

Brief notes on methodology

Case selection

Cases are selected on the independent variable; only those countries are listed, which have experienced one-sided violence between 1998 and 2010 (based on the UCDP database; see below). The interval '1998 to 2010' was determined as the longest available interval (given the available data), which corresponds with the objective of the research question.

Method and limitations

Medium/large-N linear regression establishes the characteristics of past humanitarian disbursements. Linearity is assumed throughout the models, because human lives should be equally weighted. In the same vein, large outliers are not excluded from the model, because the goal is not to determine the best-fitting regression, but to understand i) which was the general trend of protection-based disbursements (between 1998 and 2010); and ii) taking this general trend as the donors' consensual judgment, which conflicts diverge most from these expectations.

By aggregating the data between 1998 and 2010 there is no control for endogeneity; that is, we cannot discern the effect of protection-based humanitarian assistance to reduce the severity of conflicts.

Similarly, there is no control for the length of the conflicts, which is – arguably – one of the main reasons for setting up a protection cluster. One-time incidents, such as those in Spain (2004) and the USA (2001) do not receive funding through the protection cluster, because there is no apparent need to establish a cluster.

On the other hand, excluding these and similar cases would be problematic on the premise that protection clusters are designed only for non-OECD countries. In an "ideal world", which is assumed by the principle of impartiality, protection-based assistance is disbursed on the basis of need alone. If, for instance, the US fails to protect its citizens from an al-Qaeda attack, the donors' reactions should be similar to a similar attack occurring in Nigeria. After all, the number of dead citizens signals the inability of the state to protect its citizens regardless of place and time.

Another caveat that needs to be addressed is that while the independent variables mostly measure or refer to countries with some sort of one-sided violence, the dependent variable measures protection-based disbursements to both man-made and environmental emergencies.

The proposed models measure how forgotten a conflict is, based on the difference of demand and supply for humanitarian assistance. Given that the supply-side is entirely financial (protection-based humanitarian assistance), we largely measure under- and overfunded conflicts.

Variables

Dependent variable

- **protection_2010usd**: The total amount of money committed or contributed to a country for protection-based programs (in USD; 1999-2011). Data is provided from OCHA's [Financial Tracking Service](#), using the 'Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law' filter; these figures are discounted using official inflation rates to constant 2010 USD prices.

Independent variables

- **deaths**: The total number of civilian deaths caused by one-sided violence (1998 to 2010). Data is provided from the Uppsala University's [UCDP One-sided Violence Dataset v. 1.3-2011](#) 'best estimates'. For definitions, see the [Codebook](#).

- **humrights1:** The average of the yearly discounted additive Physical Integrity Rights Index for torture, extrajudicial killings, political imprisonments and disappearances (from 0 to 1, where 1 means full government respect for these four rights; 1998 to 2010). Data is provided from CIRI's [Human Rights Data Project](#). For definitions, see the [Descriptions](#).
- **humrights2:** The average of the yearly discounted additive Empowerment Rights Index for foreign movement, domestic movement, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly & association, workers' rights, electoral self-determination, and freedom of religion (from 0 to 1, where 1 means full government respect for these seven rights; 1998 to 2010). Data is provided from CIRI's [Human Rights Data Project](#). For definitions, see the [Descriptions](#).
- **corruption:** The average of relative ranks of the given country in 2000, 2005 and 2010 (0 to 1, where 1 means that a country ranks last in regards to corruption). Data is provided from Transparency International's [Corruption Perception Index](#). For more detail, see the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- **IDPs_avg:** The averages of the yearly number of internally displaced persons in a given country (in thousands; 1998 to 2010). Data is provided from the UNHCR's [Statistical Yearbook](#) from 1998 to 2000 and the International Displacement Monitoring Center's [IDP database](#) from 2001 to 2010. This latter database enlists only those figures, which have been caused by conflict and violence.