Strengthening national data collection for 16.1.2 (conflict-related deaths) and 6.10.1 (killings and other attacks against journalists, human rights defenders and trade unionists)

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Syria - Conflict-related deaths (16.1.2)
Concentric approach to conflict-related deaths

Figure 1: Concentric approach

1. Documented deaths caused by use of weapons or other means and methods
   • Civilians
   • Other persons killed
   - (“direct”)
   - [casualty recording]

2. Estimation of undocumented deaths caused by use of weapons or other means and methods
   - (“direct”)
   - [statistical estimates/surveys]

3. Estimation of all deaths caused by use of weapons or other means, methods or factors (excess mortality)
   - (“direct/indirect”)
   - [statistical estimates/surveys]
In its resolutions 46/22 and 49/27, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to resume its work to **establish, document and publish the extent of civilian casualties in the Syrian Arab Republic**, in cooperation with civil society, in order to **fully assess the number of people killed as a result of 10 years of conflict**. Building on previous efforts on casualty recording and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals indicator 16.1.2 on conflict-related deaths, **OHCHR presents its statistical analysis covering the period from March 2011 to March 2021**.
How was it done?
8 sources

- Damascus Center for Human Rights Studies (DCHRS)
- Center for Statistics and Research–Syria (CSR-SY)
- Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR)
- Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR)
- Violations Documentation Center (VDC)
- Syrian Arab Republic Government records
- Syria Shuhada records
- OHCHR Syria records

Documented deaths (civilians and non-civilians)

Undocumented civilian deaths

Disaggregated by:
- Year
- Sex
- Age
- Governorate

Statistical estimation

Disaggregated by:
- Year
- Sex
- Age
- Governorate
- Cause of death (weapon)
- Actor alleged to have caused the death
- Civilian status
FROM CASUALTY RECORDS TO STATISTICAL ESTIMATES IN FOUR STEPS
Results
The extent of the civilian casualties in the last ten years of conflict represents a staggering **1.5% of the total population** of the Syrian Arab Republic at the beginning of the conflict.
For the documented civilian deaths, the number of deaths mostly decreased after 2012. However, according to the estimated figures, while deaths were extremely high in 2012, they peaked in 2013, with a possible further spike in 2014-2015 before decreasing quite significantly in 2016. Between 2016-2018, it is possible that the civilian deaths increased again slightly. From 2018 onwards, both the documented and estimated figures show a continuous reduction in the number of civilian deaths.

Explanation for the pattern of civilian deaths described above may be found in changes in the areas of influence by the different actors in the conflict. For example, the Commission reported that between 2012 and 2016, various armed groups and later United Nations designated terrorist groups gained control over increasing numbers of cities and towns with significant populations.
Raising awareness about the impact of the conflict using statistical estimates

War has killed 1.5% of Syria's population: UN estimate

By Emma Farge

Decade of conflict in Syria claims over 306,000 civilian lives: UN report

GENEVA, June 28 (Xinhua) - The conflict in Syria claimed the lives of 306,887 civilians between March 1, 2011 and March 31, 2021, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Office said on Tuesday.

In a report, mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, the office referred to 143,350 civilian deaths that have been individually documented by various sources with detailed information, including at least their full name, date and location of death.
Philippines – 16.1.2 and 16.10.1
Administrative Order No. 249 mandated the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) to integrate principles of a human rights-based approach in the formulation of the country’s development policies.

Capacity building workshop and webinar for strengthening the Philippines’ capacity in compiling data, reporting, and using the SDG indicators 16.1.2 and 16.10.1

Signing of MoU between the CHR and PSA and preparation of a joint operational plan

National workshop for the implementation of SDG indicators 16.1.2 and 16.10.1 and a capacity building and experience sharing workshop for civil society data providers to CHR and PSA

Contextualization of the metadata for SDG indicators 16.1.2 and 16.10.1

Approval of the metadata by the responsible bodies and implementation of framework for data collection and sharing
Kenya – 16.10.1
MAIN ELEMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

• Embedding of SDG indicator as a monitoring tool vis-à-vis domestic legal framework on protection of human rights defenders and journalists

• Designation of Kenyan National Human Rights Commission as national data provider for this indicator with main responsibility for case verification of its own cases, integration of case information from partners, capacity building

• Identification of data contributing partners
  - State: Independent Policing Authority, National Crime Research Centre, Judiciary, Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, National Police Service
  - Non-State: Defenders Coalition, Independent Medical Legal Unit, Muslims for Human Rights, HAKI AFRICA, Media Council of Kenya, Central Organization of Trade Unions, Social Justice Centres Working Group

• Contextualization of terms, verification standard and other methodological elements

• Role of Statistics Bureau in developing descriptive statistical analysis

• Data exchange framework with OHCHR as international custodian agency
Thank you
#standup4humanrights