

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.27

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June 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
17 May 2022	Humanitarian access issues linked to peace processes: advantages, disadvantages and examples	Huma Haider; K4D Evidence 	Review of the evidence on links between peace processes and humanitarian access, with potential benefits and risks and a case study of Syria.	
May 2022	Unrelenting violence: violence against health care in conflict 2021	Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition Evidence 	Data on attacks on healthcare in 2021. It documents 1335 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in 49 countries and territories in conflict. The report is organised by country and has information on context, incidents, perpetrators, and effects on access to healthcare.	
26 May 2022	Using Data to Create Change? Interrogating the Role of Data in Ending Attacks on Healthcare	Larissa Fast and Róisín Read; International Studies Review Evidence 	Discusses the non-straightforward role of preventing attacks on healthcare through two pathways: operational change designed to prevent or mitigate the impact of attacks on health at the level of those affected by attacks, and	

			normative change that leads to a reduction in the frequency of attacks, at the level of those perpetrating attacks.	
18 May 2022	Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2022/381)	United Nations Security Council Evidence 	Reviews of the global state of protection of civilians in conflict, and challenges to humanitarian operations in conflict.	
19 May 2022	From Solferino to Ukraine – new warfare, new humanitarian action in the 21st century?	Hugo Slim, Ferdinand von Weyhe, Julia Meixner, Irina Boicheva; Centre for Humanitarian Action Discourse 	Recording of a discussion, based on Hugo Slim's recent book, on cyber war, great power conflict and other recent developments in war and their implications for humanitarian action.	
April 2022	Rethinking armed group control: Towards a new conceptual framework	Ibraheem Bahiss, Ashley Jackson, Leigh Mayhew and Florian Weigand; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Provides a new conceptual framework for understanding armed groups, using the categories of: spheres of control, practices of control and capacities for control. Points to new indicators for early warning. Based on a literature review, workshop and case studies of Mali, Somalia and Afghanistan.	
May 2022	Toward Inclusive Security Risk Management: the impact of 'race', ethnicity and nationality on aid workers' security	Tara Arthur and Léa Moutard; GISF Policy/guidance 	Guidance on how humanitarian actors can understand the impact of 'race', ethnicity and nationality on aid worker security.	
12 May 2022	The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations, one year on	Tessa Kelly, Catherine-Lune Grayson and Amir Khouzam; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Weighs progress on the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations.	
May 2022	Journal of Humanitarian Affairs: Volume 4 (2022): Issue 1	Various Evidence 	Articles on subjects including humanitarian corridors, standards on early childhood development in humanitarian crisis, and gender transformative humanitarian programming, among others.	

12 May 2022	Independent Review of the Implementation of the IASC Protection Policy	Jane Cocking et al.; ODI HPG Evidence 	Reviews the IASC's 2016 policy aiming to mainstream protection within humanitarian work. It finds, among other things, that protection has not shifted to become a sector-wide responsibility.	
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Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
May 2022	Neglected Crisis Report	Norwegian Refugee Council Discourse 	NRC assessment of crises neglected in terms of international headlines, assistance, and international diplomacy. Top 10 all in Africa, including: DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, South Sudan, Chad, Mali, Sudan, Nigeria, Burundi, and Ethiopia.	
May 2022	Multipurpose Outcome Indicators and Guidance	Dina Brick, Laura Meissner and Ruth McCormack; CaLP Policy/guidance 	Guidance on household outcome indicators for implementors of cash programmes, including both cross-cutting and sector-specific indicators.	
April 2022	The complex humanitarian emergency in Venezuela	Humanitarian Exchange 80; ODI HPG Evidence 	Articles on various aspects of, and responses to, the crisis, including civil society monitoring, the response of Colombia to refugees, the needs of indigenous peoples, gender-based violence, challenges facing LGBTI migrants, cash transfers, partnerships between local and international actors, climate change, and social media.	
3 May 2022	Leaving no one behind: recommendations for inclusive and impartial humanitarian action	Hannah Bass; ODI HPG Discourse 	Recording of a roundtable on inclusion and exclusion in crises, following from the ODI's publication of recent research on the topic.	
May 2022	Towards more inclusive, effective and impartial humanitarian action	Veronique Barbelet, Oliver Lough and Sarah Njeri; ODI HPG Evidence 	Argues that 'humanitarian responses often fail to effectively assist and protect the most urgent cases', partly from a lack of will to address marginalisation and discrimination. Discusses the concept of inclusion, and suggests how it can be better operationalised by humanitarian actors. Argues that current programmes prioritise scale over severity or quality, and should 'refocus on quality, equity and impartiality'.	
May 2022	Localisation re-imagined: Ethics and purpose in localisation	Arbie Bagois; ALNAP Discourse 	The final essay in the series discusses the implications of supporting local solutions rather than localisation models based on sub-contracting. This entails, among other things, a move away from siloed working, and a focus on longer-term solutions.	

May 2022	Sustaining existing social protection programmes during crises: what do we know? how can we know more?	Rachel Slater Evidence 	Discusses how 'existing, government-led programmes can be sustained during crises to ensure that households that were already poor and vulnerable before a crisis continue to be supported.' It reviews the literature and has case studies of social protection during Covid-19 in East Africa, floods and earthquakes in Nepal, and Syria.	
May 2022	Social media and inclusion in humanitarian response and action	Oliver Lough et al.; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Collection of papers looking at social media use and inclusion in humanitarian response. It finds that most humanitarian actors only use it to a limited extent, but it plays an increasing role for affected people so needs to be incorporated. Based on studies of displacement in Venezuela/Colombia and Uganda.	
May 2022	ICRC: The Sahel	International Review of the Red Cross; special issue Evidence 	Articles discussing humanitarian issues in the Sahel, including conflict, extremism, climate change, IDPs, challenges to humanitarian access, food systems, and others.	
May 2022	Ten years of tracking mental health in refugee primary health care settings: an updated analysis of data from UNHCR's Health Information System (2009–2018)	Shoshana L. Fine et al.; BMC Medicine Evidence 	The article 'examines mental, neurological, and substance use (MNS) service usage within refugee camp primary health care facilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)' finding little change in utilisation rates over the 10-year period, with particularly low rates for some disorders.	
3 May 2022	Responding to Afghanistan's Humanitarian Crisis: The Potential Role of Digital Payments	Michael Pisa; CGD Evidence 	Discusses how 'Digital payment solutions paired with heightened customer due diligence measures — including traceability of payments and biometric identification — could help lower the ML/TF risks associated with payments into and within Afghanistan'.	

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
May 2022	Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments synthesis and analysis report 2022	United Nations Evidence 	Analysis of the data on the voluntary commitments to the Sendai Framework submitted by states, local government, NGOs, private companies and others.	

May 2022	Hunger fallout: How the G7 can prevent the war in Ukraine from escalating the global hunger crisis	International Rescue Committee Evidence 	The report outlines the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine on global hunger, focusing on Afghanistan, Yemen, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. It makes recommendations including increasing funding to meet needs, scaling up programmes in these contexts, fixing the food system, and stronger humanitarian diplomacy.
May 2022	Humanitarian assistance and social protection in contexts of forced displacement: effects on social cohesion	Christy Lowe, Heiner Salomon, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Amanda Gray Meral; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Based on research in Cameroon, Colombia and Greece, the paper explores how humanitarian assistance affects social cohesion.
May 2022	Linking social protection and humanitarian assistance. A toolkit to support social cohesion in displacement settings	Christy Lowe, Heiner Salomon, Jessica Hagen-Zanker, Amanda Gray Meral; Overseas Development Institute Policy/guidance 	Guidance for governments and NGOs on policy, programme design and delivery, including on linking humanitarian assistance with social protection.
12 May 2022	We need to talk about resilience	Simon Levine; SPARC Knowledge Evidence 	Argues that the language of resilience has hindered rather than helped collaboration between different actors and programmes. It has moved the focus from the concrete problems in the Sahel, and often focuses on blaming individuals for lacking 'resilience'. It argues a resilience approach requires collaboration, a focus on specific conditions of an area, and some questions that cannot be framed in current resilience language.
5 May 2022	Is it possible to predict future forced displacement?	Alae Ismail with Alexander Kjærum, Leila Adamou Arouna and Jade Kahhaleh; Fixing Aid podcast Discourse 	Podcast on predictive technology for migration. Discusses a tool developed by the Danish Refugee Council and IBM
May 2022	Supporting Syria and the region: Post-Brussels conference financial tracking	European Union Evidence 	Report tracking the financial disbursements against pledges made by states, international financial institutions, UN agencies and humanitarian organisations at the Brussel conference in March 2021.

April 2022	Strengthening coordination for shock preparedness and response: lessons for health system resilience	Kate Gooding, Maria Bertone, Giulia Loffreda and Sophie Witter; ReBUILD for Resilience Evidence 	The research identifies factors encouraging successful co-ordination for health sector resilience. It is based on analysis of 8 projects.	
17 May 2022	China's humanitarian assistance activities in Africa	Brian Lucas; K4D Evidence 	Review of the evidence on China's humanitarian aid to Africa. It finds that spending was focused on Covid-19, before which the majority was spent on health. Most spending is bilateral and has been concentrated on Angola, Kenya, Zambia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda. It notes that data is patchy, however.	
25 May 2022	Can a territorial approach help to reinforce resilience in a crisis context? Report in French; summary in English	Thomas Foin, Lisa Daoud, Dr. Harold Gael Njouonang Djomo, Kalilou Seydou Moussa & Allah-Kauis Neneck; Groupe URD Evidence 	Analysis of the territorial approach adopted by the RESILAC project (Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery Around Lake Chad). It discusses the process of adapting to territorial needs, focusing on local actors. Emphasises that administrative divisions do not always reflect functional divisions, and that there is often socio-economic conflict within territories.	
May 2022	A Dangerous Delay 2: The Cost of Inaction	Emily Farr, Leah Finnegan, Joanne Grace and Mathew Truscott; Save the Children and Oxfam Evidence 	Presents research on anticipatory action in the Horn of Africa and response since 2011, including early warning systems and social protection. It finds that governments and national actors still respond to the impacts of droughts rather than anticipating. Funding for local responders is low, and systems to anticipate crises are inadequately integrated with humanitarian, development and climate action.	
May 2022	From Kosovo to Ukraine: lessons from the humanitarian response to conflict and displacement in Europe	Margie Buchanan-Smith and Peter Wiles; ALNAP Evidence 	Discussion of lessons from the displacement from Kosovo in 1999/2000, including maintaining neutrality and applying sectoral standards, planning, supporting local actors, inter-agency coordination, inclusion and coverage, and dealing with surges in funding.	
May 2022	Chronic crisis financing? Fifty years of humanitarian aid and future prospects	Gary Milante and Jannie Lilja; SIPRI Evidence 	Trends in humanitarian aid funding from 1969 to 2019. Findings include that 'the humanitarian share of total aid to countries has increased from approximately 5 per cent in the 1990s to 23 per cent in 2019'. 59% of humanitarian aid 2010-19 went to chronic crises, raising questions about humanitarian-development links.	

May 2022	Confronting new realities: actions and priorities for the international community in Afghanistan	Mark Bowden, Hameed Hakimi, Ben Ramalingam; Afghanistan Strategic Learning Initiative (ASLI) Evidence 	Short paper based on four workshops in 2021-22 that discussed scenarios for Afghanistan's future, the paper offers recommendations on engaging with Afghanistan beyond humanitarian assistance.	
May 2022	Recalibrating relations with Afghanistan: collective action by international actors Afghanistan Strategic Learning Initiative on adapting and innovating aid delivery	Alistair McKechnie et al.; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	A longer paper based on the Afghanistan Strategic Learning Initiative (ASLI). Based on previous engagement with Afghanistan, it discusses lessons for structuring collective international engagement.	
May 2022	Strengthening responses at the nexus of social protection, humanitarian aid and climate shocks in protracted crises: BASIC Research framing paper	Rachel Sabates-Wheeler, Jeremy Lind, Paul Harvey and Rachel Slater; BASIC Research Evidence 	Paper discussing current debates and research gaps on social assistance in protracted crises. It focuses on social protection and social assistance; humanitarian response and assistance; and climate adaptation and social protection. It then discusses current policy framings, before suggesting a research framework: Social protection systems; 2. Protracted crisis contexts; 3. Humanitarian substitution and the transition to strengthening domestic systems; 4. Livelihoods and resilience.	
May 2022	Obstacles to and opportunities for anticipatory action in Somalia	Lena Weingartner Alex Humphrey Muzzamil Abdi Sheikh, Simon Levine; SPARC Evidence 	Looks at community networks as sources of early warning information, as well as how people adapted their livelihood strategies in the face of threats.	
May 2022	Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)	IDMC Evidence 	Global report on internal displacement, with key themes, regional overviews and a focus on children and youth.	
12 May 2022	Well-designed triggers support decision-making for anticipatory action	Irene Amuron and Joanna Smith; Prevention Web Discourse 	Discusses how disasters can be predicted and acted on early, including a link to the Anticipation Hub's trigger, early action and evidence databases.	

5 May 2022	The role of national governments in delivering humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches: a reflection on current challenges and the way forward	Summer Brown; bliSS blog Discourse 	Blog discussing the role of governments in the nexus.	
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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

Suggested Citation

Kelly, L. (2022). Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.27. K4D Helpdesk Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies DOI: [10.19088/K4D.2022.078](https://doi.org/10.19088/K4D.2022.078)

About this report:

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