

Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations

Forum: Economic and Social Council

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Introduction

During times of political upheaval, military conflict, or natural disasters, innocent civilians are frequently drawn into the fray. Vast numbers of people become displaced and in need of aid, yet aid distribution extends beyond the capacity of any single party. These situations are termed Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (CHEs). The key to addressing humanitarian emergencies is humanitarian assistance, saving lives, relieving suffering, and preserving human dignity. In 2022, as humans keep living alongside COVID-19, global warming, and several global challenges, it is imperative to examine and realize measures to reinforce the necessary collaboration in providing emergency humanitarian assistance.



Camp situations for refugees in humanitarian emergencies

Background

The United Nations defines CHEs as “a humanitarian crisis in a country, region, or society where there is a complete or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single and/or ongoing UN country program.” Humanitarian emergencies are not always easy to categorize. However, some typical characteristics include enormous scale destructiveness and loss of life, population displacements, extensive damage to societies and economies, the demand for large-scale, multi-faceted humanitarian assistance, the obstruction of humanitarian aid due to political and military limitations, and substantial safety risks for



Internally displaced children spending their childhood at refugee camps

humanitarian relief workers in some areas.

Global Humanitarian Overview 2021 reported that a growing number of 274 million people would require humanitarian aid and protection in the upcoming year. We will continue to confront a series of severe issues, and humanitarian activities in 2022 will have to adjust to new and challenging situations. The COVID-19 epidemic is wreaking chaos and destruction in

impoverished countries. COVID-19 demonstrates no signs of subsiding, taking at least 5 million lives worldwide, intensified by ineffective actions and a shortage of vaccinations. The destruction of economies and livelihoods has increased humanitarian needs while fueling violence. Only 4% of the 7 billion vaccinations distributed have reached countries that have a Humanitarian Response Plan in place (HRP). An extra 20 million people have been forced into extreme poverty in two-thirds of these nations.

However, difficulties go far beyond simply the pandemic. Civilians remain the most vulnerable to wars, and extreme poverty keeps rising. Climate change is causing havoc, forced relocation is at all-time highs, and 161 million people endure severe food insecurity. The challenges are immense, and decisive actions are urgently demanded to support the vulnerable population.

Problems Raised

Forced Displacement

According to the UN's refugee agency UNHCR, the number of people forcefully displaced worldwide is at an all-time high. Persecution, war, violence, human rights abuses, or incidents substantially disrupting public order have displaced 84 million people by June 2021, a further two percent increase on top of the already record-high of 82.4 million, recorded at the end of 2020. This includes 48 million internally displaced persons, 26.6 million refugees, and 4.4 million asylum-seekers. More than 1% of the world's population is currently displaced, with children accounting for 42% of the total.



"More respect, less attack."

In the first six months of 2021, more than 4.3 million new internal displacements were documented in the 33 countries where UNHCR is working on internal displacement issues. This is a significant rise over the previous year's similar time and greater than pre-COVID-19 levels. Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Myanmar, South Sudan, and nations in the Sahel region witnessed increased violence resulting in considerable additional displacements.



Overview of Global Humanitarian Needs in 2022

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Conflict continues to be a significant source of humanitarian aid. Around 60% of all global wars will be waged violently by 2022. Despite repeated demands for worldwide ceasefires in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, political conflicts continue to disproportionately affect civilian populations, exacerbating the needs of the most vulnerable. When conflicts involve explosive weapons in populated areas, civilians are always the ones in grave danger. The destruction of crucial infrastructure, including homes, hospitals, roads, and schools, has wreaked havoc on civilian populations, forcing them to flee and expose them to danger. According to Action on Armed Violence, the usage of violent weapons resulted in 18,747 fatalities and injuries worldwide in 2020. Civilians, like always, suffered the brunt of the escalating violence, accounting for 59 percent of those injured (11,506).

Disruptions to Global Education

School closures caused by COVID-19 have severely impacted education, and many students cannot access remote learning. School closures impacted 1.6 billion children in 180 nations during the height of the epidemic in 2020. This has resulted in education losses comparable to nearly half a school year in emerging markets and developing countries, disproportionately affecting children from poorer and less-educated households.



Education cannot wait, especially in most urgent crises.

In numerous countries covered in the 2022 GHO, such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Uganda, and Venezuela, schools were suspended nationally for more than 41 weeks between February 2020 and August 2021. Other nations, such as Iraq, Myanmar, and Zimbabwe, have instituted temporary school closures in response to mounting incidences. School closures frequently strike vulnerable children the hardest; the longer they are out of school, the less likely they will return.

Although many schools returned in 2021, an estimated number of over 870 million youngsters were still affected by disruptions in their education and the protection it offers. Due to pandemic-related closures, UNICEF approximates that 40% of all school-age children in Eastern and Southern Africa - over 69 million children - were not in school in July 2021, and adolescent females are more likely than boys to fail to return to school. COVID-19-related school closures throughout the world highlight the fragility of education systems and the necessity for accessible and effective remote learning and child safety tools to fall back on when schools are forced to close.

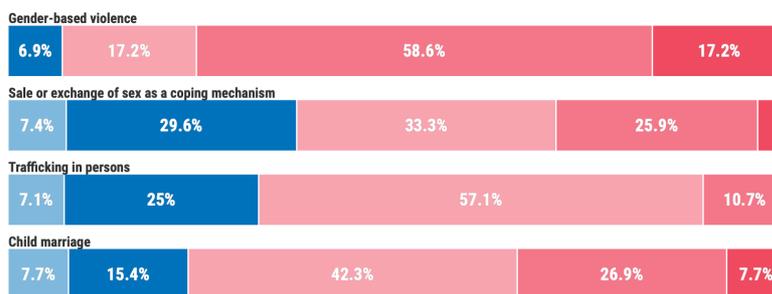
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Inequalities between men and women worsened in 2021. The epidemic and other worldwide crises disproportionately affected women and girls, aggravating pre-existing gender norms and inequality. COVID-19 also highlighted the interconnected health, economic, and

Risks, concerns and adverse coping mechanisms

Distribution of operations by reported severity of protection risks | May 2021

1 - NONE / MINOR 2 - STRESSED 3 - MODERATE 4 - SEVERE 5 - EXTREME



protection challenges that forcibly displaced persons face. The epidemic is especially harmful to displaced women and children, who face greater rates of domestic and sexual abuse and child marriages.

The pandemic's socioeconomic effects have only increased the danger of

gender-based violence and heightened tensions in households, while containment measures have added to the difficulty of reporting abuse and obtaining aid. COVID-19 lockdowns are predicted to result in 15 million GBV cases every three months. GBV affects women and girls living in humanitarian situations at a disproportionately high rate: over 70% compared to 35% globally. Between May and July 2020, a study of displaced women in 15 post-conflict settings in Africa reported a 73 percent increase in intimate partner abuse and a 32 percent increase in early marriage.

Places of High Concern

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, a combination of constant violence, COVID-19, political uncertainty, frequent economic shocks, and the most severe drought in 27 years is heavily disrupting food security: even after harvesting, 57% of families did not have enough food for the next three months. Furthermore, throughout 2021, humanitarian agencies faced funding problems in Afghanistan, particularly when scale-up was necessary for several catastrophes, and the COVID-19 issue' ongoing repercussions continued to affect vulnerable people. In May 2021, more than 35% of the Afghan population was experiencing emergent food insecurity, making the situation in Afghanistan among the top 10 UNHCR crises in the world. As of right now, more than 24 million people in Afghanistan require life-saving support to avoid disaster, and actions are demanded immediately.



Thousands of Afghan families have escaped from Taliban invasions and sought refuge elsewhere

Myanmar

In the past year, the military takeover and subsequent large-scale civil disobedience campaign in Myanmar have posted massive impacts on the already vulnerable public service sector, significantly restricting access to essential services for those in need. The COVID-19 and military takeover crises have exacerbated pre-existing needs among unprotected communities,

such as stateless Rohingyas and long-term internally displaced persons in Myanmar's north-east. As a result of the new national framework of analysis, which employs food insecurity as a measure of vulnerability, additional requirements have been identified. As a result of the expansion of violence, new demands for humanitarian assistance have arisen in new locations. To prevent intensification of such emergencies, a deeper national analysis and a magnified humanitarian response are necessary.

International Actions

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)

These two funding organizations remain critical mechanisms for ensuring that coordinated and principled humanitarian aid reaches those in need rapidly. CERF has distributed about \$491 million to 36 nations as of October 28, 2021. The CBPFs have set aside \$506 million for 19 different countries. CERF funding has been awarded to eleven UN organizations, with 50 million people. Aside from UN agencies, CBPF contributions helped 260 international NGOs, 196 national partners, and four Red Cross/Red Crescent national organizations in 2021, with a total population of 59.1 million people. CBPFs have grown in importance to provide direct funding to local and national actors. In 2021, local and national NGOs received \$138.5 million from CBPFs (27 percent of overall CBPF funding), the largest source of direct support for such groups.

Possible Solutions

Developing Intersectional Analysis Framework

Humanitarian institutions can operate more effectively if they recognize and understand the various ways in which shocks influence individuals and communities. Understanding the requirements of diverse individuals also helps make decisions promptly, order humanitarian relief, choose suitable response methods, and ensure that aid reaches those who need it most.

The humanitarian community, which includes UN agencies, cluster leaders and participants, NGOs, and funders, should commit to conducting a combined intersectoral study. In 2021, an independent expert evaluation of the technique was conducted to achieve this pledge with rigor and openness. Its findings and recommendations were being used to develop and



The Emergency Relief Coordinator meeting with Syrian healthcare centers to listen to their needs

improve the approach and the advice and accompanying resources. Looking into the future, such practices need to be adopted more frequently. To cement the encouraging achievements made thus far, the whole humanitarian community will need to remain committed and engaged to provide a reliable, transparent analysis that helps us deliver better.

Enhancing Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action

“Data responsibility” in humanitarian action refers to the safe, ethical, and effective

handling of personal and non-personal data for the operational response. The humanitarian community may respond more effectively and efficiently by managing data related to crises, affected individuals, and humanitarian activities. On the other hand, organizations are confronted with more complicated issues and hazards as they manage vast data. Irresponsible data handling in humanitarian response can place already vulnerable persons and communities at greater risk of damage or exploitation and disclose essential vulnerabilities.

Despite significant advances, there are still gaps between global guidelines and their implementation in field operations. Humanitarian data must be safely secured from cyber operations, relationships with private sector suppliers must be enabled, and a neutral, impartial, and autonomous humanitarian cyberspace must be established.

Glossary

Humanitarian Assistance: Actions intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and after artificial crises and disasters caused by natural hazards, and prevent and strengthen preparedness for when such situations occur.

Internally Displaced Person: Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized border.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV): Any type of sexual, physical, mental, and economic harm inflicted in public or in private, which includes threats of violence, coercion, and manipulation.

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