HUMANITARIAN ACTION CAPACITY STATEMENT

Locally rooted.
Globally connected.
Ready to respond.



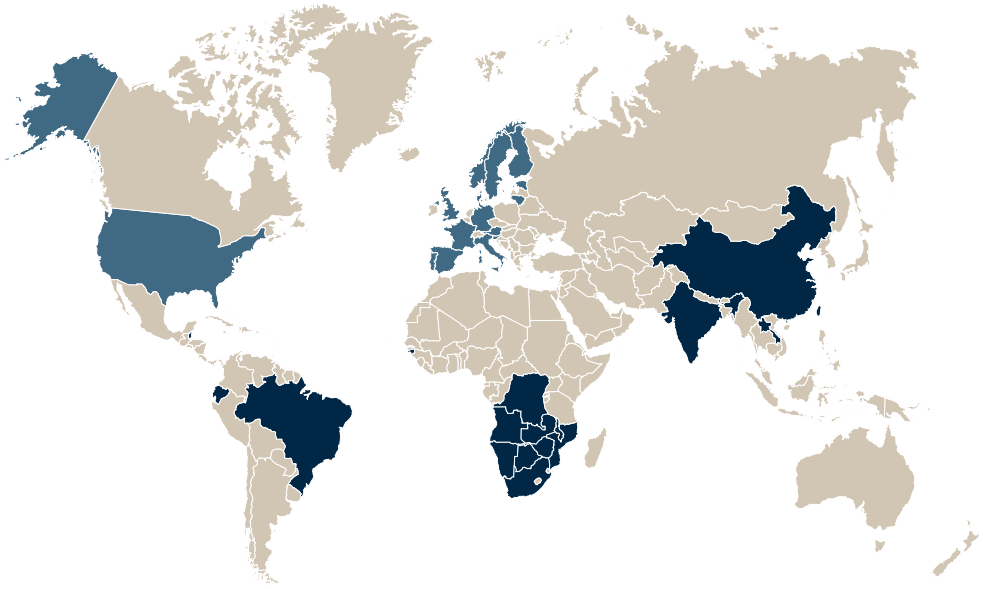
HUMANA
PEOPLE TO PEOPLE

WHO ARE WE?

Humana People to People (Humana) is an **international network of 29 local NGOs** working for the sustainable development of vulnerable communities, particularly from **Sub-Saharan Africa**, the **Americas** and **Asia**.

In our unwavering commitment to tackling global socioeconomic, environmental, and humanitarian challenges, we implement **community-driven, holistic development programmes** that **combine education, health, food security, climate action, and humanitarian response.**

A cornerstone of our approach is that our teams are composed of individuals from the very communities we serve. This ensures programming that is **culturally grounded, context-specific, and driven by local knowledge and ownership**.



You may know Humana member organisations by the names of:

ADPP DAPP HUMANA Planet Aid UFF

HOW WE STARTED

Humana began as a development organization, **working closely with communities** to improve access to education, health services, and economic opportunities.

However, as climate change, conflict, and socio-political instability increasingly disrupted lives and development gains, our **local members** began to respond directly to humanitarian needs. These responses grew organically from our **long-term presence and relationships on the ground**, evolving into structured humanitarian programming supported by **global coordination** and **shared standards**.

This evolution has positioned Humana as a trusted humanitarian-development actor, bridging long-term development with emergency response to ensure no one is left behind.



HOW WE WORK

Communities across our operational countries continue to face a complex web of climate-induced shocks, economic instability, and disease outbreaks. These challenges – floods, droughts, food insecurity, water scarcity, and public health crises- disrupt lives and threaten development gains.

In response, Humana applies a resilience-focused, integrated approach to humanitarian action, built on five sectors of intervention:

1. **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)**
2. **Food security and Livelihoods**
3. **Health and Nutrition**
4. **Disaster Risk Reduction**
5. **Education in Emergencies**

At the heart of our work is a belief in local structures and community cohesion. **When disaster strikes, we work with existing community groups and networks, enabling people to pull together, support one another, and take decisive collective action.** Guided by the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence, Humana ensures that aid is provided solely based on need, without discrimination or political influence.

Our interventions are not one-off responses, but opportunities to strengthen local capacities enhancing awareness, knowledge, and skills on climate change impacts, preparedness, and adaptive strategies. By empowering communities to organise and lead their own recovery processes, we promote long-term resilience and self-reliance.

STRENGTHENING HUMANITARIAN READINESS IN THE SAIO REGION

Over the past five years, our Federation has invested in a structured humanitarian readiness and capacity-building process across the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (SAIO) region.

Emergency response teams have been established and trained in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. This initiative has focused on strengthening coordination, preparedness, and response mechanisms, ensuring that local actors are equipped to lead timely and effective responses when crises occur. The result is a regionally connected and locally led humanitarian network, ready to act at the onset of emergencies.

FROM DEVELOPMENT TO HUMANITARIAN ACTION: THE NEXUS APPROACH

At Humana, we recognise that crises rarely emerge in isolation, they are often the culmination of longstanding development deficits, social inequalities, and environmental stressors.

This understanding is at the heart of our engagement with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus approach. **The Nexus concept is rooted in the need for greater coherence and complementarity between humanitarian response, long-term development, and peacebuilding efforts.**

Rather than treating humanitarian action and development work as separate or sequential phases, the Nexus approach acknowledges their interconnectedness and promotes integrated solutions that address both immediate needs and systemic vulnerabilities.

Our transition from a development actor to also a humanitarian responder was a natural evolution. **With deep community roots cultivated over decades of grassroots development, Humana has consistently demonstrated its ability to address urgent human needs while laying the foundation for long-term resilience.**

One of the clearest early examples of this was our response to the humanitarian crisis created by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. For more than 20 years, local NGOs around the world that are members of the Humana People to People Federation have taken the lead in implementing community-led HIV/AIDS programming through the "Total Control of the Epidemic" (TCE) model.

This large-scale, people-centered approach responded to an unprecedented global health emergency with urgency, while building local capacity, raising awareness, and embedding sustainable solutions within communities. This experience laid the groundwork for our broader humanitarian engagement.

Humana has become an expert at responding to crises in ways that not only alleviate suffering but also support long-term recovery, resilience, and social cohesion. For instance, in contexts of recurring climate shocks or protracted displacement, **our interventions blend life-saving assistance with livelihoods support, education continuity, and local capacity strengthening.** By embedding humanitarian activities within broader development frameworks, we ensure that emergency responses do not create dependency but rather reinforce pathways towards recovery and sustainable growth.

This integrated approach allows us to remain present and active before, during, and after crises. Whether through our disaster risk reduction programming, school-based preparedness, or early recovery initiatives, Humana's work reflects the practical application of the Nexus. We coordinate closely with national systems and local institutions, bridging humanitarian imperatives with development goals and fostering peace where possible. Especially in fragile and climate-vulnerable settings, this synergy offers a powerful model for resilience-building.

LOCALISATION AT THE CORE

Localisation is more than a guiding principle; it's part of who we are at Humana.

As a Federation composed of locally registered and embedded organisations, our structure embodies what the humanitarian community increasingly calls for: **the elevation of local actors from implementers to leaders.**

While localisation has gained prominence in recent years within global humanitarian agendas, particularly through commitments like the Grand Bargain and the Charter for Change, Humana has been living this model for decades.

Our work is rooted in the belief that people affected by crises are not passive recipients of aid but active agents of change, with the knowledge, networks, and capacities to lead their own recovery.

Operating through our local members enables us to build on pre-existing trust, social capital, and community relationships. **This positions us to respond quickly and appropriately when disasters strike, leveraging local knowledge for early warning and ensuring that assistance is culturally relevant and context-specific.**

Our community-based approach ensures affected populations are involved from the design phase of interventions all the way through to implementation and monitoring, reinforcing accountability, ownership, and sustainability. Importantly, our model also enables the direct channelling of resources to local actors, which not only increases cost-effectiveness but strengthens local systems and reduces reliance on external intermediaries.

In the broader humanitarian sector, there is growing recognition that localisation is a moral and strategic imperative. Locally-led action increases the relevance, timeliness, and sustainability of humanitarian assistance. In fragile contexts where external actors may have limited access or understanding, our model proves especially effective. At Humana, localisation and the Nexus approach are not stand-alone strategies but mutually reinforcing. **Local presence and leadership make it possible to bridge humanitarian and development responses seamlessly, adapting to community priorities as they evolve over time. This deep-rooted, locally driven model is how we build resilience.**

Our partners

Among our key institutional donors, the European Commission's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations department (DG ECHO) is a valued partner in advancing principled humanitarian action. This year, FPP Humana Spain—one of the Federation's members—is obtaining the ECHO Humanitarian Partnership Certificate. As part of this process, the Federation has designated Humana Spain to serve as the entry point for establishing a formal relationship with ECHO and leveraging the operational and administrative capacities of the Spanish member to support future humanitarian interventions across the network.

SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



WASH

Key interventions include the establishment of waste management systems, such as garbage disposal points and pit latrines, as well as the distribution of hygiene kits containing soap, menstrual hygiene products, and cleaning materials.

The WASH sector aims to reduce the spread of waterborne and hygiene-related diseases by improving access to safe sanitation facilities and promoting essential hygiene practices.

The efforts focus on ensuring households have the tools and infrastructure needed to maintain a clean and healthy living environment.

Hygiene promotion activities are central to WASH programming and include large-scale handwashing campaigns, hygiene education sessions, and the installation of handwashing stations in homes, schools, and public spaces.

Targeted efforts are made to improve knowledge and practices related to personal and environmental hygiene, with the goal of reducing preventable illnesses like diarrhea and respiratory infections. **Community health workers are trained to support ongoing outreach and reinforce hygiene behaviors over time.**

To ensure long-term impact, the sector prioritizes the transition from temporary to permanent sanitation solutions through the construction of household latrines and community-led total sanitation (CLTS) programs. **These initiatives encourage local ownership and sustainability by engaging communities in the planning, implementation, and maintenance of sanitation infrastructure.** Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials are also developed and disseminated to reinforce messages and support behavior change across different population groups.



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



These interventions aim to reduce hunger, stabilize food consumption, and protect vulnerable households from adopting negative coping strategies.

The Food Security & Livelihoods sector focuses on **ensuring immediate access to food for crisis-affected populations while laying the foundation for longer-term recovery.** Emergency responses include food distributions, cash or voucher assistance, and ready-to-eat meals for displaced populations.

In parallel, support is provided to affected farmers through the **distribution of seeds, tools, and fertilizers, as well as training in climate-resilient agriculture and post-harvest management.** Activities also strengthen local markets, cooperatives, and income-generating opportunities such as small-scale livestock restocking, fisheries recovery, and community-managed trust funds. Cash-for-Work initiatives create short-term employment while rehabilitating community assets.

Early recovery efforts continue to focus on building resilience by promoting the use of climate-resilient seeds, organic fertilizers, and improved farming techniques. Training, infrastructure rehabilitation, and targeted support for livestock and poultry farming help restore livelihoods and reduce long-term dependence on food aid. **These combined approaches support food access, boost local production, and strengthen the economic recovery of affected communities.**

A cornerstone of our long-term approach is the **Farmers' Clubs model, which places smallholder farmers and their families at the center of sustainable agricultural development.** Through this model, farmers are organized into local groups where they meet regularly, share knowledge, and develop practical, regenerative farming practices adapted to their environment. Farmers' Clubs strengthen food production and climate resilience by building awareness, skills, and collective action—enabling communities to protect their land, diversify livelihoods, and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks.

HEALTH & NUTRITION



Our efforts collectively strengthen household resilience to food insecurity and improve child and maternal health outcomes.

The Health & Nutrition sector focuses on **preventing and addressing malnutrition while promoting essential health and nutrition practices,** particularly among vulnerable groups such as children under five, pregnant and lactating women. Key activities include community awareness campaigns on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), exclusive breastfeeding promotion, and emergency food distributions to ensure access to adequate and culturally acceptable nutrition.

To address micronutrient deficiencies and acute malnutrition, **the sector works in coordination with national health authorities, local CSOs and international partners like the World Food Programme.** Community-based screenings using MUAC and weight-for-height assessments help identify malnourished children, who are then referred for treatment. Severely and moderately malnourished children are supported with Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) and supplementary feeding programs to ensure timely recovery.

Complementary interventions promote safe food handling, hygiene in food preparation, and proper storage practices to prevent illness and ensure nutrient retention. Community engagement is reinforced through the training of health workers and the establishment of mother-to-mother support groups, which help improve feeding behaviours and empower caregivers with practical nutrition knowledge.

This community-based approach draws on our decades-long experience responding to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic—an undervalued humanitarian crisis in both scale and impact. Through the Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) model, members of the Humana People to People Federation mobilized tens of thousands of community health workers to deliver life-saving prevention, care, and support services at the grassroots level. The lessons, networks, and local capacities built through this response continue to shape Humana's DNA and inform our health programming today, ensuring it remains people-centered, inclusive, and rooted in community leadership.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The adaptive, locally rooted approach enables communities to lead their own resilience-building efforts and effectively navigate the full disaster cycle.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) begins with a comprehensive understanding of local vulnerabilities through hazard, vulnerability, and risk assessments (HVRA). **We identify and map high-risk areas, engage communities in the assessment process, and ensure that findings are integrated into local and national DRR plans.** Our approach emphasizes the installation of early warning systems, such as weather forecasting, seismic monitoring, and flood prediction tools, coupled with real-time communication mechanisms like SMS alerts and community radios. **We also focus heavily on community education and awareness,** ensuring that households understand early warning signals, have preparedness plans, and participate in public awareness campaigns.

The foundation of our DRR work is built through **community structures such as Farmers' Clubs and Village Action Groups, which serve as the core methodology for locally-led disaster preparedness and response.** These groups provide a platform for organising risk reduction activities, delivering training, and fostering collective action. Their established presence and trust within communities enable efficient mobilisation during emergencies and ensure that DRR efforts are context-specific and community-owned.

A significant part of our DRR work revolves **around strengthening local capacities and infrastructure.** This includes integrating DRR into school curricula, conducting school and community-based drills, and training communities in first aid, search and rescue, and evacuation procedures. We conduct regular mock drills to test emergency plans and coordinate response actions, while also working to build or retrofit disaster-resistant housing, schools, and critical infrastructure like roads and bridges. **Strategic stockpiling of essential supplies and the deployment of mobile emergency units ensure rapid response during disasters.**

In addition to immediate preparedness and response efforts, **we incorporate long-term environmental strategies such as reforestation, wetland restoration, and coastal protection through mangrove planting.** These measures help mitigate risks like flooding, landslides, and storm surges. To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of our interventions, we establish systems to monitor DRR progress and regularly review and update preparedness plans based on lessons learned and new risk assessments.



EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES



Education during emergencies provides protection, fosters resilience, and reflects the urgent priorities of children, parents, and communities.

In a world increasingly marked by conflict, climate-related disasters, and displacement, **Education in Emergencies (EiE) has become a vital component of ensuring every child's right to learn, as enshrined in SDG4.** More than a fundamental right, education is also a basic need for children caught in crises and a key component of humanitarian response.

At Humana, we recognize that education during emergencies serves three critical purposes: it provides immediate physical, psychosocial, and cognitive protection; it strengthens personal and community resilience; and it reflects the urgent priorities of children, parents, and communities themselves.

Our EiE work builds on a solid foundation of educational expertise gained through decades of training teachers for rural and underserved areas and integrating formal and non-formal education into broader development programmes. Humana possesses strong education capacities that have been successfully adapted to emergency contexts in countries such as Angola, Mozambique, and Namibia. This experience informs our ability to design flexible, community-driven solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term recovery.

In this context, our EiE work aims to: (1) increase access to education for vulnerable girls and boys affected by crises; (2) promote quality learning that supports resilience and emotional recovery; and (3) protect children by minimizing disruptions to education and ensuring that schools serve as safe, stabilizing spaces.

We are expanding our efforts in crisis-affected areas such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe, delivering accelerated and resilience-focused education programmes that help systems adapt, recover, and ultimately transform—starting with the teachers who make learning possible.



OUR LATEST HUMANITARIAN ACTION INTERVENTIONS

Humanitarian action to mitigate the effects of El Niño-induced drought (HAMED)

Epworth | ZIMBABWE | 2025 | WASH, Food Security & Livelihoods

The HAMED project, currently being implemented by DAPP Zimbabwe, **aims to mitigate the impacts of El Niño-induced drought in Epworth District** of Harare by improving access to clean water, sanitation, and food security among vulnerable households. The intervention targets Wards 4 and 5, focusing on restoring WASH services and delivering multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT) to drought-affected populations. Additional components include the formation and training of internal savings and lending groups, equipping boreholes, establishing water point committees, and setting up vegetable gardens near water sources.

The WASH component also includes the **distribution of essential hygiene supplies for cholera prevention and community-wide awareness campaigns on proper hygiene practices.** The MPCT enables families to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, enhancing resilience against future shocks. T**he project is designed to reach 1,585 individuals—52% women and 48% men**—ensuring an equitable and impactful approach to humanitarian relief in a context of climate-induced crisis.

Emergency Response in Southern and Central Mozambique

Machava | MOZAMBIQUE | 2024 | WASH, Food Security, EiE, DRR

Implemented over 11 months in response to Tropical Cyclone Filipo and heavy rains, this emergency project improved living conditions for affected communities in Matola District, Maputo Province. Activities included the distribution of food kits, hygiene materials, used clothing, and educational supplies for both students and teachers. Damaged school infrastructure was rehabilitated to ensure continuity of education, and hygiene kits were delivered to affected schools.

In parallel, community resilience was strengthened through the revitalization of local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees, with training provided on disaster prevention and risk management. **The intervention improved food and hygiene security for hundreds of families, supported the resumption of learning for school-aged children, and contributed to longer-term preparedness** by building awareness and community-based response mechanisms in disaster-prone areas.

Cholera response program in Chimanimani District

Chimanimani | ZIMBABWE | 2023 | Health & Nutrition, WASH

In response to Zimbabwe's nationwide cholera outbreak, **DAPP Zimbabwe delivered a targeted cholera response in Chimanimani District, reaching 4,185 households (approximately 20,925 people) in Wards 2, 3, and 4.** The project restored access to clean water through borehole rehabilitation and distributed water purification tablets, medical supplies, and hygiene materials. Inclusive approaches ensured that persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups were fully supported.

The intervention also focused on behavior change and community empowerment. Awareness-raising campaigns, training on hygiene and early disease detection, and the construction of demonstration VIP latrines were carried out. As a result, **15 additional household latrines were built, and Village Action Committees took ownership of hygiene promotion and outbreak prevention.** This program significantly strengthened local health resilience and community-based sanitation systems.

Humanitarian Response and Early Recovery Assistance for Cyclone Freddy affected Population in Malawi

Nsanje | MALAWI | 2023 | WASH, Food Security & Livelihoods, DRR, Protection

This two-phase project **addressed immediate humanitarian needs and supported early recovery following Cyclone Freddy's devastation in Nsanje District.** In Phase 1, families in the Mnembe and Khope displacement camps received life-saving assistance including food aid, clean water, sanitation, and protection services, with a special focus on vulnerable populations such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. Cholera prevention was also prioritized through hygiene promotion and risk communication.

Phase 2 transitioned to early recovery, focusing on agricultural revitalization through seed distribution and land restoration. Farmers' Clubs were established and local disaster response systems were strengthened via Village Civil Protection Committees. **The project was a key contributor to restoring livelihoods, promoting self-reliance, and reinforcing climate resilience.** It demonstrated how an integrated humanitarian-development approach can address both short-term survival and long-term recovery.

Post-disaster recovery and Disaster Risk Reduction in Nsanje, Zimbabwe

Chimanimani | ZIMBABWE | 2022 | Food Security & Livelihoods, DRR

Following previous climate-related disasters, DAPP Zimbabwe **supported the socioeconomic recovery of 800 smallholder farming families in Chimanimani District through a combined post-disaster recovery and DRR project.** Organized into Farmers' Clubs and community groups, the beneficiaries received training in conservation agriculture, small livestock rearing, water management, financial literacy, and access to markets. Village Savings and Loans groups were also formed to promote financial inclusion.
The project had three main pillars: **restoring livelihoods, building institutional disaster preparedness, and strengthening community-level DRR.** Internal team capacities were enhanced through emergency training and coordination with humanitarian actors, while Village Civil Protection Committees were trained and mobilized to lead early warning systems, community mapping, and participatory DRR planning. **The project empowered communities to proactively reduce disaster risks and build long-term resilience.**

Decent life for families displaced due to the armed conflict in Cabo Delgado

Cabo Delgado | Mozambique | 2020 | Food Security & Livelihoods

In response to the armed conflict and large-scale displacement in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, **this project provided urgent humanitarian support to 1,893 internally displaced families in Montepuez and Chiure.** With lives and livelihoods lost to violent extremist attacks, the intervention focused on delivering essential items including food and clothing packages to help families regain a basic sense of security and dignity.

The project laid the foundation for initial recovery by stabilizing the living conditions of conflict-affected populations. Despite the complexity of the operational environment, local partnerships with Action Aid, INGC, and Fundação Wiwanana ensured effective delivery. **This response underscored Humana's capacity to work in conflict settings and support vulnerable groups in their first steps toward recovery and self-sufficiency.**

Child Aid Chimanimani

Chimanimani | ZIMBABWE | 2019 | WASH, Health & Nutrition, Food Security

Initially launched as an emergency response to Cyclone Idai, the Child Aid Chimanimani project **supported 1,500 households through multi-sectoral recovery and resilience-building efforts.** The project empowered families across four main pillars: health and hygiene, food and nutrition security, strengthening household economies, and child participation. Through 41 Internal Savings and Lending (ISAL) groups and financial literacy training, families launched income-generating activities to stabilize their livelihoods.

The project also conducted health and hygiene campaigns, water point cleanups, and sexual and reproductive health education for youth. **Climate-smart agriculture was promoted through trainings and the development of 15 group gardens.** Youths became active in development advocacy and sports, reinforcing community cohesion. By blending humanitarian support with community-led development, the project contributed to long-term resilience and social transformation.

Mozambique Northern Crisis Recovery Project (NCRP)

Cabo Delgado | MOZAMBIQUE | 2022 | Livelihoods, Protection

The NCRP aimed **to restore livelihoods and promote self-reliance among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in six resettlement areas in Metuge, Cabo Delgado.** Over 21 months, the project trained 1,463 youth in life and business skills, while 1,293 participants gained vocational skills in trades such as carpentry, welding, and tailoring. **Toolkits were distributed to 1,079 youth to support self-employment, and 656 individuals were linked to professional internships.**

The project prioritized the inclusion of women and vulnerable groups, contributing to economic recovery and social cohesion in areas affected by armed conflict. While the project faced delays in graduate certification in 2023, these challenges were overcome in 2024, ensuring formal recognition of participant achievements. Supported by HPP Austria and FPP Spain, this project highlights Humana's ability to implement large-scale, skills-based recovery interventions in fragile contexts.

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