

# MULTI-YEAR HUMANITARIAN STRATEGIES SUMMARY

GUIDANCE FOR OCHA COUNTRY AND REGIONAL OFFICES

## 1. Background

This guidance document seeks to offer a more systematic and efficient approach to undertaking Multi-Year Humanitarian Strategies (MYHS). MYHS provide an overarching strategy for humanitarian operations. They are accompanied by annual humanitarian analyses (Humanitarian Needs Overview – HNO), operational plans (Humanitarian Response Plan – HRP) and monitoring plans. See Figure 1.

The development of MYHS requires extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders. The process should start in January or February of the year preceding the anticipated start of the MYHS.

## 2. Aims and Key Benefits

MYHS promote a more effective humanitarian response by taking a longer view, providing a framework to plan and coordinate humanitarian action over multiple years. MYHS can support planning for transitions: the phasing down of humanitarian operations and alignment or collaboration with development and peacebuilding processes. The scope of MYHS remains humanitarian; programmes addressing chronic and structural drivers of needs should feature in development frameworks.

Executing MYHS require the same dynamic approach as an annual HRP: coordination of assessments, needs and response analyses, planning, monitoring, and resource mobilization. Updates and revisions of the

The full guidance, including examples, is available [online](#).

MYHS occur annually but can also be triggered by new shocks, slow-onset changes, or inter-agency decisions.

Key benefits include:

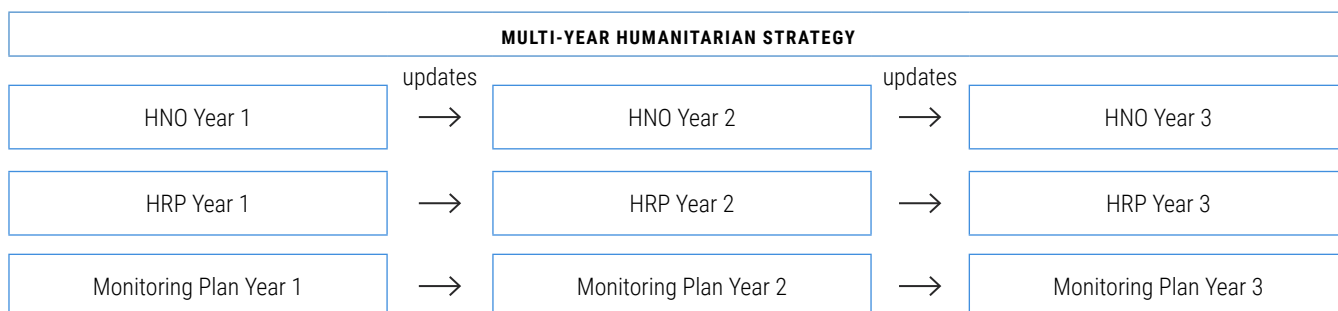
- Updates to the annual HRP are typically lighter.
- Humanitarian action can be sequenced, paving the way for more sustainable interventions.
- Phased transitions from humanitarian assistance to development are supported.
- Longer timeframes facilitate collaboration with development, peacebuilding, and human rights actors, as well as a more meaningful involvement of affected people.

## 3. Conditions to Undertake a MYHS

The undertaking of a MYHS is encouraged when most of these four conditions are met:

- The context is a protracted crisis, where humanitarian needs are likely to continue.
- The humanitarian operation has a committed leadership, with a Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) ready to lead the process and a supportive Humanitarian Country Team.
- Development actors are present and have the required capacity and commitment to address structural and chronic drivers of humanitarian needs.

Figure 1 Multi Year Humanitarian Strategy



- The donor community is committed and supportive of the multi-year approach, and stands ready to increase support to development assistance to address root causes of humanitarian needs.

#### 4. Preliminary Steps

- **Stakeholder analysis** – Consultations with stakeholders will set the parameters of the MYHS and increase the likelihood of its successful development and implementation. Key stakeholders include (i) the host government, (ii) development, peace and human rights partners, (iii) clusters/ sectors and operational partners and (iv) donors.
- **Data Systems Review and Adjustments** – Set up appropriate data systems to generate projections of humanitarian needs, crisis risks, vulnerabilities and capacities

#### 5. Step by Step Considerations

- **Coordination Structures** – Promote coherence and complementarity between humanitarian and development coordination mechanisms, to facilitate collaboration for analysis, planning and implementation of MYHS. Undertake annual reviews of the coordination architecture. Engage with authorities to facilitate the transition of coordination functions to national counterparts where appropriate.
- **Context and Humanitarian Needs Assessment and Analysis** – Conduct a broader analysis for the HNO, including a contextual analysis that considers the root causes of humanitarian needs, multi-year trends analysis and a risk analysis to inform projections. Collaborate closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office and non-humanitarian actors to reach a common understanding of structural and chronic drivers of needs and vulnerabilities, and of anticipated risks.
- **Response Analysis and Planning** – Lay out in the MYHS how it interfaces with development planning instruments and frameworks and articulate how the needs, vulnerabilities, and coping capacities of affected people are likely to evolve. It should consider the expected evolution of access dynamics, implementation capacity of humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors, and appropriateness of response modalities.

- **Response Monitoring Plans** – Two monitoring dimensions are called for: (i) an annual HRP monitoring plan with indicators and targets, and (ii) situation, needs, risk and response indicators in the MYHS to inform the evolution of needs and the response.
- **Data management tools** – HPC.tools platforms continue to be designed around single-year processes (caseloads, financial requirements, etc.).
- **Financing and Advocacy** – Advocate with donors for flexible and multi-year funding, including risk tolerance for development programmes, and for increased government investments to address humanitarian needs.

#### Examples

- [Afghanistan 2018-2021 HRP](#): a four-year HRP aimed to contribute to recovery through stronger collaboration with development actors on common needs analysis and outcomes (revised in 2020 and 2021).
- [Afghanistan 2019 HNO](#): a context analysis based on three variables provided planning assumptions for multi-year planning; historical trends, population increases, and expert judgement informed needs projections.
- [Democratic Republic of Congo 2023-2024 MYHS](#): a two-year strategy was adopted to increase collaboration between humanitarian, development and peace actors.
- [Nigeria 2023 HNO](#): projections were quantified for three humanitarian crisis variables.
- [Occupied Palestinian territory 2018 HNO](#): clusters included projections based on three scenarios for the number of people in need.
- [South Sudan 2023 HNO](#): INFORM was used to determine the level of hazard and exposure to risks, vulnerabilities, and coping capacity.
- [Sudan 2017-2019 MYHS](#): an overarching response framework was developed for a three-year period.

#### References

- [2024 HPC Facilitation Package](#), May 2023
- [Analyzing risks and determining the most likely evolution of the humanitarian situation](#), October 2020