

Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2019

This fact sheet produced by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a summary of the UN’s Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2019.

Introduction

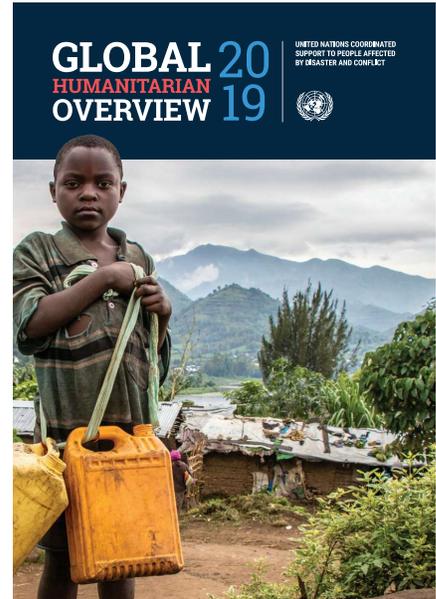
The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) recently released the “**Global Humanitarian Overview 2019 (GHO)**.” The GHO is the “most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of world humanitarian needs” and how to respond and meet them.

The GHO is a summary of all Humanitarian Response Plans (by country and emergency) and other humanitarian appeals. The focus of this year’s publication is: “measuring and mitigating risk: preventing protracted emergencies from becoming the new norm.”

A sister publication, “**World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2018**” was also released and focuses on trends and opportunities in humanitarian action.

The full reports can be found at this link:

<https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2019>



Highlightsⁱ ⁱⁱ

Why is this document important?

- Over the past decade, humanitarian crises have been increasing in number and duration. Between 2005 and 2017, the number of crises receiving an internationally led response almost doubled, from 16 to 30
- **Natural Disasters:** affect an average of 350 million people each year, and cause billions of dollars in damage
- Some 18.8 million people were displaced by natural disasters in 2017
- **Humanitarian costs:** The UN estimates US\$21.9 billion will be needed for humanitarian crises in 2019
- Needs have outreached available resources year after year. For example, US\$3.7 billion was needed in 2007; in 2018 the figure was US\$14 billion
- **Displaced:** Some 16.2 million people were newly displaced by conflict and violence in 2017 alone. Nearly 70 million people across the world are currently displaced, most of them within their own borders
- **Climate change:** could bring internal displacement figures to 140 million people by 2050
- **Water scarcity:** In 2017, some 2.1 billion people lacked access to safe drinking water, and 1.9 billion lived in severely water scarce areas

- **Women, Peace and Security:** Proliferation of arms, mass displacement and the collapse of the rule of law due to disasters and conflicts exacerbate existing gender inequalities and trigger patterns of sexual violence. An estimated one in five women refugees has experienced sexual violence – actual numbers could be much higher

USINDOPACOM AOR:

- Asia and the Pacific remains the world’s most disaster-prone region, vulnerable to both sudden and slow-onset disasters. From 2014 to 2017, the region experienced 55 earthquakes, 217 storms and cyclones, and 236 cases of severe flooding. These disasters affected 650 million people and resulted in a death toll of nearly 33,000ⁱⁱⁱ
- By the end of October 2018 in Bangladesh, some 899,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar started to receive basic and regular food assistance^{iv}

GHO Summary Global Trends and Challenges^v

- Despite global development gains, one in every 70 people around the world is caught up in crisis and urgently needs humanitarian assistance and protection
- More people are being displaced by conflict. The number of forcibly displaced people rose from 59.5 million in 2014 to 68.5 million in 2017
- Food insecurity is rising. In just two years between 2015 and 2017, the number of people experiencing crisis-level food insecurity or worse increased from 80 million to 124 million people
- Crises exacerbate gender inequalities. Girls in conflict settings are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys
- Humanitarian crises affect more people, for longer. The number of people targeted to receive assistance through UN-led humanitarian response plans (HRPs) increased from 77 million in 2014 to 101 million in 2018
- The average humanitarian crisis now lasts more than nine years....

Outlook and Requirements in 2019^{vi}

- Humanitarian needs will remain extremely high. In 2019, nearly 132 million people in 42 countries around the world will need humanitarian assistance, including protection
- Conflict will remain the main driver of humanitarian needs in 2019
- Food insecurity will remain a major concern, particularly in areas affected by conflict and climate-related hazards
- There is an 80 per cent chance of an El Niño event developing at the end of 2018. Twenty-five countries are considered at high risk from related droughts, tropical cyclones and floods^{vii}
- The worst El Niño event in some 50 years occurred in 2015, sparking extreme weather events which impacted 60 million people^{viii}

Improving Humanitarian Response in 2019^{ix}

- Increased attention will be paid to practical measures that can enhance respect for international humanitarian law in conflicts, such as civil-military coordination

- In conflict settings, aid providers will continue to build on lessons learned to deliver principled humanitarian assistance and protection, while strengthening systems and processes that keep aid workers safe

Other quotes and regional topics

- Between 2014 and 2017, disasters caused by natural hazards affected more than 870 million people per year in more than 160 countries and territories around the world, causing loss of life, devastating livelihoods, and forcing about 20 million people from their homes each year. The greatest number of natural disasters in that period occurred in 2015, when the worst El Niño phenomenon in five decades sparked extreme weather events across the globe, affecting some 60 million people.
- The World Bank has calculated that the cost of disasters caused by natural hazards to the global economy is \$520 billion annually, with disasters pushing 26 million people into poverty every year.
- Climate-related disasters including floods, storms and droughts account for more than 90 per cent of the world's disasters and affect the greatest number of people.^x
- By the end of 2017, war, violence and persecution had uprooted 68.5 million men, women and children around the world – the highest number on record, and nearly 10 million more people than in 2014. Just over 40 million people were internally displaced by violence within their own countries, and 25.4 million refugees and 3.1 million asylum seekers were forced to flee their countries to escape conflict and persecution^{xi}
- In 2017, more than 75 million children experienced disruptions to their education because of humanitarian crises, threatening not only their present well-being, but their future prospects as well.^{xii}

Asia and the Pacific: Strengthened Disaster Management Capacities

Asia and the Pacific remains the world's most disaster-prone region, vulnerable to both sudden and slow-onset disasters. From 2014 to 2017, the region experienced 55 earthquakes, 217 storms and cyclones, and 236 cases of severe flooding. These disasters affected 650 million people and resulted in a death toll of nearly 33,000. With the threat of the next major disaster constantly looming, governments and regional bodies have achieved important progress in recent years in increasing their capacity for disaster response. As a result, countries in the Asia and the Pacific region are now less likely to appeal for international assistance but more likely to request support in specific areas that complement their national and regional capacities.^{xiii}

Alongside growing national capacities, prominent bilateral response arrangements and regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are contributing to a more diverse response system. As a result, disaster management and humanitarian response in the region is predicated on strong national leadership – particularly in the context of natural disasters – with regional and international actors complementing government efforts when and where required. Countries in Asia and the Pacific are consequently less likely to appeal for international assistance and more likely to accept offers of support in specific areas that augment national capacities. For example, during the 2018 Central Sulawesi earthquake response in Indonesia, the Government authorized established in-country partners directly to deliver assistance. Similarly, to support coordination for the Tropical Cyclone Gita response, OCHA and representatives of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) deployed to support local cluster coordination at the Government's request. Moving forward into 2019 and beyond, other countries are likely to apply similar approaches.^{xiv}

There are 25 countries at high risk if an El Niño develops. Many countries remain vulnerable to the impact of disasters triggered by extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods, storms and tropical cyclones. A changing climate is expected to strengthen the severity of disasters caused by natural hazards, causing mass displacement and significant humanitarian needs. Natural disasters can also exacerbate situations of conflict. In 2017, an estimated 18.7 million people were internally displaced because of disasters, mostly in the Americas, East Asia, the Pacific, and South Asia. The World Meteorological Organization’s forecasts indicate an 80 per cent chance of El Niño developing through early 2019. Although it is likely to be a weak-to-moderate event, it could still have a significant impact.^{xv}

Humanitarian needs in Myanmar (Rohingya refugees). Humanitarian needs in Myanmar continue to be driven by multiple factors including armed conflict, protracted displacement, inter-communal violence, statelessness, segregation, discrimination, food insecurity and vulnerability to natural disasters. The situation is compounded by chronic poverty, gender disparities, sexual and gender-based violence – particularly affecting women and girls – and other underlying inequalities that exacerbate needs, vulnerabilities and marginalization of people in many parts of the country.

In Rakhine State, the situation deteriorated dramatically following the armed attacks and subsequent security operations by Government forces in August 2017 that led to the exodus of over 700,000 people, mostly stateless Rohingya Muslims, to Bangladesh. While the pace of departures to Bangladesh has slowed, Rohingya continued to depart for Bangladesh in 2018 with nearly 15,000 crossing the border in the first ten months of the year.

For further reading:

Starting on page 59 are “Other Response Plans”:

- This includes a section on the Bangladesh response to the Rohingya refugee crisis, and another section on Needs and Priorities for North Korea, with this interesting quote on p. 60 “...10.3 million people (in NK) were estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2018.”
- There is also a Philippine section dealing specifically with the Marawi conflict and displaced persons starting on page 61.

¹ Global Humanitarian Overview 2019, <https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2019>

¹¹ World Humanitarian Data and Trends, 2018, <https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2019>

¹² Global Humanitarian Overview 2019, pg. 15, <https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2019>

¹³ Ibid., pg. 10

¹⁴ Ibid., pg. 4

¹⁵ Ibid., pg. 5

¹⁶ Ibid., pg. 5

¹⁷ Ibid., pg. 15

¹⁸ Ibid., pg. 5

¹⁹ Ibid., pg. 15

²⁰ Ibid., pg. 14

²¹ Ibid., pg. 13

²² Ibid., pg. 15

²³ Ibid., pg. 30

²⁴ Ibid., pg. 24



WWW.CFE-DMHA.ORG

456 Hornet Avenue • JBPHH, HI 96860-3530 • CFE.DMHA.FCT@PACOM.MIL
808.472.0518 • 315.472.0518 [DSN] • 808.472.0382 [FAX]