

**MEDAIR**

*each life matters*

**2021**  
IN REVIEW

*What you  
made  
possible...*





## When rising needs meet a commitment like yours

In 2021 more and more people became vulnerable to life-threatening diseases, to losing their home and livelihood due to conflict, and to lacking access to healthcare and clean drinking water. Humanitarian needs have increased around the world.

It's never been more daunting to reach vulnerable communities and we risk losing hard-won progress when it comes to availability of food and access to healthcare. Humanitarian teams must be agile and respond to climate-related disasters and increasing threats of famine, water shortages, and powerful weather events. Innovation must be at the centre of everything we do so that essential services can be delivered in the face of increasingly complicated humanitarian crises.

Donors like you ensured that families received lifesaving support despite these challenges.

By acting quickly, you saved lives, efficiently delivered aid, and helped communities prepare for disasters. You ensured that more than 13,500 people received shelter and safe water support following a devastating fire in Kutupalong Refugee Camp in Bangladesh in March. You helped deliver safe drinking water to more than 40,000 people in Syria. You continue to ensure that families in Afghanistan have access to essential services amidst a rapidly changing context. And that's only the start.

We respond to humanitarian crises because our donors ask us to. By providing essential resources we ensure that vulnerable people are not forgotten. You make a better tomorrow possible. Thank you so much for believing in what we do. ■

— David Verboom, Chief Executive Officer



**January 2021**

People needing help worldwide:

**1 in 33**



**January 2022**

People needing help worldwide:

**1 in 29**

# Changing, challenging humanitarian needs

Humanitarian needs have been increasing year-by-year since 2019. This grim trend that will continue in 2022: the United Nations humanitarian partners, which include Medair, estimate that around 274 million people will be in need of humanitarian support.



More than 1% of the world's population is now displaced



Communicable diseases, malnutrition, and limited access to essential health services cause almost half of all deaths in low-income countries



238 million people in 80 countries are acutely food insecure

2021 was a year of challenge and achievement. At the start of the year, the pandemic was hitting hard. Combined with ongoing conflicts and the climate crisis, it has driven up humanitarian needs. Children, especially girls, are missing out on their education. Women's rights are threatened. Multiple famines loom. Individual lives and livelihoods, regional and national stability, and decades of development are at risk. The cost of inaction in the face of these challenges is high.

— Martin Griffiths, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNOCHA Global Humanitarian Overview 2022



In Madagascar's Grand Sud, Tarasoa's twin sons are recovering from severe malnutrition, now that she can access treatment at Medair's mobile clinic.



“We had difficulty obtaining clean water and diseases increased among children and women due to malnutrition and poverty. Because clean water is the basis of life, and we can do nothing without it.”

— Isra, whose son is being treated for malnutrition in a Medair-supported clinic.

© Medair/Karam Kamal



“Since we received access to clean water, our health is getting better, and this help prevent us from famine.”

— Hoazantsoa, whose community received safe drinking water through a Medair intervention.

© Medair/Jessica Malalanaina



“We are trying to prevent disease outbreaks caused by vaccine-preventable illnesses and help ensure that the children being vaccinated can go on to live a long and healthy life.”

— Farah,  
Health Project Manager

© Medair/Simon Townsley

## Impact Yemen: Supporting schools

**In this remote area of Yemen, contaminated water can lead to waterborne illnesses, malnutrition, and even a life-changing illness called skeletal fluorosis.** For many, the only alternative is to purchase safe drinking water – at a cost of more than 100 times the average household income.

In remote communities where conflict has affected all aspects of life, we build new water points, rehabilitate damaged water points, and provide water trucking in areas where a sustainable water supply cannot be located. Our response includes providing safe water in schools, which helps keep students in class and prevents the spread of waterborne illnesses. In one area where we are responding, 5,300 students gained access to safe drinking water. ■

## Impact Madagascar: Life-saving water

**Southern Madagascar is currently experiencing its worst drought in 40 years. Below average rainfall coupled with violent winds have decimated crops, leaving families with little to eat.** Even existing boreholes are losing volume and wide, flowing rivers have become rivers of sand. Few organisations are able to respond, owing to access and security constraints.

We appealed to our supporters with the news of Madagascar's situation and have since begun delivering support to some of the hardest-hit and difficult to reach communities. Over the course of one response, 20,675 people received essential information about how to prevent the spread of waterborne illnesses that can contribute to severe acute malnutrition. In another location, we provided 1,493 people with nutrition support to help screen for and treat acute malnutrition. ■

## Impact Lebanon: A changing crisis

**We've been working in Lebanon since 2012, providing shelter and health support to Syrian refugees in the Bekaa Valley.** In 2021, the political and economic situation rapidly deteriorated leaving almost three-quarters of the population living in poverty.

We have faced the changing needs in Lebanon by expanding our programming across the country. In southern Lebanon we partnered with the Ministry of Public Health and UNICEF to deliver routine childhood immunisations to 6,592 children. In Beirut, we delivered mental health support to 9,699 people feeling the impacts of the 2020 Beirut Port explosion. We also continued our health and shelter interventions in the Bekaa Valley, ensuring that neither Lebanese nor Syrian refugee family was forgotten. ■

# What's ahead for 2022?

As a supporter of Medair, you'll know that these are challenging times for many of the most vulnerable people in the world. We aim to support as many people as we can with quality, compassionate humanitarian support. In 2022, this will mean focusing on three main areas.

## THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



In 2021, we saw the impact of the climate crisis in many of the communities we support, from catastrophic floods in South Sudan, to ongoing droughts in Madagascar, Somalia, and Afghanistan. We aim to support communities both before a crisis (for example, by working with community members to develop disaster readiness plans), and after, by pre-positioning aid materials that will enable us to respond to disasters even faster.

## EXPANDING INTO MORE VULNERABLE CONTEXTS



We already work in eight of the ten highest-risk countries in the world, and in 2022, we hope to increase our reach and establish programmes in other underserved, high-need contexts. We support communities affected by violence and vulnerable to the climate emergency by focusing on emergency health support. Our Global Emergency Response Team to new, rapid-onset emergencies.

## FOCUSING ON INNOVATION



Now more than ever, we must continue innovating in order to reach vulnerable communities around the world with greater speed, more efficiency, and even more precise data. In 2022, we will be growing an innovation fund that will allow our teams to kickstart new innovations, and upgrade our interventions to take advantage of new initiatives.

*Your support has made the provision of lifesaving services possible. Because of you, millions of people around the world received critical support from our teams in the field. We believe that together, we can act today and change tomorrow.*

### Medair

Chemin du Croset 9, 1024 Ecublens, Switzerland  
Phone: +41 (0)21 694 35 35 | Donor Care Service: +41 (0)21 695 35 10  
info@medair.org | medair.org

**MEDAIR**