

## GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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**Abstract:** The research paper entitled “*Global Humanitarian Crisis and the Sustainable Development Goals*” is a research effort to understand the global humanitarian crisis and its inter-linkages with the SDGs. The Global Humanitarian needs, requirements, crisis and emergencies of various countries/economies have posed a serious challenge and risk to the global policy planners worldwide. The United Nations and various other international organizations including international NGOs and civil societies have been working in tandem to achieve the objectives of global humanitarian need and emergencies of various countries which have been reeling under the crisis. The conflict affected countries such as the Latin American and Caribbean including African and the SIDSs and Land locked countries have been mostly affected on account of conflict related issues and the extreme pangs of poverty and inequalities in growth and income distribution. The global humanitarian crisis including the recent COVID-19 crisis which is both a health and as well a humanitarian crisis have also posed serious threats and challenges in achieving the SDGs slated by the United Nations. In fact, the slogan and the motto of SDGs which is ‘leaving no one behind’ cannot be achieved due to the prevailing global pandemic and the global humanitarian crisis. In order to mitigate and overcome the crisis and in order to achieve the SDGs slated by UN, there needs to be a consistent effort on the part of the global community to strike a balance between achieving the objectives of global humanitarian goals and the SDGs. These are possible by reducing the effects of the global pandemic and resolve the issues of conflict affected states by propagating and advocating the concept of positive peace and development in the global societies. It is observed that there have been consistent efforts on the part of the global community and related international agencies such as the international NGOs and the civil societies which have been working in unison and in close coordination with the largest international organization i.e. United Nations to resolve these global issues. The concept of SDGs have been integrated, linked and embedded in the philosophy of the global community which it seems have become a way of life of the countries at large to achieve the SDGs through mitigation of the global humanitarian crisis. The research study dwells into the aspects of Recent Emerging Trends/Challenges & Risks relating to Global Humanitarian Crisis, Regional and Country Overview pertaining to Global Humanitarian Crisis, Global Trends and Challenges for Mitigating Global Humanitarian Crisis, Humanitarian Outlook: Needs & Requirements of Global Communities, Innovative Humanitarian Financing and Aid etc.,

**Keywords:** *Global Humanitarian Crisis, Financing, OCHA, CERF, UNHCR*

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.0 Global Humanitarian Overview**

The Global Humanitarian needs, requirements, crisis and emergencies of various countries/economies have posed a serious challenge, threat and risk to the global policy planners worldwide. The United Nations and various other international organizations including international NGOs and civil societies have been working in tandem to achieve the objectives of global humanitarian goals and emergencies of various countries which have been reeling under the crisis. The conflict affected countries such as the Latin American and Caribbean including African and the SIDSs and Land locked countries have been mostly affected on account of conflict related issues and the extreme pangs of poverty and inequalities in growth and income distribution.

### **2.0 Global Humanitarian Crisis and the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs)**

The global humanitarian crisis including the recent COVID-19 crisis which is both a health and as well a humanitarian crisis have also posed serious threats and challenges in achieving the SDGs slated by the United Nations. In fact, the slogan and the motto of SDGs which is ‘leaving no one behind’ cannot be achieved due to the prevailing global pandemic and the global humanitarian crisis. In order to mitigate and overcome the crisis and in order to achieve the SDGs slated by UN, there needs to be a consistent effort on the part of the global community to strike a balance between achieving the objectives of global humanitarian goals and the SDGs. This is possible by reducing the effects of the global pandemic and resolve the issues of conflict affected states by propagating and advocating the concept of positive peace and development in the global societies. It is observed that there have been consistent efforts on the part of the global community and related international agencies such as the international NGOs and the civil societies which have been working in unison and in close coordination with the largest international organization i.e. United Nations to resolve these global issues. The concept of SDGs have been integrated, linked and embedded in the philosophy of the global community which it seems have become a way of life of the countries at large to achieve the SDGs through mitigation of the global humanitarian crisis.

### **3.0 Recent Emerging Trends/Challenges & Risks relating to Global Humanitarian Crisis**

- (i) Compliance with International Law is declining, Armed Conflicts are killing and maiming record number of children forcing them to flee their homes.
- (ii) Highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction.
- (iii) Climate change is increasing peoples’ vulnerability to humanitarian crisis.
- (iv) The situation will keep getting worse unless climate change and the root causes of conflict are better known, timely and appropriate remedial measures taken.

### **4.0 Regional and Country Overview pertaining to Global Humanitarian Crisis**

- (i) Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The humanitarian response in Yemen is also the world's largest, despite huge challenges.
- (ii) The conflict in Syria continues to drive the world's largest refugee crisis.
- (iii) In Sudan, a deepening economic crisis has significantly increased food insecurity and weakened essential services including health, water and education. The new civilian authorities need more international support.
- (iv) In Sahel, displacement has dramatically increased and hunger has reached critical levels. In the Lake Chad Basin, the humanitarian crisis shows no sign of abating as it enters its seventh consecutive year.
- (v) The needs have also grown significantly in several other countries, including Afghanistan where almost one quarter of the population is likely to need humanitarian assistance, following years of violent conflict, as well as severe drought.
- (vi) In Venezuela, a deepening economic crisis has led to a severe reduction in the income of many households and a sharp deterioration in water, power and health services.
- (vii) A deepening political and socio-economic crisis has also significantly increased needs in Haiti.

## **5.0 Global Trends and Challenges for Mitigating Global Humanitarian Crisis**

- (i) Highly violent conflicts take a heavy civilian toll.
- (ii) Hunger is rising & conflict is the key driver.
- (iii) More people are displaced and displacement lasts longer.
- (iv) Attacks on health care and workers continue.
- (v) Humanitarian crisis increase the risk of gender-based violence.
- (vi) The impacts of climate change, infectious diseases, economic shocks and rising debt are exacerbating humanitarian crises and making responses more complex. In the coming years, these trends are likely to increase vulnerability, putting millions more people at risk of being pushed into humanitarian crisis.
- (vii) Climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities.
- (viii) Slower economic growth and debt problems risk entrenching humanitarian crisis.
- (ix) Millions in humanitarian crisis are at risk of preventable diseases.

## **6.0 Humanitarian Outlook: Needs & Requirements of Global Communities**

In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance & protection. This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world and is the highest figure in decades. Funding of \$28.8 billion is needed to enable the United Nations and the partner organizations to reach nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people with life saving assistance.

## **7.0 Regional and Country Overview on Humanitarian Crisis**

In 2020, Yemen will remain the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Needs will stay exceptionally high in DRC, Somalia, Syria, South Sudan & Sudan. In the Sahel, displacement has increased drastically and hunger has reached critical levels. The conflict-driven crisis in the Lake Chad Basin shows no sign of abating. Two new

Humanitarian Response Plans are being launched in 2020 in Burkina Faso and Venezuela while the situations in Pakistan and the Philippines no longer require humanitarian strategies.

## **8.0 Response Priorities in 2020 for Mitigating Global Humanitarian Crisis**

The 2020 HRP has three priority areas viz; (i) emergency life-saving responses to shocks caused by conflict and natural disasters, (ii) protection responses aimed at improving peoples' safety and reducing violations of international humanitarian law and (iii) building the resilience of vulnerable people.

## **9.0 Regional Refugee Response Plans(RRPs) for Mitigating Global Humanitarian Crisis**

Regional Refugee Response Plans(RRPs) are developed with a regional perspective under the leadership of UNHCR. In 2020, UNHCR will continue to develop regional RRP leading inter-agency planning and coordination for large-scale or complex refugee situations, including within mixed movements. Response activities support the objectives stated in the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and ensure appropriate linkages with the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. UNHCR, together with a broad range of entities, including the United Nations, other international organizations, society, development and financial institutions and the private sector will continue to establish synergies with host Governments to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to support sustainable development in an attempt to leave no one behind. Recognizing the importance of the 'whole-of-society approach', regional RRP partners will seek to evolve interventions from emergency responses to more comprehensive responses aimed at strengthening livelihoods and the resilience of refugees and other people in need and while at the same time taking into account the needs of host population. The 2020 regional RRP are two-year plans with joined-up interventions for 2020 and 2021 for the delivery of predictable refugee and host community responses over the immediate and medium-term. In line with the Global Compact on Refugee, regional RRP stakeholders will strengthen strategic partnerships in 2020-21 to enable a more comprehensive refugee response that integrates humanitarian and development approaches. Additional focus will therefore be placed on resilience including enhancement of self-reliance and support to host communities as well as on the consolidation of linkages to national, regional and local development plans.

## **10.0 Innovative Humanitarian Financing and Aid**

With rising humanitarian needs and finite resources, the humanitarian community and donors must ensure that existing funding goes further and faster to reach those most in need and pursue alternative and innovative financing approaches such as scaling up anticipatory action to mitigate the most serious consequences of predictable crisis. The CERF(Central Emergency Response Fund) and Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) are critical funding instruments that provide rapid and flexible funding where it is needed most, enabling timely, effective and principled humanitarian action while also strengthening leadership, coordination and coherence in emergency responses.

## **11.0 Strategic Plan 2018-2021of OCHA**

OCHA is the humanitarian arm of the United Nations Secretariat and protect people in humanitarian crisis. The strategic objectives are :

- (i) Transformed coordination for a more efficient and tailored humanitarian response viz; (a) coordination mechanism that is lighter, context-specific & flexible, (b) improved coordination between humanitarian situational development sectors.
- (ii) More credible, comprehensive and evidence-based analysis.
- (iii) An effective, innovative humanitarian financing system that meets the needs of crisis-affected people.
- (iv) International acceptance of the centrality of international humanitarian and human rights law, access and protection that results in meaningful action for affected people, especially displaced people.
- (v) Leadership to drive transformative change for a more responsive and adaptable humanitarian system.

## **12.0 Principles of OCHA**

- (i) Diversity, (ii) Trust, (iii) National & Local Ownership, (iv) Accountability to affected people & (v) Gender equality

## **13.0 Core Functions of OCHA**

- (i) Coordination, (ii) Humanitarian Financing, (iii) Advocacy, (iv) Policy, (v) Information Management

## **14.0 UN Reforms**

OCHA supports the Secretary-Generals' vision for a most robust, results-oriented, efficient and cohesive UN Development system.

## **15.0 Effective Field Operations**

Effective operations in countries in crisis are crucial to the achievement of OCHA's strategic objectives.

## **16.0 Strategic Partnerships, Political Engagement and Financial support needed**

- (i) Better supported emergency response preparedness
- (ii) Increased accountability of the humanitarian system to meet humanitarian needs
- (iii) Better informed humanitarian decision-making by global field leadership
- (iv) Authoritative, comprehensive information and analysis on humanitarian needs & response.
- (v) Enhanced tools that better support the analysis and monitoring of the humanitarian situation, needs & response including joined-up analysis.
- (vi) Sufficient, timely and coordinated financing that meets the needs of crisis affected people.
- (vii) Improved efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of humanitarian pooled funds.
- (viii) Global and country-level advocacy for system wide resource mobilization that is supported by the Grand Bargain dividends.
- (ix) Coherent Inter-Agency Financing strategies support collective outcomes in the field.
- (x) Respect for humanitarian principles, IHL and international human rights laws, and increased accountability for violations against them.
- (xi) Protection and assistance to IDPs and new strategies for assistance to IDPs.

- (xii) A humanitarian system that is accountable to affected people and advocates for their empowerment and engagement.
- (xiii) Mobilized international attention and action through strategic, coherent public and private advocacy for access to people affected by crisis.
- (xiv) Strengthened momentum to implement the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit and UN Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity.
- (xv) A humanitarian system that evolves and adapts to change.

## **17.0 An Effective, Efficient and Adaptable Organization : OCHA**

### **Management Objective**

- (i) **Ensure that OCHA is fit for the future** viz : (a) A new structure and operating model that optimize the efficient delivery of mandated functions and ensure accountability across the organization, b) A more focused, learner organization that aligns itself with the Secretary General's Management reforms, c) A flexible, skilled, mobile and diverse OCHA workforce.
- (ii) **Enhanced sustainability of OCHA's financial resources** viz : (a) broader donor base for extra budgetary resources, (b) multi-year funding commitments from existing donors, (b) stronger fiscal discipline and matching of income with expenditures.

## **18.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Performance of OCHA**

The purpose of the Monitoring & Evaluation Plan is to systematically track OCHA's performance against its 2018-2021 strategic plan and support evidence-based decision making in the organization.

## **20.0 OCHA's 2018-21 Planning Framework comprise of :**

- (i) Results Framework,
- (ii) Strategic Plan,
- (iii) Monitoring & Evaluation Plan,
- (iv) (iv) Implementation Plans,
- (v) (v) Risk Register.

## **21.0 Monitoring System of OCHA**

- (i) Strategic Level Monitoring,
- (ii) (ii) Operational Level Monitoring

## **22.0 Types of Evaluation of OCHA**

- (i) Thematic Evaluation,
- (ii) (ii) Humanitarian Finance evaluation,
- (iii) (iii) Emergency Response Evaluation

## **23.0 Strategic use of CERF and Country Based Pooled Funds**

CERF is one of the greatest shared successes of the international community. No other global mechanism enables the humanitarian system to act as rapidly and at such scale when sudden-onset emergencies strike. No other humanitarian fund steers resources to critically underfunded and forgotten crises as effectively as CERF does. CERF allocated a record US\$539 million to UN and humanitarian organizations working at the front lines to help millions of crisis-affected people across 49 countries.



## **24.0 CERF Funding in Crisis Affected Countries**

CERF funding to the Venezuela Regional Refugee and Migrant Crisis, for example, allowed UN agencies and partners to provide life-saving assistance to more than 1,70,000 of the most critically affected refugees and people in host communities across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The humanitarian context in which CERF operates has changed significantly from when the Fund was established fifteen years ago. Crises have increased in scale, magnitude and duration, and become more complex. The financial requirements to reach people in need have increased almost five-fold, with UN-led Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) requesting \$21.9 billion to assist some 93.6 million people in 2019. CERF is guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and resources are allocated in line with CERF's Life-Saving Criteria. CERF ensures that funds help meet the most urgent needs of people caught in crises around the world and are used where they have the highest potential for saving lives.

CERF interventions support the involvement of implementing partners. Each year approximately 25 percent of CERF funds are implemented by more than 500 NGOs and local responders who have partnered with UN agencies.

CERF allocations are designed to complement other humanitarian funding sources, such as Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs), donor funding, existing agency funding and government response efforts. Both CERF and CBPFs enable timely, effective and principled humanitarian action by promoting leadership, coordination and coherence in response. Used jointly and strategically they are powerful funding tools for the RC/HC and the humanitarian community to meet life-saving needs. By leveraging their comparative advantages including CERF's global reach, additionality and focus on life-saving assistance and CBPFs' abilities to directly fund a wider range of partners, including local NGOs, through more flexible operational modalities the strategic use of these funds enables partners to deliver a stronger collective response, maximizing the impact of limited resources.

## **25.0 Donor Funding and Advocacy**

CERF's success as an indispensable enabler of global humanitarian action is only possible due to the generous contributions of its donors. The donor community's support to CERF is remarkable in its span and consistency. It allows CERF to respond to crises with the pace, flexibility and impartiality that is necessary to ensure aid is provided to the millions of people globally who need it the most, when they need it the most. CERF can allocate funds to UN agencies through its RR window. CERF allocation request is based on strategic priorities.

## **26.0 Funding from UFE Window**

- (i) The degree of funding shortfall/analysis of funding received against total annual requirements.
- (ii) The analysis of risk, vulnerability, severity of humanitarian needs and types of programmes and activities, data on all aspects into a single index; the CERF Index for Risk & Vulnerability (CIRV). The CIRV includes six measures that cover the full range of factors influencing the humanitarian situation.
- (iii) The ERS's country selection and funding allocations; ERC makes the final decisions based on the consolidated analysis as to which countries will be included in the UFE round and on the funding

allocations. The ERC informs the RC/HC in the selected country and may emphasize gaps to consider during the prioritization process.

- (iv) Once the RC/HC submits the joint application the CERF Secretariat reviews the request in consultation with OCHA's Operations & Advocacy Division and with the relevant OCHA regional office, where applicable.

## **27.0 ERC Decision on Funding**

Following the application review at the strategic and project levels, the CERF Secretariat presents funding recommendations for each project to the ERC. Although applications are assessed as a whole, each project is processed individually. In 2019, CERF made unprecedented contributions to humanitarian operations worldwide, allocating \$538 million, the largest amount in a single year in the history of the Fund.

## **28.0 CERF's Added Value**

CERF is designed to ensure that every dollar it allocates leverages additional strategic gains in support of humanitarian response. Although CERF represents a relatively small portion of global humanitarian funding, the strategic and catalytic nature of CERF funding has a multiplier effect making the Fund an indispensable element of the global humanitarian architecture.

## **29.0 Key Ways in which CERF adds strategic value to global humanitarian action include:**

- (i) Enabling Fast delivery of assistance to people in need.
- (ii) Improving coordination among the humanitarian community.
- (iii) Ensure better response to time-critical humanitarian needs.
- (iv) Leveraging additional resources from other sources.

## **30.0 Facilitating Enhanced Coordination and Resource Mobilization**

CERF Funding and mechanisms have also supported wider coordination and resource mobilization efforts. Partnerships among UN agencies have enabled the CERF UFE Working Group to work efficiently and effectively in identifying priority countries and ensuring they receive much needed funding. CERF also supported WFP in enhancing coordination among humanitarian partners.

## **31.0 Filling Critical Gaps and Promoting Coordination**

CERF funding is timely and flexible and has allowed FAO to fill critical gaps in humanitarian responses. CERF has played a crucial role in contributing to FAO's wider resource mobilization and coordination efforts. The CERF process at country-level supports coordination among humanitarian partners, encouraging all to deliver as one.

## **32.0 Enabling fast and timely response to health emergencies**

In 2019, CERF continued to play a pivotal role in enabling WHO to fulfill its mandate in responding to health emergencies caused by climate disasters, conflicts or disease outbreaks.

## **33.0 Promoting effective partnerships and localization of funding CERF**



CERF funding also encouraged coordination efforts within countries including through the prioritization process. This provided an opportunity to raise the profile of the health sector among the UN HCTs and partners. The CERF process strengthens and highlights the importance of UN agencies capacity to building relationships and facilitate achievement of a common goal in responding to humanitarian emergencies.

### **34.0 Promoting effective partnerships and coordination**

Through UNDP, CERF funds helped to promote effective partnership and coordination in response to crises. Several UNDP country offices documented that the CERF allocation strengthened coordination and action on the ground. UNDP forged strong partnerships with other UN agencies, NGOs and national partners in the design and implementation of CERF funded programmes.

### **35.0 Enhanced coordination and awareness raising among humanitarian partners**

CERF funding also contributed to UN Women's broader resource mobilization efforts. CERF funding also allowed UN Women to demonstrate its added value and enhance its role in humanitarian coordination mechanisms in its crisis context operations. With CERF support, UN Women has raised awareness among humanitarian partners of SGBV, reproductive health issues and empowerment.

### **36.0 CERF Funding by Agency**

WFP received the highest amount of CERF funding in 2019. CERF allocated \$149.6 million to 75 projects providing food assistance in 37 countries. This represents an increase from 25 per cent of all CERF funding in 2018 to 28 per cent in 2019, correlating with exceptionally high levels of food insecurity around the world.

UNICEF received the second highest allocation amount, with \$142.1 million for 119 projects in 44 countries.

The third highest allocation amount of \$51.3 million was received by both FAO and WHO for 39 and 54 projects respectively. UNHCR and IOM followed closely, receiving the fourth and fifth highest amounts of \$48.8 million for 38 projects in 27 countries, and \$47.4 million for 40 projects in 25 countries.

### **37.0 Seven Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) allocation rounds launched by Humanitarian Coordinators of OCHA in July 2020**

- (i) DR Congo : \$2 million reserve allocation to address humanitarian needs in Mbandaka region.
- (ii) Jordan : \$400,000 reserve allocation to provide sexual & reproductive health services in Azraq refugee camp.
- (iii) Myanmar : \$ 7 million standard allocation to address humanitarian crisis in line with HRP.
- (iv) Syria : \$ 40 million standard allocation to address humanitarian needs in underserved and priority areas in alignment with the HRP.
- (v) Ethiopia : \$1.5 million reserve allocation to respond to humanitarian needs of IDPs and returnees, including preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- (vi) CAR : \$9 million reserve allocation for a multi-sectoral response to humanitarian needs of IDPs and to support access, coordination and duty of care for humanitarian personnel.

(vii) Sudan : \$500,000 emergency allocation to respond to floods.

### **38.0 Humanitarian Coordination Leadership**

Effective coordination of humanitarian action in the field hinges upon humanitarian coordination leaders or the Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) or Resident Coordinators (RCs). In effect, while the primary responsibility for coordinating humanitarian assistance rests with national authorities, if international humanitarian assistance is required the HC or RC is responsible for leading and coordinating the efforts of humanitarian organizations (both UN and non-UN) with a view to ensuring that they are principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contribute to longer-term recovery.

To strengthen the humanitarian coordination leadership function, OCHA works on four tracks:

1. Promoting dialogue and building consensus among humanitarian partners on key normative issues relating to humanitarian coordination leadership;
2. Expanding the pool of potential Humanitarian Coordinators;
3. Improving the leadership and coordination skills of Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators; and
4. Ensuring that Humanitarian and Resident Coordinators get the support they need to be effective.

### **39.0 COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan**

**(Press Release, United Nations, 25 March 2020)**

#### **39.1 A global approach is the only way to fight COVID-19, the UN says as it launches humanitarian response plan**

UN humanitarian chief warns that failing to help vulnerable countries fight the corona virus now could place millions at risk and leave the virus free to circle back around the globe.

UN launches US\$2 billion global humanitarian response to fight COVID-19 in 51 countries across South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Governments urged to commit to fully supporting the global humanitarian response plan, while sustaining funding to existing humanitarian appeals.

United Nations Secretary-General on 25 March, 2020 launched a \$2 billion coordinated global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 in some of the world's most vulnerable countries in a bid to protect millions of people and stop the virus from circling back around the globe.

COVID-19 has killed many people worldwide and the numbers of infection cases are on the rise. It has a foothold across the globe and is now reaching countries that were already facing humanitarian crisis because of conflict, natural disasters and climate change.

The response plan will be implemented by UN agencies, with international NGOs and NGO consortia playing a direct role in the response. It will:

- (i) deliver essential laboratory equipment to test for the virus, and medical supplies to treat people;
- (ii) install hand washing stations in camps and settlements;
- (iii) launch public information campaigns on how to protect yourself and others from the virus; and
- (iv) establish air bridges and hubs across Africa, Asia and Latin America to move humanitarian workers and supplies to where they are needed most.

***United Nations Secretary-General said:***

“COVID-19 is menacing the whole of humanity and so the whole of humanity must fight back. Individual country responses are not going to be enough.

“We must come to the aid of the ultra-vulnerable millions upon millions of people who are least able to protect themselves. This is a matter of basic human solidarity. It is also crucial for combating the virus. This is the moment to step up for the vulnerable.” **(Statement of UN Secretary General)**

**39.2 Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs said:**

“COVID-19 has already upended life in some of the world’s wealthiest countries. It is now reaching places where people live in warzones, cannot easily access clean water and soap, and have no hope of a hospital bed if they fall critically ill. **(Statement of UN Under Secretary General for Human Affairs)**

“To leave the world’s poorest and most vulnerable countries to their fate would be both cruel and unwise. If we leave corona virus to spread freely in these places, we would be placing millions at high risk, whole regions will be tipped into chaos and the virus will have the opportunity to circle back around the globe. **(Statement of UN Under-Secretary General for Human Affairs)**

“Countries battling the pandemic at home are rightly prioritizing people living in their own communities. But the hard truth is they will be failing to protect their own people if they do not act now to help the poorest countries protect themselves. **(Statement of UN Under Secretary General for Human Affairs)**

“Our priority is to help these countries prepare and continue helping the millions who rely on humanitarian assistance from the UN to survive. Properly funded, our global response effort will equip humanitarian organizations with the tools to fight the virus, save lives, and help contain the spread of COVID-19 worldwide.” **(Statement of UN Under Secretary General for Human Affairs)**

**39.3 WHO Director-General said:**

“The virus is now spreading in countries with weak health systems, including some which are already facing humanitarian crises. These countries need our support out of solidarity but also to protect us all and help suppress this pandemic. At the same time, we must not fight the pandemic at the expense of the other humanitarian health emergencies.” **(Statement of WHO Director General)**

**39.4 UNICEF Executive Director said:**

“Children are the hidden victims of the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns and school closures are affecting their education, mental health and access to basic health services. The risks of exploitation and abuse are higher than ever, for boys and girls alike. For children on the move or living through conflicts, the consequences will be unlike any we have ever seen. We must not let them down.” **(Statement of UNICEF Executive Director)**

Together they called on UN Member States to commit to stemming the impact of COVID-19 in vulnerable countries and containing the virus globally by giving the strongest possible support to the plan, while also sustaining core support to existing humanitarian appeals that help the more than 100 million people who already rely on humanitarian assistance from the UN just to survive.

Member States were warned that any diversion of funding from existing humanitarian operations would create an environment in which cholera, measles and meningitis can thrive, in which even more children become

malnourished, and in which extremists can take control an environment that would be the perfect breeding ground for the corona virus.

To kick-start the response plan, UN Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs released an additional \$60 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This brings CERF's support to humanitarian action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to \$75 million. In addition, country-based pooled funds have allocated more than \$3 million so far.

This new CERF allocation one of the largest ever made will support: WFP to ensure the continuity of supply chains and transport of aid workers and relief goods; WHO to contain the spread of the pandemic; and other agencies to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to those most affected by the pandemic, including women and girls, refugees and internally displaced people. Support will include efforts around food security, physical and mental health, water and sanitation, nutrition and protection.

## **40.0 Humanitarian Agencies Operating Globally**

The humanitarian agencies that operate globally are viz; (i) UNICEF, (ii) WHO, (iii) WFP, (iv) UN Women, (v) UNRWA, (vi) UNHCR, (vii) UNDP, (viii) OCHA & (ix) FAO.

## **41.0 Humanitarian Aid**

**(Press Release 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, United Nations)**

The global hunger crisis caused by conflict and now compounded by COVID-19 is moving into a dangerous phase, the head of the UN World Food Programme(WFP) said stressing that without resources, a wave of famine could sweep the globe, overwhelming nations already weakened by years of instability.

This fight is far from over," said WFP Executive Director, briefing the Security Council during a virtual debate on conflict-induced hunger. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

WFP Executive Director recalled his April 2020 briefing to the 15-member Council, where he warned that the world was on the verge of a hunger pandemic. Heeding the warning, donors and countries large and small took extraordinary measures to save people's lives, spending \$17 trillion in fiscal stimulus packages. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

WFP, too, is going all out to reach 138 million people this year, the biggest scale-up in the agency's history, he said, noting that 85 million people have been reached so far. However, challenges remain. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP)**

"We're doing just about all we can do to stop the dam from bursting. But, without the resources we need, a wave of hunger and famine still threatens to sweep across the globe," said the WFP Executive Director. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

Recalling Security Council resolution 2417 (2018) that called for effective early warning systems, WFP Executive Director said "I'm here to sound that alarm the threat of famine is looming yet again." **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

## **42.0 2021 a 'make or break' year**

Acknowledging that governments' reserves are depleting, he said 2021 will be a make or break year. "I urge you: do not walk away from our commitment to humanitarian assistance. Do not turn your backs on the world's hungry." **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

He underscored the critical importance of balancing sensible measures to contain COVID-19, with others to keep borders open and trade flows moving. It is vital to guard against unintended consequences that can hit the poorest the hardest. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

Describing conditions in Africa as “a matter of life and death”, he cited calculations by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine that for every COVID-19 death prevented, 80 children may die from a lack of routine vaccination. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

### **43.0 Crisis levels of hunger in Africa, Middle East**

An upsurge in violence, combined with the effects of COVID in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has sent the 15.5 million people already facing crisis levels of food insecurity skyrocketing to 22 million.

In northeast Nigeria, meanwhile, 4.3 million people are food insecure, an increase of 600,000. In Burkina Faso, where fighting is taking deeper root, the number of people facing crisis levels of hunger tripled to 3.3 million people, as COVID-19 compounds displacement, security and access problems.

In Yemen, 20 million people are in crisis, with another 3 million potentially facing starvation due to corona virus. Because of funding cuts, 8.5 million beneficiaries only receive WFP assistance every other month.

We’ll be forced cut rations for the remaining 4.4 million by December 2020, if resources do not increase,” stressed Executive Director, WFP. “The world needs to open up its eyes to the Yemeni people before famine takes hold.” **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

There are no more excuses for failing to act swiftly and decisively, he said. While peace agreements like that in South Sudan offer hope, it is time for the private sector to step up.

There are 2,000 billionaires in the world with a collective net worth of \$8 trillion and he called them off the sidelines. WFP needs \$4.9 billion for one year to keep 30 million people from dying. “Humanity is facing the greatest crisis any of us have seen in our lifetimes.” **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP).**

### **44.0 Extreme poverty rising, humanitarian system overwhelmed**

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator said the human and economic cost of conflict is astronomical: an estimated 40 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the 10 most affected countries. **(Statement of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator).**

While 135 million people faced acute food insecurity before COVID-19, that number is expected to almost double this year, to 270 million people. The World Bank expects the number of people in extreme poverty to rise for the first time since the 1990s.

In the Sahel, violence has driven more than 1 million people from their homes and lands, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator said, most of whom depend on agriculture. In total, 14 million people are experiencing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity the highest figures for a decade. **(Statement of UN Emergency Relief Coordinator)**

The humanitarian system is doing its utmost, but it is in danger of being overwhelmed by the scale of the needs. “That will get worse in the absence of a lot more financial help,” he stressed. **(Statement of Executive Director, WFP)**

The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, called on the Security Council to press for peaceful negotiated political solutions to end conflicts, ensure parties respect international humanitarian law, and mitigate the economic impact of conflict by mobilizing international financial institutions. **(Statement of UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs)**

Most importantly, he called for scaling up support for humanitarian operations. “History proves that even in the midst of conflict, famine can be prevented.” (**Statement of UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs**)

### 45.0A plea for scaled up support

Also briefing the Council, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), outlined countries and crisis situations where conflict and instability, now also exacerbated by COVID-19, are driving millions into more serious hunger and acute food insecurity. (**Statement of Director-General, FAO**).

“This is particularly visible in areas where conflict and other factors such as economic turbulence, and extreme weather, is already driving people into poverty and hunger,” he said.

Globally, the hardest hit include the urban poor, informal workers and pastoral communities as well as people who are already vulnerable children, women, the elderly, the sick, and persons with disabilities.

“We need first and fast aid to stop hunger,” stressed Director-General, FAO adding that without prevention, political willingness and collective action, forecasts for food security continue to worsen. (**Statement of Director-General, FAO**).

Humanitarian-development-peace actions must be well coordinated and complementary. They must be mutually reinforcing across global, regional, national and local levels, he said.

For its part, the Security Council can help stem COVID-19 induced acute food insecurity by advancing dialogue towards political solutions that end violence.

“This would allow us to scale up urgent life and livelihood-saving operations,” assured the head of FAO. (**Statement of Director-General, FAO**).

### Concluding Observations

The research paper entitled “*Global Humanitarian Crisis and the Sustainable Development Goals*” is a research effort to understand the global humanitarian crisis and its interlinkages with the SDGs. The Global Humanitarian needs, requirements, crisis and emergencies of various countries/economies have posed a serious challenge and risk to the global policy planners worldwide. The United Nations and various other international organizations including international NGOs and civil societies have been working in tandem to achieve the objectives of global humanitarian needs and emergencies of various countries which have been reeling under the crisis. The conflict affected countries such as the Latin American and Caribbean including African and the SIDSs and Land locked countries have been mostly affected on account of conflict related issues and the extreme pangs of poverty and inequalities in growth and income distribution. The global humanitarian crisis including the recent COVID-19 crisis which is both a health and as well a humanitarian crisis have also posed serious threats and challenges in achieving the SDGs slated by the United Nations. In fact, the slogan and the motto of SDGs which is ‘leaving no one behind’ cannot be achieved due to the prevailing global pandemic and the global humanitarian crisis. In order to mitigate and overcome the crisis and in order to achieve the SDGs slated by UN, there needs to be a consistent effort on the part of the global community to strike a balance between achieving the objectives of global humanitarian goals and the SDGs. These are possible by reducing the effects of the global pandemic and resolve the issues of conflict affected states by propagating and advocating the concept of positive peace and development in the global societies. It is observed that there have been consistent efforts on the part of the global community and related international agencies such as the international NGOs and the civil societies which have been working in unison and in close coordination with the largest international organization i.e. United Nations to



resolve these global issues. The concept of SDGs have been integrated, linked and embedded in the philosophy of the global community which it seems have become a way of life of the countries at large to achieve the SDGs through mitigation of the global humanitarian crisis. The research study dwells into the aspects of Recent Emerging Trends/Challenges & Risks relating to Global Humanitarian Crisis, Regional and Country Overview pertaining to Global Humanitarian Crisis, Global Trends and Challenges for Mitigating Global Humanitarian Crisis, Humanitarian Outlook: Needs & Requirements of Global Communities, Innovative Humanitarian Financing and Aid etc., The important conclusion that can be drawn from the study is that global humanitarian crisis can be mitigated through adoption of measures relating to resolving the conflict related issues across various countries that are conflict-prone, reducing the global pandemic through effective health and humanitarian measures and in striking effective balance in achieving the SDGs slated by UN in the long-run.

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