

## ***Humanitarian Economics***

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Foreign aid is part and parcel of contemporary war economies. The economic agendas and financing of non-state armed groups have a direct bearing on humanitarian negotiations and outcomes. As the costs of mobilizing and maintaining fighting capabilities evolve over time, so does the extent of territorial control by armed groups over people and resources. This, in turn, influences the ability of humanitarian actors to obtain security guarantees to get access to the field, and greater IHL compliance from (non-state) armed groups. Linking theory and practice, the paper illustrates the dynamics at play with several examples drawn from recent civil wars. It further examines the implications of economic sanctions on war economies as well as the treatment of detainees and an unfortunately booming kidnap-and-ransom market.