

Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary




March 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
February 2023	‘Back to basics’ with a digital twist: humanitarian principles and dilemmas in the digital age	Pierrick Devidal; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Blog discussing how new digital technologies fit with the humanitarian principles, highlighting opportunities and challenges, such as algorithmic bias.	
February 2023	Global economic warfare needs new rules	Hugo Slim; Geneva Policy Outlook Discourse 	Blog arguing that economic warfare - sanctions and scorched earth tactics – needs to be subject to new rules. IHL has a limited definition of civilian populations that means it does not protect against the harms done by economic warfare. Points to the possibility of agreeing regulations, citing the Black Sea Agreement as a promising precedent; as well as IHL and, more immediately, international human rights law.	








February 2023	Principled?	Yuliia Chykolba and Lars Peter Nissen; Trumanitarian Podcast Discourse 	Discussion of whether the humanitarian principle of neutrality remains important, particularly with respect to the Ukraine conflict. Featuring Marc Dubois and Fiona Terry.	
February 2023	What to do about the lack of international aid to Syrians after the earthquake and Humanitarians, play your cards right: how to save lives and impartiality in Syria's earthquake-affected north	Julia Steets and Claudi Meier; GPPI Discourse 	Two blogs from GPPI on the prospects for international humanitarian access to Syria following the recent earthquake. Steets argues for a stronger and more principled humanitarian negotiating stance with Syria, while Meier considers how best to negotiate with Syria and Turkey through conditionality of assistance.	
February 2023	Destruction and devastation: one year of Russia's assault on Ukraine's health care system	Christian De Vos et al.; eyeWitness to Atrocities Insecurity Insight, the Media Initiative for Human Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Ukrainian Healthcare Center Evidence 	Report documenting attacks on hospitals, ambulances, health infrastructure and health workers in Ukraine between February 24 and December 31, 2022. Draws on a range of evidence and seeks to assess the attacks with respect to IHL.	
February 2021	Ukraine conflict environment briefing: the coastal and marine environment	CEObs and Zoï Environment Network Evidence 	Evidence on the effects of the war on Ukraine's marine areas.	
February 2023	Preventing and eradicating the deadly legacy of explosive remnants of war	Eirini Giorgou; ICRC Law & Policy blog Evidence 	Outlines the consequences of the explosive remnants of war, conflict parties' obligations under IHL and Protocol V of the CCW on Explosive Remnants of War (2003), as well as actions taken by the ICRC.	
February 2023	Moving humanitarian-military relations forward: a new typology	Rob Grace et al.; Journal of International Humanitarian Action Evidence 	Creates a typology to help civilian responders assess how to work with armed actors. Based on evidence from the DRC, Jordan-Syria and the Philippines.	


February 2023	Five types of humanitarian influence	Hugo Slim; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Delineates five types of influence available to humanitarians: public prophecy; intimate storytelling; deliberation and problem-solving; the dripping tap (repetition); and the power of example.	
February 2023	Evolving NGO Security Risk Management (Ep1) Insights from a Security Manager: managing operations in complex environments	GISF podcast Discourse 	Podcast with Mila Shutova from Christian Aid on current NGO security management practices.	

Prioritise






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February 2023	Partnerships and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse an analysis of recent case studies	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) Evidence 	Outlines the framework on PSEA cooperation before looking at instances where cooperation has been used, and responses to reports of SEA.	
February 2023	Grant project lessons and outcomes: community solar hubs	GSMA Evidence 	Summary of findings from a project to rent solar technology in northern Uganda, with the aim of becoming commercially sustainable. Outlines the project, quotes from users, and lessons (e.g. distribution challenges).	
February 2023	Slipping away? a review of humanitarian capabilities in cholera response	Abby Stoddard et al.; Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence 	Analyses reasons for a recent upsurge in cholera outbreaks and identifying areas for improvement in humanitarian response.	
February 2023	The links between conflict and hunger in Somalia	Insecurity Insight Evidence 	Data on conflict and food security in Somalia, collected between January 2017 and September 2022. Shows, among other things, attacks on food infrastructure and humanitarian aid workers.	






February 2023	Beyond hunger: the gendered impacts of the global hunger crisis	Plan International Evidence 	Data on gendered access to food from Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Haiti. It finds gendered effects, including household food distribution, coping strategies, withdrawal of girls from education, reproductive rights, and violence.	
February 2023	Linking anticipatory action to risk financing: compendium of think pieces by members	InsuResilience Sectoral Community Discourse 	Discussion of a number of questions relating to risk financing and anticipatory action, with discussants from academic, the UN, NGOs and insurers, among others.	
February 2023	A path towards ecological international aid	Groupe URD Discourse 	Short video on the importance of considering environmental challenges in humanitarian aid, and examples of promising practices.	
February 2023	The digital worlds of displacement-affected communities: a cross-context study of how people affected by displacement use mobile phones	GSMA Evidence 	Research on mobile phone use in displacement-affected communities in North and Akkar governments in Lebanon; Iowara refugee settlement in Papua New Guinea; and Bor Protection of Civilians site in South Sudan. Data on mobile penetration, uses and risks.	
February 2023	Beyond rights-based social protection for refugees	Tahir Zaman et al.,; Global Social Policy Evidence 	Looks at evidence on how displaced Syrians in Lebanon access social assistance, showing that assistance offered through a rights-based approach by national systems is only part of a range of social protection opportunities.	
February 2023	IOM cash-based interventions strategy 2022–2026	International Organization for Migration Policy/guidance 	The IOM's strategic objectives for increased use of cash-based interventions.	
February 2023	Strengthening inclusive social protection systems for displaced children and their families	Rebecca Holmes and Christina Lowe; Overseas Development Institute Evidence 	Evidence on how national social protection systems can support displaced children and their families, barriers to access, and policy recommendations.	







December 2022	Linking humanitarian cash assistance and national social protection systems	Corinna Kreidler et al.; World Bank Evidence 	A study on links between social protection programmes and humanitarian aid in the Sahel countries, undertaken June 2021 - January 2022. It finds that 'convergence is more feasible in places where there is political and economic stability and a fairly well-developed social protection system', as well as strong coordination structures and relationships.	
February 2023	Earthquakes in Turkey: reflections from past experience	Disasters Evidence 	A collection of past articles reflecting on humanitarian response, reconstruction and other issues from previous earthquakes in Turkey.	
February 2023	Think Change episode 19: Türkiye-Syria earthquakes – lessons learnt and what next?	Sara Pantuliano et al.; Overseas Development Institute Discourse 	Podcast discussing the impact of earthquake in Turkey and Syria, the relief efforts so far, and challenges faced.	
February 2023	Panel on earthquake in Türkiye and Syria	Center for Humanitarian Health Discourse 	Panel discussion on the public health dimensions of the recent earthquake.	
February 2023	Solidarity at scale: Local responder perspectives and learning from the first week of the earthquake response in Syria and Türkiye	Alexa Swift et al.; Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence 	Evidence gathered from local responders on the emerging challenges.	
February 2023	Julien Harneis on the humanitarian response in Pakistan	Jamie McGoldrick and Julien Harneis; Humanitarian Faultlines Discourse 	Conversation on the challenges facing Pakistan and those seeking to provide aid, rooted in climate change and inflation.	
January 2023	How to implement the grand bargain commitments at the country-level?	Grand Bargain Secretariat Policy/guidance 	Short guidance document on implementing grand bargain commitments.	



February 2023	Community perceptions of humanitarian assistance in South Sudan: Findings and recommendations	REACH Evidence 	Data from household surveys on the effects of conflict, how far humanitarian aid is meeting needs, barriers to assistance, feedback mechanisms in aid. Data was collected in 2021 and 2022 across the whole of South Sudan.	
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Prevent

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February 2023	Food insecurity in South Sudan Financing to local actors	CAFOD and Development Initiatives Evidence 	Provides evidence on levels of food insecurity across the country, as well as humanitarian funding, its sources (e.g. development, climate), and how much has reached local and national actors. It assesses the barriers and enablers to accessing the funding, and how it might affect the current crisis.	
December 2023	Country-based Pooled Funds Global Guidelines	UN OCHA Policy/guidance 	Minimum standards for management of country-based pooled funds, covering governance, effective programming, allocations, risk management, administration, resource mobilisation, establishment and closing of funds.	
February 2023	Repatriating Syrians from Lebanon: What Happens Next?	Jasmin Lilian Diab; United Nations University Centre for Policy Research Evidence 	Analysis of the Lebanese government's repatriation of Syrian refugees, centred on issues of voluntary return and safe return. Outlines the relevant international refugee law, the role of the UNHCR, and implications for policy.	
February 2023	Combating cholera by building predictive capabilities for pathogenic Vibrio cholerae in Yemen	Moiz Usmani et al.; Scientific Reports Evidence 	Tests the accuracy of the Cholera Risk Model (CRM) - based on sociodemographical, microbiological, and climate information - in predicting cholera outbreaks. Finds that it can predict at least 4 weeks in advance at 73% accuracy.	
February 2023	Refugee mobilities in East Africa: understanding secondary movements	Alexander Betts et al.; Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies Evidence 	Presents data on movement of refugees from their first country of arrival, with data from Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda, collecting data on both aspirations and actual movement decisions over time. Seeks to correct the lack of data on refugee movement in the global south (i.e. not to countries in the global north). It finds high rates of	

			movement among refugees, the majority of which is to other countries in the global south, as well as significant internal movement (camp-urban, inter-urban and intra-urban).	
February 2023	Social cohesion and forced displacement: a synthesis of new research	World Bank Evidence 	Research on social cohesion based on 26 background studies. Recommendations include the importance of inclusive policies and development investments, including humanitarian aid, to promote social cohesion	
February 2023	UNRWA and the Palestinian refugees: Protecting refugee rights while structurally addressing the agency's financially unsustainable modus operandi	Francesca P Albanese and Lex Takkenberg; RSC Working Papers Evidence 	Reevaluates the role of UNRWA, arguing for a comprehensive response framework (CRF) for Palestinian refugees and that UNWRA should focus more on protection and durable solutions.	
February 2023	Disaster displacement Indonesia country briefing	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Asian Development Bank Evidence 	Data on displacement by disasters, its costs, and the capacity to respond, in Indonesia.	
February 2023	Building a science-policy interface for tackling the global governance of catastrophic and existential risks	Centre for the Study of Existential Risk Evidence 	Report on how evidence on global and existential risks are communicated by and collaborated on by scientists and policymakers. Outlines the work of the Science Policy Interface in fostering trust and collaboration across organisations.	
February 2023	The next pandemic: if we can't respond, we're not prepared	Cristina Stefan et al.; Center for Global Development Evidence 	Blog outlining the financing architecture for global pandemic preparedness and response, drawing on data from Covid-19 and Ebola funding.	

February 2023	Early action: the state of play 2022	Marie Wagner; REAP Evidence 	Data on early action commitment, investment and activity in 2022 in order to identify gaps. Uses 4 targets to assess progress.	
February 2023	Evaluation of the policy on WFP's role in peacebuilding in transition settings	Julia Steets et al.; GPPI Evidence 	Analysis of the World Food Programme's policy and analysis of the effect of its programmes on peace and conflict, as well as other stakeholders' perceptions of WFP programmes.	
February 2023	Development Co-operation Report 2023	OECD Evidence 	Report on the challenges and opportunities in the development system. Includes chapters on innovative financing for the humanitarian sector (Jagan Chapagain), aid in fragile contexts, working with local actors, racism in the aid sector, climate finance, and others.	
January 2023	Financing food security: promises and pitfalls of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in South Sudan	Kristina Tschunkert et al.; SIPRI Evidence 	Analysis of donor financing in South Sudan with respect to commitments to work across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus.	
January 2023	East Asia and Pacific disaster risk financing and social protection	UNICEF Evidence 	Evidence on national shock responsive social protection systems, and their links with disaster risk financing, in East Asia and the Pacific.	
February 2023	Fragility, conflict, and violence in middle-income countries	Patrick Barron et al.; World Bank Group Evidence 	Provides data on the extent of conflict in middle-income countries, and assesses World Bank programmes on the issue. Uses quantitative data, and case studies of Colombia, Croatia, Kenya, Lebanon, the Philippines and Thailand.	

February 2023	The state of open humanitarian data 2023	Centre for Humdata Evidence 	Outlines the available humanitarian data, and gaps, for 25 locations, based on the humanitarian data exchange platform.	
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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 Professor Larissa Fast (Executive Director and Professor of Humanitarian and Conflict Studies at the HCRI, University of Manchester) has listed her 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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