Although the global supply chain has recovered substantially since 2020, new waves of COVID-19 in 2021 continued to hit hard with the pandemic, representing the single major crisis of the past year. Due to effects of the pandemic coupled with conflicts, instability, natural hazards and the climate crisis, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021 has been driven up to 235 million.

UNHRD once again rose to the challenge, enabling partners to deliver much needed aid across the world, and as needs rose, there was a subsequent increase in operations. Comparing consignments managed in 2021 to those managed before the pandemic, there was an increase of 71 percent in 2021, of which 25 percent were non COVID-19 related.

Against the backdrop of ever-increasing operations, UNHRD identified the need for an external assessment to review stakeholder expectations, partner satisfaction and its funding model. Partners were engaged at various levels, and feedback received maintained that UNHRD is crucial for their preparedness and response efforts and remains a vital service in the context of the rapidly changing humanitarian sector.

Recognition of UNHRD’s key role in the humanitarian sector also came during a G20 ministerial event co-organized by the Government of Italy and the World Food Programme (WFP) at UNHRD Brindisi. Under the theme “The role of logistics in preparedness and response for COVID-19 pandemic and future humanitarian and health crisis”, the event contributed to the development of a greater understanding of UNHRD’s capabilities within this context amongst member states.

In July 2021, following this G20 event, WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched INITIATE2, a project based out of UNHRD Brindisi that brings together emergency actors, and research and academic institutions to combine efforts and expertise to develop standardized, innovative solutions such as disease-specific field facilities and kits.

Predictable funding and support remain vital to the success of UNHRD. In 2021, host countries and longstanding donors continued to secure their engagement in UNHRD’s sustainability and growth and signalled their continued support for the UNHRD model through announcements for future developments.

As recognized during the G20 event, logistics is the backbone of every humanitarian response. In turn, what keeps the complex ecosystem of supply chain running are the people working behind the scenes. Furthermore, in this report we introduce you to some of the UNHRD staff across the hubs who, whether recently arrived or with long serving experience, passionately and professionally ensure the success of our operations.
UNHRD IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value of Goods Dispatched (US$)</td>
<td>88.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Services Provided (US$)</td>
<td>50.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volume Dispatched (M³)</td>
<td>41,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight Dispatched (MT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value of Goods Procured (US$)</td>
<td>137.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignments</td>
<td>1,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners Served</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries Reached</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With new waves of different variants, COVID-19 showed no signs of declining and represented the single major crisis the world faced in 2021. With health systems still under pressure, especially in fragile countries, the demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) and devices for COVID-19 treatment continued to be very high. UNHRD managed 287 consignments delivering cargo directly linked to the pandemic response. In addition, UNHRD made another 200 consignments of health-related items, including PPE. In total, UNHRD delivered 2,162 mt (13,452 m³) of health-related items, which accounted for 31 percent of the total cargo (by weight) mobilized in 2021.
ETHIOPIA

Following an outbreak of conflict in the Tigray region in 2020, this spread across the north of the country in 2021, resulting in a humanitarian crisis and significant civilian displacement. The security situation has continued to deteriorate since, and the volatile humanitarian situation remains a concern.

WEIGHT DISPATCHED
1,552 MT

VOLUME DISPATCHED
6,223 M³

VALUE DISPATCHED
$9.4M

Connor Rossa Italiana

PARTNERS:

WEIGHT DISPATCHED
(1) OF TOTAL WEIGHT

TYPE OF CARGO
(1) OF TOTAL WEIGHT

CONSIGNMENTS
84

PARTNERS SERVED
18

Click here for original tweet

[Image of Croce Rossa Italiana]

Earlier this week we dispatched medicines & medical equipment from the @WFP-managed #UNHCR hub in Brindisi to support the @crocerossiana and @coopergazzettat response in #Tigray. These supplies will support the @CroceRossiana on the ground in #Tigray.

That's #Teamwork!

Click here for original tweet

[Image of a plane and supplies]

Croce Rossa Italiana

Click here for original tweet

[Image of a plane and supplies]
On 14 August 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the Tiburon Peninsula on the southern coast of Haiti, adding to the already challenging humanitarian situation. Approximately 2,250 people died while over 12,700 were injured and 130,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Food, shelter, and hygiene represented the most pressing needs among those who lost their homes and livelihoods.
MOZAMBIQUE

The crisis in Cabo Delgado, the northernmost province in Mozambique, rapidly escalated in 2021 as a result of insecurity, leaving an estimated 1.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and education services across the province – which were already stretched – were significantly impacted by escalating violence.

WEIGHT DISPATCHED

VOLUME DISPATCHED

VALUE DISPATCHED

SHIPMENT BY TRANSPORT TYPE (% OF TOTAL WEIGHT)

TYPE OF CARGO (% OF TOTAL WEIGHT)

CONSIGNMENTS

PARTNERS SERVED

491 MT

2,233 M³

$2.5M

47

11

VENEZUELA

Over the course of 2021, Venezuela continued to face a socioeconomic crisis that affected people across the country and consequentially led to large-scale population movements within and out of the country. The situation was likely to have been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which further strained livelihoods across the entire Latin American region.

WEIGHT DISPATCHED

VOLUME DISPATCHED

VALUE DISPATCHED

SHIPMENT BY TRANSPORT TYPE (% OF TOTAL WEIGHT)

TYPE OF CARGO (% OF TOTAL WEIGHT)

CONSIGNMENTS

PARTNERS SERVED

279 MT

1,762 M³

$9.4M

57

8

PARTNERS:
OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Yesterday, @WFP supported @OFDA to move 100,000 #COVID19 vaccines from Australia to Laos. Through coordination between our SUNHRD & Aviation teams, the vaccines were transported on a WFP global passenger service taking humanitarian workers to Laos.

This past weekend, @WFP supported the delivery of 220 family tents donated by @OFFL from our SUNHRD hub in Kuala Lumpur to the Civil Protection Warehouse in Dili, Timor Leste in response to April’s flash floods caused by #CycloneSenoa.

Following the #Freetown explosion in #SierraLeone, @WFP UNHRD dispatched 1.3 mt of emergency cargo from its Accra depot to support the emergency response on behalf of @WHO in less than 24hrs. Another 5mt of urgent medical supplies will be dispatched shortly.

Thank you @UPSP Foundation for providing @WFP with a recent donated airlift of mobile storage units from @UNHRD Dubai to #Madagascar.

These storage units will be used to help WFP scale up its response to the ongoing drought crisis in the south of the country.
G20 MINISTERIAL EVENT IN BRINDISI

On 30 June 2021, high-level representatives of the G20 member states, together with officials of UN agencies, international organizations and inter-governmental entities joined together at UNHRD Brindisi to discuss the “The role of logistics in preparedness and response for Covid-19 pandemic and future humanitarian and health crisis”. Co-hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr. Luigi Di Maio, and by WFP Executive Director, Mr. David Beasley, the event was moderated by the President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and President of the Italian Red Cross, Mr. Francesco Rocca. Drawing from the lessons learned and good practices of the COVID-19 response, the event showcased the importance of logistics in an increasingly complex environment, acknowledged the fundamental role of preparedness, including the pre-positioning of emergency stockpiles, and contributed to the development of a greater understanding of UNHRD’s capabilities within this context.

In the margin of the event, an air shipment with 4.6 mt of relief items and support equipment for eight organizations departed from Brindisi to Pemba, Mozambique, the first of three rotations organized in partnership with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), which delivered a total of 18.2 mt of aid items and logistics supplies.

INNOVATION: INITIATE

In July 2021, following the G20 ministerial event hosted at UNHRD Brindisi, WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO) launched INITIATE, a new research and development forum to foster partnership among humanitarian and health actors and share expertise and knowledge, transfer skills and build capacity to improve emergency response to health crises.

Leveraging WFP and WHO’s technical expertise and existing field-oriented collaboration, including through the UNHRD Lab during the COVID-19 pandemic response, INITIATE aims to bring together emergency response actors, as well as research and academic institutions, to develop and test disease-specific field facilities and kits. These will be tested in real-life scenarios and field responders will be trained on their installation and use at UNHRD Brindisi, which since 2007 has been regularly used to organize large-scale emergency simulations.

After the initial virtual partner meetings and workshops, the first project to be developed through INITIATE will kick off in March 2022.
On 19 October, the UNHRD Network Coordinator, Ms. Marta Laurienzo, and Panama UNHRD hub manager, Mr. Francisco Quesada, together with the Regional Director of WFP in Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Lola Castro, met in Panama City with the Minister of Government, Ms. Janaina Tewaney Mencomo, and Vice Minister of External Relations, Ms. Dayra Carrizo. The meeting offered the opportunity to recognize the strategic role played in the region by UNHRD Panama, which was further highlighted by a significant increase in operations, with nearly a doubling of the number of partners utilising the hub’s services and a threefold increase (65 to 278) in the number of consignments handled by the hub in 2021 compared to 2019.

The high-level meeting offered further opportunities to reinforce the partnership between UNHRD and the Government of Panama at the advocacy level. This includes the Group of Friends of UNHRD, the presidency of which is expected to be transferred from Spain to Panama in 2022.

As of 2020, UNHRD Panama is operating from the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance, generously hosted by the Ministry of Government. The Government of Panama continued to make available to UNHRD the original warehouse at the Panama Pacifico Airport due to the augmented needs of the COVID-19 pandemic response. Operations from this facility were discontinued in late 2021.

During the press conference at the end of the G20 ministerial event, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, Mr. Luigi Di Maio, announced a multi-year investment to support WFP’s plan to expand and upgrade the facilities of UNHRD Brindisi. This is based on four main pillars: expansion of the training centre; establishment of an international conference centre; strengthening of logistics capacity; and upgrade of the research and development unit.

The plan builds on a recent expansion of the hub’s premises. In late 2020 the Ministry of Defence of Italy granted UNHRD Brindisi the free use of an additional eight hectares of land for trainings. This brings the footprint of the San Vito premises to 23 hectares, plus the 3,500 m² warehouse and cargo centre at the Brindisi Military Airport.

WFP plans to restore this area to expand the hub’s capacity for scenario-based simulations as well as accommodation facilities. Concurrently, the project aims to establish a state-of-the-art international conference centre open to UN organizations, governments, NGOs and academia for seminars, workshops and other events. Within this investment, the cold chain facilities available at the hub will also be increased, and the configuration of the UNHRD Lab will be upgraded. Overall, as commended by Minister Di Maio, the plan shall aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the hub, including through the installation of green energy production infrastructure and by renewing the fleet with electric vehicles.
Since 2013 the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a faithful partner and donor of UNHRD. Since then, in addition to using the services of UNHRD, annually they have granted much needed funding for the growth and financial sustainability of the network. In 2021, SDC committed to a four-year contribution, which will allow UNHRD to better plan and sustain its continuous efforts in providing efficient and effective services to the humanitarian community for their emergency preparedness and response operations.

PARTNERS

GLOBAL PARTNER MEETING

In 2021, two UNHRD Global Partner Meetings (GPM) were held due to the suspension of the 2020 edition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The January session (15th GPM) consisted of 83 participants from 42 organizations who gathered online and provided the opportunity to share initial lessons learned from the humanitarian response to the pandemic and prepare for future global health emergencies.

At the July edition, 45 participants from 32 organisations gathered online for the 16th GPM which primarily followed up on the status of the clean-up exercise, with additional presentations providing updates on digital initiatives, an introduction to INITIATE2, and the proposed revalidation of stock plans.

Due to an increasing buildup of unused inventory with an average age of 7.3 years, over the course of 2021 UNHRD began actively working with partners on a case-by-case basis to establish plans for rotation.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

With the support of staff across the Network such as Cristiana, Wai Yee, Alvis, Annamaria, and Mahboob, UNHRD can deliver time and time again on its commitment to the humanitarian community. Meet them and hear more about their experiences by visiting the link below.

Celebrating 20 years of Field Support Operations:

2001 marked the first time the field team was deployed, a mere year into UNHRD operations. These skilled technicians, deployable upon request, are among the first responders at the onset of an emergency, and work to prevent any potential bottlenecks in the receiving areas, manage cargo reception and dispatch, install mobile facilities and office spaces, and train local staff.

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