

Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary




February 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	Present and engaged: how the ICRC responds to armed conflict and violence in cities	ICRC Evidence 	Discusses the ICRC's work in urban areas during armed conflicts. Outlines the implications of urban violence for IHL and humanitarian action and lessons from the ICRC's work in Brazil, Colombia, Honduras, Libya, the Philippines, and Ukraine.	
January 2023	ICRC engagement with armed groups in 2022	Matthew Bamber-Zryd; ICRC Law & Policy Evidence 	Blog summarising the ICRC's yearly assessment of its engagement with armed groups, and highlighting factors leading to successful negotiations.	








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January 2023	Community engagement with armed actors: strengthening protection, prevention and response	Humanitarian Exchange Evidence 	A series of articles by researchers and practitioners, with an overview of existing evidence and case studies of various practices and contexts.	
January 2023	Jan Egeland on the humanitarian imperative today	Humanitarian Fault Lines Discourse 	Jan Egeland discusses the present and future of humanitarianism in a challenging political climate.	
January 2023	Warpod episode 18: Protecting civilians in Iraq	Julia Steets and Zmkan Ali; Saferworld Discourse 	Podcast discussing preventative protection methods, with examples from Iraq.	
January 2023	Three key lessons from efforts to strengthen community protection in Iraq	Julia Steets; GPPI Evidence 	Blog summarising findings from research on community protection. Discusses the different approaches taken by protection actors, some of the main problems, and key lessons.	
January 2023	Oslo commitments on ending sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises	Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence 	Progress report on the 2019 Oslo Commitments, with data on financial disbursements and policy commitments. It finds significant progress in implementing policy commitments, with some limitations.	
January 2023	Where the bombs fell: Measuring compliance with humanitarian treaties	Ori Swed; Social Science Research Evidence 	Proposes a geospatial analysis method of measuring conflict parties' compliance with humanitarian treaties, and uses the 2014 Israel-Gaza war as a case study where it finds 'variations in compliance' on the ground and suggests the possibility for a more granular analysis of compliance.	

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January 2023	Underestimating attacks: comparing two sources of publicly-available data about attacks on health care in 2017	Vanessa Parada et al.; Conflict & Health Evidence 	Explores the reasons for the lack of overlap between different datasets on attacks on healthcare, based on publicly-available data from WHO and Insecurity Insight. Argues that weaknesses in automated and manual data collection are likely a reason, and that greater diversity of sources, languages and better search mechanisms are needed.	
January 2023	Fuelling Conflict: Analyzing the human impact of the war in Yemen	Martin Butcher; Oxfam Evidence 	Evidence on harm to civilians in Yemen between January 2021 and February 2022, with data on types of incident, weapons used, categories of harm, numbers dead and injured, and protection implications. The data is used to argue that foreign governments should stop supplying arms to the conflict parties.	
January 2023	Gendered health impacts of civil war in Nepal	Róisín Read & Bertrand Taithe; RIAH Evidence 	Summary of research into the impact of attacks on healthcare during conflict in Nepal. It finds specific needs for women that are not being met during conflict or in the post-conflict period.	
January 2023	“Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use” Douma (Syrian Arab Republic) – 7 April 2018	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Evidence 	Report of the OPCW on the use of chemical weapons in Douma, 7 April 2018, finding reasonable grounds to believe that an aircraft of the Syrian Air Force dropped chemical weapons onto a residential building in the city.	
January 2023	What you should know about recognizing and addressing starvation crimes: Advancements, strategies, and tools	Bridget Conley et al.; Feinstein International Center Discourse 	Webinar with panellists exploring 'issues related to law, humanitarian response, protection, gender and sexual-based violence, and documenting and prosecuting starvation crimes'. Uses Yemen and Ethiopia as case studies.	
January 2023	From Srebrenica to a safer tomorrow: Preventing future mass atrocities around the world: Government response to the Committee's Third Report	House of Commons International Development Committee Discourse 	The UK government's response to the International Development Committee's Third Report of Session 2022–23 on preventing mass atrocities, outlining its current and planned policies and actions.	





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January 2023	Coding protection: 'cyber humanitarian interventions' for preventing mass atrocities	Rhiannon Neilson; International Affairs Evidence 	Advances the concept of 'cyber humanitarian interventions' as a way to prevent atrocities by disrupting online recruitment and organisation, as well as hate speech. Suggests a toolbox of potential interventions, including freezing revenues, educational campaigns and blocking communications.	
January 2023	Humanitarian neutrality in contemporary armed conflict: a conversation with Nils Melzer	Nils Melzer & Elizabeth Rushing; ICRC Law & Policy Discourse 	Recording and transcript of discussion on the humanitarian principle of neutrality in armed conflict, focused on the ICRC's position.	



Prioritise

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
January 2023	Looking Beyond Food: Child survival in the hunger crisis	Rachel Hickman and Hannah Stevenson; Save the Children Discourse 	Discusses the needs of children during a hunger crisis, and offers recommendations for treatment and healthcare options.	
January 2023	Assessing the current level of alignment between humanitarian and social protection programmes in Ukraine in November 2022	Thomas Byrnes; STAAR Evidence 	Assesses the coverage of the Ukrainian government's social protection systems, and alignment with humanitarian programmes, in terms of policy, programme design and administration.	
January 2023	Role of civil society organisations in Ukraine: Emergency Response inside Ukraine Thematic paper	Diana Tonea and Vicente Palacios; CaLP Evidence 	The report finds a limited role for local organisations in the Ukrainian cash and voucher response, partly from difficulties accessing the international aid system.	
January 2023	Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection in Ukraine	Diana Tonea and Vicente Palacios; CaLP Evidence 	Lessons derived from the cash working group in Ukraine	







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January 2023	Evidence and practice review of the use of cash transfers in contexts of acute food insecurity	Marie Boulinaud and Martin Ossandon; Key Aid Consulting Policy/guidance 	Noting the inconsistency of approaches to CVA for food security, shows evidence on CVA in situations of acute food insecurity (in Nigeria, Somalia and Syria). Finding focus on the role of donors, governments, contextual constraints/drivers, perceptions of risk, efficacy, knowledge, and other factors.	
January 2023	Changes to US and UN economic sanctions may simplify CVA implementation	Rory Crew; CaLP Discourse 	Brief discussion of the potential implications of UNSCR 2664, providing a humanitarian carve-out in UN sanctions, on cash and voucher assistance.	
December 2022	COVID-19 in Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts: Disease surveillance, program monitoring, social interaction, and policy analysis during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic	Chris Altare et al.; Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health & Action contre la faim Evidence 	Study on disease epidemiology, impact and healthcare and population behaviour during covid-19 in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Based on data collected from March 2020 to March 2021.	
September 2022	Infectious disease outbreak response coordination: an introductory guide for non-governmental organizations	USAID Policy/guidance 	Brief guidance on coordination of infectious disease response for the use of NGOs. Covering main types of response, key actors, measuring the outbreak, responding through the cluster system and factors influencing coordination and effectiveness.	







Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
January 2023	Socio-economic integration: towards solutions for displaced people and host communities	Forced Migration Review issue 71 Evidence 	Articles on various aspects of socio-economic integration in a number of contexts.	

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December 2022	Needles in a haystack: an analysis of global south roles in humanitarian knowledge production	Humanitarian Advisory Group Evidence 	Analysis of how knowledge is produced and used in the humanitarian sector, through a review of documents used to create 'humanitarian consensus', citation analysis, and interviews. Finds a global north bias, and calls for more localised production and co-production.	
January 2023	Labor Market Access and Outcomes for Refugees	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Evidence 	Summary of recent published evidence on refugees' right to work, including the main barriers, and analysis of the economic impact of refugees working.	
January 2023	Joint Data Center Seminar on Building Evidence on Forced Displacement	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Evidence 	Recording of a seminar outlining Joint Data Center findings since 2016, focusing on labour market effects, followed by discussion.	
January 2023	South Sudan's Decades of Displacement: Understanding return and questioning reintegration	Research and Evidence Facility (REF) and Samuel Hall Evidence 	Analysis of factors affecting displacement, through exploring the experiences of the displaced. Based on interviews in urban areas and refugee camps in South Sudan, Ethiopia and Uganda. Findings focus on the reasons for movement, barriers to integration, gender and age dimensions, policy and legal hurdles, and contextual factors such as Covid-19, food security and insecurity.	
January 2023	Rethinking Humanitarian Assistance: Climate and Crisis in the Horn of Africa	Beza Tesfaye et al.; Center for Strategic and International Studies Evidence 	Conceptualisation of the intersections between climate change, conflict and vulnerability in the region. This is used to highlight gaps in challenges in humanitarian aid, and suggest improvements.	
January 2023	Issue brief: transboundary climate risks to African dryland livestock economies	Sarah Opitz-Stapleton; SPARC Evidence 	Outlines the risks arising from climate change and other vulnerabilities in African dryland economies.	

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January 2023	Dynamism in the drylands: Evidence from South Sudan for supporting pastoral livelihoods during protracted crises	Alex Humphrey et al.; SPARC Evidence 	Research on pastoralists' resilience strategies to cope with shocks such as violence and drought, and longer-term evidence on climate change.	
January 2023	These are the biggest risks facing the world	Sophie Heading and Gayle Markoviz; World Economic Forum Discourse 	Global risks, as identified and ranked in a survey for the next two and ten years.	
January 2023	Programming systemic risk management: An exploration of tenets and approaches	Katie Peters and Thomas Tanner; ODI Evidence 	Presents tenets for harnessing a systematic approach to risk management for humanitarian actors and others. Recommends ways to implement such an approach in the analysis of problems, funding, collaboration and programming.	
January 2023	Exploring systemic risk management as a contribution to the HDP nexus	Katie Peters, Nancy Balfour and Diego Osorio; ODI Evidence 	Policy brief providing recommendations on how to integrate systemic risk management within the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.	
January 2023	Everybody Counts Covid-19	IFRC Evidence 	Evidence on the effect of Covid-19, including estimates of mortality, national responses, and responses of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, and lessons.	
January 2023	World Disasters Report 2022: Trust, equity and local action: lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic to avert the next global crisis	Michael Marshall; IFRF Evidence 	Data on natural and man-made disasters during 2022 and their direct and indirect effects; analysis of broader trends; drivers of disasters; and factors for risk reduction and mitigation.	

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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