

The New Humanitarian|

Journalism from the heart of crises

A photograph of an elderly woman with a weathered face, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored sari (orange, yellow, green, and purple) and a matching headscarf. She is standing in a desolate, debris-strewn landscape under a clear blue sky. In the background, there are makeshift structures made of wood and plastic, suggesting a refugee camp or a disaster-stricken area. The woman is holding a dark stick or staff in her right hand. The overall mood is one of resilience and hardship.

Annual Report
2020

Cover Image: Onita Rani walks in front of her damaged house in Khulna district. Coastal Bangladesh was lashed by a punishing storm in May 2020, then submerged by monsoon floods. (Zakir Hossain Chowdhury/ The New Humanitarian)

Foreword

2020 has been – by all definitions – an intense year.

The COVID-19 pandemic and an awakening to the systemic racism at play in many of the world's institutions have caused profound suffering and exposed deep-rooted injustice.

These world-changing events have also raised fundamental questions about the beat The New Humanitarian covers.

The pandemic has highlighted the scale of the challenge in responding to humanitarian needs that are now worldwide. What do you do when the whole world is in crisis?

And the police shootings of unarmed black men in America have forced us to re-examine what counts as a humanitarian crisis and the implicit biases that underlie such definitions.

Our work over the last year has sought to examine these questions – amid difficult circumstances for our staff and our organisation (though we count ourselves among the lucky ones).

But 2020 has also presented some rays of light, including a revived solidarity among people on different corners of the Earth – all experiencing (albeit to differing degrees) the same global crisis; a new consciousness about the importance of understanding such crises; and an opening for us to interest wider audiences in the business of saving lives.

2020 was also our 25th anniversary – an opportunity to reflect on our rich legacy to date but also to challenge the humanitarian aid sector we cover to think critically about what it has achieved since the Rwandan genocide a quarter century ago and what lessons it can draw for the future.

Somewhat paradoxically, The New Humanitarian took great strides forward in 2020. As you'll read in the following pages, we have emerged from this past year stronger than we went into it, and are re-energised by the renewed relevance of our mission and the important work that lies ahead.



Heba Aly
Director



Paula Fray
President

The New Humanitarian is a distinctly different kind of journalism and I hope you know that many of us deeply appreciate the approach that you and your team are pioneering.

- Daniel Maxwell, Henry J. Leir Professor in Food Security and Humanitarian Action and Policy at Tufts University



A child shovels water away from the tent he shares with his mother and sister in a makeshift displacement camp near Sarmada, Syria. (Muhammad Al Hosse/The New Humanitarian)

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About us

The New Humanitarian is an independent, non-profit newsroom reporting from the heart of conflict, disasters, and other crises. For 25 years, we have put our journalism at the service of the millions of people affected by humanitarian crises around the world.

Our journalism contributes to more effective and accountable humanitarian action by:

- Informing decision-makers and practitioners
- Providing accountability and transparency
- Raising awareness among wider audiences

Through a network of more than 200 local and international contributors, a core staff of experienced editors, and an intimate knowledge of the humanitarian sector, The New Humanitarian provides unique multimedia coverage from more than 70 countries.

We tell the local story globally, with integrity, authenticity, and authority. We blend award-winning journalism, analysis, and data to give decision-makers, influencers, and anyone interested in or affected by crises a real-time, in-depth view of the realities on the ground and the policy debates surrounding them.



Volunteers stop a woman during lockdowns in a Srinagar neighbourhood, in Indian-administered Kashmir. (Abid Bhat/The New Humanitarian)

25 years of impact

To mark our 25th anniversary in 2020, we dug through our archive for the stories that have resonated the most with our editors and our readers. These stories also chronicle the evolution of humanitarianism over the last quarter of a century.

The conflict in DRC (1996 onwards)

Our [1996 briefing](#) on the unrest in South Kivu province, one of our earliest pieces of original content, was the first comprehensive analysis on the conflict. Our [1999 coverage](#) of clashes between pastoralists and agriculturalists in eastern Ituri province sparked an early example of user-generated content: [Exclusive amateur video from a missionary group](#) showed children with deep machete wounds as well as mass graves and burning villages, drawing much-needed attention to the crisis.

The fight against AIDS: Heroes of HIV (2009)

This [short documentary](#) series earned IRIN an honourable mention at the 14th annual Webby awards, hailed as the “internet’s highest honour” by The New York Times. From the Nepali woman rescuing girls from the sex trade to the South African Catholic bishop promoting condoms, the videos profile exceptional people involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. IRIN’s PlusNews website published dedicated news about HIV/AIDS until 2011. For more of its offerings, take a look at [this award-winning 2007 piece](#) on a medical trial gone wrong in the search for products to prevent the disease.

The Road to Redemption: The unmaking of Boko Haram (2015)

Africa Editor Obi Anyadike [took us inside efforts](#) to de-radicalise members of what at the time was rated the world’s deadliest militant group. One of the first journalists to be granted access to Boko Haram prisoners, Anyadike unpacks the goals and motivations of the group.

Sexual abuse in aid: Oxfam’s #MeToo moment (2018)

In [this investigation](#), we revealed that the man at the heart of a sexual exploitation scandal at aid agency Oxfam in Haiti was dismissed for similar misconduct by another British NGO seven years earlier.

The COVID-19 pandemic (2020)

Our [coronavirus coverage](#) contributed to a near tripling of our audience after the pandemic struck. Our COVID-19 coverage generated particular interest from readers on the African continent, with stories about [Nigerian doctors going on strike, which African countries might be most vulnerable to the virus](#), and [ways COVID-19 is changing South Africa](#) among our most read.

Explore the full list of our [top 25 stories of all time](#).

Executive summary

Introduction

After years creating the building blocks of a successful media non-profit, The New Humanitarian is now reaping the benefits of those investments. 2020 wasn't just our 25th year reporting from the heart of crises – it was a breakthrough year in terms of both our visibility and our impact.

At a time when COVID-19 dealt a critical blow to the media sector, we thrived. The pandemic has pushed our beat into the global limelight and reminded audiences around the world of the importance of reliable information about crises.

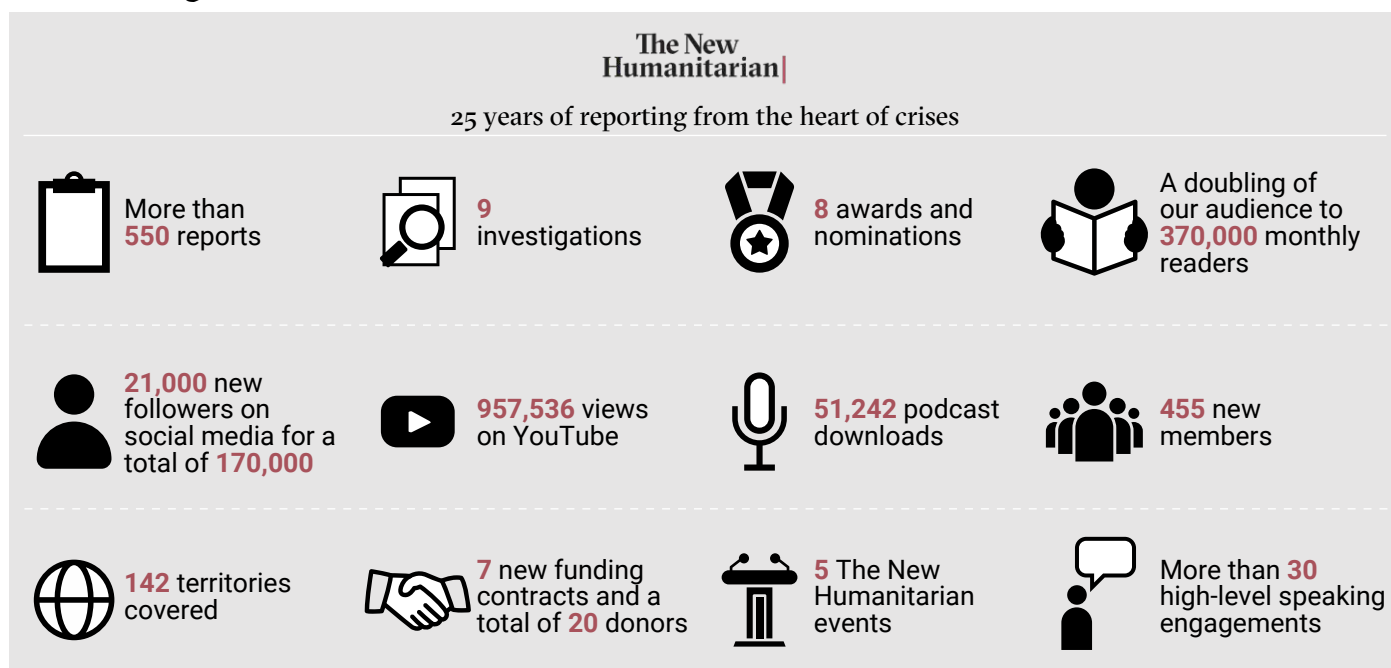
We produced increasingly valuable insights into the realities on the ground in COVID-affected countries for a growing number of readers, while ensuring that other crises were not forgotten amid the focus on the pandemic.

We invested in more agenda-setting reporting and adopted more strategic approaches to audience engagement, brand-building, and distribution partnerships.

We experimented with new revenue streams and strengthened our compliance measures and due diligence standards.

And as we marked our 25th anniversary in a pivotal year for a humanitarian response sector hit by two world-changing events – a global pandemic and a worldwide movement for racial justice – we drove an important conversation on the future of aid.

2020 at a glance



Thriving during a difficult year

The COVID-19 pandemic has been described as an “extinction event” for journalism. But in a year when many news organisations had to lay off staff, take pay cuts, or shut down altogether, The New Humanitarian not only weathered the storm, but went from strength to strength.

In 2020, our humanitarian beat took centre stage globally, amid COVID-19 and a worldwide fight for racial equality, as well as the ongoing effects of climate change and global migration.

And yet despite this renewed recognition of the importance of reliable information about crises, such journalism remains under-served, as demonstrated by our 2020 [reader survey](#).

As one of the only newsrooms worldwide specialising in reporting on crises through a network of reporters on the ground, The New Humanitarian has attracted new readers and

supporters alike with the nuance, balance, and depth of our work.

In 2020, we more than doubled our audience year on year; we increased our income at a time of funding cuts; we signed up more than 450 readers to become members, directly supporting our journalism with both their donations and their ideas; and we grew our staffing to meet the increasingly urgent need for our journalism.

We bucked many of the negative trends seen across the journalism sector, and proved that non-profit media that offer a clear public service and are valued by their readers can be resilient in the face of challenges.

Our agile, globally distributed team and network of journalists in some 70 countries around the world enabled us to continue reporting when other media organisations were hamstrung, and when aid professionals were often unable to travel to assess the

realities on the ground for themselves. We provided essential information to policymakers about the impact of the pandemic on communities in the Global South, when usual channels of information were no longer working.

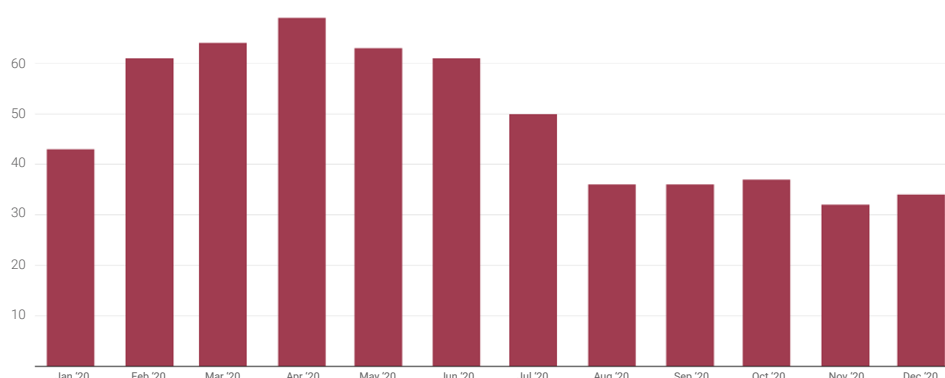
Our funding model shielded us from the economic shock of significant drops in advertising revenue, and a newly launched membership programme became the latest of our revenue diversification efforts.

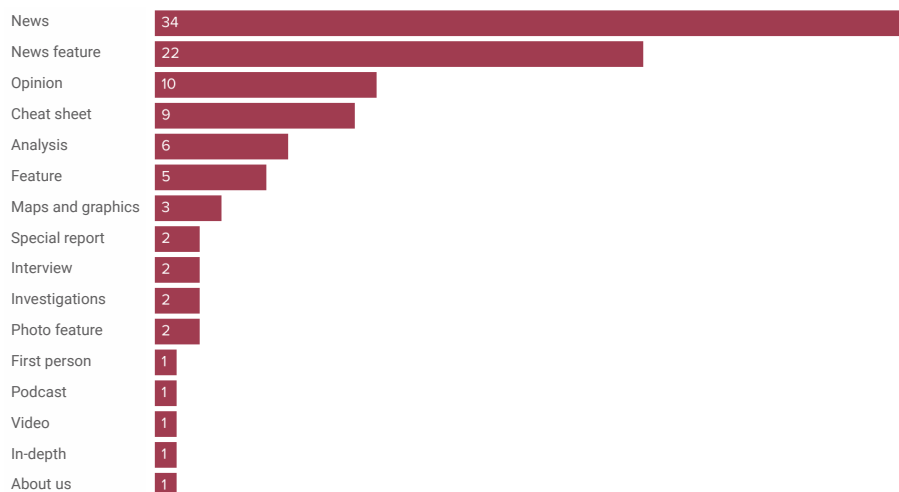
Finally, our track record for accuracy made us a trusted source for local people in countries like Tanzania, Yemen, and Peru, amid deadly dis- and mis-information about the virus, as well as government cover-ups about its real toll.

The New Humanitarian has emerged from COVID-19 stronger than we went into it.

Editorial production

Number of Stories



Production by format (%)**Our journalism in 2020**

The New Humanitarian's journalism seeks to do three things:

Provide in-depth, field-based perspectives on humanitarian crises

We documented the impact of COVID-19 on crisis zones, providing objective, informed perspectives for policymakers and affected people alike.

We highlighted the devastating impact of enduring conflict and protracted crises in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, and beyond.

We flagged abuses against displaced people – from Libya to the US-Mexico border – and underlined the many other challenges they face.

Shine a spotlight on forgotten stories and emerging trends

We launched a new She Said series focused on the impact of crises on women and girls, and telling women's stories through women's voices.

We flagged the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia's Tigray region, skyrocketing violence and increasing displacement in Burkina Faso, and rising militancy in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado.

We zeroed in on how climate-linked disasters are overlapping and locking communities in a perpetual rebuild.

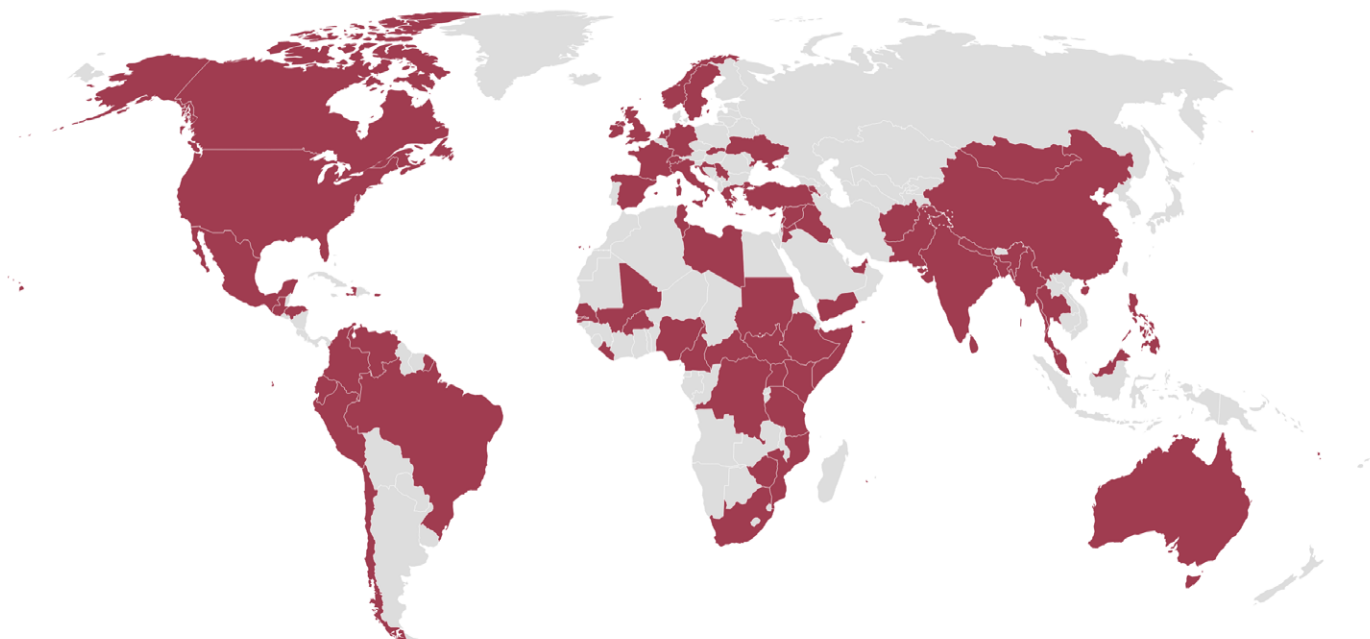
Cast a critical eye over the emergency aid sector

We offered deep reflections on the past 25 years of humanitarian action and the potentially transformative impact of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter.

We reported on racism in the sector, and welcomed opinion pieces from a diverse range of voices who shared their own stories of discrimination, as well as ideas for the way forward.

Our investigations exposed neglect and abuses of power by aid agencies, from sexual abuse in the Ebola response in Congo, to the failure to dismiss a senior staff member accused of racism, abuse, and misconduct in Sudan.

Places we reported from in 2020



The New
Humanitarian

Our impact

In 2020, our coverage of humanitarian crises informed decision-making in the interest of those most affected at the highest levels. For example, our reporting of the refugee crisis in Bangladesh served as evidence in a petition by Rohingya victims' lawyers to the International Criminal Court, and our analysis of lessons from past pandemics and epidemics helped to shape NGO strategies for responding to COVID-19.

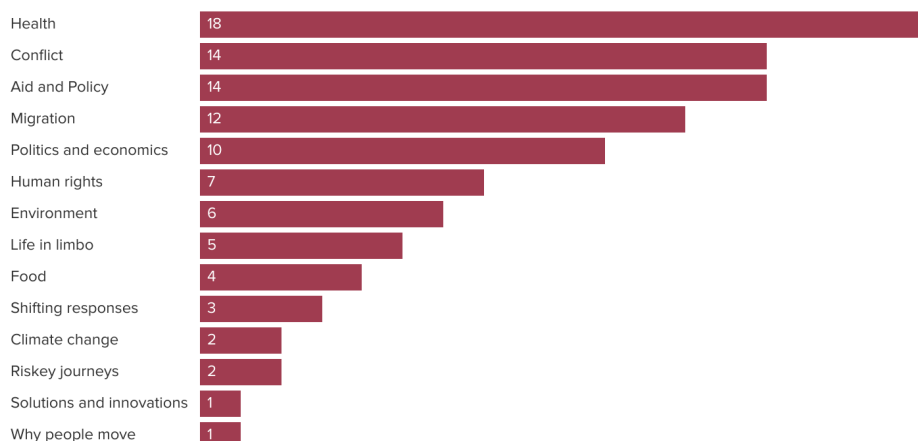
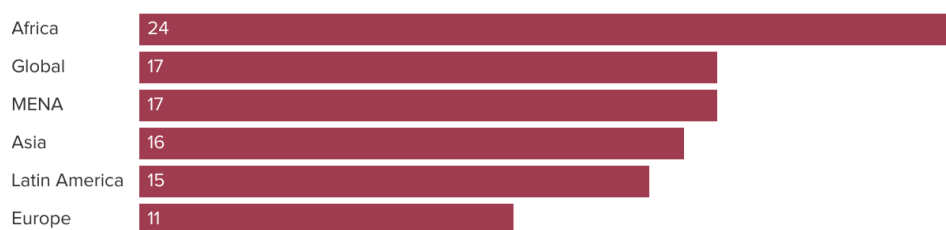
We provided greater accountability and transparency in the aid sector: In one investigation, we uncovered claims by more than 50 Congolese women that they were sexually abused and exploited by aid workers during an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo, prompting investigations from several of the

NGOs and UN agencies involved. The story reached a global audience with coverage in major publications around the world, from the New York Times to the BBC. A separate investigation looked into accusations of racism, abuse, and misconduct against the Sudan office head of one of the world's leading charities. He was finally fired just as we were about to publish.

Our Rethinking Humanitarianism series drove a range of existential conversations about the aid sector, including around its neo-colonial roots, the push for decolonisation, and emerging models for the future. These conversations continued across various channels, and we were soon fielding at least one request per week for speaking engagements on these

themes at conferences, boardroom meetings, and humanitarian network events. For example, Director Heba Aly gave a keynote speech to launch Humentum's OpEx365 – a year-long series of virtual learning for the global development community to re-imagine their work – on how the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement have transformed traditional conceptions of humanitarian aid.

By making humanitarian issues more accessible to a wider audience, we raised awareness of forgotten crises and inspired further support: One reader, for example, donated money to a woman featured in our report on Venezuelan migrants facing rising xenophobia in Latin America.

Production by theme (%)**Production by region (%)**

Our audience

In 2020, we saw a remarkable increase in average monthly website users to 370,000, up from 170,000 in 2019. This growth was partly a response to the pandemic – during which audiences worldwide sought out information they could trust about the virus – but it was also due to: improvements in the quality of our journalism, including our cornerstone investigations; growing clout within the news media landscape; increased outreach efforts, including on social media; distribution partnerships to reach new audiences; efforts to engage more with our readers through events and newsletters; and continuous improvements in our use of multimedia and technology.

We launched a membership programme in May, allowing our readers to become part of a community that believes in our work and supports it financially. Members have access to our staff, to exclusive products and events, as well as to each other. By the end of the year, almost 500 members had joined our nascent programme.

We also launched our first podcast, Rethinking Humanitarianism, in collaboration with the Center for Global Development, with more than 50,000 downloads of the first season and great feedback from our listeners. We ended the year with 170,000 social media followers, as well as close to one million views of our videos on YouTube.

Establishing our place in the media sector

We raised our profile in media circles in 2020 by strategically partnering with a number of key media organisations. We co-published reports with the Associated Press (AP), Agence France-Presse (AFP), the Thomson Reuters Foundation, and The Independent. We also partnered with News Deeply to host their archives on our website, in a new space called "[Deeply Humanitarian](#)".

Our work was featured in the [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Foreign Policy](#).

Interviews of our editors and correspondents were carried out by BBC Radio 1, Euronews, France24, Al Jazeera, and Australia's ABC radio, among others.

Finally, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Le Monde, Deutsche Welle, The Mail & Guardian, Yemen Online, and Human Rights Watch were among those who republished, cited, and/or linked to our reporting.

Our funding

In 2020, our overall income was CHF 2,054,670 and our total expenditure was CHF 1,980,722. This represents a slight increase in our funding levels compared to 2019, with 20 partners ([listed here](#)) supporting our work. We also struck several new multi-year funding agreements, which now account for more than 90 percent of our overall funding. No one donor contributed more than 25 percent of our overall budget.

We maintained our levels of unearmarked funding, which accounted for 65%* percent of our overall income allowing more coherent coverage and flexibility to adapt to a changing news environment.

Through individual donations, speaker fees, and the launch of our membership programme, we generated more of our own independent revenue, allowing us to continue building reserves and providing greater sustainability for our organisation.

Our organisation and governance

We made great strides in our policies and procedures in 2020, with the development of a child safeguarding policy, an independent complaints platform, and a remuneration framework providing an evidence base to our staff salaries.

We hired a newsroom administrator, an audience engagement editor, and a policy editor to improve the quality of content we produce both in our journalism and across our social channels.

Dr. Joanne Liu, a paediatrician and former international president of Médecins Sans Frontières, [joined](#) our board of directors. Currently practising as a doctor in Canada during the COVID-19 response, Dr. Liu is a member of the independent panel (IPPR) examining how the World Health Organization and countries handled the COVID-19 pandemic.

* This percentage has been updated to reflect funds that were spent, rather than received, in 2020.

How our journalism creates real impact

The New Humanitarian's reporting informs the prevention and response to humanitarian crises by contributing to better decision-making, accountability and transparency, and greater awareness. In so doing, we seek to contribute to more effective and accountable humanitarian action.

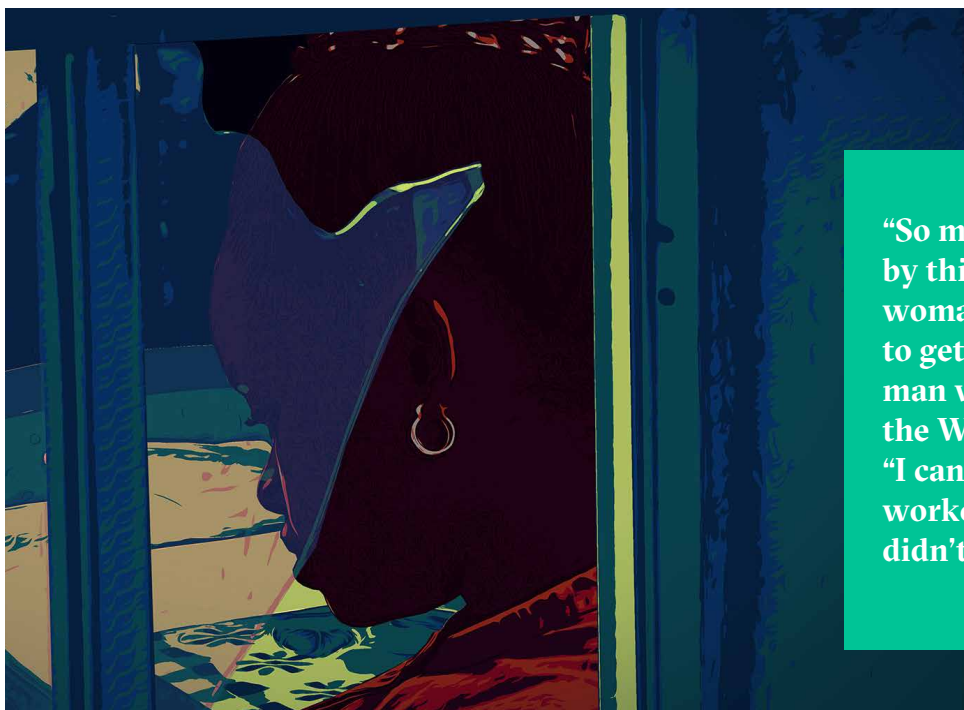
We monitor the impact of our journalism through our reach, reference to our work in online and offline spaces, our ability to influence the wider media narrative, feedback from our readers, audience surveys, independent evaluations, and through examples of tangible, real-world impact prompted by our reporting. In many cases, simply bringing awareness to an overlooked issue can result in positive change.

In 2020, our stories informed strategy meetings by NGOs; prompted major international NGOs and agencies to seek advice on ensuring an ethically sound response to COVID-19; and led the UN to issue an [official statement](#) in response to our reporting of fraud, corruption, and sexual exploitation and abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo, promising to carefully consider any recommendations made in an operational review by external consultants.

We continue to see concrete evidence that we are fulfilling our mission of informing the world's response to crises. Here are three examples of the impact of our reporting:



A camp for internally displaced people in the eastern Congolese town of Minova, where business owners were involved in a scam to divert aid funds from people in need, according to a Mercy Corps investigation. (Philip Kleinfeld/The New Humanitarian)



(Robert Flummerfelt/The New Humanitarian)

“So many women were affected by this,” said one 44-year-old woman, who told reporters that to get a job she had sex with a man who said he worked with the World Health Organization. “I can’t think of someone who worked in the response who didn’t have to offer something.”

Uncovering sexual abuse and exploitation in the Ebola response in DRC

In September, a [year-long investigation](#) co-published with the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) uncovered claims by more than 50 Congolese women of sexual abuse and exploitation by aid workers in the eastern city of Beni during the 2018 to 2020 Ebola crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The majority of the women said numerous men had either propositioned them, forced them to have sex in exchange for a job, or terminated their contracts when they refused.

This was one of the most impactful stories in our 25-year history. As a result of our reporting, the [Congolese Ministry of Health](#) and five of the seven organisations named by women vowed to investigate, including the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the International Organization for Migration ([IOM](#)), the UN’s children agency ([UNICEF](#)), World Vision, and ALIMA. UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for the allegations to be “investigated fully”.

Shortly thereafter, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the WHO, [launched](#) an investigation; World Vision sent a team of investigators to DRC, and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([UNOCHA](#)) began recruiting a Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse consultant for DRC.

The UN Victims’ Rights Advocate; SOFEPADI, a Congolese NGO that works on women’s rights; and Dr. Tedros himself all [offered](#) to [provide support](#) to the victims in their quest for justice.

“A huge thanks to both The New Humanitarian and Thomson Reuters Foundation because the investment that your organisations made in getting the truth out there has been considerable. It both pains me that we are reliant on journalists to get these stories exposed, because I would really like them not to be there, but I am incredibly grateful to you and your colleagues and peers for making this happen.”

– Sarah Champion, UK Member of Parliament and Chair of the International Development Select Committee, after we gave evidence of aid worker sex abuse following our [investigation](#)

The UK Parliament's International Development Committee asked our editors and correspondents to testify before their inquiry into sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector. Following that testimony, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office banned sexual relations between government staff giving aid and people receiving it. Several other major donor governments to humanitarian organisations shared with The New Humanitarian that they were deliberating initiatives related to the findings of the investigation.

The investigation also triggered a Short-Notice Audit by the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative regarding Oxfam's conformance with the Core Humanitarian Standard, a scheme that assesses aid agencies' competence. The review found Oxfam's systems had picked up abuse reasonably effectively.

Finally, the BBC World Service, France24, and Euronews interviewed our reporters, and more than 20 mainstream media outlets – including The New York Times, the BBC, Al Jazeera, AFP, and Le Monde – covered this story, citing our original reporting.

More than 50 regional or local media outlets and specialist media did the same, from Hong Kong to Jamaica, Nigeria to Sri Lanka.

The story – which we published in both English and French in the hope that it would be shared in Francophone Africa, including in DRC – was picked up widely by Congolese television and radio, including Top Congo FM, Actualite CD, and RFI.

This investigation continues to have ripple effects as the aid sector grapples with widespread, chronic sexual exploitation and abuse, whether by aid workers or peacekeepers (visualised in this timeline). The New Humanitarian is committed to

"I was so happy to hear on the radio the things we've all seen with our eyes," said Enock, a Congolese student who heard a local radio report.

following up on this story and the next steps for those affected, starting with a discussion we hosted in December on 'What happens to sexual abuse survivors after the headlines fade?'



(Ayumi Bennett/The New Humanitarian)

Shining a light on the hack the UN tried to keep quiet

In our [first major exclusive](#) in 2020, co-published with the [Associated Press](#), we revealed that the UN suffered a major hacking attack into its IT systems in Europe. Dozens of servers – including systems at its human rights offices, as well as its human resources department – were compromised and some administrator accounts breached.

This breach is one of the largest ever known to have affected the world body, and yet almost no one we spoke to had heard about it. Under diplomatic immunity, the UN is not obliged to divulge what was obtained by the hackers or notify those affected. Our investigation raised questions about the UN's responsibilities in data protection and its diplomatic privileges. According to data protection advocates, their decision not to publicly disclose this attack potentially put staff, other organisations, and individuals at risk.

Following publication, the UN responded in a [press conference](#)



Sean McDonald
@seanmmcdonald

This is an emergency - not the hack (although, probably) - the fact that we have no way of holding one of the world's most powerful and precarious institutions to basic standards of digital professionalism.



The New Humanitarian @newhumanitarian · Jan 29, 2020

The UN doesn't have to report a major data breach to anyone. It didn't.

thenewhumanitarian.org/investigation/...

5:33 PM · Jan 29, 2020 · TweetDeck

and with an [official statement](#). Our investigation prompted member states and human rights defenders – whose information may have been at risk – to follow up with the UN for explanations.

The UN staff union complained to management about the protection of personal data and this breach: "... none of us has had the opportunity to take necessary corrective action. That

we are only finding out about a breach six months later, and from external sources, only makes things worse."

Citing The New Humanitarian's original reporting, many news outlets picked up on the story including [The Register](#), [The New York Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), [CBS News](#), [Wired](#), [Swiss Info](#), and others.

Highlighting institutional racism in the aid sector

In 2020, a resurgent Black Lives Matter movement led to another moment of reckoning for the aid sector, forcing a reflection on deeply rooted racism and colonialism, and pushing long-neglected issues into the limelight.

Over the course of the year, The New Humanitarian became a leading forum for debate and discussion about these issues.

In one notable example, The New Humanitarian [obtained access](#) to an internal statement to staff at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) from its president and an international board member acknowledging the need for "radical change" on racism.

MSF has "failed people of colour, both staff and patients", "failed to tackle institutional racism", and is part of

"white privileged culture", said the statement. The New Humanitarian's report noted that a 2017 initiative to address racism and privilege within MSF had stalled. Staff said the article generated widespread debate internally, while an internal petition subsequently picked up more than 1,100 signatures. Recognising the importance of such information

reaching the public, MSF UK also shared advice on how to leak to the press about racism.

The New Humanitarian then published a scathing [testimonial](#) by Arnab Majumdar, a former MSF employee, about his experiences of institutional racism while working at the organisation's branches in Canada and Holland.

In response to this piece, MSF in both the Netherlands and in Canada apologised to the former employee and [published messages](#) to all staff on addressing racism and discrimination within the organisation. We received a number of [comments from readers](#) who shared their experiences of and thoughts on race and bias in the aid sector.

In our wider body of reporting, we looked at how the #BlackLivesMatter movement, as well as the pandemic, exposed many of the hypocrisies and structural problems that have long underpinned international humanitarian action. Our online event on [The West's humanitarian reckoning](#) was watched by more than 2,000 people, as we brought together a line-up of leading analysts and commentators.

As our reporting became central to many of the uncomfortable



conversations being held across the aid sector, staff from The New Humanitarian were invited to speak at numerous external events on similar themes as leading communities and NGOs sought to navigate the shifting dynamic and adapt their own thinking and strategies around what many, including The New Humanitarian, suggested may be [a turning point for the aid sector](#). This aligned well with our [Rethinking Humanitarianism series](#), which surfaced more of these existential topics for debate.

"I'm not sharing my experience in order to denigrate MSF... I'm sharing it in the hope of bringing greater awareness to the ways in which group dynamics replicate and reinforce structural inequalities. I'd also like to spur a wider conversation about the degree to which aid organisations will need to directly challenge their own staff if they are to initiate the radical changes necessary to dismantle a powerful system of positionality and privilege."

– Arnab Majumdar, former learning and development specialist and project manager with Médecins Sans Frontières

Awards

One World Media Awards

The New Humanitarian won the prestigious One World Media Awards Coronavirus Reporting Award for "How coronavirus hit Aden: A Yemeni doctor's diary", by Dr Ammar Derwish, after being shortlisted alongside stories by the BBC and Al Jazeera. Meanwhile, our "Sahel in Flames" package was longlisted for the One World Media Awards in the digital media category; and "In Syria's latest exodus, local citizens become frontline aid workers", by Sofia Barbarani, was longlisted in the print category.

Society of Environmental Journalists Awards

Our popular "Drought Diaries" series won third place in the Outstanding Explanatory Reporting category, alongside winning entries from the Thomson Reuters Foundation and Mongabay.

The Society of Publishers in Asia 2020 Awards

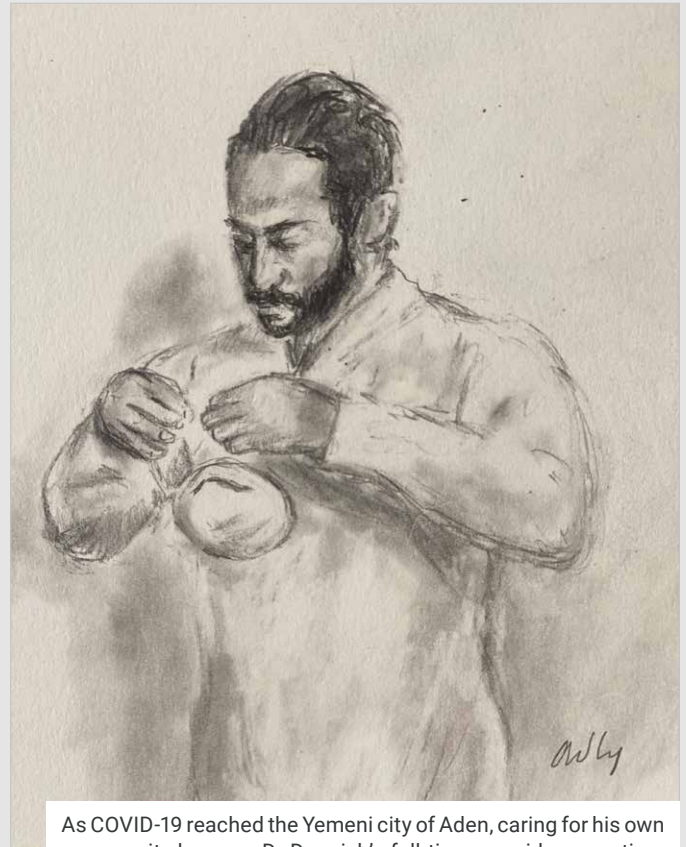
"Male rape survivors go uncounted in Rohingya camps", by Verena Hölzl, was a finalist under Global Excellence in Human Rights Reporting, along with entries from Agence France-Presse and Vice News.

Geneva Engage Awards

The New Humanitarian won first place in the Non-profit Organisations and Associations category at the Geneva Engage Awards, an annual ceremony that recognises international Geneva actors in their social media outreach and online engagement.

The Goya Awards

At The Goya Awards, Spain's main national annual film awards, Jaime Alekos was nominated for the Best Short Documentary for "The European Dream: Serbia", a longer version of "Welcome to refugee purgatory on the Hungary border", originally published by The New Humanitarian.



As COVID-19 reached the Yemeni city of Aden, caring for his own community became Dr Derwish's full-time unpaid occupation. (Adly Mirza/The New Humanitarian)

Journalistic Craft for Neighbourhood (JCN) competition

"For Ukrainians displaced by war, five years in a grey container block", by Lucy Fulford, won in the EU category for this journalism initiative in Warsaw that seeks to develop knowledge-based journalism related to Europe's neighbours.

Films

Some of our films were selected for inclusion in juried film festivals. Water under fire in Europe's forgotten war was shown at the Cheltenham International Film Festival; US asylum shutdown leaves LGBTQ+ people stranded and in danger in Mexico was part of the Madrid Human Rights Film Festival and the International Queer & Migrant Film Festival Amsterdam.

The year in review: Our most powerful stories

The pandemic dominated headlines around the globe in 2020, making it all the more crucial that our journalism allowed the stories of communities already in the midst of crisis to be heard. When travel and other restrictions took hold, we devised new ways to report from the ground, making sure that local voices led the way as we charted the pile-on impact of COVID-19 on fragile communities – speaking with everyone from displaced single mothers in Myanmar to leaders of Indigenous communities in the Amazon. In the midst of the 24/7 news cycle, we looked ahead to assess potential implications on aid funding, food security, commitments to address climate change, and more. Our reporting on conflict and other emergencies included some of the first-ever coverage of local efforts to address spiralling violence in Burkina Faso, offered revelations on why warnings of COVID-linked famines of “Biblical proportions” might be overblown, and provided a rare on-the-ground look at the worsening warzone in Syria’s Idlib region. We were among the first news outlets to meet the thousands of [Tigrayan refugees](#) fleeing from Ethiopia to Sudan, as well as among the first to chronicle growing xenophobia against Venezuelan refugees in Latin America. Our investigations made international headlines and spurred change by donors and aid agencies, as we reported on sexual abuse, missing funds, corruption, data breaches, and alleged cover-ups in humanitarian response. And for a suddenly grounded aid sector, our platforms became a virtual meeting place to discuss issues that could reshape the future of humanitarian work, from Black Lives Matter and institutional racism to the impact of a global pandemic on existing crisis zones.



Emilio Estrella, the leader of the Kakataibo community in the Peruvian Amazon, was thought to be 96 years old when he died from COVID-19. Many of his family members spoke of the pain they felt at being unable to approach the casket during the wake due to COVID-19 sanitation measures. (Sebastián Castañeda/The New Humanitarian)

In-depth, field-based perspectives on humanitarian crises

COVID-19 coverage: Beyond the day-to-day

Our coronavirus coverage stepped away from the 24/7 news churn that dominated mainstream media to examine the emerging and longer-term effects on existing crises and look even further ahead, to the ramifications of a post-COVID world. For many of the communities we cover, the pandemic added a new and perilous layer to already challenging circumstances, and our coverage focused on these many intersections.

In Yemen – deemed the world’s “worst” humanitarian crisis by the UN – we not only documented how lockdowns and flight bans scaled back aid programmes but we offered a deeply detailed and personal account of one doctor’s effort to confront the virus in his community, faced with a deeply decimated healthcare system. In Afghanistan, another long-haul crisis, we chronicled collisions with multiple emergencies: from rising food prices and fraught access negotiations with the Taliban, to the lopsided impacts for women, including signs of rising violence and self-harm.

In Latin America, we were among the first to warn about the particular dangers facing Indigenous groups in the Amazon region, and in a series of reports explored the pandemic’s impact on the Venezuelan migration crisis, as COVID-19 restrictions and economic fallout drove returns, xenophobia, and increased desperation back home.

Our reporters found anecdotal evidence of emerging trends, as in Cameroon, where we spoke to girls who had been married off because their families could no longer afford to feed them – underlining predictions by the United Nations Population Fund that the anticipated economic



A woman and her daughter speak to Dr. Mohammed Edris at a Kabul health clinic. High coronavirus infection rates among health workers – and lopsidedly low numbers among women – raised fears that Afghan women are missing out on healthcare while their exposure to the virus goes undetected. (Stefanie Glinski/The New Humanitarian)

consequences of the pandemic, along with disrupted efforts to end child marriage, could result in some 13 million more child marriages in the next decade.

We also tempered some dire predictions and revealed erroneous assumptions. In South Africa, our reporter noted a reduction in gang violence, moves to strengthen government safety nets, and other positive steps brought about by the pandemic. And in Kenya, the flexibility and resilience of the informal economy moderated the expected economic hit of the coronavirus. From Myanmar, we revealed how language barriers were driving misunderstandings in the response.

We kept a critical eye on COVID-19 funding, asking where money was coming from, how much was needed, and where it was going: In March, the UN launched an appeal for \$2 billion for a coronavirus emergency fund, increased it to \$6.7 billion within two months, and bumped it to \$10 billion in July. And we asked how the pandemic might alter the humanitarian sector, for the immediate future and well beyond.

Migration: With lockdowns, new perils

COVID-19 put an unprecedented dampener on global mobility in 2020, but as our reporting revealed, it only exacerbated the factors pushing people to migrate, made their journeys more dangerous, and opened the way for governments to implement hardline – often legally dubious – migration policies.

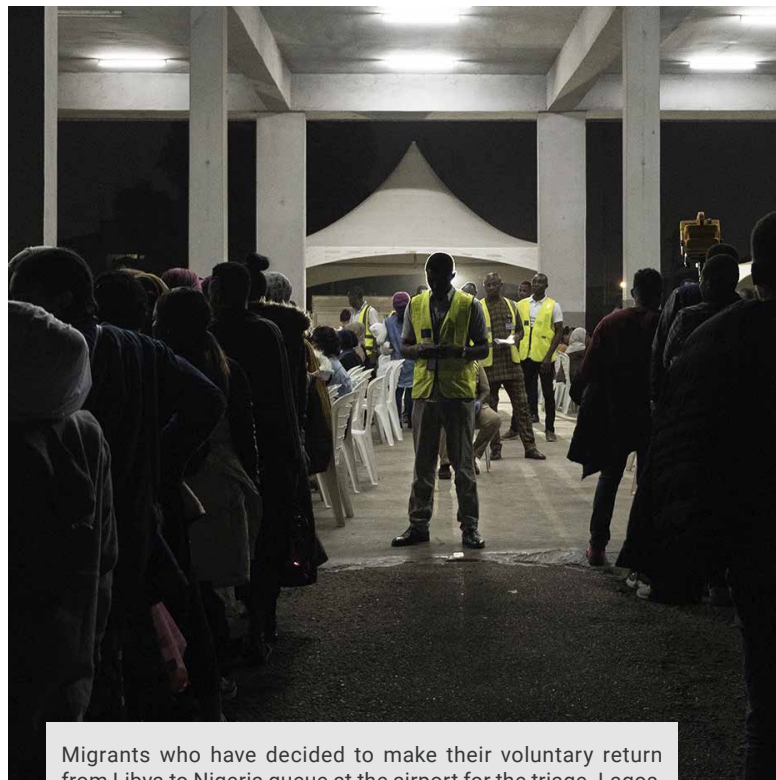
“For migrants and refugees like me the virus hasn’t changed that much,” Hassan Zakariya Omer, a refugee from Sudan’s South Kordofan province, explained in a first-person essay from Libya, where he was trapped on a front line in the country’s newest civil war, in close quarters with other migrants and refugees as COVID-19 spread. “Fear has always been a constant, and life has never been secure.”

We continued to hold the EU to account for abuses of migrants being returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard, to which the EU provides support. Our deep dive into the detention black hole for returnees – many of the 40,000 sent back since 2017 have been spirited away to unofficial centres to face exploitation and torture – was longlisted for the One World Media award for refugee reporting.

On the US-Mexico border, where US President Donald Trump had effectively used COVID-19 to shut down the asylum process, our short film looked at the new fears for asylum seekers who were left stranded. They included LGBTQ+ people who felt they had nowhere to turn as crime and the coronavirus put them in increasingly vulnerable positions. “Returning to my country at this point would be like killing myself,” said Alejandra, the El Salvadoran trans woman whose story was at the heart of the film.

In Europe, we revealed how years of failure to address the humanitarian needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants in Greece collided with the coronavirus to create an untenable situation – long before the fires that destroyed camps in Moria.

And as the year ended, we had early first-hand accounts of the violence in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, speaking with people who had fled into neighbouring Sudan, sparking a new displacement crisis.



Migrants who have decided to make their voluntary return from Libya to Nigeria queue at the airport for the triage. Lagos, Nigeria, 2020. (Francesco Bellina/The New Humanitarian)

Food insecurity: COVID-19 joins the usual suspects

While the pandemic prompted aid groups to predict “famine of Biblical proportions”, our reporting suggested that food crises were already well underway long before the virus took hold. We explored how old drivers of hunger – conflict, poverty, and economic shocks – continued to fuel food crises in “hotspots” in almost every region of the world. And we examined how the newest driver, COVID-19, exacerbated already alarming situations. “Famine-like” conditions were reported at the end of 2020 in the remote east of South Sudan as a result of floods and intercommunal clashes. In Yemen, 13.5 million people are facing “high levels of acute food insecurity” thanks to a combination of conflict, a currency crash, and rising prices.

Our reporting from Burkina Faso offered a rare on-the-ground look at one of the world’s fastest deteriorating food crises. The violence there between jihadist groups, community militia, and government forces saw the number of people in need of emergency food aid triple to 3.2 million in 2020.



Women hone their agricultural skills in a project run by the Community Initiative for Changing Lives, a local NGO in Burkina Faso. (Sam Mednick/The New Humanitarian)

In our award-winning [Drought Diaries](#) series, we turned to families in Kenya, Somalia, and Zimbabwe for real-life accounts of what it's like to live with food insecurity. We had planned to look at how climate-linked food price rises impacted the families, but the diaries quickly became less about weather and much more about the broader political economy of each country. Late in the six-month series, the families told us of the effects of COVID-19 lockdowns as governments responded to the pandemic with movement restrictions and enforced social distancing – measures that disproportionately hurt the urban poor. “COVID is like a drought for us,” one family member in Somalia told The New Humanitarian. The government “just told us to stay home. Now I hate the words ‘stay at home’.”

Our reporting elsewhere revealed similar sentiments toward the economic impact of lockdowns and curfews, as new needs emerged in countries like Lebanon, which was already [falling off the economic cliff](#), as well as in [middle-income countries](#) like Chile.

As we uncovered rising hunger, we also looked for solutions. Some governments responded to the crisis with [social protection programmes](#) – although targeting and scale have been problems in many cases. In other countries, mutual aid societies have stepped in to [try to plug some of those gaps](#).

Casting a critical eye over the emergency aid sector

For a suddenly grounded aid sector, we reimagined our platforms as a virtual meeting place to discuss and address issues that could reshape the future of humanitarian work – from the Black Lives Matter movement and institutional racism to the impact of a global pandemic on existing crisis zones. Historically, the humanitarian sector has been reactive and acting in such urgency that it rarely has much time to take a reflective step back, identify the longer-term trends, and properly analyse where it has been and where it is going. In 2020, we looked back as we looked forward, continuing to ask tough questions on how aid is delivered, who benefits, and where the money comes from and goes. We lead the way in putting such questions to the sector: Our coverage on diversity and decolonisation is now used in leadership training for staff at several development agencies and organisations. And we reached out to readers to better engage them via a new podcast, reader comments, and new formats on social media.

Rethinking Humanitarianism

At this critical time of change for the multi-billion-dollar aid sector, we launched our [Rethinking Humanitarianism](#) series, which included analyses, long-form narratives, opinion essays, a podcast, an event, and lively discussion on social media and via reader comments. The series reflected on the past 25 years of humanitarian action – coinciding with the 25th anniversary of our coverage, first as IRIN and then as The New Humanitarian – and on the potentially transformative impact of COVID-19 and the Black Lives Matter movement. It was recognised by leaders within the sector as a driving force behind conversations about the state of aid in a pivotal year, and opened paths towards new ways of thinking about the role and ownership of humanitarian aid.

Coverage included a round-up of [lessons learned](#) from past pandemics, a longform essay on how this one [may transform](#) the sector, and a special report that dived into [existential](#) questions raised by the “new normal”



Afghan returnees walk across the Iranian border into Zaranj, Nimruz. Thousands return here every week; roughly two thirds who cross have been deported. (Stefanie Glinski/The New Humanitarian)

of COVID-19. A ‘time machine’ showcased 25 years of humanitarian journalism, while a list of the [25 crises](#) that most defined our world revealed the magnitude of the problems humanitarians are called upon to tackle, and offered lessons for addressing the crises of the future.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to people like you and the team of The New Humanitarian. I’ve been following the Rethinking Humanitarianism section and the last article I read: Decolonising Aid is truly a masterpiece. These are the conversations we should be having as humanitarians, and so getting this perspective and this high quality of analysis offers a much-needed key to unlocking some parts of our minds that our daily errands don’t offer us the time to delve into.”

– Rasha Abou Dargham, works in communications for international humanitarian organisations

A visualisation of [25 years of data](#) offered a quantitative overview of just how much the sector has changed – from the ebb and flow of the evolving trends and priority issues to the different countries affected, from the mounting displacement to the growth of humanitarian spending.

In October, to better engage our readers and offer a ‘meeting point’ in an increasingly isolated year, we [launched a podcast series](#) with the Center for Global Development. Topics included the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarian response, new financing models, and multilateral reform, with guests such as heads of aid agencies, senior diplomats, donors, and field workers.

Opinion: Challenging the old order

As the pandemic collided with concerns over racial and economic inequality, emboldened ideas on the future of aid arose from all corners of the sector and further afield. Our editors pushed to commission opinion essays that tackled thorny issues and sacred cows. Conventional and long-unquestioned thinking was upended with reflections on [neutrality in humanitarian action, whether it was right for aid workers to leave field postings to return home to ‘safer’ circumstances](#), and the risks of putting hastily conceived [coronavirus technology](#) into use.

Reaction was also strong to a piece on neutrality by Hugo Slim, senior research fellow at the Institute of Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict at the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford and former head of policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). His argument that you don’t have to be neutral to be a good humanitarian provoked strong [reactions](#) on both sides of the debate, which were then gathered in a [“Readers React”](#) report.

Beyond the pandemic and the future of aid, guest authors contributed thoughts on [fraud and abuse in aid](#); how [international aid can help Lebanon rid itself of its ruling junta](#); and [humanitarian “martyrdom”](#) in light of MSF’s decision to keep working in Afghanistan. We also welcomed an opinion piece about [decolonising aid](#) from Paul Currian, a consultant to humanitarian organisations and occasional TNH columnist on policy issues.

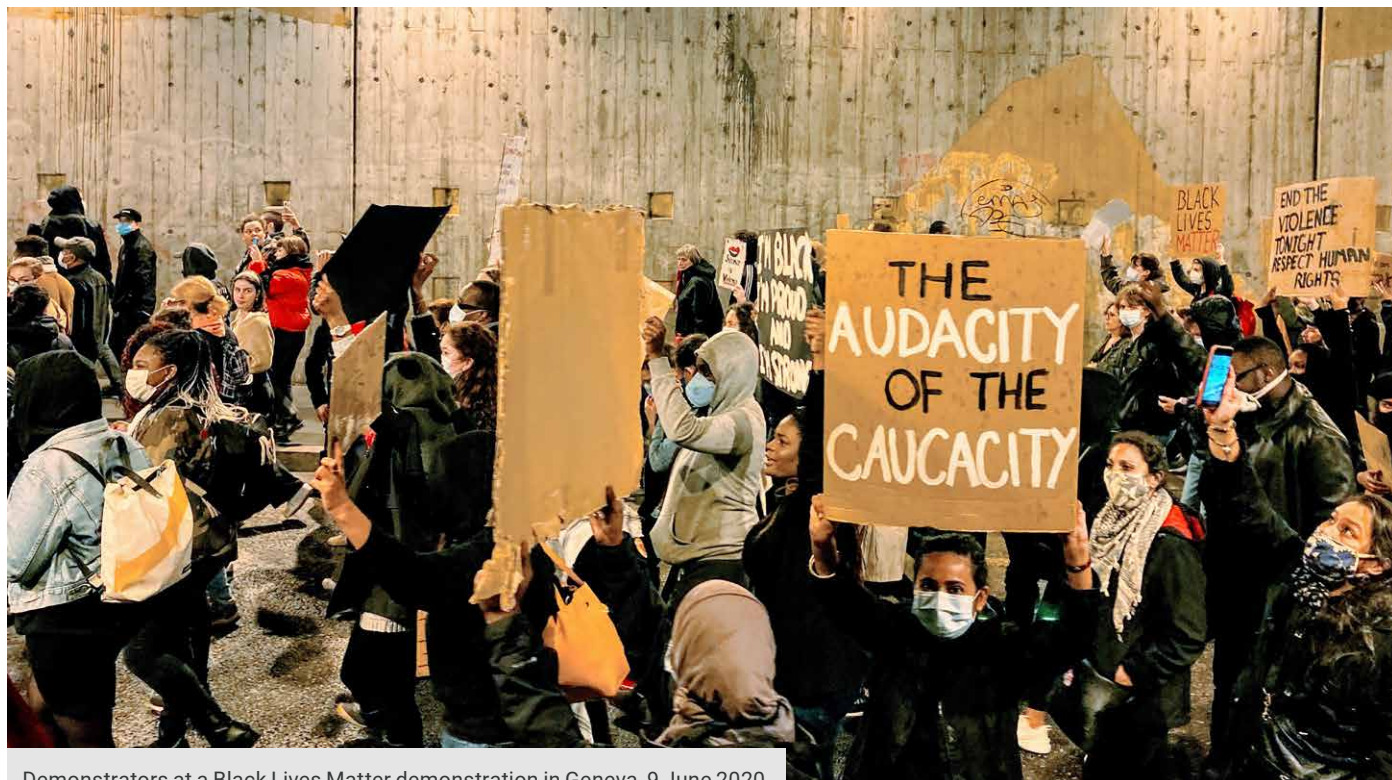
“Your podcast was a great idea. The New Humanitarian really provided a forum for stimulating forward thinking in humanitarian affairs. We need that very much.”

– Michael Koehler, Deputy Director-General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Racism in the aid sector

As the Black Lives Matter movement forced a reflection on racism and the troubling heritage of colonialism in the aid sector, we welcomed a series of opinion pieces from Black and other diverse voices who shared their experiences of these issues and actions for the way forward. Thandie Mwape Villadsen, Humanitarian Diplomacy Coordinator for Partners for Resilience and the Netherlands Red Cross Society, [wrote in a personal capacity](#): “You alone can start to make a difference in your space, by not pretending the world is not in crisis, and speaking up when you see wrong”. Angela Bruce-Raeburn, Regional Advocacy Director for Africa at the Global Health Agency Incubator, [wrote](#): “White supremacy culture is alive, in excellent shape, and is the prevailing stance in international aid and development.”

Our reporting on racism in aid generated a lot of interest and response on social media, most notably by people who had had similar experiences within the workplace. Each of the reports also invited readers to share their experience with us, which we gathered in a [“Readers React”](#) report.



Demonstrators at a Black Lives Matter demonstration in Geneva, 9 June 2020.
(Ben Parker/The New Humanitarian)

Investigations: Exposing sexual abuse and corruption in the aid sector

Sexual abuse, corruption, missing aid money, data breaches, and alleged cover-ups: Our investigative reporting in 2020 explored these topics and others as we looked at the multibillion-dollar aid sector. In one [investigation](#), co-published with the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), we uncovered claims by more than 50 Congolese women that they were sexually abused and exploited by relief staff and aid workers during the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. You can read more about this in the 'Impact' section.

In another [investigation](#), we uncovered how aid funds believed to total several million dollars were diverted from displaced people and vulnerable communities in a scam in the Congo. Also in DRC, we [traced](#) the roots and impact of the so-called "Ebola business", which contributed to the mistrust of local communities and challenges in the response. This report was cited in recent [parliamentary hearings](#) in the United Kingdom on aid and sexual abuse and exploitation. In September, the UK

ambassador to DRC [urged](#) the Congolese government to be transparent in its fight against Ebola following a rising tide of corruption allegations, including those reported by The New Humanitarian. We [then covered](#) how a review by leading aid agencies of the Ebola operations was not widely circulated to the organisations involved until several months after the epidemic was declared over – this was despite it containing details of mismanagement, sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as coordination problems.

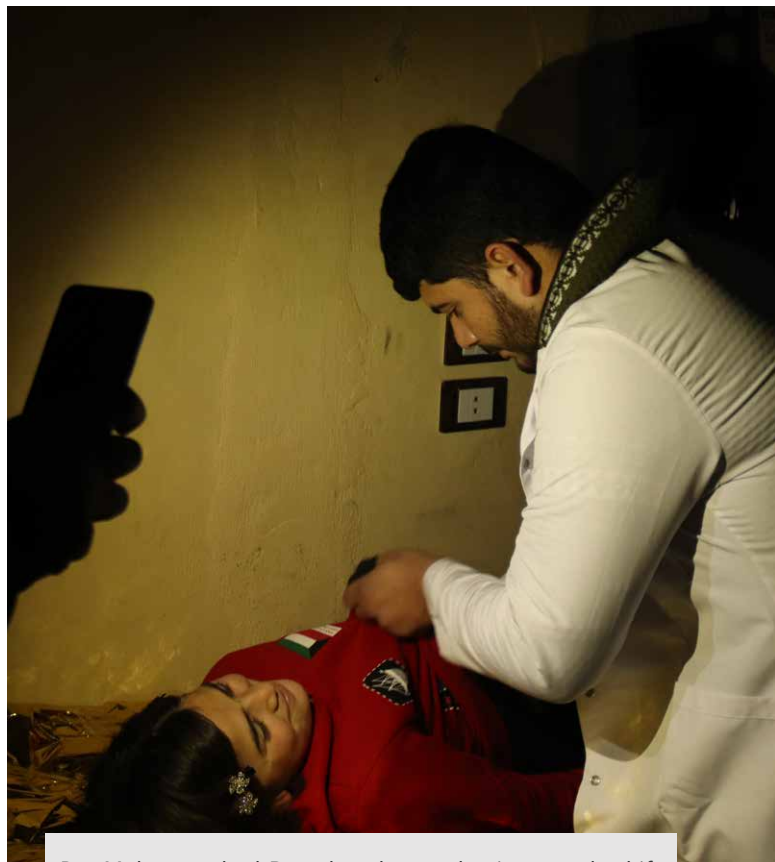
In October, we published an [investigation](#) that had begun six months earlier when a whistleblower reported to us that the American boss in Sudan of Catholic Relief Services, one of the world's leading charities, had been accused of racism, abuse, and misconduct, as early as 2018. Three months later, the same man, Driss Moumane, was arrested for allegedly calling his security guard "a slave". He was finally fired just as we were about to publish.

Shining a spotlight on forgotten stories and emerging trends

Our commitment to coverage of ongoing crises – from attacks on medical facilities in Syria to growing tensions between Rohingya refugees and Bangladeshi host communities – was even more unique in a year where most media were overwhelmed by reporting news of the pandemic. Those “forgotten” or “overlooked” crises also included cross-regional issues, such as the impacts of climate change, heightened challenges for women and girls, and the hurdles to fostering the resilience that can lead to sustainable peace. For instance, in a year when the World Bank predicted that climate change could force more than 143 million people from their homes by 2050, we reported from [Vanuatu](#) to chronicle how that island nation plans to hold wealthy nations to account for the carbon emissions that are most responsible for human-caused climate change, as entire villages on the island plan to relocate to higher ground.

In [Afghanistan](#), we remained committed to covering how an enduring war and volatile peace negotiations continued to inflict a toll on civilians, with more than 8,800 killed or injured in conflict. We reported on the country’s [displacement crisis](#), as hundreds of thousands became uprooted by instability or disasters, and as record numbers were pushed home from neighbouring [Iran](#).

From Myanmar and Bangladesh, we built on our pioneering coverage of the [Rohingya crisis](#) – dating back to 2008 – reporting on everything from growing restrictions against refugees by the Bangladeshi government to why more women are joining Myanmar’s [Arakan Army](#) insurgency. Mohammed Arfaat, a social activist and peacebuilder in the camps, explained why Rohingya refugees [risk their lives](#) at sea, and how the internet ban thwarted efforts to prepare for COVID-19. As the movement to launch prosecutions for rights abuses against the Rohingya and other minorities in Myanmar continued in [The Hague](#) and elsewhere, we reported from the camps about what Rohingya themselves



Dr. Muhammad al-Ramah, who works in a makeshift displacement camp north of Idlib city, Syria, examines 10-year-old Alia by mobile phone light. (Muhammad Al Hosse/The New Humanitarian)

think about justice – flagging unrealistic expectations of what global courts can provide, in a report co-published with [The Independent](#).

And in Syria, the first few months of the year saw an escalation in a devastating government-led offensive on the rebel-held northwest province of Idlib and its surroundings. Our coverage focused on two of the major hallmarks of the assault: [attacks on medical facilities](#), and [mass displacement](#). We sought out personal accounts of the situation in the northwest, including an interview with photojournalist and regular contributor [Muhummad Al Hosse](#), who lives in Idlib and spoke about his experience documenting the war as it closes in on him.

The impact of crises on women and girls

The pandemic exacerbated the challenges already faced by women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, prompting our “[She Said](#)” series, which seeks to tell women’s stories through women’s voices.

As UN Women identified a “shadow pandemic” of gender-based violence that accompanied COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions, we spoke with women and girls across the world – from [South Sudan](#) and [Cameroon](#) to [Nepal](#) and [Afghanistan](#). They told us about the uptick in domestic violence, increases in child marriages, new risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, reduced access to often already scarce healthcare, rising home births and their associated risks, and more.

We also reported beyond the pandemic, seeking to better represent the situation for women and girls across crisis situations.

We looked at how a [femicide epidemic](#) in Mexico and Central America is driving and complicating the migrant crisis, and how [unprecedented crowding](#) in Greece’s camps for asylum seekers has put women and girls at heightened risk of sexual violence and harassment.

Conflict and its flipside

We have long reported on the deteriorating situation in Ethiopia’s Tigray region, and were among the first news outlets to meet the thousands of [Tigrayan refugees](#) fleeing to Sudan with stories of indiscriminate attacks and targeted massacres by militia. Our reporting also focused on [humanitarian access challenges](#), the dire situation facing Eritrean refugees in Tigray, and the [ethnic profiling](#) ordinary Tigrayans have experienced across Ethiopia. Outside of the northern region, we shone a light on the country’s [other conflict](#) hotspots, from tensions in restive Oromia to a worsening crisis that has claimed hundreds of lives in the western region of Benishangul-Gumuz.



Mothers whose sons were killed by Kenyan police gather in front of Kenya’s parliament in Nairobi wearing masks with the victims’ names as a form of protest. (Patrick Meinhardt/The New Humanitarian)

In 2019, we were among the first international outlets to report [from the ground](#) in Mozambique’s Cabo Delgado. In 2020, we continued to cover the [rising militancy](#) and its impact on civilians. We looked at [who’s behind the violence](#), chronicled [attacks](#) against [towns and villages](#), and wrote a series of [analytical pieces](#) exploring what the future holds for the gas-rich northern province. As attacks escalated, we also covered the many [challenges facing aid agencies](#) – from access restrictions in militant-controlled areas to funding constraints and difficulties securing visas from Mozambique’s government.

While violence was on the rise in several places, we recognised a tendency in our reporting – as well as others’ – to accept conflict and the suffering it creates as somehow inevitable. It isn’t. That’s why we launched a new series with the Stanley Center for Peace and Security called “[Beyond the bang-bang: Reporting from the front lines of peace](#)”. It aims to set the agenda by moving away from traditional war reporting, and has been very well received. With this new reporting stream, we’re looking at the flipside of conflict: attempts at healing and redemption with a focus on the “triple nexus” – the fusion of peace work, development, and humanitarianism.

Establishing our place in the media sector

We raised our profile in media circles in 2020 by partnering up strategically with key media organisations. Across the year, we co-published several of our biggest investigations:

- Our story about [the cyber attack the UN tried to keep under wraps](#) was co-published with the Associated Press.
- Our piece on a [Congo aid scam](#) was co-published by Agence France-Presse.
- We published a joint investigation with the Thomson Reuters Foundation on [aid worker sex abuse in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#).
- The Independent co-published our stories about the [Rohingya exodus](#) and [the impact of COVID-19 on the aid sector](#).

We further established our place among our media peers by stepping up our engagement at key conferences and events. Our Director Heba Aly, discussed successful partnerships and new sources of financing during one of [Bloomberg's Africa Business Media Innovator Chats](#). Obi Anyadike, participated in a conference hosted by Carleton University on '[Journalism in the Time of Crisis](#)', speaking on

a panel about how journalists balance their responsibility to amplify public health directives to combat COVID-19 with their responsibility to challenge political leaders and public health officials. In a separate panel at the same event, Heba Aly spoke about challenges facing journalists in the Global South as they attempt to report in the midst of a pandemic. Heba Aly was also on a panel discussing [misinformation](#) at the World Humanitarian Forum.

We were invited to write op-eds for the German Global Public Policy Institute's [PeaceLab](#) and Swiss news outlet [Heidi.News](#). CEO Heba Aly was a judge for the One World Media Awards. Our work was also featured as the subject of stories by the [Global Investigative Journalism Network](#), [The Guardian](#), [Journalism in the Time of Crisis](#), and the Oxfam blog "[From Poverty to Power](#)".

Interviews with our editors and correspondents were carried out by BBC Radio 1, Euronews, France24, Al Jazeera, and Australia's ABC radio, among others.

We also partnered with News Deeply to host their archives on our website, in a new space on our website we have called "[Deeply Humanitarian](#)".



International media brands, local newspapers, think tanks, aid organisations, and governments regularly republished, cited, or linked to our work, including the above.



Jeffrey Daniels, 45, says rising sea levels will force his village on Emao, an island dotting the Pacific nation of Vanuatu, to relocate. A quarter of the 350 residents have already left. (Felie Zernack/The New Humanitarian)

Reader feedback

 **Sandrine Tiller**
@sandrinetiller

This is why we need an independent news service for the humanitarian sector. Great investigative journalism @newhumanitarian

 **Philip Kleinfeld** @PKleinfeld · Jun 11, 2020

A nine-month investigation by @newhumanitarian reveals a multi-layered aid scam in eastern Congo that humanitarian officials say likely went undetected for more than a decade. Read about the fraud, the scammers, and the sector-wide alarm that followed:
[thenewhumanitarian.org/investigation/...](https://thenewhumanitarian.org/investigation/)

3:44 PM · Jun 11, 2020 · Twitter for Android

 **Emeline Fonyuy**
@EmelineFonyuy

It's a privilege to freelance for one of the most committed and objective newsrooms in the business of news dissemination. @newhumanitarian does not just tell stories, TNH gives a voice to people who have been silenced in crisis situations.

 **The New Humanitarian** @newhumanitarian · Sep 30, 2020

The New Humanitarian remains one of the few newsrooms committed to calling out those in power, holding the aid sector accountable, and amplifying the voices of people at the heart of crises.

1/6
[Show this thread](#)

11:16 PM · Sep 30, 2020 · Twitter Web App

 **Alex Cooper**
@wgacooper

Props to the @newhumanitarian for its reader survey. So many outlets just do not invest the time in one — and it shows with how they interact with their audiences. Glad to see TNH have one so detailed and thought out. surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TNHSurvey2020...

8:59 AM · Mar 31, 2020 · Twitter Web App

 **Sandrina da Cruz**
@SandrinadaCruz

.@newhumanitarian is an essential resource for all humanitarians/aid professionals that warrants our support. Fantastic team - creating space for global viewpoints and critical dialogue.

#shiftthepower #aid #humanitarian

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The New Humanitarian

Help make quality journalism about crises possible
Become a member and make a regular contribution to The New Humanitarian.
thenewhumanitarian.org

5:05 PM · Jul 10, 2020 · Twitter Web App

"I think your coverage has been extraordinary. The New Humanitarian is one of my few pinned news sites. I check the newsletter every day. Your coverage of COVID and the challenges around COVID have been great. But unlike most news sites, you haven't let it completely dominate. You're still reporting on the other things that matter."

– Charles Brown, Managing Partner, Strategy for Humanity and former US State Department official

"I believe your work is vital to the humanitarian sector both in terms of your in-depth reporting, but also because you are anticipating the future more than any other organisation out there, and you are bringing people into that new reality."

– Michael Delaney, President, Crescendo International, a consultancy that works globally to strengthen a more sustainable humanitarian sector

"I try to look outside traditional sources of information. I find The New Humanitarian's journalism refreshing. They challenge assumptions and provide perspectives on humanitarian crises and on the aid sector that are rarely available elsewhere."

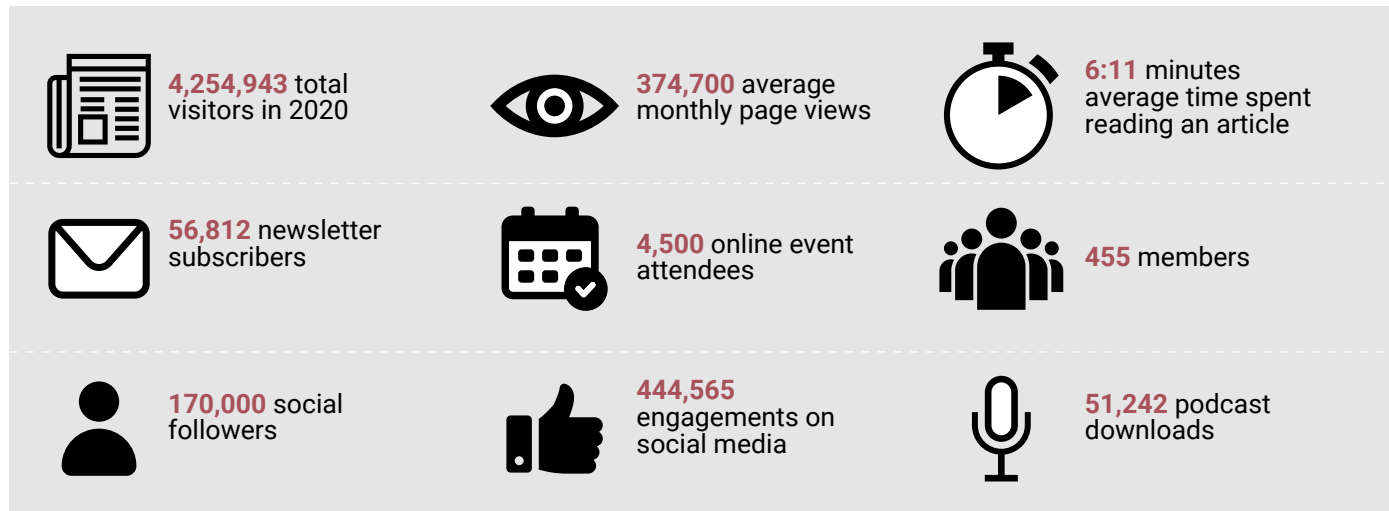
– Baroness Arminka Helić, Member of the UK House of Lords and former refugee

"I want to express my sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for these very important investigations and articles. Without you, there would be no prospect of any change or accountability for these abuses. You and your colleagues have provided a glimmer of hope for survivors and victims."

– Miranda Brown, formerly with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Audience

2020 Audience In Numbers



Our audience doubled in 2020, reaching 370,000 monthly visitors to our website, up from 170,000 in 2019. Growing demand for quality reporting on crises – led in part by interest in the pandemic – brought hundreds of thousands of new readers to our stories. In parallel, we produced several high-impact investigations and dramatically improved our reader experience through the use of more creative storytelling techniques – on our website and across our social channels. We also found new ways to engage our audience through events, membership, and curated newsletters.

Our stories are increasingly reaching people in the countries we report on, as national audiences seek trusted information when other sources are lacking or due to their governments becoming unreliable. This increase in readership has been accompanied by consistently high levels of engagement, as new visitors interact with our content as much as loyal readers. People now spend longer than ever reading our articles and are less likely to leave after reading just one.

Our bi-annual audience survey in March found:

- Our readers are leaders in the humanitarian sector: 29% are mid-career; 40% senior professionals; 11% executive management/C-suite – and our work matters to them.

- 64% of respondents' work has a major or moderate impact on humanitarian action and policy.
- 33% have final or significant decision-making authority on humanitarian action within their organisation or institution, while 37% have some decision-making authority or influence.
- 39% of respondents said The New Humanitarian is extremely or very important to their work, 42% said it was somewhat important.
- 69% said that The New Humanitarian stimulated further research and/or advocacy.
- Nearly two thirds told us that mainstream media coverage of humanitarian issues is inadequate in both quantity and quality.

[See the full findings](#)

Thanks to the work of our new Audience Engagement Editor and Marketing Manager, this year also saw us develop successful strategies for driving our most impactful work to new audiences through events, campaigns, and partnerships – laying out a path ahead for building a stronger relationship with new readers.

New offerings

Throughout the year, we invested in new offerings to enhance our reader experience and present our journalism in fresh and engaging ways. Audience growth is a key priority, and we recognise there is more than one way to tell a story. We became bolder in 2020, pushing ourselves to try new approaches while maintaining the same level

of quality that our readers have come to expect. We also aimed to keep conversations moving after stories were published, giving our readers opportunities to interact with us beyond simply reading our content, while also addressing the many readers who ask for ways they can support our work.

Membership

“I love The New Humanitarian’s work. It has been a critical part of my engagement with international development and humanitarian aid since the beginning of my career! I am so lucky that such an impactful organisation exists to keep me involved in the ongoing crises of the world.”

– Robbie Hodgson, COVID-19 Case Investigator Supervisor at Virginia Department of Health

We launched our first ever membership programme in May. We initially opened this up to a small group of our most engaged and loyal readers and subscribers, who became our Founding Members. This gave readers a way to support our work and make a regular contribution to our journalism, and provided a new channel for engagement and community-building.

Members have a chance to take part in Reader Salons (intimate online gatherings with members of the team), receive a members’ newsletter, and get access to a private Slack community channel for members and staff.

The launch of membership was also a significant step for us in diversifying our income. Across 2020, we raised more than \$50,000 in contributions from our readers, including membership fees and individual donations.

Podcast

In response to growing audience demand for audio and on-the-go products, we also launched our first podcast this year, in collaboration with the Center for Global Development. The pilot first season of Rethinking Humanitarianism offered listeners 10 episodes, each examining different ways of “rethinking” the way the humanitarian sector works. Co-hosted by our director, Heba Aly, and then-CGD Senior Policy Fellow Jeremy Konyndyk, the podcast featured aid executives, donors, field responders, and politicians alike, probing everything from the impact of COVID-19 on humanitarianism to the way money flows through the aid architecture. With more than 50,000 downloads for the season, engagement with high-level policymakers, and great feedback from our listeners, the podcast laid strong foundations for an expanded podcast offering to come.

Newsletters

We revamped our newsletter offerings to make them more accessible and useful for our subscribers. An improved layout, tone, and structure helped strengthen our weekly newsletter, which now features weekend reads and constructive takes on a humanitarian situation from somewhere around the globe. The weekly newsletter saw our subscriber numbers double over 2020 while maintaining high engagement rates.

We also introduced “The Cheat Sheet” – our weekly read to help people stay in the loop on humanitarian issues – as a newsletter. [The Cheat Sheet](#) is one of our most popular articles every week, and there was high demand for an email version. New pop-up newsletters about COVID-19 and peacebuilding allowed readers to subscribe to specific areas of our coverage.

Investigations unit

We produced nine in-depth, high-impact investigations in 2020, led by our Investigations Editor, Paisley Dodds. We worked closely with our correspondents to help develop their investigative skills and also hired our first investigative intern. This resulted in investigations – often the culmination of months or even years of work – that

uncovered aid scams, sex abuse allegations, alleged corruption, racism accusations, and mismanagement. Our investigations held accountable those in power in the aid sector while amplifying the voices of people impacted by crises. As the reputation of our investigations grew, we increasingly received tips from whistleblowers and people with information about corruption, mismanagement, and abuse in the aid sector.

New storytelling formats

2020 saw The New Humanitarian take several steps forward in the format of our storytelling. We invested more in multimedia to help tell – and humanise – stories. We integrated audio throughout features to bring to life the testimonies of local people, and offered greater data visualisations and imagery to make our stories more immersive.

We standardised and improved the functionality of the website with features like slideshows and timelines. Our team developed interactive features to showcase our work, better communicate ideas, and maintain interest from readers as they engage with our content. We also began seeking out readers’ thoughts on our coverage, developing a new “Readers React” format where people can have their say and contribute to the wider conversation.

New series

We launched a number of new thematic series in 2020. [She Said](#) is an ongoing collection of reporting in which women offer glimpses into their lives from COVID-19 lockdowns, situations of conflict and displacement, and other emergencies around the globe. Our pledge as a newsroom to contribute to ending sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian crises was further reaffirmed as we joined UN Women’s Media Compact – a partnership to advance women’s empowerment with and through the news media.

We also began “[Beyond the bang-bang: Reporting from the front lines of peace](#)”, a new series, in partnership with the Stanley Center for Peace and Security, to better understand what makes societies resilient to conflict.

Finally, on the occasion of our 25th anniversary, our [Rethinking Humanitarianism](#) series drove sector-wide conversations about the past, present, and future of aid.





Conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State has uprooted some 227,000 people since late 2018. Frustrated by years of marginalisation, many Arakanese – also known as Rakhine – say they've lost faith in a political process that has failed to address long-held grievances, while the conflict has exacerbated animosity towards the government. (Thu Ra Kyaw/The New Humanitarian)

"I've just listened to the climate change podcast as I try to every week on my lockdown walk, and I'm just astonished again by how this series feels both so current and topical and fresh and brings such a multiplicity of perspectives, while also weaving this really strong narrative for change across the different episodes."

– Kate Moger, Regional Vice President, International Rescue Committee

Events

Constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic, we moved our hallmark events online, providing a key channel through which we could expand upon many of the conversations we were driving with our editorial coverage, and allowing readers from all over the world to engage with the content. In 2020, we hosted five online events:

- [10 Crises to Watch in 2020](#)
- [How will COVID-19 impact crisis zones?](#)
- [Burkina Faso's Spiralling Crisis](#)
- [The West's Humanitarian Reckoning](#)
- [Seeking Justice for Survivors of Aid Worker Sex Abuse](#)

These online events were always a hot ticket, tapping into current trends and driving timely conversations around humanitarian response. Our most popular online events drew audiences in excess of 1,500 live viewers – a mix of existing readers and newcomers interested in the topics we were discussing.

The New Humanitarian on the global stage

Fielding weekly speaking requests, staff from The New Humanitarian spoke at more than 30 external events in 2020, from the World Economic Forum to the Humanitarian Congress Berlin. Some highlights included:

- Director Heba Aly moderated a ministerial roundtable on the situation in Central Sahel.
- Executive Editor Josephine Schmidt moderated a discussion on attacks against press freedom and journalists for the Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights.
- At Humanitarian Congress Berlin, Senior Editor Ben Parker spoke about misinformation and disinformation, while Director Heba Aly discussed decolonising humanitarian aid.
- Senior Editor Ben Parker spoke about humanitarian needs and financing at an online panel to launch the 2020 Global Humanitarian Assistance report.

Event spotlight

On 18 June 2020, we hosted The West's Humanitarian Reckoning, an online event to explore how #BlackLivesMatter, COVID-19, and the fragility of democratic institutions in America were converging to challenge our assumptions of how we define a crisis. Director Heba Aly moderated a discussion which brought to the fore the frustrations of Black people and people of colour over hypocrisies in aid and its neo-colonial roots. Some 2,000 people tuned in, while the event went on to feature in NGO strategy sessions.



Director Heba Aly speaking at the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in February 2020.

- Policy Editor Jessica Alexander spoke about "Aid re-imagined in a post-COVID-19 World" on a panel The New Humanitarian organised as part of the World Humanitarian Action Forum.
- Jessica Alexander also gave several guest lectures at top universities on the topic of Rethinking Humanitarianism.
- Africa Editor Obi Anyadike spoke at Geneva Peace Week about rebuilding trust in fragile societies.
- Director of External Relations Sarah Noble spoke at PeaceCon 2020 about responding to the pandemic and building peace.

Managing with excellence

Successes in our funding strategy

The New Humanitarian is primarily funded by grants from governments and foundations.

In 2020, our funding levels slightly increased compared to 2019.

We had a total of 20 partners throughout the year ([listed here](#)), an increase from 18 the year before. We also struck several new multi-year funding agreements, which now account for more than 90 percent of our overall funding. Diversification was further emphasised by the fact that no one donor contributed more than 25 percent of our overall budget.

In 2020, we maintained our levels of unearmarked funding, which accounted for 65%* percent of our overall income, allowing more coherent coverage and flexibility to adapt to a changing news environment.

We developed [principles for accepting financial contributions](#), to guide our decision-making around our new donors or sponsors for all donations above \$5,000, and improved our donor due diligence processes.

Finally, we continue to build a reserves fund – thanks to individual donations, the launch of our membership programme, and speaker fees – providing greater sustainability to our organisation.

Institutionalisation of our systems

Steady improvements to our internal policies, procedures, and systems continued throughout 2020, helping us build and sustain transparency and trust from our donors, audience, and those on whom we report.

We developed a Child Safeguarding Policy, with a third-

party independent whistleblowing service.

We developed a remuneration framework, which provides an evidence base for fair and consistent decisions around salaries.

We also developed a recruitment policy, as well as a Feedback, Objectives and Development programme for staff.

We surveyed our staff to better understand how to improve the staff experience, and sought to nurture a culture of joy and innovation in our day-to-day work.

Building the right team

In 2020, we hired two of our best correspondents as editors-at-large – [Eric Reidy](#) and [Paula Dupraz-Dobias](#) – bringing The New Humanitarian incisive and informed coverage of migration and Latin America respectively.

We recruited our first newsroom administrator to help with research, translation, and other administrative tasks, freeing up editors' time to pursue impactful projects: Titilope Ajayi is based in Ghana and has vast experience in analysis of international peace and security, in particular gender issues.

Kylee Pedersen joined our team as a Digital Production Editor, to strengthen our production on our website and across social channels.

Finally, we hired Jessica Alexander, an author and professor on humanitarian affairs with more than 20 years of experience in the humanitarian sector, as editor for our Rethinking Humanitarianism series.

* This percentage has been updated to reflect funds that were spent, rather than received, in 2020.

Strengthening our governance

Dr. Joanne Liu, a Canadian paediatrician and former International President of Médecins Sans Frontières, joined us as the newest member of our board of directors this year. Dr. Liu is currently practising as a doctor in Canada during the COVID-19 response, and is a member of the independent panel (IPPR) examining how the World Health Organization and countries handled the COVID-19 pandemic. She is an Associate Professor at the Université de Montréal, Professor in practice at McGill University, and has also taught at Fudan University in Shanghai.

"The New Humanitarian embodies forward-thinking journalism on forgotten crises and overlooked issues in the aid sector. I am keen and honoured to join its board."

– Dr. Joanne Liu

We said goodbye to one of our founding members, Andy Martin, founder and director of Firetail, who stepped down from his role as vice-president of the board after five years.

We also bid farewell to Turi Munthe, venture partner at North Base Media Investment Group, who went on to launch a new start-up called Parlia, a collaborative online encyclopaedia of opinions from around the world.

Our board



Paula Fray

President

Founder and Managing Director,
frayintermedia



Andy Martin

Vice-President

Founder and Director,
Firetail



Martin Aked

Treasurer

Chartered Accountant
and Business Consultant



Sacha Meuter

Secretary

Head Of Policy And
Research and Legal Advisor,
Fondation Hironnelle



Dominique Ben Dhaou

Founder and Managing Director,
PointNorth International



Joanne Liu

Paediatrician and former
International President, Medecins
Sans Frontieres (MSF)



Nanjira Sambuli

Digital Equality Advocacy
Manager,
World Wide Web Foundation



Peter Bouckaert

Acting Director,
Global Observatory on
Human Rights at Sea



Dr. Sara Pantuliano

Executive Director,
Overseas Development Institute

Our team

Heba Aly, *Director*

Editorial

Josephine Schmidt, *Executive Editor*

Andrew Gully, *Managing Editor*

Ben Parker, *Senior Policy Editor*

Jessica Alexander, *Policy Editor*

Paisley Dodds, *Investigations Editor*

Obi Anyadike, *Senior Africa Editor*

Philip Kleinfeld, *Correspondent and Editor, Africa*

Annie Slemrod, *Middle East Editor*

Irwin Loy, *Asia Editor*

Whitney Patterson, *Audience Engagement Editor*

Marc Fehr, *Senior Web Developer*

Kylee Pedersen, *Digital Production Editor*

Títíloṣẹ Àjàyí, *Newsroom Administrator*

External Relations

Sarah Noble, *Director of External Relations*

Matt Crook, *Marketing Manager*

Emmeline Booth, *External Relations Officer*

Finance and Administration

Richard Golding, *Director of Finance*

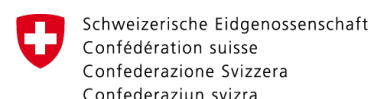
Victoria Bytsko, *HR, Administration and Finance Manager*

Our partners

The New Humanitarian's funding comes largely from governments and foundations. We also generate small amounts of revenue from other sources, including membership, honorariums for speaking roles, and donations from individual readers.

Our donors in 2020 included:

- Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Global Affairs Canada
- Pro Victimis Foundation
- Foundation Open Society Institute
- The H2H Network's H2H Fund, which is supported by UK aid from the UK government
- Humanity United
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation
- Service de la solidarité internationale (Canton of Geneva, Switzerland)
- IKEA Foundation
- Stichting Vluchteling
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Wallace Global Fund
- Wellspring Philanthropic Fund



Our finances

A summary of the 2020 income and expenditure together with the year-end balance sheet, alongside the 2019 comparatives, are provided below and on the opposite page. Our financial statements are produced according to the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO) and subject to independent audit by Berney Associés of Geneva. Their audit report and our 2020 financial statements in Swiss CO format can be found in Annex 1.

Our total income for 2020 was CHF 2.055 million, maintaining the increase seen last year in the proportion of unrestricted donor grants compared to restricted donor

grants. Our expenditure totaled CHF 1.981 million with a small net surplus for the year of CHF 73,948. After almost five years of operations as an independent entity, we had accumulated reserves of CHF 114,961 by the end of 2020.

65* percent of our grant income for 2020 was in the form of unrestricted grants for our core operations, with the remainder earmarked for specific parts of our core operations or in support of additional projects that are aligned with our core mission and objectives.

	2020	2019
INCOME	CHF	CHF
Unrestricted grants	1,294,464	1,283,365
Restricted grants	698,533	658,189
TOTAL GRANT INCOME	1,993,007	1,941,554
Other income	61,663	11,617
TOTAL INCOME	2,054,670	1,953,172
EXPENDITURE		
Editorial costs	1,273,240	1,159,723
Marketing & Fundraising	238,118	304,845
Finance & Operations	264,766	299,612
Strategy & Governance	204,598	179,999
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,980,722	1,944,180
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	73,948	8,992

Editorial production remains our priority expenditure area, representing 64 percent of total costs (up from 60 percent in 2019), followed by finance and operations (13%), marketing and fundraising (12%), and strategy and governance (10%).

* This percentage has been updated to reflect funds that were spent, rather than received, in 2020.

	2020	2019
BALANCE SHEET	CHF	CHF
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	936,118	685,289
Other current receivables	10,383	3,889
Prepaid expenses	62,623	156,591
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,009,124	845,769
Other Assets		
Office security deposit	14,635	14,635
TOTAL ASSETS	1,023,759	860,404
LIABILITIES & AVAILABLE FUNDS		
Short Term Liabilities		
Creditors & other current liabilities	16,401	19,638
Other current liabilities	105	191,308
Deferred income	886,412	602,565
TOTAL SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES	902,918	813,511
Other liabilities		
Sub-let office security deposit	5,880	5,880
TOTAL LIABILITIES	908,798	819,391
Available Funds		
Brought forward from prior year	41,013	32,021
Net Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	73,948	8,992
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	114,961	41,013
TOTAL LIABILITIES & AVAILABLE FUNDS	1,023,759	860,404

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination for the year 2020 to the general meeting of THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva

(This report cancels and replaces the one previously issued on March 29, 2021)

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of THE NEW HUMANITARIAN for the financial year ended December 31, 2020. Controls were completed on March 29, 2021.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements, disclosing available funds of CHF 114'961, do not comply with Swiss law and the Association's articles of incorporation.

Berney Associés Audit SA

BA Qualified electronic signature



Marina CHRISTE
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in charge

BA Qualified electronic signature



Claude HERI
Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosure: financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes)

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En ligne
berneyassociés.com
info@berneyassociés.com

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva**BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>31.12.2020</u>	<u>31.12.2019</u>
		CHF	CHF
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents		936'118	685'289
Other current receivables		10'383	3'889
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	6.1	62'623	156'591
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1'009'124	845'769
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Financial assets - Rental security deposit	4	14'635	14'635
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		14'635	14'635
TOTAL ASSETS		1'023'759	860'404

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva**BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020**

<u>LIABILITIES AND AVAILABLE FUNDS</u>	Notes	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
		CHF	CHF
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade creditors		16'401	19'638
Other current liabilities	6.2	105	191'308
Deferred income and accrued expenses	6.3	886'412	602'565
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		902'918	813'511
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES			
Rental security deposit	4	5'880	5'880
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		5'880	5'880
TOTAL LIABILITIES		908'798	819'391
AVAILABLE FUNDS			
Voluntary retained earnings			
- results carried forward		41'013	32'021
- result for the year		73'948	8'992
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		114'961	41'013
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND AVAILABLE FUNDS		1'023'759	860'404

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva**INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2020</u> CHF	<u>2019</u> CHF
<u>INCOME</u>			
Grants	7	1'993'007	1'941'554
Membership fees		34'039	-
Other operating income		27'624	11'617
TOTAL INCOME		2'054'670	1'953'171
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
Editorial fees (incl. fees of journalists and editors contracted as consultants to produce the Association's journalism)	6.4	(972'777)	(871'998)
Staff expenses		(697'912)	(708'845)
Operating expenses	6.5	(255'391)	(343'709)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		(1'926'080)	(1'924'552)
EARNINGS BEFORE INTERESTS AND TAXES		128'590	28'619
Financial income	6.6	46'404	25'619
Financial expenses	6.7	(101'046)	(45'246)
RESULT FOR THE YEAR		73'948	8'992

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

1. GENERAL

The Association was incorporated in Geneva on March 29, 2016.

The Association's charitable purpose is to improve understanding of natural and/or man-made humanitarian emergencies, particularly those less reported or overlooked by the mainstream media. The Association will enhance the well-being of affected people by advancing public awareness in the humanitarian field and providing independent and objective reporting, analysis and information on the causes, consequences and responses to crises. In doing so, the Association seeks to bolster justice and equity; promote human rights, peace and preventative action; improve humanitarian response; and, ultimately, save the lives of people at risk around the world.

Prior to becoming an Association, IRIN existed for 20 years as part of the United Nations. Its establishment as a Swiss association was the conclusion of IRIN's transition to becoming an independent entity. The Association was registered with the Geneva Commercial registry on the March 29, 2016 and opened a bank account in May 2016. During 2019, the Association changed its name from IRIN to "The New Humanitarian" and this name change was registered with the Geneva Commercial Registry on May 17, 2019.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Swiss law (articles 957 to 960 of the Swiss Code of Obligations) and under the historical cost convention. Revenues and expenses are recorded on an accrual basis.

2. <u>NUMBER OF FULL-TIME POSITIONS ON ANNUAL AVERAGE</u>	2020	2019
The number of full-time positions on annual average is no more than	10	10
3. <u>DEBTS ARISING FROM LEASING TRANSACTIONS LINKED TO SALES CONTRACTS AND OTHER DEBTS RESULTING FROM LEASING TRANSACTIONS</u>	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	CHF	CHF
Rental commitments	99'579	36'687
A part of these commitments is supported by subtenants.		
4. <u>TOTAL AMOUNT OF ASSETS PLEDGED OR ASSIGNED TO SECURE OWN LIABILITIES AND ASSETS UNDER RESERVATION OF OWNERSHIP</u>		
Rental security deposit to our lessor	14'635	14'635
Rental security deposit from our subtenants	(5'880)	(5'880)

5. OTHER INFORMATION

As an additional precaution against any future cash shortfall, the Association has taken out a COVID-19 credit facility guaranteed by Swiss Government for an amount of CHF195'000. The credit facility is for a period of 5 years (until March 31, 2025) and is interest free. The interest rate can be adjusted to market evolution on March 31 of each year, for the first time on March 31, 2021, in accordance with the regulations of the Federal Department of Finance. As at December 31, 2020, none of this credit facility is used.

6. <u>INFORMATION AND EXPLANATIONS RELATED TO SOME ITEMS</u>	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	CHF	CHF
6.1 <u>Prepaid expenses and accrued income</u>		
Prepaid expenses	3'056	20'686
Accrued income	59'567	135'905
Total	62'623	156'591
6.2 <u>Other current liabilities</u>		
Loan from Pro-Victimis	-	190'461
Other current liabilities	105	847
Total	105	191'308
6.3 <u>Deferred income and accrued expenses</u>		
Deferred grant income (see note 7)	856'908	563'680
Rent collected in advance	1'960	1'962
Accrued expenses	27'544	36'923
Total	886'412	602'565
6.4 <u>Editorial fees</u>	2020	2019
	CHF	CHF
Commissioning fees to freelance journalists	(285'411)	(333'406)
Professional fees - editors and journalists	(687'366)	(538'592)
Total	(972'777)	(871'998)

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

6.5 <u>Operating expenses</u>	2020	2019
	CHF	CHF
Office expenses	(65'514)	(63'812)
Subletting income	35'411	33'778
Insurance costs	(12'503)	(12'343)
Administrative costs	(5'294)	(23'252)
Telecommunication costs	(2'364)	(2'357)
IT costs	(32'438)	(32'895)
Professional fees - other	(151'533)	(114'414)
Legal fees	-	(2'564)
Travel costs	(11'184)	(20'042)
Advertising, events and campaigns costs	(9'972)	(105'808)
Total	(255'391)	(343'709)
6.6 <u>Financial income</u>		
Bank interest income	1'270	1'439
Foreign exchange gain	45'134	24'180
Total	46'404	25'619
6.7 <u>Financial expenses</u>		
Interest and bank fees	(12'153)	(10'884)
Transfer costs	(217)	(228)
Exchange Loss	(88'676)	(34'134)
Total	(101'046)	(45'246)

THE NEW HUMANITARIAN, Geneva

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

7. GRANTS 2020

Unrestricted grants	Balance at 01.01.2020	Received 2020	Used 2020	Balance at 31.12.2020
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	37'140	-	(37'140)	-
Humanity United	85'889	98'523	(145'563)	38'849
IKEA Foundation	9'441	170'994	(180'435)	-
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	-	124'840	(112'360)	-
- of which, retained for reserves	-	-	(12'480)	-
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia	-	331'091	(126'473)	204'618
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	190'925	(190'925)	-
Global Affairs Canada	-	104'418	(104'418)	-
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	-	193'271	(193'271)	-
Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs	-	161'925	(161'925)	-
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation	-	92'064	-	92'064
The Patrick J. McGovern Foundation	-	460'350	-	460'350
Wallace Fund - used for reserves	-	4'987	(4'987)	-
Stichtung Vluchteling - used for reserves	-	24'497	(24'497)	-
Sub-total	132'470	1'957'885	(1'294'474)	795'881
Restricted grants	Balance at 01.01.2020	Received 2020	Used 2020	Balance at 31.12.2020
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	74'248	-	(74'248)	-
Global Affairs Canada	46'300	-	(26'728)	19'572
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	60'559	87'784	(148'343)	-
Service de la solidarité internationale - Canton de Genève	40'041	80'000	(79'488)	40'553
H2H Fund under Danish Refugee Council	91'578	70'876	(162'454)	-
Foundation Open Society Institute	118'484	-	(117'582)	902
Others	-	89'690	(89'690)	-
Sub-total	431'210	328'350	(698'533)	61'027
Total	563'680	2'286'235	(1'993'007)	856'908

**The New
Humanitarian|**

Journalism from the heart of crises

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