

Preventing and Mitigating Armed Conflicts

1. Framework: Armed conflicts

Causes

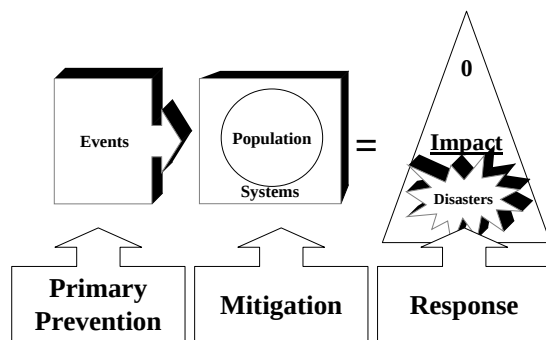
Vulnerabilities

2. The legal approach

3. Impact

4. Prevention and mitigation

Disasters: Concept



The events

- Natural events
- Technological accidents
- Wars
- Biological events (épidémies)

Looking at threats

"There are six clusters of threats with which the world must be concerned now and in the decades ahead:

- Economic and social threats, including poverty, infectious disease and environmental degradation
- Inter-State conflict
- Internal conflict, including civil war, genocide and other large-scale atrocities
- Nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons
- Terrorism
- Transnational organized crime"

A more secure world: our shared responsibility
Report of the Secretary-General's High level panel on
Threats, Challenges and Change
United Nations - 2004

Natural events

- Earthquake
- Volcanoes
- Tsunamis
- Hurricane
- Flood
- Drought

Disasters with a quick onset: immediate impact on populations and systems

Disasters with a slow onset: slow impact on populations and systems

Armed conflicts

Number of Armed Conflicts

In 2003 there were 19 major armed conflicts in 18 locations worldwide, the lowest number for the post-cold war period with the exception of 1997, when 18 such conflicts were registered. Only two of the 19 conflicts were fought between states: the conflict between Iraq and the multinational coalition led by the United States and the United Kingdom and the long-standing conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. Four of the 19 conflicts were in Africa and eight in Asia.



Number of Armed Conflicts

Region	Number of Conflicts in region
Africa	15
Asia	15
Europe	2
The Americas	1
Middle East	3
<i>World Totals</i>	36

Geographic distributions of armed conflicts in 2003
The 2004 Armed Conflicts Report Ploughshares Monitor, Summer, 2004

Number of Armed Conflicts

Region
Africa
Asia
Europe
The Americas
Middle East
<i>World Totals</i>

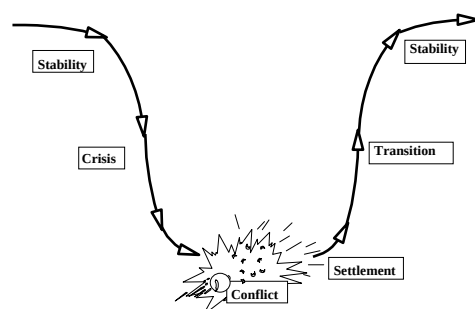
Humanitarian interventions are mostly done in countries with a pre-existing imbalance between needs and services

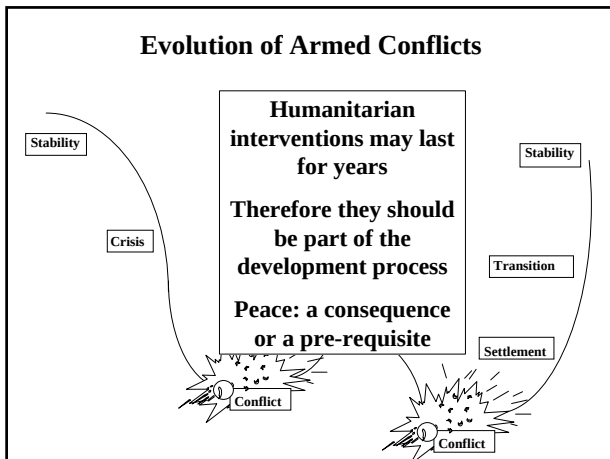
Causes of Armed Conflicts

- Territories
- Access to natural Resources
- Religion
- Ethnicities
- Ideologies
- Bad Governance
- Arms availability
-

Humanitarian interventions deals mostly with the consequences but very little on the root causes of armed conflicts

Evolution of Armed Conflicts





Armed Conflicts

International armed conflicts, non international armed conflicts, situations of internal violence

Sipri: more than 1000 deaths / year directly related to the conflict (impact).

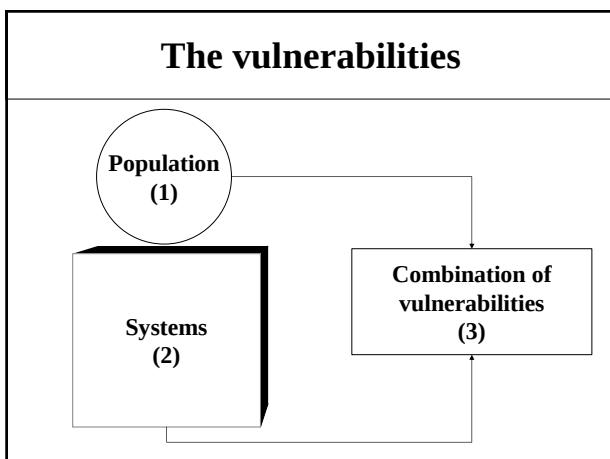
Use of armed forces within the Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter

Two points

- **Combination of events**
- **Combination of vulnerabilities**

A combination of events

- **Thailand: Tsunami**
- **USA: Hurricane**
- **DRC: Civil war**
- **Somalia: Civil war, drought, flood**
- **Sudan: Civil war, drought**
- **Zimbabwe: Drought , Internal violence**
- **Indonesia (Aceh): Tsunami, War**



The vulnerable groups

- **Urban / Rural Populations**
- **Women, Children, elderly**
- **Sick, wounded**
- **Civilian / Military**
- **.....**

Vulnerabilities in Urban Population

Kabul has some food production, but was mainly dependent on external supply

Centralized market with fixed prices

Winter stocks of major food

Sufficient purchase power for most employees. Security nets for the poorest

Traditional pattern privilege male population, but as food is available no consequence on women's health

Poor environmental conditions

Spread of chronic malnutrition

Food Production

Commercial Network

Food Availability

Food Accessibility

Food Consumption

Biol. Utilization

Local production is hampered

Road of the south used for food supply are regularly cut

Free market: food prices are higher and higher

Purchasing power is continuously decreasing

Change in food consumption, people look for cheap food

Breakdown in sanitary services

Spread of chronic malnutrition and increase in acute malnutrition

Before the war

Nutritional Status

During the war

Kabul

Wealth may be a vulnerability

Natural resources is cause of war

Water is, and will become increasingly a cause of war

Is war legal ?

Jus ad bellum et Jus in bello

Jus ad bellum
International rules
regulating the recourse
to force
(Charter of the United
Nations)

Jus in bello
International rules
governing relations in
war
(Geneva Conventions)

On the prohibition of war

Until the end of the First World War, resorting to armed force was regarded not as an illegal act but as an acceptable way of settling differences.

In 1919, the Covenant of the League of Nations and, in 1928, the Treaty of Paris (Briand-Kellogg Pact) sought to outlaw war. The adoption of the United Nations Charter in 1945 confirmed the trend: *"The members of the Organization shall abstain, in their international relations, from resorting to the threat or use of force (...)"*

When a State or group of States is attacked by another State or group of States, however, the United Nations Charter upholds the right to individual or collective self-defence. The Security Council, acting on the basis of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, may also decide on the collective use of force. This may involve:

- coercive measures – aimed at restoring peace – against a State threatening international security;
- peace-keeping measures in the form of observer or peace-keeping missions.

A further instance arises within the framework of the right of peoples to self-determination: in resolution 2105 (XX) adopted in 1965, the UN General Assembly *"recognizes the legitimacy of the struggle waged by peoples under colonial domination to exercise their right to self-determination and independence (...)"*

UN Charter - Chapter VII, Art.39

The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

PPR -01.2001

UN Resolutions - Irak

Resolution 660 (1990)
of 2 August 1990

The Security Council,
Alarmed by the invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 by the military forces of Iraq,
Determining that there exists a breach of international peace and security as regards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait,
Acting under Articles 39 and 40 of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Condemns* the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait;
2. *Demands* that Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces to the positions in which they were located on 1 August 1990;
3. *Calls upon* Iraq and Kuwait to begin immediately negotiations for the resolution of their differences and supports all efforts in this regard, and especially those of the League of Arab States;
4. *Decides* to meet again as necessary to consider further steps to ensure compliance with the present resolution.

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UN Resolutions - Irak

Resolution 665 (1990)
of 25 August 1990

1. *Calls upon* those Member States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait which are deploying maritime forces to the area to use such measures commensurate to the specific circumstances as may be necessary under the authority of the Security Council to halt inward and outward maritime shipping, in order to inspect and verify their cargoes and destinations and to ensure strict implementation of the provisions related to such shipping laid down in resolution 661 (1990).

PPR -01.2001

UN Resolutions - Irak

Resolution 678 (1990)
of 29 November 1990

2. *Authorizes* Member States co-operating with the Government of Kuwait, unless Iraq on or before 15 January 1991 fully implements, as set forth in paragraph 1 above, the above-mentioned resolutions, to use all necessary means to uphold and implement resolution 660 (1990) and all subsequent relevant resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area.

PPR -01.2001

UN Resolutions - Irak

Resolution 670 (1990)
of 25 September 1990

13. *Reaffirms* that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹⁰⁵ applies to Kuwait and that, as a High Contracting Party to the Convention, Iraq is bound to comply fully with all its terms and in particular is liable under the Convention in respect of the grave breaches committed by it, as are individuals who commit or order the commission of grave breaches.

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Normative Framework

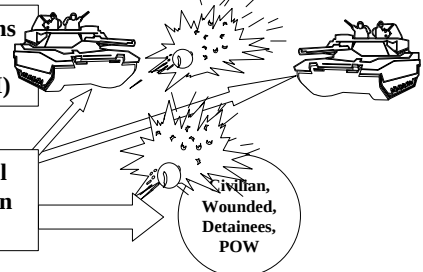
United Nations
Charter
(Chapter VII)



Normative Framework

United Nations
Charter
(Chapter VII)

International
Humanitarian
Law



2 Branches of the *jus in bello*

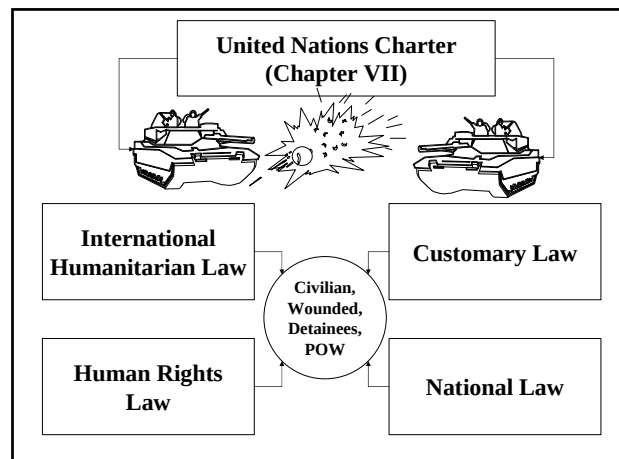
Geneva Law

Protection of people who are not or are no longer taking part in the hostilities.

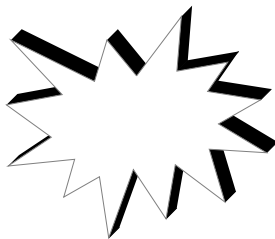
Hague Law

Restriction of means (weapons being used) and of methods of warfare (the way in which such weapons are used, for example military tactics).

These two branches are considered as one single system: The international humanitarian law



Impact



Impact on People

Estimation du nombre de décès liés à la guerre)

1. Rwanda 1994: 500 000 - 1 000 000
2. Angola 1992-4: 100 000 - 500 000
3. Somalia 1991-9: 48 000 - 300 000
4. Bosnia 1992-5: 35 000 - 250 000
5. Liberia 1991-6: 25 000 - 200 000
6. Burundi 1993: 30 000 - 200 000
7. Chechenya 1994-6: 30 000 - 90 000
8. Tadjikistan 1992-9: 20 000 - 120 000
9. Algeria 1992-9: 30 000 - 100 000
10. Gulf war 1990-1: 4 300 - 100 000

Armed conflict as a public health problem

C J L Murray, G King, A D Lopez, N Tomijima, E G Krug -BMJ 2002;324:346-9

Catastrophes naturelles: Nombre de morts 1994 - 2003

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Africa	3,144	2,962	3,484	4,064	7,006	2,688	5,756	4,462	8,272	5,810	47,648
Americas	2,874	2,628	2,541	3,069	21,865	33,989	1,820	3,460	2,285	2,026	76,557
Asia	13,328	75,590	69,706	71,033	82,373	75,890	11,608	29,255	13,358	37,860	480,001
Europe	2,340	3,366	1,204	1,166	1,434	19,448	1,627	2,196	1,699	31,046	65,526
Oceania	103	24	111	388	2,227	116	205	9	91	64	3,338
Total	21,789	84,570	77,046	79,720	114,905	132,131	21,016	39,382	25,705	76,806	673,070

Source: EM-DAT (Emergency Disaster Database), CRED, Université Louvain, Belgique Catastrophes naturelles et technologiques (non inclus guerres)

Impact on people and system

In Mozambique

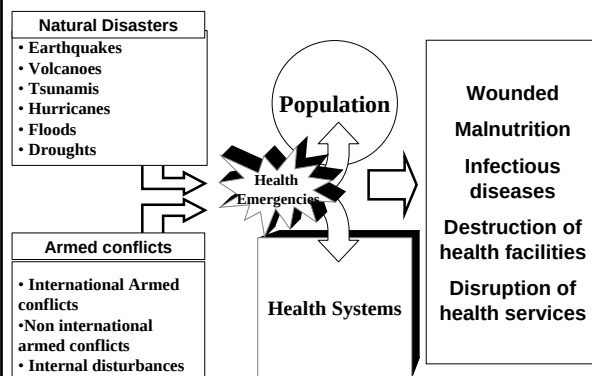
- 2 millions of persons did not have access to health services in relation with the conflict
- In conflicting areas 48% of the health posts have been destroyed
- Several million of people have been displaced

Impact on civilian population

- Un DRC 3 millions de persons died due to the war (Roberts et al 2001)

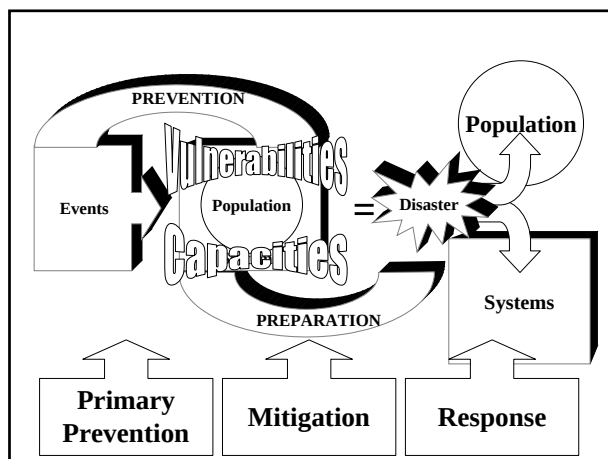
- In Camboia, one person out of 236 is amputated in relation to mine injuries (Stover et al. 1994)

Causes and Impact of Disasters & CE

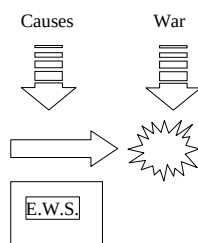


•Prevention of the conflict ?

•Mitigation of the consequences of the conflict ?



Access to information: early indicators of violence



PPR epigen

11. 1999

EWS

Early warning is the systematic collection and analysis of information « and indicators » coming from areas of crises for the purposes of:

1. Anticipating the escalation of violent conflict;
2. Development of strategic responses to these crises;
3. The presentation of options to critical actors for the purpose of decision making

Definition given by FEWER (Forum on Early Warning and Early Response)

U.N. & EWS

« Prevention, achieved by employing inter-alia early warning, is evidently better than having to undertake major efforts to resolve crises after they have broken out »

Boutros Boutros Ghali, Sec. Gen UN in Agenda for Peace 1992.

EWS: from Data to Decisions

From data to
decision-making

Information - Indicators

Sources

Measure (Methods)

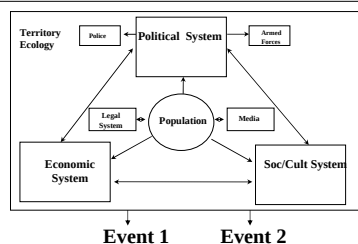
Processing

Statistical analysis

Interpretation (situation)

Decisions

Informations and Context



Information help to
understand the context

Informations and Context

Information can be related to:

- . Structural factors
- . Events acting as « Accelerators »
- . Events acting as « Triggers »

Structural factors

Structural factors

Background condition that form the pre-conditions of crisis situations such as systematic political exclusion, inherent economic inequalities, lack of adequate and responsive institutions, the presence of ethnic minorities, resource exhaustion, and over dependence on international trade

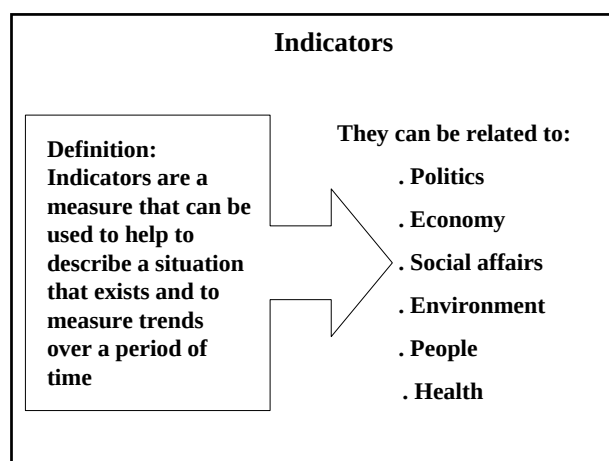
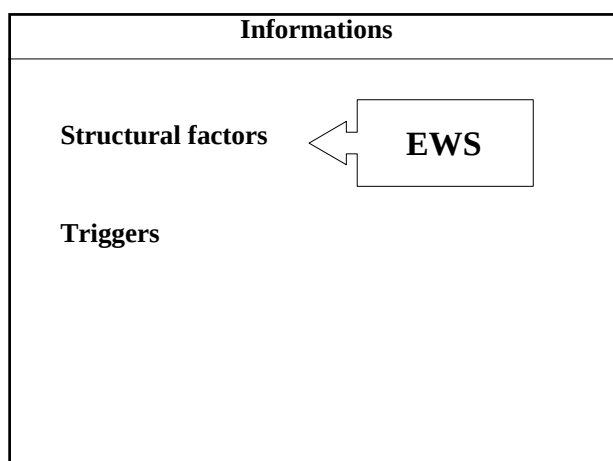
CIFP - Methodology Review - International Development Research Centre - Country Indicators for Foreign Policy

Triggers

Triggers

Sudden events that act as catalysts igniting a crisis or conflict, such as the assassination of a leader, election fraud, a political scandal

CIFP - Methodology Review - International Development Research Centre - Country Indicators for Foreign Policy



Indicators

Food insecurity
Job and income security
Violations of human rights
Ethnic and religious tensions
Inequality
Military expenditures

Indicators

<u>Food insecurity:</u> measured by the daily intake as a percentage of the actual requirement, by the index of food production per head
<u>Job and income security:</u> reflected by a high and long-term unemployment, by high inflation rates and by sharp inequalities in incomes
<u>Violations of human rights:</u> reflected by the number of political prisoners, disappearances, infringement on press freedom and other violations
<u>Ethnic and religious tensions:</u> measured by the percentage of the population that is involved in such conflicts and the number of victims
<u>Inequality:</u> reflected by the differences between the Human Development Index of the various population groups
<u>Military expenditures:</u> measured by the relationship between military expenditures and total expenditure on education and health
Early warning and conflict prevention Minerva's wisdom Ruddy Doom Keen Vlassenroot – Journal of Humanitarian Assistance July 1997

Conflict Indicators

Historical rivalries	Increased opposition activity	
Antagonistic behavior	Radicalisation of opposition	
Exploitation of tensions	Militarisation of the society	
Persecution of minorities	Factionalism within opposition	
State in the proces of political or economic transition	Protest actions	
Rivalries over the control region's resources	Dissatisfaction with the management of the state affairs	
Arms trafficking	Political under-representation (minority)	
Demographic changes	Growing economic disparity	
Insufficient control over the military	Conflict over land	
Human rights abuses	Economic recession/collapse	
Political violence	Lack of clear legislation (land ownership)	
Territorial disputes	Ethnic tension	
Systemic instability	General despair	
Weak sense of citizenship	Conflicting ideological systems	
Weakness of state institutions	Restriction of movement	
Corruption	Influx of refugees	

Conflict and Peace Indicators
Caucasus – October 2000
FEWER
PPR –01.2001

Zaire

Structural factors

- Ruling class relied entirely on having control over the economy and means of forces
- Annual income fell in the 1980s by an average of 1.3% per year (UNDP)
- 70% of the population under the poverty threshold
- Summary executions, disappearances, torture, illegal imprisonment, politically inspired persecution on an ethnic basis
- Cannibalisation of the state by the political elite
- Growth in military expenditures
- Unpaid soldiers
- Standards in health and nutrition have decreased sharply

Early Warning and Humanitarian Intervention Zaire: March-December 1996 - By Howard Alderman
PPR –01.2001

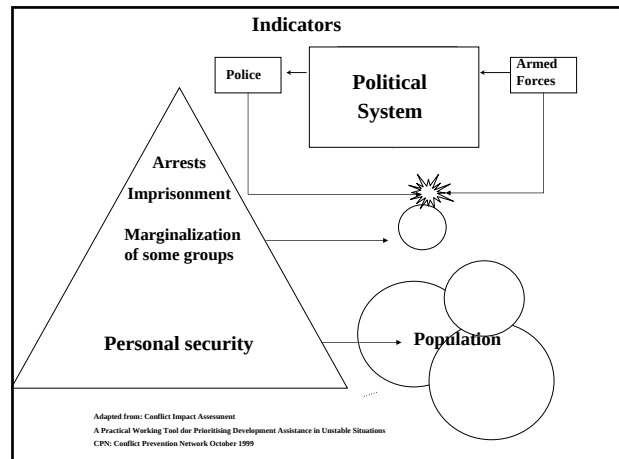
Indicators: Qualities

Clarity: the information must not be ambiguous and it should be reliable

Accuracy: the information must not only be clear, but it should also paint a true picture of existing events and phenomena

Meaningful: the information must contribute to a better understanding of the situation

Early warning and conflict prevention Minerva's wisdom Ruddy Doom Koen
Vlassenroot – Journal of Humanitarian Assistance July 1997



Sources of Informations

Types:

- . Background reports (Country profiles)
- . Official (Ministries)
- . NGOs
- . U.N.
- . Populations

Sources of Informations

Sources of informations:

- . Reliability
- . Security for the providers of information

Analysis of information

- . Analyse the indicators (relevance)
- . Analyse methods for collecting data
- . Analyse trends
- . Explain trends en relation with events

From Data to Decisions

« It is widely recognised that most conflicts that result in humanitarian tragedies have not been the result of lack of early warning, but rather because of the lack of political will to intervene at an appropriate time »

Journal of Humanitarian Assistance, Preventive Diplomacy: the Case of Sudan (Accord 1997)

From data to decisions

« Rwanda was anything but spontaneous...It appeared that long before the tragedy, NGOs, UN agencies and other observers in the country were aware and concerned about the impending violence. They'd watched and listened and reported on the heightening tension and extremist rhetoric. Grave warnings of a planned coup, an assault on UN forces, provocation to resume the civil war, and even detailed plans of genocidal killings in the capital, reached the UN secretariat in January 1994. The cable documenting this information was placed in a separated 'black file', designed to draw attention to its content and be circulated throughout the UN Secretariat. But senior officials questioned its validity, and made no contingency plans to avert the crisis. »

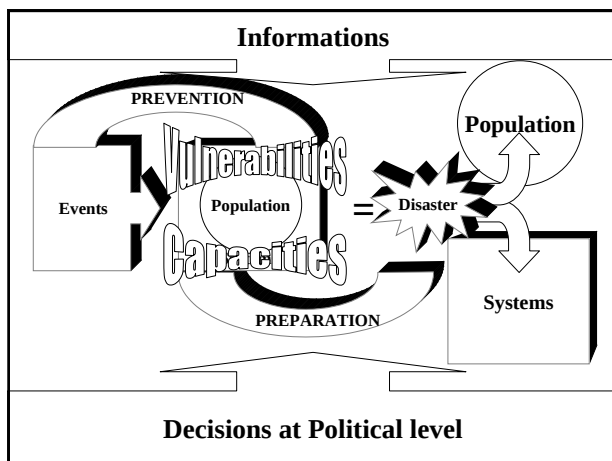
Country Indicators for Foreign Policy - S. Ampleford July 2000

Zaire

« The eruption in Zaire itself happened after the occurrence of two events. Firstly, the Zairean government threatened to expel the 300'000 Banyamulenge in Zaire. Secondly, the interahamwe and ex-FAR combined with Zairean army units to undertake ethnic cleansing of the Banyamulenge in the Masisi region in North Kivu in May 1996.

The violence escalated in the eastern region of Masisi as Zairean forces, former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu refugees targeted Tutsi villagers who had lived in the region for decades. »

Early Warning and Humanitarian Intervention Zaire: March-December 1996 By Howard Alderman PPR -01.2001



How to influence the political level ?

Reliable information

Diplomacy

Media

Groups (Physicians against nuclear wars)

Groups specific to a given situation