

Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary

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Monthly Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summaries aim to signpost FCDO and others to the latest relevant evidence and discourse on humanitarian action. It is structured around [FCDO humanitarian framework](#) 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.






We hope this is a useful resource and you can read all the articles produced by brilliant authors and organisations(!), but each month we also 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, but rather a personal choice of published evidence, guidance or discourse that are of special interest or impact. This month Marc DuBois (humanitarian consultant) lists his five star reads.

Protect





Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/publication/publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
June 2023	Delivering Humanitarian Health Services in Violent Conflicts	Jaime Sepúlveda, Jennifer M. Welsh, and Paul H. Wise, eds.; Daedalus Evidence 	Special collection on humanitarian health delivery in conflicts. Articles discuss the ways to understand the complex relationships of actors in civil wars to better deliver aid , an assessment of the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in terms of its humanitarian consequences and future similar wars , health responses , data , non-state actors , the UN Security	 Timely and vital collection that interrogates humanitarian health from a number of angles. Includes focus on issues that do not receive sufficient attention, such as principles and ethics or urban contexts.






			Council , localisation , and others.	
June 2023	The crisis of maternal and child health in Afghanistan	Nancy Glass et al.; Conflict & Health Evidence 	Findings from a survey of Afghan health workers, showing harassment of health workers and reductions in access and quality of maternal and child health.	
June 2023	Ignoring red lines: violence against health care in conflict 2022	Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Evidence 	Report documenting '1,989 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in conflicts across 32 countries and territories'. Discusses types of attack, country profiles and recommendations.	
June 2023	The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam and international humanitarian law: some preliminary thoughts	Marko Milanovic; EJIL: Talk! Discourse 	Discussion of how IHL would address the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam, and under what circumstances it would constitute a war crime or crime against humanity.	
June 2023	Local governance structures and humanitarian responses to the earthquake in North-West Syria	Sinan Hatahet; European University Institute Evidence 	Paper analysing the effect of the governance structures in NW Syria on humanitarian response to the recent earthquake. It finds significant challenges 'such as the politicisation of aid, fragmented governance and the influence of armed factions.'	






June 2023	Humanitarian protection in the Liptako-Gourma region (2020–2022): local protection and humanitarian mechanisms	Dr Virginie Baudais et al.; SIPRI Evidence 	Based on surveys of local communities, the research shows perceptions of threats, risks, vulnerabilities, and local protection mechanisms, to help target humanitarian protection more effectively. Also summarised graphically .	
June 2023	Organized crime	International Review of the Red Cross Evidence 	Edition focused on issues related to organised crime, including humanitarian impacts, the applicability of IHL and negotiation.	
June 2023	Humanitarian negotiation processes with gangs	Jorge J. Fernández; Frontline Negotiations Policy/guidance 	Thoughts on the challenges of, and best practice for, working with gangs, based on interviews in México, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Colombia.	
June 2023	How can humanitarian negotiators negotiate with algorithms?	Óscar Sánchez Piñero; Frontline Negotiations Discourse 	Recording and transcript of short discussion of the implications of the use of digital algorithms for humanitarian communication and negotiation.	
June 2023	War in cities: preventing and addressing the humanitarian consequences for civilians	ICRC Evidence 	Outlines the civilian harms arising from conflicts in urban areas, and provides recommendations for more protection.	







June 2023	Responsible data sharing between humanitarian organizations and donors: towards a common approach	Vincent Cassard, Jonas Belina and Stuart Campo; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Six guidelines on how best to share data between humanitarian actors safely.	
June 2023	Risk sharing framework	Risk Sharing Platform Policy/guidance 	Guidance on sharing risk between humanitarian actors, across the delivery chain.	
June 2023	Unprotected: severe lack of funding for child protection	Humanitarian Funding Forecast Evidence 	Report on funding for protection of children in conflict areas, with figures on global funding and a case study of Bangladesh.	
June 2023	Children and armed conflict: a legal glossary on abduction and deportation	Ioana Cismas, Ezequiel Heffes and Brook Morrison; Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict Policy/guidance 	Glossary of legal terms relevant to abduction and deportation of children in armed conflict, from relevant laws and monitoring mechanisms.	
June 2023	Rohingya Repatriation: the booklet diplomacy	Shahariar Sadat, Azizul Haque, and Arafat Reza; Refugee Law Initiative Discourse 	Analyses a booklet given to a Rohingya delegation taken to Myanmar to see preparations made for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees. It finds that the booklet does not address the legal status of the Rohingya. It also assesses the humanitarian assistance promised in the booklet.	







Prioritise


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June 2023	Transformational humanitarian response: the example of Poland	Fatma Maryam et al.; Humanitarian Leadership Academy Evidence 	Analyses Poland's reception of refugees as an example of localisation, and highlights lessons on coordination between local and international actors.	
June 2023	Humanitarians and the climate emergency: the ethical, practice and cultural challenges	Hugo Slim; GPPI Discourse 	Essay outlining the adaptations needed in the humanitarian sector in order to respond to climate change.	
April 2023	Evidence report: impact of climate change	Paul Knox Clarke, Johana Bretou-Klein and Iris Bollemeijer; International Medical Corps Evidence 	Overview of likely effect of climate change on WASH, health, nutrition and food security, and livelihoods humanitarian programmes. Based on published literature.	
May 2023	Artificial Intelligence (AI) & ChatGPT in development and humanitarian work-a curated collection	Tobias Denskus; Aidnography Discourse 	Blog collating recent articles on the potential roles of AI in humanitarian work.	

June 2023	IOM cash-based interventions annual report and case studies 2022	IOM Evidence 	Data and cases studies on the IOM's use of cash-based interventions in 2022.	
June 2023	Cash-plus programming in protracted crises: a review of programmes in contexts of overlapping conflict, forced displacement and climate-related shocks	Jeremy Lind, Rachel Sabates-Wheeler and Carolina Szyp; BASIC Research Evidence 	A review of 97 cash-plus programmes in 16 countries with protracted crises. It finds that they do not address the specific features of protracted crises, and more evidence is needed on their efficacy in such settings.	
June 2023	Linking social protection and cash and voucher assistance to mitigate and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian and displacement contexts	Isabela Nunes Franciscan; Social Protection.org Discourse 	Summary of a recent webinar with links to the recording and summaries of the papers.	
May 2023	Unpacking the politics of social assistance: Part I – Nigeria	Joseph Ochogwu; Institute of Development Studies Discourse 	Blog exploring the challenges for the delivery of social assistance in NE Nigeria.	
June 2023	All the right tracks: delivering shock-responsive social protection in the Sahel: learning from	Ana Ocampo and Paul Quarles van Ufford; World Food Programme Evidence 	Lessons from the WFP's 'twin track approach' to social protection during Covid-19.	



	the Covid-19 response			
June 2023	The role of cash and voucher assistance in increasing equity and inclusion for girls and children with disabilities in education in emergencies	Komal Thakkar et al.; Global Education Cluster Evidence 	Evidence on whether cash and voucher assistance can overcome barriers to education for girls and children with disabilities. Analysis of barriers and evidence from programmes. Case studies of programmes in Nigeria, Kenya and Syria.	
June 2023	Supporting social protection: five considerations for a principled humanitarian approach	Colin Walch; ICRC Law & Policy blog Discourse 	Discusses how working with national social protection systems needs to be undertaken carefully to avoid undermining humanitarian principles, and highlights particular considerations.	 A good example of what is too often missing in humanitarian action – examining program-level actions through the lens of the principles.
June 2023	Funding civil society in partner countries	OECD Policy/guidance 	Toolkit on enabling civil society in development and humanitarian aid.	
June 2023	The Grand Bargain in 2022 An independent review	Victoria Metcalfe-Hough, Wendy Fenton and Farah Manji; ODI Evidence 	Assessment of the progress made on Grand Bargain Commitments over the last year.	






June 2023	An unaccountable response perpetuates people's vulnerabilities	Ground Truth Solutions Evidence 	Finds that a lack of participation can increase vulnerability by not accurately addressing needs. Based on surveys in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, Nigeria, Somalia and Ukraine.	 Both refreshing and incredibly important – understanding humanitarian aid through the eyes of people and communities. Compellingly to the point – a good example of letting the people do the talking. Who is listening? Who is acting on what they hear?
June 2023	The state of communication, community engagement and accountability across the Ukraine response	Katarzyna Blasinska, Dmytrii Lavrinenko and Alyssa Thurston; CDAC Network Evidence 	Quarterly report on status of communication, community engagement and accountability (CCEA) across the Ukraine response, highlighting key gaps and barriers.	
June 2023	Humanitarian observatories – seeking change from below	Dorothea Hilhorst; blISS Discourse 	Summarises ISS's project setting up humanitarian observatories to help aid recipients monitor and influence aid.	
June 2023	Navigating ethical dilemmas for humanitarian action in Afghanistan	Mark Bowden et al.; Humanitarian Outcomes Evidence 	Examines the ethical dilemmas facing humanitarian organisations in Afghanistan, the stances and options of key aid and state actors, and offers ways for aid actors to assess the effects of decisions.	
June 2023	Livestock Emergency Guidance and Standards	Helen de Jode and Cathy Watson; LEGS Policy/guidance 	Handbook providing minimum standards and guidelines for use in humanitarian emergencies that affect livestock. Structured around six technical areas: livestock feed, water, veterinary	





			support, shelter, livestock offtake, the provision of livestock.	
May 2023	Sharing nutrition knowledge and experiences from across the globNoe In a time of food crisis	Field Exchange 69 Evidence 	Articles on issues including treatment for wasting children; climate change and food security and the Global Nutrition Cluster's new guidance.	
June 2023	Explain: Essential briefings for humanitarian decision-makers	ALNAP Policy/guidance 	Short briefings on key topics in the humanitarian sector: climate change , localisation , accountability to affected populations , and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus .	 ALNAP launches its new approach to disseminating information, based upon the critical observation that learning from experience is not challenged by the lack of learning so much as the lack of space in which to absorb it.
June 2023	Mercy Triumphs	Trumanitarian podcast Discourse 	Interview with Stephen Webster about his work with first-response mechanisms.	
June 2023	Beyond survival Exploring wellbeing in humanitarian action	Oliver Lough et al.; ODI Evidence 	The report uses the concept of wellbeing to explore 'how humanitarian assistance enables and inhibits people's efforts to pursue meaningful lives in protracted crises'.	 This report probes issues that are not sufficiently probed, and certainly aren't as central to humanitarian action as they should be. A fundamental spark: "a

				demand to think beyond survival is bound up in the core humanitarian principle of humanity.”
June 2023	“We don’t do mental health”: a review of Médecins Sans Frontières’ first “psy” mission	Laure Wolmark; MSF Crash Evidence 	Reflections on the decision-making around MSF’s first mission with a mental health component in Armenia after the 1988 earthquake. Part of a special issue .	

Prevent

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June 2023	Global humanitarian assistance report	Angus Urquhart et al.; Development Institutes Evidence 	Assesses trends in humanitarian need and crisis, funding, changes in the humanitarian system, and potential innovations.	
June 2023	The world's most neglected displacement crises in 2022	Norwegian Refugee Council Evidence 	Ranks Burkina Faso, DRC, Colombia, Sudan, Venezuela, Burundi, Mali, Cameroon, El Salvador and Ethiopia as overlooked crises. Outlines their key features and lack of media and political engagement.	

June 2023	Linking disaster risk financing with social protection: An overview of concepts and considerations	Zoe Scott; World Food Programme Evidence 	Outlines the different ways to link DRF to social protection and the key considerations.	
June 2023	Do famine declarations really lead to increased funding?	Daniel Maxwell, Matthew Day, Peter Hailey; Feinstein International Center Evidence 	Analysis of funding patterns to question the common claim that funding increases following a famine declaration. Although this happened in Somalia in 2011, in most other cases funding flows are unaffected by famine declarations. Also analyses the effects of early warnings, and argues that resources should be given to prevent famine.	
June 2023	Triggering anticipatory action for floods in Nepal	Centre for HumData Discourse 	Blog discussing the Nepal anticipatory action framework and its release of funds in October 2022 and linking to the data used.	
June 2023	Predicting food crises using news streams	Ananth Balashankar, Lakshminarayanan Subramanian, Samuel P Fraiberger; Science Advances Evidence 	Analyses 11.2 million news articles from 1980 to 2020 in food-insecure countries with deep learning, finding that it is possible to improve food crisis prediction.	
June 2023	Can we predict conflict displacement?	Nico Rost; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Discourse 	Summarises a recent study finding that 'it is possible to identify countries with a high risk of seeing large-scale displacement over the next 1 to 3' and suggests ways to improve forecasting.	

June 2023	A Sphere unpacked guide: nature-based solutions for climate resilience in humanitarian action	Jenn Hoffman and Dr. Sarah Henly-Shepard; Sphere Policy/guidance 	Guidance on applying nature-based solutions in humanitarian responses.	
June 2023	Mobilising for rights in the MENA region	Forced Migration Review Evidence 	Articles on how 'localised or transnational acts of mobilisation can support the rights of forced migrants in the Middle East and North Africa'. In partnership with the the University of Oslo's REF-ARAB project.	
June 2023	Think Change episode 27: refugee leadership – how do we move from talk to action?	Sara Pantuliano et al.; ODI Discourse 	Discussion on the implementation of refugee leadership, with experts from refugee-led organisations.	
June 2023	Forced displacement literature review	Joint Data Centre Evidence 	Review of recent articles on refugees and conflicts, trade, labour markets, asylum policies, and other issues.	

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.

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