

# Humanitarian Evidence and Discourse Summary



December 2022  
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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
November 2022	<a href="#">Leadership of protection in the humanitarian sector</a>	Gemma Davies and Mark Bowden; ODI Humanitarian Practice Group  Evidence 	Briefing note on the role of humanitarian leaders in reducing protection risks for crisis-affected people. Outlines the current situation and identifies enablers for more effective leadership. Calls for calculated risk-taking and institutional support for efforts to promote protection, as well as more coherent approaches across organisations and with human rights, peace and political actors.	








November 2022	<a href="#">Beyond compliance: international humanitarian law, humanitarian need and civilian harm in armed conflict</a>	Rebecca Sutton & Emanuela-Chiara Gillard  Evidence 	An exploration of how IHL compliance affects civilian need and harm in conflicts. It analyses the effect of IHL on the conduct of hostilities, access to goods and services, displacement, conflict-induced hunger, and sanctions. Argues that although IHL compliance generally leads to better outcomes for civilians, it does not address all problems affecting civilians.
November 2022	<a href="#">How international humanitarian law develops?</a>	International Review of the Red Cross  Evidence 	Journal issue discussing how IHL norms have come to exist and how they are expressed, with case studies from different times and places in history, and discussion of current trajectories.
3 November 2022	<a href="#">Towards a 'digital emblem'? Five questions on law, tech, and policy</a>	Tilman Rodenhäuser & Mauro Vignati; ICRC Law & Policy blog  Discourse 	Discussion of whether a digital emblem can help protect digital humanitarian work in the same way as the Red Cross symbol can. Outlines the technical possibilities and the potential risks and benefits.
1 November 2022	<a href="#">How combatting illicit financial flows can prevent remittances from helping people during humanitarian crises: a closer look at Afghanistan</a>	Mohamed Muse and Rodrigo Mena; bIISS  Discourse 	Laws against money laundering and terrorist financing are also preventing remittances from reaching populations in crisis. This has hit Afghanistan particularly hard since the return of the Taliban to power. Calls for more research on the role of remittances in crises, the effects of sanctions, and humanitarian strategies to respond to them and anti-laundering and -terrorism laws.
November 2022	<a href="#">Negotiating humanitarian space with criminal armed groups in urban Latin America</a>	Elena Lucchi & Moritz Schuberth; Disasters  Evidence 	Outlines a new typology of humanitarian strategies of engagement with criminal armed groups in South America, with 5 levels of interaction from 'information sharing' to 'direct negotiation'.
18 November 2022	<a href="#">GISF Compounding Crises Podcast Series</a>	GISF  Discourse 	Podcast series on humanitarian security risk management.

November 2022	<a href="#">Reverberating civilian and environmental harm from explosive weapons use in Gaza</a>	Georgia Edwards, Clive Vella & Eoghan Darbyshire; Conflict and Environment Observatory & Airwars  Evidence 	Research on the effects of airstrikes on the Gaza Strip during May 2021, including civilian casualties, and on water and wastewater infrastructure.	
24 November 2022	<a href="#">No choice but to flee: starvation and displacement in central Equatoria, South Sudan</a>	Global Rights Compliance  Evidence 	Investigation into starvation and mass forcible displacement. It is based on open-source intelligence (OSINT) information, and finds 'a clear link between the use of civilian starvation as a method of warfare, targeted attacks on humanitarian aid workers and the mass forcible displacement of civilians'. Discusses the legal framework and accountability options as well as evidence of deliberate starvation, attacks on aid workers, and forced displacement.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Limiting the humanitarian consequences from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas next steps in implementation of the political declaration</a>	Center for Civilians in Conflict  Policy/guidance 	Guidance on implementing the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, including interpretation of the declaration and policy guidance for field workers.	
24 November 2022	<a href="#">When hostilities end but suffering remains: the necessary continuation of humanitarian activities in the aftermath</a>	Émilie Charpentier; ICRC Law & Policy blog  Discourse 	Discussion of the IHL framework for humanitarian operations after armed conflict. Includes the role of international human rights law, regional conventions and the UN.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Persons with disabilities in armed conflicts</a>	International Review of the Red Cross  Evidence 	Articles on the specific vulnerabilities of persons with disabilities in conflict, protections in international law, and case studies.	

## Prioritise





Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
November 2022	<a href="#">Floods in Pakistan: Rethinking the humanitarian role</a>	Paul Harvey et al.; Humanitarian Outcomes  Evidence 	A rapid review of the humanitarian response to Pakistan's floods, based on interviews, analysis of funding and operational data. Findings include that the response was underfunded, leading Pakistan to rely on repurposed World Bank loans; that anticipatory financing models were not used; and that humanitarian actors were not geared to work with government capacity.	
24 November 2022	<a href="#">Report: UK aid to Afghanistan</a>	ICAI  Evidence 	Independent report on the UK's £3.5 billion overall aid to Afghanistan from 2001. Specifically on humanitarian elements, it finds the UK appropriately scaled up its humanitarian support in response. In a data-poor environment, it invested in building national capacity for humanitarian needs assessments, and was an active and informed participant in coordination bodies. However, despite the recurrent droughts, the UK remained largely reactive to humanitarian crises, investing relatively little in crisis prevention and resilience-building.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Passing the buck: the economics of localizing international assistance</a>	Courtenay Cabot Venton et al; Share Trust  Evidence 	Using ODA data, the study evaluates the relative cost efficiency of shifting from an International Intermediary Model, where ODA funding flows via UN agencies and larger INGOs based in the Global North, to more of a Local Intermediary Model. It finds that using the local intermediary model could be 32% more cost efficient and specifically on humanitarian nearly \$1.8bn saving. Also discusses potential costs, benefits, barriers and enablers to such a change.	
31 October 2022	<a href="#">How do the big agencies spend their money?</a>	Mike Pearson; Humanitarian Funding Forecast  Evidence 	Brief analysis of the income and spending of WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, and ICRC. It finds increased use of cash transfers (from 3% to 26% of WFP expenditure from 2011 to 2021), increased use of temporary staff, and different operating models.	
7 Nov 2022	<a href="#">IASC Guidance on the Provision of Overheads to Local and National Partners</a>	IASC  Policy/Guidance 	This guidance provides recommendations for how to improve current policy and practice to ensure that local and national	







			partners can access overhead funding.	
24 November 2022	<a href="#">Breaking the starvation cycle: report findings</a>	Humentum & Funders for Real Cost, Real Change  Evidence 	Report on funding to NGOs, arguing that funders mostly do not provide enough to cover administration costs. Based on financial reports and surveys.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Funding to local actors: evidence from the Syrian refugee response in Türkiye</a>	Fran Girling-Morris; Development Initiatives  Evidence 	Research on how much funding has been provided by international donors to local and national humanitarian actors in Türkiye, its effect on the quality of aid and the nature of funding partnerships. Overall it finds that local and national actors received only 5% of international funding in 2019 and 2020.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Key considerations for RCCE in the 2022 Ebola outbreak response in Greater Kampala, Uganda</a>	David Kaawa-Mafigiri, Megan Schmidt-Sane and Tabitha Hrynicky; Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform (SSHAP)  Evidence 	Policy brief suggesting how those responding to Ebola in Kampala can use Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). It is based on observations from the current outbreak as well as earlier research.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Standards for supporting crop-related livelihoods in emergencies</a>	SEADS  Policy/guidance 	Handbook outlining minimum standards for crop-related crisis responses. Includes assessments, seeds, other equipment and infrastructure, assessment, and other matters.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Enablers and challenges when integrating cash, nutrition and WASH interventions in humanitarian contexts a case study from South Sudan</a>	Francesca Battistin; Save the Children  Evidence 	Case study on integrating different activities in South Sudan, identifying enablers and challenges across organisations.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Gaps _____ in Humanitarian WASH Response: Perspectives from people affected by crises, WASH practitioners, global responders, and the literature</a>	Travis Yates et al.; Disasters  Evidence 	Evidence on gaps in WASH responses, from crisis-affected populations, practitioners and researchers.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Field Exchange: issue 68</a>	Field Exchange	Articles on subjects including food distribution in response to Covid-	

		Evidence 	I9; antenatal nutrition services; child wasting programmes in Yemen; digital platforms in Indonesia; MUAC screening in Mali; nutrition information in Ivory Coast; cash assistance in Yemen..	
2 November 2022	<a href="#">Multi-purpose cash transfers and health among vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan: A prospective cohort study</a>	Emily Lyles et al.; PLOS Global Public Health  Evidence 	A 'prospective cohort study to evaluate the effectiveness of MPC in improving access to healthcare and health expenditures by Syrian refugees in Jordan' from May 2018 to July 2019. MPCs led to increases in seeking care for some illnesses, and some outcomes, but not all, showing some potential as a humanitarian measure if not as a stand-alone health intervention.	
November 2022	<a href="#">New Cash Coordination model</a> <a href="#">All you need to know about the new model</a>	Cash Advisory Group  Policy/guidance 	Presentation on the cash coordination model developed from the Grand Bargain.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Guidance on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Child-headed Households (CHH) and Unaccompanied Children (UAC) &amp; Designing Cash and Voucher Assistance to Achieve Child Protection Outcomes in Humanitarian Settings</a>	Hannah Thompson, Julia Grasset, Lauren Murray; Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action  Policy/guidance 	Guidance on helping and protecting children in cash programming.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Datafication of the humanitarian sector: efficacy and ethics</a>	Robert Trigwell, Dr Prithvi Hirani and Dr Grant Tregonning; Warwick University  Evidence 	Based on interviews, briefly outlines how data use has changed, how it has affected decision-making, and some of the ethical challenges. It includes a diagram of the humanitarian data ecosystem	
10 November 2022	<a href="#">Humanitarian fables: morals, meanings and consequences for humanitarian practice</a>	Mfanwy Jones; Oxford Department of International Development  Evidence 	Blog summarising research on MSF in the DRC, arguing that humanitarian work is influenced by certain 'fables', particularly on the relationship between foreign and national staff.	
22 November 2022	<a href="#">'A few not too troublesome restrictions': humanitarianism.</a>	Marnie Lloyd; Critical Legal Thinking  Discourse 	Discussion of recent debates on whether humanitarianism seeks to ameliorate some of the effects of war at the expense of opposing war; and a switch from neutrality to	


	<a href="#">solidarity, anti-militarism, peace</a>		solidarity in humanitarian action, which the author argues needs to be better defined.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Trumanitarian podcast</a>	Trumanitarian podcast Discourse 	Recent episode on <a href="#">-a discussion with Joel Glasman on the (mis)use of data by humanitarians</a>	

## Prevent

Publication date	Title/URL	Author(s)/Publication/Publication type (evidence, discourse or policy/guidance)	Summary	Top reads
2 November 2022	<a href="#">Prioritizing climate impact data</a>	centre for humdata Discourse 	Blog describing the ongoing expansion of humanitarian data centre grids to include climate impact data (now complete for 7 of 25 countries covered).	
16 November 2022	<a href="#">Changing climate, changing realities: migration in the Sahel</a>	G. Daoust et al.; British Red Cross Evidence 	Research on the links between climate change and migration in the Sahel, with case studies of Mali and Sudan. Based on analysis of policy and surveys and interviews.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Climate change, conflict and internal displacement in Afghanistan: 'We are struggling to survive'</a>	Kerrie Holloway et al.; ODI Humanitarian Policy Group Evidence 	Study of the humanitarian problems created by conflict and climate change in Afghanistan, focusing on IDPs in Herat City and their survival strategies.	
October 2022	<a href="#">Recent publications from the Karamoja Resilience Unit</a>	Various authors; Karamoja Resilience Unit Evidence 	Research on the region of northeastern Uganda including <a href="#">community perspectives on conflict</a> ; <a href="#">historical analysis of conflict and cattle raiding</a> ; <a href="#">education of girls</a> , among others.	

November 2022	<a href="#">Anticipatory action in motion: recapping the most recent evidence and illuminating a pathway forward</a>	Leah B. Poole et al.; Feinstein International Center  Evidence 	Summarises published findings on anticipatory action since 2020 and assessing progress on key categories (investment in monitoring, evaluation and learning systems; common analytical frameworks; collaboration and exchange of knowledge; simpler financial and technical assistance)	
1 November 2022	<a href="#">Anticipatory action and disaster risk finance: Guiding the setting of humanitarian targets</a>	Lena Weingärtner, Emily Montier, Sarah Klassen; Overseas Development Institute  Evidence 	Research on where anticipatory action and finance can be used to improve humanitarian response. Building on previous analysis that over half of crises are somewhat predictable, and looking at existing operational risk information systems, the paper discusses limits and opportunities for more anticipatory action.	
10 November 2022	<a href="#">Who gets what: how to get climate finance working for the people who need it most</a>	Namita Khatri; ICRC Law & Policy blog  Discourse 	Discussion of the lack of climate adaptation finance targeted to conflict situations.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Process learning for disaster risk financing</a>	Emily Gettliffe; Centre for Disaster Protection  Policy/guidance	Guidance on how to capture and communicate learning from disaster risk financing initiatives.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Informing better access to education for IDPs</a>	Christelle Cazabat and Louisa Yasukawa; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  Evidence 	Report on the evidence – and data gaps – on education for IDPs. Based on studies of Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.	
November 2022	<a href="#">Forced displacement literature review</a>	Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement  Evidence 	Summaries of recently published articles, including the effects of refugees on infectious disease, crime, labour markets, child labour, inter-group interaction and the psychosocial value of employment in camps, in a number of contexts.	



4 November	<a href="#">Borders, money and a B&amp;B: the Global Compact on Refugees in Serbia</a>	Julian M. Lehmann; GPPI Evidence 	Analysis the implementation of the Global Compact objectives of responsibility sharing and provision of solutions for refugees in countries hosting refugees, in Serbia. It finds that the Compact has not had a constraining effect on Serbian policy, but the policies of neighbouring states, and domestic considerations, have.	
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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](mailto: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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