

Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary

January 2023



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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











Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/publication/publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
December 2022	Privatizing war: the impact of private military companies on the protection of civilians	Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) Evidence 	Discusses the effect of increasing use of private military companies on violations of IHL and human rights law, highlighting obstacles to the protection of civilians. Based on research in CAR, Libya, Mozambique and Iraq.	
December 2022	Civilians are Protected Under GC IV 1949: The Illegality of Russian Filtration Camps under IHL	Natia Kalandarishvili-Mueller; Blog of the European Journal of International Law Discourse 	Discussion of Russia's placing of Ukrainian civilians in 'filtration camps', arguing that they are a violation of IHL and a war crime.	







December 2022	Episode #9 (S2E3): A Landmark Declaration on Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas	Hajer Naili, Sahr Muhammedally and Roos Boer; The Civilian Protection Podcast Discourse 	Discusses the recent signing of the political declaration on explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA).	
December 2022	Humanitarian Access Overview	ACAPS Evidence 	Updated data on severity of restrictions to humanitarian access	
December 2022	Adapting Aid and Intervention in Yemen	Jacob Kutzer, Fatima Alo Alasrar and David Gressly; Center for Strategic and International Studies Discourse 	Recording/transcript of discussion on the options for humanitarian aid in Yemen following the end of a UN truce in October.	
December 2022	Milestone in the Security Council: what the new humanitarian “carve-out” means for UN sanctions regimes	Naureen Chowdhury Fink and Agathe Sfrati; IPI Global Observatory Discourse 	Blog discussing UNSC Resolution 2664, providing a humanitarian ‘carve out’ in all UN sanctions regimes. Outlines the main features of the resolutions and presents a positive picture of its implications. Challenges include the need for national implementation, and remaining tensions with counterterrorism legislation.	
December 2022	Beyond neutrality: alternative forms of humanitarian action	ODI Humanitarian Policy Group Discourse 	Recording of discussion on the humanitarian principle of neutrality and calls to support humanitarian action with principles of solidarity, resistance or justice in some contexts.	
November 2022	What works to prevent conflict related sexual violence report	Maureen Murphy et al.; What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale Evidence 	Discusses the available evidence and gaps on preventing conflict-related sexual violence	
8 December 2022	The art of influencing: how to maximize impact in a complex, interconnected world	Nicholas Hawton; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	The ICRC’s diplomatic adviser reflects on his experience of humanitarian diplomacy. He highlights lessons for success in influencing in difficult situations, including listening, simplicity, honesty and storytelling.	







20 December	The translator is a traitor: translation in humanitarian response	Rasha Mahmoud Abdel Fattah; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Blog discussing the challenges of translating into Arabic in humanitarian contexts.	
December 2022	Gender-based violence: what is working in prevention, response and mitigation across Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh?	Silvia Guglielmi et al.; Overseas Development Institute Policy/guidance 	Lessons collected from humanitarian organisations, aid recipients and others in Cox's Bazar on the best ways to deal with gender-based violence in refugee camps. Outlines existing programmes and highlights promising practices and recommendations. Accompanied by a longer research report .	
28 November 2022	Not only a problem in exile: risks of statelessness for Syrian children born in internal displacement contexts	Thomas McGee; Researching Internal Displacement Evidence 	Outlines the issues of statelessness in internal displacement. Highlights the problems in Syrian law and policy likely to lead to statelessness for children born to Syrian IDPs.	

Prioritise


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December 2022	Global Humanitarian Overview 2023	UN OCHA Evidence 	Website outlining humanitarian needs for 2023, with analysis of global trends in health, education, equality; responses plans for different regions; and suggestions for improvements to aid.	
6 December 2022	The Year Ahead 2023: 5 things not in the 'GHO'	Mike Pearson; Humanitarian Funding Forecast Discourse 	The blog identifies 5 key issues not noted in the global humanitarian overview, including a higher level of funding needs than estimated by the GHO, a doubling of people in need since 2020, the centrality of large-scale responses, and raises questions about the framing of the GHO.	
9 December 2022	Shrink the needs: a grander bargain is no longer an option but a necessity	Sudhanshu S. Singh; A4EP Discourse 	In light of a persistent deficit of funding for humanitarian needs, the report argues for shrinking humanitarian needs by improving efficiency, and addressing the causes of crises more through a focus on nexus approaches, multiyear funding, and more localisation.	







November 2022	Cost of Doing Business Index	Humanitarian Funding Forecast Evidence 	Analysis of cost of humanitarian activity in 36 contexts.	
November 2022	IASC guidance on the provision of overheads to local and national partners	IASC Policy/guidance 	Guidance for international NGOs and UN agencies partnering with local and national organisations on overhead costs. Also includes a report on overhead cost allocation in the humanitarian sector .	
28 November 2022	Who funds what? humanitarian research and innovation funding flows analysis	Ziad Issa et al., ELHRA Evidence 	Provides data on the funders and recipients of humanitarian research, and priorities for funding.	
4 December 2022	People-focused, effective aid: The urgent need to accelerate progress on cash and voucher assistance for people in crisis	Karen Peachey; CaLP Evidence 	Summary of recent evidence on how far cash and voucher can be scaled up, what this would mean for the humanitarian system, and how policy commitments have changed cash use.	
4 December 2022	Where next? the evolving landscape of cash and voucher policies	CaLP Evidence 	Report on cash and voucher policies since 2016, divided into areas by degree of progress. Based on analysis of policies of leading donors, NGOs, UN agencies and the Red Cross and Crescent.	
4 December 2022	Increasing the use of humanitarian cash and voucher assistance: opportunities, barriers and dilemmas	Corinna Kreidler and Niklas Reigler; CaLP Evidence 	Research on the barriers and enablers for increased CVA, identifying modality restraints, contextual barriers, and potential impact of increased use.	
October 2022	What is known about capacity and coordination of social assistance programmes in crisis situations?	Rachel Slater, Ella Haruna and Daniela Baur; BASIC Research Evidence 	Reviews the evidence, finding that there is very little systematic assessment of capacity and coordination in crisis situations. Highlights how the lack of capacity and coordination undermines social assistance in crisis, and identifies the barriers to improvement.	
December 2022	The freedom to choose: Theory and quasi-experimental evidence on cash transfer restrictions	Jade Siu, Oliver Sterck and Cory Rodgers; Journal of Development Economics Evidence 	Uses data from Kalobeyei settlement in Kenya comparing refugees in receipt of cash transfers restricted to food with those in receipt of unrestricted cash. Finds that those receiving restricted cash participated more in resale markets,	

			spent less on non-food items, and reported lower well-being.	
December	Linking humanitarian assistance and social protection in displacement settings. Guidance to assess the factors and actors that determine an optimal approach: A toolkit	Christina Lowe and Cécile Cherrier; Overseas Development Institute Policy/guidance 	Guidance on linking humanitarian assistance and social protection.	
December 2022	Linking humanitarian assistance and social protection in response to forced displacement	Christina Lowe, Cécile Cherrier and Rebecca Holmes; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Presents an analytical framework to explore ways to link humanitarian assistance and social protection. A revised version of a 2020 framework.	
7 December 2022	Who paid the price for Uganda's refugee fraud scandal (and who didn't)?	Kristof Titeca; The New Humanitarian Evidence 	Article investigating the response of the Ugandan government and the UN to fraud in refugee aid in 2018. Finds a lack of accountability for high-level officials, partly driven by a desire to support Uganda's status as a model refugee host.	
November 2022	Ground Truth Solutions, Global Analysis, November 2022	Ground Truth Solutions Evidence 	Report finding that feedback systems have not shifted decision-making power to crisis-affected people. Respondents to the survey in many countries report dissatisfaction with the level of consultation and participation. The report calls for more thorough changes in consultation and participation. It finds that cash is still underused, and increased use will need changes in the humanitarian system.	
24 December 2022	Trumanitarian podcast: 54. Out of Control	Paula Gil Baizan, Meg Sattler and Lars Peter Nissen; Trumanitarian Podcast Discourse 	Takes stock of trends in humanitarian aid, including localisation and decolonisation.	

6 December 2022	Future of the Grand Bargain – Findings of the survey – October 2022	ICVA Evidence 	Short summary of findings from a survey of signatories' opinions on the Grand Bargain process, and interest in continuing the process.	
December 2022	Learning to change: The case for systemic learning strategies in the humanitarian sector	B. Ramalingam and J. Mitchell; ALNAP Evidence 	Report discussing learning in humanitarian organisations with examples and lessons from recent history and other sectors.	
December 2022	Overlooking local voices: an analysis of global south roles in humanitarian knowledge production	Humanitarian Horizons Evidence 	Research on how knowledge is produced in the humanitarian sector, with respect to disparities between the global north and global south and the localisation agenda, and highlighting the practices and barriers that have led to global north dominance.	
December 2022	The conflict paradox: humanitarian access, localisation and (dis) empowerment in Myanmar, Somalia and Somaliland	Dustin Barber and Gun Mai Sumlut; Disasters Evidence 	Argues that incentives to expand aid organisations undermine moves towards localisation. Uses case studies of Myanmar, Somalia and Somaliland to show the effects of conflict-induced access restrictions on local actors. Argues that a more comprehensive form of localisation should be sought.	
December 2022	Special issue: education in pandemics	Journal on Education in Emergencies Evidence 	Articles on education conducted during pandemics, featuring research from Rwanda, South Sudan, Nigeria, Syria, the DRC, Honduras, and Lebanon, among others.	

Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
November 2022	Connecting disasters and climate change to the humanitarian-development-peace nexus	Rodrigo Mena et al.; Journal of Peacebuilding and Development Discourse 	The article 'articulates and conceptualises how climate change perspectives and actions should be integrated into the existing streams of the humanitarian, development, and peace/peacebuilding nexus, rather than being added as a separate stream'	

November 2022	Legal preparedness for regional and international disaster and pandemic response in South Asia - Regional and comparative analysis	IFRC Evidence 	Report on the legal and regulatory approaches to disaster in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka and intergovernmental organisations.	
7/8 December 2022	High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges: Development Cooperation	UNHCR Discourse 	Recordings of dialogue on 'development cooperation across the cycle of displacement with protection as a central and cross-cutting theme.'	
7 December 2022	UN High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges 2022: Development Cooperation	Frederik Matthys; OECD Discourse 	OECD blog on their commitment to provide more support for the protection of refugees and IDPs across the nexus. This includes producing more data on inclusion of refugees and IDPs in the nexus; and policy analysis on forced displacement and climate change adaptation.	
4 December 2022	Meaningful refugee participation: an emerging norm in the global refugee regime	James Milner, Mustafa Alio, Rez Gardi; Refugee Survey Quarterly Evidence 	Assesses whether refugee participation can be considered a 'norm'. Analyses different approaches to refugee participation by humanitarian bodies and refugee and argues that it is an emerging norm but that different approaches may hinder its establishment.	
19 December 2022	Five things we learnt about displacement in 2022	Caitlin Sturridge et al.; Overseas Development Institute Discourse 	Blog highlighting some of the ODI's key findings about displacement, including that it is linked with other socio-economic processes, affects gender relations in many ways, and that restrictive policies do not always reduce migration.	
December 2022	Technologies in humanitarian settings: -engagement and local innovation playbook -balanced, principled and complementary partnerships	Harvard Humanitarian Initiative Evidence 	Series of publications on using digital technologies in humanitarian settings.	

	-engagement and inclusion of women -supporting community-led ICT innovations -community and stakeholder engagement -digital upskilling of humanitarian actors			
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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

Every month we invite a guest to identify their five “star reads” from the wider HCRI list. This does not represent an organisational position or assessment of rigour of evidence, but rather a personal choice of published evidence, guidance or discourse that are of special interest or impact – of course we recommend you consider reading all! This month Chris Porter (FCDO Humanitarian Head of Profession) has listed his five star reads. Watch out for other guest reviewers in the coming months....

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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About HCRI

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.

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