



GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2023



The Global Humanitarian Overview is an annual assessment of global humanitarian needs and how to respond to them. This document provides an analysis of the drivers of needs and an overview of the resources required to support people targeted for assistance. It also it provides an account of the humanitarian system's collective achievements.

Response plan figures are as reported to the Financial Tracking Service as of 21 November 2022. All financial data for response plans is continuously updated on fts.unocha.org. Dollar signs denote United States dollars.



This document is an abridged version of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2023. Read the entire report online and explore the interactive content at

humanitarianaction.info



August 2022 - Department of Chiquimula, Guatemala. Romuanda (62), makes a carpet at home with her grandchildren. Chronic undernutrition and stunting affect nearly half of all children under 5 in Guatemala. But help is not always available - residents of Chiquimula said: "We don't get support too often out here." *OCHA/Vincent Tremeau*

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Foreword by the Emergency Relief Coordinator

Martin Griffiths

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

This year, grinding conflict, the deadly climate crisis and health epidemics, including cholera and COVID-19, caused record levels of hunger and displacement, worsened poverty, and put equality for women and girls increasingly out of reach. As a result, one out of every 23 people now needs humanitarian relief, more than double the percentage just four years ago.

It's no wonder that the humanitarian response system is being tested to its limits. But the higher the pressure, the more determined humanitarians are in facing the challenge.

Thanks to donors' generosity, we mobilized just over US\$24 billion in aid for 216 million people in 69 countries.

This translated into ambitious operations. Assistance to the tune of \$4 billion reached people in Ukraine and the region, whose lives were upended by war, while \$2.4 billion was channelled to alleviate people's suffering in Afghanistan. Other countries were less fortunate and some were critically underfunded, with less than 24 per cent of their requirements met.

Some crises received funding, but late. The Horn of Africa faced a historic drought, and as all indicators flashed red, humanitarians scaled up to save lives, reaching 17 million people with assistance. But the famine warning in Somalia remains in place.

While suffering worsened in many places, successful humanitarian negotiations were achieved in others.

In April, a truce in Yemen brought a glimmer of hope for millions of people. That truce must be extended and expanded.

In July, the UN facilitated a ground-breaking agreement between the Russian and Ukrainian authorities, facilitated by the Government of Türkiye, to clear the passage of grain through the Black Sea to reach people all over the world.

And in November, a ceasefire agreement for Ethiopia's Tigray Region brought the possibility of peace and better humanitarian access, which I hope can be sustained.

Everywhere we work, we will continue to expand our efforts to negotiate the safe passage of aid.

However, as we continue to respond, I believe that the most important contribution we can make is to put people in crisis at the centre of everything we do. Accountability to affected people should move from "customer satisfaction" to being the prism through which all our work is considered. Humanitarian assistance is not a question of charity but of affected people's rights. That change will not be easy, and there's no straight line to that goal. But we are committed to making it a reality.

The 2023 Global Humanitarian Overview is ambitious, and we call on donors to be generous. In 2022, we received 47 per cent of what we needed. This year, with your full support, I hope we can do much better.

Immense challenges lie ahead. But as this Global Humanitarian Overview shows, our ambition will not falter.

Martin Griffiths

Djibo, Burkina Faso. The Emergency Relief Coordinator meets with community leaders and displaced people in Djibo. During the meeting he received three requests: reopen the road by which food and other critical supplies enter the town, provide aid to both the displaced and the host community, and end the conflict so that people can return home and their children can have a future. *OCHA/Amadou Cissé*



At a glance

PEOPLE IN NEED

339 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

230 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 51.5 B

APPEALS

38

Section 1:

Global trends



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After 20 years, forced displacement shows no sign of slowing. More than 1 per cent of the world’s population – or 103 million people – are displaced. About two thirds of refugees and asylum-seekers originate from countries with food crises, and nearly a quarter of all refugees are hosted in Least Developed Countries. Disasters and extreme weather events, such as flooding and drought, are responsible for the majority of forced displacements worldwide.

Violent conflict continues to take a heavy toll on civilians, especially when explosives are used in populated areas. Children remain especially vulnerable, and the number of attacks on schools and hospitals has increased. Violence against aid workers is increasing, and 98 per cent of those killed were working in their own country.

The largest global food crisis in modern history is unfolding, driven by conflict, climate shocks and the looming threat of global recession. Hundreds of millions of people are at risk of worsening hunger. Acute food insecurity is escalating, and by the end of 2022, at least 222 million people across 53 countries are expected to face acute food insecurity and need urgent assistance. Starvation is a very real risk for 45 million people in 37 countries.

Climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises worldwide, with climate-related disasters driving increased levels of risks and vulnerability. The past eight years are on track to be the eight warmest on record and 2022 is estimated to be among the hottest. Of the 15 countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis, 12 had an internationally led humanitarian response. By the end of the century, deaths from extreme heat are projected to be comparable in magnitude to all cancers or all infectious diseases.

The global goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030 is no longer achievable, with 90 million more people experiencing this challenging reality than previously projected. Available jobs remain at below pre-pandemic levels, and rising inflation is expected to reach 10 per cent in emerging markets and developing economies. Global fuel and food price hikes are hitting low-income countries the hardest, and most countries with an HRP face lower projected growth in 2023, compounded by challenges of climate change, conflict, rising food and fuel prices, and food insecurity.

Global public health is not improving, as seen in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, monkeypox outbreaks, the rapid spread of vector-borne diseases, rising cases of Ebola, and cholera outbreaks. Only 2.3 per cent of the 13 billion COVID-19 vaccines administered worldwide took place in the 29 countries with an HRP. Infant vaccine coverage has seen the largest recorded reduction in 30 years, and critical testing, treatment and prevention activities for infectious diseases and HIV have declined.

It will now take four generations – or 132 years – to achieve global gender parity. Globally, 388 million women and girls live in extreme poverty, more than men and boys, with the vast majority in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia. The pandemic has increased the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) worldwide, and 13 million more girls are assessed to be at risk of becoming child brides in addition to the 100 million already at risk.

Global education is in crisis due to the pandemic’s ongoing impacts. Schoolchildren in middle-income countries endured significantly longer school closures than those in high-income countries. The digital divide persists: of the 1.6 billion students out of school, 1.3 billion had no Internet connection at home or a device to learn on – a situation that is even more acute for those students living in humanitarian crises.



Section 2:

Response plans

Overview for 2023

One in every 23 people now needs humanitarian assistance. In 2023, a record 339 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection – a significant increase from 274 million people at the beginning of 2022. The UN and partner organizations aim to assist 230 million people most in need across 68 countries, which will require \$51.5 billion.

Expanding global humanitarian needs, rising operational costs and commodity prices and high inflation in 2023 are contributing to a significant rise in requirements. For example, the World Food Programme's monthly food procurement costs are now 44 per cent higher than before the pandemic.

East and Southern Africa have the largest number of people in need (76.8 million). This year there are ten countries and four regional plans with requirements of more than \$1 billion each. Improved stability in **Libya** is leading to a phased-out exit by humanitarians, resulting in the country not requiring a fully fledged HRP in 2023. In **Iraq**, diminishing humanitarian response and increased efforts to achieve durable solutions with and through development partners have lifted the country out of the list of the most severe humanitarian situations.

In **Ukraine**, the largest humanitarian cash assistance programme in history is expected to transfer \$1.7 billion in 2022 to 6.3 million people – a huge increase from 11,000 people the year before, which amounts to nearly 600 times more people. In addition, the Ukraine regional response in 2023 will combine both a humanitarian and refugee response plan, aiming to support 13.6 million people with a total requirement of \$5.7 billion.

In **Ethiopia**, the worsening drought and impact of conflict and violence in parts of the country and resulting waves of displacement mean that 28.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. While the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in November 2022 is a promising step to scale up humanitarian assistance, the humanitarian situation is not expected to stabilize in 2023 due to yet more forecasts of poor rainfall and the ongoing effects of conflict and violence.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has its largest request to date, with a total of \$2.3 billion in 2023 – a 20 per cent rise compared to 2022. Net increases in prices are a challenging reality across the country – the high price of fuel has made it more expensive to reach vulnerable people in remote areas, and food and commodity prices at local markets have rocketed, especially for imported products. By the end of 2022, 6.2 million people received assistance in the country.

Haiti has seen an increased requirement up to \$715 million for 2023 – due to growing humanitarian needs, the cholera response (for which a \$146 million Cholera+ Flash Appeal was launched on 15 November 2022), and inflation – which stands at a staggering 30 per cent and is boosting the cost of humanitarian operations. In the gang-controlled commune of Cité Soleil, around 65,000 people were assisted with food and 2,000 with water between 22 July and 28 October 2022.

Lebanon has seen a 59 per cent increase in financial requirements to \$600 million, caused by the unprecedented economic and financial crisis and the resulting increase in humanitarian needs. The country is experiencing major increases in the prices of basic commodities, with the price of wheat flour increasing by nearly 330 per cent since 2019.



In **Mozambique**, the number of people in need has increased by a third. Conflict in Cabo Delgado is driving forced displacement and placing enormous levels of strain on the country's host communities. Humanitarian partners have provided life-sustaining assistance to 1.4 million people in 2022, including malnutrition treatment, food assistance, protection services and access to safe drinking water.

Afghanistan has seen an overall increase of people in need, now at 28.3 million people. Continuing droughts have caused a dramatic increase in WASH needs, and the policies of the de facto authorities, particularly on women's participation in society, have driven a 25 per cent increase in protection needs. In 2022, humanitarians helped 27.2 million people in Afghanistan with some form of assistance, and they are reaching communities in all of the country's 401 districts.

Every month in **Yemen**, an average of 10.6 million people were reached with humanitarian assistance. This includes food assistance for 15 million people who were classified as being the most vulnerable to food insecurity in 2022.

In **Central America**, while **El Salvador** and **Guatemala's** humanitarian caseloads are decreasing, the situation in **Honduras** has worsened, with 31 per cent of the population needing humanitarian assistance. The surge in irregular migrants transiting through South and Central America, triggered by political, social and economic upheaval in several countries in the region, is overwhelming the reception capacity of many countries and fuelling an unprecedented rise in humanitarian and protection needs.

In **Myanmar**, the response for 2023 will focus on life-saving activities in conflict-affected areas, with 4.5 million people targeted. This follows an exceptional expansion of the HRP scope in 2022 to prevent backsliding from the combined impacts of the military takeover and COVID-19. In 2023, resilience will be mostly addressed via nexus and development activities. The end of 2022 has seen most development partners restarting paused programmes, allowing humanitarian partners to return to core life-saving responses, especially in rural areas.



Section 3:

Delivering better

The Central Emergency Response Fund and the Country-Based Pooled Funds continue to demonstrate their unique ability to expand and contract, anticipating a crisis and adapting as it evolves to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches people in need. As of November 2022, the funds have allocated \$1.7 billion to assist people most in need.

Humanitarian negotiations are the backbone of access, and they help reach populations in need, despite increasingly difficult operating environments. The 2022 Black Sea Grain Initiative, signed between Russia and Ukraine, represents a landmark negotiation made possible thanks to the UN and the Government of Türkiye. The agreement opened up the passage of grain through the Black Sea, ultimately helping millions of people and easing the pressure on food prices. More than 10 million tonnes of grain had shipped by November 2022.

Early action is helping to reduce the incidence of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). For example, during the first days of the response in Ukraine, a protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) Coordinator was deployed to help prevent, detect and respond to SEA, recognizing

that the risks were high and abuse was likely, even prior to any specific reports or complaints.

The critical role played by local and national actors is reflected in increasing levels of leadership and participation in humanitarian response. Local and national actors are included in at least 80 per cent of all Humanitarian Country Teams, and they help with programming and funding decisions. Local women-led organizations are increasingly engaged in the design of humanitarian programme cycles and planning, particularly in Ethiopia, Iraq, Myanmar, Palestine, Syria and Yemen.

Efforts for greater accountability to the people affected by crises have gained momentum, ensuring community engagement and accessible systems for feedback into operations. For example, in the Central African Republic (CAR), community consultations are helping humanitarian responders to understand how affected people experience the crisis as well as the response. The CAR Humanitarian Fund is also prioritizing funding for projects that focus on collective accountability to affected people and perception assessments.



Results from 2022

Overview

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2022 presented initial funding requirements of **\$41 billion to assist 182 million of the 274 million people in need of humanitarian aid**.

By mid-November, requirements had grown by 26 per cent to a record high of **\$51.7 billion** for plans in 69 countries. This was due to new plans for Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Pakistan and Ukraine. Other plans also had higher requirements (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia and Yemen, among others) driven by increased humanitarian needs and costs, particularly for food and transportation.

Funding for the Ukraine Flash Appeal and the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan (\$4 billion) represents 17 per cent of all GHO funds received.

Despite these record funding levels in absolute terms, funding received to date against the 2022 GHO requirements amounts to \$24 billion, or 47 per cent. This leaves a wide and concerning gap of almost \$27.6 billion between needs and the funding received.

Global achievements

Reaching more people with quality aid

In 2022, the UN and partner organizations aimed to assist 216 million people through 35 country plans and 8 regional plans. This equated to an 18 per cent increase in the original number of people targeted for assistance at the beginning of 2022, largely driven by the combined effect of climate change, the war in Ukraine, economic shocks and growing food insecurity. Of all people targeted by plans at country level, 157 million (79 per cent) benefited from at least one form of aid during the year.

Humanitarians invested in understanding the needs of affected communities, listening to their priorities and feedback to adapt their response: 14.9 million people used feedback mechanisms to share their concerns, make complaints and ask questions. And when financial assistance was expressed as the most pressing need, humanitarians adapted, for example by providing multipurpose cash assistance to 4.2 million Ukrainians.

Puntland, Somalia. As a single mother, Hodan depends on the goodwill of others to support her and her family. Their livestock died during previous droughts and her husband abandoned the family. *FAO/Will Swanson*




Results from 2022: People reached by country plans

| Plan | Plan type | People targeted | People reached | People reached %* |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 22.1 M | 27.2 M | 100% |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 20.0 M | 21.7 M | 100% |
| Ukraine | HRP | 11.5 M | 15.4 M | 100% |
| Yemen | HRP | 17.9 M | 15.0 M | 84% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 11.8 M | 7.8 M | 66% |
| Somalia | HRP | 7.6 M | 7.3 M | 96% |
| Sudan | HRP | 10.9 M | 7.1 M | 65% |
| South Sudan | HRP | 6.8 M | 6.8 M | 100% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 8.8 M | 6.2 M | 71% |
| Pakistan | Other | 9.5 M | 4.5 M | 47% |
| Myanmar | HRP | 6.2 M | 4.3 M | 69% |
| Nigeria | HRP | 5.6 M | 4.2 M | 75% |
| Mali | HRP | 5.3 M | 3.2 M | 61% |
| Niger | HRP | 2.4 M | 3.1 M | 100% |
| Venezuela | HRP | 5.2 M | 2.6 M | 50% |
| Chad | HRP | 3.9 M | 2.0 M | 51% |
| Haiti | HRP | 2.5 M | 2.0 M | 80% |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 3.8 M | 1.9 M | 49% |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 2.0 M | 1.8 M | 88% |
| Madagascar | FA | 1.9 M | 1.8 M | 91% |
| Cameroon | HRP | 2.6 M | 1.4 M | 54% |
| Iraq | HRP | 991.0 K | 1.3 M | 100% |
| Kenya | FA | 2.6 M | 1.2 M | 46% |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 1.6 M | 1.2 M | 72% |
| Mozambique | HRP | 1.2 M | 1.1 M | 95% |
| Colombia | HRP | 1.6 M | 1.1 M | 69% |
| Lebanon | Other | 1.0 M | 816.7 K | 82% |
| Honduras | HRP | 1.8 M | 750.0 K | 42% |
| Guatemala | HRP | 1.7 M | 508.7 K | 30% |
| Haiti | FA | 280.0 K | 392.0 K | 100% |
| Malawi | FA | 542.4 K | 366.2 K | 68% |
| Mozambique | FA | 248.4 K | 305.3 K | 100% |
| El Salvador | HRP | 912.2 K | 273.2 K | 30% |
| Libya | HRP | 398.9 K | 241.7 K | 61% |
| Burundi | HRP | 947.4 K | 196.1 K | 21% |

*People reached indicates the number of people who benefited from at least one form of aid during the year. Without additional contextual information, the figure does not indicate how long and how well this aid covered the needs of the affected population.



Achievements by sector

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Bridging gaps in food security and nutrition





Faced with rising hunger across the globe, humanitarian actors took action to fight food insecurity, preserve lives and livelihoods, and limit the adoption of negative coping mechanisms. People facing acute food insecurity received time-sensitive food aid and cash assistance. At the same time, families received emergency agriculture and livelihoods support, enabling them to produce their own food. This diversified nutrition and boosted resilience. In the Horn of Africa, the desert locust surge was finally declared over, thanks to rapid anticipatory action and quick responses to livelihood losses.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  <p>Food assistance</p> <p>127 million people received food security assistance across 30 countries (Food Security Cluster)</p> |  <p>Malnutrition</p> <p>2.6 million children with severe wasting admitted for treatment (UNICEF)</p> |  <p>Livelihood assistance</p> <p>24 million people received livelihood assistance (Food Security Cluster)</p> |  <p>Cash assistance</p> <p>\$2.2 billion disbursed between January and September 2022 (WFP)</p> |
|---|--|---|---|

Inclusive health care

Faced with a continuing and complex health crisis, humanitarian partners worked on all fronts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure the maintenance of essential health services, and respond to new cholera and Ebola outbreaks. Emergency health assistance reached 40.3 million people in the first half of 2022.

Humanitarian actors stepped up to mainstream and improve mental health care in emergency operations, providing 2 million mental health-related consultations in 2022 – a vital service when depression and anxiety affect one in five people in emergency and conflict situations. Partners prioritized the provision of child and maternal health, with more than 17 million children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities in 2022. Humanitarians also ensured that people with disabilities had adequate access to humanitarian assistance and care, including physical rehabilitation and psychological support.





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|  <p>Emergency health care</p> <p>11,008 active mobile clinics each month (Health Cluster)</p> |  <p>Sexual and reproductive health (SRH)</p> <p>22 million women, girls and young people reached with SRH services (UNFPA)</p> |  <p>Comprehensive care for children</p> <p>13 million children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support (UNICEF)</p> |  <p>Disability</p> <p>236,804 disability-related consultations carried out (Health Cluster)</p> |
|---|--|--|---|



Multisectoral humanitarian assistance

In 2022, humanitarians provided food, health care, dignified shelter, basic non-food items (NFIs), and safe water, sanitation and hygiene. **Assistance was designed and adapted across different sectors to reach the increasing number of people forced to flee their homes** and becoming displaced in host communities or camps. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and partners provided 9 million displaced people with assistance. Rural communities living in hard-to-reach areas were also prioritized. For example, in Afghanistan’s Badghis Province, 195,000 people accessed clean water.

Access to education remained a priority to ensure future opportunities for boys and girls. Schools also provide an entry point for additional support, such as protection screening, hygiene training, health check-ups and nutritious food.

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|  <p>Coordinated assistance in camps</p> <p>8,823 sites covered by CCCM partners (CCCM Cluster)</p> |  <p>Safe water</p> <p>25.9 million people accessed a sufficient quantity of safe water (UNICEF)</p> |  <p>Education</p> <p>28.1 million children accessed formal or informal education (UNICEF)</p> |  <p>Shelter & NFI</p> <p>6.5 million people supported with shelter and NFI interventions (Shelter Cluster)</p> |
|--|---|---|--|

Protection

Humanitarian organizations provided holistic protection services, including GBV interventions, legal aid, mine action services and psychological support.

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|  <p>Protection services</p> <p>13.3 million refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and others accessed protection services in 135 countries (UNHCR)</p> |  <p>GBV assistance</p> <p>6.2 million women, children and young people reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation or response interventions and services (UNICEF and UNFPA)</p> |  <p>Mine action</p> <p>7.9 million people received mine action services in 18 countries, including clearance, risk education and victim/survivor assistance (Mine action Area of Responsibility)</p> |  <p>Women and Girls Safe Spaces</p> <p>1,000 safe spaces for women and girls supported in 42 countries (UNFPA)</p> |
|---|---|--|--|



Protection and assistance to refugees under regional plans

A record number of people are fleeing their country to seek safety. Regional plan partners worked together to help refugees, migrants and host communities to meet their basic needs. Protection services, life-saving relief items, safe drinking water, and health and cash assistance were provided in 46 countries.



Food assistance

3.5 million people impacted by the Syrian crisis received food assistance

(3RP Syria)



Protection

25,000 children received structured psychosocial support as part of the Rohingya refugee response

(JRP Bangladesh)



Education

442,000 South Sudanese refugee children enrolled in school programmes

(RRP South Sudan)



Cash assistance

Close to 500,000 Ukrainian refugees received cash assistance

(RRP Ukraine)

Safe, coordinated and efficient response

Humanitarian operations depend on a range of coordination and support services to identify, access and help crisis-affected people, including in hard-to-reach areas. Efficient communication and transportation are critical to ensuring humanitarian safety, enabling security and medical evacuations, and connecting humanitarians when no other reliable systems are available.



Transport services

More than 285,000 passengers and more than 5,300 MT of humanitarian cargo from 700 organizations transported from January to September

(UNHAS)



Humanitarian safety

300 medical and 350 security evacuations completed between January and September

(UNHAS)



Telecommunication services

9,500 aid workers supported with Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) services across 313 organizations

(ETC)



Coordination structures

More than 2,400 coordination mechanisms functioning in 29 operations

(OCHA)



Multisectoral support to refugees

As crises become increasingly complex and protracted, fewer refugees can return home, and they continue to live in crowded conditions with limited access to water, sanitation and health facilities. The humanitarian system has provided key services to support refugees, almost half of whom are women and girls.



Basic needs

5.4 million refugees, IDPs and others received cash assistance
(UNHCR)



Mental health

472,000 refugees, asylum-seekers and other people of concern received mental health and psychosocial support services
(UNHCR)



Reproductive health

595,000 women and girls received clinical sexual and reproductive health services
(UNHCR)



Essential health care

5.8 million refugees, asylum-seekers and others received essential health-care services
(UNHCR)

Sources: UNHCR and UNICEF figures are midyear numbers covering the first six months of 2022. WFP, UNHAS and ETC Cluster figures cover January to September 2022. Health Cluster numbers are cumulative up to 30 September. UNFPA and FAO figures cover until the end of October.

Syria. Fatima fled her home in the countryside near Aleppo. She uses a crutch and is one of the many children who suffer from difficult circumstances that affect their education. Despite this, Fatima goes to school.
OCHA/Abdul Aziz Qitaz





SECTION 1

Global trends

| | |
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| Sharp slowdown of global economy hit by series of shocks | 32 |
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| Equality for women and girls moves even further out of reach | 39 |
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Las Manos, border with Nicaragua, Honduras
Migrants illegally cross the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, on their way to reach the USA. OCHA/
Vincent Tremeau

After 20 years, rising displacement shows no sign of slowing

For two decades, forced displacement has continued to increase worldwide. By mid-2022, the overall number of forcibly displaced people worldwide had risen to an estimated 103 million. This is primarily due to the war in Ukraine and other escalating emergencies.¹ This includes 32.5 million refugees, 53.1 conflict-related million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.9 million asylum-seekers, among others.² By mid-September 2022, there were also 7.1 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela.³

The last year for which there is full data – 2021 – showed an 8 per cent increase from 2020 and more than double the amount of people who were forcibly displaced 10 years ago.

More than 1 per cent of the world's population are displaced – 41 per cent, or more than 36 million, are children.⁴ At the end of 2021, just five countries – Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria and Yemen – were home to nearly half of the total 53.2 million IDPs worldwide.⁵

The number of **refugees** remains at record levels and grew from 27.1 million at the end of 2020 to 32.5 million by mid-2022.⁶ Nearly three quarters, or 72 per cent, of refugees come from just five countries: Afghanistan, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.⁷ Low- and middle-income countries continue to shoulder a disproportionate responsibility, hosting 74 per cent of refugees. Over a quarter (27 per cent)

1. UNHCR, [Refugee Data Finder](#), 16 June 2022; UNHCR, [Mid-Year Trends](#), accessed 7 November 2022. The total number of people forcibly displaced is calculated using UNHCR, UNRWA and IDMC statistics. IDMC's statistics on internal displacement are only published annually, therefore the estimate is calculated using IDMC's end-2021 figure as a base and reflecting only changes in the statistics in the 34 countries in which UNHCR reported internal displacement during the first six months of 2022. The total new displacement is therefore likely to underestimate internal displacement globally.
2. UNHCR, [Mid-Year Trends](#), accessed 7 November 2022. Figure on refugees includes refugees under UNRWA and UNHCR mandate.
3. [R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela](#), September 2022.
4. UNHCR, [Global displacement hits another record, capping decade-long rising trend](#), 16 June 2022; UNHCR, [Figures at a glance](#), 18 October 2022.
5. IDMC, [Global Report on Internal Displacement \(GRID\) 2022](#), There are 25.8 million conflict-induced IDPs between these five countries.
6. UNHCR, [Mid-Year Trends](#), September 2022.
7. *Ibid.*



AID IN ACTION

Ukraine's escalating displacement crisis



Rzeszow, Poland: Karyna Samokhval arrived in Poland with her two children and her sister-in-law on 21 March. They took a bus to the city of Rzeszow, where they are staying in a shelter above a market. Karyna's 6-year-old son, Ivan, has a fever, but they need to move from the shelter. The family hope to reach the UK, but they are unsure how long the visa process will take. UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

Since February 2022, the war in Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee their homes in search of safety and assistance. Since 24 February, more than 12.3 million movements out of Ukraine have been recorded, with more than 5.5 million movements back into the country.¹ As of early September 2022, UNHCR reported that 7.4 million refugees from Ukraine remain displaced, with more than 4 million having registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes across Europe.² According to IOM, An additional 6.9 million people are estimated to be internally displaced, which is around 16 per cent of the Ukrainian population.³

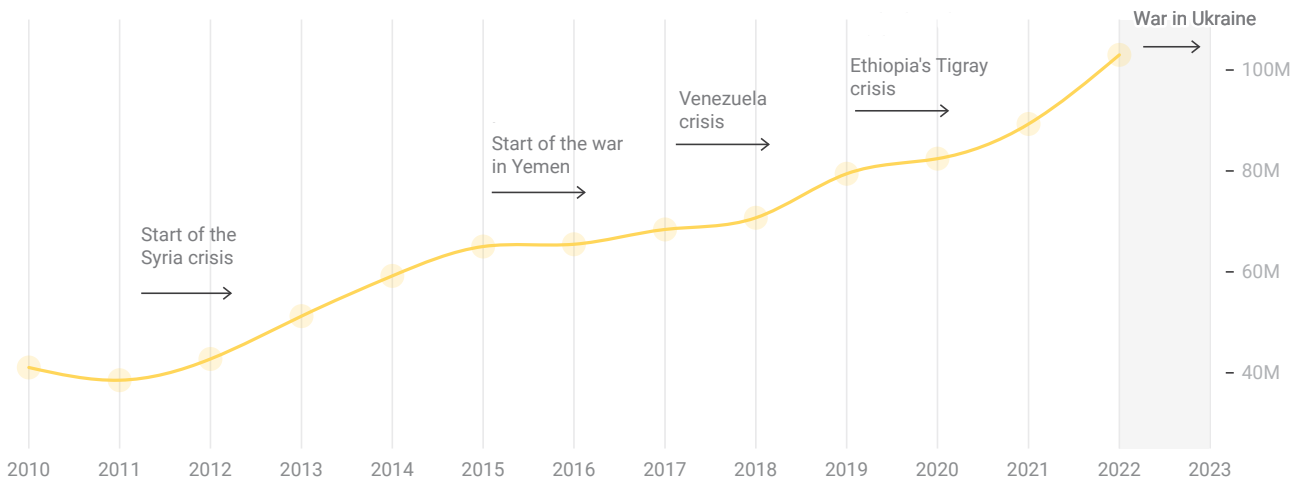
Continued shelling and missile attacks have caused widespread damage. Destruction of homes and infrastructure is likely to hamper returns in the foreseeable future.⁴ These large-scale displacements could have lasting consequences for generations to come. Around 70 per cent of IDPs in Ukraine are women.⁵ Women and children fleeing war in Ukraine are at heightened risk of human trafficking and exploitation, especially unaccompanied and separated children.⁶

1. UNHCR, *Ukraine Situation Flash Update No.29*, 9 September 2022.
2. UNHCR, *Operational Data Portal – Ukraine Refugee Situation*, 7 September 2022.
3. IOM, *Ukraine Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey – Round 8*, 23 August 2022, p. 1.
4. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022*.
5. IOM, *Ukraine Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey – Round 8*, 23 August 2022.
6. UNODC, *Conflict in Ukraine: Key Evidence On Risks Of Trafficking In Persons And Smuggling Of Migrants*, Update July 2022.



People forced to flee worldwide (2012 - June 2022)

By mid-2022, the overall number of forcibly displaced people worldwide had risen to an estimated 103 million. This is primarily due to the war in Ukraine and other escalating emergencies.



2022 figures are estimated using UNHCR data available as of 9 June 2022.

Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: UNHCR/IDMC/UNRWA

of the total were hosted in Least Developed Countries.⁸ At the end of 2021, 15.9 million refugees – or 74 per cent of the global refugee population – were estimated to live in a protracted situation.⁹

At the end of 2021, the total number of IDPs had reached a record 59.1 million – with 53.2 million displaced by conflict and violence, and 5.9 million displaced by disaster.¹⁰ More than 10 years of conflict in Syria have caused the displacement of millions of people. At the end of 2021, 6.9 million people were still estimated to be internally displaced; this means that for every three **Syrians** who remain within the country, one is internally displaced.¹¹ **Ethiopia and Afghanistan** also saw substantial increases in the number of IDPs during 2021. Internal displacement in Ethiopia tripled in less than four years, from 1.1 million to more than 3.6 million. In Afghanistan, the total number of IDPs reached an estimated 3.5 million in 2021, continuing an uninterrupted 15-year rising trend;¹² a collapsing economy and severe socioeconomic hardships are thwarting returns and are

likely to fuel new waves of displacement.¹³ In Yemen, a truce contributed to a 76 per cent reduction of internal displacements between April and September 2022, but safety and security concerns, disasters and economic hardship continued to force people to flee their homes and triggered secondary displacement.¹⁴

Disasters are responsible for the majority of displacements worldwide in a given year.¹⁵ While most disaster-induced displacements are temporary, 5.9 million people worldwide remained displaced at the end of 2021. Extreme weather events continued through 2022, and while overall figures were not available at the time of writing, disaster-induced displacement showed no signs of abating. Between January and June 2022, drought triggered more than 673,000 displacements in Somalia alone. In Pakistan, 33 million people have been affected by heavy rains and floods,¹⁶ and in Bangladesh the monsoon season triggered the worst floods in 20 years, causing the displacement of 1.1 million people in June 2022 and affecting 7.2 million people in total.¹⁷

8. UNHCR, *Mid-Year Trends*, September 2022, with updated calculations provided by UNHCR.

9. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021*.

10. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022*.

11. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021*.

12. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021*.

13. IDMC, *One Year On: The Taliban Takeover and Afghanistan's Changing Displacement Crisis*, August 2022.

14. OCHA, *Yemen Humanitarian Update – Issue 9*, September 2022; IDMC, *The Truce in Yemen: Opportunities and Challenges for IDPs*, July 2022.

15. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022*, p. 16.

16. OCHA, *Revised Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan: 01 Sep 2022 - 31 May 2023*.

17. IDMC, *2022 Mid-Year Update*, October 2022.



The rapidly deteriorating global food security situation disproportionately impacts people on the move, who are among the most vulnerable to acute food insecurity and malnutrition. In 2021, nearly 45 million IDPs resided in 24 countries and territories experiencing food crises.¹⁸ About two thirds of refugees and asylum-seekers originated from countries with food crises.¹⁹

Progress towards durable solutions has returned to pre-pandemic (2019) levels but remains out of reach for the vast majority of refugees and IDPs. In 2021, 5.73 million IDPs and 429,300 refugees returned to their areas

or countries of origin, while an additional 57,500 refugees were reportedly resettled in 2021, two thirds more than in the previous year (34,400).²⁰

Following the 2021 report of the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the UN Secretary-General issued an Action Agenda on Internal Displacement in June 2022. It calls for stepped-up collective efforts to address internal displacement, including by advancing durable solutions, preventing new displacement crises, and ensuring that people facing displacement receive effective protection and assistance.²¹

The top ten countries of origin of refugees (mid-2022)

As of mid-2022, Syria remains the country with the highest number of refugees, followed by Ukraine, Afghanistan and South Sudan.

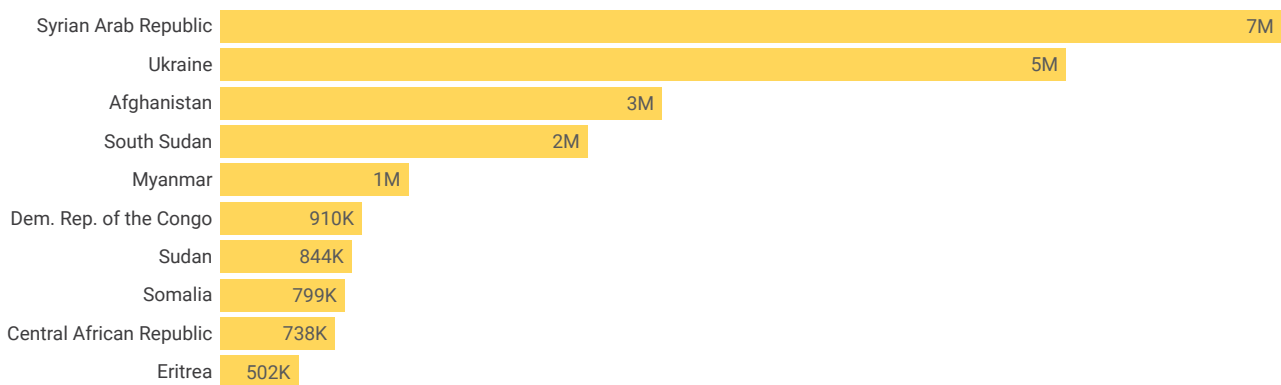


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: UNHCR

18. Food Security Information Network(FSIN), Global Report on Food Crises 2022 (GRFC), Syria, Afghanistan, DRC, Yemen, Ethiopia and Sudan determined by numbers of people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) or equivalent.

19. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021.

20. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021.

21. The United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, June 2022.



Ukraine. Oksana, Yurii and their daughter Svitlana at their destroyed home in Nalyvaikivka, in Kyiv Oblast. The family was hiding in their underground cold room when the house was hit by two missiles. UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Conflict continues to drive needs and severely impact humanitarian operations

Violent conflict continues to take a heavy toll on civilians. About 60 per cent of all observed conflicts worldwide were fought violently (204 out of 355),²² with the highest number of conflicts on the level of full-scale war taking place in sub-Saharan Africa.²³

Violence and conflict severely impact civilians, who continue to bear the brunt of attacks, especially when explosives are used in populated areas. In 2021, 89 per cent of all people harmed by explosive weapons in populated areas were civilians.²⁴ Mines, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war were responsible for 9,797 civilian casualties in 2021,²⁵ an increase from 6,766 in 2020.²⁶ The highest numbers were observed in the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan.²⁷ Damage to and destruction

of homes, essential infrastructure and other civilian objects continue to compound civilian suffering.

In 2021, conflict and violence caused 14.4 million displacements – the highest figure recorded. Some people were displaced more than once, when camps hosting IDPs came under attack.²⁸ Countries such as Afghanistan, DRC, Ethiopia and Ukraine all experienced record numbers of displacement. For example, the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray Region led to at least 2.5 million people being newly displaced within their country.²⁹ In 2022, the situation in Ukraine became one of the largest forced displacement crises since the Second World War.

22. Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, *Conflict Barometer 2021*.

23. Ibid. Eleven full-scale wars continued; five limited wars escalated to full-scale wars in 2021 in Cameroon, CAR, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Sudan.

24. Action on Armed Violence (AOAV), *Explosive Violence Monitor 2021*.

25. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, *S/2022/381*.

26. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, *S/2021/423*.

27. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, *S/2022/381*.

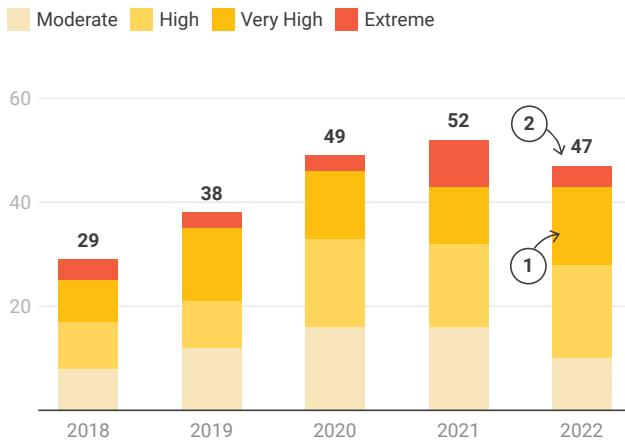
28. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2022*.

29. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021*.



Number of countries with humanitarian access constraints (2018 - July 2022)

Among the 2023 HRP countries, Myanmar, Ukraine and Yemen are classified as having extreme access constraints. Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, OPT, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela are classified having very high access constraints.



- 1 13 of the 15 countries with very high access constraints are 2023 HRP countries
- 2 3 of the 4 countries with extreme access constraints are 2023 HRP countries

Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: ACAPS - Humanitarian Access Overview (July 2022)

Humanitarian operations are severely impacted by conflict, insecurity, attacks on infrastructure and humanitarian assets, and violence against humanitarian workers. Humanitarian access constraints continue, in addition to bureaucratic impediments and counter-terrorism and sanctions measures.

Hostilities have significantly impacted humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Mali, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and elsewhere. In Somalia and Yemen, conflict has contributed to restricting the movement of humanitarian personnel and supplies along main routes. Humanitarian access to the centre and north of Mali was impeded by fighting between non-State armed groups. In CAR, NGOs were forced to scale back or suspend their activities, and the increased use of explosive devices has hampered humanitarian movement and civilians' access to assistance and services.³⁰

In 2021, 268 attacks against aid workers were recorded, resulting in the deaths of 141 humanitarian workers, compared with 117 killed the previous year. **Of the aid workers who died, 98 per cent were national staff and more than half were staff of national NGOs.**³¹ Attacks on medical personnel and facilities continued, with 219 health-care workers killed and 493 health-care facilities destroyed, damaged or used for military purposes in 17 countries during 2021. This marks a significant increase from 158 health-care workers killed the previous year.³²

Children remain especially vulnerable. In 2021, the UN verified nearly 24,000 grave violations against children, affecting more than 19,000 children. Violations include killing and maiming, recruitment, the use of children as soldiers, sexual violence and abductions, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals.³³ The number of recorded attacks on schools and hospitals increased by 5 per cent in 2021.³⁴ The persistent military use of schools and disregard for children's education and health, coupled with large-scale school closures, are depriving children of their right to education and jeopardizing their future.

30. United Nations, *Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2022/381)*, 10 May 2022..

31. Humanitarian Outcomes/Aid Worker Security Database, *Figures at a Glance* (July), and <https://aidworkersecurity.org/>.

32. United Nations, *Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2022/381)*, 10 May 2022.

33. *Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, A/76/871 S/2022/493*, 23 June 2022. Afghanistan, DRC, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Somalia, Syria and Yemen had the highest number of verified grave violations.

34. *Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, A/76/871 S/2022/493*, 23 June 2022.

AID IN ACTION

Early investments, long-term impacts – Addressing the unique needs of the youngest children¹



Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Many of the children living in camps in Cox's Bazar, especially those under age 5, have spent their entire lives displaced. The Play to Learn project encourages playful learning and nurturing care. Its main characters, Noor and Aziz, are 6-year-old Rohingya twin Muppets and the first representation that most Rohingya children will have ever seen of themselves. Sesame Workshop/Fabeha Monir.

Young children experience conflict and displacement differently than older children or adults. Research shows that in the first few years of a child's life, the human brain undergoes its most active period of growth and development. It forms more than 1 million new neural connections every second, laying the foundation for lifelong learning, health and productivity.²

For the more than 71 million young children who experience their early years in conflict or crisis situations, an abundance of evidence shows that they can suffer from disrupted cognitive development, with devastating and often irreversible impacts. This threatens to produce a cycle of instability and poverty, affecting individual recovery as well as larger community goals of social cohesion, resilience and equity.

However, this result is not inevitable. Evidence shows that a set of multi-cluster interventions, grouped together as Early Childhood Development (ECD), can counter these negative impacts. ECD

programming includes the specific integrated programmes needed by young children in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and education. It also includes specialized support to caregivers so that they have the capacity to appropriately and playfully engage with young children and provide consistent nurturing care.

ECD is a cost-effective investment, generating returns across sectors, including greater educational attainment, improved cognitive abilities, higher wages earned as an adult, reduced violence and fewer depressive symptoms.³ Despite this evidence, these interventions remain dramatically underfunded. Globally, ECD accounts for just over 2 per cent of humanitarian assistance.⁴ With greater investment, ECD can stretch limited resources further by providing enabling progress on issues such as gender equity, mental health and livelihoods in addition to direct returns for children. There is no time like the present to invest in their future.

1. Developed in partnership with Sesame Workshop. Learn more about the "Play to Learn" [here](#) and watch Noor and Aziz [here](#).

2. Harvard University Center on the Developing Child, [InBrief: The Science of Early Childhood Development](#), 2007.

3. Nores and Barnett, "Benefits of early childhood interventions across the world: (Under) Investing in the very young," 2010. Gertler, et al., "Labor market returns to an early childhood stimulation intervention in Jamaica," 2014. Black, et al., "Early childhood development coming of age: science through the life course," 2016. Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), "Encouraging early childhood stimulation from parents and caregivers to improve child development," 2020. Walker, et al., "Cognitive, psychosocial, and behaviour gains at age 31 years from the Jamaica early childhood stimulation trial," 2021.

4. Moving Minds Alliance, [Analysis of international aid levels for early childhood services in crisis contexts](#), 2020.



Puntland, Somalia

As a single mother, Hodan depends on the goodwill of others to support her and her family. Their livestock died during previous droughts and her husband abandoned the family. FAO/Will Swanson

Hundreds of millions of people face hunger as historic food crisis looms

The largest global food crisis in modern history is unfolding, driven by conflict, climate shocks and the looming threat of global recession. Hundreds of millions of people are at risk of worsening hunger. Acute food insecurity is escalating, and at least 222 million people across 53 countries are expected to face acute food insecurity and need urgent assistance by the end of 2022.³⁵ There is also a gender dimension, with women more likely to be affected by hunger. In 2021, nearly 32 per cent of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure, compared to nearly 28 per cent of men.³⁶

Starvation is a very real risk for 45 million people in 37 countries. As of October 2022, 989,000 people were already in Catastrophe

(IPC/CH Phase 5): 301,000 of them were in Somalia, the remainder in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Haiti (which recorded populations in IPC Phase 5 for the first time), South Sudan and Yemen.³⁷ On top of this, 60 million children worldwide are at risk of being acutely malnourished by the end of 2022, compared to 47 million in 2019.³⁸ Syria – which uses a different methodology – is home to 12 million food insecure people, equating to roughly 54 per cent of the country's population. Among these people, 2.5 million are severely food insecure.³⁹

Conflict remains the key driver of acute food insecurity. More than 70 per cent of people experiencing hunger live in areas afflicted by war and violence.⁴⁰ In 2021, around 139 million people in 24 countries and territories affected

35. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, June to September 2022 Outlook](#).

36. FAO, [State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022](#), (SOFI), p. 30.

37. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, June to September 2022 Outlook](#); [FAO/WFP, Catastrophic hunger levels recorded for the first time in Haiti, 14 October 2022](#). IPC information from Ethiopia is from 2021, no newer information available.

38. Save the Children, [Global malnutrition crisis: a hopeless reality or time to get things done?](#), 13 October 2022.

39. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, October 2022 to January 2023 Outlook](#); estimations based on CARI methodology instead of IPC.

40. Food Security Information Network (FSIN) and Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC), [Global Report on Food Crises 2022, mid-year update](#), May 2022; WFP, [A Global Food Crisis: 2022: A Year of Unprecedented Hunger](#), last visited on 23 August 2022.



AID IN ACTION

The countries facing catastrophic levels of hunger



Tigray Region, Ethiopia: A health worker evaluates a child during a malnutrition screening for children and pregnant and lactating women. UNICEF/Christine Nesbitt

Afghanistan is facing an unprecedented hunger crisis due to the combination of a collapsing economy, high food prices and persistent drought. Nearly 19 million people – 45 per cent of the population – are facing high levels of acute food insecurity between June and November 2022 – 6 million of them are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). They include, for the first time since the introduction of IPC in Afghanistan, 20,000 people who are already facing Catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5) between March and May 2022 due to limited humanitarian access.¹

In **Ethiopia**, the effects of ongoing violence and conflict in 2022 are being compounded by one of the most severe droughts in the last 40 years. More

than 20 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the country, including 13 million people in northern Ethiopia.² The lack of updated IPC data remains a major concern. The latest available IPC projections were valid up to September 2021, indicating around 401,000 people in Tigray faced Catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5).

As of October 2022, **Haiti** recorded people experiencing Catastrophic levels of food insecurity for the first time: 4.7 million people are currently facing acute hunger (IPC Phase 3 and above), of whom 19,000 are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). Natural hazards continue to deliver shocks to an

1. [Afghanistan IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis: March - November 2022 \(Issued in May 2022\); FAO/WFP, Hunger hotspots FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, October 2022-January 2023.](#)

2. [OCHA, Ethiopia Situation Report, 5 August 2022.](#)



already vulnerable population, which is also facing a stalled economy, poor job prospects and a basic food basket that is out of reach for many Haitians.³

In **Somalia**, an anticipated fifth consecutive season of poor rainfall, exceptionally high food prices, conflict, insecurity and disease outbreaks are causing dire conditions.⁴ **Famine (IPC Phase 5) is projected among rural residents in Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and among displaced people in Baidoa town** of Bay Region in southern Somalia, where malnutrition and mortality are already at alarming levels. Between October and December 2022, approximately 6.7 million people across Somalia are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This number includes 2.2 million people who are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 301,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).⁵

The situation in **South Sudan** remains alarming, with almost two thirds of the population in the most severe phases of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above).⁶ While a significant scale-up in humanitarian response averted a famine-likely situation in 2021, at least 87,000 people are facing starvation and death (IPC Phase 5) as of October 2022.⁷

In **Yemen**, earlier projections of 19 million people expected to be in acute food insecurity in the second half of 2022 may be less grim than anticipated. However, the country continues to experience acute levels of food insecurity. Economic crisis, a fragile truce that expired on 2 October, and elevated global commodity prices contribute to instability and hunger.⁸ Urgently needed assistance is complicated by increasing operational and food procurement costs, as well as supply shortages and access challenges.⁹

ECD is a cost-effective investment, generating returns across sectors, including greater educational attainment, improved cognitive abilities, higher wages earned as an adult, reduced violence and fewer depressive symptoms.¹⁰ Despite this evidence, these interventions remain dramatically underfunded. Globally, ECD accounts for just over 2 per cent of humanitarian assistance.¹¹ With greater investment, ECD can stretch limited resources further by providing enabling progress on issues such as gender equity, mental health and livelihoods in addition to direct returns for children. There is no time like the present to invest in their future.

3. [FAO/WFP, Catastrophic hunger levels recorded for the first time in Haiti, 14 October 2022.](#)

4. [IPC, Somalia: 6.7 million people across Somalia will likely face high levels of acute food insecurity. Famine projected in two districts, 12 September 2022.](#)

5. [IPC, Somalia: Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Situation July - December 2022](#), visited October 2022.

6. [IPC, South Sudan IPC Technical Working Group 2022. Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Situation for February - March 2022 and Projections for April - July 2022; WFP, South Sudan Situation Report #303, 31 July 2022; FAO/WFP, Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, October 2022 to January 2023 Outlook.](#)

7. [FAO/WFP, Hunger Hotspots FAO-WFP Early Warnings on Acute Food Insecurity, June to September 2022 Outlook.](#)

8. [Ibid.](#)

9. [FAO/WFP, Hunger hotspots FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity October 2022-January 2023.](#)

10. Nores and Barnett, "Benefits of early childhood interventions across the world: (Under) Investing in the very young," 2010. Gertler, et al., "Labor market returns to an early childhood stimulation intervention in Jamaica," 2014. Black, et al., "Early childhood development coming of age: science through the life course," 2016. Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), "Encouraging early childhood stimulation from parents and caregivers to improve child development," 2020. Walker, et al., "Cognitive, psychosocial, and behaviour gains at age 31 years from the Jamaica early childhood stimulation trial," 2021.

11. Moving Minds Alliance, [Analysis of international aid levels for early childhood services in crisis contexts](#), 2020.



by conflict and insecurity were facing Crisis levels of food insecurity or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above).⁴¹ In that same year, conflict was the key driver in three of the four countries with populations in Catastrophe (IPC/CH Phase 5) – Ethiopia, South Sudan and Yemen.⁴²

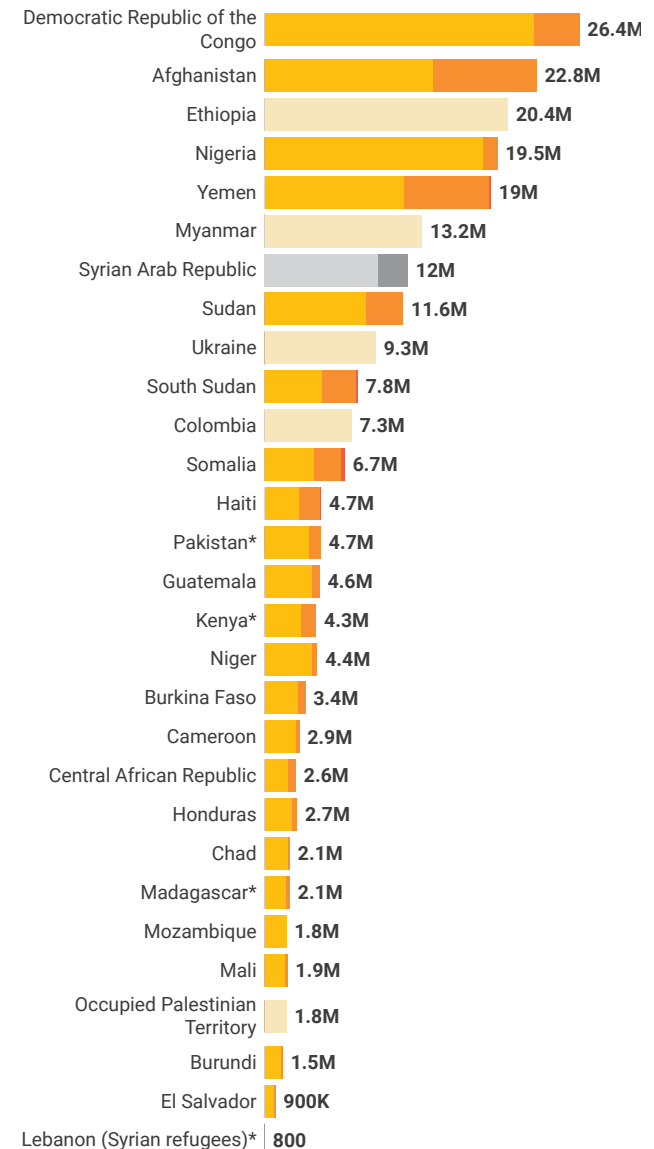
Food prices have been rising at an alarming rate since mid-2020 and now remain at a 10-year high, despite declining slightly in recent months.⁴³ These fluctuations are unlikely to curb domestic food inflation in countries facing a toxic combination of tumbling currency value and high inflation: 99 countries have had year-on-year food inflation of 10 per cent or more, with food inflation exceeding 15 per cent in 63 countries,⁴⁴ making essential purchases unaffordable for many people.⁴⁵

Economic shocks were the main driver of food insecurity across 21 countries. A total of 30.2 million people in these countries were in Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above) in 2021, reflecting soaring food prices due to uneven global economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, high inflation and widespread supply chain disruptions.⁴⁶ This was even more acutely felt in sub-Saharan Africa. For example, by the end of July 2022, prices of staple cereals had doubled in parts of South Sudan compared to February 2022.⁴⁷ When families do not have enough food to eat or enough money to buy food, they may resort to extreme coping mechanisms in order to acquire food, including family separation, child labour and child marriage.⁴⁸

Number of people in acute food insecurity in 2023 HRP countries

Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen report people experiencing Catastrophic levels of hunger.

■ IPC/CH 3 | Crisis ■ IPC/CH 4 | Emergency ■ IPC/CH 5 | Catastrophe ■ People in need (food security and livelihoods), HNO/HRP ■ Moderately food insecure people (WFP CARI scale) ■ Severely food insecure people (WFP CARI scale)



41. Organized violence and armed conflict are key drivers of acute food insecurity in eastern DRC, Ethiopia, northern Nigeria, northern Mozambique, central Sahel, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen.

42. Food Security Information Network, [Global Report on Food Crises 2022 \(GRFC\)](#), p. 7.

43. FAO, [FAO Food Price Index](#), accessed September 2022.

44. WFP, WFP internal Corp Alert System, October 2022; Trading Economics, <https://tradingeconomics.com/currencies>, accessed on 21/10/2022.

45. WFP internal analysis; WFP Chief Economist, [International food commodity prices are retreating but simply not enough](#), August 2022.

46. Food Security Information Network, [Global Report on Food Crises 2022 \(GRFC\)](#), p. 22.

47. WFP, [South Sudan Situation Report #303](#), 31 July 2022.

48. PLAN - Child Protection and Child Security. An evidence review [of the linkages in humanitarian settings](#).

Based on GRFC MYU 2022, FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report Oct 2022 - Jan 2023, and updates from IPC. Data for Syrian Arab Republic, Palestine and Lebanon is from 2021. No IPC/CH data exists for Colombia, Myanmar, Ukraine, Venezuela. Data for Colombia comes from the HNO 2022 and does not include nutrition. Data for Myanmar comes from the HNO and for the Ukraine from the latest Flash Appeal. In Afghanistan, 20 000 people were in IPC 5 in March–May 2022. For Ethiopia, no IPC information exists for 2022. According to the latest IPC analyses, 4.3 million people were in IPC Phase 4 (IPC Dec 2020, January - June 2021, IPC June 2021 for Tigray, May-June 2021) and 0.4 million were in IPC Phase 5 (IPC June 2021 for Tigray, July - September 2021). For Syria, severely food insecure include 1.8 million people residing in camps who are considered food insecure and in need of full support. For Palestine, number is based on SEFSec methodology. Populations that are classified as 'moderately acute food



Extreme climatic and weather events were the main drivers of acute food insecurity in eight African countries, with 23.5 million people in Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). In Madagascar, severe droughts pushed almost 14,000 people into Catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) between April and September 2021.⁴⁹

As needs increase, so do operational costs to help people in need. Scaled-up funding for cash, food and livelihood assistance remains an urgent priority, especially as the global food crisis has not yet reached its peak.

49. Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2022 (GRFC)*, p. 23.

AID IN ACTION

The triple crisis: Food, fuel and fertilizer



Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine: Olena Smahlyuk transports a sack of potatoes during a distribution of seeds and potato starter kits in Vodiane village. Olena is a pensioner and a caretaker of the local school. FAO/Oleksandr Mliekov

The war in Ukraine – one of the world’s major breadbaskets – is compounding what is already a year of catastrophic hunger. Together, Ukraine and Russia supply 30 per cent of globally traded wheat, 20 per cent of maize and 70 per cent of sunflower supplies. A shortfall in export supplies is driving prices up, leaving import-dependent countries with higher food import bills – or less food to eat.

Since the crisis in Ukraine began, food shipments from the Black Sea have been reduced and costs have grown significantly, with immediate impact on import-dependent economies. In addition, fertilizer prices are increasing to record levels. This will significantly affect countries’ ability to grow food, increasing food insecurity far beyond 2022 levels.¹

1. WFP, *WFP Global Operational Response Plan: update 5, June 2022*.



AID IN ACTION

Financing food responses through pooled funds



Welthungerhilfe/Peter Caton

OCHA's pooled funds allocated more than \$595.2 million to fight food insecurity in 2022.¹ Of this, CERF allocated \$200 million and the CBPFs allocated \$395.2 million. The war in Ukraine disrupted food markets in 2022, and CERF responded with several dedicated multi-country allocations. In April, it provided \$100 million to six African countries and Yemen. This was followed by two further allocations in May of \$30 million for the Sahel region and \$20 million for Sudan, in addition to several other allocations totalling \$50 million to address the ensuing impact of food insecurity. These allocations allowed UN agencies and their partners to provide critical food, cash and nutritional help as well as other provisions, including medical services, shelter and clean water.

Additionally, CBPF funding in Afghanistan, CAR, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen mitigated the spillover effects of rising food prices.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing one of its worst droughts in recent history, with millions of people experiencing severe food insecurity. In response, CERF, the OCHA-managed pooled funds, and the Ethiopia and Somalia Humanitarian Funds allocated a total of \$194 million across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia in 2022,² including through Anticipatory Action frameworks. These funds enabled immediate responses across the region while also building resilience, thanks to the speed of allocations and reach through local and national NGOs.

1. Data as of 1 November 2022

2. This includes \$2 million for Djibouti.



Sobat River, South Sudan
Flood-displaced migrants use a tarpaulin to float down the Sobat River in search of higher ground.
UNICEF/Jan Grarup

The climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis

Climate change is contributing to humanitarian crises worldwide. Climate-related disasters are driving increased levels of risks, vulnerability human rights abuses, disrupting livelihoods, increasing displacement, influencing the spread of diseases, worsening global public health and threatening lives overall.⁵⁰ The past eight years are on track to be the eight warmest on record, and 2022 is estimated to be among the hottest, with a mean temperature of 1.15°C above pre-industrial times. This is taking an exceptionally heavy toll on glaciers, with initial indications of record-shattering melt and record levels of ocean heat.^{51, 52}

Disasters triggered more than 60 per cent (23.7 million people) of the newly recorded internal displacements in 2021. Ninety-four per cent of these displacements were climate related.

Countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change also saw 95 per cent of all conflict-related displacements in 2021.⁵³ Almost all conflict-related refugees who returned in 2021 (99 per cent) returned home to countries on the front line of the climate crisis, making safe and sustainable solutions harder to achieve.⁵⁴

Climate change continues to exacerbate the frequency and intensity of disasters, disproportionately impacting the most vulnerable people. The effects of these disasters deepen inequalities and exacerbate pre-existing human rights, and social and structural vulnerabilities. Floods and storms accounted for 91 per cent of disaster displacements in 2021,⁵⁵ a year that saw 432 individual disasters.⁵⁶ If current trends persist,

50. IPCC, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*; UNICEF, *An Environment Fit for Children*; UNICEF's Approach to Climate Change; WHO, *Donors making a difference: Climate change and its impact on health*, 9 November 2022.

51. WMO, *Eight warmest years on record witness upsurge in climate change impact*, November 2022.

52. WMO, *Provisional The State of Global Climate 2022: The State of the Global Climate 2021*.

53. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2021*. From source: "See ND-GAIN index. The 2021 figures are calculated using the 2019 ND-GAIN index, determining the percentage of new internal conflict displacements reported by IDMC, or new refugees and asylum-seekers under UNHCR's mandate originating from the lowest 30 per cent of ND-GAIN index values, i.e., countries that are highly vulnerable to climate change. As vulnerability data for South Sudan is not available, Sudan is used as a proxy."

54. UNCHR, *Climate change is an emergency for everyone, everywhere*, 9 November 2021.

55. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022: Children and Youth in Internal Displacement*.

56. CRED, UCLouvain, and USAID, *Disasters Year in Review 2021*.



Climate-related disasters almost tripled in current decade compared to 1980s

Flood occurrences tripled, while the number of extreme-temperature was six times more during the same period.

Flood Storm Drought Extreme temperature Wildfire

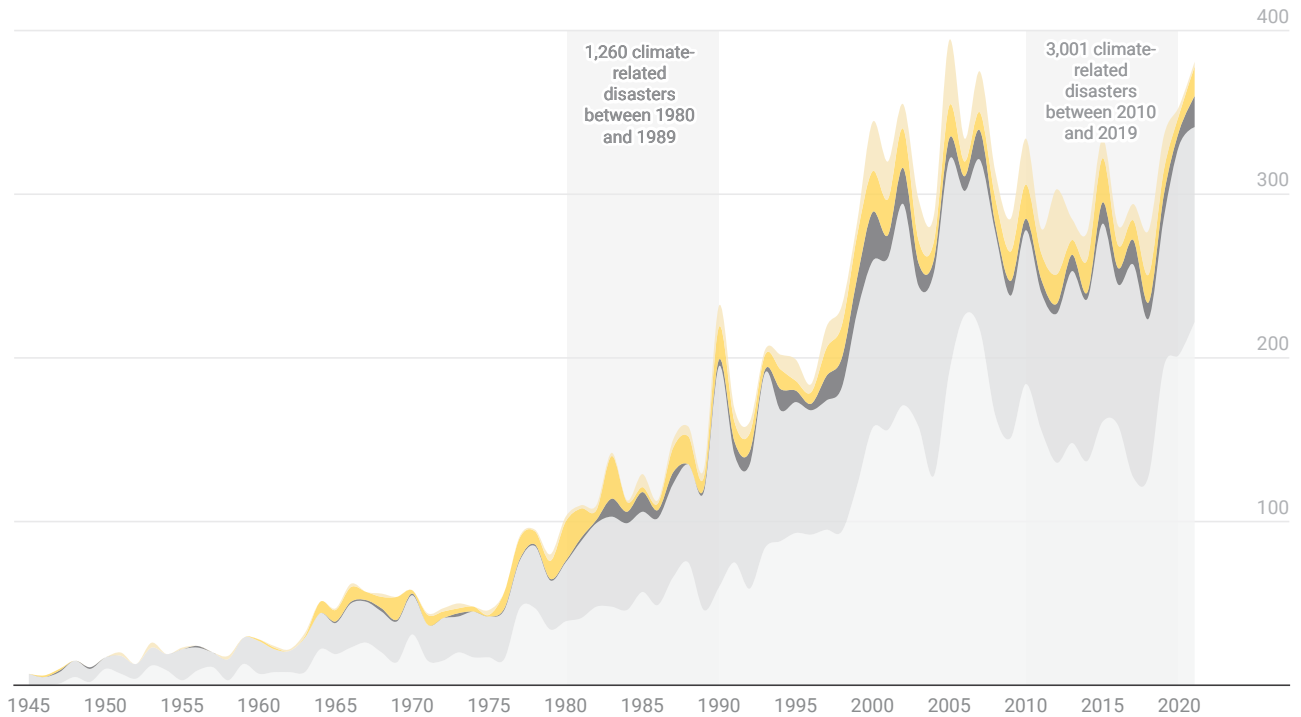


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: WTO/CRED

the number of disaster events per year is projected to reach 560, or 1.5 large-scale disasters per day.⁵⁷ An extreme-heat event that would have occurred once in 50 years in a climate without human influence is now nearly five times as likely.⁵⁸

As temperatures rise, water scarcity continues. Despite progress in recent years, 2 billion people still do not have access to safe drinking water, and 1.5 million people die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe drinking water, most of them infants and small children.⁵⁹ Wide geographical disparities exist, and every day, millions of women and school-aged children, often girls, walk long distances to fetch water for the family. Only one third of health-care facilities in Least Developed Countries have water available from a safe source.⁶⁰ Progress towards universal access to water is threatened by the impacts and

uncertainty of climate change, agricultural and ecological needs, competing financial priorities and existing threats to water quality.⁶¹

People caught in humanitarian crises contribute the least to global warming, yet they are the most vulnerable to its impacts. Of the 15 countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis, 12 had an internationally led humanitarian response.⁶² Those countries contributed less than 0.2 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020.⁶³ The majority of the emergencies are protracted crises, such that humanitarian workers have become a constant presence and lifeline for affected communities. By the end of the century, deaths from extreme heat are projected to be comparable in magnitude to all cancers or all infectious diseases and staggeringly unequal, with people in poorer countries seeing far greater levels of increase.⁶⁴

57. UNDRR, *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022*.

58. IFRC and OCHA, *Extreme Heat. Preparing for heatwaves of the future*, 2022.

59. WHO, UNICEF and World Bank, *State of the World's Drinking Water*, 2022.

60. WHO and UNICEF, *Progress on WASH in healthcare facilities 2000-2021*, August 2022.

61. WHO, UNICEF and World Bank, *State of the World's Drinking Water*, 2022.

62. According to list of 2023 HRP Countries and ND-GAIN's *Country Index (according to latest available full scores from 2020)*.

63. According to data from the European Commission's *Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR)*.

64. IFRC and OCHA, *Extreme Heat. Preparing for heatwaves of the future*, 2022.



This growing humanitarian climate emergency requires significant investment in humanitarian programmes that boost the resilience and adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities and ensure they receive climate adaptation funds to manage the risks they face. Less than 18 per cent of climate adaptation finance allocated in

2019 went to countries with an HRP.⁶⁵ The participation of people affected by climate change will be critical to ensure responsive, accountable and effective humanitarian programming. Unless policy and prevention and mitigation measures are put in place now, climate change will continue being a leading driver of humanitarian need.⁶⁶

65. According to data from the [OECD DAC External Development Finance Statistics](#). Data analyses climate-related adaptation finance from bilateral, multilateral and private philanthropic sources. Analysis excludes Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), as data is not available.

66. UNEP, [Adaptation Gap Report 2021: The Gathering Storm. Adapting to Climate Change in a Post-Pandemic World](#).

AID IN ACTION

A cascade of historic flooding across South Asia



OCHA/Gideon Mendel

Following the devastating floods in Pakistan in June 2022, around 33 million people have been affected by the heavy rains and floods. They include at least 7.9 million people who have been displaced, of whom 598,000 are living in relief camps. Nearly 800,000 refugees are estimated to be hosted in more than 40 calamity-notified districts, including more than 175,600 women, 194,000 girls and 206,000 boys. More than 2 million houses have been damaged and more than 1.1 million livestock killed.¹

The 2021 monsoon season across South Asia was among the deadliest the region has ever seen. Millions of people were affected by a cascade of flood events, with little time to recover between shocks. In Bangladesh, more than half a million people were deluged by floods, leaving villages marooned for weeks at a time.² In India, a series of deadly floods claimed over 1,200 lives and affected a staggering 18 million others.³ And in Nepal, around one third of the country suffered floods and associated landslides, with many occurring outside of the traditional monsoon season. Floods overran villages, towns and cities across Nepal, taking the lives of 673 people, displacing 18,000 others, and inflicting more than \$50 million in damage and economic losses.⁴

Humanitarian actors worked swiftly to get ahead of and respond to the series of deadly floods across the subcontinent. In 2021, the Central Emergency Response Fund launched an anticipatory action pilot in Nepal to mitigate the impacts of severe flooding events, and to promote life-saving assistance to more than 80,000 people in 23 flood-prone municipalities across the country.⁵

1. OCHA, [Pakistan: 2022 Flood Response Plan, 1 September 2022 - 31 May 2023](#).
2. IFRC, [Over 57 Million Affected by Climate Disasters Across Asia Pacific in 2021](#).
3. CRED, UCLouvain, and USAID, [Disasters Year in Review 2021](#).
4. OCHA, [Asia and the Pacific Weekly Regional Humanitarian Snapshot: 19-25 October 2021](#).
5. OCHA, [Anticipatory Action Framework: Nepal Pilot](#).

AID IN ACTION

Responding to climate emergencies through the pooled funds



UNICEF/Azam

In recent years, CERF and the CBPFs have provided significant support to climate-related emergency response. Since its inception in 2006, CERF has provided more than \$2 billion for climate-related emergencies. It has allocated nearly \$1 billion to droughts, with \$500 million to floods and \$300 million to storms. Since 2015, CBPFs have spent more than \$543 million on climate-related shocks.

A key evolution of the pooled funds' responses to climate-related emergencies includes allocations as part of the Anticipatory Action frameworks and the mainstreaming of early action in CERF and CBPF allocations. This allows action to be taken in advance of the peak of a predictable climate shock to mitigate the humanitarian impact on vulnerable populations.

As of November 2022, Anticipatory Action frameworks have been established in nine countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nepal, Niger, the Philippines

and Somalia. Activation has already occurred in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger and Somalia, and another framework is being developed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar. In South Sudan, CERF and the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund provided funding based on anticipatory principles.

In Ethiopia and Somalia, having Anticipatory Action frameworks to respond to drought facilitated the allocation from CERF \$27 million. The allocations were triggered by rainfall forecasts and projected increases in food insecurity levels. The allocations enabled assistance to reach people before the rains failed, and they supported 345,000 people across Somalia and 890,000 people in Ethiopia. They ensured people's continued access to water through the rehabilitation and construction of boreholes and wells, distribution of drought-resistant seeds, early detection of disease outbreaks and provision of cash for education to keep children in school.



Kaya, Burkina Faso

A woman pours maize into a bowl at Tiwega 1 - the site for internally displaced people in Kaya, in Burkina Faso's Centre-Nord Region. The site hosts 2,240 displaced people who fled insecurity in Dablo and Foubé. OCHA/Michele Cattani

Sharp slowdown of global economy hit by series of shocks

The global economy is slowing down sharply – more than a third of the global economy is expected to shrink in 2022-2023.⁶⁷ Events around the world have had devastating knock-on effects, including persistently high levels of global inflation, especially in the United States and major European economies. Substantial economic downturn in China resulting from the property crisis, COVID-19-related lockdowns and the impacts of the war in Ukraine have also played a significant role.⁶⁸ These shocks are hitting a world economy that experienced unprecedented contractions in 2020 but has not yet recovered from the pandemic's far-reaching impacts.

Global economic growth is projected to slow from 6 per cent in 2021 to 3.2 per cent in 2022 to 2.7 per cent in 2023.⁶⁹ This is the weakest profile seen in the 2000s, except for the 2008 financial crisis and the acute phase of the pandemic. The three largest economies – the United States, China and the Euro area – will continue to stall. Even when growth is positive, it will feel like a recession because of shrinking real incomes and rising prices.⁷⁰ **Sub-Saharan Africa** had a better-than-anticipated economic recovery in the second half of 2021, but it has been hit hard by surging food and energy prices, rising interest rates to curb inflation and other spillover effects from the war in Ukraine. Global developments reshaped the region's economic outlook, resulting in economic growth shaved

67. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2022.

68. Ibid.

69. Ibid.

70. Ibid.



Monthly food price index (2017 - October 2022)

In March 2022, the FAO Food Price Index reached its highest level since its inception in 1990, driven by large rises in wheat and all coarse grain prices largely as a result of the war in Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine, combined, accounted for around 30 per cent and 20 per cent of global wheat and maize exports, respectively, over the past three years.

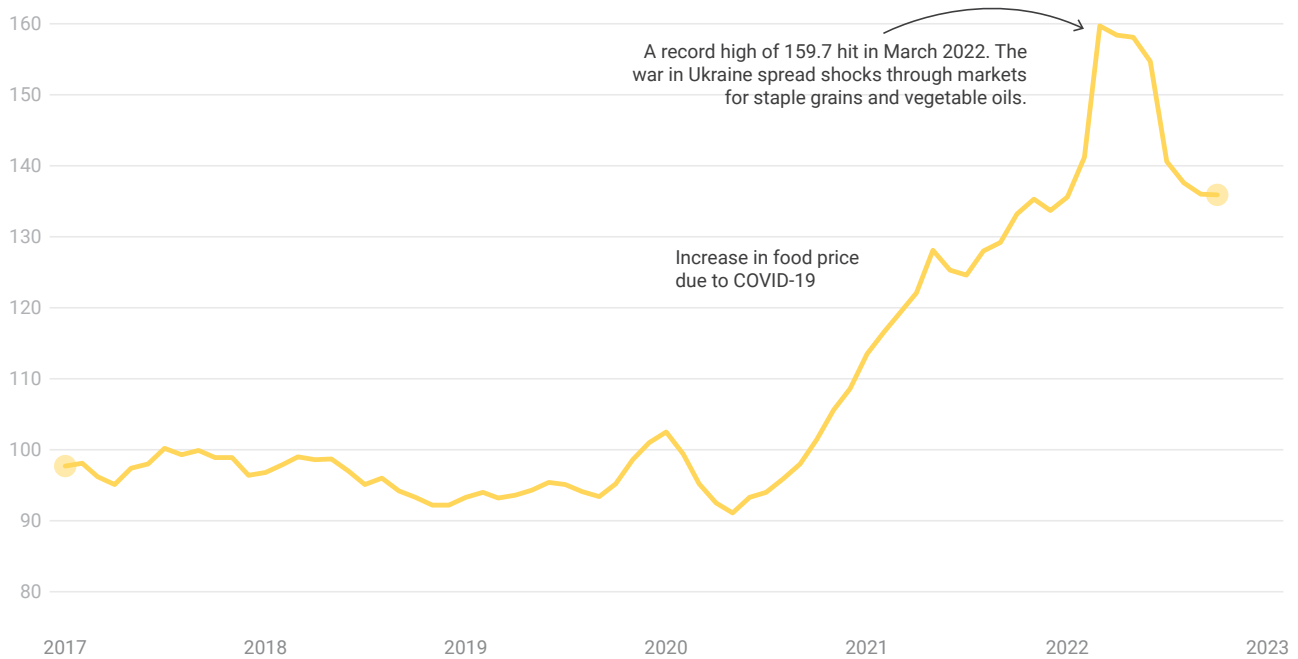


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: FAO

off to 3.6 per cent in 2022 and 3.7 per cent in 2023; this is not enough to make up for the pandemic-related economic losses incurred since 2020.⁷¹

As of mid-2022, of the 21 HRP countries for which data is available, 17 face lower projected real GDP growth for 2022 and 2023, compared to predictions made in January 2022.⁷² For more than eight HRP countries, expected GDP growth in 2023 has been reduced by a percentage point or more, with Mozambique (-3.6), Sudan (-3) and Niger (-2.3) facing the steepest reductions in expected growth.⁷³ Compounding challenges, such as climate change, the pandemic's lingering effects, conflict, rising food and fuel prices, and food insecurity, contribute to lower economic growth in these settings.

Rising inflation is a central concern in many countries, increasing price pressures and the risk of social unrest. In 2022, inflation is estimated to reach 7.2 per cent in advanced economies and 10 per cent in emerging markets and developing economies, and it is projected to remain elevated for a longer period.⁷⁴ In response to high inflation, many central banks have been forced to raise interest rates, further exacerbating debt vulnerabilities. In sub-Saharan Africa, higher inflation and interest rates are expected to depress real incomes and domestic demand, reduce fiscal space and induce capital outflow across the region. The accompanying increase in poverty is especially concerning in countries where many people are already at high risk of falling into food insecurity, such as DRC, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Syria.⁷⁵

71. IMF, *Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook: A New Shock and Little Room to Maneuver*, April 2022.

72. COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations, *Quarterly Highlights: April - June 2022*.

73. *Ibid.*

74. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2022.

75. World Bank, *Global Economic Prospects - June 2022*.



Global fuel and food price hikes are hitting vulnerable populations in low-income countries the hardest.⁷⁶ The increase in energy prices since March 2020 has been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis. Fertilizer prices rose by 220 per cent between April 2020 and March 2022. Food prices rose by 84 per cent over the same period.⁷⁷ In addition, the sharp depreciation of the local currency against the US dollar has pushed food prices in domestic terms even higher. For example, wheat prices, which were 7 per cent higher globally in September than in February, were up more than 22 per cent across sub-Saharan Africa.⁷⁸

Recent painful development losses are at risk of becoming entrenched, and the global goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030 is no longer achievable.⁷⁹ Shocks since 2020 have set back the progress in reducing global poverty by at least four years.⁸⁰ Rising inflation and the far-reaching impacts of the war in Ukraine could lead to an additional 75 million to 95 million people living in poverty,⁸¹ the vast majority of whom live in Africa.⁸² Economic hardship and poverty-related drivers are at the root of many protection issues, especially for children, and can increase rates of child labour, child marriage, unsafe migration, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Employment numbers worldwide improved in 2021 but will remain below pre-pandemic rates in 2022 and beyond, disproportionately affecting women and young people.⁸³ Despite these challenges, **remittance flows** to low- and middle-income countries made a robust recovery in 2021 and continue to grow in 2022.⁸⁴

Debt pressures continue to grow and prevent Governments from implementing fiscal responses. Humanitarian settings face significant debt risks, with seven HRP countries at high risk of debt distress.⁸⁵ Even more countries will experience this troubling reality due to rising interest rates, diminished credit flows, a stronger US dollar and weaker economic growth. Debt-servicing payments were paused during the height of the pandemic, resuming in 2022 just as interest rates began to increase. This makes debt more expensive and less sustainable in humanitarian settings.⁸⁶

Far-reaching debt relief is crucial for many low-income countries. In 2021, wealthy countries pledged to reallocate \$100 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to lower-income countries. However, none of the reallocated SDRs has reached the lower-income countries to date.⁸⁷ Debt-resolution mechanisms remain slow and unpredictable. Recent progress in implementing the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments is encouraging, but negotiations are slow⁸⁸ and further improvements are urgently needed.

76. IMF, *World Economic Outlook*, April 2021.

77. World Bank, *Commodity Markets Outlook – April 2022*.

78. World Bank, *Commodity Markets Outlook – October 2022*.

79. World Bank, *2022 Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report – October 2022*.

80. *Ibid.*

81. UN DESA, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022*, p. 26.

82. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), *Economic Report on Africa 2021*. In Africa alone, 58 million people were estimated to be extremely vulnerable to falling into poverty, unless supported by cash or food assistance.

83. ILO, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2022*. Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million people in 2022, about 21 million more than in 2019.

84. World Bank, *Migration and Development Brief 36*. In 2022, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries are expected to increase by 4.2 per cent to reach \$630 billion, following 8.6 per cent growth during 2021, when remittance flows reached \$605 billion.

85. IMF, *List of LIC DSAs for PRGT-Eligible Countries*, 30 September 2022. HRP countries at high risk of debt distress are Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Ethiopia, Haiti and South Sudan.

86. COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations, *Quarterly Highlights: April - June 2022*.

87. IMF, *Tracker on the Use of Allocated SDRs*.

88. Only three countries have submitted applications to the Common Framework, notably Chad, Ethiopia and Zambia. Negotiations were still under way at the time of writing.



Khartoum, Sudan: Nurse Nour (right) takes Mara's temperature as she enters Omar Ibn Khatab Primary Health Centre. Nour attended a training workshop on infection prevention and control as part of the COVID-19 response. "Before, we were afraid," she said. "The training helped me understand how to protect myself and my family from COVID-19." WHO/Lindsay Mackenzie

Weak health services prevail, increasing vulnerability

The world continues to face global health crises. The COVID-19 pandemic, recent monkeypox outbreaks and the rapid spread of vector-borne diseases exacerbated by the climate crisis have created an increasingly complex global public health landscape. Rising cases of Ebola are emerging in new geographical areas, and 29 countries had reported cholera outbreaks as of October 2022.⁸⁹ While there has been significant progress in mitigating the effects of disease outbreaks, there have been acute disparities in countries' abilities to cope with and recover from public health emergencies, particularly in those countries where people are caught in humanitarian crises.

More than 6 million lives have already been lost across the globe due to the pandemic, and more than 19 million⁹⁰ cases have been reported across the 27 countries with an HRP as of July 2022.⁹¹ Actual COVID-19 cases are likely higher than reported, as many HRP countries continue to struggle with weak testing and sequencing infrastructure. The pandemic's medium- and

long-term impacts are far reaching and have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable people. Pandemic-related disruptions to caregiving, schooling and social services risk sending women and children into a spiral of harm and violence, with heightened risks of child marriage and child labour.

The availability and roll-out of vaccinations have been highly unequal and unevenly distributed. To date, only 2.3 per cent of the 13 billion COVID-19 vaccines administered worldwide took place in the 29 countries with an HRP.⁹²

COVID-19 exacerbates pre-existing inequalities linked to age, gender, disability and other factors. Fewer women and girls have received vaccinations than men and boys, despite often being on the front lines of the pandemic as health-care workers and therefore more exposed to the virus. In South Sudan, research reveals that women represent more than 70 per cent of people who test positive for the virus, yet they comprise just 26 per cent of

89. WHO, WHO Director-General's opening remarks at Member State Information Session on COVID-19 and other issues, 27 October 2022.

90. The reported number of cases is likely a gross underestimate of actual infections due to many being unreported, with increasing at-home testing.

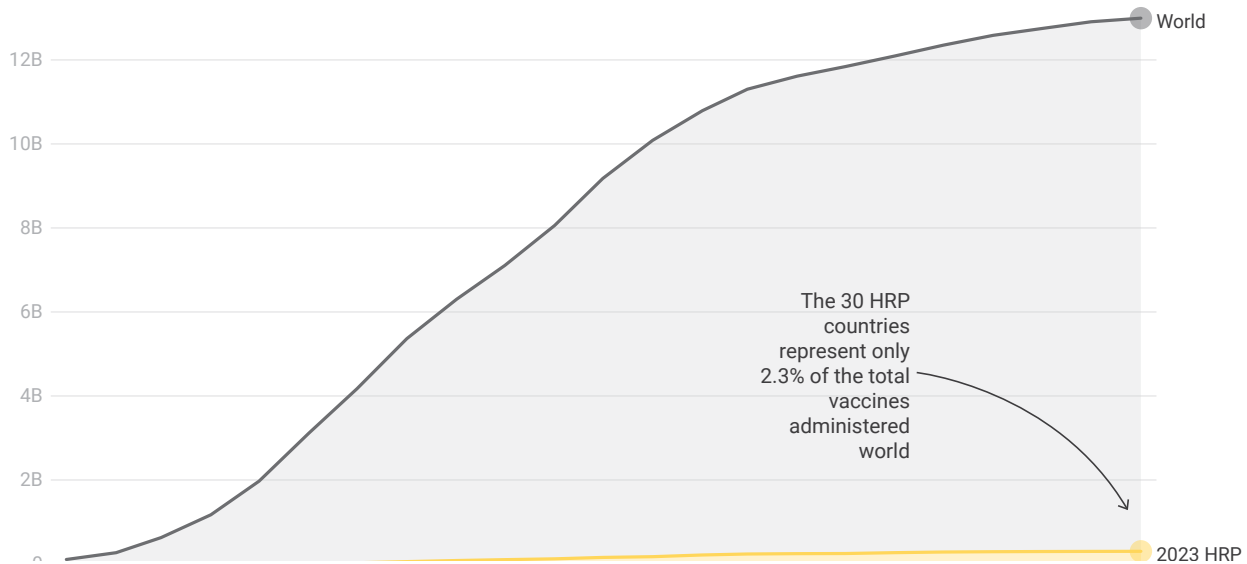
91. According to data from the WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard.

92. According to data from the World Health Organization's Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard, and OCHA's Financial Tracking Service Appeals and Response Plans 2022, using figures as of October 2022 and the list of GHO 2023 countries.



Highly unequal and uneven administrations of COVID-19 vaccines (2021 - October 2022)

The availability and rollout of vaccinations has been highly unequal and unevenly distributed. To date only 2.3 per cent of the 13 billion COVID-19 vaccines administered around the world took place in the 30 countries with an HRP.



people vaccinated.⁹³ The pandemic's secondary effects continue to worsen gender inequalities. Gender-based violence (GBV) is increasing, as is the number of girls being forced to drop out of school and women taking up unpaid caretaking in the home.⁹⁴ The pandemic continues to disrupt access to sexual and reproductive health care, including family planning services, further increasing the risk of health complications and school dropouts. Persistent vaccine inequity will continue to cost lives, prolong the pandemic, and increase the risk of new and potentially more dangerous variants of the virus emerging.

Increased disease outbreaks continue to disrupt essential health services and immunizations. Global vaccination coverage is in decline, with 25 million infants missing out on vaccines in 2021. This is the largest recorded reduction in 30 years, caused by factors including the increased number of children living in conflict and fragile settings, and the pandemic.⁹⁵ Across GHO countries,⁹⁶ 14 routine immunization campaigns were postponed due to the pandemic in the second quarter of 2022. These

disruptions drive increased cases of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles or polio. The percentage of children receiving vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (or whooping cough) fell 5 percentage points between 2019 and 2021.⁹⁷ The historic backsliding in immunization rates is happening against a backdrop of interruptions in critical testing, treatment and prevention activities for other infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. For example, the number of people reached with HIV-prevention services decreased by 11 per cent in 2022.⁹⁸

Alongside compounding crises, the pandemic is expected to have pushed an additional 95 million people into extreme poverty by the end of 2022.⁹⁹ It is critical that Governments, humanitarian organizations and their partners focus on expanding all health services and social safety net programmes, as well as vaccine equity and access, to get ahead of the next global public health emergency.

93. CARE International, [Gender Gaps in COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

94. World Health Organization, [Expanding Reach: Addressing Gender Barriers in COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout](#).

95. World Health Organization, [COVID-19 Pandemic Fuels Largest Continued Backslide in Vaccinations in Three Decades](#).

96. HRP countries are those countries that have an HR. GHO countries are those countries that are covered by the GHO due to their inclusion in a regional plan, flash appeal or other type of plan, e.g. the 17 countries included in the [Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Venezuela](#).

97. World Health Organization, [COVID-19 Pandemic Fuels Largest Continued Backslide in Vaccinations in Three Decades](#).

98. The Global Fund, [Results Report 2021](#).

99. World Bank, [Pandemic, prices, and poverty](#).



AID IN ACTION

The air we breathe – a global threat



UNICEF/Habibul Haque

Clearer blue skies emerged in many parts of the world in 2020, caused by reduced air pollution during pandemic-related lockdowns, and a jarring halt in economic and social activities. Just the year before, air pollution contributed to 6.4 million deaths around the world¹ – more in one year alone than official records of COVID-19-related deaths since 2020.² Yet unlike COVID-19, the health effects of air pollution can take years to manifest.

Almost the entire global population breathes air that exceeds WHO's air quality limits, which threatens health.³ People living in vulnerable conditions are often more exposed to polluted environments and are at even greater risk of illness and death: 95 per cent of all air pollution-related deaths in 2019 occurred in low- and middle-

income countries. The elderly, young people and people with underlying health conditions are disproportionately affected: Air pollution causes 1 in 10 of all deaths of children under age 5, a figure that is set to rise.⁴

Most deaths related to air pollution are caused by human exposure to fine inhalable particles or particulate matter. Concentrations are many times higher in developing countries, affecting billions of people.⁵ This type of air pollution penetrates deep into the lungs and enters the bloodstream, causing cardiovascular, stroke and respiratory impacts. Air pollution is also associated with respiratory diseases, particularly asthma, leading to coughing, wheezing or difficulty breathing – and increasing hospital admissions.⁶ Research also points to air pollution as a factor in increased COVID-19 incidence and death rates.⁷

In 2019, the economic cost of the health impact of air pollution amounted to \$8.1 trillion, 6.1 per cent of global GDP.⁸ The associated illnesses, premature deaths, lost earnings and increased health-care expenditures resulting from air pollution place a heavy economic toll on lower- and middle-income countries. Polluted air affects crop yields and ecosystems, resulting in acidification and altered water systems, and it leads to a loss of biodiversity and negative impacts on plant growth. To date, 64 vertebrates are specifically threatened by airborne pollutants.⁹ In the same way that the world responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, air pollution calls for speedy, coordinated, cross-border political leadership, with robust governance and enforced air-quality standards.

1. World Bank, *The Global Health Cost of PM2.5 Air Pollution: a case for action beyond 2021*, 2022.
2. According to data from the World Health Organization's *Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard*.
3. WHO, *Billions of people still breathe unhealthy air: new WHO data*, 4 April 2022.
4. WHO, *More than 90% of the world's children breathe toxic air every day*, 29 October 2018.
5. World Bank, *The Global Health Cost of PM2.5 Air Pollution: a case for action beyond 2021*, 2022.
6. WHO, *Billions of people still breathe unhealthy air: new WHO data*, 4 April 2022.
7. State of Global Air, *State of Global Air*, Accessed November 2022.
8. World Bank, *The Global Health Cost of PM2.5 Air Pollution: a case for action beyond 2021*, 2022.
9. UNEP, *Statement by Chief Scientist for the 2022 International Day of Clean Air for blue skies*, 7 September 2022.

AID IN ACTION

Mental health in emergencies: Underrecognized and underresourced



Bylbasivka, Ukraine: Nataliia, 39, poses for a portrait with her children during a visit by the WHO-supported mobile mental health team. Despite the war in Ukraine, the mobile mental health team continues to help people develop a recovery plan and cope with symptoms of mental health.. WHO/Blink Media - Brendan Hoffman

Nearly one in every five people living in conflict-affected settings is estimated to be living with a mental health condition. One in 11 has a moderate or severe mental disorder.¹ Despite the scale of the problem, many affected populations, specifically women and young children, do not receive any mental health and psychological support services (MHPSS) due to such services being inadequate or non-existent.

Mental health and psychosocial conditions take a huge toll on families and communities in conflict-affected settings. Research consistently shows that

caregivers' poor mental health is linked to adverse childhood outcomes, such as low birth weight, prematurity, developmental delays and various health problems later in life.² Caregiver mental health can also serve as a direct risk or protective factor for child mental health.

According to a recent analysis of global MHPSS activities in development and humanitarian assistance, only 0.31 per cent of official development assistance and 1 per cent of private sector funding went to funding for child, youth and family MHPSS in 2019.³

1. Charlson, F., et al. (2019). *New WHO prevalence estimates of mental disorders in conflict settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis*. *Lancet*, 394, pp. 240-248. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)30934-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)30934-1).
2. Zhang S, Dang R, Yang N, Bai Y, Wang L, Abbey C, Rozelle S. 'Effect of Caregiver's Mental Health on Early Childhood Development across Different Rural Communities in China'. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2018 Oct 23;15(11):2341. doi: 10.3390/ijerph15112341. PMID: 30360569; PMCID: PMC6265717.
- Izett, E. (2021). Prevention of Mental Health Difficulties for Children Aged 0–3 Years: A Review. *Frontiers*. Retrieved September 20, 2022, from <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.500361/full>.
- Xu, Yanfeng & Jedwab, Merav & Lee, Kerry & Levkoff, Sue. (2021). The Negative Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on Behavioral Problems of Children in Kinship Care: The Protective Role of Kinship Caregivers' Mental Health. *Journal of Emotional and Behavioral Disorders*. 10.1177/10634266221076475.
- Elizabeth Spry, Claire A Wilson, Melissa Middleton, Margarita Moreno-Betancur, Lex W Doyle, Louise M Howard, Anthony J Hannan, Mary E Wlodek, Jeanie LY Cheong, Lindsey A Hines, Carolyn Coffey, Stephanie Brown, Craig A Olsson and George C Patton. 'Parental mental health before and during pregnancy and offspring birth outcomes: a 20-year preconception cohort of maternal and paternal exposure,' *EClinicalMedicine*. DOI: [10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100564](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eclinm.2020.100564).
3. The MHPSS Collaborative (2021). Follow the money: Global funding of child and family MHPSS activities in development and humanitarian assistance. <https://mhpsscollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Follow-the-Money-online-version.pdf>.



Diffa, Niger:

Bintou, a mother of two daughters, is a mentor in a UNICEF-funded project to support girls' enrollment and retention through mentoring to promote good practices and end child marriage. She says: "I have been a teacher for 16 years. Teaching children, especially girls, is not only my passion but also my motivation. A good education is the basis of everything. Helping girls who have difficulties or who are not supported by their parents to go to school motivates me. That is why I immediately agreed to become a mentor in this project." UNICEF/Frank Dejongh

Equality for women and girls moves even further out of reach

Gender inequalities are being exacerbated worldwide, caused by the overlapping impacts of COVID-19, rising economic instability, conflict and increasing food insecurity. World Economic Forum projections highlight that at the current rate of progress, it will take 132 years – or the equivalent of four generations – to achieve global gender parity.¹⁰⁰ This is an increase of one generation compared to the pre-pandemic projections.

Women's poverty continues to increase worldwide. Globally, 388 million women and girls are living in extreme poverty in 2022 (compared to 372 million men and boys) – the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia (244 million and 81 million respectively).¹⁰¹ More women than men lost jobs during the pandemic, with 47 million jobs lost globally in 2020: a 3.6 per cent loss for

women, compared to 2.9 per cent for men. In 2021, there were still 20 million fewer jobs for women than before the pandemic, compared to 10 million fewer for men.¹⁰² Women have also continued to shoulder more of the emotional and economic burden of unpaid care , including in childcare, housework or care for family members.

The pandemic has affected the everyday lives of girls, including their physical and mental health, education, and the economic circumstances of their families and communities, **exacerbating the risks of GBV worldwide.**

Reported cases of GBV surged during the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Nearly one in every two women across 13 countries surveyed reported that they or a woman they know had experienced at least one form

100. World Economic Forum, 2022. [Global Gender Gap Report 2022](#). The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions (Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment). It is the longest-standing index, which tracks progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.

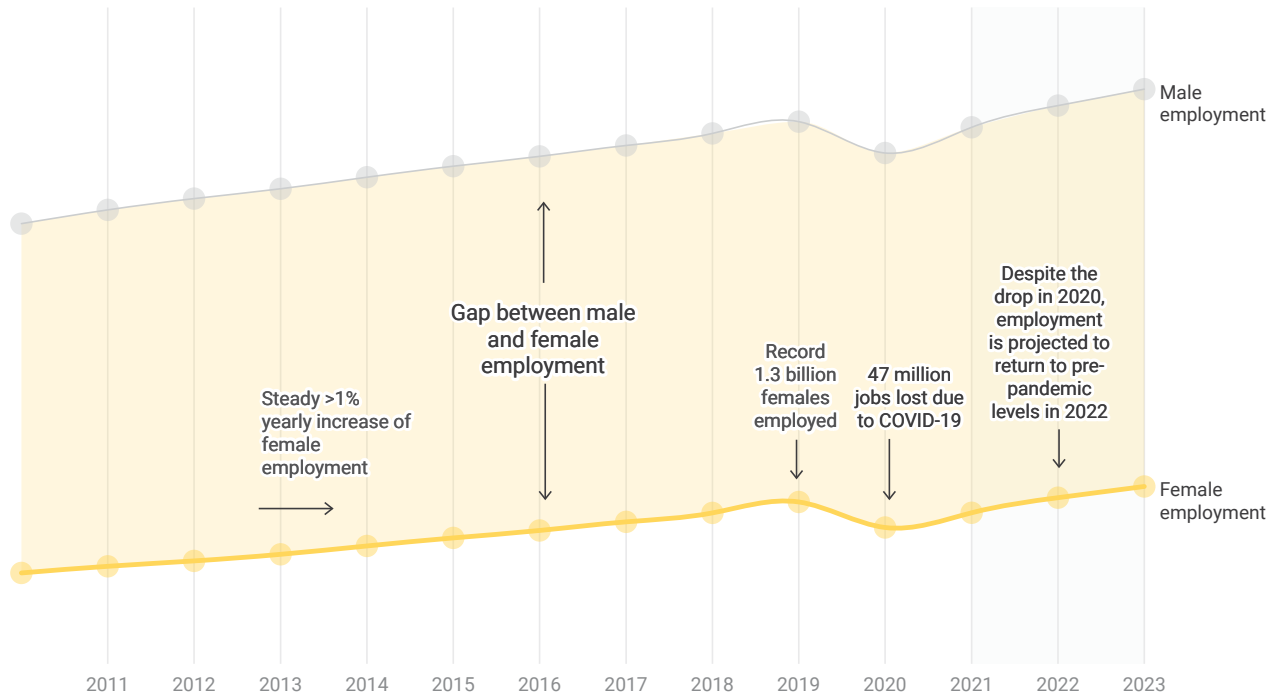
101. UN Women, [Poverty Deepens for Women and Girls, According to Latest Projections](#), 1 February 2022. In a "high-damage" scenario, this number could balloon to 446 million (427 million for men and boys).

102. UN Women/UNDP, 2022. [Government responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil](#)



Female employment (2010 - 2023)

Following the drop in employment during the pandemic, the number of people employed is slowly returning to pre-pandemic levels. Of those employed, 39 per cent are female and 61 per cent are male.



ILO modelled estimates, November 2021

Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: International Labour Organization

of violence since the pandemic began.¹⁰³ Before the pandemic, 100 million girls were already at risk of **child marriage** in the next decade; 13 million more girls are now assessed to be at risk of becoming child brides due to the pandemic.¹⁰⁴ This increase is set to reverse 25 years of progress, which saw child marriage rates decline.

Women living in crisis settings are particularly vulnerable, with fraying social fabrics and institutions surrounding them. Armed conflict, natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies can significantly weaken a society's ability to protect women and girls from GBV, fueling a rise in intimate-partner violence, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, trafficking, and sexual violence, exploitation and abuse. Many armed groups use sexual violence as a tactic of war to advance military or political aims.¹⁰⁵ While conflict-related sexual violence remained

significantly underreported in 2021, 97 per cent of recorded survivors were women and girls.¹⁰⁶ In 2021, 15 countries reported and verified conflict-related sexual violence targeting women and girls where, for example, women were impeded from participating in social, political and economic life, and were forced to trade sex for food, money and other resources they need to survive.¹⁰⁷ In Somalia, 50 per cent of women reportedly experienced intimate-partner violence in the first quarter of 2022, compared with 43 per cent in the same period in 2021.¹⁰⁸

Displacement creates additional challenges for girls. Displaced girls living in camps or fleeing violence are particularly vulnerable to targeting by traffickers and other opportunists. For example, in the unfolding displacement crisis in Ukraine, women and girls fleeing the fighting and violence are at increased risk of GBV, sex trafficking and

103. UN Women/lbid.

104. UNICEF, *Child marriage threatens the lives, well-being and futures of girls around the world*. Last updated June 2022.

105. United Nations, *Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, S/2022/272*, 29 March 2022.

106. United Nations, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians, S/2022/381*, 10 May 2022.

107. United Nations, *Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, S/2022/272*, 29 March 2022.

108. UNFPA, *Somalia Situation Report – June 2022*.



sexual exploitation.^{109,110} Displaced girls face more barriers to education than boys:¹¹¹ Adolescent women and girls in conflict areas are 90 per cent more likely to be out of school compared to those living in countries where there is no crisis.¹¹²

Violations of women's and girls' rights, — including harassment, violence, restrictions to freedom of movement, and access to public space and education — are particularly severe in countries with an **HRP**, such as Afghanistan, DRC, Chad and Mali, all of which were assigned the lowest gender gap rating in 2022.¹¹³ In Afghanistan, restrictions on movement, school closures,

low economic and political participation, and a lack of access to basic services have affected women and girls disproportionately: In 27 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, girls are systematically barred from grades 7 to 12.^{114, 115}

Overall, the voices of women and girls remain underrepresented in humanitarian decision-making. To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, humanitarian actors must understand their specific needs better, facilitate their meaningful participation and leadership in decision-making, and prioritize the prevention, risk mitigation of and response to GBV.

109. IDMC, *Women and Girls in Internal Displacement*, 5 March 2020.

110. UNODC, *Conflict in Ukraine: Key Evidence On Risks Of Trafficking In Persons And Smuggling Of Migrants*, Update July 2022; UNHCR, *Ukraine Situation -Moldova: GBV Sub-Working Group Gender-Based Violence Safety Audit Report*, September 2022.

111. IDMC, *Women and Girls in Internal Displacement*, 5 March 2020, p. 14.

112. Education Cannot Wait, *Girls in Crisis – Orange the World*.

113. World Economic Forum, 2022. *Global Gender Gap Report 2022*.

114. UNHCR, *Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis*.

115. Human Rights Watch, *Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity*, 18 January 2022.

**Paktya Province,
Afghanistan**

A girl attends
Halima Khazan
school in Gardez
city. UNICEF/Omid
Fazel





Tumaco, Nariño,
Colombia
La Aldea is a
transversal
education strategy
developed in
Tumaco that allows
children to have fun
while strengthening
their skills in
different areas.
UNICEF

Education crisis severely disrupts a generation of students

The pandemic's lingering impacts continue to strike a devastating blow to education worldwide. By the end of 2021, more than 200 schooldays were lost, with students missing more than 2 trillion hours since the pandemic began.¹¹⁶ School closures affected more than 1.6 billion students globally, with more than 1 billion living in low- and middle-income countries.¹¹⁷ The majority of school-age children live in low- and middle-income countries, and they endured significantly longer school closures than those in high-income countries. In South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, children missed three times the amount of education than was received by children living in Western Europe.¹¹⁸

By the end of 2021, many schools had reopened. However, **one in four education systems was still closed**, and many systems

have only partly reopened.¹¹⁹ Most children continued to experience partial or temporary disruptions to their learning well into 2022. While remote and online learning have served as practical tools in providing children with educational opportunities during school closures, school systems have had unequal capacities to support students and their families. Of the 1.6 billion students out of school, 1.3 billion had no Internet connection at home or a device to learn on, with rural areas having minimal access.¹²⁰ Girls are disproportionately affected by the digital divide in education. A recent study in five different countries across sub-Saharan Africa found that only 12 per cent of female teenagers have been able to continue their studies through the pandemic without disruptions, compared to 23 per cent of male teenagers.¹²¹

116. World Bank, [100 Weeks into the Pandemic: The Importance of Keeping Schools Open and Investing in Learning Recovery Programs](#).

117. UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank, [The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery](#)

118. Save the Children, [Children Have Lost More than a third of Their School Year to the Pandemic – Save the Children](#).

119. World Bank, [We are Losing a Generation: The Devastating Impacts of COVID-19](#).

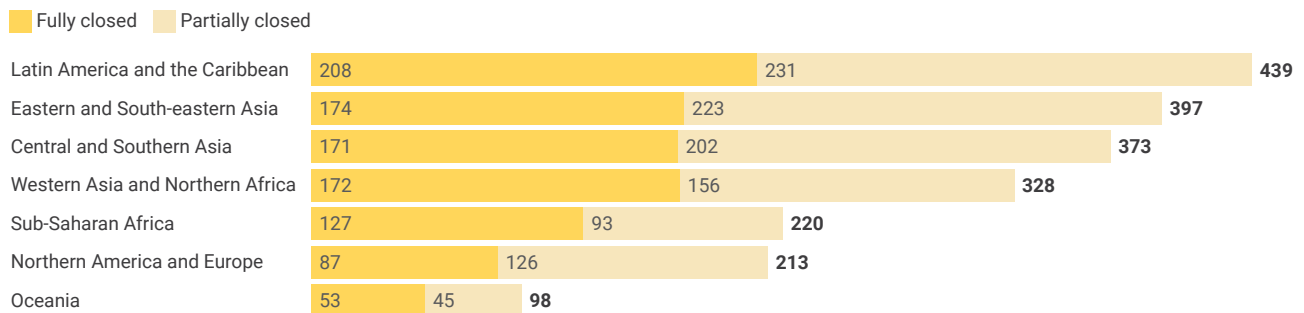
120. UNICEF and ITU, [How Many Children and Young People have Internet Access at Home?](#)

121. UNESCO, [When Schools Shut: Gendered Impacts of COVID-19 School Closures](#).



Average number of days of school closures (February 2020 - April 2022)

Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the longest school closures, more than twice the number of days of school closures in Northern America and Europe.



Country groupings are based on the SDG geographic regions.

The digital divide and educational crises are particularly acute for those students also living in humanitarian crises. Refugees, IDPs and migrant children are among the least likely to have access to digital education.¹²² Recent analysis from Education Cannot Wait reveals that approximately 198 million crisis-affected children and adolescents (out of 222 million) are either out of school or not learning, comprising 89 per cent of all crisis-affected children and adolescents.¹²³

For children living in crises, education has become even more dangerous. In the past two years alone, there have been more than 5,000 reported attacks on education and incidents of military use of schools and universities, resulting in harm to more than 9,000 students and educators. Students in HRP countries, such as Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mali, Myanmar and Nigeria, have witnessed increased attacks against education in recent years.¹²⁴

Even before the pandemic, it was estimated that 57 per cent of children in low- and middle-income countries suffered from learning poverty – meaning they were

unable to read and understand a simple story by age 10.¹²⁵ Lengthy school closures and the lack of adequate remote-learning opportunities during the pandemic may have increased the rate of children in learning poverty in those countries by up to 70 per cent.¹²⁶ These increases have been pronounced in regions where schools have been closed the longest.¹²⁷ As a result, this generation of students is at risk of losing approximately \$17 billion in lifetime earnings due to pandemic-related learning losses.¹²⁸

Humanitarian organizations, their donors and partners can play a unique role in making education more efficient and equitable for children and youths living in crises. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to the current humanitarian educational crisis, but holistic solutions that focus on a wide range of educational services can help accelerate the learning recovery from the pandemic. These actions include providing school meals, ensuring access to technology, and providing psychosocial and mental health support and help to local actors that provide equal education opportunities for girls and boys.

122. INEE, 'What Will Happen to our Children?: The Impact of COVID-19 School Closures on Child Protection and Educational Inequalities in Three Humanitarian Contexts.'

123. Education Cannot Wait, Global Estimates: Number of Crisis-affected Children and Adolescents in Need of Education Support.

124. Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), Education Under Attack 2022.

125. UNICEF, The State of Global Learning Poverty: 2022 Update, p. 5. In sub-Saharan Africa it was 86 per cent.

126. UNICEF, The State of Global Learning Poverty: 2022 Update.

127. UNICEF, The State of Global Learning Poverty: 2022 Update, p. 5. Namely in South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

128. UNESCO, UNICEF and World Bank, The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery.



SECTION 2

Response plans

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Lake Chad border region, Chad
Forty-year-old Loura, a mother of six, used to sell fish in Tagal village, on Lake Chad. She is from Teteoua village on an island in Lake Chad, which was attacked by Boko Haram Islamist militants in 2015. UNHCR/Sylvain Cherkaoui

Response plans: Results from 2022

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2022 presented initial funding requirements of US\$41 billion to assist 183 million of the 274 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

By 21 November, the financial requirements for 2022 had grown 26 per cent to a record-high \$51.7 billion for plans in 69 countries. The increase in requirements is due to the new appeals for the Ukraine crisis (Humanitarian Response Plan and Regional Refugee Response Plan); new plans for Haiti, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique and Pakistan; and higher requirements for some plans (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Somalia and Yemen, among others) because of increased humanitarian needs.

Funding gap

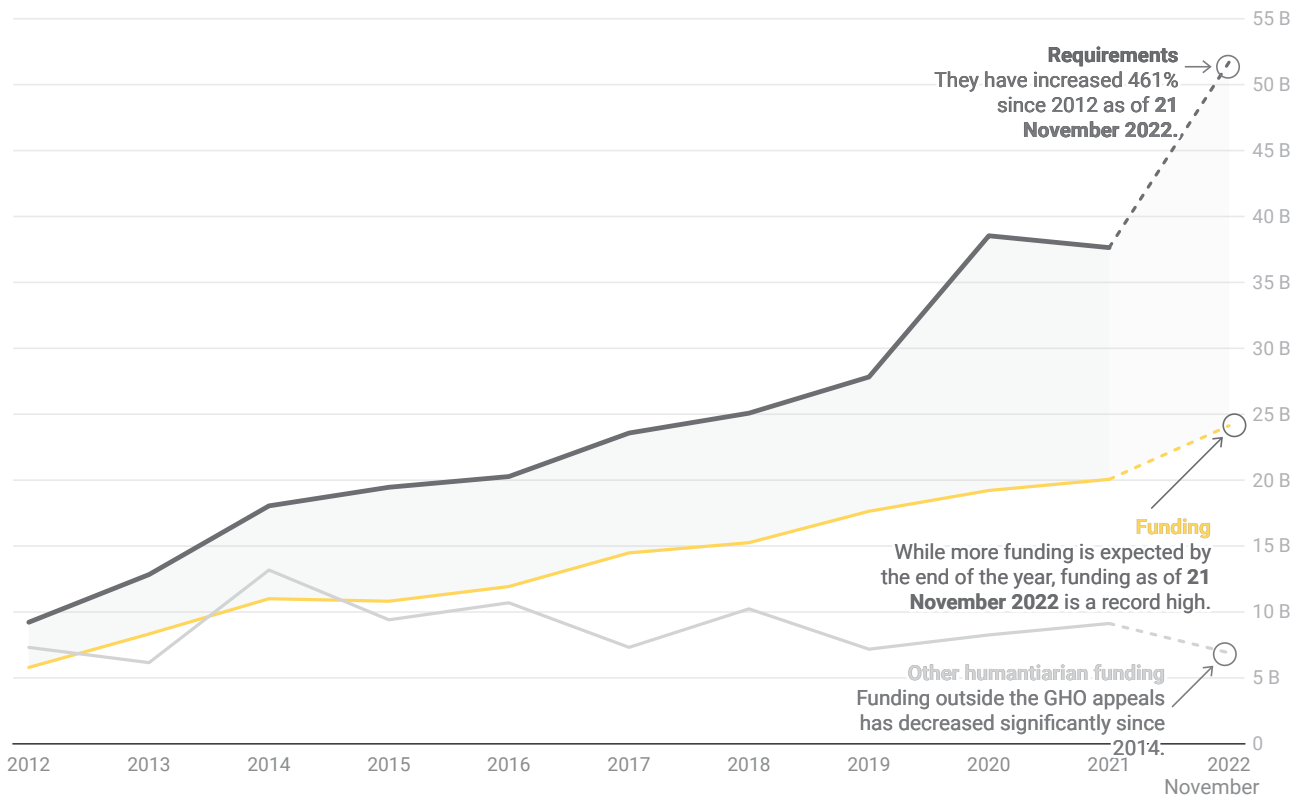
The war in Ukraine was a major factor in the rapid increase of the financial ask in 2022. Without question, the secondary economic and food security impacts of the crisis have been enormous, affecting a wide range of costs, including for food and transport.

Donors made extraordinary efforts in response to the impact of the war in Ukraine, as well as to the failed rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa, and the serious famine risks in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. However, the decline in funding relative to needs led to reduced capacity to respond to both protracted crises and rapid-onset emergencies, such as the floods in Pakistan.

The monthly evolution of GHO coverage remained similar to previous years, although Ukraine funding comprised a relatively large per cent of the total in the first half of the year. Funding received as of 21 November against the GHO requirements amounts to \$24.1 billion, or barely 47 per cent, leaving a gap of almost \$27.6 billion. Despite the record funding



Appeal funding gap 2012 - 2022 (as of 21 November 2022)



All requirements and funding between 2012 and 2021 are as of end-year. Requirements and funding for 2022 as of 21 November.

Source: Financial Tracking Service

levels this year in absolute terms, the gap between needs and funding received has never been wider or more concerning.

Requirements and funding for the Ukraine Flash Appeal and the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan are disproportionately high. The two appeals (\$6.1 billion in requirements) make up 12 per cent of financial needs, but 17 per cent of appeal funding recorded by 21 November. Nevertheless, even without the funding for the Ukraine plans, total appeal funding is \$2.8 billion higher than it was at the same time last year. Total humanitarian funding has also reached a record high at \$31.0 billion, including \$5 billion for the Ukraine crisis.

The funding outlook for 2023 remains grim, considering high global needs, an austere economic environment, recent exchange-rate losses, incessant climate shocks and the continuing impacts of the war in Ukraine. Diversifying the current donor base and expanding the sources of humanitarian funding will be required in 2023 more than ever.

High-level resource mobilization events coordinated by OCHA

High-level events were held in 2022 to raise awareness of and mobilize resources for major crises.

The High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen took place on 16 March, during which 35 announcements of financial assistance were made, totalling \$1.3 billion.

The High-Level Pledging Event Supporting the Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan was held on 31 March. Participants announced pledges totalling \$2.2 billion for the people of Afghanistan.

The Sixth Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region was held on 10 May. Participants announced pledges for both Syria and the region: \$4.3 billion for 2022 and \$2.4 billion for 2023 and beyond.



Funding coverage for 2022

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| PEOPLE IN NEED | PEOPLE TARGETED | REQUIREMENTS (US\$) | FUNDING (US\$)* | COVERAGE |
| 324 M | 216 M | \$ 51.7 B | \$ 24 B | 47% |

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | Funding (US\$) | Coverage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 24.4M | 22.1M | 4.4B | 2.4B | 55% |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 4.9M | 3.8M | 805.1M | 282M | 35% |
| Burundi | HRP | 1.8M | 947.4K | 182.4M | 59.9M | 33% |
| Cameroon | HRP | 3.9M | 2.6M | 376M | 149.6M | 40% |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 3.1M | 2M | 461.3M | 370.2M | 80% |
| Chad | HRP | 6.1M | 3.9M | 510.9M | 218.1M | 43% |
| Colombia | HRP | 7.7M | 1.6M | 282.9M | 92.4M | 33% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 27M | 8.8M | 1.9B | 850.8M | 45% |
| El Salvador | HRP | 1.7M | 912.2K | 114.3M | 27.4M | 24% |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 20M | 20M | 3.3B | 1.6B | 47% |
| Guatemala | HRP | 3.8M | 1.7M | 153.5M | 49.7M | 32% |
| Haiti | HRP | 4.9M | 2.5M | 373.2M | 157.3M | 42% |
| Honduras | HRP | 2.8M | 1.8M | 155.3M | 64.5M | 42% |
| Iraq | HRP | 2.5M | 991K | 400M | 265.6M | 66% |
| Libya | HRP | 803.6K | 398.9K | 113.8M | 91.7M | 81% |
| Mali | HRP | 7.5M | 5.3M | 685.7M | 232.7M | 34% |
| Mozambique | HRP | 1.5M | 1.2M | 388.5M | 244.1M | 63% |
| Myanmar | HRP | 14.4M | 6.2M | 825.7M | 227.4M | 28% |
| Niger | HRP | 3.7M | 2.4M | 552.6M | 264.8M | 48% |
| Nigeria | HRP | 8.4M | 5.6M | 1.1B | 624.2M | 55% |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 2.1M | 1.6M | 509.9M | 347.3M | 68% |
| Somalia | HRP | 7.8M | 7.6M | 2.3B | 1.3B | 57% |
| South Sudan | HRP | 8.9M | 6.8M | 1.7B | 1.1B | 67% |
| Sudan | HRP | 14.3M | 10.9M | 1.9B | 800.3M | 41% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 14.6M | 11.8M | 4.4B | 1.9B | 43% |
| Ukraine | HRP | 17.7M | 11.5M | 4.3B | 3.1B | 73% |
| Venezuela | HRP | 7M | 5.2M | 795M | 287.6M | 36% |
| Yemen | HRP | 23.5M | 17.9M | 4.3B | 2.3B | 55% |

*Global funding figures based on data extracted from FTS on 21 November 2022.



| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | Funding (US\$) | Coverage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Haiti | FA | 160K | 280K | 145.6M | 7.5M | 5% |
| Kenya | FA | 4.5M | 2.6M | 289.6M | 158.6M | 55% |
| Madagascar | FA | 3.3M | 1.9M | 219.3M | 147.9M | 67% |
| Malawi | FA | 679.9K | 542.4K | 29.5M | 12.3M | 42% |
| Mozambique | FA | 599.4K | 248.4K | 48.1M | 9.6M | 20% |
| Lebanon | Other | 2.5M | 1M | 378.2M | 202.2M | 53% |
| Pakistan | Other | 20.6M | 9.5M | 472.3M | 174.8M | 37% |
| Afghanistan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 5.7M | 5.7M | 623.4M | 318.2M | 51% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 1.4M | 1.4M | 651.1M | 381.7M | 59% |
| Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i> | RMP | 759.7K | 494.8K | 41.6M | 32.1M | 77% |
| Rohingya | JRP | 1.5M | 1.5M | 881M | 389.4M | 44% |
| South Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 3.6M | 3.6M | 1.2B | 734.6M | 62% |
| Syrian Arab Republic <i>Regional</i> | 3RP | 20.1M | 11.4M | 6.1B | 1.7B | 29% |
| Ukraine <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 5.2M | 5.2M | 1.8B | 1.3B | 73% |
| Venezuela <i>Regional</i> | RMRP | 8.9M | 4.2M | 1.8B | 489.8M | 27% |

Regional plans: Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRP, RRP and other appeals, except for the Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen, where requirements included are as follows: Ethiopia and Djibouti included; Somalia partly included; Yemen excluded. Totals may not match overall values, where overlaps have been deducted for consistency. Funding data for the Afghanistan, DRC, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine RRP are from UNHCR RFT. All other data are from FTS.



Larkana District, Pakistan. A boy uses a large cooking pan to ferry people from a flooded community in Larkana District, Sindh Province. OCHA/Pierre Peron

Response plans: Overview for 2023

In 2023¹²⁹, 339 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. The United Nations and partner organizations aim to assist 230 million people most in need across 69 countries, which will require US\$51.5 billion.

One in every 23 people now needs humanitarian assistance. In 2023, a record 339 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection – a significant increase from 274 million people at the beginning of 2022. The UN and partner organizations aim to assist 230 million people most in need across 69 countries, which will require \$51.5 billion.

Expanding global humanitarian needs, rising operational costs and commodity prices and high inflation in 2023 are contributing to a

significant rise in requirements. For example, the World Food Programme's monthly food procurement costs are now 44 per cent higher than before the pandemic.

Improved stability in **Libya** is leading to a phased-out exit by humanitarians, resulting in the country not requiring a fully fledged HRP in 2023. In **Iraq**, diminishing humanitarian response and increased efforts to achieve durable solutions with and through development partners have lifted the country out of the list of the most severe humanitarian situations.

As the food crisis in East Africa looms, **the East and Southern Africa region** now has the largest number of people in need (76.8 million), followed closely by Asia and the Pacific, where just three crises account for all the people in need - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Myanmar.

This year, there are ten countries and four regional plans with requirements of more than \$1 billion each. Together these appeals make up \$39B of the total requirements.

129. All 2023 data is as estimated in November 2022. For current data, please visit the operations pages at [humanitarianaction.info](https://www.humanitarianaction.info)



In **Ukraine**, the largest humanitarian cash assistance programme in history is expected to transfer \$1.7 billion in 2022 to 6.3 million people – a huge increase from 11,000 people the year before, which amounts to nearly 600 times more people. In addition, the Ukraine regional response in 2023 will combine both a humanitarian and refugee response plan, aiming to support 13.6 million people with a total requirement of \$5.7 billion.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has its largest request to date, with a total of \$2.3 billion in 2023 – a 20 per cent rise compared to 2022. Net increases in prices are a challenging reality across the country – the high price of fuel has made it more expensive to reach vulnerable people in remote areas, and food and commodity prices at local markets have rocketed, especially for imported products. By the end of 2022, 6.2 million people received assistance in the country.

Haiti has seen an increased requirement up to \$715 million for 2023 – due to growing humanitarian needs, the cholera response (for which a \$146 million Cholera+ Flash Appeal was launched on 15 November 2022), and inflation – which stands at a staggering 30 per cent and is boosting the cost of humanitarian operations. In the gang-controlled commune of Cité Soleil, around 65,000 people were assisted with food and 2,000 with water between 22 July and 28 October 2022.

In **Ethiopia**, the worsening drought and impact of conflict and violence in parts of the country and resulting waves of displacement mean that 28.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. While the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in November 2022 is a promising step to scale up humanitarian assistance, the humanitarian situation is not expected to stabilize in 2023 due to yet more forecasts of poor rainfall and the ongoing effects of conflict and violence.

Lebanon has seen a 59 per cent increase in financial requirements to \$600 million, caused by the unprecedented economic and financial crisis and the resulting increase in humanitarian needs. The country is experiencing major increases in the prices of basic commodities, with the price of wheat flour increasing by nearly 330 per cent since 2019.

In **Mozambique**, the number of people in need has increased by a third. Conflict in Cabo Delgado is driving forced displacement and placing enormous levels of strain on the country's host communities. Humanitarian partners have provided life-sustaining assistance to 1.4 million people in 2022, including malnutrition treatment, food assistance, protection services and access to safe drinking water.



Response plans: Overview for 2023

PEOPLE IN NEED

339 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

230 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 51.5 B

APPEALS

38

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | 2017 – 2022 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 28.3M | 23.7M | 4.6B | |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 4.7M | 3.1M | 866.8M | |
| Burundi | HRP | 1.5M | 1.1M | 194.2M | |
| Cameroon | HRP | 4.7M | 2.8M | 413.6M | |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 3.4M | 2.4M | 465M | |
| Chad | HRP | 6.9M | 4.5M | 570M | |
| Colombia | HRP | 7.7M | 1.6M | 280M | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 26.4M | 10M | 2.3B | |
| El Salvador | HRP | 1.1M | 496.6K | 98.4M | |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 28.6M | 26.6M | 3.5B | |
| Guatemala | HRP | 5M | 2.3M | 125.4M | |
| Haiti | HRP | 5.2M | 3M | 714.8M | |
| Honduras | HRP | 3.2M | 2.1M | 280.4M | |
| Mali | HRP | 9M | 6.2M | 868.2M | |
| Mozambique | HRP | 2M | 1.6M | 512.9M | |
| Myanmar | HRP | 17.6M | 4.5M | 764M | |
| Niger | HRP | 4.2M | 2.3M | 660M | |
| Nigeria | HRP | 8.3M | 5.4M | 1.2B | |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 2.1M | 1.6M | 510M | |
| Somalia | HRP | 7.8M | 7.6M | 2.3B | |
| South Sudan | HRP | 9.4M | 6.8M | 1.7B | |
| Sudan | HRP | 15.8M | 12.5M | 1.7B | |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 15.3M | 12.7M | 4.4B | |



| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | 2017 – 2022 |
|---|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Ukraine | HRP | 17.6M | 9.4M | 3.9B | |
| Venezuela | HRP | 7M | 5.2M | 795M | |
| Yemen | HRP | 21.6M | 19M | 4.3B | |
| Kenya | FA | 6.4M | 4.3M | 472.6M | |
| Madagascar | FA | 1.6M | 1.2M | 147M | |
| Lebanon | Other | 2.3M | 1.3M | 600M | |
| Pakistan | Other | 20.6M | 9.5M | 344M | |
| Afghanistan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 7.9M | 7.9M | 619M | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 1.4M | 1.4M | 583.7M | |
| Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i> | RMP | 438.7K | 229K | 53M | |
| Rohingya | JRP | 1.5M | 1.5M | 883M | |
| South Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 3.3M | 3.3M | 962.2M | |
| Syria <i>Regional</i> | 3RP | 15.9M | 13.5M | 5.4B | |
| Ukraine <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 4.2M | 4.2M | 1.8B | |
| Venezuela <i>Regional</i> | RMRP | 9.3M | 3.4M | 1.7B | |

| Region | People in need (million) | People targeted (million) | Requirements (US\$ billion) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Asia and the Pacific | 76M | 47M | \$7B |
| Eastern Europe | 22M | 14M | \$6B |
| East and Southern Africa | 77M | 65M | \$12B |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 39M | 18M | \$4B |
| Middle East and North Africa | 57M | 48M | \$15B |
| West and Central Africa | 69M | 38M | \$8B |

Source: Financial Tracking Service/Humanitarian Insight. **Notes:** Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRPs, RRP's components of countries without HRPs, and other appeals. Changes to the population figures and financial requirements for the RRP's have occurred because of the overlap with HRPs. The regional appeals components included are as follows: Afghanistan RRP, Syria 3RP, Ukraine RRP and Venezuela RMRP: fully included. DRC RRP: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included. Burundi excluded. South Sudan RRP: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded. Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen: Djibouti included, Somalia and Ethiopia partially included, and Yemen excluded. The full figures of the RRP's can be found on their respective GHO 2023 pages. Data is provisional and will be updated on humanitarianaction.info when individual plans are finalized.



Rakhine State,
Myanmar

A grandmother and
her grandchildren
sit in front of her
temporary shelter.
UNHCR/Fabien
Faivre

Asia

The increasing impacts of climate change and natural hazards continue to be the main drivers of humanitarian needs in the region, exacerbated by the increasing number of complex and protracted conflicts, and economic, political and social crises.

Globally, some 70 per cent of people affected by natural disasters live in the Asia-Pacific region. From 2015 to 2021, natural disasters affected more than 800 million people across the region, resulting in 53,000 deaths, 3.5 million people losing their homes, and damages totalling US\$397 billion. Asia-Pacific also remains the region most vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change impacts due to its densely populated coastal areas and high rates of poverty, and its dependence on natural resources and agriculture sectors. Five sudden-onset humanitarian crisis response plans were issued in the past year, seeking \$1.2 billion to aid and protect 15.1 million of 33.5 million people in need due to typhoons, floods, violence

and multidimensional crises in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The frequency and severity of climate-related disasters of meteorological, climatological and hydrological nature, including heatwaves, droughts, floods and tropical cyclones, continue to intensify across the region. Notably, Super Typhoon Rai (Odette), which first made landfall in the Philippines in mid-December 2021, strengthened from Category 1 to Category 5 within just hours, precluding adequate preparedness efforts while swiftly creating immense humanitarian need through torrential rains, violent winds, floods, landslides and storm surges. The 2022 IDMC report indicates that disasters displaced 5.7 million people in the Philippines in 2021, just behind China (6 million people) and ahead of India (4.9 million people). In 2022, unprecedented rainfall due to severe monsoons caused the largest floods in Pakistan and Bangladesh in decades, including in areas typically more prone to drought and unprepared for flooding. This highlights the threat posed by increasing departures from usual seasonal weather patterns. These climate catastrophes have severe consequences: In Pakistan, the monsoon rains and floods affected 33 million



people and damaged or destroyed 2.2 million houses, while flooding in Bangladesh affected another 7.2 million people.

Conflict, displacement and violence persist in the region, which hosts 4.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 4.7 million internally displaced people, including in the world's largest refugee settlement in the Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh. Asia-Pacific is home to several protracted crises, and despite typically localized conflict contexts and limited cross-border impacts, these crises have intensified vulnerabilities and pushed millions of people into reliance on humanitarian assistance and protection. The most significant recent deteriorations in the region's security situations occurred in Afghanistan and Myanmar in 2021, with humanitarian repercussions continuing to reverberate within the affected countries and in neighbouring nations. Smaller escalations in violence also continue to be observed, such as in Papua New Guinea from May to June 2022, and ongoing conflict in Mindanao, the Philippines, where over 110,000 people remain displaced at the end of September 2022, mainly due to cycles of armed conflict, generalized crime, and violence and natural disasters.

Multidimensional crises with drivers other than natural disasters and conflicts represent a growing concern in Asia and the Pacific. In 2022, economic collapse triggered humanitarian support needs for 7 million people in Sri Lanka in a crisis compounded by food insecurity, threatened livelihoods, shortages of vital and essential medicines, and rising protection concerns. Regional vulnerability to such crises is heightened by factors including rising global inflation and high food prices, as well as the impacts of shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which are eroding coping capacities and increasing people's vulnerability to the effects of natural and human induced disasters.

The pandemic's impact continued in 2022, with the socioeconomic impacts particularly felt in livelihoods, household income and poverty, food insecurity, health care and protection concerns. Following the pandemic declaration, countries in Asia-Pacific experienced some of the most severe mitigation measures, with a

commensurately large impact on vulnerable communities that have yet to recover. By the end of 2022, pandemic-related restrictions had been relaxed in most of Asia-Pacific, restoring access to domestic and international travel in much of the region. Strict measures remain in place in some countries, including China and particularly the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), where borders have remained closed since January 2020.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, it is likely that multidimensional compound disasters will continue to impact many countries in Asia and the Pacific, exacerbated by global inflation, global supply chain disruptions and mounting risk of recessions in major economies. A joint WFP and FAO report on global hunger hotspots highlights three Asia-Pacific countries as being hotspots for acute food insecurity: Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In Lao PDR, the pandemic's economic consequences and the recent global crisis of food, energy and financing have had a particularly severe impact on the most vulnerable groups. Acute food insecurity has increased in Lao PDR since early 2022 and is expected to continue into 2023. Other countries also identified as being at risk of increased food insecurity include Myanmar and DPRK. Economic crises are expected to drive worsening food insecurity in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and potentially in other countries facing commodity inflation and increasing debt.

The region also remains highly vulnerable to large-scale sudden-onset disasters that may overwhelm national and in-country response capacities and resources, requiring the provision of international humanitarian assistance. This could be in countries with lower existing in-country coping capacities, as well as in better-resourced countries struck by disasters of inordinate magnitude or impact. While preparatory actions are taken where possible, climate change-driven variations in seasonal weather patterns mean that disasters deviating from historical precedent in terms of location, scale, speed and intensity of occurrence may become increasingly common, increasing need and undermining traditional resilience.



Afghanistan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

28.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

23.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 4.6 billion

Total population
43.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
8.1 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2009 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and the establishment of governance by the de facto authorities (DfA) in August 2021, there has been a major, broad-based deterioration of the humanitarian situation across the country, with both rural and urban areas in crisis. While conflict levels have dropped significantly, security incidents and attacks by non-State armed groups continue, and the human rights situation, particularly for women and girls, has continued to deteriorate under the policies of the DfA. The legacy of decades of war continues to impact the population; Afghanistan now has some of the world's highest levels of disability and contamination from unexploded ordnance.

Afghanistan is also in the grips of a climate change-induced crisis. The continuation of drought has drastically undermined rural livelihoods, while the loss of jobs in cities means there are no safe havens for displaced people. Unseasonal flooding during the summer and a major earthquake in June have compounded needs and damaged infrastructure further. Finally, the economic crisis has continued, with high levels of unemployment and severe inflation of commodity prices. As a result, the proportion of income that people spend on food increased from 65 per cent to 73 per cent over the year, indicating protracted reduced expenditures on other basic needs.

Despite the major scale up of assistance in 2022, levels of aid have been sufficient to prevent catastrophe but not to move people out of crisis or into stability. The percentage of households that report having received humanitarian assistance has approximately tripled since last year, while 12 per cent of women and female-headed households report that humanitarian assistance is their main source of income.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

A staggering two thirds of Afghanistan's population will need humanitarian assistance in 2023. The country will enter its third consecutive year of drought-like conditions and its second year of crippling economic decline, all while people have been unable to recover from the devastating impact of the recent earthquake and floods, and decades of conflict-driven vulnerability. It is estimated that a record 28.3 million people will need humanitarian and protection assistance in 2023, up from 24.4 million in 2022 and 18.4 million at the beginning of 2021.

Overall, 32 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces are in extreme severity levels of need, up from 30 provinces last year. The spread of the crisis to urban areas is particularly notable, with 27 out of 34 major urban areas/provincial capitals in extreme severity of need, including urban Kabul, which has malnutrition rates higher than the World Health Organization's emergency threshold.

The main drivers of the increase are the continuing climate change-induced drought, with **30 out of 34 provinces in severe or extreme indicators for water quality**. As per the latest available forecasts, a third consecutive La Niña has been declared (the first of the 21st Century) as well as the first consecutive years of negative Indian Ocean Dipoles, creating a compound effect that is predicted to create lower than average precipitation over the critical winter period. The other major driver of need has been the worsening of the protection situation, particularly the restrictions on women's and girls' participation in society, including the exclusion of most secondary-school girls and women from education. At the same time, the food security and malnutrition situation remains one of the worst in the world, with the forecast for the lean season being 20 million people in IPC 3+ (crisis), with over 6 million people in IPC 4 (emergency).



Response priorities in 2023

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, the humanitarian response will focus on several areas. First, an increased focus on seasonal packages to reflect changing needs and allow for response efficiency. For example, there will be integrated packages for winter, with increased support for heating, shelter, food pre-positioning etc. Food rations will be adjusted with increased support during the lean season and offset by reductions in the number of people targeted for food during the harvest time. Three regular seasonal plans under the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) will allow humanitarian partners to respond in real time vis-à-vis emerging trends and events. Second, the response will focus on multisectoral packages and underserved areas to address specific challenges, including an integrated WASH-Health response to cholera, an integrated approach to addressing malnutrition, and other areas.

Despite the continuing declines in the availability of basic services, the HRP remains focused on core humanitarian programming. However, emergency repairs to core infrastructure and support to core enabling functions, such as primary health care, are still required until basic service delivery is stabilized.

Despite challenges, humanitarian partners stayed and delivered during 2022. The significant decrease in military operations and kinetic activities since September 2021 has enabled partners to reach previously inaccessible areas. However, other forms of access impediments have increased, including meaningful access to women and girls in need due to movement restrictions imposed on female humanitarian staff.

Fundamentally, the only sustainable way to address the intertwined climactic, economic and political crises in Afghanistan causing the humanitarian emergency is through greater investments by the DfA and the wider development system in services addressing basic needs and critical infrastructure.

AID IN ACTION

Analysing needs across Afghanistan



OCHA

As conflict has reduced in Afghanistan, humanitarian partners are now able to reach previously inaccessible areas. In 2022, the humanitarian community improved and scaled up its assessments and monitoring approaches. This enabled the first truly national analysis of needs in Afghanistan in many years. Two Whole

of Afghanistan assessments reached every province and a proportional level of female-headed households. For the first time in seven years, a National SMART nutrition survey was completed and humanitarian assessments were expanded, covering urban and rural areas. All these actions have allowed a comprehensive multisectoral analysis, despite the challenges of working under the de facto authorities and their restrictions on women.

The analysis has led to a more granular understanding of the changing needs in Afghanistan and an increased understanding of the situation in areas not previously reached. It also revealed the severe impacts of climate change-induced drought, including food insecurity and the worsening protection situation, particularly for women and girls.



Myanmar HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

17.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 764 million

Total population
56 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.8 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2013 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The people of Myanmar continue to face an unprecedented political, human rights and humanitarian crisis that is posing grave protection risks to civilians, limiting access to vital services including health and education, and driving deep food insecurity. Humanitarian needs have worsened across the country as conflict continues to rage, causing unprecedented levels of displacement, destruction of property and explosive ordnance contamination, especially in the Northwest and Southeast, creating grave protection risks for civilians. Forced recruitment – including of children – is increasingly reported. The use of heavy weapons, including air strikes and artillery fire, continues to claim lives and pose risks to the safety and security of civilians. Raids, random searches and arrests are of grave concern.

The spread of conflict has driven unprecedented displacement, with the number of IDPs steeply increasing to 1.4 million as of 24 October 2022. This is nearly 1 million more IDPs than at the same time last year. The destruction of civilian properties, particularly homes, combined with the protracted fighting, is also prolonging the displacement of existing IDPs and further degrading people’s fragile living conditions. The monsoon in the second and third quarter of the year has been a miserable time for the hundreds of thousands of displaced people living in informal sites and in the jungle or forest without proper shelter.

Despite the dire humanitarian situation of affected people, including IDPs, the de facto authorities continue to control and limit the transportation of rice, medicine and fuel, as well as humanitarian actors’ access to people in need throughout many parts of the country, but particularly the north-west.

The combination of the considerable underfunding of the response, inflation, access restrictions and interruptions to services has resulted in many needs going unaddressed and worsening over time. Since the military takeover, many children are still not attending school. More than 4 million children – half of Myanmar’s school-aged children – have not accessed formal education for two full academic years. While efforts are under way to support alternative education solutions, this is currently reaching only a fraction of children. This situation places children at much higher risk of negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour, trafficking and early marriage, and the longer it goes on, it increases the likelihood of permanent disengagement from education. The health sector is facing similar strain, with interruptions due to conflict, attacks on health structures and staff, poor funding, lack of availability of medical supplies and social pressure on people not to use public services. This is contributing to the worsening of maternal and child health outcomes, missed routine immunizations and poor emergency care for pregnant women. Ethnic and community health organizations and alternative private services are working to cover gaps, but the response capacity is not commensurate with needs. Private providers are also too expensive for many people amid the current economic distress.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Conflict dynamics are expected to remain at the same level or worsen in 2023, especially in the north-west and south-east. There will be continued protection risks leading to higher vulnerability and needs in the hard-to-reach conflict areas. As a result, the rate of new displacement is expected to continue at similar or higher levels compared to 2022. A projected figure of 2.7 million IDPs by the end of 2023 has been used for the



Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Due to limited access and support, conditions in protracted IDP sites will likely worsen. While some opportunities for safe return may be seen, these are likely to remain modest, geographically limited, and hampered by landmines, explosive remnants of war and property destruction in places of origin. The possibility of forced premature returns is a serious concern.

The operational space is expected to contract further, amid continued bureaucratic constraints and increased scrutiny of all actors. Looming national elections in 2023 could be a major trigger for increased unrest, violence and additional displacement.

The economic situation remains fragile and has been further undermined by inflation. Livelihoods and coping mechanisms will continue to be severely strained as prices for basic goods continue to outstrip incomes. Continued interruptions to people accessing public health and education services due to the civil disobedience movement, and a lack of funding for public provision are anticipated. The overall food security outlook is grim, especially given the surge in inflation, the reduction in food production, ongoing access constraints and the high level of unmet needs from 2022. Households are reporting having no food to eat, particularly IDPs in hard-to-reach areas and non-displaced stateless households. Main shocks to food insecurity include higher food and fuel prices, conflict and lower-than-normal rainfall. Mental health care remains a critical need in conflict areas. WASH needs are high among stateless people and IDPs, who are enduring undignified living conditions. Shelter needs will remain high, with more than half of IDPs lacking proper shelter and non-food items. Protection needs are also expected to remain severe: 40 per cent of IDP households have been affected by explosive ordnance in the last year.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, humanitarian partners will work towards the following strategic objectives:

Protection risks and needs are identified, monitored, mitigated and met for 2.1 million people, while the centrality of protection is upheld across the humanitarian response including through promotion of respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

Reduce and prevent suffering, morbidity and mortality among 3.1 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people experiencing or at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition and health threats.

At least 2 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people have safe, tailored, timely and dignified access to essential services and support to ensure their survival and prevent deterioration of their humanitarian needs.

The HRP target has been tightened from 6.2 million people in 2022 to 4.5 million in 2023, based on a realistic analysis of possible responses within a challenging access and funding environment, as well as the restarting of some development activities. The 2023 response will focus more strictly on life-saving activities in conflict-affected areas. Most resilience needs have been moved outside the plan and will now be addressed via nexus and development activities. This recalibration includes moving the bulk of the peri-urban response under the UN Socio-Economic Resilience Response Plan as part of a strengthened nexus response. At the end of 2022, many development partners are restarting paused programmes, which allows humanitarian partners to shift their focus back to core life-saving responses, especially in rural areas. While nearly all clusters have reduced their target number to a small degree, the Health Cluster has expanded its target significantly from 1.4 million people to 2.3 million. The health response is more ambitious in 2023 given the disintegration of the public health system and the reality that alternate modalities of delivery are scaling up.

While there have been modest access openings in 2022, these were very localized. The overall access environment is expected to remain heavily constrained, requiring a strong reliance on and risk sharing with low-profile local responders. The humanitarian operating space is under increasing threat from bureaucratic blockages imposed by the de facto authorities around registration, travel, banking and visas. Continued advocacy will be required around the impacts of these constraints on the humanitarian operation. Humanitarians will continue to engage with all parties in a bid to secure access, promote principled responses that are based on needs and raise civilian protection issues.



Pakistan OTHER

PEOPLE IN NEED

20.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

9.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 344 million

Total population
229.5 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.1 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2015 - 2023

Multi-year requirements (US\$)
816.3 million (2022-2023)

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Heavy rains and a combination of riverine, urban and flash flooding led to an unprecedented climate-induced disaster in Pakistan that started in June 2022, causing widespread fatalities, killing livestock, and damaging and destroying public and private infrastructure across the country. Rain-induced landslides and floods also damaged agricultural land and forests, impacting local ecosystems. The heavy rains and floods affected around 33 million people, including at least 7.9 million people who have been displaced.

More than 2 million houses have been affected, comprising over 767,000 houses destroyed and nearly 1.3 million houses damaged. Eighty-nine per cent of this is in Sindh Province, where more than 683,000 houses were destroyed, and more than 1.1 million houses were damaged. As of early October, some 598,000 people were living in informal sites, relief camps or tent cities, often with limited access to services. Since then, people have been gradually returning to their places of origin, but often finding their homes, farmland and assets destroyed. The impact on farmland and agriculture has been immense, with more than 1.1 million livestock reportedly killed. The Food and Agriculture Organization assesses that some 9.4 million acres of crop area in Pakistan were potentially flooded in August 2022.

Vulnerability is likely to heighten as a direct result of the floods. The Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report released in late October 2022 indicates that the national poverty rates will increase from 3.7 to 4.0 percentage points, potentially pushing between 8.4 million and 9.1 million more people below the poverty line. Even before the floods, Pakistan was already facing macroeconomic pressures and low economic growth due to challenging global economic conditions. According to the PDNA, the immediate impact on people's lives

and livelihoods will come through the loss of household income and assets, shortages of food and loss of human capital due to the ongoing public health situation. Women are especially vulnerable to poverty, with only 22.6 per cent of women in Pakistan active in the labour market, and the income of an average woman in Pakistan around 16 per cent of that of an average man.

Despite its very low carbon footprint, Pakistan is globally one of the 10 countries most affected by extreme weather events, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021 and Climate Watch. As highlighted in Pakistan's National Climate Change Policy issued in 2021, the effects of global climate change in Pakistan are already evident through the melting and receding glaciers; increased frequency of droughts, flooding and erratic weather behaviour; changes in agricultural patterns; reduction in fresh water supply; loss of biodiversity; and increase in the formation and outbursts of glacial lakes. August 2022 was the wettest August in Pakistan since records began, with the national rainfall more than 243 per cent above average.

Out of the US\$816 million requirement for the flood response plan, only \$130 million (about 16 per cent) is funded as of the end of October 2022. This leaves significant response gaps across all sectors.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

An estimated 20.6 million people will continue to need humanitarian assistance in 2023, largely driven by a lack of access to clean water and health services, and increased food insecurity and malnutrition rates.

Widespread standing floodwaters and damaged water, sanitation and hygiene facilities will continue to pose heightened public health risks to communities in flood-



**Sindh Province,
Pakistan**
Children at a school
destroyed by heavy
rains and flooding
near Mohenjo Daro,
Larkana District.
OCHA/Pierre Peron

affected areas. Cases of malaria, dengue, acute watery diarrhoea and cholera will continue to be common among flood-affected communities, posing a particular threat in areas where floodwaters will remain the longest. Damage to drinking water supply systems and to more than 1,460 public health facilities and their contents have already reduced access to safe and clean water. This will continue to inhibit the provision of health services at a time of increased need.

The widespread loss of livestock, crops, livelihoods and income, as well as the damage to critical transport infrastructure for supplying agricultural outputs to markets that has occurred, is expected to exacerbate the already frail food security situation and drive even more people into crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity. This is compounded by ongoing price increases in Pakistan coinciding with a surge in global inflation, which is further contributing to increasing the unaffordability of food and other commodities in the market. Preliminary results from updated IPC analysis after the flooding indicate that around 8.62 million people were food insecure (in IPC Phases 3 and 4) from September to December 2022, of whom 6.02 million are estimated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 2.59 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

The onset of winter, typically lasting from November to March in Pakistan, brings new challenges for flood-affected people, particularly

those who have been displaced and who are living in camps and informal settlements, and people who may have moved back into damaged houses that are exposed to the cold. The impact of floods has also eroded the coping capacity of communities in flood-affected areas, further increasing their vulnerability.

Pakistan will continue to be vulnerable to climate-related emergencies, including floods and drought, beyond 2023. Humanitarian response and recovery efforts need to build in preparedness and risk reduction measures to increase communities' resilience to these emergencies.

Response priorities in 2023

Until May 2023, humanitarian partners plan to reach 9.5 million people, with a total requirement of \$816 million. The focus of the response is on the 34 most affected districts in Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The prioritization of the districts was based on the number of houses damaged and destroyed, available projections of water-level changes, and the number of displaced people in the districts. The focus of the response is on the provision of urgent and life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection. Limited Early Recovery components are integrated, especially livelihoods and agriculture support, as those are considered being critical to prevent the further erosion of positive coping strategies, and to enable the affected population to regain self-sufficiency more swiftly. Urgent life-saving efforts were particularly prioritized for the first six months of the plan, while limited Early Recovery activities are foreseen for the entire nine-month period of the plan.

The PDNA that was completed in October 2022 provides a basis for a national recovery strategy/plan. The PDNA estimates total flood damage at \$14.9 billion, total loss at \$15.2 billion and total recovery needs at \$16.3 billion. Implementation and financing of this plan will likely only come later in 2023. Therefore, humanitarian support will still be critical in the larger part of 2023.



PEOPLE IN NEED

17.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

9.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 3.9 billion

Total population
43.3 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5.1 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2023

Borodyanka,
Kyivska Oblast,
Ukraine

A man walks close to an apartment building destroyed during air strikes that hit Borodyanka in the first weeks of the war. The destruction left hundreds of families homeless in this town, on the outskirts of Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. OCHA/Serhii Korovayny

Eastern Europe | Ukraine HRP

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which started on 24 February, has caused widespread death, destruction, displacement and suffering, and left at least 17.6 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023. They include 6.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 6.9 million people who remain at their homes and 4.4 million returnees. The highest severity of needs is among people living in areas not under the Government of Ukraine's control and in areas directly affected by active hostilities.

In February 2022, the Russian Federation launched missile and rocket attacks in cities across Ukraine, while ground troops moved in from the north, east and south. The Ukrainian

counteroffensive retook the north of the country by April. Fighting continues in the east and south, with the front line continually shifting, and many areas becoming newly accessible to humanitarian actors responding to a steadily increasing number of people in severe humanitarian need in these locations.

In October, attacks against energy infrastructure, often in and around urban areas, intensified, further disrupting public services including water, electricity, health care, education and social protection. This will exacerbate needs and likely cause more displacement as temperatures drop as low as -20°C, potentially leading to a humanitarian catastrophe if needs are not addressed. According to the Government of Ukraine, the war damaged 2,677 education facilities, of which 331 are destroyed.



Between 24 February and 22 November 2022, there were 703 verified attacks on health care. These attacks took the lives of 100 people, injured 129 and impacted 618 health care facilities. This corresponds to over 90 per cent of WHO recorded attacks on 684 health care facilities across 15 countries/territories during this period.¹³⁰

In the first two months of fighting, the war uprooted more than 30 per cent of Ukraine's population. More than 6 million people returned to their places of origin by September, including over 1.2 million people from abroad, but more than 7.7 million people are still trying to find safety and security as refugees in European countries. Almost twice as many civilians have been killed over the past eight months (6,114 civilians) than in the past eight years of conflict (3,404 civilians), according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. People in war-affected communities, including near the front-lines, are exposed to constant bombardment, armed violence, and landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination, contributing to dynamic displacements in country.

Among people who remained in towns and villages, assessments show the highest needs are in the east, especially among older people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The war has severely impacted access to pensions, health care and other basic services, including adequate housing. Older people, including those with disabilities, have encountered challenges accessing bomb shelters and necessary supplies. Meanwhile, northern oblasts have seen many people who have returned requiring humanitarian assistance.

The most vulnerable internally displaced people include those currently living in collective centres, many of which are not properly equipped to meet long-term accommodation needs. Urgent needs are heating/fuel, construction repairs, food, bathing facilities and essential items. As most of the people displaced are women and girls (64 per cent), sexual and reproductive health services, along with gender-based violence prevention and response services, are critical. Additionally, a significant proportion of displaced people report a family member who is older (39 per cent), chronically ill (30 per cent) or living with a disability (nearly 25 per cent), presenting additional needs concerning financial and social support, health care and accessible facilities.

The war has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities. Across the country, marginalized groups including LGBTQ+, Roma, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS are at heightened risk of exclusion, sexual and economic exploitation, violence and abuse. Each

group may require special approaches to aid delivery, as they often face discrimination by local authorities when seeking assistance and services.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The war has been marked by severe violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Since 10 October 2022, the Russian Federation has admitted to deliberately targeting the nation's energy infrastructure, resulting in the Government of Ukraine estimating that between 30 and 40 per cent of the country's energy facilities were damaged as of early November, pending damage assessments. Destruction of civilian infrastructure causes severe disruption of electricity, running water, telecommunications, health care, transportation and other essential services. A likely worsening energy crisis in the winter months necessitates urgent additional support related to heating, insulation and fuel.

The war has profoundly disrupted the Ukrainian economy. In addition to the loss of nearly 5 million jobs by August 2022, the nation's total GDP is expected to contract by more than 30 per cent in 2023, and it is likely to shrink further as the war continues. This will further hamper livelihoods and threaten civil society's capacity to provide the extensive volunteer support to people impacted by the war.

Across Ukraine, 26 per cent of people report a lack of access to essential medicines and health services, with the situation particularly acute in the east (29 per cent) and south (31 per cent), and with older people worse off. Additional needs include protection, shelter and critical household items, water and hygiene support, and education. Humanitarian space and humanitarian access to areas not under the Government of Ukraine's control remain extremely limited. This prevents comprehensive needs assessments and assistance at the required scope and scale. However, as humanitarian needs are severe in areas where the Government of Ukraine has retaken control, it is assumed that the situation is similar or worse for communities currently inaccessible to the international humanitarian community.

Response priorities in 2023

In the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the humanitarian community will target 9.4 million people with multisectoral humanitarian assistance, prioritizing areas

130. WHO, 'Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care', accessed 22 November 2022.



with a high intersectoral severity of needs in the east, including in areas retaken by the Government. The target population includes 4.9 million people who remain at their homes, 2.8 million internally displaced people and 1.7 million returnees.

The financial requirement of US\$3.9 billion for the 2023 HRP corresponds to the widespread destruction, displacement and human suffering caused by the war. It also takes into account a potential severe deterioration of the humanitarian situation as a consequence of the energy crisis, which will further deepen humanitarian needs. The response to identified humanitarian needs is based on

the concept of complementarity to planning frameworks of the Government, development partners, and Ukrainian volunteer and civil-society organizations. It also takes into account inflation, which makes the provision of aid more expensive.

The 2023 response will focus on two strategic objectives:

- Provide principled and timely multisectoral life-saving assistance to IDPs, non-displaced people and returnees, ensuring their safety and dignity.
- Enable access to basic services to IDPs, non-displaced people and returnees.

AID IN ACTION

Cash assistance lightens the load for displaced families



OCHA/Matteo Minasi

In Ukraine, millions of people were forced to flee as their homes were bombarded and their livelihoods destroyed. Many previously self-sufficient families now struggle every day to survive. As several ATMs and food markets still function throughout most of the country, the humanitarian community is able to use multi-purpose cash assistance as the most context-appropriate response, targeting 6.3 million people with US\$1.7 billion in 2022.

One particular family of five, whose ages range from 15 to 87, relocated from eastern Ukraine in March, when fighting got close to their home. They packed only basic necessities and headed to Vinnytsia, where they stayed in a students'

dormitory. Thirty-four-year-old Vadym had to carry his 61-year-old grandmother, Natalia, in his arms for parts of the way, given her difficulties walking.

"The war had a huge impact on our family," said Natalia. "We lost our homes, and we lost our jobs. We are extremely grateful that we can stay in this dormitory, but we don't know what will happen next. Because of the fighting in areas near our home, we cannot go back. We worry about our future."

Today, the family relies on cash assistance from UNHCR.

"When I received the cash, I felt like the weight on my shoulders became much lighter," said Vadym. "I knew we would be able to buy medicines for grandma and food for the family. Until I find a new job, we need this support."

More than 80 per cent of the people who received multi-purpose cash assistance in Ukraine reported that it helped to partially or fully meet their basic needs. Giving people the power to make their own financial choices allows them to meet their immediate needs but while also supporting their family, community and local economy.



Talquezal, Jocotán,
Chiquimula,
Guatemala

Jany worries that
her 14-month-old
daughter is always
underweight.

Guatemala has
the world's sixth-
highest prevalence
of chronic
undernutrition and
the highest in Latin
America and the
Caribbean. OCHA/
Vincent Tremeau

Latin America and the Caribbean

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the world's second-most disaster-prone region. The persistent threat and cyclical impact of natural hazards run parallel to structural poverty and inequality, endemic violence, struggling economies and limited government response capacities.

In 2022, climate shocks linked to La Niña, droughts, floods, earthquakes, landslides, tropical storms and hurricanes affected millions of people in several countries. As households across the region continued to struggle to bounce back from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has drained governments' resources, the effects of the conflict in Ukraine spurred an increase in fuel and food prices, severely affecting livelihoods and exacerbating food insecurity. Following the trend initiated in 2021, the flow of irregular

migrants transiting through South and Central America increased exponentially throughout 2022, triggered by political, social and economic deterioration in several countries in the region. The current surge in migration is overwhelming countries' reception capacities and fuelling an unprecedented rise in humanitarian and protection needs.

In 2022, the pandemic's lingering effects in LAC – the region most affected by the pandemic – continued to impact the most vulnerable people, including women and children. Women in the Americas have been disproportionately impacted by increased gender inequality in development and health, including aggravated maternal mortality. LAC also hosts three out of five children worldwide who missed a year of school during the pandemic, becoming the region with the largest increase in the *learning poverty* rate. Those effects were compounded by the impact of several disasters, including climate-induced shocks such as droughts and floods. The cumulative effects of excessive rainfall and hurricanes aggravated the already complicated humanitarian situation for millions of people. In Central America, about 2.4 million people were affected by hazards directly



associated with Hurricane Julia, adding to the dozens of people killed and the millions already affected amid an active rainy season. Hurricane Julia's trajectory was similar to that of Hurricanes Eta and Iota, which devastated parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in November 2020, affecting many of the same communities still reeling from the impact of the back-to-back hurricanes. Overall, the 2022 rainy season affected more than 188,000 people in Honduras and more than 7.2 million in Guatemala, the equivalent of 40 per cent of these countries population. The anticipated impact of those events on food security is particularly concerning.

The effects of the conflict in Ukraine on global oil and grain markets are unravelling in a region where food insecurity has increased the fastest in recent years, driven by the combination of worsening socioeconomic conditions, recurrent extreme weather events and the rising prices on world markets. The number of moderately to severely food-insecure people rose to more than 267 million in 2021, but this figure could increase by as much as 640,000 by the end of 2022. Northern Central America, in particular, is a hotspot of food and nutrition insecurity. In Guatemala and Honduras alone, more than

7.2 million people are projected to face acute levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or worse) between May and September 2022.

In Haiti, about 4.7 million people - almost half of the population - now face acute hunger, and for the first time, some 19,000 people in the country are suffering Catastrophic conditions (IPC Phase 5). In the English-speaking Caribbean, the number of people estimated to be moderately to severely food insecure rose by 46 per cent between March and August 2022, with nearly 4.1 million people, or 57 per cent of the population, now facing food insecurity.

In South America's Gran Chaco lowlands - an area that spans often-neglected parts of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay - humanitarian partners estimate that up to 1.2 million people exposed to the area's worst drought in 80 years may require humanitarian assistance. Exacerbated by La Niña, the drought is unfolding in a context of pre-existing vulnerabilities, where long distances and poor road conditions pose a major challenge in terms of access to basic services.

Countries are facing preparedness challenges as climate-related events show shifting patterns, such as the late onset of the Atlantic hurricane season and more powerful and

El Chocó, Colombia

María Victoria, an Afro-descendant trans woman, has worked for the rights of the LGBTI population for nine years through the organization she leads, Latidos Chocó. UNHCR/ Catalina Betancur Sánchez





devastating hurricanes. Additionally, mounting debt in LAC – the world’s most indebted region – limits access to financing, and growing fiscal deficits leave governments and communities less economically resilient in the face of future shocks.

Caribbean Small Island Developing States, in particular, are among the world’s most disaster-prone countries and territories, with climate change making hydrometeorological events increasingly more frequent and intense. Each year the hurricane season presents severe threats, potentially displacing thousands or even millions of people in a region where countries and territories are up to seven times more likely to experience a disaster than larger States and incur as much as six times more damage.

Displacement presents ever greater challenges for LAC. It hosts more migrants per capita than any other region, with 18.4 million refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced and stateless people registered. As desperation grows across the region, people continue to use increasingly more dangerous, irregular migratory routes. After nearly 1,240 migrant deaths and disappearances were recorded in the Americas in 2021 – the highest number on record – almost 500 missing migrants were registered between January and September 2022, a year that *could be the deadliest* for migrants crossing at the US-Mexico border, where the US authorities have reported record numbers of encounters.

By October 2022, more than 150,000 migrants had crossed the dangerous Darién jungle that straddles the Colombia-Panama border, surpassing the record number for the whole of 2021 (133,726). Venezuelans accounted for more than 70 per cent (112,943) of these new arrivals, followed by Haitians, Ecuadorians and Cubans. The increasing trend in numbers of people transiting through the Nicaragua-Honduras border continues, where the number of registered arrivals up to August 2022 was five times the total number of crossings registered for 2021.

Mexico and Central American countries have registered record numbers of asylum applications, with more than 86,000 applications lodged in Mexico by September 2022.

Across the region, the increasing number of people on the move continues to put significant pressure on reception capacities, including the availability of protection services

and shelter capacities. Governments are struggling to keep pace with rapidly growing humanitarian needs and protection risks faced by migrants, including sexual and gender-based violence or human trafficking especially affecting women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+.

As one of the world’s most violent regions, LAC saw chronic violence rise to pre-pandemic levels as pandemic-related restrictions were lifted, with a surge in homicide rates since 2021. The region has 14 of the 25 countries in the world with the highest female homicide rates; the regional rate of 4.6 female homicides per every 100,000 women is double that of the global rate of 2.3. Six countries alone represent 81 per cent of global cases of sexual and gender-based violence. LAC is also home to the top five countries in the world with the highest homicide rates among children and adolescents; the regional homicide rate of 12.6 per 100,000 among minors is four times the global average of three homicides per 100,000.

As a result of this multidimensional crisis, the number of people in need in the region maintains its upward trend, from 27.9 million in 2022 to 29.2 million in 2023. One million more people in Northern Central America require critical humanitarian assistance compared to the previous year, and 300,000 more in Haiti. The number of people targeted to receive assistance rose from 13.4 million in 2022 to 14.7 million in 2023.¹³¹ While overall funding increased in 2022, growing requirements were not met, with only about 35 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plans funded by November.

In 2023, economic activity in the region is projected to slow to 1.4 per cent, down from a projected 3.2 per cent for 2022 as the conflict in Ukraine continues to generate negative spillover effects.

Multidimensional vulnerabilities and increasingly interconnected protection risks and humanitarian needs are likely to continue and even worsen in 2023. They include food insecurity, recurrent disasters exacerbated by climate change, displacement within and across borders and chronic violence, aggravating sectoral needs such as food security and nutrition, protection, WASH and health.

131. Venezuela RMRP not included.



Colombia HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.7 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 280 million

Total population
51.5 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5.4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2020 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Over the past decade, Colombia has made significant development and peacebuilding efforts. Despite this progress, the confluence of increased internal armed conflict and violence in remote areas within the country; an increase in climate-related disasters; surging socioeconomic needs generated by COVID-19; and the limited institutional capacities to attend to the massive arrival of refugees and migrants has led to a deterioration of Colombia’s humanitarian context, leaving an estimated 7.7 million people in need.

Since 2021, there has been a heightened escalation of hostilities within Colombia, particularly in the Pacific Coast as well as border areas, due to the continuous territorial expansion and actions of non-State armed groups (NSAGs). By November 2022, humanitarian actors have reported 195 conflict-related events leading to mass displacement (143 events) or confinements (52 events) of civilians, affecting more than 162,000 people¹³². These numbers suffer from significant underreporting. The Government’s Victims Unit reported 111 mass displacement events with 49,407 victims, and 28 confinement events with 30,995 victims. Colombia’s rural areas remain the most affected, with an estimated 7.2 million people living in areas under the presence, influence or control of NSAGs and exposed to serious protection risks. These include high levels of conflict-related sexual violence (the Government’s Victims Unit recorded 666 such cases in 2022); the increase of recruitment and use of boys, girls and adolescents, including those of Venezuelan nationality (the national Ombudsman issued

26 alerts highlighting this risk in 2022); and the use of mines and the risks of unexploded ordnance, which continues to disproportionately affect civilians. There is also a high risk of attacks on child-protection system services, such as schools.

A significant number of people affected by disasters – particularly flood-related disasters – was also noted, as the impact of La Niña has affected over 500,000 people up to November 2022.¹³³ One of the biggest crises was in the northern region of La Mojana, where severe and prolonged flooding is affecting access to basic goods and services for an estimated 166,000 people.¹³⁴ An estimated 120,000 people were affected by the passing of Tropical Storm Julia in La Guajira.¹³⁵

Increasingly, the impact of hostilities and disasters converge in rural areas where local State actors face limited capacities to respond to the population’s needs. The people affected are also the poorest and most vulnerable communities, particularly Indigenous and Afro-Colombian peoples. In addition, the influx of millions of refugees and migrants has added a burden on host communities, predominantly in already fragile settings already affected by internal conflict and climate change emergencies, and where refugees and migrants also reside.

Humanitarian actors continued to complement State efforts to respond to affected people’s needs, particularly in hard-to-reach areas and areas of high concentration of IDPs or vulnerable populations.

132. Based on reported emergencies and follow-up by Local Coordination Team partners between January and September 2022 and [Monitor-OCHA](#)

133. According to emergencies reported by members of the Local Coordination Teams, where local authorities requested complementary support in the response.

134. Information validated between local authorities and the Local Coordination Team of Córdoba in the framework of the coordination of the response in the PMU: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/colombia/emergencia-la-mojana>

135. Information collected between local authorities and the Local Coordination Team of La Guajira, in the framework of the coordination of the response in the PMU and the needs assessments carried out.



A new Government took office in August 2022, announcing a bold agenda to promote 'Total Peace' across the nation's territories, including through a greater implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement, and to promote social equity, and economic and environmental justice. As the new Government plan is in development stages, efforts are being made to promote participation and inclusive dialogues, emphasizing territorial approaches with a protection, human-security and victim-centred approach. The new Government also took quick steps to re-establish diplomatic relations with neighbouring Venezuela, which is expected to have a positive impact for the population crossing or living along the border. The Government also adopted a renewed approach of collaboration with multilateral organizations. These efforts of the Government will be supported by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), led by the Humanitarian Coordinator, to promote an enhanced response to the needs of affected populations across Colombia, particularly the most vulnerable.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Welcoming the Government's new policies and its quick efforts to pursue solutions for people affected by conflict, disasters and socioeconomic hardship, there is a common recognition that the implementation and fruits of these policies may take some time. As such, Government plans include short-term humanitarian response efforts for affected people and longer-term plans to address structural causes.

Equally, humanitarian actors will be prepared to provide complementary humanitarian assistance for people who may continue to be affected by internal conflict or disasters in 2023. NSAGs' control of and pressure towards civilians is expected to continue in much of the country's periphery, which will likely impact the protection of communities and their ability to access basic goods, services and livelihoods. It is expected this will remain the case, even if hostilities among NSAGs subside through a multilateral ceasefire. Mixed migration flows across the continent and the slow return of refugees will continue to produce a heavy burden on people on the move and host communities.

It is expected that La Niña and associated heavy rainy seasons will continue to generate new emergencies, as well as aggravate the existing ones, while exacerbating the needs of affected communities.

Humanitarian access constraints, which have been increasing in the last years, are also expected to become even more challenging.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2022, the HCT, through the significant efforts of its partners and donors, managed to assist over 1 million people through intersectoral assistance that includes prevention, risk management, assistance and creative solutions. It also expanded its geographical reach in hard-to-reach areas mostly affected by the presence of NSAGs.

Based on identified needs, priorities in 2023 will continue to include areas affected by conflict as well as disasters (double affectation), with a particular focus on municipalities with limited response capacities, hard-to-reach areas of difficult access for institutions, and on the most vulnerable population groups, with an emphasis on children, women and ethnic minority communities.

The HCT's strategy will remain focused on 1) rapid response to emergencies for life-saving purposes while attempting to enhance prevention and protection efforts, and 2) contributing to recovery, solutions and community capacity-building for the restoration of victims' rights and the socioeconomic stabilization of people in a situation of vulnerability. These efforts are underpinned by a cross-cutting protection focus.

Priority areas will remain the Pacific Coast, areas of recurrent emergencies, and border areas where the confluence of internal conflict and disasters is felt the most. However, humanitarian actors will continue to closely monitor dynamics in the Amazonia Orinoquia and the northern Caribbean belt linking the Pacific to the border with Venezuela, due to NSAGs' increasing actions in these areas during 2022. The HCT developed a dedicated Pacific Coast Strategy and a strategy to enhance tailored humanitarian efforts in Indigenous communities as an annex to the Humanitarian Response Plan to focus on the most affected population groups and geographical areas.

Humanitarian actors' access to affected communities, and the population's access to basic services, goods and livelihoods will also remain a priority for 2023, considering the significant increase in the number of incidents of impediments to humanitarian access in 2022 (103 incidents against humanitarian actors have been identified as per November 2022), and considering the 2.9 million Colombians affected by various mobility restrictions.¹³⁶

136. According to reports from different partners of the Humanitarian Country Team between January and September 19, 2022.



El Salvador HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.1 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

496,600

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 98.4 million

Total population
6.3 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4.3 / Medium

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

El Salvador is among the countries most affected by weather-related hazards worldwide, incurring annual losses of around 2.5 per cent of GDP. Changes in rainfall patterns and more intense drought and floods cause significant losses in agriculture and livestock. Over the past three decades, the impacts of climate change have cost the Salvadoran economy more than US\$2.2 billion in lost productivity, according to the Inter-American Development Bank. Without immediate action to curb the impacts of climate change, El Salvador's GDP could fall by up to 7 per cent by 2030.

El Salvador has historically experienced alarming levels of violence, which have been curbed by a state of exception (emergency decree) that came into effect in late March 2022 on the heels of a spike in violence. Over the following six months, more than 50,000 people were arrested under the emergency decree, leading to accusations of human rights violations.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development has identified El Salvador as the Latin American country most vulnerable to the impacts of the war in Ukraine. Since February 2022, the price of oil, cereals and wheat has increased by 58.1 per cent, 37.3 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively.

A heavier than usual rainy season and the recurrent impact of tropical storms in 2022, on top of an already heavily soiled terrain, will significantly impact crop production and consequently levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Forecasts indicate a continuation of or an increase in needs. According to the 2022 INFORM Risk Index, El Salvador, with a score of 4.3 (scale of 0 to 10), is the sixty-fifth country most at risk out of the 190 countries analysed. The increase in climate change-related events and increasingly frequent social shocks will continue to affect populations living in rural and peri-urban areas the most.

According to the IPC analysis for El Salvador, during the first half of 2023, high food prices and climatic events will directly affect food access and availability. This may exacerbate food insecurity and aggravate the nutritional situation, especially for the most vulnerable children. At the national level, 28,000 people (about 1 per cent of the population) will be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 639,000 people (10 per cent of the population) in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Access to fertilizers for small and medium producers is increasingly limited, which is likely to affect crop yields in 2022 and 2023. Given the escalating cost of agricultural inputs, severe impacts on livelihoods and food security are expected due to lower staple grains production, with an estimated decline of up to 20 per cent for the 2022-2023 crop cycle.

The nutritional situation in El Salvador has been highly influenced by the socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19. Other common hydro-meteorological phenomena, such as tropical storms, hurricanes and droughts, are an underlying cause of irregular migration. The loss of income and sources of employment implies less access to the basic food basket for families and an increase in multidimensional poverty. The current inflation translates into higher prices for the basic food basket, which



will translate into higher rates of nutritional problems and preventable diseases for the coming months.

Increased humanitarian needs may lead to an escalation in the rate of violence against women, risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and a higher demand for care services. Women – especially women of childbearing age, girls and adolescents, women with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons, heads of single-parent households, survivors of GBV, migrants, displaced women, refugees and returnees, and rural or Indigenous women affected by poverty, malnutrition and climatic emergencies – are exposed to environments that place them at greater risk of being victims of violence.

Soyapango, El Salvador

Ines lives with her daughter Susana and grandchildren. The house is divided into separate rooms that can be locked to prevent gang members from entering.

OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, the humanitarian community seeks to assist 496,600 of the most vulnerable people (around 45 per cent of people in need), requiring \$98.4 million for the response. The People in need number for 2023 is lower than in previous years as the total population data has been updated, reflecting a decrease. Some response sectors have also seen their needs reduced, including Health with a reduction of people in need from 998,210 to 247,279, while other response sectors have increased their needs.

The Humanitarian Response Plan is based on the collectively identified shocks that trigger humanitarian needs – violence, climate change, migration flows, and food and nutritional insecurity. The activities will provide an intersectoral response to these shocks and their humanitarian consequences, with a focus on the most vulnerable people. The activities are designed to ensure complementarity with the development projects in-country and complement the ongoing efforts of the Government.





Guatemala HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 125.4 million

Total population
17.3 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5.1 / High

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Guatemala is enduring a complex humanitarian crisis generated by overlapping shocks and impacts – sudden and slow onset, short and long term – affecting more than a third of the population (6.4 million people).

Historically, natural hydro-meteorological and geological events have triggered disasters in large areas of Guatemala. In the past decade, pockets of food and nutrition insecurity have emerged in certain regions, starting in the eastern part of the Dry Corridor and expanding to almost two thirds of the national territory. Droughts, largely attributed to climate change, as well as other socioeconomic factors are at the root of the crisis. In addition, human mobility, in all its manifestations, has considerably increased the impact on previously affected populations.

Around 4.6 million people – more than a quarter of the population – require food assistance, a fourfold increase since 2019. Malnutrition is becoming increasingly common in urban areas, as opposed to the traditional remote and rural settings, amid internal migration and growing poverty, falling incomes and limited access to health services in urban outskirts. Stunting from chronic undernutrition affects nearly 43 per cent of children under age 5 – the highest rate across the region and the sixth highest in the world – with prevalence rates in rural and Indigenous communities more than 50 per cent higher than national averages.

In 2022, above-normal rainfall continues to affect large swaths of the country, aggravating an already dire livelihood and food insecurity situation. As of November 2022, more than 7 million people have been affected during the current rainy season, nearly triple the population affected during 2021. Prolonged saturation of soils, sinking roads, collapsed drains and landslides continue to hinder humanitarian access and operations in and around the Guatemala City metropolitan area.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2022, the main shocks driving humanitarian needs are food and nutrition insecurity, human mobility and hydro-meteorological disasters caused by extreme weather.

The total number of people in need increased from 3.8 million in 2021 to 5 million in 2023. The most dramatic increases were in the Food Security and Protection sectors. Food and nutrition needs are at their highest historical levels. Some 4.6 million people are food insecure and need immediate attention, mostly subsistence and sub-subsistence farming households and households with minimal or no income. Some 1.9 million people have humanitarian needs related to acute malnutrition, including children under age 5, women of childbearing age, pregnant women, older adults and people with disabilities. It is estimated that conditions negatively impacting food security will not change significantly, so needs would remain the same over the next year. Regarding the human



**Guaraquiche,
Chiquimula,
Guatemala**

Maria, 40, is a single mother. She fends for herself and her three children by trekking up to the mountain ridges and cutting firewood to sell at the market.
OCHA/Vincent Tremeau

mobility crisis, reports indicate that the number of returnees from Mexico and the United States is on the rise compared to previous years. This trend is expected to continue along with national and international protection needs for people on the move and host communities.

Women, girls and LGBTIQ+ persons in human mobility are at higher risk of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence. Young men and boys have a high exposure to recruitment into organized crime. Unaccompanied children and adolescents are at higher risk of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and other forms of violence. Nearly 11,000 unaccompanied and separated children and adolescents were returned from the United States and Mexico between January 2021 and May 2022.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs of 2.3 million people, the equivalent of 46 per cent of the 5 million people in need. The HCT set this target based on agreed priorities within the operating context and on the capacities of humanitarian actors in the country. The financial requirements are US\$125.4 million.

The Humanitarian Response Plan is based on the collectively identified shocks that drive humanitarian needs in Guatemala – food insecurity and acute malnutrition, human mobility, and disasters and remnants of Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The prioritized response activities will provide an intersectoral response to these shocks and their humanitarian consequences, focusing on the most vulnerable people. The activities are designed to ensure complementarity with the development projects in-country and complement the ongoing efforts of the Government.



Haiti HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 714.8 million

Total population
11.7 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2010 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Haiti is experiencing a political, economic and humanitarian crisis coupled with high levels of insecurity and violence. The control the armed gangs exert, coupled with poor economic governance, has paralysed economic and social life.

Since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on 7 July 2021, Haiti has faced a political vacuum and deadlock. In parallel, it has experienced four years of negative economic growth, with skyrocketing inflation rates reaching 30 per cent at its peak, in July 2022. The price of the food basket increased by 63 per cent over a year and was combined with the global increase of fuel and gas prices, which has further increased the prices of imported goods.

The Government's decision to suspend oil subsidies set off large-scale and sometimes violent nationwide protests and blockades. Since mid-September, armed groups have controlled the fuel shortage, culminating in the blockade of the oil terminal in Varreux, which holds 70 per cent of Haiti's fuel supplies. This has, in turn, cut off supplies, which led to alarming restrictions in water distribution, power supply and telecommunications, causing hospitals to operate at less than half their capacity.

Cholera resurged in early October, after three years with no cases in the country. This comes as living conditions steadily deteriorate and access to basic services is largely suspended. Humanitarian access continues to be a challenge, which has impacted the response to the cholera outbreak and other pressing humanitarian needs.

While affecting the whole population, the outbreak has had a particularly devastating impact on the most vulnerable people, particularly children, who constitute half of the number of cholera cases. The majority of cases have been recorded in the poorest neighbourhoods of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, but suspected cases have been reported in eight out of ten departments.

Severe food insecurity increased in 2022, with almost half the population facing acute hunger, including 1.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). For the first time ever in Haiti, 19,200 people suffer from catastrophic hunger (Phase 5) in the densely populated commune of Cité Soleil. Food security continued to deteriorate in rural areas.

Malnutrition exceeds emergency thresholds, particularly in areas affected by gang violence. For example, UNICEF reports that 20 per cent of children under age 5 in Cité Soleil suffer from acute malnutrition, including 5 per cent of severe acute malnutrition.

Women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups have been disproportionately affected by the ongoing crisis. They have limited access to health and WASH services, with women giving birth with no medical assistance in makeshift displacement sites, and children under age 15 comprising many of the cholera cases. Sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) remains a serious concern. Armed gangs have used rape, including collective rapes, and other forms of sexual violence to instil fear, and to punish, subjugate and inflict pain on local populations, with the goal of expanding their areas of influence throughout Port-au-Prince. Children continue to be at risk of recruitment by gangs, and young girls are resorting to sex work to help feed themselves and their families.



Beaumont, Haiti

After the August 2021 earthquake, Save the Children built semi-permanent schools to replace the collapsed schools so that children could quickly resume their education. OCHA/
Christian Cricboom

Schools in Haiti have not reopened for the 2022-2023 scholastic year due to persistent insecurity, violence and fuel scarcity affecting around 4 million children.

Gang violence has led to new waves of internal displacement, with the International Organization for Migration reporting a record 113,000 internally displaced persons living in sites or with host families, often in precarious conditions.

The migration crisis continues its upward trend as Haitians seek to reach other countries. Forced repatriations by land also continued after the cholera outbreak began, including at the border with the Dominican Republic.

In this dire situation, humanitarian partners have seen their operations curtailed due to insecurity, access and fuel restrictions, supply constraints and rising operational costs. During the period of social unrest in September and October 2022, humanitarian stocks and facilities were targeted and looted, resulting in the loss of more than US\$7 million worth of supplies across the country.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The impact of the current political and security situation on humanitarian needs makes it difficult to project developments into 2023. The upward or downward trend will largely depend on the following intertwined factors: a political agreement being reached to pave the way for free and fair elections and democratic reform; violence and insecurity reducing, and the impact of the potential deployment of a rapid action force by the Security Council, as requested by the Haitian Government; and sufficient funding and humanitarian access that enable humanitarians and their partners to address urgent humanitarian needs. The deployment of international forces may bring relative stability and improve humanitarian access, but that access could be severely hindered in the initial stages. Moreover, despite this support, insecurity is likely to remain latent.

In the scenario where UN Member States decide not to send support to the Haitian National Police, the security situation is expected to deteriorate, and the fuel supply and access will remain limited. This will hamper the community response, which could lead to a further expansion of the cholera epidemic. In a very



Les Cayes, Haiti
Discussions with beneficiaries who lost their homes in the August 2021 earthquake. WFP/Theresa Piorr

insecure environment, it will be difficult to hold elections, and the recession and inflation are likely to continue to worsen.

In the event of international intervention, the eventual restoration of access and security could lead to a slow but gradual improvement in people's lives and livelihoods. Cholera could be contained more effectively, and catastrophic levels of food insecurity addressed. The unblocking of the national road to Haiti's southern peninsula could enable the population in the south to regain their livelihoods.

However, if stabilization cannot be achieved, the consequences could be catastrophic not only in terms of cholera, but also food insecurity, malnutrition and displacement, as well as access to basic services such as education, WASH, health and protection (including GBV).

In addition, Haiti could face climatic hazards and risks related to natural threats.

In both scenarios, it is expected that more than 5.2 million people (46 per cent of the population) will need humanitarian assistance.

While the entire country is exposed to multiple vulnerabilities, these will intensify in areas where there are overlapping crisis factors, such as gang-controlled neighbourhoods in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, regions with a high level of food insecurity, and the southern peninsula, which has been cut off from the capital for over 18 months.

Response priorities in 2023

Between 22 July and 28 October 2022, UN agencies provided water to 2,000 people for three months and distributed food to around 65,000 people in Cité Soleil, one of the poorest gang-controlled areas of the capital. Expanded humanitarian access to other neighbourhoods that urgently need assistance may be achieved. More than a year after the 14 August 2021 earthquake in the south, almost 97 per cent of the 500,000 people targeted by the earthquake response plan have received assistance. However, as the affected departments have been cut off from the capital since June 2021, reconstruction efforts remain extremely difficult. Overall, some access and security issues hinder the implementation of humanitarian interventions.

In 2023, humanitarian partners, in support of the Government, will aim to target 3 million of the 5.2 million people who need humanitarian assistance. A priority for the response will be the provision of health and WASH services to prevent the spread of and response to the cholera outbreak through a community-based approach. Food and livelihoods assistance is urgently needed for people living in IPCs 4 and 5, and partially for people in IPC 3. Another priority is the provision of protection services, including psychosocial and health support for children and survivors of sexual violence. Humanitarian access must be maintained and expanded to allow humanitarian actors to provide life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people living in gang-controlled and remote areas.

Continued efforts will be made to put Haitians at the centre of preparedness and response. Therefore, accountability and community engagement, inclusion of people with disabilities, gender equality, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and localization will be put at the forefront. All actors will strengthen collaboration and synergies between humanitarian, development and peace projects and programmes, accountability to affected people, and anticipatory action.



Honduras HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

3.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.1 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 280.4 million

Total population
9.6 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5.1 / High

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Honduras faces increasing multidimensional and overlapping risks in a context of extreme fragility, with political and social conflicts, the effects of climate change, forced displacement and migration.

In this context, humanitarian needs are driven by factors including high rates of poverty and extreme poverty, recurrent climate shocks, chronic violence, alarming rates of gender-based violence (GBV), limited access to basic services and the impacts of mixed movements. These sustained needs have formed a complex web of vulnerabilities that humanitarian action has sought to address with cross-sectoral approaches for several years.

At least 59 per cent of the population (4.9 million people), including women, live in poverty. Around 500,000 children (20 per cent of the total) are stunted amid growing food insecurity and high levels of inequality and violence that disproportionately affect women, girls, LGBTIQ+ populations, and people living in suburban or rural areas.

Some 4.6 million people continue to struggle to recover from the combined impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. This is reflected in the country's decrease in the Human Development Index; Honduras dropped from 132 out of 191 countries in 2020 to 137 in 2022, the second lowest (after Haiti) in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Rising inflation, especially on food prices, has strained the purchasing power of low-income households, limiting their access to staple foods. In June 2022, the price of white

maize jumped by 70 per cent, fertilizer by 88 per cent and energy by 30 per cent due to the global ramifications of the war in Ukraine. The growing cost-of-living crisis threatens to exacerbate an already dire food insecurity situation. Between June and August 2022, 2.6 million people faced Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) – nearly triple the 962,000 people in IPC Phase 3 or above in February 2020 – including 353,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A heavier-than-usual rainy season and tropical storms caused floods and landslides in already soiled terrain in Honduras, displacing thousands of people and increasing the vulnerability of tens of thousands more.

As per November 2022, irregular migration flows have skyrocketed compared to previous years. The surge in returnees continues unabated, with an average of around 8,000 migrants returned to Honduras every month in 2022, already surpassing the number of returnees in 2021. The situation at the south-eastern border, where women, girls and LGBTIQ+ people face growing GBV risks, has overwhelmed the country's response capacities.

In 2021, the homicide rate stood at 38.6 per 100,000 inhabitants, more than double the regional average, placing Honduras behind only Jamaica and Venezuela as the most violent country in Latin America and the Caribbean. The femicide rate of 6.79 per 100,000 inhabitants is the highest across the region and nearly triple the global rate of 2.3 per 100,000, with physical, sexual and economic violence disproportionately affecting women and girls.



Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

About 32 per cent of the population is in humanitarian need, and there is a strong possibility of further deterioration. Most of the remaining population requires restoration and sustainability of services to avoid falling into a humanitarian crisis.

Of the 3.2 million people in need, at least 1.6 million were identified with acute needs (severity level 4) and in a critical situation. Their risks are associated with morbidity and mortality, either due to the impacts of violence or lack of access to essential goods to cover their basic needs, and who require urgent attention in the short and medium term to avoid loss of life or deterioration.

More than 3.2 million people are expected to face crisis or worsening levels of acute food insecurity (IPC 3 or higher) from October 2022 to June 2023 – a sharp increase of 0.5 million compared to the same period last year. In contexts of emergencies, such as droughts, storms and the human mobility and displacement crisis, these situations can be exacerbated and impact the nutritional status of children under age 5, and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Response priorities in 2023

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in Honduras will seek to respond to the needs of 2.1 million people, requiring US\$280.4 million. The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is based on the collectively identified shocks that lead to humanitarian needs, namely climate change, violence, human mobility and food insecurity. The activities will provide an intersectoral response to these shocks and their humanitarian consequences, focusing on the most vulnerable people. The response activities are designed to ensure complementarity with the development projects in-country and complement the ongoing efforts of the Government.

The increase in requirements for the 2023 HRP is explained by the funding gap for the previous HRP (2021-2022); the conflict in Ukraine and its economic consequences, which impact the cost of aid delivery; and the increase of the population in need – from 2.8 million to 3.2 million.

Danlí, departamento de El Paraíso, Honduras
Migrants queue to register at a migration centre on their way to reach the USA. OCHA/
Vincent Tremeau





Venezuela HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED (ESTIMATED IN 2019)

7 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

5.2 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 795 million

Total population
28.3 million

INFORM Severity Index
5 / High

Consecutive appeals
2019 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

In 2022, there have been signs of economic stabilization and growth in Venezuela. In August 2022, the central bank announced that the country's economy had grown 17 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2022, the highest growth in the Latin America region. However, despite these positive developments, it will take time for Venezuela to address important socioeconomic challenges. This is due to the large-scale economic contraction over the last eight years; the lack of fiscal space to address the structural causes that limit the provision of essential services, such as health care, clean water, education and energy supply; and the most vulnerable people still having limited access to economic opportunities to resolve their basic needs.

Feedback provided by communities living under the most vulnerable conditions indicates that access to food, livelihoods and health care is at the centre of people's concerns and priorities. While food and non-food items are available in shops and markets, vulnerable families face difficulties in accessing these due to limited purchasing power in a context of rising prices and high inflation (reaching an accumulated 119.4 per cent between January and October 2022). Increases in the minimum salary (equivalent to US\$25) are insufficient to cover the basic food basket, estimated at \$350 in July 2022. This situation is exacerbated for people living in rural areas with reduced access to fuel, or for elderly people living on fixed incomes based on local currency. Food security and nutrition remain a priority, and while there have been some improvements, the prevalence of undernourishment remains high. Electricity and domestic gas remain unreliable sources of energy for cooking, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, leading to the use of firewood.

In 2022, Venezuela has experienced several increases in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths related to the Omicron variant. After a latest increase between June and July 2022, the trend has been decreasing since the beginning of August 2022. After supporting the national pandemic response, health priorities have focused on re-establishing essential health services, especially for chronic diseases, access to sexual and reproductive rights, and implementing the regular vaccination programme. The focus on COVID-19 also affected the epidemiological surveillance of re-emergent diseases, and underreporting is common. Teenage pregnancies remain a priority, as the adolescent fertility rate is estimated to reach 82 expected births per 1,000 women aged between 15 and 19 in 2022, representing more than double the regional rate.¹³⁷ The pandemic also affected mental health issues, with partners reporting an increase in psychosocial support consultations, especially for children and adolescents. Health services continue to be affected by insufficient water and sanitation conditions and the lack of an electricity supply in health-care facilities.

The return to in-person classes started on 25 October 2021. This has required significant support to ensure safe learning conditions in educational facilities (including rehabilitation and restoration of basic services), and support to teachers and to children and adolescents at risk of dropping out. While school-feeding programmes have been critical to promote attendance and retention, humanitarian partners continue to observe school dropouts, especially in adolescents, due to the need to look for work opportunities, or due to teenage pregnancies.

The lack of livelihood opportunities and access to basic services result in the most vulnerable people adopting negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing the

137. OPS/OMS. Tablero de indicadores básicos. [Tablero de los indicadores básicos | PAHO/EIH Open Data](#)



Caracas, Venezuela

Children during classes at Las Mayas Fe y Alegría institution, on Oct. 28th, 2021. This is the first week back to in-person classes in Venezuela since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic UNICEF/Gustavo Vera

number of meals or quantity of food, using unsafe water for drinking, or engaging in informal economic activities. As a result, these vulnerable communities, especially in areas affected by localized insecurity, face protection risks related to violence, exploitation and abuse, including human trafficking, where girls, boys and women are at particular risk. There also continues to be significant reports of gender-based violence, especially femicide and intimate-partner violence. Overall, these protection risks are exacerbated by the lack of available protection services to respond to survivors' needs.

Mixed-migration flows continue, including people intending to leave, returnees and/or people engaged in pendular movements between Colombia and Venezuela.¹³⁸ Most people that leave the country do so mainly in search of work opportunities, whilst those returning, an increasing trend, do so for family reunification purposes or due to difficulties faced in the host country

The 2022 rainy season, intensified by climate change, heavily affected tens of thousands of people in more than 10 states due to

overflowing rivers, landslides and floods destroying housing in high-risk areas. In October, landslides in the town of Las Tejerías, in Aragua State, killed at least 56 people and destroyed more than 750 houses. These rains also had negative impacts on small producers' productive capacity, reducing access to productive lands, damaging small businesses and warehouses, and causing the loss of productive assets.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Economic projections indicate a 12 per cent GDP growth in 2022 and 5 per cent in 2023, well above regional estimates.¹³⁹ National oil production increased to 692,000 barrels per day in August (a 24 per cent increase compared to the 2021 average), while international oil prices soared in 2022 due to the war in Ukraine. These trends could generate more investments in essential services and economic recovery. However, they will be limited by the impact of broad sectoral sanctions and are unlikely to

138. Reports by Colombian Migration and Brazilian Migration

139. ECLAC, *New Growth Projections for Latin America and the Caribbean 2022-2023*, 19 October 2022.



**Amazonas,
Venezuela**
A woman from the
Piaroa Indigenous
ethnic group bathes
a baby at a water
point close to her
house. OCHA/
Héctor Pereira

translate into immediate changes for the most vulnerable people, who will continue to face humanitarian needs.

Regarding migration trends, the announcement by the US Government on 12 October on joint actions with Mexico to reduce the number of Venezuelans arriving at the US border raises the likelihood of an increase in returns. The Colombian Government's flexibilization of requirements on 8 October for Venezuelans coming into the country is also likely to increase mixed-migration flows between the two countries.

Other factors to consider are the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food prices, the ongoing recovery of the global transport industry, and the inflationary pressures on local and international currencies, which might further impact the ability of the most vulnerable Venezuelans to afford food.

The rainy season has intensified due to the impact of climate change. This will increase the risk of flooding and landslides for people living in high-risk areas, and continue to negatively impact their productive capacity and ability to access markets.

On 26 November, the Government and opposition resumed the dialogue and negotiation process facilitated by Norway in Mexico. They are to announce a social agreement that could see State resources frozen abroad invested in health, electricity,

education and food security. If enough resources are mobilized and the agreement is implemented, this could lead to a reduction in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Response priorities in 2023

As of October 2022, the humanitarian response has reached 2.2 million people throughout the country, expanding to previously hard-to-reach priority States, such as Indigenous areas in Amazonas and Delta Amacuro, where there has been a significant increase in the number of humanitarian organizations, and in outreach to vulnerable populations in isolated communities.

The 2022-23 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) promotes a greater emphasis on intersectoral and sustainable interventions that include institutional, community and individual capacity-building, with the objective of improving the provision of essential services, restoring livelihoods and strengthening resilience. Priorities also include providing specialized assistance to ensure the physical, mental and psychosocial well-being of people affected by different forms of violence, as well as strengthening preparedness and response to natural disasters.

Access to and engagement with authorities have improved implementation rates. However, access issues continue to hinder the delivery of assistance, including logistical, administrative and bureaucratic impediments, insecurity in some areas, limited availability of fuel, problems in telecommunications services, and heavy rains impacting road access.

After a 50 per cent increase in humanitarian funding between 2020 and 2021, the humanitarian response has received US\$287.9 million as of 24 November 2022, with the HRP only 36.2 per cent funded. Funding trends are expected to decrease in 2023, which will represent a major challenge for the implementation of a quality and at-scale response.



Al-Barakat camp, North Idlib, Syria
Khadija, 11, has been displaced for two years with her family and has contracted a skin wart disease. The spread of skin diseases in the camp is mainly due to open sewage and a significant rise in temperatures in the summer. Khadija dreams of returning to their home when the war ends so that she can go back to her school. OCHA/ Bilal Al-Hammoud

Middle East and North Africa

With more than 40 million migrants and 14 million internally displaced people, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has some of the world's largest protracted conflicts, as well as frequent natural and human-made crises, pandemic outbreaks and climatic shocks.

The region continues to witness increasing instability and fragility driven by conflict, growing economic hardships, hyperinflation and unemployment, compounded by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact of the Ukraine crisis. On top of the ongoing conflicts, further social and political unrest is looming due to continuous increases in the cost of living, economic decline, shrinking political and democratic space, and the spread of extremism. In addition, the MENA region is among the world's most climate change-vulnerable regions. It is warming faster

than the global average, with two countries (Egypt and Yemen) exposed to high or very high risks of heatwaves.

A deadly cholera outbreak is spreading throughout the region at alarming rates, fuelled by weak water and sanitation systems, poor water management, increased poverty, impacts of climate change and protracted conflicts. Cholera cases have skyrocketed in Yemen and Iraq and spread from Syria to Lebanon, placing Jordan and other neighbouring countries at high risk. The global cholera vaccine stockpile is under huge pressure, with outbreaks in 29 countries worldwide. Urgent funding is required to contain the outbreak and prepare for cross-border transmission.

Coordination will play a key role in recognizing the disproportionate impact of conflict and crisis on vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities. It will support and facilitate the integration of disability, among other protection considerations, into response planning and action. Good examples of this from Yemen include the Inclusion Taskforce, and the Disability and Physical Rehabilitation Working Group. Another good example is the disability inclusion checklist adapted and used by the Humanitarian Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.



Across the MENA region, 33.4 million of 41.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance are targeted for support in 2023. Despite mounting challenges, the number of people in need has decreased by 3.27 million compared to the average of the last three years, accounting for more than 7 per cent, while the number of targeted people remains relatively stable. The funding requirement for 2023 is US\$9.8 billion for country plans, and has remained relatively stable over the past three years. Requirements inclusive of regional response plans amount to \$15.2 billion.

the exponential increase in humanitarian needs. The humanitarian system is strained, and investment in resilience, sustainable livelihoods and Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus programming is essential to effectively respond to escalating needs due to climate change, economic decline and political unrest. By the end of mid-November 2022, the average funding of Humanitarian Response Plans¹⁴⁰ in the six response countries in the region reached 51.9 per cent, with Syria being the least funded at only 42.6 per cent (out of \$4.4. billion) and Libya being the most funded at 79.8 per cent (out of \$114 million). However, the humanitarian funding gap is still wide, especially for the education, protection and shelter clusters.

Despite donors' extraordinary efforts in 2022, humanitarian funding allocated to humanitarian operations in the region has not kept pace with

Marib, Yemen
Ahmed Yahya carries a hygiene kit provided by UNICEF for displaced people. UNICEF/Suliman Al Sharabi

140. Part of Lebanon Multi-year Emergency Response Plan (ERP) 2021-22





Lebanon OTHER

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 600 million

Total population
5.8 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4.5 / Medium

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

In a backdrop of weakened governance and political paralysis, Lebanon is facing an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, ranking among the top 10 most severe crises worldwide, affecting all residents and population groups (Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees and migrants). In this context, the situation of ordinary people in Lebanon is worsening day by day. In July 2022, the World Bank downgraded Lebanon to a lower-middle-income country, with a decrease of GDP to US\$20.5 billion for the first time in 27 years. Since early 2022, the local currency has continued to depreciate in value against the US dollar.

At the Government level, Lebanon has entered a never experienced political vacuum with the departure of the President as of first of November 2022 in addition to the continued running of the country by a caretaker government since May 2022. This is fuelling fears of further delay in efforts to complete a deal with the International Monetary Fund, broadly considered as a crucial step to help the country out of the current crisis.

Amid the unprecedented economic meltdown and weak governance, Lebanon is witnessing an upsurge in tensions and security incidents, often driven by competition for basic services and commodities. Reports show that crime rates remain high, and incidents of hate speech and stigmatization of communities have multiplied. State institutions and services, notably electricity service lines, were already suffering from years of underinvestment prior to the compounded crisis and are now on the brink of collapse.

Inflation along with the steady removal of central bank subsidies has led to major increases in prices of basic commodities. An increase in the price of crude oil on the global market further compounded the spiking fuel prices

in Lebanon, exacerbating the overall electricity crisis. Long queues in front of bakeries are now being witnessed due to wheat shortages and the increase in the price of wheat flour by nearly 210 per cent since the conflict began in Ukraine, and by 330 per cent since 2019 and the start of the economic crisis.

Lebanon relies on imports for most of its food and non-food items. The prices of these items are increasing due to currency depreciation, inflation and the Ukraine crisis, with more than half of the Lebanese population now dependent on humanitarian assistance for food and basic needs. The World Food Programme says that the price of a minimum food basket has increased by more than 1,700 per cent since October 2019, and the average salary in Lebanon now covers only 24 per cent of basic food needs, compared to 93 per cent in 2021.

The overlapping crises have also severely impacted access to health, safe clean drinking water, and sanitation services. Health care is now inaccessible to hundreds of thousands of people in country due to the unavailability and unaffordability of medicine, insufficient functional hospital beds per population or skyrocketing patient costs for hospitalization. Following a cholera outbreak spreading since June throughout Asia and the Middle East, Lebanon reporting its first case of cholera on 6 October 2022. As of 22 October, the Ministry of Public Health has reported 448 confirmed cases and 10 deaths. More than half of the cases (53 per cent) are children under age 15 and 57 per cent are women. The World Health Organization estimates that more than 53,000 people could contract the disease by early next year.

Sectoral assessments and the multisectoral needs assessment conducted between July and October 2022 found that humanitarian assistance was necessary for many of the most vulnerable families who, in the absence of adequate social safety nets, were not otherwise



Beirut, Lebanon

This artwork on a wall reads "Salaamtak ya Beirut", or "I hope you will feel better, Beirut." The country has been run by a caretaker government since May 2022. This is fueling fears of further delay in efforts to complete a deal with the International Monetary Fund, broadly considered as a crucial step to help the country out of the current crisis. OCHA/Craig Anderson

receiving any support. Around 80 per cent of Lebanese households, 57 per cent of Palestine refugees (PRL) households and 91 per cent of migrant households reported that they did not receive any assistance during the three months preceding the assessment.

Other pockets of acute needs have been found across all other sectors, with over 1.2 million people needing support to access safe water and sanitation. The number of Lebanese working children has remarkably increased. The child labour profiling exercise conducted by Tripoli municipality and UNICEF on a sample of 1,020 children showed that 72 per cent of them are Lebanese. Partners have also reported a 99 per cent increase in the cost of protection services, while gender-based violence risks are expected to increase in a context where obstacles in seeking help are increasing. The situation is further compounding protection risks for already marginalized groups in society, including elderly people, people with disabilities and the LGBTIQ+ community. Furthermore,

many people, primarily children and women, suffer from some form of nutritional deprivation, with more than 70 per cent of young children missing foods rich in vitamin A and sources of protein in their diets.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Humanitarian needs are expected to increase in 2023. It will remain a complex political year as presidential elections expected by the end of 2022 are being delayed, as well as the municipal elections scheduled by May 2023. To date, the country remains under the responsibility of a caretaker Government, and the presidential vacuum will further compound political uncertainty.

Operational access constraints are expected to continue increasing due to the breakdown of law and order, political impasse and instability, heavy bureaucratic impediments,





donors' stringent counter-terrorist measures in key areas in Lebanon, and further fragmentation and politicization of aid.

The further collapse of basic services, price spikes, inflation and supply shortages are expected, further compounded by the impact of the war in Ukraine. The prospect for economic reforms and unlocking of major development assistance remains limited, as no progress has been made on the eight pre-conditions necessary to ensure that the four-year International Monetary Fund Staff Level agreement be implemented in 2023.

In view of such continued political impasse and lack of structural reforms, and in line with documented growing needs and anticipated forecasts, including by development actors, the humanitarian situation in Lebanon is not expected to improve throughout 2023-2025.

Response priorities in 2023

The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was first developed in 2021 to provide exceptional time-bound assistance to save lives and alleviate suffering of the target population in the absence of a full-fledged comprehensive and inclusive Government-led social protection strategy. Since then, the necessary reforms have not taken place, and the economy has continued to collapse while humanitarian needs have continued to significantly increase.

In 2023 the ERP will aim to provide lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian support to approximately 1.3 million Lebanese, Migrant and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon. Joint-up needs assessments, needs analysis and planning will ensure that Humanitarian assistance provided by the ERP will be aligned with the integrated humanitarian and stabilization response supporting Syrian refugees, Palestinian Refugees from Syria as well as vulnerable Lebanese and Palestine Refugees in Lebanon among the host community, including through support to Government institutions, under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP).

In addition to providing life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian support, the humanitarian community in Lebanon will continue to work closely with development and stabilization entities to operationalize the nexus, including through the area-based coordination groups, and to contribute to the adoption of a shared understanding of and coordinated action in response to the priority drivers of need.

The Humanitarian Country Team has initiated efforts to enhance a collective accountability to affected people (AAP) approach in implementing the ERP, building on available mechanisms and tools and ensuring synergies with current platforms. Collective AAP mechanisms will support both a people-centred and a community-centred approach to a) ensure equitable and meaningful access to available information and services, b) leverage the participation of affected people, including marginalized groups and hard-to-reach communities, and c) promote two-way communication between humanitarian partners and the affected communities.

The ERP aims to ensure that the specific and diverse needs, capacities and priorities of women, girls, men, boys and gender non-conforming individuals are identified and responded to. Integrating gender equality in the ERP also reinforces a human rights-based approach, which improves programming. Humanitarian coordination, technical assistance, information management and advocacy efforts related to gender equality will be supported by Lebanon's Gender Working Group and the LGBTIQ+ Task Force (sub-working group), which oversees gender mainstreaming across the humanitarian-development and peace interventions.

In addition to sector-specific cash support, multipurpose cash assistance provides flexibility and is critical in assisting households affected by multiple vulnerabilities requiring a holistic response. Assistance will be distributed based on clear targeting and eligibility criteria by NGOs and UN agencies working collaboratively across sectors, drawing on lessons learned from previous years.



Occupied Palestinian Territory HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.1 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 510 million

Total population
5.3 million

INFORM Severity Index
4.6 / Medium

Consecutive appeals
2003 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The Occupied Palestinian territory remains a protracted political crisis characterized by more than 55 years of Israeli military occupation, 15 years of the Gaza blockade, internal Palestinian divisions, lack of adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law, and recurrent escalations of hostilities between Israeli security forces and Palestinian armed groups. The results are chronic protection concerns and humanitarian needs, which will continue in the absence of a sustainable political solution.

Across the OPT, humanitarian assistance addresses Palestinians' immediate needs while also providing a critical stabilizing force. 2022 saw a deepening of these needs due to intensifying conflict and political divisions, increasing poverty, and increasingly repressive and restrictive policies at a time of declining aid inflows. November 2022 was on course to be the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since the UN started systematically tracking fatalities in 2005, with more than 100 Palestinians killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Israeli authorities have maintained and intensified practices in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, such as search-and-arrest operations, demolitions, evictions and settlement expansion. At the same time, settler violence has continued to rise, which includes the targeting of productive assets and equipment. This results in unstable livelihoods, which undermines economic potential.

In Gaza, the most recent escalation in August lasted two days yet resulted in 49 deaths, 360 injuries and damage to approximately 2,000 housing units before a ceasefire was reached. The violence, in combination with related closures and increased restrictions on the movement of people and critical goods, further eroded the coping

capacities of Palestinians in Gaza while driving new needs, especially in mental health and psychosocial support services, shelter, livelihoods, cash assistance and essential goods, including medicines and medical supplies, food, construction materials and fuel. This compounded existing vulnerabilities in Gaza, including widespread food insecurity, lack of reliable electricity, insufficient access to clean water, high unemployment and rapid population growth. In total, upwards of 21,300 families live in unhygienic and overcrowded shelter conditions.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, the situation is expected to deteriorate, and the severity of needs is expected to increase unless there is conflict de-escalation, policy changes, positive movement on mending internal Palestinian political divisions, and development and economic improvements.

The key drivers of the humanitarian crisis, combined with aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic crisis and reduced funding, have deepened Palestinians' vulnerability and, in turn, increased the demand for humanitarian assistance across the OPT, a trend likely to continue in 2023. In the absence of a political process, improvements are not expected.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, an estimated 2.1 million Palestinians across the OPT will require some form of humanitarian assistance. The majority, 61 per cent, live in Gaza.



**Gaza, Occupied
Palestinian Territory**
Destruction in Gaza
following an Israeli
strike. OCHA/
Mohammad Lubbad

Findings from the recently completed Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) indicate a deterioration in the situation for many households, particularly in Gaza, where more than half of households are identified as being in severe to catastrophic conditions. The humanitarian assistance provided to vulnerable communities, notably in Gaza and Area C of the West Bank, enables access to adequate levels of food security, health care, education and other immediate needs while serving as a critical stabilizing force. One such example is the protective measures now in place for 4,705 of the 5,024 (93.6 per cent) pending cases of housing and structure demolitions, which prevent the execution of demolition orders while litigation is ongoing. People in the OPT will continue to depend on this and other forms of humanitarian aid to meet their increasing needs.

Humanitarian partners in the OPT are encountering a progressively challenging operating environment, hindering their ability to rapidly deliver assistance. The imposition of physical and administrative measures continues to restrict humanitarian programmes, including constraints on access and the delivery of required materials. Increasing violence across

the OPT has come in parallel with increases in harassment and attacks on personnel, most notably health-care workers.

Humanitarian partners aim to assist 1.6 million of the most vulnerable people in 2023. Ensuring access to basic services and building the resilience of increasingly vulnerable people are key components of the 2023 humanitarian strategy, aimed at mitigating the impact of this prolonged crisis on civilians across the OPT. The current reliance on negative and unsustainable coping mechanisms heightens vulnerability and endangers recovery from recurring shocks. An emphasis will also be placed on ensuring the 'right to health' and addressing the mental health and psychosocial challenges arising from the chronic violence.

The Humanitarian Response Plan and the UN Strategic Cooperation Development Framework are being developed concurrently. They were both informed by the MSNA, providing a basis for identifying programmatic linkages between humanitarian and development actors and the Palestinian Authority with the aim of reducing structural vulnerabilities.



Syrian Arab Republic HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

15.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

12.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 4.4 billion

Total population
22.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
6.9 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2012 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

After 11 years of crisis, most Syrian continue to face a context of continuing humanitarian decline. The country still has the largest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world (6.8 million people), the largest number of people in need since the crisis began, humanitarian indicators that continue to deteriorate, basic services that are collapsing, an ongoing cholera outbreak, economic indicators that are worsening, and climatic and human-caused shocks that compound an already dire situation. This multitude of challenges makes Syria one of the world’s most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. As a result, at least 15.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2023, with needs that keep increasing across all sectors. These people include over 1.8 million IDPs living in 1,421 last-resort IDP sites in north-west Syria, and 278,400 IDPs who reside in over 260 sites in north-east Syria.

The crippled economy, which is characterized by high inflation, currency depreciation and increases in the prices of commodities, remains one of the biggest drivers of need. It drives more people towards poverty, makes them more reliant on humanitarian assistance, increases resort to harmful coping mechanisms and increases the cost of response. The economic decline creates a compounding impact on food security and access to services. According to the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, by August 2022, the average household expenditure exceeded the average household income by 60 per cent, compared to 49 per cent in 2021, despite 94 per cent of households having an employed head of household. All the population groups identified in the Humanitarian Needs Overview are worse off in 2022 than they were in 2021.

In 2022, Syria faced a severe and long-term drought, resulting in poor growing conditions that reflect the persistence of drier-than-normal rainy seasons. Unusually dry conditions during the wet season and abnormally high temperatures have exacerbated water deficits. This, combined with low water levels in the Euphrates River and damaged water infrastructure, has not only reduced access to water for drinking and domestic use for millions of Syrians, but also triggered substantial harvest and income losses, an increase in waterborne diseases and malnutrition rates, and additional protection risks, especially for women and girls. In September 2022, a cholera outbreak was declared, affecting all 14 of Syria’s governorates.

Households indicate that food, electricity assistance and livelihood support are among their top three unmet needs.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2022, the key drivers of humanitarian need in Syria were related to conflict, economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, the water crisis and drought-like conditions. In 2023, localized hostilities, the economic crisis, the water crisis and public health emergencies, including cholera and climate-related situations, are expected to remain the main drivers of humanitarian need, with downward trends across all drivers. In addition, international and regional geopolitical dynamics could have serious implications on needs across the country, especially in case of a non-renewal of the UN Security Council resolution authorizing the delivery of UN humanitarian assistance to parts of the country. Large-scale return of refugees is unlikely despite political pressure from some corners.



For IDPs inside camps, the main factors determining vulnerability and severity of needs are their displacement status, limited livelihood opportunities in camps, and the poor shelter and overcrowding conditions they live under.

For IDPs outside camps, the main factors determining vulnerability and severity of needs are increased shelter assistance needs and lack of access to non-food items (NFIs), combined with limited access to basic services and infrastructures.

For returnees, the main factors of vulnerability and severity of needs are the lack of access to NFIs and electricity, combined with the increased need for shelter repairs, in addition to needs arising from return-related security concerns.

For residents, the main factors determining vulnerability and severity of needs are multiple and widespread. Residents' needs are increasingly linked to the deterioration of the macroeconomic situation combined

AID IN ACTION

Building resilience and re-establishing lives

A UN Joint Programme on urban and rural resilience in Syria is putting resilience-building and emergency assistance into practice.

The programme, which includes six UN agencies, has been piloted in two of the most heavily devastated parts of Syria: Dara'a in the south and Deir-ez-Zor in the east. Deir-ez-Zor has suffered from high levels of food insecurity and drought and a loss of agricultural production due to decreased rainfall

FAO and WFP are running a joint project to rehabilitate the irrigation system and enhance food security on the rural side of Deir-ez-Zor, an area known as Sector 5. The ripple effects of this type of early recovery intervention have become clear. With reliable water management systems, farmers were able to restore their agricultural outputs, produce their own food and increase household income from local markets. Eighteen months ago,

all four villages within Sector 5 were entirely reliant on food assistance and emergency handouts, this has now reduced to 15 per cent of the population in this area.

In urban settings, early recovery and resilience are also delivering visible results. On Cinema Fouad Street in central Deir-ez-Zor, named after the old cinema that once stood there, every corner was destroyed and there were no traces of human activity. But the street is now transformed thanks to the Joint Programme's investments in health care, schools, solar lighting and small businesses. Restaurants are buzzing, lights are on, life has returned to the city.

This type of intervention signals something much greater than a simple restoration of infrastructure; it boosted confidence in the area, and it showed how people are using their own resources to return, rebuild and re-establish their lives.

Before



After





Aleppo, Syria

Abeer is a mother of five from Deir Hafer, in rural Aleppo. Her husband was killed, and she decided to return to her town soon after the security situation began to improve. But she found her home destroyed. Abeer applied for a small business grant through UNHCR and now runs a small mini mart. UNHCR/ Bassam Diab

with the continued lack of access to basic services and infrastructure due to years of conflict.

In all of the above-mentioned four population groups, women-headed households were found to have higher economic vulnerability than households headed by men. Women-headed households have higher food needs and are, on average, more likely to report security concerns, highlighting the gendered nature of the risks faced by households in Syria.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2022, the humanitarian community moved to a two-year plan covering 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the response will continue to address the key drivers of needs, including protection threats, continued rights violations, accelerating economic deterioration, limited or unavailable basic services, and environmental shocks. In a context of rising needs, humanitarian partners will prioritize addressing people's most urgent needs, including by expanding critically required livelihood support as well as access to basic services, through investments in critical civilian infrastructure required for service delivery, among other approaches. In so doing, humanitarian partners hope to prevent a deteriorating situation for millions of people currently living with moderate humanitarian needs, reduce structural vulnerabilities of communities and strengthen their resilience.





Yemen HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

21.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

19 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 4.3 billion

Total population
31.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
8.1 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2008 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Eight years into the conflict’s escalation, the crisis in Yemen remains severe, with more than 21 million people needing humanitarian assistance. The conflict’s protracted nature has resulted in economic collapse, increased poverty and the breakdown of national social protection systems, worsening the already alarming food insecurity situation. Basic service delivery across the country continues to be vastly inadequate and hampered by damaged infrastructure, lack of critical supplies and personnel, and limited public system capacities. Deepening poverty and financial unaffordability further hinder access to essential services and goods for the most vulnerable populations. In 2022, Yemen also experienced two weather extremes, swinging from severe drought to intense flooding as the country bears the brunt of the climate crisis. Between January and June 2022, Yemen experienced moderate-to-severe drought conditions, and by mid-July, torrential rains and flooding had hit several areas across the country. By the end of September, this had affected 74,000 households (more than 500,000 people) in 19 governorates.

The UN-brokered truce, which commenced on 2 April 2022, provided the people of Yemen with the first sustained reprieve from fighting since the conflict surged in 2015. The truce enhanced humanitarian access in some areas and resulted in reductions in internal displacement and civilian casualties. By November, the truce had not been extended following its expiry on 2 October, although its provisions largely continued to hold, and no major military escalation had taken place.

Despite the improvements during the truce, low-level hostilities in 61 districts with active front lines and the presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war

(ERW) continued to impact civilians. According to the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project – an open, unverified source – civilian casualties due to landmines and ERW reportedly increased by 38 per cent compared to the pre-truce period, having killed or injured 343 civilians between 2 April and 30 September, compared to 248 civilians in the six months before the truce.¹⁴¹ A total of 186 access incidents related to landmines and ERW were reported during the same period. The presence of and exposure to explosive hazards in civilian areas as well as damage or destruction of civilian infrastructure and houses pose further obstacles, impacting prospects for return and sustainable recovery.

Yemen continues to be one of the world’s most challenging operating environments. Throughout 2022, the humanitarian operation continued to be impacted by bureaucratic impediments, movement restrictions, insecurity and aid interference incidents, which hindered and delayed aid delivery to millions of people. Meanwhile, funding gaps for the humanitarian operation have forced humanitarian partners to cut back or even close life-saving programmes, including for severely underfunded sectors such as shelter/non-food items (NFIs), health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and protection.

Millions of people are still in a situation where they are unable to meet their basic needs, with detrimental impacts especially on vulnerable groups. This increases the risks of people adopting harmful coping strategies, such as accumulating debt, selling assets, forced or early marriage, school dropout and child labour, with grave long-term impacts, especially on women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

141. This significant increase in landmines and UXOs-related casualties (during the truce) is likely a result of increased mobility of civilians as the truce provided access to wider-range areas in Yemen as well as flooding which shifted the positions of landmines.



**Al Sumya Camp in
Marib, Yemen**

Ahmed Mohamed Ali, 68, is internally displaced from Ibb with his nine family members. OCHA/
Jihad Al-Nahari

The conflict has displaced 4.5 million people, including 234,283 displaced people in 2022. Some of the highest levels of vulnerability are concentrated among the estimated 1.65 million internally displaced people (IDPs) living in some 2,431 displacement sites in sub-standard living conditions. Durable shelter solutions for those in displacement sites and in areas of return are minimal due to the focus on the emergency response, the scale of housing destruction, and other house, land and property issues. An estimated 300,000 migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees also face extreme risks and are highly reliant on humanitarian aid.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, the severity of needs is expected to remain at similar levels as in 2022. In the case of a major escalation in conflict following the non-extension of the truce, new or recurrent displacements and needs across the country are likely to increase in 2023. In the absence of investments addressing root causes of poverty and improving access to sustainable livelihoods, further economic deterioration and decreasing purchasing power are likely to aggravate food insecurity and malnutrition rates, dire living conditions and protection concerns. IDPs will continue to live in sub-standard living conditions with limited humanitarian access and limited access to adequate housing, despite continued efforts to mitigate risks. While projections were less grim at the end of 2022 than initially expected, acute food insecurity will remain at high levels, especially in the event of major shortfalls for the humanitarian operation.¹⁴²

Flash flooding is expected to impact tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of people – including IDPs, who could lose their shelters – as well as devastate infrastructure, services, agriculture and livestock. Essential service delivery is expected to remain inadequate and hampered by the lack of infrastructure, risk reduction measures and long-term investments. The inability to address underlying drivers of food insecurity will continue to maintain people’s dependency on humanitarian assistance.

Response priorities in 2023

As of September 2022, 150 partners across Yemen have assisted at least 15 million people. Each month, an average of 10.6 million people, including IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host-community members, were reached with humanitarian assistance in Yemen.

In 2023, the humanitarian community will continue these life-saving activities and work to strengthen the aid operation in accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation that was completed in mid-2022. Preventing food scarcity and finding systemic solutions to food insecurity by improving access to sustainable livelihoods will remain a major response priority, as will reducing mortality and morbidity, preventing malnutrition, and providing WASH, shelter/ NFI, education and health services. Additional priorities will include scaling up the provision of localized humanitarian interventions, promoting integrated responses to ensure access to and availability of essential services, strengthening mine action activities and increasing pre-positioning of contingency supplies. In light of the protracted nature of the crisis and climatic shocks, further investment and coordination models are needed to strengthen development assistance, address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty, and support progress towards durable solutions to displacement while protecting needs-based and principled humanitarian action.

142. The most recent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis of acute food insecurity projects that 17 million people in Yemen will face high food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) in October to December in 2022, a reduction of 2 million people compared to estimates from earlier in the year.



Tongatapu, Tonga
On 22 January
2022, Semisi
Fataua, 15 years
old, stands in front
of his home in
Kanokupolu village
on Tongatapu,
Tonga's main island.
He is surrounded by
damage caused by
the Hunga Tonga-
Hunga Ha'apai, an
underwater volcano
eruption and
tsunami. UNICEF/
Malani Wolfgramm

Pacific Islands

The Pacific region is one of the world's most disaster-prone regions. Eight of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) – Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Solomon Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Cook Islands and Niue – are among the top 15 most at risk of disasters globally.

They also range among the top 20 countries when it comes to high-average annual disaster losses by GDP. The region faces rapid-onset events (e.g. cyclones, floods, earthquakes and volcanic activity) and slow-onset events (e.g. droughts). Earthquakes along the intersection of the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates increase the risk of tsunamis to low-lying island communities and coastal areas. The recent volcanic eruption in Tonga and consequential tsunami highlight the region's vulnerability and its impact globally.

During the last decade, disasters impacted about a quarter of the population in PICTs. Since 2014, the region has suffered several significant disaster events, including tropical cyclones (the latest were Tropical Cyclone Harold in April 2020, hitting Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga, Tropical Cyclone Yasa in December 2020, and Tropical Cyclone Ana in January 2021, both making landfall in Fiji); flash floods (Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, all in 2020); and volcanic eruptions in Vanuatu in 2017 and 2018, and in Tonga in 2022. Drought is currently emerging as a major challenge for Kiribati and Tuvalu, with a State of Emergency declared for Kiribati. This demonstrates the ongoing effects of El Niño/La Niña throughout the region.

The Pacific has some of the world's smallest and least-developed national economies, which results in disasters – including the COVID-19 pandemic – having a more serious impact, eroding development gains. Some countries' capacity to effectively respond to disasters is challenged, and the economic impacts of emergencies are significant. This is compounded by the large distances and logistical requirements for a timely response to acute humanitarian needs. In 2015, Tropical Cyclone Pam caused widespread damage to Vanuatu, amounting to 63 per cent of GDP. It



displaced an estimated 65,000 people and negatively impacted the livelihoods of over 80 per cent of Vanuatu's rural population. The 2015-2016 drought in RMI caused significant disruptions to national production, with a loss of 3.4 per cent of GDP. In 2016, Cyclone Winston struck Fiji and caused damage and losses equivalent to 31 per cent of GDP.¹ In 2018, Cyclone Gita caused economic loss to Tonga equivalent to 37.8 per cent of GDP. In January 2022, Tonga was devastated by a volcanic eruption and tsunami, which resulted in economic damage of approximately US\$90.4 million.²

Pacific Island countries have shown leadership in mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction. In 2018, the leaders of the Pacific Islands Forum, recalling their vision and values for the Pacific under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism through the Boe Declaration,³ recognized climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific, and they reaffirmed the region's commitment to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement. More recently, through the draft 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the region is committing to, inter alia, "... pursue innovative measures to address climate change impacts and disaster risk...". Further, it specifically reflects the intent of such commitment under two strategic areas: 'Peace and Security' and 'Climate Change and Disasters'.

Pacific Island countries have now experienced large-scale COVID-19 outbreaks, and many countries in the region covered by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands have significant community transmission. Efforts by governments and humanitarian actors – including OCHA and the Pacific Humanitarian Team – are ongoing to mitigate the pandemic's immediate effects on the most vulnerable segments of the population, as well as to address social and economic impacts, mainly through development partners and donors. Pacific countries are suffering from the severe socioeconomic consequences of having closed borders to international travel and tightening regulations around internal movement and economic activity. Pandemic-related travel restrictions continue to pose challenges for humanitarian operations, including disruption to movements of cargo by air and sea, and movement of humanitarian personnel. This became apparent during Tonga's volcanic eruption and the subsequent tsunami in early 2022, and during the Kiribati and Tuvalu drought response efforts (the two latter ongoing by end of 2022). Localization of humanitarian responses has become an imperative due to these operational realities. While some countries are opening up, especially in the South Pacific, there are still challenges related to visiting countries with active emergencies without significant quarantine restrictions. Vaccination is now widespread, mitigating the impact of COVID-19 in the region.

With the exception of Tokelau, all countries and territories covered by OCHA in the region had COVID-19 cases in the last 2.5 years. Countries are acting cautiously when planning to return to a pre-pandemic situation, as the majority have vulnerable and overstretched health systems not equipped to effectively absorb rapid increases in hospitalizations. Significant job losses (mainly in tourism) combined with a sharp decline in remittances (a major source of income in many Pacific nations) are pushing people into poverty and seriously affecting resilience and coping mechanisms in case of disaster.

Natural disasters and climate change affect the most vulnerable people in the Pacific, particularly women and children, who are disproportionately affected. This is often compounded by the practice of traditional gender roles, gender-based and sexual violence, and people with disabilities' access to humanitarian assistance.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The collective impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate and disaster shocks on PICTs will pose major challenges for the region in 2023 and beyond. There will continue to be high exposure to a wide variety of natural hazards (cyclones, droughts, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions), geographic remoteness and isolation, and dispersion across a large area. For PICTs, climate change means a higher possibility of more frequent and more intense tropical cyclones, more flooding, a steady rise of sea levels and serious erosion of the coastline, as well as a decimation of fish stocks and biodiversity in general due to rising temperatures in the oceans, jeopardizing the livelihoods of millions of people. As most of these countries are already the world's most disaster-prone countries, additional and stronger calamities will put even more strain on the available resources of affected countries, the United Nations, humanitarian and development actors, and donors.

For the South Pacific's upcoming cyclone season 2022–23, Fiji Meteorological Service predicted between five and seven tropical cyclones, with one to four expected to be severe (Category 3 or above). This outlook is greatly driven by the return of a third consecutive La Niña event, which is quite exceptional, and there is an increasing chance of above-average rainfall and subsequent coastal inundations, particularly in the South Pacific region. In the North Pacific, La Niña will cause prolonged periods of drought (as already seen in Kiribati, Tuvalu and parts of Cook Islands).



Panyagor, South Sudan
A mother and daughter look out over submerged houses in Panyagor in Twic East, Jonglei State. UNICEF/Mark Naftalin

Southern and East Africa

Humanitarian needs continue to rise in Southern and East Africa as the region experiences the devastating effects of climate change, economic challenges and conflicts. Many millions of people face acute food insecurity due to drought, leading to large-scale displacement and protection concerns.

In Eastern Africa, the longest and most severe drought in recent history is ravaging parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and the situation is expected to worsen in 2023. Across the Horn of Africa, severe drought will affect at least 36.4 million people in the final months of 2022. Between October and December, at least 21 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity due to drought in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and two districts in Somalia are at risk of famine. More than 9.5 million livestock—which pastoralist families rely on for sustenance and livelihoods—have

already died across the region, and many more are expected to perish in the months ahead. The drought is driving alarming levels of malnutrition for children and women, threatening their lives and futures. About 5 million children are acutely malnourished in drought-affected areas, including about 1.4 million children who are severely acutely malnourished, and an estimated 1.3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are acutely malnourished. In drought-affected areas, many women have sacrificed their own well-being and nutrition to care for their families. About 23.75 million people across the Horn of Africa cannot access enough water for drinking, cooking, cleaning or improved sanitation and hygiene. The drought is also increasing the risk of disease: all three countries hardest hit by the drought are responding to cholera outbreaks, and measles is also on the rise. Families are taking desperate measures to survive, with more than 1.7 million people leaving their homes in search of food, pasture, water and alternative livelihoods, increasing the risk of intercommunal conflict, as well as heightening pressure on already limited basic services. The drought is having devastating consequences for women and children, heightening the risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, and hampering children's access to education.



Conflicts in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, economic challenges, and other climate shocks impacting the region (including historic floods in South Sudan) continue to cause widespread food insecurity, large-scale displacement and major protection concerns.

There are now 49.4 million people severely food insecure (including the 21 million impacted by drought in the Horn of Africa)—which is the highest level in recorded history, including in Sudan and South Sudan, which have the most people facing Crisis or worse food insecurity since the IPC classification began and more than 16.5 million people forcibly displaced across East Africa, including 11.5 million internally displaced people and 5 million refugees and asylum-seekers. The Horn of Africa remains a major route for mixed-migration movements to and from the Arabian Peninsula and to Europe. Grave violations against civilians continue to be committed in the region, including conflict-related sexual violence and recruitment of child soldiers.

Southern Africa remains at the forefront of the global climate crisis, while the conflict in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado has continued to spread. During the 2021-2022 cyclone season in the South-West Indian Ocean, back-to-back tropical weather systems killed at least 890 people and affected more than 2.8 million people. About 1.58 million people were acutely food insecure due to drought in southern Angola, and 7 out of 10 districts in the Grand Sud of Madagascar remained in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), despite improvements that are largely due to the significant scale-up in humanitarian assistance in early 2022. In Cabo Delgado, conflict continues to drive rising needs: at least 945,000 people are internally displaced and 1.1 million are now severely food insecure. In recent months, attacks have shifted southward to districts previously not affected.

Communicable disease outbreaks are on the rise in Eastern and Southern Africa, and an Ebola outbreak in Uganda, which began in September 2022, threatens to spread to other countries. Measles and cholera outbreaks have been recorded in multiple countries across the region, and polio outbreaks are active in Malawi and Mozambique.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Looking ahead to 2023, needs are expected to rise in Eastern Africa—driven by the Horn of Africa drought and multiple conflicts—and in Southern Africa—driven by floods, cyclones, drought and conflict in northern Mozambique.

In Eastern Africa: The October-December 2022 rains are projected to fail, and early forecasts indicate that the March-May 2023 rains will be below average. Therefore, the drought in the Horn of Africa will escalate to unprecedented levels, causing skyrocketing humanitarian needs and large-scale displacement. At the same time, conflict is likely to continue—and potentially escalate—in Ethiopia (and, relatedly, Eritrea), South Sudan and Sudan, while the threat of violent extremism persists, particularly in Kenya, Somalia and now Ethiopia, following Al Shabaab's recent incursions. At the same time, the impacts of the global climate crisis will continue to be felt in the region in the years ahead. According to the ND-GAIN Index, four countries in the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan) are among the most vulnerable 10 per cent to climate change. This combination of conflict and climate change is therefore expected to remain a toxic mix with potentially devastating consequences for the Eastern Africa region in 2023.

In Southern Africa: Severe drought is expected to persist in the Grand Sud of Madagascar and southern Angola, based on seasonal forecasts. Other parts of the region will likely experience above-average rains and floods due to La Niña, and several cyclones are likely to impact vulnerable communities (especially in Madagascar and Mozambique). Meanwhile, the conflict in northern Mozambique has the potential to expand geographically, while political unrest is expected to continue in Eswatini. Zimbabwe and Madagascar are expected to undergo tense elections.



Burundi

HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 194.2 million

Total population
13.5 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
6 / High

Consecutive appeals
2016 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Despite the relative improvement of the humanitarian situation in Burundi – from 2.3 million people in need in 2021 to 1.8 million in 2022 (a 21 per cent decrease) – the current number of vulnerable communities still requires a coordinated humanitarian response and more investment for durable solutions.

In 2023, about 1.5 million people will need humanitarian assistance, a 17 per cent decrease compared to 2022 (1.8 million people). The main causes of the population's vulnerability include the impact of repeated shocks related to natural disasters, the socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently the inflation of 19.6 per cent linked to the crisis in Ukraine, in a context where 53.1 per cent¹⁴³ of the population lives below the poverty line. The pressure of inflation is slowing down economic growth and directly impacting businesses across sectors. This is reducing job opportunities and access to basic social services for the population.

Due to these factors, 1.4 million people are currently severely food insecure in Burundi. The rainfall deficit observed during the last quarter of 2022 compromises the agricultural production for 2023 and will likely worsen food insecurity.

Burundi continues to face population movements caused by the effects of floods and erratic rains as well as low socioeconomic opportunities. As of October 2022, 84,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were registered in the country. More than 80 per cent of these people have been displaced since January 2022 for reasons related to natural disasters. Coupled with the rising number of returnees (estimated at 204,000 people), this means that the situation remains dire for displaced people. Lack of

access to basic services and limited assistance also render displaced people more vulnerable to exploitation and gender-based violence, increasing the burden on host communities. In Burundi, 69 per cent of repatriated children were not enrolled in schools in 2022 (against 50 per cent in 2021), and 63 per cent of repatriated people cannot afford access to health-care services. Sixty-one per cent of returnees eat just one meal a day, more than 73 per cent lack farming tools and many do not have access to land. Only durable solutions would prevent future displacements of people, including IDPs and returnees living in natural disaster-prone areas.

In 2023, UNHCR planning figures indicate that 75,000 Burundian refugees are expected to return to Burundi and receive assistance through sustainable solutions. Moreover, due to the volatile security situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UNHCR estimates that 33,000 people will seek refuge in Burundi, joining 87,000 refugees and asylum-seekers already in the country.

In September 2022, an outbreak of Ebola Sudan Virus Disease was declared in Uganda – a country well connected to Burundi, with almost daily flights and numerous road connections. This presents an additional public health risk to recurrent outbreaks affecting the country.

In 2023, humanitarian partners will concentrate their operations on emergency needs, while supporting national authorities' efforts to continue strengthening preparedness, early warning and the coordination of humanitarian and development interventions to significantly reduce the fragility of vulnerable communities.

143. ISTEUBU, Enquête intégrée sur les conditions de vie des ménages, 2019-2020.



Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The consequences of recurring natural disasters combined with recurrent epidemics and zoonoses, as well as the pandemic's socioeconomic impacts, are expected to continue contributing to persistent humanitarian needs throughout 2023, especially in terms of food insecurity and nutrition.

The rising prices and shortage of basic commodities, including food, fuel and fertilizer, will cause vulnerable households' food insecurity to deteriorate if they are left without assistance.

New flows of forcibly displaced people linked to natural disasters, the continued arrival of returnees, and refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing insecurity in eastern DRC may be expected.

**Bugabira Commune,
Kirundo Province,
Burundi**

Insufficient rainfall
has damaged the
crops in this field.
OCHA/Camille
Marquis

Response priorities in 2023

Humanitarian partners in Burundi have rigorously scrutinized the humanitarian context to prioritize the response to critical needs in 2023. As a result, 1.1 million of the most vulnerable people will be targeted for assistance. The humanitarian response will cover their needs in terms of food and essential non-food items, access to basic social services and protection through in-kind and cash interventions.

The response will prioritize the most vulnerable populations, particularly food insecure people, returnees and victims of natural disasters, including IDPs, and people affected by or at risk of epidemics and zoonoses. The priority areas of interventions will include the most impacted areas in Burundi's northern, eastern and western provinces.

Humanitarian assistance in 2023 will be strongly linked to national programmes supported by local and international development partners to increase affected people's resilience to climate shocks.





Ethiopia HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

28.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

26.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 3.5 billion

Total population
120.8 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2017 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

People in Ethiopia continue to face multiple and overlapping humanitarian emergencies. The adverse impacts of climate change, conflict and disease outbreaks, coupled with global poor macroeconomic conditions and high inflation leading to high commodity and food prices, have contributed to escalating humanitarian and protection needs across the country.

The number of people in need has significantly increased because of the worsening drought and conflict in parts of the country. As of October 2022, more than 4.7 million people across the country are estimated to be internally displaced people (IDPs), mostly due to conflict and drought.

The conflict in northern Ethiopia has resulted in massive population movements, including waves of displacement, secondary displacement and returns, with many returnees going back to areas where basic services are not operational due to damaged and destroyed civilian infrastructure and facilities. The conflict has also caused significant negative impacts on humanitarian operations in and around Tigray, Amhara and Afar Regions.

The humanitarian situation worsened in late August, resulting in further displacements against the backdrop of the suspension of aid convoys' movement into Tigray by road and air. The signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in November 2022 is a promising step towards stabilization of the situation. However, months, if not years, are needed for humanitarian operators to be able to address the high magnitude of humanitarian needs in the northern parts of the country.

Since late 2020, Ethiopia has experienced four below-normal rainy seasons. There is a high likelihood of a fifth failed season following a forecast of poor and

below-normal rainfall from October to December 2022. This triggered the worst drought conditions observed in more than four decades in large swaths of the country. In parallel, heavy rains recorded in July and August in some regions (Afar, Amhara and Gambella) resulted in floods and high population displacement and impacted the delivery of humanitarian supplies. Food insecurity, malnutrition, water access and the health conditions of the affected population keep worsening, with eroded coping capacities and increased vulnerabilities. Drought-induced displacements are staggering, compounding the already high numbers of IDPs living in drought-affected areas. More than 4 million livestock have perished, and more than 30 million livestock have emaciated/poor body conditions due to a lack of pasture and water. A cholera outbreak has been reported, affecting the most vulnerable people in Oromia and Somali Regions.

In parallel, high levels of violence in other regions in the country, especially in Oromia and Benishangul Gumuz Regions, continue to displace a high number of people, impacting lives and livelihoods. Protection risks remain a serious concern in conflict, violence and drought-affected areas, with increasing reports of sexual and gender-based violence, families being separated and children becoming orphans.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The current humanitarian situation is not expected to stabilize in 2023, given the seasonal forecast of additional consecutive poor rainfall seasons in parts of the country. This unprecedented climatic shock will have a ripple effect on the lives and livelihoods of pastoralist and agropastoralist communities in various areas of Ethiopia, leading to potential loss of life, widespread loss of livestock, heightened food insecurity, high



**Somali region,
Ethiopia**
Fifty-year-old
Halima Mehamed,
a mother of 12, lost
more than half of
her livestock due
to severe drought.
FAO/Michael
Tewelde

malnutrition rates and further erosion of already overstretched coping strategies of the most vulnerable populations.

The effects of conflict and violence will continue to exacerbate the already dire and fragile humanitarian conditions of vulnerable people, who will require immediate life-saving interventions. Increased efforts need to be scaled up to address the immediate and critical humanitarian needs while linking up with resilience and development programmes.

Response priorities in 2023

The overall response strategy for 2023 is underpinned by an intersectoral analysis that informs multisectoral approaches to address the following protection-focused and people-centred response priorities (with particular attention to the needs of children, youth, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and other groups with specific needs):

- Provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance. The numerous compounded crises have impacted the lives of millions of people, who require life-saving humanitarian assistance in safety and dignity through local and community-based interventions.
- Provision of life-sustaining assistance. This includes efforts to assist affected and at-risk populations with enhanced and sustained access to essential health services, protection, emergency shelter, education, and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Improvement of coping mechanisms of the affected and at-risk population through income-generating and resilience-building activities, as well as strengthening interlinkages with development partners to support a sustainable recovery.

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires US\$3.5 billion to respond urgently to immediate and increased humanitarian needs. This is in line with the increased target population and financial request of the 2022 Mid-Year HRP of \$3.3 billion to respond to increasing needs until the end of 2022.



Kenya FA

PEOPLE IN NEED

6.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 472.6 million

Total population
56.2 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.7 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Kenya is facing an unprecedented drought due to five—and potentially six—consecutive below average rainy seasons. At the end of 2022, an estimated 4.4 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 1.2 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 2.5 million livestock have died due to the drought. This is the highest level of acute food insecurity ever recorded in the country, surpassing the 3.7 million people in IPC Phase 3+ during the 2011 drought and 3.4 million in 2017. More than 4.1 million people cannot access enough water for drinking, cooking and cleaning, with women and girls having to choose between using water for cooking and their own personal menstrual hygiene. About 884,500 children are facing acute malnutrition (including 222,700 who are severely malnourished) and three out of ten sub-counties surveyed (Turkana North, Turkana South and Marsabit North Horr) in June and July had global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates nearly, or more than, twice the emergency threshold, while a further six had GAM rates above the emergency threshold. The drought has also exacerbated the risk of communicable diseases—including cholera and measles—heightening the risk of death, especially for malnourished children and women.

The worsening drought is exacerbating insecurity and resource-based conflicts in many drought-affected counties, which have led to injuries, loss of lives and stock thefts in Baringo, Nyeri, Meru, Lamu, Mandera, Turkana and Marsabit counties. The drought has also significantly heightened protection risks for women and children. Many women have sacrificed their own wellbeing and nutrition to care for their families. Girls have been pulled out of school for early marriage, and families have been separated as men and boys seek forage and food for livestock. More than 54,500 children in 17 drought-affected counties are at risk of dropping out of school unless urgent measures

are taken to provide them with sufficient food and water. Older people—especially in pastoralist communities—are also facing unique consequences due to the drought, as younger and more able-bodied adults have travelled further afield in search of forage and food or migrated to urban areas in search of work.

The devastating drought is unfolding at a time when people in the ASAL region are still struggling to recover from multiple recent shocks—including the desert locust outbreak of 2019-2021 and the COVID-19 pandemic—as well as facing price rises in food and fuel due to the war in Ukraine.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

From October to December 2022, ASAL counties are expected to receive rainfall totals that are less than 60 per cent of the average, with some worst-affected regions experiencing the poorest start of season on record, resulting in an unprecedented fifth consecutive poor season. In addition, although long-lead forecasts have an inherent level of uncertainty and therefore need to be closely monitored, the current consensus among experts is that below-average rainfall is likely during the March to May (MAM) 2023 season, which would culminate in a record sixth consecutive poor season. The drought in Kenya’s ASAL region is therefore expected to deepen well into 2023, causing humanitarian needs to continue to rise.

Regardless of next year’s rainfall performance, recovery from a drought of this magnitude will take years, with extremely high humanitarian needs set to persist and even increase beyond 2023. Many people have completely lost their livelihoods and coping capacities and are relying heavily on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, which will challenge the drought recovery.



STORY

Local networks provide vital expertise



OCHA/Jane Kiiru

A vibrant network of locally led organizations is at the core of drought response in Kenya. These organizations work with and come from the most-affected communities. The Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) Humanitarian Network (AHN) was established in March 2019. Its 30 members—including women-led organizations—operate in 10 of the most vulnerable ASAL counties and bring expertise ranging from cash programming and WASH to women’s rights and community mobilization.

In partnership with local and international actors, AHN is actively implementing drought-response initiatives. Since August 2021, its members have provided cash transfers to about 26,400 households to fight food insecurity and save livelihoods. The transfers reach households fast and give them the autonomy to make their own decisions on how to use the money.

AHN members are also safeguarding access to clean and safe water, proper sanitation and effective hygiene for local communities. This includes rehabilitating and solarizing boreholes, and providing essential hygiene items and dignity kits for healthy menstrual management among women and girls. To address the increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) due to the drought, and under the leadership of AHN’s women’s rights organizations, people at risk of GBV receive legal and medical referrals and psychosocial support. AHN is also raising awareness of these risks through radio programmes and by working closely with communities.

Funding remains a major challenge for AHN members; less than 5 per cent of the resources mobilized under the 2022 Flash Appeal have gone directly to local and community-based organizations in the Kenya drought response.



Response priorities in 2023

From January to September 2022, humanitarian action in Kenya was significantly scaled-up in response to the rapidly escalating drought emergency, in full complementarity with Government-led relief efforts. Nearly 1 million people in the ASAL region were reached with life-saving and life-sustaining assistance by 89 humanitarian organizations, including UN entities, international and national non-governmental organizations and the Kenya Red Cross Society. Some 792,000 people to access safe and clean drinking water, receive sanitation and hygiene items. In addition, 633,000 people received much needed food and livelihood assistance; and more than 293,000 children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women were able to access nutrition services, therefore improving child survival and development.

However, throughout the year, funding levels remained well below what was required, resulting in humanitarian partners being unable to reach all of the people they had aimed to assist. By the end of the year, partners will likely have reached less than 50 per cent of those targeted, largely due to under-funding. Insecurity

also remained a challenge in some key drought-affected areas, including in Mandera and Marsabit counties. However, local and national organizations were able to work in these areas due to their extensive knowledge of the context and strong community acceptance,

The 2023 Drought Response Plan is premised on the understanding that a clearly prioritized multi-sectoral and integrated response to the drought crisis is critical. To this end, seven priority 1 counties are identified for the most urgent life-saving response, based on an inter-sectoral analysis—focused on the Food, Nutrition, Health and WASH sectors—of the severity of needs. A further nine priority 2 counties are identified, where partners will aim to provide life-sustaining interventions and avert a further deterioration in people's needs. Protection will be integrated across the response, given the significant increase in protection risks caused by the drought, especially with respect to gender-based violence and child protection. Education interventions will also be vital in light of the high risk of school drop-outs and the life-long consequences this will have for affected children and their communities.

Turkana, Kenya

Selina and her mother carry firewood in Kalakol. This is now their main source of income. Their animals are emaciated and no longer produce milk to sell. OCHA/Jane Kiiru





Madagascar FA

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.2 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 147 million

Total population
29.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5.3 / High

Consecutive appeals
2007 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The Grand Sud of Madagascar was rocked by consecutive droughts during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 rainy seasons and is now faced with the prospect of a late start to the 2022/2023 rainy season. Following a massive scale-up in humanitarian assistance from January to May 2022, food insecurity and malnutrition improved in the Grand Sud, and no district has been in Emergency phase (IPC 4) since May 2022.

However, the situation has remained fragile. The planting of crops in 2022 was delayed by a poor start to the season and, although crops were eventually planted following the rains brought by cyclones and storms, the heavy rains also contributed to a resurgence of migratory locusts and good conditions for fall armyworm. As a result, more than 1.2 million people were projected to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3) and above from September to November 2022.

Cyclone-affected areas in the Grand Sud-Est are still recovering from the devastation caused by two consecutive cyclones in 2022, which left people facing Crisis (IPC phase 3) levels of food insecurity for the first time and caused production losses and damages estimated at more than US\$160 million, including livelihoods, housing and school infrastructure.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Looking ahead to 2023, the situation in the Grand Sud is expected to deteriorate once again. Rainfall during the beginning of the 2022/2023 rainy season is forecasted to be less than average, coinciding with the start of the agriculture season. Households in the region are already facing significant limitations in access to food due to the absence of any meaningful cassava and sweet potato harvests, rising food prices, and well below-average income-generating opportunities, according to FEWSNET. The war in Ukraine has also caused a significant increase in oil and food prices in Madagascar.

In the hardest-hit areas, humanitarian assistance has been the primary reason why families have been able to stave off Emergency and/or Catastrophe food insecurity. However, funding is not secured for 2023, and needs are expected to rise throughout the lean season, which will peak from January to April. The risk of displacement remains high, especially during the hunger gap season, as it is one of the most common coping mechanisms for drought-affected families. Should the 2022/2023 harvests fail, needs will also increase over the course of the year and rise precipitously at the onset of the next lean season in the fourth quarter.

The on-going cyclone season, which will last until April 2023, may also drive additional needs as two out of every three people in Madagascar live in areas prone to cyclones and floods. Although the forecast indicates that this cyclone season is likely to be close to, or below, the annual average, the national contingency plan for 2022-2023 predicts the passage of two climate events, affecting about 800,000 people in the country.



Response priorities in 2023

Given the scale, duration and severity of the drought in the Grand Sud of Madagascar, humanitarian assistance has been—and remains—critical. Partners scaled up their responses significantly in 2021 and 2022, averting the worst outcomes and avoiding a return to IPC phase 5 (Catastrophic) level needs. In 2022, humanitarian partners responded to both the devastating drought in the Grand Sud of Madagascar, as well as to the destruction and needs caused by cyclones which impacted the Grand Sud-Est of the country. From January to September, 1.75 million people were reached with vital assistance, including more than 1.5 million who received food assistance, more than 668,300 who received cash transfers, and nearly 225,000 people provided with improved access to clean water. Women and girls were the focus of targeted interventions, with 164,600 people reached with awareness-raising

efforts to prevent gender-based violence and promote reproductive health, at least 15,200 survivors of violence and sexual abuse received psychosocial, legal, and medical support and more than 9,300 pregnant women receiving four antenatal care visits. Likewise, children were a specific focus in the response, with 24,730 children vaccinated against preventable disease and 98,000 children receiving school kits.

In 2023, the focus of the response will remain on saving lives and alleviating suffering due to the drought and cyclone crises, with a focus on food security, nutrition, health and WASH. At the same time, partners will ensure the centrality of protection—particularly given the consequences of the drought for women and girls’ safety—and education, with schools providing both a safe haven for drought-affected children and a vital entry point for referrals to other programmes, including nutrition and child protection.

Fokontany
Morafeno,
Mananjary,
Madagascar
Nicole Nirina
Viviane is a
33-year-old mother
of four. She and
her husband lost
everything to
Cyclone Batsirai.
She now sleeps in
the local school
next to her house
and needs money
to buy food and
rebuild their house.
OCHA/Viviane
Rakotoarivony





Mozambique HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 513 million

Total population
33.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7.2 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2019 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

In 2022, the conflict in northern Mozambique continued to deepen the needs of displaced people – many forced to flee multiple times – and host communities, who have shown solidarity in the face of increasingly stretched resources and services. According to the latest IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix

Baseline Assessment Round (June), more than 945,000 people were estimated to be internally displaced in northern Mozambique by June 2022. Of those people, 869,603 were in Cabo Delgado, 73,699 in Nampula and 2,130 in Niassa. Children and women accounted for 55 per cent and 24 per cent of displaced people, respectively. Around 70 per cent of displaced people were staying in host communities, whose already meagre resources were strained by the growing influx of people.

The armed conflict also heightened food insecurity and malnutrition, with families forced to abandon their homes and fields, and erratic rainfall in some parts of the region compounding crop losses, according to the latest IPC analysis. In the three northern provinces – Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa – more than 1,100,000 people are severely food insecure. The analysis covered internally displaced people (IDPs) in five districts (Ancuabe, Balama, Chiúre, Metuge and Namuno) and households hosting IDPs in seven districts (Ancuabe, Balama, Chiúre, Metuge, Montepuez, Namuno and Pemba City), and it highlighted the severe toll the crisis has taken on host communities.

The conflict significantly reduced civilians’ access to essential services across Cabo Delgado. According to UNDP’s Infrastructure Damage Assessment of January

to May 2022 in Cabo Delgado, the level of damage to public infrastructure is severe in districts that had been under the control of NSAGs. This is in addition to health and water facilities being damaged by recurring natural disasters. More than 93 per cent of the 30 health facilities assessed have been partially damaged, and more than half the buildings surveyed currently do not have access to drinking water. All education facilities assessed were also found to be damaged.

According to UNICEF, prior to the conflict, 45 per cent of health facilities in Cabo Delgado lacked access to water, and 85 per cent of schools did not have adequate hygiene facilities. The arrival of displaced people has put even more pressure on the limited WASH infrastructures in health facilities and schools. A UNICEF survey shows that in 2021, schools, and their WASH infrastructures, have been severely impacted by the insecurity in Cabo Delgado, with 249 schools affected and 46 schools destroyed.

Field reports¹⁴⁴ indicate that in 12 of the 17 districts in Cabo Delgado Province, the doctor/people ratio is 1/10,000; with southern districts, where the majority of the displaced people are, showing worse indicators (one doctor/136,000 people in Namuno, and one doctor/80,000 in Metuge). These circumstances have reduced the capacity to detect and respond to disease outbreaks, including cholera and measles, and to provide critical and timely care, such as sexual and reproductive health care, immunization activities, access to anti-retrovirals and treatment for tuberculosis.

In 2022, at least 1.5 million people needed life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance and protection in northern Mozambique due to the continued impact of the

144. OR #127 Caracterização das condições socioeconómicas dos deslocados internos no norte de Moçambique ao longo do ano de 2021 (English version available). – OMR (omrmz.org)



armed conflict and violence in Cabo Delgado Province.

They included conflict-displaced people, as well as people in host communities whose coping capacities have been exhausted following three years of opening their homes to people fleeing the violence. While the Government continued to combat NSAGs and restore peace in Cabo Delgado – with support from the international community and allied forces – some returns have been taking place. However, the situation remains volatile. Additionally, the conflict and repeated displacement destroyed livelihoods and disrupted markets and essential services across the hardest-hit districts in the north-west, particularly affecting access to education and health services in a region facing endemic disease outbreaks.

In 2022, the humanitarian response to conflict in northern Mozambique targeted 1.2 million people for assistance and protection in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa. The geographic focus of the response was aligned with the severity of the needs identified, with an emphasis on districts that hosted the highest numbers of displaced people and districts hardest hit by the conflict. Humanitarian actors have been coordinating

with development actors, who are working to rebuild infrastructure and re-establish essential services impacted by the conflict.

Climatic shocks further compounded the vulnerability of people suffering the effects of the conflict.

Mozambique is a large country with varied landscapes and corresponding climatic conditions. The coastal region is affected by cyclones and tropical storms, the various river basins are affected by floods, and drought is most predominant in the country's arid and semi-arid regions. Across these locations there can be a geographic overlap, and multiple hazards may occur in the same locations. Cyclones are the most frequent natural hazard reported in recent years (17 events between 1920-2016). They also cause the greatest attributable economic losses (55.8 per cent of economic losses between 1990-2014), and they are responsible for a considerable number of deaths (11 per cent of deaths related to disasters between 1990-2014).

Drought is a dire concern for the population's well-being; 80 per cent of the population depends on rain-fed agriculture. Drought events have been increasing in

AID IN ACTION

Finding new ways to deliver life-saving assistance



OCHA/Saviano Abreu

In 2022, humanitarians and partners worked intensively to access areas that were previously cut off in Mozambique, developing strategies to enable road and air access in hard-to-reach areas. As insecurity along Cabo Delgado's roads threatened the provision of assistance, the humanitarian community secured 13 helicopter landing zones across the province, facilitating access to people

who need life-saving assistance in hard-to-reach areas. Through access assessments, humanitarian actors regularly received updated information on access to partially accessible/hard-to-reach areas and alternative roads.

Humanitarian actors regularly engaged with national/international armed forces on humanitarian principles and operations, ensuring dialogue and the safeguarding of humanitarian principles and operations. Coordination efforts were localized to enable the timely provision of assistance in the wake of violence. District coordination meetings were held in southern and coastal districts (Ibo) and northern districts (Mueda, Palma), efforts were redoubled to provide assistance in the south, and assistance was expanded to Mueda to cover northern areas. Agencies also sought to expand local actors' participation to increase their response capacity.



Beira, Mozambique

A resident of the Praia Nova neighbourhood takes shelter from Tropical Cyclone Eloise in the Agostinho Neto school. UNICEF/Ricardo Franco

frequency, with 12 events recorded in the period 1920-2016 affecting arid and semi-arid areas, where warming temperatures and drier conditions are becoming a common occurrence and driving food insecurity, malnutrition, migration, gender-based violence and other negative outcomes.

During the last rainy season (October 2021-April 2022) Mozambique was hit by four extreme weather events. They affected at least 1,043,000 people and created large-scale damage to private and public infrastructure, affecting 22,000 hectares of agricultural land, flooding 180,000 homes, and damaging more than 6,000 km of roads, 2,127 schools and 2,981 energy towers. Tropical Cyclone Gombe, a category 3 cyclone, was the weather event that most affected people of Mozambique, with Nampula province being the hardest hit. Of the 736,000 people affected by Gombe, more than 642,000 were in Nampula. For people in villages across Nampula who had already shared their meagre resources with the displaced people from Cabo Delgado, Tropical Cyclone Gombe's landfall represented a crisis on top of a crisis.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, approximately 2 million people will need life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance and protection in northern Mozambique due to the continued

impact of armed conflict, violence and insecurity in Cabo Delgado province. They include 945,000 conflict-displaced people, as well as people in host communities and people who return to their home districts. The needs of 33,000 refugees will be reflected in the Humanitarian Needs Overview through the inclusion of a distinct refugee chapter with a relevant budget.

Humanitarian needs are concentrated in the districts hardest hit by the conflict, namely Chiure, Macomia, Mocimboa da Praia, Palma and Quissanga, as well as those districts that host the highest number of displaced people, namely Ancuabe, Metuge, Montepuez, Mueda, Nangade and Pemba. The unique needs of women and girls are a high priority; 53 per cent of people in need are female and women-headed households who are faced with specific challenges. The crisis severely impacted children, with some 59 per cent of people across Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa being under 19 years old, according to the census. While only 3 per cent of people in the three provinces are over 65 years old, they face multiple unique challenges, including difficulties [seeing conflict as well as constraints on physical access to services. Ensuring access to vital services and holistic support for the estimated 468,000 people (most of whom are women) living with HIV in the three provinces is critical.

The climate forecasts model indicates above-average rainfall between October 2022 and March 2023, and a rather below normal activity in the South-West Indian Ocean cyclone basin between December 2022 and March 2023. This season could therefore see the development of 6 to 10 systems (tropical storms and cyclones), with 3 to 5 reaching the stage of a tropical cyclone among them. Mozambique remains extremely vulnerable. It is estimated that across Mozambique, 1.74 million people will be vulnerable to natural disasters, namely cyclones, floods and droughts, in the 2022/2023 rainy/cyclone season. During 2023, OCHA will lay the basis for coordinated anticipatory action in Mozambique in 2024. Based on trend analysis, Gaza, Inhambane and Tete provinces present high risks related to drought. Similarly, cyclones are likely to affect Nampula, Sofala and Zambezia provinces, with potentially devastating outcomes for communities and infrastructure.



Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, the humanitarian response in northern Mozambique will target approximately 2 million people in the most urgent need of assistance and protection in Cabo Delgado, Nampula and Niassa. The geographic focus of the response is aligned with the severity of the needs identified, with an emphasis on districts that host the highest numbers of displaced people and districts hardest hit by the conflict. The priority is to provide life-saving assistance to people who have borne the brunt of the conflict, including protection services, shelter, food assistance, treatment for acute malnutrition, and emergency obstetric care. In addition, humanitarian partners will provide life-sustaining support for people whose access to assistance, essential services (especially education, health care, WASH and livelihoods) has been compromised by the conflict. The humanitarian community is strengthening rapid response mechanisms to provide immediate support to people affected by sudden outbursts of violence.

Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique
Ana José, 38, is displaced from Palma. She now lives in the Pachinuapa temporary shelter with her husband and four children. UNICEF/Ricardo Franco

The focus of the humanitarian response is on responding to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by conflict in the three provinces in the north. However, in developing the needs and vulnerability

analysis, the humanitarian community adopted a multi-hazard approach that also looked at the historical impact of natural disasters and the population at risk of cyclones, floods and drought in 2023. Placing different hazards at the centre of the analysis allowed for a focused and risk-informed approach that also considers early action and anticipatory action.

The approach for the different hazards will differ, including with regards to timing, triggers, actions and funding requirements. However, a strategy will be developed outlining the viable approaches across these elements, building on the pre-existing work by humanitarian partners.

Humanitarian actors will coordinate with the Government and development actors, who are working to rebuild infrastructure and re-establish essential services impacted by the conflict. Humanitarian partners will focus on life-saving and life-sustaining assistance while advocating for the creation of conditions that favour re-establishing essential services and livelihoods. Investments on building and rehabilitating public and private services, such as public administration buildings, health and education facilities, access roads, energy and telecommunication systems, water supplies, markets and shops are set to continue in 2023.





Somalia

HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

7.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.3 billion

Total population
16.9 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
8.7 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1998 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The humanitarian situation in Somalia continues to deteriorate. Despite recent progress, active conflict, widespread insecurity, recurrent climate shocks, disease outbreaks and increasing poverty are driving humanitarian needs and devastating the people of Somalia.

The recent escalation of the military offensive against Al Shabaab has significant humanitarian implications, including increased displacement and reprisal attacks. Ongoing military operations present on one hand an opportunity for expanded access into areas previously under Al Shabaab control, but on the other hand the increased likelihood of widespread insecurity and acute deterioration of humanitarian access. This uncertainty will require partners to exercise flexibility in programming to shift away from insecure areas and to enter newly recovered areas.

Furthermore, the current extreme, widespread and persistent multi-season drought is unprecedented. Following the historic failure of four consecutive rainy seasons, Somalia is facing a climatic event not previously seen in at least 40 years. The current drought has surpassed the 2010/2011 and 2016/2017 droughts in terms of duration and severity, and a fifth failed rainy season is projected by early 2023.

Humanitarian needs continue to grow. The number of people affected by the unprecedented drought has more than doubled since the beginning of the year. Currently 7.8 million people – nearly half of Somalia’s estimated population – have been affected. Displacement has increased threefold since the beginning of 2022, with more than 1.3 million people displaced due to drought.

The lives and livelihoods of the most vulnerable and marginalized people have been irreversibly harmed, and last-resort coping mechanisms have been exhausted. The drought has devastated the agriculture sector, which accounts for up to 60 per cent of Somalia’s GDP, 80 per cent of its employment and 90 per cent of its exports. Since mid-2021, one third of all livestock in the worst-affected areas have died. Conditions for crop and livestock production are expected to remain extremely poor until at least the start of the next rainy season in April 2023, if not longer, leading to further loss of livelihoods.

With only 57 per cent received of the US\$2.27 billion needed to fund the response, critical response programmes have been stretched to breaking point. The humanitarian community is struggling to keep pace with the increasing scale, scope and severity of needs. An urgent infusion of funds is needed to respond to the most critical needs and mitigate the impending loss of life across Somalia in the months ahead.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The impact of the drought, widespread insecurity and increasing economic pressures are driving the country to the brink of famine. Between October and December 2022, famine is projected, specifically among rural residents in the Baidoa and Burhakaba districts and displaced people in Baidoa in the Bay region. In addition, several areas in central and southern Somalia have an increased risk of famine through at least December 2022. Without humanitarian assistance, more than one in three Somalis, or nearly 6.7 million people, are expected to face acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or worse levels through the end of 2023.



Acute malnutrition in children is on the rise. More than half of all children under age 5 will likely face acute malnutrition through mid-2023, including over 513,000 who are expected to be severely malnourished. The increased prevalence of communicable diseases directly contributes to rising levels of acute malnutrition.

Water shortages are at critical levels, exposing vulnerable people to additional risk. About 6.4 million people lack access to safe water, while only less than one third of people living in drought-affected areas are estimated to have access to essential health care. Reported cholera cases continue to rise compared to recent years, and measles cases have spiked.

Al Shabaab are likely to lead to increased displacement and impede humanitarian access. Overall, it is expected that up to 450,000 additional civilians will be displaced due to conflict in 2023. Protection concerns include widespread forced family separation, indiscriminate attacks against civilians, freedom of movement restrictions, forced recruitment and destruction of civilian infrastructure.

The drought, coupled with armed conflict, is having devastating consequences for women and children, who comprise more than 80 per cent of the displaced population. Women and girls are being forced to trek long distances to access water and shelter, which makes them more vulnerable to gender-based violence. There are also more unaccompanied and separated children in displacement sites compared to the same period last year. The drought has disrupted education for 2.4 million school-aged children. Experience from past droughts indicates that 90 per cent of children who lost access to education never returned.



Response priorities in 2023

Despite operational and access challenges, humanitarian partners reached some 7.3 million people with humanitarian assistance in 2022, which is 140 per cent more than the 3 million people reached in 2021.

Humanitarian needs continue to grow, with primary concerns around rising food insecurity and malnutrition, lack of access to water and basic sanitation, and the fragile health system's capacity to manage disease burden. The overall response priority is to reduce excess mortality and avert famine through an integrated response. During 2023, more than 300 humanitarian partners will prioritize life-saving assistance for 7.6 million of the most vulnerable people by decreasing the prevalence of hunger, acute malnutrition, disease outbreaks and exposure to protection risks.

Through the Somalia integrated response framework, the humanitarian partners will continue to prioritize the most vulnerable populations, including those with minority clan affiliation, marginalized groups, and those residing in rural areas or areas with high access constraints.

Doolow, Somalia
Two girls at Kaharey
IDP site. OCHA/Yao
Chen

The formation of a new Government and the peaceful transition of presidential power in May 2022 brought limited political stability. However, the security situation in Somalia remains extremely volatile. In addition to ongoing political and interclan tensions, the renewed intensification of military operations against



South Sudan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

9.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

6.8 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.7 billion

Total population
12.4 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
8.5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2011 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

People in South Sudan continue to face multiple compounding shocks of surging subnational violence, severe multi-year flooding and macroeconomic shocks, resulting in worsening levels of acute food insecurity, disease outbreaks, threats against and attacks on humanitarian assets, and deaths of humanitarian workers in several locations.

The slow implementation of the key components of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan resulted in the extension of the current transitional period for another 24 months to ensure a conducive environment for credible elections in 2025.

An estimated 4.5 million South Sudanese people remain displaced due to conflict, insecurity and climate shocks. An estimated 2.2 million people are internally displaced, more than 58 per cent of whom arrived in their current location in 2020 and 2021. Increasing incidents of subnational violence during 2022 resulted in new or secondary displacements of more than 257,000 people, mainly in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity States. In addition, as of October, more than 151,000 South Sudanese refugees returned, predominantly from Sudan and Uganda, between January and October 2022. More than 371,200 internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹⁴⁵ returned to their areas of origin or habitual residence in 2021, and some more than 12,500 people¹⁴⁶ returned in 2022. Killings of civilians, including men, women and children, as well as abductions and conflict-related sexual violence allegedly perpetrated by armed groups, have been reported across the country. Above-normal rainfall for the fourth consecutive year in 2022 has led to more than a million

people being verified as affected by floods in 36 counties in South Sudan, and over 20,000 people affected in the southern part of the Abyei Administrative Area since July 2022. Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Unity and Western Equatoria States are the worst affected, with water levels in some areas, such as Bentiu and Upper Nile, exceeding the unprecedented levels reached in 2021. Torrential rain and floods destroyed crops, homes, latrines, boreholes and critical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, schools, and nutrition and health-care centres.

An estimated 8 million people are likely to experience severe food insecurity at the peak of the 2023 lean season (April to July) at similar levels as last year. Displaced people are more likely to be severely food insecure (Integrated food security phase classification [IPC] Phase 3 or above), with 61.1 per cent of all IDPs being severely food insecure. Host communities are projected to be the most food insecure in Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile States. Almost two thirds of all children under age 5 are expected to be acutely malnourished. Only 11 per cent of facilities provide the full Basic Package of Health and Nutrition Services, and 46 per cent are moderately functional, exacerbating the already inadequate access to and availability of some health services in many parts of the country. Outbreaks of measles, cholera and Hepatitis E have been declared in South Sudan in 2022, affecting mostly children under age 5. Low health-care quality, high levels of food insecurity and poor access to WASH services – with some 90 per cent of the population in 56 counties lacking access to improved sanitation, and some 42 per cent lacking access to improved water sources – have a detrimental impact on the health of the most vulnerable people. Children under age 5 are the most affected. Flooding has interrupted the education of an estimated 381,000 children in six states.

145. IOM DTM South Sudan

146. IOM DTM Event Tracking: Displacement and Return



Wathmuok, South Sudan

Ajok Angara has benefited from the seeds she received from Welthungerhilfe. She now has a flourishing kitchen garden. Welthungerhilfe/ Peter Caton

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

An estimated 9.4 million people – or 76 per cent of the population – and 212,000 people in the Abyei Administrative Area will require humanitarian assistance in 2023. Their situation is expected to continue to deteriorate in 2023, with humanitarian needs likely to increase. The impact of climate change is a major driver of need in South Sudan, with large parts of the Sudd areas in Jonglei and Unity States vulnerable to flooding. Cases of malnutrition, waterborne diseases and malaria will increase, partly due to poor living conditions for people in flooded areas, especially those living in displacement, combined with poor access to health care due to physical, security and financial constraints, as well as the lack of governance and investment in public services. Some people will remain in prolonged displacement until their areas of origin are accessible. Due to poor infrastructure, physical access will continue to be limited in 2023.

Conflict will remain one of the main drivers of displacement and humanitarian needs in 2023. The risk of violence, such as the recent clashes in Upper Nile and Warrap States, continues to

be very high and may increase in the lead-up to the General Elections in December 2024. South Sudan has witnessed widespread communal and localized violence linked to national-level power plays, which has damaged infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods and obstructed the State's ability to provide essential services, such as in health and education. The circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons as well as mine contamination and explosive remnants of war, especially in the Equatoria Region, contribute to the level of violence. Ongoing armed conflict has contributed to increased levels of conflict-related sexual violence. South Sudanese women and girls are likely to continue facing such violence, but while having limited access to health services and justice mechanisms.

Response priorities in 2023

Despite the ongoing conflict, access challenges and limited humanitarian funding in 2022 (the 2022-2023 South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan [HRP] is 47 per cent funded), humanitarian partners delivered assistance to some 4 million people (64 per cent of those targeted in South Sudan). In 2023, the HRP will aim to respond to the most immediate needs of 6.8 million people (72 per cent of the PiN). The two-year 2022-2023 HRP will continue to target 6.8 million people with life-saving assistance to improve their physical and mental well-being, prevent further deterioration of the food security situation, and improve food consumption, dietary diversity and coping strategies for the vulnerable populations in the IPC/intersectoral severity needs levels 5 and 4, and some in level 3. Partners will work to reduce the protection threats and incidents for 4.4 million vulnerable people, ensuring safe, tailored, timely and dignified access to basic services through integrated and inclusive humanitarian action that promotes centrality of protection priorities. Humanitarians will support 3.4 million IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities towards self-sustainability, build their resilience to overcome shocks and seek solutions that respect their rights. The multi-year plan will capitalize on the humanitarian-development-peace collaboration efforts in the country, with disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures integrated into programming.



Sudan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

15.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

12.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.7 billion

Total population
49 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7.1 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1993 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The military coup on 25 October 2021 has reversed the achievements on a path to democratic transition and put Sudan on a precarious track. Efforts to resolve the political crisis are yet to yield tangible results. International development support has been significantly reduced, limiting the capacity of Government institutions and development partners to provide basic social services. Consequently, communities' resilience has been undermined, pushing more people into a state of humanitarian vulnerability. In the past few years, the economy has fluctuated between deep contraction and stagnation, with economic growth rates too modest to have a real impact.

The protracted crises continue to aggravate the hardship experienced by resident communities, and people affected by conflict and displacement. 2022 has witnessed an increase in the number and intensity of violent incidents throughout the country, with Darfur and the Two Areas becoming increasingly prone to conflict. As of the end of October this year, 265,000 people were displaced due to conflict. A total of 3.7 million people are internally displaced (according to the latest tracking from December 2021 – January 2022). With 926,000 refugees, most of whom are from South Sudan, Sudan is one of the top 10 refugee-hosting countries. Meanwhile, humanitarian access is becoming progressively more challenging due to a combination of lack of physical access due to floods and poor infrastructure, and bureaucratic- and security-related impediments.

Sudan continues to witness outbreaks of endemic waterborne and vector borne diseases. In 2022, floods and heavy rain affected more than 348,000 people across the country. The number of acutely food insecure people continued to increase for the third consecutive year, reaching a record 11.7 million people. This was further

exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine, as Sudan relies on wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine. The reported malaria cases in September 2022 crossed the epidemic threshold in 14 states, with a more-than twofold increase compared to last year. A total of 185 suspected cases of monkeypox were reported by 15 October in 12 states, and 18 cases were confirmed, including the death of a 27-day-old baby in West Darfur.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

About 15.8 million people – a third of the population – will require humanitarian assistance across Sudan in 2023. The estimated need was informed by a nationwide multisectoral needs assessment of more than 21,000 households – 6,850 more than in 2021 – from the refugee, displaced, returnee and non-displaced communities across Sudan. This is an increase of 1.5 million households compared to 2022 and the highest since 2011. Vulnerable residents are the largest population group – some 11.4 million people – accounting for 72 per cent of the overall number. There are also 2.5 million IDPs, 0.9 million refugees and 0.9 million returnees.

For 2023, the four most significant risks identified were conflict, disasters associated with natural hazards, disease outbreaks and economic deterioration. The crises' drivers and underlying root causes will continue to generate new and more severe humanitarian needs, while rendering vulnerable communities less resilient. Forced displacements and violence are likely to increase in 2023. Over the next few years, extreme climate events, such as floods and droughts, are expected to increase in frequency and severity and reoccur in areas that already faced similar shocks over the past years. The most vulnerable people will be unable to meet their basic needs, as commodity prices and costs for essential services



continue to rise. Disease outbreaks, such as malaria, are expected to be an acute and widespread risk for pregnant women. Those outbreaks will continue to create additional health needs, stretching the capacity of the available health-care system.

A new approach is needed in Sudan to address these recurrent, protracted and growing multidimensional needs, and to ensure greater aid effectiveness. This will be done by enabling efficiency in the response through synergies across the different aid streams and a greater emphasis on resilience-based activities to address humanitarian needs.

Response priorities in 2023

Considering the needs are multisectoral across Sudan, localities (second administrative level and affected population categories therein) with the highest intersectoral levels of severity are estimated as people in need. Within these categories, clusters target the most vulnerable people in need, with gender sensitivity, to the maximum of a cluster's collective capacity to deliver, and considering the humanitarian access constraints. The prioritization of the

most critical interventions further refines the planned response, taking full advantage of the cluster's detailed activity-level planning.

To focus interventions on more intersectoral planning, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan will aim to respond to the most immediate needs of **12.5 million** people. It will primarily focus on multisectoral life-saving assistance with an emphasis on the most acute humanitarian needs and people in the most life-threatening situations. It will also describe and cost the essential interventions that build the resilience of people in need to reduce their vulnerability and to ultimately reduce the number of people in need year on year.

The response aims to operationalize the centrality of protection across the humanitarian response through protection mainstreaming and accountability to affected populations.

In 2023, **US\$1.7 billion**¹⁴⁷ is required to support the core humanitarian response as part of a package of interventions that aim to support an effective combination of immediate humanitarian response and resilience-enabling activities towards reducing humanitarian needs over time, building synergies with complementary sustainable development activities in Sudan.

Ashat village, Tokar
locality, Sudan
Children and adults
at a water facility
that is open all day
and serves about
350 households.
UNICEF/Ahmed
Ammar

147. This is a provisional financial estimate





Kaya Stadium,
Burkina Faso
Sombewindé
Sawadogo and her
children were forced
to flee a massacre
in Yirgou, during
which four of her
family members
were killed. They
now live at a
reception site in
Burkina Faso's
Centre-Nord Region.
OCHA/Michele
Cattani

West and Central Africa

The West and Central Africa region is the epicentre of a fast-growing crisis with unprecedented levels of armed violence and insecurity. Millions of people are being driven to the fringes of survival due to the confluence of conflict, deep poverty, demographic pressures, urbanization, weak governance, chronically high food insecurity and malnutrition, and the impact of climate change.

The compounded impact on the most vulnerable people is devastating and causing persisting, fast-escalating needs. More than 64.5 million people in the region need assistance and protection in 2022, 4.5 million more people than in 2021. More than one person in 10 requires assistance and protection. It is predicted that about 5 million additional people will need assistance and protection, bringing the total to 69 million people in 2023

- due to considerable additional pockets of vulnerabilities and high incidences of extreme poverty across the whole region.

Violence and climate shocks are the main drivers of a dramatic food crisis, with over 75 million people (15 per cent of the region's total population) experiencing severe food insecurity. This year, the region's number of acutely food insecure people is the highest in the last eight years. It is predicted that north-east Nigeria and Burkina Faso, which are experiencing extreme hunger, will slip into famine if conditions worsen.

Conflicts in the region show no signs of abating, and they continue to take a heavy toll on civilians. Millions are caught between armed groups, intercommunal violence and military operations, and are forced to flee their homes to seek safety. Over 10 million people have been forcibly displaced internally or outside their country because of more security incidents, attacks and kidnappings than ever before.

Climate-related disasters are proliferating in the region, and extreme weather events this year are more significant and increasingly pushing vulnerable families deep into crisis. Floods, as well as severe droughts, have been recorded in several countries. Many regions affected by severe weather conditions have already been



struggling with high levels of food insecurity, malnutrition, instability and violence. In addition, floods impacted hygiene and sanitation and increased the incidence of waterborne diseases. In 2021, flooding affected 1.4 million people in 15 West and Central African countries. While the rainy season continues this year in many countries in Central Africa, floods have so far affected 5.8 million people in 20 countries. Many areas are recording excess rainfall, potentially indicating upcoming trends in extreme rainfall events in the coming years.

The region's crises are, first and foremost, protection crises, with a significant lack of access to basic services. Women and girls bear the brunt of the violence and are at heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence. Yet adequate resources to protect girls and young women remain limited. Insecurity and conflict continue to affect household incomes and disrupt access to protection, education, health, food, and WASH services. As these crises deepen, entire generations are affected. More than 12,400 schools are closed or non-operational due to violence, jeopardizing children's future but especially the future of girls, as they are most likely to be removed from school, married off or engage in negative coping mechanisms. Girls are the least likely to return to school after prolonged interruptions.

While needs are at an all-time high, reaching people in conflict-affected areas is an ongoing challenge due to rising criminality, kidnappings and military operations. Aid workers are increasingly at risk; in the region, they are increasingly threatened, kidnapped or killed, particularly national aid workers. Large parts of the region have become inaccessible to humanitarian agencies, leaving communities without access to life-saving assistance.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, millions of crisis-affected people in West and Central Africa will remain in a dire situation. The current inflationary spiral fueled by the war between Russia and Ukraine will continuously worsen the food security crisis in many countries in the region. It will continue to have

significant complications on food security given the high reliance on wheat imports from both countries, their roles in global food markets, and Russia's prominence in global energy and fertilizer trade. This is aggravating inflation in the region and exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities. The current socioeconomic conditions risk intensifying civil unrest and increasing the risks of hunger-related riots.

The region is increasingly becoming a ground for geopolitical struggle among great powers, leading to increased sociopolitical tensions in fragile and volatile contexts. These tensions could further deteriorate stability and exacerbate existing poverty and vulnerabilities.

Despite humanitarian needs in the region continuing to rise, humanitarian response funding remains inadequate, and the crisis is outpacing the response. Donors prioritizing other regions and shrinking funding will pose a significant challenge to the humanitarian response in 2023 in West and Central Africa.

Additionally, the ongoing crisis in the Central Sahel and violence and attacks by armed groups are potentially spilling over towards neighbouring coastal countries in the Gulf of Guinea. The security situation in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, bordering Burkina Faso, has significantly deteriorated in 2022. The situation risks deteriorating in the coming years due to the worsening of the conflict in Burkina Faso if no measures are taken to address insecurity.

In Central Africa, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon, the persistence of conflict and violence continues to worsen the humanitarian situation in several provinces and massively force people to displace to seek safety. In DRC, the resurgence of active armed groups in the east is significantly increasing displacement – about 5.7 million people are currently internally displaced in DRC. Since April 2021, accidents in CAR due to landmines and explosive ordnance have multiplied, particularly in the west, where the conflict has intensified and with civilians as the main victims. In Cameroon, the situation in the North-West and South-West regions remains volatile, and the number of attacks against civilians continues to rise.



Burkina Faso HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.7 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.1 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 866.8 million

Total population
22.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2013 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Burkina Faso continues to face the worst humanitarian crisis in its history, with one in four Burkinabè now in need of humanitarian assistance. The impact of the multidimensional crisis and political instability on the most vulnerable people has deepened over the past 12 months, including for some 840,000 people living in areas cut off from the rest of the country by non-State armed groups (NSAGs), whose access to basic commodities and services, fields and grazing areas and assistance is therefore increasingly limited. Some of these areas have crossed the emergency – and worse – thresholds for food and nutritional security, just when the harvest should normally have come. Furthermore, an estimated 1.7 million people in need live in areas where less than half of basic services¹⁴⁸ are available. A total of 1.6 million (95 per cent) of these people are targeted by the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

More than 1.76 million people¹⁴⁹ have been internally displaced – including more than 800,000 people newly displaced in the first 10 months of 2022, some for the second or third time, or even more. Many of these IDPs and their host communities depend heavily on humanitarian assistance.

From January to September 2022, serious security incidents rose by 43 per cent over the previous year. Concern is growing about the spillover effect into countries along the Gulf of Guinea; 55,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are in neighbouring countries. Burkina Faso continues to host some 29,000 refugees primarily from Sahel countries (Mali).

The cumulative impact of access restrictions, multiple displacements and increasingly protracted hosting in IDP-receiving areas is exacerbating vulnerability and the risk of intercommunal conflict due to pressure on limited natural resources. The shortfall in humanitarian financing has limited operations in 2022. By the end of October, the US\$805 million HRP had received only 35 per cent of funds, and many clusters' partners indicate that they could have done more if additional funding had been available.¹⁵⁰

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

For 2023, the humanitarian community has maintained its focus on directing humanitarian action towards the most vulnerable people in the hardest-to-reach areas. Thus, in addition to severity of needs, the HRP's targeting methodology takes access constraints into consideration, primarily populations' access to basic services and productive assets, as well as humanitarian partners' ability to reach affected populations. This approach presumes that development partners will continue – and even expand – support for basic service provision and livelihood protection in more accessible areas, despite the two coups d'état the country experienced in 2022. Explicitly identifying geographic and sectoral priorities for collaboration with development approaches, the HRP applies a strict targeting of humanitarian action to focus on life-saving activities. However, humanitarian partners emphasize that development action must be prioritized to support populations in more accessible areas, and they are committed to work with development partners to mitigate and manage risk for such investments.

148. Based on functional availability of six basic services: water, healthcare, education, electricity, mobile telephone coverage and functioning markets.

149. CONASUR as of 31 October 2022

150. Protection, shelter, site management, education and WASH were less than 15% funded as of 31 October 2022.



**Centre-Nord Region
of Burkina Faso**

Saouta Ousseni, 40, used to work as a farmer before having to flee his home in 2021, after two of his family members were killed. He now lives in a site for displaced people in Tiwega 1, Kaya. OCHA/Michele Cattani

In comparison to 2022, the scale and severity of humanitarian needs have increased. The number of communes showing phase 3+ levels of severity of needs increased from 172 in 2022 to 218 in 2023 (27 per cent). As a result, the total number of people who need humanitarian assistance stands at 4.65 million in 2023 – a 37 per cent increase from 2022 – while the number of people targeted by humanitarian partners is 3.14 million, which is a 5 per cent increase over the previous year target. Both figures reflect slight decreases from the people in need and target figures contained in the addendum to the 2022 HRP, accounted for by clusters’ capacity analysis, even as rising unit costs due to inflation and transport costs due to access constraints contribute to increasing the overall ask for 2023.

The situation in Burkina Faso remains highly volatile, and while some limited returns were reported in 2022, they have been partial and temporary in nature. At the same time, access worsened in 2022, with 30 per cent more areas facing severe access constraints by the end of September in comparison to January 2022. Overall, Burkina Faso is unlikely to see a major reduction in humanitarian needs in the coming year, requiring humanitarian donors and partners to do more to mobilize resources, protect and expand humanitarian space and acceptance, and reach larger numbers of people in need, wherever they are located.

Response priorities in 2023

Between January and September 2022, the humanitarian community reached an estimated 1.86 million people (49 per cent of the revised target) with multisectoral humanitarian assistance. According to the annual multisectoral needs assessment, 49 per cent of households said humanitarian assistance covered critical needs. Yet, while emergency support has contributed to mitigate the impact of the crisis, particularly in areas of lesser access challenges, rising morbidity and mortality of human and livestock populations in the areas most affected by insecurity is a growing concern.

For 2023, response priorities will focus on providing multisectoral life-saving assistance and protection, a context-specific minimum assistance package serving as the bar to measure reach. Some 80 per cent of people targeted, or 2.5 million people, will receive life-saving assistance (Strategic Objective 1). Additionally, the humanitarian community aims to provide support to 3.1 million people to improve access to basic social services, resilience and early recovery (Strategic Objectives 2 and 3).



Cameroon HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.7 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.8 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 413.6 million

Total population
28 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Nine out of 10 regions of Cameroon continue to be impacted by three complex humanitarian crises: the Lake Chad basin conflict, the North-West and South-West (NWSW) crisis and the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis. In 2023, one out of six people living in Cameroon needs humanitarian assistance and protection, a total of 4.7 million people. Around 3.6 million people are facing acute food insecurity, and more than 2 million people are on the move as internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees or refugees. Humanitarian needs are compounded by structural development weaknesses and chronic vulnerabilities that further challenge the long-term recovery of affected people. The severity and scope of humanitarian needs in Cameroon continue to grow due to the impact of conflict and insecurity, epidemics and climate-related effects, such as floods and droughts. The prolonged nature of these crises, new or repeated displacement, and insufficient humanitarian assistance are factors that contribute to the considerable erosion of the affected population’s already limited resilience, leading to an increase in negative coping mechanisms, including child labour, child marriage and survival sex.

In the **Far North region**, there are over 385,000 IDPs. Intercommunal clashes in August and December 2021 in Logone-Birni displaced over 70,000 people, including to Chad. Humanitarian assistance to these IDPs and returnees is severely limited due to a lack of resources. Furthermore, heavy flooding affected over 258,000 people from August to November 2022. Thousands of houses and hectares of farmland were destroyed and cattle lost, and affected populations were deprived of access to education and health-care facilities. The flooding also exacerbated the cholera epidemic in October 2022, leading to numerous deaths. As a result, acute food insecurity continued to increase in the region.

The crisis in the **NWSW regions** has displaced almost 715,000 people since 2017 within Cameroon and to Nigeria. Short-term, pendular movements because of fear of attacks, military operations or confrontations between armed groups persist, while thousands of people continue to suffer from human rights violations and abuses. Protection, drinking water, food, health and education are the most acute needs of the affected populations. Only 9 per cent of IDP children go to school, as educational facilities, staff and schoolchildren continue to be attacked.

Cameroon’s eastern regions are home to 335,000 refugees from CAR. Access to livelihoods, food, WASH services and education remains limited for these refugees and their host communities. The steadily increasing number of refugees continues to exert significant pressure on natural resources and basic social services in the host areas.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, 4.7 million people in Cameroon will need humanitarian assistance – a 17 per cent increase compared to 2022. Insecurity is expected to remain high in the Far North and NWSW regions in 2023 and will continue to cause population displacement, exacerbating limited access to food and other essential needs.

Tension between communities and the host population and displaced persons are likely to continue in 2023 in certain areas. This is due to the crises’ protracted nature leading to a steady decline in living standards; the impact of climate change further exacerbating the impact of natural disasters, especially flooding; and the conflict over natural resources.



Meanwhile, the political and security situation in neighbouring CAR, Chad and Nigeria is likely to lead to an increased number of people seeking refuge in Cameroon in 2023.

Insecurity will continue to render humanitarian access challenging in 2023, especially in the NWSW and Far North regions, with underfunding thought to remain the most important impediment to reaching people in need.

Igawa Meme, Far North, Cameroon
Saide and Mogogne both raise their children alone after their husbands died. Like many other single mothers, they support each other to make ends meet. OCHA/Ariane Maixandeu

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, humanitarian partners plan to reach 2.8 million people (57 per cent of the number of People in Need), requiring US\$413.6 million. Cameroon's response plan recognizes that each crisis requires its distinct approach. In the NWSW region, the protection of victims of violence, and emergency assistance in food, nutrition, health, WASH, shelter and education continue to be the priority in 2023. In the Littoral

and West regions, humanitarian stakeholders plan to increase response activities for IDPs and their host families in 2023 through the capacity-building of local actors. In the Far North, assistance to forcibly displaced people, especially newly displaced people, and the promotion of sustainable solutions through the implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace Nexus are the main priorities for 2023. In the East, Adamawa and North regions, the main objective continues to be reducing refugees' dependence on humanitarian aid and developing areas hosting refugees, while humanitarian assistance will continue to support the most vulnerable refugees and host communities.

The humanitarian community will further promote accountability to affected populations, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender- and age-sensitive programming, and it will foster the inclusion of persons living with disabilities and localization in 2023.





Central African Republic HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

3.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 465 million

Total population
6.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
8.5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2003 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The combined impact of shocks in 2021 and 2022 continued to severely affect people in the Central African Republic (CAR). Based on the Multi-Sectorial Needs Assessment (MSNA), 3.4 million people need protection and assistance in 2023, corresponding to 56 per cent of the population. Humanitarian needs are severe in all 72 sub-prefectures, 45 of which have reached the acute severity phase 4 on a scale of 5.¹⁵¹

As CAR is landlocked, it is particularly affected by the disruption of world markets related to the war in Ukraine, as most basic commodities and relief items are imported.

The prices of wheat, rice and vegetable oil increased up to 56 per cent on local markets. Fuel shortages in CAR and higher prices for relief items, such as Plumpy'nut, medicine and basic commodities, have severely impacted the costs of response operations. As a result, less people were reached in 2022 with the same amount of humanitarian funding. The increased costs of living also meant that thousands of households faced hard choices and did not seek medical care and other basic services, such as schooling, because of insufficient means.

During the first nine months of 2022, there was an 8 per cent increase in human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) compared to the entirety of 2021. Better coverage in the protection monitoring system has helped detect more cases of gender-based violence. However, due to insufficient funding and access constraints, only 24 per cent of survivors received timely medical assistance. 505,000 people were internally displaced, and 744,000 CAR refugees were registered in neighbouring countries (as of

31 October 2022). Compared to 2021, the number of newly displaced people increased in 2022, while the number of returnees decreased.

The Central African Armed Forces supported by other security personnel solidified their control of major urban centres in 2022. However, in rural areas, armed groups continued engaging in robberies, lootings, illegal taxations and property extortions. Armed groups and Government armed forces are involved in violent incidents committed against civilians. New displacements occurred in areas where clashes took place, while return movements of displaced people remained timid and centred around urban areas. In rural areas, the presence of armed groups has severely limited access to agricultural land, with dramatic consequences on the population in a country where 80 per cent of people derive their livelihood from farming. Consequently, food insecurity and malnutrition remained concerning. About 2.7 million people need immediate food assistance. If no assistance is provided, the situation risks deteriorating during the lean season (April to August 2023), with approximately 3 million people requiring immediate food assistance in 2023.

In 2022, the number of people affected by floods more than tripled, compared to 2021. This trend will likely continue because of climate change. Floods affected 35,390 people in 2021 and 104,000 people in 2022.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Under the condition that armed groups and opposition leaders re-engage in the national dialogue, it could be possible that more IDPs will return to their areas of origin. However, as local elections are scheduled for 2023, further

151. On a severity scale from 1 to 5, 1 being the lowest.



Birao, Central African Republic
A woman washes a cooking pan at a camp for displaced people. OCHA/
Virginie Bero

instability could occur, and the more-likely scenario is that new displacements as well as human rights abuses and IHL violations will continue at the same level as in 2022.

Should commodity prices and transport costs continue to rise, it is likely that more people will become food insecure, leading to increased negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex, child marriages, school dropouts and enrolments in armed groups. In a context where illiteracy affects 64 per cent of people aged 15 to 24, hundreds of thousands more youths will face a bleak future.

Response priorities in 2023

Against the backdrop of the global political and economic outlook for 2023 – which makes more funding for CAR unlikely, despite the increased number of people who need assistance – humanitarian partners in CAR went through a very rigorous targeting exercise.

Consequently, 2.4 million of the most vulnerable people affected by multiple crises will be prioritized for assistance. Overall, 1.8 million people will receive multisectoral assistance, benefiting from in-kind or cash assistance, protection and access to basic services.

Based on existing feedback mechanisms, the humanitarian response will be even more tailored to what people express as their needs and preferences, as in the past. Furthermore, through a focus on localization, 155,000 people in hard-to-reach areas will receive humanitarian assistance, and local organizations will play an even more important role.

To maximize the impact of the support to affected communities and to reduce the number of people in need, humanitarian and development organizations will continue working together on localization, durable solutions, social cohesion, underlying causes of malnutrition, food insecurity and exposure to natural hazards triggered by climate change.



Chad HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

6.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 570 million

Total population
18 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7.9 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2004 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The protracted humanitarian crisis in Chad is becoming more entrenched due to growing food insecurity and malnutrition in some parts of the country; forced displacement; the effects of climate change; and political, socioeconomic, health and sanitation challenges. The combined effects of conflict, health emergencies and climate change affected an estimated 6.7 million people in 2022.

Food insecurity affects 6.1 million people, of whom 2.1 million are in the severe phase (phase 3 and above in the Cadre Harmonisé). The situation is deteriorating, and Chad is experiencing a third consecutive year of severe food insecurity and its worst lean season in the last 10 years. This situation is the result of a 9.09 per cent drop in cereal production for the 2021/2022 harvest compared with the previous year, and a 9.14 per cent drop compared to the average of the last five years. The situation is more worrying in the western Sahel provinces (Bahar-EI-Ghazel, Hadjer Lamis, Kanem and Lac), where the decline reached 46 per cent compared to 2020/2021 and 21.7 per cent compared to the average of the last five years. This situation leads to depleted food stocks and to price increases of basic necessities by 30 to 40 per cent. The situation is exacerbated by the effects of the crisis in Ukraine and the prolonged effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which increase the population's vulnerability.

Malnutrition in children aged 0-59 months remains a concern in Chad, with a prevalence of 10.9 per cent of global acute malnutrition (GAM) and 2 per cent of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The situation is especially alarming in 16 of the 23 provinces that have exceeded the 10 per cent threshold of concern, and in 7 provinces that have surpassed the 15 per cent emergency threshold for GAM set by the World Health Organization. The

high prevalence of malnutrition is a major contributor to the critical under-five mortality rate, which reached 2 persons/10,000 inhabitants/day in two provinces. Acute malnutrition affects 2 million children under age 5, including 380,000 children affected by SAM, 1.4 million affected by moderate acute malnutrition, and 248,000 pregnant and lactating women. Malnutrition is the result of several factors, including food insecurity, childhood diseases, conflict, prolonged displacement, and poor access to basic services such as health care, clean water and education.

On the security front, Chad continues to be affected by insecurity resulting from the insurgency of armed groups and by the fragile security situation in neighbouring countries: one million people are forcibly displaced. Chad hosts more than 573,762 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR), Nigeria and Cameroon, who depend primarily on humanitarian assistance. Attacks by armed groups in the Lake Chad basin and clashes between non-State armed groups (NSAGs) and the Chadian Army resulted in the cumulative displacement of 425,864 people, including 381,289 IDPs, 20,674 IDPs returned to their places of origin, and 101,551 Chadians who had lived for several years in neighbouring countries (Cameroon, CAR, Niger and Nigeria) but were forced to flee their places of residence in those countries to return to Chad. Expulsions of Chadian nationals from Libya to Ennedi West Province continued, with 1,899 expelled, including 209 in 2022.

In northern Chad, conflicts around gold mining areas on 23 and 24 May in Borkou Province caused 100 deaths and displaced many people, including 3,800 gold miners. Overall, the number of people forced to move around the country due to insecurity has reached an unprecedented level, with more than 1 million refugees, IDPs and returnees.



**Refugee camp
on the Sudanese
border, Chad**

This camp hosts more than 25,000 Sudanese refugees. Most of them settled there almost 20 years ago when the conflict started in the country's Darfur region. Others are fleeing the violence that began in recent years. UNHCR/ Xavier Bourgois

In Chad, nearly 2 million people are affected by health emergencies marked by recurrent diseases such as measles, malaria, leishmaniasis and polio. The most vulnerable among them are children under age 5, pregnant and nursing women, the disabled and the elderly. Chad remains exposed to cholera from endemic areas in neighbouring countries such as Cameroon and Nigeria.

In the face of these crises, women and girls are particularly vulnerable because of harmful social norms and cultural practices that contribute to barriers to accessing basic social services (health, education, protection, household economy) and to increasing cases of gender-based violence (GBV).

The humanitarian situation in Chad remains marked by acute and growing needs in a context of underfunding. At the end of October, 40 per cent of the funds required in 2022 had been mobilized. However, despite the lack of resources, humanitarian partners, in coordination with Government officials, managed to provide emergency assistance to 2 million people out of a target of 3.9 million comprising food, nutritional inputs, shelter, protection, health care, education, and water, hygiene and sanitation. Better funding would reduce the high vulnerability of crisis-affected people and promote proactive actions to increase their resiliency to shocks.

Chad experienced abundant rainfall in 2022. This led to major natural disasters marked by rain and river flooding, which affected 1.2 million

people in 18 of the country's 23 provinces. This situation increases the vulnerabilities of populations already affected by other crises in a context of underdevelopment: 465,000 hectares of crops were destroyed, which will have a negative impact on agricultural production. The destruction of health structures and nutritional units has impacted access to primary health care and nutritional services. This situation also affects the education sector: rainwater destroyed 1,225 schools, causing 345,841 children to miss out on their education (including 202,658 girls and 143,183 boys).

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Humanitarian crises in Chad are perpetuated by interconnected situations of forced population displacement, food insecurity and malnutrition, health emergencies and the consequences of climate change.

The effects of climate change, including flooding and drought, continue to increase the population's vulnerability. People affected by the current floods will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance and livelihood support. Floods return every year on a cyclical basis and could still affect the population in 2023. The need to restore the functionality of destroyed health centres and schools and ensure access to basic social services, including access to drinking water and sanitation, will remain a major challenge. Regarding education, the high illiteracy rate (78 per cent, including 89 per cent among women; the schooling rate is 49.1 per cent) contributes to the exacerbation of intercommunal tensions.

The security context will continue to be affected by the dynamics of the political transition and intercommunal conflicts, armed conflicts and the security situation in neighbouring countries. The presence of NSAGs in the Lake Chad basin and the military operations against these groups are likely to perpetuate the current situation of forced displacement and cause new displacements on the Lake, as well as the arrival of refugees from Nigeria. Nearly 1 million people will be at risk of protection incidents, including 250,000 people who need protection from GBV; 250,000 children, including displaced



and unaccompanied children and separated children; and 200,000 people with other special needs, flood victims, and victims of intercommunal conflict.

Continued armed conflict in northern CAR affects the potential return of 124,509 Central African refugees in southern Chad, and it remains a factor of insecurity that could result in additional Central African refugees and Chadian returnees during the year. In addition, security instability in Libya will result in new waves of returnees to northern Chad. However, political developments in Sudan could lead to the gradual return of Sudanese refugees from eastern Chad if conditions for safe and dignified return are guaranteed. Intercommunal conflicts, particularly conflicts between farmers and herders, remain major factors of insecurity that could cause loss of life and property in the east, west, around N'Djamena, and in the south. Approximately 40,000 Cameroonian refugees who escaped intercommunal conflict in the far north of Cameroon remain displaced and dependent on humanitarian assistance in Chari Baguirmi Province and in the city of N'Djamena until living conditions and security are established in the area.

The food insecurity and malnutrition crisis that the Government declared in June 2022 could increase further with the significant destruction of food stocks, sown fields, livestock and livelihoods due to the flooding. Access to basic social services, particularly health services and education, will remain difficult, especially with the lack of adequate health-care services; the persistence of epidemics such as measles, leishmaniasis, meningitis and malaria; the inadequacy of school infrastructure; and the lack of qualified teachers.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, the humanitarian response will continue to be guided by three strategic objectives defined by the Humanitarian Country Team and aligned with development planning. The humanitarian response will aim to save and preserve life and dignity through integrated, coordinated and complementary multisectoral emergency assistance; reduce vulnerability by building resilience and resistance to recurrent shocks; and contribute to the protection of the most vulnerable populations, particularly children, girls and women, the elderly, and people living with disabilities, and to strengthen accountability to affected populations.

The priority approach of the response will promote an integrated multisectoral approach through defined multisectoral strategies (WASH in NUTRITION, WASH in SCHOOL, WASH in HEALTH), including for refugees, and it

will reinforce the complementarity between humanitarian, development and peace actions to contribute to the achievement of collective results. This approach will also devote particular attention to the centrality of protection, gender and accountability. Community-based approaches to assistance and localization will be strengthened for the sustainability of interventions. In this context, strengthening Government leadership and finding durable solutions for people in situations of forced displacement (IDPs, returnees and refugees) will be a priority.

Planning will be based, among other things, on the specific vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys, the elderly and the disabled in order to prevent and respond to the various protection risks, including GBV. It will integrate protection concerns and address the humanitarian impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The centrality of protection, gender and accountability to affected populations will be reinforced through community-based approaches and disaggregation of data to prevent protection risks and ensure the respect of basic human rights, taking into account the situation of people with specific needs. Emergency preparedness, response and risk reduction measures remain vitally important to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of climate change. The use of cash-transfer modalities, based on a feasibility and market accessibility study, will be further strengthened. Measures to prevent the sexual abuse and exploitation of beneficiaries will be strengthened through sensitizing humanitarian staff and beneficiaries alike and implementing monitoring and complaint management mechanisms.

In 2023, the humanitarian community estimates that **6.9 million** people will need humanitarian assistance out of Chad's population of 18 million. This population is estimated based on last year's projected needs, with the addition of a growing estimate of people affected by flooding. The calculation takes into account people affected by severe food insecurity and people under food pressure in crisis zones (phase 2 of the March 2022 Cadre Harmonisé for the projected period from June to September), the consequences of flood-related natural disasters in 2022, and updated data on people in forced displacement situations. Data from the Cadre Harmonisé, population movements, and the number of malnourished children and flood victims are used to calculate the number of people in need because of their geographical importance and to avoid double counting.

The humanitarian response will target **4.5 million people**, with an estimated funding requirement of **US\$570 million**. This funding is an increase from the Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 (\$510.9 million) due to the increased target caused by flood-related natural disasters.



Democratic Republic of the Congo

HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

26.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

10 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.3 billion

Total population
95.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7.6 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1999 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) context remains illustrated by worrying humanitarian trends. Across the country, **26.4 million people – or one Congolese out of four – are severely food insecure**, despite the impressive agricultural potential of the land. **Acute malnutrition hit 6.4 million people**, mainly children under age 5, a number that has not decreased over the past 20 years. **Armed conflicts and gross human rights violations**, including **sexual violence** and grave violations against children, continue to push millions of people to seek safety and security away from their home: **5.7 million people are internally displaced**, the highest number on the African continent. **Severe yet preventable epidemics, such as measles, yellow fever, cholera and malaria, take a significant human toll every year** due to poor infrastructure, constraints to health access and a low vaccination coverage, impacting children’s development and their life expectancy at birth. Every hour in DRC, four women die during labour or from pregnancy-related conditions.¹⁵² DRC ranks among the countries with the **highest rate of infant mortality**: 70 out of 1,000 living births.¹⁵³ In 2022, DRC still ranks among the countries with one of the **lowest human development across the world** (179 out of 191), with a scoring even lower than in 2020. Sixty million (out of 109 million) Congolese live in **extreme poverty**.

The situation has not improved in 2022. On the contrary, the security situation that fuels the humanitarian crisis and lasting needs has further deteriorated with the **resurgence of armed conflicts in the east** and the **emergence of new crises in areas previously spared by violence**. North-Kivu Province has triggered international

attention, as the M23 (an armed group that signed a Peace Agreement with DRC in 2013) resumed its attacks and occupied several localities, forcing 271,000 people to flee to safer areas in DRC, and across the Ugandan border. In the north-east, violence has spread across Ituri Province, as armed groups have expanded their presence across all territories and perpetrated dozens of attacks against civilians, including those living in IDP settlements. The use of improvised explosive devices increased in 2022, with dozens of civilian casualties. Pockets of insecurity remain in hard-to-reach areas across South-Kivu and Tanganyika Provinces, triggering constant population displacements and large-scale violations of human rights. Close to the capital, Kinshasa, intercommunal violence erupted by mid-2022 in Mai-Ndombe Province, causing 55,000 people to flee and seek safety, including across the shore in neighbouring Republic of Congo.

Weak health-and-sanitation infrastructures, a low vaccination coverage and acute malnutrition **continue to trigger epidemics**, with a severe impact on the life expectancy of children under age 5. As of 23 October, 12,066 cases of **cholera** and 123,301 cases of **measles** were confirmed, with 218 and 1,490 deaths recorded, respectively. There were also recorded cases of contamination and deaths relating to other epidemics, such as **bubonic plague**, in areas where they are endemic. During the year, humanitarian actors supported the Government to successfully fight two **Ebola outbreaks**, one in the western province of Equateur (five deaths) and one in the eastern province of North-Kivu (one death). At least **181 security incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or assets** were reported from January to August 2022. Nineteen humanitarian workers were abducted, 19 were injured and 4 lost their lives while

152. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 18 October 2022 : Democratic Republic of the Congo : Acute Food Insecurity Situation July – December 2022 and Projection for January – June 2023, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155972?iso3=COD>

153. UNFPA, 17 septembre 2021: <https://drc.unfpa.org/fr/news/unfpa-engag%C3%A9-%C3%A0-sauver-des-vies-de-femmes-et-nouveau-n%C3%A9s-en-rdc#:~:text=En%20R%C3%A9publique%20D%C3%A9mocratique%20du%20Congo,des%20complications%20de%20la%20naissance>



**Nord-Kivu,
Democratic
Republic of the
Congo**
Many people
fled violence in
Rutshuru, taking
refuge in places
including schools
and churches and
with host families.
OCHA/Endurance
Lum Nji

providing assistance to people in need. These numbers show no improvements in the situation compared to the same reporting period for 2021 (19 humanitarian workers abducted, 19 injured, 5 lost their lives).

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The humanitarian response in DRC is one of the longest running on the continent. Until a solution to the conflict is identified, **humanitarian needs are likely to continue to increase**, with insufficient levels of funding to assist all those in need. The East African Community is expected to deploy troops to support the Congolese armed forces in stabilizing the east of the country. The Government of DRC has entered into talks with most armed groups to push for an efficient demobilization process, but some armed groups are still **actively fighting and unlikely to be persuaded to sign a peace agreement** in the near future. Intensified attacks against civilians by armed groups, or civilian casualties during crossfire, may trigger **further large-scale displacements in areas where welcoming capacities are already saturated**. A large majority of displaced people are women and children. They face **specific protection risks**,

such as sexual violence or forced recruitment, in the locality where they shelter or as they flee violence.

In 2023, presidential, legislative and local elections are planned to take place. There are major concerns as to whether elections can take place peacefully, or if they will likely trigger renewed tensions and conflicts.

Natural disasters will likely continue across the country and negatively impact the humanitarian situation. There is a strong need to identify durable solutions to cyclical events to increase the affected population's resilience and strengthen their ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters. **Floods, crop destruction, earthquakes or volcanic eruptions** remain among the high risks that can exacerbate the population's vulnerability, especially in conflict-affected zones.

The management of the last two Ebola epidemics was efficient in limiting the human death toll and the contamination rate. However, it is **likely that measles, cholera, malaria, another outbreak of Ebola, and outbreaks of diseases such as bubonic plague or monkeypox will continue to break out across the country**. This is particularly true as massive displacements in short periods of time force IDPs and host communities



to share overcrowded spaces, with insufficient access to water and sanitation facilities. In hard-to-reach and remote areas, the **vaccination coverage rate remains largely insufficient** to eradicate these diseases that are contributing to drastically reducing the life expectancy of Congolese children. **Widespread malnutrition among children and pregnant and lactating women**, fostered by extreme poverty and deprivation, will continue to further expose children under age 5 to these epidemics, putting their lives at risk. **A large percentage of the population will remain food insecure** due to widespread poverty, conflict and displacement, low agricultural production, high food prices and the lack of basic infrastructure. However, the latest IPC analyses report that a slight decrease in acute food insecurity is projected during the first half of 2023, with 24.5 million people likely to be in IPC Phase 3, crisis or higher.¹⁵⁴

Response priorities in 2023

By the end of 2022, the humanitarian community in DRC expects to have reached 6.24 million people, or **71 per cent of the initial target**. This is lower than the amount of people reached in 2021 (6.6 million people). As of October 2022, US\$703.7 million has been received, which represents **37 per cent of the required funding to address the needs of the targeted population affected by the humanitarian crisis in 2022**. Since 2016, the DRC Humanitarian Response Plan has been **systematically underfunded**, covering less than half of the targeted population. While funding levels have not necessarily decreased, **needs have skyrocketed in the past years**, from 7 million people in need in 2015, to 13 million in 2018, to 27 million in 2022. As violent conflicts persist, and as natural disasters continue to strike, the number of people in need will likely continue to rise over the years. In 2023, of the 26 million people in need, the humanitarian community will aim to assist **10 million people across the country**, using the same prioritization criteria as in 2022, with an estimated financial requirement of **\$2.25 billion – the highest amount requested in the past 20 years**. The number of people in need reflects the number of acutely food insecure people across DRC, which

is slightly lower than last year. However, **the funding requirement increased due to the price increases of fuel and commodities worldwide**. In DRC, the cost of reaching vulnerable people who need humanitarian assistance in poorly connected areas has largely increased due to a stark increase in fuel prices. The prices of food and commodities on local market have rocketed, especially those of imported products. The response strategy will continue to focus on addressing the **consequences of the five humanitarian impacts** that define the intersectoral severity analysis: population movements, food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and protection incidents.

While key figures remain annual, the strategic framework of the response will be reconducted in 2023 to enable humanitarian **actors to increase their collaboration with non-humanitarian actors so that collective efforts are made to address structural needs across DRC**.

In 2023, the Humanitarian Country Team will focus on **ensuring the quality of the humanitarian assistance delivered, further advancing accountability and community engagement**. The strategic objectives of the response, focused on responding to urgent needs and improving living conditions, have been revised in order to **emphasize the quality and timeliness of the response** in light of the **specific needs** encountered by all groups of people affected by the humanitarian crisis. Strategic indicators were added to assess **beneficiaries' satisfaction** regarding the assistance received, **their level of trust and confidence in humanitarian actors**, and their **knowledge and use of feedback mechanisms, restating that all responses should be tailored to ensure the people we serve are at the centre of all actions**. Another set of indicators has been added to measure humanitarian actors' capacities **to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, to identify, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, to mainstream protection, and to ensure that assistance is gender and age sensitive**. The response strategy also focuses on advancing the **localization agenda** by putting national and local organizations and associations at the heart of the response strategy, and supporting their capacities to develop and implement tailored programmes to respond to people's needs.

154. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, 18 October 2022 : Democratic Republic of the Congo : Acute Food Insecurity Situation July – December 2022 and Projection for January – June 2023, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155972?iso3=COD>



Mali HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

6.2 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 868.2 million

Total population
21.5 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
6.9 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2012 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Mali’s multidimensional crisis fuelled by insecurity, conflicts, climate change and lack of access to basic social services is causing dire humanitarian needs. The economic sanctions imposed by the Economic Community of West African States in the first half of 2022 worsened the existing living conditions and reduced the State’s investment required for a return of State authorities and the provision of social services in conflict-affected areas.

An increase in the number of attacks, armed groups’ blockades of villages, restrictions on civilians’ freedom of movement, and denial to basic social services and livelihoods is reported. The insecurity is compounded by the extension of the armed actors’ areas of influence, the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and military operations. This resulted in the shrinking of humanitarian space and restricted humanitarian operations. Control over the mining and illicit trafficking routes is a main driver of the increased conflict between armed actors in the north, west and south-eastern border regions as well as the conflict in Burkina Faso.

The growing insecurity triggered the displacement of more than 440,436¹⁵⁵ IDPs, mostly children (63 per cent) and women (54 per cent), exceeding the peak of 350,000 IDPs in June 2013. In addition, Mali hosts 57,444 refugees from neighbouring countries, and 182,107 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries.

As of September 2022, protection actors reported 6,852 protection incidents compared to 5,124 cases registered during the same period in 2021. Other reports confirmed

the deteriorating protection situation, with more than 800 serious children’s-rights violations (787 incidents in 2021) and 9,908 gender-based violence (GBV) incidents (5,486 cases in 2021), while identifying 1,929 unaccompanied or separated children, including 681 girls. Civilians remain highly affected by IEDs, as they comprise 40 per cent of the casualties compared to 28 per cent in 2021.

Food insecurity remains worrisome, with 1.8 million Malians (10 per cent of the population) in need of food assistance during the lean season. According to the IPC (Integrated food security Phase Classification) analysis, 32 out of 51 circles¹⁵⁶ are in severity phase 3, and one circle (Tidermène; Ménaka region) is in critical phase 4.

Malnutrition levels are alarming across the country, with a global acute malnutrition prevalence of 10.8 per cent and a severe acute malnutrition prevalence of 2.1 per cent in 2022.

Moreover, more than 1,950 schools (23 per cent) in Mali are closed due to insecurity or used as shelters, affecting more than 587,000 children, mainly in Ménaka and Mopti regions.

Despite limited funding and access constraints, humanitarian actors reached 2.5 million people by September, and they project reaching 3.2 million people by the year’s end. The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requested US\$686 million to assist 5.3 million people. As of 2 November 2022, 31 per cent of the funds required (\$210.6 million) was received.

155. Mali CMP Figures as of 30 September 2022

156. Circles are the second-level administrative unit level



Mopti, Mali
A child in an IDP camp receives a vaccination at a mobile clinic. Save the Children/El Hadj Touré

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, violent clashes between armed actors will increase across the north and centre of the country, exacerbating humanitarian needs. Increased security incidents are anticipated, particularly IEDs on main roads in the south-east Koutiala – Sikasso regions near the Burkina Faso border. Limited humanitarian access will likely impact humanitarian operations and the return of IDPs, State authorities and social services.

Food insecurity will continue to be of concern. According to the IPC analysis, 30 circles will likely experience the IPC 3 scenario, while six circles fall into IPC 4 (Anderaboukane, Ansongo, Diema, Gao, Niore and Tidermène). Other sectors, such as education, WASH, protection, health and shelter, will follow this trend.

The compounded effect of the 2022 economic sanctions and global inflation will continue to increase the prices of basic household items, such as millet and sorghum. Price increases of over 100 per cent in the last year¹⁵⁷ will further exacerbate vulnerabilities.

With chronic underfunding and unmet needs, there is a risk of widespread use of harmful coping or survival mechanisms, with children, girls and people with disabilities being the primary victims in 2023.

In 2023, 9 million out of 16 million crisis-affected people will need immediate humanitarian assistance, compared to 7.5

million in 2022, a 20 per cent increase. IDPs, host communities, returnees and refugees remain the targeted groups. The specific needs of the elderly with chronic diseases, children, people with disabilities, and pregnant and lactating women are prioritized subgroups.

Response priorities in 2023

In 2023, the humanitarian programme targeting will be based on people’s vulnerability (70 per cent) and people’s status as IDPs, refugees and returnees, and use activity-based costing to improve the HRP’s transparency and governance. Furthermore, opportunities for synergies with the Government’s action plans, CREDD+, stabilization of the central regional strategy, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework have been identified in line with these three strategic objectives:

- Save and preserve lives and dignity of people with critical needs in crisis areas.
- Ensure minimal and equitable population access to basic social services and living conditions.
- Strengthen the emergency preparedness of vulnerable households affected by shocks in crisis areas.

Intersectoral and multisectoral interventions, such as sexual, reproductive and mental health; food assistance; livelihoods support; health and nutritional emergencies management; GBV response and protection activities, will be implemented through cross-cutting approaches such as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, accountability, including complaints mechanisms, people with disabilities, gender, cash, localization, environment and centrality of protection.

The HRP 2023 requires **\$868 million** to meet the growing life-saving needs and deteriorating living conditions of 6.2 million targeted people. This is an increase of 17 per cent compared to 2022.

157. Observatoire du Suivi des Marchés Agricoles (OMA),



Niger HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 660 million

Total population
26.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
7.5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2011 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Niger continues to face multiple complex humanitarian needs related to escalating conflict-related violence and socioeconomic challenges. The number of people in need has almost doubled, from 1.9 million in 2017 to 3.7 million in 2022. Violence related to the activities of armed groups in the country (in border areas) and surrounding countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria) continues to be the main cause of internal displacement and influx of refugee requiring protection, and of stress on access to essential social services. The effects of climate change are exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition among the local population in a context of high poverty and low levels of socioeconomic development in some areas. In addition, the effects of climate change (seasonal floods, pockets of drought), the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of the war in Ukraine have exacerbated vulnerabilities and led to increased humanitarian needs.

2022 was marked by the deterioration of the security situation in new departments in the regions of Diffa (N’guigmi), Tahoua (Bagaroua and Madaoua) and Tillabéri (Torodi, Say and Kollo). The numbers of IDPs and refugees have increased by 42.6 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, compared to last year. As of 30 September, the Government has reported 376,000 IDPs and 253,000 refugees. During the same period, the Protection Cluster recorded 2,805 protection incidents compared with 3,614 throughout 2021. This number could be reached by the year’s end, given the security situation. The number of cases of child rights violations has increased by 25 per cent compared to the same period in 2021 (from 430 to 537). Due to insecurity, 890 schools remained closed (817 of which were in Tillabéri), which is a 36 per cent increase compared to 2021.

Due to rainfall deficits in 2021, agricultural yields were very low. The Cadre Harmonisé of March 2022 estimated 4.4 million people were food insecure (phases 3 and 4) during the lean season (March–June 2022). An estimated 2.4 million people required nutritional assistance.

Regarding floods, the Government reported more than 327,000 people affected (as of 23 October), including 195 deaths. This is more than double the number of deaths recorded in 2020.

A cholera epidemic was declared in the Maradi and Zinder regions in August. As of 25 October, there were 68 reported cases of cholera, including 2 deaths.

Niger experienced a slight outbreak of COVID-19 in August. As of October 29, the country has recorded 9,428 positive cases, including 314 deaths.

More funding would ensure that no one is left behind, and that assistance in other sectors is improved. It would also allow for more resilient actions to reverse the trend of increasing humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, it is estimated that 4.2 million people will be in need in Niger. The estimated figure was derived from a thorough analysis of a multisector needs assessment conducted in June 2022, area assessment data (e.g. Cadre Harmonisé and SMART survey) and shock-prone risk analyses. The estimated figure is a provisional number awaiting the update of the findings of the Nutrition SMART survey in November 2022. The identified needs are multisectoral, and their degree of severity varies across departments and the affected groups of IDPs, refugees,



returnees and host communities. Despite the rains, the number of food insecure people and malnourished children is expected to remain high. Diffa, Tahoua and Tillaberi will remain the most affected even if the situation continues to deteriorate in Maradi. Populations whose livelihoods depend on agriculture will be the most affected. Due to a lack of investment in and reduced funding for the prevention of disaster risk reduction strategies, the number of people and areas affected by flooding will continue to increase.

The humanitarian community projects that 2.3 million people will be targeted to receive multisectoral assistance in 2023. The response targets vulnerable groups in acute need, factoring in their preferences and priorities, access constraints, response modalities, the severity of needs, the gender dimension and the clusters' operational capacity to deliver.

The contribution to durable solutions for IDPs should be explored as part of the nexus strategy, particularly in non-active conflict areas. In alignment with the UN Capital Development Fund, the humanitarian community has developed a three-year strategy. Thus, a coordinated approach between humanitarian, development and peace actors will ensure that areas of high vulnerability are addressed collectively through the sequencing and layering of interventions to reduce the needs of identified individuals. A capacity-building effort for local actors will allow for better integration of localization.

Response priorities in 2023

As of 30 September, 2.8 million people¹⁵⁸ (124 per cent of the target) have received food assistance, and 247,430 people (29 per cent of the target) have received WASH assistance. Lack of access and insufficient resources are still the main causes for not reaching more people, especially in hard-to-reach areas where humanitarian needs are acute.

Niamey, Niger

Amina lost her home and all her belongings to floods. She said: "We are living in a tent, worried every time we hear the rain coming." OCHA/Michele Cattani

158. Niger Humanitarian dashboard Q3 2022





Nigeria HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

8.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

5.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.2 billion

Total population
216.7 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
6.4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2023

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

The humanitarian crisis in the north-east Nigerian states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe is continuing at scale after 13 years. There has been no reprieve in the severity of the crisis or in the deterioration of the living conditions of people impacted by the crisis; they continue to face significant uncertainty, as well as deprivation well above pre-existing poverty levels and no access to basic service. People are also exposed to daily threats to their health and safety. Some local government areas (LGAs) have crude mortality rates that are higher than the rates during the height of the war. The mass exodus in 2022 of thousands of people from areas controlled by non-State armed groups (NSAGs) included thousands of fighters and their families. Despite this, violence continues unabated. Peace or security across most conflict-affected zones seems a distant prospect, especially in Borno State, as attacks by NSAGs continue at scale.

Protection needs are endemic, especially for women and girls, who are threatened by violence, abduction, rape and other types of gender-based violence, including forced and child marriage, and other violations of their rights. Children are also at risk of forced recruitment when unaccompanied and separated from their families, especially when they were formerly associated with armed groups. Women and girls still lack adequate protection, access to basic services, livelihoods, as well as access to justice and meaningful participation in decision-making processes.

The operating environment remains highly volatile: in Borno State, all the main supply routes are unsafe for civilians, aid workers and cargo. Over the past few years, some regions in Adamawa and Yobe have seen significant improvements in security. However, aid organizations continue to face significant security threats.

Conflict and insecurity continue to cut people off from their main means of livelihood, namely agricultural lands. This is one of the major causes of food insecurity in north-east Nigeria. Females are at greater risk of having to resort to harmful coping mechanisms, such as survival sex, to get food or to meet other critical needs. Males in desperation are more easily lured into NSAGs.

Humanitarian funding for Nigeria has declined steadily since its peak in 2017, except for last year. The Humanitarian Country Team’s two-year humanitarian strategy 2022 -2023 is making the most of limited resources and capacity. It will also ensure that the humanitarian community does so collectively – that humanitarian action in the north-east is more than the sum of its parts. The strategy’s coherence, improved targeting based on vulnerability, and improved prioritization aim to mitigate expected funding shortfalls.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The comprehensive multi-risk assessment, combined with the multi-sectoral needs assessment in August 2023, projects a slight decrease in the 2023 people in need figure (8.3 million). This is a 1 per cent decrease compared to last year (8.4 million). Needs are multisectoral, and they vary in severity across geographic areas and among the three affected groups comprising IDPs (who still number over 2.2 million people), returnees and host communities. The analysis shows that some 268,000 people are categorized as being in the worst or “catastrophic” category. This is more than double last year’s number, indicating that humanitarian needs are deepening.

In addition to a considerable number of people in need being in a catastrophic situation in two LGAs in Borno, some 3.1 million people are in a ‘extreme’ (severity



score 4) situation across 17 LGAs, and some 2.1 million people are in a 'severe' situation. Nineteen LGAs have a severity score of 3, 22 have a severity score of 2 ('severe') and 5 are 'minimal'. Regarding access, some 24 per cent of all wards (the lowest administrative level) are considered extremely hard to reach, primarily in Borno State.

Since funding may barely suffice for the critical life-saving actions alone, this strategy is one of prioritization. Based on the intersectoral analysis of severity of needs, life-saving actions will focus on the areas and vulnerable populations in the most severe humanitarian situation, as well as specific life-saving sectors. The sectors will collaborate to address challenges that require coordinated or joined-up actions (e.g. addressing malnutrition). As a secondary priority, actions will seek to address the critical causes of risk to life and health. The aim is also to strengthen area-based, intersectoral approaches to coordination, planning, implementation and advocacy.

The third priority is to help people move out of crisis and extreme situations, i.e. address their vulnerability. This includes efforts to improve resilience and find displacement solutions. Efforts will be made to improve resilience through improved and diversified livelihoods. Opportunities will be sought in safe and secure areas to allow Government, humanitarian and development actors to create the conditions for safe and dignified return or relocation. Resettlement in safe third locations will be possible for some people. Integration in communities around the displacement sites is likely to be a larger-scale option in the immediate term. Nexus action and opportunities are highly circumscribed: the rampant insecurity leaves little room for development initiatives, though Adamawa and Yobe States may offer more scope for such activities.

For the majority of people, with no feasible durable solution yet, progressing out of crisis consists of greater resilience, mainly in livelihoods. There is no reason that displaced people should remain unemployed and dependent on humanitarian aid for years while durable solutions are possible through supportive services. Not all of these solutions are amenable to humanitarian action, but programmes under this strategy will emphasize those actions that bring higher resilience and independence to displaced people.



Maiduguri , Nigeria
Thirty-year-old
Ummi Umar, a mother of 5, left her hometown in Gubio four years ago due to violence. OCHA/
Damilola Onafuwa

Response priorities in 2023

To address the gravest threats to life, health and safety, humanitarian partners will focus on improving IDP camp conditions and protection, while addressing risk of communicable diseases, extreme food insecurity and malnutrition, and promoting resilience through activities such as livelihoods interventions. In parallel, despite the likelihood that the conflict and insecurity will continue, opportunities will be sought in moving some affected people progressively out of crisis to safe and stable areas.



Kisoro, Uganda
Enoch Twaza, a farmer from the Congolese border town of Bunagana, returns home from Uganda after hearing reports that peace has returned to the area. UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

Regional Refugee Response Plans

Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) are developed with a regional perspective under the leadership and coordination of UNHCR.

In 2023, UNHCR will continue working with a wide range of partners to implement five Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) that support host governments to protect and assist refugees as well as the communities receiving them.

These will include Regional Plans for refugees from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan and Ukraine. In addition, UNHCR and UNDP will continue to co-lead the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria crisis (3RP). In total, these regional plans cover 32 countries.

Implementing the Refugee Coordination Model, RRP provide a transparent, predictable and inclusive platform to develop comprehensive and solutions-driven responses to emergencies and more protracted situations. In the spirit of

the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), RRP underline national leadership and can serve as a basis for transitioning from short-term to medium- to longer-term planning. In this vein, over the last few years RRP have focused more on development from the start and fostering stronger linkages with development partners and peace actors. This is a concerted effort to boost progress towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the “Leave No One Behind” pledge. Partnerships with financial institutions and the private sector enable RRP to assist governments to answer to immediate needs while initiating longer-term solutions and addressing the root causes of crises. A key area of focus is localization and exploring how local partners, including organizations led by refugees, can be further empowered.

Emphasizing that diversity and inclusion are an asset to refugee responses, the 2023 RRP will promote the strong engagement of a wide range of partners. These include UN agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations, civil-society actors as well



as local organizations, many of which are refugee- and women-led, as well as faith-based organizations. Localizing the response is key to the successful implementation of RRP and is aligned with the whole-of-society approach underpinning the GCR.

The plans will also strive to ensure that strategic decisions and commitments are made with the people we serve, enabling the meaningful participation of refugees and others for whom we work. Making RRP partners accountable to affected populations is a core element of each plan. Partners will work to make sure that the voices of women and girls are heard, and that they can influence decisions and programmes that impact them.

In 2023, RRP partners will focus on protection. Partners will implement activities to ensure that refugees and host communities live in safe environments, reducing the threats they face, minimizing their exposure to them and increasing their capacity to cope. RRP partners will concentrate on vulnerable people, including marginalized population groups within the refugee community, to address specific rights, needs and disabilities.

The 2023 RRP will also continue to integrate and respond to socioeconomic needs that have been caused or exacerbated by conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and the rising cost of living, namely for situations where underlying vulnerabilities were already pervasive.

Programming is made through an integrated age, gender and diversity mainstreaming approach. A greater understanding of the dynamics of climate change on displacement will help partners to upscale interventions aimed at reducing the impact and help governments to protect displaced people who are exposed to climate-induced disasters and promote environmental sustainability. Measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment will be prioritized and integrated in all sector programmes, in line with inter-agency commitments. While in-kind assistance will continue where appropriate, cash assistance will be a priority modality across various sectors, allowing refugees to choose how to meet their own needs. Maintaining social cohesion remains an essential part of each regional response.



Afghanistan RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

7.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 619 million

Type of appeal
Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered
Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan,
Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

Refugees, Afghans in refugee-like
situations and Afghans of other status
targeted
4.3 million

Host community members targeted
3.6 million

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

Since the start of 2021, according to government estimates, some 1.25 million Afghans arrived in neighbouring host countries due to the continued deteriorating humanitarian, economic and human rights situation inside Afghanistan. This is despite borders being tightly managed, with many Afghans making their way informally through unofficial border-crossing points. In parallel, voluntary return dropped off significantly in 2020 and 2021 (some 3,500 across the two-year period). 2022 showed a very slight increase, with some 5,000 Afghans returning as of end-October 2022, but still minimal.

In host countries, inflation has increased the cost of rent and basic commodities which, coupled with limited livelihood opportunities, has eroded purchasing power and severely impacted vulnerable refugee and host-community populations' ability to afford basic goods and services. In Iran, food prices increased by over 50 per cent between May 2021 and May 2022. Global inflationary pressures play a significant role in this respect – Russia and Ukraine account for approximately 60 per cent of Iran's supply of staples such as wheat, sunflower oil and corn. Total annual inflation in Iran has now exceeded 35 per cent for a third consecutive year, with the headline inflation rate reaching its highest level for a decade. In Pakistan, inflation reached 27 per cent in August 2022, its highest level since 1975. Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are also impacted by global inflation and supply chain issues. Climate-induced disasters continue to impact affected populations in host countries, as evident in Pakistan, where the recent devastating floods affected 33 million people and displaced half a million. Forty-one of the "calamity-hit" districts host an estimated 800,000 Afghan refugees, with two thirds of these people hosted in just four districts.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

A steady flow of new arrivals in countries bordering Afghanistan is expected in 2023, including via unofficial border crossings. Combined with arrivals since 2021 and large in situ populations, this will continue to place a significant burden on host countries. Voluntary returns to Afghanistan will likely continue on a small scale. For 2023, it is expected that Afghan populations, including new arrivals, will remain in need of support, exacerbated by the difficult economic situation in host countries. This will include protection, humanitarian assistance and support to public services, which have generously been opened to these individuals, while continued advocacy will be made for socioeconomic inclusion wherever possible. Host communities also need significant support, and investments in infrastructure require major attention, since they continue to support large Afghan populations, particularly in areas including education, health care, water networks, waste management and energy.

Response priorities in 2023

Acknowledging the huge contributions of host countries, the 2023 Afghanistan Regional Response Plan (RRP) reaffirms the regional multi-stakeholder and multisectoral approach aimed to strengthen the humanitarian and development response in support of host governments. As well as building community resilience, the RRP intends to deliver concrete actions, with a focus on community-based interventions incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, cross-border collaboration, and durable solutions within the framework of the [Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees \(SSAR\)](#). As such, the regional overview, country plans and sector strategies will have a two-year outlook to give a longer-term perspective,



Saranan refugee village, Pakistan
Girls playing during recess.
UNHCR/Mercury Transformations

with budgets and monitoring frameworks being updated yearly. The Regional Strategic Objectives of the 2023 Afghanistan Situation RRP are to:

- Ensure coordinated efforts in line with the objectives of the SSAR.¹⁵⁹ Anchored in government systems wherever possible, the response aims to take an area-based and needs-based approach to build resilient communities, including through investments in key areas of national infrastructure, such as education and health, and by supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities in urban areas and settlements.
- Support host governments to ensure access to territory, asylum and protection in accordance with international standards, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, reception, registration and documentation.

- Ensure that immediate and longer-term needs are addressed through nexus programming by reinforcing the local and national systems of host countries, which have supported Afghans for decades, in the spirit of international responsibility and burden-sharing in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. In doing so, the Plan will pay particular attention to the needs of children, youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities and other people with specific needs.
- Respond to the basic needs of the most vulnerable people, including by sustained support to government-led emergency preparedness efforts, and through multisectoral support to swiftly respond to people newly displaced by conflict, climate-induced disasters and other crises, as well as to existing populations who have seen their situation deteriorate due to the rising cost of living.

Since the Afghanistan RRP's launch at the onset of the crisis last year, the number of partners increased from 11 in 2021 to over 60 in 2023 across the five countries. This underlines the importance and impetus behind the response across the humanitarian community, and across a range of development actors.

Accountability to affected populations will be mainstreamed across the RRP 2023 response, with participatory assessments conducted whenever feasible, feedback and complaint mechanisms put in place, as well as community outreach, awareness-raising campaigns and home visits to ensure that communities are meaningfully and continuously involved in decision-making. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is an integral part of the RRP in 2023. Inter-agency networks and PSEA mechanisms will be strengthened in host countries, including the establishment of safe reporting channels, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures to address PSEA incidents. Capacity-building of humanitarian actors, local authorities, host communities and affected populations will also be prioritized.

159. The Objectives of the SSAR are: I). Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; II). Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and III). Preserving asylum space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.



Democratic Republic of the Congo RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.5 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 639 million

Type of appeal
Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered
Angola, Burundi, Congo,
Rwanda, United Republic of
Tanzania, Uganda

Refugees targeted
910,600

Host community members targeted
584,600

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

Wracked by decades of conflict, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises in Africa. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, with violent intersecting conflicts forcing people to flee their homes. This has resulted in tragic loss of life, widespread gender-based violence (GBV), particularly against women and girls, protection risks for the most vulnerable people, and the destruction of communities. The situation is exacerbated by disease outbreaks and climate-induced disasters. As of July 2022, some 5.5 million people were displaced within the country, and 1 million refugees from the DRC had sought asylum³ mostly in Africa, with the majority hosted in Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, , Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

In 2023, newly displaced refugees and asylum-seekers from DRC will require urgent protection and basic assistance, while those in long-term situations – many having been hosted in their asylum countries for decades – will remain in need of durable solutions and humanitarian support.

In many host countries, refugee settlements and camps have reached or exceeded capacity; the available basic services are stretched to their limits, including those for affected members of host communities. Food insecurity remains a growing concern, with prices of basic necessities rising due to the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine. As a result of these challenges, refugees and host communities struggle to afford food and basic services. The situation is worsened by the food ration reductions in camps and settlements due to funding challenges, causing refugees to resort to harmful coping strategies.

Incidents of discrimination in refugee-hosting countries are continuously reported. This highlights the need to intensify work on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, improve accountability, address prejudice, and include refugees and host communities in decision-making.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Within this fragile socioeconomic context, severe food insecurity, continuous instability characterized by serious threats from armed groups, intercommunal violence, development challenges, unpredictability around the upcoming elections in DRC scheduled in 2023 and the underlying drivers of displacement in the DRC are all expected to persist in 2023, with continued outflows of refugees from the DRC in neighbouring countries.

Throughout 2023, most refugees from the DRC are expected to remain in their countries of asylum. Prospects for voluntary repatriation have improved, with limited numbers of refugees returning home in 2022 – a total of 6,786 (refugees from Haut-Katanga and Tanganyika Provinces living in Zambia, and those from Kasai region living in Angola). It is anticipated that a similarly low number will voluntarily repatriate in 2023, mainly from Angola, Republic of the Congo and Zambia, if conditions allow for a safe and dignified return. Resettlement remains a limited option due to the lack of available spaces. Therefore, local socioeconomic integration prevails as the most appropriate solution for most Congolese refugees.

Host countries have demonstrated commitment to maintaining open borders for asylum-seekers, and refugees from the DRC are expected to continue benefiting from international protection in 2023. Some host



Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

In the spirit of the GCR and in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, host governments will provide protection and assistance to refugees and ensure a comprehensive refugee response with the support of 65 DRC Regional RRP partners. The RRP will complement the host governments' responses by providing protection, multisectoral assistance, self-reliance and social cohesion activities, and durable solutions for more than 1.5 million people, including close to 911,000 refugees from the DRC and 585,000 people in host communities. Led by UNHCR, the 2023 DRC Regional RRP has an inter-agency financial requirement of US\$639 million for activities in Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

More specifically, Regional RRP partners will engage with governments to maintain equal and unhindered access to asylum and international protection while promoting full enjoyment of rights. Partners will ensure attention is paid to age, gender and diversity considerations, accountability to affected people, and prevention for sexual exploitation and abuse. Emergency assistance will be provided for new arrivals, while access to basic services for long-term populations in need will be ensured. Where possible, responses will be anchored in national systems, development plans, multi-year strategies and regional frameworks. Partners will also seek to promote refugees' and vulnerable host communities' economic self-reliance to reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance, and to promote socioeconomic inclusion and access to rights in line with national development plans. Social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities will be encouraged through self-reliance and resilience programmes, with particular focus on youth and women-led initiatives and empowerment. Lastly, policies and conditions that facilitate durable solutions will be promoted through voluntary repatriation for refugees wishing to return home, resettlement for those who qualify, and local integration for those who lack the prospect of return. While a regional approach is pursued, the exact scale and scope of activities towards durable solutions may vary according to the context of each country response plan.

Uganda

Sarah Mukamana, 40, came to Uganda from the Congolese border town of Bunagana with her husband and seven children. She explained: "One of our children is sick, so we will wait for her to get better. Then we go back, because we left our things in the house." UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

countries – Uganda being a key example – have adopted policies allowing refugees' freedom of movement and the right to work (right to establish a business, own property and access national services, enhancing their opportunities to engage in the local economy). Other countries have pledged to strengthen asylum and enhance refugee protection and solutions. These enabling environments promote resilience and increased self-reliance.

In contrast, other host countries continue to impose restrictions on freedom of movement and the right to work, land and property rights, and access to education and justice. DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners will continue to advocate for these restrictions to be lifted, and for the adoption of policies in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) that mirror good practices in the region, such as the commitments by the Southern African Development Community to improve refugee protection.



South Sudan RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.1 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.3 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda

Refugees targeted

2 million

Host community members targeted

1.9 million

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

In 2022, South Sudan remains the largest displacement crisis in Africa, with 4 million people forcibly displaced. A total of 2.3 million people live as refugees and asylum-seekers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. The South Sudanese refugee displacement is characterized by pendular movements. Between January and September 2022, the neighbouring countries received over 95,000 South Sudanese refugees. In the same period, more than 150,000 South Sudanese refugees spontaneously returned home.¹⁶⁰

The national-level conflict in South Sudan was relatively stable in 2022, but peace and security remain fragile. Widespread intercommunal violence and human rights abuses at the subnational level were endemic. There are also concerns with the slow security sector, constitutional and electoral reforms, and transitional justice. South Sudan has not had a general election since its independence in 2011. Elections were more recently rescheduled for 2024.

The DRC, Ethiopia and Sudan, which host 55 per cent of South Sudanese refugees, have delicate security and peace processes characterized by tensions, conflict and displacement. Most South Sudanese refugees and their host communities live in remote areas with limited infrastructure and inadequate access to national services. Notwithstanding, South Sudanese refugees enjoy prima facie status in the neighbouring countries and increasingly progressive refugee policies. In Uganda, the refugee policy provides for the integration of refugees in social and economic services, as does the Kenya Refugee Act.

The countries covered by the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for South Sudan are still suffering from the long-term economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with increased poverty, inflation, currency devaluations, and rising fuel and food commodities prices. This is being worsened by the region's accelerating climate crisis. South Sudan has suffered four consecutive years of extreme flooding, resulting in severe food insecurity. Ethiopia and Kenya are undergoing drought-related food insecurity, set to worsen in 2023.

Through the 2018 Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the country attained a level of political stabilization, which has presented opportunities to support sustainable reintegration for those refugees choosing to return on their own. Several high-return areas have been identified as "Pockets of Hope"¹⁶¹ for further investment.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

The Government of South Sudan is expected to continue facilitating solutions for displaced communities by implementing the National Framework for Return, Reintegration and Relocation of Displaced Persons, and the initiative led by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on durable solutions. Spontaneous returns of refugees are expected to grow, making it imperative to build on the momentum of reintegration.

However, the implementation of the R-ARCSS has been slow. It has been extended to 2025, including the general elections being pushed from 2023 to 2024. There is

160. UNHCR – Refugee returns in the EHAGL Region.

161. The Pockets of Hope Initiative: Realizing Solutions in South Sudan <https://www.unhcr.org/62b17f7a4>



potential for violence and, coupled with serious food insecurity, a high possibility for ongoing refugee outflows from South Sudan, even as others may decide to return. The high numbers of South Sudanese refugees in Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya are likely to be sustained, yet these hosting countries are also projected to suffer increasing food insecurity into 2023. Therefore, humanitarian and development assistance will be critical to support basic services, food security and livelihoods for refugees and their hosting communities.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

The 2023 Regional RRP for South Sudan outlines the multi-agency response strategy and financial requirements of US\$1.34 billion for 105 humanitarian and development actors, including civil society, to support the host governments to meet the critical needs of more than 2 million South Sudanese refugees in the five main asylum countries. The Plan also outlines assistance to over 1.9 million affected members of the host communities.

The focus of the RRP in the countries of asylum will cover the following:

- Enhancing protection and the realization of the rights of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers through improved identity management, strengthened national asylum systems, and regional approaches.
- Providing quality, efficient and timely multisectoral assistance to address the priorities and needs of South Sudanese refugees and their hosting communities through the coordinated delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, with an increased focus on building self-reliance and resilience.
- Promoting the inclusion of South Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers into national education, health and economic systems through strategic engagement with governments, the private sector, regional bodies and development actors. RRP partners will provide multi-agency advocacy and support to strengthen the capacity of national structures.
- Coordinating with national and regional structures, including leveraging the IGAD Support Platform to mobilize international support for solutions from the outset of displacement and through a strengthened humanitarian-peace-development nexus.
- Strengthening accountability to the affected populations; the prevention and mitigation of and response to gender-based violence; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; and child protection, including birth registration.

AID IN ACTION

“Pockets of Hope”



UNHCR/Charlotte Hallqvist

“Pockets of Hope” is an area-based collaboration between returning refugees, their communities, government, and partners to ensure access to

basic services, create sustainable livelihood opportunities, and promote economic self-reliance in areas of return in South Sudan.

Achievements to date include the construction and rehabilitation of schools, hospitals, and government infrastructure; and the establishment of farming co-operatives, sustainable livelihood initiatives, and vocational training programmes in the areas of return.

Please visit www.unhcr.org/the-pockets-of-hope-initiative to find out more about these projects and ways you can contribute.



Syrian Arab Republic 3RP

PEOPLE IN NEED

15.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

13.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 5.4 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt

Refugees targeted

7.4 million

Host community members targeted

6.1 million

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

In 2023, the Syria crisis will enter its twelfth year, still being one of the world’s largest refugee crises, with over 7.4 million Syrians living in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt – the five countries covered by the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). Many of these refugees have been displaced for more than a decade, and the protracted nature of the crisis has had a significant impact on public services and infrastructure in host countries, including housing, education, health care, waste management, water and sanitation.

Socioeconomic conditions in host countries have been further impacted by multiple compounding crises: the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, climate change, and political and economic challenges in some of the 3RP countries. Recent assessments show that poverty rates have significantly increased¹⁶² among refugees and host communities. The slight economic growth seen in certain countries in 2021 following the pandemic has slowed and is expected to continue to do so in 2023. The Ukraine crisis has contributed to increased food and energy prices across the region, with Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt particularly impacted owing to their high dependency on wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine. In Lebanon, where high inflation, currency devaluation and a high unemployment rate contribute to a fragile economic situation, refugee-related issues are being increasingly politicized.

Additionally, the limited capacity or lack of access to social safety nets in some 3RP countries especially impacts the most vulnerable people. It has resulted in families resorting to harmful coping strategies, such as meal reduction, child labour and child marriage.

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis, combined with a difficult socioeconomic context in most 3RP countries, makes the maintenance of social cohesion an essential part of the response. However, mitigating tensions between communities are becoming increasingly challenging. Moreover, climate change has contributed to more frequent droughts and exacerbated tensions over scarce natural resources, especially in Iraq and Jordan. This, in turn, has affected access to food and livelihood opportunities.

This situation highlights the importance of continued, predictable funding for the 3RP response to ensure the safety and dignity of refugees and affected host communities, especially in a challenging funding environment. In 2021, the 3RP recorded the lowest level of funding since its inception in 2015. This trend is expected to continue this year. By the end of September 2022, only 29 per cent of the regional appeal was funded. This is a much lower level than at the same time in previous years. This reduced funding stands in stark contrast to the projected increase in needs and vulnerabilities among refugees and host communities.

162. [Refugees in Jordan face escalating challenges as Syria conflict marks 10-year anniversary – UNHCR Jordan; ECHO Factsheet - Jordan \(10/05/2022\) - Jordan | ReliefWeb; UN: Syrian Refugees in Lebanon Struggle to Survive Amid Worst Socio-economic Crisis in Decades \(unicef.org\); LCRP-2022_FINAL.pdf \(3rpsyriacrisis.org\); https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000137875/download/; ECHO Factsheet - Egypt \(Last updated 27/07/2022\) - Egypt | ReliefWeb](#)



Bekaa Valley,
Lebanon

Aisha stands in the snow in front of her flooded tent in an informal refugee settlement. UNHCR/
Houssam Hariri

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Due to the protracted displacement of Syrians and the multi-faceted crises in the region, socioeconomic conditions among refugees and host communities are likely to deteriorate further, increasing poverty rates and tension incidents in the host countries. The Ukraine crisis and other human-caused shocks are expected to further increase vulnerabilities and risks due to their effect on social stability. Climate change will multiply these challenges by impacting natural resources, particularly water, in the short term and health and food security in the mid to long term. The cholera outbreak in some parts of the region will be a concern in 2023, but health needs related to COVID-19 are likely to continue to decrease. However, the pandemic's socioeconomic impacts will continue to be felt in several 3RP countries. Despite these challenges in the host countries, current intention data suggests that the number of refugees returning to Syria is likely to remain stable – only 1.7 per cent of Syrian refugees surveyed said they intend to return home in the next 12 months.

To respond to these needs, close to 16 million people in 3RP countries are projected to require assistance in 2023. They include around 6.9 Syrian refugees, 556,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities and stateless persons and 8.4 million impacted host-community members. The 3RP response will pay specific regard to the needs of the most vulnerable people.

Response priorities in 2023

Over 270 partners across the five 3RP countries will continue to support and complement governments' ongoing efforts to assist refugees and vulnerable individuals in host communities and strengthen public institutions' capacity to provide access to quality basic services. The 'One Refugee' approach, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will continue to inform the 3RP's integrated, non-discriminatory response with a long-term, solutions-orientated approach.

The 3RP response in 2023 will continue to progress four regional strategic directions:

Protecting people: Protection is at the heart of the 3RP response. Partners will continue to work to keep refugees and vulnerable host-community members safe from exploitation, abuse, violence and psychosocial distress, and to support survivors. Access to legal aid and documentation will help people to live dignified lives and access basic services. In addition, strengthening gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response, increasing the scale and scope of specialized child-protection services, and expanding community protection and refugee-host-community cohesion will also remain important priorities.

Promoting durable solutions: 3RP partners will continue to work towards durable solutions in line with international standards and frameworks. In particular, the 3RP strives to advance local opportunities for inclusion, where applicable, according to the context of each 3RP country, including by fostering 'resilience for all' and coordination across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. It will also promote the expansion of complementary pathways and resettlement opportunities, and support voluntary, safe and dignified returns by ensuring that refugees can make informed and voluntary decisions about their preferred solution.

Contributing to dignified lives: Supporting refugees and vulnerable individuals to access protection and basic services and ensure food security will remain a priority for 3RP partners. The 3RP response will continue to improve the minimum standard of housing of the most affected communities (e.g. through shelter upgrades or rental subsidies) to increase



the employability of refugees and vulnerable host-community members (e.g. through trainings, internships and career guidance), in addition to expanding economic opportunities for refugees and host communities more broadly. Furthermore, there is an increasing focus on enhancing refugees' self-reliance by enabling them to access education, health care, social protection programmes and sustainable livelihoods.

Enhancing local and national capacities: To enhance access to services for refugees and vulnerable host-community members, as well as to strengthen social cohesion, supporting national and local capacities is essential. In line with the Grand Bargain commitment, 3RP partners will continue to advance localization by empowering local and national authorities, promoting community ownership, and supporting local partners, including civil-society organizations and businesses. Moreover, activities to strengthen the private sector's capacities to create and maintain decent employment opportunities will be put in place.

Disability inclusion, accountability to affected populations, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) are crucial elements of the 3RP response. The 3RP is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, which not only entails reaching the most vulnerable populations but also addresses the intersecting inequalities that hinder affected communities' access to services, resources and equal opportunities. Through applying community-based approaches across sectors, the 3RP will enhance the participation and inclusion of refugees and host communities and strengthen accountability mechanisms that enable effective engagement with populations of different ages, genders and backgrounds, receiving their feedback and complaints, and providing timely responses. Response efforts will also continue to enhance measures to provide protection from and response to SEA across sectors through capacity-building of the 3RP partners, awareness-raising among the communities, victim-centred assistance through safe referrals to GBV response services, reinforcement of the PSEA focal points network, and boosting of coordination mechanisms.

AID IN ACTION

The worsening situation for Syrian refugees has again been highlighted by needs assessments conducted in the 3RP countries.



UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

According to the [Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon](#), most households cannot meet their basic needs, and 57 per cent of Syrian refugee families live in inadequate and unsafe shelters. Moreover, despite the assistance provided by the 3RP partners, 88 per cent of Syrian refugee

households were still below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket compared to 55 per cent in 2019. Humanitarian assistance is still the main source of income for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, many of whom are unemployed or not adequately compensated for their work. Meanwhile, Jordan's [Vulnerability Assessment Framework](#) found that 64 per cent of families had to buy food on credit in 2021 compared to 45 per cent in 2018. It also noted that refugees resort to drastic measures, such as reducing food consumption or purchasing lower-quality food. According to the latest Inter-agency Protection Needs Assessment in Türkiye, 90 per cent of refugees cannot fully cover their monthly expenses or basic needs, while 94 per cent have adopted a survival strategy to cope, including reduction of food expenditures and consumption as well as borrowing money.



Ukraine RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.2 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.8 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, and other countries in the region

Refugees targeted

4.1 million

Host community members targeted

120,000

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Since the hostilities began in February 2022, nearly one third of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes. Within Ukraine, over 6.2 million people remain displaced by the war, and some 7.7 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded across Europe, with the majority being hosted in the countries covered by the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation.

Sectoral assessments conducted across the region in 2022 indicate that significant numbers of refugees face difficulties in meeting basic needs, including food and shelter. With the majority of the refugee population from Ukraine comprising women and children (85-90 per cent), risks of gender-based violence (GBV), trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse have been noted as a concern since the crisis began. Family separation impacts 78 per cent of refugees surveyed, while 24 per cent of refugee families include at least one person with specific needs (including people with disabilities, older people, people with serious medical needs, or unaccompanied or separated children).¹⁶³ Access to education and decent work opportunities constitute a critical consideration in ensuring the inclusion of the refugee population and, over time, increasing their self-reliance.

Projected situation 2023 and beyond

According to intentions surveys conducted between May and September 2022, over 80 per cent of refugees do not plan to return to Ukraine in the neat future. It is expected that refugee flows from Ukraine into neighbouring

countries will continue in 2023, due to the ongoing conflict and the onset of winter, coupled with a lack of access to fuel and adequate shelter. In addition, there may be an increased number of new arrivals if there is a significant escalation of hostilities. Therefore, it should be noted that the mid-term response in 2023 will take place alongside a continuing, scaled-down emergency response in most front-line States.

The Regional RRP for the Ukraine Situation is in support of Governments, and it cannot substitute for State or European Union action in the mid to long term. However, continued solidarity from the international community and practical support from humanitarian and development organizations remain key to meet these needs, with RRP partners playing a catalytic role.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

Building on the 2022 RRP, the 2023 RRP will bring together some 150 partners to support and complement refugee-hosting countries' national response, with a focus on four regional strategic objectives:

- Ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal statuses in host countries.
- Pave the way towards solutions, and expand access to social and economic opportunities to facilitate social inclusion through a whole-of-society approach and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, particularly recognizing the critical role played by

163. UNHCR, 'Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks, and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine, 26 October 2022, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96447>



national and local actors, including Government ministries, municipal authorities, NGOs and refugee-led organizations.

- Ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to targeted support and assistance, while also engaging with and strengthening community-level protective mechanisms.
- Advance social cohesion between refugee and host communities through targeted interventions.

The RRP population figures include refugees, third-country nationals in need of international protection,¹⁶⁴ and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness. Host communities are included in the target population figures only for Moldova. Within the EU, host-community members are not included in the RRP as individuals targeted for assistance, but the Plan does address the needs of impacted host populations at the community level, with an eye to expanding community resources and services that may be under strain due to the arrival of the refugee population.

The protection response in 2023 is focused on ensuring that all refugees from Ukraine continue to have access to territory, legal status and rights in host countries without discrimination, in line with the provisions of the Temporary Protection Directive or relevant national legal protection provisions, and in line with international, regional and national refugee and human rights law. At the same time, identifying and supporting people at heightened risk will be a priority in 2023, with a particular focus on the prevention of and response to GBV, and the protection of children and other refugees with specific needs and characteristics that may expose them to protection risks. Protection partners will also aim to reinforce accountability to affected people by strengthening two-way communication mechanisms and increasing access to information, particularly in terms of awareness of rights and access to assistance and services.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response. Dedicated and proactive collective efforts to mitigate and prevent risks will continue in 2023, including joint PSEA risk assessments, partner capacity assessments, capacity-

building and training, as well as community outreach and awareness-raising with the refugee community. Dedicated PSEA Networks are coordinating this work at the country level in all neighbouring countries, co-chaired by UNHCR and NGO partners.

Regarding education, regional RRP partners will continue to engage with States to develop advocacy and support programmes to facilitate access by refugee children from Ukraine to national school systems, and to ensure access to pre-school and tertiary education. Understanding education's critical role in providing children with a sense of normalcy and establishing social networks essential to children's well-being, regional RRP partners will seek to address language barriers and differences in educational curricula, and take into account the needs of all relevant stakeholders to ensure the best quality education possible, however long displacement may last.

Support to basic needs, which was a significant component of the response at the outset of the emergency, will be more targeted in 2023, focusing primarily on temporary accommodation, winterization and renovation of reception facilities, limited cash for assistance to complement existing governmental schemes, and food security assistance in non-EU countries.

The 2023 RRP also prioritizes the effective inclusion of refugees into national systems, including health, social protection, labour markets and others. Priority areas will include decent work, recognition of skills and qualifications to reduce unemployment, access to intensive and targeted language training, safe and affordable childcare, stable and affordable housing, and effective access to social protection schemes.

At the same time, to support the extraordinary generosity of host communities that has characterized the response to date, the RRP places a particular emphasis on fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, including by strengthening community resources and services that may be under pressure in some areas following the arrival of refugees.

164. Persons who have fled Ukraine but for whom Ukraine is not their country of origin, and who may be in need of international protection.

AID IN ACTION

Localization: The RRP for the Ukraine Situation aims to support a whole-of-society and inter-agency response – zoom in on localization



UNHCR/Rafal Kostrzynski

Going into 2023, the number of national and local NGOs participating in the Ukraine RRP has increased, reflecting growing local ownership.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the Localization Agenda, the role of national and local NGOs, including refugee-led organizations (RLOs), has been particularly important in the response, given their understanding of the

challenges and opportunities due to operating in the countries and regions receiving refugees long before the crisis began.

Partnerships with RLOs constitute an important component of the humanitarian response in the RRP, strengthening accountability to affected populations while also empowering these organizations to realize their projects and have an impact on the refugees from Ukraine and their host communities.



Bangladesh
Rohingya refugee
volunteers take care
of trees planted in
the camps to keep
their community
green. WFP/Syed
Asif Mahmud

Other plans

In 2023, UNHCR and IOM will continue co-leading the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh and the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for refugees and migrants from Venezuela. In addition, IOM will continue leading the inter-agency Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (MRP). The three plans cover 22 countries.

Bangladesh has generously provided safety to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar for several decades, most notably in the aftermath of the events of August 2017. Moving into the sixth year of the crisis, the Government of Bangladesh and 59 JRP partners will continue providing critical support in an increasingly resource-strained environment, ensuring protection and assistance for Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities.

According to the Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis published in October 2022, the vulnerability of refugees and migrants from Venezuela has increased due to the spiraling cost of living, fallout from the COVID-19 emergency, lack of documentation, the widespread irregular status of refugees and migrants, and very high unemployment rates. This has set back efforts made in previous years to rebuild their lives and integrate in host societies across the region.

Therefore, in 2023, 228 RMRP partners (including 208 civil-society actors, 46 of which are refugee- and migrant-led organizations) will continue to support host Governments in assisting refugees and migrants from Venezuela and host-community members in the region. RMRP partners will ensure the provision of balanced responses, focusing on immediate humanitarian and protection assistance, as well as interventions that bridge the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by responding to the longer-term resilience and integration needs of affected populations and host communities.

MRP partners will prioritize life-saving assistance and protection to migrants and host communities throughout the Eastern migratory route, while also addressing the root causes of migration and ensuring safe return and social



cohesion among migrants and communities in the Horn of Africa and Yemen. In support of Governments' efforts, the MRP 2023 will provide a strategic framework to ensure a whole-of-community approach, particularly in areas also impacted by the ongoing drought, which is foreseen to impact migration and host communities' ability to support migrants along the route.

Obock, Djibouti

Migrants gather under a tree waiting for night and their departure to Yemen. WFP/Alexander BEE/Hans Lucas

Answering to the needs of affected populations at country and regional levels, the 2023 JRP, RMRP and MRP ensure that people are at the centre of the response, while focusing on localizing their programming. These plans include cross-cutting priorities, including the incorporation of age, gender and diversity; environmental concerns and mitigation strategies; prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; centrality of protection; the empowerment of communities; and accountability towards affected populations.





Horn of Africa and Yemen MRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 84 million

Type of appeal

Migrant Response Plan

Countries covered

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

The Eastern Migration Route accounts for 40 per cent of all migratory movements worldwide.¹⁶⁵ It encompasses the movements of people travelling across the Red Sea/ Gulf of Aden to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States via Yemen. Migrants typically transit through coastal countries, either Djibouti or Somalia, to reach Yemen via boats through the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden. In the first half of 2022, over 140,000 movements along the Eastern Route were recorded, with Ethiopian and Somali nationals comprising 89 per cent and 11 per cent of arrivals in Yemen, respectively.¹⁶⁶ In terms of the reasons for leaving their country of origin, 78 per cent of surveyed migrants indicated economic reasons, while 8 per cent mentioned climatic and environmental reasons.¹⁶⁷

In 2022, arrivals to Yemen have nearly tripled compared to the same period in 2021, with over 47,000 people arriving by boat. As of August 2022, an estimated 43,000 migrants were stranded in Yemen, 950 in Djibouti and 172 in Somalia. Furthermore, from March to the end of August 2022, 71,500 migrants had been forcibly returned to Ethiopia (an average of almost 3,000 migrants per week) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.¹⁶⁸ Roughly 17 per cent of forcibly returned migrants in 2022 intended to return to Tigray, and nearly 3,000 forcibly returned migrants are stranded in Addis Ababa, unable to return to their place of origin. Continued forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia are anticipated by the Migrant Response Plan (MRP), but it is unclear when operations will resume. In addition, the announcement by Ethiopia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to repatriate 12,000 Ethiopians from 12 countries, including Yemen and Djibouti, will

worsen the overstretched services receiving returning migrants in Addis Ababa.¹⁶⁹ MRP partners recorded 5,400 forced returns from Djibouti at the Dewele point of entry in northern Ethiopia from the beginning of the year to the end of September 2022.

Throughout their journey along the Eastern Route, migrants face several life-threatening situations, and they are at grave risk of exploitation and abuse. Most migrants travel long distances on the Eastern Route by foot through extreme heat, resulting in dehydration and exhaustion. Additionally, migrants are often apprehended by smugglers, border guards or militias, who often utilize violent practices. They also fall prey to migrant smugglers, who expose them to risky journeys, including kidnapping. This endangers their lives, with women and children – 32 per cent of the migrant population along the Eastern Route – being the most vulnerable to these risks and abuses.¹⁷⁰ In 2022, MRP partners recorded 79 missing or dead migrants along the Eastern Route.¹⁷¹

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, considering 2022 migration trends, migration flows along the Eastern Route are anticipated to return to or even exceed pre-COVID-19 levels. In 2023, the number of people who need humanitarian assistance is projected to reach 1,428,234. This figure includes 458,605 migrants and 969,629 host-community members across the four countries that conform to the MRP: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. In addition, the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa, the most severe in the last four

165. *A Region on the Move 2021: East and Horn of Africa*. IOM. 12 August 2022

166. *Displacement Tracking Matrix – East and Horn of Africa – Regional Snapshot: January – June 2022* - IOM Regional Data Hub. 16 September 2022

167. *Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 31* – IOM Regional Data Hub. 31 October 2022

168. Involuntary returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Ethiopia were indefinitely suspended as of 31 August 2022 due to overcrowding and limited reception capacity at shelters in Addis Ababa

169. *Quarterly Mixed Migration Update – East and Southern Africa, Quarter 3 2022* – Mixed Migration Centre. 19 October 2022

170. *They Snatched From Me My Own Cry – The interplay of social norms and stigma in relation to human trafficking in Ethiopia. Case Study: Jimma and Arsi Zones* – IOM. 2021

171. *Migration along the Eastern Corridor – Report 31* – IOM Regional Data Hub. 31 October 2022



decades, has already affected over 35 million people in the region, and future rainy seasons are anticipated to bring far lower than usual rainfall.¹⁷² While further research is required, the MRP foresees the drought impacting migration, particularly on host communities, who frequently interact with and support migrants along the Eastern Route.¹⁷³ The drought is anticipated to continually deplete host communities' resources, limiting their ability to support migrants along the Eastern Route. Moreover, the drought's impacts on livelihoods and food security potentially drive migration in countries of origin and transit. According to OCHA, the drought is affecting 24.1 million people in Ethiopia and 7.8 million in Somalia, with 3.5 million livestock dying in Ethiopia and over 3 million dying in Somalia, severely reducing the main source of sustenance and livelihoods for people in the region.¹⁷⁴

While displacement due to drought is internal, the MRP has recorded exits due to the drought and the challenging economic environment exacerbated by the ongoing drought, as aforementioned. Furthermore, between January 2021 and September 2022, 46 per cent of returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia were reported to originate from drought-affected areas of Ethiopia between January 2021 and September 2022.¹⁷⁵ Although the conflict in Ethiopia is expected to end following the peace agreement reached between the warring parties, the life-saving and protection needs for returnees originating from the conflict-affected areas, who have been stranded in Addis Ababa and unable to go home, will remain high as the communities move towards transition and recovery.¹⁷⁶ Lastly, the continued flow of forced returns from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and from Djibouti to Ethiopia is anticipated for 2023, further worsening the humanitarian situation in the overcrowded shelters. Returns in 2022

were facilitated through a formal agreement signed between the two countries and scheduled to conclude at the end of the year. A subsequent extension is anticipated.

Response priorities in 2023

The 2023 MRP targets 1,045,832 people, including 507,023 migrants and 538,809 host-community members. In 2023, 19 MRP partners will prioritize life-saving assistance,¹⁷⁷ protection,¹⁷⁸ community-based reintegration and social-cohesion programming. MRP partners will also continue to build evidence, partnerships and coordination to enhance the response to humanitarian needs along the Eastern Route. In addition to responding to migrants' immediate needs, addressing the root causes of migration in hotspots of migration and areas of return is also key to the response. This will include the engagement of host communities through community-based reintegration projects, social-inclusion initiatives, programmes focused on supporting mothers (community-based protection mechanisms and capacity-building), access to livelihood opportunities, hotlines for national referral mechanisms, alternatives for migration¹⁷⁹ and safety nets. To ensure that informed, coordinated and comprehensive assistance and protection services are provided to migrants and host communities along the Eastern Route, the MRP will prioritize the collection, analysis and sharing of migration data on mobility patterns, root causes and routes, as well as migrants' protection needs, risks and vulnerabilities. In 2023, MRP partners will also focus on capacity-building and advocacy with key Government and non-Government institutions to respond comprehensively to migrants' needs and support long-term reintegration and community stabilization.

172. [Horn of Africa Drought: Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action – OCHA, 24 August 2022](#)

173. [Interactions between local communities and transiting migrants in Hargeisa – Mixed Migration Centre, 19 August 2022](#)

174. [Horn of Africa Drought – Regional Humanitarian Overview & Call to Action – OCHA, 21 September 2022](#)

175. [IOM Regional Data Hub](#)

176. [Drivers and aspirations of Ethiopians impacted by the Tigray conflict: Data from Somalia and Sudan – Mixed Migration Centre, 27 May 2022](#)

177. In terms of life-saving assistance, MRP partners will provide food, non-food items (NFI), hygiene materials, multi-purpose cash assistance, and medical assistance to address the needs of migrants enduring a long, harsh journey along the Eastern Route.

178. MRP partners will also prioritize case management, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children, protection case management, legal support, referrals and information awareness on protection risks and needs, quality reproductive and maternal health, and gender-based violence (GBV) services and strengthen community-based protection structures.

179. Community initiatives that foster stabilization and resilience through access to quality basic service, sustainable livelihood, and other initiatives.



Rohingya JRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.5 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 883 million

Type of appeal
Joint Response Plan

Countries covered
Bangladesh

Refugees targeted
977,798

Host community members targeted
495,431

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

Bangladesh has generously provided safety to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar for several decades, most notably in the aftermath of the events of August 2017, during which thousands of Rohingya were forced to flee their homes due to armed attacks, massive-scale violence, targeted persecution and serious human rights violations. Moving into the sixth year of the crisis, the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community are providing critical support in an increasingly resource-strained environment. The humanitarian community is committed to supporting Bangladesh in leading the humanitarian response for close to 980,000 Rohingya refugees until conditions allow for their return to Myanmar in a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable manner, and to supporting the communities that host them. Rohingya refugees reside in 33 extremely congested camps within the Cox’s Bazar district and on the remote island of Bhasan Char, where they rely entirely on humanitarian assistance. Groups or people with specific needs, such as people with disabilities, female-headed households, and people without access to livelihood opportunities, reported the most significant unmet needs, leaving them vulnerable to negative coping strategies.

Cox’s Bazar District has a total Bangladeshi population of 2,823,000, with approximately 538,000 residing in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazila, where the refugee camps are located. Humanitarian operations have increased local employment and economic opportunities for local populations. However, the growing multifaceted needs of Rohingya refugees have compounded existing socioeconomic challenges, exacerbating pressures on public services and infrastructure. The Ukraine crisis has also negatively affected the food, energy and fiscal situation in Bangladesh, including in the communities hosting Rohingya refugees. High levels of inflation, a depreciating local currency, and price hikes for basic goods and commodities have been recorded, increasing

existing vulnerabilities among people already at risk. To prevent potential tensions between communities, it is critical that support continues to be extended to vulnerable Bangladeshi communities.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

In 2023, sustained and strengthened assistance will continue to be required in areas including food, nutrition, water, health and sanitation, education, shelter and non-food items. The enhancement of education and skills development opportunities for refugees also remains a critical priority.

The overall protection environment and living conditions in the camps and on Bhasan Char remain challenging. To mitigate these challenges, investment in quality education, including transition to the Myanmar curriculum, skills development and livelihoods will be prioritized, while also ensuring that the community is better prepared for eventual and meaningful repatriation to and reintegration in Myanmar. Addressing the specific needs of those most vulnerable, including women, girls and boys, as well as people with disabilities, will remain critical.

Over the years, Bangladesh has made immense strides to mitigate the loss of life and property due to weather-related hazards, such as cyclones and heavy monsoons, that result in landslides, flooding and a spike in communicable diseases. Nevertheless, Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding areas continue to be particularly vulnerable to monsoon floods, fires and the effects of climate change more broadly. As such, building on Bangladesh’s well-established and effective disaster response capacities, and guided by the Multi-Hazard Response Plan (MHRP) for Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar district and on Bhasan Char, activities in 2023



will strengthen disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, which is critical to ensuring the safety of Rohingya refugees and host communities.

Following the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR (on behalf of the UN) in October 2021, UN

involvement on Bhasan Char aims to complement the national NGOs' humanitarian activities under the overall coordination and consultation with the Government of Bangladesh.

AID IN ACTION

Multi-Hazard Response Plan



Bangladesh - Land stabilization is essential to protect Rohingya refugees from landslides during the monsoon season. ISCG/ Syed Md Tafhim

To enhance multi-hazard preparedness and response capacities due to the particularly vulnerable locations of Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding areas, the Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian partners have stepped up their efforts to address disaster risk management, energy, and environmental issues. The Multi-Hazard Response Plan (MHRP) for the Rohingya refugee camps and surrounding host communities was developed and adopted in 2022, containing comprehensive disaster contingency planning.

In 2023, the humanitarian community in Cox's Bazar will continue to operate under the overall framework of the MHRP. In addition, a camp

level Disaster Management Committee Guideline has been developed jointly with the Government of Bangladesh and the implementation of both planning and guidance documents will be further strengthened in 2023 as a priority. Together with structural reinforcements, slope protection, and adequate drainage systems, efforts in the camps will be prioritised to mitigate the impacts of climate change, as well as support environmental rehabilitation and protection. Regular after-action reviews will serve to strengthen future emergency preparedness and response, to limit negative impacts on Rohingya communities and address immediate needs in the aftermath of natural disasters.



Bangladesh

A Bangladeshi volunteer works in a Bamboo Treatment Centre, providing quality shelter materials for Rohingya refugees. ISCG/Syed Md Tafhim

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, the humanitarian community will continue to strengthen protection and assistance for Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities. Five strategic objectives will guide the response across all sectors:

- **Work towards the sustainable repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar**, focusing on developing refugees' capacities by using the Myanmar curriculum, building skills that will support their reintegration upon return, and strengthening community-based efforts.
- **Strengthen the protection of Rohingya refugee women, men, girls and boys**, placing affected individuals and communities at the centre of the response.
- **Deliver life-saving assistance to populations in need**, including maintaining and rationalizing services to ensure equitable access to humanitarian assistance.

- **Foster the well-being of host communities**, including through facilitating access to quality services, strengthening public service infrastructure and supporting livelihoods activities.
- **Strengthen disaster risk management** by improving preparedness for multi-hazard crises and addressing the impacts of climate change within refugee camps and host communities.

A protection framework will guide the response, putting protection central to the response. The framework will mainstream protection throughout all sectors; coordinate specialized or targeted protection services for affected populations, notably the most vulnerable children, women, people with disabilities and other specific needs; and promote community-led, needs-based and participatory approaches to assistance. The humanitarian response will also be underpinned by age, gender and diversity mainstreaming, disability inclusion, a comprehensive approach to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and enhance community engagement and accountability to affected populations.



Venezuela RMRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

9.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.7 billion

Type of appeal

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan

Countries covered

Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

Refugees targeted

2.9 million

Host community members targeted

535,000

Analysis of the context, crisis, and needs

In 2022, refugees and migrants from Venezuela continued to leave their home country in need of humanitarian assistance, protection and socioeconomic inclusion. By the end of 2022, there will be an estimated 6.3 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela hosted across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).¹⁸⁰

According to the [Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis](#) – conducted by the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) and published in October 2022 – <https://r4v.info> the spiraling costs of living, fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of documentation, the widespread irregular status of refugees and migrants, and very high unemployment rates have all increased the vulnerability of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and undermined the efforts made in previous years to rebuild their lives and integrate in host societies across the region. This has led to 73.4 per cent of refugees and migrants needing assistance under the [regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan \(RMRP\)](#).

The increased vulnerability of refugees and migrants from Venezuela has been compounded by the consequences of a slow and unequal post-COVID-19 economic recovery and spiralling costs of living in the LAC region. The impact on the living conditions, security, dignity and health of refugees and migrants and their host communities has been extreme. Throughout 2022, an increase in the use of dangerous irregular routes and informal border crossings was observed, particularly due to a lack of

documentation, increased visa controls, irregular status, and lack of livelihoods or prospects for socioeconomic integration.¹⁸¹ This further exposed refugees and migrants to human trafficking risks, as well as to exploitation and abuse at the hands of smugglers, traffickers and other criminal networks.

In parallel, most refugees and migrants from Venezuela have spent several years in their host countries. As a result, their needs surpass immediate life-saving interventions, and they include access to asylum, to regularization and to social protection systems, as well as longer-term protection, self-reliance and socioeconomic integration. In response to these challenges, some host governments are making efforts to regularize refugees and migrants from Venezuela in their territories and creating opportunities for integration.

In host countries, factors such as widespread irregularity, loss of or competition for livelihoods opportunities, limited education enrolment opportunities and lack of affordable housing have contributed to increased social tensions and tested the levels of solidarity with refugees and migrants, at times resulting in incidents of xenophobia, discrimination and violence.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Increases in onward movements of refugees and migrants, especially of those previously settled in host communities, are expected to further grow in 2023. They

180. Updated population statistics, reported by host countries and compiled by R4V are available at: <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>

181. See hereto: [inter alia, R4V Central America, Mexico and Colombia: R4V Special Situation Report \(June Update\)](#) and [R4V Movements Report: Second Quarter 2022](#)



AID IN ACTION

Nexus in the response



OCHA/Gemma Cortes

As the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela has evolved over the past years, the need to enhance the complementarity between humanitarian and development interventions for both refugees and migrants from Venezuela and their host communities has gradually increased. The extended timeframe of the RMRP, from one to two years, seeks to improve the medium/longer-term aspect of the response without losing track of the significant humanitarian needs on the ground. To ensure longer-lasting results, the concept of Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN) was considered throughout the planning

processes, through the inclusion of initiatives which combine direct assistance and a more sustainable impact. The RMRP strives for a broader engagement of different stakeholders, including governments, international financial institutions, and private sector partnerships. The participation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela as well as affected host communities is also central to HDN. To ensure a strategic approach through all phases of the response, partners additionally aim to improve inter-sectoral complementarity and joint programming, with the intention to ensure a wider scope and continuity of the overall response.



Medellin, Colombia
A Venezuelan family receive their Temporary Protection Permits, allowing them to stay in Colombia for 10 years. IOM/
Daniela Miranda

will be met by an ongoing moderate outflow of Venezuelans from their home country, whose political, socioeconomic and human rights situation has rendered them more vulnerable than their fellow nationals who left the country in previous years.¹⁸²

New migratory-control mechanisms enacted by various countries to limit the irregular flow of refugees and migrants, especially northward towards the United States since October 2022, are contributing to the complex and multidimensional movements and corresponding response requirements. These controls have led to new operational realities, requiring refugees and migrants in affected countries to consider returning to previous host countries (subject to available legal re-admission opportunities) or to their country of origin,¹⁸³ where the situation is deemed as not conducive to returns, according to R4V response actors.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

The new multi-year RMRP 2023-24 will bring together an unparalleled number of 228 appealing partners (an 18.7 per cent increase from 192 in 2022), including 208 civil-society actors (46 of which are refugee- and migrant-led organizations), to implement 16,556 activities

to assist the situation of 3.4 million refugees and migrants¹⁸⁴ and affected host-community members. The corresponding financial requirements of the 228 partners amounts to US\$1.71 billion. Detailed information on each activity's appealing organization, geographic and thematic focus, targeted individuals (disaggregated by age/gender/population group) and financial requirements, as well as updated information on its implementation status, will be available on the [Data Page of R4V.info](#) and on the [R4V Humanitarian Data Exchange](#). This underscores the common commitment towards transparency and accountability of R4V partners.

The response is organized across nine thematic sectors (Education, Food Security, Health, Humanitarian Transportation, Integration, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and WASH) and three sub-sectors of the Protection Sector (Gender-Based Violence, Child Protection, and Human Trafficking & Smuggling). The RMRP 2023-24 also incorporates cross-cutting modalities (such as cash and voucher assistance) and cross-cutting themes including gender, the environment, communication with communities, accountability to affected populations, centrality of protection, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure that these considerations are incorporated in all response activities.

182. See hereto the [R4V Planning Assumptions and Scenarios dashboard](#), based on a survey with 227 respondents across the 17 R4V countries.

183. See hereto the [R4V Special Sitrep on the new Migration Process for Venezuela](#).

184. In Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica, the R4V response will also address the situation of 72.2K others in-transit (beyond Venezuelans and affected host communities).



SECTION 3

Delivering Better

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Djibo, Burkina Faso.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator meets with community leaders and displaced people in Djibo. During the meeting he receives three requests: to reopen the road by which food and other critical supplies enter the town, to provide aid to both the displaced and the host community and to end the conflict so that people can go home and their children can have a future. OCHA/Amadou Cissé

Beyond perceptions: how to mainstream accountability to affected people in humanitarian programming

The humanitarian sector has made progress towards greater accountability to affected people (AAP). In 2022, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals affirmed commitments on AAP and humanitarian accountability, stressing that the way in which “communities experience and perceive our work is the most relevant measure of our performance.”¹⁸⁵ Emphasis is placed on ensuring that people are at the centre.

Many organizations and agencies have shifted gear to ensure more community engagement with affected people. To help with this shift, they introduced more accessible systems for feedback into operations and programming, and there is greater emphasis on communities’ participation in humanitarian responses. Despite this, communities continue to report

that humanitarian assistance and action do not align sufficiently with their needs, they overlook some of the most vulnerable people and fail to properly incorporate their views, priorities and capacities. Feedback highlights that despite good intentions, the humanitarian system is designed on what international agencies and donors assess is best, linked to their available resources, rather than the expressed needs of affected people.¹⁸⁶

While the momentum to improve AAP gains pace, many humanitarians fear that it risks remaining a ‘tick the box’ exercise focused on gathering feedback, rather than an opportunity to adapt humanitarian operations in order to be more accountable to affected people – and include their needs, ideas, capacities and knowledge.

185. IASC, *Statement by Principals of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Accountability to Affected People in Humanitarian Action*, 14 April 2022.

186. ALNAP, *State of the Humanitarian System 2022*; as well as recent surveys by the Overseas Development Institute and Ground Truth Solutions (to be published in late November 2022 as part of a report for IASC Principals).



A shift at the inter-agency level is required to better reflect how communities experience response-wide and system-wide humanitarian action. Collective AAP focuses on humanitarian response as a whole and is intended to increase the accountability of the humanitarian system to affected people, putting their experience at the centre of humanitarian action.

Achieving this requires critical elements including engaged and committed leadership, inclusive coordination architecture and quality resourcing. On a practical level, commitments need to be matched with action based on people and their views, which will enable planning, resourcing and monitoring processes to be more inclusive and adaptive to people's needs.

AID IN ACTION

CAR: Integrating people's preferences into the HPC



Zémio, Haut-Mbomou Prefecture, CAR. Hadima accompanies her baby sister to a nutrition check-up at the Zémio hospital. Every Tuesday, parents can bring their children for malnutrition follow-up consultations. OCHA/Anita Cadonau

The preferences and perceptions of crisis-affected people are at the heart of the needs analysis and response strategy in CAR. For the 2023 humanitarian planning cycle (HPC), assessments were undertaken with more than 15,000 affected households to better understand how they view and experience CAR's multiple crises and the response. In addition, more than 7,000 information requests, feedback points and complaints were recorded through collective feedback mechanisms across the country. Since the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), eight perceptions indicators have been part of the HRP to track strategic objectives

and to measure the quality of the humanitarian response as perceived by aid recipients. Since then, affected people reported an improved perception of humanitarian action. Most importantly, in 2022, almost half of all aid recipients reported that the assistance received covers their most essential needs and that aid goes to people who need it most. However, more still needs to be done to improve affected people's trust in the complaint mechanisms and their effectiveness; only about a fourth of all those who submitted a complaint reported having received a response.



Bunyan camp, Idlib, Syria

Fayza, a mother of two, was displaced with her family to Bunyan camp. Fayza's tent has no sanitation, and she and her family suffer from temperature extremes in the winter and summer. To avoid overheating and the spread of infectious diseases, Fayza bathes her children every day in buckets of water. OCHA/Bilal Al Hammoud

The IASC Collective AAP Framework provides a lens for planning, resourcing and monitoring. This inter-agency tool guides action planning that draws together existing strategies around gender, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), protection and inclusion. The framework guides country-level leadership in developing and monitoring a country-specific AAP Action Plan that outlines key actions, timelines and responsibilities to coordinate collective AAP.

There are some examples of where the rhetoric has moved into practice. The Central African Republic (CAR) Humanitarian Fund, with support from the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), developed an innovative brief guide for integrating AAP into the fund's projects and allocations. The fund also prioritized those projects related to collective AAP mechanisms and needs and perception assessments. This

ensured that each funded project mainstreamed AAP through concrete and meaningful commitments.

To bring about this country-level systemic change, the CAR Humanitarian Fund Strategic Review Committee requires project proposals to demonstrate four key conditions:

- Robust analysis of needs and preferences based on existing evaluations and assessments.
- Design based on the perceptions and feedback of affected people.
- Inclusion of feedback mechanisms to ensure two-way communication.
- Clear procedures and responsibilities to ensure that activities are adjusted according to people's feedback and coordinated with larger collective AAP mechanisms.

The Humanitarian Liaison Group (HLG) for the cross-border operation in north-west Syria implemented a system-wide Action Plan for Change, using the AAP Framework as a catalyst.

The plan focused on listening carefully, responding effectively and ensuring the meaningful inclusion of crisis-affected Syrians in the humanitarian response. Simultaneous translation was introduced in monthly meetings, and the HLG consistently invited affected people to share their stories and experiences of aid delivery and their needs. Other initiatives included an information digest on key humanitarian issues and work with Syrian women refugee humanitarians to promote gender equality.

Feedback from displaced Syrian communities consistently highlighted dissatisfaction with the temporary shelter provided. Taking this on board, the HLG affected change by shifting from tents to dignified shelter and living conditions. This leadership priority required an integrated intersectoral approach under the technical guidance of the Shelter/Non-Food Items Cluster, an investment of funds through the Country-Based Pooled Fund and ongoing advocacy with donors.



Bijombo, Democratic Republic of Congo
Members of the regional inter-cluster group in Hauts-Plateaux d'Uvira, South Kivu Province, visit Bijombo to carry out a rapid assessment of humanitarian needs. OCHA/Antoine Lemonnier

The participation of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination structures

Engaging local and national actors (L/NAs)¹⁸⁷ is critical to the success of humanitarian action. L/NAs are often the first responders and at the heart of humanitarian response. They provide an invaluable understanding of local challenges and potential solutions, and they can mobilize local networks and offer greater access to affected populations. Hence they contribute to a more effective, efficient and sustainable humanitarian response with enhanced AAP. L/NAs often work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to support affected communities in preparedness, response and recovery, and after international actors withdraw. The participation and leadership of L/NAs in humanitarian response mechanisms is key to ensuring a response is adapted to the local context. This continued to be a focus of IASC partners in 2022, especially after the

adoption of the IASC Guidance on strengthening participation, representation and leadership of local and national actors in IASC humanitarian coordination mechanisms in July 2021.

Progress was tracked through the annual mapping of IASC coordination structures covering 29 humanitarian operations during 2021,¹⁸⁸ with more than 2,400 coordination structures mapped at national and subnational levels. Overall, the data shows a strong level of participation across humanitarian coordination structures, but more remains to be done in terms of facilitating L/NAs' leadership of these structures.

L/NAs participated in many humanitarian coordination mechanisms at both the national and the operational level. They were present¹⁸⁹

187. According to IASC guidance, this category includes the following entities where represented: national and local authorities, national NGOs and consortiums, national Red Cross/Crescent Societies, and national private sector.

188. The coordination-mapping exercise will be available through the IASC website shortly. The coordination mapping includes Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon (HCT/ICCG data only), Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, OPT, Philippines, (HCT/ICCG data only), Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria (Damascus, regional, Gaziantep), Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

189. Presence or participation in a coordination mechanism denotes attendance at meetings, partaking in assessments, workshops, etc. Membership denotes being a formal constituent of a group and being involved in decisions about governance, providing directions for assessments and plans, etc.

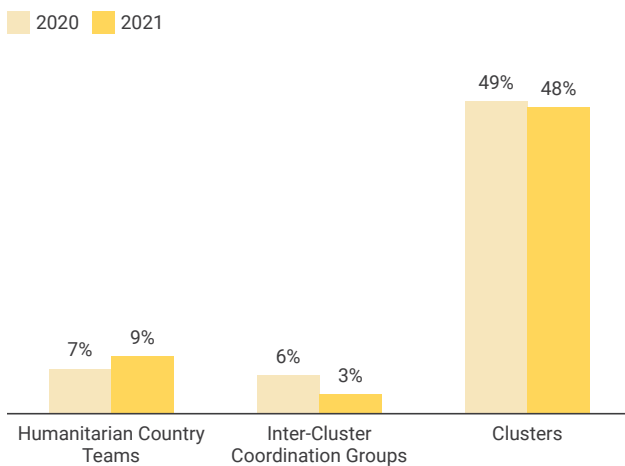


in 80 per cent of Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and accounted for 9 per cent of overall HCT membership globally, up from 7 per cent in 2020. During 2021, HCTs in Burkina Faso, Haiti, Honduras, Lebanon and OPT added or increased the number of national NGOs among their members.

L/NAs participated in 33 per cent of ICCGs – a slight increase from 31 per cent in 2020. Globally, L/NAs constituted 3 per cent of total ICCG membership in 2021 (down from 6 per cent in 2020).¹⁹⁰

Across national-level clusters, sectors and areas of responsibility (AoRs), L/NAs' membership remained on par with 2020 at around 48 per cent of the total 17,902 members globally in 2021.

Percentage of total members who are local/national actors globally

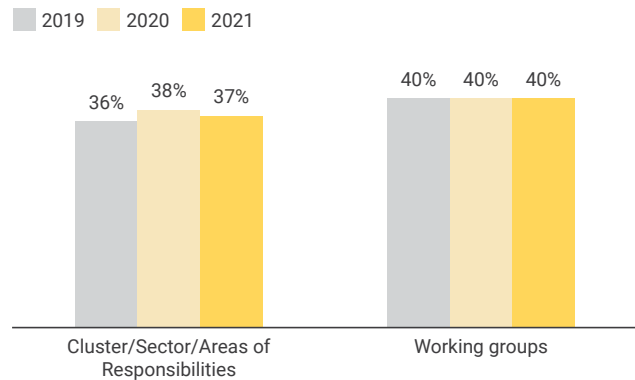


Source: 2021 Mapping of IASC coordination structures at country level

Leadership of clusters, sectors and AoRs includes various roles, such as lead, co-lead and co-chair. These leadership roles provide an opportunity for L/NAs to directly impact decisions, including on the scope and direction of needs assessments, prioritization for response plans, funding

allocations and advocacy. In 2021, 37 per cent of clusters, sectors and AoRs and 36 per cent of technical working groups (TWGs) had an L/NA in a leadership role. At the same time, 90 per cent of cluster strategic advisory groups included L/NAs, up from 83 per cent in 2020. At the subnational level, 38 per cent of clusters, sectors and AoRs had an LNA in a leadership role, up from 34 per cent in 2020.

Percentage of clusters, sectors, areas of responsibility with local/national actors in leadership roles globally



Source: 2021 Mapping of IASC coordination structures at country level

Providing opportunities for leadership roles is not enough – the environment also needs to be conducive to encourage meaningful contributions and cultivate a shared sense of ownership. One avenue to achieve this is through the use of national, local and/or official languages in the meetings or working processes of coordination structures. The use of official languages increased slightly in 2021 – 78 per cent of clusters at the national level (compared to 74 per cent in 2020) and 89 per cent at subnational levels reported using an official or local language of the country of operation. In addition, at the national level, translation capacity was provided at least half of the time by 22 per cent of clusters and sectors.

190. Please note that ICCG membership largely reflects cluster leadership – if in a given country there are no local actors leading clusters, sectors or AoRs, then likely there will be no NNGO members within the ICCG unless the ICCG decides to allocate a specific seat to L/NNGOs.



AID IN ACTION

Broadening local networks to strengthen land and natural-resource governance



Kakuma, Kenya. Staff from the Danish Refugee Council facilitate a local dialogue session. Danish Refugee Council

In northern Kenya, the Danish Refugee Council developed a project to help civil-society actors gain access to evidence-based advocacy strategies and land and natural-resource governance processes.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue forums were held at the county and national government levels. These dialogues enabled civil-society partners to meet with relevant government officials, the private sector and the media, forming stronger links. Local government officials received training on citizens' rights, roles and responsibilities in land and natural-resource governance, conflict management and mitigation techniques. These trainings and coordination forums contributed to creating better relationships between local authorities and civil-society partners. This productive engagement with local authorities enabled civil-society organizations to access new arenas for decision-making, TWGs and joint advocacy meetings with the private sector. Project participants learned that building effective and sustainable networks requires time and resources.

AID IN ACTION

Afghan Women's Advisory Group

The Afghan Women's Advisory Group acts as an independent source of expertise for the HCT. The group's women leaders have diverse experiences relevant to humanitarian and emergency response, and they can advise the HCT on how to address issues in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner, offering a vital link to the community.

The group identifies and supports the positive roles that communities, including traditional and religious leaders, can and should aspire to, and it addresses negative attitudes and practices. The group's insights inform strategic-, tactical- and operational-level engagement of the humanitarian community and authorities across the country.

The Advisory Group supports the HCT in three key areas:

- Promoting leadership and accountability by advancing gender-responsive and inclusive humanitarian action, with a particular emphasis on raising humanitarian concerns and possible solutions to meet the needs of all Afghans.
- Advocacy and information-sharing on the HCT's engagement with the de facto authorities, with a particular focus on safeguarding the rights of women and girls across humanitarian response.
- Technical guidance on decisions related to specific operational, programmatic and planning issues to ensure they are gender responsive and align with the IASC's gender policy and principles.



AID IN ACTION

Empowering women through interest-free loans in Pakistan



Allah Bux Hakro, Ratodero, Sindh, Pakistan. Ms. Tasleema used a loan from the Community Investment Fund (CIF) to buy cloth to make traditional Sindhi relli. Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)

In Pakistan, the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has helped more than 1.4 million poor households represented by women. SRSO established community- and neighbourhood-level organizations and provided them with a range of support, including the Community Investment Fund (CIF). The Government of Sindh gave more than PKR 3.2 billion (\$14.4 million) to these community institutions as a grant. The funds are

rotated among the member households as interest-free loans, so far reaching more than 300,000 households in 14 districts. These loans have helped the women-led households to start small businesses, invest in agriculture or buy livestock to boost their assets. In addition to increasing and diversifying income, the CIF has enabled women to learn financial skills to help them further.



Barbacoas,
Colombia

Resilience kits with emergency food, hygiene items and information on sexual-related violence referrals and COVID-19 prevention are delivered to women-headed households in Barbacoas. Armed conflict has heavily affected the town and the pandemic led to increased violence against women. This made it harder to access care and justice. UN Women/
Pablo Villota

Empowering local actors through pooled funds

The Grand Bargain calls for least 25 per cent of donor funding to go to L/NAs as directly as possible. OCHA's Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) are uniquely positioned to contribute to achieving this target due to their highly localized decision-making structures and elaborate in-country networks.

In recent years, the CBPFs have significantly increased the share of funding going to L/NAs. In 2022,¹⁹¹ L/NAs directly received 27 per cent of overall CBPF funding. By November 2022, the CBPFs had allocated a total of \$201 million towards L/NAs.¹⁹² When including grants to sub-implementing partners, approximately 35 per cent of all CBPF funding during 2022 has so far reached L/NAs. In Venezuela, 62 per cent of funds went to national NGOs; in Somalia, national NGOs received 61 per cent.¹⁹³

To strengthen the representation and participation of L/NAs in the governance of CBPFs, representatives from L/NAs are included in all CBPF Advisory Boards as a matter of principle. In addition, the upcoming revised CBPF Global Guidelines seek to establish localization as the funds' secondary aim.¹⁹⁴ OCHA has also enhanced the grant conditions for L/NAs and others to ensure that improvements in budget flexibility, project periods, eligible costs and sharing of programme support costs benefit front-line responders. Greater focus on capacity development is enabling better support throughout the humanitarian programme cycle for L/NAs.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is mandated to directly support UN agencies. However, L/NAs are key to delivering CERF-funded humanitarian programmes as implementing partners of UN agencies.

191. Data as of 1 November 2022.

192. A total of \$201 million directly with a further \$59 million via subgrants.

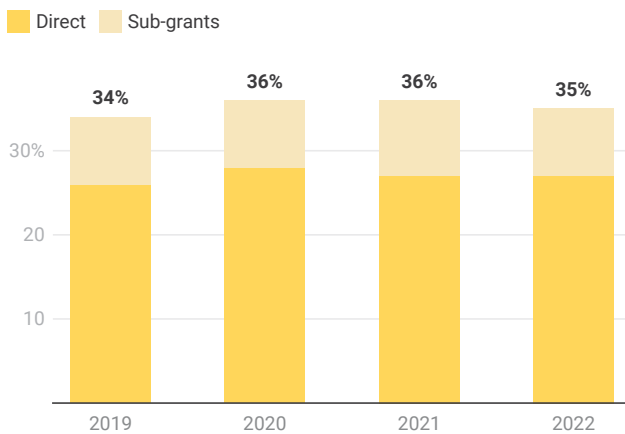
193. Figures include subgrants.

194. While the funds maintain their primary life-saving goal, the Guidelines also seek to capture their leading role in advancing localization, strengthening the role of local and national actors in governance and the delivery of aid. The revised guidelines are expected to be published by the end of 2022.



In 2020,¹⁹⁵ a record \$201 million in CERF funding was subgranted¹⁹⁶ to implementing partners, equivalent to 24 per cent of the year's total CERF funding (\$848 million). That same year, 1,056 partners participated in the implementation of CERF funding, including 688 L/NAs. CERF often also funds programmes that have a specific localization objective or that promote localization efforts. For example, in 2020, CERF allocated \$25 million in response to rising levels of gender-based violence (GBV) during the pandemic, supporting local women-led organizations working on GBV in 11 countries through funding and strengthened partnerships. In 2022, CERF localization efforts were a specific strategic objective for allocations through its Underfunded Emergencies window.

CBPF funding to local and national actors



2022 data is as of November
Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: CBPF

Regional pooled funds

The spread of insecurity and the associated rapid rise in humanitarian needs across the broader Sahel gave impetus to the establishment of the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (RHFwCA) in 2021 to support humanitarian operations without CBPFs across the region. Burkina Faso became the second country to open an RHFwCA envelope in late 2021. The first \$20 million allocation for 34 projects in six prioritized and hard-to-reach regions is supporting 860,000 people through interventions including WASH, food security, protection and shelter.

Committed to advancing localization through direct funding and capacity-building initiatives, the RHFwCA directly funded eight national NGOs in Burkina Faso. The fund also worked with international NGOs to ensure that an additional 32 local NGOs were engaged in balanced partnerships, with international NGO partners required to submit a capacity-building plan to reinforce their local partners.

A strength of RHFwCA projects is the participative approach undertaken and encouraged by national and international NGOs, who connect with local communities and thus ensure their active engagement in shaping humanitarian action. Solidarités International and local NGO SOLIDEV are a good example of this. They worked with local community members in Tougan commune (Boucle de Mouhoun region) to provide training on shelter construction. With more than 300 local NGOs and associations registered in the country, the role of local actors is critical in Burkina Faso. The RHFwCA is an important proponent of localization and, thereby, more robust humanitarian response.

There is no doubt that pooled funds play an important role in promoting localization through the empowerment of L/NAs, both as decision makers and direct recipients of aid. However, there is still work to be done to meet the promises of the Grand Bargain, such as increasing the flexibility of pooled funds to make multi-year allocations, and simplifying due diligence requirements so that more L/NAs can access funding through CBPFs.¹⁹⁷

195. Due to the nature of CERF's reporting cycle, 2020 is the most recent year for which comprehensive information on subgrants made with CERF funding is available.

196. Subgranting of funds indicates that the funds passed through an agency and were then disbursed to an implementing partner.

197. Humanitarian Policy Group and Overseas Development Institute. *The Grand Bargain in 2021: an independent review*. 22 June 2022.



Kaharey IDP site,
Doolow District,
Somalia

A woman waits
for her kettle to fill.

The water supply
is enough for only
40 per cent of the
site's population.

IDPs with no access
to clean water rely
on sources outside
their settlement
areas, which mainly
comprise untreated
water from a river
that's almost 5 km
away. OCHA/Yao
Chen

Pooled funds: uniquely adaptable in changing humanitarian contexts

CERF and the CBPFs continue to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches people caught up in crises. The funds are central to humanitarian efforts, providing coherent and timely responses and support to in-field coordination, and reinforcing the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs).

Thanks to donors' strong support, both funding vehicles were instrumental in ensuring life-saving humanitarian assistance in 2022. The funds allocated a total of \$1.7 billion to assist people most in need, and as of November 2022, they are on track to match their highest annual allocation level ever: \$1.76 billion.

CERF had allocated close to \$612 million as of November 2022, already the second-highest annual amount in its history. This funding enabled the UN and partners to provide life-saving assistance to approximately 28.2 million people affected by conflict, climate change, natural disasters and disease outbreaks in 41 countries worldwide. Funding enabled

immediate responses to new and deteriorating crises. Underfunded emergencies received a total of \$160 million in 2022.

The CBPFs have allocated \$1.11 billion to provide life-saving support for 54.4 million people, as of November 2022. This already surpasses the previous record year 2021, when \$1.03 billion were allocated. The Afghanistan and Ukraine Humanitarian Funds provided \$283 million and \$188 million respectively, in response to rapidly evolving needs.

As the gap between humanitarian needs and available resources continues to grow, innovative approaches to ensuring efficient and effective humanitarian action are more important than ever. In 2023, the pooled funds will continue to work towards driving system change and enhancing the quality of humanitarian programming. Among other things, OCHA will focus on the strategic impact of funding allocations, supporting a more accountable humanitarian response, making earlier allocations, and supporting anticipatory and early action approaches.



Pooled funds allocations in US\$ (November 2022)

| Location | CBPF (US\$) | CERF (US\$) | Total Allocations (US\$) ▼ |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Ukraine | \$135M | \$61M | \$196M |
| Afghanistan | \$181M | \$10M | \$191M |
| Syria Cross border | \$111M | | \$111M |
| Somalia | \$54M | \$41M | \$95M |
| Sudan | \$49M | \$46M | \$95M |
| South Sudan | \$41M | \$40M | \$81M |
| Yemen | \$37M | \$40M | \$77M |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | \$30M | \$40M | \$70M |
| Syrian Arab Republic | \$25M | \$25M | \$50M |
| Nigeria | \$15M | \$30M | \$45M |
| Burkina Faso | \$20M | \$16M | \$36M |
| Central African Republic | \$18M | \$15M | \$33M |
| Lebanon | \$24M | \$8M | \$32M |
| Chad | | \$29M | \$29M |
| Niger | | \$28M | \$28M |
| Ethiopia | \$11M | \$12M | \$23M |
| Mali | | \$22M | \$22M |
| Myanmar | \$10M | \$12M | \$22M |
| Haiti | | \$20M | \$20M |
| Philippines | | \$12M | \$12M |

Additional 26 rows not shown.

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: Pooled Funds Data Hub



Top contributions to Pooled Funds (November 2022)

| Donor | CBPF (US\$) | CERF (US\$) | Total Contributions (US\$) |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Germany | \$246M | \$107M | \$353M |
| United Kingdom | \$185M | \$61M | \$247M |
| Netherlands | \$115M | \$60M | \$175M |
| Sweden | \$63M | \$75M | \$138M |
| Canada | \$82M | \$23M | \$105M |
| Norway | \$52M | \$51M | \$103M |
| Belgium | \$54M | \$19M | \$74M |
| Denmark | \$38M | \$31M | \$69M |
| United States of America | \$44M | \$15M | \$59M |
| Ireland | \$39M | \$12M | \$51M |

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: Pooled Funds Data Hub

Adaptability and complementarity

OCHA's pooled funds continue to demonstrate their effectiveness and responsiveness through their ability to expand and contract, adapting as a crisis evolves. Further, when CBPF and CERF resources are provided in the same contexts, the HCs at country level ensure those resources are used in a complementary manner, engaging the comparative advantages of each funding mechanism. To ensure complementarity and to maximize comparative advantages, HCs look at one or several principles to underpin CBPF-CERF allocation strategies:

- Temporal sequencing: Selecting a fund to support a different phase(s) of response.
- Complementary recipients: Funding different recipient organizations to maximize coverage and best address the overall situation.
- Complementary sectoral focus: Funding needs in different sectors to achieve desired programmatic coverage.
- Complementary geographic targeting: To achieve the desired spatial coverage and meet the needs of the most affected communities.

- Common global priorities and cross-cutting issues: CERF and CBPF allocations can reinforce consideration of and allocations to key themes.¹⁹⁸

The funds' complementarity and adaptability were vividly illustrated in Ukraine by the combination of CERF's speed and the CBPFs' capability to rapidly scale up capacities and partnerships. On 24 February 2022, CERF allocated \$20 million for Ukraine through its Rapid Response window, followed on 14 March by another \$40 million as the crisis escalated. These funds supported emergency operations along the contact line in the eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk and in other areas of the country. Health care, shelter, food, water and sanitation were provided to the most vulnerable people, including women and girls, the elderly and the displaced. The allocations enabled UN agencies and partners to reach 950,000 people (304,000 women, 456,000 men and 190,000 children), including 114,400 people with disabilities.

In parallel, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) quickly re-set its operations, expanding the fund management team, introducing tailored procedures for fast-tracking new partners, and sending funds quickly to partners

198. OCHA, OCHA Pooled Funds Complementarity: Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs), 25 May 2022.



**Hewad Mena,
Maidan Wardak
Province,
Afghanistan**

Zahra, 10, washes her hands at a new water tap near her home. "I used to walk one hour to bring water, and I had to stand in the queue for one or two hours," she said. With CERF funding, UNICEF completed a solar-powered water supply network for this settlement of displaced Afghans, providing 24-hour access to clean water for more than 500 families and 3,800 people. UNICEF/Sherzai



across conflict lines. In a short time span, the UHF allocated initial donor contributions of some \$118 million to address prioritized needs, an increase from \$14 million in 2021. The funding complemented CERF support, providing multisectoral assistance to displaced and non-displaced people, protecting civilians, and supporting basic services for up to 5 million people.

In contrast, two downsizing operations demonstrate the funds' adaptability to contract in a way that reflects the shifting

context. Following several years of declining humanitarian needs and donor contributions, it was decided to wind down the CBPFs in Jordan and Iraq. Closure is expected to be completed in 2023 with the finalization of implementation, oversight of projects and reporting commitments. Lessons learned through stakeholder consultations will continue to inform operations and best practices in other contexts.



New York, USA
The Security Council
meets to discuss
the situation in
Yemen. UN photo/
Manuel Elías

Humanitarian negotiations: the backbone of access

What are humanitarian negotiations?

Every day, humanitarian organizations work in challenging contexts, such as armed conflicts, settings of severe political instability, other situations of violence, and human-made or natural disasters. Engagement with all actors is crucial to support humanitarian action and assist people in need. Worldwide, around 50 million to 60 million people live in areas under the control or influence of non-State armed groups (NSAGs).¹⁹⁹ The humanitarian operating environment has become extremely challenging and the number of countries with extreme access constraints is increasing, with civilians still accounting for the most casualties.

Humanitarian negotiations aim to facilitate operational access to reach populations in need. Negotiations help to provide access to vital assistance and services, and they contribute to mitigating risks to humanitarian workers within a difficult operating environment.

They protect humanitarian space and contribute to broader initiatives, such as humanitarian corridors and ceasefires. These negotiations are conducted in a principled manner with purely humanitarian objectives: they should not legitimize or show support to any actor.

Negotiations take place with State and non-State actors, who hinder humanitarian access, and with those who can facilitate access, including Member States. These negotiations are conducted with respect to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.²⁰⁰ They can take place at various levels, from facilitating access for humanitarian convoys at checkpoints or across combat lines, to high-level international negotiations with Heads of State. Skillfully conducted humanitarian negotiations can also help to overcome bureaucratic and administrative impediments that obstruct humanitarian action.

199. International Review of Red Cross, No. 915, Engaging armed groups at the International Committee of the Red Cross: Challenges, opportunities and COVID-19, January 2022, <https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/engaging-armed-groups-at-icrc-challenges-opportunities-covid-19-915>.

200. S/RES/1894 (2009).



Who negotiates?

Negotiations take place at different levels – from formal conversations between Member States at the Security Council to community-level engagement with local leaders. General Assembly resolution 46/182 (1991), paragraph 35 (d), gives the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) the mandate and leadership to facilitate access, including through negotiations. Since its creation, OCHA has been involved in coordination with military actors and engaged with Member States on humanitarian access at all levels. Broader understanding by all actors of OCHA's convening role and mandate to undertake humanitarian negotiations would help to improve engagement with all actors, facilitate humanitarian access and broaden humanitarian space.

Other UN humanitarian agencies also have skilled and dedicated staff who are conducting humanitarian negotiations in complex emergencies worldwide. Humanitarian access workers are often the primary

actors who negotiate with armed groups and other actors. To engage meaningfully, they need to have social and communication skills and a deep understanding of the situation's context, actors and dynamics.

What does a negotiation look like?

An example of a high-level negotiation involving Member States and UN senior leadership is the recent Black Sea Grain Initiative, which represented a landmark negotiated agreement in 2022 between Russia and Ukraine. The Government of Türkiye and the UN worked closely over many months to develop plans for the agreement, with the ERC heading talks on Ukrainian grain exports. As part of the negotiations, Ukraine and Russia signed parallel documents outlining the mechanisms through which grain exports would resume. The negotiated agreement opened up the passage of grain through the Black Sea, thanks to the opening of three seaports in Ukraine, ultimately

AID IN ACTION

Humanitarian Access



Gorora and Tokar, Sudan. Through the State Water Corporation and with CERF funding, UNICEF upgraded and motorized the only water system in Gorora and Tokar localities, changing lives in local communities. UNICEF/Amar

Armed conflict, violence and insecurity continue to be the main drivers of access constraints. Threats or attacks against humanitarian personnel and assets often result in relocation, delays and

significant operational challenges for humanitarian organizations, their implementing partners and especially operational NGOs.

Humanitarian access is further constrained by bureaucratic and administrative impediments, including delays in visa processing, custom clearance, prolonged security clearance, fees, taxes on NGOs and laws constraining operations. In response to this growing trend, the IASC released new guidance in 2022 for HCs and HCTs on how to better understand and address these constraints.¹

Despite these insecurity and access impediments, humanitarian organizations continue to put in place mitigation measures and deliver life-saving assistance in all major emergency settings to ensure the continuity of operations that focus on enhanced security management measures, local outreach and community engagement.

1. <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/operational-response/iasc-guidance-understanding-and-addressing-bureaucratic-and-administrative-impediments-humanitarian>.



helping millions of people and easing the pressure on food prices. Over 10 million tonnes of grain had shipped by November 2022.²⁰¹

At the country level, ongoing negotiations with gangs for humanitarian access in Cité Soleil, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, illustrate the difference that successful humanitarian negotiations can make to populations in need. There was a clear humanitarian imperative for these negotiations - following violent clashes, people living in the Cité Soleil neighbourhood were trapped and without access to food, drinking water or health services. Experienced humanitarian actors engaged gang leaders who control the area in a series of talks, explaining their goal to assist the people in need. By gaining the gangs' trust, humanitarians were able to enter the neighbourhoods, deliver vital assistance and evaluate further needs.

Challenges

People undertaking humanitarian negotiations often face impediments, including political or legal implications that come with engaging all parties. Humanitarian organizations also face increased scrutiny out of concern that humanitarian activities could – voluntarily or not – benefit targeted Governments, groups or individuals. Such risks can be successfully mitigated by careful context analysis and by adopting a conflict-sensitive approach to programming.

Global trends show that humanitarians operate in increasingly complex environments. Attacks on aid workers are at their highest since 2013, with 141 reported fatalities in 2021.²⁰² National aid workers are especially at risk. Access constraints are often exacerbated

Aid worker security incidents (2010 - 2021)

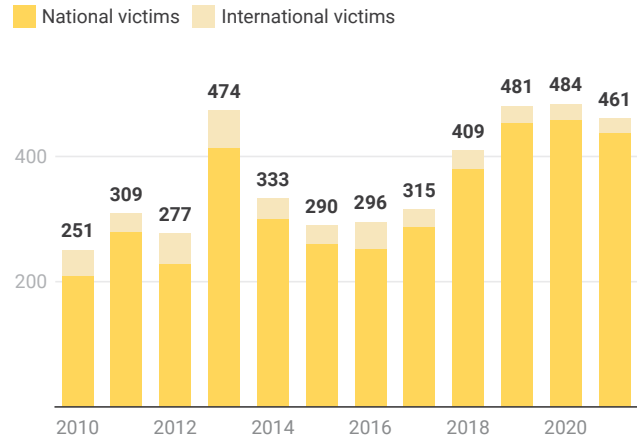


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 • Source: Aid Worker Security Database

by restrictions and bureaucratic and administrative impediments. The Global Protection Cluster reported that in 13 of 23 operations,²⁰³ bureaucratic and administrative constraints were identified as the most critical barrier to reaching affected populations.

Humanitarian actors' ability to engage with all parties, including NSAGs or de facto authorities, is key to successful humanitarian operations. It is crucial that all actors fully understand exactly what humanitarian engagement is and what its objectives are. It is equally imperative that Member States continue to support the humanitarian community, enabling the full protection of humanitarian negotiations.

201. UNCTAD, *The Black Sea Grain Initiative: What it is, and why it's important for the world*, 23 September 2022.

202. Humanitarian Outcomes/Aid Worker Security Database. (2022). *Figures at a Glance*. (July), www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/sites/default/files/publications/awsd_figures_2022.pdf.

203. Global Protection Cluster, *Global Protection Update: beyond trucks, access that protects*, June 2022.



AID IN ACTION

Negotiating access in Haiti



Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Gang-related violence caused hundreds of women, children and men to flee their homes in Butte Boyer, Clercine, Croix-des-Missions and Santo, on the outskirts of the capital. UNICEF

Since 2021, a sharp rise in violence between rival gangs in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area has deprived the local population of access to basic services and limited humanitarian partners' capacity to safely deliver life-saving assistance. In July 2022, violent clashes between the two main coalitions of armed groups, known as G-9 en famille et alliés and G-Pep, broke out in Cité Soleil, a Port-au-Prince neighbourhood that has been inaccessible to the UN for some time. Most of the 277,000 inhabitants were trapped in the violence, deprived of drinking water, food, first aid and education. On 19 July, a UN inter-agency mission negotiated secure access to Cité Soleil to conduct a rapid needs assessment and distribute life-saving assistance.

Between 22 July and 9 September, 12 relief distributions were carried out, providing more than 2 million litres of drinking water and 224 million tonnes of dry rations, such as oil, rice and beans,

to 6,800 households (more than 34,000 people) in Cité Soleil. Other items distributed included hygiene and baby supplies, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, blankets, solar lamps and house-repair items. With implementing partners' support, mobile clinics were deployed and provided first aid and psychosocial support to more than 1,700 people, especially children.

When facing multi-dimensional challenges, such as those in Cité Soleil, effective collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors is key to ensure sustainable results for the population. The UN intervention strategy for Cité Soleil, currently being drafted, seeks to align humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities to provide a comprehensive and lasting response through the mobilization of a variety of UN programmes, such as Spotlight, The UN Peacebuilding Fund, and Community Violence Reduction.



Cabo Delgado,
Mozambique
PSEA sensitization
with newly
displaced people
in Ancuabe, Chiure,
Metuge, Montepuez
and Pemba. UN/
Helvisney Cardoso

Towards an organizational and cultural change to ensure protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment can occur when there are unequal and harmful cultural and social norms and an inequitable distribution of resources and power - factors that are present in many humanitarian contexts.

The IASC's newly endorsed IASC Vision and Strategy: Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH) 2022-2026 commits to promoting lasting change in organizational culture, behaviour and attitudes towards all forms of sexual misconduct in humanitarian operations. It pledges to bolster country capacity for PSEA and ensure that victim- and survivor-centred approaches are at the core of humanitarian response.

Early action, focusing on prevention, helps to reduce the occurrence of SEA, ensuring that there is greater accountability from the outset

of a response. When incidents do occur, early action also helps to ensure better support for the victims/survivors, complainants and whistleblowers. For example, during the first days of the response in Ukraine in early 2022, the IASC called for the immediate deployment of capacity on the ground, recognizing that the risks of SEA were high and abuse was likely, even prior to any specific reports or complaints. A dedicated inter-agency PSEA Coordinator was deployed to assist the HC and the HCT. UNHCR mobilized dedicated capacity and deployed dedicated PSEA coordinators in the neighbouring countries for the refugee response.

PSEA coordinators help prevent, detect and respond to SEA at the country level. They help to implement a country action plan, which includes training humanitarian workers, conducting PSEA risk assessments and advocating for a victim-/ survivor-centred approach.



Starting in early 2023, the IASC will develop a comprehensive inter-agency project to identify, hire, sustainably fund and deploy inter-agency PSEA coordinators across the 15 highest-priority contexts. These high-risk contexts are identified using the SEA Risk Overview, which pinpoints how the drivers of risks compare across countries, tracking changes over time.

The tool uses 40 indicators to help identify high-risk contexts and inform partners where more training, capacity and resources are needed.

IASC members are dedicating capacity within their respective organizations to tackle PSEA, including in country programmes and by screening and vetting in employment, making pledges of commitment and ensuring that staff understand their PSEA responsibilities.

AID IN ACTION

Understanding community barriers to reporting SEA in Lebanon



OCHA/Craig Anderson

In Lebanon, the PSEA Network conducted a community consultation to gain greater understanding of the barriers to reporting SEA. The community was asked if they could recognize SEA, if they felt it was reported, if they were aware of the available reporting channels and what their expectations were after reporting.

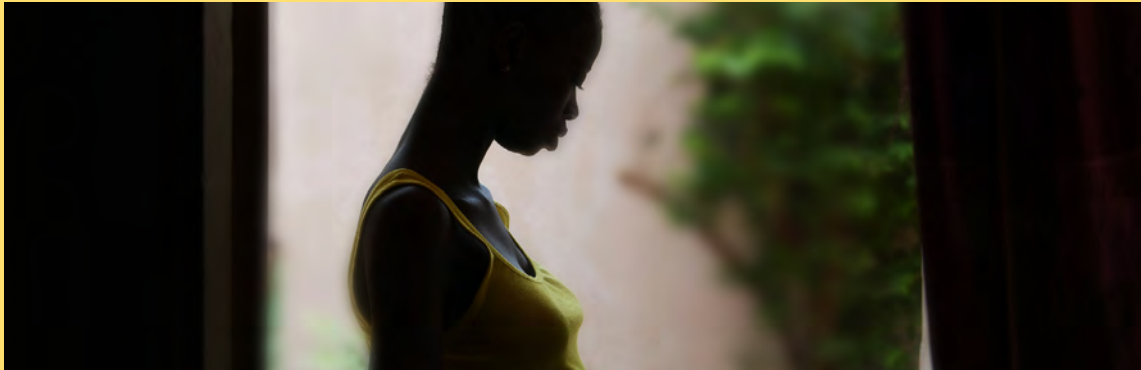
Findings indicate that only 28 per cent of respondents had someone explain to them what constitutes SEA. **Women, girls and widows were**

the most at risk, and only 11 per cent felt that SEA was reported every time. Most preferred to report SEA directly in person; using a hotline was the second choice. The main barriers to reporting SEA were a perception of shame, a belief that the incident did not warrant reporting, doubt that perpetrators would be held accountable and fear of repercussion. The community consultation provided PSEA practitioners with insights to advocate for safer programming.



AID IN ACTION

Embedding PSEA actions within humanitarian response in Burkina Faso



UNICEF/Frank Dejongh

The Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the HRP undergo a quality review,¹ with set standards and indicators that are applied consistently to ensure products and processes are relevant, credible and useful. These standards are not intended to critique or grade the work of country operations; they aim to serve as benchmarks upon which future progress can be measured, and to identify areas for improvement. To ensure fairness, the scoring team for each HPC country comprises three organizations: OCHA, a donor and a UN agency (non-OCHA).

Of the 17 indicators for HRPs, one is directly related to PSEA: “The HRP appropriately references how PSEA will be addressed.” Its presence helps to keep country teams accountable in terms of integrating PSEA through programming. In the case of Burkina Faso, the HRP scored 100 per cent across 11 indicators. They included the PSEA indicator and the indicator on whether the HRP prioritizes specific population groups for humanitarian response based on gender, age and displacement.

To embed PSEA in humanitarian response, it is not sufficient to mainstream it through the HRP. This also needs to be accompanied by longer-term vision and policies. For Burkina Faso, the UNCT-HCT PSEA Strategy 2021-2024 highlights

the importance of PSEA mainstreaming into HNO/HRPs as a priority so that programmes/projects implemented are safe and appropriate for assisted communities. This was complemented by the PSEA Network in country, which held a one-day workshop with cluster coordinators to help them integrate appropriate safe programming and risk-mitigation activities into cluster strategies, response plans and partners’ projects.

Finally, mainstreaming PSEA has also been supported by appropriate resourcing:

- All of the Central Emergency Response Fund’s project budgets included funding for PSEA capacity-building and communications.
- The UNCT and HCT secured sufficient funds to conduct a training of trainers with the PSEA Network, who then trained more than 1,000 personnel from humanitarian organizations and implementing partners on PSEA guidelines and protocols, including survivor-centred assistance.
- Through the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa, 34 international and national NGO partners have integrated SEA risk-mitigation/response activities and budget lines.

1. For more information, see [HPC 2022 – Quality review: approach and tools](#).



Umoja village,
Samburu East,
Kenya

This women-only village began as a refuge for survivors of sexual violence. The women reside together, providing collective security and cooperation.
OCHA/Jane Kiiru

The pervasive and damaging effects of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies

Gender-based violence (GBV) is increasingly woven into the fabric of all humanitarian emergencies worldwide. Conflict, climate-related crises and internal displacement all contribute to growing levels of GBV. These crises exacerbate existing gender inequalities and disproportionately increase women's and girls' risk of death, violence, hunger, sexual violence, forced and child marriage, trafficking and SEA.

Natural disasters and climate-related crises, such as prolonged drought and the ensuing food insecurity, force women and girls to make longer and more frequent journeys to obtain food or water. This exposes them to higher risks of GBV and results in them eating less, with particularly dire consequences for pregnant women, who require higher levels of nutrition.

In Somalia, the GBV Information Management System recorded a sharp increase in reported incidents of intimate-partner violence and rape between January and May 2022, which correlated with a period of drought and famine in the country. Countries impacted by drought, such as those in the Horn of Africa, have experienced a rise in child marriage and female genital mutilation.²⁰⁴

In conflict settings, sexual violence remains rampant. Conflict-related sexual violence is reported across Ethiopia's northern region, with limited access to life-saving comprehensive humanitarian services.²⁰⁵ The ongoing war in Ukraine and the deterioration of the security context has sharply increased the risk of multiple forms of violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, SEA and human

204. UNICEF, [Drought forcing more girls into child marriage in the Horn of Africa/UNFPA, Crisis in the Horn of Africa](#), June 2022.

205. [Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence \(S/2022/272\)](#), 29 March 2022.



trafficking.²⁰⁶ The emergencies in Haiti and Venezuela²⁰⁷ also highlight an increase of sexual violence by non-State actors against women and girls.²⁰⁸

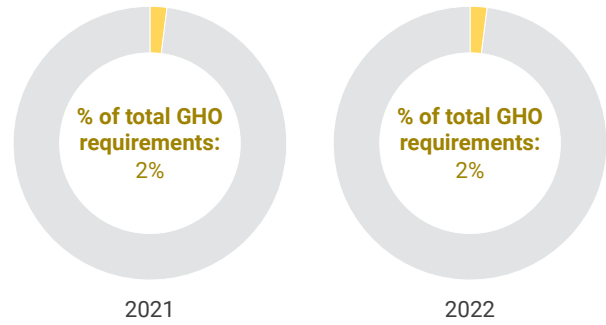
Responding to GBV in emergencies

Humanitarian emergencies do not just exacerbate GBV levels – they also contribute to existing gender inequalities, such as women’s and girls’ limited access to decision-making processes, education and work, and the increased gaps in sexual and reproductive health services.²⁰⁹ But these settings also showcase women’s strengths and leadership, acting as first responders in crises, and playing a central role in the survival and resilience of families and communities.

Emergency response must prioritize gender considerations in order for the humanitarian system to address GBV and support the meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in emergencies. The shortfall in funding for gender-equality programming and GBV programming – the latter receiving a mere 12 per cent of its total funding requirements in 2022²¹⁰ – remains a serious challenge.

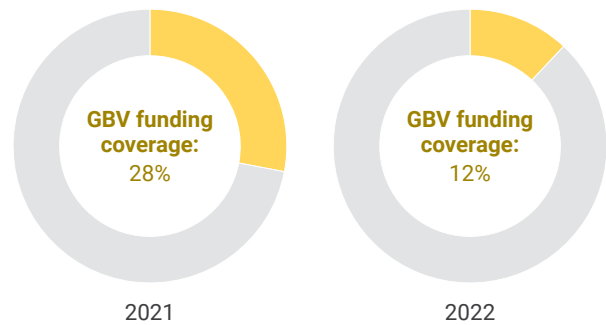
Gender-based violence (GBV) Requirements

GBV requirements are a small fraction of the GHO requirements, representing only 2 per cent.



Funding gaps

Despite representing only a small proportion of GHO requirements, funding coverage is very low. As of mid-November 2022, GBV was only 12 per cent funded.



Source: FTS

206. UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), HRMMU Update on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 24 February – 26 March 2022.

207. UNOHCHR, Venezuela: new UN report details responsibilities for crimes against humanity to repress dissent and highlights situation in remotes mining areas, accessed 17 November 2022.

208. UNOHCHR, Sexual violence in Port-au-Prince: A weapon used by gangs to instil fear, October 2022.

209. World Economic Forum, Why We Need More Female Voices While Addressing Humanitarian Crises, 25 May 2022.

210. Based on FTS data, as of 12 November 2022. Funding represents total funding to the Protection Sector - GBV area of responsibility.



AID IN ACTION

Ukraine: the role of human rights monitoring in humanitarian action



Ukraine. Since the war began in Ukraine, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has documented serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Staff visited 14 towns in the Kyiv and Chernihiv regions to monitor damage. OHCHR

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) has maintained an uninterrupted presence in the country since 2014. It plays an important role within the HCT through monitoring and reporting protection issues, and mainstreaming a human rights-based approach to the HCT's preparedness and response.

Since 2014, HRMMU's work on casualty monitoring has been central to the humanitarian response: It contributes to the analysis of trends and risks that inform needs overviews. HRMMU also closely follows conflict-related arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment, and sexual violence, reporting

on them regularly and helping to shape relevant protection responses. This monitoring and reporting, together with a protection presence, helps to deter further violations and ensure future accountability.

HRMMU ensures that the voices of affected people – including vulnerable categories, such as people with disabilities, Roma people and older people – are heard. Particular attention is also given to women and girls, who are at risk of trafficking in a context of mass displacement, a deteriorating economic situation and broken social ties.

**“Our world is in big trouble.
Let’s develop common solutions to
common problems – grounded in
goodwill, trust, and the rights shared by
every human being.
Let’s work as one, as a coalition of the
world. As united nations.”**

António Guterres
United Nations Secretary-General
Remarks at the UN General Assembly, 2022



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