Common Cognitive Biases In Humanitarian Analysis

**Selection Biases**
- Anchoring Effect: Relying too heavily on one piece of information, usually the first piece of information found, when making decisions.
- Availability Cascade: Judging the frequency of an event or category by the ease with which instances of this comes to mind.
- Confirmation: Only seeking information that confirms our initial decisions, hypothesis, judgments or conclusions, ignoring information against them.
- Evidence Acceptance: Accepting data as true and focus more on the coherence of the story than the reliability of the underlying data.
- Salience: Focusing on the most easily recognizable, interesting or shocking features in a set of data, while other possibilities or alternative hypotheses are ignored.

**Social Biases**
- Groupthinking: Choosing the option that the majority of the group agrees with or ignoring conflicts within the group due to a desire for consensus.
- Halo Effect: Accepting or rejecting everything another group member says because the analyst likes/respects or not the person.
- Institutional: Interpreting information in line with the interests of a certain organization.
- Mirror Imaging: Assuming that others will act the same as we would, given similar circumstances.
- Stereotyping: Expecting a group or person to have certain characteristics without having real information about the person.

**Process Biases**
- Clustering Illusion: Overestimating the value of perceived patterns in random data.
- Framing: Being influenced in our decisions by how a situation has been presented.
- Hindsight: Claiming the key items of information, events, drivers, forces or factors that actually shaped a future outcome could have been easily identified and predictable than they actually were.
- Impact: Overestimating the significance of an event based on the potential impact.