







# FUNCTION 2: SUPPORTING POPULATIONS IN CHRONIC CRISIS

 <p><b>Coverage/ sufficiency</b></p>	 <p><b>Effectiveness and relevance/ appropriateness</b></p>	 <p><b>Efficiency, coordination and connectedness</b></p>	 <p><b>Coherence/ principles</b></p>
			

Many of the same countries receive humanitarian aid year after year. Crisis conditions persist in these places due to a combination of development challenges (including poverty), cyclical natural hazards and conflict and instability.

Chronic crises can also have peak moments, such as a famine, natural disaster or a severe upsurge in or start to a conflict. Because building international consensus for humanitarian assistance is usually easier than tackling underlying political or security problems, or engaging with difficult governments, humanitarians are being asked to play increasingly wider roles – including supporting securitisation, filling gaps left by development actors and substituting for weak or neglectful host governments.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the evidence suggests that humanitarian assistance is falling short of its aim of supporting vulnerable people living in these crises. Coverage/sufficiency is weak, partly because humanitarian organisations are being pulled in different directions within crises and increasingly stretched thin across crises. The review period saw a spike in the number of chronic crises undergoing a rapid deterioration and a few cases in which civilians faced violence on a massive scale. Interviewees reported a growing sense of competition between crises linked to funding gaps and human resource challenges.

Despite modest gains in efficiency and coordination, local aid actors continue to be marginalised within coordination and funding structures. The effectiveness and relevance of humanitarian interventions were challenged by persistent shortcomings in aid actors’ ability to engage with affected people.