



# IT TAKES A VILLAGE

## World Humanitarian Day

On 19 August 2003, a bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years later, the [United Nations General Assembly](#) adopted a resolution designating 19 August as **World Humanitarian Day (WHD)**.

Each year, WHD focuses on a theme, bringing together partners from across the humanitarian system to advocate for the survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises, and for the safety and security of aid workers.

### It takes a village

There is a saying that goes: It takes a village to raise a child. Similarly, it takes a village to support a person in a humanitarian crisis. With record-high humanitarian needs around the world, this year's World Humanitarian Day (WHD) builds on this metaphor of collective endeavor to grow global appreciation of humanitarian work.

Whenever and wherever people are in need, there are others who help them. They are the affected people themselves – always first to respond when disaster strikes – and a global community that supports them as they recover. Often far from the spotlight and out of the headlines, they come together to ease suffering and bring hope.

The 2022 WHD campaign, led by the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#), shines a light on the thousands of volunteers, professionals and crisis-affected people who deliver urgent health care, shelter, food, protection, water and much more.



Image: Olga Shtonda / OCHA/2022

# SLOVAKIA

## In Slovakia

Humanitarian aid workers, including from National and International NGOs and the United Nations Agencies, have joined efforts with State authorities and other actors, to respond to the needs of affected populations from the war in Ukraine, including refugees and asylum-seekers and third-country nationals.

The Ukrainian crisis response has been built on humanitarian work already being done in the country, mainly by local responders, civil society and volunteers, in support of the Government-led responses for different refugee populations from across the world.

## Global Facts & Figures

In 2021, 460 aid workers were attacked: 140 killed, 203 wounded and 117 kidnapped. Of the aid workers who died, 98% were national staff and 2% were international (expatriate) staff. More than half (53%) were staff of national NGOs.

Most of the violence took place in South Sudan, Afghanistan and Syria. Casualties are expected to rise significantly this year due to the war in Ukraine, where rocket attacks and shelling threaten civilians and aid providers equally.

## 2022 Campaign

The best way to join the campaign is to visit [World Humanitarian Day | United Nations](#) and share the campaign materials, with [#ItTakesAVillage](#) and [#worldhumanitarianaday](#).



Človek v ohrození & Marena



IOM



Človek v ohrození



UNICEF



Slovenská humanitná rada

The images used are only indicative and not exhaustive of the overall number of humanitarian workers and their organizations in Slovakia.

This one-pager has been drafted to increase awareness about the work of the humanitarian aid workers, at global level and in particular in Slovakia. Materials used are from the [UN WHD page](#), with statistics from the [Humanitarian Outcomes Report](#). The Slovakia Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) is a collaborative platform of humanitarian workers, in support of local stakeholders. For more information please contact: UNHCR Stylianos Kostas / Inter-Agency Coordination Officer / [kostas@unhcr.org](mailto:kostas@unhcr.org) and Russell Fraser / External Relations Officer / [fraser@unhcr.org](mailto:fraser@unhcr.org)