



Introduction

# Foreword by the Emergency Relief Coordinator

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

**2021 was a year of challenge and achievement. At the start of the year, the pandemic was hitting hard. Combined with ongoing conflicts and the climate crisis, it has driven up humanitarian needs.**

Children, especially girls, are missing out on their education. Women's rights are threatened. Multiple famines loom. Individual lives and livelihoods, regional and national stability, and decades of development are at risk. The cost of inaction in the face of these challenges is high.

But this has also been the year that the humanitarian system rose to the challenge, overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles and showing what can be done when the international community comes together. Thanks to generous donors, the humanitarian system delivered food, medicines, health care and other essential assistance to 107 million people this year.

In South Sudan, over half a million people have been brought back from the brink of famine. In Yemen, more than 10 million outpatient medical consultations were carried out, and 344,000 safe births assisted. The humanitarian system got hundreds of millions of dollars in cash assistance into the hands of people struggling to survive.

**Chakmakul, Bangladesh.** A young girl sits by the entrance of her home in Chakmakul, a refugee camp sheltering Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The world's biggest refugee camp battles regularly with the onset of monsoon rains. The Bangladeshi Government and humanitarian organizations on the ground work hard to minimize the risks from landslides, flash floods, waterborne diseases and, ultimately, loss of life. Thousands of people face dire circumstances, as conditions in the camps are expected to dramatically worsen with the onset of heavy rains. *UNICEF/Siegfried Modola*



**Hawzen, Ethiopia.** The Director of Hawzen Referral Hospital explains to ERC Martin Griffiths how, after being used for eight months as a military base, the facility was left inoperative. Around 160,000 people who live in the area were left without proper medical attention. Equipment including the neonatal ICU (pictured here) was vandalized and destroyed. To restore services, all equipment and medicines will have to be replaced. *OCHA/Saviano Abreu*

The results achieved by national and international humanitarian workers are a credit to the determination and capability of the humanitarian system and to the donors who support it. They deserve our gratitude. What they really need is our support.

The humanitarian system is strong, but the challenges are increasing. New battlefields have emerged, including in northern Ethiopia, where millions now need aid to survive. Across Ethiopia, humanitarian needs are growing at an alarming rate. As the conflict spreads from Tigray into Amhara and Afar regions, thousands of people are being displaced. Elsewhere in the country, conflict, drought and locusts are pushing more people to the brink. In the Tigray region, I met survivors of horrific sexual abuse whose horizons were limited to survival.

In Afghanistan, needs are skyrocketing. There I saw systems on the brink of complete collapse and the rights of women and girls under threat. In Myanmar, the humanitarian situation is fast deteriorating because of growing conflict and insecurity. Conflict remains in parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Syria and Yemen.

Meanwhile, the climate crisis presents an immediate existential threat to the lives and livelihoods of many. In 2020, extreme climatic and weather events drove almost 16 million people into food crises in 15 countries. And food crises in turn fuel further violence and exploitation of women and children. Among the top 15 countries classified as most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change,<sup>1</sup> 12 had a Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020. In 2021, climate change joined conflict as a root cause of famine, as evidenced in drought-affected Madagascar, where climate is driving famine-like conditions.



**Aleppo, Syria.** The ERC Martin Griffiths meets the implementing partners of an health care centre situated in the Maaret Al Arteeq area in Aleppo, to listen to their needs and learn from the challenges they face daily. *OCHA/Ali Al Matar*

Humanitarian action must adapt to the climate crisis. We cannot risk overlooking other threats while we fight the climate crisis. We all must continue advocating for the full and equal participation of women and girls at all levels of education, the economy and public life. Decision-making must involve them.

This Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 projects humanitarian needs for the coming year. In many respects, the outlook it presents is bleak. But I am encouraged. Not only by the results the humanitarian system can achieve but by its innovation.

Anticipatory action can help mitigate the consequences of climate change. Governments and humanitarian agencies saved millions of lives by taking early action in 2017 to prevent famine in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. The humanitarian system is also taking determined action to prioritize equity, inclusion and access to information for affected communities. It must work ever harder to protect the most vulnerable from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The challenges are immense, and funding remains well below what is needed.

This is the moment to double down. To protect hard-won gains, to stand by those who need our support, and to take the kind of decisive action that is in everyone's interests.

We need your support.

**Martin Griffiths**



Introduction

# At a Glance

PEOPLE IN NEED

**274<sub>M</sub>**

PEOPLE TARGETED

**183<sub>M</sub>**

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

**\$41<sub>B</sub>**

APPEALS

**37**

Part one

## Global Trends

**COVID-19 shows no signs of abating, claiming at least 1.8 million lives across the GH0 countries,** fuelled by variants and a lack of vaccines. Economies and livelihoods have been devastated, increasing humanitarian needs and fuelling conflict. Only 4 per cent of the 7 billion vaccines administered have reached countries with an Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). In two thirds of these countries, an additional 20 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty.

**Major tipping points for the climate may already have been reached or passed;** humanitarian action must adapt. Climate-related disaster events are more frequent and variable. Up to 216 million people may have to move within their own countries by 2050 due to the effects of climate change.

**Political conflicts continue hitting civilian populations hard,** particularly the vulnerable including children and persons with disabilities. Women and girls remain at increased risk of conflict-related sexual violence. Attacks against humanitarian workers and assets continue; 117 humanitarian workers were killed in 2020, 108 of whom were working in their own country.

**Al Qadarif, Sudan.** This woman is one of the Ethiopian refugees who volunteered to teach children in makeshift classrooms at Um Rakuba camp. She said: "These children are the next generation coming up. Some will be doctors, teachers, pilots. I don't just dream for them... teaching plays a role in building a generation."  
UNHCR/Will Swanson





**More than 1 per cent of the world's population is now displaced,** about 42 per cent of whom are children. Millions of IDPs are living in protracted situations, 40 per cent fewer are able to return home.

**COVID-19 is severely impacting health systems worldwide.** Testing, diagnosis and treatment have decreased for HIV, TB and malaria. Antenatal-care visits have fallen by 43 per cent and 23 million children worldwide missed basic childhood vaccines in 2021.

**Hard-won development gains in employment, food security, education and health care have been reversed.** Extreme poverty is rising after two decades in decline. Recovery from the extraordinary disruptions caused by COVID-19 remains uncertain. Women and younger workers are disproportionately impacted by job losses.

**Aleppo, Syria.** Around 2,000 households received bread and COVID-19 information flyers in Salheen, Aleppo. The neighbourhood was under opposition control until late 2016 and the massive destruction of buildings is still visible. Residents relied on daily or weekly wages, which have been halted due to precautionary measures for COVID-19. WFP/Khudr Alissa



**Hunger is rising and food insecurity is at unprecedented levels.** Globally, up to 811 million people are undernourished. Famine-like conditions remain a real and terrifying possibility in 43 countries around the world. Without sustained and immediate action, 2022 could be catastrophic.

**COVID-19 continues to disrupt global education.** School closures hit vulnerable children the hardest. Globally, 870 million students face disruptions to their education. Remote learning cannot reach everyone; 2.2 billion children have no Internet access at home. Online learning does not replace the protection benefits of children physically being in school.

**Yangon, Myanmar.** This woman lives in the urban outskirts of Yangon. Since February, food prices have been rising throughout Myanmar, placing basic foods out of the reach of the poorest people. The current political crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated job cuts and resulted in lost incomes. WFP/Photolibrary



**The pandemic has dealt a major blow to gender parity and women's employment.** The gender-poverty gap is widening, and 247 million women live on less than US\$1.90 a day. For every three months that COVID-19 lockdowns continue, an additional 15 million GBV cases are expected to occur. Over 70 per cent of women and girls in humanitarian settings have experienced GBV.

**The private sector has been a key ally during COVID-19,** demonstrating its ability to mobilize resources and strengthen emergency preparedness and recovery. Greater collaboration is needed to systematically include the private sector in humanitarian coordination systems.

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Part two

## Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals

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**In 2022, 274 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection** - a significant increase from 235 million people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. The UN and partner organizations aim to assist 183 million people most in need across 63 countries, which will require \$41 billion.

**The ten most underfunded emergency situations in 2021 received less than half the funding required to meet humanitarian needs.** Humanitarian aid cannot provide a path out of protracted crises while such a scarcity of funds persists. Much-needed food rations have been cut back and life-saving health-care services reduced. It is essential that funding requirements for 2022 are met in full and on time.

**Two regions, the Middle East and North Africa and West and Central Africa continue to have the most humanitarian needs** due to protracted crisis that show no signs of abating. Over the past two years sharp increases in needs are evident in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Southern and East Africa. Five years ago, only Haiti had an HRP in Latin America and the Caribbean, now there are six in place across the region.

**In Afghanistan, more than 24 million people require life-saving assistance to prevent catastrophe.** This represents a dramatic increase in needs, driven by repeated economic shocks, political tumult and the severe food insecurity caused by the worst drought in 27 years.

**A decade into the crisis in Syria and basic service delivery continues to be vastly inadequate** and hampered by damaged infrastructure, lack of critical supplies and, increasingly, financial unaffordability. Average household expenditure now exceeds available income by 50 per cent compared to 20 per cent in August 2020.

**Al Noeyah, Yemen.** A boy waits at the food distribution point supported by WFP.  
*WFP/Ayman Fuad*



**Despite continued efforts to mitigate the risk of famine in Yemen, food insecurity continues to remain a key challenge.** Acute food insecurity is a reality for 16.2 million people in the country. Even with the current levels of humanitarian assistance, 40 per cent of the population have inadequate food.

**In Ethiopia, climate shocks, unprecedented levels of conflict, insecurity and disease outbreaks** coupled with a deteriorating economy continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs for 25.9 million people. Many of the 4.2 million IDPs, seek shelter in urban areas, further increasing pressure on vulnerable families within host communities.

**People in Myanmar are facing an unprecedented political, human rights and humanitarian crisis**, with needs escalating dramatically since the military takeover and a severe COVID-19 third wave in 2021. Humanitarian assistance is needed by 14.4 million people.

**In Haiti, 43 per cent of the population needs humanitarian assistance.** The country is experiencing a profound and disturbing deterioration of the socioeconomic, political and security context coupled with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that affected more than 800,000 people.

South Sudan is facing its highest levels of food insecurity and malnutrition since the country declared independence ten years ago. Macroeconomic shocks, three years of consecutive flooding, disease outbreaks and increasing subnational violence have resulted in 8.4 million in need and a growing number of threats against humanitarian workers

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Part three

## Delivering Better

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**Enhanced data collection is helping address the specific needs of women and girls** in humanitarian prioritization and response. More women are needed in humanitarian leadership roles. Lack of funding for GBV response, mitigation and prevention remains of critical concern.

**CERF and the CBPFs continue to reach the most vulnerable people**, prioritizing response, recovery and coordination for extreme weather events, conflicts, disease outbreaks and the impacts of COVID-19.

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**Nyunzu, DR Congo.** This internally displaced woman regularly brings her twins to the Tchanga Tchanga health centre to monitor their nutritional status. With funding from the DRC Humanitarian Fund, Médecins d'Afrique cares for some 3,450 children under 5 years of age suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Nyunzu. *OCHA/Wassy Kambale*





At a time when 45 million people are on the edge of famine, **the High-Level Task Force on Preventing Famine is actively advocating for famine prevention resources**, improved access to people in need and strengthened data and analysis. Without immediate and sustained action to prevent famine, humanitarian needs will far exceed those seen in the last decade.

As new and escalating crises emerge, **progress has been made on strengthening system-wide accountability to affected people** and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Local leaders and communities are gaining greater recognition by international actors** as key first responders in a crisis and providers of long-term support. They have been critical to sustaining humanitarian operations and being at the forefront of the COVID-19 response.

**Kalunguta, DR Congo.** This man is building a house for his family, together with nine other displaced men. "When we finish one house, we start building the next, and so on. We also work with the local people, youths and women who we met here. They show solidarity with us who are displaced." *OCHA/Ivo Brandau*



**Hurricanes Eta and Iota demonstrated local humanitarian organizations' pivotal role** in saving lives while dealing with a pandemic. Local partners directly responded to affected communities in Guatemala and Honduras and informed operational planning. Essential first-hand knowledge of affected communities enabled timely and appropriate responses.

**An estimated half of all today's crises are somewhat predictable.**

Anticipatory action mitigates the shock impact and reduces humanitarian needs, helping to enhance resilience and making resources more efficient.



Introduction

# Global Achievements Results from 2021

## **Humanitarians responded within an ever-changing landscape in 2021, urgently delivering assistance to people caught up in crises.**

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects compounded multiple challenges already facing humanitarian workers including violent conflict, rising hunger and the devastating impacts of climate change. Local partners stepped up to help access areas that could not be reached by international responders and deliver critical aid.

In 2021, the United Nations and partner organizations aimed to assist 174 million people, through 38 country plans and 7 regional plans. Of the 153 million people targeted by plans at country level, 107 million were reached - 70 per cent of the total targeted. The people reached figure includes all targeted people who benefited from at least one form of aid in the year.

Life-saving food assistance has been delivered to multiple crisis situations in 2021. In northern Mozambique, humanitarian organizations significantly scaled up their response, enabling partners to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance and protection to 1.23 million people — more than double the number of people reached in 2020. In South Sudan, humanitarian action brought six counties back from the brink of famine through a targeted, multisectoral scale-up in the most food insecure areas. Over 500,000 severely food insecure people facing catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) received life-saving assistance, and 100,000 families received livelihoods assistance.

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti.** An IOM officer checks in with a displaced person at the Delmas 103 school in Port-Au-Prince, a temporary shelter for over 200 disabled residents who had been targeted by gang violence. *OCHA/Matteo Minasi*

## People Reached by Humanitarian Response Plans (2021)

Appeal	Type	Targeted	Reached ▾	%
Afghanistan	HRP+FA	17.7 M	17.5 M	99%
Yemen	HRP	16.0 M	10.9 M	68%
Ethiopia	HRP+FA	20.1 M	9.4 M	47%
Sudan	HRP	8.9 M	7.4 M	83%
DRC	HRP	9.6 M	7.1 M	73%
Syria	HRP	11.1 M	6.7 M	60%
South Sudan	HRP	6.6 M	5.7 M	86%
Nigeria	HRP	6.4 M	4.8 M	75%
Venezuela	HRP	4.5 M	4.0 M	89%
Somalia	HRP	4.0 M	3.0 M	74%
Zimbabwe	HRP	4.5 M	2.9 M	64%
Pakistan	HRP	4.3 M	2.6 M	60%
Mali	HRP	4.7 M	2.5 M	52%
Myanmar	HRP+ERP	3.1 M	2.2 M	72%
Chad	HRP	4.0 M	2.0 M	50%
Haiti	HRP+FA	1.8 M	1.8 M	100%
CAR	HRP	1.8 M	1.7 M	92%
Niger	HRP	2.1 M	1.7 M	82%
Burkina Faso	HRP	2.9 M	1.6 M	55%
Cameroon	HRP	3.0 M	1.6 M	53%
Ukraine	HRP	1.9 M	1.4 M	74%
Mozambique	HRP	1.0 M	1.2 M	100%
Iraq	HRP	1.5 M	1.2 M	80%
oPt	HRP+FA	1.8 M	1.2 M	64%
Colombia	HRP	1.4 M	1.1 M	76%
Madagascar	FA	1.3 M	908.0 K	69%
Kenya	FA	1.3 M	795.0 K	61%
Honduras	HRP+FA	1.8 M	728.0 K	40%
Libya	HRP	451.0 K	500.0 K	100%
Burundi	HRP	1.1 M	354.0 K	33%
Guatemala	HRP	1.7 M	136.1 K	8%
El Salvador	HRP	912.2 K	47.7 K	5%

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: Humanitarian Insight





**Bangassou, Central African Republic.** A local worker unloads a cargo plane carrying humanitarian aid in Bangassou. A new wave of violence linked to the December 2020 general elections has forced more than 51,000 people to seek refuge in the outskirts of Bangassou and in neighbour DRC. Despite the persistent insecurity in this region, humanitarian actors are progressively providing assistance to the IDPs. *OCHA/Adrienne Surprenant*

Food assistance has been delivered to 4 million people in Afghanistan, and as of August 2021 almost 6 million people were reached with regular food baskets in Syria — a country that has seen a steep rise in the cost of food.

As the impacts of conflict on civilians continue to grow, humanitarian actors operated in risky environments to help those in need. Despite the impact of protracted occupation in oPt, assistance continued to be delivered in 2021. Humanitarian actors responded to the escalation of hostilities and unrest in Gaza and the West Bank while also meeting the additional needs resulting from the pandemic. In Libya, Mine Action partners cleared almost 2.3 million m<sup>2</sup> of explosive hazards.

The provision of basic services for those most in need has continued in 2021. In Iraq, 1.2 million returnees and IDPs received assistance. This includes over half a million people who accessed basic health care; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; and special protection services. In Venezuela, 1.8 million people received WASH assistance, and 537,000 women, men, girls and boys were assisted with protection services, including access to legal documentation and information.



## Achievements by sector

[Explore more achievements  
gho.unocha.org](https://gho.unocha.org)

### Overcoming Disruption to Health Services

Global health services have been disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, severely impacting the most vulnerable. Humanitarian response has included the provision of personal protective supplies in 29 countries, life-saving child immunization campaigns and the supply of critical hygiene items and services.



#### COVID-19

362 million doses of the vaccine were shipped globally through COVAX. A further 1.4 billion doses are forecasted for 2022.

WHO



#### Medical supplies

2 million people, including health workers, reached with personal protective equipment supplies in twenty-nine countries.

UNFPA



#### Hygiene items

26.9 million people reached with critical WASH supplies - including hygiene items - and services.

UNICEF



#### Refugees

4.2 million refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern in 74 countries received essential healthcare services.

UNHCR

### Averting Alarming Levels of Hunger and Extreme Poverty

COVID-19 has devastated livelihoods around the globe and extreme poverty is rising. Drought, floods and other climate crises have threatened the livelihoods of those living in rural areas in addition to ongoing conflict and political instability. The number of acutely food insecure people has increased dramatically and the risk of famine is now a reality. Humanitarians have responded with urgent actions including cash-based transfers and direct food assistance, support to the self-employed, live-stock feed and help with crop production.



#### Livelihoods

18 million people have received livelihoods assistance: cash, heating, livestock rearing, crop production and fishing.

FAO



#### Food assistance

Nearly 105 million people received direct food aid in the first nine months (January - September) of 2021.

WFP



#### Safe water

34 million people, some forcibly displaced, accessed safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

UNICEF



#### Cash transfers

Partners handed \$1.6 billion in cash-based transfers to vulnerable people and communities across 67 countries.

WFP

## Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable People

The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects have taken a heavy toll on the most vulnerable in communities, who were already experiencing disproportionate challenges in accessing services including health care and education. Humanitarians have responded with actions including the provision of facilities for women and children to access reproductive health services, supporting persons with disabilities to participate in communities and assistance to survivors.



### Psychosocial support

5 million children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support.

UNICEF



### Risk education

1.3 million children accessing explosive weapons-related risk education and survivor assistance interventions.

UNICEF



### Sexual health

29 million women of reproductive age were reached with sexual and reproductive health services and supplies.

UNFPA



### Risk mitigation and prevention

8.6 million women, girls and boys accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention or response interventions.

UNICEF

## Basic Services to Support Refugees

The number of refugees remains at a record high. As crises become increasingly complex and protracted, fewer can return home and are living 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 which are women and girls. This includes provision of safe drinking water, cash assistance, mental health services and vital health care.



### Protection

4.75 million displaced children - including stateless, disabled and separated - benefited from protection services.

UNHCR



### Camp management

Over 6.6 million people reached with CCCM interventions in 4,074 sites across 13 countries.

CCCM Cluster



### Education

Over 896,900 refugee and host community children in 80 countries supported with connected or home-based learning.

UNHCR



### Social protection

2.51 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 95 countries benefit from increased or expanded social protection.

UNHCR

## Mainstreaming Protection and Gender-Based Violence

Over 70 per cent of women and girls living in some conflict contexts have experienced GBV. The pandemic's socioeconomic impacts have only intensified this risk. Greater access to social protection and affordable, quality and accessible health-care services is urgently needed. Humanitarian actors have provided protection services including legal aid, GBV services and psychological support to vulnerable groups including women and girls, young people refugees and asylum seekers.



### Safe report channels

3.2 million people with access to safe channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF



### Legal aid

11.3 million people received protection services, including legal aid, referrals to GBV services and psycho-social support.

UNHCR



### Safe spaces

12,000 safe spaces for women, adolescent girls and young people were supported in 38 countries.

UNFPA



### Communities

656,680 people in the Syria Crisis participated in Gender-Based Violence response activities and community-led initiatives.

UNHCR

## Ensuring Timely and Efficient Humanitarian Operations

From moving goods and equipment to relocating disaster-affected people, humanitarian response relies on efficient transport and communications systems to reach those in crises and provide the help they need. Coordination and information management is key to supporting operational decision-making and improving the predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the humanitarian emergency response.



### Air services

236,100 passengers across 23 operations transported by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service.

WFP / Logistics Cluster



### Relief items

Storage for 42,394 m3 of relief items and dispatch services for 19,959 mt of cargo to more than 400 different locations.

WFP / Logistics Cluster



### Preparedness

Preparedness activities to strengthen national Information Technology capacity and resilience to disaster in eight countries.

ET Cluster



### Communications

Over 10,500 aid workers across 450 different organizations assisted with Emergency Telecommunications services.

ET Cluster