

Global aid needs will surge in 2022

Says UN amid pandemic, conflict

AFP, Geneva

The UN warned yesterday that the need for humanitarian aid was skyrocketing worldwide, as the pandemic continues to rage, and climate change and conflicts push more people to the brink of famine.

The United Nations' humanitarian agency OCHA estimated that 274 million people worldwide would need some form of emergency assistance next year, up 17 percent on an already record-breaking 2021.

That means one in 29 people will need help in 2022, marking a 250-percent-increase since 2015 when one in 95 needed assistance, OCHA found in its Global Humanitarian Overview report.

The number of people in need "has never been as high as this", UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told reporters.

Providing aid to so many "is not sustainable, but it has to be sustained," he said.

The annual appeal by UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations said that providing aid to the 183 million most vulnerable people across 63 countries next year would require \$41 billion -- up from the \$35 billion requested for 2021 and double what was requested just four years ago.

The report presented a depressing picture of soaring needs brought on by conflicts and worsening instability in places like Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Myanmar.

Natural disasters and climate change also drove up displacement and humanitarian needs, as did the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, it found.



Afghan refugees display banners and placards during a protest in front of the US Consulate in Surabaya, Indonesia yesterday. An Afghan asylum seeker set himself on fire in Medan, North Sumatra, Indonesia on Tuesday in protest at his seven-year wait for resettlement in a third country, a local refugee coordinator said.

PHOTO: AFP

MORE NEWS

Delhi shuts schools again due to air pollution

India's polluted capital again ordered schools closed yesterday over dangerous smog levels, as the country's top court demanded officials take action to address the toxic haze. New Delhi, one of the world's most polluted cities and home to about 20 million people, is cloaked in a thick blanket of smog every winter. The city government shuttered schools in November but allowed classes to resume on Monday after claiming air quality had improved. They reversed course yesterday after a Supreme Court hearing gave authorities 24 hours to reduce smog levels. "Small children have to go (to class) in morning fog. There's no respect," Chief Justice N.V. Ramana said.

Russia, Asean hold first naval drills off Indonesian coast

Russia and a number of Southeast Asian countries kicked off their first ever joint naval exercise along the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's most important shipping lanes, on Wednesday, Indonesia's navy said. The drills come at a time of growing tensions in the Pacific, particularly around the South China Sea. All ten members of Asean participated in Wednesday's drills. "This exercise is about peace, stability and prosperity in the region," Russia's ambassador to the bloc Alexander Ivanov said in a statement.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Quote of the day



"With a virus that is truly borderless, travel restrictions that isolate any one country or region are not only deeply unfair and punitive - they are ineffective."

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES ON COVID-19

South Africa sees rise in cases

AU's CDC says 'no need to panic'; US, France report first confirmed cases

AGENCIES

The Omicron variant has fuelled a "worrying" surge in coronavirus cases in South Africa and is rapidly becoming the dominant strain, local health officials have said, as more countries including the US, France, Finland, India detected their first cases.

The African Union's health watchdog, however, appealed for calm over Omicron. John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), urged moderation.

"We are very concerned but are not worried that the situation cannot be managed," he told a press briefing yesterday.

US President Joe Biden was set to announce yesterday a winter campaign against Covid-19, with new testing requirements for travellers and

a surge in vaccination efforts.

US officials said a surge in outreach on vaccines and booster shots will be launched, with a nationwide campaign targeting recipients of Medicare public health care, reports AFP.

OMICRON COVID VARIANT

South Korea's daily coronavirus case numbers rose to a new high yesterday, as authorities halted quarantine exemptions for fully vaccinated inbound travellers for two weeks in a bid to fend off the Omicron variant.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) reported 5,266 cases for Wednesday, a day after the daily tally rose above 5,000 for the first time amid concerns over a sharp rise in patients with severe symptoms.

In Germany, outgoing Chancellor

Angela Merkel and her successor, Olaf Scholz, plan to discuss with regional leaders restricting the unvaccinated from access to all but the most essential businesses, such as grocery stores and pharmacies, reports Reuters.

The WHO has issued stern warnings on the dangers of vaccination apathy and the European Union put mandatory jabs on the table.

"Globally, we have a toxic mix of low vaccine coverage, and very low testing -- a recipe for breeding and amplifying variants," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, British regulators yesterday approved a GlaxoSmithKline drug to treat those at high risk of developing severe Covid-19 symptoms, with the manufacturer saying it appears effective against the new Omicron variant.

Avert impasse

Facebook whistleblower urges US lawmakers on social media laws

AFP, Washington

Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen urged a US Congress panel Wednesday not to get mired in drawn out debate amid a new push to set social media regulations, which have long been blocked by partisan combat.

Haugen's leaks of internal company documents sparked outrage, damning press reports and pledges from elected officials to finally take action against the platforms -- but so far, no new rules have been enacted.

"Facebook wants you to have analysis paralysis, to get stuck on false choices and not act here," Haugen told a US House of Representatives panel on Big Tech accountability.

"Facebook wants you to get caught up in a long, drawn out debate over the minutiae of different legislative approaches. Please don't fall into that trap," she added in written testimony.



A series of articles underpinned by the leaked documents argued Facebook, which changed its name to Meta in October, knew its sites could harm some of their billions of users -- but executives chose growth over safety.

The social media giant has pushed fiercely back against the press reports as selectively using its research to paint a dark vision of the company's work.

"What we need is a set of updated rules for the internet set by Congress that companies should follow, which is why we've been asking for this for nearly three years," Meta said in a statement.

US lawmakers have put forth new or updated legislative proposals in the wake of the scandal, but efforts to regulate social media in the United States have long lagged technology's advances and been stymied by partisan divides.

Republican lawmakers frequently argue that speech limits on the platform stifle conservative voices, while Democrats worry over the harms of misinformation online.

DENYING ENVOYS' SEATS

Myanmar, Taliban condemn UN move

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta and the Taliban authorities of Afghanistan yesterday slammed the United Nations for denying their chosen representatives seats at the world body.

The committee responsible for approving nominations of ambassadors met Wednesday but deferred a decision over rival claims to the seats for both countries, diplomats said.

The deferral keeps in place envoys appointed to the UN by former governments in both nations before they were toppled -- by a coup in Myanmar in February and the Taliban's takeover in Afghanistan in August.

"This decision does not reflect the reality on the ground and existence of our country," Myanmar junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told AFP. "We will continue submitting (to the UN) as usual according to diplomatic procedure," he added.



DECEMBER 3

1912 - Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro signed an armistice ending the first Balkan War.

1984 - A gas leak at a Union Carbide pesticide plant near Bhopal, India, killed at least 3,000 people and disabled thousands.

2004 - Pakistan and India agreed to reopen a rail link severed nearly 40 years earlier between Munabao in Rajasthan state and Khokrapar in southern Pakistan.

SOURCE: REUTERS



A leg-amputee groom along with others dressed in traditional Yemeni garb attend a mass wedding for 1000 couples organised by the Huthi-held Zakat authority in Yemen's capital Sanaa yesterday. Yemen, one of the Arab world's poorest countries, has been devastated by a civil war.

PHOTO: AFP

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.349 Date: 01/12/2021

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief description of tender	Publication date	Last selling date & time	Opening date
1	623292	Spare parts for GT UPS System.	29/11/2021	20/12/2021, 2:00pm	20/12/2021
2	623290	Spare parts for Air conditioner, Motor Bearing, Lighting and Electrical system accessories.	29/11/2021	20/12/2021, 2:00pm	20/12/2021

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj

GD-2230

US world's biggest plastic polluter

AFP, Washington

The United States is by far the biggest contributor to global plastic waste in the world, according to a new report submitted to the federal government Wednesday that called for a national strategy to tackle the growing crisis.

Overall, the US contributed around 42 million metric tons (MMT) in plastic waste in 2016 -- more than twice as much as China and more than the countries of the European Union combined, according to the analysis.

On average, every American generates 130 kilograms (286 pounds) of plastic waste per year, with Britain next on the list at 99 kilos per person per year, followed by South Korea at 88 kilos per year.

Entitled "Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste," the report was mandated by Congress as part of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, which became law in December 2020.

"The success of the 20th century miracle invention of plastics has also produced a global scale deluge of plastic waste seemingly everywhere we look," wrote Margaret Spring, chief science officer of Monterey Bay Aquarium, who chaired the committee of experts that compiled the report.

She added global plastic waste was an "environmental and social crisis" that impacted inland and coastal communities, polluted rivers, lakes and beaches, placed economic burdens on communities, endangered wildlife and contaminated waters that humans depend on for food.

Global plastic production rose from 20 million metric tons in 1966 to 381 MMT in 2015, a 20-fold increase over half a century, the report said.

Report says US contributed around 42m tonnes in plastic waste in 2016 -- more than twice as much as China

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

(সেন্ট্রাল ব্যাংক অব বাংলাদেশ)

প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০
বাংলাদেশ

১৭ অগ্রহায়ন, ১৪২৮
তারিখঃ ০২ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২১

পুনঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ৫টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (ক্যাশ)' এর ডিসেম্বর/২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক ১৫১১টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রার্থীদের MCQ Test ও লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্বাচনের পুনঃ ই-টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রম	শিরোনাম	বিবরণ
১	কাজের নাম	ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির তত্ত্বাবধানে ৫টি ব্যাংকে ডিসেম্বর/২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক 'অফিসার (ক্যাশ)' এর ১৫১১টি শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদনকৃতদের মধ্যে প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোডকৃত ১,১৬,৪২৭ জন প্রার্থীর ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মধ্যে অবস্থিত পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে একই দিনে ১ (এক) সেশনে অভিন্ন প্রশ্নপত্র সম্বলিত একাধিক সেটে ০১ ঘণ্টা ব্যাপী ১০০ নম্বরের MCQ Test এবং তিনটি একটি তারিখে অভিন্ন প্রশ্নপত্রে ১ সেশনে কম/বেশী ১৬,০০০ জন প্রার্থীর ২০০ নম্বরের লিখিত পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের উদ্দেশ্যে মেসার্স ও রোল নম্বর অনুযায়ী ফলাফল তালিকা (হার্ড কপি ও সফট কপি) প্রদান ও প্রদান।
২	যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	সরকার কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত উচ্চ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/প্রশিক্ষণ ইনস্টিটিউট/কনসাল্টিং ফার্ম যাদের বিগত ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের মধ্যে (টেভার দাখিলের তারিখ হতে) এক বা একাধিক কার্যবাহী/চুক্তির আওতায় একক আয়োজনে সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/খ্যাতনামা সংস্থা/ব্যক্তি বা আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানে কমপক্ষে ৮০,০০০ (আশি হাজার) জন প্রার্থীর নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা/ভর্তি পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ ও ফলাফল তৈরীর অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে এরূপ প্রতিষ্ঠান।
৩	নির্দেশিকা ও সিডিউল	বিস্তারিত নির্দেশিকা ও শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত পুনঃ দরপত্র সিডিউল বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট www.bb.org.bd এর e-Tender-এ পাওয়া যাবে।
৪	অংশগ্রহণ কার্যক্রম	ক) পুনঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে e-Tendering-এ অংশগ্রহণের অগ্রাধি প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bb.org.bd) রেজিস্ট্রেশন সম্পন্নকরতে স্ব-স্ব আইডি ও পাসওয়ার্ড ব্যবহার করে আর্থিক প্রক্রায়ের নির্ধারিত Form পূরণপূর্বক যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও সংশ্লিষ্ট যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত কপি আপলোড করতে হবে। খ) পুনঃ দরপত্র সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রামাণ্য যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রাদি ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৫	দাখিলের শেষ সময়	২০/১২/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
৬	খোলার সময়	২০/১২/২০২১ তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০টা পর্যন্ত পুনঃ দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারী দরদাতাপন অথবা তাদের প্রতিনিধিবৃন্দের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) পুনঃ দরপত্রসমূহ ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় এর মহাব্যবস্থাপক মহোদয়ের অফিস কক্ষে অনলাইনে খোলা হবে।
৭	অন্যান্য শর্ত	ক) পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরীক্ষার্থীর ধারণ ক্ষমতা ও অন্যান্য বিষয়ে বিএসসিএস এর সাথে আলোচনাক্রমে কেন্দ্র চূড়ান্ত করতে হবে। খ) অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র বিবেচনা করা হবে না। গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহে এবং কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২১-৩৯৩১
তারিখঃ ০২/১২/২০২১
জিডি-২২৩৫

মোঃ আজিজুল হক
মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি