

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.23



Luke Kelly
University of Manchester
February 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
January 2022	Life and Death: NGO access to financial services in Afghanistan	Erica Moret; Norwegian Refugee Council Evidence 	The report shows the significant difficulties faced by humanitarian organisations in transferring funds to Afghanistan. It maps out 12 types of payment channel and assesses their risks, reliability, cost and capacity. They are: public and private banks, the Afghan postal service, Money transfer operators, money service businesses, informal systems, the UN humanitarian finance corridor, currency swaps and digital platforms. It finds that no channel is able to send sufficient funds for Afghanistan's humanitarian needs.	
28 January 2022	Delivering digital aid when the internet becomes a weapon of war	Catherine Cheney; Devex Discourse 	Article on the risks of cyber attacks to humanitarian action and how humanitarians can respond. Discusses calls for 'digital humanitarian space' and that the 2019 reviews of the Geneva Conventions did not improve digital protections. Humanitarian actors need to build contingency plans to work round data outages and invest in data security.	







17 January 2022	Make the sky safe again: Ending impunity for drone attacks in Tigray	Meron Gebreananaye et al.; World Peace Foundation Discourse 	Blog on the killing of civilians by drones, and curtailment of humanitarian aid in some regions of Ethiopia. The media blackout makes it difficult to assess the full extent of the problem. Argues that law on these weapons should be clarified, and states should take steps to prevent drones being sent to Ethiopia.	
13 January 2022	Shaping United States policy and practice on the protection of civilians	Victoria Metcalfe-Hough; ODI Evidence 	Briefing note on the evolution of the Protection of Civilians Working Group that has sought to influence the US for better protection of civilians outcomes.	
20 January 2022	Shifting the narrative: not weapons, but technologies of warfare	Klaudia Klonowska; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Argues that not just weapons should be considered in the regulation of war. Technologies such as AI have significant effects in conflict, but many focus narrowly on a 'weapons review' when considering IHL obligations. Based on obligations under AP1 of the Geneva Conventions, states should include technologies that influence wars, directly or indirectly.	
2 February 2022	Externalization and the Global Compact on Refugees: Responsibility Shifting and the role of the EU	Webinar; ASILE Discourse 	Discussion on the relationship between European refugee externalisation policies and the Global Compact on Refugees.	
25 January 2022	Explosive weapons with wide area effects: a deadly choice in populated areas	Eirini Giorgou; ICRC Law & Policy blog Evidence 	While there is 'no general prohibition in IHL on the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area in populated areas', rules on proportionality and indiscriminate killing do apply. The blog argues that it is difficult to use such weapons in populated areas without causing unacceptable civilian harm, and calls on states to impose limitations on their use.	
January 2022	Guidance on bureaucratic and administrative impediments (BAI)	Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 1 on Operational Response Policy/guidance 	Proposes a five-point strategy for dealing with BAI in a collective manner through: 1) A common understanding of the drivers and impacts of BAI 2) Strengthened coordination to address the operational impacts 3) Preventing BAI through monitoring and early action 4) Collective and strategic advocacy 5) Mobilise global support for action	


Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
January 2022	Sharing to Survive: Investigating the Role of Social Networks During Yemen's Humanitarian Crisis	J. Kim et al.; Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (REAL) Evidence 	Analysis of the use of social connections for support by Yemeni households. It shows the importance of remittances from abroad, as well as the obligations to share, and how these are shaped by kinship, politics, location, class, gender and other factors. The length of the war and Covid measures have limited the role of sharing. It also gives recommendations on how outside actors can take networks into consideration to avoid elite capture, or the marginalisation of some groups.	
January 2021	A Red Cross Red Crescent guide to community engagement and accountability	Red Cross and Red Crescent Policy/guidance 	Seven modules on community engagement and accountability, from the level of emergency response to the organisational level.	
December 2021	Humanitarian Aid on the Move No. 23	Groupe URD Evidence 	Special issue on how traditional humanitarian actors can work with organisations practising local solidarity. Authors discuss best practice for such partnerships, examples from CCFD-Terre Solidaire and Action contra la Faim, and a bibliography on localisation.	
14 January 2022	Blockchain humanitarianism and crypto-colonialism	Discourse 	This opinion piece argues that blockchain projects 'principally serve a public-relations (PR) function for the broader crypto-economy and extend colonial legacies of experimentation in the developing world'.	
26 January 2022	Rethinking Humanitarianism: An interview with the UN's humanitarian chief	Heba Aly and Martin Griffiths; Rethinking Humanitarianism podcast Discourse 	Discussion of Griffiths' aims as Under-Secretary-General for humanitarian affairs, including debates on power imbalances in the sector, the influence of donors, conflict resolution, and others.	
November 2021	Drowning just below the surface: The socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic	ICRC/IFRC Evidence 	Global overview of the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19.	
January 2022	Analysing Intersecting Social Inequalities in Crisis Settings	Becky Carter; K4D Evidence 	Summarises relevant analytical frameworks on intersecting social inequalities in crisis settings. The appendix includes 12 frameworks from NGOs and international organisations and the review highlights key themes in the frameworks and good practice.	

December 2021	Localization: A "Landscape" Report	Sabrina Robillard, Teddy Atim and Daniel Maxwell; Feinstein International Center Evidence 	A literature review and interviews on understandings of the term localisation. It notes different conceptions of localisation, and identifies key barriers such as power structures and capacity challenges. It includes recommendations for institutional donors.	
January 2022	Localisation Re-imagined: Regenerating the polyculture of humanitarianism	Arbie Baguios; ALNAP Discourse 	The third in a series of five blogs looks at the role of local and national actors, using evidence from Myanmar, Colombia and the private sector.	
6 January 2022	Accountability is about leadership, not mechanisms. Why we need to stop 'doing' AAP	Nick van Praag and Meg Sattler; Ground Truth Solutions Discourse 	A short blog that argues that despite the prevalence of accountability to affected people (AAP) work, many aid recipients do not get the aid they need the most. They argue that longer programme cycles, independent evidence on humanitarian performance, and identifying and overcoming barriers to AAP.	
January 2022	A method for small-area estimation of population mortality in settings affected by crises	Francesco Checchi et al.; Population Health Metrics Evidence 	Describes a 'small-area estimation' method to estimate mortality in areas where demographic surveillance is lacking. It is based on 'data previously collected by national and humanitarian actors'. The method is described in six steps, and examples of use in Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria are given.	
January 2022	Adolescent Refugee Girls' Secondary Education in Ethiopia: An Empirical Analysis of Multiple Vulnerabilities in Low-Resource Displacement Settings	Shelley Carvalho; Center for Global Development Evidence 	Analysis of the disadvantages affecting refugee girls and host communities in Ethiopia, based on household surveys, with implications for humanitarian targeting.	
26 January 2022	Innovation for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Crises Where we are now and how to move the agenda forward	Kimberley Pople et al.; ELHRA Policy/guidance 	The paper assesses the status of SRH programmes and areas where innovation could help across the humanitarian sector. It discusses the concept of innovation and maps SRH innovations.	
26 January 2022	Strategic Evaluation of WFP's Use of Technology in Constrained Environments	WFP Evidence 	Among the findings are that the use of digital technologies has increased WFP's effectiveness, efficiency and adaptability in constrained environments, and had a general positive effect for the people served by WFP. However, more attention is needed on protection risks and clear internal and external positioning on the responsible use of digital technology and data.	

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
December 2021	Early action and the climate crisis: could social protection be a game changer?	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) Evidence 	Argues that an integrated approach to early action and social protection is needed to address the multidimensional risks of climate change. It summarises evidence on the benefits, barriers and enablers to early action and social protection	
January 2022	Enhancing Warnings	Carina Fearnley and Ilan Kelman; UCL Warning Research Centre Evidence 	Report on early warning systems. Focused on the UK, but with examples from the rest of the world and based on a broad literature review.	
January 2022	Safeguarding people living in vulnerable conditions in the COVID-19 era through universal health coverage and social protection	Gabriela Cuevas Barron et al.; The Lancet Discourse 	Recommendations for governments and other actors on medium to long-term strategies against Covid-19 and its effect. Recommendations from the Lancet Commission on COVID-19's Task Force on Social Protection, Humanitarian Action include prioritising cash assistance and working through national systems.	
January 2022	The state of knowledge on disaster risk	Minh Tran and Michael Boyland; IRDR working paper series Evidence 	A literature review on disaster risk. It covers concepts such as risk, resilience and vulnerability; tools used in disaster risk analysis; and gaps in the field.	
January 2022	Give Peace a Chance	IASC RG4; podcast Evidence 	Part of a series of podcasts on the nexus.	
3 January 2022	Aid policy trends to watch in 2022	Jessica Alexander; The New Humanitarian Discourse 	Outlines four key trends for 2022: efforts to plug the funding gap; increased focus on climate; the decolonisation agenda; continued challenges to access and humanitarian principles.	

November 2021	Humanitarian AI The hype, the hope and the future	Sarah W. Spencer; ODI Evidence 	Paper outlining key definitions, potential benefits, barriers, and risks to using AI in humanitarian action.	
---------------	--	--	--	--

Resource Hubs

Title/URL	Author/Organisation	Summary
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.

Suggested Citation

Kelly, L. (2021). Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.23. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies, DOI: [10.19088/K4D.2022.014](https://doi.org/10.19088/K4D.2022.014)

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