K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Humanitarian evidence and discourse summary No.28

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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
8 June 2022	The logic of protection approaches four models to safeguard civilians from harm	Florian Westphal, Sofie Lilli Stoffel and Julia Steets; GPPI Evidence 🔬	Identifies and outlines four main protection approaches: "naming and shaming" armed actors; mobilising influencers; capacitating communities; and training armed actors. Includes a step guide for each process and potential strengths and weaknesses for each.	⭐
June 2022	From Words to Deeds: A Research Study of Armed Non-State Actors' Practice and Interpretation of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Norms: The Taliban	Ashley Jackson and Rahmatullah Amiri; Graduate Institute Geneva Evidence 🔬	Analysis of the Taliban's practice and interpretation in relation to a selection of IHL rules from 2014. Finds that the group articulated a relatively comprehensive normative framework derived from cultural norms and Sharia. It showed familiarity with IHL, but routinely violated many norms on the grounds of military necessity, and through the discretion of military commanders. Public relations concerns have shaped its practice, and have been implemented more as the group matured.	

21 June 2022	Taking action, not sides: the benefits of humanitarian neutrality in war	Fiona Terry; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse	Part of a new series of blogs, Back to Basics, Terry argues in favour of humanitarian neutrality, on the grounds that in enables better access to all sides.
June 2022	A primer on civilian harm mitigation in urban operations	Sahr Muhammedally; Center for Civilians in Conflict Policy/guidance	Overview of the key terms and issues on mitigating harm to civilians in urban conflict.
16 June 2022	NGO Security Toolbox	GISF Policy/guidance	Guidance, resources and tools on risk management for NGOs.
June 2022	International Review of the Red Cross No. 919	Various authors; ICRC Evidence	Articles on a variety of topics included AI for humanitarian action; humanitarian use of drones and disability in IHL; among others.
June 2022	The Environmental Impacts of War and Conflict	Mahreen Khan; K4D Evidence	Literature review of evidence on the environmental impacts of war, including current conflicts.
June 2022	Gendered impacts of armed conflicts and implications for the application of IHL	ICRC Evidence	Report on the gendered impact of conflict, and the role IHL can have in addressing it.
30 June 2022	Sanctions: Commission guidance note on the provision of humanitarian aid in compliance with EU restrictive measures	European Commission Policy/guidance	The European Commission's updated guidance on providing aid without violating EU sanctions.

Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
22 June 2022	An evidence review of research on health interventions in humanitarian crises: 2021 update	Shannon Doocy, Emily Lyles and Hannah Tappis; ELRHA Evidence	Review of evidence, covering: communicable disease control, WASH, nutrition, SRH and GBV, mental health and psychosocial support, non-communicable diseases, injury and rehabilitation, health service delivery and health systems.	
June 2022	Enabling the local response: Emerging humanitarian priorities in Ukraine	Abby Stoddard et al.; Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence	Report on the shortcomings of support to the Ukrainian organisations, who have provided most of the response. Shows that much of the money raised by foreign organisations has not been given to Ukrainian organisations because of bureaucratic impediments, or to help foreign organisations scale up. They have also been unable to deliver much cash assistance, despite Ukraine's good financial and internet architecture, because of competing delivery mechanisms.	⭐
June 2022	A conversation with Mark Lowcock on his new book "Relief Chief"	CGDEV Discourse	Video recording of interview, with Mark Lowcock summarising key messages from the book, including regarding evolving and growing humanitarian needs and reforms needs. He warns that crises will continue to get worse without a renewed global effort to tackle their causes	⭐
2022	Handbook of refugee health: for healthcare professionals and humanitarians providing care to forced migrants	Miriam Orcutt et al., eds.; Taylor & Francis Evidence	Handbook on various aspects of refugee health: public health, emergency health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, mental health, palliative care, children's health, sexual and reproductive health, and care for survivors of torture, violence and trafficking. Free to read online.	
8 June 2022	Blockchain for refugees	Margie Cheeseman; Data & Society Evidence	Discussion of the use of blockchain technology, coupled with biometrics, to deliver cash salaries to women in Azraq camp, Jordan. The blockchain ledger is not shared with the refugee women who use it, however, meaning they have to create their own accounts. They have also expressed health concerns about the iris scanners.	
June 2022	Digital feast and famine: Digital technologies and humanitarian law in food security, starvation and famine risk	Susanne Jaspars, Catriona Murdoch and Nisar Majid; Tufts University Evidence	Examines the link between famine, digital technologies and humanitarian law. Explains key concepts and explores the risks of conflict parties manipulating communications networks, the impact on food security, and how it can be considered in IHL. Also looks at how digital technologies can help to assess and analyse famine and starvation crimes, and food assistance responses.	⭐
June 2022	Digital technologies and	John Bryandt; ODI	Research into the positive and negative effects of digital technologies	

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	inclusion in humanitarian response	Evidence 🔬	on inclusion in humanitarian action. Focused on three technologies: biometrics, geospatial mapping and social media.	
June 2022	Another Humanitarian (and Political) Crisis in Somalia in 2022	Nisar Majid et al.; Feinstein International Center Evidence 🔬	Report on the humanitarian crisis in Somalia caused by drought, conflict and rising food prices, and comparing it to eight years ago. Considers early warning, vulnerable groups, IDPs, a 'humanitarian malaise', a lack of funding, the problem of Al Shabaab, and other issues.	
16 February 2022	Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the food security sector	Brigitte Rohwerder; K4D Evidence 🔬	Literature review on gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in the food security sector. It finds cases of GBV and SEA in a number of contexts and outlines the risk factors for such abuse, and its effects on victims. It notes, however, that the issue is underreported. It also shows some evidence on reducing the risk.	
16 June 2022	Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in humanitarian action	Wendy Cue; ODI HPG Evidence 🔬	Issue on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH) in humanitarian action, with articles on culture and policies in the humanitarian sector, as well as case studies from the DRC, Ethiopia, Indonesia, the Philippines and elsewhere.	
15 June 2022	Think Change episode 6: how can we break the silence on famine in the Horn of Africa?	Sara Pantuliano, Mary Harper, Nimo Hassan, Daud Jiran, Simon Levine; ODI Discourse 💬	Discussion of the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa and how to overcome the lack of attention from the international media.	
6 June 2022	China's overseas humanitarian action to assist refugees	Emily Venturi; Chatham House Evidence 🔬	Analysis of China's growing refugee aid. It highlights China's diplomatic sensitivities around some refugees, how its humanitarian norms differ from Western ones, its state-centric approach and focus on economic development, and its diplomatic clout.	
June 2022	Grand Bargain Annual Independent Report 2022	Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Wendy Fenton, Patrick Saez and Alexandra Spencer; ODI Evidence 🔬	Annual review of the revised Grand Bargain framework, with a focus on quality funding, localisation and participation, transparency, cash, management costs, joint needs assessments, reporting requirements, humanitarian-development engagement, gender and risk.	⭐
June 2022	Managing humanitarian narratives in the Ukraine crisis response	John Bryant, Patrick Saez and Sarah Redd; ODI Discourse 💬	Summary of roundtable on narratives of the humanitarian response to Ukraine. Focusing on neutrality and war crimes, lack of prominence/funding for Ukrainian organisations, food insecurity globally, and on influencing narratives.	

May 2022	Integrating assistance to the displaced into a social protection system in Cameroon: An ideal, but in whose interests?	Simon Levine et al.; ODI Evidence	Research from Cameroon finds that giving displaced persons the same amount of money as host populations receive through social protection brought no benefit. Refugees had greater needs, and host populations understood this, meaning equalising values will not improve social cohesion. There is a lack of transparency and coordination between government and international support.	
June 2022	Giving refugees money instead of stuff can lead to price gouging – but it doesn't have to	Owen Wu, Alfonso J. Pedraza Martinez and Telesilla Kotsi; The Conversation Evidence	Summary of research on suggested new system of 'price-dependent cash assistance', whereby 'humanitarian organizations increase cash assistance to reward local retailers when they reduce prices'.	
June 2022	The Humanitarian Coordination Architecture: Towards a New Hybrid Approach?	Nino Kemoklidze; K4D Evidence	Literature review on the successes and limitations of humanitarian coordination architecture in restricted operating environments. Looks at the cluster system, area-based models and hybrid models.	
May 2022	Financial Services in the Uganda Refugee Response; An assessment of user perspectives	U-Learn Evidence	Research on refugees' perspectives, showing a preference for mobile money, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of other forms.	
April 2022	Covid-19 global humanitarian response plan: learning paper	Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation Evidence	Evaluation of the global response, including needs assessment, planning, coordination, resource mobilisation, appropriateness of the response, localisation, cooperation between humanitarian, peace and development actors, and other aspects.	
May 2022	Life after marriage: an analysis of the experiences of conflict-affected female youth who are married under age 18 in South Sudan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq	Elizabeth Stites et al.; Feinstein International Center Evidence	Analysis of the effects of early marriage on women in South Sudan and Iraqi Kurdistan.	

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
7 June 2022	Moving targets: social protection as a link between humanitarianism, development and displacement	Michael Collyer, Dolf Te Lintelo, Thabani Mutambasere and Tahir Zaman; BASIC Research Evidence	Outlines humanitarian and development approaches to displacement in current policy, and how displacement changes access to social protection. Focuses on 6 lenses to measure the success of social protection approaches in displacement: gender, equality and intersectionality; burden- and responsibility sharing; localisation and urban responses; post-colonialism and south-south responses; sustainability and self-sufficiency; market-led solutions to social protection.	
June 2022	How can social protection systems be leveraged for anticipatory action?	Leah Poole et al.; Feinstein International Center Evidence	Report on social protection systems and how they are and can be linked to anticipatory action for disasters, with case studies of Mozambique and Namibia.	
June 2022	Social protection & jobs No. 2209, June 2022 discussion paper	Ugo Gentilini et al.; World Bank Evidence	Updated tracker of social protection responses to the war in Ukraine from Ukraine, other European states, and others.	
29 June 2022	Basic needs and wellbeing in displacement settings: the role of humanitarian assistance and social protection	Jessica Hagen-Zanker et al.; ODI Evidence	Research on linking humanitarian assistance with national social protection systems for displaced persons living in host communities. Findings include that displaced persons' specific and heightened needs should be met. Based on research in Colombia, Greece and Cameroon.	
1 June 2022	Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021	UNHCR Evidence	Statistics and analysis of key global and regional trends in displacement.	
16 June 2022	World Refugee Day: Five Things We're Watching in 2022	Helen Dempster and Thomas Ginn; Center for Global Development Discourse	Blog suggesting points for improvement in key refugee policies across the world.	

June 2022	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Annual Report 2021	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Evidence 🔬	Annual report discussing JDC's statistical methods.	
June 2022	The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement	United Nations Secretary General Policy/guidance 🔺	Report outlining principles on which better prevention, protection and durable solutions for IDPs can be achieved. Describes the roles of states, the private sector, the UN and its new Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement to provide more data and plans and policies.	
2022	What we do know (and could know) about estimating population sizes of internally displaced people	Ruwan Ratnayake, Nada Abdelmagid and Claire Dooley; Journal of Migration and Health Evidence 🔬	Review of current approaches to estimating IDP population sizes, with suggestions for improvement.	
4 April 2022	Private funding for international humanitarian assistance	Fran Girling; Development Initiatives Evidence 🔬	Analysis of DI's data on private humanitarian funding which amounted to US$6.7 billion, 22% of the total, in 2019.	
30 May 2022	'Impact assessment on a shoestring': exploring alternative methodologies for anticipatory action evidence	Selby Knudsen and Clemens Gros; Anticipation Hub Discourse 💬	Blog putting forward the success case method of evaluating anticipatory action methods as a practical and cost effective method for humanitarians. Includes analysis of the sources (private individuals more than trusts or companies), where it is donated (NGOs), and flexibility, as well as discussion of trends.	

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