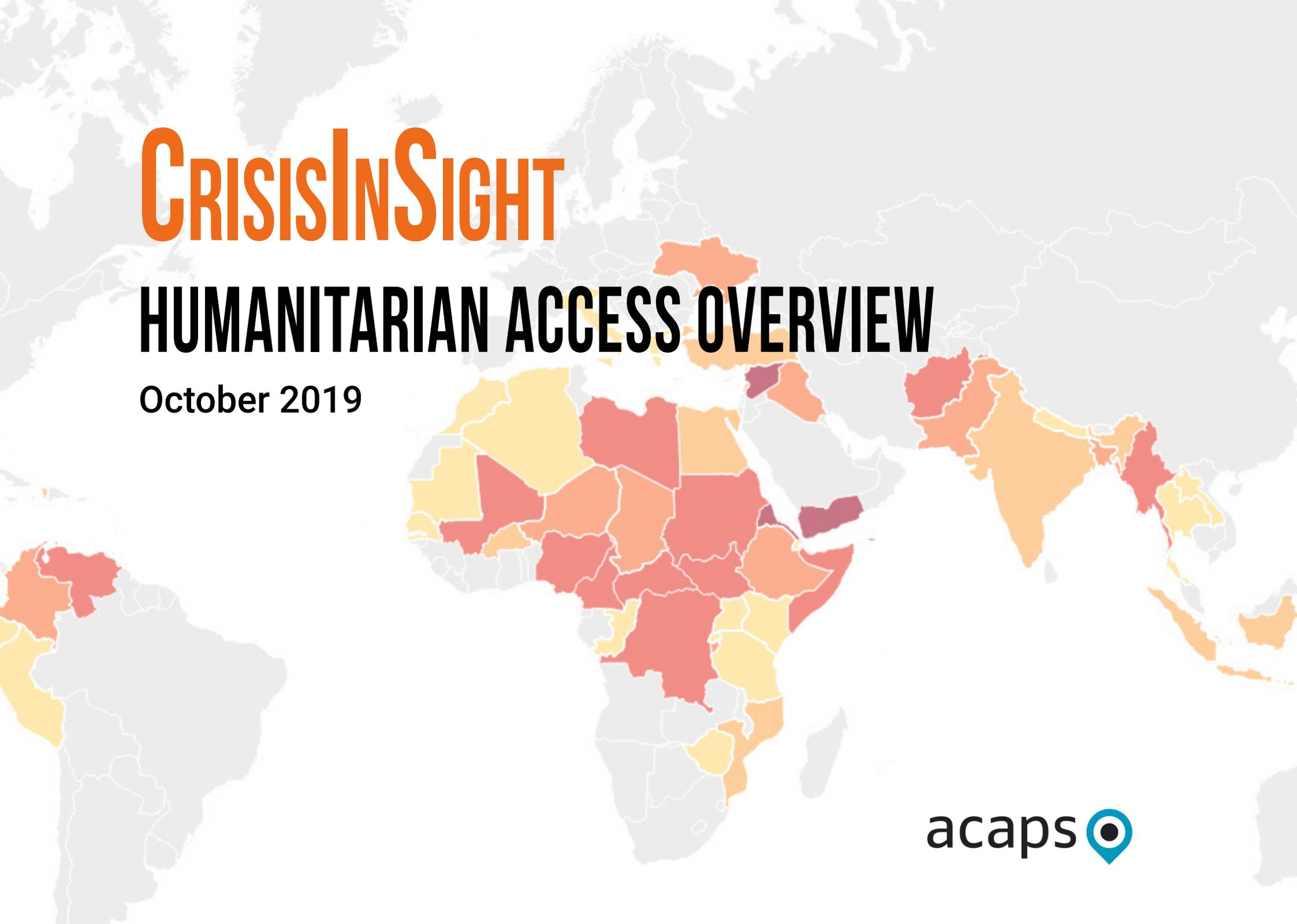


CRISISINSIGHT

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

October 2019



INTRODUCTION

ACAPS Humanitarian Access Overview provides a snapshot of the contexts where humanitarian action faces the biggest constraints

ACAPS analysts scored each context on nine variables in order to rank and compare humanitarian access worldwide. Crisis affected populations in about 60 countries are not getting the humanitarian assistance they need due to access constraints.

Eight new countries were included in the ranking since the last ACAPS Humanitarian Access report released in May 2019. Among the indicators, 'Physical constraints' and 'Restrictions and obstruction to services and assistance' are the most common challenges.

This report presents the score boards for all the countries assessed. Narratives are provided only for countries with high, very high, or extreme constraints.

EXTREME CONSTRAINTS

ERITREA
SYRIA
YEMEN

VERY HIGH CONSTRAINTS

AFGHANISTAN
CAMEROON
CAR
DPRK
DRC
LIBYA
MALI
MYANMAR
NIGERIA
STATE OF PALESTINE
SOMALIA
SOUTH SUDAN
SUDAN
VENEZUELA

HIGH CONSTRAINTS

BANGLADESH
BURUNDI
CHAD
COLOMBIA
ETHIOPIA
IRAQ
NIGER
PAKISTAN
UKRAINE

Methodology

Our methodology groups 9 indicators under 3 dimensions:

1. Access of people in need to humanitarian aid comprised of 2 indicators:

- Denial of humanitarian needs
- Restriction of access to services and assistance

2. Access of humanitarian actors to affected population comprised of 4 indicators:

- Impediments to entry into country
- Restriction of movement
- Interference with humanitarian activities
- Violence against personnel, facilities and assets

3. Security and physical constraints comprised of 3 indicators:

- Ongoing insecurity/hostilities affecting humanitarian assistance
- Presence of UXO and mines
- Physical constraints

Each indicator is given a score from 0 to 3 and marked 'X' where there was a lack of information.

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

-  0 - No significant access constraints
-  1 - Low access constraints
-  2 - Moderate access constraints
-  3 - High access constraints
-  4 - Very high access constraints
-  5 - Extreme access constraints

Please note that two categories have been renamed: 'No significant access constraints' was previously called 'No access constraints', and the category 'Extreme constraints' was previously called 'Inaccessible'. The underlying methodology remains the same.

[Read more about our methodology.](#)

INTRODUCTION

Trends

Since the publication of the last ACAPS Humanitarian Access Overview in May 2019, the following changes have occurred:



Humanitarian access has deteriorated in:

BANGLADESH (ROHINGYA CRISIS)
CAMEROON
MALI
NIGER
SUDAN



The situation has remained the same in:

AFGHANISTAN	ERITREA	STATE OF PALESTINE
BURUNDI	ETHIOPIA	SOUTH SUDAN
CAR	IRAQ	SYRIA
CHAD	LIBYA	UKRAINE
COLOMBIA	MYANMAR	VENEZUELA
DPRK	NIGERIA	YEMEN
DRC	PAKISTAN	



Humanitarian access has improved in:

SOMALIA

Sources

The Humanitarian Access methodology uses a range of qualitative information sources together with relevant quantitative datasets and collates these in a structured way in order to quantify the level of humanitarian access.

ACAPS analysts collect information from a range of credible, publicly available sources, including UN agencies, governments, international and local NGOs, international and local media, and conversations with humanitarians in the field. Expert judgment is involved in deciding what data to include.

Some of the most common sources are:

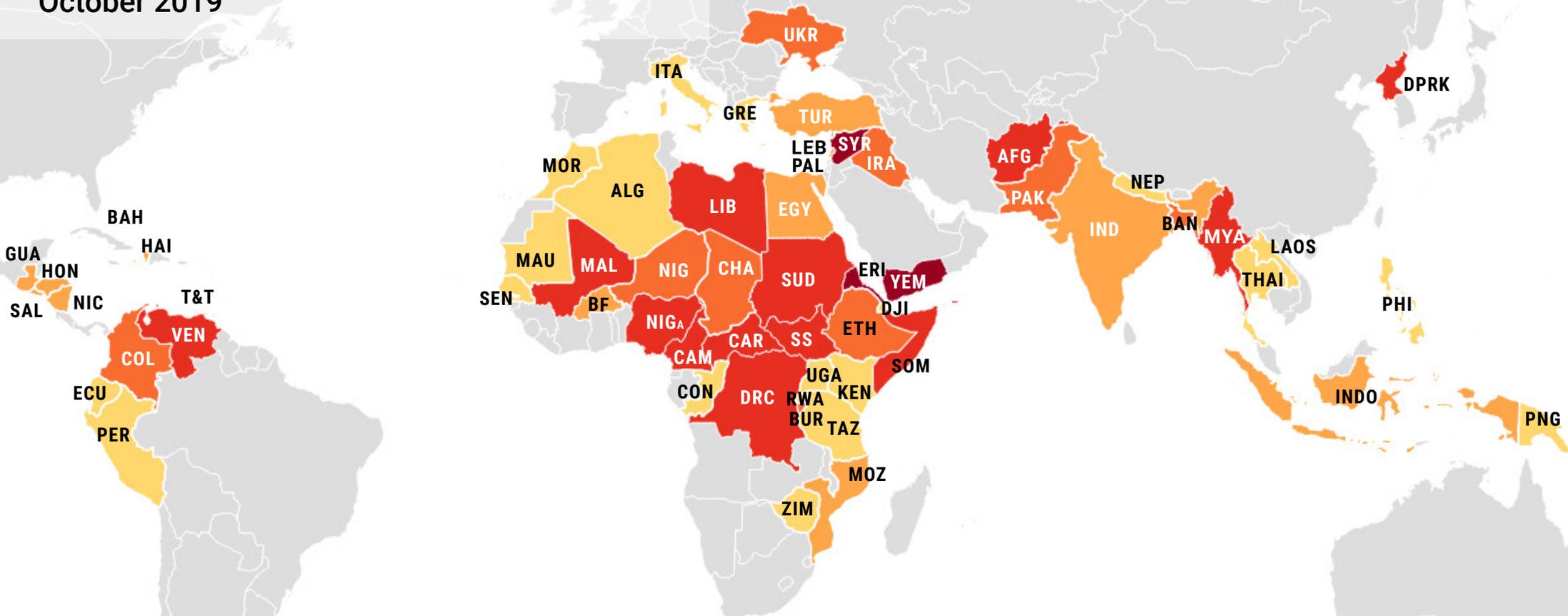
- Aid in Danger Project by Insecurity Insight
- Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
- Mine Action Review
- OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and situation reports
- Landmine and cluster munitions monitor

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the contributions of the external reviewers, whose feedback was invaluable to our analysis.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS OVERVIEW

October 2019



GLOBAL ACCESS RANKING

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

ACCESS INDICATORS

	Afghanistan	Algeria	Bahamas	Bangladesh	Burkina Faso	Burundi	Cameroon	CAR	Chad	Colombia	Congo	Djibouti	DPRK	DRC	Ecuador	Egypt	El Salvador	Eritrea	Ethiopia	Greece	Guatemala	Haiti	Honduras	India (Kashmir)	Indonesia	Iraq	Ivory	Kenya	Laos	Lebanon	
Overall humanitarian access ranking	4	1	1	3	2	3	4	4	3	3	1	1	4	4	1	2	2	5	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	2
Denial of humanitarian needs	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	x	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Restriction of access to services and assistance	3	0	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	2	x	x	1	2	0	2	1	1	3	1	1	0	0	2
Impediments to entry into country	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Restriction of movement within the country	3	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	1	2	x	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	
Interference with humanitarian activities	2	0	0	1	0	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	0	x	2	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	1	
Violence against personnel, facilities and assets	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ongoing insecurity / hostilities	3	0	0	3	2	1	2	3	3	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Presence of mines and UXO	3	1	x	0	0	0	1	x	2	3	0	0	1	3	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	x	2	
Physical constraints	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	x	x	2	0	1	3	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	

	Libya	Mali	Mauritania	Morocco	Mozambique	Myanmar	Nepal	Nicaragua	Niger	Nigeria	Pakistan	Palestine	PNG	Peru	Philippines	Rwanda	Senegal	Somalia	South Sudan	Sudan	Syria	Tanzania	Thailand	Timor-Leste	Togo	Turkey	Uganda	Ukraine	Venezuela	Yemen	Zimbabwe
Overall humanitarian access ranking	4	4	1	1	2	4	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4	5	1	1	1	2	1	3	4	5	1	
Denial of humanitarian needs	2	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	
Restriction of access to services and assistance	2	2	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	2	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	3	0	
Impediments to entry into country	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	x	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	0	
Restriction of movement within the country	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	x	2	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	3	0	
Interference with humanitarian activities	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	3	0	
Violence against personnel, facilities and assets	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Ongoing insecurity / hostilities	0	3	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	3	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	
Presence of mines and UXO	2	3	0	0	1	1	x	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	3	0	3	x	
Physical constraints	0	3	2	0	1	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	3	3	3	0	2	1	1	1	0	3	3	2	

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH EXTREME CONSTRAINTS

ERITREA

Eritrea retains its status as one of the countries with the highest access constraints. INGOs are prohibited in the country. President Isaias Afwerki allows only a few UN agencies to operate, including UNICEF, FAO, and UNHCR, which has defined the operational environment as “challenging, but permissible for day-to-day activities”. Incoming funds from the UN and other donor agencies are subject to strict limitations and must pass through the Government of Eritrea. Information gaps are noticeable, for example on the obstacles encountered by Eritreans in accessing services or movement restrictions within the country. Historically, Eritrea has not shared information about the level of humanitarian needs.

[Read more about Eritrea](#)

SYRIA

Humanitarian access remains severely constrained in Syria amid ongoing conflict, even in areas retaken by the government. Escalated fighting in opposition-held territory in the northwest since April 2019, and a military operation by Turkish Armed Forces into the SDF-controlled northeast since October 2019 has resulted in the suspension of humanitarian operations. Local humanitarian staff have been displaced and international staff have been evacuated around the frontlines. Health workers and other humanitarian actors continue to be impacted by shelling, airstrikes, and small arms fire. High presence of unexploded ordnance and explosive remnants of war, ongoing insecurity in government-held and SDF-controlled areas, and administrative challenges, including irregular cross border authorizations, hinder humanitarian operations. Access to the 12,700 people in need in the Rukban makeshift settlement at the Jordanian border continues to be restricted.

[Read more about Syria](#)

YEMEN

Access continues to be very challenging due to conflict in the south between the Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council (STC), and bureaucratic constraints in the north. Over 6 million people live in 75 hard to reach districts, with bureaucracy and conflict the main impediments to meeting humanitarian needs. Conflict blocks people from markets and services, particularly in Aden, Al Hodeidah, Ad Dhali' and Hajjah. Fuel and gas shortages disrupt electricity, water, sanitation and health services and raise the cost of basic goods. On 20 June 2019, the World Food Programme suspended food distribution in Sana'a for over a month due to Houthi restrictions on beneficiary selection and monitoring. Project approvals in the north take over 100 days on average. Agencies in the south face challenges at checkpoints, particularly for northern staff. Access could decrease further if the Stockholm agreement, or Saudi-led talks in Jeddah, fail, resulting in renewed conflict.

[Read more about Yemen](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH VERY HIGH CONSTRAINTS

AFGHANISTAN



Increased insecurity caused by weakening political stability in Afghanistan – including the failure of U.S-Taliban talks and the Afghan presidential elections, has significantly impacted humanitarian access in recent months. Hostilities between government forces and non-state armed groups have resulted in a high increase of civilian casualties. Additionally, attacks by the Taliban and Islamic State Khorasan have targeted civilian infrastructure and foreign NGOs. Access to non-government-controlled areas is volatile, with threats and expulsions causing agencies to suspend operations. Access to contested territory also remains challenging, with military offensives in these areas leading to road closures and displacements, disrupting access to services, limiting local populations' freedom of movement and constraining humanitarian operations. Remote and mountainous terrain and severe damage to infrastructure caused by decades of conflict further restrict access.

[Read more about Afghanistan](#)

CAMEROON



Access has deteriorated in Cameroon, particularly in the North-West and South-West regions where hostilities between Anglophone separatists and the government have heightened insecurities. The presence of both state security forces and non-state armed groups challenge the humanitarian space throughout these regions by imposing roadblocks, demanding exchanges for relief, and confiscating aid. Continued violence, poor roads, and lockdowns restrict the movement of people in the Anglophone regions. In the Far North, infrastructure is inadequate to ensure access to communities in the rainy season. Ongoing violence from Boko Haram poses threats to humanitarian workers and the population. Concern continues for the growing number of IDPs across the country, particularly those in the North-West and South-West regions, who struggle to access basic services.

[Read more about Cameroon](#)

CAR



Despite the signing of the Peace Agreement in February 2019, the security situation remains volatile. While humanitarian access to people in Alindao (Basse-Kotto prefecture) and Bangassou (Mbomou) has improved, renewed violence erupted in Birao in September displacing over 13,000 people and impeding humanitarian operations. In addition to ongoing insecurity, logistical challenges, owing to inadequate road infrastructure, hamper access to remote areas, making it necessary to deliver emergency relief through air bridges. Heavy seasonal rainfall and flooding in August have further disrupted the delivery of humanitarian aid. The security situation for humanitarian staff remains dangerous. After attacks against humanitarian workers and facilities declined during the first half of 2019, the summer saw an increase of incidents, especially in Bambari, Bria, Kaga-Bandoro, Batangafo and Bangui.

[Read more about CAR](#)

DPRK



Overall humanitarian access is limited, though improvements have occurred since 2018. All 11 provinces in DPRK are accessible to international staff, although tight restrictions exist for Jagang province. Travel and humanitarian activities remain highly regulated by national authorities. International humanitarian agencies, as well as DPRK nationals, are required to obtain advance clearance for travel outside Pyongyang and international staff must always be accompanied by DPRK nationals. Itineraries must be planned in advance for authorisation and the location of new projects discussed with the government. Economic sanctions, particularly United Nations, and bilateral US secondary sanctions, have restricted the import of humanitarian goods and complicated the funding of humanitarian projects. Road quality outside Pyongyang is of varying quality and flooding caused by the monsoon season further hindered access.

[Read more about DPRK](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH VERY HIGH CONSTRAINTS

DRC



Insecurity and poor infrastructure continue to restrict humanitarian access. The security situation remains volatile due to armed clashes and inter-ethnic conflicts. In addition, difficult terrain and limited infrastructure, particularly poor road conditions, remain a logistical obstacle to reach populations in need. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) continues to be essential to airlifts of personnel and goods to areas in need. The risk of attacks against humanitarian workers remains high. Armed groups have ambushed and robbed aid convoys and kidnapped staff of several aid organisations for ransom. Activities in some regions had to be temporarily suspended following attacks against health workers and facilities.

[Read more about DRC](#)

LIBYA



Insecurity throughout the country continues to hamper access. The implementation of humanitarian activities remains unpredictable due to multiple factors including unexploded ordnance and improvised explosives contamination, threats of kidnapping of personnel, proliferation of armed groups with no clear chain of command, and periodic escalation of violence. Armed groups frequently target aid workers and health facilities. Access to detention centres remains very limited. Lack of a unified government perpetuates a volatile administrative environment regarding visas and other requirements to implement activities in Libya. Since April 2019, conflict has escalated in Tripoli, restricting humanitarian access to the capital. At the height of the escalation, civilians close to the frontline were unable to leave due to the fighting intensity. Humanitarian operations responding to the fighting in Murzuq, which intensified in August 2019, are hindered by increased insecurity, cut supply chains, and tribal affiliation of personnel.

[Read more about Libya](#)

MALI



Humanitarian access is challenged by poor infrastructure; the continuous presence of Islamist armed groups and military operations in the northern and central regions; intercommunal conflict in Mopti region, and an increase in incidents targeting aid actors. 70 security incidents involving NGOs were registered over the last reporting period, with 10 aid workers kidnapped and five injured. In some areas, looting of humanitarian organisations is common, with an average of six incidents a month causing reduction or suspension of operations. Further, the State has been accused of having an anti-Fulani bias which may impede Fulanis' access to assistance. Improvised explosive devices also pose a danger: The United Nations Mine Action Service has reported 138 incidents since the start of 2019. Northern and central regions remain the most difficult to access.

[Read more about Mali](#)

MYANMAR



Access continues to be problematic for populations in need and for humanitarian workers. Rohingyas, particularly in Rakhine State, continue to experience systematic discriminatory policies and institutionalised segregation, and are subject to severe movement constraints. More than 120,000 people have been confined to displacement sites since 2012, and access to services, including healthcare and quality education, are severely restricted. Populations in Kachin and Shan states face obstacles accessing services. The situation is aggravated by entry restrictions for international aid organisations, limiting access either to the country or to specific regions. Intensified clashes between the Arakan army and the Tatmadaw in Rakhine, Chin and Shan states since November 2019 have triggered mass displacement and further hampered the provision of humanitarian assistance. Ongoing seasonal monsoons have been another obstacle for access as rains, flooding, and landslides have severely affected infrastructure across Myanmar.

[Read more about Myanmar](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH VERY HIGH CONSTRAINTS

NIGERIA

Humanitarian access in northeast Nigeria, affected by the Boko Haram conflict, remains challenging due to the volatile security situation, particularly in Borno state. Access to populations is limited to territories under control of the Nigerian army. In addition, heavy rains and flooding in September have severely disrupted local infrastructure in northeast Nigeria. In the Middle Belt region, violent clashes in the context of herdsman-farmers conflict continue to trigger displacement and sporadically restrict the free movement of populations. Attacks against humanitarian workers and facilities remain a threat in the northeast. Concerns about deterioration of access in the northeast emerged after the government shut down the field offices of some international aid organisations in September, forcing them suspend their activities.

[Read more about Nigeria](#)

STATE OF PALESTINE

Concerns continue to be about restrictions imposed on Palestinians for accessing aid, and restrictions of movement for aid workers, with different levels of constraints between Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Gaza Strip is in the twelfth year of a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt. Humanitarians also face difficulties in getting visas to access Gaza, and agreed UN privileges are breached as UN vehicles are searched at checkpoints. Aid is politicised with the Israeli government banning the import of specific humanitarian items into Gaza, and Hamas imposing restrictions on humanitarian operations within the Gaza Strip. Confiscation of aid is common from all sides, including Israeli and Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and Gaza.

[Read more about Palestine](#)

SOMALIA

Humanitarian operations in Somalia consistently face high constraints amid increased levels of insecurity, due to intercommunal violence, military operations, and the presence of al-Shabaab. Conflict and climate-related events cause displacement, complicating the ability of people in need to access assistance. Humanitarian response is compromised by logistical constraints, presence of improvised explosive devices, and violent incidents. Although the control of al-Shabaab is predominantly concentrated in rural areas, attacks on public infrastructure in cities remain a threat. Some areas of al-Shabaab control are completely inaccessible for humanitarians, particularly in the already hard-to-reach rural areas of the south-central parts of the country, where needs are high. Ongoing disputes in the northern states have further contributed to an insecure operational environment.

[Read more about Somalia](#)

SOUTH SUDAN

Although hostilities have decreased overall since last year's signing of the Peace Agreement, access constraints persist, including widespread insecurity and bureaucratic impediments. Violence prevents access for relief workers and civilians alike. Harassment and looting of relief material and cash are common. Civilian authorities and security forces continue to interfere with and impose bureaucratic restrictions on NGOs. NGOs have reported incidents of intimidation and harassment perpetrated by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-in Opposition (SPLA-IO), who have demanded NGOs seek permission before undertaking work in opposition held areas. Humanitarian imports have been disrupted since last December, following a presidential decree on custom exemptions. Recent seasonal flooding has damaged roads and caused displacement, further hindering access.

[Read more about South Sudan](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH VERY HIGH CONSTRAINTS

SUDAN



Humanitarian access deteriorated during the escalation of protests in June 2019, when security forces raided demonstrations, resulting in significant operational constraints. Humanitarian operations remain restricted in conflict areas. Areas in Blue Nile and South Kordofan controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) remain hard to access. In Jebel Marra, Darfur, the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) personnel were sporadically denied access to conflict areas due to insecurity. Humanitarian travel policies were eased in 2016, but administrative procedures still present obstacles. Mines, explosive remnants and poor roads hamper assistance. In August 2019 heavy rains and flooding damaged infrastructure further, hindering the delivery of aid. The economic crisis and countrywide lack of fuel and hard currency hamper delivery and access to aid.

[Read more about Sudan](#)

VENEZUELA



The delivery of humanitarian assistance is politicised, representing a point of contention in the political struggle between the government and the opposition. The government in power publicly denies the need for aid, posing obstacles to organisations active on a field level. At the same time, however, humanitarian coordination structures were set up after February 2019. While international humanitarian staff is allowed to enter the country, the difficult process to register organisations and a ban on imports hamper humanitarian operations. Visa restrictions depending on nationality of origin remain unpredictable. Access levels are not even across the country, with entire areas under the control of armed groups, organised crime, or paramilitary forces. People in need across the country face difficulties accessing services. Access is hindered by a volatile security situation, inadequate infrastructure, frequent blackouts, lack of fuel and resources.

[Read more about Venezuela](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH HIGH CONSTRAINTS

BANGLADESH (ROHINGYA CRISIS)

The government of Bangladesh does not legally recognise Rohingyas as refugees and currently confine them to segregated areas in Cox's Bazar district. Curfews and temporary shutdowns of communication lines have affected the camps, where different groups, some of which armed, are vying for control with reported episodes of violence. Tensions between refugees and the Bangladeshi authorities followed the repeated announcement of repatriation plans. Refugees' freedom of movement and access to services has always been restricted. The monsoon season caused physical constraints in the form of road blockages and infrastructural damage. NGOs continue facing difficulties in the registration process.

[Read more about Bangladesh](#)

BURUNDI

Criminality and insecurity resulting continues to restrict humanitarian access. Humanitarian activities and movements are heavily regulated by the Burundian government: local and international organisations face administrative restrictions, bans, suspensions, and even staff arrests. Burundian returnees experience administrative limitations in accessing services and assistance. The political context makes it difficult for agencies to share information about the crisis.

[Read more about Burundi](#)

CHAD

The volatile security situation combined with a lack of infrastructure restrict humanitarian access. Humanitarian actors have been targeted by violence, including the deaths of 2 humanitarians, resulting in activities being disrupted and suspended. Sporadic incidents of landmine explosions in the Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti regions were also recorded. Organisations face challenges due to the lack of government control in Lac and Tibesti regions, where armed groups maintain control. Lac, Ouddai, Sila, and Tibesti regions are all under a 'state of emergency' due to ongoing violence, preventing affected populations from accessing humanitarian assistance. Interference into humanitarian activities also remains a concern and lengthy registration and visa processes continue to impede access.

[Read more about Chad](#)

COLOMBIA

Colombia remains accessible, though it presents uneven access levels across the country. Systemic violence and the presence of armed groups hinders humanitarian operations. The situation along the borders with Venezuela and the Pacific coast, where armed groups fight for control, remain particularly volatile. Violent clashes contribute to high levels of internal displacement and population confinement, which intensifies needs and complicates access to services. Despite Colombia's open approach to Venezuelan refugees, they often face further bureaucratic barriers in accessing assistance. Furthermore, they often fall victim of armed groups in conflict-affected areas. Across the country natural hazards, including heavy rains and landslides, further complicate poor transport infrastructure. Additionally, the threat of improvised explosives persists throughout the country.

[Read more about Colombia](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH HIGH CONSTRAINTS

ETHIOPIA

Access conditions have remained relatively stable, except for a localised spike in violence in the Gambela region where two humanitarians were killed in September and operations were suspended. Checkpoints manned by security forces or non-state armed groups also hinder aid delivery. The government of Ethiopia (GoE) has closed to aid workers the areas most affected by intercommunal violence. In conflict affected Gedeo and West Guji, the GoE claims there are no IDPs, only returnees without humanitarian needs, despite contrasting independent reports. Since May 2019 the GoE has promoted the return of all IDPs to their original residences. This reportedly has resulted in forced returns and secondary displacement where IDPs did not find services in their place of origin and left. Information gaps regarding the administrative and physical obstacles Ethiopians face to access aid persist.

[Read more about Ethiopia](#)

IRAQ

Movement within federal Iraq and, to a much smaller extent, Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) remains constrained. Access challenges include the presence of different military authorities and bureaucratic impediments such as conditional authorisation of access letters. Multiple access constraints are reported in Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates. Movement is further impeded by insecurity related to Islamic State (IS) activities and explosives contamination. Destroyed infrastructure and poor roads mark significant physical constraints. IDPs accused of having IS ties continue to face challenges in accessing assistance. In October 2019 protests in Baghdad and several southern cities led to a curfew and disruption of services, hindering humanitarian operations.

[Read more about Iraq](#)

NIGER

Humanitarian access remains restricted due to the unpredictable security situation and infrastructure damage, but the situation was aggravated by the rainy season causing significant flooding across large areas of Niger. Movement is impeded in conflict areas, particularly the Tahoua, Tillabery, and Diffa regions where government forces have very little presence. Humanitarian organisations require armed escorts to undertake work in these regions, currently under a 'state of emergency'. In Diffa and Tillabery, humanitarian actors have been targeted. Spikes in violence have caused the periodic suspension of humanitarian operations. Further, armed groups have increasingly used improvised explosive devices and landmine incidents in western Niger remain frequent.

[Read more about Niger](#)

PAKISTAN

Following a deterioration in 2018, which saw 18 NGOs being forced by authorities to discontinue operations in Pakistan, access constraints remain high in 2019. Humanitarian activities continue to be hindered by government delays in NGO registration and strict project approval processes. Ongoing sectarian violence in Balochistan province and increased shelling along the Line of Control in Azad Jammu and Kashmir restricted the movement of people, causing displacements and disrupting access to basic services. Natural hazards were major obstacles for humanitarian agencies across the country. In July, flooding in several northeastern provinces restricted access to affected villages. In September, an earthquake in Azad Jammu and Kashmir severely damaged roads and communications infrastructure. Exact data indicating the impact of improvised explosive devices on humanitarian access in Pakistan is unavailable.

[Read more about Pakistan](#)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS WITH HIGH CONSTRAINTS

UKRAINE

Although the conflict in Eastern Ukraine has reached a stalemate in recent years, insecurity and administrative restrictions continue to constrain humanitarian access. The presence of landmines and indiscriminate shelling has restricted the movement of people and humanitarian agencies within non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. Administrative requirements from both government and non-government authorities have delayed aid delivery and forced organisations to scale-back their programming, especially in NGCAs. Despite some improvements, conditions at entry-and-exit checkpoints at the Line of Contact (LoC) remain dire and complete closures of crossings between government and non-government areas restrict access to basic services and social benefits, especially for the elderly. Civilian infrastructure continues to be heavily affected by shelling.

[Read more about Ukraine](#)

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