

# HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

July 2021



# INTRODUCTION

ACAPS Humanitarian Access Overview provides a snapshot of the most challenging contexts for humanitarian access

ACAPS analysts considered nine variables to rank and compare humanitarian access levels worldwide. Crisis-affected populations in more than 60 countries are not receiving the humanitarian assistance they need because of access constraints.

Seven new countries – **Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Spain, and Timor-Leste** – have entered the ranking since the last [Humanitarian Access Overview](#), released in December 2020.

Among the indicators, ‘restrictions and obstruction to services and assistance’ and ‘physical and environmental constraints’ are the most common challenges.

This report includes scoreboards for all the countries assessed (see page [five](#)).

Analytical narratives are provided only for countries scored between levels 3–5 (i.e. high, very high, and extreme constraints).

## Extreme Constraints ●

AFGHANISTAN  
ERITREA  
ETHIOPIA  
MALI  
MYANMAR  
NIGERIA  
PALESTINE  
SOMALIA  
SYRIA  
YEMEN

## Very High Constraints ●

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)  
CAMEROON  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)  
IRAQ  
MOZAMBIQUE  
NIGER  
SOUTH SUDAN  
SUDAN  
VENEZUELA

## High Constraints ●

BANGLADESH  
BURKINA FASO  
CHAD  
COLOMBIA  
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)  
HAITI  
HONDURAS  
LEBANON  
LIBYA  
MEXICO  
NICARAGUA  
PAKISTAN  
THAILAND  
TURKEY  
UKRAINE

## TRENDS

This is a comparison of the overall level of humanitarian access between the last report produced in December 2020 and the current situation:



Humanitarian access has deteriorated

AFGHANISTAN	MADAGASCAR	NIGER
BRAZIL	MALAWI	NIGERIA
CAR	MALI	PALESTINE
ETHIOPIA	MEXICO	SOMALIA
GREECE	MOROCCO	SUDAN
GUATEMALA	MOZAMBIQUE	THAILAND
HAITI	MYANMAR	ZAMBIA



Humanitarian access has remained stable

ARMENIA	IRAQ	SYRIA
BURKINA FASO	JORDAN	TANZANIA
BURUNDI	KENYA	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CAMEROON	LEBANON	TUNISIA
CHAD	LESOTHO	TURKEY
COLOMBIA	MAURITANIA	UGANDA
COSTA RICA	NAMIBIA	UKRAINE
DJIBOUTI	NICARAGUA	VENEZUELA
DPRK	PAKISTAN	YEMEN
DRC	PERU	ZIMBABWE
ECUADOR	PHILIPPINES	
EL SALVADOR	RWANDA	
ERITREA	SOUTH SUDAN	
HONDURAS	SWAZILAND	



Humanitarian access has improved

ALGERIA  
AZERBAIJAN  
BANGLADESH  
EGYPT  
INDIA  
IRAN  
LIBYA



# INTRODUCTION

## HOW ARE THE ACCESS LEVELS CALCULATED?

Our methodology groups nine indicators under three dimensions:

### PILLAR 1 Access of people in need to humanitarian aid

1. Denial of existence of humanitarian needs or entitlements to assistance.
2. Restriction and obstruction of access to services and assistance.

### PILLAR 2 Access of humanitarian actors to affected population

3. Impediments to enter the country (bureaucratic and administrative).
4. Restriction of movement within the country (impediments to freedom of movement and/or administrative restrictions).
5. Interference into implementation of humanitarian activities.
6. Violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, and assets.

### PILLAR 3 Security and physical constraints

7. Ongoing insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance.
8. Presence of landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), explosive remnants of war (ERW), and unexploded ordnance (UXOs).
9. Physical constraints in the environment (obstacles related to terrain, climate, lack of infrastructure, etc.).

> For definitions and examples of the above indicators, please see [here](#).

**Each indicator is given a score from 0–3 and marked with 'X' when there is insufficient information to determine a score.**

**The overall access score by country is ranked according to the following scale:**

- Extreme constraints
- Very high access constraints
- High access constraints
- Moderate access constraints
- Low access constraints
- No significant access constraints

## WHAT ARE OUR SOURCES?

The Humanitarian Access methodology uses qualitative information sources together with relevant datasets. It collates these in a structured way in order to quantify the level of humanitarian access. ACAPS analysts collect information from a range of credible and publicly available sources, including UN agencies, governments, international and local NGOs, international and local media, and humanitarians working in the countries and areas analysed.

**Some of the most relied-upon sources are:**

- Aid Worker Security Database by Humanitarian Outcomes
- Aid in Danger project by Insecurity Insight
- Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
- OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Situation Reports
- Landmine Monitor

[Read more about our Access methodology](#)

## LIMITATIONS

ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Overview faces the same limitations that all secondary data reviews conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic are confronted with: information might not be available without physical presence in the countries analysed, and humanitarian access is heavily impacted by COVID-19 containment measures, which continue to be extremely volatile. When possible, analysts cross-checked available information with humanitarians working in countries of operation.

## DISCLAIMER

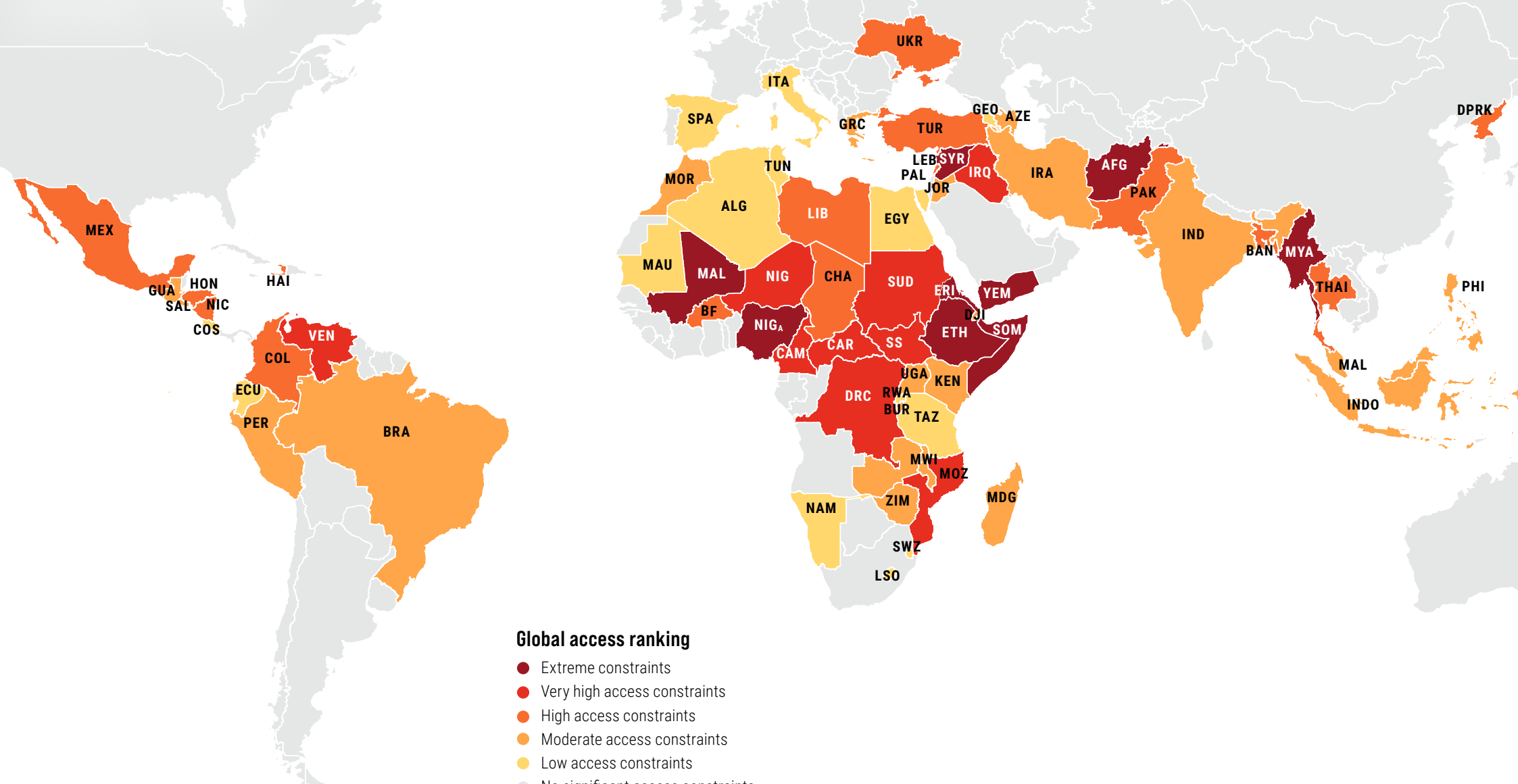
The deterioration or increase in access constraints recorded in some countries might be the result of new information previously not available rather than actual changes in the situation.



# CRISISINSIGHT

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

JULY 2021



### Global access ranking

- Extreme constraints
- Very high access constraints
- High access constraints
- Moderate access constraints
- Low access constraints
- No significant access constraints



# ACCESS INDICATORS

	Afghanistan	Algeria	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Brazil	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cameroon	CAR	Chad	Colombia	Congo	Costa Rica	Djibouti	DPRK	DRC	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Eritrea	Eswatini	Ethiopia	Greece	Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	India	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Italy	Jordan	Kenya	Lebanon	Lesotho	Libya
<b>Overall humanitarian access ranking</b>	5	1	1	2	3	2	3	2	4	4	3	3	2	1	2	3	4	1	1	2	5	1	5	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	4	1	2	2	3	1	3
Denial of existence of humanitarian needs	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	2
Restriction of access to services and assistance	3	1	0	0	3	2	3	0	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	0	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	2
Impediments to entry into country	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Restriction of movement within the country	3	2	0	0	2	0	2	2	3	3	3	2	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	3
Interference with humanitarian activities	2	1	0	1	2	1	2	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Violence against personnel, facilities and assets	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ongoing insecurity / hostilities	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Presence of landmines, IEDs, ERW and UXOs	3	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	1	2	3	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
Physical constraints in the environment	3	0	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	1	3	0	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	0	3

	Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia	Mali	Mauritania	Mexico	Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria	Pakistan	Palestine	Peru	Philippines	Rwanda	Senegal	Somalia	South Sudan	Spain	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Sudan	Syria	Tanzania	Thailand	Timor Leste	Trinidad and Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey	Uganda	Ukraine	Venezuela	Yemen	Zambia	Zimbabwe
<b>Overall humanitarian access ranking</b>	2	2	2	5	1	3	2	4	5	1	3	4	5	3	5	2	2	1	1	5	4	1	2	4	5	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	4	5	2	2
Denial of existence of humanitarian needs	0	2	2	2	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	2	0	0
Restriction of access to services and assistance	2	2	1	3	0	2	2	2	3	0	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	0	2	3	2	2	0	2	3	1	2	0	3	0	3	2	2	3	3	2	2
Impediments to entry into country	1	2	1	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	2
Restriction of movement within the country	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	3	3	0	1	3	3	2	3	0	1	0	0	3	3	0	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	3	1	1
Interference with humanitarian activities	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	3	0	2	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	0	1
Violence against personnel, facilities and assets	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Ongoing insecurity / hostilities	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0
Presence of landmines, IEDs, ERW and UXOs	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	3	0	3	0	1	0	2
Physical constraints in the environment	2	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	2	2	3	0	3	2	0	3	3	3	0	2	3	1	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	1

Access the full dataset [here](#)



### AFGHANISTAN



Humanitarian access has deteriorated since 2020. Violence escalated as the Taliban sought to increase their territorial control and Afghan National Security Forces conducted military operations and airstrikes. The active conflict continues to obstruct the delivery of aid and generate short-term and protracted displacements, which also hampers people's access to humanitarian aid. IDPs, returnees, women, and undocumented people face the highest access constraints. Violence and bureaucratic interference, both in government-controlled areas and non-state armed groups-controlled areas, limit humanitarian operations and access. Access constraints include interference in the implementation of activities, increased taxes, military operations, movement restrictions, violent attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and assets, and the presence of landmines. Humanitarian operations are sometimes temporarily suspended because of violence. The national polio vaccination campaign was halted after the killing and injuring of multiple health workers. Checkpoints imposed by the Taliban often restrict the movement of people and goods. Recurrent flooding and landslides increased movement restrictions in 2021, particularly in the north and northeastern provinces. The current intra-Afghan peace talks, escalating conflict, and the withdrawal of foreign troops will be key in shaping humanitarian access in the next six months.

[READ MORE ABOUT AFGHANISTAN](#)

### ERITREA



Eritrea remains one of the most difficult countries for humanitarian organisations to access. Humanitarian presence is currently very limited. Only a small number of organisations are authorised to operate in the country, and the Eritrean Government exercises rigid control over their activities. All foreign aid workers who intend to travel outside the capital of Asmara must request permission from relevant authorities at least ten days in advance. This could potentially slow down humanitarian response for sudden-onset disasters. There are significant data gaps regarding humanitarian needs and response, and it is difficult to obtain reliable information on the access situation.

[READ MORE ABOUT ERITREA](#)



## ETHIOPIA



Humanitarian access in Ethiopia has deteriorated since the last access report, predominantly owing to the inclusion of the Tigray crisis in the score. Although clearance procedures for the deployment of international aid workers into Tigray were eased at the federal level in March 2021, access constraints remain severe and continue to change across the region. Armed groups are present throughout Tigray, and active conflict continues. Humanitarian responders face serious security incidents. Since November 2020, at least 12 aid workers have been killed in the region. The response continues to be hampered by looting, diversion, and confiscation of aid. Checkpoints and curfews are leading to delays and obstruction of aid. Goods and services such as communication, fuel, electricity, and banking are intermittent or lacking. Many of the estimated two million IDPs and people in rural areas lack access to services because of insecurity, limited response, and widespread destruction and looting of basic infrastructure. Since late June, the security and access situation in Tigray has further deteriorated. As at 2 July, movement into Tigray was restricted, communication was cut off, and humanitarian response was largely on hold. In other areas of Ethiopia, humanitarian access is increasingly limited by violence, particularly in Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia regions. Floods affected Afar, the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's region, and Somali in April 2021, causing damage to roads and limiting access to IDP settlements. IDPs and refugees across the country face restricted access to aid and services.

[READ MORE ABOUT ETHIOPIA](#)

## MALI



Humanitarian access is deteriorating as a result of intensified attacks by armed groups in the northern, central, and southern regions. Intercommunal conflicts and the destruction of transportation infrastructure have considerably reduced the ability of the population to access humanitarian assistance. Growing insecurity in Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, and Tombouctou regions, including threats and attacks against education infrastructure and personnel, resulted in the forced interruption of educational activities in schools and limited access to basic services. Non-state armed groups hamper the implementation of humanitarian activities in areas under their influence, especially in the cercles of Ansongo and Intilit (Gao region) and in Boni, Mondoro, Tenenkou, and Youwarou (Mopti region). At checkpoints, humanitarians are at times subjected to irregular and unannounced controls, harassment, and temporary detentions. Between January–May 2021, a number of attacks against humanitarian workers were

reported, resulting in kidnapping and injuries in Gao, Mopti, and Tombouctou. Cases of confiscation of humanitarian aid are also reported. Poor road conditions and destroyed bridges intensify access constraints during the rainy season (mid-May–September), making certain areas, such as Menaka and Ségou regions, temporarily inaccessible.

[READ MORE ABOUT MALI](#)

## MYANMAR



Access constraints in Myanmar are largely caused by restrictions affecting access for both people in need and humanitarians. Access to internet, essential healthcare, education, and banking services has been severely reduced countrywide since the 1 February coup, affecting humanitarian response capacity. Conflict between the military and civil defence and ethnic armed groups, as well as large-scale displacement, have spread to new areas such as Kayah state, where humanitarian access was severely affected by military blockades. Restrictive processes to obtain travel authorisations, road blockades, and conflict continue to interrupt or delay operations across all conflict-affected areas in Myanmar. Further humanitarian constraints are caused by COVID-19 containment measures. In Rakhine, Rohingya people face limited access to services because they are denied citizenship. Some displacement sites in Rakhine remain inaccessible because of security restrictions despite no armed clashes were recorded since the end of 2020. Other displacement sites are not receiving humanitarian aid because they are not officially recognised by the government. Poor communication networks and infrastructure across Rakhine have hindered humanitarian response. Since 2016, UN agencies have not been allowed to deliver aid to areas outside government control in Kachin state. Much of Kachin and northern Shan states are in geographically remote locations that are difficult to reach.

[READ MORE ABOUT MYANMAR](#)



## NIGERIA



The humanitarian landscape in Nigeria differs depending on the region. Humanitarian access has deteriorated throughout the country because of rising insecurity, with particularly high constraints throughout northern Nigeria, where most urgent humanitarian needs are reported. Humanitarian access is heavily constrained in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe as a result of armed activity by non-state armed groups, including Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province. Insecurity and threats of attacks against civilians, humanitarians, and aid facilities affect people's access to humanitarian assistance. Based on a national counterterrorism law, aid organisations are restricted from operating in areas not under the control of the Federal Government – including in areas controlled by Boko Haram. In the northwestern states of Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, and Zamfara, incidents of insecurity and violence have been increasing as a result of criminal activity and banditry. This has affected humanitarian activities and limited the movement of humanitarian goods and staff. The importing of humanitarian supplies is subjected to specific administrative procedures. Registration processes both at federal and state levels for humanitarian organisations are complex, and states are allowed to implement independent local laws that result in additional conditions being imposed on humanitarian activities in specific areas.

[READ MORE ABOUT NIGERIA](#)

## PALESTINE



Humanitarian access is severely restricted across Palestine, and particularly in Gaza, as a result of intermittent closure of border crossings, constraints on the import of relief items, and physical and administrative movement restrictions. People's access to assistance has further deteriorated as armed hostilities escalated in the Gaza Strip between 10–21 May 2021 and because of the rise in intercommunal violence and protests in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The escalation of violence in Gaza in May affected humanitarian personnel movement, humanitarian operations, and the delivery of critical commodities. Movement restrictions following the insecurity escalation in the West Bank in May prevented people (particularly those living in Area C, East Jerusalem, and H2 in Hebron) from accessing essential humanitarian services. Strict administrative requirements regulate access to humanitarian aid and basic services; Palestinians must apply for Israeli-issued permits, which are difficult to obtain, to access essential services in Israel, such as specialised healthcare. The Gaza blockade continues to restrict the entry of humanitarian goods. Checkpoints and roadblocks impede Palestinian access to

available aid and disrupt humanitarian organisations' movements and ability to deliver assistance. Confiscation of aid, demolitions of donor-funded structures, and visa restrictions are common factors limiting humanitarian operations in the West Bank.

[READ MORE ABOUT PALESTINE](#)

## SOMALIA



Humanitarian operations in Somalia are challenging and unstable. Conflict driven by Al-Shabaab and interclan rivalry has continued throughout the first quarter of 2021 and escalated in April in Mogadishu following a political crisis. Some attacks targeted humanitarian workers. Conflict often leads to the displacement of people, which sometimes hinders their access to humanitarian aid. The extent of the Federal Government's control and influence varies from region to region and affects the reach of humanitarian organisations in the country, who often have to negotiate with different authorities to access target areas. Some parts of Somalia are under the control of Al-Shabaab, and the Federal Government has limited influence in these areas. In government-controlled areas, humanitarian organisations are required to adhere to regulations set forth by both the Federal Government and member states. This leads to considerable administrative and bureaucratic barriers to humanitarian operations. Interclan conflicts and sporadic attacks by Al-Shabaab make movement within Somalia dangerous for people in need and humanitarian staff. Poor infrastructure was further deteriorated by the onset of flooding between April–May 2021 following the Gu seasonal rains. The rainy season limited humanitarian access and the effective delivery of aid to those in need.

[READ MORE ABOUT SOMALIA](#)

## SYRIA



Humanitarian access continues to be extremely limited as a result of sporadic violence, bureaucratic impediments, and COVID-19 restrictions. Short-term and protracted displacement in northern Syria limits people's access to humanitarian aid, especially for those without any formal documentation. Deliberate denial of humanitarian access by all parties to the conflict was reported in the majority of Syria's governorates. Programme interference and movement restrictions resulted in the closure of water facilities and medical centres and in the delay of humanitarian convoys. Checkpoints and screening procedures by different armed groups inhibit the free movement of people and the delivery of aid. More than two-thirds of the available





basic infrastructure has sustained massive damage across the country. Violence targeting civilian infrastructure, such as markets, hospitals, schools, and residential areas, is often reported (particularly in northern Syria) and challenges humanitarian operations in the area. Explosive hazard contamination, airstrikes, shelling, and armed clashes are further limiting humanitarian assistance. Fuel, water, and wheat shortages are reported across the country, disrupting basic services and increasing the cost of essential goods. This affects the humanitarian response and functionality of health facilities, water systems, and agricultural assistance.

[READ MORE ABOUT SYRIA](#)

## YEMEN



Access remains extremely challenging in Yemen as a result of insecurity, bureaucratic impediments, and COVID-19 restrictions. In areas under the De-Facto Authority in the north of Yemen (also known as the Houthis), a range of new requirements for travel permits was issued at the beginning of 2021, including sharing aid recipients' lists, vehicle lease contracts, and other sensitive or protected information. Political instability and deteriorating security in areas controlled by the Internationally Recognised Government of Yemen – especially Aden and the west coast (mainly Al Khawkhah and Al Makha districts) – have caused increasing access constraints that were not present in earlier years of the conflict. On the west coast, new administrative requirements by local authorities, operating independently from the Internationally Recognized Government, disrupted movement and aid delivery. These requirements were lifted in April until the end of the year. COVID-19 containment measures have also caused impediments to humanitarian response, such as restricting movement, preventing technical advisors from monitoring the quality of the services provided, and leading to remote management. COVID-19 protocols also increased operations' cost and delivery time. Assistance in remote areas is reducing as responders are resorting to de-prioritising activities in those locations because of increased transportation costs related to fuel price hikes.

[READ MORE ABOUT YEMEN](#)



# HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

## VERY HIGH

## CONSTRAINTS

Humanitarian  
access with

● Very High Constraints

### CAMEROON



Humanitarian constraints remain very high, especially in the northwest and southwest regions where attacks targeting civilians are recurrent. People in these regions cannot access basic services because of insecurity. The destruction of public infrastructure, including schools, has hampered students' access to education. The transport of relief items is delayed by road-blocks and demands for payment (by both non-state armed groups and government forces) even when all required authorisations were obtained. The Government continues to deny authorisation to operate to some humanitarian organisations, accusing them of helping separatist groups, particularly in the Northwest region. Looting and destruction of humanitarian supplies and property are also reported. As a result of COVID-19 prevention measures imposing international travel and internal movement restrictions, humanitarian staffing has been reduced. International border closures affected relief operations and had serious effects on supplies and distributions to the people in need. Recurrent flooding in the Far North also hampers humanitarian access.

[READ MORE ABOUT CAMEROON](#)

### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



Humanitarian access constraints continue to be very high, particularly in the west, northwest, and centre of the country, and especially following the episodes of violence that took place throughout the December 2020 elections. Civilians are often victims of armed ambushes, thefts, and kidnappings. Humanitarian organisations have been confronted with administrative constraints, harassment, corruption, and illegal taxation by different authorities. Robberies, lootings, and violence against humanitarian staff were reported by several organisations. The activity of armed groups who control parts of the country often leads to the temporary suspension of humanitarian operations. The use of explosive devices has increased significantly with the intensification of conflict since mid-April, particularly in the west of the country, limiting humanitarian staff's movements and people's access to aid and services. Attacks on public infrastructure are recurrent. A large number of bridges are completely destroyed, and several localities become inaccessible by road during the rainy season, which lasts from May–November.

[READ MORE ABOUT CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC \(CAR\)](#)



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Humanitarian access constraints continue to be very high, particularly in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu provinces, because of increasing attacks targeting civilians. Insecurity and transport difficulties caused by limited infrastructure disrupt people's access to basic services. Administrative procedures remain challenging for all humanitarian organisations and agencies. NGOs face delays in their registration processes, and ad hoc or unofficial taxes are imposed on humanitarian organisations by different authorities. COVID 19 measures resulted in the restriction of humanitarian personnel and goods movements and delays in the delivery of humanitarian projects' permits. Armed attacks, especially in Ituri province, often lead to the temporary relocation of staff and suspension of humanitarian operations, leaving displaced people and host communities without the basic services these organisations provide. Attacks targeting humanitarian personnel and their convoys are often reported, mainly in the eastern provinces. Schools were destroyed in Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika, and South Kivu. Poor road and airport infrastructure creates a major logistic problem for the delivery of aid. Humanitarian access is restricted in certain areas, especially during the rainy season.

[READ MORE ABOUT DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO \(DRC\)](#)

## IRAQ

Fourteen formal camps were closed or reclassified across Iraq between October 2020 and January 2021. These closures have deprived thousands of displaced people of access to basic services and created secondary displacement. Undocumented IDPs and returnees face barriers to obtaining and/or renewing civil documentation that is needed to access aid and basic services and allow freedom of movement. Many individuals who are perceived as potentially affiliated with extremist armed groups are subjected to marginalisation. This includes denial of security clearances (needed to allow internal movements), discrimination by community leaders, and authorities forcing families to make a renunciation to obtain civil documentation (which is essential to access basic services). Humanitarian operations in Iraq remain difficult as a result of bureaucratic and administrative impediments and the multiplicity of armed security actors. Since February 2020, NGOs have been facing increasing constraints in gaining access to documentation and obtaining or renewing visas for international staff, particularly in Al-Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din governorates. Military checkpoints and occasionally violent protests and riots remain a major impediment, limiting the delivery of aid

and access of humanitarian staff to people in need. Iraq is contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war, particularly southern Iraq and Iraqi Kurdistan.

[READ MORE ABOUT IRAQ](#)

## MOZAMBIQUE

The violent insurgency in Cabo Delgado province, which extended to Palma district in March 2021, continues to increasingly obstruct the effective delivery of and access to humanitarian aid in the province. Conflict-related displacement is recorded both within Cabo Delgado and across the Tanzanian border, threatening regional security and the stability of humanitarian access. Travelling within the province to seek humanitarian assistance is a life-threatening endeavour. Even when aid is delivered, it is sometimes distributed unevenly depending on who is in charge. The processing of visas for foreign aid workers by the Government is often delayed by several months, which slows down the efforts of humanitarian organisations. An additional challenge to access is the general lack of accurate information regarding where and to what extent humanitarian aid is needed, particularly in Cabo Delgado. Some areas in northern Mozambique were already considered remote areas, and the conflict in Cabo Delgado has further deteriorated existing public infrastructure.

[READ MORE ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE](#)

## NIGER

Humanitarian access is deteriorating in Niger as a result of recurrent attacks targeting civilians in the tri-border area of Liptako-Gourma, especially in the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. During the attacks, armed groups directly target schools, health centres, and other infrastructure, making these buildings inaccessible. Violence and insecurity also drive displacement, forcing people away from public and humanitarian services. Humanitarian organisations are often forced to cancel their field missions because of non-state armed group activities. The imposition of armed escorts by the Government for all movements outside urban areas represents a major barrier for organisations trying to access affected people, as humanitarian staff are often confused with the military. Some organisations had to suspend field missions requiring an armed escort, with heavy consequences for the people relying on the delivery of assistance. Administrative impediments, such as the requirement of movement authorisations by local



authorities, and interference with activities continue to be a barrier to access to people in need. Some aid operations have been forced to focus on certain intervention areas and specific populations. COVID-19 measures have also affected humanitarian access in the country. The closure of international borders reduced humanitarian staff and supply movement. Recurrent flooding during the rainy season (June–September), especially in Agadez, Maradi, and Tillabéri regions, hampers humanitarian access.

[READ MORE ABOUT NIGER](#)

## SOUTH SUDAN



Humanitarian access in South Sudan is stable but remains highly constrained. Communal violence is a major issue in the country and has led to the internal displacement of at least 1.6 million people. Since attacks by armed men, revenge killings, and roadside ambushes are common, it is often dangerous for people to travel to areas where they can access humanitarian assistance. In the first quarter of 2021, there were at least 24 incidents of roadside ambushes targeting aid convoys. Humanitarian organisations often face fines at checkpoints located all over the country, particularly when transporting humanitarian cargo. In some areas such as Renk county, Upper Nile state, youth groups stalled the operations of humanitarian agencies for several months by imposing conditions on them, often related to the request for employment opportunities. South Sudan has one of the world's highest rates of violent incidents against humanitarian workers. From January–May 2021, ten humanitarian workers were killed, 31 injured, and one abducted. Humanitarian staff is often targeted for various reasons, including the ethnicity of local aid workers. There have been several instances of suspension of humanitarian efforts and relocation of staff caused by violence in certain areas. The presence of landmines and poor road conditions make operations particularly challenging in some areas and further complicate travel within South Sudan.

[READ MORE ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN](#)

## SUDAN



With multiple crises already active in the country, Sudan witnessed a deterioration in humanitarian access after the start of the West Darfur intercommunal clashes in May 2021. UN agencies' operations are facing restrictions in the country as the United Nations-African Union mission, which had been operating in Darfur since 2007, closed and finalised the handover

process in May 2021. The mission contributed to peacekeeping and providing protection for people in Darfur; its closure is having an impact on overall perceived or actual security, as well as on people's ability to move and reach needed aid. Armed opposition groups are controlling areas in the Blue Nile state, Darfur regions, and South Kordofan state, creating barriers to the delivery of humanitarian aid. As a result of insecurity, humanitarian operations in West Darfur were suspended in January 2021 and only resumed in El Geneina district in April. Lack of security also limits people's access to aid as IDPs were affected by attacks between January–June 2021. Another challenge restricting access of refugees and IDPs to humanitarian and public services is the lack of documentation, especially birth registration, which puts unregistered individuals at risk of statelessness.

[READ MORE ABOUT SUDAN](#)

## VENEZUELA



The Venezuelan Government acknowledges that there are humanitarian needs in the country, but official data does not reflect the real scale of these, and the Government attributes them in large part to sanctions imposed by the United States. Needs related to COVID-19 have also been downplayed, and official figures do not portray the actual situation, preventing people from accessing adequate health assistance. Access to aid is hampered by widespread fuel shortages, blackouts, and insecurity. Clashes between Colombian armed groups and Venezuelan armed forces have displaced thousands of Venezuelans and limited their access to services and aid. Humanitarian aid is often politicised; since December 2020, there has been an increase in harassment and intimidation of civil society groups, NGOs, human rights organisations, and media outlets by the Government. This includes freezing bank accounts and other banking restrictions (such as constant monitoring of transactions), arrest warrants, raiding offices, and detaining members of these organisations. National NGOs face bureaucratic restrictions in registering and updating registration, which causes months of delays in their activities. Humanitarian organisations also face severe physical and logistical challenges, including fuel shortages that hinder the implementation of activities even after obtaining the necessary permits to operate. Land borders remain closed because of COVID-19, which largely prevents people from seeking assistance in neighbouring countries or forces them to cross borders irregularly.

[READ MORE ABOUT VENEZUELA](#)



## BANGLADESH



On 19 May 2021, all Rohingya refugee camps were put under complete lockdown and heavier COVID-19 containment and risk mitigation measures amid a second national lockdown. From the end of 2020 until May 2021, even though the camps were considered in lockdown, service provision and movement were possible. Under the new restrictions, only activities related to health, monsoon preparedness, food, and liquefied petroleum gas distribution are allowed. All other humanitarian activities have been suspended. The current lockdown measures, along with the monsoon season, are creating barriers to the accessibility, availability, and quality of essential assistance and services. The implementation of further restrictive measures, combined with the inability to address the secondary impacts of the 2020 lockdown, risks causing long-term deterioration of living conditions for Rohingya refugees. In October 2020, violence in the camps led to the displacement of people away from services. While no further violence incidents have been reported since then, the security situation in the camps is worsening, with increasing concerns of armed criminal activity, petty crimes, inter and intracommunal disputes, and human trafficking. No direct delivery of protection services is allowed under the current guidelines to mitigate the situation.

[READ MORE ABOUT BANGLADESH](#)

## BURKINA FASO



The intensification of armed conflict and intercommunal violence is hampering humanitarian access, especially in the Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. Flooding during the rainy season (May–October) and insecurity limit people’s access to services, including health and education. People in need often have to move to different areas to access humanitarian aid and services. Interference of different authorities in the implementation of humanitarian activities was reported, especially in the Sahel region. Armed groups in conflict areas sometimes besiege cities and prevent humanitarian access. Public infrastructure is also targeted by armed groups. At least five bridges in the Sahel region, mainly in Soum province, have been the target of attacks that have partially or totally damaged them. The governors of Centre-Est, Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions have enacted additional containment measures because of COVID-19. Besides the curfew, they disallowed certain means of transport at specific times of the day and required humanitarian organisations to obtain formal authorisations to assist displaced people. During the rainy season, access to some areas in Centre-Nord, Est, and Sahel regions is difficult, and aid delivery by air is required.

[READ MORE ABOUT BURKINA FASO](#)



## CHAD



Humanitarian access continues to be restricted, especially after repeated attacks by non-state armed groups in the Lac region and south and east provinces. Administrative impediments and interference with activities remain the main obstacles humanitarian workers face in delivering assistance to people in need. Staff visas are sometimes rejected or validated late. The decision taken in April 2020 to suspend movements between N'Djamena and the provinces as part of COVID-19 containment measures also contributed to delays in aid provision. Certain localities, particularly in Foulï and Kaya departments, are difficult to reach because armed groups carry out repeated attacks in the villages. As a result of military operations, humanitarian organisations are often forced to suspend their activities. The poor quality of the road network worsens during the rainy season, between July–October, and has a direct impact on physical access to affected areas. South, north, and east provinces are particularly prone to flooding.

[READ MORE ABOUT CHAD](#)

## COLOMBIA



Colombia presents access constraints in areas where armed groups are present and in disputed territories. The armed conflict escalated during 2020 and has kept the same intensity throughout 2021, with frequent clashes between armed groups that cause internal displacement, confinement (restriction of movement of the community imposed by armed groups), and massacres, all hindering humanitarian operations and preventing the affected population from accessing services and humanitarian assistance. In conflict-affected areas, medical missions have been intercepted and staff detained by armed groups, preventing them from accessing the population in need. Facilities such as hospitals and schools are frequently attacked. Venezuelan migrants and refugees are also affected by these dynamics as they cross borders controlled by armed groups or travel through conflict areas. Since January, heavy rains causing flooding, landslides, roadblocks, and damage to basic infrastructure have been reported in the departments of Antioquia, Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, Nariño, and Valle del Cauca. Some remote areas are difficult to access because of limited or nonexistent transport infrastructure. Since 28 April 2021, Colombia has been experiencing a series of violent and non-violent protests across the country that have further hampered humanitarian access. Attacks on ambulances and medical missions have been reported, and road blockades have led to shortages of basic goods in some cities and towns – especially in Bogotá, Cali, and the department of Boyacá – as the transport of food and medicine has slowed down.

[READ MORE ABOUT COLOMBIA](#)

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)



Humanitarian access and access to basic public services remain limited and highly regulated by national authorities. Access to employment, education, medical facilities, and travel is based on songbun – a sociopolitical classification system that gives preference to North Koreans labelled 'loyal' by the Government. Internationally imposed economic sanctions continue to restrict the import of humanitarian goods, complicating the funding of humanitarian projects. Humanitarian access continues to be affected by the lack of freedom of movement and damage to infrastructure caused by previous seasonal floods. Governmental COVID-19 containment measures have severely restricted internal travel and border trade with China, resulting in a lack of basic items and increased prices. These circumstances prompted most foreign diplomats, INGO staff, and all UN personnel to leave the country by April 2021. Restricted access to information does not allow for a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian and access situation in the country, but increased food insecurity is a sure impact. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has formally acknowledged that DPRK is facing economic hardship and food shortages.

[READ MORE ABOUT DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA \(DPRK\)](#)

## HAITI



Escalating insecurity since the beginning of 2021 has increasingly hindered humanitarian access both for people in need and for humanitarian organisations. Since early June, there has been a surge in intergang clashes in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince for territorial control, with the communes of Bas Delmas, Bel Air, Martissant, and Saint Martin being the most affected. Frequent shootings and road blockades limit people's access to medical centres and displacement camps. The displaced population experiences difficult access to clean water, food, personal hygiene items, and health and protection assistance. Haiti has poor basic infrastructure and is prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes, which cause severe disruption and damage to infrastructure. In some remote areas of the country, access to people in need is particularly difficult.

[READ MORE ABOUT HAITI](#)



## HONDURAS



Global access constraints in Honduras remain stable, however Hurricanes Eta and Iota, which hit the country in November 2020, caused severe damage to infrastructure that has yet to be rebuilt. Many schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, and water wells are damaged and in need of repair. Pre-existing access constraints linked to the remoteness of some areas were worsened by the impact of the hurricanes in the region. Gang violence poses threats to population movement, restricting people's access to services and humanitarian assistance. General insecurity in areas controlled by gangs or where gangs are active limits humanitarian operations and makes it difficult for staff to access the affected population. Gang members sometimes charge quotas for the passage of goods and personnel or impose access conditions, such as asking gang leaders for permission to conduct humanitarian activities in the area.

[READ MORE ABOUT HONDURAS](#)

## LEBANON



Humanitarian access remains constrained as a result of extensive disruptions of public infrastructure and basic services and the rapidly rising inflation of the Lebanese pound. This has resulted in major price increases and a lack of key items, including food, medicine, and fuel. Protests and riots hampering the movement of people and services are very common in Lebanon. Refugees and migrants without civil documentation can access humanitarian aid but face movement restrictions, risk of detention, and severe obstacles in completing civil registration procedures. The lack of documentation also significantly limits their access to public services, including healthcare, and formal employment. Undocumented refugees are more exposed to intercommunal conflict but less likely to receive assistance if affected by violence. The lack of foreign currency constitutes an important operational challenge for humanitarian organisations working in Lebanon. The cold temperatures, storms, and flooding during January–March 2021 reduced refugees' mobility and access to aid.

[READ MORE ABOUT LEBANON](#)

## LIBYA



The complex, protracted crisis in Libya continues to affect humanitarian access and the security situation. Humanitarian access improved over March–June 2021 with the election of a new internationally recognised interim government and the opening of the border with Tunisia. Refugees and migrants, especially undocumented, remain vulnerable to detention, trafficking, and exploitation and have limited ability to access humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian agencies reported incidents involving interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities and persistent bureaucratic challenges, such as complex processes to obtain visas and customs clearances. International organisations' rescue ships are often not allowed to enter Libyan waters, hindering rescue activities. The presence of different armed groups limits people's freedom of movement and challenges their ability to access basic assistance and services. The presence of explosive remnants of war, mine contamination, and damaged public infrastructure prevents IDPs from returning to their areas of origin.

[READ MORE ABOUT LIBYA](#)

## MEXICO



Mexico presents access constraints in areas where drug trafficking organisations (DTOs or cartels) are present. Violence is concentrated in the major drug trafficking zones of Mexico's central, northern, and Pacific states, with fighting between national forces and DTOs, as well as internal fighting between DTOs. Gang-related violence compromises livelihoods and security and limits humanitarian access for both the population in need – especially in more vulnerable and poorer communities – and humanitarian organisations. In recent years, criminal groups have fragmented, making violence increasingly localised and preventing communities from moving freely and accessing services and aid. Mexico is also a major transit country for migrants and asylum seekers travelling towards the US from Central America. Many of them remain stranded at the border, waiting to cross, and have limited access to shelter and health services. Mexico is subject to climatic events, including floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and tsunamis. The country is located along the Ring of Fire, where 80% of the world's seismic activity occurs, and almost all its territory is highly exposed to earthquake risk. Areas affected by climatic events or earthquakes experience severe disruption of road infrastructure, which limit physical access to affected areas and people in need.

[READ MORE ABOUT MEXICO](#)





## NICARAGUA



Humanitarian access in Nicaragua remained stable despite the current difficult political environment, compounded by the impact of natural hazards. The limitations imposed by the Government on humanitarian activities and operations are of particular concern. Bureaucratic requirements, including complex registration processes, keep agencies on hold despite being prepared to respond. NGOs are not allowed to operate unless they comply with all requirements outlined by several laws and regulations. Although some international NGOs and UN agencies are operational in Nicaragua, other humanitarian and human rights organisations have been denied entry into the country, expelled, or forced to shut down. Staff members of humanitarian and faith-based organisations, as well as their activities, are closely controlled. The Parliament approved in October 2020 the ‘foreign agents’ law, which grants the Government control over any natural or legal person in Nicaragua (Nicaraguan or of other nationality) who receives funds or goods directly or indirectly from foreign natural persons, governments, agencies, foundations, corporations, or associations of any type or nature. This law poses a significant access constraint for humanitarian organisations and agencies, national and international, who receive foreign funding from or have links to foreign countries. In terms of logistical constraints, hurricanes Eta and Iota caused severe damage to infrastructure – including bridges, schools, and hospitals – which has not yet been repaired. This continues to affect access for both humanitarian organisations and people in need.

[READ MORE ABOUT NICARAGUA](#)

## PAKISTAN



Access constraints remain high across Pakistan as a result of violence. People in Pakistani-administered Kashmir and Balochistan province have limited freedom of movement and restricted access to basic services because of checkpoints, the presence of militant groups, and cross-border shelling. Afghans holding a citizenship card and undocumented Afghans living in urban areas in Pakistan generally have access to local services but are often not included in the humanitarian response as their exact location is unknown. Violence in Balochistan province, primarily by the Balochistan Liberation Army and Islamic State affiliates in Pakistan, often targets civilians, security forces, and infrastructure. The use of force was also reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where militant groups have imposed taxes on humanitarian projects such as road, school, and hospital constructions. Violence often results in internal displacement, forcing people away from basic services. Humanitarian operations continue to

be hindered by a complicated registration process and national counterterrorism regulations that allow the Government to arbitrarily deny or cancel permissions of NGOs and INGOs to operate. National and international organisations can only operate in specified locations and in consultation with relevant authorities.

[READ MORE ABOUT PAKISTAN](#)

## THAILAND



Refugees in Thailand – some of them residing in the country since 1980 – are not allowed to leave the camps and depend on humanitarian assistance. While humanitarians have access to provide aid, many camps are in isolated mountainous areas reachable by unpaved roads that are subject to seasonal limitations. Remote camps have limited access to electricity. Thailand continues to classify camp refugees and other vulnerable populations, such as Lao Hmong, Rohingya, Uyghur, and North Korean asylum seekers, as ‘illegal’ immigrants, denying permission for conducting status determination. Many asylum seekers are detained in immigration centres, while others are subject to arrest and deportation. In southern Thailand, the insurgency conflict level is low, but continuous attacks on political and military targets often result in civilian fatalities and affect access in the public space. Political prisoners, including ethnic Malay insurgents, are often denied access to medical services. The conflict-affected provinces of Narathiwat, Pattani, Songkhla, and Yala are also prone to floods and landslides that disrupt transport and services.

[READ MORE ABOUT THAILAND](#)

## TURKEY



Humanitarian access in Turkey remains stable. Refugees and asylum seekers are particularly at risk of deportation and insufficient access to basic services as they lack proper documentation and residency. People with pending registration and documentation applications, rural, nomadic, and semi-nomadic communities, as well as Afghan and Iranian refugees and asylum seekers face difficulty accessing humanitarian assistance. Turkish authorities deported a number of refugees who had participated in demonstrations and forced hundreds of refugees into signing voluntary return documents. Humanitarian movement is limited in the southern provinces and affected by the longstanding conflict with the Kurdistan Workers’ Party. Access to the affected population is only possible for registered organisations, and available informa-





tion about humanitarian conditions is very limited. Fighting between Turkish forces and groups affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party and separatist groups continues, leaving civilians trapped in their homes and under strict curfews. Checkpoints are present particularly in southeast provinces, where Kurdish regions are located. In late December 2020, the Parliament approved a new law on counterterrorism and intergovernmental money laundering. Under this law, the Government has the power to arbitrarily suspend NGO and INGO activities, seize their assets, and shut them down.

[READ MORE ABOUT TURKEY](#)

## UKRAINE



The security situation remains volatile in east Ukraine, with low-level conflict, increasing ceasefire violations, the use of heavy weapons, and targeting of civilian infrastructure. Accessing public services, including health services, and obtaining public documentation for people living in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) is only possible by crossing to government-controlled areas (GCAs). Only two border crossing points are open: Stanytsia Luhanska, between Luhansk's NGCA and GCA, and Novotroitske, between Donetsk's NGCA and GCA. The five remaining crossing points have been closed since March 2020, restricting people's access to services. Humanitarian organisations are not allowed to work in NGCAs. Some organisations are at times allowed to enter NGCAs to distribute aid, but registration and administrative requirements from both government and non-government authorities are complex. Ukraine reports heavy landmines contamination. COVID-19 added constraints in aid accessibility because of preventive measures such as lockdown, movement restrictions, and the need for a PCR test or quarantine when crossing between NGCAs and GCAs.

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