



Armed conflicts and its impact on sustainable development

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International Alliance for Peace and Development

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List of Abbreviations

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECHO	European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department
ERM	Emergency Response Mechanism
EU	European Union
FFS	Funding Facility for Stabilization
IAC	International Armed Conflict
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal of Former Yugoslavia
ISIS/ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIAC	Non International Armed Conflict
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
U.S/USA	United States of America
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

USD United States Dollar

Introduction

The term “Armed conflict” is classified to two different categories under International Humanitarian law, the first is “Non International Armed Conflicts” (“NIACs”), and the second is “International Armed Conflicts” (“IACs”).

Both types of conflicts were defined by the International Criminal Tribunal of the former Yugoslavia (“ICTY”); the first is NIACs, which was defined as "whenever there is [...] protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between such groups within a State",¹ this definition defined NIACs in the same sense that Common Article 3 of the Geneva convention defined it, whereas it defined it as "several factions [confront] each other without involvement of the government's armed forces".²

Furthermore, IACs on the other hand were defined also by the ICTY as "an armed conflict exists whenever there is a resort to armed force between States".³ Given how abstract the definition is, this definition was adopted and used by international bodies ever since it was promulgated.⁴

Those 2 types of conflicts occur frequently and in different areas of the world. Whereas several conflicts will be displayed in this research paper, such as the

¹ ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadic, Decision on the Defence Motion for Interlocutory Appeal on Jurisdiction, IT-94-1-A, 2 October 1995, para.70.

² Y. Sandoz/C.Swinarski/B. Zimmermann, Commentary on the Additional Protocols of 8 June 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, ICRC, Geneva, 1987, para. 4461.

³ ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadic, Decision on the Defence Motion for Interlocutory Appeal on Jurisdiction, IT-94-1-A, 2 October 1995, para. 70.

⁴ “How is the Term "Armed Conflict" Defined in International Humanitarian Law?”, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Opinion Paper, March 2008, P.1 Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/opinion-paper-armed-conflict.pdf>

Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the conflict in Ukraine, the conflict in Kashmir, the civil war in Libya, Iraq, Syria and several other conflicts.

During those conflicts, there is always support provided from international bodies, those international bodies play an integral role in assisting the conflicting states in rebuilding and making the countries livable once more.

Legal framework for Armed Conflicts⁵

The rules of Armed Conflicts are governed by the four Geneva Conventions which were promulgated on the 12th of August of 1949, as well as the 3 Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005. Aside from governing IACs, Article 3, which is common to all 4 Geneva Conventions, is applicable to NIACs.

On the other hand, the first Additional Protocol supplements the regulation of IACs by including exercising the right to self-determination against occupation and racist regimes. The second Additional Protocol, unlike the first Additional Protocol, applies to NIACs. Finally, the third Additional Protocol is supplementary to the Geneva Conventions, as it allows the use of a distinctive symbol.

The main idea of the Geneva conventions, alongside the 3 Additional Protocols, is the respect of individuals and their dignity in times of conflicts. It is noteworthy that the people protected by the provisions of the aforementioned conventions, are the people who are not directly taking part in hostilities, alongside people that were rendered injured, sick or captives.

⁵ SUMMARY OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 12 AUGUST 1949 AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS, ICRC, No date, P. 2-3, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/publications/icrc-002-0368.pdf>

Furthermore, the people that suffered in the conflict must be treated and aided without any discrimination. Also, the rules governing international conflicts clearly prohibit indiscriminate attacks against civilian populations.

Areas of armed conflict

Armed conflicts and wars continue to cause widespread death, displacement and suffering to the peoples. There are numerous armed conflicts around the world, including conflicts involving warring parties within one State (non-international armed conflicts), those involving armed forces Of two or more States (international armed conflicts), armed conflicts have killed millions of people, countless victims have been maimed, tortured, raped, forcibly displaced, or otherwise abused

International Armed Conflicts

Afghan U.S Conflict

Since 2001, the U.S attacked Afghanistan to ensure the eradication of the Taliban from Afghanistan. The U.S also deployed counter-insurgency personnel for the reestablishment of the Afghan government in the country and for the protection of the civilians from the Taliban. However, such efforts are ineffective as Taliban clashes as well as insurgency clashes overwhelm the country, and the war keeps claiming the lives of Afghani nationals through assassinations, crossfires, explosions and bombings.⁶

The number of deceased persons in the Afghani war reached over 40,000 in 2018, this number led to the announcement by the president of the United States of

⁶ The World's Most War-Torn Countries, Worldatlas.com (Oishimaya Sen Nag), 11 January 2018, Available at: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-s-most-war-torn-countries.html>

America, Donald Trump that over half of the United States of America's forces in Afghanistan would leave.⁷

The war reached its peak as the Taliban which were expelled from Kabul over 17 years ago, had accepted a cease fire agreement for 3 days in June 2018 which was enforced by both the government and the Taliban and amounted to festive celebrations by civilians and combatants. However, immense fighting resumed after those 3 days, and amounted to the fact that the Taliban now is in control of almost half the country, and the U.S airstrikes are not that effective on them, as the Taliban are cutting off transport routes and demolishing towns and cities.⁸

Furthermore, in September 2018, the U.S diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad was appointed by the U.S as representative for peace talks; on the other hand, the Taliban heads seemed to be taking the peace talks seriously. However, the process of the peace talks is stuck over the rigid demand of the Taliban from the U.S to withdraw all international forces within a specific timeline, and then after the fulfillment of this condition, the Taliban may continue the peace process. However, this condition would be in the favor of the Taliban, while it may be of an uncertainty burden for other Afghans. Moreover, despite the fact that this condition brings with it uncertainty, several days after the peace talks with the U.S diplomat Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S announced the withdrawal of over 7,000 troops.⁹

⁷ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (ROBERT MALLEY), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

Such rapid withdrawal may suggest a more massive civil war in Afghanistan, other neighboring countries and involved countries in Afghanistan, like Iran, Russia, Pakistan and China, all have the stance that USA should leave Afghanistan. However, they all agree that such a rapid pull out could amount to a massive civil war.¹⁰

Furthermore, in May 2019, the Taliban forces rejected a ceasefire agreement that was initially proposed by President Ashraf Ghani and the U.S diplomat, Zalmay Khalilzad, and it was announced that clashes took its toll between security forces and the Taliban, which resulted in the death of over 20 persons, while also wounding over 50 persons.¹¹

In conclusion, the initiated conflict in Afghanistan started due to the U.S invasion, and despite the fact that ceasefire agreements were initiated, and that diplomatic measures were initiated, the conflict keeps worsening.

Kashmir Conflict

The conflict between India and Pakistan is mainly a territorial dispute over the region of Kashmir, the conflict first took place in 1947 then in 1965, and then a limited war started in 1999 and despite the fact that both countries maintain a ceasefire agreement since 2003, the ceasefire agreement is brittle, as they both exchange fire over the disputed border.¹²

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Afghanistan conflict: Taliban attack northern police headquarters, BBC news, 6 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-48169104>

¹² Conflict Between India and Pakistan , Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), 14 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>

Although both sides violate the ceasefire agreement, they both claim that the other side is violating the agreement and that they are firing in self-defense. The conflict later escalated in 2016 and kept escalating till 2018, which evidentially displaced several thousand civilians and killed dozens of civilians from both sides on the Kashmir region.¹³

In previous events, in 2014, the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif was invited to attend the inauguration of Modi, the newly elected Indian Prime Minister; this invitation gave a spark for hopes of peaceful negotiations between the countries. However, that spark of hope was quickly demolished as India stopped the peace talks with Pakistan later the same year in August. However, several meetings followed, most notably, in December 2015 Modi visited Lahore in order to meet Nawaz Sharif, which is the first visit from an Indian head to Pakistan in over a decade.¹⁴

Later on, in September 2016 significant peace talks ended, as an armed attack over an Indian military base was carried out, the Indian military base was located nearby the Kashmir border (“Line of Control”); the attack resulted in the death of over 18 Indian soldiers.¹⁵

Later in October 2017, another attack was carried out on an Indian paramilitary camp, that is located nearby Srinagar, and another later attack was carried out in February 2018 on an Indian army base that is located in the Jammu region, which resulted in the death of a civilian and 5 soldiers, these attacks were responses to a period of constant violations to the ceasefire agreement, in which around 3000 violations were reported in 2017 and around 1000 violations in the first 6 months of

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

2018. Whereas violent demonstrations calling for the independence of Kashmir continued, in which 300 people were killed in 2017. Such atrocities resulted in a strict ceasefire announcement in May 2018, due to the beginning of the holy month Ramadan, then after the conclusion of Ramadan, the operations resumed in June 2018. However, during the month of May, both parties came to an agreement to reestablish the 2003 ceasefire agreement. However, even after reestablishing the ceasefire agreement, in February 2019, an attack on a group of Indian paramilitary forces took place in Kashmir, which resulted in the death of over 40 soldiers, the attack however, was not by the Pakistani army, as it was claimed by Pakistani militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad.¹⁶

It should be noted that such incidents could result to having those 2 nuclear armed countries waging war at each other, while also taking into consideration that the U.S and India both accuse Pakistan of sheltering and supporting militants that launch attacks inside Indian territories.¹⁷

In conclusion, the conflict between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region, is a border conflict, it has been ongoing for several decades now, both parties keep agreeing to ceasefire agreement, yet end up violating them, claiming that it is the appropriate response for the other party violating the agreement, thus diplomatic measures needs to be more effective in this conflict.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Modi vows action after dozens die in deadliest attack in Indian-held Kashmir in 3 decades, Washington Post (Joanna Salter and Niha Masih), 15 May 2019, Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/indias-modi-promises-retaliation-after-worst-attack-in-kashmir-in-three-decades-kills-dozens/2019/02/15/f5dd55d6-309e-11e9-8781-763619f12cb4_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.fcafc729091f

Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

The Nagorno Karabakh region was originally established in the 1920's, in which the population comprised of 95% Armenians, however within the Azerbaijan territory. Later on, in 1988 the legislature of Nagorno Karabakh passed a resolution to declare that they have joined Armenia, regardless of the fact that they are located within Azerbaijan. In 1991, while the Soviet Union was dissolving, Nagorno Karabakh declared its independence, which resulted in the beginning of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which evidentially lead around 30,000 persons to lose their lives, besides resulting in having hundreds of thousands of refugees.¹⁸

By the year 1993, Nagorno Karabakh was controlled by Armenia, and in the year of 1994, a ceasefire agreement was brokered by Russia, which is still intact. However, tensions took place following the April 2016 violent acts, in which several violations for the ceasefire agreement occurred.¹⁹

In conclusion, the conflict in the Nagorno Karabakh region is a territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, several people died since the conflict first started. However, both parties agreed to a ceasefire agreement, yet both parties still violate it.

Palestinian Israeli Conflict

The Palestinian Israeli conflict originated due to a territorial dispute, after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, which resulted into the division of the territory into 3 areas, those are the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the state of Israel, minor changes occurred later on after the Yom Kippur War in October 1973, in which Syria regained the

¹⁸ Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), 14 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/nagorno-karabakh-conflict>

¹⁹ Ibid.

Golan Heights and Egypt regained the Sinai Peninsula from the state of Israel afterwards; the conflict of 1973 came to an agreement with the Camp David Accords in 1979, which was considered as a peace treaty for Egypt and Israel.²⁰

Later on in 1987, the first Palestinian intifada took place, which was a sign of protest against the Israeli regime, it comprised of hundreds of thousands Palestinians from both the West bank and Gaza Strip, denouncing the Israeli occupation, which later in 1993 lead to the Oslo Accords, which set up the framework for Palestinians to govern their own territories and people, while also validating the relations between the Palestinian authorities and the Israeli authorities.²¹

However, the Oslo Accords did not prevent the Palestinian people from resuming their protests. Whereas, in the year 2000, the second intifada took place, and later on in 2015, following a series of violent clashes between Palestinians and Israelis, Mahmoud Abbas, the president of Palestine, declared that the Palestinian people will no longer be bound by the Oslo Accords. Furthermore, peace talks were initiated by the U.S in 2013, which resulted in signing and additional agreement in October 2017.

²²

The numbers of people killed in the clashes between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the summer of 2014 were over 2,251 Palestinians and 73 Israelis, whereas those numbers could have increased if it wasn't for Egypt, as it brokered a ceasefire agreement.²³

²⁰ Israeli-Palestinian Conflict , Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), 14 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

Moreover, in the timeframe between the 30th of March and the 15th of May several demonstrations were conducted by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Coincidentally, the final demonstration took place on the anniversary of the Nakba, besides having the same date as the relocation of the U.S embassy to Jerusalem, this demonstration resulted in the death of over 183 protestors, and over 6,000 injuries by live ammunitions.²⁴

In conclusion, the Palestinian Israeli conflict is a territorial dispute, in which Israel occupied the Palestinian lands; the occupied territories of Palestine are currently the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, negotiations between the two parties did not amount to much, except for the Oslo accords. Afterwards, several clashes took place between the two parties.

Ukrainian Russian Conflict

The annexation of Crimea by Russia in 2014 sparked a war in the Donbass region where there was subsequent support for the annexation; the fighting between the two countries (Russia and Ukraine) suggests that there will be no compromise that would satisfy both, whereas in November 2018, Ukrainian and Russian vessels clashed, and the clash resulted to the blocking access of the Kerch Strait by the Russian forces.²⁵

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (ROBERT MALLEY), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

Such attacks on Ukrainian military ships violated a bilateral agreement between Ukraine and Russia that was signed in 2003. The incident suggests that Russia is willing to use measures of force against Ukraine.²⁶

Meanwhile, the Donbass region remains in conflict, civilians are living on the front lines and paying the price for the annexation, both Ukraine and Russia did not initiate any steps to end the war, as the Minsk agreements signed by both Ukraine and Russia set out to end the war. However, Ukraine refuses to decentralize power to Donbass until Russia withdraws its forces from several conflicted areas.²⁷

In conclusion, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine was firstly initiated due to the Russian annexation of Crimea, and despite the fact that agreements were signed between the two parties, they remain ineffective, and both states seem to be escalating the conflict instead of dialing it down.

Yemeni Conflict

Yemen is one of the most lawless countries with some of the biggest humanitarian crisis globally. Yemen has been in a state of conflict for over four years against the Saudi led siege. The conflict gives rise to several problems, one of which is that around 16 million Yemeni citizens face food insecurity; this number accumulates to approximately 50% of the Yemeni population.²⁸

The Yemeni conflict started in 2014 where the Houthi rebel group marched upon the capital and expelled the legitimate government. Further, in March 2015, the conflict escalated when bombings began by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

order to oppose the Houthi militia and help the legitimate government regain its rightful place.²⁹

Later on, in late 2018, a Houthi controlled port, named Hodeidah was surrounded by the backed up United Arab Emirates Yemeni militias. However, this coalition gained international concerns, which later on led to the Stockholm agreement, which was made between the Houthi militia and the Yemeni government; the agreement included a brittle cease fire around the Hodeidah port.³⁰

In conclusion, the Yemeni conflict has several parties, the Yemeni government, the Saudi led coalition, and the Houthi militia, the conflict was first initiated due to the insurgency of the Houthi militia, later on the Saudi led coalition joined the conflict in order to help in reestablishing the Yemeni government, yet this lead to even more atrocities in Yemen.

Non International Armed Conflicts

The Central African Republic civil war

The Central African Republic has been involved in several rebellions and military coups that have severely impacted on the nation's economy. Currently there is an ongoing civil war between the Séléka rebel coalition and the government, the civil war started in December 2012 and a huge number of towns and villages were destroyed, with the Séléka rebel coalition being held responsible for unnecessary destruction of those towns, in addition to the killing of several thousand civilians.³¹

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ The World's Most War-Torn Countries, Worldatlas.com (Oishimaya Sen Nag), 11 January 2018, Available at: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-s-most-war-torn-countries.html>

In conclusion, the situation of instability continues worsening in the Central African Republic, which is leading to several deaths and destruction.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's Conflicts

The Democratic Republic of Congo (“DRC”) has been facing several conflicts, some of which has been there since the 1970s, suchlike the Batwa-Luba Clashes, the guerilla campaign of the Lord’s Resistance Army, the Ituri Conflict and the Kivu Conflict.³²

Despite the fact that the conflicts in the DRC has been classified as a low level conflict, the involvement of armed groups within the conflict made the U.S government warn against any and all travels to the Democratic Republic of Congo.³³

In conclusion, the situation in the DRC is not stable. However, despite the instability, the conflicts are not as dangerous as several others, given that it was classified as a low level conflict.

Iraqi civil war

Iraq was invaded in 2003 by the U.S. forces; the purpose of such invasion was to overthrow Saddam Hussein and his government, and indeed the war lead to the fall and death of Saddam Hussein. However, that fall was at huge expenses, in which it was reported that over half a million Iraqis lost their lives from the time frame between 2003 and 2011. Further, the war did not stop by the fall of Saddam Hussein, as the country is currently undergoing a civil war. As it happens, in 2014 the civil war started when the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (“ISIL” or “ISIS”) seized

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

key areas in the north of Iraq. Notwithstanding, ISIL have terrorized several other countries, such as U.S, Syria, Iran, and other Iraq supporting countries.³⁴

In conclusion, the U.S invasion of Iraq opened a door for the instability of the country which later on lead ISIS to operate within Iraq.

Libyan civil war

In October 2011, Muammar al-Qaddafi, the former Libyan leader died, and ever since then, Libya failed to rebuild a stable state. Later on, the transitional government relinquished the authority to the elected government of the General National Congress in July 2012; this particular government faced many threats, such as the September 2012 attacks on the U.S consulate by Islamist militants, besides the proliferation of the numbers of the ISIS militants as well as other armed groups.³⁵

Furthermore, a campaign was launched by Haftar, the Leader of the Libyan National Army, in May 2014, the campaign named Operation Dignity was conducted in order for the Libyan National Army to defend Libya by attacking Islamic militia groups in Eastern Libya (including Benghazi). However, such campaign was countered by the Islamic militia groups, through forming a coalition named Libya Dawn, which lead to the spillover of the conflict to Tripoli's international airport and evidentially starting the civil war.³⁶

Later on, in order to find a unified government in Libya, the UN Special Envoy to Libya Bernardino Leon facilitated several talks between the parties, which came to the conclusion of the creation of the Libyan Political Agreement, and the UN

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Civil War in Libya, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), 14 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-libya>

³⁶ Ibid.

supported Government of National Accord. However, it still faces obstacles when it comes to the unification of Libya. Furthermore, due to the conflict and violence in Libya, it was estimated by UN Refugee Agency that over 1.3 million persons need humanitarian assistance, while 217,000 persons were internally displaced.³⁷

In more recent events, in September 2018, several days after the UN brokered a cease fire agreement, a state of emergency was declared by the Government of National Accord, in attempts to find a unified government.³⁸

In conclusion, the Libyan civil war has several parties, the government of national accord, the Libyan national army and ISIS, the conflict between those 3 parties does not seem to be coming to an end, even though the UN keeps taking initiatives into unifying Libya.

Nigerian Conflict

The current insurgency between the government troops and the Islamist group Boko Haram insurgency is giving rise to high levels of general insecurity and violent crimes, civilians living in the northeast area of Nigeria take part in the conflict as well. Furthermore, another group named the Islamic State West Africa Province seemed to be gaining grounds in Nigeria; the fighting in Nigeria amounted to the death of over 1,500 persons in 2018.³⁹

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (ROBERT MALLEY), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

Nigeria suffers from a conflict that originates from the Boko Haram insurgency, the conflict originated in 2011, and in 2017 it had took the lives of over 20,000 persons, while also displacing over 2.6 million persons, attacks from Boko Haram were carried out throughout 2017 from Madeguiri city to the Lake Chad Basin. Also, there happens to be an intensification of violence on the countryside between Fulani herdsmen and farmers due to the drought.⁴⁰

However, the more imminent threat to Nigeria is the Islamist group Boko Haram, the nature of the operation of the group is conducting terrorist attacks on political and religious groups, the military, the police, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, such as the kidnapping of around 200 girls from their schools in April 2014, in which the International committee of the Red Cross intervened and negotiated with the group and resulted in the release of 103 girls.⁴¹

In February 2018, it was reported that around 100 students were kidnapped and released by Boko Haram. Furthermore, in recent years, the insurgency has been intensified in Borno state, with astounding results of millions of displacement in the region. Finally, it was announced in June 2018, that the Nigerian army had returned 2000 displaced persons back home.⁴²

In conclusion, the conflict in Nigeria is taking place due to the insurgency of the Islamist group Boko Haram; the group attacks anyone, including political and

⁴⁰ Nigeria: Conflict profile, Peaceinsight.org, November 2017, Available at: <https://www.peaceinsight.org/conflicts/nigeria/>

⁴¹ Boko Haram in Nigeria, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), 14 May 2019, Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/boko-haram-nigeria>

⁴² Ibid.

religious groups, the military, the police, and indiscriminate attacks on civilians, which makes them unpredictable, thus increasing their danger.

South Sudan's civil war

The civil war of Sudan emerged in 2013, and until December 2018, approximately over 400,000 people were announced to be dead.⁴³

In September 2018, the President Salva Kiir, and the former vice president and current rebel leader Riek Machar (the main rival of the current president), have both agreed to cease fire and rule South Sudan together until the 2022 elections. This deal is acceptable from both parties, and it has met positive reactions from Omar Al-Bashir⁴⁴ and Yoweri Museveni the president of Uganda, as well as reducing the violence in South Sudan.⁴⁵

In conclusion, the civil war in South Sudan is currently at ease, as the ceasefire agreement is currently upheld.

⁴³ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (ROBERT MALLEY), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

⁴⁴ The former president of Sudan, see more at: Sudan's Omar al-Bashir quits after anti-government protests, BusinessDay, 11 April 2019, Available at: <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/world/africa/2019-04-11-omar-al-bashir-plans-to-step-down-sources-confirm/>; Sudan's longtime ruler has been arrested and forced out of office, QuartzAfrica (Abdi Latif Dahir), 11 April 2019, Available at: <https://qz.com/africa/1592367/sudan-president-omar-al-bashir-reportedly-steps-down/>

⁴⁵ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (ROBERT MALLEY), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

Syrian civil war

After the Arab Spring protests, in 2011, the revolution and its wave of protests with its main demand as the fall of Bashar Al-Assad's government, took its toll, as the Syrian war started when the government replied with violent measures to those demonstrations, which led the protests to become an armed rebellion which later transformed to become the Syrian civil war, which evidentially led to displacing over 11 million Syrians and killing a minimum number of 250,000 persons by the end of 2017.⁴⁶

Further, by the end of 2018, it seemed as if the Syrian conflict would come to an end, as the Assad regime (backed by Iran and Russia) seemed to come close to winning the war against the Islamic State, foreign actors such as Israel, Russia, Iran, Turkey and USA would maintain a state of fragile security in different parts of the country. However, this concept fell down the drain in December 2018, as the U.S announced that U.S troops would withdraw from Syria, which ruined the balance of security in Syria; which evidentially increased the risks of a lasting conflict with the involvement of other foreign actors, especially the Turks. The risks of a quick pullback from the U.S is presented in leaving the People's Protection Units ("YPG")⁴⁷ fully exposed, as it may face attacks from Turkey as it considers it a terrorist group due to its affiliations with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or it could face attacks from the Assad regime, or what is most likely, is that it could face attacks

⁴⁶ The World's Most War-Torn Countries, Worldatlas.com (Oishimaya Sen Nag), 11 January 2018, Available at: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-world-s-most-war-torn-countries.html>

⁴⁷ People's Protection Units (YPG) are the "Kurdish-dominated armed group that partnered with U.S. forces against the Islamic State and now controls roughly one-third of Syrian territory."

from the Islamic state, especially that is has lost good amounts of territory over the course of the past couple of years.⁴⁸

In conclusion, the Syrian civil war has been ongoing for several years, and the main reason for the start of the conflict was the rebellion against the Assad regime, the conflict escalated when ISIS entered into the fighting, and after the pullback of the U.S, most hopes for the conclusion of the civil war came to an end.

International and regional aid for conflicts

International interventions exist in most conflicts in various forms, some of which may be through diplomatic interventions for mediating the situations.⁴⁹ This mediation form is usually used from other states while intervening in an armed conflict. However, there are other forms of international interventions that are carried out by different organizations that are aiming to maintain humanity within the area of the conflict.

The International Committee of the Red Cross

The ICRC has been aiding Afghanistan throughout the period of the Afghan war, by helping the disabled and wounded people, supporting hospitals, arranging visits to prisons, while also helping prisoners in maintaining their connections with their families; the ICRC also aim to prevent International Humanitarian Law violations,

⁴⁸ 10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019, Foreignpolicy.com (Robert Malley), 28 December 2018), Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/28/10-conflicts-to-watch-in-2019-yemen-syria-afghanistan-south-sudan-venezuela-ukraine-nigeria-cameroon-iran-israel-saudi-arabia-united-states-china-kurds-ypg/>

⁴⁹ Ibid.

besides monitoring the conduct of hostilities, as well as supporting the Afghan Red Crescent and improving the water situation in **Afghanistan**.⁵⁰

In details, the ICRC only in 2018:⁵¹

1. Managed to supply essential household items and food for over 93,000 displaced persons;
2. Over 140,000 persons were treated in one of the 7 rehabilitation centers created by the ICRC;
3. The ICRC provided medicine and medical equipment to 47 Afghan Red Crescent Societies' health care clinics, which evidentially lead to support over 880,000 outpatient consultations;
4. The ICRC conducted over 59 visits to 19 different detention centers, in which the ICRC reached over 28,000 detainees;
5. The ICRC managed to visit 380 persons for the first time, whom were arrested in relation to the conflict, it made sure that they were being treated humanely; it is also worth noting that the initial number of detainees in relation to the conflict is 680 detainees;
6. Managed to facilitate over 6,500 family visits in the detention facility and prison of Parwn;
7. Improved the access to water, by repairing over 1,800 hand pumps in 11 districts of 7 provinces, it is also worth noting that those 11 districts contained the population of 260,000 persons;

⁵⁰ Afghanistan, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/asia-pacific/afghanistan>

⁵¹ Ibid.

8. Trained over 550 Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff on safety and security management;
9. Conducted briefing sessions on International Humanitarian Law to over 16,000 persons;

Furthermore, in **Ukraine**, the ICRC is aiding the affected people by the conflict by supporting the Ukrainian Red Cross, in which in 2018:⁵²

1. The access to drinking water was improved through the reconstruction of the Karlivska Pumping Station, which provides water to over 300,000 persons in the Donetsk region;
2. Assistance by water, tea, and first aid in the Red Cross heating/cooling points was provided to over 900,000 persons, at the bridge at Stanytsia Luhanska and at Maiorske crossing point;
3. Over 37 medical institutions were improved and constructed through donations, which lead to the medical assistance of over 4,000 patients;
4. 27,000 tons of coal firewood and wooden briquettes were provided to over 9,000 households for winter preparations, besides giving out insulation materials of windows for over 5,000 households;
5. 100 theatrical performances were carried out about the risks of mines and explosive remnants of war in order to teach over 12,000 about such issue, while also holding over 252 information sessions for over 5,000 adults about mine risks;

⁵² Ukraine, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/europe-central-asia/ukraine>

6. “15,000 teachers and children benefited from the installation of protective sandwich panels and anti-blast film on windows and improvement of facilities of 77 schools and kindergartens”;
7. Over 50 detention places were visited by the ICRC, reaching over 373 detainees, 184 of which are newly registered;
8. Over 1,000 Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel participated in over 29 seminars on the application of International Humanitarian Law in combat operations, and in different ICRC activities;
9. With the participation of the ICRC, over 4 bodies were disinterred;
10. 107 Red Cross home visiting nurses, supported by the ICRC, provided aid for over 680 elders living alone, including persons with disabilities.

Moreover, in **Yemen**, there are over 24 million persons who are in need of assistance, as it is currently the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, in this crisis, the ICRC works for the provision of clean water, food, and necessary household items, besides healthcare and better living conditions in the Yemeni prisons. However, by the end of 2018, the ICRC announced that it had reached over 2 million people with the basic aid, yet still, a lot more needs to be done.⁵³

In details, in 2018, the ICRC aided Yemen by:⁵⁴

1. Sanitation of water supplies, which benefited over 5 million persons;
2. Cash grants, necessary household items, food and other numerous forms of assistance to over 1 million persons, including displaced persons;

⁵³ Yemen, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/yemen>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

3. Improving the living conditions and water sanitation for over 14,600 detainees;
4. Providing emergency care for over 557,000 patients in 18 different governorates in 32 ICRC supported hospitals.

Also, in **Israel** and the **occupied territories of Palestine**, the ICRC arranges visits to detainees; it reunites families, as well as supports livelihood projects, besides improving access to electricity, water, and other necessary services, and most importantly, the ICRC works for the promotion of rights and dignity in this conflict. As in 2018 alone, the ICRC has:⁵⁵

1. Created water and infrastructure projects that benefited over 1.5 million persons;
2. Provided medical supplies for 3 emergency service providers as well as 11 hospitals in the Gaza Strip, which aided around 40,000 wounded persons;
3. Facilitated permits and transportation for detention places in Israel in order for Palestinian prisoners in Israel to see their relatives while in their detention place, in which over 29,700 family members visited their imprisoned relatives;
4. Provided mine risk awareness sessions to over 21,200 persons in the Gaza Strip border;
5. Provided physical rehabilitation services and artificial limbs to over 3,000 persons;

⁵⁵ Israel and the occupied territories, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/israel-and-occupied-territories>

6. Exchanged over 2,965 verbal greetings between detainees and their family members.

The ICRC also provides assistance for people affected by the conflict in the **Central African Republic** by running livelihood projects, as well as repairing sanitation systems for water supplies, besides visiting detainees and restoring family links between separated relatives due to the conflict, more specifically, in number, in 2017 alone, the ICRC has:⁵⁶

1. Provided 126,800 persons with tools and seeds;
2. Carried out over 694 surgical operations at the Bangui Community Hospital for injured combatants and civilians;
3. Improved the access to clean water in urban areas for over 460,00 persons;
4. Visited over 1,410 detainees;
5. Taught 2,630 members of armed forces about International Humanitarian Law;
6. Took care of over 2,980 sick children in the pediatric ward of Kaga Bandoro hospital.

Moreover, in **Syria**, the ICRC aids both the people inside of Syria and the Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, they cooperate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent while distributing essentials such as food, as well as to providing water supplies and medical services, in details, between January 2019 till March 2019, the ICRC has:⁵⁷

⁵⁶ Central African Republic, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/africa/central-african-republic>

⁵⁷ Syria, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/syria>

1. Initiated water supply services, besides other projects such as sanitation and power supply, which aided around 6.2 million persons;
2. Secured safe drinking water for 5.3 million persons across the country;
3. Secured improved healthcare services to 1.3 million persons;
4. Distributed food to over 1 million persons in 12 different governorates (50% of which had priorly received food);
5. Distributed essentials such as mattresses, winter clothes, hygiene kits, school kits and blankets in 12 governorates to over 270,00 persons;
6. Provided agricultural projects in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent which resulted in benefiting over 57,000 persons, by receiving 11,000 cereal kits;
7. Provided physical rehabilitation to over 4,000 persons.

Finally, in **Iraq**, the ICRC strives to aid civilians, displaced persons and refugees that are affected by the conflict, as they facilitate access to healthcare and clean water, visit detainees and keep the family bonds, while also supporting the authorities for determining the fate of missing persons, in 2018 alone, the ICRC has:⁵⁸

1. Improved access to safe drinking water by fixing and rehabilitating 47 water supply systems, which benefited over 2.5 million persons;
2. Provided food packages for over 340,000 persons, as well as household necessities for over 275,000 persons;
3. Provided cash assistance to over 120,000 persons;

⁵⁸ Iraq, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), No date, Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/iraq>

4. Supported 2 hospitals and have maintained 17 health care centers, which treated over 300,000 patients;
5. Exchanged over 28,420 written and oral messages between inmates and their families, or separated family members;
6. Visited 91 places of detentions (54,000 detainees) for the purpose of ensuring the humane living conditions;
7. Provided physical rehabilitation services in Erbil and in 15 other centers as well in the ICRC center, which benefited over 39,400 disabled persons;
8. Clarified over 1,050 cases of disappearances, while also opening 5,250 new searches for missing persons.

The European Union

The EU aids several countries with ongoing armed conflicts in different regions, even outside of Europe; the aid is based on Humanitarian assistance, and is mainly granted in the form of cash assistance, food assistance, emergency shelters, medical care and other protection services that include child protection and gender based protection. Several countries benefited from this aid, thus several examples will be tackled below.

Afghanistan⁵⁹

Ever since 1994, the EU has provided over 821 million Euros to aid Afghanistan; the European Commission has set the priority for in Afghanistan for providing life-saving assistance. Consequently, the EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department ("ECHO"), in 2018, allocated 46 million Euros for relief

⁵⁹ Afghanistan, European Commission, 20 March 2019, Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/asia-and-pacific/afghanistan_en

assistance to vulnerable people that include drought victims, which is an issue that is affecting areas of the country. Several other interventions focus on food assistance, emergency shelters, cash based assistance, medical care and other protection services that include child protection and gender based protection.

The European Commission also announced in March 2019, that it had allocated 27 million Euros for humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people, with 2 million Euros reserved for vulnerable families that are affected by floods that occurred in March; besides such funding, the ECHO funds education programs for conflict/displacement affected children. The European Commission also supports NGOs security as well as coordination of humanitarian intervention and humanitarian flights.

Furthermore, the Emergency Response Mechanism (“ERM”), is funded by EU, in which the ERM is a body that provides flexible emergency assistance for recently displaced persons, mainly the assistance comprises of granting the victims cash, as well as to ensure the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene, all within the first 2 months of when the displacement occurs, in which the ERM succeeded in reaching over 321,000 persons in 2018.

Moreover, ECHO also supports health services for conflict victims, both physical and psychological, in which the Commission funds the delivery of emergency treatment for over 5,000 Afghan citizens monthly, while also supporting nutrition response, given that there are over 1.5 million children that are under the age of 5 that face malnutrition .

Ukraine⁶⁰

Over 681 million Euros has been provided by the EU and its Member States since 2014, that amount of cash has been invested in humanitarian and early recovery aid. The main concerns for the EU are the internally displaced persons (including the ones displaced in Belarus and Russia), refugees that fled the area (including returnees) and the people that are directly affected by the conflict.

The EU funded several humanitarian projects that for repairing and providing shelters, for food assistance, providing water, health assistance (both psychological and physical), protection of civilians, education, and providing necessary household items.

The emergency financial assistance provided by the EU has amounted to over 116 million Euros, while bearing in mind that 24 million Euros of those 116 million Euros were provided only in 2018, such assistance mainly targets aiding vulnerable citizens that are living in the areas that are not controlled by the government, besides targeting the elderly, disabled, children and households headed by females.

Furthermore, humanitarian assistance is provided by several other organizations that are partners with the European Commission, those include “PIN-led ACCESS consortium with Médecins du Monde and ACTED, the International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of the Red Cross, UNHCR, OCHA, IOM, UNICEF, Save the Children, Première Urgence Internationale, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, and HelpAge International.”

⁶⁰ Ukraine, European Commission, 5 December 2018, Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/europe/ukraine_en

Nigeria⁶¹

Over 215.2 million Euros were provided for Nigeria since 2014, all for the purposes of humanitarian assistance, in 2018, the EU's contribution came to total of 59.3 million Euros for basic humanitarian needs, such as food distribution, healthcare, lifesaving nutrition, sanitation and water access, first aid equipment, hygiene, protection and shelter. In addition to that, the EU funds several education projects for the purposes of keeping children in schools.

The EU also cooperates with the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service in order to access isolated areas that contain people who are in need.

South Sudan⁶²

Over 317 million Euros were provided by the EU to South Sudan since 2017, 92.3 million Euros of which were dedicated to the humanitarian aid in South Sudan in 2018, 127 million Euros were for life saving assistance, while 190 million Euros were for the regional refugee response.

The EU has made it a priority to protect females and children, as they are vulnerable and subject to sexual violence. This priority was achieved well in 2018, as around 1,000 children were released from armed groups, through the facilitation of the EU's humanitarian partners.

Furthermore, another priority that the EU supports is having a flexible emergency team that responds quickly to new catastrophes within different areas of the country,

⁶¹ Nigeria, European Commission, 7 February 2019, Available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/africa/nigeria_en

⁶² South Sudan, European Commission, 25 February 2019, Available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/africa/south-sudan_en

such team provides the people affected by the conflict with food assistance, shelter, healthcare, protection services, necessary household items, water and sanitation, in addition to education. The EU also supports basic services, protection and shelter for the internally displaced persons' camps that are located next to UN peacekeeping bases.

Moreover, the EU observed that the issue of nutrition is a grave one in the country, thus it aims to expand nutrition interventions and food assistance to isolated areas, specifically in the Upper Nile, Jonglei and the Equatoria regions.

The EU has also called all parties of the conflict to refrain from attacking humanitarian aid personnel, as over 115 aid workers were killed in South Sudan since the beginning of the civil war in 2013.

The conflict in South Sudan resulted in the escape of over 2.2 million South Sudanese citizens to neighboring countries, in which the EU aids those refugees by providing food, shelter, nutrition and health care, education and psychological assistance. Moreover, the EU funds protection programs for minors who are separated or have lost their parents.

Syria⁶³

Around 17 billion Euros were provided by the EU and its Member States for humanitarian purposes in Syria, the funds mainly target the stabilization and the resilience to Syrians that are living within the country, as well as neighboring countries.

⁶³ Syria, European Commission, 12 March 2019, Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/where/middle-east/syria_en

In 2018, over 2.4 billion Euros were provided, and the funding allocated for 2019-2020 is also around 2.4 billion Euros. Currently the funding is used for healthcare (including emergency medical treatments and psycho-social support), protection of vulnerable people, especially children, facilitating food, safe drinking water, necessary household items and shelters.

Inside of **Syria**, over 7 million medical consultations were provided by the EU, those include maternal care, psychosocial support and child care, over 5 million persons received food assistance, and over 9,000 farmers were supported by grants to restart their agricultural production.

Outside of Syria, in **Lebanon**, the EU aids Syrian refugees by providing secondary healthcare, cash assistance, non-formal education and shelter, besides providing legal assistance if necessary. Over 750,000 Syrians were reached in Lebanon, and since 2011, over 580 million Euros were spent on such aids.

Furthermore, in **Jordan**, around 66,000 Syrian refugees are supported by the EU, with the utmost majority being women and children; the aid is represented in protection, cash assistance and healthcare. In 2017, the aid reached over 45,000 Syrian refugees, while spending around 55 million Euros; 36 million Euros were allocated for 2018.

Moreover, **Egypt** hosts over 133,000 refugees, thus the EU allocated over 7.8 million Euros for assisting refugees that are living in inferior conditions in urban areas of Egypt, such aid is represented in healthcare, education, protection and cash assistance; 4 million Euros were also allocated for 2018.

The EU-Turkey Deal

As an Overview, the EU-Turkey deal is a deal that symbolizes European cooperation with Turkey, there are some key points to the EU-Turkey deal in which Turkey

captures any Syrian refugee that's trying to escape through the Aegean Sea to Greece and holds that refugee and relocates him in Turkey, for every refugee relocated in Turkey another migrant will be resettled in the EU, Turkey also seized the opportunity and requested that Turkish citizens should be granted the Schengen passport, on the other hand, Turkey wasn't going to get a hold of the Asylum seekers and relocate them in its land without any financial aid, that's why it was in the deal that the EU would give Turkey 6 Billion Euros that'll be spent on Refugees till the end of the year 2018, and of course most importantly to renegotiate the membership of Turkey in the EU.⁶⁴

Turkey and the EU agreed on many terms in order for this agreement to come to force, one of which is that the deal is supposed to be temporary while the actual duration of the arrangements is unknown. Moreover, Turkey had to open its labor market to Syrians while they are staying in Turkey while also introducing new security measures against the Syrian refugees, such as in introducing new visa requirements for Syrians and other nationalities.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ The EU-Turkey Deal, Analysis and considerations, Jesuit Refugee Service Europe Policy Discussion Paper (Mark Provera), 29 April 2016, Available at: https://jrseurope.org/assets/Publications/File/JRS_Europe_EU_Turkey_Deal_policy_analysis_2016-04-30.pdf; EU-Turkey statement, European Council, 18 March 2016, Available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/>; Turkey's Erdogan takes tough EU line after PM quits, BBC news, 6 May 2016, Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36229468>

⁶⁵ The EU-Turkey Deal, Analysis and considerations, Jesuit Refugee Service Europe Policy Discussion Paper (Mark Provera), 29 April 2016, Available at: https://jrseurope.org/assets/Publications/File/JRS_Europe_EU_Turkey_Deal_policy_analysis_2016-04-30.pdf; EU-Turkey statement, European Council, 18 March 2016, Available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/>

The elements of the deal are:⁶⁶

1. Every irregular/illegal migrant crossing from Turkey to Greece through any route land or sea starting from the 20th of March 2016, should be returned to Turkey; however, Turkey will not handle the responsibility all by itself, as there will be assistance provided by the EU.
2. All migrants shall be protected accordingly under the provisions of international law and with all the respect of the principle of non-refoulement, this protection will be temporary and in an extraordinarily measure which is necessary to end the suffering and restore public order.
3. The negotiations for Turkey's accession to the EU should be reenergized, while also granting Turkish citizens Schengen passports.
4. Every migrant that arrives to the Greek authorities will be registered and any asylum application should be processed by the Greek authorities with the help of the Asylum procedures Directive, it should be noted that any migrant who shall not apply for asylum or any migrant whose asylum application is rejected will immediately be returned to Turkey. Moreover, it should also be noted that Turkish officials will be allowed on Greek islands on which the migrants land on; the duties of those officials comprise of ensuring the process of returning the migrants to Turkey, while noting that the returning operation costs will all be facilitated by the EU.
5. The One for one deal: the one for one deal is stipulates that, whenever Turkey captures a Syrian migrant and relocates them within its territory, the EU should captures another Syrian migrant and relocates them in the EU, regardless of where in the EU, and the priority of choosing migrants will be to migrants who

⁶⁶ Ibid.

haven't tried to enter the EU illegally before, the relocating process of the migrant in the EU will take place instantly

6. Turkey deny access to any illegal migrants coming from Turkey to the EU through any route there is, whether it's through sea or land. Also, Turkey is supposed to prevent the migrants from leaving Turkey and going into the EU.
7. In Turkey's cooperation with the EU, should receive 6 billion Euros from the EU, for the sole purposes of refugee project inside of Turkey, such health projects, educational projects, food.⁶⁷
8. The EU and Turkey will make a joint effort into making a safe zone in Syria in some certain places such as areas that are near the Turkish borders, under international refugee law, a human should be outside the country of his nationality or, if he doesn't have a nationality, be outside his country of residence in order to fall within the definition of "refugee", so it seemed that the strategy of the EU is making a safe zone in Syria in order for Syrians to be pushed back into Syria and stop the flow of refugees into Europe.
9. As for the conditions that Turkey should uphold to the migrants and as Turkey being a first country of Asylum are as follows:-
 - Turkey is entitled to be the first country of Asylum for most migrants.
 - Turkey should be a safe country, there should be no discrimination in race or religion, nor should a person face any sort of racism for entering into a political group or any group.
 - The Asylum seekers should hold a personal interview as an admission process of their application for international protection.

⁶⁷ The EU-Turkey refugee agreement: A review, Deutsche Welle, No Date, Available at: <https://www.dw.com/en/the-eu-turkey-refugee-agreement-a-review/a-43028295>

- The Asylum seeker is allowed to choose any country as his first country of asylum according to his circumstances.
- As soon as the Asylum seekers application is considered inadmissible, they have the right to access to an effective remedy before a court of law, the decision of the court is binding to the state.

The United Nations

When armed conflicts arise, the United Nations Development Programme (“UNDP”) activates the crisis response mechanism for the purpose of aiding the people affected by the conflict through providing basic services to the aforementioned people, the UNDP much like the EU provides aid in different regions and to several conflicting countries, some of which will be tackled below.

Yemen⁶⁸

The UNDP works to protect vulnerable people in Yemen, besides working with several domestic partners for the purpose of returning Yemen to better than before.

As the UNDP provided cash assistance in the form of grants and skills trainings to vulnerable groups, for the purpose of improving their livelihoods, besides providing financial compensations for activities conducted by Yemeni personnel, this financial compensation goes to purchasing the basic necessities.

While also improving the accession of basic services, such as education, health and water, the UNDP has sought to adapt solar energy solutions for public services, with priority to employment, agriculture, education and health, besides conducting

⁶⁸ Responding to the crisis in Yemen, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), No date, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/crisis-response/on-going-crises/yemen/>

infrastructure developments and mine removals that would enable several children to go to schools.

In 2018 alone, over 290,000 persons received financial compensations through being employed in cash for work programs, around 2,500 classrooms were refurbished, around 370 kilometers of roads were improved, around 4,000 hectares of farmland were improved or built, around 114,000 women and 80,000 children (220,000 persons) benefited from nutrition services, 167,000 persons were granted access to solar power (including 55 health facilities and 31 schools), around 120,000 explosives that are remaining from the war were removed, clearing around 6.4 million square meters of land.

South Sudan⁶⁹

The UNDP worked on ensuring stability, security and peace in South Sudan. The UNDP cooperates with the UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme for the purpose of restoring the basic services, sustainable livelihoods as well as promoting access to justice in South Sudan. Besides this cooperation, the UNDP also works with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the establishment of a joint integrated police force as well as supporting national dialogue.

Furthermore, the UNDP has received support from Norway, Japan, Switzerland, the EU, the United States Agency for International Development, and Nigeria, and through this support, several results were achieved, such as the establishment of the

⁶⁹ Response to the crisis in South Sudan, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), No date, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/crisis-response/on-going-crises/south-sudan/>

Aweil Community Women's Market, besides supporting 15 small businesses that are women-led, in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Western Equatoria regions, which lead to the employment of youth and women in those regions.

In addition to that, the UNDP initiated the Integrated Crisis Response Programme, which supports the stabilization and recovery of the country in the long run, this specific initiative resulted in the establishing of 7 Justice and Confidence Centers, that provide legal advice and services to over 70,000 persons.

Iraq⁷⁰

In June 2015, the UNDP founded the Funding Facility for Stabilization ("FFS") for the purpose of assisting the Iraqi government in bringing peace and stability to freed areas, besides the promotion of post conflict recovery. Whenever a city is declared safe, the FFS teams go in to and assess the damages. Afterwards, they set priorities alongside the local authorities in those areas; those priorities are mainly concerning the rebuilding of those areas, as well as restoring livelihood conditions, such as the removal of rubble through the employment of youth, mending the necessary public infrastructure (electricity grids and water systems), cash assistance for small business, rehabilitating health centers and schools, and revitalizing the city through opening transport routes.

FFS is currently working on implementing over 1,100 projects, 400 of which are in Mosul. FFS projects lead to the return of over 2.2 million Iraqis to their homes, out of 5.4 million displaced Iraqis. FFS currently works in over 28 cities that are

⁷⁰ Stabilizing Iraq, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), No date, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/crisis-response/on-going-crises/iraq/>

liberated from ISIS, and aside from FFS, the UNDP is implementing over 200 projects that supports minorities, such as Yazidis and Christians.

The UNDP is currently implementing over 1,200 projects; their costs come close to 600 million USD, their results were superb, as the water supplies improved for over 800,000 persons, electricity was restored for over 500,000 persons, 52 health clinics were rehabilitated, serving over 1.4 million patients, and several schools were rebuilt, which resulted for over 120,000 students to resume their education.

Impacts of armed conflicts

As it is displayed in the previous sections of this research paper, the direct consequences of armed conflicts are definitely bad for the country and the people. However, the indirect consequences of those conflicts are much graver than those direct consequences, as conflicts deeply affect education, malnutrition, economy, life expectancy, and mortality rates in children,⁷¹ as it was reported that over 2 million child died in conflicts from the year 2002 till the year 2012.⁷²

Moreover, children are most vulnerable during armed conflicts, as they are used during armed conflicts. Children serve armies by playing different roles, such as, porters, cooks, spies and messengers. Commanders even expressed their desirability

⁷¹ Development Consequences of Armed Conflict, GSDRC.org (Scott Gates, Havard Hegre, Havard Mogleiv Nygard, Havard Strand), 2012, Available at: <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/development-consequences-of-armed-conflict/>

⁷² The impact of armed conflict on children, Humanitarian Practice Network (Jennifer Klot), October 2012, Available at: <https://odihpn.org/magazine/the-impact-of-armed-conflict-on-children/>

to recruit child soldiers as they are "more obedient, do not question orders and are easier to manipulate than adult soldiers".⁷³

The recruitment of child soldiers occurs through different methods. Such as, conscription, kidnapping, press-ganging and still some other children recruited forcibly in order to defend their families. Moreover, some countries legalize the conscription of children under 18 years old. However, during armed conflicts, the law is not necessarily a safeguard.⁷⁴ The very most basic reason behind a child joining an armed group is economic, as it was reported that poverty and hunger, sometimes lead the parents to offer the service of their children, as armies sometimes pay small wages to the family.⁷⁵

Aside from child soldiers, gender based violence and rape constitute a major threat to girls and women during the times of armed conflicts, the forms of gender based violence include sexual humiliation, sexual mutilation, trafficking and domestic violence.⁷⁶

The most vulnerable age for women, when it comes to rape in armed conflicts, is when they are adolescents, for many reasons, those reasons include size, health -as some women are considered to less likely have a sexually transmitted disease-, ethnicity, religion, nationality or even class are taken into consideration, as women are vulnerable even when they are at home, in camps, during flights.⁷⁷ However,

⁷³ PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, Impact of armed conflict on children, United Nations, 26 August 1996, Para 34, Available at:

https://www.unicef.org/graca/a51-306_en.pdf

⁷⁴ Ibid, Para 36.

⁷⁵ Ibid, Para 39.

⁷⁶ Ibid, Para 91.

⁷⁷ Ibid, Para 92.

despite the fact that most victims of rape and sexual abuses are girls, boys also suffer from such violence in some cases.⁷⁸

Also, education is risky during the times of war, as schools are targeted due to using them as shelters.⁷⁹

Furthermore, studies have shown that sustaining an armed conflict in a certain area for 5 years with a moderate quantity of direct fatalities, it would lead around 3-4% of the population to malnutrition, besides that, statistics suggest that the infants mortality rate is the same as direct deaths from the conflict, in other words, one child dies for each soldier killed.⁸⁰

Evidentially, malnutrition is in fact an issue in South Sudan as 4.9 million persons face food insecurity there, besides the issue of the disruption of crop production, as well as destroying the livestock and the increase of food prices due to the economic drop of the country.⁸¹

Conflicts in large countries could be extremely harmful for specific areas of the nation. However, they may have little to no harm for the country as a whole; despite the fact that there may be small evidence of the direct relation between a conflict and

⁷⁸ Ibid, Para 93.

⁷⁹ Ibid, Para 186.

⁸⁰ Development Consequences of Armed Conflict, GSDRC.org (Scott Gates, Havard Hegre, Havard Mogleiv Nygard, Havard Strand), 2012, Available at: <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/development-consequences-of-armed-conflict/>

⁸¹ Response to the crisis in South Sudan, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), No date, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/crisis-response/on-going-crises/south-sudan/>

access to sanitation and poverty, there is a substantial bad relation between access to portable water and conflicts.⁸²

Contrary to what is mentioned above, ever since the beginning of the Ukrainian conflict, since 2014 Ukraine has lost over 15% of its economic potentials. Thus the conflict disrupted the economy of Ukraine.⁸³

Furthermore, despite the fact that there may be little evidence of the relation between poverty and armed conflicts,⁸⁴ there still is a relation, as it was announced in July 2018 that the Houthis had stopped paying the salaries of Yemeni government employees working under their control for 20 months. This step came in response to the transfer of the legitimate government of the Central Bank from Sana'a, controlled by the Houthis to Aden. This came to end the intervention of militias in the economy in order to save the national currency from collapse and save the remaining foreign currencies. Under these circumstances, half of the staff in the education sector left their jobs after their salaries were no longer paid.⁸⁵

Former security forces and army officers were also deprived from their salaries, with the exception of those serving on the frontline. Fighters serving on the front line

⁸² Development Consequences of Armed Conflict, GSDRC.org (Scott Gates, Havard Hegre, Havard Mogleiv Nygard, Havard Strand), 2012, Available at: <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/development-consequences-of-armed-conflict/>

⁸³ Ukraine falls in 2018 Inclusive Growth and Development Index , Kyivpost.com (Veronika Melkozerova), 24 January 2018, Available at: <https://www.kyivpost.com/business/ukraine-falls-2018-inclusive-growth-development-index.html>

⁸⁴ Development Consequences of Armed Conflict, GSDRC.org (Scott Gates, Havard Hegre, Havard Mogleiv Nygard, Havard Strand), 2012, Available at: <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/development-consequences-of-armed-conflict/>

⁸⁵ Houthis in Yemen Deprive Workers of 20 Months Worth of Salaries, Asharq Al-Awsat, 6 July 2018, Available at: <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1322646/houthis-yemen-deprive-workers-20-months-worth-salaries>

received as little as 50 USD, enough to get their food and drinks. Despite this painful reality, many staff members working under the militia choose to stay in their jobs despite poor salaries because they have no other choice.⁸⁶

Besides all of those issues that occurred due to the conflict, over 9.6 million Yemeni citizens are on the brink of starvation, while 24,000 of which are barely surviving, whereas the total population of Yemen is just over 20 million, those numbers are considered to be very high.⁸⁷

Moreover, it was reported that the Israeli occupation has weakened the agricultural as well as the industrial capabilities of the occupied territories of Palestine, which evidentially lead to weakening the economy of Palestine, the agricultural sector took a significant hit due to the restrictive measures that Israel is implementing, whereas banning proper fertilizers is one of those measures. Moreover, in 2016, the occupied territories of Palestine had an unemployment rate of 27%.⁸⁸

It is also worth noting that most of the countries that are currently engaged in a conflict keeps dropping their ranks in the index of economic freedom, for example countries such as Iraq, Libya, Yemen and Syria are not even ranked, countries like Nigeria, Ukraine, Pakistan, India, Central African Republic, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo all rank below the top 110 countries, it is rare to find a country that is engaged in an armed conflict while maintaining a good rank on the

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Responding to the crisis in Yemen, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), No date, Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/crisis-response/on-going-crises/yemen/>

⁸⁸ Fifty years of occupation have driven the Palestinian economy into de-development and poverty, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 12 September 2017, Available at: <https://unctad.org/en/Pages/PressRelease.aspx?OriginalVersionID=423>

index, such as Israel ranking 27th, Armenia ranking 47th, Azerbaijan ranking 60th and Russia ranking 98th.⁸⁹

On the bright side, analysis of several conflicts has shown that after the conclusion of most conflicts, the countries exhibit a more rapid economic growth than average countries, which leads to resuming the average income level a decade later, it should be noted that this observation varies from a sector to another, given that this recovery usually occurs as a result of international assistance.⁹⁰

Research analysis

The distinction between NIACs and IACs plays an integral role on the extent of the armed conflict, in the cases of IACs displayed above, most conflicts are different than the other, whereas the conflict in Afghanistan occurred due to the attacks from the U.S and escalated because of the Taliban, the Kashmir conflict is border dispute, the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the Ukrainian conflict, as well as the Palestinian Israeli conflict are all territorial disputes, and finally, Yemen has the Saudi led coalition as well as Houthis.

On the other hand, NIACs are simpler than that, as in all NIACs, the government is either facing a terrorist group, such as ISIS or Boko Haram, or a civil war started between the people, such as the case in South Sudan.

⁸⁹ 2019 index of Economic freedom, heritage.org, No date, Available at: <https://www.heritage.org/index/ranking>

⁹⁰ Development Consequences of Armed Conflict, GSDRC.org (Scott Gates, Havard Hegre, Havard Mogleiv Nygard, Havard Strand), 2012, Available at: <https://gsdrc.org/document-library/development-consequences-of-armed-conflict/>

Furthermore, the interventions that occur in response to those conflicts, either from different states or from international organizations, the measures, whether it is sending diplomats for mediation, or granting financial assistance or humanitarian responses, they all occur in manner that is proportional to the extent of the conflict, and that is why it is observed that Afghanistan, Yemen and Syria, all receive large amounts of aid. Notwithstanding, other conflicting countries still receive aid.

Finally, when it comes to the impact of development, the type and the cause of the conflict plays an important role in assessing the extent of the impact, as in cases of civil war, or conflicts that occur in large areas of the state, the country experiencing such atrocities will experience great difficulties in maintaining their economy, education, and industries, that is why the Kashmir conflict is not heavily affecting all of those aspects, because the conflict is limited to Kashmir, unlike the conflict in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc....

Conclusion

NIACs as well as IACs occur in different regions for different purposes. However, the most concurring phenomena in NIACs is to overthrow the government through insurgencies or civil wars, and eventually reconstructing the state, which could later amount to the destruction of the infrastructure of the state.

On the other hand IACs have the concurring phenomena of disputes between two states. However, the magnitude of the dispute varies from a conflict to another, while taking into consideration the length and the size of the dispute, for instance, border disputes may arise and last for significant periods of time. However, such disputes do not have the same purpose of NIACs which is overthrowing the government; their main purpose is to gain control over a certain piece of land, so it does not affect the

entire country; nevertheless, the idea of occupation, which could result in the reconstruction of the state.

Furthermore, in both types of conflicts aid is provided to the affected areas by the conflict, the aids usually comprise of providing healthcare, education, rehabilitation, sanitation and access to water, food, shelter and essential household items, humanitarian aid could also extend to accessing isolated areas that are hard to reach, and providing their residents with the aforementioned aid.

Those are the basics for the survival of the citizens affected by the conflict, on the other hand, assistance is provided in cash grants, working opportunities and reopening businesses, all for the redevelopment of the country affected by the conflict.

Also, aid is not only provided to the areas that are affected by conflict, as some citizens flee the country whenever a conflict arises, thus becoming refugees in other countries, those refugees usually receive aid as well, so the people affected by the conflict in general receive aid, not just the people residing in the areas affected by the conflicts.

Finally, when it comes to the impact of armed conflicts on development, whether the conflict is a NIAC or IAC, the magnitude of the conflict has to be taken into consideration. However, the general observation is that the country's economy takes a hit due to the constant focus on the financing of the conflict. Nevertheless, several other impacts occur over the duration of the conflict, such as unemployment, education, starvation and mortality rates, with specific regards to children

Finally, International Alliance for Peace and Development recommends the following:

- Conflicts must be settled through mediations and deeper interventions from the international community.
- The international community must play a more engaging role in the elimination of terrorist groups.
- Safe heavens must be created for citizens of conflicting countries.
- Areas, in which the conflict is taking place, must be evacuated immediately.
- Countries must take into account the possibility of the occurrence of an armed conflict in their own national plans for development, thus averting the occurrence of a setback due to the conflict.
- Parties to conflicts must abide by their priorly agreed up ceasefire agreement or any other agreement they agree to.