

# Complex Humanitarian Emergencies CDP's Level 1s

## Introduction

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) categorizes Complex Humanitarian Emergencies (CHEs) according to several factors, including the number of people affected, the evolving humanitarian situation, appearance and frequency on humanitarian watchlists, the ACAPS Severity Index and alignment with CDP's strategic plan and priorities.

We use a number of sources to inform our analysis and funding priorities, including Fund for Peace's [Fragile States Index](#), [global hunger index](#) and [ACAPS INFORM](#) Severity Indices. These data sources help CDP:

- Decide where to support.
- Create an understanding of the kind of needs the affected populations have.
- Think about scenarios.
- Anticipate what may happen next.

Based on our analysis of these factors, the list below highlights the CHEs that CDP has identified as a focus for 2022. The CHEs that we exclude from this list are no less urgent. We include a significant number of CHEs that capture many of the key issues one might find in CHE contexts.

The INFORM Severity Index provided and hyperlinked with each CHE includes a score published by ACAPS to help describe the impact, conditions of affected people and complexity of a crisis.<sup>1</sup> We also link to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO).<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Each crisis is assigned a number on a scale of 1 (less severe) to 5 (more severe). Information for these scores comes from a range of credible, publicly available sources such as UN agencies and other multilateral organizations.

<sup>2</sup> The UN OCHA GHO is a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of humanitarian needs. The GHO for each country is a snapshot of current needs and future trends in humanitarian action. The objective of these reports is to provide donors, humanitarian workers and the public with an overview of achievements and challenges.

## Level 1 summaries

### Cameroon

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Three crises: The Lake Chad basin drought and conflict, the North-West and South-West crisis and the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis all contribute to displacement, resource scarcity and food insecurity. Humanitarian needs are further compounded by the impacts of structural development issues and frequent climate-related disaster events like floods and droughts.

### Central African Republic (CAR)

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

CAR has experienced violence dating back to the 1960s that has become further heightened since the Seleka – a coalition of armed, primarily Muslim groups – launched an attack against the government in 2013. This violence has spread and destabilized the country, resulting in human rights abuses, targeted killings and mass displacement totaling more than 1 million people in 2021. Additionally, food shortages and high food prices mean much of the population faces severe food insecurity.

### Chad

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Refugees from Nigeria, Sudan and CAR have fled to Chad, where security threats from Boko Haram and military operations to counter the non-state armed group further complicate the displacement issues. Security issues and mass displacement have led to disrupted livelihoods and food insecurity throughout the country, with more than 5 million people facing food insecurity and only 33.5% of the population able to access clean drinking water in 2021. Chad is also facing multiple disease outbreaks in addition to COVID-19.

### Colombia

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Years after the signing of the Peace Agreement between the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in 2016, hostilities, drug trafficking and violence affecting civilian populations, especially ethnic minorities due to organized non-state armed groups, are ongoing and increasing. This, combined with the impact of extreme weather events, social unrest and, importantly, the continued influx of millions of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, all contribute to the increase in humanitarian needs.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

DRC has been experiencing a complex emergency for more than 20 years, with high levels of displacement (around 5 million people) mostly driven by armed clashes and intercommunal violence between foreign, self-defense and other armed groups. Local populations face daily threats of violence, food insecurity, extreme weather events and multiple disease outbreaks (e.g., Ebola, COVID-19.) These all contribute to high levels of vulnerability, which are compounded by high levels of extreme poverty, weak infrastructure and a lack of basic social services.



## **Haiti**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Haiti is consistently ranked the poorest and one of the most fragile countries in the Western Hemisphere, with high levels of poverty, corruption, and historic and situational vulnerability. In addition to frequent extreme weather events and natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides and droughts, Haiti has faced socioeconomic and political challenges for many years. The increasing presence of armed gangs and upticks in violence has led to frequent internal displacement, inability to access basic services and overall protection concerns.

## **Mali**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Conflict between rival militant groups, nomadic herder communities, pastoralist farmers and other groups continues to drive displacement and cause limited access to resources such as food, water, health services and education. Unreliable food availability and loss of livelihoods stem from disruptions in economic and trade activities, hampered by ongoing violent conflict and insecurity.

## **Myanmar**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Longstanding conflicts among Myanmar's armed forces (the Tatmadaw), militias and ethnic armed organizations have resulted in protection concerns for civilians, limited basic services, threatened livelihoods and a lack of economic opportunities. The military coup in 2021 has caused mass forcible displacement in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, and caused about 1 million refugees to flee into Bangladesh, Malaysia and Thailand.

## **Nigeria**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

The Boko Haram insurgent activities in the northeast, violence and robbery in the northwest, nomadic and pastoralist farmer conflict over land, water and natural resources in the middle of the country, and the refugee population in the south have contributed to high insecurity and increasingly frequent and high levels of displacement. In addition to protection needs, much of the population faces chronic poverty, little to no access to health services and food insecurity.

## **Somalia**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Years of weak or no formal governance structures, a lack of investment in institutions, internal conflict, protests, the weakness of the national forces, the withdrawal of the African Union Mission and attacks by the Islamic State and Al Shabaab have contributed to widespread insecurity, causing high displacement. The country's population faces significant levels of vulnerability due to extreme poverty, widespread food insecurity (frequently breaching crisis and emergency thresholds and high risk of famine), insecurity, increasingly severe and catastrophic droughts and floods, which are further compounded by limited water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and a lack of access to basic primary health care.



## **Sudan**

[ACAPS Score](#) | [UN OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview](#)

Sudan's complex crisis is rooted in decades of internal conflict, political instability, extreme weather events and poor economic conditions that have contributed to widespread food insecurity, malnutrition and a lack of basic services, especially health services. While these crises have resulted in millions of internally displaced Sudanese, Sudan also hosts refugees from South Sudan and Ethiopia.

For questions or more information, please contact Alex Gray at [alex.gray@disasterphilanthropy.org](mailto:alex.gray@disasterphilanthropy.org).

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