The Global Humanitarian Context:

A Landscape Analysis

November 2023

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Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

This joint publication of the Humanitarian Response Network of Canada (HRN), Nexus Cooperation, and Cooperation Canada provides a landscape analysis to better understand the dynamic humanitarian context shaping the operations of Canadian humanitarian organizations.

Humanitarian needs around the world are escalating. Between 2018 and 2021, there was a 70% increase in people needing humanitarian assistance, totaling 361 million by early 2023. The humanitarian impact of protracted crises, mounting conflicts, record levels of displacement, and climate-driven disasters is significant. This has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and a global food crisis. In this challenging context, Canadian organizations must prioritize coordination, flexibility, innovation, and collaboration to navigate this complex context effectively.

The global humanitarian system has significantly expanded over the past decade, with a $31.3 billion budget in 2021. Despite this growth, there is still a significant humanitarian funding gap: in 2021, there were 48 appeals requesting $38.4 billion but only achieving 51% coverage. Protracted crises dominate funding, and the humanitarian sector remains dependent on a few major donors. Canadian international assistance has increased, yet direct funding to local actors remains limited, compounded by declining donations from Canadians to charities. Addressing these gaps and promoting sustainable financing models is essential.

In the context of increased and more complex needs, the humanitarian sector has sought to change, innovate, and respond to challenges and risks. Key developments on programming have included the emergence of the triple nexus approach, increased investment in cash assistance, a heightened focus on protection, and greater reliance on technology. Significant supply chain disruptions, and heightened insecurity and attacks on aid workers, have posed significant challenges to the effective delivery of much-needed humanitarian aid.

In the humanitarian sector's attempt to address questions of equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice (EDIJ), there is a push to decolonize aid and address long-standing power imbalances in the organizational structures and operations of humanitarian organizations. The humanitarian system itself is steeped in colonial legacies and structural racism, and organizations need to commit to addressing limited diversity in staffing and leadership, and shifting power, decision-making and resources to local actors who know the context best. More needs to be done to ensure robust mechanisms for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse are in place, and that vulnerable groups are prioritized in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

This landscape analysis seeks to offer vital insights into the challenges and opportunities facing Canadian humanitarian organizations, highlighting the importance of adaptation, innovation, sustainable financing, and a commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice in responding to evolving global crises and making a meaningful impact on those in need. To facilitate Canadian humanitarian organizations' initiatives and strategic programming, this analysis concludes by presenting a comprehensive roster of humanitarian networks they can actively engage with and learn from.

1. Introduction

The Humanitarian Response Network of Canada (HRN) is a vibrant community of practice consisting of over 35 Canadian humanitarian organizations. The HRN seeks to share lessons learned with the view to strengthen the quality and efficiency of humanitarian action by creating a conversation around key humanitarian policy issues and practices. The HRN is currently hosted by Cooperation Canada.

In 2022-23, HRN conducted this landscape analysis to provide a better understanding of the evolving humanitarian context within which HRN and its members are operating.

The purpose of this landscape analysis is to summarize the main trends in humanitarian action internationally over the last five years, with a focus on the issues that are most relevant to Canada's engagement in humanitarian response and Canadian humanitarian organizations.

The report explores trends in four areas:

(1) the characteristics of humanitarian crises around the world;

(2) the humanitarian system and its operations;

(3) humanitarian action financing; and

(4) equity, diversity, inclusion and justice (EDIJ) in humanitarian response.

The review also compiles a list of networks operating in the humanitarian space that provide possible opportunities for HRN collaboration.

While the initial and primary purpose of this review was to inform the HRN strategic review process, Nexus Cooperation, HRN and Cooperation Canada have collaborated in this joint publication to provide a resource for Canadian humanitarian actors.

2. Trends in Humanitarian Action

2.1. Characteristics of Humanitarian Crises

Humanitarian needs are growing.

Between 2018 and 2021, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance rose by 70%, from 122 million people to 218 million.[1] More than half of these people - 155.9 million - live in just nine countries.[2] As of early July 2023, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has grown to 361.8 million. The ten countries with the highest number of people in need of humanitarian support at that time were Afghanistan, Ethiopia, DRC, Sudan, Yemen, Pakistan, Myanmar, Ukraine, Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan.[3]

Protracted crises account for the majority of people in need, and the majority of humanitarian requirements.

In 2021, twelve of thirty United Nations humanitarian response plans were for countries that had consecutive appeals of more than 10 years, and their financial requirements grew over that period.[4] At the same time, there were 36 countries experiencing protracted crises, which accounted for 74% of all people in need at that time.[5] Sustaining responses to protracted crises, where there are growing needs and no end in sight, continues to place major pressure on the global humanitarian system. While the prolonged nature of these crises mean that the affected people's priorities and needs are likely to shift, including to support becoming self-sufficient, the rigid humanitarian system cannot easily respond.[6]

Conflict is on the rise.

By 2020, the number of conflicts had more than doubled over the previous decade. The two largest conflicts were in Syria and Yemen, with episodic and chronic violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Sudan, and the Sahel. New conflict escalations in northern Ethiopia and Myanmar have pushed millions more people into crisis. Violence in 2020 included a record 56 state-based conflicts, eight of which had reached the scale of wars. In the absence of political solutions to conflict, and of development approaches to support people's welfare in protracted conflict settings, the majority of humanitarian resources continue to be directed to chronic complex crises.[7]

Displacement is at an all-time high.

In 2021, displacement was at its highest level-ever, growing every year since 2011. It reached 89.3 million, of which 27.1 million were refugees and 53.2 million (62%) were internally displaced.[8] This was before the war in Ukraine, which has resulted in nearly 8 million refugees within Europe and an additional 7 million people displaced within Ukraine.

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1 ALNAP. (2022). The State of the Humanitarian System. https://sohs.alnap.org/help-library/2022-the-state-of-the-humanitarian-system-sohs-%E2%80%93-summary.

2 These include Yemen, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, Sudan, Syria, and Pakistan; Development Initiatives. (2022). Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2022. https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2022/.

3 OCHA. (2023). Humanitarian Action: Analysing Needs and Response [interactive map]. https://humanitarianaction.info/?bs=eyJibG9jay1hOG-M1Y2MyNi00ZGZmLTQ5ZmUtYTk1Mi0zYjVkMmUyYzgzYTciOnsic29ydCI6eyJjb2x1bW4iOjIsImRpciI6ImFzYyJ9LCJzZWFyY2giOiIifX0%3D. Accessed July 5, 2023.

4 ALNAP. (2022).

5 Development Initiatives. (2022). Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2022. https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2022/
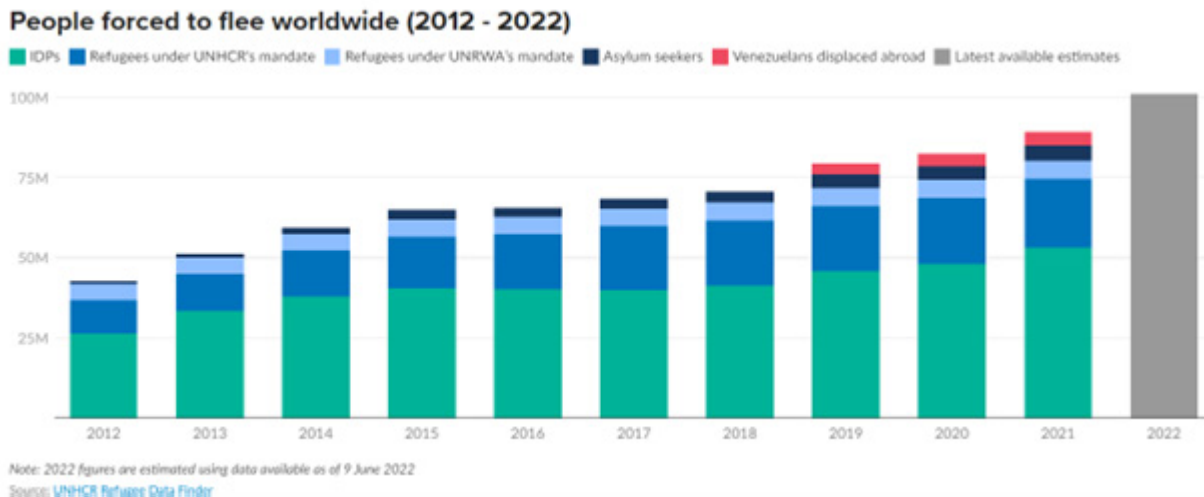
6 ALNAP. (2022).

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

COOPÉRATION CANADA

The most recent statistics from UNHCR show that in 2023, there were more than 108 million forcibly displaced people in the world[9] (see Figure 1). In recent years, the highest proportion of displaced people were internally displaced.[10] Ten countries hosted over half (54%) of all displaced people, and the largest proportion of refugees were hosted in the Middle East and North Africa. The countries hosting the most refugees were Türkiye (3.7 million), Colombia (2.5 million), Germany (2.2 million), Pakistan (1.5 million), and Uganda (1.5 million).[11] Canada has admitted 218,430 new refugees as permanent residents between 2016 and 2021.[12]

Figure 1: People forced to flee worldwide between 2012-2022 (UNHCR, 2022)

People forced to flee worldwide (2012 - 2022)

Legend: IDPs | Refugees under UNHCR's mandate | Refugees under UNRWA's mandate | Asylum seekers | Venezuelans displaced abroad | Latest available estimates

Note: 2022 figures are estimated using data available as of 9 June 2022
Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

Climate Change is provoking humanitarian crises and intersecting with others.

The past eight years were the warmest on record.[13] The 2022 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we have passed crucial tipping points. Climate change is modifying the behaviour of tropical storms, which are becoming more violent, frequent and unpredictable. Weather events that were once limited to the Caribbean and South Asia are now occurring in the Indian Ocean. There are also increasingly unprecedented disasters, including extreme heatwaves, which are requiring humanitarian interventions to protect lives and livelihoods.[14] Climate change is provoking disasters at an unprecedented scale. The 2022 floods in Pakistan exceeded previous floods in that country, such as the 2010 floods that affected 33 million people, displaced nearly 8 million people, and caused an estimated $30 billion in loss and damages. In the Philippines, Super Typhoon Rai in 2021 affected nearly 10 million people, destroyed or damaged 1.7 million homes, and damaged infrastructure and basic services.[15] The Horn of Africa is currently experiencing the longest and most severe drought on record, following five dry seasons in a row.[16]

9   UNHCR. (2022). Global Trends [data portal]. https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends.html. Accessed March 9, 2023.
10   Development Initiatives. (2022).
11   UNHCR. (2022). Refugee Data Finder [data portal]. https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/. Accessed March 9, 2023.
12   Statistics Canada. (2022). Immigrants make up the largest share of the population in over 150 years and continue to shape who we are as Cana dians. October 26, 2022. https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/221026/dq221026a-eng.htm.
13   OCHA. 2022. Global Humanitarian Overview. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2023-enaresfr.
14   De Geoffrey, V., Knox Clarke, P., Bhatt, M., & Grunewald, F. (2021). Adapting humanitarian action to the effects of climate change (ALNAP Lessons Paper). Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance. https://www.alnap.org/help-library/alnap-lessons-paper-adapting-humanitarian-action-to-the-effects-of-climate-change
15   OCHA. (2022). Humanitarian Needs and Priorities Revision: Super Typhoon Rai (Odette). https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-super-typhoon-rai-odette-humanitarian-needs-and-priorities-revision.
16   Cassidy, E. (2022). Worst Drought on Record Parches Horn of Africa. NASA Earth Observatory. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/150712/worst-drought-on-record-parches-horn-of-africa#:~:text=As%20the%20end%20of%202022,raise%20livestock%2C%20and%20buy%20food.

In 2021, half the people considered in need of humanitarian assistance (approximately 152 million people) lived in countries with high levels of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Two fifths of people in need (approximately 119 million people) lived in countries with high-intensity conflict, high levels of socioeconomic fragility and high levels of vulnerability to climate change.[17] The intersection of conflict and climate vulnerability are particularly problematic. For example, climate change puts pressure on scarce resources, such as water, which may augment, trigger, or influence the conflict as groups try to control or weaponize the scarce resources.[18]

COVID-19 has disrupted the humanitarian sector on a global scale.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused rapid and large-scale disruption to people around the world.[19] The pandemic initially inverted the assumption of where crises happen, with the majority of deaths reported in Europe and the Americas early in the pandemic. However, that later shifted to 53% of total mortalities recorded in lower-middle-income countries. It challenged the ability of economies to support populations both at home and abroad. It also challenged the way the humanitarian system works, with many international staff withdrawing and supply chains interrupted.[20] It affected humanitarian access and delivery, including restrictions on travel, quarantining and increased bureaucratic hurdles.[21] The pandemic altered the scale of humanitarian needs, as it overlaid pre-existing risks and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities.[22] For example, it reversed gains in poverty reduction, with 97 million people falling below the poverty line.[23] The impact of COVID-19 was particularly concerning for the urban poor, elderly, detained persons, migrants and refugees, women and children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and persons with a disability.[24]

The humanitarian system needs to respond to cascading crises.

Countries are experiencing multiple crises simultaneously. Half of the countries with people in need of humanitarian assistance around the world are experiencing more than one type of humanitarian crisis, including natural disasters, conflict-related crises, or widespread displacement.[25] Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic challenged organizations to respond to cascading events simultaneously, adding a new crisis on top of existing crises. People who were displaced due to conflict, natural disasters, or other reasons were especially vulnerable to COVID-19 outbreaks, particularly in situations of over-crowding. Further, the average country hosting displaced populations had markedly lower COVID-19 vaccination rates (at 26%) than the global target of 40%.[26] These cascading crises pose significant challenges for the countries where the events are occurring, with countries having insufficient time to recover from one event or crisis before another occurs. These compounding and simultaneous crises are stretching the financial and human resource capacity of the global humanitarian system.

17   Development Initiatives. (2022).
18   Kohler, C. (2020). Climate Change makes the Weaponization of Resources more effective than ever before. DGVN. https://dgvn.de/meldung/climate-change-makes-the-weaponization-of-resources-more-effective-than-ever-before.
19   ALNAP. (2021). Learning from Disruption: ALNAP 2021 Meeting Study. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/learning-disruption-alnap-2021-meeting-study.
20   ALNAP. (2022).
21   Brubaker, R., Day, A., Huve, S. (2021). COVID-19 and Humanitarian Access: How the Pandemic Should Provoke Systemic Change in the Global Humanitarian System. https://cpr.unu.edu/research/projects/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-humanitarian-access.html#outline.
22   Development Initiatives. (2022).
23   ALNAP. (2022).
24   https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/FAAE/Brief/BR11051538/br-external/InternationalCommitteeOfTheRedCross-e.pdf
25   Development Initiatives. (2022).
26   Ibid.

A global food crisis is unfolding.

A global food crisis is unfolding, driven by conflict, climate shocks, rising food prices, and the threat of a global recession.[27] In 2021, the number of people experiencing food insecurity grew to 160 million, a third more than the previous year. Nearly a quarter of those people, or 33 million, experienced emergency-level food insecurity. Conflict was the key driver of food security in three (Ethiopia, Yemen, and South Sudan) of the four countries where populations were experiencing famine.[28] Food prices have been rising quickly since mid-2020, and have reached a 10-year high. There are 99 countries that have had year-on-year food inflation of 10 % or more, and an additional 63 countries with food inflation exceeding 15 %.

Relevance to Canadian organizations

These changes in the characteristics of humanitarian crises have considerable implications for Canadian humanitarian organizations.

- The scale, frequency, and overlapping nature of humanitarian crises may stretch the capacity of Canadian organizations to respond and should force greater emphasis to be placed on coordination nationally and internationally to improve the efficiency of operations.
- Organizations may have to adjust their approaches to respond to protracted crises, and the focus on protracted crises may overshadow smaller humanitarian emergencies in other countries, and Canadian humanitarian organizations should be thinking about how to contribute to shifts in the global humanitarian system to make it more fit-for-purpose.
- Migration across borders is prompting multi-country responses that require providing humanitarian support to non-traditional countries that may not be on the Official Development Assistance (ODA) list. With growing displacement, Canada may receive more refugees, and Canadian humanitarian organizations with both domestic and international mandates may seek to contribute to the coordination of support for refugees, particularly when there is a sudden influx.
- Canada is also feeling the effects of climate change, the pandemic, inflation and food insecurity. Canadian organizations need to acknowledge these real and perceived growing needs domestically, and what it means for Canadian efforts to respond to humanitarian need globally.

2.2. The humanitarian system and operations

The humanitarian system has grown over the last decade.

In 2021, the budget of the global humanitarian system reached $31.3 billion, almost double what it was a decade before. There was a ten % increase in the number of humanitarian organizations in the same period, reaching about 5,000 organizations, and 40 % more humanitarian staff working in crisis contexts.[29]

International commitments

There are growing calls for change in the humanitarian system, catalyzed by recent agreements and events.

New agreements include the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Grand Bargain.

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27 OCHA. (2023).
28 Development Initiatives. (2022).
29 ALNAP. (2022).

The year 2020 saw dual disruptors of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 'decolonizing aid' movement,[30] and the IPCCC's Sixth Assessment Report warned that we have passed critical tipping points on climate change and urged immediate action. These agreements and events have prompted a re-evaluation of the human-itarian system, but have not necessarily resulted in the sector-wide reset that was expected.[31]
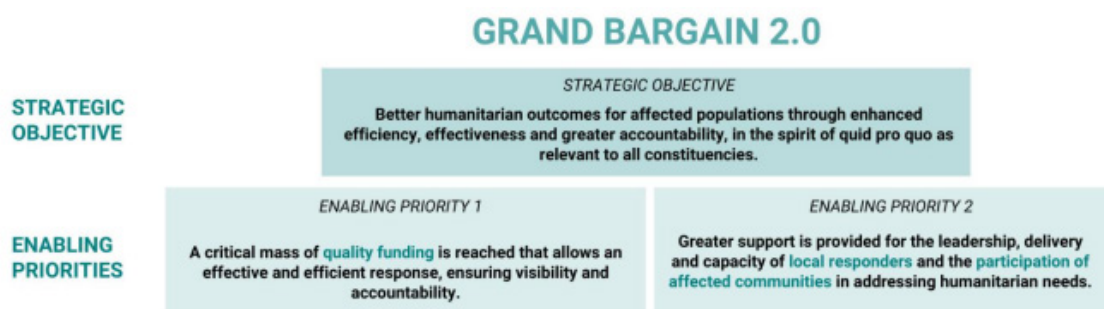
Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

The GCR is a non-binding framework, adopted in December 2018.[32] The GCR aimed to transform how the international community and host governments work toward more equitable responsibility-sharing, along with easing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries. It had varying levels of engagement between refu-gee-hosting countries, with Uganda coming out as an early adopter. It provides a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) to guide refugee responses, particularly in countries with significant refugee movements or protracted situations. It is framed around accepted durable solutions of local integration, resettlement to a third country, or safe return.[33] There was a target to resettle 70,000 refugees through UNHCR over three years, but the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the suspension of resettlement. In turn, 2020 was the lowest year for resettlement in two decades.[34]

The Grand Bargain.

The outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in 2016 was a unique agreement between donors and humanitarian organizations known as "The Grand Bargain." It aims to "get more means into the hands of people in need and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian action."[35] The initial agreement included 51 commitments in ten workstreams that were meant to shrink humanitarian needs, deepen and broaden the resource base, and improve delivery. The most prominent among these is the commitment to provide **no less than 25% of annual global humanitarian financing to national and local actors 'as directly as possible' by 2020.** Other priorities were to increase cash-based programming, sup-port local and national responders, and increase the participation of crisis-affected communities in deci-sions around humanitarian assistance.

The agreement has been signed by 63 donors, organizations, and networks, including Canada. In 2021, the framework was revised to focus on a narrower set of priorities. There was renewed commitment to the 'Grand Bargain 2.0,' which focused on two key enablers: **quality funding and localisation/participation.[36]** Quality funding focuses on more predictable, multi-year funding (particularly for protracted crises) that has **flexible** arrangements and is channeled as close to the frontline as possible.

Figure 2: Enabling priorities of the Grand Bargain 2.0 (IASC Grand Bargain, 2022)

GRAND BARGAIN 2.0

	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	Better humanitarian outcomes for affected populations through enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and greater accountability, in the spirit of quid pro quo as relevant to all constituencies.

	ENABLING PRIORITY 1	ENABLING PRIORITY 2
ENABLING PRIORITIES	A critical mass of quality funding is reached that allows an effective and efficient response, ensuring visibility and accountability.	Greater support is provided for the leadership, delivery and capacity of local responders and the participation of affected communities in addressing humanitarian needs.

30   ALNAP. (2021).
31   Alexander, J. (2022). Aid policy trends to watch in 2022. The New Humanitarian. https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2022/1/3/aid-policy-trends-to-watch-in-2022.
32   UNHCR. (2018). Global Compact on Refugees. https://www.unhcr.org/5c658aed4.pdf.
33   Ibid.
34   ALNAP. (2022).
35   Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (2022). The Grand Bargain (Official website). https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain
36   Metcalfe-Hough, V., W. Fenton, P. Saez, and A. Spencer. (2022). The Grand Bargain in 2021. An independent review. https://odi.org/en/publica-tions/the-grand-bargain-in-2021-an-independent-review/.

There is a move towards localization, though progress is slow.

One interpretation of localization is a transformation of the humanitarian system so that strategic, operational, and financial decisions are made by local and national humanitarian actors. This transformation requires a shift in the balance of power, from where decisions are traditionally and typically made to the humanitarian-affected area. Over 90 % of the humanitarian workforce is made up of national staff, but they are under-represented in leadership and decision-making positions.[37] There has been an increase in the participation of local actors in humanitarian coordination mechanisms; for example, in 2020, national NGOs comprised 44 % of cluster coordination membership globally. Further, local and national actors were included in approximately 80 % of Humanitarian Country Teams.[38] With respect to funding, the targets have not been achieved. Local actors saw an initial rise in direct funding following the Grand Bargain, by 3.1 % in 2020 for the COVID-19 response, but this fell to 1.2 % in 2021. Twelve of the Grand Bargain signatories,[39] however, have reported meeting or exceeding the target of providing 25 % of their humanitarian funding to local and national actors.[40] Barriers to localization include donor policies and capacity, for example local NGO capacity to manage a response and a large influx of funding, the limited ability of local NGOs to apply humanitarian principles, and the international community's reluctance to change the status quo.

Approaches

New operational practices in the humanitarian space are being implemented through a 'triple nexus' approach.

At the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 there was the call for a "new way of working" to improve aid effectiveness in fragile and conflict-affected settings. This new way of working sought to bring together humanitarian, development, and peace actors to work more cohesively towards collective outcomes, as a way to address immediate needs while also reducing risks and vulnerabilities. This became known as the triple nexus approach.[41] This approach also responds to the growing calls of crisis-affected people for more assistance in maintaining or improving livelihoods and education.

In 2019, the OECD/DAC published Recommendations on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus. One recommendation was to undertake joint analyses of the root causes and structural drivers of conflict. There has been progress in developing a shared understanding of the problem at country level and designing collective outcomes. A Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) was developed, providing a common framework for shared intersectoral analysis of needs. There has been growing buy-in to the JIAF and wider concept of joint intersectoral analysis. Several organizations have been piloting nexus approaches, especially multi-mandated NGOs like Oxfam and Islamic Relief. There is not yet evidence of whether the nexus approach is helping or hindering progress on achieving long-term outcomes, but there is a lot of opportunity to share good practice and learning. There remain several challenges to the triple nexus approach, including lack of consensus on the practice, incompatible financing mechanisms, compromising humanitarian principles, and taking away limited resources from the immediate, life-saving response that is needed.[42]

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37   ALNAP. (2022).

38   OCHA Services. (2022a). Introduction: Humanitarian Action. Analysing Needs and Response. https://humanitarianaction.info/article/glance-0..

39   CAFOD, Care International, Christian Aid, the Czech Republic, France, IFRC, OCHA for CBPFs, Spain, Trocaire, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.

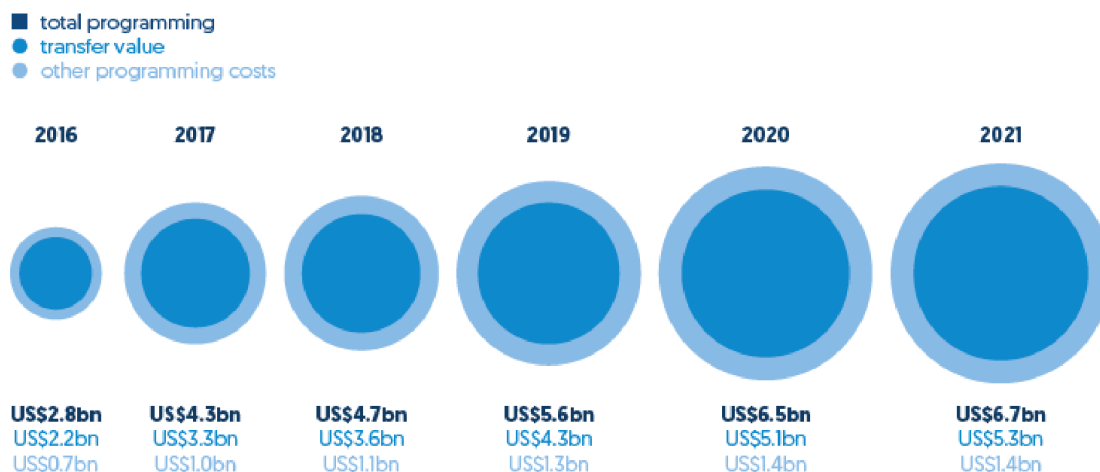40   Metcalfe-Hough, V., W. Fenton, P. Saez, and A. Spencer. (2022).

41   Brown, S., and Mena, R. (2021). A review of the triple nexus approach in discourse and practice with a focus on Islamic Relief's triple nexus programme. https://globalcompactrefugees.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/A%20review%20of%20the%20triple%20nexus%20approach%20in%20discourse%20and%20practice.pdf.

42   Ibid.

There is increased uptake of cash and voucher assistance.

One of the commitments of the Grand Bargain was to increase assistance provided through cash and vouchers, rather than in-kind goods, which provides greater choice, dignity, and empowers recipients. There was an estimated 30% increase in funding and cash and voucher assistance (CVA) between 2018 and 2021, driven partly by the COVID-19 pandemic. The total funding spent on CVA rose from $4.7 billion in 2018 (14% or total IHA) to $6.7 billion in 2021 (19% of IHA).[43] UN agencies account for the largest proportion of CVA (61%). There is evidence that most people in crisis prefer cash to in-kind assistance, and it is expected that this method will continue to grow. There is also a preference of cash over vouchers. Between 2019-2021, the proportion has remained at about 71% as cash and 29% as vouchers. Organizations have increased their capacity to deliver CVA. However, there needs to be improvements to ensure people's preferences inform the choice of payment modality, incorporating consideration of the affected population's technological access and literacy, improving communication on the targeting and duration of CVA, improving coordination with other agencies, and mitigating risks of GBV against women receiving cash assistance.[44] Furthermore, while CVA has been used for people displaced by conflict, violence and natural disasters, there are some situations of human mobility that are not conducive to the use of CVA, where people may not want to risk being registered.[45]

Figure 3: Cash and voucher assistance 2016-2021 (Development Initiatives, 2022)

- ■ total programming
- ● transfer value
- ● other programming costs

	2016	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**
total programming	**US$2.8bn**	**US$4.3bn**	**US$4.7bn**	**US$5.6bn**	**US$6.5bn**	**US$6.7bn**
transfer value	US$2.2bn	US$3.3bn	US$3.6bn	US$4.3bn	US$5.1bn	US$5.3bn
other programming costs	US$0.7bn	US$1.0bn	US$1.1bn	US$1.3bn	US$1.4bn	US$1.4bn

Protection is increasingly prioritized in responses.

In 2016, IASC developed a Protection Policy to improve system-wide efforts to incorporate protection in response. Strategies to protect civilians have focused on improving engagement with parties to conflict, conflict-affected communities and country coordination structures. Challenges to scaling up protection are the lack of a common understanding, limited connections with the multiple actors required to support protection, and the large scale protection needs that exist in contexts of conflict and displacement. The greatest progress has been in the areas of child protection and protection against SGBV. Examples include the formation of community-based committees, providing safe, sex-disaggregated spaces for homeless children, and increasing child protection capacities of local police.[46]

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43   Ibid.
44   Peachey, K., (2022). Making humanitarian assistance work better – seven big themes for 2023. CALP Network. https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/making-cva-humanitarian-assistance-work-better-seven-big-themes-for-2023/.
45   CALP. (2022). People are on the Move: Can the World of CVA Keep up? https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Executive-Summary-CVA-HM-EN-PROOF-2-1.pdf.
46   ALNAP. (2022).

There is incremental progress in improving Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP).

The Grand Bargain called for a "participation revolution" to improve opportunities for crisis-affected people to have their views heard. The main advances have been to establish feedback, complaint and/or consultation mechanisms. There is little evidence that the feedback received is informing decisions or program design. Overall, progress on the participation revolution is limited. Humanitarian aid is still often misaligned with what people need most, and affected populations feel unable to participate in decisions about aid.[47]

Operations

The humanitarian supply chain has been disrupted.

The pandemic caused a significant disruption in the movement of goods and people, impacting the humanitarian supply chain and logistics. The disruption has prompted some organizations to think of different approaches to humanitarian supply chain management, diversifying procurement sources, increasing local suppliers, accelerating the localisation of procurement, and setting up pre-qualification tenders to facilitate local procurement.[48] There was initially a move to purchase essential items from local suppliers, but this has not necessarily continued. The conflict in Ukraine is causing further supply-chain issues, and driving up food and fuel prices. Rising operational costs, commodity prices, and high inflation are contributing to a rise in the cost of procuring and transporting goods to affected areas.[49] Prior to these price increases, studies showed that between 60-80% of all humanitarian expenditures were devoted to aid delivery logistics.[50] This has prompted some organizations to pool resources to optimize operational efficiency, establishing networks such as the Réseau Logistique Humanitaire (RHL).

There is a move towards a green response.

There has been growing attention paid to environmental issues in humanitarian response. Some agencies have hired staff to improve sustainability and reduce environmental harm. They are developing greener approaches to logistics, fleets, and procurement.[51] Organizations are trying to reduce the environmental impact of their operations, looking at their carbon footprint, reducing plastic in the supply chain, improving waste management, and using local materials where possible. The increased use of cash-based programming has also had positive environmental impacts, with reduced transport of relief items and more local purchases.

Attacks against aid workers are on the rise.

Attacks on humanitarian workers rose by 54% between 2017 and 2020. During this time, a total of 947 attacks were recorded with 1,688 aid workers who were victims. The rate of attacks also increased to 73 attacks per 100,000 aid workers in 2020, a 38% increase from 2017. However, the number of attacks on international staff fell during that period, while the attacks against national and local counterparts has increased.[52] Approximately 95% of the victims were national aid works.[53] As there is a move towards localisation, there is a need to consider and address the transfer of risk to national staff.

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47   Metcalfe-Hough, V., Fenton, W., Saez, P., and Spencer, A. (2022).
48   ALNAP. (2021).
49   OCHA Services. (2022a).
50   Lacourt, M and M. Radosta. (2019). Strength in Numbers: Towards a More Efficient Humanitarian Aid: Pooling Logistics Resources. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/strength-numbers-towards-more-efficient-humanitarian-aid-pooling-logistics-resources.
51   ALNAP. (2022).
52   Ibid.
53   ALNAP. (2021).

Figure 4: National and international victims of attacks on aid workers 2015-2020 (ALNAP, 2022)

Source: Aid Worker Security Database.
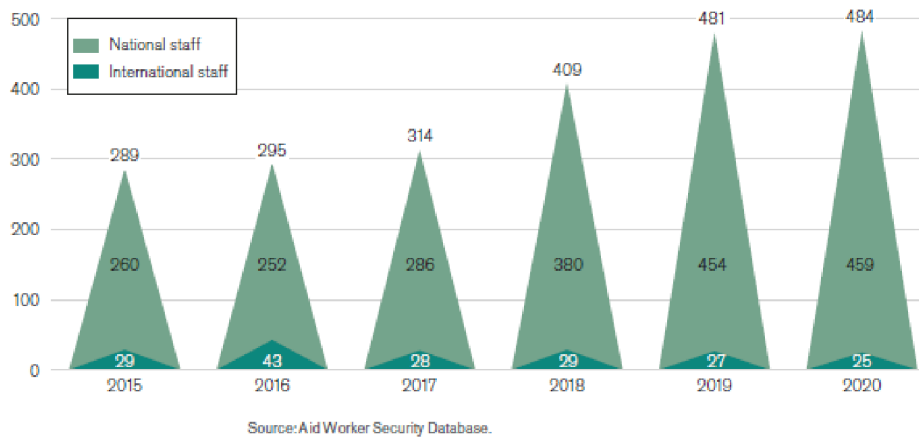
There is a growing use of technology to improve humanitarian response.

The growth of humanitarian needs, recognition that decisions be driven by data, and shifting towards remote work due to the COVID-19 pandemic have played a key role in stimulating greater emphasis on the use of technology. The pandemic prompted a shift towards more remote management, both in terms of coordinating with local partners and remote beneficiary management. Organizations invested in digital means to scale up activities via remote methods to identify, register and verify affected persons, and developed procedures for data protection, privacy and security. It has also accelerated the use of digital technology for remote communication and information sharing.[54] Emerging technologies were used during the COVID-19 pandemic response, such as the use of artificial intelligence facilitated outbreak mapping, diagnosis, the development and treatment of vaccines, as well as providing information and telehealth support. Technology has facilitated cash and voucher assistance through the use of digital cash transfers, pre-paid cards, bank transfers, or e-transfers sent through mobile phones. Organizations have created crisis maps using remote sensing, and satellite imagery,[55] with some using open-source software, mobile survey software, and drone technology to collect and analyze data from affected areas.[56]

Relevance to Canadian organizations

These changes in the humanitarian system and its operations have considerable implications for Canadian organizations.

- Canadian organizations will have to adapt and operate within a changing humanitarian system to stay relevant, operate effectively, and coordinate with actors globally. Canada is a signatory to the Grand Bargain. A number of humanitarian organizations are also signatories: CARE International, Islamic Relief, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Save the Children, World Vision and Oxfam. This will likely shift Canada's policies and decisions on funding, to allow a greater proportion of funding to reach more directly and to support local organizations to take greater leading roles. While the HRN seeks to improve visibility of the work of Canadian organizations, it should also enhance visibility and recognition of the work of local actors.

- Canada has supported the Global Compact on Refugees, though it remains to be seen whether it will affect the number of refugees Canada accepts through a number of immigration streams.

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54   Ibid.
55   Arendt-Casetta, L. (2021). From Digital Promise to Frontline Practice: New and Emerging Technologies in Humanitarian Action. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/digital-promise-frontline-practice-new-and-emerging-technologies-humanitarian-action
56   Belliveau, S. (2021). Open Source for Equality Case Study: OpenStreetMap Uganda. Open Source for Equality. https://www.oseq.org/case_study_openstreetmap_uganda

- Canadian organizations must be up to date on the global policies, frameworks, and coordination mechanisms to ensure operations are being deployed at a high standard and in coordination with others.

- There are great opportunities to share learning about new approaches taken, particularly the Triple Nexus Approach and green response, and to explore opportunities for innovation and increased uptake of technology.

- The increasing costs in the humanitarian supply chain will support a push towards the use of CVA and can also prompt an evaluation of how Canadian organizations can be more efficient in the procurement and pre-positioning of stock, and the pooling of resources.

2.3 Financing humanitarian action

The humanitarian funding gap has grown over the last decade.

International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) has not kept up with the quadrupling of financial requirements. In 2021, there were 48 humanitarian appeals requesting $38.4 billion, targeting 143 million people in need of assistance. This is down slightly from the 2020 peak of $39.3 billion in 56 appeals covering 63 countries, including the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GRHP) for COVID-19 response. At the same time, only 51% of the financial requirements of the appeals were met, which is a record low level of coverage.[57]

Figure 5: Volume of assistance compared with appeal requirements (Development Initiatives, 2022)
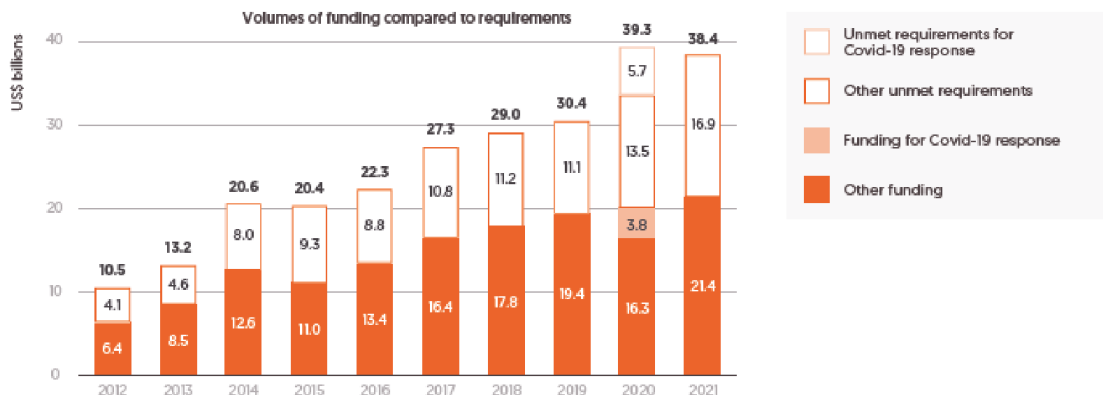
The funding gap is also present in IHA outside of UN appeals.

In 2021, 71% of all IHA was provided through UN-coordinated appeals. Funding outside the appeals primarily flows through the Red Cross Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement, to UN agencies, NGOs, and some private sector companies. The coverage of IFRC appeals decreased to a record low of 52% in 2021, below the average coverage of 72% from 2017-2022. ICRC appeals for conflict-related situations has had stable coverage at 94% in 2021, above the average of 92%.[58]

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57   ALNAP. (2022)..
58   Development Initiatives. (2022).

Countries experiencing protracted crises have received a growing share of IHA.

The IHA for countries with protracted crises grew from 9.4% in 2012 to 14% in 2021. The countries receiving the most IHA are Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. Food security has consistently received the largest volume of funding, nearly four times the next-largest cluster.[59]

The humanitarian system remains financially concentrated.

In 2021, almost half of IHA came from five donors (US, Germany, UK, Sweden, Japan, as well as EU Institutions). The United Arab Emirates provided significant but declining support over the same period. Nearly half of funds allocated to organizations went to three UN agencies (World Food Programme , UN High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations Children's Fund). Another 18% went to NGOs and 9% to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.[60]

Figure 6: International humanitarian assistance provided by largest donor countries, 2018-2021 (ALNAP, 2022)
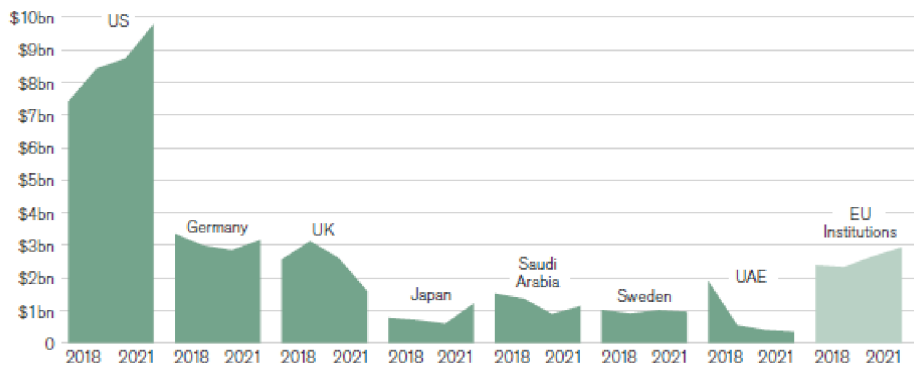
Canada's international assistance has increased in the last 4 years.

Total overseas development assistance (ODA) increased 8% between 2019 and 2020 to USD$5 billion, and another 8% rise to USD$6.3 billion in 2021 (CAD$8.4 billion). The increase is driven by the increased support for COVID-19 response and recovery, the doubling of climate finance, and increased spending on refugee assistance in-country. Between 2020-2021, Canada's IHA contribution grew 11.6% to CAD$752 million in IHA. This moved Canada from the eighth to sixth largest OECD DAC donor.[61] The largest recipients were Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Mali.[62] The proportion of spending is roughly 17% on humanitarian aid, 14% for support to refugees in donor countries. Roughly a quarter of Canada's ODA is multilateral as core contribution to organizations; nearly 30% is bilateral as earmarked funding through multilaterals; and just under half is bilateral funding direct to partner countries.[63]

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59   Ibid.
60   ALNAP. (2022).
61   Donor Tracker. 2022. Donor Profile: Canada [database]. https://donortracker.org/donor_profiles/canada#oda-spending. Accessed 16 December.
62   Canadian International Development Platform. (2022). Canada's Foreign Aid [database]. https://cidpnsi.ca/canadas-foreign-aid-2012-2/
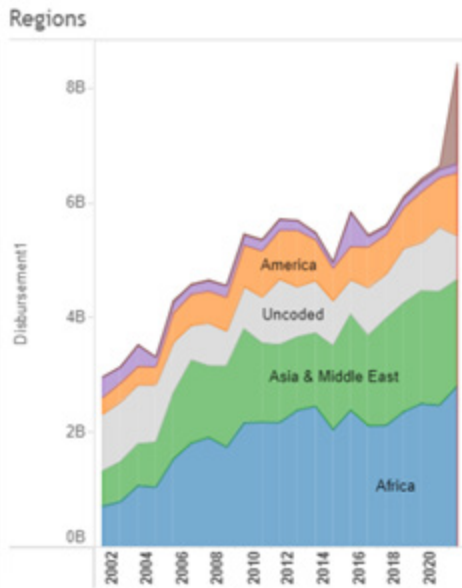63   Donor Tracker. (2022).

Figure 7: Canada's Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) by Region in Billions (Canadian International Development Platform, 2022)

Funding patterns from public donors have not changed in the past decade. The majority of funding (54%) is channeled through multilateral organizations (USD$13.9bn). This is followed by NGOs (20%/USD$5.1bn), pooled funds (USD$1.9bn), RC/RC (USD$1.4bn), and the public sector (USD$0.9bn).[64] Canada channels most of its bilateral funding through the public sector (US$988 million), followed by multilateral organizations (US$805 million), NGOs and CSOs (US$766 million).[65]

The proportion of direct funding to local actors has not increased significantly: Despite the commitments for more direct, quality funding, the proportion of direct funding going to local and national actors has not improved significantly. Between 2017 and 2021, there was a peak of 3.3% in 2018, but in 2021 it fell to its lowest point of 1.2% of total IHA. However, the total volume of IHA reaching local actors, directly and indirectly, has increased from USD$341 million to USD$497 million, with the greatest proportion (75%) provided indirectly through one or more intermediaries.[66]

There is increased support for pooled funds: The UN's Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) collects funding from multiple donors that can be accessed by local and national actors. Total funding of the CBPF has grown nearly threefold between 2012-2021, reaching USD$1billion. Over two thirds of the funding came from five countries (Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway). LNGOs reported receiving greater share of indirect funding through pooled funds[67]. Pooled funds are also being used for anticipatory action. The START Network's START Fund is a flexible fund for local organizations to access for crisis response. In 2020, 18% of the START Fund went towards anticipatory action. The IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has also been used for anticipatory action, allocating over 1 million Swiss francs ($1 million) to forecast-based financing.[68]

Canada is a regular contributor to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and an increasing contributor to the country-based pooled funds (CBPF). Canada also ensures relief items are pre-positioned and available to the humanitarian community by sustaining stockpiles in Canada and the United Arab Emirates.[69]

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64   ALNAP. (2021).
65   OECD. (2018). OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Canada 2018. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/oecd-development-co-operation-peer-reviews-canada-2018_9789264303560-en#page106
66   Development Initiatives. (2022).
67   ALNAP. (2022).
68   Ibid.
69   OECD. (2018).

Climate finance has the potential to alleviate some pressure on humanitarian systems:

A portion of climate finance is focused on anticipatory action through adaptation. The 34 countries experiencing protracted crises in 2020 also received US$1.6 billion in climate finance[70]. Canada has committed to $5.6 billion in climate finance for the period 2021-2026.[71]

Canada has well-established partnerships with humanitarian organizations.

Canada has partnerships with UN agencies, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, and NGOs including the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund is established to respond to smaller-scale, rapid-onset crises, and can be accessed by members of the Humanitarian Coalition. In addition, the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives keeps an annual reserve, administered by Canadian missions to provide immediate assistance. Canada has a matching fund mechanism, where Canada will match the funds raised by NGOs. However, the matching funds do not go to the projects of the NGOs, but rather through the regular allocation process.[72]

There is a steady decline in the number of Canadians donating to charities.

Over the last 15 years, there has been a decline in the percentage of people claiming donations on taxes in Canada. The decline is among all age groups but especially those ages 40-54 years old from higher income families. Fewer young people are donating money, but they are supporting volunteering and fundraising efforts. The pandemic and inflations are projected to further reduce total giving to charities.[73]

Relevance to Canadian organizations

These changes in financing humanitarian action have implications for Canadian humanitarian organizations.

- Although Canada has increased its IHA, there is not necessarily more funding available to NGOs. Canada will continue to provide funding through multi-lateral channels and established mechanisms. There is a large contribution to climate finance, but there is equally a lot of competition for the funds and a narrow scope of the use of funds.

- The substantial funding gap means all organizations will have to do more with less. This will further push for enhanced coordination and efficiency in the response, and further justifies a move towards localisation.

- NGO fundraising efforts will be competing within a shrinking space, against a backdrop of rising prices.

- The funding gap may also push for "outside of the box" thinking for financing and new partnerships.

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70   Development Initiatives. (2022).
71   Government of Canada. (2023). Canada's Climate Finance for Developing Countries. https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/climate-developing-countries-climatique-pays-developpement.aspx?lang=eng.
72   OECD. (2018).
73   Canada Helps. (2022). Giving at a Crossroads: Generational Trends, Pandemic Uncertainties and Unprecedented Strain on Charities. https://www.canadahelps.org/media/The_Giving_Report_2022_04_05.pdf..

2.4 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Justice

There is a growing movement to decolonize aid:

The push for localisation is connected to the growing debate about power and diversity in the humanitarian system. The humanitarian system itself is considered steep in structural racism. It mirrors the colonial-era system and reinforces colonial dynamics, where decision-making power is concentrated in the global north, the skills and experience of local staff are devalued, and the "White saviour" ideology is visible, particularly in fundraising.[74] It is also viewed as a supply-driven business model with paternalistic assumptions of what others need.[75] Many organizations are reflecting on the profile of its staffing and leadership, and developing strategies to increase diversity of staff. However, as of 2021, there was little evidence of progress in addressing racism in the workplace, ensuring that leadership is reflective of the people in need, or having local partners viewed as fully capable.[76] In Canada, there has been an increase in organizations working internationally that have committed to working towards integrating anti-racist practices, as outlined in the Anti-Racism Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector. However, there is still significant work to do to ensure coherent, accountable efforts are in place that specifically promote and support anti-racism across organizations.[77]

Organizations are increasingly incorporating mechanisms for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

High-profile scandals gave momentum to PSEA. The #AidToo movement also brought attention to long-running sexual harassment within the humanitarian sector. New inter-agency mechanisms were developed, such as the IASC Strategy for PSEA and Core Principles, which declare SEA by humanitarian workers a gross misconduct that is prohibited. In the last four years there has been a rise in resourcing and hiring of dedicated PSEA staff, driven in part by donor compliance requirements. Implementation, however, is ad hoc.[78]

Sexual violence continues to be widespread in conflict and humanitarian settings.

Sexual violence is reported in various conflict and emergency settings, where security is deteriorated and there is little access to humanitarian services. Women and girls are at increased risk of GBV in situations of food insecurity, with rises in intimate-partner violence, rape and child marriage occurring in situations of severe drought.[79] As noted above, protection is increasingly incorporated into response, and the protection of children and SGBV are areas of greatest progress.

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74   Peace Direct. (2020). Time to Decolonise Aid. Insights and lessons from a global consultation. https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/time-to-decolonise-aid.pdf/.
75   ALNAP. (2022).
76   Alexander, J. (2022).
77   Anti-Racist Cooperation. (2022). Collective Commitment: Sustaining Efforts Towards Anti-Racist Change in Canada's International Cooperation Sector. https://centre-arc-hub.ca/docs/arc-report-2022/
78   ALNAP. (2022).
79   OCHA Services. (2022b). The Pervasive and Damaging Effects of Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Emergencies. https://humanitarian-action.info/article/pervasive-and-damaging-effects-gender-based-violence-humanitarian-emergencies.

Targeted funding for Gender-Based Violence is growing but insufficient.

Total gender-specific funding, mainly targeting GBV, doubled between 2018 and 2021. However, GBV remains severely underfunded, as needs have outpaced rises in funding. Gender-equality and GBV programming only received 12% of its funding requirements in 2022.[80] Canada contributes 4% of its IHA to gender-specific operations, which is the fourth highest ranking among donor countries.[81]
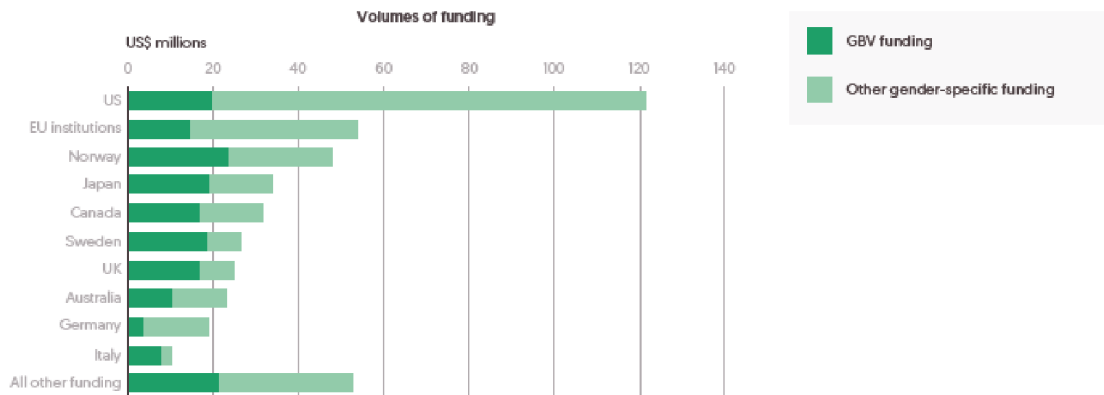
There is increased system-wide attention to marginalized groups.

There has been investment in turning general commitments to inclusion into clear guidelines and frameworks, such as IASC updated Gender with Age Marker. It has resulted in more attention being placed on the needs of women, older people and people with disabilities. However, humanitarian action still has a limited focus on LGBTQI people. There is also still a gap between strong gender and disability policies and operational realities.[82]

There is increased focus on disability inclusion in humanitarian action.

The "Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action" was launched at the WHS in 2016. It has been endorsed by 32 States, including Canada. In 2018 specific guidance was being developed to support disability inclusion in Humanitarian Response Plans. The tracking of disability inclusion became visible in the Humanitarian Need Overview in 2019, following the use of Washington Group short-set questions in the Syria response. In 2019, the IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) were published, promoting the meaningful participation of PwD in humanitarian action. The process of developing the guidelines was as important as the product itself, as it engaged organisations centered on persons with disabilities (OPDs) alongside humanitarian actors to define the standards for disability-inclusive humanitarian action.[83] There are documented cases of organizations incorporating disability into needs assessments and responses, but when it comes to translating assessments to reach progress, this was found to be more limited and inconsistent.[84]

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80   OCHA Services. (2022b).
81   Development Initiatives. (2022).
82   ALNAP. (2022).
83   Lange, K. (2020). Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action. Humanitarian Exchange (Humanitarian Exchange Issue 78). Humanitarian Exchange. https://odihpn.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/HE-78_disability_WEB_final.pdf
84   ALNAP. (2022).

Canada is committed to PSEA.

At the G7 in 2018, Canada negotiated the [Whistler Declaration on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance](#). The Declaration commits G7 development ministers to work together to protect individuals from, and respond to, sexual exploitation and abuse in international assistance. Canada is also a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) Reference Group on SEA that prepared the [Recommendation on Ending Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance](#). Global Affairs Canada has two requirements related to PSEA for organizations receiving funding for international programming: 1) develop, publicize and enforce codes of conduct that explicitly prohibit sexual exploitation and abuse, in line with the Inter Agency Standing Committee's six core principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse and the accompanying eight minimum operating standards, and 2) report any credible allegations to the PSEA unit.[85]

Relevance to Canadian organizations

Trends in equity, diversity, inclusion and justice have implications for Canadian humanitarian organizations.

- Canadian organizations are part of the Western-led humanitarian system, and need to reflect on how they work with organizations of the Global South, the image that is portrayed by their fundraising and communication efforts, and the internal makeup of their organization.

- Limited funding will necessitate a prioritization of aid to the most vulnerable; most notably, marginalized groups, women and girls, people with disabilities, etc. This focus needs to be an inherent part of humanitarian programming and response design.

- Donors generally have requirements with respect to gender and inclusion. Canada has a special focus on Gender and Women's Empowerment through its Feminist International Assistance Policy.

- Canadian organizations have a duty to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in its operations. Knowing that sexual violence is widespread, it is imperative that protection and prevention efforts be integrated into humanitarian assistance work.

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85   Digna. (2022). Global Affairs Canada Requirements. https://www.digna.ca/gac-requirements/.

3. Humanitarian Networks

The humanitarian system is large and complex. There are a number of networks, working groups, think tanks, and entities that aim to improve the effectiveness of the system.The following is a non-exhaustive list of networks that the HRN can draw on or collaborate with.

Research and Training

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP): A global network of NGOs, UN agencies, RC/RC, donors, academics, and networks dedicated to learning how to improve response to humanitarian crises. ALNAP facilitates learning, carries out original research, hosts events and workshops, and hosts a library of resources. Members contribute financially or in-kind and are able to inform research initiatives, participate in events, and are kept informed. ALNAP has received funding from GAC for some of its research and operations. HRN has the opportunity to coordinate with ALNAP to participate in events, request speakers on priority topics for HRN, and share relevant research/papers with members.

ACAPS: An independent information provider in humanitarian needs analysis and assessment. ACAPs makes resources and data available in various formats. HRN can take advantage of information provided to help inform Canadian operations and request support for training sessions, joint analyses, or scenario-building workshops.

Refugee Hub: Based out of the University of Ottawa, the Refugee Hub works at the intersection of research, policy, and programming to design protection solutions for refugees. It supports the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative (GSRI) to encourage the adoption of community sponsorship around the world, as well as in-Canada initiatives such as the Refugee Sponsorship Support Program (RSSP). It leads research and policy projects on the international refugee protection system, international migration governance, access to justice, protection frameworks and refugee sponsorship. The Refugee Hub is a resource for HRN and partners for initiatives relating to refugee protection.

Academy for Humanitarian Action: AHA is an institution to further education in the humanitarian sector. It offers both online and on-site trainings based on internationally established standards. It is a resource for HRN to facilitate training opportunities to members.

Centre for Humanitarian Leadership: CHL aims to influence change in the humanitarian system through critical analysis, education and research, contributions to policy and practice. It conducts research in areas of contextual analysis, system transformation, and wellbeing. CHL offers courses for Graduate certificates and masters, and organizes the Humanitarian Leadership Conference. It is a resource for HRN to connect members to events and share research.

Humanitarian Leadership Academy: HLA is a global learning initiative to facilitate partnerships and collaborative opportunities. It provides a global platform for online self-guided courses, as well as localised and in-person training. It is a resource for the members of HRN to provide learning opportunities.

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative: HHI provides free online courses on the fundamentals of humanitarian response, as well as professional education opportunities to train leaders, executives and practitioners. HHI carries out research on topics such as humanitarian strategies, resilience, technology and innovation. It is a resource for HRN to connect members to learning opportunities, inform of emerging trends, and potentially identify speakers/guests to events.

Canadian Network of Humanitarian History: A multidisciplinary network of researchers focused on the history of humanitarian and development aid. It is a network for HRN to be aware of, and potentially connect to relevant research in the sector.

Geneva Global Hub for Education in Emergencies: EiE Hub is an alliance of states and organizations to step up visibility, commitment and funding for EiE. It aims to ensure that crisis-affected children and youth access and complete quality education. Membership is open to government, NGO, CSO, UN, networks, academic and other institutions. It is an opportunity for HRN or one of its members to connect to the global platform, in representation of Canadian organizations, to share knowledge to and from the Hub.

Coordination and knowledge sharing

Uganda Learning, Evaluation, Accountability and Research Network (U-LEARN): The network brings together actors working in the Uganda refugee response. It facilitates access to resources, knowledge sharing, and generating new learning where there are gaps. for greater uptake in refugee response. It is led by consortium of NGOs. It is a resource for HRN on learning relating to triple nexus, refugee response, accountability to affected persons, and it is an interesting model of knowledge sharing to draw from. It is also a resource for any Canadian organizations supporting Uganda refugee response.

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA): ICVA is a global network of NGOs with a mission to make humanitarian action more principled and effective. It has regional hubs in four regions of the world (Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific, and Middle East and Northern Africa) . It focusses on topics of forced migration, coordination, and financing, with working groups for each. HRN is the only Canadian member of ICVA.

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks : An annual three-week event for humanitarian networks and partnerships to meet and address key humanitarian issues. It also includes the Leading-Edge Programme, a year-round collaborative platform for humanitarian networks and partnerships to develop sustainable solutions to issues in emergency preparedness and response.

InterAction: InterAction is a convener and voice for US-based NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights, and promote peace. Members are NGOs of all sizes, faither-based and secular. It is the largest US-based coalition of international NGOs. Several members of HRN are part of the network (e.g., AAH, CRS, HI, CARE, Islamic Relief (USA), MCC (US), Oxfam (America), Plan International, Save the Children). The network advocates on behalf of members to US Congress and the UN. There are additional networking, information-sharing, and capacity building opportunities. Dues are assessed annually based on their expenses in most recent years. They have a standing invitation to the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

Equity, diversity, inclusion and justice

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: The alliance supports efforts to achieve high-quality and effective child protection interventions in humanitarian contexts. It has 212 member organizations. It works in setting standards and guidance, capacity strengthening, learning and development, evidence and knowledge generation. It has thematic task forces to help generate evidence and enhance knowledge and skills. Members include Save the Children, Plan International, Islamic Relief worldwide, World vision.

International Disability Alliance: An alliance of 14 global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. The Alliance promotes the effective and full implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It is considered the most authoritative representative voice of persons with disabilities.

Humanitarian Women's Network: A network of over 11,000 women working in 100+ NGOs. It provides professional development, peer support, and global advocacy. It aims to achieve a work environment in the humanitarian industry where women work free from discrimination, harassment and abuse.

Localisation

START Network: Made up of more than 80 NGOs across five continents, including international, national and local NGOs, the network supports innovation, fast funding, early action and localisation. It has hubs in Guatemala, India, Pacific Region, DRC, and Pakistan to facilitate coordination. They are helping to shift power, resources and decision-making to locally led networks and organizations.

Local to Global Protection Network: The network pushes for meaningful localisation through documenting and promoting local perspectives and responses to protection in major humanitarian crises. It provides the basis for the survivor and community-led crisis response (SCLR) approach. It is a collaboration of local/national organizations and international agencies. They provide training on SCLR and resources.

Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR): A Movement of Local and National CSOs from the Global South. NEAR aims to influence decision-making, push for policy changes, and support agenda setting in global policy processes.

Alliance for Empowering Partnerships (A4EP): A4EP are activists representing and supporting civil society organizations in different countries in a South-South or triangular cooperation model. They are a signatory of the Grand Bargain, supporting the movement for localisation.

Charter4Change and its working groups: An initiative led by national and international NGOs to move forward the commitments of the Grand Bargain. There are various INGO signatories that are part of HRN network, such as CARE, CRS, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Oxfam, WarChild (UK), who are committed to the localisation agenda. There are thematic working groups in Advocacy, Coordination, Capacity, and Endorsers Task Group.

Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation: WCAPs is a platform for women of color to advance leadership and professional development in fields of international peace, security and conflict transformation. There is a chapter in Canada that creates a coalition of women leaders to bring voices from Indigenous communities to refugees and their allies to advocate for peace at home and abroad. They provide mentorship, host panel discussion, and networking.

Operations and logistics

CALP Network: CALP is a global network of 90 organizations engaged in humanitarian cash and voucher assistance. It seeks to improve outcomes for people affected by crisis, and align approaches to optimize and scale CVA. It is a key resource for any organization aiming to increase CVA in their operations, and it offers training opportunities and resources.

Emergency Supply Pre-Positioning Strategies: ESUPS seeks to improve the predictability and relevance of pre-positioned emergency supplies. It is jointly managed by a multitude of humanitarian responders.

Global Inter-Agency Security Forum: A member-led NGO forum to influence good security risk management. Many of the HRN members (international HQs) are part of this network.

Environment and Humanitarian Action Network: EHA is an informal network to avoid, minimize or mitigate the environmental impacts of humanitarian action. It promotes collaboration on advancing humanitarian policy, communication and joint advocacy, training and development of environmental standards, guidance, and tools. It could be a resource for HRN and members.

Humanitarian Logistics Network: A cooperative founded by nine organizations to optimize humanitarian logistics by pooling resources and advocacy (ACTED, Action Contre la Faim, Croix-Rouge Franciase, Oxfam, Plan). It hosts a knowledge library about logistics and supply chain management, and hosts related events. It is a model that could be of interest to HRN and members.

H2H Network. H2H provides products and services to other humanitarian organizations, such as standard setting, capacity building, data gathering, security, and logistics.

Inter-Agency Procurement Group: IAPG is a network of logistics professionals from more than 30 NGOs to exchange information, provide advice, collaboration and knowledge sharing in procurement and supply chain.

Atlas Logistique: Atlas Logistique is an operational unit of Humanity and Inclusion that is specialized in the delivery of humanitarian aid. The team includes 15 technical experts and a pool of 75 professionals that are deployed or ready to be deployed within 48 hours of an emergency to assess logistical needs. There is opportunity for HRN members to learn from and collaborate with Atlas Logistique.

COOPÉRATION CANADA

About Cooperation Canada

Cooperation Canada brings together Canada's international development and humanitarian organizations and advocates for them by convening sector leaders, influencing policy and building capacity. Together, we work with partners both inside and outside Canada to build a world that's fair, safe and sustainable for all.

Land Acknowledgement

Cooperation Canada acknowledges the historical and on-going oppression and colonization of all Indigenous Peoples, cultures, and lands in what we now know as Canada. The land on which Cooperation Canada's office is located is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe People. We believe that social justice in Canada and globally depends on reconciliation with all Indigenous peoples, including the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, who are the original guardians of the land we are grateful to be sharing.