVID-19 pandemic	Jeffrey D Sachs et al.; The Lancet Evidence 🔬	Discussion of responses to Covid-19 pandemic in terms of international cooperation on suppression, humanitarian response, economic challenges and rebuilding. Includes recommendations for a strengthened multilateral system. Based on the input of experts.	
4 October 2022	Scaling sustainable energy services for displaced people and their hosts	Owen Grafham, Glada Lahn and James Haselip; Chatham House Evidence 🔬	Evidence on governance and policy structures can enable or inhibit provision of and access to sustainable energy for displaced persons. Uses case studies of Ethiopia, Jordan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.	

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.

From Words to Deeds	The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, in collaboration with Geneva Call, the American University in Cairo and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Research on armed non-stated actors' adherence to IHL.
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).