

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

December 2022



INTRODUCTION

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

ACAPS analysts considered nine variables to rank and compare humanitarian access levels against worldwide. Data was gathered per specific crisis at the national, subnational, and regional levels. Information was then aggregated at the country level, and a country score was provided as an indication of the humanitarian access situation.

The December 2022 analysis found that, between July and the end of October 2022, crisis-affected populations in more than 80 countries were not receiving the humanitarian assistance they needed because of access constraints.

Gambia, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka have entered the ranking since the last Humanitarian Access Overview from July 2022.

This report includes scoreboards for all the countries assessed (see page 10). We provided analytical narratives only for countries that scored between 3–5 (i.e. having high, very high, or extreme constraints).

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In line with the previous report, the indicators 'restrictions and obstruction to services and assistance' and 'environmental constraints' are the most common challenges documented throughout the countries, scoring the highest among the considered indicators.



INTRODUCTION

HOW ARE ACCESS LEVELS CALCULATED?

ACAPS' methodology groups nine indicators under three dimensions::

PILLAR 1 Access of people in need to humanitarian aid

[GO TO PILLAR 1](#)

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

PILLAR 2 Access of humanitarian organisations to people in need

[GO TO PILLAR 2](#)

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

PILLAR 3 Security and physical constraints

[GO TO PILLAR 3](#)

- Insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance.
- Presence of landmines, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance.
- Physical constraints in the environment (obstacles related to terrain, climate, lack of infrastructure, etc.).

> For definitions and examples of the indicators used, along with details about the data model behind the methodology, please, please see [here](#).

The scoring model rates indicators on a scale of 0–3, then combines them in pillars where they get a final score on a scale of 0–5. The overall access score by country is ranked according to the following scale:

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

Read more
about our
methodology



INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARE OUR SOURCES?

The Humanitarian Access methodology uses qualitative information sources together with relevant datasets. It collates these sources in a structured way 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
- OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overviews, Situation Reports, Humanitarian Snapshots, and Access severity mapping
- Landmine Monitor reports

LIMITATIONS

ACAPS' Humanitarian Access Overview faces the same limitations as all secondary data reviews. Information might not be available without physical presence in the countries analysed, and information by third parties might come with a certain degree of delay, especially in very volatile contexts. When possible, analysts cross-check available information with humanitarians working in countries of operation. ACAPS most often assesses contexts in the Humanitarian Access Overview at the country level, meaning some indicators might represent a sum of the crises present in a country. A more detailed granularity is available in the published dataset

DISCLAIMER

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



HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TRENDS

TRENDS

This overview compares the overall level of humanitarian access between the last Global Humanitarian Access Index published with the report in July 2022 (covering November-June) and the latest ACAPS' assessment (covering July-October):



Humanitarian access
has deteriorated

BANGLADESH
BURKINA FASO
CAMEROON
CAR
COSTA RICA
DJIBOUTI
DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC

ECUADOR
ESWATINI
ETHIOPIA
INDONESIA
LIBYA
MOROCCO
NIGER

PANAMA
PAPUA NEW GUINEA
PERU
PHILIPPINES
SRI LANKA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
UGANDA



Humanitarian access
has improved

AFGHANISTAN
AZERBAIJAN
CAMEROON
CAR
CONGO
DJIBOUTI
DPRK

ESWATINI
ETHIOPIA
GREECE
HONDURAS
LESOTHO
MALI
MOROCCO

NIGER
NIGERIA
PERU
SPAIN
STATE OF PALESTINE
SYRIA
VENEZUELA



Humanitarian access
has remained stable

AFGHANISTAN
ALGERIA
ANGOLA
ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
BRAZIL
BURUNDI
CHAD
COLOMBIA
DPRK
DRC
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
ERITREA
GAMBIA
GREECE
HAITI
HONDURAS

INDIA
IRAQ
ITALY
JORDAN
KENYA
MADAGASCAR
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MALI
MAURITANIA
MEXICO
MOLDOVA
MOZAMBIQUE
MYANMAR
NAMIBIA
NICARAGUA
NIGERIA
PAKISTAN

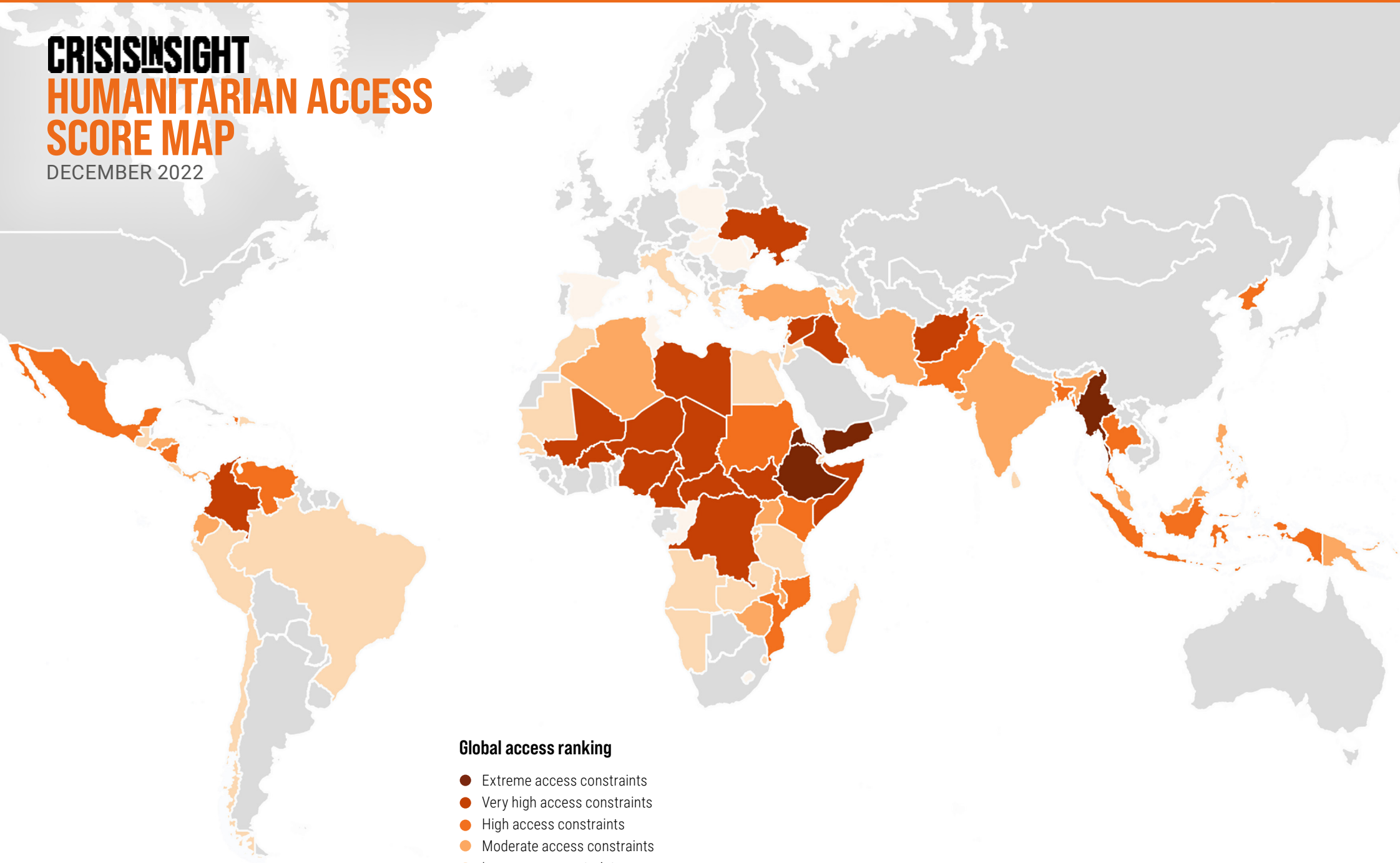
PALESTINE
ROMANIA
RWANDA
SENEGAL
SLOVAKIA
SOMALIA
SOUTH SUDAN
SPAIN
SYRIA
TANZANIA
THAILAND
TONGA
TUNISIA
YEMEN
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE



CRISISINSIGHT

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SCORE MAP

DECEMBER 2022



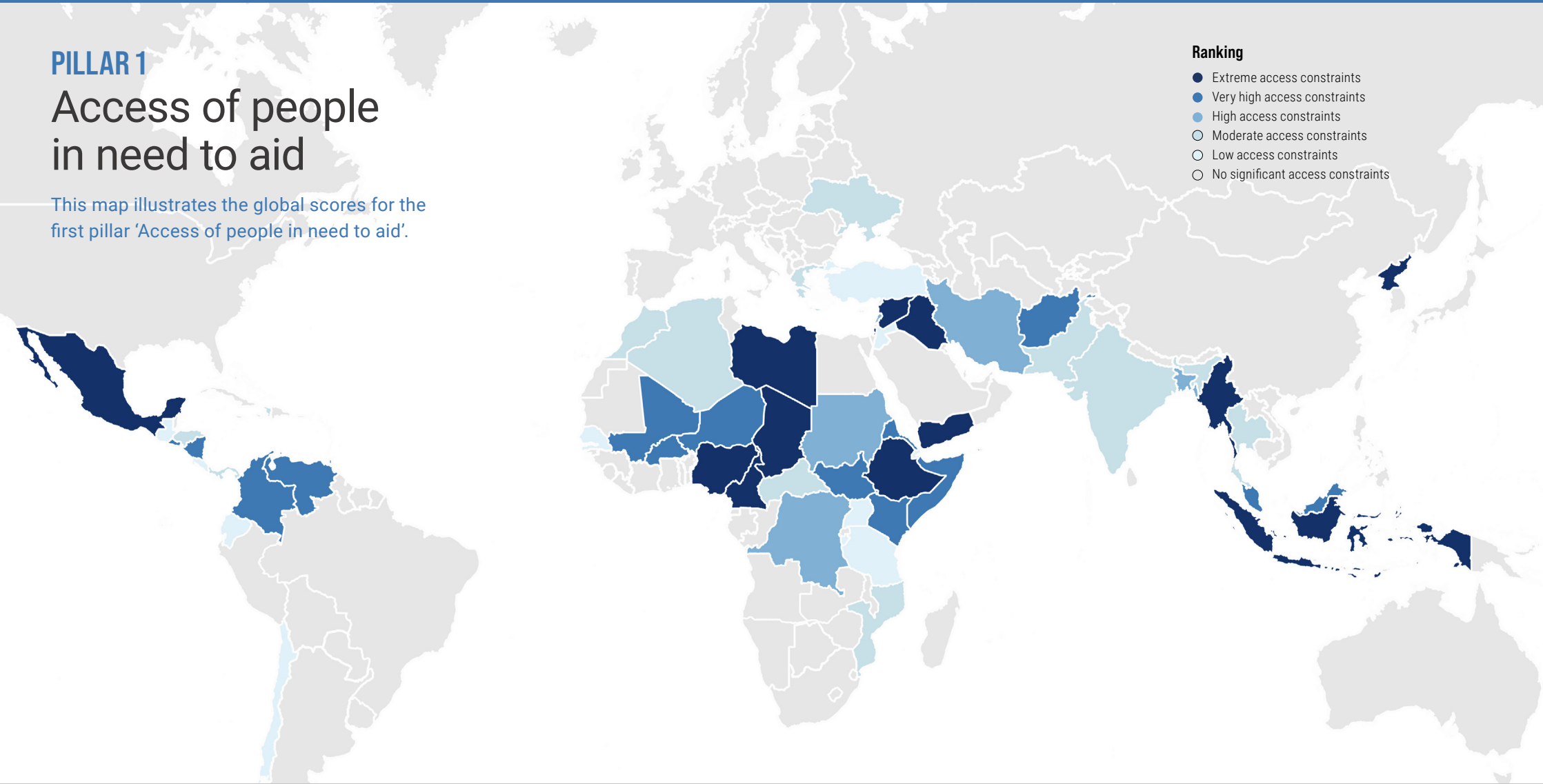
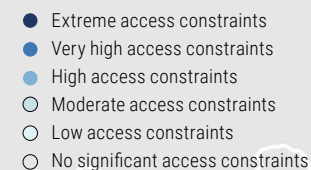
Global access ranking

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



Access of people in need to aid

This map illustrates the global scores for the first pillar 'Access of people in need to aid'.



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



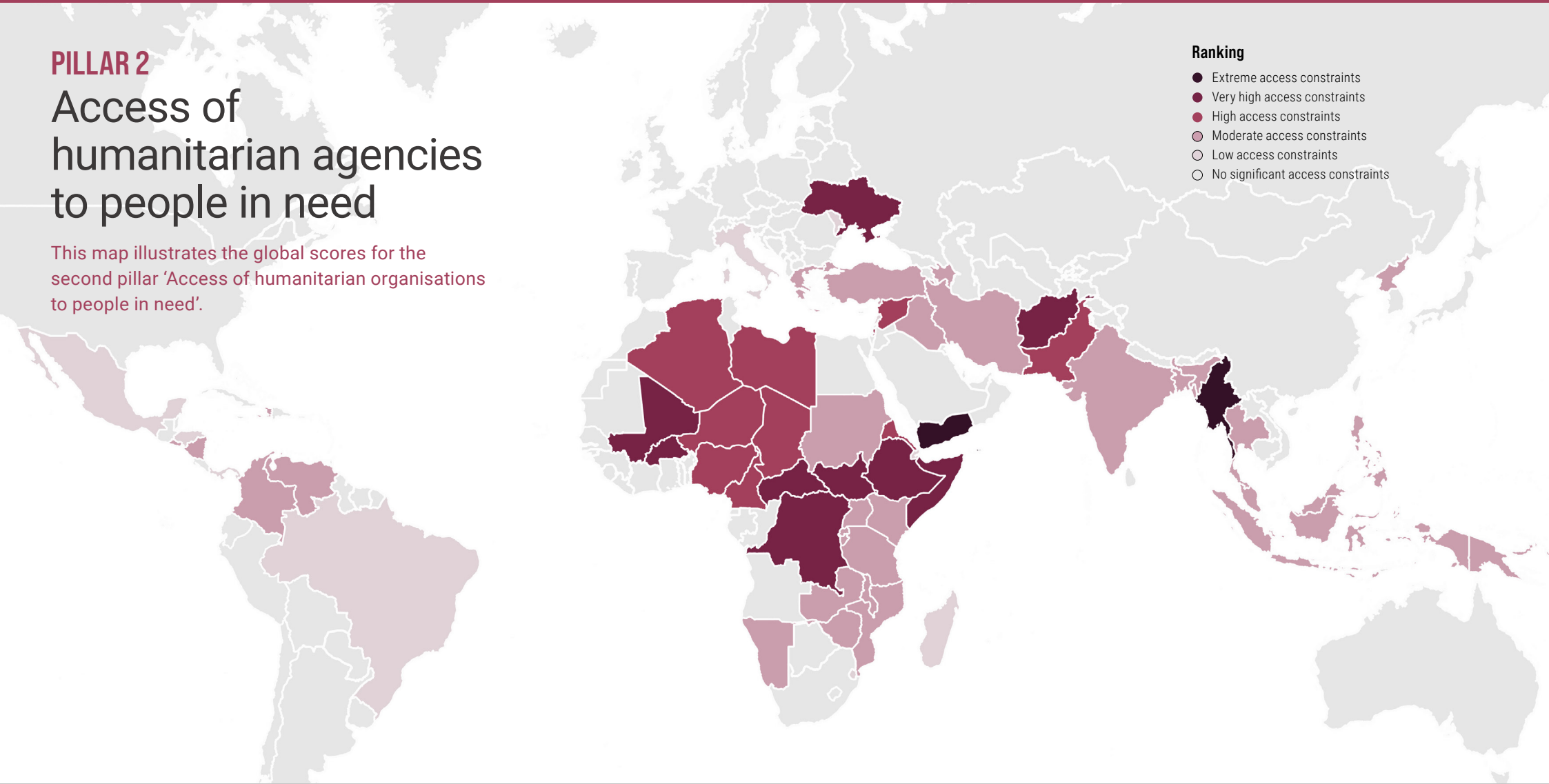
PILLAR 2

Access of humanitarian agencies to people in need

This map illustrates the global scores for the second pillar 'Access of humanitarian organisations to people in need'.

Ranking

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



PILLAR 1

PILLAR 2

PILLAR 3

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



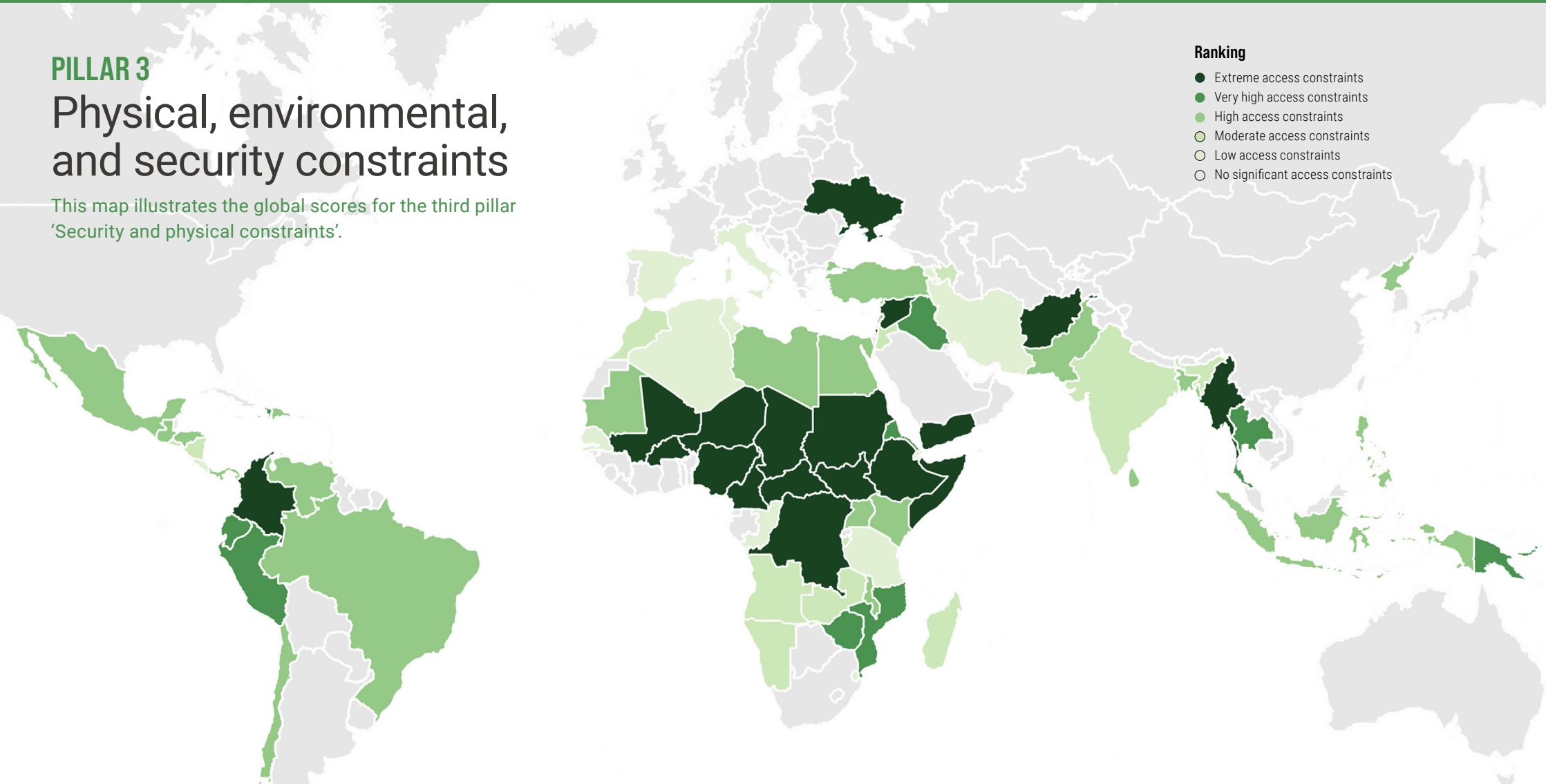
PILLAR 3

Physical, environmental, and security constraints

This map illustrates the global scores for the third pillar 'Security and physical constraints'.

Ranking

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



PILLAR 1

PILLAR 2

PILLAR 3

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



ACCESS INDICATORS

	Afghanistan	Algeria	Angola	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Bangladesh	Brazil	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cameroon	CAR	Chad	Chile	Colombia	Congo	Costa Rica	Djibouti	Dominican Republic	DPRK	DRC	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Eritrea	Eswatini	Ethiopia	Gambia	Greece	Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	Hungary	India	Indonesia	Iran	Iraq	Italy	Jordan
Overall humanitarian access ranking	4	2	1	0	1	3	1	4	2	4	4	4	1	4	0	1	1	1	3	4	2	1	3	5	1	5	0	1	1	3	2	0	2	3	2	4	1	1
Denial of existence of humanitarian needs or entitlements to assistance	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Restriction and obstruction of access to services and assistance	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	3	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	0	3	3	1	0	2	2	0	3	0	0	1	2	2	0	2	3	1	3	0	1
Impediments to enter the country	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Restriction of movement within the country	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	1	2	0	0
Interference with the implementation of humanitarian activities	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	3	1	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0
Violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, and assets	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ongoing insecurity or hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Presence of landmines, IEDs, ERW, and UXO	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	2
Physical constraints in the environment	3	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	0	1	3	1	3	0	0	3	3	3	0	1	3	0	1	1	0

	Kenya	Lebanon	Lesotho	Libya	Madagascar	Malawi	Malaysia	Mali	Mauritania	Mexico	Moldova	Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar	Namibia	Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria	Pakistan	Palestine	Panama	Papua New Guinea	Peru	Philippines	Poland	Romania	Rwanda	Senegal	Slovakia	Somalia	South Sudan	Spain	Sri Lanka	Sudan	Syria	Tanzania	Thailand	Tonga	Trinidad and Tobago	Tunisia	Turkey	Uganda	Ukraine	Venezuela	Yemen	Zambia	Zimbabwe	
	3	2	1	4	1	2	2	4	1	3	0	1	3	5	1	3	4	4	3	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	4	4	0	1	3	4	1	3	1	2	0	2	2	4	3	5	1	2	
	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	3	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
	2	2	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	3	3	0	0
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	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	3	2	3	0	1	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	2	3	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	3	3	3	2	3		

[Access the full dataset here](#)



ERITREA



Eritrea continues to experience extreme access constraints. There is very limited humanitarian presence as the Government only allows a small number of NGOs to operate in the country. In accordance with Proclamation No.145/2005, the few organisations present in Eritrea can only implement programmes in partnership with government entities. The Government also places more emphasis on development programmes, restricting the kind of projects these organisations can offer.

The Government implements movement restrictions within the country, requiring official permission for anyone seeking to travel from one region to another. This restriction affects both the access of people in need to assistance and the access of humanitarian staff to people in need. Checkpoints located countrywide require travel permits and identification documents to confirm that travellers have the authorisation to travel. Some areas, like Adi Keyh, Agordat, Arezza, Barentu, Dekemhare, Ghinda, and Nakfa towns and the stretch between Setit and Mereb Rivers, are contaminated with landmines that also limit people's movement.

The Eritrean telecommunications sector is underdeveloped, partly because of a monopoly in telephone service provision and limited investment in the sector. Landline, mobile phone, and internet networks are unreliable and often limited to a few hours of service a day in major cities. The Government also controls the issuance of SIM cards. Some rural areas are inaccessible by road and can only be accessed by foot, camel, or donkey. Limited telecommunication services and the absence of road networks in these areas lead people in need to walk typically long distances to facilities with telephones to receive information about upcoming humanitarian programmes, such as health interventions.

[READ MORE ABOUT ERITREA](#)

ETHIOPIA



This report covers the humanitarian access situation in Ethiopia for the period July–October 2022, meaning the following narrative does not consider the latest changes in context and political developments. On 2 November, the Ethiopian Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front signed an agreement on the cessation of hostilities. The two parties committed to allowing for improved humanitarian access in Tigray. As a result, a limited number of humanitarian organisations have been able to resume aid deliveries into the region ([The Guardian 16/11/2022](#)).



Humanitarian access in northern Ethiopia deteriorated during the reporting period (July–October 2022), primarily as a result of the resumption of fighting between the Federal Government of Ethiopia and Tigrayan forces in late August 2022. The conflict largely constrained access to Tigray, with no aid entering the region from mid-August to the end of October. Although aid would normally reach Tigray through convoys, humanitarian flights were also used for aid provision and staff rotation. Starting late August, however, fighting suspended UNHAS flights, with some exceptions in October. Air strikes affecting residential areas and education facilities also prevented people's access to services.

Between June–October, conflict significantly affected drought response and other humanitarian operations in Oromia region. In western Oromia, heightened insecurity suspended life-saving assistance and aid delivery. In southern Oromia, insecurity, movement restrictions (including road blockages), and damage to public infrastructure restricted people's access to services and aid and humanitarians' access to people in need.

A lack of documentation limited access to services for some groups. As at the end of June, unaccompanied and separated children in Tigray acting as heads of their households or left alone were having difficulty accessing aid and assistance since they often lacked 'beneficiary cards' normally assigned to parents or caregivers. Across the country, refugees with no documentation were also unable to access any services, and their children had no access to education.

Insecurity and the highly volatile environment continued to put aid workers' safety and security at risk: between June–November, two aid workers were killed, two were injured, and two were kidnapped in Ethiopia. There were reports of the looting of 12 fuel tankers from a humanitarian organisation on 24 August in Tigray, impeding the distribution of food, fertiliser, medicine, and other emergency supplies.

Limitations on fuel transportation into Tigray remained significant, limiting distributions to affected populations. Between 1 April and 3 August, about 1.8 million litres of fuel entered the region, but around two million litres were needed monthly to sustain humanitarian operations, including humanitarian convoys arriving at and leaving Tigray. Trucks were only allowed to carry enough fuel for a return trip; authorities confiscated any additional fuel as undeclared goods. From August–October, heavy rains and floods in the country, including Afar, Amhara, Gambela, Oromia, Tigray, and Somali regions, also prevented humanitarians from accessing people in need.

[READ MORE ABOUT ETHIOPIA](#)

MYANMAR



Extreme access constraints persist in Myanmar. Around 600,000 Rohingya people in Rakhine state continue to be denied citizenship and face movement restrictions and a lack of access to services and aid. They are confined to displacement camps fenced by barbed wires or to their villages, and it is illegal for the Rohingya to leave Rakhine state. Since late September, the junta has been instructing the closure of IDP camps in Kachin, Rakhine, and northern Shan states (some by the end of the year and some by April 2023), potentially denying IDPs of aid. Many IDPs in Kayah state have also been living in jungles for months to escape conflict between the military and armed resistance groups, leading them to lack access to assistance.

People living in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs), including Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan states, usually have less access to aid and assistance as authorisations for humanitarian response in such areas have generally been denied. Many other IDPs reside in remote areas, for example near the Thai border, also lacking access to aid and services.

Renewed conflict between the Arakan Army and the military has resulted in both parties implementing heightened security measures across Rakhine, including the blockage of waterways and roads in the north, limiting people's movement and obstructing aid delivery. Security measures in other states, including checkpoints, roadblocks, and curfews, continue to constrain the movement of people, goods, and aid.

In 2022, the junta suspended all registration for civil society organisations and the renewal process for those whose registrations expired in December 2021. In late October, the junta also enacted the Organisation Registration Law, prohibiting any organisation from operating without a registration certificate or working with unregistered affiliates.

Visa delays, banking restrictions, and tax issues constrain the import of medical supplies, affecting humanitarian response. In September, the junta instructed UN agencies and international and local NGOs operating in several townships in Rakhine to halt their operations, affecting aid distribution in IDP camps.

Violence and fighting continue to affect humanitarian access. The military's restrictions on the passage of humanitarian items, including food and medicine, affect conflict-affected areas, with claims that these items could be distributed to anti-coup and ethnic armed groups. Fewer violent events against aid workers have been reported in the last six months compared to the previous period. Flooding and heavy rainfall in Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan have disrupted humanitarian response.

[READ MORE ABOUT MYANMAR](#)



YEMEN

Despite a six-month truce from 2 April to 2 October 2022, armed conflict continued to obstruct humanitarian access in Yemen. Until early October, there was a moderate decrease in access events affecting aid workers' safety and security. Regardless, violence against humanitarian personnel and assets remained a major concern. The abduction, detention, and carjacking of aid workers, often linked to the spread of anti-humanitarian social media campaigns and misinformation, continued to significantly affect humanitarian operations, including by temporarily suspending activities.

Access constraints continue to impede the ability of humanitarians to reach people in need in a timely and principled manner. Bureaucratic constraints by the different authorities in Yemen, such as travel permit denials or delays and the cancellation of field missions, restrict the movement of humanitarian staff and supplies. The requirement for a Mahram (close male relative) to accompany female Yemeni aid workers on humanitarian programme visits and missions in areas under the control of the de-facto authority in the north of Yemen (also known as the Houthis), and recently in a few tribal-influenced governorates under the control of the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen, have resulted in the cancellation of programme visits and aid delivery. In the past six months, the different authorities have suspended and disrupted humanitarian activities, interfered in project design, and made requests for information and documentation from humanitarian staff and aid recipients. Interference with activities continues to be one of the most significant humanitarian access barriers for both humanitarians and people in need. Incidents related to mines or UXO also pose significant challenges, especially during the rainy seasons (normally in April–May and July–September). Past rains have moved mines, contaminating areas and roads used for transportation and humanitarian movements. Heavy rains and flooding in June–August that caused damage to infrastructure, such as roads, also limited access to affected areas.

[READ MORE ABOUT YEMEN](#)



HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

VERY HIGH

CONSTRAINTS

Humanitarian
access with

● Very High Constraints

AFGHANISTAN



Humanitarian access has remained constrained but stable over the last six months. The authorities continue to restrict movement and/or limit access to services, basic goods, and livelihoods for certain groups, including women and girls, people with disabilities, former government and security officials, and other marginalised groups. People caught up in sporadic pockets of conflict also face limitations in accessing aid and services. Thousands of displaced families risk losing access to humanitarian assistance, with the authorities urging IDPs to return to their areas of origin. While there are fewer bureaucratic delays in getting approval for humanitarian programmes, Taliban interference in humanitarian operations has been reported in some provinces. Aid organisations report that in some instances, officials would seek authority over the selection of aid recipients, while in others, they asked organisations to provide more information on budgets and staff contracts. The secondary effects of the war in Ukraine and global inflation also make the delivery of humanitarian aid more expensive, aggravating operational constraints in Afghanistan.

Violence against humanitarians has decreased compared to the first half of 2022 but still occurs. Overall, armed fighting in the country has decreased, but violence in some areas continues to restrict the free movement of people. Sporadic armed attacks attributed to the Islamic State – Khorasan Province also continue, targeting public buildings, including mosques and schools, and limiting people's access to services. An earthquake in June in Khost and Paktika provinces resulted in the deaths of more than 1,000 people and severe damage to infrastructure. Heavy rains and the remote location of affected areas slowed down the initial response to the earthquake, but the pace eventually picked up. People received support from national and international responders. Between July–October, flooding and drought also simultaneously hit the country in different areas, significantly affecting infrastructure and humanitarian access.

[READ MORE ABOUT AFGHANISTAN](#)

BURKINA FASO



Humanitarian access in the country has deteriorated in the past six months as armed groups expanded their area of influence across the country. An estimated 40% of the territory was not under state control in September. The multiplication of areas besieged by armed groups in Est,



Nord, and Sahel regions has significantly increased movement restrictions for civilians and humanitarians. Aid delivery convoys in areas surrounded by armed groups are often attacked, and the resulting insecurity has led to fewer convoys travelling to deliver food and aid. During these attacks, armed groups would burn trucks carrying humanitarian aid and steal supplies. In areas besieged by armed groups, thousands of people who could only leave their area under military escort no longer have access to healthcare and schooling since many public services are non-functional. Access to water has also become particularly limited after armed groups destroyed dozens of water points.

Since June, at least four aid workers have been kidnapped, one injured, and one killed. Attacks on health structures and threats and intimidation against health personnel, particularly in Sahel region, have prompted many health workers to flee making access to health services even more limited. Humanitarian flights, in some cases the safest means of aid delivery in certain areas under the control of non-state armed groups, remain irregular because of limited capacity and are often suspended by insecurity. Non-state armed groups' destruction of roads, bridges, and telecommunication infrastructure, as well as the presence of IEDs, aim at isolating certain areas from the rest of the country, further limiting humanitarian access in Est, Centre-Nord, Nord, and Sahel regions. Poor road conditions deteriorated further during the rainy season (mid-May to mid-October), hampering humanitarian movement.

[READ MORE ABOUT BURKINA FASO](#)

CAMEROON



Non-state armed group activity has deteriorated humanitarian access in the country over the past six months. Although the presence of these groups and clashes with security forces continue to force populations to flee and reduce humanitarian access in Far North region, the level of access constraints seems even higher in Northwest and Southwest regions. The persistence of lockdowns imposed by non-state armed groups, which would last several weeks, is one of the main constraints on the movement of civilians and humanitarian organisations in affected areas. Aid organisations, which do not have a lockdown exemption, often have to suspend operations for several days, delaying aid for thousands of people. Movement restrictions, threats, and intimidation by armed separatist groups also severely limit access to services for people in need. Several attacks on students and staff by armed separatist groups in recent months also further limit access to school.

Regional authorities continue to interfere with the implementation of humanitarian activities. After authorities arrested some of its staff accused of supporting armed separatist groups, one humanitarian organisation decided to further reduce its activities in Southwest region by closing two health structures. Administrative constraints affect the continuity of operations, particularly those involving humanitarian flights, resulting in their suspension for several weeks. Civil aviation authorities have also imposed an additional layer of clearance for humanitarian flights, causing their temporary suspension. Humanitarians rely only on the state airline, delaying aid delivery in Far North, Northwest, and Southwest regions. Non-state armed groups often divert humanitarian aid, especially following security incidents.

In conflict-affected areas, the presence of IEDs contributes to a reduction in humanitarian access. Flooding during the rainy season (June–September) have also damaged many roads and made others impassable for humanitarian organisations.

[READ MORE ABOUT CAMEROON](#)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (CAR)



Humanitarian access has deteriorated as a result of renewed non-state armed group activity, particularly in areas where defence and security forces have limited presence. A fuel shortage led to the disruption of military operations in June, which armed groups took advantage of to take control of several localities. They also took control of some mining sites, attacked civilians, and imposed illegal taxes. When the fuel situation improved in July, the reinforcement of military presence in the mining sites of Mambéré-Kadéï and Ouham prefectures caused numerous clashes with non-state armed groups, restricting the movement of civilians. Following attacks or clashes, people would flee into the bushes, reducing their ability to access assistance and services.

Armed group activity keeps humanitarian movements costly, long, and often dangerous. Attacks against people, goods, and community infrastructure represent most violent incidents affecting humanitarians. In the capital city of Bangui, administrative constraints related to humanitarian vehicles have considerably increased in recent months, delaying humanitarian operations. Just in the past semester, authorities have immobilised or confiscated the vehicles of several humanitarian organisations. Humanitarian flights, when possible, are often the safest way to transport aid, even in areas where roads are passable for trucks.

Since June, non-state armed groups have kidnapped at least three humanitarian staff and in-



jured one other. Armed groups often loot aid distribution sites, depriving hundreds of people of assistance. These attacks against humanitarian organisations cause recurrent but temporary suspensions of activity.

Fuel shortages resulting from global supply chain disruptions suspend or reduce the activities of humanitarian organisations. Between June–July, these shortages reduced the number of humanitarian flights per day by more than half and decreased the quantity of food distributed to populations in need.

The presence of IEDs has made the movement of people in need and humanitarians more difficult, particularly in the west of the country. Flooding during the rainy season (April–September) damaged roads and bridges and made many areas inaccessible.

[READ MORE ABOUT CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC](#)

CHAD



An increase in attacks attributed to Boko Haram has deteriorated humanitarian access in the country. After a period of calm, attacks started increasing in Lac province in July and spread to neighbouring Hadjer Lamis province in September. Thousands of people have fled, many into areas where the lack of basic infrastructure limits their access to essential health and education services.

Clashes between non-state armed groups and defence and security forces, as well as attacks on civilians, continue to further restrict the movement of populations and humanitarian organisations. Because of insecurity, authorities have maintained 'red zones', where movements are severely restricted and humanitarian access is limited. In areas of military operation where Boko Haram is active, fishing and grazing are prohibited, and regional authorities have closed some markets to prevent armed groups from getting supplies. In areas close to the 'red zones', people depend on humanitarian assistance and can no longer practice their subsistence activities because of insecurity. In some areas of Lac province, humanitarian organisations are required to use a military escort when travelling. Violent incidents linked to armed group activity, as well as those linked to demonstrations against the extension of the transition period by military authorities, have disrupted the operations of many humanitarian organisations in recent weeks. In October, several organisations temporarily suspended their activities following violence between civilians and security forces resulting in the deaths of dozens of people across several cities.

The presence of IEDs continues to limit humanitarian movement and access, particularly in Lac province. Physical constraints following floods that affected more than a million people in 18 of the country's 23 provinces have also significantly reduced the access of people in need to aid. The floods, which were particularly severe during the rainy season (mid-May to September), caused considerable damage to roads, aggravating the situation when a lack of road infrastructure was already one of the main access constraints in the country. These physical constraints have delayed the provision of assistance for thousands of affected people, particularly in the province of Sila in October.

[READ MORE ABOUT CHAD](#)

COLOMBIA



Armed conflict and disputes over territorial control have continued over the past six months, causing very high humanitarian constraints in affected areas. The presence of and fighting for territorial control among dissidents of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the National Liberation Army (ELN), paramilitary groups, drug cartels, and other armed groups extend especially in the departments of Antioquia, Arauca, Cauca, Chocó, and Nariño. The activities of humanitarian organisations are frequently affected by armed groups' roadblocks, where they impose conditions for crossing into certain areas under their control.

Violence is affecting departments along the Pacific Coast and on the borders with Venezuela the most. Displacement, confinements, and clashes between armed groups restrict the population's mobility to places where humanitarian aid is available. Non-state armed groups keep some roads closed during disputes over drug-trafficking routes, especially in rural areas. The presence of landmines, IEDs, ERW, and UXO also pose risks to humanitarian operations and people's mobility.

Humanitarian aid and assistance for conflict-affected Venezuelans in Colombia is not always granted; Venezuelans in Colombia are often unaware of the Victims and Land restitution Law (Law 1448 of 2011) and the legal routes for accessing reparations. Aid and assistance for conflict-affected Venezuelans also depends on the discretion of the local mayor's offices, limiting these people's access to goods and services.

Venezuelans with and without legal status in Colombia generally live in remote rural areas difficult for humanitarians to access. Many of these generally rural regions lack proper road infrastructure, making it difficult to transport humanitarian aid. These conditions deteriorated



between March–November owing to an above-normal rainy and hurricane season in the regions of Antioquia, Atlántico, Chocó, and Guajira, further complicating humanitarian mobility in affected territories.

[READ MORE ABOUT COLOMBIA](#)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

Access constraints have remained very high because of armed group activities in the east of the country and hostility among the population towards certain humanitarian organisations. New areas, particularly in Rutshuru territory, have come under the control of armed groups in a context where clashes with the Congolese army are recurrent, making humanitarian operations more challenging. In Rutshuru territory, clashes between defence and security forces and the armed group March 23 Movement often trap civilians, who are unable to flee because of the intensity of the fighting.

Insecurity linked to attacks, robberies, intimidation, and acts of violence by non-state armed and criminal groups has continued to suspend many humanitarian activities in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces. In North Kivu, demonstrations for the withdrawal of the MONUSCO in DRC have forced several organisations to temporarily suspend their activities. The enforcement by the authorities of a curfew in several cities in eastern DRC continues to restrict people's movement. Authorities have suspended road traffic in areas such as the Komanda-Lolwa road (Ituri) because of insecurity, considerably reducing access to people in need. Insecurity also continues to affect humanitarian workers. Since June, attacks by non-state armed groups have led to the death of at least one person and the kidnapping of three others. Delays in administrative procedures for obtaining official documents granting administrative, technical, and financial facilities to humanitarian organisations are still reported.

In August, the poor condition of the bridge over Lualaba River (North Kivu) delayed the delivery of food aid to more than 100,000 people. During the rainy season (mid-February to June and September–December), road damage from heavy rains made access to certain areas particularly difficult. In September, the deterioration of the road on the Rutshuru-Karambi-Kitagoma route hampered access to more than 30,000 displaced people. Logistical constraints, linked in particular to the shortage of fuel, have limited humanitarian flights over the past months.

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

IRAQ

Humanitarian access remained highly constrained across Iraq between July–October, mostly because of insecurity and administrative constraints resulting from political and ethnic tensions and the presence of multiple armed groups and militias.

Affected populations face bureaucratic and administrative constraints in accessing humanitarian assistance. Discriminatory policies and security procedures around accessing documentation remain major concerns for displaced people and returnees, resulting in around one million people lacking civil documentation. The lack of documentation results in the denial of entitlements to assistance and access to basic services. It puts certain groups at risk of statelessness, especially children and families thought to be affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), who face challenges in obtaining security clearance. Many IDPs live in informal settlements and are unable to return to their areas of origin because of missing civil documentation. Many of them are forced to displace to areas underserved by humanitarian services.

Humanitarian responders face serious challenges accessing affected populations. Administrative and movement restrictions are some of the main impediments to humanitarian operations in Iraq. Checkpoints requiring civil documentation are part of daily life in the country and exist inside and outside displacement camps. NGOs often have to obtain additional authorisation from regional authorities, who might request information on staff and programming. NGOs registered in Kurdistan autonomous region cannot operate in federal Iraq, causing issues for humanitarian operations, especially in disputed areas between the two Governments.

Insecurity and physical constraints also strain humanitarian operations. The presence of landmines and ERW continue to hamper movements and recovery efforts in affected areas. Sporadic attacks by armed groups and frequent air strikes against ISIS and the Kurdistan Workers' Party continue to hamper humanitarian operations. In areas where infrastructure has not yet been rehabilitated, IDPs are unable to return to their areas of origin, such as the Yazidis displaced from Sinjar town in Nineveh governorate.

[READ MORE ABOUT IRAQ](#)



LIBYA



While the situation in Libya has largely remained the same during the past six months, humanitarian access has deteriorated. Different authorities continue to arbitrarily arrest migrants with and irregular status, holding them in official and unofficial detention centres that lack services. Different authorities or armed forces often do not allow humanitarian organisations to access detention centres, making it very difficult to gather information on the conditions, needs, and numbers of migrants in both official and non-official detention centres. Because these migrants lack documentation, it is challenging for them to access services (including legal services), assistance, and overall aid.

Bureaucratic and administrative restrictions continue to challenge the access of humanitarian responders to the affected population across Libya. The registration process for humanitarian organisations is complicated and time-consuming, with recently reported increased scrutiny on activities hindering humanitarian operations. Despite an improvement in the issuance of visas for aid workers between January–June, there was a reported lack of clarity regarding the process and needed time to renew visas. Entry permits allowing humanitarian staff to operate across the country are valid for only short periods and require constant renewal. Financial constraints have also been reported. There are limits on the amounts of cash humanitarian organisations can withdraw from certain banks, and they need authorisations from intermediary banks for international transfers, resulting in shortages of money required to run humanitarian operations.

[READ MORE ABOUT LIBYA](#)

MALI



Access constraints remain very high as armed groups continue to expand their area of influence, largely in the north of the country and particularly in Gao and Ménaka regions. Clashes between non-state armed groups and with the Malian army, often with the support of pro-government militia, regularly disrupt humanitarian activities.

The surrounding of certain localities, the blocking of key roads, and robberies by armed groups in areas under their control have further reduced the movement of populations and humanitarian workers. In the north of the country, insecurity often temporarily suspends humanitarian activities, delaying assistance for populations in need. Insecurity has forced thousands of

people to flee to areas where they continue to be exposed to violence from armed groups and where assistance is not available. While access disruptions are always observed, however, they are generally temporary.

Violence also affects humanitarian workers. Kidnapping and harassment by armed groups at illegal checkpoints have been recorded over the past six months. Aid has often been diverted following these attacks. Since June, armed groups have killed at least two humanitarian workers and injured another in attacks in the Kayes and Kidal regions. Attacks on public services and the destruction of numerous telecommunication infrastructures have continued to disrupt aid delivery. During the rainy season (mid-May to September), flooding and road damage aggravated physical constraints.

Sanctions by the Economic Community of West African States, which have delayed the transport of certain humanitarian supplies, were lifted in July, reducing related administrative constraints.

[READ MORE ABOUT MALI](#)

NIGER



In the past six months, humanitarian access in Niger has deteriorated because of growing insecurity in Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua, and Tillabéri regions. Armed group activity has caused many reactive or preventive displacements after civilians experienced kidnappings, killings, threats, and physical attacks. Access to services such as education is difficult, particularly for people displaced in areas with limited humanitarian access. The number of schools closed because of insecurity increased by around 17% in August compared to May, particularly affecting Tillabéri and Tahoua regions. The curfew in conflict-affected areas further reduces the population's movements and access to services. The reinstatement of the ban on motorcycle traffic in certain departments of Tillabéri region, following the recent increase in attacks by armed groups, also restricts movement and people's access to services in these areas.

Administrative constraints related to the state of emergency and the imposition of military escorts have continued to limit humanitarian access to areas where armed groups are particularly active. In Tillabéri region, security forces at checkpoints sometimes refuse humanitarian organisations' access to certain areas. Insecurity continues to affect humanitarian workers, particularly in the border regions with Mali and Burkina Faso. Since June, attacks by armed groups in Tillabéri region has killed at least one humanitarian and led to the kidnapping of five others. Humanitarian organisations often temporarily suspend their activities because of inse-



curity in regions bordering Mali and Burkina Faso. The presence of IEDs continues to reduce the areas accessible to aid workers.

Flooding resulting from heavy rains between June–October led to worse access constraints related to the poor quality of roads. For some NGOs, access to fuel is sometimes challenging because of government restrictions that aim to prevent armed groups from refuelling.

[READ MORE ABOUT NIGER](#)

NIGERIA



Humanitarian access in Nigeria has continued to be highly constrained. Although IDPs and returnees need humanitarian assistance, the Government has been closing IDP camps and facilitating the return of some displaced people. The displaced often return to insecure areas inaccessible to humanitarian groups.

Aside from insecurity, bureaucratic and administrative restrictions restrain the access of humanitarian organisations to people in need. The many requirements complicate the registration process for humanitarian organisations. International humanitarian staff also face difficulties receiving visas to work in the country.

In August, non-state armed groups carried out abductions at illegal vehicle checkpoints, which they set up along major highways like the Maiduguri-Gajiram highway. An aid worker was among the people abducted. Violence, conflict, and intercommunal clashes, particularly in the North West, North East, and Middle Belt regions of Nigeria, make movements to seek assistance unsafe for people in need. While travelling, civilians suffer from extortion, sexual violence, abductions, attacks, or violence resulting in death. In the past six months, insecurity has suspended several humanitarian activities. In Takum local government area (Taraba state), which hosts some Cameroonian refugees, intercommunal clashes that broke out in July delayed the distribution of relief supplies. In Monguno local government area (Borno state), humanitarian staff were relocated to Maiduguri after non-state armed groups attacked aid facilities.

IEDs are widely used in Nigeria, particularly in Borno state. From June–October, IED attacks throughout the country injured 29 civilians and killed 27 others. Limited freedom of movement and restricted access to some areas in Nigeria have made it difficult to determine the exact extent of landmine contamination.

Between July–October, heavy rainfall caused the worst flooding in Nigeria, which affected the entire country. Flooded roads and damaged bridges made it difficult to access some affected areas. Damage to telecommunication infrastructure resulting from conflict in the northeast

also resulted in a lack of network coverage in affected areas, restricting the submission of data on illnesses and other health concerns and hindering effective decision-making in the health response.

[READ MORE ABOUT NIGERIA](#)

STATE OF PALESTINE



Humanitarian access in the State of Palestine remains severely restricted. The Gaza Strip has been under land, air, and sea blockade since 2006. Travelling in and out requires approvals that are often denied, including permits for critical medical assistance. From 2008–2022, 30% of the 70,000 permit applications to leave Gaza for medical assistance were delayed or denied. In the West Bank, bureaucratic and movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation limit people's mobility in general; people need permits from Israeli authorities to move, work, and continue living in their homes, especially in areas behind the separation barrier.

Aside from the West Bank separation barrier dividing Israel from Palestinian territories in the West Bank, the presence of Israeli checkpoints and road obstacles (around 600 as at April 2021) continues to limit people's movement inside the region, blocking Palestinians who need to access aid and disrupting or delaying the delivery of humanitarian aid.

In the Gaza Strip, there are constraints on the import of essential products, relief items, and equipment that qualify as 'dual-use' items with potential military use. Obtaining visas for international staff to access the Gaza Strip and the West Bank is also challenging, time-consuming, and sometimes impossible for staff from specific countries.

Security and physical constraints strain humanitarian access in Palestine. Active conflict between Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces and the frequent targeting of civilian infrastructure by the Israeli Armed Forces inhibit people from accessing humanitarian services. Settlement-expansion operations by Israeli authorities in the West Bank also result in the demolition and confiscation of structures and limit the access of Palestinians to land and roads. Since the beginning of 2022, the Israeli occupation has demolished around 690 structures, including donor-funded structures offering WASH, shelter, education, and livelihood services to affected people.

Gaza also endures frequent air strikes from the Israeli Armed Forces, which target civil infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, and public buildings. The latest, which occurred in August, damaged or destroyed hundreds of residential units and other civilian infrastructure.

[READ MORE ABOUT STATE OF PALESTINE](#)



SOMALIA



Access constraints in Somalia have remained very high over the past six months. People from minority clans face discrimination from ‘gatekeepers’ who limit their access to humanitarian assistance. ‘Gatekeepers’ have some influence within humanitarian response networks since they are informal intermediaries between IDPs, regional authorities, and NGOs.

Conflict in Somalia stems from interclan tensions, political rivalries, military offensives by government and international armed forces, and Al-Shabaab insurgency. It limits the access of people in need to humanitarian assistance and of humanitarian responders to the affected population. By September, the Government had scaled up military operations against Al-Shabaab in Bay, Galgaduud, Hiran, Lower Shabelle, and Middle Shabelle regions. Diinsoor, Hudur, Qansaxdhere, and Waajid towns were under encirclement by non-state armed groups by late September, with restricted movements into and out of these towns. There are checkpoints in place countrywide, particularly in central and southern parts of Somalia. Security forces, Al-Shabaab, clan militias, and criminal groups impose fees at both legal and illegal checkpoints. Many INGOs and UN agencies are concerned that paying fees at checkpoints would be in violation of the US Government’s sanctions against Al-Shabaab, limiting their access to parts of Somalia under Al-Shabaab control. NGOs also face arbitrary taxation, interference in contracting suppliers, and interference in staff recruitment from authorities. Al-Shabaab taking control of more areas and clan conflicts breaking out suspend humanitarian activities.

Political tensions between the Federal Government and federal member states sometimes affect the timely delivery of humanitarian supplies. In July, a political dispute over a plane taking aid supplies from Mogadishu to Puntland escalated into violence. The plane was forced to return to Mogadishu, and the delivery of aid supplies was deferred to a later date.

[READ MORE ABOUT SOMALIA](#)

SOUTH SUDAN



Humanitarian operations in South Sudan remain challenging. In April, the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management issued a decree requiring the international staff of NGOs to provide valid work permits and other documentation, which could only be obtained in their countries of origin. This decree has continued to affect humanitarian organisations in the second half of 2022. Humanitarian organisations unable to provide the necessary documentation for their staff on time have had to pay fines.

The number of checkpoints along White Nile River, some of which were operated by armed groups, increased between July–October. In some of these checkpoints, humanitarian organisations face extortion for money and the seizure of supplies, such as fuel, from their barges. Humanitarian organisations face arbitrary conditions from authorities and interference in humanitarian activities. In Jonglei state, some NGOs have suspended their training activities after the authorities imposed new training fees on workshops. The authorities interfere with the recruitment of humanitarian staff in Jonglei, Lakes, Upper Nile, and Western Equatoria states. Violence in different parts of the country hinders the movement of affected people to seek aid and has resulted in the suspension of humanitarian activities, such as in Tonga town in August. Between June–September, at least six humanitarian staff were killed, nine abducted, and 30 detained. Humanitarian supplies were also looted in several incidents where humanitarian convoys were ambushed or humanitarian facilities attacked.

South Sudan has experienced disruptive floods during the rainy season, particularly in August. Most roads in the country are not paved. Dirt roads become impassable during the rainy season, constraining road access to some rural communities. Humanitarian organisations use air and river transport as alternatives, but these are costlier than road transport.

[READ MORE ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN](#)



SYRIA



Overall, humanitarian access has remained severely constrained across Syria since July. Affected populations face physical and administrative obstructions in accessing humanitarian services. Different authorities control different areas. Armed groups belonging to opposing sides of the conflict constrain movement between these areas at crossing points. The gap left by the State following the civil war and years of displacement have left a large group of affected people without civil documentation (such as identity documents, birth and death certificates, and marriage registrations), limiting their freedom of movement and access to services and humanitarian aid.

Humanitarian organisations face serious challenges accessing affected populations. Difficulties in receiving approval from the Syrian Government and neighbouring countries to access affected people remain a concern in Rukban and Al-Hawl camps. The presence of checkpoints affects aid delivery and often requires further negotiation for access to implement operations. Political and administrative constraints, such as sanctions placed by the Syrian Government (which controls 70% of the country), also affect the ability of humanitarian aid to reach affected populations and conduct operations given the legal risks they might face from doing finance in areas under the Government's control.

Security and physical constraints strain humanitarian operations in Syria. Two incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel were reported in the past six months, with an IED killing one staff and an armed group kidnapping another. The widespread use of ERW limits the use of spaces and roads in Syria, affecting movement and development in affected areas. The destruction of infrastructure and closure of main highways by air strikes and armed group attacks continue to impede the ability of humanitarians to provide assistance to people in need.

[READ MORE ABOUT SYRIA](#)

UKRAINE



This report covers the humanitarian access situation in Ukraine for the period July–October 2022. It does not include information on the latest power outages. Electrical infrastructure has been increasingly targeted since September, but widespread rolling blackouts have been happening only since November, as repair efforts became insufficient to keep up with the scale of the damages. Targeted attacks have damaged nearly half of the country's electricity; scheduled power outages have been implemented across the country to balance the grid, leaving people without electricity ([Al Jazeera 06/12/2022](#)).

Although highly constrained, since July, humanitarian access has been improving in Ukraine as areas become newly accessible following advances by Ukrainian forces. At the same time, humanitarian access and operations in NGCAs continue to be severely restricted, with little detailed information on the nature of the constraints. In the rest of the country, the increased targeting of critical civilian infrastructure is driving safety and security risks for civilians and humanitarians. The majority of Kharkiv oblast, some areas of Kherson (Beryslav raion and Kherson city), and Mykolaiv oblast have become newly accessible for humanitarians after they were retaken by Ukrainian forces. Using the only recognised crossing between government-controlled areas (GCAs) and NGCAs (via the Vasylivka NGCA and Kamianske GCA checkpoints in Zaporizhzhia oblast) has become more time-consuming for civilians since the claimed 'annexation' of NGCAs by the Russian Federation on 30 September. Since then, documentation requirements and extensive searches by Russian forces on civilians wishing to leave the NGCA have been reported, and the rate of people crossing into the GCA has significantly dropped. Heightened risks related to active conflict and shelling hamper humanitarian access in front-line areas. Military checkpoints also prevent humanitarians from accessing certain frontline communities. In areas with heavier shelling, civilians' access to services is restricted by the risk they must take to reach aid distribution points. Even when an area becomes newly accessible, constraints remain high given the heavy presence of mines and UXO and severe damage to civilian infrastructure.

[READ MORE ABOUT UKRAINE](#)



BANGLADESH



Bangladesh has faced high humanitarian access constraints in the past six months, indicating a deterioration from the previous period. Heightened access constraints resulting from flooding have dominated the slight improvement in access conditions observed for the Rohingya crisis. Slight improvements to the Rohingya context relate to the much fewer reported injuries to aid workers than in the previous period. Rohingya refugees still face restrictions while travelling from one camp to another, requiring a camp-to-camp movement pass. NGOs in the country still face several challenges in terms of formation, registration, and operation, such as the inordinately high minimum number of members required to form an NGO, bureaucratic hurdles and delays resulting in complicated processes, obstructions in the disbursement of foreign funds, delays in project approval, and the cancellation of registration.

Floods heavily affected the country in May–June, especially the northeast, with more than 70% of Sylhet division being flooded. The floods resulted in several environmental and logistical constraints. The floods and rains cut off communications and power across many places in flood-affected areas, hampering aid delivery. Flood-affected areas were also mostly remote, such as in haors (wetland ecosystems), with very low accessibility given the lack of transportation and communication infrastructure. A significant portion of the affected region, including roads, was flooded, meaning the only way to feasibly reach stranded people was by boat. The scarcity of boats; significantly higher boat fares compared to pre-flood times in the affected areas, especially in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts; and unusually high prices of local rowboats (dinghies) hindered aid delivery.

[READ MORE ABOUT BANGLADESH](#)

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)



Humanitarian access has remained stable with high access constraints in the DPRK. For decades, the DPRK has been implementing the songbun system, a sociopolitical classification system that favours groups labelled as more loyal to the ruling party. This system discriminates against specific groups and limits their access to employment, schools, quality public services, markets, and domestic travel, among others, affecting people's equitable access to services and opportunities. Along with the songbun classification, forced internal resettlement is also common, often to rural areas, moving people away from services and potential aid.

Freedom of movement has been highly restricted in the country, and it is illegal to move from one province to another or travel abroad without prior approval. The announcement of the first reported COVID-19 case in May 2022 led to strengthened COVID-19 containment measures, with the implementation of a strict national lockdown and border closures resulting in heightened movement restrictions for the population and negative effects on both trade and the remaining humanitarian response. Since April 2021, there has been no UN foreign



staff or INGO staff left in the country. International aid organisations have been relying on regional staff to distribute aid throughout the country, potentially increasing government control over distribution and subsequently increasing the likelihood of misdistribution of aid.

A weak health system that lacks qualified medical staff and equipment continues to constrain access to essential health and WASH facilities and services in the country, especially in rural areas. It has been reported that the DPRK has had very few confirmed COVID-19 cases because of its limited testing capacity; the country reported around 4.8 million fever cases. The DPRK has declined multiple offers of COVID-19 vaccine shipments.

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

EL SALVADOR



El Salvador has continued to face high humanitarian access constraints over the past six months. Despite the Government's efforts to reduce gang control of territory, the latter continues to control certain areas and neighbourhoods of San Salvador, such as Amatepec, Redondel La Isla, and Villa Mariona. The gangs' expansion and the increase in confrontations between different criminal gangs have led the Government to impose a state of emergency starting mid-March 2022. The state of emergency has limited constitutional rights, such as freedom of association, due process for detainees, and the suspension of NFI, food, and WASH assistance for prisoners, to pressure gang members into ceasing their violent activities.

Humanitarian and political issues overlap in El Salvador. The Government tends to deny the increase in humanitarian needs, especially in gang-controlled neighbourhoods. Government policies to deal with gangs in turn affect and increase the needs of the population. Gang violence and persecution caused by the state of emergency increase the number of IDPs in the country. Many of them move to remote areas where they feel safer and freer, but doing so likely hinders their mobility to receive humanitarian aid.

The persecution of potential gang members has directly affected neighbourhoods where gang members are suspected to be present as it limits the movement of people and restricts the provision of humanitarian aid and assistance in these areas. Certain characteristics indicate gang affiliation, such as tattoos, and some authorities have stigmatised anyone who might possess them. The persecution and militarisation of areas have made it difficult for humanitarian organisations to access people in need and for people to leave neighbourhoods. In neighbourhoods where gang presence is suspected, military fences and checkpoints have been installed to prevent their passage.

Since August, heavy rains have been causing flooding and landslides in different areas, including gang-controlled neighbourhoods. Despite the heavy rains, road infrastructure remains accessible in most parts of the country.

[READ MORE ABOUT EL SALVADOR](#)

HAITI



The humanitarian access situation in Haiti has remained stable in the past six months. Despite increasing territorial control of armed gangs, the country remains accessible to humanitarian organisations. In general, the Government works hand in hand with humanitarian organisations to respond to the needs of the population. The increase in violence by armed gangs, mainly in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, hinders effective response in some regions, especially in the north and south.

The assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021, political insecurity, poverty, and inflation triggered the increase in the gangs' territorial control. Armed gangs have closed off several violence-affected areas of Port-au-Prince; the confined population has limited access to clean water, food, personal hygiene items, health, and protection assistance. Those displaced by gang violence are often in areas difficult to access. In Port-au-Prince, IDPs are also among the victims of confinements, making their mobility and ability to access services, livelihood activities, goods, and assistance even more difficult. Road closures have also affected the population in the south, preventing the mobility of humanitarian organisations to respond to people who remain in need after the 14 August 2021 earthquake. Insecurity and violence have led to the closure and/or suspension of humanitarian operations, preventing aid delivery to populations in need.

Haiti is prone to natural disasters. Following the 14 August 2021 earthquake, the total reconstruction of affected roads and bridges has not yet been completed, meaning there is a lack of road connection. A gang blockade at the country's main fuel terminal in the capital has led to riots and severe fuel shortages, suspending, delaying, and/or increasing the cost of operations. Fuel shortages also affect medical operations as humanitarian workers are unable to move around, causing medicine, oxygen, and life-saving equipment shortages. Power plants in medical centres also depend on fuel, leaving at least three-quarters of major hospitals without power and unable to function.

[READ MORE ABOUT HAITI](#)



INDONESIA



The humanitarian access situation in West Papua region, comprising Papua and West Papua provinces (which have been divided into several other provinces), has improved. No incidents have been reported regarding roadblocks or security presence hindering humanitarian activities in the last six months.

The Government and the separatist West Papua insurgency have been in low-intensity conflict in the region since the 1960s. The Government has so far been implementing a militaristic approach to the insurgency and protests in the region. Many people who have fled their homes to escape conflict have left their government-issued documents, such as government-issued IDs, at home. Without such documents, displaced people cannot access services, such as public health services. Many of the displaced do not return to their places of origin out of fear of security forces' presence and violence. Some people are living in remote areas, such as forests, for the same reason, making their access to services even more challenging. Information regarding the humanitarian situation of displaced people is scarce given access restrictions imposed on humanitarian responders and journalists. Almost all international aid organisations and independent foreign journalists do not have access to the region, and the UN's initiatives to monitor the human rights situation have yet to receive approval from the Government. The country has a law restricting internet services and authorises the arrest of journalists who publish content considered to be prohibited by the authorities. This law gives the latter control to manipulate the narrative of conflict in West Papua region. The Government's attitude towards displaced Papuans indicates the downplaying of their needs.

Authorities continue to obstruct aid organisations' access to displaced people, even when they are ready to deliver aid. Organisations also face time-consuming and complicated registration processes. Roadblocks and the extensive presence of security forces happen in response to insurgencies and protests. Although there have been no reports about such roadblocks, they might hinder the implementation of humanitarian activities should they materialise.

[READ MORE ABOUT INDONESIA](#)

KENYA



Kenya continues to experience high access constraints. The registration of refugees through the Refugee Status Determination process is a prerequisite for receiving assistance, but the rate of new refugee arrivals into Kenya outpaces their registration. The lack of a formalised reception system to identify newly arrived refugees as they reach refugee camps further delays their access to assistance. The overall perception within Kakuma refugee camp that refugees from Uganda are part of the LGBTQ+ community often leads to refugees facing violence and discrimination when trying to access humanitarian services. This discrimination has been entrenched by the Government's stance against homosexuality and laws that make homosexual acts illegal. Trucks transporting supplies face extortion at various security checkpoints erected along different roads. As the impact of drought has worsened, resource-based conflicts have increased in Marsabit, Samburu, and Turkana counties. Garissa, Mandera, and Tana River counties also face insecurity because of sporadic attacks by Al-Shabaab. Nutrition outreach programmes to some drought-affected areas have been suspended because of insecurity.

[READ MORE ABOUT KENYA](#)

MEXICO



Humanitarian access constraints in Mexico have remained high. Mixed migration movements in the country have increased over the past months, and the high number of people entering Mexico through the southern border has diminished the reach of the humanitarian response, especially in the cities of Tapachula (Chiapas) and Tenosique (Tabasco). The Government's inability to process stay permits and asylum applications has hampered access to essential services, including healthcare and education. This inability also makes it impossible for people in need to move outside the cities where they must wait for migration permits, preventing them from moving to other cities with greater access to humanitarian aid. Mexican migration authorities have not implemented more accessible and less complex regulations to formalise migration status, aggravating the problems faced by a large number of people in need of international protection. The efforts of some to travel to the US or other Mexican states undetected lead them to move through remote areas, limiting their access to assistance.

Violence and disputes over territorial control by armed groups are one of the main impediments to humanitarian access in Mexico. Clashes, killings, disappearances, and confinement prevent the



affected population from approaching areas where humanitarian aid is available. The US-Mexico border is a hotspot for human smuggling. People seeking to reach the US via Mexico also often face protection risks, including kidnapping, sexual violence, and robberies, inhibiting them from moving freely to access aid and services. The presence of drug-trafficking organisations and cartels diminish the ability of humanitarian responders to reach the affected population.

The rainy and hurricane season in Mexico started around 15 May and will last until the end of November. In recent months, heavy rains and tropical cyclones have caused flooding and landslides. Weather-affected areas are subject to severe disruption of infrastructure, limiting physical access to affected areas. Fuel shortages have increased transport costs and made humanitarian operations more expensive.

[READ MORE ABOUT MEXICO](#)

MOZAMBIQUE



The access situation in Mozambique remains stable, with few recurring incidents of access constraints reported in the past six months. IDPs without civil documentation have continued to limit their own movement for fear of arrests and questioning by the authorities. IOM estimates that only 38% of IDPs have civil documentation in the country. As for the access of humanitarians to people in need, complex registration requirements for NGOs remain a significant constraint. Local NGOs are requested to have ten founders to be recognised as such. The insurgency in Cabo Delgado is also spilling over to Nampula province, and humanitarians are required consultation from the military to deliver aid to cyclone-affected areas in the province. In the past six months, checkpoints have been erected in Cabo Delgado along Metro-Ancuabe and N380 ring roads, and roads have occasionally been closed during active violence. During the wave of violence by non-state armed groups in Nampula in early September, the attacks on 2–6 September led to the destruction of health facilities and schools and the killing of civilians. Attacks in IDP sites or near IDP sites have led to the forced displacement of people away from services. Fuel scarcity and subsequent high prices also challenge the movement and delivery of humanitarian aid and assistance. During the research period, OCHA classified seven districts in Cabo Delgado with an estimated population of 302,000 as 'hard to reach'.

[READ MORE ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE](#)

NICARAGUA



The country's political situation is one of the main constraints to humanitarian access in Nicaragua, which generally continue to be high. President Daniel Ortega's Government has control over the funds sent to humanitarian organisations and does not use them to meet the needs of Nicaraguans. Certain international organisations have called for decreased and more restricted international funds as they are often used for purposes other than what is needed. The Government does not agree with the needs estimate of humanitarian organisations and persecutes social and humanitarian organisations that report on the needs of Nicaraguans.

On 31 March, the Government enacted the new General Law for the Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organisations. It imposes restrictions on the right to organise, establishes the possibility of denying operating permits, and legalises the confiscation of NGO assets. The Government frequently imposes restrictions to aid delivery to people in need and some sanctions on humanitarian responders.

Under the new law, authorities have closed hundreds of NGOs and applied very restrictive legislation. Since 6 June, Nicaraguan authorities have enacted laws and resolutions cancelling the legal registration of more than 770 non-governmental organisations and foundations, effectively forcing them to close their operations in the country. The 'illegalisation' of organisations has in many cases been accompanied by the illegal expropriation of their property. The Ministry of Interior has also deregistered three US and three European NGOs.

Heavy rains in the past six months have caused flooding and landslides. Despite these natural hazards, the road infrastructure in Nicaragua generally allows for good travel and does not cause logistical constraints. Despite fluctuating fuel prices, no fuel shortages have affected humanitarian operations.

[READ MORE ABOUT NICARAGUA](#)



PAKISTAN



Pakistan's humanitarian access situation has remained stable with high constraints over the last six months. Freedom of movement and access to basic services for civilians remain highly restricted in Balochistan province and Pakistani-administered Kashmir because of the presence of military checkpoints and armed group activity. These activities primarily drive violence in Balochistan, involving groups such as the Balochistan Liberation Army, and affect the freedom of movement and access to services of affected people. A similar situation regarding armed group activities has been observed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Tehreek-e-Taliban, an organisation comprising several Islamist armed groups, is also reported to run an extortion network imposing taxes on developmental projects, such as road construction and the building of schools and hospitals in Waziristan and adjacent districts, limiting the availability of and access to services. As for refugees, Pakistan provides smart identity cards to Afghans, which are necessary to access services and assistance.

A complex registration process and strict regulations allowing the Government of Pakistan to refuse NGO registration and conduct raids of their offices without prior notice have been hindering humanitarian response. The widespread floods that hit Pakistan mid-2022 have eased some of these processes. Some financial screening processes are also likely to be relaxed after the October removal of Pakistan from the list of the Financial Action Task Force (the global money laundering and financing watchdog) of countries under 'increased monitoring'.

One incident regarding violence against humanitarian personnel and assets was reported in the last six months. Two aid workers were attacked and injured in the Dera Ghazi Khan district of Punjab province while transporting aid for flood-affected people. The perpetrators also looted some relief items. No violence against humanitarian personnel or assets was reported in the previous period.

Heavy rains and floods have affected 33 million people in Pakistan in 2022. The floods have damaged and destroyed many schools and health facilities, reducing people's access to education and health services, as well as roads and communication structures, cutting off the people in need from services and aid. Pakistan also suffers from topographic obstacles, such as mountainous parts with winding sections, rough roads, and steep slopes, and vehicle weight limitations, making access to some remote areas challenging for humanitarian responders.

[READ MORE ABOUT PAKISTAN](#)

SUDAN



Humanitarian access in Sudan has improved during the reporting period in terms of the access of humanitarian organisations across the country to people in need, as well as a slight improvement in the security situation, particularly in relation to the targeting of civilian facilities. Between January–June, there were several reports by humanitarians citing an increase in requests for incentives and fees on the delivery of humanitarian aid, especially in Blue Nile, Central Darfur, Gedaref, North Darfur, South Darfur, South Kordofan, West Kordofan, and White Nile states. Since June, there have been no reports on such a constraint, contributing to improved humanitarian access. There has also been only one report on the confiscation of humanitarian aid compared to several incidents in the previous reporting period. In September, four pickup trucks for Médecins Sans Frontières carrying NFIs, including mosquito nets, blankets, and mats, for flood-affected people were looted in Aj Jazira state. In terms of insecurity, there have been fewer incidents of hospitals and healthcare centres being targeted. Only three reported incidents of violence or threats of violence were recorded against healthcare workers between June–November.

The rainy season and consequent flooding between June–September contributed to increasing pre-existing physical constraints, causing road and infrastructure damage and affecting the movement of people in need and aid workers. Authorities declared emergencies in areas including the Nile River, Kassala, and parts of Darfur, while some areas, such as Al Managil, Aj Jazira state, became completely inaccessible because of severe flooding. Many roads became impassable, and already poor infrastructure in some areas received further damage. The disaster hindered assessments to identify needs and the timely delivery of aid.

[READ MORE ABOUT SUDAN](#)



THAILAND

The humanitarian access situation in Thailand has remained stable with high constraints over the last six months.

Thailand is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention and implements a strict encampment policy for Myanmar refugees, asylum seekers, and their children born in Thailand. These people are classified as migrants without legal status, undermining their access to humanitarian aid and protection. The refugees, including some living in Thailand since 1980, lack legal documentation, hindering their access to employment, livelihoods, and many public services. The lack of documentation also restricts them to the camps. The Government has yet to allow access for UN agencies to conduct a refugee status determination of the Rohingya from Myanmar. Many refugee camps are in mountainous areas only accessible via unpaved roads.

The Thai Cabinet approved a new version of the Act on the Operation of Not-for-Profit Organizations in January 2022. The bill contains extensive prohibitions on NGO activities that are not compatible with international law and has provisions requiring onerous reporting and disclosures.

Southern Thailand faces some access constraints relating to insurgencies. Conflict level remains low, but bomb attacks by insurgents have affected civilians. In response to the longstanding insurgency, authorities have heavily militarised the southern provinces, with checkpoints and security posts being implemented in the region limiting the movement of affected people. Heavy rains and floods have affected southern Thailand and at least one province, Tak, where refugees have been living for the past six months, potentially affecting the affected populations in the regions.

[READ MORE ABOUT THAILAND](#)

VENEZUELA

The provision of aid in Venezuela remains politicised. Permits to operate as a humanitarian organisation often depend on government approval. However, since July 2022 denial of permits is no longer as frequent, and therefore not systematic, compared to past reporting periods. Human rights organisations face significant restrictions on operating in the country and may be approved and/or denied access on the grounds of security and national sovereignty. That said, the Government has been improving people's access to meet their needs by developing plans to improve socioeconomic conditions and livelihoods. New humanitarian organisations have been allowed access in the last six months to lessen the impact of the crisis.

The territorial expansion of Colombian armed groups towards the Venezuelan border, the presence of new Venezuelan armed groups, and constant confrontations between these armed groups and the Venezuelan military, have hampered the mobility of people in need. Transnational armed conflict in the border states of Apure, Amazonas, and Táchira generates confinements that prevent people in need from reaching humanitarian aid. Checkpoints set up by both non-state armed groups and Venezuelan troops are present in the states bordering Colombia, and access to the states with the largest number of armed groups tends to be limited. The activity of armed groups and the response of government forces on Colombia's borders affect people's daily lives.

Venezuela's remote location and lack of roads make mobility difficult in certain regions. Venezuela's geography has mountainous, jungle, and desert areas that create logistical impediments. Between May–June, the rainy season caused floods and landslides that further affected the mobility of humanitarian organisations, especially in Las Tejerías (Aragua state) and Sur del Lago (Zulia state). The landslides damaged the infrastructure of several houses and businesses and affected the supply of electricity, drinking water, mobile connectivity, and road access. Constant power outages and fuel shortages also hamper access and the distribution of humanitarian aid.

[READ MORE ABOUT VENEZUELA](#)



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