**Requirements:**

1. Define Research Questions

A. Independent variables and depend variables defined, clear operationalization using descriptive and causal inference statistics

B. Clear significance/so what

2. Data Source and Variables

A. Clear instruction on data source, data structure, and variables to use

B. Clear validation methods for data quality and analysis results

C. Clear data management plan

3. Writing

A. Focus on questions, concise logic, analytical and critical

**Define Research Questions:**

* How does the ongoing conflict in Syria impact the Syrian population and neighboring countries?
* What is the relationship between the severity of the conflict in Syria and the changes in the Syrian refugee population both internally displaced in Syria but mostly outside of Syria into Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon?
* What is the relationship between the length of time the conflict continues and the amount of aid provided?
* Are there changes in the amount of aid over time? (Guess: as the conflict prolongs, aid isn't able to keep up in a sustainable way so it falls off)
* Do certain kinds of violence lead to increases in aid (attacks against civilians vs attacks against military targets) How long do the aid increases last for? (This can be plotted - violent attacks against amount of aid donated)
* How does the risk of starvation/the deliberate use of starvation as a method of war interact with the severity of the conflict and the delivery of aid

Additional questions that I may not be able to cover (feasibility):

* What is the relationship between the influx of Syrian refugees entering Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan and refugee policies in those countries? How does this change over time?
* What is the social impact of humanitarian aid, refugee influxes, and violent conflict on Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan?

◦ Relationship between the severity of the conflict in Syria and social perceptions/responses in neighboring countries

**Variables:**

* **Independent variable:** severity of conflict in Syria
* Options for measurement:
  + Amount of attacks between FSA and Syrian army/ISIS
  + International involvement (backing - US/Russia)
  + Amount of rebel groups/parties active in conflict
  + Amount of outside countries involved/supporting parties to the conflict
  + Amount of causalities
  + Amount of sieges
  + Arrests
  + Protests
  + UNSC resolutions/condemnations
  + Proportion of country consumed by conflict

• **Dependent variables:**

In Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan:

* Population impact
  + change in number of refugees and asylees
* Aid/Relief
  + change in amount of foreign aid/humanitarian relief
  + change in amount of foreign donations/monetary support
  + Rate of starvation and malnutrition/denial of food

May not be able to address this:

* Policy:
  + Changes in policy regarding refugees/asylees
* Social impact:
  + Changes in perception of refugees
  + Changes in perception of social situation
* All of this is observed as changes over time; time series design - correlational effect between length of conflict and extent of international support and also severity of conflict

**Data Sources (in progress)**

**Dependent variable:** severity of the conflict in Syria

* ACLED – Syria
  + https://www.acleddata.com/
* Strauss Center – Global Fragility Dataset
  + https://www.strausscenter.org/strauss-articles/state-fragility.html

**Independent variables:**

* Population impact: change in number of refugees and asylees entering Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan
  + UNHCR data on Syria from UNHCR Population Statistics (THA3)
    - http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/time\_series
* Aid/Relief: change in amount of foreign aid/humanitarian relief, change in amount of foreign donations/monetary support, change in number of humanitarian organizations involved in conflict
  + FTS dataset (THA3)
    - https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/724/flows
  + Foreign Assistance – Syria
    - https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Syria
  + Foreign Assistance – Turkey
    - https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Turkey
  + Foreign Assistance – Jordan
    - <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/#/search> (search for Jordan and Lebanon to retrieve data)
  + Foreign Assistance – Lebanon
  + UNHCR - 3RP – Funding
    - http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/
* Rate of starvation and malnutrition/denial of food
  + UNHCR – 3RP – Indicators
  + Need to work on this