Contents

1. Overview.......................................................................................................................... 3
2. People .................................................................................................................................. 4
3. Output summary................................................................................................................... 5
   3.1 Blogs............................................................................................................................... 5
   3.2 Events............................................................................................................................. 6
3.3 Publications......................................................................................................................... 8
   3.3.1 Journal articles........................................................................................................... 8
   3.3.2 Books ......................................................................................................................... 9
   3.3.3 Book chapters........................................................................................................... 9
   3.3.4 Policy briefs and reports.......................................................................................... 10
   3.3.5 Conference Papers................................................................................................... 11
   3.3.6 Analyses and op-eds............................................................................................... 12
4. Other activities...................................................................................................................... 13
1. Overview

The Norwegian Centre for Humanitarian Studies (NCHS) is established by CMI, NUPI and PRIO, with the aim to promote and facilitate critical and relevant research on humanitarian issues. The Centre is financed by the Norwegian Research Council, and has four overarching objectives:

- To produce high quality, policy relevant research on humanitarian issues
- To establish a critical mass of Norwegian scholars working on humanitarian issues, and linking these up with international networks
- To serve as a key partner for discussion and analysis for humanitarian actors
- To stimulate public debate on humanitarian issues

The Centre's activities are organized under the following ongoing and past projects and initiatives:

**Technology Cluster**

- The Humanitarian Innovation Lab (PRIO and NTNU)
- The Critical Humanitarian Technology Project (ended in 2013) (PRIO and NUPI)

**Other Projects**

- Armed Violence in Urban Settings; New Challenges, New Humanitarianisms (NUPI and PRIO)
- Brazil's Rise to the Global Stage (BraGS) (PRIO and NUPI)
- Conflict of interest? 'Business for peace' as Development air in volatile environments (PRIO)
- Courting catastrophe? Humanitarian policy and practice in a changing climate (NMBU)
- The Criminology of Humanitarianism Research Network (UiO, PRIO and UiB)
- Economic Conditions of Displacement (NUPI and FAFO)
- Innovations in Peacebuilding: International norms and local dynamics (CMI, MFA and CCR)
- Protection of Civilians: From Principle to Practice (CMI, NUPI and PRIO)
- Violence against women and criminal justice in Afghanistan (CMI and RIWPS)

Under the umbrella of these projects and initiatives, the Centre has held 18 seminars and 4 workshops throughout 2015. These events engaged Norwegian and international academics, policy makers, practitioners and other actors from and with interest in the humanitarian field. As part of the NCHS projects, the scholars have also contributed to the Centre's academic and policy relevant portfolio through publications in peer reviewed journal articles, commentary pieces, op-eds, reports, policy briefs and guest blogs.
2. People

The Centre is led by Kristin B. Sandvik (Senior Researcher, PRIO), and consists of the following members:

**Board Members**

- Gunnar M. Sørbo (Senior Researcher, CMI)
- Marta Bivand Erdal (Senior Researcher, PRIO)
- Stein Sundstøl Eriksen (Research Professor, NUPI)

**CMI Members**

- Arne Strand (Deputy Director)
- Astri Suhrke (Senior Researcher)
- Kjetil Selvik (Senior Researcher)
- Liv Tønnessen (Senior Researcher)
- Per Aarvik (Research Assistant)
- Torunn Wimpelmann (Senior Researcher)

**NUPI Members**

- Benjamin de Carvalho (Senior Researcher)

**PRIO Members**

- Joakim Hertzberg Ulstein (Research Fellow)
- John Karlsrud (Senior Researcher)
- Jon Harald Sande Lie (Senior Researcher)
- Niels Nagelhus Schia (Research Fellow and PhD Candidate)
- Ole Jacob Sending (Senior Researcher)

The Centre also collaborates with partners from Norwegian and international universities, including:

- Brita Fladvad Nielsen (PhD Candidate, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway)
- Kjersti Lohne (PhD Candidate, UiO, Oslo, Norway)
- Julieta Lemaitre (Assosiate Professor, Universidad de los Andes Law School, Bogotá, Colombia)
- Aziz Hakimi (PhD Candidate, SOAS, United Kingdom)
3. Output Summary

The following sections comprise a summary of the Centre’s activities and outputs for the year of 2015. The first section gives an overview of the 16 blog posts published by NCHS members and guest authors. The second section shows the 18 seminars and 4 workshops held under the umbrella of the Centre, as well as some of the events planned for 2016. The third section lists the publications produced by NCHS researchers in 2015, as part of ongoing projects or otherwise linked to the field of humanitarianism. The last section outlines the various activities participated by NCHS researchers, highlighting their role in serving as key partners for discussion and analysis and stimulating public debate on humanitarian issues.

3.1 Blogs

In order to stimulate public debate on humanitarian issues, NCHS researchers and guest authors contributed with the following blog posts in 2015:

- **UN at War**
  February 13, 2015 — By John Karlsrud (NUPI)

- **Conundrums in the Embrace of the Private Sector**
  February 24, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO)

- **PoC as a concept for UN peacekeeping**
  February 26, 2015 — By Jon Harald Sande Lie (NUPI) and Benjamin de Carvalho (NUPI)

- **Evaluating Ebola: the politics of the military response narrative**
  March 16, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO)

- **Beyond Sexual Violence: Gendered Political Insecurity as a Threat to Peace**
  April 9, 2015 — By Julieta Lemaitre (Associate Professor, Universidad de los Andes Law School, Bogotá) and Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO)

- **Emergency Exit for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict**
  April 10, 2015 — By Kristoffer Lidén (PRIO)

- **Women’s Right to Abortion after Rape in Sudan**
  April 29, 2015 — By Liv Tønnessen (CMI)

- **Political Violence and Humanitarian Technology**
  May 5, 2015 — By Katja Lindskov Jacobsen (Metropolitan University College, Copenhagen, Denmark)

- **From IDPs to Victims in Colombia: Transition from Humanitarian Crisis through Law Reform?**
  June 16, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO) and Julieta Lemaitre (Associate Professor, Universidad de los Andes Law School, Bogotá)
• **Lethal Autonomous Weapons: Killing the ‘Robots-don’t-Rape’ Argument**  
  August 31, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO) and Kjersti Lohne (University of Oslo)

• **Expanding and improving the quality of girls’ education in Afghanistan**  
  September 1, 2015 — By Arne Strand (CMI)

• **A strange silence in Kabul**  
  October 6, 2015 — By Torunn Wimpelmann (CMI)

• **The Brazilian aid paradox**  
  December 1, 2015 — By Torkjell Leira (University of Oslo) and Maria Gabrielsen Jumbert (PRIO)

• **What’s Wrong with the Idea that ‘Robots don’t Rape?’**  
  December 2, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO) and Kjersti Lohne (University of Oslo)

• **Attacks on Humanitarian Aid Workers: Five New Findings**  
  December 4, 2015 — By Jason Miklian (PRIO), Håvard Mokleiv Nygård (PRIO) and Kristian Hoelscher (PRIO)

• **An academic New Year’s resolution for Colombia: understanding continued gendered violence as a threat to positive peace**  
  December 11, 2015 — By Kristin Bergtora Sandvik (PRIO)

### 3.2 Events

The Centre has also served as a forum for discussion and analysis among humanitarian actors in Norway, and engaged national and international networks working on humanitarian issues to participate in the following events in 2015:

#### Seminars

• **Building Peace in Permanent War: Terrorist Listing & Conflict Transformation**  
  February 26, 2015 — *PRIO, Oslo*

• **After Ebola? Local politics, global health and the militarization of aid**  
  March 3, 2015 — *PRIO, Oslo*

• **Humanitarian innovation and design seminar**  
  March 10, 2015 — *Department of Product Design, NTNU, Trondheim*

• **Humanitarianism and Return: Compromising protection?**  
  March 17, 2015 — *PRIO, Oslo*

• **Rights up Front and the Protections of Civilians: Towards Ensuring the Core Responsibilities of the UN?**  
  March 17, 2015 — *NUPI, Oslo*

• **Challenges to the Protection of Civilians**  
  March 26, 2015 — *NUPI, Oslo*
• Organizing disaster relief – managing chaos in Nepal
  May 5, 2015 - CMI and UiB, Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, Bergen

• A humanitarian crisis on the doorstep of Europe: Drivers, dynamics and challenges of increased migration across the Mediterranean
  May 20, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Aiding and protecting civilians in Syria
  June 9, 2015 — CMI and UiB, at Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, Bergen

• Brazil: An Emerging Humanitarian Power?
  June 10, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Education in emergencies and conflict/post-crisis with a particular focus on girls
  June 23, 2015 — CMI and UiB, at Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, Bergen

• Flyktningskrisens Vinnere og Tapere (The Refugee Crisis Winners and Losers)
  September 15, 2015 — NUPI, Oslo

• Three myths in our dealings with disasters, climate change and development
  September 15, 2015 — Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås

• How to make sense of a billion tweets?
  November 3, 2015 — CMI and UIB, at Egget, Studentsenteret, Bergen

• Digital Communication and Risk in the ‘Refugee Crisis’
  November 11, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Humanitarian markets: challenges and opportunities for innovation
  December 2, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Drones in Humanitarian Action: Uses, Opportunities and Challenges
  December 4, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Lethal Autonomous Weapons: the Challenge of Accountability
  December 10, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

Workshops

• Workshop - Brazil’s Rise to the Global Stage
  June 9, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo

• Workshop - Education in emergencies and conflict/post-crisis with a particular focus on girls
  June 24, 2015 — CMI and UIB, at Bergen Resource Centre for International Development, Bergen

• Workshop - Protection of Civilians: From Principle to Practice
  October 8-9, 2015 — PRIO, Oslo
For 2016, the following events have been planned:

- The Big Freeze: Storskog, Russia Politics and the End(s) of a Humanitarian Superpower
  February 19, 2016 — PRIO, Oslo

- Public Seminar: Humanitarian changes – humanitarian challenges
  April 27, 2016 — NUPI, Oslo

3.3 Publications
In addition to the Centre’s contribution through blogs and events, NCHS researchers have also produced a number of high quality academic and policy relevant research on humanitarian issues, as part of or inspired by past and ongoing research projects. These publications have been on issues ranging from protection of civilians, emerging humanitarian technologies, migration, refugees and displacement and emerging global powers.

3.3.1 Journal articles


Karlsrud, J. (2015). The UN at war: examining the consequences of peace-enforcement mandates for the UN peacekeeping operations in the CAR, the DRC and Mali. *Third World Quarterly, 36*(1), 40-54.


Sandvik, K. B. (2015). The humanitarian cyberspace: shrinking space or an expanding frontier?. *Third World Quarterly, 1*-


### 3.3.2 Books


### 3.3.3 Book Chapters


Sandvik, K. B. & Lemaitre, J. (2015). *From IDPs to Victims in Colombia: A Bottom-Up*


3.3.4 Policy Briefs and Reports


Tønnessen, L. (2015, November). *Curbing women activists in Darfur in the wake of the International Criminal Court* (CMI Insight No. 5). Bergen: CMI.


3.3.5 Conference Papers


3.3.6 Analyses and op-eds


Sandvik, B. (2015, March 31). If Drones Make You Nervous, Think Of Them As Flying Donkeys. NPR.


4. Other activities

Finally, NCHS researchers have been continuously engaged in various activities during 2015, acting as key stakeholders at a wide range of events and contributing to an informed public debate on different humanitarian issues:

**January**

- John Karlsrud (NUPI) chaired a session on ‘New security threats and implications of robust, stabilisation and protection of civilians mandates’ and presented on ‘New technologies in UN peacekeeping’ at the Norwegian Consultation Workshop on the UN Peace Operations Review.
  January 7, 2015

- John Karlsrud (NUPI) presented on ‘Stabilization missions – a tentative typology’ at the Informal Expert Discussion on Stabilization, Norwegian Delegation to the UN.
  January 13, 2015 — New York, USA

- Liv Tønnessen (CMI) participated in seminar at the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) entitled ‘Caught between rape and adultery in Sudan’.
  January 13, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

- Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) contributed to the ETH Zürich conference ‘Drones: From Technology to Policy, Security to Ethics’ with a presentation on drones for humanitarian interventions.
  January 31, 2015 — Zürich, Switzerland

- Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) was interviewed by the Swiss radio station SRF, where she shared her critical assessment on the use of drones for humanitarian purposes.
  January 31, 2015 — Zürich, Switzerland

**February**

- Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) spoke at the seminar ‘Armed Non State Actors and Access to Health in Armed Conflict’, organized by the Norwegian Red Cross.
  February 12, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

  February 18, 2015 — Amsterdam, Netherlands
• NCHS researchers Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO), Øystein Rolandsen (PRIO), John Karlsrud (NUPI) and Ole J. Sending (NUPI) contributed to the 56th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA). February 18-21, 2015 — New Orleans, USA

• Arne Strand (CMI) presented on ‘Afghan Stability and Development: Youth and Migration Factors’ at NATO/Brookings Afghanistan conference in Doha. February 25, 2015 — Doha, Qatar

• Ole J. Sending (NUPI) co-organized the workshop ‘Market for International Organizations’ at the Copenhagen Business School. February 25, 2015 — Copenhagen, Denmark

March

• Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ ['Syria, Iraq and the Islamic State'] at Litteraturhuset. March 6 — Oslo, Norway

• Arne Strand (CMI) presented on ‘Immediate Aid after Conflict’ at a conference on ‘Humanitarian NGOs, Emergency Relief and Turkish NGOs’ at Istanbul Policy Centre. March 6 — Istanbul, Turkey

• Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ ['Syria, Iraq and the Islamic State'] at the University of Agder. March 12 — Kristiansand, Norway

• Benjamin de Carvalho (NUPI) presented on ‘The Protection of Civilians and the RIGHTS Up Front Action Plan’ at the NUPI seminar ‘Rights up Front and the Protections of Civilians: Towards Ensuring the Core Responsibilities of the UN?’ March 17, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

• NCHS researchers Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO), Arne Strand (CMI) and Torunn Wimpelmann (CMI) spoke at various seminars in connection with the 2015 Afghanistan Week. March 23-29, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

• Arne Strand (CMI) presented on “Afghan Civil Society: Tradition Facing the Future” at an NGO seminar during the 2015 Afghanistan Week. March 24, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

• Jon Harald Sande Lie (NUPI) presented on ‘Protection and the Humanitarian-Development Nexus’ at the NUPI seminar ‘Challenges to the Protection of Civilians’.
March 25, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

April

• Ole J. Sending (NUPI) held a lecture on ‘Humanitarian Actors’ for the Professions and Governance MA Course at the Copenhagen Business School. April 15, 2015 — Copenhagen, Denmark
• Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) discussed the challenges of managing refugees entering Europe across the Mediterranean by boat on the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation’s current affairs program NRK2 – Aktuelt. April 20, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

• Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria: borgerkrig og humanitær katastrofe’ [‘Syria: civil war and humanitarian catastrophe’] for leaders of The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) reception centres in western Norway. April 23, 2015 – Bergen, Norway

• Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) participated in a workshop on humanitarian innovation and ethics at the University of Oxford. April 27, 2015 — Oxford, United Kingdom

• Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ [‘Syria: civil war and humanitarian catastrophe’] at the Royal Norwegian Naval Academy. April 28, 2015 – Bergen, Norway

May

• Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) consulted with OCHA in the aftermath of the Nepal Earthquake on humanitarian drones. Early May

• Astri Suhrke (CMI) discussed humanitarian aid in the aftermath of natural disasters at the event ‘Organizing disaster relief – managing chaos in Nepal’. May 5, 2015 — Bergen, Norway

• Kristoffer Lidén (PRIO) participated in the Norwegian Red Cross seminar ‘Humanitarian dilemmas – how to navigate in a political landscape?’ May 20, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

• Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) gave a presentation in Brussels for Doctors Without Borders (MSF) on the topic ‘humanitarian drones’. May 27, 2015 — Brussels, Belgium

June

• Liv Tønnessen (CMI) discussed criminal law and rape in Sudan and was a fellow panelist with Nobel Peace Prize and Rafto Prize Laureate Shirin Ebadi at a women’s network think tank workshop organized by the Rafto Foundation for Human Rights. June 6, 2015 — Bergen, Norway

• Torunn Wimpelmann (CMI) delivered the presentation ‘Brokers of Justice. The special units for the prosecutions of violence against women in Afghanistan’ at the Folke Bernadotte Academy’s Research for Peace Conference. June 7-9, 2015 — Stockholm, Sweden

• John Karlsrud (NUPI) presented on ‘Speak softly and carry a big stick: The Consequences for Information and

- Cindy Horst (PRIO) and Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) participated in the Conference on resettlement, regional solutions and humanitarian assistance, organized by the European Migration Network, the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and Public Security and the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration. June 12, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

July

- Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) attended a 3-day Policy Forum on Humanitarian UAVs, organized by The Humanitarian UAV Network (UAViators). July 15-17, 2015 — Bellagio, Italy

September

- In response to Helge Lurås’ op-ed ‘Innvandringsdebattens tabu’ [‘The immigration debate’s taboo’] published on NRK.no, Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) co-authored a piece challenging some of the premises raised by Lurås’ publication on current immigration debates. September 8, 2015

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ [‘Syria: civil war and humanitarian catastrophe’] at the University of Nordland. September 9, 2015 – Bodø, Norway

- In the wake of debates on Europe’s capacity to receive refugees, Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) was a panelist in the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation’s TV program Urix and discussed the EU’s ability to tackle the issue and frame a common response for those seeking asylum and protection. September 10, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

- Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) participated in a NRK.no online chat and responded to internet users’ questions in connection to the refugee crisis. September 10, 2015

- Liv Tønnessen (CMI) was consulted by Rashida Manjoo, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, in connection with a country mission to Sudan. Third Quarter, 2015

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ [‘Syria, Iraq and the Islamic State’] at the University of Tromsø. September 23, 2015 – Tromsø, Norway

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Civil-military relations in Latin America and the Middle East. What will the future bring?’ at a panel debate at Chr. Michelsen Institute. September 30, 2015 – Bergen, Norway
October

- Arne Strand (CMI) presented on ‘Education financing in Afghanistan’ at a roundtable discussion on Education in Emergencies organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children.  
  October 6, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

- Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) spoke on EU asylum and border policies in the face of increased refugee flows at an internal seminar organized by the Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy.  
  October 7, 2015 — Trondheim, Norway

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Understanding the crisis in Yemen: the view from Iran’ at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  
  October 8, 2015 — Trondheim, Norway

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria, Irak og den islamske staten’ ['Syria, Iraq and the Islamic State'] at the Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy.  
  October 20, 2015 — Trondheim, Norway

November

- Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) was a panelist at the Migration seminar organized by the Foreign and Defense Committee of Stortinget (The Norwegian Parliament) and attended by members of Parliament.  
  November 2, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

- Kristin B. Sandvik (PRIO) participated in the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Summit on ‘The European Refugee Crisis: Data, Technology and Coordination’ at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts.  
  November 4, 2015 — Brussels, Belgium

- John Karlsrud (NUPI) presented on the ‘UN and AU peace operations in Africa – challenges and opportunities’ to Norwegian members of Parliament.  
  November 12, 2015 — New York, United States

- Kjetil Selvik (CMI) presented on ‘Syria: borgerkrig, IS og humanitær katastrofe’ ['Syria: civil war and humanitarian catastrophe] at the University of Stavanger.  
  November 13, 2015 — Stavanger, Norway

December

- Maria G. Jumbert (PRIO) spoke at a conference organized by Norwegian People's Aid on The European Refugee Situation and the role of Civil Society, with a focus on the different humanitarian and security narratives in the EU's responses along external borders.  
  December 8, 2015 — Oslo, Norway

This report was put together by Eric Cezne  
31 December 2015