

Commission on Syria

Health in Conflict



Debarati Guha-Sapir

Debarati Guha-Sapir, was born India and is full professor at the Université catholique de Louvain. She studied epidemiology in Johns Hopkins University and Université catholique de Louvain, from where she got her doctorate degree. She directs the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) specialized in the epidemiology of disasters and conflicts at the Université catholique de Louvain. Debarati teaches in the final years of medical school to students who are going abroad for their medical internships and runs a European Masters programme with the University of Oviedo and Karolinska Institute on public health in emergencies.

Her research is largely field based in disaster and conflict prone areas with primary data collection promoting the use of sound evidence for policy in health and humanitarian aid. She is active in bridging the gap between data and evidence on one hand and policy on the other. She founded the international reference disaster database EMDAT and set up a data repository system for mortality and nutrition from civil conflicts (CEDAT). In addition to scientific publishing, she writes frequently in international newspapers such as the Financial Times, where she feels the policy impact can be greater. Actively engaged with national governments, UN agencies and major donors, she pushes for policy change and improve the impact of humanitarian aid. She continues to lead major EC funded research and US data projects on disasters often collaborating with NGOs such as MSF and International Rescue Committee. She has been elected a member of the Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique and received the Peter Safar Award from the World Association of Disaster and Emergency Medicine.