



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



المدينة العالمية للخدمات الإنسانية  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY



A N N U A L R E P O R T

2022



“ We will continue to empower, qualify, and support cadres and mobilize them for the flourishing of the charitable industry and humanitarian work, expanding its effects in various parts of the world. ”

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**His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai

World Humanitarian Day 2022



# Message from the Chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the International Humanitarian City



**His Excellency  
Mohammed  
Ibrahim  
Al Shaibani**

As we reflect on yet another exemplary year of facilitating and coordinating collective action with all IHC members, it is my honor to present the 2022 Annual Report on behalf of the Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the International Humanitarian City (IHC) and its Board of Directors.

Established in 2003 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed

Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, IHC has grown to become the largest humanitarian hub in the world. Our expansion is a testament to the international community's confidence in Dubai as a hub for humanitarian aid action.

In the past year, the ongoing COVID19- pandemic presented an era-defining challenge to the international system, worsening socio-economic conditions and aggravating existing humanitarian crises across the world. Multiple climate-related incidents, instability in several regions across the globe, and the largest global food crisis in modern history left 339 million people in need of urgent assistance marked 2022.

Despite this, 2022 for the IHC was defined by the exceptional support and generosity of our partners. IHC and its members played a significant role in confronting the pandemic by joining forces with local and international partners.

In September alone, the IHC

served as the base for 42 relief missions to Northern Africa and Southeast Asia. Following heavy monsoon rains that triggered ravaging floods in Pakistan, IHC deployed 36 flights of humanitarian relief. These undertakings confirm Dubai's status as a pioneering hub for facilitating humanitarian action around the world.

As we move into 2023, our 20th anniversary of serving those in need across the globe, the Board of Directors has endorsed the 2022-2025 strategy, paving the way for a new era of humanitarian action and propelling IHC's activity yet further forward.

20 years on, IHC will continue to lead in the facilitation of answering multiple and complex crises, expanding our global footprint, and collaborating with other humanitarian hubs to enhance emergency preparedness and responses.

## The Supreme Committee for the Supervision of the IHC and the Board of Directors



**HE Mohammed Ibrahim Al Shaibani**  
Chairman of the Supreme Committee



**HE Abdulrahman Al Saleh**  
Member of the Supreme Committee



**HE Dr. Lowai Belhou**  
Member of the Supreme Committee



**HE Ibrahim Mohammed Bu Melha**  
Vice Chairman



**HE Reem Ebrahim Al Hashimy**  
Minister of State for International Cooperation



**HE Abdulla Abdul Rahman Al Shaibani**



**HE Major General Mohammed Al Merri**



**HE Hesham Abdulla Al Qassim**



**HE Saeed Mohammed Hareb**



**HE Dr. Mohamed Ateeq Al Falahi**



**HE Rashid Khalifa Belhou**



**Mrs. Caroline Jamal Al Faraj**



## Letter from the CEO of the International Humanitarian City



Giuseppe Saba

Dear colleagues and friends of the Dubai International Humanitarian City community, First, let me express my gratitude and appreciation to each of you on behalf of the beneficiary populations we served together in 2022.

This report highlights the exceptional work done by our community, humanitarian members, commercial companies, and partners. Without each of them and the support from our Board of Directors, our Supreme Committee for the Supervision of IHC, and our leaders, we could not have achieved the results published here.

While the unrivaled global pandemic during 2020 was the peak of our activity, 2022 required us to again, go the extra mile due to the scale and magnitude of natural disasters and climate change. These demands encouraged us to enhance our emergency preparedness by adopting a more coordinated approach involving the humanitarian hubs, humanitarian actors, the private sector, governments, and local communities.

With humanitarian crises from climate change driving up the need for international aid, new guidance is needed in the face of more complex crises, some of them not yet imagined, much less understood. We look forward to applying the lessons from Dubai COP 28 to adopt new modalities of humanitarianism.

As we look into the future, we are ready to continue building our understanding of the new challenges facing humanitarian action today, to ensure we can address crises efficiently and take into consideration the local specificities of responses.

I am honored and proud to drive IHC into its third decade in the humanitarian field. Thanks to the efforts of the Dubai Government and the vision of our leaders, we have twenty years of achievements, successful humanitarian actions, and service to those in need around the world.

We are excited to look into our future and become well-prepared to respond to upcoming chal-

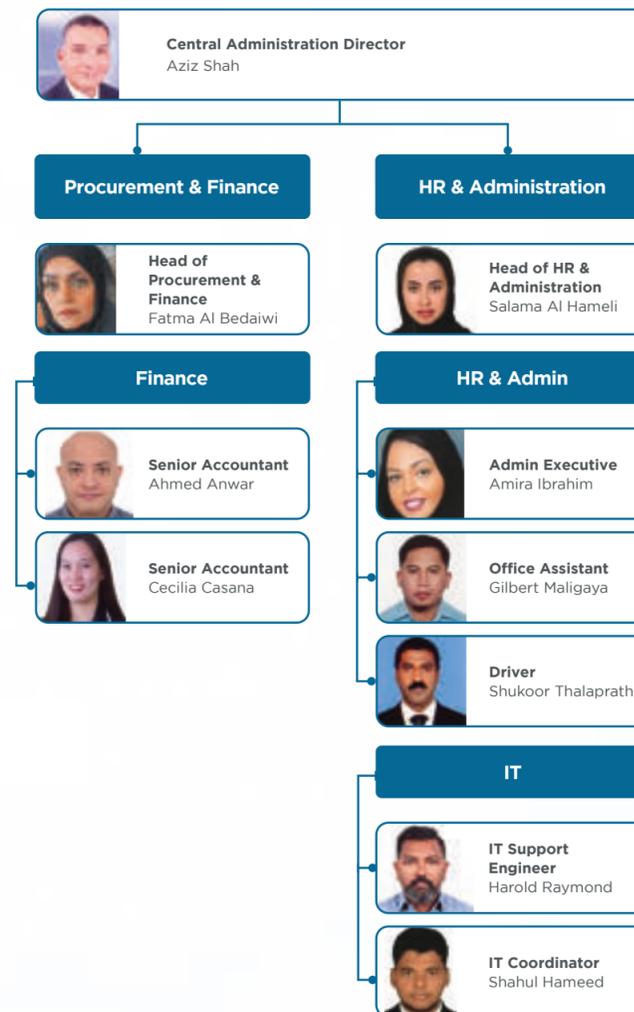
lenges. We intend to strengthen our capacity by connecting with the countries hosting other sister humanitarian cities and hubs, working together for One Humanity, and partnering with the private sector, academia, philanthropists, and all entities aiming to make humanitarian action more sustainable.

We are thrilled to continue our journey ahead with all of you.

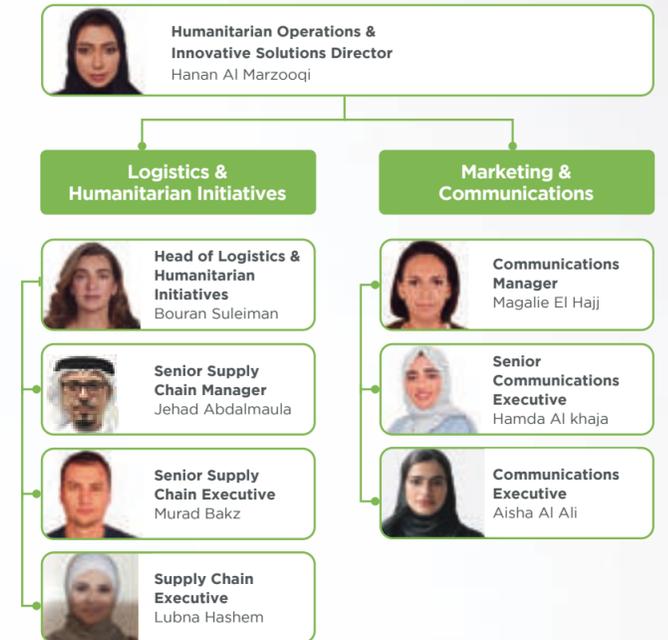
## The Team



### Central Administration Department



### Humanitarian Operations & Innovative Solutions Department



### Membership and Partnership Department



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, the Dubai International Humanitarian City (IHC) is the world's largest humanitarian hub.

Home to more than eighty prominent organizations and companies active in the humanitarian emergency response and development sector, the IHC is the first independent, humanitarian, non-profit free-zone authority.



Bringing together partners within a dedicated free zone has created a humanitarian ecosystem that maximizes the efficiency and effectiveness of international relief and development. The structure confers numerous benefits to the IHC's humanitarian members, including a reduced lead time for import and export transactions through Jebel Ali port, Al Maktoum International airport, and Dubai World Central logistics cluster. Aid shipments bound for disaster zones and humanitarian crises abroad can be moved from sea to air in as little as ten minutes.



**Nestled just a short  
10-minute drive from the  
bustling Jebel Ali seaport  
and the convenient  
Al Maktoum airport**



Over the past two decades, IHC has quadrupled from 30,000m<sup>2</sup> to more than 140,000m<sup>2</sup>. It is strategically located at a crossroads between the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and East and South Asia. This prime location allows for reaching two-thirds of the most vulnerable population in about four hours.

Part of the Dubai government and in line with the vision and principles of the UAE leadership, the IHC's team supports and coordinates the logistics behind its member organizations' constant stream of missions, ensuring that countries and communities in crisis receive what they need and fast.



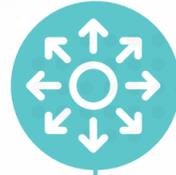
Reaching over two-thirds of populations residing in hazard-prone areas within 4 to 8 hours





**2003**

Establishment of the International Humanitarian City in Dubai



**2011**

Expansion: IHC triples its size



**2015**

Launch of IHC Strategy for 2015 - 2020 and the Global Humanitarian Impact Fund (GHIF)



**2022**

Endorsement of IHC Strategy for 2022 - 2025



**2007**

IHC becomes a global humanitarian logistics hub



**2012**

Issuance of Law No. 1 for 2012, mandating IHC to “proactively support the efforts of the Humanitarian Community”



**2020**

IHC upgrades and launches new solutions: The Humanitarian Logistics Databank, Cold Chain Facility, Kitting Centre



**2023**

IHC: 20 years of humanitarian action

## Our Vision

# The Pioneering Global Humanitarian Hub

## Our Mission

Leading an intergovernmental network of humanitarian cities to support the efforts of all the humanitarian community in humanitarian emergency preparedness and response, innovation, and sustainability.



“ The UAE’s commitment to humanitarian causes stems from its cultural ethos that places a high value on charitable giving.

The late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan’s extensive initiatives to provide development and humanitarian assistance across the world reflect this ethos. His legacy continues to inspire us today.

The UAE is continuing to build on this legacy by expanding their commitments to humanitarian aid. The IHC puts Dubai’s strengths to work to save lives and give hope to tens of millions of people who need our help. ”

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

Vice President and  
Prime Minister of the  
UAE and Ruler of Dubai

IHC Executive Report 2015

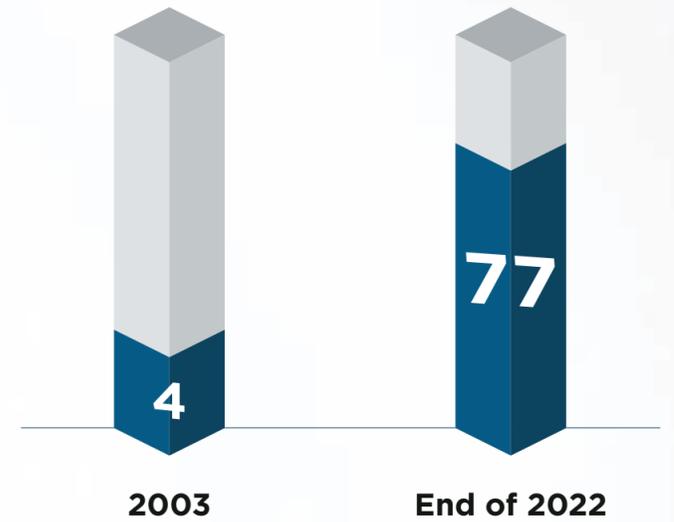
# Journeying through **Two Decades** of **Humanitarian Action**



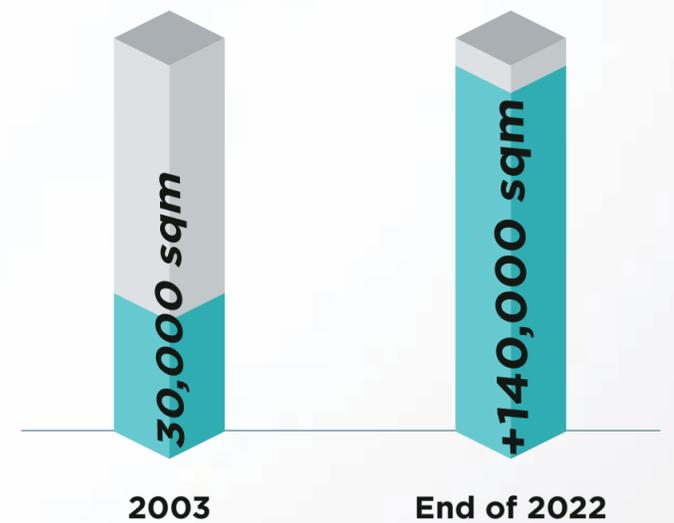
# Two Decades of Growth



## Membership



## Facilities



**“On Saturday, WHO’s Logistics Hub in Dubai coordinated the first charter flight carrying supplies to treat approximately 2,500 patients for trauma and burn-related injuries. These additional supplies are critically needed to ensure that essential medicines and infusions are available in Mogadishu to care for blast victims and prevent further loss of life. Thanks to the support of the Dubai Government, the International Humanitarian City, and the Government of the UAE, WHO’s logistics hub in Dubai can rapidly respond to acute health emergencies around the world to deliver humanitarian aid to those in greatest need, in line with our collective Regional vision of Health for all, by all.”**

**Dr. Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean - 08 Nov 2022**



# OUR FACILITIES

## 140,000+ SQM



Warehouses

1



Temperature-controlled storage area

2



Kitting centre

3



Cold chain

4



Permanent humanitarian relief showroom

5



Open Yard

6



Helipad

7



Event and Conference Halls

8



Offices

9



Evacuation Room

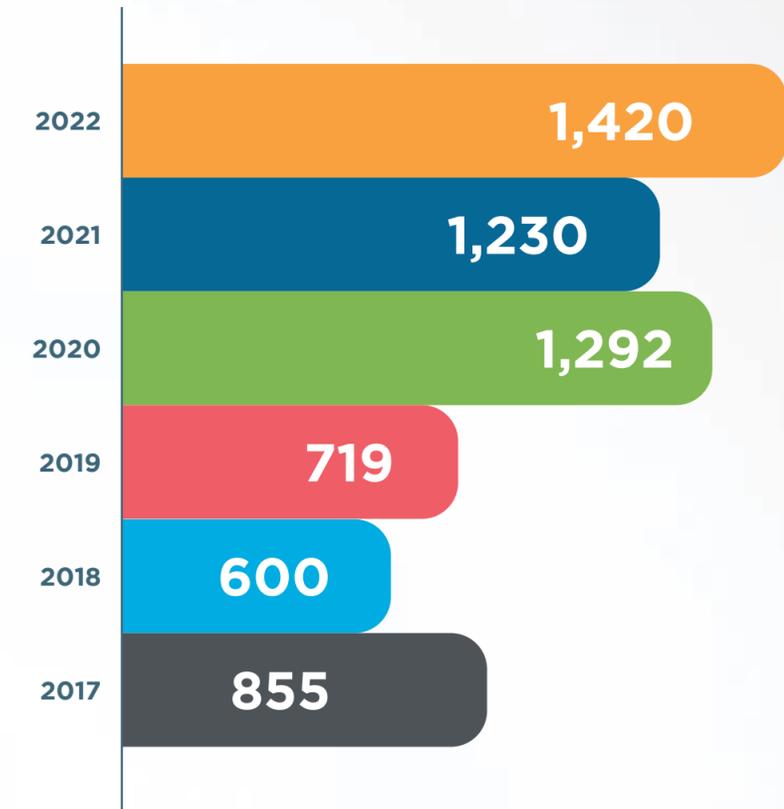
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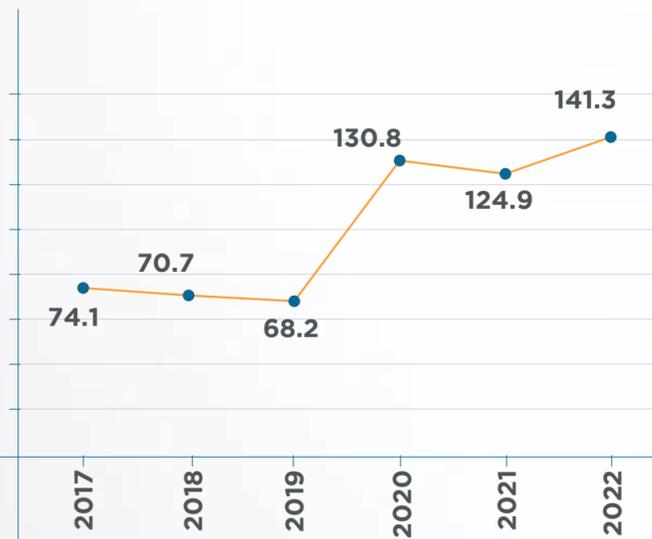
In 2022, the number of shipments reached a new figure of 1,420, marking an increase over last year's figure of 1,203. The value of dispatched relief items surpassed USD 141 million, reaching 136 countries, with Asia topping the list by region at USD 70 million and Africa coming in second at USD 52 million.

Source: Humanitarian Logistics Databank

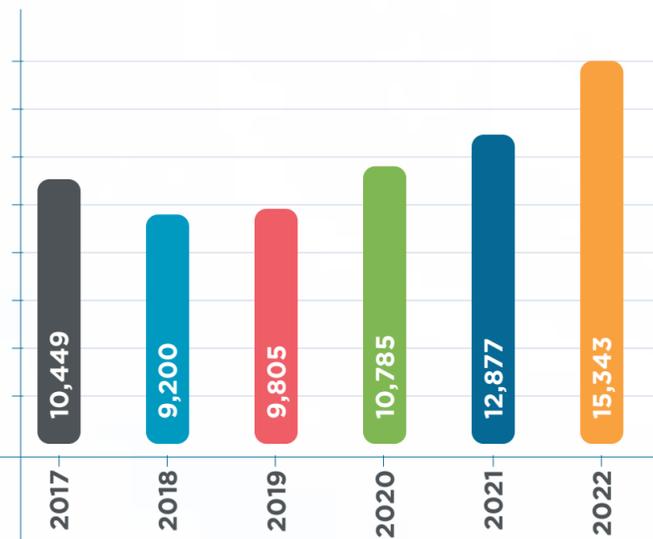
Shipments



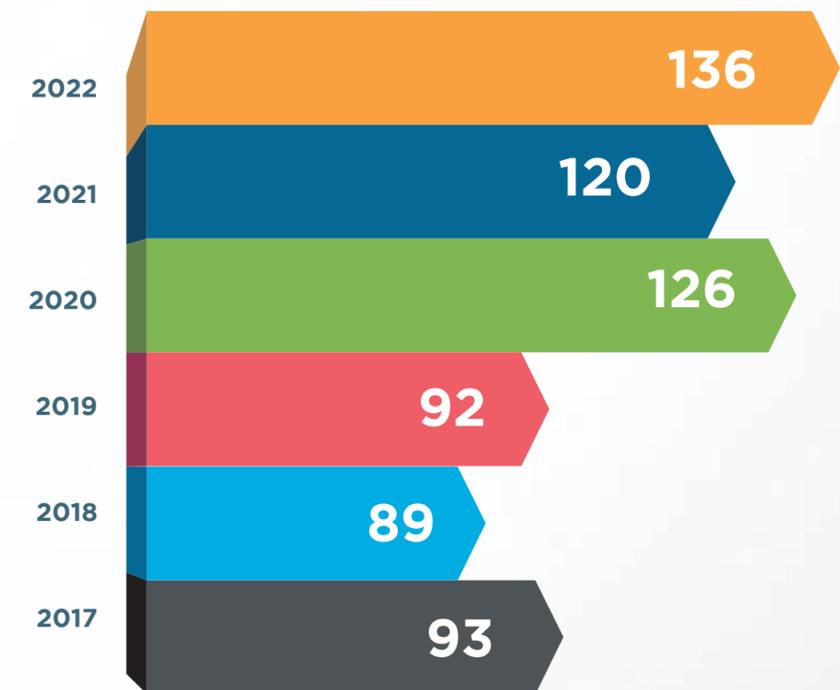
Dispatched Aid (in million USD)



Dispatched Aid in MT



Number of countries served



# 2022 IHC

## Supported Operations

**43** Flights

Transportation:  
 AED **11,657,007**  
 6 Countries | **746.61** MT



Poland

**2**

Flights

beneficiaries (estimated)  
**300,000**

Contribution value:  
 AED **2,580,625**  
**124.6** MT



Somalia

**1**

Flight

beneficiaries (estimated)  
**55,000**

Contribution value:  
 AED **698,250**  
**38.3** MT



Sudan

**2**

Flight

beneficiaries (estimated)  
**796,665**

Contribution value:  
 AED **1,772,269**  
**192.7** MT



Libya

**1**

Flight

beneficiaries (estimated)  
**173,200**

Contribution value:  
 AED **863,625**  
**23.6** MT



Afghanistan

**1**

Flight

beneficiaries (estimated)  
**340,000**

Contribution value:  
 AED **514,500**  
**24.4** MT



## PAKISTAN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**36** Flights | **343** MT

**112,900** beneficiaries (estimated)

**AED 4,227,738**



As an illustration of the intensity of the IHC's operations, in September 2022 alone, the City served as the base for forty-two relief missions to Libya, Sudan, and Pakistan.

Pakistan, which had been severely affected by extreme flooding, received tons of aid over a period of approximately 10 days, including shelter, medicines, medical supplies, and water and sanitation equipment.

Demonstrating the IHC's high-level support in Dubai, the relief mission to Karachi relied

on the use of two of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's private charters: C-130 military cargo planes operated by Dubai Royal Air Wing, in addition to a humanitarian airbridge in partnership with Emirates.



“As a response to the heavy and continuous rains being experienced in six states in Sudan, IFRC is sending urgent humanitarian aid to those affected and displaced due to torrential rains and floods in the country, to help alleviate their suffering and improve their living conditions. (...) We thank the IHC and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum for their long-standing support to humanitarian organizations and generosity in facilitating and expediting the transportation of aid to those who need it most.”

**Ilir Caushaj, IFRC Global Fleet and Logistics Hub Head in Dubai 08 Sep 2022**

“UNHCR, in coordination with the Pakistani National Disaster Management Committee, is providing emergency relief assistance to those affected by the floods in Pakistan. We sincerely thank His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Dubai government, and the UAE for their long-standing support in transporting relief materials from UNHCR global stockpiles in IHC to the affected and most vulnerable people.”

**Khaled Khalifa, Senior Advisor to the High Commissioner and UNHCR's Regional Representative to the GCC - 6 September 2022.**

«In a region where climate hazards such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves are increasing humanitarian needs, anticipatory action aims to reduce or mitigate the impact of these hazards on the most vulnerable people. We are grateful for the strong representation from the UAE, an important ally in the quest to make the humanitarian system as anticipatory as possible.»

**Mageed Yahia, WFP Representative to the GCC - 10 August 2022**



**DAW Airbridge**

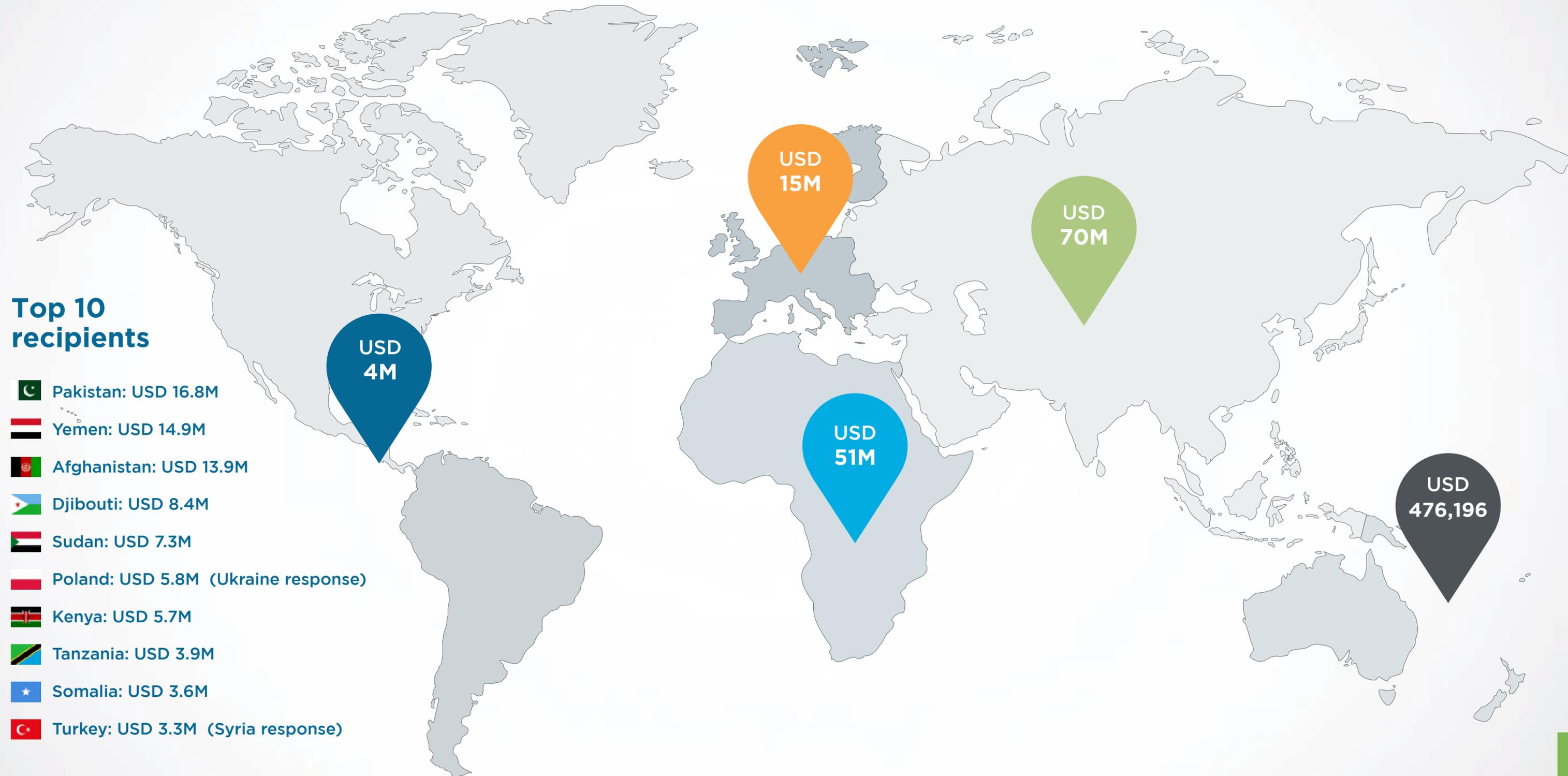
**24**  
Flights  
**92,900**  
Beneficiaries (estimated)  
**242.81**  
MT

**Emirates Airbridge**

**12**  
Flights  
**20,000**  
Beneficiaries (estimated)  
**100.212**  
MT



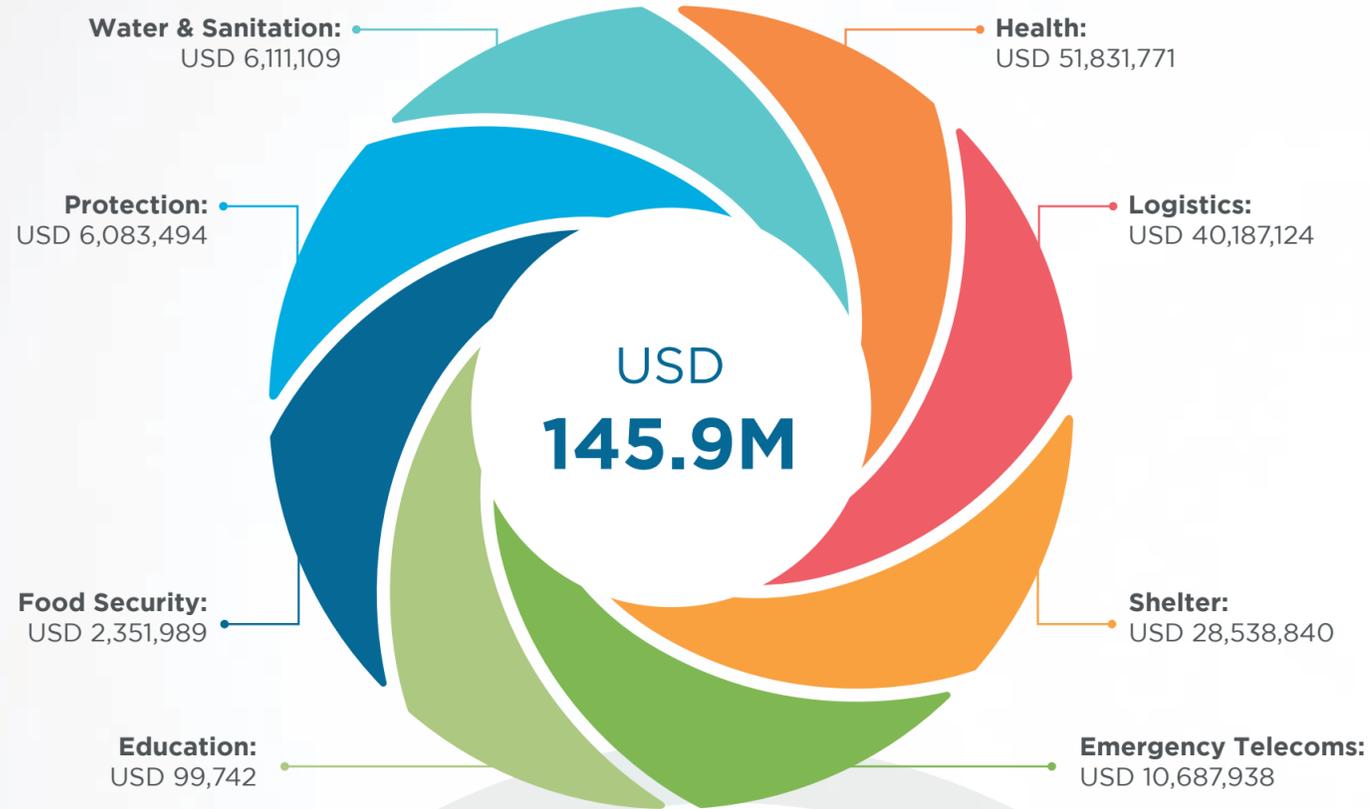
# Aid by Region



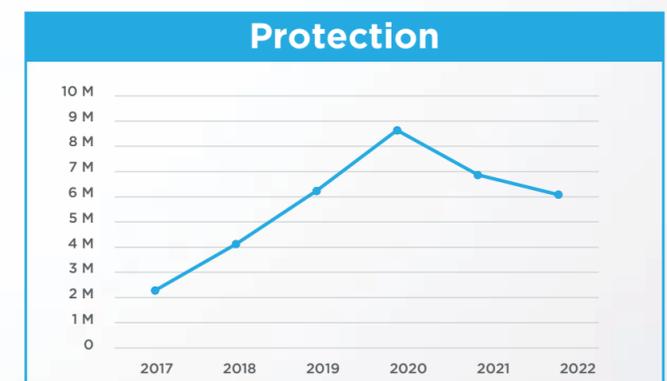
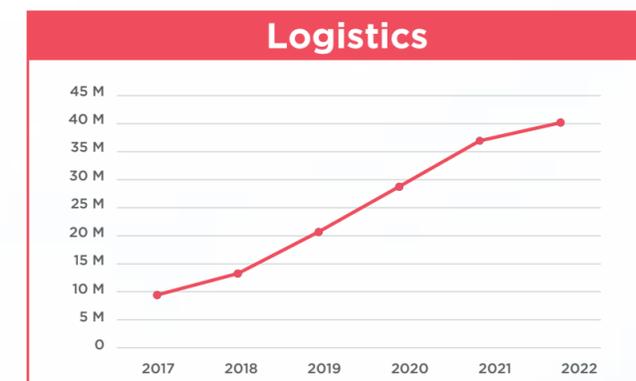
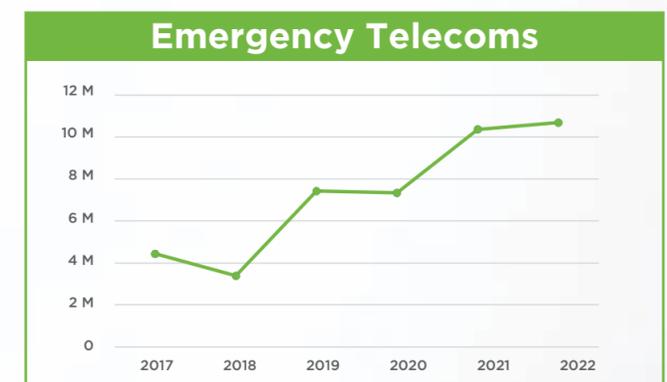
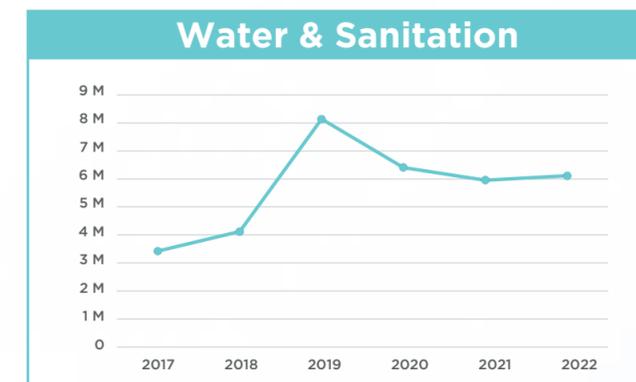
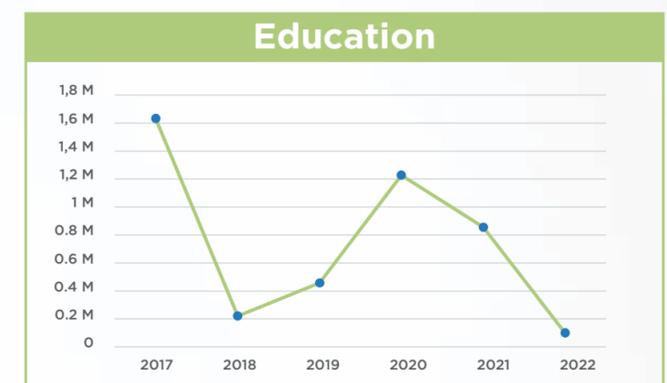
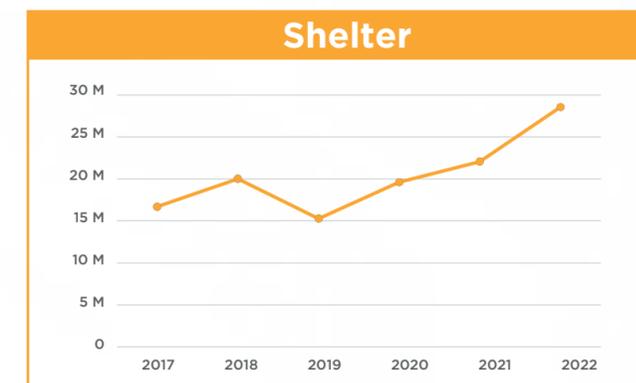
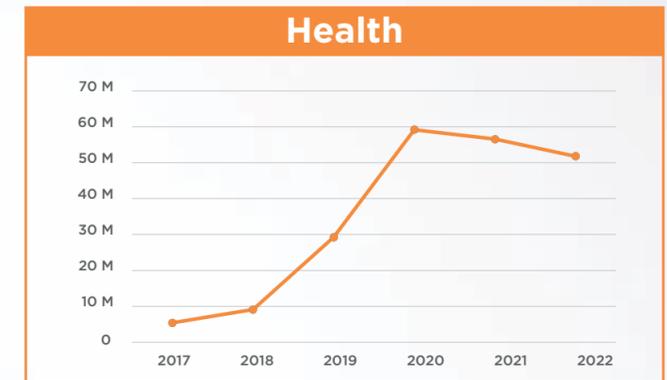
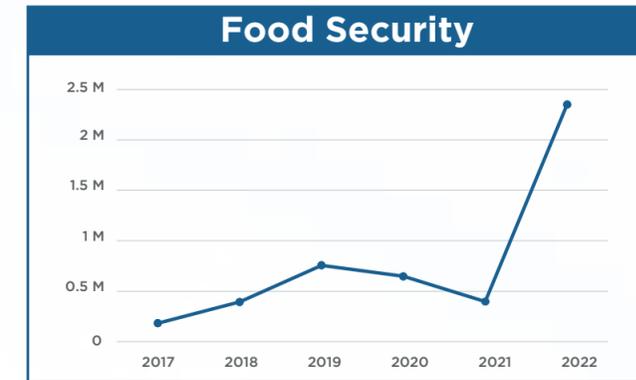
## Top 10 recipients

-  Pakistan: USD 16.8M
-  Yemen: USD 14.9M
-  Afghanistan: USD 13.9M
-  Djibouti: USD 8.4M
-  Sudan: USD 7.3M
-  Poland: USD 5.8M (Ukraine response)
-  Kenya: USD 5.7M
-  Tanzania: USD 3.9M
-  Somalia: USD 3.6M
-  Turkey: USD 3.3M (Syria response)

# Available Stock Value



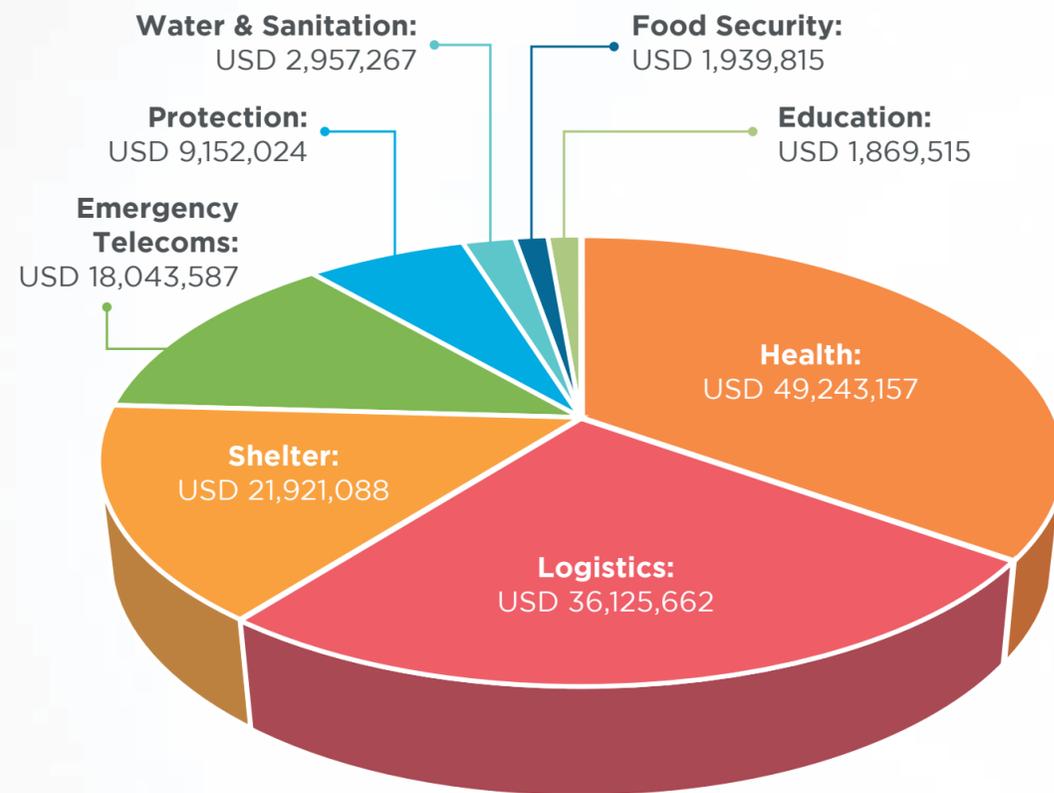
## Available stocks throughout the years (in USD)



Source: Humanitarian Logistics Databank

# Dispatched Aid in USD

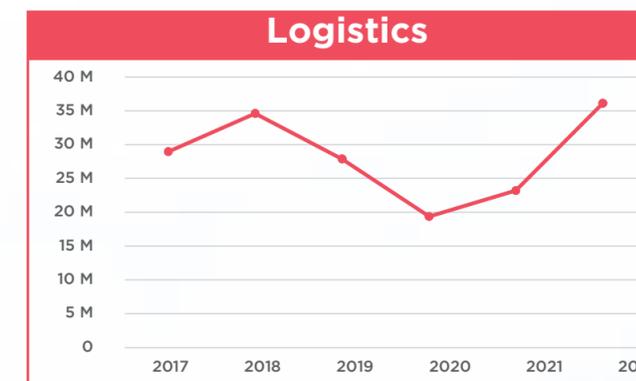
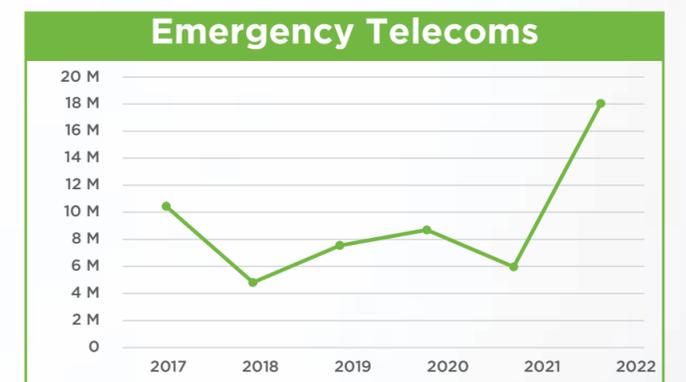
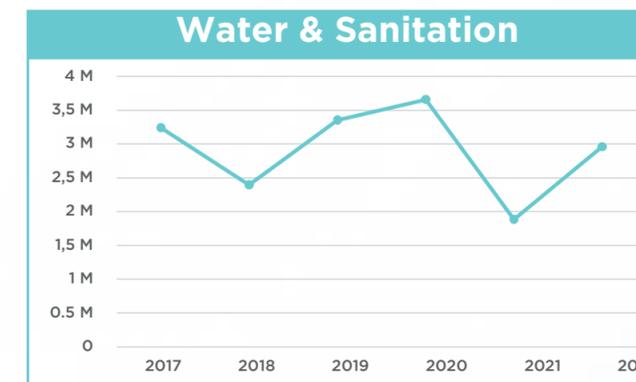
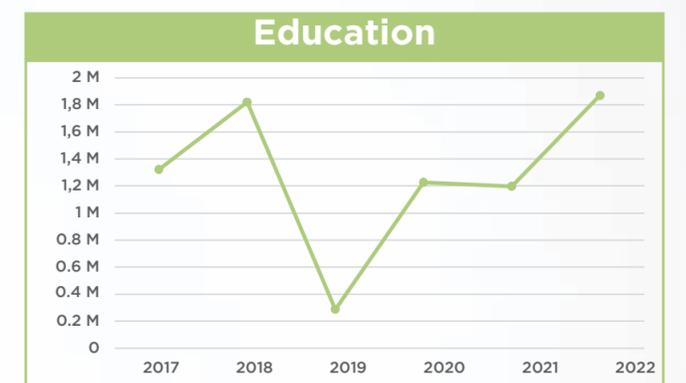
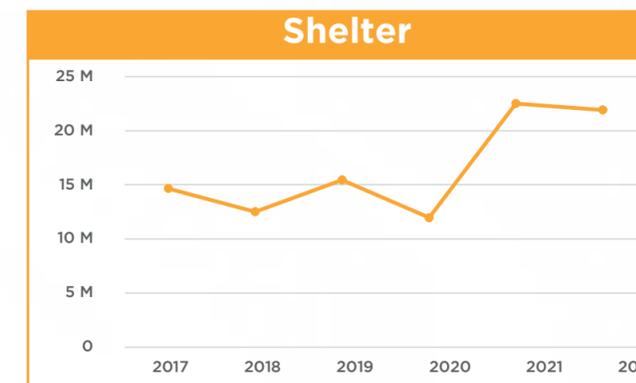
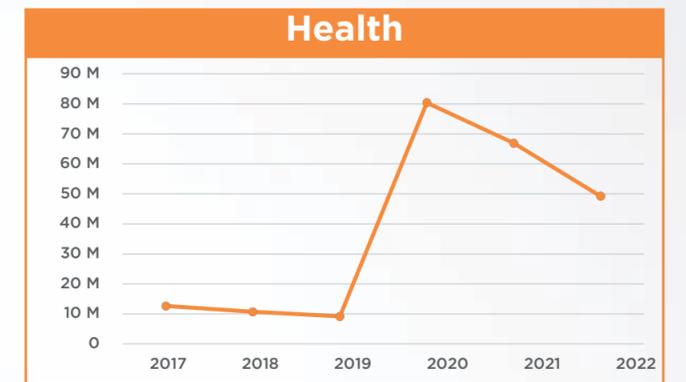
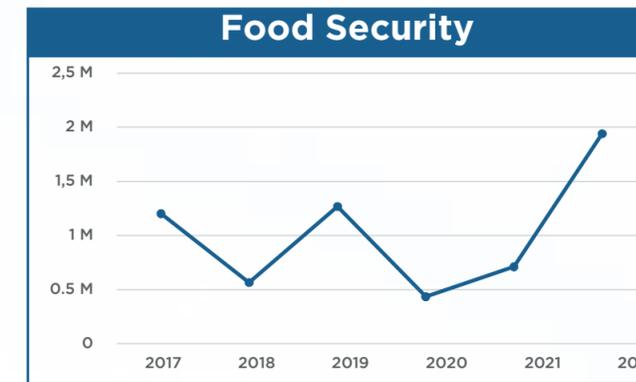
Value:  
USD **141,252,116**



## Top Product Groups



## Dispatches throughout the years (in USD)



# The Humanitarian Logistics Databank

## Enhancing emergency preparedness and response

- Shared database platform providing information on humanitarian aid stocks
- Use of customs data from international ports, airports, and various entry points
- Automatic track of aid movement
- Allowing the global humanitarian community to know exactly where and how much of each essential aid item is available
- Further innovations in technology-based humanitarian solutions are being developed through the IHC and nybl's partnership



The IHC is expanding the Databank's network, integrating other humanitarian hubs to promote the exchange of information and coordination across the globe. It has already included the Panama hub, the Centro Lógico Regional de Asistencia Humanitaria (CLARH), and Brindisi, Italy hub

# The Global Humanitarian Impact Fund

The **Global Humanitarian Impact Fund for Emergency Preparedness and Response (GHIF)** is a major tool by IHC in favor of humanitarian crisis prevention, readiness, and response.

It is designed to be a **funding connector** and serves as a **reserve allocation pool**. The GHIF acts as a **swift donor** in support of relief operations by IHC members, especially at the onset of a crisis; It helps IHC secure the purchase and transportation of aid items rapidly.

With IHC being a pioneering global humanitarian hub, the GHIF allows long-term capital growth for more sustainable emergency preparedness and response operations, **filling gaps in humanitarian actions and advancing innovation in the humanitarian sector**.

**Since 2018**, the IHC has supported **21 responses** to humanitarian emergencies through the GHIF with **more than AED 24.8 M**.

<b>GHIF 2022</b>	<b>AED +5.7 M</b>	<b>5 EMERGENCY RESPONSES</b>
<b>UKRAINE   AFGHANISTAN   SUDAN   LIBYA   SOMALIA</b>		



## Partnerships

Partnerships are crucial in the humanitarian sector, and IHC offers a unique model to enable them. In 2022, IHC inked new strategic agreements with:



Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government



nybl



Dubai South



Government of the Republic of Panama



Trends Research and Advisory



DHL

## IHC Scholarship

For the second consecutive year, IHC and the University of Wollongong in Dubai announced the laureate of the IHC Scholarship in the Master of International Relations: Laila Qiamuddin.

Laila is an Afghan national. Upon completing her master's degree, she hopes to pursue a Ph.D. and work with renowned international organizations. When asked why she was so passionate about pursuing a career in the humanitarian sector, Laila said that it was about making the world a better place: "As a foreign child in a foreign land, I believe in diversity and creating peace and prosperity."

**"This collaboration between a parastatal entity and a higher education institution is a way to deepen the SDG n° 17 (Partnerships for the goals). We have notably tried to promote one of its sub-targets, "effective partnership between the public and private sector.". Indeed, since we began to work together, we have shared resources and experiences. Both our students and different members of the IHC community have benefitted enormously from this close cooperation."**

Professor Mohamed Salem, President, UOWD - 30 Jun 2022



## More from 2022 in pictures



IHC Global Meeting (MGM)



World Humanitarian Day: "It Takes a Village"



Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of the Republic of Panama



The UN Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications in a visit to IHC



Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week 2022 in Geneva



Disaster & Humanitarian Aid Logistics Congress - Turkiye



Partnership Recognition Dinner



## MGM Awards 2022

- Best innovation project: Doctors without Borders (MSF)
- Best awareness campaign promoted: World Food Programme - UAE Office
- Best initiative aligned with the SDGs: Food Banking Regional Network

# Our Members



## Stories from IHC members



Pakistan was devastated by floods during the last quarter of 2022. The floods were one of the most catastrophic in the recent past. The northern part, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was among the affected areas. The floods affected the lives of millions in these areas and deprived them of all their livelihoods. In addition, healthcare facilities were diminished, so people were in desperate need of basic healthcare. AIMS Pakistan mobilized its ground team and identified areas to conduct free health camps.

AIMS Pakistan conducted weekly outreach medical camps in the affected areas from 09/2022 - 12/2022.

The health camps were held in Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat, and Peshawar. The total number

of patients served was 2517; among them, 1234 were female patients, a significant number of female patients facing women-specific health issues.

The services provided included health awareness, health promotion, diagnosis and treatment of communicable/non-communicable diseases, antenatal/post-natal, and child health.

AIMS Sugar Hospital Mobile laboratory also provided essential laboratory services during the camps. Appropriate referrals were made to various public sector hospitals and AIMS sugar hospital. Patients needing medication were provided with one month of supplies.



2022 has been marked by a huge refugee crisis in Europe. The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has seen humanitarian needs expand to levels not seen in Europe for decades. Unfortunately, other countries were also hit by major disasters. In Pakistan, for instance, unprecedented monsoon rains caused severe flooding, affecting more than 33 million people.

During both crises, Alpinter's strategically located stocks in the UAE played a crucial role in providing global NGOs with relief supplies as quickly and efficiently as possible. Alpinter supplied thousands of relief items, including blankets, kitchen sets, and

sleeping mats, to assist global aid organisations during these two crises.

Rapid response to disasters requires careful preparation and foresight. Alpinter's dispersed stocks in the United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Pakistan, and China are a key factor in providing relief aid items quickly and efficiently in response to emergencies. At Alpinter, we're proud of our role in assisting worldwide organisations in their daily activities and look forward to continuing our close collaboration to ensure that help is provided as quickly as possible in times of crisis.



Bolloré Logistics delivers customized solutions for all aid & relief missions, covering time-sensitive crises as well as longer-term goal-oriented projects. For critical crises, we set up emergency teams and facilities overnight, and our expertise in this sector comes from our regional control towers and a strong understanding of local requirements. Our global network of strategically placed control towers, including the one in Dubai, manages logistical operations allowing reactive and efficient intervention.

In 2022 we delivered critical and time-sensitive healthcare programs in various countries for major humanitarian assistance programs in coordination with the country Ministry of Health. In the majority of these countries, over 70% of the population

resides in rural and remote areas. Healthcare system and access to basic medication faced several major challenges, especially in reaching communities due to difficult access, natural disasters, or civil unrest. Bolloré Logistics has partnered with global humanitarian organizations to develop a more effective and efficient transportation system, for those in outlying rural areas, where communities are often exposed to poor health conditions. With its unique presence and track record in Africa and the developing world, Bolloré Logistics offers reliable and proven in-country Logistics solutions including last-mile deliveries.



Founded in 1949, SOS Children's Villages is present in over 130 countries and territories. It works to keep families together, provides alternative care when needed, supports young people on their path to independence, and advocates for children's rights.

Among the achievements of 2022, SOS Children's Villages has officially launched at the Dubai EXPO 2020 the Circular Entrepreneurship Hub and Impact Investment and Blended Finance project.

The Circular Entrepreneurship Hub provides youth with experience and training in plastic recycling and the environment, micro-manufacturing, innovation, and entrepreneurship. This income generation project trains SOS youth and prepares them for employment or to start their businesses.

The low-tech machines enable shredding and molding plastic for locally determined uses and support young people and their communities on their path to independence.

The Impact Investment and Blended Finance model attracts commercial capital towards projects that contribute to sustainable development while providing financial returns to investors. SOS Children's Villages is now establishing its first fund, which aims to direct the organization towards a social business structure and, at the same time, helps decarbonize and electrify with solar power in many of its Villages across Africa.



Eman, 28, is from the western Al Hudaydah governorate. The rains brought down the roof of the derelict house where she and her family had been sheltering from the violence.

She described their lives before the conflict as simple yet happy – she was passionate about her work as a women's tailor, and her husband, Mohammed, ran a small but successful vegetable shop. But as the fighting edged closer to their village, the family was forced to flee to Amran Governorate further north.

To reach those displaced by the flooding, UNFPA lead a humanitarian multi-agency Rapid Response Mechanism, together with UNICEF and WFP. Teams distributed kits containing women's clothing, essential hygiene items such as soap and sanitary pads, jerry cans, and ready-to-eat

food. Each kit is designed to cover a family's basic necessities for five to seven days and help alleviate their ordeal.

Eman said the rapid response teams helped her family through a harrowing period. "This kit came on time and helped us eat and dress, as we lost everything we had. We hope that in time, we'll be able to become self-reliant again," Eman told UNFPA.

In April 2022, flash floods ravaged critical infrastructure, including roads, water sources, and healthcare centres; affecting some 300,000 people in Yemen, many of whom have already been displaced multiple times.

The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism has been activated in 16 flood-affected governorates and more than 100 districts across Yemen.



The Federation of Muslim Associations of Brazil - FAMBRAS launched a new social initiative, "Together for All," on December 9, 2022, in partnership with the Secretariat of Justice and Citizenship of the Government of Sao Paulo, Brazil, a project to support communities to amongst those that need it the most.

Homeless people attended the event, which took place in the courtyard of a public school in the center of the city, where various services were provided in the areas of health, social support, beauty, and culture.

In the health area, more than 5,000 medical and laboratory tests were carried out, such as (preventive breast exams, blood tests, blood pressure measurement, diabetes and cholesterol

control, and eye exams with free distribution of glasses), in addition to nutritional consultations and dental care.

In addition, these cultural and recreational activities made the day more special and differentiated, with activities for children and the cotton candy that all children love; books and Khalil's comic books were distributed, where children could have fun with great joy and fun.

The project has, as an important priority, the fight against hunger and poverty as basic policies to promote citizenship and social inclusion to meet the basic needs, especially of the most vulnerable groups of the Brazilian population.



Every day this year, Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders (MSF) teams continued to respond to crises, old and new.

Throughout 2022, malnutrition has been a growing concern in humanitarian crisis zones around the world, and in almost all cases, children under five are the ones who have suffered the most. In Yemen, MSF teams working to support the country's crippled healthcare system reported a 36 percent increase in patients. Moreover, our medical staff in Somalia are working in the face of a potential malnutrition disaster.

In Pakistan, unprecedented monsoon rains caused widespread flooding and destruction that affected 33 million people. Our teams traveled to different regions, conducted assessments, and started providing care to residents in response to the floods. By year-end, our mobile clinics have seen

more than 95,000 patients. We have also provided 44,000 vital relief kits to affected families and supplied more than 46.5 million liters of clean drinking water to flood-affected communities.

As the war has spread throughout Ukraine, people have fled to neighboring countries and beyond, while over 6.5 million people remain displaced in the country. Our expert teams have since been reaching frontline hospitals with vital supplies, training Ukrainian staff in mass casualty response, evacuating critical patients by medical train, and working to support elderly and vulnerable people left behind.

The invaluable support offered by our donors, and the awareness and interest shown by so many people, are enabling and motivating us to continue our work for the ones most in need.



Miles away, in the chili fields of Gujjo, a village in Thatta (Sindh), a little girl is picking chilies. Meer Dadi, who is just twelve years old, makes her work seem effortless, but her hands bear its unforgiving brunt. Every day, she works long hours under the sun. The fifty rupees she earns daily go directly toward supporting her family.

Meer Dadi lost her mother at a young age and lived with her father, a farmer, and her grandmother. During one of her community visits, Ms. Uzma Himayati, a teacher working at the TCF school in the village for seven years, met Meer Dadi and convinced her family to let her attend school.

While education was not a norm for girls in the village and brought disapproval from the community, Meer Dadi's grandmother agreed to send her granddaughter to school upon talking to the teacher at the TCF school.

After spending her morning picking chilies, Meer Dadi excitedly rushes home to change and sets off to the TCF school near her home, where she spends the better part of her day learning, laughing, and dreaming. She dreams of becoming the first doctor in her village.



The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) opened its doors in 2002 to all children with cancer and their families by securing funds for providing cancer treatment and psychosocial and educational services regardless of the patient's financial condition. We hope to be able to continue raising around 15 million USD annually to provide treatment to all children all over Lebanon and the region without any discrimination. Over 2,000 participants from over 120 countries assembled in Geneva, Switzerland, for the World Cancer Congress 2022 by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to stimulate a set of motivating sessions, fire-rapid presentations of scientific abstracts, and research

studies. Seven members of CCCL participated to raise the voice of the children in the region and Lebanon. They presented eight abstracts, one short movie, and two awards nominations: Best CEO and Best World Cancer Day Campaign. Prior to the congress in October 2022, the CCCL General Manager succeeded through a vigorous and intensified campaign to being reelected and to serve on the UICC Board of Directors until 2024. As an outstanding leader, Mrs. Hana Char Choueib was awarded Best CEO 2022. Also, CCCL was shortlisted as the fourth Best World Cancer Day Campaign. The awards were selected by an external judging panel and given live on stage at the closing ceremony.



In 2022, Bring Hope Humanitarian Foundation launched two skills training programs for refugee and displaced women in Khazir and Qwshtapa camps, located in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan. These programs aimed to enhance women’s self-confidence and help decrease gender violence.

Over this period, about 100 women and girls participated in the programs learning self-defense techniques, communication skills, problem-solving strategies, and public speaking under BHHF’s Physical Self-Defense and Women Empowerment programs.

Women and girls continue to cope with challenges ranging from gender-based violence to social marginalization and sexual abuse. These

challenges affect women across different sectors and regions, with refugee and displaced women most vulnerable, according to the UNHCR.

Based on that, BHHF, in its effort to support women’s empowerment, and help combat violence against women, organized the Physical Self-Defense and the Women Empowerment training programs to provide essential life skills to refugee and displaced women as well as women staff in other NGOs and Government employees to boost their self-confidence and empower them to communicate effectively with key community leaders and be able to make informed decisions.



SALAM – Sustainability Leadership & Mindset – is a Leadership Development program devised by DHL Global Forwarding in the MEA region to help leaders develop their sense of personal purpose. Commissioned by the region’s CEO, it aims to enhance awareness knowhow, and capability to devise and implement initiatives that support Social Impact and Sustainability.

DHL in MEA aims to leverage core business capabilities to create shared value in the communities it operates within. They put together a 12-month development scheme that goes way beyond the confines of traditional leadership development.

Working in partnership with knowledge and social impact organizations, DHL’s SALAM

program gives leaders a deeper awareness of social challenges in the region’s communities, and upsills delegates with the knowhow and skills to devise social impact initiatives in the least developed countries aligned to the UNSDGs.

So far, 17 leaders have graduated including Managing-Directors in the countries. By targeting a senior audience the program aims to galvanize those with influence and authority that can enable socially impactful projects in the countries they lead.

Amongst the SALAM initiatives launched so far are a Work Experience scheme for people with disabilities in Ethiopia, and a circular-economy activity to reduce plastic-pollution in Nigeria.



In 2022, the Eye of the World team had a remarkable year. Our surgical team has helped a number of humanitarian organizations achieve their goals in combating blindness, with over 12,000 successful surgeries performed. As a team, we have strived to provide the best care and attention to all of our patients. Our team is proud to have contributed to improving the quality of health services offered by organizations. Moreover, we have designed a skills transfer program to enhance the surgical skills of our colleagues delivered through Eye of the World Academy, aiming at sustaining our impact.

On World Sight Day 2022, we celebrated the day with our remarkable achievement of 3000 successful surgeries in the campsite. We remember haj Ali, a man who came to this camp after ten years of blindness, assisted with a crutch and a helper. A day after his successful cataract surgery, he regained his independence and walked without help. Thousands of stories like Ali's made 2022 a year of achievement for the team. We believe everyone should have access to Eye care services; this is our mission. We have always been rewarded with our partners' appreciation. Together, we can make a positive difference.



Our Vision is to empower people to change their lives and help children around the world. Throughout the past 21 years, we have supported numerous sustainable charity projects which have had a significant effect on vulnerable children, providing them with access to quality education and improved hygiene facilities. To date, we have hosted 91 challenges, with around 1,660 participants, in 29 countries, in support of 63 charity projects, raising close to almost USD 5 million to build schools, children's homes, medical centres, and more, changing the lives of countless children around the world.

Though our partnership with Kibsons, we have raised a phenomenal AED200,000 through the addition of a donate button on their website. Thank you to the generosity of Kibsons and their customers; these funds have been used to build a playground and football court in Kisoro, Uganda, providing a safe and healthy environment for more than 8,000 local children. Kibsons continue to support our sustainability and charity projects generously, and we are beyond grateful for their continued support.



**Humanity First**  
Middle East

Humanity First is an international humanitarian and development organization registered in 60+ countries and has consultative status UN ECOSOC. It focuses on disaster relief and human development projects in the fields of education, health, and poverty alleviation. Through its “Water for Life” program, the organization has provided clean drinking water to 4.5 million beneficiaries worldwide, with a focus on African countries like Sierra Leone.

During 2022, Humanity First Middle East (HFME) partnered with Humanity First Sierra Leone to install 10 water wells and hand pumps serving 13,300 beneficiaries in the most underserved

areas of the country. This brings the total number of installed water wells to 64. The goal is to strengthen communities and improve their access to clean water, thus reducing the number of water-related illnesses and deaths.

HFME is a regional branch of Humanity First International and one of the earliest members of the International Humanitarian City (IHC) since 2006. HFME has been able to extend its humanitarian work from Dubai due to the world-class facilities provided by IHC, in line with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum in positioning UAE as the global hub of humanitarian work.



Two years ago, Hakimullah, a young boy with a physical disability, lost contact with his family in the southern Uruzgan province of Afghanistan following an armed clash that broke out in his village. For two years, his fate remained unknown. After an unsuccessful search, the family ended up abandoning all hope, believing the young boy was dead.

Hakimullah was admitted to the Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar. He was brought in by an unknown person and was in bad condition. However, he was immediately taken care of and provided the necessary medical care.

Meanwhile, the ICRC team in charge of restoring family links started to look for the relatives of the young boy, who had speaking difficulties.

One day, the team noticed a fading code number on his prosthetic leg. They contacted the organization that had provided Hakimullah with the prosthesis. The team found out that the boy was from the Gizab district and sought support from the elders of the communities in that area to facilitate tracing efforts.

His father had unfortunately died. When the ICRC contacted his uncle in Iran, he couldn't believe Hakimullah was still alive. For the young boy and the uncle, their reunion was an immediate relief. When Hakimullah saw his uncle, he changed; he looked pleased and started smiling and talking again.



2022 was an eventful year for IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare), and especially following what seemed to be the end of the pandemic (COVID-19) pandemic, we prepared ourselves for new beginnings and emerging challenges:

- In Somaliland: following four consecutive dry seasons, IFAW responded to the needs of the local communities and their animals by providing them with clean water and fodder for the livestock of the communities on which they depend to secure their livelihoods.
- In Lebanon: -under the “Levant Operation for Bird Rescue” (LOBR) project, and with our local partner, the Lebanese Association for Migratory Birds (LAMB), injured birds were rescued and rehabilitated due to random and illegal hunting, and 18 birds were successfully released between

May to December 2022, into nature following their full recovery.

- In Panama: We participated in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which took place in November 2022, where the efforts exerted resulted in the inclusion of more endangered species in the regulations of the Convention.
- In Canada: We participated in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which took place in December 2022, where efforts resulted in the approval of a new global framework for biodiversity that defines the goals and objectives of nature conservation for the remainder of this decade.



Since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine, Kuwait Red Crescent Society and Egyptian Red Crescent Society teams have rushed to provide humanitarian relief to the neighboring countries of Ukraine. The Kuwaiti Red Crescent has provided food, medical aid, and necessary supplies to fleeing people affected by the conflict. While the Egyptian Red Crescent has assisted and evacuated Egyptians from Poland and Romania and provided humanitarian support to others affected alike.

Dr. Hilal Al Sayer, President of the Kuwait RC said after meeting his Polish counterpart, Jerry Bisek: “Kuwaiti aid includes medicines, medical supplies, food, milk for children and other necessities, and it reflects the Kuwaiti leadership and people’s

solidarity with affected people living under such difficult circumstances.”

In turn, the President of the Polish Red Cross said: “The Kuwaiti Red Crescent is one of the first National Societies responders that stepped in to provide the necessary support and assistance for those who were fleeing Ukraine”, adding that “the needs are still massive”.

In parallel, the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, in collaboration with Polish and Romanian Red Cross Societies, has also established two relief centers at the Ukrainian-Romanian and Ukrainian-Polish borders to provide aid to Egyptians, Arabic speakers, and others fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, especially women, and children.



Life for Relief and Development (LIFE), an American charity based in Michigan, has been rated in the top nine charities for humanitarian relief charities in the USA. Of that nine, LIFE has ranked in the top three.

LIFE was founded in 1992 and celebrated its 30th anniversary in December 2022. LIFE is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is a globally recognized charity for humanitarian relief and development. LIFE has its headquarters in Southfield, Michigan.

“LIFE feels a heavy responsibility to uphold and protect the human rights of people in need everywhere, regardless of race, gender, religion, and cultural background, with essential life-saving support that they may otherwise not receive.

We want to thank our donors for their support in these efforts.”- Dr. Hany, CEO of LIFE.

With a four-star rating on Charity Navigator and distribution of nearly \$550 million in humanitarian assistance and relief in over 55 countries, this charity is a veteran in providing humanitarian aid.

Development aid provides support and fixes structural issues that are the root causes of economic, institutional, and social upheaval. LIFE chooses to focus on projects that do just that. By investing in essential infrastructures like water wells, community centers, orphanages, and schools, LIFE attacks the problem of poverty, world hunger, and conflict from different angles. In this way, LIFE creates a stronger, more sustained positive impact than a charity that solely focuses on delivering aid to a community.



The SAGE project, in collaboration with CEOSS and funded by the European Commission, aimed at creating an environment more conducive to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Egypt, and at fostering effective and innovative civil society actions. To achieve this, PPI has acted on the following three levels:

- Implementation of an entrepreneurship e-learning application and online platform that offers tailored training courses dedicated to micro-enterprises and micro-franchises.
- Distribution of vouchers as an instrument to support micro-enterprises to procure needed services from preselected service providers during and after the project through 3 different voucher modalities.

- Micro-franchising of local entrepreneurs. 20 potential micro-franchises were identified, of which 4 were selected to receive support to expand their business through micro-franchising.

Through our actions, we achieved the following:

- A central Entrepreneurship Development Support Unit within CEOSS, in addition to 12 branches within local CSOs, has been established to provide entrepreneurship development services to micro-entrepreneurs in the governorates of Beni-Suef, Minia, and Suhag.
- 60 micro-enterprises supported with innovative services to improve economic performance and capacity to create job opportunities for 900 youth.
- 1000 unemployed youth from the 3 governorates were able to join the labour market.



Project Maji had a remarkable year in 2022, with a 71% growth rate in the number of safe water access points installed. We have reached a cumulative total of 171 access points, serving over 145,000 people in Ghana, Kenya, and now Uganda. To date, we have served approximately 90 million liters of clean water.

We attribute this exponential growth to our focus on sustainable service delivery, constant innovation, and game-changing partnerships. The wide range of fit-for-purpose sustainable rural water solutions we offer is a testament to our quest for greater efficiency and long-term self-

sufficiency of those we serve. Additionally, we work closely with local communities to ensure we meet their specific water needs, providing a highly valued service.

The addition of Uganda as a new focus country served as a major milestone for Project Maji. Our expansion into a new region brings safe water access to even more people in need and demonstrates the scalability of our approach. With success in Uganda, Project Maji is looking forward to expanding its reach in the coming years, across Sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.



The art therapy mission “Drawing to Release the Heart of a Child,” which is a continuation of the program carried out in 2020/2021 in Lebanon, was launched in January 2022 by The Red Pencil. This program offered art therapy sessions to children with long-term and life-threatening diseases, including their parents and siblings, in Myschoolpulse’s six partner hospitals. A refresher on Art-based Capacity Building and Training was also provided to Myschoolpulse’s tutors and support staff to help them apply art-based tools with children under their care. Around 75 children, 7 parents, and 9 staff benefitted from a program, which was conducted online due to Covid-19 and the children’s weak immunity.

Zainab (pseudonym), a pre-teen girl diagnosed at age 3 with a chronic disease, is one of the

mission’s beneficiaries. Zainab’s health problems caused her to fall behind at school and feel like an outsider. Myschoolpulse tutors described her as sweet but unmotivated. After the intervention, her tutor observed that “her attitude became positive again, worked much more seriously, and participated more [in class].” In the last session, Zainab drew a girl on a swing on a sunny day: “What I drew is a happy and freeing memory I experienced years ago while swinging,” she shared. “Doing my best is enough; this is how I feel today. God presented me with two miraculous qualities since age 3, that is the gift of determination and patience,” she added.



A recent economic crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the 2020 Beirut port explosions have forced families in Lebanon to make difficult choices about their children's education. Over the last year, more than 1.3 million children were affected by school closures, with more than 700,000 children kept out of school completely. Teacher strikes have caused additional disruption. In October 2022, the government estimated that fewer than 25 days of teaching had taken place in the previous year.

Amidst this, Lebanon continues to host more than one million Syrian refugees, hundreds of thousands of whom are children. Most of these children access education through non-formal education centers, which are ill-equipped to meet their needs.

In 2022, Room to Read partnered with the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST). Together, we launched a two-year project to support the transition of out-of-school children into the formal education system by strengthening literacy skills and reading habits. In the coming months, we will partner with Lebanese publishers to print and distribute 60 original children's book titles in Arabic to roughly 1,800 non-formal education centers across Lebanon; construct 50 children's libraries in non-formal education centers; and support early-grade literacy development in coordination with local efforts.



Sama was not wholly welcomed into the world when she was born. Her father nearly sent her to an orphanage because she looked different from other babies and choked when she tried to nurse. In other words, because she was born with a cleft.

But her mother, Abeer, refused to leave her child behind. Though she had little money and faced constant pressure and insult from her husband and neighbors, Abeer managed to scrape together enough over the years to give Sama seven surgeries at various public hospitals. Some went well; others did not.

Like so many other babies with a cleft, Sama was at risk of severe malnutrition because milk went through her nose or directly into her lungs, choking her every time she tried to eat. If not for Abeer's restless (and sleepless) ingenuity in

finding ways to feed her baby, and vigilance in tracking down timely surgery, Sama may not have made it through infancy.

But though Sama was surviving, she was far from thriving. As she grew, she struggled to be understood when she spoke. Her teeth were badly misaligned, and she was bullied mercilessly by other children, even while playing in front of her own home. This was not a life Abeer would accept for her child.

She kept fighting to get care for her daughter, and when Sama was six-and-a-half, Abeer learned a clinic in Cairo called Innovinity provided a full suite of cleft treatments. Then she heard all cleft treatment at Innovinity was completely free because they partnered with an organization called Smile Train.

Once there, her disbelief turned to astonishment. For the first time since Sama was born, Abeer felt real hope for her child's future.



The Sparkle Foundation is creating an army of changemakers here in the UAE and is providing people and organizations with the opportunity to make a difference and change lives across Africa.

2022 was a difficult year for people all over the world. With the devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha and rising inflation globally, sub-Saharan Africa has faced a fuel, food, and financial crisis. We are working hard to continually provide free medical care, education, two meals a day, and community outreach programs through our holistic charity model.

#### Our impact in 2022

**Medical** - We continue to be the only clinic to provide 17 local communities (15,000 people) with free access to medical care and medication. Our Sparkle ambulance ensures any emergency cases

can be taken to the nearest hospital within the golden hour.

**Education** - This year, we have educated 423 orphans and vulnerable children, totaling over 230,000 hours of learning across both of our sites.

**Community** - We have provided our youth group with sport activities and life skills to ensure they are well prepared for the future ahead. Our women's group have received training on village savings and loans. On completion of training, we provide small group loans so they can set up their own businesses and support themselves.

**Nutrition** - We provide Sparkle children with two meals a day, serving 111,344 meals.

As Sparkle grows, we are fortunate to have more corporate partners, schools, and over 150 volunteers joining us on our journey to create brighter futures for children and communities in Malawi.



Climate change is the defining crisis of our time, and disaster displacement is one of its most devastating consequences. Refugees and displaced people are among the most exposed to the climate crisis, many are seeking safety in countries that have contributed the least to climate change and yet have the least resources to adapt.

In Pakistan, over 30 million people were affected by the torrential rains and flash floods that hit the country in August 2022. Nearly 1,700 people died, and over 12,800 were injured. More than 760,000 houses had been destroyed, and villages and millions of acres of agricultural land were submerged wiping out livelihood and jeopardizing the country's food security.

Despite facing its own challenges, Pakistan has maintained a tradition of hospitality towards

Afghan refugees for 4 decades, as it continues to host approximately 1.3 million Afghan refugees. Among them, around 420,000 Afghan refugees live among host communities in the Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, which were most affected by the floods.

As part of a coordinated response under the leadership of Pakistan's National Disaster Management Committee (NDMA) and with other partners, UNHCR has provided assistance to the worst flood-hit areas. With the support of the UAE Government, UNHCR airlifted nearly 190 metric tons of core relief items including sleeping mats, kitchen sets, and plastic sheets, out of its Global Stockpile hosted by the International Humanitarian City (IHC) in Dubai.

There is an urgent need to mitigate environmental degradation in displacement settings as well as help displaced, and host communities prepare and adapt to the foreseeable effects of the climate emergency.



Illness, weak immune system, high risk of dying from common childhood diseases, poor school results are some of the symptoms caused by acute malnutrition. Acute malnutrition is a form of undernutrition caused by a decrease in food consumption and/or illness that results in sudden weight loss. Ethiopia is one of the worst-affected countries in the world witnessing a sharp increase in malnutrition cases as a result of drought and multiple emergencies. Across the four drought-impacted regions, an estimated 600,000 children will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

UNICEF is aiming to reach an estimated 3.4 million people, including 1.4 million children, as part of its immediate response in Ethiopia. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government, through the Famine Relief Fund, has made a US\$6 million contribution

to UNICEF’s humanitarian response for children in Ethiopia. With this contribution, UNICEF was able to reach more than 66,000 severely malnourished children in 2022 in drought impacted areas.

“UNICEF is extremely grateful to the United Arab Emirates Government for this generous contribution. It comes at a critical time to address the malnutrition crisis the country is facing,” said Gianfranco Rotigliano, UNICEF Representative in Ethiopia. “This funding will enable us to procure much-needed ready-to-use therapeutic food which will save the lives of countless children.”

UNICEF has been procuring almost 80 per cent of the world’s ready-to-use therapeutic food, a life-saving essential supply that treats malnourishment and severe wasting in children under 5 years old.



In 2022, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) provided continuous, timely support to the numerous existing and new operations and emergencies that didn’t cease to increase during what we called “The year of unprecedented needs.”

GCC public sector donors provided more than USD 135 million in combined contributions in 2022. The UAE was the single biggest donor country contributing USD 94. Out of which USD 60 million were donated to Ethiopia, as the single largest donation in the UAE, and USD 29.2 million were contributed from MBRGI as part of its strong strategic partnership with WFP on the One Billion Meal campaign and provided much-needed support to WFP operations in 9 countries.

WFP FITTEST specialists deployed to 28 countries while the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

(ETC) supported the response to nine global emergencies, serving over 9,500 responders across 313 organizations.

Furthermore, fast and timely support was provided by the UNHRD Dubai hub through a total of 395 shipments of aid and relief cargo to 94 countries on behalf of 26 humanitarian partners. The shipments of emergency supplies include logistics, nutrition, health, emergency shelter, protection, camp management, staff supplies, wash, and emergency telecoms, worth a stock value of more than USD58 million.

In addition, the Regional Aviation Safety Office in Sharjah and on behalf of all of the humanitarian aviation have organized various aviation capacity-building events, including the Global Humanitarian Aviation Conference & Exhibition (The Voice of Humanitarian Aviation) in Türkiye, UN Aviation Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) meeting in Türkiye, among many others.



As the World Health Organization's Logistics Hub continues to respond to the need for health supplies triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, health emergencies arising from humanitarian crises, outbreaks of infectious disease, and natural disasters reached unprecedented levels in 2022.

Responding to a 343% increase in demand for emergency health supplies since 2019, the WHO Logistics Hub is at the very forefront of WHO's emergency response efforts delivering more supplies to more countries to reach more people in need than ever before.

Health emergencies arising from non-COVID-related events increased significantly, challenging the humanitarian community. In close coordination with the IHC and the Government of the UAE, WHO responded to the crisis in Ukraine

with the first trauma and emergency surgery kits to reach Kiev. Responding to outbreaks of cholera, Ebola, and Monkeypox WHO delivered critical medicines, protective equipment, and diagnostics to treat those in need and minimize the spread of disease. Delivering emergency health supplies in response to the earthquake in Afghanistan and the floods in Pakistan, further demonstrated the importance of maintaining a ready state to respond to natural disasters.

Recognizing the increasing need for global health preparedness and response efforts and the significant rise in public health threats, the WHO in partnership with the IHC, and the Government of the UAE are taking proactive steps to develop the WHO operation into Global Logistics Centre for Health Emergencies.



With the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, 2022 saw the reemergence of fundraisers getting creative and raising funds through sports and outdoor activities. It was a year in which the community of individuals, schools and companies came out in force to support charitable organizations to drive meaningful change through YallaGive.

We achieved significant results in the communities we serve through strategic partnerships and innovative fundraising strategies, particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. Our collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives led to our community of fundraisers successfully raising millions of Dirhams for the 1 Billion Meals campaign.

YallaGive also expanded its reach and impact by forming new partnerships with both international and local charities. This year our IHC charity

partners created a record number of campaigns on YallaGive which in turn lead to more fundraisers and donations being raised that supported various causes around the world.

Additionally, we launched our online auction feature which was used by charities at various Gala Events which allowed individuals to bid against each other at a touch of a button.

This year we also signed a fundraising partnership agreement with Dubai Marathon which is the first of its kind in the UAE. The agreement allows for multiple charities to participate in the Dubai Marathon via YallaGive simultaneously.

YallaGive continues to drive positive change through its fundraising efforts and partnerships with charitable organizations and we are looking forward to 2023.



Malawi became the first country in southern Africa to eliminate the infectious eye disease trachoma, as confirmed by the World Health Organization.

Malawi celebrated the announcement that trachoma has been eliminated as a public health problem. Sightsavers helped to launch the Malawi Trachoma Elimination Programme in 2014.

Sightsavers began working in Malawi in the 1950s and helped to launch the Malawi Trachoma Elimination Programme in 2014. On 21 September 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially announced that the country had eliminated the disease as a public health problem. Now 9.5 million people in the country are no longer at risk of losing their sight to the disease.

Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. In the past 20 years, globally, the

number of people at risk of trachoma has dropped by 92 percent, from around 1.5 billion people in 2002 to 125 million today. But the condition still affects people in more than 40 countries, the vast majority of which are in Africa.

Bright Chiwaula, Sightsavers' Malawi country director, said: "Eliminating a disease on this scale is a massive achievement for our country. Thanks to hard work, commitment, and collaboration between the government, health workers, volunteers, and organizations like Sightsavers, 9.5 million people are no longer at risk of losing their sight to trachoma.

"Malawi's triumph provides hope and encouragement to our neighbors still working to eliminate the disease. To these countries I say: the strategy we are using works. Keep going!"