

# A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR SCIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

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## ISC Working Paper: Protecting Science in Times of Crisis. How do we stop being reactive, and become more proactive?

To better understand the strategic and policy priorities/challenges in science which, if addressed, would have the biggest impact on improving science's ability to prevent, prepare for, respond and rebuild in the face of crisis (policy frameworks & case studies: Brazil, South Africa, Japan, Iraq, Ukraine, the Balkans)

*“Member states should develop policies for the protection and preservation of research objects, scientific infrastructure and scientific archives, including in instances of conflict.”*

UNESCO Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers (2017)

*“The international science community should start planning how best to prepare the country's research infrastructure for the end of the war. Long-term partnerships that focus on capacity-building will be crucial, particularly in the areas of management, monitoring and policy. These collaborations must try to sustain day-to-day research as much as possible now, so that the research community can hit the ground running and be much more effective as soon as the conflict ends.”* Nature 614, 593-594 (2023)



# Protecting Scientists and Research in Times of Crisis: how can we do better?



**Increasing number of refugees and displaced scientists worldwide**

**How do we ensure not losing them to science?**

- Develop an **international action and support framework** for refugee and displaced scientists
  - Who? (Icons: University, Academies, Governments, International organizations)
- Clarify **benefits of maintaining scientists active** during a crisis
  - (Icons: University, Academies, International organizations)
- Commit to **global agenda on refugees** to improve coverage of the scientific refugee community's needs
  - (Icons: Government, International organizations)

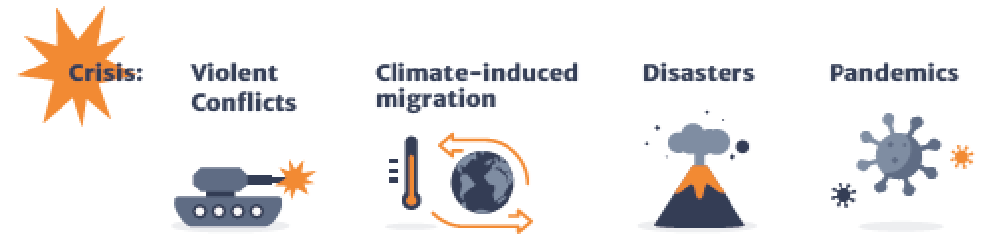
**Insufficient attention in developing encompassing risk management strategies within the science sector**

**How do we protect the infrastructures, research data, collections, etc.?**

- Build capacity in managing and monitoring risk** in the science sector
  - (Icons: University, Academies)
- Increase engagement with scientific communities in disaster risk management**
  - (Icons: University, Academies, International organizations)
- Improve resourcing for prevention and emergency response**
  - (Icon: First aid kit)
- Expand international crisis response framework to better integrate science**
  - (Icons: University, Academies, International organizations)

<https://futures.council.science/publications/science-in-times-of-crisis>

# Protecting Scientists and Research in Times of Crisis: how can we do better?



**The longer scientists remain inactive, the likelier it is that they will be lost to science**

**How can international science institutions best support them during the acute crisis phase?**

➔ Create **secure platforms** for **collecting and sharing comprehensive data** on scientists and their needs

➔ Develop **contextual and flexible support mechanisms** that adapt to the **needs of scientists**

➔ Where possible **maintain or adapt funding streams** to include affected countries

➔ **Ensure adequate exchange and coordination** between organizations supporting affected scientists

➔ Design new mechanisms **enabling affected scientists to maintain activity during the crisis at home or abroad**

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# Protecting Scientists and Research in Times of Crisis: how can we do better?



**The science and research sector is rarely prioritized in national and international rebuilding efforts**

**How do we change this?**

- **Communicate the value of science** for post-crisis recovery and growth to **policy-makers and society**
- **Link science** with existing flagship **emergency and recovery funds**
- **Expand existing recovery frameworks** in the **cultural and higher education** sectors to **better integrate science institutions**

**Recovery phases offer the opportunity to transform science and research practices and institutions of affected countries**

**How do we ensure that these changes further science as a global public good?**

- **Develop twinning and partnerships** to support the development of **affected scientists and institutions**
- **Advance the open science agenda**
- **Improve protection, storage and curation of research data**

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