

Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary

November 2022
 Luke Kelly, University of Manchester

Monthly Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summaries aims 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 and scope at the end. Click on the hyperlinks to bring you to the relevant literature.

Protect

7 October 2022	Risk Sharing in practice: success stories, enablers, and barriers to risk sharing in the humanitarian sector	ICRC, IASC and the Netherlands government. Evidence 	Discusses risk management practices across the humanitarian delivery chain, from donors to implementers. Notes that transferring risk from one organisation to another is potentially problematic, and advocates risk sharing as an alternative strategy. Based on interviews with humanitarians, the report provides lessons from case studies of risk sharing.	
13 October 2022	Safeguarding humanitarian organizations from digital threats	Tilman Rodenhäuser, Massimo Marelli and Balthasar Staehelin; ICRC Discourse 	Outlines the digital threats to humanitarian operations and potential ways to address these, including greater adherence to IHL.	

October 2022	Guidance note on data security in operational data management	UN Centre for Humanitarian Data Guidance 	Note outlining recommended actions to improve data security in humanitarian settings.	
October 2022	Advocating for the better protection of civilians: from stagnation to action	Victoria Metcalfe-Hough; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Report on humanitarian actors' role as advocates for protection, identifying current practices, barriers and suggestions for more effective advocacy.	
11 October 2022	Small conflicts with big impact: The Tajik-Kyrgyz war no one talks about	Julia Emtseva; EJIL Talk Discourse 	Blog discussing international actors' framing of the Tajik-Kyrgyz conflict, and its implications for potential responses, and evidence on potential IHL violations.	
October 2022	The economic impact of war	Erhan Artuc Nicolas Gomez-Parra Harun Onder; World Bank working paper Evidence 	Proposes a new method to estimate the welfare impact of conflicts. Uses migration data and the case study of Eastern Donetsk from 2014 to 2019.	
October 2022	A global rights compliance OSINT investigation of starvation crimes in Tigray	Catriona Murdoch, Prachiti Venkatraman and Rebecca Bakos Blumenthal; Global Rights Compliance Evidence 	Report on the use of starvation tactics by the Ethiopian government in Tigray. It is based on evidence from investigative reports, food security data, and open source intelligence, among other sources. Finds evidence of attacks on farms, water supplies, markets, infrastructure and humanitarian aid workers, among others.	
October 2022	Ukraine conflict environmental briefing: 3. Industry	CEObs and Zoï Environment Network Evidence 	Evidence on the contamination created by conflict affecting industrial facilities and its effect on public health. With a case study of Azovstal, Mariupol.	
October 2022	Global Risk Analysis	ACAPS Evidence 	Summary of ACAPS' global risk assessments, with profiles of countries deemed at risk.	

Prioritise

7 October 2022	Innovation opportunities in solid waste disposal in humanitarian settings	Elrha, UrbanEmerge, FLUSH and Science Practice Evidence 	Explores solid waste disposal in displaced person settlements in Uganda and Somalia. Identifies problems and existing, trialed and emerging solutions.	
October 2022	Different responses, same old shit: A review of how humanitarian agencies implement emergency sanitation in 11 different humanitarian responses	Andy Bastable and Michelle Farrington; Oxfam Evidence 	Findings from a research project on the use of emerging latrines in refugee and IDP camps. Finds that '40% of women and girls are not using the emergency latrines, people feel ashamed and embarrassed by the indignity of it and in some cases the latrines add to the public health risk instead of decreasing it.' Problems include a lack of consultation, insufficient resources, protection issues and a lack of tailored provision.	
October 2022	Can multisectoral needs assessments be done online?	Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC); ELHRA Evidence 	Research Snapshot summarising evidence of field testing HESPER-Web, a WHO web-based version of a commonly-used humanitarian tool. The research found high potential for the web-based tool.	
October 2022	Livestock and Nutrition	Kate Sadler; Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) Evidence 	Technical brief discussing the potential for greater integration between the livestock and nutrition sectors. 68% of resource-poor rural households keep livestock, meaning they should be considered in nutrition interventions.	
October 2022	STAAR Evidence Digest Curated by the STAAR Technical Senior Leadership Team	Social Protection Technical Assistance, Advice, and Resources Facility, STAAR Evidence 	Evidence digest on social protection in emergencies. Includes evidence on strengthening links between social protection and humanitarian aid, gender and social inclusion, Ukraine, Covid-19, targeting, displaced persons, digital, climate, conflict, localisation, and value for money.	
October 2022	Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Decision Making Tools	Paula Gil Baizan and Nathalie Klein; CaLP Guidance 	Tool to help practitioners calculate a minimum expenditure basket (MEB).	

October 2022	Eight top tips for the 2023 humanitarian planning season	Lynn Yoshikawa; CaLP Discourse 	Eight tips focused on cash transfers.	
October 2022	Measuring results of humanitarian action: adapting public health indicators to different contexts	Chiara Altare et al.; Conflict and Health Evidence 	Discussing the difficulty of measuring health outcomes in humanitarian crises, the paper discusses ways to adapt best practice in measurement for use in humanitarian contexts. Discusses the indicators currently used, alternative methods, and how they might adapt to constraints in humanitarian contexts.	
October 2022	COVID-19 epidemiology and changes in health service utilization in Uganda's refugee settlements during the first year of the pandemic	Chiara Altare et al.; BMC Public Health Evidence 	Data on Covid-19 rates in Uganda's refugee settlements, finding lower rates of the disease than in the rest of the country, but also lower testing capacity. It also finds limited disruption to health services.	
October 2022	Assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic among Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia using respondent-driven sampling (RDS)	Phuong Pham et al.; BMJ Open Evidence 	Phone surveys were used to determine adherence to Covid-19 mitigation measures, symptoms, and income loss among Venezuelan migrants in Colombia. Finds 'high compliance with COVID-19 mitigation measures, low testing rates and high pandemic-related income loss among Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia'.	
29 September 2022	Shortfalls in data exclude older people from humanitarian responses	Hester Clark; Bond Discourse 	Blog outlining the lack of humanitarian provision tailored for the needs of older people, and lack of data collection, including recent evidence and guidance on the issue.	
24 October 2022	Out of the Spotlight Away from the headlines, millions of forcibly displaced people are being pushed to the brink	UNHCR Evidence 	Data visualisation the difficulties faced by refugees and IDPs, brought on by food price increases, climate change, conflict and other issues.	

October 2022	Humanitarian aid NGOs' accountability towards large donors: the case of the European Union's DG ECHO	Stijn van Voorst, Sandra L. Resodihardjo & Andrea Schneiker; Journal of International Humanitarian Action Evidence 	Analysis of the evaluation mechanisms for humanitarian actors funded by the EU, arguing that the EU has sufficient resources to analyse self-reported findings from implementers; and that it places more emphasis on field visits for evaluation.	
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Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
October 2022	Assessing the severity of displacement situations: data gaps and ways forward	Chloe Sydney and Alesia O'Connor; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Evidence 	Provides a revised methodology for assessing severity of internal displacement, by developing standardised indicators and including displacement by disasters as well as conflict. Groups 18 questions under the categories of: safety and security; standards of living; basic services; and civic and social rights. Applies the method to displacement situations and highlights data gaps.	
October 2022	The digital worlds of displacement-affected communities: a cross-context study of how people affected by displacement use mobile phones	Zoe Hamilton et al.; GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation programme Evidence 	The study is based on research in Lebanon, Papua New Guinea and South Sudan and shows 'complex digital worlds' through which refugees interact with news, friends and family, and navigate their situations. Also discusses risks of digital technology.	
October 2022	What can existing microdata tell us about transfer receipt among host and displaced populations?	Heiner Salomon and Jessica Hagen-Zanker; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Approximates the 'comparative coverage rates for social protection and voucher based humanitarian support (including predominantly cash and food support) in displacement contexts' using UNHCR and World Bank data. Outlines what existing data says, as well as gaps in available data.	
October 2022	Rethinking self-reliance and economic	Naohiko Omata; African Affairs Evidence	Analysis of Uganda's refugee protection model of self-reliance and economic exclusion. Argues that 'policymakers largely fail to	

	inclusion of refugees through a distributive lens: A case study from Uganda		consider the distribution and availability of local resources in promoting these ideas.' It can therefore be misleading to present Uganda's model as a success, and more emphasis should be put on feasibility in future plans.	
October 2022	Innovation in governance: Integrating technical and contextual perspectives to address fragility	SPARC Evidence 	Brief on integrating technical and contextual knowledge in fragile context. Uses the Stakeholder Approach to Risk Informed and Evidence Based Decision Making (SHARED) framework in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Somalia to highlight the need to integrate the two types of knowledge.	
October 2022	Measuring effects and effectiveness of resilience programming	FSNetwork, USAID and REAL Evidence 	Website displaying evidence on resilience programming in several African countries and Nepal.	
October 2022	Integrating information education and communication tools to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience among social assistance beneficiaries: lessons for Indonesia and beyond	Asha Williams et al.; World Bank Group Evidence 	Evidence on how social assistance can be used to spread education and information on disaster preparedness among recipients, using data from Indonesia.	
10 October 2022	Extreme heat: Preparing for the heat waves of the future	IFRC, UNOCHA and Red Cross Climate Centre Guidance 	Report outlining the threat of heat waves, which is likely to increase. Includes the main impacts of heatwaves, and how to predict, prevent and respond to them.	
October 2022	Embracing discomfort A call to enable finance for climate-change adaptation in conflict settings	Yue Cao et al.; Overseas Development Institute Discourse 	Outlines evidence on the obstacles to funding for climate change adaptation in conflict settings and gives recommendations to policymakers on how best to provide such funding.	

October 2022	Give countries in conflict their fair share of climate finance	International Crisis Group Discourse 	Argues that countries affected by climate change and conflict receive only a 1/3 of the amount of climate financing per capita compared to countries that suffer from climate, but are free from conflict. Closing the gap requires taking account of the special challenges faced by states mired in conflict
October 2022	Behaviour change in the face of disaster risk finance	Theodore Ezike; Feinstein International Center Evidence 	Brief on how large-scale disaster risk finance (DRF) mechanisms affect behaviour and risk perception based on published studies. Finds that trust and accurate information are needed, and DRF can have beneficial effects.
October 2022	Contributions and challenges of disaster risk financing as a response to climate change induced losses and damages	Shakira Mustapha; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Paper exploring how disaster risk financing 'are being framed and understood within the panorama of Loss and Damage policy and finance agendas'. Based on evidence from policy documents.
26 October 2022	Assessing the technical feasibility of conflict prediction for anticipatory action	Seth Caldwell; UN Centre for Humanitarian Data Evidence 	Assesses literature on predicting conflict. Evaluates 3 models: classification, risk prediction, and continuous prediction. It finds that current models are not accurate enough for use in anticipatory humanitarian action because of: poor performance, a lack of clear connection between predicted conflict and humanitarian impact, and that the dominance of ongoing conflict being used as a predictor of more conflict. Includes suggestions for better prediction in future.

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 over time. If you have literature to include in the weekly summary, please email – luke.kelly@manchester.ac.uk

About this report

The monthly humanitarian evidence and discourse summaries (HEDS) are produced by the Humanitarianism and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) at the University of Manchester. They are a continuation of a series published by the Knowledge for Development (K4D) consortium from 2020 to 2022. The monthly HEDS are not intended to replace professional advice and the researcher or HCRI cannot be held responsible for any decisions made on the basis of the summaries alone.



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The Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI) is a leading global centre that is part of the University of Manchester. HCRI combines multiple disciplines from medicine to the humanities for the study and research of humanitarianism and conflict response, global health, international disaster management and peacebuilding.

Room C1.49, Ellen Wilkinson Building
Oxford Road
Manchester
M13 9PL

Email: hcricri@manchester.ac.uk

Tel: +44 (0)161 275 3718