

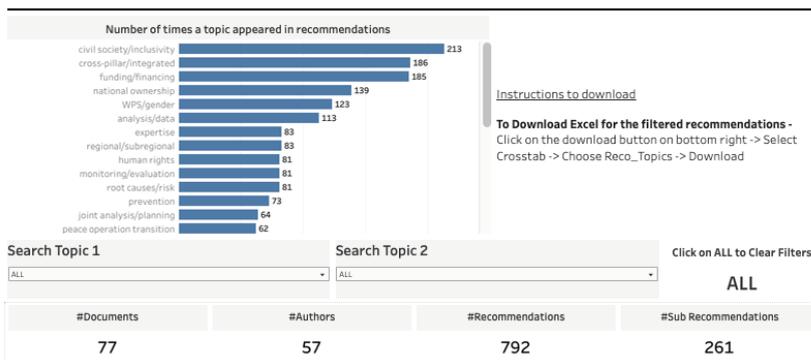
NYU | CENTER ON
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Annual Report 2021-2022





Recommendations Search by Topics



Top left: Meeting of the GENSAC Regional Focal Points and Strategic Partners in Berlin, Germany, (front row from left to right) Regina Outtara (GENSAC member, Mali), Maria Pia Devoto (GENSAC member, Argentina), Folade Mutota (GENSAC member, Trinidad and Tobago), Alejandra Otamendi (GENSAC member Brazil), Magda Coss (GENSAC member, Mexico), Hana Salam (GENSAC partner, UNIDIR), Luigi De Martino (GENSAC partner, Small Arms Survey), (back row) Dragan Bozanic (GENSAC partner, UNDP SEESAC), Daniel Mack (Senior Advisor, NYU CIC); Top right: Nadiem Anwar Makarim, Minister of Education, Indonesia, speaking at Emancipating Education event in New York, US. September 2022; Middle right: Civil society meeting with US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, (left to right) Arsène Mukendi (Country Liaison Officer, Dallaire Institute for Peace, Children, and Security), Denis Mukwege (2018 Nobel Peace Prize laureate), Antony Blinken (US Secretary of State), Julienne Lusenge (Co-Founder, Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral), Fred Bauma (Executive Secretary, Ebuteli), Father Rigobert Minani (Head of Research, Centre d'Études pour l'Action Sociale), Kinshasa, DRC. August 2022; Bottom left: screenshot of the Peacebuilding Architecture Review Matrix of Recommendations tool; Bottom right: (top row from left to right) Paige Arthur (Non-Resident Fellow, NYU CIC), Sarah Telford (Lead, UN OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data), Angela Odour Lungati (Executive Director, Ushahidi); (bottom row from left to right) Robert Kirkpatrick (Executive Director, UN Global Pulse), Patrick Vinck (Director of Research, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative) at the Emerging Technologies in Peacebuilding and Prevention workshop, December 2021.

Letter from the Executive Director

During this past year, we have seen continual challenges dealing with the socio-economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic on our societies globally, in addition to the growing divide between Western countries focused on the war in Ukraine and other countries confronted with multiple crises.

Our commentary at the beginning of 2022 on risks and solutions highlighted the shift in ranking between major global powers and the potential for violence, compounded by rising domestic and international inequality, macroeconomic failures, and COVID-19. We pointed to the danger of a Russian war on Ukraine, amongst other rises in geopolitical tensions. Soon after, the invasion in February did indeed create an abrupt and significant change in the multilateral landscape.

We have maintained our core mission of crisis prevention and the promotion of peace, justice, equality, and inclusion, while addressing the implications of this new crisis. We are not a regionally-focused think tank, our comparative advantage has been in understanding the secondary implications of the war, and how they affect international unity to address crises elsewhere. We have also adapted our long-term objectives in three ways: analyzing different global perspectives and what is needed for unity; galvanizing attention to forgotten crises; and supporting cross-regional action.

Analysis on divisions and unity. In 2022, we published analyses and conducted briefings for member states related to different worldwide perspectives on the Ukraine war, and what would be needed to maintain unity, as well as the heating up of development competition between the US and China.

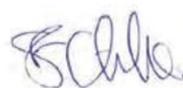
To galvanize attention on “*forgotten crises*,” we have undertaken a joint study with Chatham House on “Staying engaged: aid modalities in politically-estranged circumstances,” providing analysis on fragile and conflict-affected states including Afghanistan, Great Lakes and Central Africa, Libya, West Africa, Myanmar, Venezuela, and Yemen. Almost half of the population of fragile states is now living in situations in which governments have taken power unconstitutionally through coups d’etats and highly contested elections, or where large-scale international sanctions are in place—the study identifies how international assistance can work to foster positive outcomes in these

circumstances.

Additionally, we have expanded our work on the “*forgotten crisis*” in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to help establish a new Congolese think tank that provides analysis on political dynamics, security, and political economy. We are proud to have supported the capacity of leading Congolese analysts to give greater voice to the issues facing their country. In a different region, we are also proud to host a member of the UN Commission of Inquiry in Syria, and support associated work on creating an international mechanism to search for the missing and disappeared.

Cross-regional alliances and development results on the ground. Lastly, we have prioritized cross-regional initiatives engaging countries with different perspectives on the Ukraine war in cooperation to move forward on other issues. Through our multistakeholder partnership, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, we support three cross-regional member state structures covering access to justice, inequality and exclusion, and violence prevention. We also supported three joint statements from the Pathfinders member states to the UN—first on the relationship between equality and conflict during the Mexican Presidency of the UN Security Council, another on vaccine equity at the February 2022 Summit, and the third on reimagining social contracts through putting people at the center of justice. We have supported country level results—often through partnerships between the UN and the World Bank and IMF—in Afghanistan, Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, Libya, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone. Finally, our team contributed to the recent UN resolution on financing peacebuilding through our Good Peacebuilding Financing initiative.

Now more than ever, CIC remains deeply grateful to all our partners and donors who support us in this critical work as together, we navigate the evolving global landscape where cross-regional and cross-worldview alliances are critical to our survival in the face of multiple crises.



Sarah Cliffe
Executive Director, CIC



CIC in the Media

CIC's expertise has been increasingly profiled in the global media. Over the last year, our staff and fellows were featured on television, broadcast radio, and print/digital media, covering topics such as the conflict in Ukraine, analysis on political economy in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN General Assembly, among other urgent issues.



Executive Director Sarah Cliffe (right) providing live commentary to ABC News on potential risks and consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, March 2022.



Associate Director Leah Zamore speaking to Voice of America on the unfolding refugee crisis in Ukraine, March 2022.



Non-Resident Fellow Fred Bauma interviewed by French outlet, Geopolis TV, about the Congo Research Group, December 2021.



Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

In 2021-22, the Pathfinders welcomed four new member states and continued to advance our work on peace, justice, and inclusion.

CIC hosts the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a group of UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society, and private sector actors working to accelerate the delivery of the SDG targets for peace, justice, and inclusion (SDG16+).

This year, we welcomed four new Pathfinders—Bangladesh, Namibia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Senegal—bringing our membership up to **43 countries**. Throughout 2021-22, we mobilized action on SDG16+, hosting strategy discussions among the Halving Global Violence Task Force to lay the groundwork for its flagship report, convening the Justice Action Coalition to develop a Joint Action Plan to make measurable progress towards providing equal access to justice for all, and hosting regional launches of the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion’s Flagship Report. The Pathfinders continued to play an active part in our role as a steering committee member of the Global SDG16+ Coalition, mobilizing the SDG16+ community, organizing events and workshops highlighting the interlinkages between SDG16+ and the rest of the SDG Agenda. Finally, with the launch of the ‘Pathfinders Trailblazers’—such as the Young Justice Leaders—we made strides in expanding our inclusion of the perspectives and expertise of young people in the work of the Grand Challenges moving forward.

The Grand Challenge on Justice

This year, the Grand Challenge on Justice continued to focus its attention on consolidating



From left to right: Yvette van Eechoud (Director Western Hemisphere, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Karina Gerlach (Senior Advisor, Pathfinders), Jairo Acuña (Team Leader, UNDP), Rivana Barreto Ricarte de Oliveira (Vice Coordinator, AIDEF; President, ANADEP), Maria Fernanda Rodriguez (Senior Fellow, Pathfinders), Mariano Guillén-Oquendo Martínez (Director, Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas), Grace Hulseman (Senior Research Associate, World Justice Project), Marco Fandiño Castro, (Chief of Cooperation and International Matters, Ministry of Justice, Chile), Luciana Bercovich (Network Manager, NAMATT), Maaïke de Langen (Senior Advisor, Pathfinders) at the launch of the Ibero-American Alliance at the World Justice Forum in the Hague, Netherlands. May 2022.

and strengthening political and financial support for national action on people-centered justice at global, regional, and national levels. In December 2021, justice leaders from 22 countries **adopted the Riga Agenda**, highlighting the importance of people-centered justice at the second Global Week for Justice, hosted by the government of Latvia, and co-organized by the OECD, the Pathfinders, and Open Government Partnership. Additionally, the Pathfinders, The Elders, and the g7+ supported the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to host a Ministerial meeting of the Justice Action Coalition where ministers and their deputies from 17 countries **launched the 2023 Justice Appeal**, calling on countries and justice actors to make the pivot to people-centered justice. In the past year, the Justice Action Coalition also convened on multiple occasions at the senior level to finalize the Joint Action Plan and take forward the decisions of the Ministerial

meeting. The program partnered with ODI to convene two donor dialogues with the support of Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss strategies for investing in scalable solutions to achieve SDG 16.3.

In May 2022, the Grand Challenge co-organized the World Justice Forum 2022, where the first cohort of the Young Justice Leaders was launched through an intergenerational dialogue with the chair of The Elders, Mary Robinson. The **Ibero-American Alliance for Access to Justice** was also launched at the Forum, presenting its vision and goals to the global community.

At a national level, the program supported the Rule of Law Collaborative to undertake country missions in Sierra Leone and Liberia to support people-centered national action. In Indonesia, the program co-organized a discussion between the Indonesian planning department, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Colombian planning department, and the North Macedonia Ministry of Justice to discuss ways to use data for people-centered policy making at Indonesia Netherlands Legal Update.

The Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion

The first phase of the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion culminated in the publication of the Flagship Report, “From rhetoric to action: Delivering equality and inclusion,” which lays out a menu of options of over 20 policy areas to build more equitable and inclusive societies. Following the launch of the report during the UN General Assembly in 2021, which featured seven Heads of State, government, and other global leaders, the Grand Challenge has continued providing research on best practice policies in areas such as access to housing, justice, cost-of-living crises (i.e. inflation, food insecurity, energy), is exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine. **Country visits to Sierra Leone, Costa Rica, Spain, Sweden, Jordan, Canada, and Indonesia** have served to identify national



Participants at the Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion’s workshop on divisive narratives in Madrid, Spain. September 2022.

priorities, opportunities, and gaps in delivering equality and inclusion, as well as documenting best practices and fostering country-to-country exchange on lessons learned in tackling inequality and exclusion. This could be seen in Sierra Leone, where a partnership on access to housing is bringing stakeholders together to develop a housing policy to tackle urban inequality, or in Mexico where discussions are implementing a new tool to measure the disconnect between exclusion and service responses.

Through events at international and regional forums like the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, the UN Economic and Social Commission on Western Asia’s Arab Forum for Equality, and the World Justice Forum, among others; member countries and partners have discussed the recommendations of the Flagship Report and shared national and local experiences in implementing policies in key areas such as social protection, access to justice, and combating racism and discrimination. Furthermore, in the face of increased divisions within and across countries, the Pathfinders are working on developing effective narratives of solidarity that unite rather than divide groups in society. Further international collective action will be pursued by the new Alliance for Action on Inequality and Division, launched in the fall of 2022.

The Grand Challenge on Halving Global Violence

The Halving Global Violence (HGV) Task Force is aiming to produce a flagship report that unites knowledge across urban, interpersonal and gender-based violence reduction by the end of 2023. Through a series of in-depth virtual discussions, as well as a high-level in-person meeting that took place over September 2022 in Geneva (hosted by co-chairs from Costa Rica, South Africa, and Switzerland), Task Force members, experts, and advisors identified local, national, and international interventions on which to gather analysis, as well as launching work on the business case for investment in violence reduction. The Geneva meeting—hosted by co-chairs from Switzerland and South Africa, with ministerial-level representation from Costa Rica, and the Democratic Republic of Congo—also included consideration of launching pilot violence reduction projects in select localities to illustrate progress on SDG 16.1 and other related peace targets.

Over the course of the past year, the HGV team's regional and local-level initiatives have also continued to strengthen their influence. First, the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) supported its members across four geographic zones (Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Balkans, Western Balkans). Different activities included advocacy in West Africa on the role women's networks can play in early warning of arms flow into communities and establishing a mechanism to use and act upon this information with relevant commissions, advocating for legislative change on gun ownership for those with prior records of domestic violence in Latin America, regional dialogues between parliamentarians and small arms control experts, and facilitating an inter-faith dialogue in the conflict-prone Casamance region of Senegal.

Second, the Peace in Our Cities (PiOC) Network turned three years old and welcomed new city and community-based civil society members into their community, which now numbers 23 cities and 34 community-based organizations and international

partners. It also continued to foster exchange of knowledge and best practices, informed by pilot projects in select cities supported by the Peace Incentive Fund. Several Peace Incentive Fund recipients, notably cities of Guadalajara and Escobedo in Mexico, leveraged these pilot projects for further investments in violence reduction. The city of Palmira in Colombia received global recognition and additional funds for their initiative as the recipient of the 2022 United Cities Local Government Peace Prize.

Throughout the year, PiOC facilitated the participation of city leaders in key discussions at prominent global policy forums, including the UN High-Level Week, and responded to growing number of city members' requests for expertise to deliver on their commitment to reduce levels of urban violence in their communities by 50 percent by 2030. Both initiatives remain firmly embedded in the broader HGV Task Force strategy, with gender and small arms control and city-level action now confirmed to be part of the Task Force Flagship Report.



Mayor Paula Mascharenas of Pelotas (Brazil), a member of the Peace in Our Cities network interviewed by Congolese TV, which covered Mm. Irène Essambo Diata's (Minister-delegate to Minister of Social Affairs, Democratic Republic of Congo) participation at the Halving Global Violence Task Force meeting in Geneva, Switzerland. September 2022.

This year at CIC



Public launch of Ebuteli, CRG's research partner in the DRC (from left to right) Jason Stearns, Senior Fellow, NYU CIC and Assistant Professor of International Studies, Simon Fraser University; Nissé Mughendi, Professor of Political Science, Catholic University of Graben, Butembo, DRC; Moïse Nyarugabo, MP for Uvira district, South Kivu, DRC; Juvénal Munubo, MP for Walikale district, North Kivu, DRC; Joshua Walker, CRG Director of Programs, NYU CIC. Kinshasa, DRC.

CRG launches partnership with Ebuteli and hosts first joint policy retreat in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Pathfinders issues joint statement on vaccine summit

Pathfinders hosts senior-level meeting to finalize the Justice Action Coalition's Joint Action Plan

Pathfinders sponsors statement at the UN Security Council on the links between inequality, injustice, and conflict

Defending Multilateralism presents at high-level multistakeholder interactive dialogue on private sector's contribution to peacebuilding hosted by South Africa and the UN

Pathfinders hosts second Global Week for Justice

Prevention and Peacebuilding hosts virtual workshop on Emerging Technology in Peacebuilding and Prevention: Lessons learned from Humanitarian Actors

Humanitarian Crises co-organizes high-level retreat on the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus with UN ESCWA in Jordan

Pathfinders convenes mayors for the "Cities at the Global Policy Table: Solutions Providers for Violence Reduction and SDG16+ Implementation"

CIC takes part in the launch of the IMF Fragility Strategy

Pathfinders hosts International Women's Day advocacy event in four African countries: Senegal, Burkina Faso, the DRC, and Mali

Pathfinders and The Elders host the State of Hope High-Level Gathering on Access to Justice

Prevention and Peacebuilding publishes report on Good Peacebuilding Financing: Recommendations for Revitalizing Commitments

Syria: Advocacy from CIC and partners was crucial in the passage of an UNGA resolution on Syria's missing and disappeared

Defending Multilateralism hosts two briefings for UN Resident Coordinators on the IMF
CRG publishes COVID-19 Business in DRC: Rethinking Epidemic Responses



Sarah Cliffe, Executive Director, NYU CIC, and Ousmane Diagana, Vice President of Western & Central Africa, World Bank, during a session during the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s conference on Fragility, Conflict, and Macroeconomic Policy in a Shock-Prone World, Washington D.C., US. June 2022. Photo Credit: IMF.

Humanitarian Crises

convenes high-level roundtable on Justice for Refugees in the Netherlands

Pathfinders host GENSAC's second annual meeting: "Galvanizing action for bulletproof inclusion"

Pathfinders co-hosts the World Justice Forum in the Netherlands

Pathfinders presents at UN ESCWA's Arab Equality Forum in Jordan

Prevention and Peacebuilding

publishes *Four reasons why the New Agenda for Peace should focus on nationally led prevention strategies*

Pathfinders hosts a meeting with PGA-elect to discuss upcoming general assembly term

Pathfinders hosts second annual meeting of the Halving Global Violence Task Force in Geneva, co-chaired by Costa Rica, South Africa, Switzerland

Pathfinders hosts a narratives and messaging workshop on how to build unity in polarized societies in Spain, attended by 30+ attendees from 15+ countries

CIC announces hosting of g7+ Secretariat and presents on politically-estranged situations in a top donor meeting

Pathfinders event celebrating SDG16+ work during COVID-19
CIC holds member state briefings on aid in politically estranged circumstances

APR 22

MAY 22

JUN 22

JUL 22

AUG 22

SEP 22

CIC holds briefings with member states on differences in global perceptions after the invasion of Ukraine, and what it would take to maintain unity

Prevention and Peacebuilding visits cities across Colombia to gather evidence on good practices and lessons learned on effective conflict-sensitive responses to COVID-19



Attendees at Pathfinders meeting with the ARAG Group on people-centered justice. From left to right: Tobijn de Graauw (Advisor, Justice Leaders), Salaheddin al-Bashir (Justice Leaders member, former Minister of Justice of Jordan), Kalthoum Kennou (Justice Leaders member, former judge at the Court of Cassation of Tunisia), Sam Muller (CEO and Founder of HiiL), Düsseldorf, Germany. May 2022.

CRG launches joint poll report public opinion in the DRC with Ebuteli

Syria: UN secretary-general releases report on missing/ disappeared in Syria, following consultations involving CIC

Humanitarian Crises convenes inaugural meeting of informal HDP nexus advisory group

Pathfinders presents at "Overcoming Divisions to Build Pluralist Societies" event in Canada

Defending Multilateralism moderates session at the IMF's Fragility, Conflict, and Macroeconomic Policy in a Shock-Prone World conference in Washington D.C.

Defending and Promoting Multilateralism

Over the last year, CIC maintained a strong emphasis on the multilateral system's effectiveness in the context of the UN's *Our Common Agenda*, prolonged COVID-19 impacts, and the invasion of Ukraine.

In the past year, the Defending and Promoting Multilateralism program has tried to maintain cross-regional bridges amongst an increasingly polarized environment. We have done this by focusing directly on the effect of COVID-19 and the war on Ukraine on divisions in the multilateral system, as well as on areas of collaboration between the UN and the IFIs which are becoming increasingly important given the linkage of economic issues for global conflict.

CIC published eight pieces from the multilateral program on this theme, pointing to issues of different public opinion, double standards, socio-economic impact, and process issues over how resolutions were passed. This analysis was sensitive at first, but gained traction, and now there has been demand for several internal member state briefings on how these divisions are being seen, with a particular emphasis on the relation of geopolitical divisions and economic issues.

We also provided initial commentaries on the UN secretary-general's *Our Common Agenda* report. We lauded its visionary outlook, while cautioning on the number and coordination of summits recommended. This latter point became evident in the course of the year, as member states resisted having the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future on the same date. We provided input to the secretary-general's office and member states on substantive ideas during this process, with particular emphasis on economic governance, emergency response questions, social contract, people-centered justice, and multi-stakeholder

approaches to violence reduction. Many of these ideas were taken up by member states in their inputs to the 2021 consultations on the common agenda and the later 2022 February consultations.

We have also continued to deepen our program on **UN-IFI cooperation**. In September 2022, the program supported a meeting of UN Permanent Representatives, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Directors to discuss macroeconomic risks, political economy, and peacebuilding. The meeting agreed on the need to deepen strategic discussions between member states in the three institutions, focusing particularly on crisis prevention, country level collaboration, and lessons from the field on policy reform. Since then, we have supported input to a regional situation and two country situations with high relevance and sensitivity to UN-IFI cooperation. At a more institutional level, we have contributed to the IMF Fragile States Strategy, and to initial thinking on the World Bank's mid-term review of its fragile states strategy.

CIC supported a joint statement by Pathfinders member states during the Mexican Presidency of the Security Council that highlighted the links between inequality, injustice, and conflict. In February 2022, CIC also worked to support a joint statement by member states, including Pathfinders countries and the Leaders Network, on vaccine equity during a UN High-level thematic debate.

Lastly, CIC continued to monitor UN **senior appointments**, and in the past year, the team evaluated gender parity, regional representation, and professional background in top leadership appointments at the UN.

Prevention and Peacebuilding

The Prevention and Peacebuilding program supports the United Nations and its member states in identifying practical means of operationalizing prevention at the country level.

Since 2017, the program has worked to translate the prevention agenda at the United Nations from rhetoric to practice. A key element of our work in the past year has been to identify lessons learned on how the United Nations can support national actors in mitigating the impact of external shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, including through field research in Colombia. We also helped maintain political momentum on good peacebuilding financing in the lead-up to the UN General Assembly high-level meeting in April 2022, including through the development of a dashboard to track the recommendations from the 2020 peacebuilding architecture review.

We have also focused on how the United Nations can better support **nationally led violence prevention strategies**. In the past year, we initiated a series of consultations with experts and officials to dispel myths about prevention and to identify principles and best practices that can be captured in guidelines that countries can use to develop and implement their own strategies. We have also collaborated with other programs in CIC, in particular the Pathfinders' Justice for All team, to strengthen references in UN debates to often-ignored aspects of peacebuilding such as Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS)—resulting increased references to these in UN Peacebuilding Commission debates.

Our **Data for Prevention and Peacebuilding** project worked to harness advances in data to facilitate preventative action that can better support populations in fragile and conflict-affected countries. In addition to our work to foster a community of practice—hosting monthly Data for Peace dialogues and a two-day conference on Emerging Technologies in Peacebuilding and

Prevention: Lessons Learned from Humanitarian Actors—we have also begun to explore the development of a data hub for prevention and peacebuilding, building on our earlier work to develop a data ecosystem map.



Top: H.E. Anna Karin Eneström, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN (middle), Sarah Cliffe, Executive Director, NYU CIC (right), and Kadi Doumbia, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN (left) at High-Level meeting on Peacebuilding Financing in New York, US. April 2022; Bottom: Site visit to civic trust building community event with the city's non-violence secretary in Medellín, Colombia. April 2022.

Congo Research Group

The Congo Research Group is dedicated to understanding the relationship between violence, politics, and governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and how it affects millions of Congolese.

In 2021-22, CRG was delighted to welcome the launch of **Ebuteli**, a Congolese nongovernmental organization. Since February 2022, Ebuteli has been CRG's main research partner in the DRC and it is a Kinshasa-based research institute dedicated to analyzing politics, governance, and violence.

This past year saw CRG continue its program on political accountability, “Mukalenga wa Bantu.” We organized several public forums in Congolese cities (Kinshasa, Kananga, Lubumbashi, and Kisangani) to discuss the analyses produced by Talatala, our DRC parliamentary and government tracker. In addition, we organized two policy retreats with Ebuteli in February and July 2022 on accountability, elections, stabilization, and the fight against corruption. CRG also published three public opinion poll reports on political disengagement, President Félix Tshisekedi's third year in office, and the Congolese people's thirst for democracy.

Our work on security also continued apace as we continued to strengthen our documentation of violence in the eastern Congo through the **Kivu Security Tracker**, which tracks all conflict-related violence in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri—this last province was added in April 2021. We hired new staff to bolster this project, which has documented over 10,000 violent incidents since 2017. In addition, we began a new series of reports on insecurity in the eastern Congo, which began with an analysis published in June 2022 on the Ugandan army's recent intervention. Additionally, we launched a new series of blog posts and reports on insecurity and politics in the Uélé provinces.



CRG/Ebuteli meeting with DRC National Assembly president. (From left to right) Felly Mpita (advisor to DRC National Assembly president), Alice Violet (CRG Program Officer, NYU CIC), Sarah Cliffe (Executive Director, NYU CIC), Christophe Mbozo (President, DRC National Assembly), Ange Makadi Ngoy (Researcher, Ebuteli), Fred Bauma (Executive Secretary, Ebuteli), Trésor Kibangula (Head, National Politics Research, Ebuteli), Kinshasa, DRC. February 2022.

Finally, our work on governance saw the publication of a report on the embezzlement of public funds by members of former president Kabila's family in December 2021. This report was part of a consortium's efforts—the Congo Hold-up—based on the largest confidential data leak from Africa to date. Governance work also included the publication of another report on the losses to the Congolese treasury's losses due to customs exemptions. While continuing its podcast with special guests on the important issues of Congolese public life, “Masolo Ya Kati,” CRG also continued its popular series of weekly analyses of Congolese current events, “Po na GEC.”

Humanitarian Crises

The Humanitarian Crises program is guided by the conclusions of our major, multi-year review of efforts by the UN and its partners to operationalize the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding (HDP) nexus, and in particular to collectively address the risks and inequities that lock people into crisis, often for generations on end.

The pandemic, and more recently, the war in Ukraine, have only reinforced the necessity (and difficulty) of such collaborative action to resolve protracted crises, given their interlocking health, humanitarian, economic, and political repercussions.

Over the past year, we have supported multilateral actors to unpack and navigate this evolving political economy of crisis, including through a series of consultations and convenings with an aim to generate and socialize an updated set of ideas to enhance the capacity of the UN to deliver on the nexus and collectively navigate today's HDP landscape. Simultaneously, we have co-organized events for government officials, developed training materials for national actors, produced country-level case studies on HDP dynamics, provided briefings and policy advice to donors on localization, and served as a platform for informal, frank dialogue between and among national and international policymakers. This all has fed into our work to build more effective collective action at the country level to address both immediate humanitarian needs and the longer-term development and peacebuilding challenges, as well as building deeper understanding of linkages in the HDP nexus.



From left to right: Sam Muller (CEO and Founder of HiIL), Léah Guyot (Program Associate, NYU CIC), Emily Arnold-Fernandez (former CEO, Asylum Access), Salaheddin Al-Bashir (Former Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Board for the Justice Center for Legal Aid, Jordan), Maaïke de Langen (Senior Advisor, NYU CIC), Leah Zamore (Associate Director, NYU CIC), Eva de Boer (Policy Officer, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ana Uzelac, (Senior Policy Officer, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Agnès Hurwitz (Senior Development Officer, UNHCR) during the Justice for Refugees High-level roundtable in the Hague, Netherlands. May 2022.

We have also zeroed in on particular HDP risks, such as **access to justice for refugees and internally displaced people**, which we believe require greater policy attention and innovation.

In the next year, CIC will continue its work in these areas, with a particular focus on **UN reform and capacity on the nexus** (including the strategic and financing role of donors); the interplay between the nexus and localization, with a particular emphasis on the role of public institutions; and implications for the nexus of the rise in contexts where there is a major disconnect between the international community and the national government.

Syria

With the appointment in 2017 of Hanny Megally, CIC's lead for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) program, to the UN Syria Commission of Inquiry (CoI), CIC's MENA program has focused on providing supportive analysis on how to improve justice outcomes for victims and survivors in Syria. This work has included an ongoing partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ).

Research and advocacy on Syria by CIC, ICTJ, and the CoI have focused on several issues—the impact of the pandemic; the humanitarian situation and aid modalities; the challenges of obtaining or renewing civil documentation; internment and repatriation of families of suspected ISIL fighter—and in particular the issue of the missing/disappeared in Syria.

Over 2021-22, the focus has been on the issue of the missing/disappeared through participation in consultations—many organized by the Families Associations supported by member states; meeting and advocating with key UN officials and diplomats; addressing the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the issue in October 2021 and publishing a policy paper with the CoI in June 2022.

Results have been as follows:

- Advocacy was instrumental in the passage of an UNGA resolution in December 2021 that resulted in a study released by the UN secretary-general in August 2022. The study calls for the establishment of an international mechanism to assist in the search for the missing/disappeared in Syria. The CIC lead had been involved in several consultations, including at Glion in February 2022, informing the drafting of the study.
- More recently, as a member of the CoI, the CIC lead has focused on efforts at the UN General Assembly to implement the recommendations of the secretary-general's study, including by addressing the Third Committee, eliciting the support of the President of the General Assembly, and exploring with a number of key member states the process for establishing the mechanism. As part of this advocacy, several Op-Eds were also published in English, Arabic, Spanish, and German-based media such as *Al Jazeera*, *The New Arab*, *Página 12*, and *Tagesspiegel*.



UN CoI Commissioners Hanny Megally (left), Chair Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (middle), and Lynn Welchman (right) at a press conference launching the CoI's report on the Syrian human rights situation. Geneva, Switzerland. September 2022.



Staff photo during the Pathfinders reception on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum in New York, US. July 2022.

Donor Acknowledgments

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Internews Europe

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Open Society Foundations

Robert Bosch Stiftung

Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors

Schmidt Family Foundation

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

United Nations Development Coordination Office (UNDCO)

University of San Diego

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