



Knowledge, evidence  
and learning for  
development

# Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.22

Luke Kelly  
University of Manchester  
January 2022

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
December 2021	<a href="#">Being the difference: A primer for states wishing to prevent atrocity crimes in the mid-twenty-first century</a>	Fred Carver and Kate Ferguson; Protection Approaches  Evidence 	Argues that states and civil society should adopt the responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrine more. It identifies a 'pathology of violence' at the root of atrocities: identify-based grievances; organised criminal conspiracy; and a lack of checks on power. Both stable and fragile countries are vulnerable to atrocities. They argue that a focus on human rights can help address the issue. Outlines these drivers and how the existing R2P architecture could be devolved to states through locally-led and horizontal approaches.	
November 2021	<a href="#">Why Not Local? Gender-based Violence, Women's Rights Organisations, and the Missed Opportunity of COVID-19</a>	Marcy Hersch; International Rescue Committee  Evidence 	Outlines the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) intensified by Covid-19, and shows how local women's rights organisations have taken on more responsibility during the pandemic but still face barriers to funding from the international system.	

		Evidence 		
December 2021	Mine action in action: influencing law and policy on toxic remnants of war  and  Mitigating the environmental impacts of explosive ordnance and land release	Bonnie Docherty and Alex Frost; ICRC Law & Policy blog.  Evidence 	Part of the ICRC's war, law and the environment series, the first blog considers how techniques from mine action can be used to take action on the toxic remnants of war. The second discusses the need for the mine action sector to include environmental considerations.	
December 2021	Protection advocacy by international NGOs in armed conflict situations: Breaking the barriers	Gemma Davies; ODI HPG  Evidence 	Analyses the protection advocacy currently undertaken by international non-governmental organisations, using research on Nigeria and Libya.	
December 2021	Humanitarians and the Women, Peace and Security agenda during Covid 19	Gender and Development Network  Discourse 	Based on discussions among female humanitarians in Myanmar, Kenya and Lebanon, the briefing outlines the need to link humanitarian response to the WPS agenda.	
2 December 2021	Mass atrocities in Ethiopia expose the limitations of early warning tools	Deborah Mayersen; The Conversation  Discourse 	Argues that early warning tools have not been helpful in preventing mass atrocities. While Ethiopia was ranked as 'high risk' before the recent conflict, the nature of risk assessment has limitations: it 'over predicts' in the sense that the highest risk places do not experience mass atrocities most of the time; it is imprecise, and a country ranked first is not more likely to experience atrocities than one ranked 10 <sup>th</sup> ; and it cannot tell us when violence might erupt.	
December 2021	Engaging armed groups at the International Committee of the Red Cross: Challenges, opportunities and COVID-19	Irénée Herbet and Jerome Drevo  Evidence 	Examines the presence of 605 armed groups in today's conflict environment and the way non-state armed groups provide varying degrees of services to the population in the spaces that they control, and how this might impact the way a humanitarian organization like the ICRC engages with them in a dialogue over time. This model of analysis is then used to situate and better explain armed	

			groups' positions on the COVID crisis.	
--	--	--	--	--

## Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
3 December 2021	<a href="#">Accountability in Humanitarian Action</a>	Dorothea Hilhorst et al., <i>Refugee Survey Quarterly</i>  Evidence 	Surveys the history and current trends in humanitarian accountability. It includes case studies of Myanmar, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone, tracing upward, sideways and downward accountability, as well as formal and informal methods. Findings include that accountability is talked about by all actors, but progress is uneven. A lack of harmonisation in reporting to donors, uneven progress on accountability to affected populations, and difference between the UN and international NGOs on the one hand, and national NGOs on the other.	
9 December 2021	<a href="#">Toolbox – Linking Humanitarian CVA and Social Protection</a>	Gabrielle Smith, CALP Policy/guidance 	A spreadsheet summarising over 150 resources on linking cash assistance and social protection. Including feasibility assessment, programme design, country-specific templates, and training.	
December 2021	<a href="#">The Covid-19 pandemic: global dimensions, local responses</a>	Disasters; special issue  Evidence 	Special issue on the effects of covid-19, including on health governance, protective policies for the vulnerable, cash assistance and urban refugees, among others.	
3 December 2021	<a href="#">Humanitarian action in 2021: tensions, trade-offs and dilemmas</a>	Sorcha O'Callaghan; Martin Griffiths; Orzala Nemat  Discourse 	Recording of discussion on the politics, principles and pragmatism of humanitarian action in the face of reduced access and threats to rights and protection.	
17 December 2021	<a href="#">Localisation Re-imagined: Fertilising the soil of state-led solutions</a>	Arbie Bagois; ALNAP  Discourse 	The second part of five blogs on localisation focuses on the ways in which humanitarian actors working with national governments can be part of localisation.	
6 December 2021	<a href="#">Stress Testing Social Protection – A rapid appraisal of the adaptability of social protection systems and their</a>	Christian Bodewig et al.  Policy/guidance 	Outlines how a 'stress test' can rapidly measure a country's ability to adapt or scale its social protection system in times of crisis. Provides a stress test tool, and guidance on how to adapt it.	

	readiness to scale-up			
December 2021	Global Humanitarian Overview 2022	UNOCHA Evidence 	Overview of humanitarian needs and appeals, including global and regional overviews and trends.	
November 2021	Inclusion and exclusion in the north-east Nigeria crisis	Veronique Barbelet, Sarah Njeri and Grace Onubedo; ODI HPG Evidence 	Analysis of the response in NE Nigeria finds that it is not inclusive, with communities excluded and long-term marginalisation entrenched. Analyses the long-term and conflict drivers of exclusion, as well as failings of aid actors to ensure inclusion.	
December 2021	Social protection and forcibly displaced people: a literature review	Amanda Gray Meral and Nathalie Both; ODI Evidence 	Finds that in countries hosting significant numbers of refugees, there is often limited access to social protection. It therefore considers the integration of state social protection with humanitarian cash programmes, finding some evidence of alignment but limited discussion of approaches.	
December 2021	Cash at a crossroads: getting it right For affected communities	Fanny Coussy Discourse 	Argues for radical reform in cash programming in order to meet accountability to affected populations (AAP) promises.	
15 December 2021	Cash and Voucher Assistance in 2021: 6 reflections on progress and pitfalls	Karen Peachey Discourse 	Reflection on the progress of cash programming in 2021 on themes of people-centredness; coordination; localisation; climate change; cash and social protection; and overall use.	
8 December 2021	Who will finance growing humanitarian needs?	New Humanitarian podcast episode Discourse 	Reflects on growing humanitarian funding gap/limitations of ODA and presents three organisations experimenting different ways of funding their programmes – from crowdfunding and zakat to creating social enterprises; from an impact bond to encouraging private sector investment in refugees	
16 December 2021	Opinion: Hospitals are collapsing in Afghanistan. At this rate sanctions will kill more people than the Taliban	Paul Spiegel; Washington Post Discourse 	Argues that sanctions on Afghanistan will kill significant numbers of Afghans, as they prevent health care centres from receiving funds from a number of sources.	
December 2021	Are humanitarian standards scientific? What sociology of science can teach us about the Sphere standards	Joël Glasman; Alternatives Humanitaires Evidence 	Looks at the process by which the Sphere guidelines were formulated, showing the compromises and debates. Argues that the Sphere guidelines were the result of political, religious and cultural arguments in addition to purely scientific and technical debates.	

## Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
December 2021	<a href="#">Annual Report 2020–2021</a>	Refugee Studies Centre Evidence 	A summary of the RSC's recent and ongoing research projects.	
December 2021	<a href="#">Climate change and humanitarian action</a>	Paul Knox-Clarke; PREPARE Initiative. Evidence 	Analysis of the effects of climate change on humanitarian needs, and the state of readiness of the humanitarian system and national disaster management, including potential changes.	
December 2021	<a href="#">How can we address future health threats?</a>	Adam Strobeyko and Tammam Aloudat; Graduate Institute Geneva Discourse 	Argues that international disaster laws can offer a lens through which the negotiations for and decisions on a pandemic treaty can be examined'.	
November 2021	<a href="#">Livelihood Components of Durable Solutions for IDPs</a>	Abdirahman Ahmed Muhumed, Elizabeth Stites, Elizabeth Alexion, Delia Burns; Feinstein International Center Evidence 	Examines durable solutions for IDPs in Ethiopia's Somali region: resettlement, relocation and local integration. Includes analysis of livelihoods, challenges, and host-IDP relations.	
December 2021	<a href="#">The Gender Dimensions of Forced Displacement: Findings from New Empirical Analysis</a>	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Evidence 	Includes both a literature review on the gendered dimensions of forced displacement, and findings from recent World Bank research. Covers poverty, livelihoods, gender-based violence, and gender norms.	
December 2021	<a href="#">Comparative Reintegration Outcomes between Forced and Voluntary Return and Through a Gender Perspective</a>	IOM Evidence 	Report on the outcomes of returnees, considering how demographic factors, whether return was forced or voluntary, gender, and forms of assistance affect outcomes. Based on research on Afghanistan, Bangladesh, El Salvador, the Gambia, Nigeria and Somalia.	

15 December 2021	2021 Internal Displacement Index report	IDMC Evidence 	Country-by-country index of internal displacement for 2021.	
December 2021	From Insecurity to Health Service Delivery: Pathways and System Response Strategies in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo	Chiara Altare et al.; Global Health: Science and Practice Evidence 	Analysis of the pathways by which insecurity affects healthcare delivery in the DRC, and adaptation strategies.	

## 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.
<a href="#">IDMC Internal Displacement Updates</a>	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, IFRC 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](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).



This evidence summary was prepared for the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and its partners in support of pro-poor programmes. It is licensed for non-commercial purposes only. K4D cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions or any consequences arising from the use of information contained in this health evidence summary. Any views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of FCDO, K4D or any other contributing organisation.

© FCDO - Crown copyright 2021.

**Suggested Citation**

Kelly, L. (2021). Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.22. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: [10.19088/K4D.2022.005](https://doi.org/10.19088/K4D.2022.005)