



**BETTER  
PREPAREDNESS**

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**HRFN**

Human Rights  
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# **BETTER PREPAREDNESS TAXONOMY OF CRISIS ANALYSIS TOOL**

**2024**

**Better Preparedness: Funding Resilience****Taxonomy of Crisis****A tool to define, assess, and address crisis  
2024****Why a Taxonomy of Crisis?**

No two crises are identical. Crisis response must be adapted to local contexts with input from a diverse range of local to global actors. However, the absence of a well-defined taxonomy of crisis keeps us from effectively working together, as we may use different language or have different points of entry.

Foundation colleagues working on human rights and civic space crises have identified a clear need for shared language and analysis of the nature of crisis in order to act swiftly and in coordination to support civil society.

This tool aims to provide a comprehensive framework to define different kinds of crisis – political, economic, environmental, and more – as well as their different timespans, to inform effective action.

## What is it?

This is a tool that can be used to develop a working shared analysis of the drivers and impacts of a variety of different past, current, and future crises, and the likely interventions required by civil society as a result. It can be used either by individual researchers, or as part of a collective analysis exercise by a group of colleagues, which could include civil society partners.

The tool comprises:

1. **The Taxonomy of Crisis Analysis Tool:** A step-by-step process and a visualization tool to assess the timeline, type of crisis, impacts on civil society, and potential interventions required by foundations, including a crisis timeline tool;
2. **Drivers of Crisis:** Detailed description of the range of potential drivers of crisis; and
3. **Crisis Case Studies:** A series of five case studies to illustrate the range of human rights crises (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Ukraine).

Rather than an exhaustive, academic, post-event case study of the crisis, this is intended as a practical tool enabling the creation of shared understanding about the nature of the crisis, at any stage in its lifecycle, by:

- Analyzing the temporal nature of the crisis, and its drivers;
- Assessing the impacts on human rights defenders, civil society, and civic space; and
- Referencing historical case studies to identify precedent analysis.

## How do we define “crisis”?

For the purpose of this Taxonomy of Crisis, we define “crisis” as acute human rights and civic space challenges that:

- Occur within a specific timeframe, which can vary in duration from weeks to years;
- Are created by one or more drivers, which could include political, environmental, economic, and other events; and
- Have a range of impacts on societies, paying particular attention to those affecting civil society and marginalized communities.

## What will using this tool produce?

This tool will produce a visual timeline of the crisis and a short initial report. Together, these are designed to provide insights to enable good decision-making about philanthropic program interventions and resource allocations to civil society. It is intended as a dynamic tool that you can return to and update as a crisis develops. By consistently updating and refining this analysis, colleagues can ensure that strategies remain relevant and effective.

## When to use it?

This Taxonomy of Crisis Tool is designed to be used at Steps 1 and 2 in the Better Preparedness Coordination Blueprint, but can also be used as a standalone tool.

1. Rapid coordination start-up
2. Assess the crisis
3. Map the funding ecosystem
4. Assess risk appetites, potential complementary roles, and internal coordination needs
5. Develop the coordinating group's strategy

# Taxonomy of Crisis

## Analysis Tool:

### Step-by-step process to define your approach

#### 1. Assess risks and needs of civil society

**Purpose:** Understand the risks faced by civil society partners, their needs, and the programmatic interventions required in response. Often the risks activists are taking are immense, so we want to start here to ensure resourcing meets their needs and matches their boldness.

**How to conduct the assessment:** A series of 1:1 calls conducted by individual organizations over secure communications channels with their civil society partners, captured using the table below, with data anonymised. This data can then be plotted onto the Crisis Timeline described in step 2 below.

Risk	To whom; what is their attitude to risk	Needs of that group	Foundation programmatic interventions required

## 2. Assess the timeframe, drivers, and impacts of the crisis

**Purpose:** To develop a detailed analysis of the crisis or entrenched civic space context.

**How to conduct the assessment:** A step-by-step approach using a collaborative Crisis Timeline Miro tool to build up a visual timeline. The process below can be followed by an individual researcher or by a group of collaborating colleagues.

### Introduction to the Crisis Timeline:

This visual timeline tool helps to describe the characteristics of different timeframes. This is intended to represent the temporal descriptions of crises shared by foundation colleagues, and to present a single timeline to aid shared analysis.

This can be updated periodically throughout the crisis.

[Click here to access a Miro version of the timeline, with instructions.](#)



### Step 1: Timeframe

There are three timeframes over which many crises occur. Use the Crisis Timeline tool to identify the relevant timeframe.

#### Immediate

- These crises occur suddenly and require an immediate response, and can then extend.
- Examples: Health: COVID-19 pandemic (2020) and Natural Disaster: Pakistan Floods (2022).

#### Long-term

- These crises persist over an extended period, often years.
- Examples: Armed Conflict: Syrian Civil War (2011-present) and Environmental: Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest (ongoing).

#### Future

- Potential crises that have not yet fully materialized but are anticipated.
- Examples: Environmental: Anticipated Water Scarcity in the Middle East and Technological: Cybersecurity Risks in IoT (Internet of Things).



## Step 2: Drivers

Using your timeline, plot and assess the key drivers of the crisis.

Prepare by reading through the list of drivers provided in Resource 1 on page 6, then come back and use your Crisis Timeline.

**Step 2a:** Which drivers/combinations of drivers have created the crisis in its current state, i.e. at the time you are conducting this analysis? What are the key drivers/combinations of drivers in the crisis leading up to and during this moment?

**Step 2b:** Looking to the future, develop one or more potential scenarios: Describe these as separate lines in the Future section of the timeline, adding combinations of drivers, and plot on the timeline when they might arise.

**Step 2c:** What are their major impacts? For example, what kind and scale of violence has happened, how many people have moved into exile, and more?



## Step 3: Civil society impacts and interventions

Assess the impacts on and needs of civil society.

Using the timeline, analyze the impacts on and needs of human rights defenders, LGBTIQ activists, indigenous, ethnic, and religious minorities, and other marginalized communities, as well as movements, NGOs, and independent media.

- Record known impacts and needs based on verified knowledge, direct from civil society conversations and trusted research sources; consider potential impacts resulting from your scenarios.
- Describe the likely programmatic interventions carried out, or likely to be required.



## Step 4: Review case studies and update timeline

Look for precedents and ideas in the archive.

**Purpose:** Having used the Crisis Timeline tool to analyze the current or future crisis, or long-term civic space context, you can refer to the Better Preparedness case studies to look for relevant insights about drivers and likely interventions.

**How:** Take a look at the series of Historical Crisis Case Studies provided in Resource 2 on page 15, covering Myanmar, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and Nicaragua. Go back over the timeline adding any new or relevant information.



## Step 5: Create analysis report

Write up a short summary report, considering the headings.

**Purpose:** To summarize all or parts of the Crisis Analysis in a written format that can be used as evidence by foundation and civil society colleagues, to present or to include in part of case for support, Theory of Change, programme strategy, call for grants, grant application, etc.

**How:** Draft a short written summary with suggested headings, including:

- Geographic location and title of crisis
- Characteristics
  - ◆ Timeframe and drivers - history up to the present day of the crisis
    - Before - Background and initial cause(s), how did it start, and what drivers initially created it?
    - Current - What are the current drivers and impacts on human rights defenders, marginalized communities, and civil society?
    - Future - What could happen and what may be required?
  - ◆ Major impacts
  - ◆ Impacts on civil society and needs
- Likely interventions required to support civil society - which partners need what and when?



# Taxonomy: The Drivers of Crisis

There are a range of different drivers of crisis. Some are of a higher order that cause cascading crises in other areas. Some combine together in a moment. Many trigger acute human rights crises, and contribute to longer- term civic space restrictions.

This is a working list of drivers, with examples of how they may present in the immediate or long-term. This list is intended to be read alongside the Case Studies -- Resource 2, page 16 -- which go to the next level of detail, describing a range of real world examples of human rights crises and civic space impacts, caused by different drivers.



## Political Crises:

### 1 - Elections:

Immediate:

- Disputes over election results can lead to widespread protests, civil unrest, and violent clashes between supporters of opposing candidates or parties. Governments may impose curfews or internet blackouts, or deploy security forces to maintain order, often escalating tensions.
- Allegations of voter suppression, fraud, or irregularities can prompt legal challenges, emergency legislative sessions, or international condemnation, destabilizing the political environment.

- **Example:** The 2022 presidential election in Kenya, where allegations of vote rigging led to widespread unrest, protests, and international concern over the integrity of the electoral process.

Long-term:

- Entrenchment of power by ruling elites through manipulated electoral processes can undermine democratic norms, leading to the erosion of public trust in the political system. This can result in political apathy, lower voter turnout, and increased polarization.
- Persistent disputes and perceptions of illegitimacy can foster long-term political instability, with potential cycles of unrest during future elections.
- **Example:** The 2021 election in Nicaragua, where President Daniel Ortega secured a fourth term amid widespread allegations of fraud and the imprisonment of opposition leaders, leading to increased international isolation and domestic repression.

## 2 - Government Instability:

Immediate:

- High-profile resignations, no-confidence votes, or the collapse of coalition governments can create a power vacuum, prompting immediate uncertainty and potential civil unrest. Such instability can lead to sudden changes in leadership or even military interventions.
- Governments may struggle to function effectively, leading to stalled legislative processes, economic uncertainty, and loss of public confidence.
- **Example:** The 2021 military coup in Myanmar, where the military overthrew the elected government, leading to mass protests, violent crackdowns, and widespread civil disobedience.

Long-term:

- Prolonged political gridlock can weaken governmental institutions, making it difficult to implement policy, maintain public services, or respond to crises. Over time, this can lead to governance failures, economic decline, and increased public dissatisfaction.
- Repeated cycles of instability may encourage military coups or authoritarian takeovers, further eroding democratic institutions and civil liberties.
- **Example:** The ongoing political instability in Lebanon, exacerbated by the 2021 economic crisis and government resignations, has led to a prolonged inability to form a stable government, worsening economic and social conditions.

## 3 - Authoritarianism

Immediate:

- Authoritarian regimes may rapidly erode democratic institutions by manipulating laws, controlling the judiciary, and suppressing independent media. This often

involves crackdowns on opposition parties, activists, and journalists, accompanied by widespread surveillance and censorship.

- Governments may declare states of emergency or pass repressive laws to consolidate power, often justifying these actions as necessary for national security or public order.
- **Example:** The 2021 crackdown in Belarus, where President Alexander Lukashenko intensified repression following the disputed 2020 election, leading to widespread arrests, media censorship, and international sanctions.

Long-term:

- Institutionalized suppression of civil liberties, including long-term restrictions on free speech, assembly, and political participation, can become deeply entrenched, making it difficult for opposition movements to challenge the regime.
- Prolonged authoritarian rule often leads to economic stagnation, international isolation, and increasing internal repression, as the regime seeks to maintain control.
- **Example:** Hungary's ongoing democratic backsliding under Viktor Orbán, where judicial independence and media freedom have been severely curtailed, leading to a de facto one-party state with limited opposition.

## 4 - Geopolitical Crisis

Immediate:

- Diplomatic standoffs can result in the imposition of sanctions, the expulsion of diplomats, or military posturing, such as troop deployments or naval exercises. These actions can escalate tensions, increase the risk of conflict, and disrupt international relations.
- Countries involved may experience immediate economic impacts, such as disrupted trade, financial market volatility, and the withdrawal of foreign investments.
- **Example:** The escalating tensions between Russia and NATO leading up to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, marked by troop buildups, military exercises, and diplomatic confrontations.

Long-term:

- Geopolitical realignments can lead to the formation of new alliances, shifts in global power balances, and the potential for proxy wars in contested regions. These changes can have lasting impacts on global stability, trade, and security.
- Prolonged economic sanctions or trade wars can lead to long-term economic isolation for the targeted country, with significant impacts on global supply chains and economic growth.
- **Example:** The ongoing U.S.-China strategic rivalry, characterized by trade tensions, technological competition, and military posturing, has led to a realignment of global alliances and a shift towards a more multipolar world order.

## Economic Crises:

### 5 - Financial Crisis:

Immediate:

- Sudden stock market crashes can trigger panic selling, leading to massive losses in equity markets, widespread fear among investors, and potential liquidity shortages in the banking sector. This can quickly spread to other parts of the economy, causing corporate bankruptcies and mass layoffs.
- Governments and central banks may intervene with emergency measures, such as interest rate cuts, quantitative easing, or bailout packages, to stabilize the financial system and restore investor confidence.
- **Example:** The global financial market turbulence in March 2020, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, continued to have significant impacts in 2021, with ongoing volatility and inflationary pressures.

Long-term:

- Prolonged economic recessions can result in sustained high unemployment, reduced consumer spending, and slow recovery. Governments may implement austerity measures, which can further depress economic activity and lead to social unrest.
- The aftermath of a financial crisis can lead to structural changes in the economy, including the consolidation of industries, increased regulation, and long-term shifts in economic policy.
- **Example:** The economic crisis in Sri Lanka, which reached a critical point in 2022, with severe debt burdens, hyperinflation, and widespread protests, leading to a government collapse and ongoing economic instability.

### 6 - Economic Inequality

Immediate:

- Stark income disparities can lead to mass protests, strikes, and social unrest, particularly when combined with other grievances such as corruption, unemployment, or poor public services. Governments may respond with temporary subsidies, wage increases, or crackdowns on dissent.
- Economic inequality often exacerbates tensions between different social, ethnic, or regional groups, leading to violence and destabilization.
- **Example:** The 2021 protests in South Africa, sparked by the arrest of former President Jacob Zuma, which quickly evolved into widespread unrest fueled by deep-seated economic inequality and poverty, resulting in significant destruction and loss of life.

Long-term:

- Structural inequalities can become entrenched, leading to persistent poverty, limited social mobility, and increased polarization. Over time, these disparities can

weaken social cohesion, increase crime rates, and fuel the rise of populist or extremist movements.

- Long-term economic inequality can undermine democracy, as wealth becomes increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few, leading to disproportionate political influence and reduced accountability.
- **Example:** The ongoing inequality in the United States, where disparities in wealth and income have contributed to social polarization, the rise of populist movements, and widespread protests, particularly in the context of racial and economic justice.

## Environmental Crises:

### 7 - Climate Crisis

Immediate:

- Extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and heatwaves, can cause immediate loss of life, displacement, and significant economic damage. These events often require large-scale disaster response efforts, including evacuations, emergency shelters, and international aid.
- The immediate aftermath of extreme weather can also lead to secondary crises, such as water shortages, disease outbreaks, and food insecurity.
- **Example:** The devastating wildfires in Greece in 2021, fueled by extreme heat and drought conditions linked to climate change, led to widespread destruction, displacement, and an urgent need for international firefighting assistance.

Long-term:

- Over time, the increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events can lead to the implementation of climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, such as building resilient infrastructure, enforcing new environmental regulations, and transitioning to renewable energy.
- Long-term displacement due to rising sea levels, desertification, and loss of arable land can lead to increased migration pressures, conflict over resources, and the need for new international agreements on climate refugees.
- **Example:** The growing impacts of climate change in the Pacific Islands, where rising sea levels are threatening entire communities, leading to long-term planning for potential mass relocations and international climate negotiations.

### 8 - Natural Resource Crisis

Immediate:

- Sudden loss of access to critical ecosystem resources, such as water, arable land, and fisheries, can trigger immediate humanitarian crises, conflicts, and forced migration. This often results in acute food and water shortages, economic losses, and heightened tensions between communities or nations.
- Governments may respond with emergency measures such as rationing, resource allocation, or even military intervention to secure access to scarce resources.

- **Example:** The severe drought in Madagascar in 2021-2022, exacerbated by climate change, led to widespread food insecurity, forced migration, and increased conflict over remaining resources.

Long-term:

- Prolonged transboundary conflicts over resource access can destabilize entire regions, leading to sustained violence, economic disruption, and environmental degradation. This can weaken state institutions, reduce agricultural productivity, and exacerbate poverty, leading to a cycle of conflict and deprivation.
- Long-term environmental degradation, such as desertification, deforestation, and the depletion of water sources, can result in the collapse of local economies dependent on these resources, forcing communities into chronic poverty and migration.
- International efforts to manage these conflicts through treaties and cooperative agreements may be necessary but can be challenging to enforce, leading to persistent instability.
- **Example:** The ongoing conflict between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt over the Nile River's water resources, exacerbated by the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), highlights the potential for prolonged regional instability and environmental stress due to competing resource demands.

## 9 - Biodiversity Loss

Immediate:

- Rapid species extinction and significant reduction of natural habitats due to activities such as deforestation, illegal wildlife trade, and industrial expansion. This can lead to immediate disruptions in local ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and impacts on indigenous communities who rely on these ecosystems.
- Loss of key species can destabilize ecosystems, leading to cascading effects on food chains and ecosystem services, such as pollination and water purification.
- **Example:** The logging of forests and rapid expansion of pulp, paper, and palm oil plantations in Indonesia, which has led to the destruction of critical habitats for endangered species such as orangutans and tigers, resulting in significant biodiversity loss.

Long-term:

- Long-term consequences of biodiversity loss include increased conflict over remaining natural resources, as communities and nations compete for dwindling supplies of water, arable land, and other vital resources. This can lead to environmental degradation, social unrest, and forced migration.
- The reduction in biodiversity can also exacerbate poverty and deprivation, particularly in communities that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. The loss of ecosystem services can lead to food insecurity, water scarcity, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters.

- **Example:** In Indonesia, continued deforestation and habitat destruction have not only led to biodiversity loss but also increased conflicts between local communities, companies, and the government over land rights and resource use, further deepening social and economic inequalities.

## Armed Conflict

### 10 - International Armed Conflict

Immediate:

- Outbreak of hostilities, including military invasions, aerial bombardments, and large-scale troop movements, can lead to immediate humanitarian crises, with mass displacement, civilian casualties, and widespread destruction of infrastructure.
- International armed conflicts often trigger global responses, including diplomatic efforts, sanctions, and military alliances, which can escalate the conflict or pressure parties into negotiations.
- **Example:** The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which led to significant destruction, a massive refugee crisis, global economic repercussions, and widespread international condemnation and sanctions against Russia.

Long-term:

- Prolonged warfare can result in deep-seated political, social, and economic instability, with long-term impacts on global security. Efforts to negotiate peace and rebuild affected areas can take years, if not decades, and often involve complex international diplomacy and aid efforts.
- The geopolitical shifts resulting from international conflicts can lead to new alliances, shifts in global power dynamics, and the potential for ongoing regional instability or proxy wars.
- **Example:** The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has led to sustained international sanctions against Russia, a reorientation of European security policies, and a global energy crisis, with long-term implications for international relations and global stability.

### 11 - Civil war

Immediate:

- Civil wars typically begin with uprisings or violent clashes between government forces and insurgent groups, leading to a breakdown of law and order. These conflicts can quickly escalate into widespread violence, with severe humanitarian consequences such as displacement, food shortages, and mass casualties.
- Governments may impose martial law, curfews, or state of emergency measures, which can further inflame tensions and lead to human rights abuses.

- **Example:** The ongoing civil war in Yemen, which has resulted in widespread destruction, displacement of millions, and a severe humanitarian crisis, continues to devastate the country with little prospect for resolution.

Long-term:

- Protracted civil wars often lead to deep social divisions, with entire communities or ethnic groups pitted against one another. Rebuilding these societies requires extensive reconciliation efforts, reconstruction of infrastructure, and the establishment of a stable political system.
- Long-term impacts include sustained poverty, weakened institutions, and continued violence, as former combatants and civilians struggle to recover from years of conflict.
- **Example:** The Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011 and continues to have devastating effects, has led to the near-total destruction of the country's infrastructure, millions of refugees, and ongoing violence, with significant challenges ahead for reconstruction and reconciliation.

## Humanitarian Crises

### 12 - Refugee and Displacement Crises

Immediate:

- Conflicts, persecution, or natural disasters can lead to the mass displacement of populations, resulting in immediate humanitarian needs such as shelter, food, water, and medical care. Displaced populations often face dire conditions in refugee camps or during their journeys to safer areas.
- Host countries or regions may experience sudden influxes of refugees, leading to overburdened infrastructure, social tensions, and strained resources.
- **Example:** The conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region, which began in 2020 and escalated into a severe humanitarian crisis, has led to the displacement of millions, with many fleeing to Sudan or becoming internally displaced within Ethiopia.

Long-term:

- Prolonged displacement can lead to the establishment of refugee camps that persist for years or even decades, creating challenges in terms of security, education, employment, and integration into host societies. Long-term displacement often results in generational impacts, including interrupted education and chronic poverty.
- The presence of large refugee populations can strain relations between host communities and refugees, leading to social tensions, discrimination, and potential conflicts. Efforts to repatriate or resettle refugees are often complex and fraught with political and logistical challenges.
- **Example:** The Rohingya refugee crisis, where hundreds of thousands fled to Bangladesh following military crackdowns in Myanmar, remains unresolved, with long-term challenges related to their status, rights, and potential repatriation.



## 13 - Food Insecurity

Immediate:

- Food insecurity can result from conflicts, economic collapse, natural disasters, or other crises that disrupt food production and distribution. Immediate impacts include famine, acute food shortages, and malnutrition, particularly among vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly.
- Humanitarian organizations may need to launch emergency food relief operations, while governments and international agencies may declare a state of emergency and seek international assistance.
- **Example:** Yemen's food crisis, driven by ongoing conflict, economic collapse, and blockades, has led to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions facing famine and severe malnutrition.

Long-term:

- Chronic food insecurity can lead to long-term malnutrition, impaired development in children, and increased mortality rates. It can also exacerbate social unrest, migration, and conflict, as communities compete for limited resources.
- Addressing long-term food insecurity requires rebuilding agricultural systems, improving infrastructure, and establishing sustainable food production and distribution networks. This often involves addressing underlying issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change.
- **Example:** The ongoing food crisis in South Sudan, where years of conflict and environmental challenges have led to persistent food insecurity, malnutrition, and reliance on international food aid.

# Health Crises

## 14 - Pandemics

Immediate:

- Pandemics can cause rapid spread of infectious diseases, overwhelming healthcare systems and leading to widespread panic, illness, and death. Governments may implement emergency measures such as lockdowns, travel restrictions, and mass testing to contain the outbreak.
- Immediate impacts also include disruptions to everyday life, economic activity, and global supply chains, as well as the diversion of resources to manage the public health crisis.
- **Example:** The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in 2019 and continued to impact the world in 2021 and beyond, led to widespread lockdowns, overwhelmed healthcare systems, and significant global economic disruptions.

Long-term:

- Long-term impacts of pandemics include the need for sustained public health measures, vaccine distribution, and preparedness for future outbreaks. Pandemics can also lead to long-term changes in societal behavior, such as increased reliance on remote work, changes in travel patterns, and heightened public health awareness.
- The economic and social fallout from pandemics can last for years, with impacts on mental health, education, and economic stability. Governments and international organizations may need to invest in stronger healthcare systems and pandemic preparedness to mitigate future risks.
- **Example:** The ongoing efforts to manage and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, including global vaccine distribution challenges, economic recovery plans, and the reevaluation of public health systems worldwide.

## Technological Crises

### 15 - Cybersecurity Threats

Immediate:

- Cybersecurity threats, such as data breaches, ransomware attacks, and disruption of critical infrastructure, can lead to immediate financial losses, compromised sensitive information, and disruptions to essential services such as healthcare, energy, and transportation.
- Governments and companies may respond with emergency measures, including shutting down systems, paying ransoms, or launching investigations to contain the damage and prevent further breaches.
- **Example:** The SolarWinds cyberattack in 2020, which was discovered in 2021, compromised multiple U.S. government agencies and private sector organizations, leading to a major cybersecurity crisis with global implications.

Long-term:

- Long-term impacts of cybersecurity threats include the need for enhanced cybersecurity measures, including stronger encryption, better security protocols, and increased investment in cybersecurity infrastructure. Companies and governments may also face long-term reputational damage and legal consequences.
- The threat of cyber warfare may lead to increased regulation of digital spaces, international agreements on cybersecurity, and the development of new technologies to protect against future attacks.
- **Example:** The ongoing efforts by governments and companies to bolster cybersecurity in the wake of the SolarWinds attack, including increased regulation, investment in cybersecurity technology, and international cooperation to combat cyber threats.

## Social Crises

### 16 - Civic Unrest

Immediate:

- Civic unrest often begins with public protests, demonstrations, and acts of civil disobedience in response to government actions, social injustices, or economic conditions. Governments may respond with crackdowns, including the use of force, arrests, and emergency decrees to restore order.
- Immediate impacts include disruption of daily life, economic activities, and potential violence between protesters and security forces, leading to injuries, deaths, and destruction of property.
- **Example:** The Spring Revolution in Myanmar, which began in early 2021 in response to the military coup, led to widespread protests, violent crackdowns by the military, and a severe deterioration in human rights.

Long-term:

- Long-term impacts of civic unrest can include the systematic oppression of fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of speech, assembly, and the press. Governments may implement stricter surveillance, censorship, and repressive laws to prevent future unrest.
- Sustained civic unrest can lead to long-term political and social instability, eroding public trust in institutions and creating a cycle of resistance and repression.
- **Example:** The ongoing suppression of dissent in Myanmar, where the military junta has continued to crack down on opposition and restrict fundamental freedoms, leading to prolonged instability and international condemnation.

### 17 - Gender and Sexual Discrimination

Immediate:

- Governments or societal groups may take concerted measures to subvert the rights of women and LGBTI communities, including the implementation of discriminatory policies, targeted violence, and suppression of legal protections. These actions can lead to immediate backlash, protests, and increased marginalization of these communities.
- Immediate impacts include heightened fear and insecurity among affected groups, as well as potential human rights violations, such as arrests, violence, and denial of services.
- **Example:** The adoption of The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 in Uganda, which introduced severe penalties for same-sex relations, leading to widespread fear, international condemnation, and further marginalization of the LGBTI community.

Long-term:

- Long-term impacts of gender and sexual discrimination include the rollback of legal protections, increased social stigma, and the entrenchment of discriminatory

norms. This can lead to long-term socio-economic disadvantages, including limited access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities for affected groups.

- Backsliding on women's and LGBTI rights can also lead to increased violence and discrimination, making it difficult for these communities to advocate for their rights and achieve equality.
- **Example:** The ongoing challenges faced by women and LGBTI individuals in Uganda, where the Anti-Homosexuality Act has reinforced social stigma and discrimination, leading to long-term marginalization and reduced access to essential services.

## 18 - Closure of Civic Space

Immediate:

- Governments may initiate mass arrests of activists, protesters, and civil society leaders, and adopt restrictive legislation that curtails freedom of assembly, expression, and association. This often involves media blackouts, censorship, and the shutdown of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) deemed threatening to the regime.
- Immediate impacts include the silencing of dissent, the disruption of civil society activities, and the potential for increased repression and human rights abuses.
- **Example:** The rapid closure of civic space in Afghanistan following the U.S. withdrawal in 2021, where the Taliban took over and imposed severe restrictions on civil society, including mass arrests, suppression of women's rights, and the near-collapse of NGOs.

Long-term:

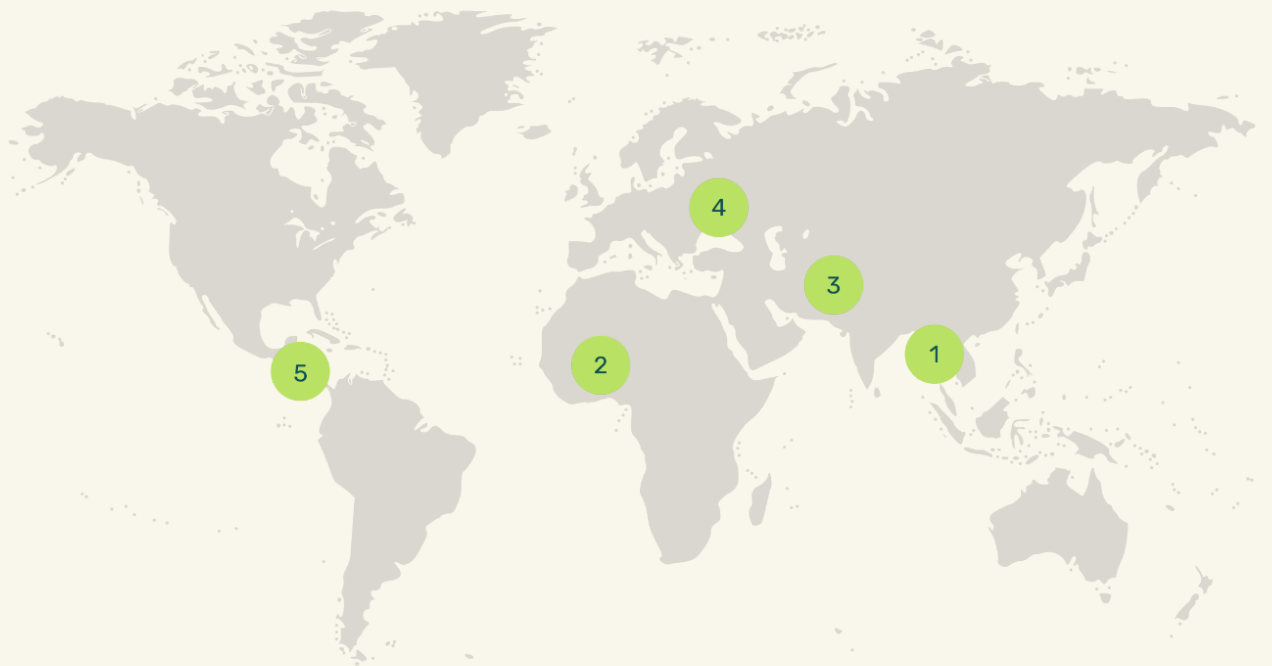
- Long-term impacts of civic space closure include self-censorship among activists, journalists, and civil society organizations, as well as the weakening of civil society's ability to advocate for human rights, accountability, and democratic governance. Over time, this can lead to the dismantling of democratic norms and the consolidation of authoritarian rule.
- The closure of civic space can also have long-term socio-economic consequences, as the suppression of civil society can stifle innovation, hinder development, and exacerbate social inequalities.
- **Example:** The ongoing repression in Afghanistan, where the Taliban's restrictions on civil society have led to a profound weakening of human rights protections, reduced access to services for women and minorities, and a further entrenchment of authoritarian governance.

# Crisis Case Studies

The Better Preparedness Guiding Group identified a range of different crises that would be helpful to analyze as examples of the types of human rights crisis and civic space challenges that civil society may encounter. A set of five living case studies has been created, to which can be added further analysis, and which can form a developing archive.

This has also been developed as a reference resource as part of the Crisis Analysis Tool. For those readers who have reached step 4 in the tool, and have arrived here, the country case studies to choose from are:

1. **Myanmar**
2. **Burkina Faso**
3. **Afghanistan**
4. **Ukraine**
5. **Nicaragua**





# 1. Myanmar

## Summary

The multifaceted nature of the Myanmar crisis underscores the urgent need for comprehensive international efforts to address human rights abuses, displacement, economic challenges, food insecurity, climate-related disasters, and gender-based violence affecting the country's vulnerable populations. The Crisis in Myanmar, precipitated by the military's seizure of government control on February 1, 2021, began as a "Sudden-Onset Crisis," defined as occurring suddenly and requiring an immediate response. The crisis has become a "Long-term, Protracted Crises," defined as persisting over an extended period of years. We discuss before, during, and after.

## Timeline

### Before:

- Myanmar had a power-sharing arrangement between civilian government and military under the 2008 constitution.
- November 2020 elections shifted political equilibrium, with NLD gaining a clear majority and USDP facing decline.
- Army chief expressed support for USDP's claims of electoral fraud, unsupported by the electoral commission.

### During:

- February 1, 2021: Military seizes power on the day parliament was to convene.
- President Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD members detained; military-appointed vice president becomes acting president.
- State of emergency declared, granting control to Senior General Min.
- Nationwide protests follow military takeover, escalating into lethal clashes.

- Brutal crackdown, arrests, and firing on unarmed protesters result in at least 887 deaths and over 6,000 arrests by June.

The crisis exposes how deeply rooted and systemic democratic deficiencies serve as fertile ground for the crises aggravated by decades of illiberalism, crimes against minority communities, and entrenched inequality and impunity.

## Drivers and Impacts

The outset of the political turmoil, marked by arbitrary killings and the detention of thousands, including protesters, journalists, opposition party members, and civil society activists, has triggered a cascade of interconnected crises. These encompass urgent challenges in human rights, economics, gender-based issues, humanitarian concerns, and education, with particularly severe consequences for vulnerable populations. The convergence of political crisis, conflict, economic decline, pre-existing poverty, and climate-related shocks collectively propels the emergency situation.

Notable drivers and related impacts include:

### 1. Political Crisis and Civic Unrest:

- Widespread violence against protesters, arbitrary detentions, and curtailment of freedom of speech remain prevalent.
- Human rights defenders, journalists, opposition party members, and activists face criminalization through secret military tribunals.
- As of December 30, 2023, over 13,000 prisoners of conscience were reported under detention in the country.

### 2. Armed Conflict:

- Airstrikes, shelling, landmines, arson, forced recruitment, and raids on civilian targets persist, causing extensive harm to homes, schools, health facilities, and displaced people.
- The UN has reported widespread atrocities, including torture and mass executions.

### 3. Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement:

- The post-coup fighting has internally displaced 2.5 million people, with an additional 70,000 refugees seeking shelter in neighboring countries.
- New restrictions on movement and aid in Rakhine State affect ethnic Rohingya camps and villages, exacerbating humanitarian challenges.

### 4. Economic Crisis:

- Political turmoil has severely impacted Myanmar's economy, leading to a decline in livelihoods and access to basic necessities.
- Average household incomes fell by 10% in the April-June quarter of the year, worsening an already high inflation rate nearing 30%.

## **5. Food Insecurity:**

- Economic instability and displacement contribute to heightened food insecurity, affecting vulnerable groups.
- Since the military takeover, hunger levels in Myanmar have surged, driven by political turmoil, poverty, displacement, and the economic fallout from COVID-19.

## **6. Climate Crisis:**

- Myanmar's vulnerability to climate-related disasters was evident in unprecedented floods in October 2023, prompting emergency food assistance.
- Cyclone Mocha, a Category 5 event in May 2023, triggered flash floods affecting at least 3.4 million people.

## **7. Vulnerable communities**

- The ruling junta employs violence against women as part of its crackdown on opposition groups.
- Over 3,125 women have been detained, with some facing life imprisonment or the death penalty, increasing the risk of gender-based violence during the crisis.
- When the military junta occurred, all hopes of LGBTIQ legislative reform dissipated.
- The LGBTIQ community has been at the forefront of the pro-democracy movement and have faced severe repression as a result of their activism.

# **International Response**

- Myanmar's stability is of international concern due to its strategic position in Southeast Asia.
- Western countries condemn the military takeover; sanctions imposed by US, UK, and EU.
- UN condemns violence, calls for democratic transition, but Security Council action hindered by China's likely veto.
- UN General Assembly adopts non-binding resolution condemning the coup, with 119 countries in favor and 36 abstaining.
- Thant Myint-U sees Myanmar at a 'point of no return' with revolutionary energy unleashed by the coup.
- Recommendations include unequivocal support for UN Special Envoy, ASEAN, and regional actors and consideration of coercive measures such as arms embargo and economic sanctions.





## 2. Burkina Faso

### Summary

In 2022, Burkina Faso experienced a severe human rights crisis marked by escalating violence, military coups, and attacks by Islamist armed groups. The year began with an anti-government protest, leading to the first military coup in January, overthrowing President Kaboré. Despite promises of elections, political instability persisted. Islamist armed groups, allied to Al-Qaeda and ISGS, intensified attacks, killing hundreds and displacing nearly 2 million people. State security forces and pro-government militias faced allegations of abuses, including unlawful killings and disappearances. Investigations into past atrocities were minimal, with challenges around accountability. The crisis further impacted vulnerable communities, with targeted violence against women and children. The international response included condemnation of the coups, aid suspension, and efforts to address child recruitment. Burkina Faso's path to recovery faces complex challenges involving political, humanitarian, economic, and security dimensions.

### Timeline

#### Before:

- Ongoing violence and attacks by Islamist armed groups against civilians.
- The control of approximately 40% of the country by these armed groups.
- Anti-government protests in late 2021 and January 2022 due to the government's inability to address the violence.

#### During:

January 2022:

- First military coup in Burkina Faso, overthrowing President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

- Protests against the government's failure to curb violence led to protest bans and internet shutdowns.
- Military officers from the Patriotic Movement for Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR) cited worsening security as a reason for the coup.

February 2022:

- Lt.-Col. Paul Henri Damiba, the coup leader, sworn in as president.
- A transitional government appointed on March 5.
- Damiba committed to holding legislative and presidential elections in 2024.

September 2022:

- Second military coup in Burkina Faso, ousting President Damiba.
- Capt. Ibrahim Traore becomes the new transitional president, committing to elections by February 2024.

## Key Drivers of Conflict:

### 1. Attacks by Islamist Armed Groups

- Hundreds of civilians killed in attacks on villages, convoys, water points, and gold mines.
- Islamist armed groups allied to Al-Qaeda and ISGS responsible for deadly attacks.

### 2. Abuses by State Security Forces and Pro-Government Militia:

- Unlawful killings and disappearances of suspects during counterterrorism operations.
- Coordination between soldiers and Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland (VDP) militia.

## Impacts of the Crisis:

### 1. Political Crisis and Civic Unrest:

- Two military coups in 2022 leading to political instability.
- Anti-government protests due to escalating violence.

## 2. Armed Conflict:

- Surge in attacks by Islamist armed groups, resulting in civilian and military casualties.
- Loss of government-held territory to armed groups.

## 3. Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement:

- Intensification of the humanitarian crisis with nearly 2 million internally displaced since 2016.
- Attacks on villages, markets, and businesses exacerbating the crisis.

## 4. Economic Crisis:

- Disruption of economic activities due to attacks on artisanal gold mining sites and convoys.
- Destruction of infrastructure affecting economic stability.

## 5. Food Insecurity:

- Widespread pillage and destruction hindering access to food sources.
- Farmers prevented from accessing their fields.

## 6. Climate:

- Destruction of bridges, water sources, and infrastructure affecting the climate.

## 7. Vulnerable Communities (Women and LGBTI):

- Targeted violence, including rape, against women and girls.
- Increased recruitment and use of children by armed groups.

# International response:

- Concern expressed by key partners such as France, the US, the EU, and the UN.
- Reluctance to condemn abuses by the military and pro-government militias.
- Suspension of Burkina Faso by ECOWAS and the AU from governing bodies.
- US suspension of \$160 million in foreign assistance and EU providing humanitarian aid.
- France providing military training to Burkina Faso's troops.
- Burkina Faso signed a handover protocol with the UN for the transfer of apprehended children during armed conflict.



## 3. Afghanistan

### Summary

The Afghanistan crisis unfolded starting with the 2001 U.S. invasion, leading to a period of international efforts for stabilization and a new government. President Biden's 2021 troop withdrawal set the stage for the Taliban's rapid resurgence and the subsequent collapse of the Afghan government in August 2021. The aftermath is marked by ongoing humanitarian, economic, and security concerns. Key drivers include the withdrawal of U.S. troops, Taliban resurgence, political fragility, and security challenges. The impacts encompass a political crisis, threats to civil society, extensive censorship and violence against media, targeted killings of journalists, and authoritarian actions by the Taliban. Armed conflict escalated with Taliban control, increased violence, and extrajudicial killings, while ISKP claimed responsibility for attacks, worsening the humanitarian crisis and displacement. The economic collapse, food insecurity, climate challenges, and rights violations against women, minorities, and the LGBT community add to the complexity. The international response involves UN actions, sanctions, donor restrictions, and concerns about feminist foreign policy, with ongoing efforts for ICC investigations into war crimes.

### Timeline

#### Before:

- 2001: The U.S. and allies invade Afghanistan post-9/11 to oust the Taliban and dismantle Al-Qaeda.
- 2001-2021: International efforts to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan; new government establishment.

#### During:

- April 2021: President Biden announces U.S. troop withdrawal, setting the stage for increased Taliban activity.
- August 2021: Rapid Taliban advances result in the fall of major Afghan cities, leading to the collapse of the Afghan government.

- August 15, 2021: Taliban takes control of Kabul, marking a swift end to the Afghan government.

**After:**

- The situation is dynamic, with ongoing humanitarian, economic, and security concerns.

## Key Drivers of the Crisis

1. Withdrawal of U.S. Troops:
  - Created a power vacuum, emboldening the Taliban.
2. Taliban Resurgence:
  - The Taliban capitalized on the vacuum, leveraging insurgency to regain control.
3. Political Fragility:
  - Internal divisions and a lack of cohesive response weakened the Afghan government.
4. Security Challenges:
  - Persistent Taliban insurgency and attacks undermined stability.
5. Taliban Rule and Repression:
  - Imposition of restrictive policies violating fundamental rights.

## Impacts of the Crisis:

1. Political Crisis and Civil Society:
  - Collapse of Government: Rapid fall led to a political crisis.
  - Civil Society Concerns: Human rights, especially for women and minorities, are at risk.
  - Censorship and Violence: Extensive censorship and violence against Afghan media, with numerous outlets shut down.
  - Targeted Killings: Taliban's Directorate of Intelligence engaged in threats, intimidation, and targeted killings of journalists.
  - Banning International News Programs: Outlets banned from broadcasting international news programs, limiting access to information.
  - Silencing Journalists: Journalists beaten for reporting on critical issues; restrictions on reporting anti-Taliban protests.

## 2. Authoritarianism Extrajudicial Killings, Enforced Disappearances, Torture, and War Crimes:

- Taliban Actions: Revenge killings, enforced disappearances, and summary executions of former officials and security personnel.
- Military Operations and Night Raids: Targeted residents accused of supporting ISKP, with assaults, detentions, disappearances, and beheadings.
- Mass Grave Discovery: Residents in Nangarhar found a mass grave with signs of torture and brutal executions.

## 3. Armed Conflict:

- Taliban Control: Resurgence resulted in the control of major cities.
- Violence: Increased armed conflict and security risks for civilians.
- Extrajudicial Killings and War Crimes: Taliban forces carried out revenge killings, disappearances, and executions.
- ISKP claimed responsibility for bombings and armed attacks against Hazaras in 2022, resulting in at least 700 casualties.
- Attacks on schools and mosques, particularly in Hazara-dominated areas.
- Taliban's failure to provide security and assistance exacerbated the impact of ISKP attacks.

## 4. Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement:

- Displacement: Thousands sought refuge internally and externally.
- Humanitarian Challenges: Access to necessities and services became a significant concern.
- Economic and Humanitarian Crises: Enduring economic collapse exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

## 5. Economic Crisis:

- Collapse of Institutions: Government collapse led to economic instability.
- Foreign Aid Dependency: Loss of international support impacted Afghanistan's economy.
- US Restrictions on Central Bank: Contributed to a massive and enduring liquidity crisis.
- Factors include massive cutoffs in donor assistance, wage cuts, liquidity crisis, spiking prices, and banking sector restrictions.

## 6. Food Insecurity:

- Disruption of Agriculture: Conflict disrupted agricultural activities.
- Increased Vulnerability: Escalating food insecurity due to disrupted supply chains.
- Widespread Hunger: Over 90 percent of Afghans were food insecure throughout the year.

- Millions of children face acute malnutrition.
- Over 90 percent of Afghans are food insecure.

#### 7. Climate:

- Environmental Challenges: Ongoing conflict exacerbated environmental issues.
- Resource Strain: Increased pressure on resources affecting vulnerable communities.

#### 8. Vulnerable Communities (Women and LGBTI):

- Human Rights Concerns: Heightened concerns about the rights of women and minority communities.
- LGBTI Issues: Increased vulnerability for LGBTI individuals in a conservative and unstable environment.
- Women's and Girls' Rights: Taliban imposed severe restrictions, impacting education and employment.
- Taliban Restrictions: Since taking power in August 2021, the Taliban imposed rules violating fundamental rights of women and girls.
- Freedom Erosion: Restrictions on freedom of movement, right to work, education, and healthcare for women and girls.
- Media Repression: Repressed or threatened media and critics, closed civil society organizations, dismantled human rights offices.
- Security Forces Actions: Arbitrary detentions, torture, and summary executions by Taliban security forces targeting former officers and perceived enemies.
- ISKP Attacks: Islamic State of Khorasan Province targeted schools and mosques, with a focus on Hazara Shia Muslims.
- Criminalization of Same-Sex Relations: Taliban echoed support for criminalization of same-sex conduct, posing risks to the LGBTI community.

## International response:

#### UN Actions:

- The UN Security Council extended the UNAMA mission and mandate in March 2022, while the UN Human Rights Council renewed and strengthened the special rapporteur's mandate in October.

#### Sanctions:

- The Security Council extended sanctions, removing exemptions for some Taliban officials under travel bans.

#### Donor Restrictions:

- Key donors, including the US, EU, UK, and Japan, maintained restrictions on donor assistance.

Feminist Foreign Policy Concerns:

- Like-minded governments with concerns about Taliban human rights abuses, including those committed to feminist foreign policies, failed to adopt a common and sustained multilateral position and strategy.

ICC Investigation:

- The ICC prosecutor continued to seek permission to resume an investigation into war crimes and crimes against humanity, emphasizing the Taliban's control over the country and the need for international justice efforts.





## 4. Ukraine

### Summary

The Ukraine crisis originated in 2013-2014 with Euromaidan protests against the government's suspension of an EU association agreement. In 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, leading to conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The Minsk II agreement was signed in 2015 to cease hostilities. Ongoing tensions, sporadic clashes, and diplomatic efforts persist. Key drivers include disputed territorial claims, historical ties, geopolitical differences, ethnic divides, and resource control. The impacts encompass a political crisis with pro-European and pro-Russian divisions, armed conflict causing loss of life and displacement, a humanitarian crisis with over 1.5 million internally displaced persons, an economic downturn, food insecurity, and increased vulnerability for women and the LGBTI community. Civilian casualties and displacement are significant, with over 6,919 verified deaths and 14 million displaced. Russian violations of international humanitarian law include apparent war crimes, targeting infrastructure, and using prohibited weapons. The international response involves accountability mechanisms, legislative developments, diplomatic actions, and discussions in the UN Security Council and General Assembly, with Russia's veto power hindering substantive action.

### Timeline

#### Before:

- 2013-2014: Euromaidan protests in Ukraine against the government's suspension of an EU association agreement.
- 2014: Russia annexes Crimea; conflict erupts in Eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists.
- 2015: Minsk II agreement signed to cease hostilities in Eastern Ukraine.

#### During:

- Ongoing tensions, sporadic clashes in Eastern Ukraine, and diplomatic efforts continue.

**Current status:**

- Conflict ongoing and escalating.

## Key Drivers of the Crisis

### 1. Disputed Territorial Claims:

- Annexation of Crimea by Russia.
- Claims to parts of Eastern Ukraine leading to armed conflict.

### 2. Historical Ties and Geopolitical Differences:

- Historical ties between Ukraine and Russia.
- Differing geopolitical orientations contribute to the crisis.

### 3. Ethnic and Linguistic Divides:

- Presence of ethnic and linguistic divides within Ukraine.
- Exacerbated tensions and conflicts.

### 4. Resource Control and Economic Interests:

- Control over resources, economic interests, and geopolitical positioning play a role.

## Impacts of the crisis:

### 1. Political Crisis and Civil Society:

- Ongoing political instability with divisions between pro-European and pro-Russian factions.
- Civil society affected by displacement and unrest.

### 2. Armed Conflict:

- Loss of life and displacement due to conflict.
- Strained international relations and ongoing security concerns.

### 3. Humanitarian Crisis and Displacement:

- Humanitarian challenges with internally displaced persons (IDPs).

- Over 1.5 million IDPs in Ukraine as of xxx
- Strained resources in hosting regions.

#### 4. Economic Crisis:

- Economic downturn due to disruption of economic activities.
- GDP contracted by xx in xxx
- Challenges in rebuilding affected areas.

#### 5. Food Insecurity:

- Disruption of agriculture and increased vulnerability to food insecurity.
- Over xxx of Ukrainians facing food insecurity as of

#### 7. Vulnerable Communities (Women and LGBTI):

- Increased vulnerability with human rights abuses.
- Challenges to inclusivity and equality.
- Reports of gender-based violence have increased by [percentage].
- LGBTI individuals facing heightened discrimination and persecution.

#### 8. Civilian Casualties and Displacement:

- As of early January 2023, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) verified at least 6,919 civilian deaths and over 11,000 wounded.
- Over 14 million civilians were displaced by the war, with 6.5 million internally displaced in Ukraine, 5 million fleeing to European countries, and another 2.8 million going to Russia and Belarus.

#### 9. Russian Violations of International Humanitarian Law:

- Russian forces committed apparent war crimes, including torture, summary executions, sexual violence, and enforced disappearances in areas they occupied.
- Indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks on civilian areas resulted in thousands of civilian casualties.
- Attacks on hospitals and schools, including the use of cluster munitions, caused further harm to civilians.

#### 10. Impacts on Infrastructure and Services:

- Russian forces targeted energy and other infrastructure, leading to power cuts and leaving millions periodically without heat, electricity, water, and other vital services.
- Attacks on healthcare facilities resulted in more than 700 incidents, killing and injuring over 200 people.

#### 11. Landmines and Cluster Munitions:

- Russian forces extensively used cluster munitions, with documented attacks causing civilian casualties and damage.
- Antipersonnel landmines were extensively used, causing casualties and hindering recovery efforts.

#### 12. Abuses Against Vulnerable Populations:

- Conflict-related sexual violence was reported, with 86 documented cases by HRMMU, including rape, gang rape, forced nudity, and forced public stripping.
- People with disabilities faced challenges accessing critical services, and there were concerns about the disproportionate impact on children with disabilities.

#### 13. Forcible Transfers and Abuses During Occupation:

- Russian officials forced Ukrainian civilians to mass transfers, constituting a war crime.
- Russian forces committed apparent war crimes during the occupation, including ill-treatment, torture, arbitrary detention, and summary executions.

#### 14. Prisoners of War and Abuses:

- POWs on both sides were ill-treated, tortured, and in some cases summarily executed.
- Russian forces committed apparent war crimes, including summary executions and torture, in occupied areas.

## International response:

#### Accountability:

- International organizations and foreign governments engaged accountability mechanisms, including the ICC prosecutor opening an investigation.
- The UN Human Rights Council established an Independent International Commission of Inquiry, finding war crimes committed by Russian forces.
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) invoked the Moscow Mechanism, pointing to serious violations of international humanitarian law by Russian armed forces.

#### Legislative Developments and Diplomatic Actions:

- Ukraine approved ratification of the Istanbul Convention to combat domestic violence.

- A media bill threatening press freedom was passed in Ukraine.
- International actors took diplomatic actions, such as suspending Russia's membership in the Human Rights Council.

Security Council and General Assembly Actions:

- The UN Security Council discussed violations in Ukraine, but Russia's veto power hindered substantive action. The General Assembly passed four resolutions condemning Russia's invasion and violations, leading to the suspension of Russia's Human Rights Council membership.



## 5. Nicaragua

### Summary

For over five years, Nicaragua has been facing one of the worst human rights crises in Latin America. However, the response of the international community has been ineffective in addressing the crisis. Daniel Ortega's government has targeted all segments of society in a bid to remain in power indefinitely. Since 2018, the Nicaraguan government has shut down more than 3,500 civil society organizations, including humanitarian organizations such as the Red Cross. Abusive laws severely restrict the work of independent journalism and civil society, and the authorities have arbitrarily detained and prosecuted journalists, human rights defenders, and community leaders.

### Timeline

#### Before:

- 2007: Daniel Ortega becomes President; systematic repression against critics begins.
- 2018: Protests against social security reforms lead to government crackdown.

#### During:

- 2018-Present: Ongoing human rights abuses, political repression, and challenges to democratic governance.

#### Current Status:

- Ongoing Concerns: Repression, human rights abuses, and erosion of democratic institutions persist.
- International Scrutiny: Despite expulsions, international actors continue to denounce the situation.

## Key Drivers of the crisis:

### 1. Political Repression and Power Concentration:

- 2007-Present: Systematic repression against critics, journalists, and human rights defenders.
- 2018: Government crackdown on protests leads to widespread abuses.

### 2. Erosion of Democratic Checks:

- 2007-Present: Dismantling of institutional checks on presidential power.
- 2021: President Ortega elected to a fourth consecutive term amid repression.

## Impacts of the crisis:

### 1. Arbitrary Detentions and Prosecutions:

- 2022: 209 government critics detained, facing charges like undermining national integrity.
- Human Rights Violations:\*\* Reports of inhumane conditions, prolonged solitary confinement.

### 2. Suppression of Freedom of Expression and Association:

- Journalists: Convictions, detentions, and harassment; 200 journalists in exile since 2018.
- NGOs: Closure of over 2,000 NGOs; restrictive laws limiting civic space.

### 3. Erosion of Democratic Rights:

- Elections Opposition parties lose registration; elected mayors dismissed.
- Indigenous Rights:\*\* Discrimination, stalled investigations into territorial disputes.

### 4. Women's and Girls' Rights:

- Abortion Ban: Total abortion ban since 2006; risks to health and lives.
- Femicides: Increased rates; lack of official figures.

### 5. Forced Migration:

- UNHCR Report: 200,000 citizens fled Nicaragua (April 2018–March 2022).
- US Border Patrol: Apprehensions surged in 2022; many seek refuge in neighboring countries.

## International response

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

- March 2022: Establishment of a group to investigate human rights violations since April 2018.

International Sanctions and Actions:

- US Actions: Sanctions on officials, mining company; visa restrictions; Magnitsky Act.
- European Union (EU):\*\* Sanctions on individuals and entities; denunciation of repression.

Diplomatic Tensions:

- Expulsions: Expulsion of UN envoy, EU delegation; severed ties with the Netherlands.
- International Criticism: EU maintains sanctions; UK and Canada sanction individuals.

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