

# Humanitarian evidence summary

## No.11

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*This is the 11th 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.*

### Enhancing protection and humanitarian access

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	HoP Top reads
4 Feb 2021	<a href="#">IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility</a>	IASC; guidance	Guidance on data responsibility in humanitarian action.	
28 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Should we discriminate in order to act? Profiling: a necessary but debated practice</a>	Françoise Duroch and Michaël Neuman; MSF Crash; blog	A blog discussing basing decisions on which staff to send to dangerous contexts based on criteria such as nationality, skin colour, gender and religion, for safety reasons. Raises the issue of whether the practice places a disproportionate risk on non-Western staff.	
27 Jan 2021	<a href="#">The Concept of "International Protection" in the Global Compacts on Refugees and Migration</a>	Jane McAdam and Tamara Wood; Interventions; journal article	Academic article arguing that a popular division between refugees and migrants, with refugees requiring protection, is misleading. The Global Compacts recognise that protection needs and obligations in international law go beyond those defined as refugees. The fundamental rights of all should be recognised as the	

			compacts are implemented.	
14 Dec 2020	A home away from home Last-minute negotiations protected Ahmed from eviction	NRC; blog and video	The report notes that most displaced persons camps in Yemen are on private land, meaning evictions are always a threat. The NRC monitors this, and the blog outlines a successful negotiation with the landowner.	
15 Jan 2021	You can't handle the truth: misinformation and humanitarian action	Rachel Xu; ICRC Law & Policy blog.	Outlines why misinformation is prevalent and how it can harm humanitarian action. Notes the speed of travel of misinformation, aided by bots and its focus on anger and novelty; the wealth of information making fact-checking hard; the role of fear and bias, particularly in crisis. This also makes it easier to disinformation (deliberate falsehoods) to spread.	

## Needs assessment and analysis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
3 Feb 2021	Hunger deaths aren't simply about famine or no famine	Daniel Maxwell et al.; The New Humanitarian; article	Argues that humanitarians should not focus on whether a place is in famine or not. The declaration of famine can be a distraction. The magnitude of a hunger problem, and the duration should also be considered. A declaration of famine can also be suppressed for political reasons, and data can be limited.	
March 2020	International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics (IRIS)	UNHCR; report	Notes that there is no international guidance for statistics on IDPs, most of which comes from humanitarian programmes in crisis situations, meaning they are not necessarily comprehensive or consistent globally. The report makes detailed recommendations	

			on compiling statistics.	
25 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Essential Needs Guidelines</a>	World Food Programme; guidelines	Three guidance notes and online learning resources on: essential needs assessment; minimum expenditure baskets; and supply analysis.	
Jan 2021	<a href="#">Humanitarian Health Digest</a>	Johns Hopkins Humanitarian Health Centre	A 6-monthly bibliography of peer reviewed articles on health, nutrition, disease, hygiene and health systems.	
Jan 2021	<a href="#">Quarterly update of UN Microdata</a>	UNHCR Microdata library	Data and analysis of needs for Q3 2020.	

## Accountability to affected populations

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
January 2021	<a href="#">Humanitarian leadership: developing social capital with affected populations</a>	Joseph Zapater; Southern Responses; blog	Argues that humanitarians building close personal relationships with affected populations might improve humanitarian response. It would help humanitarians break out of 'epistemic bubbles' formed by socialising mainly among themselves, understand complexity and increase participation and accountability.	
December 2020- May 2021	<a href="#">COVID-19 Global Risk Communication and Community Engagement Strategy – interim guidance</a>	World Health Organisation report	The report highlights research showing 'pandemic fatigue' as people perceive less risk and are increasingly tired of restrictions. It outlines the UN strategy for risk communication and community engagement, focused on using data and working through communities and local capacities.	

## Cash programming

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
2021	<a href="#">Empowering refugees through cash and agriculture: A regression discontinuity design</a>	Claire MacPherson and Olivier Sterck; Journal of Development Economics.	Analyses the effects of given refugees cash transfers and market development in the Kalobeyei settlement (compared to those in Kakuma camp where rations are common) using 2017 household surveys. Findings include that refugees supported by cash appear happier, have better diets and feel more independent, although there are no effects on assets and employment.	
Dec 2020	<a href="#">Guidance Brief. How to incorporate cash and voucher assistance into a nutrition response</a>	CaLP Global Nutrition Cluster; guidance	Guidance on how to incorporate cash for nutrition practitioners.	
Jan 2021	<a href="#">Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection in Yemen and Iraq</a>	Ruta Nimkar and Emily Savage; CaLP	Reports on the use of cash assistance in the 2 countries.	
Jan 2021	<a href="#">CASH TRANSFERS FOR FOOD AND FUTURES</a> <a href="#">New insights into cash transfer programming in fragile settings</a>	Kiza Magendane et al; report	Discusses the use of cash in fragile settings, including case studies of programmes.	

Jan 2021	<p>World Food Programme multipurpose cash assistance in Lebanon:</p> <p>Social cohesion and stability between Syrian refugees and host communities</p>	Overseas Development Institute; report	Analysis of multipurpose cash assistance (MPC) to 23,000 Syrian households in Lebanon based on interviews of a non-representative sample. Finds MPC can create both cohesion and tensions. Respondents reported positive effects on the economy, ability to pay rent and pay for healthcare.	
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## Managing risk better, preparedness and anticipation

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
13 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Uncertainty and humanitarian action: what Donald Rumsfeld can teach us</a>	Mark DuBois and Maria Montemurro; Global Dashboard; Blog	The blog argues that although humanitarians analyse systematic risk and uncertainty, there are biases in how it does this. We should interrogate what gets established as a 'meaningful uncertainty (noticed, discussed and actioned)' by considering inequalities between north and south, and 'siloed' ways of working that allow important risks to 'belong to' other sectors.	
Feb 2021	<a href="#">A Framework for the Ethical use of Advanced Data Science Methods in the Humanitarian Sector</a>	Kate Dodgson et al.; Data Science and Ethics Group; Report	This significant report highlights ethical considerations and provides practical guidance on using data science methods in humanitarian action. It outlines existing guidance on data ethics and humanitarianism, guidance on data collection and processing, and case studies of the use of: natural language processing, predictive modelling and forecasting, computer vision, speech/audio facial recognition, and hybrids.	
21 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Literature Review of Evidence on</a>	Global Risk Financing; literature review	Discusses reasons for the low uptake of disaster risk financing instruments in low-income countries; as well as effective ways to combine	

	Disaster Risk Finance		risk financing instruments; and the role of the private sector.	
2021	The Global Risks Report 2021	World Economic Forum; report	Discusses major risks as identified by surveys, including inequality and social division, youth unemployment, digital technologies, climate change, infectious diseases, biodiversity loss, and others.	
12 Jan 2021	Literature Review on Law and Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction	IFRC; report	A literature review focusing on concepts of disaster recovery and reconstruction in academic and policy literature; international rules, laws and principles; and legal and operational issues.	
22 Jan 2021	Ageing Water Storage Infrastructure: An Emerging Global Risk	United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health; report	Notes that the world is seeing a 'mass ageing' of dams as tens of thousands reach an 'alert threshold' of 50 years old and can become dangerous. Outlines trends in dambuilding and discusses the possibilities and effects of decommissioning dams.	
19 Jan 2021	Powerful Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in the Himalayas	Maria Dombrov; Glacier Hub; blog	Outlining recent research on the trigger mechanisms and disaster impacts of Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) in the Himalayas. Their remoteness makes them hard to study, but the authors argue that more early warning and risk management studies are needed. There are likely to be more GLOFs as the climate warms.	

## Resilience and protracted crisis

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
24 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Women and children's health in conflict settings</a>	series of articles; <i>The Lancet</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political and security dimensions of the humanitarian health response to violent conflict</li> <li>• The effects of armed conflict on the health of women and children</li> <li>• Delivering health interventions to women, children, and adolescents in conflict settings: what have we learned from ten country case studies?</li> <li>• Delivering health and nutrition interventions for women and children in different conflict contexts: a framework for decision making on what, when, and how</li> </ul>	
2021	<a href="#">The Globalization of Refugee Flows</a>	Xavier Devictor et al., Journal of Development Economics	Looking at data on refugee locations from 1987 to 2017, it finds that refugees still mostly reside in states neighbouring their state of origin, but compared to 1987, they now travel further on average and are more likely to reside in a high-income country (15% of refugees compared to 5% in 1990).	
2021	<a href="#">The impact of forced displacement on host communities: A review of the empirical literature in economics</a>	Paolo Verme and Kirsten Schuettler; Journal of Development Economics	A meta review of 59 empirical studies of the economic impact of forced displacement on host communities. The cover 19 displacements ranging from 1922 to 2018. The majority of results show an increase in household well-being for host communities. 6/10 results for employment are non-significant; 1-2 are significant and show improvements in employment for host populations. Negative effects on	

			employment 'related mostly to female, young, informal and low-skilled workers, and that they are associated with larger crises and tend to disappear in the long-run'. The paper notes that there are gaps in research, including: long-term effects, effects on services, household wellbeing, and major crises are ignored.	
19 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Covid-19 in developing countries: secondary impacts</a>	Parliamentary International Development Committee; report	Report on secondary impacts of covid-19 in developing countries, including on non-covid healthcare; economy and livelihoods; and women and girls.	
15 Jan 2021	<a href="#">International Migration 2020 Highlights</a>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; report	Findings include that covid-19 travel restrictions may have reduced international migrants by 2 million by mid-2020, which is likely to have a negative effect on remittances. International migration had increased for two decades before 2020. Most international migrants in 2020 were from middle-income countries. 13% were from low-income countries, often driven by humanitarian crises. Includes data on origins and destinations of migrants, as well as surveying policies relating to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.	
6 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Review: Wider Health Effects of Vertical Responses to COVID-19 in Low and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs)</a>	Social Science in Humanitarian Action platform; literature review.	Outlines substantial negative effects on a focus on covid-19 measures on other aspects of healthcare as services are reshaped and health-seeking behaviour changes. This could lead to millions of preventable deaths. Also discusses suggestions to mitigate the problem.	
Jan 2021	<a href="#">A summary resilience rating system: a methodology for building and tracking resilience to</a>	The World Bank; guidelines	Outlines a system for rating projects on their resilience to climate change.	

	climate change			
26 Jan 2021	Why Colombia Granted Full Rights to its 1.7 Million Venezuelans, and What Comes Next	Stephanie López Villamil and Helen Dempster; Center for Global Development; blog	Blog discussing Colombia's decision to provide permits to allow the 1.7 million Venezuelans in the country to work and move freely. Only a portion have been granted so far (700,000) because of difficulties in the application process, and the effects have so far been limited. Host communities are showing less support for Venezuelans and Covid-19 is making conditions worse. However, the state is making efforts to increase inclusion.	
Jan 2021	Field Exchange issue 64	Journal	A special issue on community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) Surge, a health systems strengthening (HSS) approach. How to implement it more in fragile settings is identified as a challenge.	
Dec 2020	Forced Displacement and Educational Outcomes: Evidence, Innovations, and Policy Indications	World Bank/UNHCR Joint Data Center; literature review	Summaries of articles on displacement and education, and policy lessons.	
2 Feb 2021	Quality in crisis: a systematic review of the quality of health systems in humanitarian settings	Keely Jordan et al; Conflict and Health; journal article	Systematic review finds that 'Poor diagnosis, inadequate patient referrals, and inappropriate treatment of illness were commonly cited barriers to quality care. There was a strong focus placed on the foundations of a health system with emphasis on the workforce and tools, but a limited focus on the health impacts of health systems. The review also suggests some barriers to high quality health systems that are specific to humanitarian settings such as language barriers for refugees in their host country, discontinued care	

			for migrant populations with chronic conditions, and fears around provider safety.'	
26 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Overcoming neglect: Finding ways to manage and control NTDs</a>	MSF; report	Report on neglected tropic diseases, outlining their effect, diagnoses, treatment, and policy recommendations. It covers: kala azar, cutaneous leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness, snakebite envenoming, Noma, and chagas disease.	
2 Feb 2021	<a href="#">The Politics of Refugee Relief: UNRWA and the Ongoing Funding Crisis</a>	Kjersti G. Berg and Jorgen Jensenhaugen; Norewgian Centre for Humanitarian Studies; blog	Discusses the Biden administration's resumption of funding for UNRWA in global context. It notes that the Trump administration's cut to funding was part of efforts to delegitimise the right to return. Biden has resumed funding, but is unlikely to push for a solution.	

## Other

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Journal/Publication type	Summary	Top reads
12 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Interrogating INGOs' dual salary systems to address inequality</a>	Ishbel Mchwa-Hermann; Bond website; blog	Points to research arguing that different pay scales for 'international' and 'local' staff in NGOs is demotivating and undermines teamwork. Highlights the INGO Fair Reward Network and toolkit to help NGOs restructure their pay.	
21 June 2019	<a href="#">Beyond the Numbers: How qualitative approaches can improve monitoring of humanitarian action</a>	Amelie Sundberg; ALNAP: report	Discusses current understandings of qualitative data in M&E guidance and shows where humanitarian organisations are already using qualitative data. Notes that M&E systems tend to favour numerical data, so more use of qualitative data would require changes. Emphasises that 'good enough' qualitative data collective can be employed effectively in humanitarian	

			situations.	
February 2021	<a href="#">Rethinking Humanitarianism</a>	Jeremy Konyndyk and Heba Aly; CGDEV/New Humanitarian podcast series	Episodes between Nov 20-Feb 21 on inside the donor mindset, decolonising aid; the climate challenge etc	
8 Jan 2021	<a href="#">The Missing Middle</a>	Duncan Green; blog_	Review of CGDEV/TNH <a href="#">Rethinking Humanitarianism</a> Podcast on the future of Aid and issues of on localisation and power	
4 Feb 2021	<a href="#">We may need more humanitarian bureaucracy, not less</a>	Aaron Clarke-Ginsburg and Mary Kate Adgie; ICRC Law & Policy blog	The blog seeks to rebut calls to reduce bureaucracy in the humanitarian sector, pointing to the role guidelines, procedures, systems and metrics can have in making aid fairer and more efficient and overcoming power imbalances such as sexual misconduct facilitated by a lack of rule enforcement.	
11 Jan 2021	<a href="#">Public Seminar Series, Hilary term 2021: Refugee Histories in the Global South</a>	Refugee Studies Centre; online seminars	A series of seminars on forced migration in the global south in the twentieth century.	

## Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
<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.
<a href="#">Covid-19 Mobility Impact Reports_</a>	UN IOM	Frequently updated reports on migration restrictions.

<a href="#">IDMC Internal Displacement Updates</a>	Internal displacement monitoring centre	Global data on internal displacement
<a href="#">ACAPS Crisis in Sight</a>	ACAPS	Global overview of crisis, including covid and conflict; as well as access constraints.
<a href="#">CVA and COVID-19: resources, guidance, events and questions</a>	CaLP	Guidance and resources on covid and cash transfers
<a href="#">IASC: COVID-19 Outbreak Readiness and Response guidance</a>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	IASC principles and protocols adapted to covid-19
<a href="#">OCHA COVID19 Resource Material</a>	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.
<a href="#">Humanitarian Data Exchange: COVID-19 Pandemic in Locations with a Humanitarian Response</a>	Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)	Global data on infections and deaths; a list of data sets on cases and prevention/mitigation measures.
<a href="#">Humanitarian Data Exchange: Government Measures Dataset</a>	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.
<a href="#">IEG Lesson Library: Evaluative Resources and Evidence to inform the COVID-19 Response</a>	World Bank Independent Evaluation Group	A library of Evaluative Resources and Evidence to inform the COVID-19 Response

<a href="#">Relief Web: regional topic pages for Covid-19</a> and <a href="#">global topic pages</a>	Relief Web	Regional and global reports and resources on humanitarian needs and response.
<a href="#">IASC Accountability and Inclusion Resources Portal</a>	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	A library of resources on accountability and inclusion.

## Suggested citation

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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 DFID 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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