

Examples of Types of Constraints on Humanitarian Access

Constraints on access to affected populations, as experienced by humanitarian agencies might include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overt policy of denial of the existence of humanitarian need | An outright denial that there is humanitarian need (whether in a single location, multiple locations or nation-wide) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overt policy of denial of entitlements to assistance | Denial of entitlements to receive humanitarian assistance (for all of those affected or for certain sub-groups of the population) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bureaucratic and administrative impediments imposed on the entry of humanitarian personnel and goods | Cumbersome bureaucratic requirements to register humanitarian organisations, import relief supplies and to obtain visas, work permits and travel permits, including unreasonable taxation, fees, or duties. Restrictions might be applied to all agencies, personnel and goods or only for certain agencies, personnel and goods. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interference with or restrictions on the free movement of humanitarian personnel and goods within the country | Diversion of humanitarian supplies or assets. Checkpoints and physical barriers as well as the imposition of restrictions, quotas, taxes, fees or other practices interfering with the movement of goods and people in-country. Restrictions might be applied to all agencies, personnel and goods or only for certain agencies, personnel and goods. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Physical environment (infrastructure, terrain and climate) | Roads and bridges destroyed or non-existent, difficult terrain, or seasonal lack of access (e.g. rainy season) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Military operations | Ongoing hostilities, combat operations or other military activity in area of travel and/or in area of civilian populations in need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Deliberate intimidation and targeting of humanitarian personnel and assets | Harassment, threats, intimidation, physical abuse, detention, killing, armed and/or forced entry into humanitarian premises or vehicles. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mines/UXOs | In area of travel and/or in area of civilian populations in need |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ General insecurity, criminality and lawlessness | Banditry, criminal violence, riots, civil unrest, piracy, extortion, corruption in the area of humanitarian need and which affects humanitarian operations, personnel and security of assets. |

Additional constraints on access to humanitarian assistance, as experienced by the affected population, might include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Forced movement of population away from services | Forced disbandment of camps, involuntary relocation or return of IDPs or refugees, prevention of entry into a camp or other locations where basic services are available |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Internal restrictions on freedom of movement interfere with access to services | Regulation of the movement of people and goods through the use of physical barriers, such as gates and walls, checkpoints, curfews and travel permit requirements, cessation of public transport |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bureaucratic or administrative requirements | Such as official documents required to access services |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interference with participation in humanitarian activities | For example, through threats, intimidation and harassment of affected community members or other disruption of activities (whether all activities or certain types of activities) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Denial of asylum, denial of services in country of asylum, restrictions on crossing an international border | Border closure (by country of origin or neighbouring country) or other actions which inhibit people from crossing an international border, denial of services in country of asylum, forced return from country of asylum, denial of a legitimate claim to asylum |