



Water treatment Plant, Ukraine © IOM 2022

In 2022, the world experienced a surge in global crises, including natural hazards, intra and international conflict, and disease outbreaks in countries with already fragile health systems including cholera, ongoing repercussions of COVID-19 and the resurgence of Ebola. Due to the mutually re-enforcing nature of these crises, further aggravated by climate change, by the end of 2022, a record 339 million people needed humanitarian assistance worldwide, with 187 million requiring life-saving WASH services.

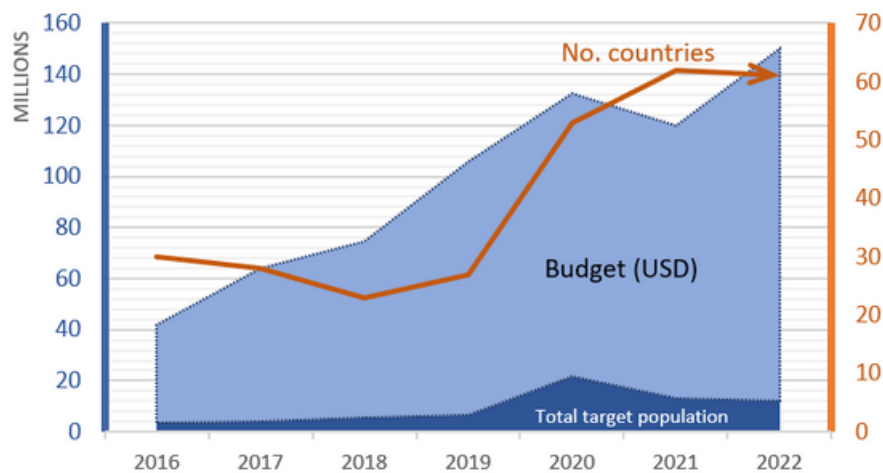
In response to the growing WASH needs of affected populations, IOM's global activities required heightened efforts from the Global WASH Support Unit, resulting in almost doubling the number of staff, and an increase of 141% in surge support days compared to 2021. Funding for IOM WASH interventions globally also reached the largest recorded amount in IOM WASH's history, indicating increased confidence in IOM WASH from donors, to respond to the needs of the ever-increasing number of displaced populations.

At the same time, 2022 saw the conceptualization of the IOM Global WASH Strategic Plan 2023-2026 at the Global WASH Retreat, setting the direction for the coming years in the context of emerging global opportunities and challenges. As part of this was the recognition of the need to operationalize the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) and localization within WASH programming through specialized capacity building initiatives. IOM began to address this in 2022, whereby we focused on integrated water resource management (IWRM) training for field staff to encourage a holistic approach to water security.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW



12.8 M TOTAL INDIVIDUALS ASSISTED IN **61** COUNTRIES



Over the past **7 years**, IOM WASH programming has steadily increased its size and footprint, registering an annual growth rate of **26%** in the number of beneficiaries reached in **61** countries.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

In 2022, IOM WASH prioritized improving systems, processes and knowledge management platforms to ensure ongoing learning and improvement. We continued our active role in global WASH platforms and ongoing engagement with the Fecal Sludge Management and Hygiene Promotion Technical Working Groups as part of the Global WASH Cluster. We developed various knowledge products requested by missions, including updating the Global WASH Proposal Checklist with new donor requirements, and re-launching the Position Paper on WASH and the HDPN to provide high level advice supported by new case studies. We also developed new technical guidelines on WASH and CBI, and the Systematic Integration of WASH across the Phases of Crisis Response. We continued to share annual case studies that highlight missions' contributions to various themes of WASH-related international days with key stakeholders.

A key part of knowledge management is bringing together the WASH Community of Practice to share best practices and lessons learnt, and to create a culture of inclusivity and shared learning. In 2022, IOM WASH hosted the 5th annual Global WASH Retreat in Gaziantep, Turkiye, which included the conceptualization of the new strategic plan. The retreat included IOM Global WASH Steering Committee members, as well as representatives from selected IOM departments and units to ensure the strategy was supported by multi-sectoral expertise.

Importantly, it also included IOM WASH staff from 15 different missions, including national staff, to deliver a comprehensive and multi-layered strategy for the next four years that supports county offices and provides the framework and direction for navigating the challenges and opportunities the future presents.



5th Global WASH Retreat, Gaziantep, Turkiye © IOM 2022

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

In 2022, IOM WASH supported innovation and research through partnerships with academic institutions and the private sector. IOM successfully implemented the *IOM E-waste Project*, and secured funding for two new innovation projects - *Closing the Loop on Effective Waste Management in Displacement Settings*, and *Promoting Thermophilic Anaerobic Digestion in Faecal Sludge Treatment to Contribute to the Prevention of Cholera Outbreaks in Bangladesh's Rohingyas Refugee Camps*. The piloting of WASH innovations allows the Global WASH Support Unit to gather evidence for potential replicability and scalability for enhanced global impact.

Acknowledging that the aim of innovation is enhanced impact, knowledge sharing is key to success. In lieu of this, IOM facilitated multiple events to exchange insights and lessons learned across a range of innovation WASH-related topics delivered to governments, donors, humanitarian organizations, academia and NGOs.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2022, the IOM Global WASH Capacity Building Initiatives Program was launched, aiming to provide tailored training that encompasses existing and new themes or gaps in the sector to enhance the capacity of WASH staff. The inaugural event saw IOM bring 14 field staff to the Netherlands to learn data modelling for integrated water resource management (IWRM) from a research institute from the Netherlands, Deltares. As part of the Program, IOM WASH diversified technical capacities through new strategic partnerships with several research institutes, academia and the private sector.



Data modelling for Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) hosted by Deltares, in Delft - Netherlands © IOM 2022

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

DISEASE OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN SYRIA

Medical waste remains one of the largest issues and a concern for the public's health in Northwest Syria (NWS). In most places, medical waste is often disposed of at undesignated sites mixed with other organic or inorganic garbage from different sources without any sorting, primary treatment, or advanced treatment. This type of behavior has detrimental effects on the environment, the spread of infectious diseases, and overall public health. IOM and the implementation partner conducted a situation assessment in the Armanaz subdistrict of the Idlib governorate in coordination with the health and WASH cluster.

IOM began constructing a medical waste management zone in 2022 in accordance with the gap analysis and assessment to handle the waste from eight healthcare facilities in the same subdistrict. The advanced medical incinerator, generator, shorting, and cleaning spaces, as well as restrooms, showers, and PPEs, were all included in the medical waste management facility. Almost all types of medical waste, with the exception of pharmaceutical and radiological waste, can be incinerated and treated by the installed incinerator, which is modern and user-friendly and has a temperature range of 1200°C. The medical waste management plant now serves eight healthcare facilities and has the capacity to grow.



Medical waste Management - North West Syria © IOM 2022

INTEGRATED WASH AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN NIGERIA

“Climate change has significantly impacted the frequency and severity of flooding in Nigeria. Nigeria is a country that is vulnerable to climate change due to its location in the tropics and its low-lying coastal areas. Although annual floods are a recurrent phenomenon during the rainy season in Nigeria, the floods of 2022 were devastating. As of November 2022, floods affected more than 3.2 million people and displaced more than 1.4 million, triggering a humanitarian crisis in the affected states.

IOM launched a multi-sectoral response, including WASH, to respond to this emergency by distributing kits and rapidly rehabilitating WASH infrastructure. In parallel to the emergency WASH response, In 2022, IOM and Deltares conducted field assessments in the five most affected states, Adamawa, Benue, Kogi, Anambra, and Bayelsa. The assessment's main goal was to provide technical support and advice to humanitarian responders and authorities for implementing climate change adaptation actions and developing, coordinating, and implementing flood management measures. The IOM/ Deltares support entailed data collection, flood modeling to predict the potential future flood events, institutional analysis, and providing the evidence needed for preparedness for future events.”



Affected flooding area Maiduguri- Nigeria © IOM 2022

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN BANGLADESH

IOM is implementing solid waste management activities in Rohingya refugee camps aimed at improving public health and well-being through community engagement. Households received red and green bins and training on waste segregation. The community selected garbage volunteers to collect waste every day. Organic waste went to material recovery facilities to produce compost while recyclables were taken by local scrap dealers and residual waste went to the landfill. The project produced around 115,886 kg of organic compost in 2022 and distributed it all to refugees and nearby host communities. A recent study conducted by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) showed that 98% of households in IOM managed camps segregated waste at the source, resulting in overall cleanliness in the surroundings. Its results revealed high levels of satisfaction and community engagement (98.5% of responders were satisfied and 81% attended IEC/BCC activities). The study also highlighted that IOM's solid waste management system is the most cost-effective compared to other approaches in the Rohingya refugee camps.



*Compost packing for distribution in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
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INNOVATION IN INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION IN UKRAINE

To support water supply to people and enterprises, IOM in Ukraine, installed frequency controllers at the main water supply facility in the town of Bila Tserkva, Kyiv Region. This allows the facility to remotely monitor the system and gradually suspend operations when electricity is disrupted. Working at decreased levels during periods of low demand, the equipment will be able to serve much longer. Moreover, these units help reduce electrical expenses by allowing to adjust operations based on daily water consumption.

The savings enable the water utility company to pay the salaries of its staff, whose work is more important now than ever. In addition, IOM repaired multiple wastewater pumps, replaced pipelines, modernized the water quality laboratory, and is currently installing a mechanical filtration system for wastewater.

“We estimate cost savings of 5 per cent thanks to this intervention, and we are very grateful to IOM and our international partners. You are here, and we see your support through our every step during this horrific war”, said Tetiana Boiko, the director of the water utility in Bila Tserkva.

Over 250,000 residents in Bila Tserkva and the region, including more than 30,000 displaced people, will benefit from the modern water supply system.



Replacing old pumps and equipment , Ukraine © IOM 2022

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

DISEASE OUTBREAK PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Throughout 2022, IOM's WASH response played a pivotal role in mitigating the adverse effects of conflict, floods, water-borne outbreaks, and hunger in South Sudan, benefiting around 489,000 affected individuals. By focusing on ensuring adequate, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, IOM was able to enhance its preparedness and response to disease outbreaks. This was particularly evident in our active responses to an ongoing cholera outbreak in Malakal and an HEV outbreak in Wau.

In providing these crucial services, IOM managed and maintained a significant number of sanitation facilities and ensured the provision of safe water through Surface Water Treatment Systems (SWAT) and newly constructed or rehabilitated boreholes. Waste management was handled efficiently, with the disposal of substantial amounts of solid and fecal waste.

To enhance these services, hygiene promotion formed a significant part of our response, including extensive risk communication and community engagement initiatives. As part of these efforts, substantial quantities of soap, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Kits, and hygiene kits were distributed, reinforcing WASH practices among approximately 150,000 displaced individuals.



Water quality testing at water supply for Bentiu IDP camps, South Sudan © IOM 2022



Women fetching water in one of IOM's water distribution points in Bentiu, South Sudan © IOM 2022



washsupport@iom.int



www.iom.int/wash

WASH Support Team

International Organization for Migration
Route des Morillons 17, 1218 Grand-Saconnex Geneva, Switzerland

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.