



مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية  
Mohammed bin Rashid  
Al Maktoum Global Initiatives



المدينة العالمية للخدمات الإنسانية  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY



**2021**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**“The UAE is not just a financial and economic nucleus, neither is it just a tourism hub; we are also a nerve centre for global humanitarian work”.**

**His Highness Sheikh  
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY

**His Excellency Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani**

Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the International Humanitarian City

Dear Members and Partners of the International Humanitarian City,  
On behalf of The Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the International Humanitarian City (IHC) and the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the IHC's 2021 Annual Report.

2021 marked another challenging year in the humanitarian sector. Globally, disruptions caused by the COVID19- pandemic continued, widening disparities within and between countries. Compounded by ongoing humanitarian disasters, international cooperation and collaboration became critically important, with global problems necessitating global solutions to ensure that no one is left behind.

The IHC was founded by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum with the vision of becoming the largest and most diverse humanitarian hub. Today this is a reality, and the vision's realisation has enabled the IHC to spearhead humanitarian action and response, implementing best practices in emergency preparedness to serve those in need.

Out of Dubai, the IHC's 2021 reach has embodied the spirit of global cooperation. Humanitarian assistance dispatched from the IHC's warehouses reached 120 countries worldwide, delivering 1,203 shipments with a total value of USD125 million. In 2021 Africa topped our beneficiary's recipient list with USD 60 million, followed closely by Asia with USD 55.9 million in aid value. The figures relating to countries served and the number of shipments in response to COVID19- decreased, signalling positively the ending of the largest scale emergency that we have been called to respond to over the years.

In a global first, the IHC, in support of the WHO's COVAX initiative, launched the Dubai Vaccines Logistics Alliance in partnership with DP World, Dubai Airports and Emirates Airlines . The Alliance which combines the expertise and global reach of Emirates Airlines with DP World's worldwide network of ports and logistics operations, along with the infrastructure of Dubai Airports and the IHC, supported the distribution of vaccines through a -360degree solution that harnesses the combined logistical and infrastructural advantages of Dubai as a global hub and logistics centre of excellence.

In reaching communities in need, the IHC continued to grow and welcome new members and partners. In 2021, the IHC launched a partnership with Aramex to develop logistics capacities and drive efficiencies in the delivery of humanitarian services across the globe. The IHC also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Geneva-based DIHAD Foundation for Sustainable Humanitarian Development with the aim of bridging the gap between the public and private sectors and fostering collaboration to build long term humanitarian partnerships and strengthen humanitarian cooperation. The IHC also enriched its talent pool, housing more than 500 humanitarian staff members from 78 different countries, solidifying the IHC's position as a truly global hub for humanitarian excellence, with a devoted and committed team.

The IHC was also delighted to welcome a number of dignitaries and ambassadors, including the Director General of the World Health Organisation, Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, recognising the IHC's outstanding facilities and operations and stressing the importance of humanitarian collaboration.

With 2021 ending, our five year strategy concluded. The Board is currently reviewing the 2025-2022 strategy proposal, with the objective of processing it by Q1 of 2022. In line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, through the 5 year strategy, the IHC is aiming to enhance its global footprint and to collaborate with other sister humanitarian cities and hubs to enhance humanitarian preparedness and response capacities, continuing to leverage the IHC's and Dubai's expertise and world-class facilities.

On behalf of The Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the IHC and the Board of Directors, I would like to ensure our continuous support to the IHC's community in the upcoming year. The IHC looks forward to continuing to work and collaborate hand-in-hand to serve humanity and those in need.

## THE SUPREME COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF THE IHC AND THE BOARD OF THE DIRECTORS



H.E. Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani,  
Chairman of  
The Supreme Committee



H.E. Abdulrahman Al Saleh,  
Member of  
The Supreme Committee



H.E. Dr. Lowai Belhou,  
Member of  
The Supreme Committee



H.E. Ibrahim Mohammed Bu Melha  
Vice Chairman



H.E. Reem Ebrahim Al-Hashimy  
Minister of State



H.E. Abdulla Abdul Rahman  
Al Shaibani



H.E. Major General Mohammed  
Al Merri



H.E. Hesham Abdulla Al Qassim



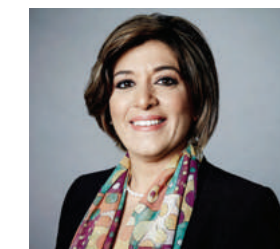
H.E. Saeed Mohammed Hareb



H.E. Dr. Mohammed Ateeq  
Al Falahi



H.E. Rashid Khalifa Belhou



Mrs. Caroline Jamal Al-Faraj



## A WORD FROM THE CEO

**Giuseppe Saba**  
CEO of the International  
Humanitarian City

Dear colleagues and friends of IHC Community,

We closed the second consecutive most challenging year which impacted our individual and family life and our social relations. Simultaneously, we experienced these challenging years as a humanitarian community, fighting all the way through 24 months against the Covid19- pandemic and its related variants. However, we committed ourselves to assist those in need by dispatching protective equipment, lab reagents, vaccines, and related ancillaries worldwide. Even though the supply chain is still suffering and facing difficulties, and the transportation process is still drastically impacting the humanitarian action, an impressive volume of aid has been delivered across the world. Yes, we were able to provide support as and where it was vitally needed.

All the figures presented in this 2021 report, which I'm honored to sign for the 5th consecutive year, reconfirms the trend of activities held in the previous year. In 2020, humanitarian activities reached their peak, however, there is a small drop in 2021 and we would like to optimistically think that this is a positive indicator showing that all countries are better controlling the pandemic situation, and step by step, we are coming out from the worst period.

In this challenging year, our community delivered more than %50 of the aid in response to Covid19- pandemic. However, populations affected by other emergencies like natural disasters or those living in conflict zones have been duly served.

On another front, the Covid19- situation encouraged the private sector, CSR, foundations, and academic institutions to partner with the humanitarian community by building bridges and channels for establishing close cooperation that would eventually lead to supporting the humanitarian workers. We signed partnership agreements with DVLA (Dubai Vaccine Logistics Alliance), Aramex, DIHAD foundation, Help Logistics, and the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. These agreements explicitly confirm our solid roots and foundations which are based on the 17th Sustainable Development Goal, Partnership for the Goals. The first quarter of EXPO 2020, which opened in October 2021, created further opportunities for expanding partnerships, spreading awareness, and increasing visibility of IHC work.

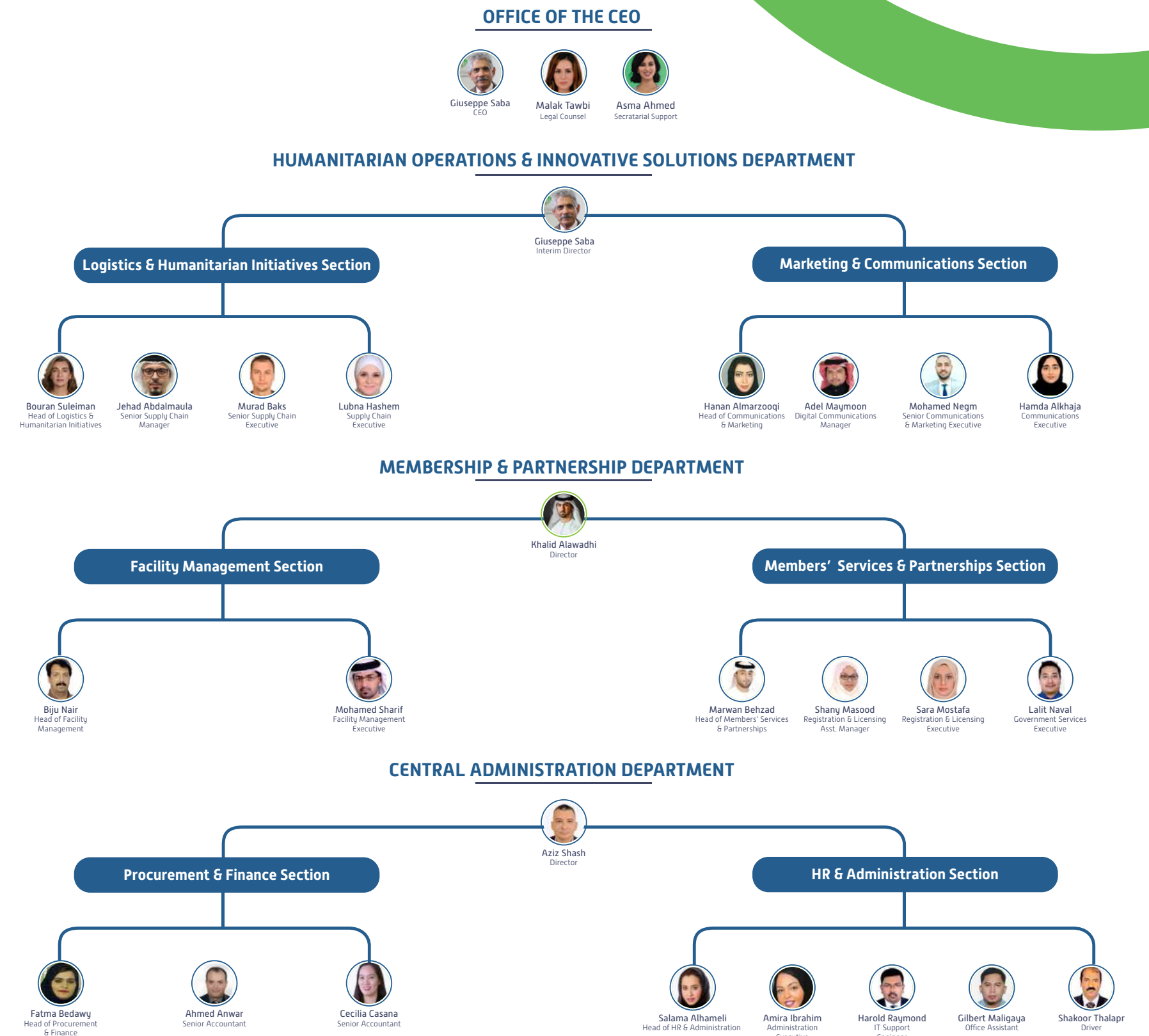
We revised the IHC 2021 – 2015 strategy and in this respect consulted our community to understand their future expectations, and IHC position by 2025. We realized the importance of strengthening our relationship with countries hosting other sister humanitarian hubs in the world, and we have received recommendations to replicate the Humanitarian Logistics Databank in the same hubs.

Highlighting the importance of Dubai as a leading humanitarian hub in the world, The World Health Organization's Director- General paid a visit to our City where he witnessed the exponential growth of the health cluster stocks and recognized the need for establishing a Center of Excellence for health logistics. The same growth confirms the necessity for adopting new standards which will eventually enable us to be home for top- class logistics facilities. Amongst our top five strategic priorities were also communications and marketing, and office digitalization. We are confident that our strategic roadmap will guide us to better position IHC and to be the flagship of humanitarian work in the world in the next few years.

In conclusion of these few lines, allow me to extend my sincere thanks to the Supreme Committee of the IHC and the Board of Directors for their attention to our community. My special and sincere thanks go to Dubai Government Leaders for their commitment to provide a home to our humanitarian community for more than 18 years and for confirming the values of solidarity and humanity inspired by the Father of UAE, the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Thanks again dear colleagues and friends, for your crucial support to people in need around the world during 2021 through working altogether for One Humanity.

## IHC TEAM - ORGANIZATION CHART



# IHC

The Dubai International Humanitarian City (IHC) is the largest humanitarian hub in the world. It was founded in 2003 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai, through the merger of Dubai Aid City and Dubai Humanitarian City. The International Humanitarian City is the only non-profit, independent, humanitarian free-zone authority that hosts a community of around 85 members comprised of UN organizations, non-profits and non-governmental organizations, in addition to commercial companies. The international humanitarian community in Dubai consists of about 500 people, representing about 78 nationalities.

In 2011, the International Humanitarian City moved to its current strategic location positioning itself in close proximity to Al Maktoum Airport and Jebel Ali Port and tripling its size from 30,000 square meters to 90,000 square meters. The new location gives the members the ability to move shipments from sea to air in as little as 10 minutes.

Today, the International Humanitarian City offices and warehouses have further expanded to reach 135,000 square meters in size.

The International Humanitarian City, together with its community, is continuing its humanitarian journey by preparing itself for the upcoming challenges and creating new synergies and partnerships with innovators, in addition to partnering with private sector players operating in high standards. IHC is also partnering with academic institutions to share knowledge and experiences and create opportunities for the preparation of the future generation of humanitarian workers.



# STRATEGIC LOCATION

Dubai has a strategic geographic position on the path between the Middle East, Asia and Africa, which enables easy access for the humanitarian community within 4-8 hours, to reach to two-thirds of the world population living in hazard-prone areas.

The IHC Humanitarian community has been able to dispatch and serve populations affected by disasters in the Pacific Islands as well as into the Caribbean, hence proving its international role.



Located only 10 minutes away from the Jebel Ali seaport and Al Maktoum airport.



Reaching two thirds of the world's population living in hazard prone areas within 4-8 hours.



## IHC FACILITIES

**135,000**  
sqm

**01** Offices

**02** Warehouses

**03** Temperature controlled warehouses

**04** Kitting Centre

**05** Cold Chain

**06** Permanent humanitarian showroom

**07** Open yard


**08** Helipad

**09** Flash Media Studio


**10** Events and conference facilities

## IHC SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

  
**GOVERNMENT SERVICES**  
(REGISTRATION, LICENSING, VISAS, AND OTHER SUPPORT)

  
**FACILITATION OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

  
**MEMBERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP**

  
**FLASH MEDIA STUDIO**

  
**EVACUATION CENTRE**

  
**AIRLIFT TRANSPORT FOR AID MOVEMENT**

# IHC COMMUNITY IN 2021

IHC COMMUNITY REPRESENTS THE SGD 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS, WHERE IT HOSTS 82 MEMBERS



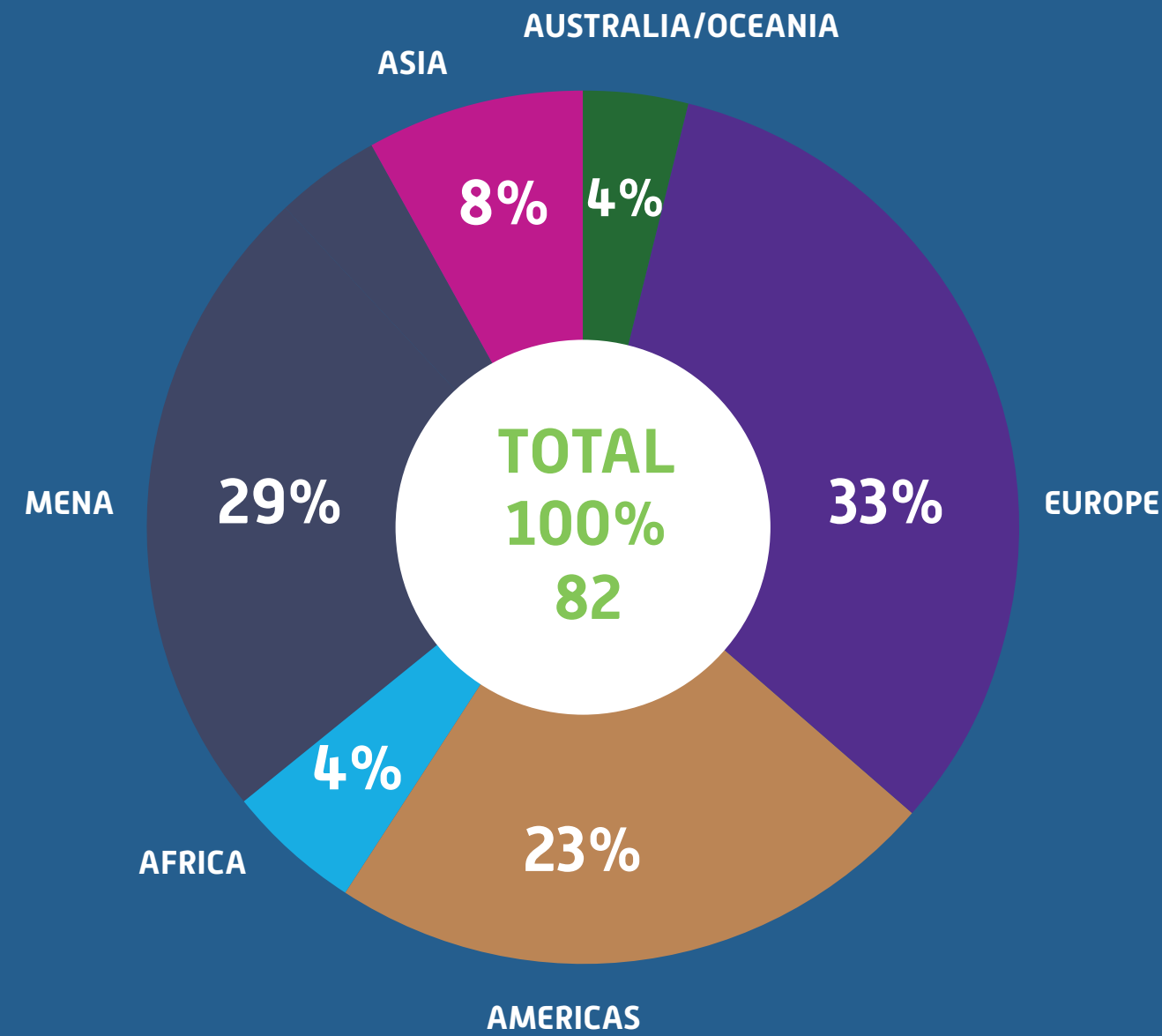
IN 2021, IHC COMMUNITY CONSISTED OF 500 EMPLOYEES FROM 78 NATIONALITIES.





# IHC: AN INTERNATIONAL HUB

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE ORGANIZATIONS & COMPANIES REGISTERED IN IHC BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



# IHC PARTNERSHIPS IN 2021

In 2021, IHC signed 5 agreements by partnering with:

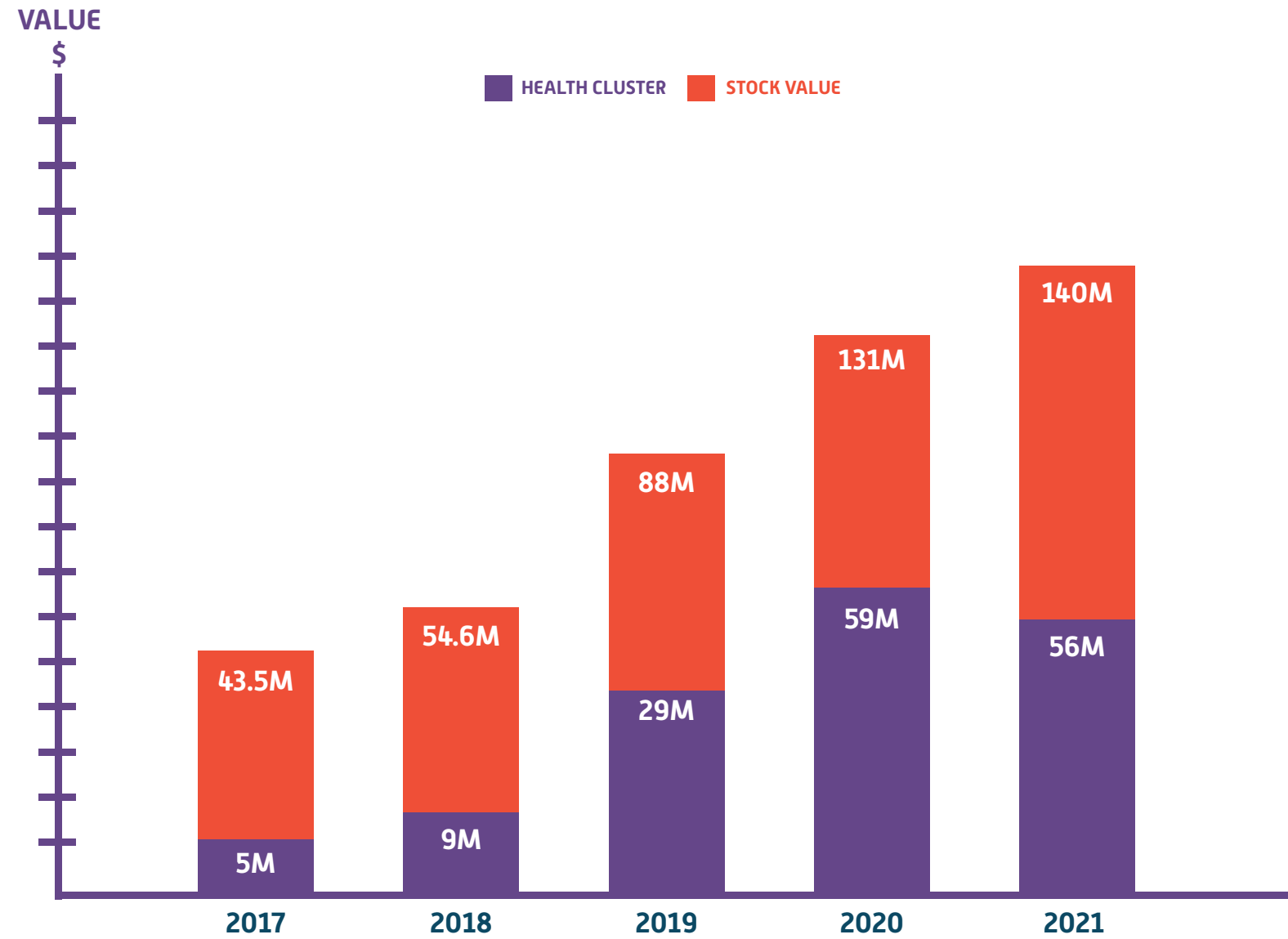
- 1-Dubai Vaccine Logistics Alliance (DVLA) with Emirates Sky Cargo, DP World and Dubai Airports
- 2-ARAMEX
- 3-DIHAD Sustainable Humanitarian Foundation
- 4-Help Logistics
- 5-The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE



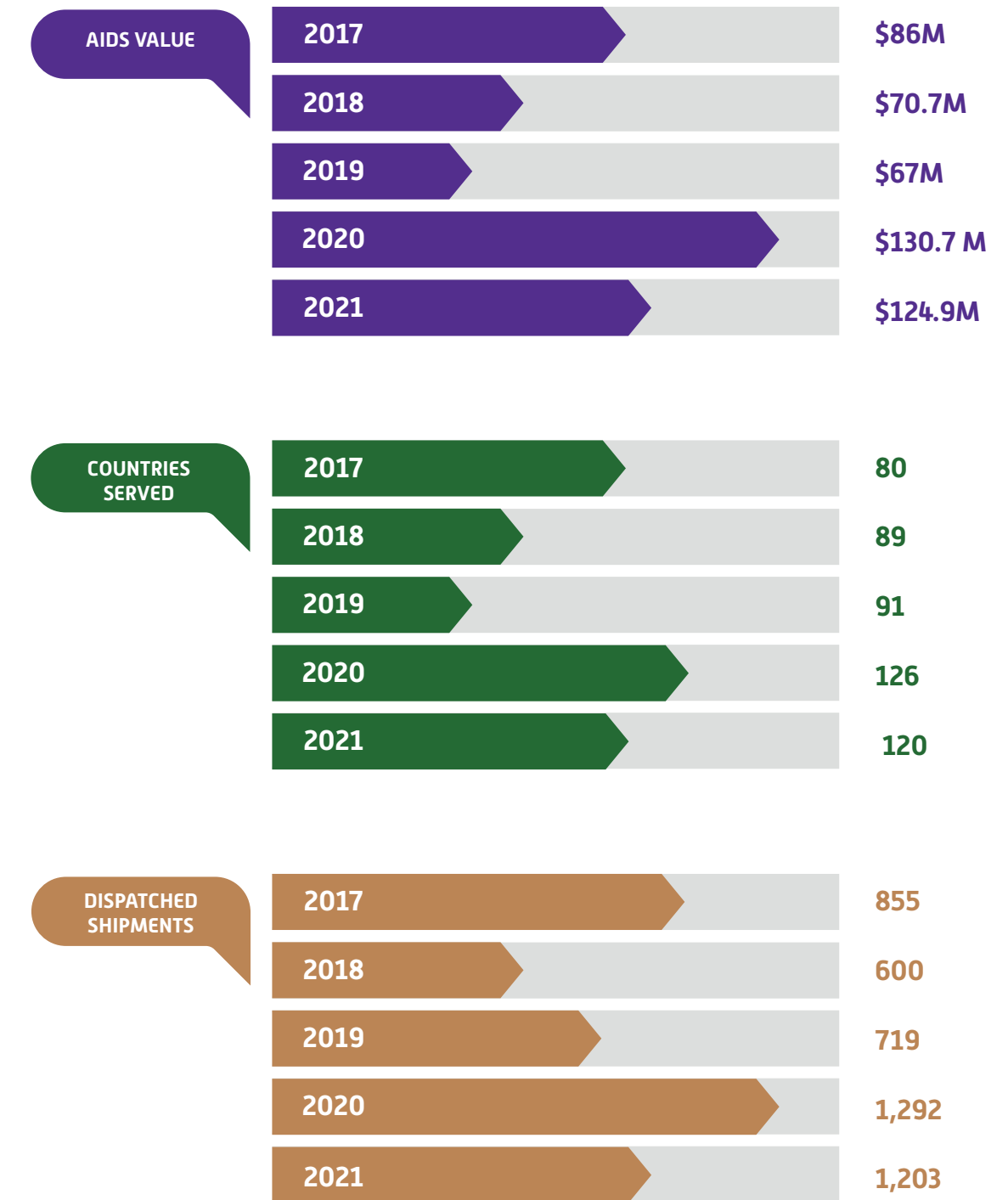
DUBAI VACCINE LOGISTICS ALLIANCE



# OVERALL GROWTH OF STOCKS – GROWTH OF HEALTH STOCKS



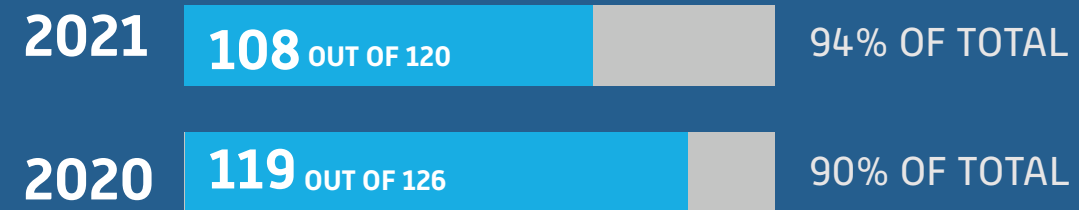
# MEMBERS EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



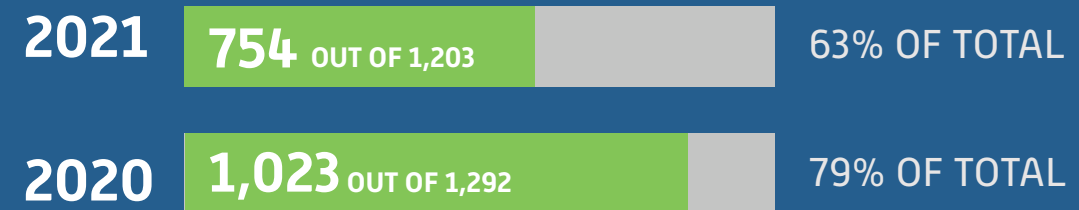
# COVID-19 RESPONSE



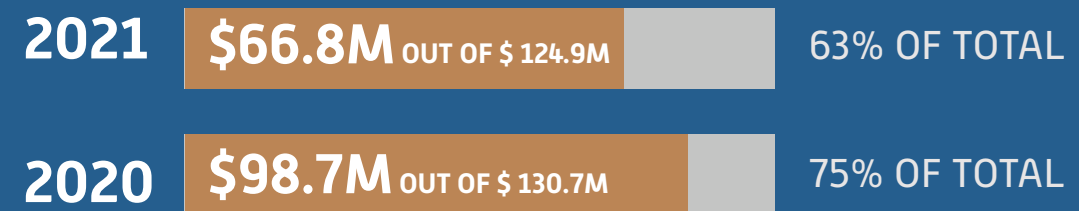
COUNTRIES SERVED



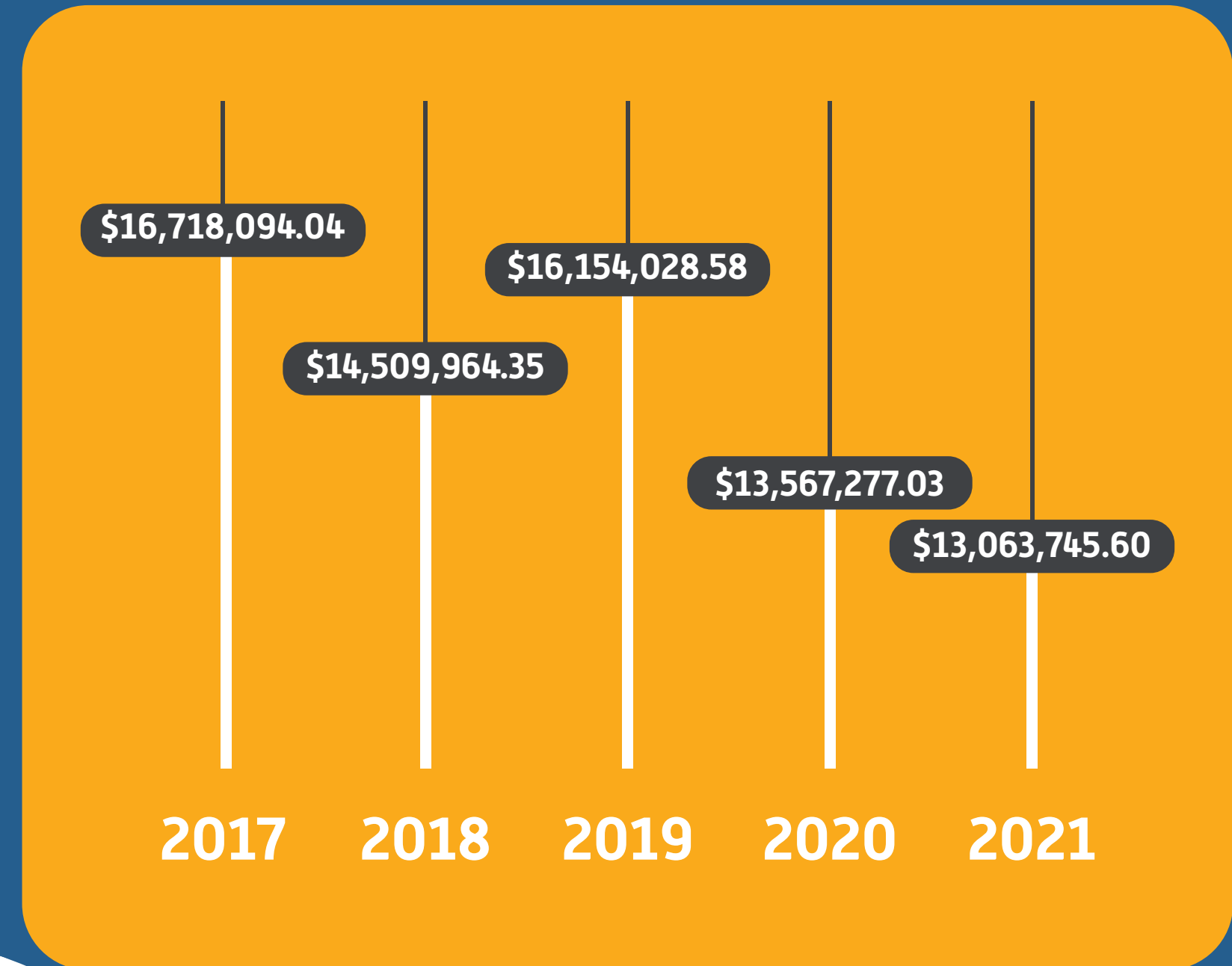
DISPATCHED SHIPMENT



VALUE OF DISPATCHED AID



# IHC CONTRIBUTIONS -USD VALUE



## A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

By 2025, IHC is expected to achieve its goals on the main key priority areas: leading the network of the humanitarian hubs, having enhanced visibility and better office technology, and logistics facilities upgraded to international standards with sustainable humanitarian operations funding.

## HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS DATABANK

Sharing information on humanitarian aid prepositioned in other sister humanitarian cities and hubs remains part of our priority actions together with the replica of the Humanitarian Logistics Databank, which helps in identifying, managing, and tracking humanitarian aid worldwide.

IHC is opening and wishing a fruitful dialogue with other governments hosting humanitarian hubs, thus joining the project and adding their prepositioned stocks and sharing information.

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The level of health stocks are imposing a change in the stocks management and adopt upper level standards.

In agreement with World Health Organisation and other partners we are launching a Centre of Excellence for humanitarian and health logistics dedicated to train humanitarian workers and share knowledge and best practices with all sister humanitarian cities and hubs.

IHC commitment is:

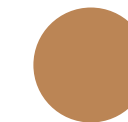
- To continue to strength the dialogues with the hosting governments of the humanitarian hubs,
- To close cooperate with the private sector and academic institutions and together with the whole humanitarian community be prepared for the next challenges and better serving those in need as One Humanity



**STANDARDIZED  
MODELS& TOOLS**



**ENHANCED  
COORDINATION**



**UPLIFTED  
SKILLS**

# HIGH LEVEL VISITS TO IHC IN 2021



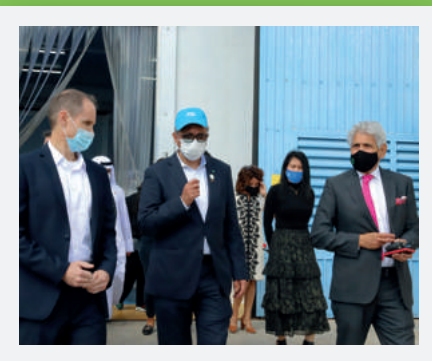
President of the General Assembly of the United Nations  
Abdulla Shahid



3 Ambassadors of States in the UN Security Council



German Federal Minister for Development Cooperation  
Gerd Muller



Director General of the World Health Organization  
Dr. Tedros Adhanom



President of the World Water Council  
Loic Fauchon

# UAE YEAR OF 50



## The Principles of the 50

In 2021, the UAE introduced “The 10 principles for the next 50 years” which are the core guidelines for all institutions in the UAE to strengthen the union, build a sustainable economy and harness all possible resources to build a more prosperous society.

The Principles of the 50 are part of the ‘Projects of the 50’ campaign, to chart the strategic roadmap for the UAE’s new era of economic, political and social growth.

The ninth principle is related to UAE’s Humanitarian efforts states “The Emirates’ foreign humanitarian aid is an essential part of its vision and moral duty towards less fortunate peoples. Our foreign humanitarian aid is not tied to religion, race, colour or culture. Political disagreement with any country should not justify failing to provide relief to that country in cases of disasters, emergencies and crises.”

# IHC CELEBRATION OF UAE 50TH NATIONAL DAY



[www.ihc.ae](http://www.ihc.ae)



IHC.UAE



IHC\_UAE



ihc\_uae



International  
Humanitarian City



IHC\_Channel

# MEMBERS' STORIES 2021



## STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

During 2021, Fundacion AbbaCol focused its work on strengthening leadership in the humanitarian sector. The NGO prioritized the work by training 10 learners so they can become volunteers of the NGO.

All volunteers were part of the training online, where they had the opportunity to interact on weekly basis with the other volunteers who were also receiving training with AbbaCol staff. This training focused on building leadership capacity as they used the book "The Journey" written by the President of AbbaCol Farid Lozada. The 10 learners that received the training are now part of AbbaCol volunteer program. This program is helping them to achieve their goals in life as they are getting involved in the humanitarian sector with Fundacion AbbaCol. All volunteers are student-workers and most of them are involved in the humanitarian sector.

With this training, AbbaCol aims to build stronger leaders in Colombia so they can be a positive change in the country and in their field of work. The program had a duration of three months, and at the end of the process, the volunteers received a digital insignia and diploma endorsed by Fundacion AbbaCol so they can work in the humanitarian field as volunteers.

As the program was a total success, the strengthening humanitarian leadership diploma will continue in 2022 with different learners; AbbaCol is expecting to expand the training program to reach young learners from different parts of the world so they can also be trained in the humanitarian field.







## Alpinter Middle East Provides Urgent Winterization Kits to Afghanistan

Afghans make up one of the largest refugee populations worldwide, with 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees and an additional 3.5 million people internally displaced, having fled their homes searching for refuge within the country. In light of the rapidly deteriorating security situation since 2021, these numbers are likely to continue to rise.

Earlier in 2021, Alpinter provided field cots, sleeping bags, and blankets to non-governmental organizations supporting both people in Afghanistan and refugees in nearby countries. In November, to help UNHCR prepare for the fast-approaching winter period, over 3200 winterization kits were shipped to Kabul from our strategically located warehouse in the UAE. Our large prepositioned stock of winterization kits was a key factor in UNHCR's decision to proceed with the emergency shipment, which will be used to insulate refugee shelters against the bitterly cold winter climate.

Alpinter is proud to assist UNHCR and other NGOs supporting the Afghan people who are facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Rapid response to disasters requires careful preparation and foresight. Alpinter has strategically located stocks in the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Pakistan, and China, allowing our team to provide NGOs with fast and efficient supplies – a key factor in being able to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies. This ensures that Alpinter is always ready for the unexpected.



## Creating Shared Value

AMS Integrated Solutions (AMS) remains true to our core philosophy of Creating Shared Value (CSV) wherever we operate. It is our fundamental touchstone and principles we are governed by on any project or partnership. CSV is our driving force to a sustainable future and our 2021 operations.

Highlights of our work with UNSOS in Mogadishu, Somalia, and other provinces involved managing and maintaining a fleet in excess of 2,000 vehicles, equipment, boats, and motorcycles with no disruptions in operations.

We also delivered a leadership development program to senior members of the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Center (ACJC) in Afghanistan. We brought together a team of international legal professionals with impressive field experience to conduct leadership, governance, ethics, and internal communication training. This program was seminal in advancing conduct and critical approach when investigating high-level corruption cases in Afghanistan's provinces.

In our 20-year history, Afghanistan has been a presence of professional and personal importance. At the request of the Young President Organization (YPO), our CEO Andrew Robertson coordinated with business partners and his AMS team to safely evacuate 148 Afghan female students attending the Asian University of Women (AUW) in Kabul to the United States of America. They are safe and currently pursuing their education.





## Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) Star-Studded Gala Dinner in Dubai

Thursday November 4th, 2021, Dubai witnessed a glamorous star-studded gala dinner in support of the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) whose mission is to provide access to quality treatment and much needed support to children and adolescents with cancer in Lebanon and the region, with an average cure rate of 80%.

Around 900 guests attended the exclusive event at the Coca Cola Arena where international stars, Dubai elite and socialites made their way through the red carpet and enjoyed a memorable night of charity and entertainment: including a charity auction of 10 lots and stunning performances of 10 artists.

Guests were in awe of Mrs. Lara Gharzeddine's testimony where she shared how she battled cancer at 15 years old and how she was able to conquer it thanks to CCCL. Now, almost 19 years later, Lara leads a successful life with her husband in Dubai and is an advocate of childhood cancer.

CCCL is currently supporting almost 50% of all children and adolescents with cancer in Lebanon and that despite the challenges over the past 2 years, CCCL has increased its capacity by 60% to cope with the increased need; where the yearly budget for the center reaches 15 million USD. The center in Lebanon also provides a variety of psychosocial support programs catering to the wellbeing of the patient and their family all through the stages of treatment.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the International Humanitarian City (IHC) under IACAD License number 4259.

For more about the CCCL: [www.cccl.org.lb](http://www.cccl.org.lb)



## Immunization Programs Against Covid-19

Several vaccines against the coronavirus entered production and mass immunization programs began to be rolled out across the globe at the beginning of last year. Logistics providers such as DHL were challenged to swiftly establish a medical supply chain to deliver more than 10 billion doses of vaccines worldwide – in particular to three billion people who live in regions with underdeveloped logistics infrastructures so as to avoid a massive humanitarian crisis.

As a leading logistics provider, DHL has played a critical role in the fight against COVID-19, leveraging our global logistics network and proven expertise in healthcare to deliver 1.8 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses across 174 countries to date.

To facilitate this roll-out, DHL banked on 9,000-plus life sciences and healthcare specialists across its dedicated global network, who ensured that pharmaceutical and medical device companies, clinical trials and research organizations, wholesalers and distributors, and hospitals and healthcare providers are connected across the value chain, from clinical trials to point of care, and every step in between for smooth vaccine distribution and roll-out. More than 350 DHL facilities were involved in this global exercise.

And our work does not stop here, as widespread immunization will not be achieved until 2023 at the earliest, according to a EIU forecast. Putting an end to the pandemic requires a joint effort. At DHL, we are committed to continue our crucial contribution by building on our global network, expertise, and dedication of our people across the globe to ensure worldwide immunization.





## Restoring Sights

The Fred Hollows Foundation is a leading international development organization that has restored sight to more than 2.5 million people around the world and has supported programs to deliver more than 100 million doses of antibiotics for trachoma. The Foundation's vision is for a world where no person is needlessly blind or vision impaired.

It continues the work of the late Professor Fred Hollows, a globally-renowned eye surgeon who believed everyone should have access to high-quality affordable eye care, no matter where they live.

The Foundation works in more than 25 countries throughout Africa, South Asia and the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

Our priority is to strengthen health systems and work with communities to improve their own eye health. We do this through life-changing surgeries and treatments, training doctors and health workers, generating new ideas, and pushing for change at all levels – from local to global.

We work around the world so that no one is left behind, and in Australia, we work tirelessly to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples can always exercise their right to sight and good health.

Currently, 43 million people around the world are blind and 1.1 billion live with some form of vision loss. About 90 percent of those affected live in low-income and middle-income countries.

If we don't act now by 2050 it is estimated more than 61 million people will be blind because of the growing and aging population.

However, we can fix the problem. More than 90 percent of vision loss is preventable or treatable and we can address it using existing highly cost-effective interventions.

Blindness and vision loss affects people at all stages of life, with young children and older people being particularly affected.

There is significant inequity in eye health among women, people in rural areas and ethnic minority groups are more likely to be blind or have vision impairment.

The Fred Hollows Foundation supports the World Health Assembly resolution which sets the global agenda for eye health to 2030. It commits the Member States to make eye care an integral part of Universal Health Coverage, embedding eye health in mainstream health plans, strategies, and budgets; and implementing 'integrated people-centered eye care' within health systems, from health, prevention, treatment through to vision rehabilitation.



## International Armored Group (IAG)

International Armored Group became the first company in the world to have tested and successfully certified the all-new Toyota Land Cruiser 300 series, obtaining the VPAM BRV VR7 ballistic certification and successfully concluding the various blast certifications as per the VPAM ERV standards. The IAG certified VR7 TLC 300 has been rigorously tested under the latest VPAM standards for vehicle ballistic and blast resistance and exceeded industry standards. This certification is yet again a testament to IAG's prowess and engineering know-how in the manufacturing of armored vehicles and solidifies IAG's position as an industry leader and pioneer.

The completely redesigned armored Toyota Land Cruiser 300 is available with all-new diesel and petrol engines mounted on 7-speed or 10-speed automatic transmissions. It offers more power and torque than its TLC 200 predecessor.

We stand proud in knowing that others may follow, but there could only be one who was first. This IAG armored TLC 300 offers the highest level of protection available on the market today, and we are very proud to yet again be the first to bring this to you.

For more information, please visit [www.interarmored.com](http://www.interarmored.com).





## SWAPTEENS

The summer of 2021 saw 17-year-old Shubhankar Ghosh discover the myriad ways in which he could reduce his carbon footprint. “Thanks to IAHV’s SWAPTEEN Programme- an online initiative to create eco-conscious youth I learned about River Rejuvenation and environment advocacy which saw me winning the Diana Award 2021”.

Abu Dhabi-based Gunjan Kaur Dhillon says, “From sourcing sustainable packaging material for a restaurant to engaging with youth on earth friendliness, SwapTEENS transformed me into a confident and more environmentally aware individual.”

“I did swapTEENS last year, where I met people passionate about making the world a better place. This motivated me to lead a plastic-free and more sustainable lifestyle. The course made me aware of how to live more responsibly and consciously,” shares Megha Varshini.

“Both me and my entire family got involved in discovering ways to reduce and refuse plastic. We recycled unused tiffin boxes to store jewelry and other items. We took jute and cotton bags for shopping, and I got introduced to natural soap, face wash, toothpaste, and detergent,” gushes Stuti Chauhan.

Since its inception two years ago, SWAPTEENS (Smile with Alternatives to Plastic for Teens), in a 3–5-week workshop, has trained a team of 70+ youth volunteers in the Middle East. They have successfully conducted 22 awareness webinars for youth, families, and corporate offices.

The theme for the year 2021 being REALITY CHECK - SWAPTEENS '2021, inspired the participants into immediate action to adopt a sustainable lifestyle, shopping plastic-free, ethical fashion, cutting toxic chemicals at home, and waste segregation at source.



## Creating coexisting communities of jaguars, turtles, people, and dogs

Coexistence with wildlife is essential for all life, humans and animals alike. IFAW’s Casitas Azules project, launched in 2017 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, is empowering communities with knowledge and tools to reduce interaction between local dogs and wild populations of jaguars and marine turtles. Our solutions focus on addressing concerns and changing human behaviors to reduce potentially harmful interactions.

The challenge in this area is that free-roaming dogs can easily become prey for jaguars or spread diseases, such as canine distemper or parvovirus, to the jaguar population. Free-roaming dogs are also known to interfere with endangered marine turtles by disturbing nests, killing hatchlings, and attacking nesting adults.

IFAW’s approach with Casitas Azules is to emphasize the connection between human, animal, and environmental health, and recognize that animal welfare, biodiversity, and the environment are connected to human well-being. Integrating the dogs more closely into the communities and giving them better care reduces the chance that they will wander and fall prey to jaguars or disturb the turtle populations.

We encourage and support people to keep their community animals, such as chickens, in adequate predator-proof enclosures and their dogs inside at night to avoid conflicts with local wildlife. However, many people do not have the right facilities. In 2021, we supported local communities to build 20 pens or dog houses, bringing the total to more than 130 IFAW-provided dog shelters in the community.

One key part of our approach is wellness clinics that offer vaccination, deworming, and sterilization for domestic animals. Despite the added challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 we organized two wellness clinics that treated a total of 286 animals. To better understand the issues and potential solutions, we conducted a community survey to measure people’s attitudes toward jaguars and we mapped jaguar attacks on dogs in two communities. This will provide key input that will help the project reach more people and animals in the years to come.



### Facts

- 286 animals treated at two wellness clinics
- 20 pens or dog houses built in FY21



## A new start for over 600 people affected by Cyclone Eloise in Mozambique

Nhamatanda, 20 February 2021—Survivors of Cyclone Eloise have received materials from the Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) to construct houses and start a new life.

Over 300,000 people have been affected by Eloise, which made landfall on 23 January. Thousands were forced from their homes and have been living in temporary accommodation shelters. More than 117,000 hectares of crops were destroyed by torrential downpours and floods.

The most affected districts are Nhamatanda, Buzi, Beira, and Dondo.

CVM, with financial and technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), distributed shelter tool kits, kitchen sets, blankets, sleeping mats, bamboo poles, tarpaulins, ropes, and face masks for COVID-19 prevention, among others. With this distribution, the John Segredo accommodation center has seen over 610 people moving out of the center, creating space for the remaining communities.

On January 23, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released 359,689 Swiss francs from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)—to help Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) provide immediate relief and lifesaving assistance to 1,000 cyclone-affected families for three months with regards to health and care services as well as water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The road to recovery is long, and the IFRC is appealing for 5.1 million Swiss francs to support the (Mozambique Red Cross Society (CVM) continue to deliver assistance and support the early recovery of 100,000 people affected by Cyclone Eloise for 12 months. The appeal focuses on shelter and essential household items (EHI), livelihoods and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and disaster risk reduction (DRR).



## Dr. Furat Helping Restore Resilience in Vulnerable Communities in Iraq

Dr. Mohammed Furat was 15-year-old when the 2003 war in Iraq began. He has since had a single mission: to help heal the people of his home country. Despite relentless violence, he graduated from medical school in 2012 and embarked on a career in public health. In 2017, he joined International Medical Corps as a Community Health Officer (CHW), working in Hammam al-alil camp to serve internally displaced persons (IDPs) whose homes were destroyed in the fighting.

Despite an exhausting eight-hour round-trip commute, working in Hammam al-alil has proved highly rewarding for Dr. Furat. He created and supervised the first CHW team in the camp, consisting of IDPs who were given extensive training to carry out community health activities and awareness campaigns. He also oversaw five primary healthcare centers in and around the camp and, in 2018, got promoted to Senior Community Health Officer.

CHWs, like Dr. Furat, are vital to the resilience of vulnerable communities. They understand the unique needs of their communities and can appropriately refer people to the many lifesaving services that International Medical Corps provides. This access and trust proved especially lifesaving during the COVID-19 lockdown, which cut off many IDPs' supplies to critical services and supplies.

"I really love my job - I've always loved it," says Dr. Furat, who hopes to complete his medical board exam next year. "We help people in my country who are living in appalling conditions, and we keep them resilient," he added.





## Celebrating Loyalty

In the past year of deep uncertainty, The Mission to Seafarers Middle East and South Asia team found light in celebrating the loyalty and commitment of their longest-serving member. On Monday 10th January 2022, Mohammed Raeid Tashtoush, manager in Aqaba, Jordan, celebrated 25 years of serving with MtS. Throughout 2021, he made consistent efforts to support seafarers. In June, he visited the Evergiven crew stuck in the Suez Canal (one of the only visitors they had seen). In early December Raeid traveled to Limassol, Cyprus where he met port chaplain Reverend Ken Wiseman, Regional Director Reverend Andy Bowerman, Canon Hany Shenoda, and Dean David Aziz. This was an enriching experience as Raeid recalls, 'the most important lesson we learned from Ken was humanity, to be humane in your dealings with everyone and not be superior to anyone.' Raeid also reflected on their ship visit, 'how happy I was working with our teams in Egypt because it was their first visit to the ships!'

On Christmas Day in Aqaba, Raeid worked with a team including a local volunteer to deliver clothing to those in need. He reported back: 'We have just finished delivering a van full of clothing to a poor part of the city - and how pleased they were to see us, for recently the weather has become very chilly. We delivered 60 blankets, 50 winter coats for men and women, 20 pairs of trousers for children, and 20 shirts for men.'

Congratulations Raeid and thank you!



## Half a century of humanitarian medical action MSF at 50

It's been 50 years since Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) was started by an intrepid group of French doctors and journalists. Three hundred volunteers made up MSF when it started in 1971; half a century later, in 2021, there are nearly 65,000 of the teams. A lot has changed in 50 years. What has changed are the contexts. MSF teams see people living in poverty; they see communities excluded in places where the teams would never have imagined that MSF would have to work one day.

**"What hasn't changed since those first days is that we stand in solidarity with our patients. That medical action comes first, which aims to alleviate the suffering of those people who are most excluded from accessing medical care,"** Dr. Christos Christou, International President, Médecins Sans Frontières.

**"MSF's compass still (and always will) guides us towards the needs of patients and how can we meet them. These are challenges we didn't have 20 or 30 years ago. This is the reality of today."** Dr. Christos continues in his special comment about MSF's 50 years.

This decade also sees MSF's teams fighting against deadly disease outbreaks and epidemics across the world, such as measles and cholera. Between 2014-2016 in West Africa, MSF leads the response to the largest Ebola epidemic in history, where the disease infects more than 25,000 people and claims more than 11,000 lives. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, MSF mobilises teams across the world, including Europe, leading the organization to work in more than 80 countries at the peak of 2020.





## World Humanitarian Day

On 19 August 2021, the world commemorated World Humanitarian Day. Burj Khalifa lit up with the World Humanitarian Day campaign slogan #TheHumanRace, launched by OCHA to highlight the needs of climate-vulnerable people who have been most hit by climate change. This event came within the framework of the fruitful cooperation between the Government of UAE and OCHA. The UAE has always played a significant role in supporting life-saving humanitarian assistance in major crises worldwide, with an effective governmental response represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Emirates Red Crescent. On the margins of EXPO 2020, on 19 December 2021, OCHA celebrated 30 years after establishing UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 that created the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). In addition, at the UN Pavilion at Expo2020, OCHA displayed a photo gallery exhibit on 'Climate Crisis' and 'Anticipatory Humanitarian Action' and showed films on 'OCHA @30'. The gallery was on display till 31 December 2021.



## Disruptive Innovation for Accelerated Safe Water Access

**2021 was a year of game-changing innovation for Project Maji. Case in point: the development of MajiPlus – a 360-degree sustainable, safe water distribution network.**

The MajiPlus consists of a network of compact mini water kiosks, all connected to a central borewell and solar-power source. Depending on the water needs, this grid can be expanded or reduced, matching water production with actual demand, resulting in an overall smaller, more efficient, and more affordable system. The system design allows for higher value creation and higher water revenue from each access point.

Why is this important? More Clean Water for Those in Need

A successful pilot of the MajiPlus has recently proved that it solves age-old rural water supply problems. Via improved value creation, it accelerates rural water access and sets an improved revenue flow in motion. Its smaller structure allows for 50% cheaper hardware investments that can be recovered through water revenue and minimizes demand and supply inefficiencies. This contributes to a higher impact on every donor dollar invested and allows us to scale up twice as fast. The success of MajiPlus enables us to open more taps and transform lives with a sustainable solution to eliminate water poverty, tackle disease, empower women, and train communities on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WaSH) practices across Africa.

After the conclusion of the successful pilot, the system has already been replicated in a Ghanaian community where we work and continues to deliver on its sustainability promise.





## Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Karachi

Reaching a new milestone, nearly 70% of the grey structure has been completed for Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Karachi. The structure for the Walk-in Clinic is ready, which is the first point of contact for patients who arrive for triaging, so we can provide the best possible treatment to the maximum number of people suffering from cancer. For the main building, the structural works are complete for the lower ground and ground floors while work is continuing pace for the first floor and the second floor. After completion of the structural works, the process of finishing and equipping the facility will begin and the hospital is planned to open in late-2023, at a total cost of AED 337 million.

While a number of facilities in Karachi treat cancer, often to a very high standard, this huge city lacks a state-of-the-art tertiary care cancer center for all, irrespective of their ability to pay. It is to bridge this gap, and so as to be able to provide free and high-quality cancer care to as many people as possible, that we have undertaken the gargantuan task of constructing our third, and Pakistan's biggest, cancer hospital, in Karachi.

At twice the size of our hospital in Lahore, our new hospital will serve not only the city of Karachi but also patients from elsewhere in Sindh, as well as from Southern Baluchistan, who will now have a comprehensive cancer treatment facility closer to their homes. The hospital will be equipped with the latest in technology for both diagnosis and treatment and will be staffed by highly qualified professionals. It will continue the tradition of our hospitals in Lahore and in Peshawar by providing free treatment to the underprivileged.



## Trachoma is eliminated in The Gambia

In April 2021, after three decades of hard work, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that The Gambia had eliminated trachoma as a public health problem, making it the second country in sub-Saharan Africa to eradicate the disease. Sightsavers celebrated this historic achievement by sharing the story of The Gambia's journey to elimination:

The disease had already been eliminated in Ghana, as validated by WHO in June 2018.

Trachoma, part of a group of conditions known as neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. Sightsavers has supported the government of The Gambia to improve eye health since 1986 when a survey found that trachoma was the third leading cause of blindness in the country. The Gambia Trachoma Elimination Programme was born, which enabled the country's government officials, health workers, community volunteers, and the communities themselves to collaborate to reach this global health milestone.

Balla Musa Joof, Sightsavers' country director for The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, said: "The elimination of trachoma in The Gambia is a considerable achievement. After decades of hard work, our children can grow up without fear of this disease, and our government can direct resources toward tackling other health issues.

"We have shown to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa that elimination is possible. It's a huge task, but with collaboration and partnership, it can be done."

Trachoma was eliminated in The Gambia thanks to a partnership between the ministry of health and the National Eye Health Programme, as well as local communities, the World Health Organization, Sightsavers, UNICEF, the Medical Research Unit for The Gambia at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the International Trachoma Initiative, which provided Pfizer-donated antibiotics.

Together, the partners delivered the WHO-endorsed SAFE strategy (surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, and environmental improvements) to prevent the spread of the infection and lead to elimination.

Early research in The Gambia looked at using the antibiotic azithromycin to treat trachoma, which is now the most common way to treat the disease.

It is possible that we see trachoma eliminated in our lifetime. The Gambia joins 11 other countries that have eliminated the disease, including Ghana, Oman, Morocco, and Mexico. This means millions of people no longer live with the pain, suffering, and blindness it can cause.







## A MESSAGE OF HOPE FROM AFGHANISTAN

More than 550,000 Afghans displaced by conflict since the start of 2021. With so much bad news coming out of Afghanistan right now, hope may seem in short supply. Fortunately for eight-month-old Mohammad, however, his courageous parents refused to give in to despair. In the face of war, destruction, and the unknown, they journeyed across Kabul to bring their baby to Smile Train's local partner.

During summer, when all of Afghanistan seemed to be crumbling, Smile Train's partners performed 64 life-changing cleft surgeries in July and 76 in August.

And the story does not end here. Our partner surgeons, anesthesiologists, and pediatricians continued working with little interruption in services all year, sometimes even volunteering their time to help children like Mohammad.

Smile Train and Be Team International applaud the courage and selflessness of these frontline heroes who, in the face of chaos, are risking their lives to save the lives of some of the most vulnerable children on earth.



## Reintegration: A Care Solution That Involves Three Parties

SOS Children's Villages is the world's largest non-governmental organization focused on supporting children and young people without parental care or at risk of losing it. Despite family breakdown being sometimes unavoidable, whenever possible, we make every effort to integrate separated children into their biological families and communities.

SOS Children's Villages in Palestine has recently formed a reintegration unit within their program structure. The unit comprises four field social workers and psychologists in the West Bank, who are currently responsible for 31 families, including 65 children and youth, and two field social workers in the Gaza Strip, who are responsible for 26 families, including 53 children and youth. The process is gradual, supervised by SOS Children's Villages Palestine, and discussed with colleagues from the Palestinian Ministry of Social Development to ensure that family reunification is sustainable. If reintegration is decided upon, full participation of a child's family, relatives, future school, and community is necessary.

"One of our best examples of reintegration is a family of five children living now with their aunt after they lost the care of their parents," said Inas Odeh, Field Social Worker at SOS Children's Villages Palestine. Noor, the oldest sibling at 18 years old, was awarded a scholarship to study medicine and dreams of a better life for her family. Returning to the family, when consistent with the best interests of the child involves not only physical reunification but also social and psychosocial preparation. SOS Children's Villages ensures ongoing support and follow-up to ensure unified families remain on track.





## Water Safety Training

2021 was Surge for Water's greatest year of impact. The organization reached over 83,000 people with sustainable safe water, sanitation, hygiene, and menstrual health solutions. Their life-sustaining work continued to reach marginalized families in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Philippines, and Uganda. They even expanded their programming into Indonesia via the construction of rainwater harvesting systems and Menstrual Health training.

While Surge has much to celebrate, one notable highlight is the four new wells that Surge drilled in the remote districts of Kaberamaido and Kalaki in Uganda. Since 2015, Surge has focused its water access work in this region on well rehabilitations, spring protections, and rainwater systems – reaching 131 schools and villages. However, 2021 marked the first year; Surge expanded its programs to include new well drills.

Odingoi village, with 150 households and home to 1200 people, was the beneficiary of these new wells. Arao K., a water user, shared, "Since the beginning of creation, Odingoi village never had a clean water source. Having this new well is a longtime dream come true. This will bring change in our livelihood - economically, socially, and health-wise."

In addition to fixing and building water sources, Surge also invests in training, monitoring, and evaluation plan to ensure the longevity of their solutions.

Surge's grassroots, community-led work has made a transformational difference for tens of thousands of people. With safe water, entire communities now have a chance at improved education, health, income and overall well-being for generations to come!



## A Second Chance

"It was tough for me to hold my baby in my arms but not hear him cry. It was tougher for us to accept that we lost our first baby because we were careless. I was angry at myself and angrier at the doctors for not doing enough. Throughout this time, my husband and I only had one question, 'Why didn't we choose a better hospital?'"

This is Saba's story, a story of loss & hope. Saba, a young woman from Muzaffargarh in Punjab, Pakistan, lost her first baby when she was only 22 years old. The loss of a child left the couple in a dejected state. They lost hope of ever having a healthy child again. However, fate had other plans for Saba.

Saba got pregnant again, but her anxiety and fear took over her excitement this time. "I promised myself that I would do everything in my power to save my baby this time. But, being poor, we did not have the finances to go to a good hospital. This was when I was advised by my friend to go to The Indus Hospital in Muzaffargarh." Saba came to the Indus Hospital with a fear of losing a child again. Her pregnancy was complicated, but the high-quality service dispensed at IHHN, totally free of cost, helped her successfully pull through.

"I was frightened. But the staff at IHHN took great care of my child and me. Today, my baby is healthy, and it is all because of Indus Hospital."





## Online Art & Mental Health Therapy

The Red Pencil was in the process of planning an online COVID-19 response in partnership with MySchoolPulse, Edinboro University, and George Washington University when the tragic explosion at the Port of Beirut occurred on 4 August 2020. Over 6,000 people were injured, nearly 200 were killed, and over 300,000 families were made homeless in this incident.

Before the tragedy, The Red Pencil aimed to increase community knowledge of art therapy and mental health. An online Train the Trainer (TTT) program (November 2020-March 2021) provided art therapeutic tools and knowledge to 11 MySchoolPulse staff, helping them find new ways of engaging with the children in their care and easing them back into their educational activities and hospital treatments. This was followed by online self-care workshops (March-July 2021).

There was a 54% increase in knowledge of art therapy, with an overall mood improvement of 30% after the TTT. A total of 463 online art therapy sessions were carried out by the team of 5 art therapists from August 2020 to August 2021 for children and families battling life-threatening illnesses such as cancer.

Managing the risks of COVID-19 on top of the humanitarian disaster of the port explosion brought many challenges for this project; it helped develop a new online model of art therapy, which was of immense value to the beneficiaries. It has shown that even online, art therapy can be used to explore ways to find new strength and resources, bringing hope and joy, relief from anxiety, and renewed resilience.



## Past Year's Achievement

2021 was a year to remember for The Sparkle Foundation. Our biggest year to date, which saw us raise more money than ever before, run our first virtual online campaign, which brought hundreds of people together worldwide, and hold our first ever Sparkle ball in the UK. Our bespoke CSR initiatives were implemented by companies worldwide. Our pro bono legal partner Clifford Chance agreed to work with us to help replicate our model across Malawi and eventually into Kenya over the next three years.

COVID-19 had a devastating impact in Malawi, but Sparkle made a promise to increase its services and continued to support our communities throughout lockdowns with food care packages, home-schooling, and our youth creating their masks and sanitizers and distributing them to those in vulnerable areas.

Supporting over 14,000 people, we helped distribute the vaccine across the country, brought boreholes to those without water, delivered meals to children in need, and supported women in business to generate income. Our education program expanded from nursery to primary, youth, and adults, and we started constructing our second School in Malawi. With our CEO and Founder speaking at events across the UAE, including Expo, and attending meetings with the First Lady of Malawi to look at how Sparkle can be used as a blueprint for grassroots charities across the continent, we are excited to establish even more partnerships across Dubai in 2022 and grow the organization so that we can change more lives together.





## Pathway Simulation

In November 2021, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency organized a one-day simulation exercise called the “Pathway Simulation” at its Global Stockpile located at the International Humanitarian City (IHC), to bring a better understanding of the difficult displacement journey to members of the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO)\* and their families.

Some 48 participants consisting of business leaders, young executives, youth, and children, experienced the challenges millions of displaced people encounter when they are forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict, or persecution until they reach safety.

The exercise allowed the participants to experience several scenarios of forced displacement and leaving everything they’ve ever known or owned, the fear of not being able to protect their loved ones along the way, and most importantly, the journey that refugees undertake in search of safety and stability.

The simulation was followed by a briefing about UNHCR’s work, giving the participants the opportunity to learn more about the agency’s mandate, and UNHCR’s efforts to support more than 84 million forcibly displaced people around the world in finding solutions. In addition, they got the chance to take a tour of IHC’s showroom, where they learned about the work of other UN agencies, and the humanitarian role and logistical support IHC is giving in order to provide vital and timely humanitarian support in various sectors to millions of people in need around the globe.

\*The YPO is a non-profit global network of young chief executives connected through the shared mission of becoming better leaders through lifelong learning and idea exchange. It is a worldwide leadership community of chief executives with approximately 29,000 members in more than 130 countries



## WFP UAE achievements in 2021

In 2021, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) continued its efforts to support several emergencies and operations around the world out of its offices in the UAE as conflict, climate, and economic downturns made worse by COVID-19 has culminated in a “hunger pandemic” not experienced before in our lifetimes. As part of its strong strategic partnership with the UAE, WFP partnered with MBRGI on the One Hundred Million Meal campaign. The contribution of USD 11.8 million enabled WFP to provide around 45.5 million meals to around 470,000 beneficiaries in Bangladesh, Jordan, and Palestine so far, and distributions will start in Somalia in 2022. WFP also received a contribution of USD 4.5 million from the UAE to support Ethiopian refugees in North-eastern Sudan & an in-kind donation of vegetable oil for WFP operations in Ethiopia worth USD 2 million. Additionally, the UAE contributed USD 144.2 million to WFP operations in Yemen through the Famine Relief Fund.

Fast and timely support was provided by UNHRD Dubai hub through a total of 378 shipments of aid and relief cargo to 89 countries on behalf of 28 humanitarian partners. In total, 49 humanitarian organizations have used the UNHRD Dubai facilities to preposition emergency supplies worth a stock value of USD27.11 million as of 31 December 2021. Additionally, 73 shipments were organized as direct delivery from the suppliers worldwide to final destinations. The total value of the cargo transported is around USD88 Million. The UNHRD also supported UNFPA by arranging for the safe delivery of 118 consignments of Temperature-Sensitive Reproductive Health kits to 35 countries around the world.

Reliable, scalable, secure, manageable, and affordable data and voice connectivity services were also delivered by FITTEST specialists supporting 11 emergencies and 14 steady-state operations. While the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) supported the response to 11 emergencies around the world, serving over 10,439 humanitarians across 290 organizations. Those key services ensure that communications infrastructure works efficiently in field operations and are fundamental for all countries and humanitarian organizations to operate efficiently on the ground.

The WFP Fleet Centre continued its vehicle preparation and leasing operations to support WFP Offices across the world, including in emergencies, despite COVID challenges. In 2021, 623 vehicles were received in the Fleet Centre IHC premises, and 384 vehicles were shipped to the field.

Moreover, WFP’s Regional Aviation Safety Office organized the Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference and Exhibition (13th GHAC) and participated in the Humanitarian Pavilion at Dubai Airshow. The RASO team continued to improve the safety and capacity building of WFP aviation staff in the field through the design and implementation of computer-based training and videos and virtual aviation safety training and campaigns. In addition, RASO facilitated the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service operations in Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya.





## Exponential Growth in Demand for Humanitarian Health Supplies – WHO/Dubai

Impacting the entire world, the COVID-19 pandemic represents the single largest public health emergency of a generation. Revealing the devastating toll pandemics have on human life, societies, and economies the pandemic also exposed the fragility of global supply chains and the health systems needed to cope with the event. Dominating the media, the pandemic threatened to draw attention and resources away from ongoing health emergencies. Despite the confluence of these catastrophic elements or perhaps because of them, WHO witnessed an exponential demand for pre-positioned humanitarian health supplies from its Dubai Logistics Hub.

Responding to COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 health emergencies in 2021, WHO's Dubai-based Logistics Hub absorbed a 60% increase in demand over 2020, fulfilling more than 545 requests for health supplies. Delivering over USD 102 million to 129 countries through over 800 shipments across all 6 WHO geographic regions since the outset of the pandemic. The WHO operation dramatically increased the availability of health supplies globally in 2021 protecting the lives of millions of health care workers and assisting millions of people around the world in need of humanitarian aid.

Responding to "emergencies within the emergency" the WHO/Dubai Logistics Hub played a central role in delivering life-saving medicines to outbreaks of cholera and Ebola in West Africa, trauma and emergency surgery kits to Ethiopia, and essential medicines to Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and Yemen among many others. Balancing COVID-19 response priorities without losing sight of these other critical health needs, the WHO Logistics Hub also provided medicines and health commodities to support global malaria and polio eradication initiatives.

Supporting WHO's responses to all types of health emergencies, the government of the UAE and the International Humanitarian City play a vital role in responding to COVID-19 while simultaneously addressing other health emergencies with the aim to enhance global health security. These invaluable partnerships enable WHO to deliver more supplies, to more countries, across all regions, to protect more people than ever before with an unwavering belief that together, we can make the world safer and healthier for all.

