

Mitigating the Effects of War on Vulnerable Populations



How can governments and international organizations better protect the security and mental health of civilians, refugees, displaced persons, and wounded soldiers during armed conflict?

Problem Statement

- There are currently more than forty inter-state conflicts and civil wars being fought in every region of the world
- Advancements in military technology increase detrimental effects on civilians, wounded soldiers, and displaced migrants
- 100 million people have fled their homes due to war in 2022 and 15% of soldiers experience post-traumatic stress disorder
- Indirect effects from attacks on the survival and well-being of populations are hidden but are more serious than direct effects
- Governments lack an integrated plan to address this



Team

Team Member	Expertise
Bruce Cronin (principal investigator)	International law, civilian casualties
Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith	Forced migration, psychological trauma
Kyle McDonald	Remote sensing to rebuild post-war societies
Dirk Moses	Genocide and crimes against humanity
Maritsa Poros	Migration, Displacement of populations
Irina Carlota Silber	Rebuilding postwar societies, Migration
Nancy Sohler	Healthcare for disadvantaged, trauma
Danielle Zach	Human rights, civil wars

Objectives

- Develop an integrated strategy to mitigate the effects of war on vulnerable populations
- Build a comprehensive approach to rebuilding towns and cities destroyed during armed conflicts
- Determine how best to treat civilians and former soldiers suffering from physical and psychological effects of war
- Establish what legal agreements and government policies need to be updated, changed or initiated

Management Plan and Technical Approach

- Research, Practice and Policy
- Create an International Center for Victims of Armed Conflict
 - Conduct interdisciplinary research, policy analysis, advocacy
- Podcast series
- Seminar series
- Policy paper series

Milestones	Deliverables	Date
Establish the Center	Secure and set up the office	12/01/22
Fellowship Program	Recruitment, search, hire	09/01/23
Podcast	Set up studio, create annual schedule, first broadcast	02/21/23
Symposium	Set topics, set first year schedule, recruit presenter	02/01/23
Policy Paper Series	Choose editor, set topics, solicit papers	10/01/23
Fundraising	Draft business plan, outreach to donors	10/01/23

Team Qualifications I

- Forced migration and displaced persons: Maritsa Poros and Irina Carlota Silber collaborate on researching the experiences of war and conflict-affected communities
- International law of armed conflict: Bruce Cronin and Dirk Moses study civilian casualties and mass state violence
- Infrastructure damage: Kyle McDonald works with UNDP identifying areas in Ukraine requiring infrastructure rebuilding
- Podcast and Symposium: Danielle Zach hosts “Rights Talk;” has extensive experience organizing conferences & symposia

Team Qualifications II

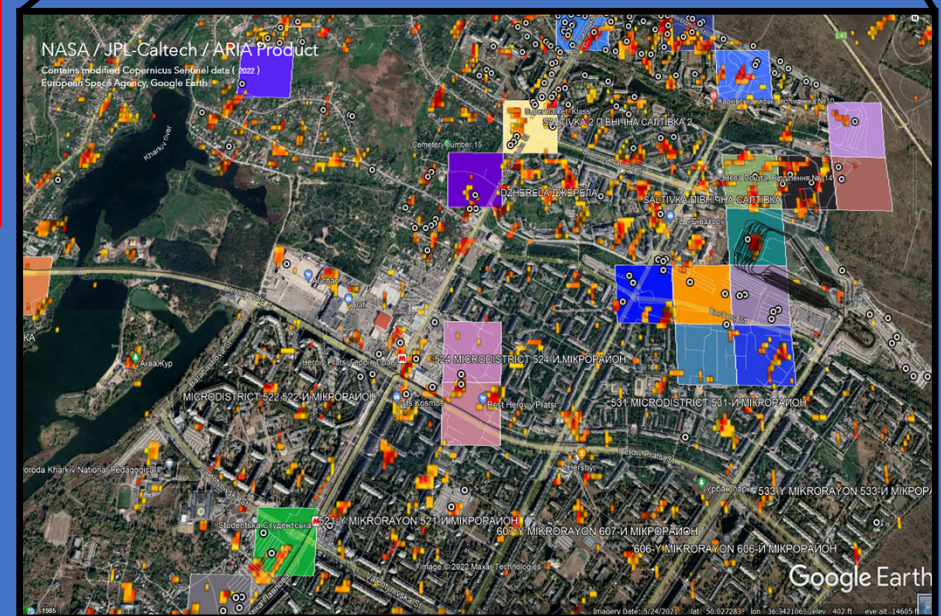
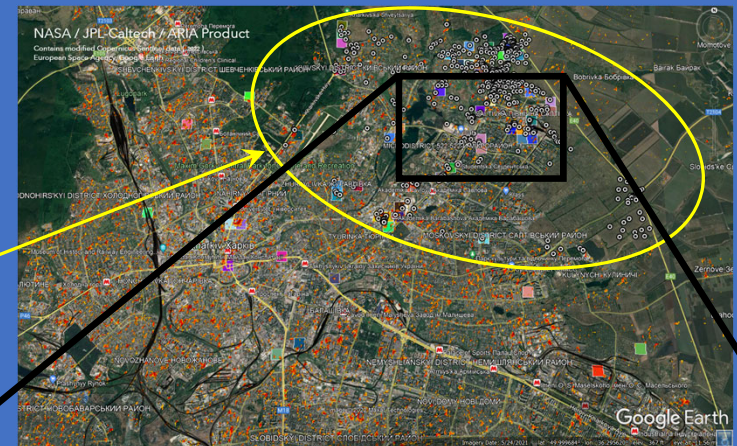
- Psychological trauma, PTSD:
 - Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith is co-founder of an organization created to respond to war survivors from the African Diaspora and staffperson at Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture
 - Nancy Sohler: studies barriers health care for underserved populations and is the Director of Research Education at the Haiti Medical Education Project in Haiti

Sample of Kyle McDonald's work



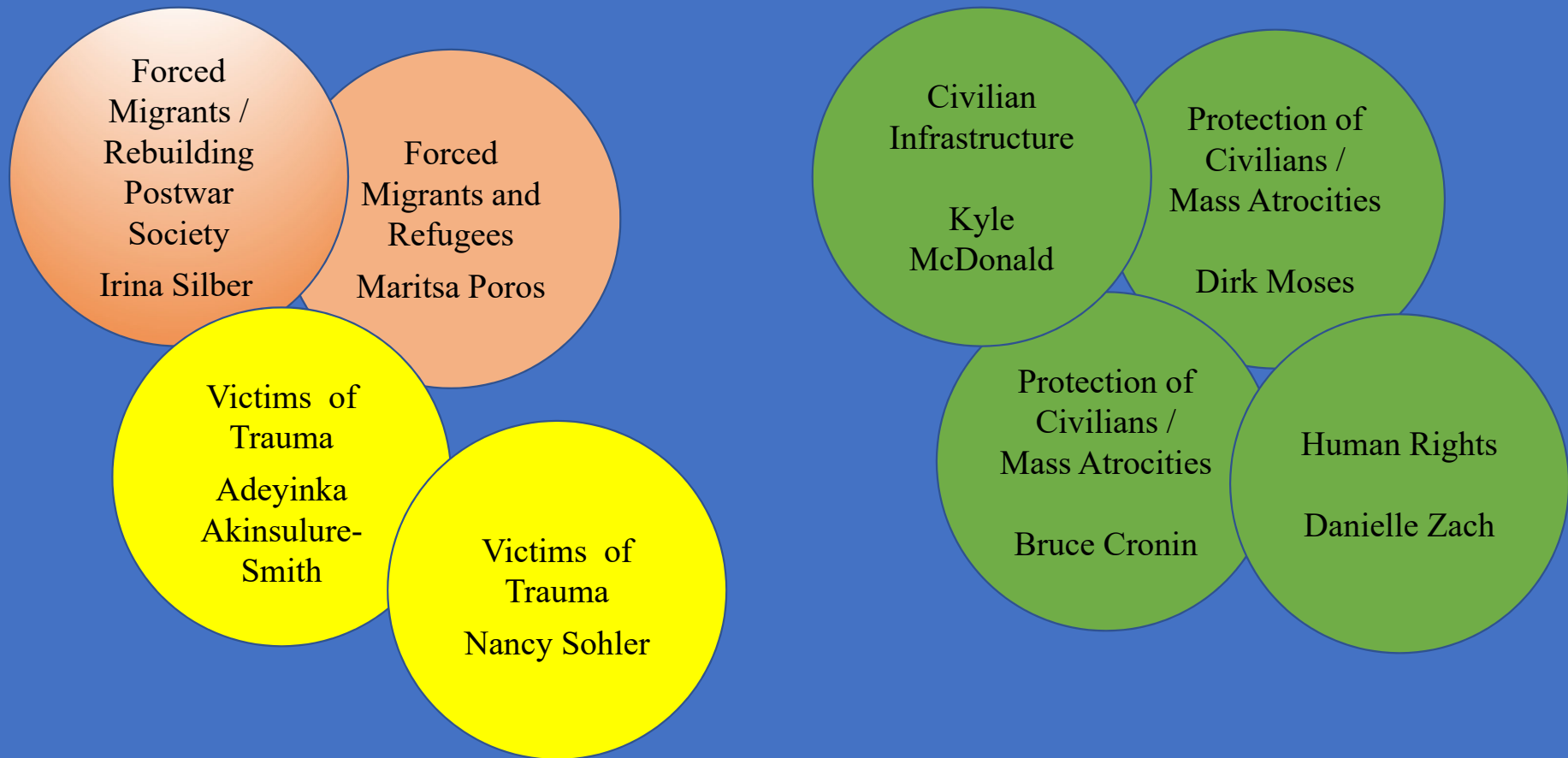
Region of
UNOSAT Rapid
Assessment

Regions of
coverage
from
Sentinel-1
SAR



Assessment of structural
damage for Kharkiv, Ukraine,
and surrounding regions using
remote sensing

Graphic Representation of the Team



Future Funding Prospects

- Private Foundations who support human rights projects:
- Andrew Mellon; Robert Wood Johnson; Carnegie Corporation of New York; Annie E. Casey; Ford; Bill and Melinda Gates, Heising-Simons, MacArthur, and Rockefeller
- George Soros:
 - Open Society Foundation has granted more than \$1 billion to human rights organizations since 2010

Thank you for watching