



Part one

Global Trends

In 2022, humanitarian action will need to adapt to new and challenging realities. The COVID-19 pandemic is taking a heavy toll in developing countries, civilians continue to be the most affected by conflict and extreme poverty is rising. Climate change effects are devastating, forced displacement is at record levels and 161 million people face acute food insecurity.

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Part one: Global trends

Humanitarian Action Must Adapt to Climate Change Realities

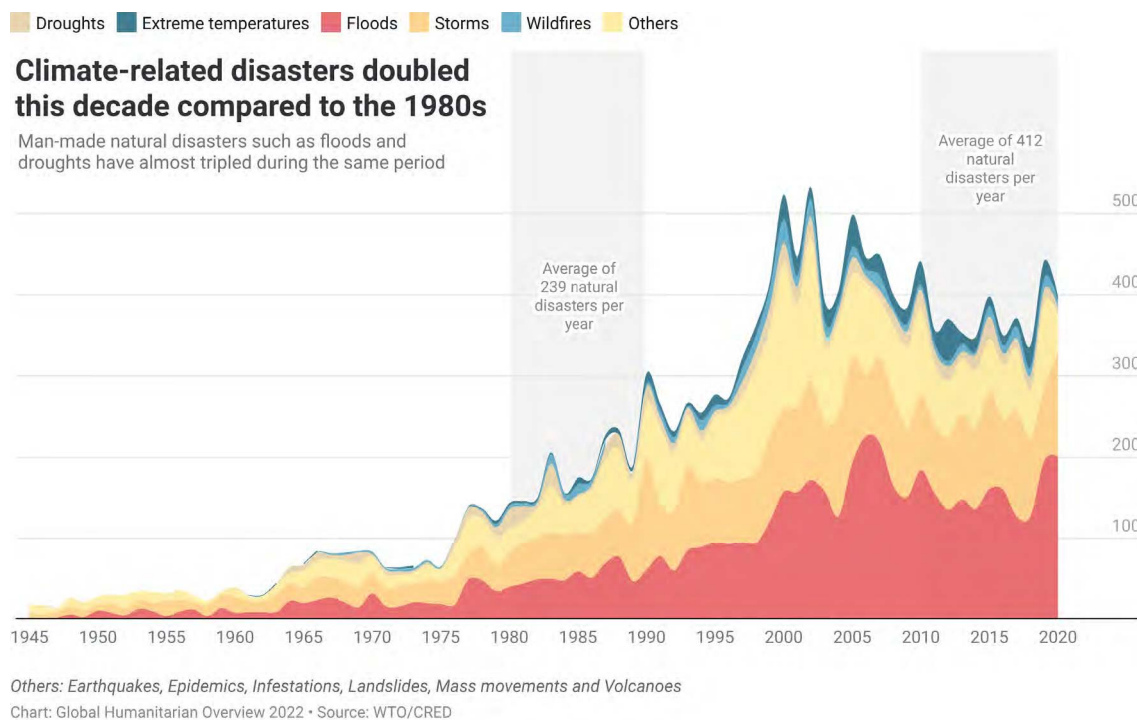
The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat in the future. Its effects are happening now, impairing human rights, creating new humanitarian needs and exacerbating and protracting those that already exist.

2020 was one of the three warmest years on record, with a global mean temperature of 1.2 °C above pre-industrial times.¹ The past six years were the hottest on record, and 2010-2019 was the hottest decade on record, characterized by climate- and extreme-weather-related disasters, such as heatwaves, droughts, tropical storms and acute floods.² Alarming evidence from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change³ shows that major tipping points and irreversible changes to the climate may have already been reached or passed. This is an existential climate reality that all stakeholders, including humanitarian actors, will need to adapt to.

Climate-related disaster events are becoming more frequent and variable, creating heightened levels of risk and vulnerability, negatively impacting human rights and disrupting livelihoods and threatening lives around the globe. A total of 389 climate-related disasters were recorded in 2020, resulting in the deaths of 15,080 people, affecting 98.4 million others and inflicting \$171.3 billion in economic damage.⁴

Beira, Mozambique. A young girl from Nharrime, Mozambique, takes shelter in Samora Machel School in Beira. She is escaping the winds and heavy rain of Tropical Cyclone Eloise, which made landfall on January 2021 with wind speeds of 160 km per hour. *UNICEF/Ricardo Franco*

2020 exceeded the average number of recorded climate-related events and associated economic losses compared to average annual data taken over the previous two decades. Records show 26 per cent more storms, 23 per cent more floods and 18 per cent more deaths from floods compared to the average.⁵ Many of these extreme events happened consecutively, leaving little time for recovery from one shock to the next. The climate emergency is a threat multiplier, contributing not only to more frequent and intense climate-related disasters but also conflict, driving displacement and making life harder for those already forced to flee.⁶ The collapse of natural ecosystems is also fuelling food insecurity and economic, human rights and societal challenges.



People caught in humanitarian crises are already among those most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Should the 1.5°C and 2°C targets be missed, humanitarian consequences are projected to increase exponentially and will gradually become global.

Among the top 15 countries classified as most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change,⁷ 12 had a HRP in 2020.⁸ Humanitarian needs in these countries are becoming more and more protracted. Haiti, Mali, Niger and Yemen have had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal for at least 10 consecutive years; Afghanistan, the Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad for at least 15 consecutive years; and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia and Sudan for at least 20 consecutive years.⁹ Of these countries, 12 had concurrent public health emergencies with COVID-19,¹⁰ and all 15 were in a state of conflict or high-institutional or social fragility.¹¹ In 8 countries, at least 15 per cent of the population was experiencing levels of acute food insecurity or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above),¹² and 14 had moderate to high risk of debt distress or were already in debt distress.

Vulnerability to Climate Change (2020)

| Country | ▲ ND-GAIN | HRP | State of conflict | Public health emergencies | Food Insecure Population | Debt risk | Natural disasters |
|---------------|-----------|-----|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Chad | 28.40 | Yes | Medium | Measles, Polio | <div><div></div></div> 12% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 39 |
| CAR | 28.95 | Yes | Medium | Measles, Polio | <div><div></div></div> 47% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 32 |
| Eritrea | 31.15 | – | Fragile | – | – | – | <div><div></div></div> 4 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 31.95 | – | Fragile | – | <div><div></div></div> 8% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 10 |
| DRC | 32.28 | Yes | Medium | Measles, Polio, Cholera, Plague | <div><div></div></div> 28% | Moderate risk | <div><div></div></div> 110 |
| Sudan | 32.71 | Yes | Fragile | Diphtheria, Rift Valley Fever | <div><div></div></div> 21% | Debt distress | <div><div></div></div> 54 |
| Niger | 33.09 | Yes | Medium | Measles, Polio | <div><div></div></div> 10% | Moderate risk | <div><div></div></div> 64 |
| Afghanistan | 33.50 | Yes | High | Dengue, Polio | <div><div></div></div> 42% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 147 |
| Liberia | 33.75 | – | Fragile | Measles, Lassa Fever | <div><div></div></div> 20% | Moderate risk | <div><div></div></div> 14 |
| Somalia | 33.94 | Yes | High | Cholera | <div><div></div></div> 22% | Debt distress | <div><div></div></div> 68 |
| Yemen | 34.68 | Yes | Medium | Cholera, Polio | <div><div></div></div> 54% | Moderate risk | <div><div></div></div> 45 |
| Zimbabwe | 34.90 | Yes | Fragile | – | <div><div></div></div> 35% | Debt distress | <div><div></div></div> 39 |
| Mali | 35.01 | Yes | Medium | Measles | <div><div></div></div> 6% | Moderate risk | <div><div></div></div> 36 |
| Haiti | 35.40 | Yes | Fragile | Diphtheria | <div><div></div></div> 46% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 83 |
| Burundi | 35.46 | Yes | Fragile | Cholera, Measles | <div><div></div></div> 14% | High risk | <div><div></div></div> 52 |

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: University of Notre Dame (ND-GAIN), OCHA (HRP), World Bank (Conflict), WHO (Health emergencies), FSIN Network (Food insecurity), IMF (Debt risk), CRED (Natural disasters)

The humanitarian system needs to link up with monitoring systems to understand and anticipate what lies ahead in the immediate future on a global level. In this way humanitarians can prepare for and advocate for the transformative action needed to adapt to and mitigate the worst consequences of climate change. It is essential that these measures are identified now to ensure the system effectively and efficiently fulfills its mandate in a changing climate. Humanitarian costs are highest in countries that are most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the suite of climate shocks and stresses. Yet, these countries are also the least responsible for global warming, contributing only 0.2 per cent of global emissions in 2019,¹³ and comprising only 4.2 per cent of the global population.¹⁴



Anjampaly, Madagascar. People work to fix dunes, protecting sand-covered crop fields in Anjampaly, Madagascar. Dune-fixing provides income, protects crop fields and builds savings for the community. *OCHA/Viviane Rakotoarivony*

Financing for climate adaptation is still woefully insufficient and does not prioritize the countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of the climate crisis. Although policies and planning for climate change adaptation are increasing, financing and implementation lag behind.¹⁵ The top 15 most vulnerable countries received less than 6 per cent of global adaptation finance in 2019.¹⁶

To narrow these gaps, shifts are needed towards integrated and longer-term climate risk and impact management by humanitarian stakeholders. Addressing acute humanitarian needs requires the introduction of more anticipatory and preparedness measures, multi-year outcomes, the increased use of flexible cash assistance, in addition to programmes and clearer strategies that prioritize equity, inclusion and access to information for affected communities. This implies deploying multi-risk management strategies to build capacities to prevent, anticipate, absorb, adapt and transform¹⁷ in the face of climate change. Improved participation, connectivity and complementarity across sectors will help efforts to better communicate the risks and impacts of the climate crisis with local communities, humanitarian and development actors, Governments and donors. Such actions will strengthen community resilience to future shocks and place human rights and humanitarian action as an essential part of global climate-adaptation efforts.

Challenges in Humanitarian Contexts

Climate Change, Water Scarcity, and Conflict in the Central African Republic



In the Central African Republic (CAR), extreme climate events collide with conflict and fragility. Between 2001 and 2018, approximately 74 per cent of disasters were water related, including droughts and floods. When disasters hit, they can destroy or contaminate entire water supplies, increase the risk of diseases, and exacerbate tensions that may lead to conflict. The growing frequency of erratic weather patterns has led to multiple floods, causing disease outbreaks and further compounding existing pressures of conflict, water stress, and weaker social cohesion. In CAR, an increasing scarcity of water resources is leading many livestock herders to seek water and pasture for their herds, creating tension between farmers and livestock herders.

In the picture, a mother holds her daughter in an IDP camp, which shelters families displaced due to the floods that affected Bangui in March 2021. OCHA/Siegfried Modola

References

- ^{1,2} World Meteorological Organization, [State of the Global Climate 2020](#).
- ³ IPCC, [Summary for Policymakers](#). In: [Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#).
- ^{4,5} CRED, UNDRR, UCLouvain and USAID, 2020: [The Non-COVID Year in Disasters, Global Trends and Perspectives](#).
- ⁶ UNHCR, [Key Messages and Calls To Action COP26](#)
- ⁷ According to the [Notre-Dame Global Adaptation Initiative](#) (ND-GAIN). ND-GAIN measures a country's vulnerability to climate change in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.
- ^{8,9} According to data from the [OCHA Financial Tracking System Humanitarian Response Plans 2020](#).
- ¹⁰ World Health Organization, [Health Emergency Dashboard](#).
- ¹¹ According to data from the World Bank's [FY21 List of Fragile and Conflict-affected Situations](#).
- ¹² FSIN, [2021 Global Report on Food Crises](#).
- ¹³ European Union, [Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research \(EDGAR\)](#).
- ¹⁴ UN-DESA, [2019 Revision of World Population Prospects](#).
- ¹⁵ UNEP, [The Adaptation Gap Report 2021: The Gathering Storm. Adapting to climate change in a post-pandemic world](#). Nairobi, 2021
- ¹⁶ According to data from the OECD-DAC's [Creditor Reporting System](#).
- ¹⁷ United Nations [Common Guidance on Helping Build Resilient Societies](#), 2021.



Part one: Global trends

Hunger is on the Rise. Unprecedented Levels of Food Insecurity Require Urgent Action to Prevent Famine

Last year's warnings of unprecedented levels of global food insecurity have been confirmed. Up to 811 million people worldwide were undernourished in 2020, an approximate rise of 161 million from the previous year.¹

In 2021, the situation continued to deteriorate. Acute hunger levels and famine-like conditions were driven by a toxic combination of factors including conflict, the impacts of COVID-19, extreme weather and climate shocks, transboundary pests and difficulties reaching people in need. In 2021, overlapping and compounding drivers have come together to form a perfect storm. The impacts of each of these converging catastrophes are disproportionately felt by women and girls – who account for 60 per cent of people who are chronically food insecure globally. In nearly two thirds of countries, women are more likely than men to report food insecurity. Women farmers are also at particular risk of hunger, and face greater barriers to accessing land, agricultural inputs and credit.

Beira, Mozambique. A young girl from Nharrime, Mozambique, takes shelter in Samora Machel School in Beira. She is escaping the winds and heavy rain of Tropical Cyclone Eloise, which made landfall on January 2021 with wind speeds of 160 km per hour. As the storm disrupted many key communications systems, UNICEF emergency teams designed a quick and efficient relief response for the most immediate needs, namely shelter, food, water, medical attention, and the protection of children from abuse and exploitation. *UNICEF/Ricardo Franco*

In its September update, the Global Report on Food Crises (a joint, consensus-based analysis by 16 partner organizations) estimated that 161 million people² in 42 countries faced acute food insecurity in the first eight months of 2021.³ However, given the worsening situation at the end of 2021, and the fact that IPC/CH or equivalent analyses⁴ do not cover all the countries at risk, if additional contexts⁵ are factored in, the numbers are likely to be even higher; up to 283 million people⁶ could be acutely food insecure or at high risk in 2021 across 80 countries.⁷ This is a record high, and an unprecedented increase of 12.4 million people since the June 2021 edition of WFP's Global Operational Response Plan was published.⁸

Food Insecurity Levels (2021)

| Country | Population (IPC3+) ▾ | % of population (IPC3+) | Increase 2019-2021 |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| DRC | 27.3 M | 28% | 11.7 M |
| Ethiopia | 16.8 M | 30% | 8.8 M |
| Yemen | 16.1 M | 54% | 200.0 K |
| Afghanistan | 13.2 M | 42% | 1.9 M |
| Nigeria | 12.8 M | 12% | 7.8 M |
| Syria | 12.4 M | 60% | 5.8 M |
| Sudan | 9.8 M | 21% | 3.9 M |
| South Sudan | 7.2 M | 60% | 200.0 K |
| Haiti | 4.4 M | 46% | 700.0 K |
| Guatemala | 3.7 M | 23% | 600.0 K |
| Somalia | 3.5 M | 22% | 1.4 M |

Number of people in crisis-level food insecurity or worse (IPC3+). Syria data from 2020, as data from 2021 is not yet available.

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: Global Report on Food Crisis 2021

This increase is primarily driven by new food insecurity figures from Afghanistan, Myanmar and Somalia. Meanwhile, famine-like conditions remain a real and terrifying possibility in 43 countries around the world, with 45 million people facing emergency or catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity in IPC Phase 4 Emergency and above, up from 41 million people in June 2021. This includes 584,000 people facing famine-like conditions in Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen. The situation also remains extremely concerning in Nigeria, where areas in the conflict-affected north-east may be at risk of famine should the situation deteriorate further.

As conflict spreads across northern Ethiopia, the impact is devastating. At least 5.5 million people across three regions – Afar, Amhara and Tigray – were in crisis levels of acute food insecurity and in dire need of food assistance in mid-2021, with 2 million people facing emergency levels of acute food insecurity. Up to 401,000 people were projected to be in IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe in 2021 – the highest number since the 2011 famine in Somalia – due to the



Maiduguri, Nigeria. A worker offloads food provisions in WFP's warehouse in Maiduguri. Humanitarian partners work around the clock to provide food access for the most vulnerable communities affected by violence and food insecurity across Nigeria. *OCHA/Damilola Onafuwa*

impact of conflict in the northern Ethiopia region. The situation is also worrying in other parts of the country: overall, an estimated 16.8 million people were facing crisis levels of acute food insecurity in 2021 in Ethiopia.⁹ In 2021, **Afghanistan** became one of the world's largest hunger crises. Acute food insecurity is affecting 22.8 million people (more than half the population). This figure includes 8.7 million people facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4).¹⁰ Among those at risk are 3.2 million children under 5 years of age who are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the year's end.

Over half (16.2 million) of **Yemen's** population is facing crisis-levels of acute food insecurity, with 5 million people facing Emergency IPC Phase 4. In South Sudan, humanitarian needs are outpacing the resources available to respond, and the situation has worsened as the country is battered by flooding that has swallowed entire villages. Acute food insecurity of crisis level (IPC Phase 3 or above) affects 7.2 million people. More than 2.4 million of those people are in Emergency IPC Phase 4, and more than 108,000 face catastrophic (IPC Phase 5) levels of hunger.

Almost half of the people living in **Central African Republic** (CAR) experience high acute food insecurity, with thousands of children and women severely malnourished due to factors such as the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹¹ Around 27 million people in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between September and December 2021. Of these, around 6.1 million people are experiencing critical levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4). DRC has the world's largest number of highly food insecure people.¹² Some 12.4 million people in **Syria** do not know where their next meal will come from – a level of food insecurity higher than any time during the country's decade-long conflict. Approximately 3.5 million people in **Somalia** faced high acute food insecurity in late 2021, with 1.2 million children likely acutely malnourished.¹³



Anjampaly, Madagascar. Sand dunes are restored in Anjampaly, Madagascar, through a UNDP project that helps provide cash for work, income for local communities and protection for sand-covered crop fields. Between November 2020 and January 2021, the Grand Sud received less than 50 per cent of the normal rainfall, leading to the region's most acute drought since 1981. Extreme drought affected almost 69 per cent of the Grand Sud. Sandstorms, soil erosion and deforestation have transformed arable land into wasteland across wide areas in the region. *OCHA/Viviane Rakotoarivony*

The Central Sahel (**Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger**) experienced a record level of violence in 2020, driving the number of IDPs up from 1.8 million in September 2020 to 2.3 million in September 2021. At the same time, food insecurity has increased, with the number of people in food crisis or worse more than doubling between 2019 and 2020.

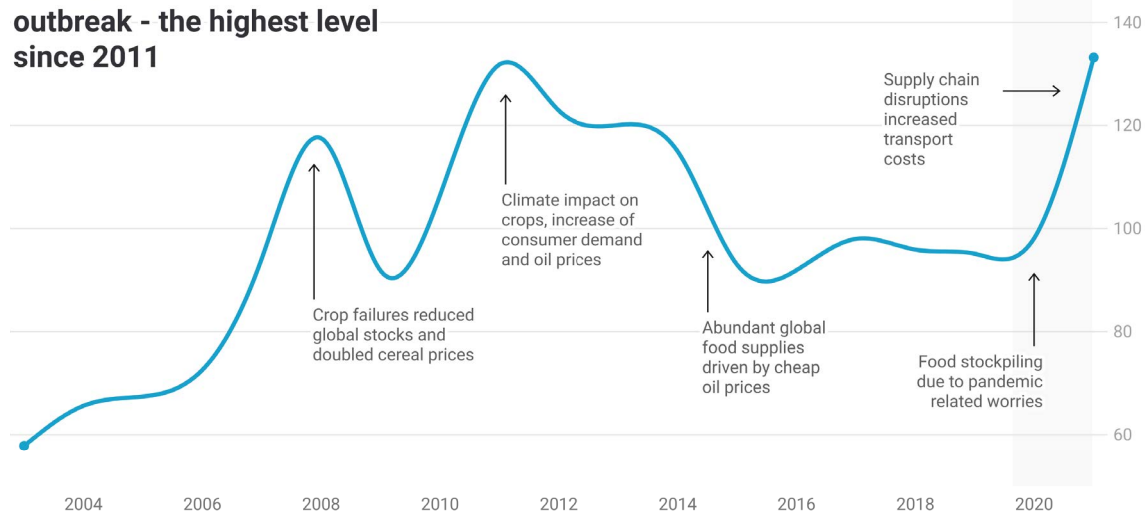
Conflict remains the key driver of food insecurity. Close to 100 million people experienced acute hunger across 23 countries affected by conflict and insecurity in 2020, and protracted conflict was the main cause of six of the ten worst food crises.¹³ In 2020, 56 armed conflicts were active around the world — the highest number recorded since the end of the Second World War — and fatalities caused by organized violence increased for the first time in six years. While data for 2021 is not yet available, key trends indicate that conflict continues to be the primary driver of an alarming rise of food insecurity, particularly among refugees and the most vulnerable. In 2021, conflict levels and violence against civilians continued to increase, most notably in Africa. Armed violence is likely to further intensify in the coming months in several conflict-affected countries.

Extreme climatic and weather events drove almost 16 million people into food crises in 15 countries in 2020. Tropical storms, hurricanes, flooding and drought contributed to acute food insecurity in **Central America** and **Haiti**. Hurricanes Eta and Iota affected over 8.3 million people in northern and eastern Guatemala, northern Honduras and north-east Nicaragua.¹⁴ In 2021, climate impacts joined conflict as a root cause of famine. This is evident in drought-affected Madagascar, where climate is driving famine-like conditions for approximately 28,000 people who faced IPC 5 levels of food insecurity in 2021. Acute food-insecurity of crisis-level has touched

over 1.3 million people, including also 484,000 in Emergency IPC Phase 4. Delayed rains this planting season, signal another poor harvest and despair for families resorting to survival measures such as eating locusts, wild leaves and cactus leaves, which are usually fed to cattle.

Economic shocks following COVID-19 also had a negative impact on food crises in 2020. Indeed, more than 40 million people in 17 countries were pushed into acute food insecurity compared to 24 million in eight countries in 2019 – particularly in Haiti, Sudan and Zimbabwe.¹⁵ Data from 2021 indicates an alarming overall increase in international food prices, pushing global food prices to their highest level in almost a decade. The FAO Food Price Index showed an increase of almost 40 per cent from the same period last year and the twelfth consecutive monthly rise to its highest level since September 2011.¹⁶ The cost of a food basket is at least 30 per cent higher in 11 countries with an HRP than five years earlier.¹⁷ The cost is six times higher in Sudan (534 per cent) and in Syria (531 per cent), and almost three times higher in South Sudan (174 per cent). By the end of June 2021,¹⁸ almost 110 million people were suffering from acute food insecurity in countries with a HRP.

Food prices increased by more than 30% since the COVID-19 outbreak - the highest level since 2011



The FAO Food Price Index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities. It consists of the average of five commodity group price indices (meat, dairy, vegetable oils, cereals and sugar) weighted by the average export shares of each of the groups over 2014-2016.

Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: FAO

Funding for food and livelihoods assistance needs to be scaled up urgently. Currently, the GHO's food security sector is only 34 per cent funded and the nutrition sector less than 35 per cent funded.¹⁹ A stark imbalance remains in funding within the food security component of humanitarian assistance, with a significant proportion of resources directed to food assistance alone. Without immediate and sustained humanitarian action, many more lives will be lost and millions of people will continue to face catastrophe next year, the effects of which will be felt for de-



Yangon, Myanmar. WFP distributed rice to vulnerable families in Yangon's Hlaingtharyar Township in response to rising hunger following the military takeover on February. *WFP*

acades to come. We cannot afford to wait for famine declarations. The stakes have never been higher. 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. We have prevented famine before – we can and must prevent it again.

There is no time to waste; major planting seasons have already passed in 2021, robbing people of a valuable opportunity to produce their own supply of nutritious food. We must take advantage of every opportunity to safeguard livelihoods and save lives today and into 2022. In a world in which there is more than enough food to nourish every person on the planet, allowing famine to happen is cruel and a failure of compassion and foresight.

References

¹ FAO, *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021*, (SOFI), p. 8. Considering the middle and the upper bound of the projected range, the prevalence of undernourishment increased from 8.4 to around 9.9 per cent in just one year. Africa reported the highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting more than 282 million people across the region (21 per cent of the population). Close to a third of the world's population did not have adequate access to food in 2020, a rise of 13.5 per cent in just one year. Women are the most at risk; compared to men they are 10 per cent more likely to be food insecure, a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year.

² This is a preliminary number, as not all countries covered in earlier years have updated numbers for 2021 available.

³ Analysis focused on countries that requested external assistance and where most recent IPC/Cadre Harmonisé or equivalent data is available.

⁴ IPC, *IPC Overview and Classification System*

⁵ Covered by WFP monitoring systems

^{6, 8} WFP Global Operational Response Plan 2021, Update #3, November 2021

⁷ Based on WFP operational presence and where data is available.

⁹ FSIN, *Global Report on Food Crises, September 2021*

¹⁰ According to the latest *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification* analysis published on 25 October 2021, 18.8 million people (47 per cent of the population) have acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), which is a staggering 24 per cent increase from March. The IPC analysis forecasts that this number will rapidly increase to 22.8 million people from November 2021 to March 2022.

¹¹ *IPC Central African Republic Alert*, October 2021

¹² *IPC Democratic Republic of the Congo Alert*, November 2021

¹³ FSIN, *Global Report on Food Crises 2021*, p. 22. DRC, Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria, and South Sudan.

^{14, 15} FSIN, *Global Report on Food Crises 2021*, p. 23.

^{16, 17, 18, 19} OCHA, *COVID-19 Data Explorer: Global Humanitarian Operations*, Monthly Highlights, 30 June 2021



Part one: Global trends

Conflict Remains a Major Driver of Humanitarian Need

In 2020, about 60 per cent of all conflicts worldwide were fought violently.¹ Despite repeated calls for global ceasefires due to the COVID-19 pandemic, political conflicts continue to hit civilian populations the hardest and further exacerbate the needs of the most vulnerable categories of people.²

The overall number of civilian deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons decreased by 43 per cent in 2020 compared to the previous year, yet civilians still account for the most casualties. In 2020, 59 per cent of casualties were civilians, totaling 11,056 deaths and injuries.

Civilians continued to be far more at risk when explosive weapons were used in populated areas. The destruction to essential infrastructure including homes, hospitals, roads and schools has had devastating impacts on civilian populations, driving up displacement and protection risks. Globally, 88 per cent of people harmed by explosive weapons are civilians, a trend that has been observed for the tenth consecutive year.³ The overall decrease in civilian casualties could be linked to parties shifting focus to the pandemic and related safety measures, as well as ceasefires in Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic.⁴

Malakal, South Sudan. At Malakal Hospital, South Sudan, an ICRC worker visits a man wounded by gunshot.
ICRC/Alessio Romenzi

Casualties from explosive arms incidents decreased by 43% after the COVID-19 outbreak

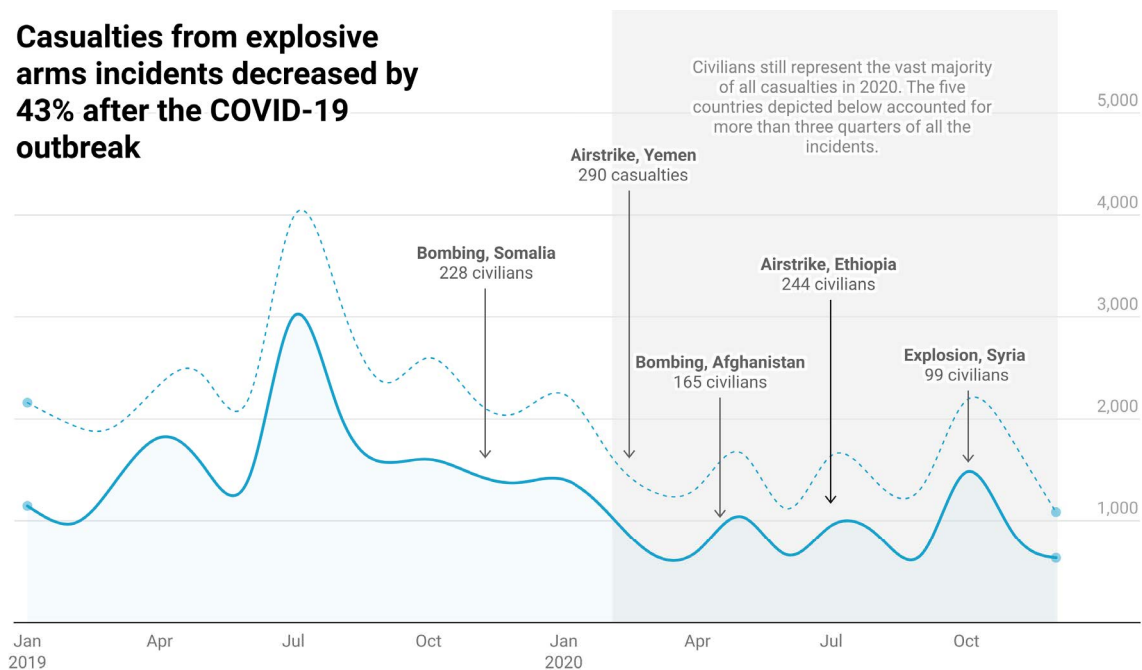


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: Action on Armed Violence

Children are particularly vulnerable. In 2020, the United Nations verified over 26,000 grave violations against children, including the recruitment and use of children by armed groups, killing, maiming, harassment, rape and sexual violence, abductions and attacks on schools and hospitals.⁵ Persons with disabilities often face difficulties fleeing violence and a higher risk of injury and death.⁶ When escaping hostilities, they can struggle to access devices that might usually enable them to carry out daily activities, such as prostheses or mobility aids. Persons with disabilities face challenges meeting basic needs such as food, protection, sanitation and health care, which can be inaccessible even when service provisions are in place.⁷ Women and girls with disabilities also experience higher rates of sexual violence.

Yemen is home to at least 4.6 million persons with a disability.⁸ As in other countries, they face heightened risks, such as exclusion, discrimination and violence, as well as a lack of representation and access to services.⁹ Analysis from eastern Ukraine showed that older persons and persons with disabilities living closer to the front line had significantly lower levels of access to health-care services.¹⁰

Conflict-related sexual violence continues, mostly targeting women and girls.¹¹ Survivors face persistent social, structural and security constraints, often leading to negative coping mechanisms, including early and forced marriage.¹² The pandemic has slowed the pace of judicial proceedings in many conflict settings, impacting the already severely limited judicial processes for rape and sexual violence. It is critical that the capacity of national rule of law institutions is strengthened to advance accountability and prevention.



Anjampaly, Madagascar. Sand dunes are restored in Anjampaly, Madagascar, through a UNDP project that helps provide cash for work, income for local communities and protection for sand-covered crop fields. Between November 2020 and January 2021, the Grand Sud received less than 50 per cent of the normal rainfall, leading to the region's most acute drought since 1981. Extreme drought affected almost 69 per cent of the Grand Sud. Sandstorms, soil erosion and deforestation have transformed arable land into wasteland across wide areas in the region. *OCHA/Viviane Rakotoarivony*

Violence against humanitarian workers and assets continues, with most incidents occurring in conflict-affected countries. In 2020, 117 humanitarian workers were killed, 108 of whom were national staff.¹³ Attacks against health-care workers are increasing. WHO recorded the killings of 182 health-care workers in 22 countries affected by armed conflict, with the highest numbers in Burkina Faso, DRC, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.¹⁴

Aid Worker Security Incidents (2010–2020)

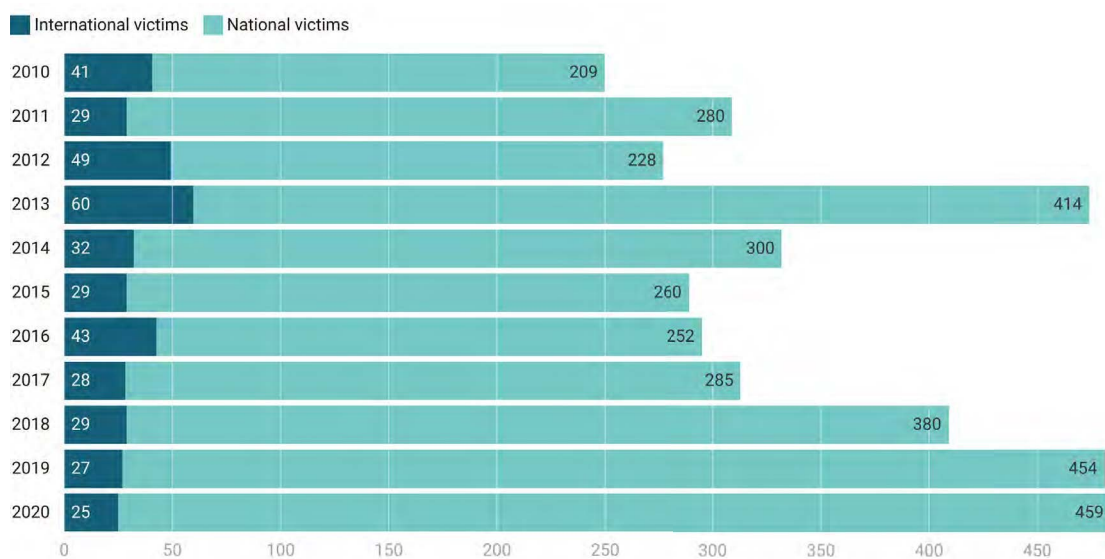


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: Aid Worker Security Database

Humanitarian access constraints have severely deteriorated over the last four years

Crisis-affected people in ten countries are experiencing extreme access constraints, hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid - this number has tripled in just one year.

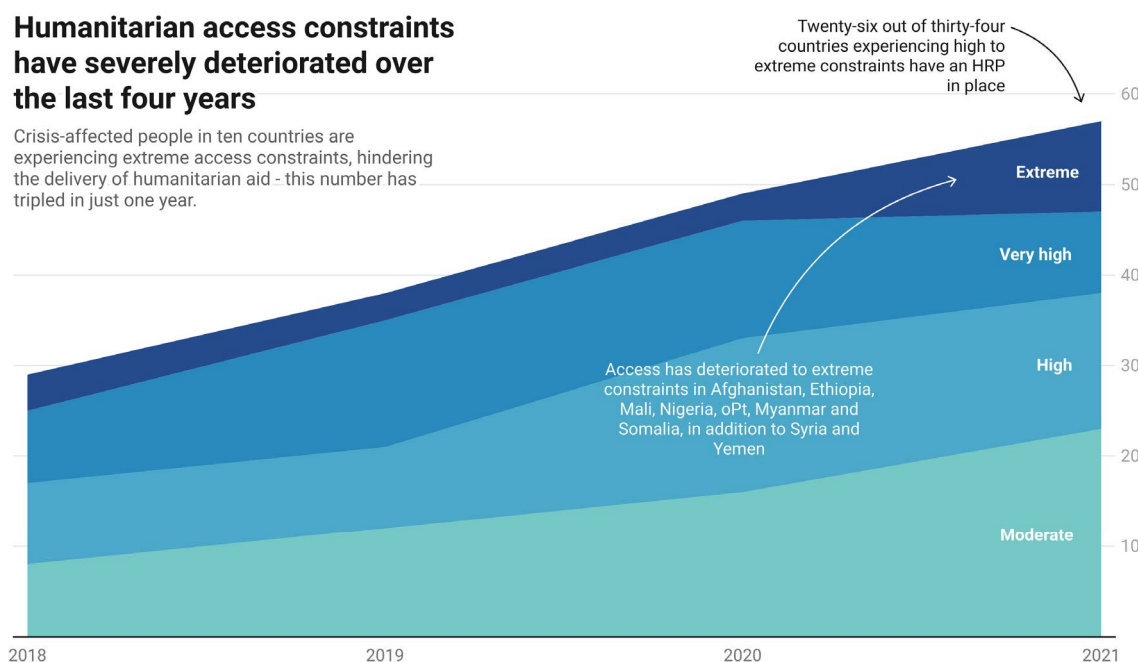


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: ACAPS - Humanitarian Access Overview

Humanitarian access and operations continued to be hampered by conflict, insecurity, violence against humanitarian workers and assets, bureaucratic impediments, counterterrorism, sanctions measures and political attacks, which delegitimize humanitarian response. COVID-19 has also intensified access challenges. Border closures, flight suspensions, lockdowns and other countermeasures cause delays, additional costs and the partial suspensions of some humanitarian activities.¹⁵

References

- ¹ Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, [Conflict Barometer 2020](#).
- ² Political conflict is classified according to its intensity into low, medium or high. Low-intensity political conflict is non-violent; it includes political disputes and non-violent crises. Medium- and high-intensity political conflict includes the use of violence. Specifically, highly violent political conflicts included 21 wars and 19 limited wars. For full definitions on methodology, please see Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, [Conflict Barometer 2020](#).
- ³ Action on Armed Violence, [Explosive Violence Monitor 2020](#), p. 9.
- ⁴ Report of the UN Secretary-General on the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), S/2021/423, p. 2.
- ⁵ Report of the UN Secretary-General on [Children and Armed Conflict](#), A/75/873 S/2021/437, 6 May, 2021, p. 2. The highest numbers of grave violations were verified in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.
- ⁶ Report of the UN Secretary-General on the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), S/2021/423, p.7.
- ⁷ Human Rights Watch, [Persons with Disabilities in the Context of Armed Conflict](#), 8 June 2021
- ⁸ OCHA, [Humanitarian Needs Overview - Yemen](#), 2021, p. 33
- ⁹ Report of the UN Secretary-General on the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), S/2021/423, p.7.
- ¹⁰ WHO, [Access to health-care services for older persons and persons with disabilities living in Eastern Ukraine along the "line of contact"](#), 2021
- ¹¹ Report of the UN Secretary-General on the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), S/2021/423, p.7.
- ¹² Report of the UN Secretary-General on [Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#), S/2021/312, 30 March 2021
- ¹³ [Aid Worker Security Database](#), 2020
- ¹⁴ Report of the UN Secretary-General on the [Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict](#), S/2021/423, p. 11.
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Part one: Global trends

Variants and Slow Vaccine Rollout are Fuelling the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 and its effects are taking a heavy toll on countries already struggling to cope with poverty, conflict, climatic shocks and other disease outbreaks. At least 20 million additional people are being pushed into extreme poverty in 17 countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in 2021, as a direct result of the economic impact of the crisis.¹

The virus has claimed at least 1.9 million lives, with 67 million cases reported across the 59 countries in the GHO as of November 2021.² Two thirds of these deaths and cases were reported in 2021 alone,³ with a threefold increase recorded in over a third of countries compared to the previous year. Inadequate testing capabilities in many countries continue to veil the scale of the crisis, with figures expected to be much higher than official records show. More easily transmissible variants, a lack of vaccines, and the easing of public health and social measures have increased the spread of the virus. The Delta variant has been confirmed in 80 per cent of GHO countries.⁴

Kigali, Rwanda. A woman receives a COVID-19 vaccination in Kigali. Rwanda is sharing experiences in complex cold-chain logistics for WHO's Vaccines Learning Agenda - a database of valuable information for African countries, creating case studies on a range of positive vaccine experiences and overcoming risks and challenges. *WHO/Andre Rugema*

Recorded cases of COVID-19 doubled this year, for countries with Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals

The pandemic hit Latin America and the Caribbean the hardest, totalling 67% of the cases. Africa saw the steepest increase this year, with 116% more cases recorded

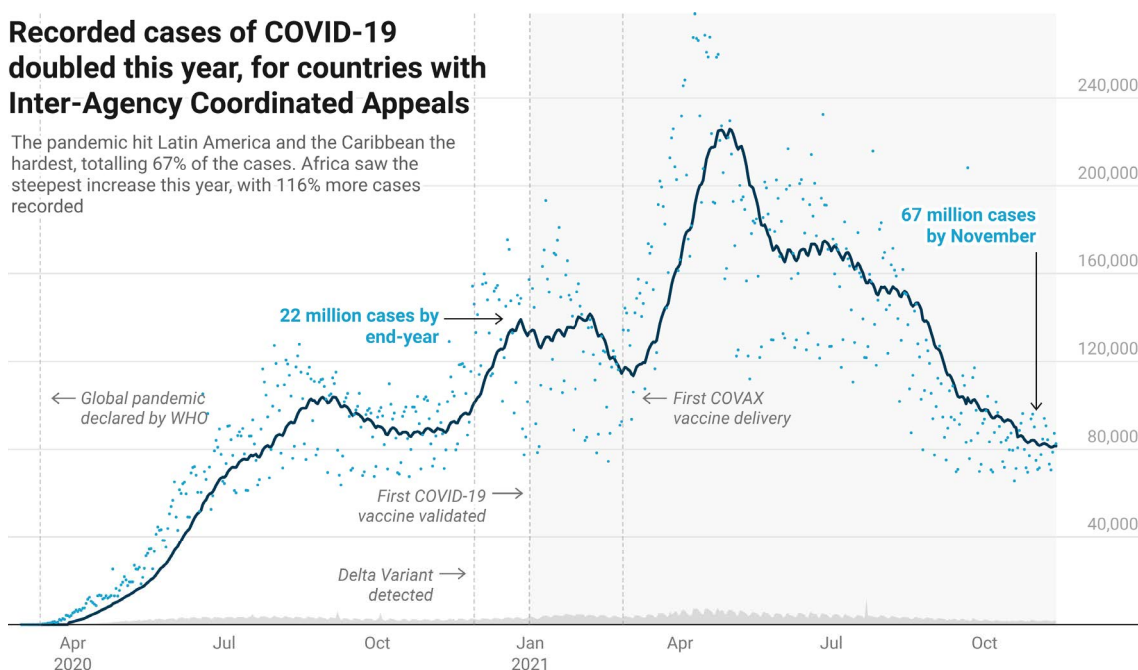


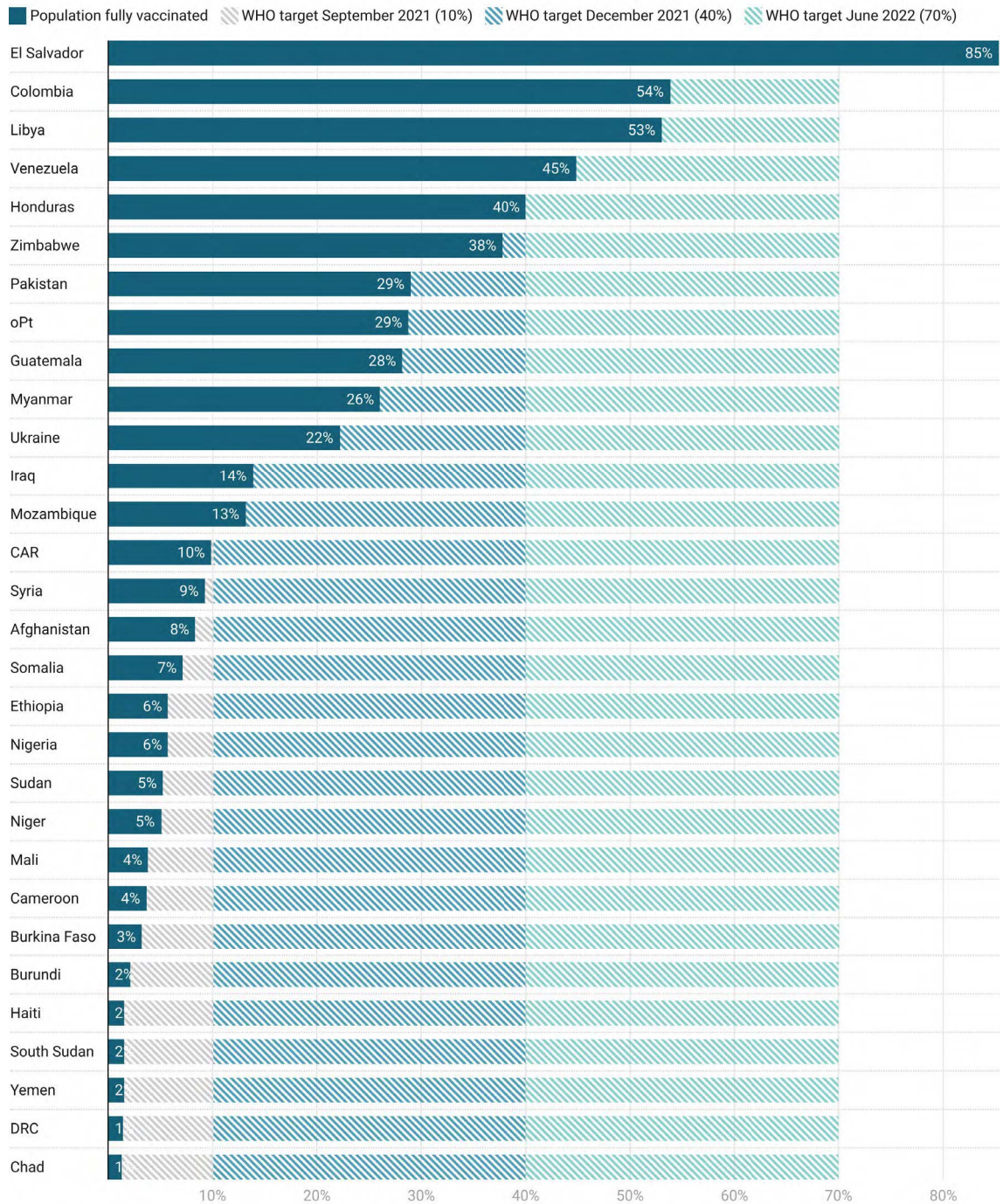
Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer

Of the 7.5 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses administered globally, only about 4 per cent have been administered in the 30 countries with an inter-agency HRP.⁵ The number of doses delivered to countries has fallen far short of the number required to reach WHO's goal of vaccinating 40 per cent of the population in every country by the year's end, with the poorest and most fragile contexts the furthest behind. As of November 2021, over half of countries with a HRP were unable to vaccinate even 10 per cent of their population.

Supplies of COVID-19 vaccines are improving and will continue to increase in 2022. As they increase, the logistics of getting vaccines into people's arms will likely become the main constraint to improving vaccination coverage. To ensure the most vulnerable countries are not left behind, it is imperative that countries and partners receive support to accelerate the administration of vaccines, including to populations of concern in humanitarian settings.⁶

Vaccine hesitancy remains a major hurdle. Early and continuous engagement of communities and local leaders, including women's organizations, will improve vaccine uptake. Despite an increased vaccine supply, many countries with HRPs are not expected to have sufficient coverage of their population until mid-2022 or later. In the absence of adequate vaccines, severe outbreaks of COVID-19 can be expected in 2022. These countries will require continued support to respond to outbreaks, including through scaling up diagnostics, personal protective equipment and treatments such as oxygen. The delivery of COVID-19 vaccines must not compromise other essential health services and should go together with other life-saving support that communities are seeking.

COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out (2021)



Data as of end-October 2021

Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer • Created with Datawrapper



Beirut, Lebanon. Staff at COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit of the Rafik Hariri University Hospital wear personal protective equipment donated by WHO. The current crisis in Lebanon, coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic, has disrupted the health system. Patients face numerous cost barriers when trying to access healthcare services, including the PCR tests required for in-patient procedures. The Emergency Response Plan for Lebanon aims to support the capacity of the Lebanese health system to respond to and cope with the COVID-19 emergency. *WHO*

Essential health services continue to be disrupted, including immunization campaigns, risking outbreaks of preventable diseases such as measles, polio and cholera. School closures have continued to interrupt education for millions of children and youth, many of whom will not return. Social cohesion has been stretched thin.

COVID-19 continues to exacerbate the political and socioeconomic conditions that increase humanitarian need and fuel conflicts. Economies and livelihoods have been devastated. Full financing of the GHO remains the best way to mitigate the secondary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on humanitarian populations. However, these are not short-term challenges. Without an urgent and dramatically scaled-up response from the international community, the health, economic, development and security situation will worsen in the coming years.

Member States and international financial institutions must intensify and scale up responses that support countries to address and recover from COVID-19. Vaccines will save lives and boost economies. More than 1.3 billion doses are still needed to reach the WHO target of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population in HRP countries by mid-2022. At the same time, the allocation of US\$650 billion in Special Drawing Rights⁷ and the G7's call to reallocate \$100 billion of those to poorer countries⁸ is a unique opportunity to support the global COVID-19 response and enable greener and more robust economic recoveries. It is critical that resources and initiatives benefit the poorest and most fragile contexts without adding to already high levels of debt burden.

Aid in Action

COVID-19 Vaccines for High-Risk and Vulnerable Populations



The Humanitarian Buffer was established in 2021 within the COVAX Facility to act as an important measure of 'last resort'. It ensures access to COVID-19 vaccines for high-risk and vulnerable populations in humanitarian settings that are not covered under national deployment and vaccination plans. Populations of concern may include refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, internally displaced persons (IDPs), minorities, populations in conflict settings or those affected by humanitarian emergencies, and vulnerable migrants, irrespective of their legal status. *In the picture, this 77-year-old displaced Venezuelan man receives his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from a health-care provider in Guayaquil, Ecuador. UNHCR/Santiago Arcos*

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^{2,3} WHO, as of 15 November. [COVID-19 Data Explorer](#). Note, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras included in calculations.

⁴ WHO, [Weekly epidemiological update on COVID-19](#), 2 November 2021

⁵ OCHA, [HDX COVID-19 Data Explorer](#)

⁶ UNHCR, [Mid-Year Results COVID-19 Multisectoral Monitoring](#). As of 27 September, UNHCR has confirmed vaccination of refugees and/or other persons of concern in 121 countries (UNHCR data from 59 countries reports that nearly 530,000 doses of vaccine have been administered to refugees and other persons of concern). In many host countries vaccine scarcity continues to present a significant barrier for refugees and IDPs, while vaccine hesitancy adds a second layer of complication.

⁷ IMF, [IMF Managing Director Announces the US\\$650 billion SDR Allocation Comes into Effect](#), 23 August 2021

⁸ Reuters, [G7 leaders urged to show solidarity on climate change and COVID-19 at summit](#), 7 June 2021



Part one: Global trends

Forced Displacement is at Record Levels, COVID-19 Hampers Durable Solutions

The number of people forcibly displaced worldwide is higher than ever. By the end of 2020, 82.4 million people were forcibly displaced, including 48 million IDPs¹ and 26.4 million refugees,² because of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events seriously disturbing public order. More than 1 per cent of the world's population is now displaced, about 42 per cent of whom are children.³

This represents a worrying trend that has increased for nine consecutive years and is now more than double the number compared to 10 years earlier. Many people are also driven to forced and voluntary movements for multiple reasons, including environmental factors and/or threats to their human rights and dignity.⁴ The number of refugees⁵ remains at a record high, growing from 26.0 million in 2019⁶ to 26.4 million at the end of 2020.⁷ Almost 65 per cent of all refugees come from just five countries: Afghanistan, the DRC, Myanmar, South Sudan and Syria.⁸ Developing countries host 83 per cent of refugees, while the least developed countries have provided

Kigali, Rwanda. A woman receives a COVID-19 vaccination in Kigali. Rwanda is sharing experiences in complex cold-chain logistics for WHO's Vaccines Learning Agenda - a database of valuable information for African countries, creating case studies on a range of positive vaccine experiences and overcoming risks and challenges. *WHO/Andre Rugema*

82.4 million people are forcibly displaced – this number has doubled in the past ten years. 35 million are children below 18 years of age.

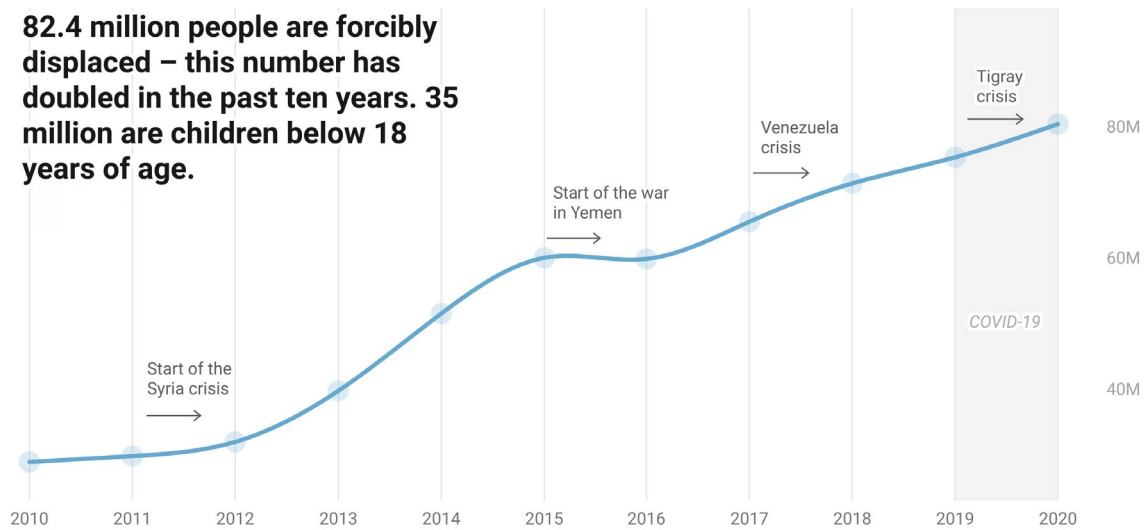


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: IDMC / UNHCR / UNRWA

asylum to 33 per cent of this total.⁹ Of these refugees, at least 40 per cent are children and 49 per cent women and girls.¹⁰ Some 5.7 million refugees, migrants and asylum seekers remained displaced from Venezuela at mid-2021.¹¹

COVID-19 disruptions have further hampered efforts to find durable solutions. Despite efforts to adapt asylum procedures, the number of new applications worldwide was 45 per cent lower in 2020 than in 2019.¹² In 2020, fewer than 300,000 refugees were able to return to their country of origin or resettle to a third country compared to 425,000 the year before. Some 15.7 million refugees (76 per cent) were in a protracted situation at the end of 2020, similar to 2019.¹³

Refugees by Country of Origin (2020)

| Country | Total refugees | Evolution (2016–2020) | Main host countries |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Syria | 6.8 M | | Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan |
| Afghanistan | 2.6 M | | Pakistan, Iran |
| South Sudan | 2.2 M | | Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia |
| Myanmar | 1.1 M | | Bangladesh |
| DR Congo | 840.4 K | | Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda |
| Somalia | 812.4 K | | Kenya, Ethiopia, Yemen |
| Sudan | 787.8 K | | Chad, South Sudan |
| CAR | 642.2 K | | Cameroon, DRC, Chad |
| Eritrea | 524.7 K | | Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda |
| Burundi | 373.0 K | | Ethiopia, Sudan, Switzerland |

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: UNHCR

Countries with the Largest Populations of IDPs (2020)

| Country | Total IDPs | Conflict-induced | Disaster-induced | Evolution (2016–2020) |
|-------------|------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Syria | 6.6 M | 6.6 M | - | |
| DRC | 5.3 M | 5.3 M | 64K | |
| Colombia | 4.9 M | 4.9 M | 21K | |
| Afghanistan | 4.7 M | 3.5 M | 1.1M | |
| Yemen | 3.9 M | 3.6 M | 223K | |
| Somalia | 3.0 M | 3.0 M | - | |
| Nigeria | 2.9 M | 2.7 M | 143K | |
| Sudan | 2.7 M | 2.3 M | 454K | |
| Ethiopia | 2.7 M | 2.1 M | 633K | |
| South Sudan | 1.5 M | 1.4 M | 106K | |

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: IDMC

Internal displacement is also at an all-time high. The number of IDPs due to violence and conflict reached 48 million in 2020, the highest ever figure and a rise of 4.2 million on the previous year.¹⁴ A further 7 million people remained internally displaced due to natural disasters. Millions of IDPs are living in protracted situations, with 40 per cent fewer able to return to their place of residence in 2020 compared to 2019.¹⁵

Three quarters of the 48 million people displaced due to violence and conflict come from ten countries, nine of which are located in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East.¹⁶ Following tensions and ensuing violence in Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray, the number of people displaced within the country due to conflict stood at 2.1 million by the end of 2020. In Afghanistan, the number of people displaced within their own country, due to persistent conflict and violence, reached 3.5 million at the end of 2020. This is an 18 per cent increase compared with 2019 and the highest figure in more than a decade.¹⁷ By mid-September 2021, a further 678,000 people in Afghanistan were known to have fled their homes due to the increased fighting in the country.¹⁸ Significantly, 95 per cent of new conflict-related internal displacements in 2020 happened in countries with a high vulnerability to climate change.

COVID-19 has also presented interlocking health, socioeconomic and protection crises for forcibly displaced people. The pandemic is particularly devastating for displaced women and children, who experience higher rates of domestic and sexual violence and child marriages.¹⁹ Even before COVID-19, refugee and internally displaced women and girls were at greater risk from gender-based violence (GBV). For example, an estimated one in five forcibly displaced women in humanitarian crises has been subjected to sexual violence – one of many forms of GBV. The pandemic's socioeconomic impacts have only intensified this risk – heightening tensions in households – while containment measures have created additional barriers to reporting abuse and



Kotoni, DR Congo. Displaced boys play cards in the primary school where they found refuge after fleeing their village in DRC. Following violent clashes in the surrounding mountains, Kotoni village received more than 9,000 displaced people, doubling its population. *OCHA/Ivo Brandau*

seeking help.²⁰ A survey of displaced women in 15 post-conflict settings in Africa found a 73 per cent increase in intimate partner violence and a 32 per cent rise in early marriage between May and July 2020.²¹ At the onset of the pandemic, school closures inhibited learning opportunities for children from forcibly displaced households. Protection measures were often lifted and children were exposed to greater risks, reducing their chances of to return to school when they reopen.²²

The UN SG's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement has called for stepped-up action on solutions anchored in the affirmation of IDPs as rights holders. The panel also called for the recognition of solutions as a development priority, and greater visibility to internal displacement in Government policies, UN strategies, development financing, private sector engagement and the media.²³

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⁵ Including people in a refugee-like situation.

⁶ In 2019, 26 million refugees: 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, 5.6 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate. In 2020, 26.4 million refugees: 20.7 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, 5.7 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate – [UNHCR Global Trends 2019](#), p. 2.

⁸ UNHCR, [Refugee Data Finder](#), 18 June 2021.

⁹ Sourced from UNHCR, [Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020](#). Recalculated for refugees specifically.

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¹⁸ Humanitarian Response Info, [Afghanistan: Conflict Induced Displacements](#) (as of 24 October 2021), last visited 29 October 2021.

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²¹ IRC, [What Happened? How the Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 Failed to Protect Women and Girls](#), October 2020, pp. 4, 7.

²² [Answering the Call: Forcibly Displaced During the Pandemic](#), JDC Paper Series on Forced Displacement, No. 2, 5 August 2021.

²³ United Nations, [UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement](#).



Part one: Global trends

Health Services for the Most Vulnerable Have Been Severely Impacted

Almost half of all deaths in low-income countries are caused by communicable diseases, and maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions. Respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria, tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS are the top 10 causes of death.¹ At the current pace, many health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will not be met in 2030, including premature mortality from non-communicable diseases, the incidence of TB and malaria, and new HIV infections.²

COVID-19 severely impacts the operational readiness of health systems worldwide, dealing a considerable blow to operating budgets and the ability to maintain the minimum stock levels of essential commodities for HIV, TB and malaria.³ In 502 health facilities across Africa and Asia, HIV testing fell 41 per cent, TB referrals declined by 59 per cent and malaria diagnoses fell by 31 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019.⁴ This disruption means that people are not as widely tested, diagnosed or treated for HIV, TB and malaria, increasing the chance of HIV and TB transmission within communities.⁵

Maiwut, South Sudan. Hospital porters carry a patient from the intensive care unit at an ICRC-supported centre in Maiwut. ICRC/Albert Gonzalez Farran

Immunization coverage dropped for the first time in decades

Global immunization coverage dropped by 3%, leaving more than 23 million children unvaccinated. Countries with an HRP are the most affected and already experience lower than average coverage

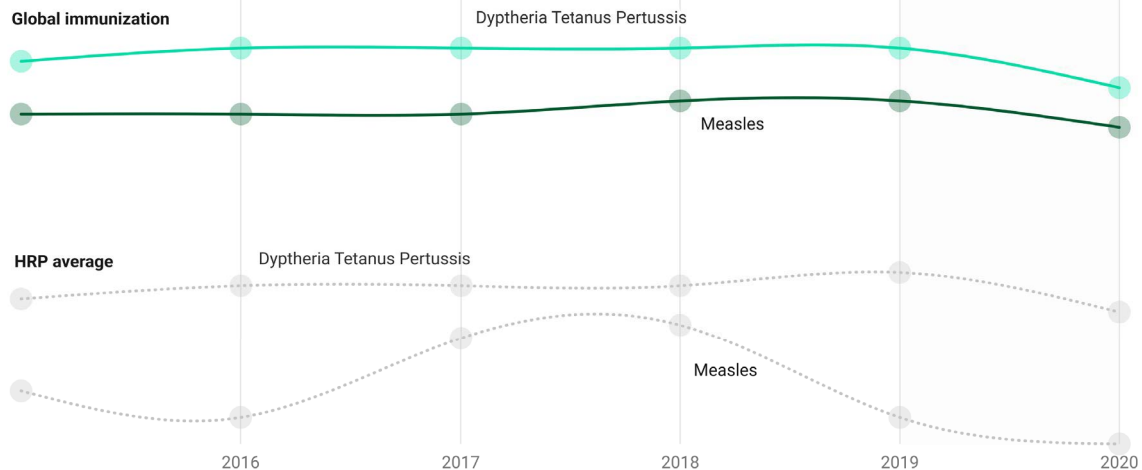


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: World Health Organization

Declining health systems are particularly dangerous for mothers and children. If they have reduced access to essential health services, mortality among children under 5 years of age could rise.⁶ Antenatal-care visits have already fallen by 43 per cent.⁷ 2020 saw a decrease of 23 per cent in consultations for under-5 services in Africa and a large drop of 74 per cent in Asia.⁸ In 2021, about 23 million children worldwide missed out on basic childhood vaccines. Children living in remote or deprived areas are the most affected, highlighting the widening gaps in vaccine access.⁹

Conflict severely hampers the provision of health care. In 2020, Yemen experienced six outbreaks of infectious diseases, including cholera, dengue, diphtheria and malaria. Only 51 per cent of health-care facilities across the country are reported to be fully functional, due to the conflict. The fragile health system has extremely limited capacity to implement effective COVID-19 preparedness and response measures.¹⁰

Mental health services require greater support, particularly in conflict settings, where adults are almost three times more likely to have mental health conditions. Children who are refugees or IDPs or who live in conflict settings also have high levels of mental health issues.¹¹

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Part one: Global trends

COVID-19 Continues to Disrupt the Global Economy as Extreme Poverty Rises

COVID-19 has caused extraordinary disruptions to the global economy. Economic contraction and fiscal and policy responses have been unprecedented, helping to ensure that the global economic contraction of -3.3 per cent in 2020 was severe but better than initially forecast.¹

Global economic recovery remains uncertain and is set to widen the gap between advanced economies, emerging markets and developing economies. The global economy is projected to grow 5.9 per cent in 2021, largely based on the strength of major economies such as the United States and China.² Many other countries are not expected to return to pre-pandemic Global Domestic Product levels until well into 2023 and beyond.

Latin America and the Caribbean experienced the worst economic contraction in the region's history, with the economy declining by 7 per cent in 2020.³ The pandemic continues to take a particularly heavy toll on sub-Saharan Africa. By the end of 2021, real Global Domestic Product per capita in sub-Saharan Africa will likely regress to the same level as 2007, and growth is expected to be significantly lower than the trend anticipated before the pandemic.⁴ Per capita output is not expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels until after 2024 for half of those countries with a HRP for which data was available in October 2021.⁵

Idlib, Syria. A teenager from Idlib shows his oiled hands. He now works in car maintenance after dropping out of school early. OCHA/Bilal al Hamoud

Economic Indicators for Countries with HRPs

| Country | GDP growth | Debt distress | Working poverty rate | Unemployment rate | Youth NEET |
|--------------|------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------|
| World | 3.1% | - | 6.6% | 6.5% | 22.3% |
| Afghanistan | -2.4% | High | 34.3% | 11.7% | 41.2% |
| Burkina Faso | 1.9% | Moderate | 31.1% | 0.8% | 22.0% |
| Burundi | -1.0% | High | 77.6% | 5.0% | 4.1% |
| Cameroon | -1.5% | High | 19.4% | 3.6% | 19.9% |
| CAR | 1.0% | High | 62.5% | 4.3% | 21.9% |
| Chad | -0.8% | High | 40.3% | 9.5% | 22.2% |
| Colombia | -6.8% | - | 2.0% | 9.1% | 24.0% |
| DRC | 1.7% | Moderate | 67.4% | 13.4% | 21.3% |
| El Salvador | -7.9% | - | 0.4% | 7.0% | 27.3% |
| Ethiopia | 6.1% | High | 20.4% | 2.8% | 11.3% |
| Guatemala | -1.5% | - | 3.6% | 4.7% | 27.3% |
| Haiti | -3.3% | High | 23.2% | 14.5% | 27.4% |
| Honduras | -9.0% | Low | 12.7% | 9.4% | 26.7% |
| Iraq | -15.7% | - | 0.4% | 13.7% | 44.4% |
| Lebanon | -25.0% | - | 0.1% | 6.6% | 17.8% |
| Libya | -59.7% | - | 0.2% | 19.4% | 31.4% |
| Madagascar | -6.1% | Moderate | 72.3% | 1.9% | 5.9% |
| Mali | -1.6% | Moderate | 42.3% | 7.5% | 29.4% |
| Mozambique | -1.2% | Debt distress | 58.3% | 3.4% | 17.1% |
| Myanmar | 3.2% | Low | 1.1% | 1.8% | 14.9% |
| Niger | 3.6% | Moderate | 39.2% | 0.7% | 23.8% |
| Nigeria | -1.8% | - | 33.8% | 9.0% | 31.4% |
| oPt | -11.5% | | 0.2% | 27.4% | 33.4% |
| Somalia | -0.7% | Debt distress | 94.4% | 13.1% | 25.5% |
| South Sudan | -6.6% | High | - | 12.7% | 21.2% |
| Sudan | -3.6% | Debt distress | 8.5% | 17.7% | 32.0% |
| Syria | - | - | 36.1% | 9.0% | 33.7% |
| Ukraine | -4.0% | - | 0.0% | 9.5% | 16.6% |
| Venezuela | -30.0% | - | 21.2% | 9.1% | 21.6% |
| Yemen | -8.5% | Moderate | 45.3% | 13.4% | 44.4% |

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: IMF (GDP Growth, Debt Distress), ILO (% of population with working poverty rate, NEET: % of youth not in education, employment or training), World Bank (Unemployment rate)



Tagal, Chad. A father and his son fish on a small pirogue in Lake Chad. He explains: “Where we lived, we had some fields. We went fishing and were able to earn enough to feed the family. My wife never came to ask for more; we had enough. Often, we were able to help others. We fled when Boko Haram arrived in our village. Our nets were stolen and destroyed. Here, we had to borrow a net from a local guy, and we have to pay back by giving the better part of what we fish. We share one net with five other families. I go out early in the morning and fish for three or four hours. Before, the water was free to access for everybody. Now there are many controls everywhere. We can only go 2 or 3 km from the shore. Back home, I threw my nets two times and caught enough for ourselves and to sell more on the market. Here, you have to throw the net 10 times, and it’s still not enough to only feed the family.” *OCHA/Ivo Brandau*

The growing divergence reflects differences in pandemic developments and in policy and fiscal responses. COVID-19 vaccine availability and roll-out are highly unequal and unevenly distributed. Prior to the pandemic, half of all low-income countries were either already in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress. This same group of countries saw their debt burdens rise by a further 12 per cent to \$860 billion in 2020.⁶

The losses experienced by low- and middle-income countries will persist into the medium term as the virus mutates and fiscal space becomes ever more constrained.⁷ Failing to act now to contain the pandemic could cost in excess of \$5 trillion of global GDP over five years.⁸ Hard-won development gains in poverty reduction, employment, food security, education and health care have been reversed. These losses will lead to higher debt and are likely to compound the vulnerability of people living in humanitarian crises, especially in fragile and conflict-affected economies.⁹

Extreme poverty has increased significantly, after more than two decades of continued decline. An estimated 97 million additional people were pushed into extreme poverty in 2020 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Their prospects are not expected to improve. While global poverty is projected to decrease in 2021, this prediction is highly uncertain and not at a pace sufficient to close the gap caused in 2020. The prediction is also largely driven by high-income and upper-middle-income countries, while sub-Saharan Africa and low-income countries are expected to see further increases in poverty in 2021 and at a faster pace than pre-pandemic projections.¹⁰

Evolution of Extreme Poverty (2015 - 2021)

Population living with less than \$1.9 per day

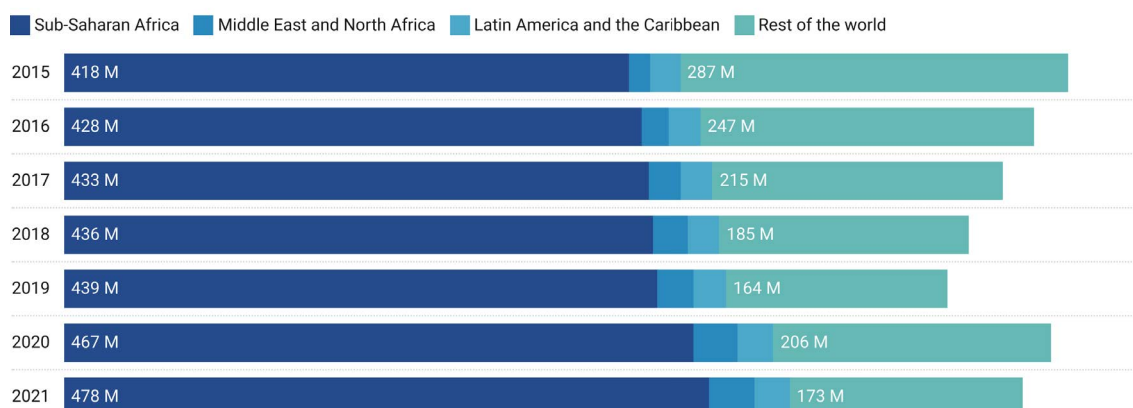


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: World Bank

Following unprecedented contractions in 2020, the global total hours worked are expected to remain 4.3 per cent below pre-pandemic rates in 2021. This is the equivalent of 125 million full-time jobs – a dramatic downward revision from ILO’s June 2021 forecast.¹¹ Recurrent waves of the pandemic are causing working-hour losses to remain persistently high in low- and low-middle-income countries, disproportionately impacting women and younger workers.¹²

The gender gap in the labour force continues to be exacerbated. Although women accounted for 38.9 per cent of pre-pandemic total employment, they comprised 47.6 per cent of employment losses in 2020.¹³ Higher vaccination rates help to strengthen labour market recovery. ILO estimates that for every 14 people fully vaccinated in the second quarter of 2021, one full-time equivalent job was added to the global labour market. However, none of these benefits accrued to low-income countries. More equitable access to vaccines would enable employment recovery in these countries.¹⁴

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Part one: Global trends

School Closures Have Severely Disrupted Education, and Remote Learning Remains Out of Reach for Many

Significant disruptions to global education caused by COVID-19 continue. At the pandemic's peak in 2020, school closures affected 1.6 billion students in 180 countries.¹ This has resulted in education losses equivalent to about one half of a school year in emerging markets and developing economies and disproportionately affects children from poorer and less-educated families.²

Between February 2020 and August 2021, schools were closed nationwide for more than 41 weeks in several countries included in the 2022 GHO, such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda and Venezuela.³ Other countries have implemented brief school closures amid rising cases, including in Iraq, Myanmar and Zimbabwe.⁴ Vulnerable children are often the hardest hit by school closures - the longer they are out of school the less likely they are to return.⁵

Herat, Afghanistan. At the Mawlana Hafezi school for girls, only grades one to six have returned to learning. The school has high demand and a number of classes are held in tents due to funding shortages and lack of space. Around 4,000 girls attend this school when operating at full capacity for grades one to twelve. On last August, the authorities instructed schools in Afghanistan to reopen for grades one to six for both girls and boys in so-called 'cold climate' provinces. Grade seven and above remain closed with no clarity on when they will open again. Across Afghanistan, children's education has been disrupted for two academic school years now due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *UNICEF/Sayed Bidel*

Duration of school closures (2020-2021)

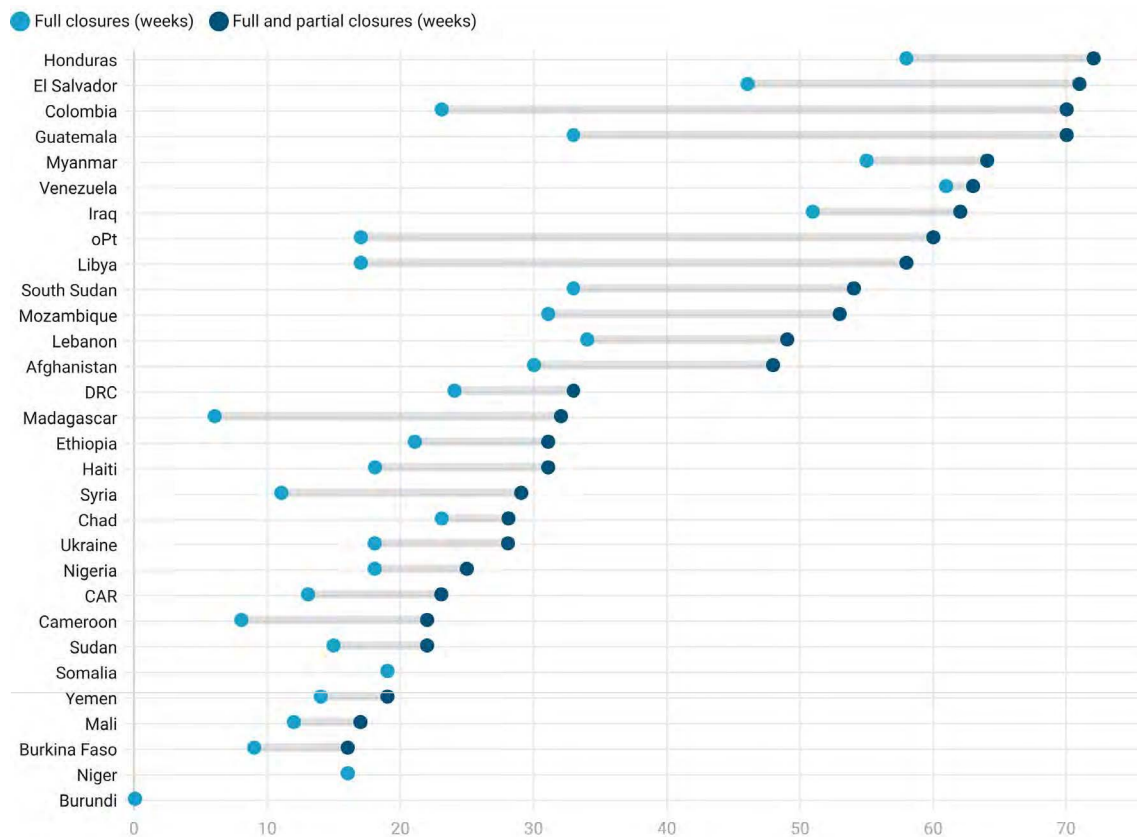


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: UNESCO

Even before the pandemic, 127 million primary and secondary school-age children and young people in crisis-affected countries were out of school. By September 2021, schoolchildren around the world, including those in displacement situations,⁶ had lost an estimated 1.8 trillion hours of in-person learning, due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

Despite many schools reopening in 2021, more than 870 million students face disruptions to their education⁷ and the protection that it provides. UNICEF estimates that 40 per cent of all school-age children across Eastern and Southern Africa - over 69 million children - were not in school in July 2021, due to pandemic-related closure,⁸ and adolescent girls are more likely than boys to fail returning to school.⁹ As of 31 October 2021, countrywide school closures are still enforced in seven countries, of which six (Bangladesh, Honduras, Mozambique, Myanmar, Uganda and Venezuela) are included in the 2022 GHO.¹⁰ Global school closures due to COVID-19 show the fragility of education systems and the need for accessible and effective remote learning and child protection mechanisms that can be relied on when schools are forced shut.

Children affected by school closures (2020-2021)

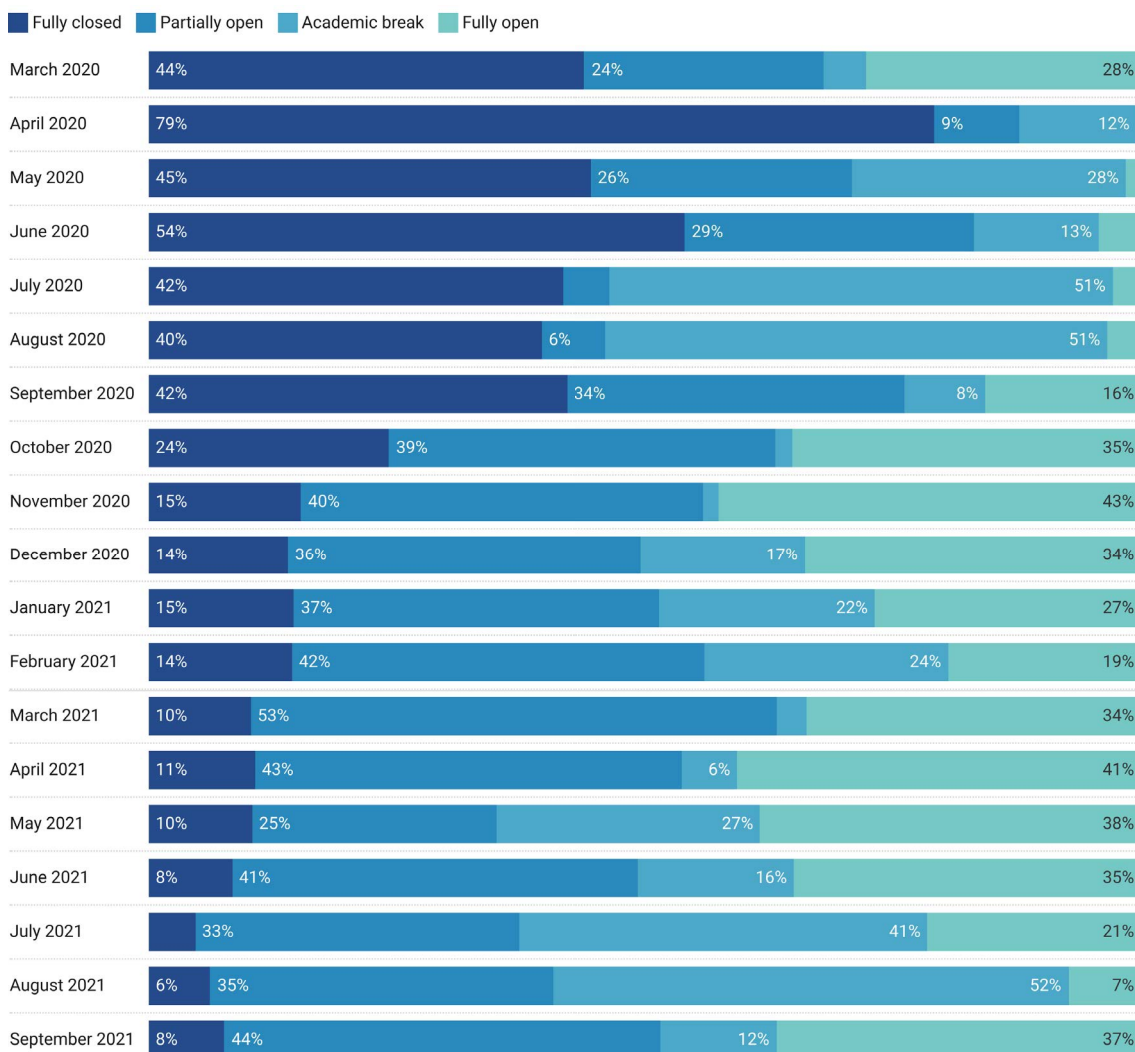


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: UNESCO

The global shift to remote learning has reduced education losses but also shown its limitations. Children and youth in humanitarian contexts often lack access to the technologies needed to learn remotely.¹¹ About 2.2 billion, or two thirds of children and young people age 25 years or under, do not have Internet access at home. Households in rural areas are far less likely to have Internet access. Even when access is achieved, the cost of connectivity is prohibitive for many students and teachers.¹² The greatest digital divides exist in Eastern and Southern Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.¹³ Education losses are 70 per cent higher in economies that rank below the world average in access to electricity.¹⁴

TV- or radio-mediated education programmes have been offered in some cases, but they do not support personalized learning or monitor attendance and progress.¹⁵ The full and specific needs of children with disabilities are often not accommodated in home-based learning.¹⁶ Increased investment in remote-learning programmes and infrastructure is key to building resilient edu-



Maiduguri, Nigeria. Children play football in the grounds of a school. During the pandemic in 2020, when all schools were closed, UNICEF collaborated with SUBEB to start the UNICEF Radio Hub, where students can learn multiple school subjects from teachers through radio learning programmes. The programme is successful and continues to stress that the right of every child to education should not be limited. *OCHA/Damilola Onafuwa*

cation systems.¹⁷ Attempts are under way to improve the situation of people affected by this digital divide, but progress takes time as well as dedicated and sustained donor support. Work has been accelerated on UNICEF's Giga Initiative, which sets out to provide connectivity to every school in the world by 2030, and is mapping the location and real-time Internet connectivity of every school in the world.¹⁸ UNICEF's Learning Passport provides a global online, mobile and offline learning platform that can help youth continue their education during emergencies that result in school closures. It is now live in 14 countries including Bangladesh, Honduras, Somalia (Puntland) and Sudan, and more than 25 countries are in the deployment process.¹⁹

It is important that schools are kept open wherever possible. Online learning alone cannot replace the overall benefits of children physically being in school. Beyond learning, schools often provide nutrition, health and hygiene services, and protection from violence and negative coping mechanisms, such as child marriage, child labour and enrollment by armed actors.²⁰ School closures have exacerbated the risk of violence against adolescent girls, cutting them off from important social support networks.²¹ Sustained lack of access to these services means children's overall welfare declines significantly.²² In the absence of vaccines, non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as social distancing, outdoor classes, and opening windows or doors for additional ventilation, can decrease the risk of transmission.²³

In his report titled *Our Common Agenda*, the UN Secretary-General has focused on learning and quality education as a clear priority and announced the convening of a Summit on Transforming Education in 2022 to accelerate progress towards achieving SDG 4.²⁴

Aid in Action Instant Network Schools



The Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR have jointly established the Instant Network Schools (INS) programme, which supports access to quality, accredited digital education in Africa. Each INS is set up with free connectivity and includes a projector, laptop, speaker system and set of classroom tablets, enabling thousands of refugee and host-community students and teachers across Africa to access a quality, accredited digital education. Currently, INS is operating in DRC, Kenya, South Sudan and Tanzania. In 2021, the Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR announced the opening of 20 new INS centres in Egypt and Mozambique, which will benefit nearly 43,000 secondary-school students, 125,000 family members and over 1,500 teachers. *UNHCR/Vodafone Foundation/Sala Lewis*

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- ²⁴ Report of the UN Secretary-General, [Our Common Agenda](#), p. 40. The summit will discuss a modernization of the education system, more student-centred learning, education obstacles faced by girls and young women, the transition from education to employment, and the promotion of lifelong learning and reskilling. Digital inclusivity will be a vital part of the summit, building on existing efforts such as the Giga Initiative.



Part one: Global trends

Humanitarian Crises Continue to Exacerbate Gender Inequalities

Gender inequalities continued to worsen in 2020. Women and girls were disproportionately affected by the pandemic and other global crises, exacerbating pre-existing gender norms and inequalities.

The COVID-19 pandemic is dealing a major blow to women's employment progress and ending poverty. Women represent 70 per cent of the global health and social sector force, and they are at the front lines of the pandemic.¹ Despite this, 4.2 per cent of all employed women lost their jobs in 2020, compared to 3 per cent employment losses for men.² Poverty rates for women and girls also continued to worsen; about 247 million women over age 15 live on less than \$1.90 per day, compared to 236 million men. The global gender poverty gap for women age 25 to 34 is projected to worsen, from 118 women for every 100 men in 2021, to 121 women in 2030.³ Despite some progress over the past decade, gender parity remains far from reach as women and girls continue to face structural marginalization and discrimination. According to the World Economic Forum, the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic could add another generation to the fight for gender parity, a goal predicted to take over 100 years to achieve.⁴

Les Cayes, Haiti. A group of older women wait to collect aid supplies following the earthquake that hit Haiti in August. One of the women is now homeless. Like many others, she sleeps in a tent erected at an assembly point next to a school outside Les Cayes. But finding food is a major concern. She explains: "Since this morning, I haven't even had so much as a coffee. Sometimes we all put together what we have so we can prepare a meal. But it's never enough for everyone. Some people eat, others don't. As a result, we are hungry, and children ask for food we cannot give them." *OCHA/Matteo Minasi*

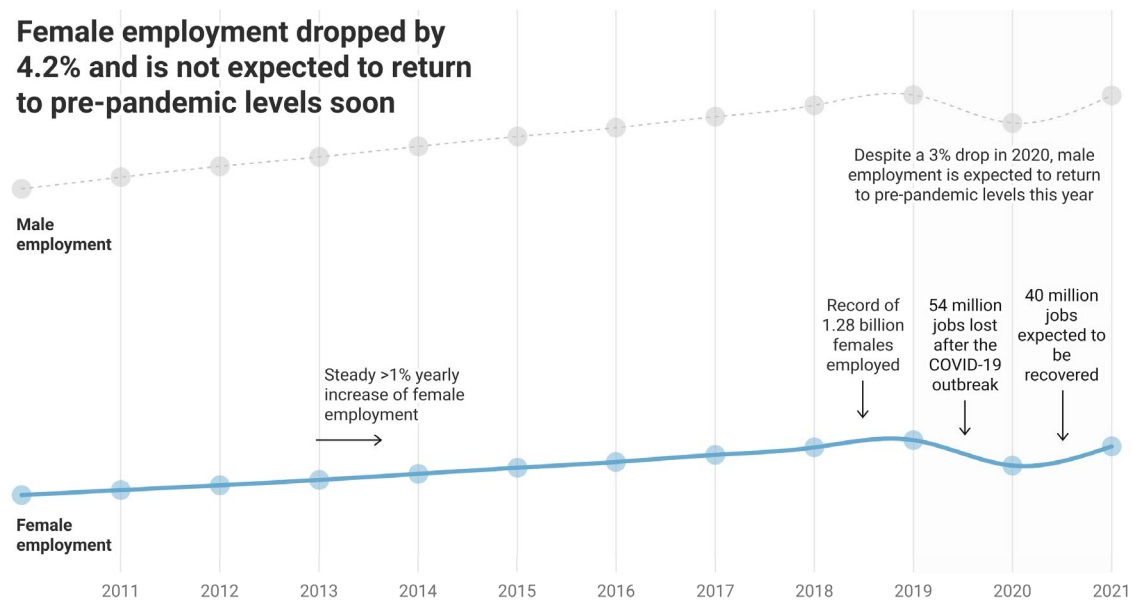


Chart: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: International Labour Organization

Women and girls living in humanitarian contexts continue to be among those most affected by gender inequalities, such as limited access to decision-making processes, education, work, and gaps in sexual and reproductive health services. Countries with a HRP in 2020 had some of the widest gender gaps.⁵ This makes it even more important to ensure humanitarian action promotes the protection, participation and leadership of women and girls, particularly adolescent girls, older women, and women and girls with disabilities.

Violence against women and girls has intensified in some settings, giving rise to a shadow pandemic of GBV.⁶ COVID-19 and economic slowdowns have also adversely impacted services and programmes for GBV.⁷ For every three months that COVID-19 lockdowns continue, an additional 15 million GBV cases are expected to occur.⁸ Women and girls living in humanitarian contexts are experiencing GBV at a disproportionate rate: over 70 per cent compared with 35 per cent worldwide.⁹

Women and girls are also disproportionately impacted by climate shocks.¹⁰ Those living in rural areas are more dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, which are threatened by a changing climate.¹¹ Such vulnerabilities can intensify the risk of GBV, which may become more acute following climate-related disasters.¹² Women and girls are often severely limited by gendered systems, structures, laws and social expectations, and underrepresented in decision-making processes on climate action.¹³ Addressing the acute needs of women and girls will require greater investment in humanitarian programming, informed by women's meaningful participation, especially through community-/women-led organizations and local partners,¹⁴ to shape the humanitarian response as well as their equal representation in humanitarian leadership positions. Robust gender analysis and the use of sex- and age-disaggregated data, including ethnicity, race, migratory status and disability, are critical to close gender gaps.

Gender Inequality Index (2020)

| Country ▲ | Maternal mortality ratio Deaths per 100,000 live births | Adolescent birth rate Births per 1,000 women aged 15–19 | Females with parliament seats Percentage held by women | Females with secondary education Percentage aged 25 and older | Female labour force participation Percentage aged 25 and older |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| World | 204 | 43 | 25% | 61% | 47% |
| Afghanistan | 638 | 69 | 27% | 13% | 22% |
| Burkina Faso | 320 | 104 | 13% | 6% | 58% |
| Burundi | 548 | 56 | 39% | 8% | 80% |
| Cameroon | 529 | 106 | 29% | 33% | 71% |
| CAR | 829 | 129 | 9% | 13% | 64% |
| Chad | 1140 | 161 | 15% | 2% | 64% |
| Colombia | 83 | 67 | 20% | 56% | 57% |
| DRC | 473 | 124 | 12% | 37% | 61% |
| El Salvador | 46 | 69 | 31% | 40% | 45% |
| Ethiopia | 401 | 67 | 37% | 11% | 73% |
| Guatemala | 95 | 71 | 19% | 39% | 40% |
| Haiti | 480 | 52 | 3% | 27% | 62% |
| Honduras | 65 | 73 | 21% | 32% | 52% |
| Iraq | 79 | 72 | 25% | 40% | 12% |
| Lebanon | 29 | 15 | 5% | 54% | 23% |
| Libya | 72 | 6 | 16% | 70% | 34% |
| Madagascar | 335 | 110 | 17% | - | 83% |
| Mali | 562 | 169 | 10% | 7% | 61% |
| Mozambique | 289 | 149 | 41% | 14% | 77% |
| Myanmar | 250 | 29 | 12% | 29% | 47% |
| Niger | 509 | 187 | 17% | 5% | 61% |
| Nigeria | 917 | 107 | 4% | - | 48% |
| oPt | 27 | 53 | - | 64% | 18% |
| Somalia | 829 | 100 | 24% | - | 22% |
| South Sudan | 1150 | 62 | 27% | - | 71% |
| Sudan | 295 | 64 | 28% | 15% | 29% |
| Syria | 31 | 39 | 13% | 37% | 14% |
| Ukraine | 19 | 24 | 21% | 94% | 47% |
| Venezuela | 125 | 85 | 22% | 72% | 45% |
| Yemen | 164 | 60 | 1% | 20% | 6% |

The index measures gender inequalities in three aspects of human development: reproductive health, measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates; empowerment, measured by proportion of parliamentary seats occupied by females and proportion of adult females with at least some secondary education; and economic status, measured by labour force participation rate.

Table: Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 • Source: UNDP



Mangina, DR Congo. This woman has been at Kamuchanga IDP site for three months. Her village was attacked, and she was kidnapped by armed men, but her husband was killed. After two months, she managed to escape during a clash with military forces. She found her younger brother and is staying with him and her daughter. But Maria's leg is badly infected. She explains: "They injured my leg, stabbing me with bayonets. The injury is now five months old, but it does not heal. I had to leave the hospital because I could not pay for the treatment. When I have enough money for antibiotics, it gets better. But when I have to stop again, because I run out of money, the infection gets worse again. I can walk very slowly but cannot work. People in the community are the only ones who help me. My neighbours share food with me. I am surviving through the charity of others." *OCHA/Ivo Brandau*

Such efforts must be coupled with policies that expand the access of women, girls and other at-risk groups to social protection, dignified sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities, and affordable, quality and accessible health-care services. Humanitarian response services must be gender-transformative and centred around building resilience to future shocks. And specifically, humanitarian response must prioritize the prevention of, response to and risk mitigation of GBV to ensure that humanitarian operations do not increase the risk of experiencing GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse.

Across the humanitarian sector, there has been a growing focus on increasing the meaningful participation of women and women-led organizations in humanitarian action. In 2020, gender working groups were active in 12 crisis settings: Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Jordan, Myanmar, Nigeria, occupied Palestinian territory, Philippines, Somalia, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen. Regional gender in humanitarian action working groups covered the Middle East and North Africa and Asia-Pacific. Local women-led organizations have increasingly engaged in meaningful participation in the HPC design and planning and HCTs, particularly in Ethiopia, Iraq, Myanmar, Syria and Yemen.

Stories from the Field

Supporting and counselling for displaced women



Tumahini Mave is the Protection Committee President at Linji IDP site in DRC. When her village was attacked, she followed the village chief to find refuge at the site. It hosts several thousand IDPs and is located near small gold mines, where many IDPs go to find a day's labour or dig for a lucky find. The fields and paths around the site expose all IDPs to great risks, particularly women and girls. Protection incidents often go unreported. Tumahini is a mother of four and struggling to make ends meet for her family. She puts all her energy into supporting and counselling other displaced women. She explains: "I fled the fighting in my village. I heard the shots, people were hit. They burned down the village. I took my children and ran. Here it is dangerous. I am counselling women at any time, whatever happens. When they leave the site to look for wood or food, they are being harassed and forced to have sex for food. When women are raped, they prefer to keep silent. They risk being discriminated and rejected by their husbands. I am surviving with little activities, helping out in the fields of the local population, carrying building materials or in the gold mine. Because of the risks, I try to leave the site as little as possible." *OCHA/Ivo Brandau*

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Part one: Global trends

Private Sector Mobilizing Resources for Emergency Response

The private sector continues to prove its capacity to quickly mobilize resources on the ground and strengthen emergency preparedness and recovery. In 2021, as the number of people affected by humanitarian crises continued to increase, the private sector has once again shown that it can contribute to stakeholders' coordinated action within complex emergencies.

Businesses are providing financial and in-kind contributions, including operational support. This ranges from funding for projects identified within the GHO, to sharing expertise and core competencies. It also includes staff deployment in field operations, as well as using existing resources and infrastructure to improve the delivery of aid. The Vodafone Foundation and UNHCR have jointly established the Instant Network Schools (INS) programme, which supports access to quality, accredited digital education in Africa (see education article for further details). After a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti in August 2021, the Alliance for Risk Management and Business Continuity, a local private sector network, played a key role in the response. Support was received from the [Connecting Business initiative](#) (CBI), a joint OCHA-UNDP project engaging the private sector in disaster management. The private sector has been a key ally during the

COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, UNICEF, leader of the COVAX procurement and logistics operation, partnered with Microsoft's Disaster Response Team to improve the security and infrastructure of the COVAX information hub. The hub provides key stakeholders with up-to-date information on the allocations and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. Microsoft experts worked with UNICEF to track and monitor the distribution of vaccines from manufacturers through to local market delivery, increasing efficiencies and sharing real-time data with key stakeholders to help make critical decisions. Following the hub's success, the project has expanded to include all COVAX partners and new types of vaccine product and service delivery information.

Engaging the private sector in local disaster management builds resilience by empowering communities and enabling a more efficient response, relying on local supply chains and economies. Since 2016, OCHA and UNDP's CBI private sector member networks have raised more than \$50 million for disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities and reached more than 15.5

Aid in Action

Private Sector Support to Humanitarian Response in the Philippines



The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) – a coalition of more than 60 major companies and the CBI member network – is an observer on the HCT and acts as overall private sector coordinator for the inter-agency task force that is part of the HRP. PDRF works closely with the national Government, the UN, CSOs and humanitarian actors to operate a business-led Emergency Operations Centre, which coordinates businesses across the Philippines when a disaster strikes. In 2020, PDRF responded to COVID-19, two typhoons, flooding and a volcanic eruption. It has raised significant funds and leads the private sector response in the Philippines, working closely with the Government, the UN and other humanitarian actors and visiting affected areas to assess and respond to damage. PDRF also deployed vehicles, medical supplies, drinking water, ready-to-eat meals, call and charging booths, relief packs and a team of engineers to restore communications in typhoon-hit areas. *In the picture, a resident of Barangay Baybay in Malinao, Albay, rummages through the remnants of his destroyed home, a week after Typhoon Goni destroyed most of his village. OCHA/Martin San Diego*

million people in 17 countries. With the increasing frequency and severity of extreme-weather events, such as flooding, the CBI network in Sri Lanka (the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka) [spearheaded a multi-stakeholder collaboration with the military](#) to provide annual training in swift-water search-and-rescue operations.

Despite the demonstrated value of private sector contributions to humanitarian emergencies and achieving the SDGs, the private sector and particularly local businesses are frequently overlooked. The private sector is still far from being systematically included in humanitarian coordination systems. More needs to be done to fully leverage its expertise and contribution to principled and accountable disaster response and recovery in sudden-onset and complex emergencies, whether in natural hazards, or human-made conflicts and pandemics.

Aid in Action

Private Sector Response to the Earthquake in Haiti



After a 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti in August 2021, the Alliance for Risk Management and Business Continuity (AGERCA), a local private sector federation and CBI member network, mobilized in-kind donations of critical items, including thousands of gallons of drinkable water, clothes, solar-powered refrigerators and mobile phone credit for emergency responders. In recognition of its expertise, AGERCA has been formally designated as the representative of civil society and the private sector within the Haitian National System for Risk and Disaster Management. AGERCA works directly with the General Directorate for Civil Protection and is also a member of the national Emergency Operations Centre. AGERCA posts regular situation reports and has deployed a staff member to south Haiti to support the earthquake response. They will continue to coordinate the private sector and civil-society response in Haiti. DHL also deployed three staff members to Haiti, feeding into collective international action efforts of the country's private sector.

In the picture, essential non-food items, such as tarpaulins, and essential hygiene kits (buckets, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrush and face masks) are distributed in Valere, Les Cayes. UNICEF/Georges Rouzier