

Geopolitical Challenges of Economic Sanctions

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What?

Definition: restrictions that limit the freedom of a state, a group, or its leaders with the aim of compelling policy revisions or inducing political change.

Types:

- Targeted vs Comprehensive
- Unilateral vs Multilateral
- Arms embargoes, Restrictions on admission and Economic sanctions

Economic sanctions: punitive economic actions, usually the refusal to sell goods between one state or multistate body and another.

Typically, **food and medicines are excluded** from sanctions (but are usually affected)

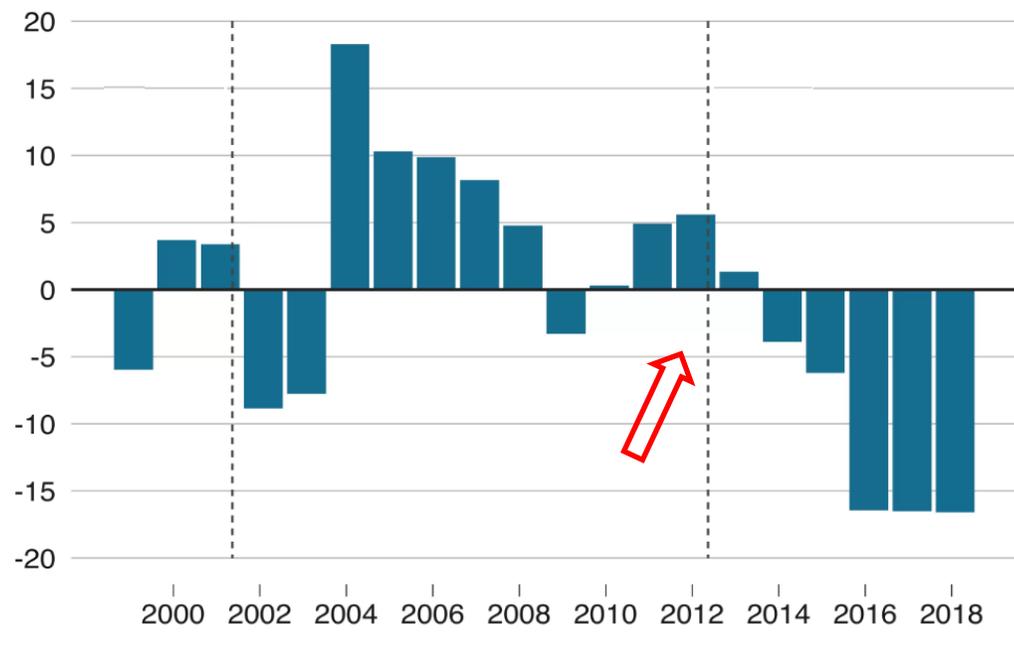
Rationale: resolve a conflict without mass suffering and other negative consequences associated with war.

If they are working, they must also hurt

1. What are the implications of Economic Sanction for health and health security?

Venezuela's economy

% GDP growth

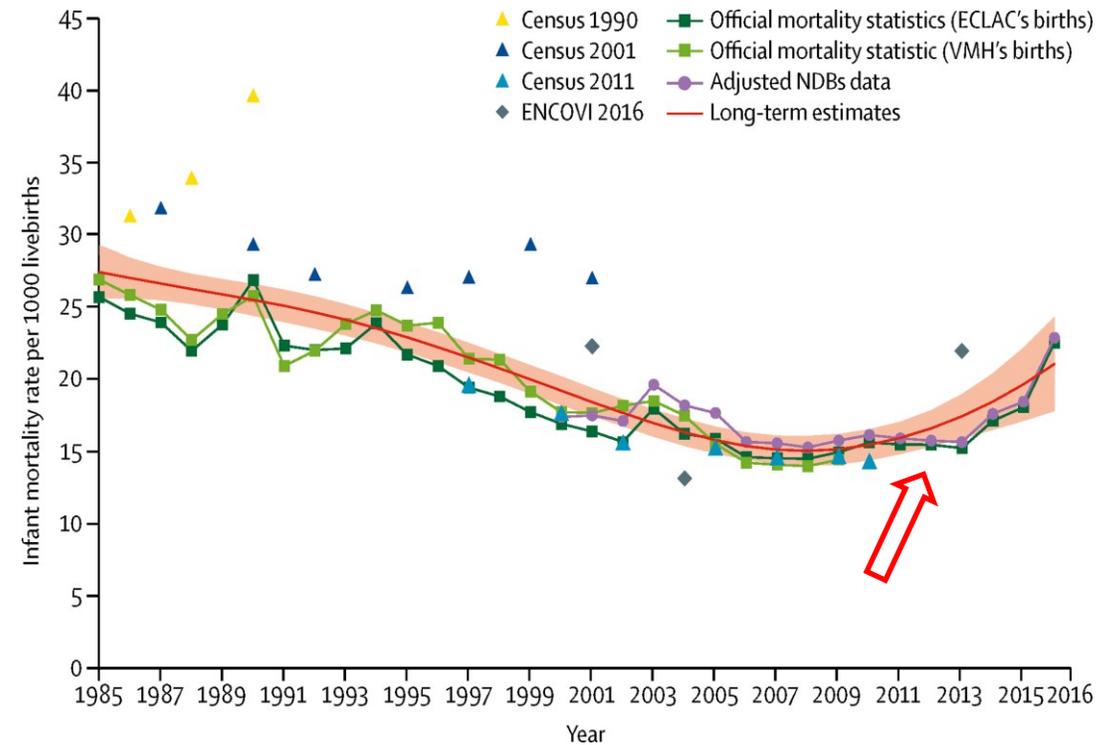


Source: Banco Central de Venezuela

Trends in infant mortality in Venezuela between 1985 and 2016: a systematic analysis of demographic data

Lancet Glob Health 2019;
7: e331-36

Jenny García, Gerardo Correa, Brenda Rousset



Is it a common finding?

The impact of economic sanctions on health and health systems in low-income and middle-income countries: a systematic review and narrative synthesis

BMJ Global Health

Matteo Pinna Pintor, Marc Suhrcke, Christoph Hamelmann

BMJ Glob Health. 2023

doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2022-010968.

Author/year	Effect 1	Effect 2	Effect 3	Effect 4	Effect 5	Effect 6	Effect 7	D_i
Al-Ani et al. 2011 ²⁹	Mortality ▲							▲
Ali 2004 ⁵¹	Morbidity ▲							▲
Asadi-Pooya et al. 2019 ⁷⁴	Drugs/vaccines ▲*	Sequelae ▲						▲
Ascherio et al. 1992 ⁵⁴	Mortality ▲†							▲
Bundervoet and Verwimp 2005 ³²	Anthropometrics ▲†							▲
Daponte and Garfield 2000 ⁴⁰	Mortality ▲							▲
Garfield 2001 ⁶²	Mortality ▲†	Mortality ▲	Mortality ▲	Morbidity ▲	WASH ▲	Healthcare ▲*		▲
Garfield and Leu 2000 ¹¹⁰	Mortality ▲							▲
Garfield and Santana 1997 ⁵⁰	Mortality ▲†	Morbidity ▲	Morbidity ▲	Food ▲	WASH ▲	Healthcare ▲*	Drugs/vaccines ▲	▲
Ghiasi et al. 2016 ⁷³	Drugs/vaccines ▲*							▲
Gutmann et al. 2021 ⁴²	Life expectancy ▲††							▲
Karimi and Haghpanah 2015 ³⁵	Sequelae ▲	Biomarkers ▲	Healthcare ▲§					▲
Kheirandish et al. 2018 ³¹	Drugs/vaccines ▲*¶							▲
Kim 2019a ⁹⁵	Morbidity ▲							▲
Kim 2019b ¹¹¹	Mortality ▲	Morbidity ▲						▲
McLean and Whang 2019 ⁹⁰	Sequelae ▲†	Healthcare ▲†						▲
Mladenovich and Langegegen 2009 ¹¹²	Morbidity ▲							▲
Mulder-Sibanda 1998 ³⁰	Mortality ▲	Morbidity ▲						▲
Parker et al. 2016 ³⁰	Mortality ▲†							▲
Reid et al. 2007 ³⁷	Mortality ▲	Morbidity ▲						▲
Sharma et al. 2017 ⁷⁰	Drugs/vaccines ▲*							▲
Asadi-Pooya et al. 2016 ³⁴	Drugs/vaccines ▼*	Sequelae ▼						▼
Joury et al. 2016 ¹¹³	Morbidity ▼	Morbidity ▼†	Morbidity ▼	Food ▼				▼
Berggren et al. 1993 ³⁸	Mortality ▲†	Mortality ▲	Morbidity ◀▶**					◀▶
Peksen 2011 ²⁸	Mortality ◀▶†††	Mortality ▼†††	Mortality ▲†††					◀▶
Petrescu 2016 ³³	Mortality ▲	Anthropometrics ▲	Anthropometrics ▼					◀▶
Zaidi 1997 ¹¹⁴	Mortality ◀▶†							◀▶
Ali and Shah 2000 ¹¹⁵								NA
Ali 2003 ¹¹⁶								NA
Dyson 2006 ¹¹⁷								NA
Zaidi and Fawzi 1995 ¹¹⁸								NA

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Health and health security implications

Economic Sanctions Affecting Household Food and Nutrition Security and Policies to Cope With Them: A Systematic Review.

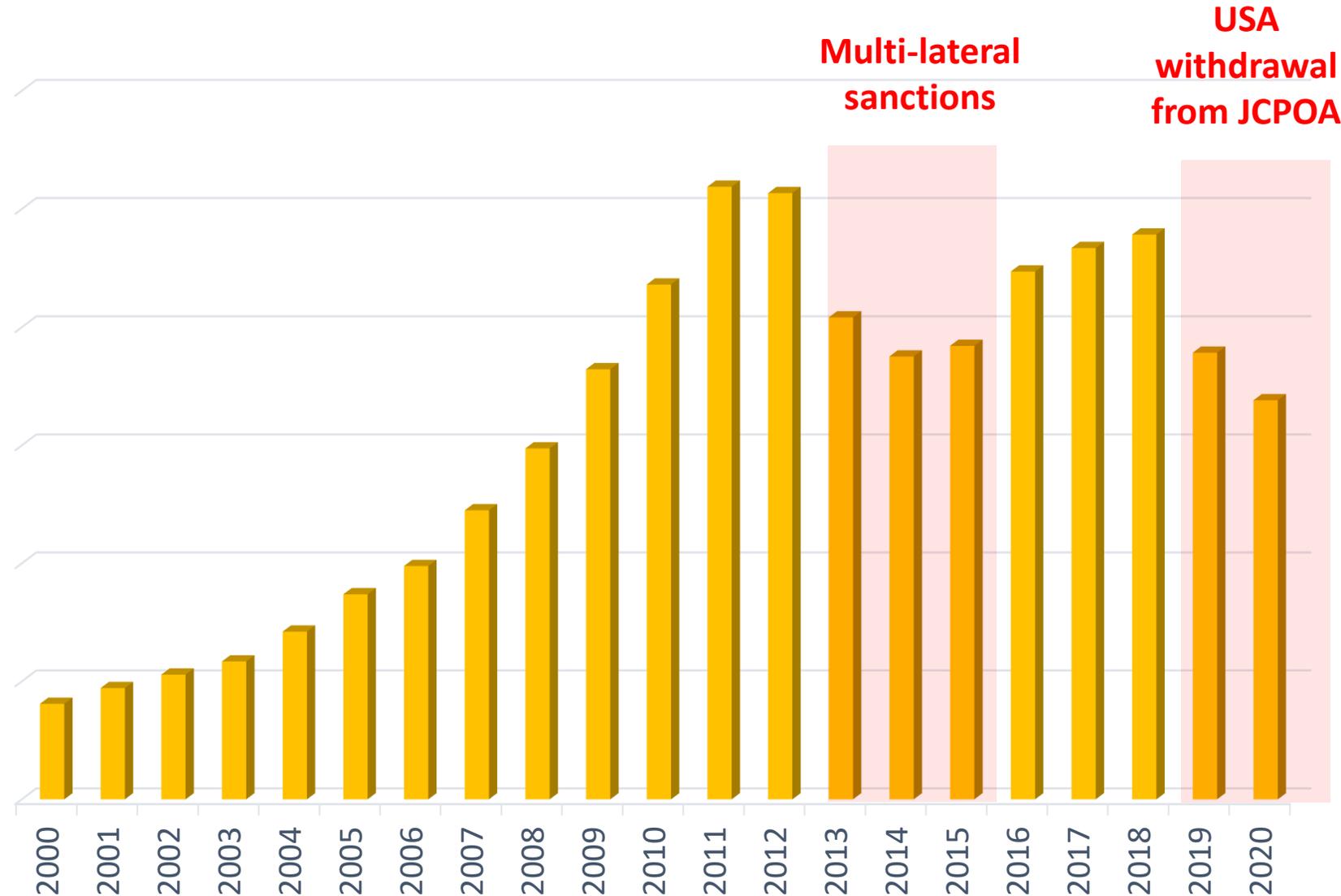
International Journal of Health Policy and Management (2023)
10.34172/IJHPM.2023.7362

The human cost of economic sanctions and strategies for building health system resilience: A scoping review of studies in Iran

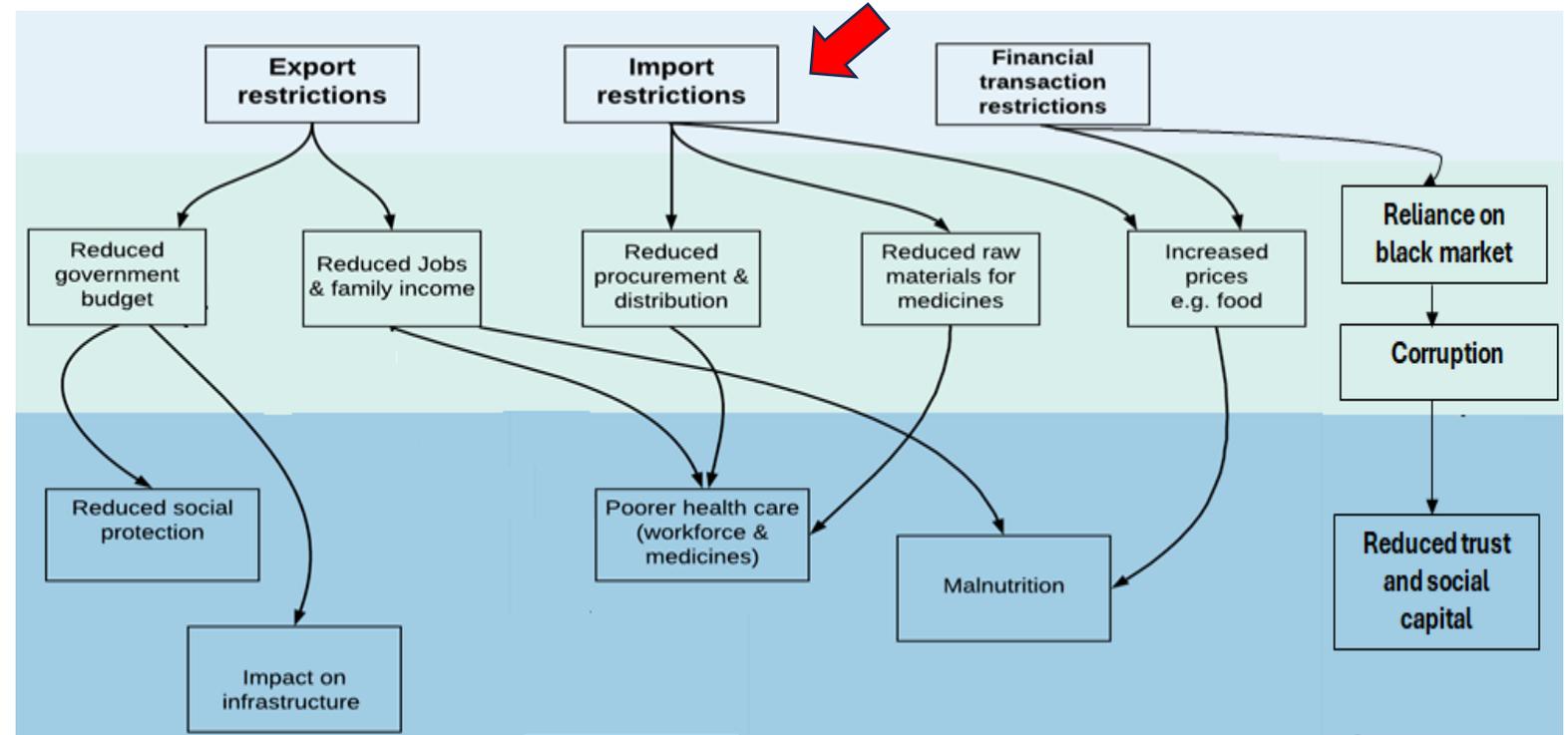
Int J Health Plann Manage
doi: 10.1002/hpm.3651.

Sajadi HS, Yahyaei F, Ehsani-Chimeh E, Majdzadeh R

Current Health Expenditure (CHE) per Capita in Iran



2. Can a sanctions regime be intelligent and considerate of people health?



Adapted from the report of the Commission on SDH in the EMR, 2021

Food and essential medicines exemptions

3- Is there any proactive measures on a global scale to address the health disparities and promote equitable solutions during sections?

Health system to response to economic sanctions: global evidence and lesson learned from Iran

Global Health. 2022 Dec 29;18(1):107.
doi: 10.1186/s12992-022-00901-w.

Sajadi HS & Majdzadeh R.

Principals in war

Proportionality prohibits attacks that could potentially harm civilians or damage their property, ensuring a balanced use of force relative to military objectives.

Distinction mandates targeting only military individuals and distinguishing between fighters and civilians.

Unlike wars, the international law has no regulations for sanctions.

Sanctions stand outside any obligation.

Key messages:

1. Economic sanctions, to be effective, inevitably impose negative consequences on the health and health security of people.
2. An intelligent and compassionate sanctions regime does not exist.

They are hurting, If they are working

1. At the global scale, proactive measures to mitigate the severe impacts of sanctions on the health of people and health security are lacking.

Extra slide – just in case

- Raise awareness of sanctions' impact and promote dialogue
- Improve domestic and international response to sanctions
 - Improve systematic monitoring of and reporting on the impact of sanctions on humanitarian activities to track, and respond to needs
 - Establish mechanisms to ensure provision of humanitarian exports to sanctioned countries with appropriate exemptions
 - Provide clear guidelines that allow banks to operate without financial risks in exporting or financing exempted goods
- Build capacity to mitigate the negative impact of sanctions
 - The UN agencies can work with key state ministries to improve resilience to sanctions to protect vulnerable populations
 - Build capacity and increase MOH funding to address the impacts of sanctions and strengthen organizational networks for timely responses to sanctions