Conflicts and natural disasters have been seen as the main drivers of humanitarian need. They are often treated as discrete events, with little analysis of the underlying causes and warning signs. Today, the humanitarian landscape is changing more rapidly than ever. Global risks are recognized as increasingly central to humanitarian crises. They can make people more vulnerable and prevent them from building the resilience necessary to cope with shocks.

**Pandemics**

**BASELINE:** From 2015 to August 2016, 45 countries and territories in the Americas have confirmed local, vector-borne transmissions of the Zika virus.

**PROJECTION:** Between 3 million and 4 million Zika infections in the Americas are projected over 2016. An international spread of the virus is expected as El Niño weather patterns spread mosquito populations.

**Population**

**BASELINE:** In 2015, the global population was 7.3 billion. Sixty per cent of the global population lives in Asia. China and India are the two largest countries in the world, both with more than 1 billion people. About one-quarter of the world’s people are under age 15.

**PROJECTION:** Population growth is continuing though at a slower rate than in the past. Today, it is growing by 1.18 per cent per year or approximately an additional 83 million people annually. By 2050, the global population is projected to reach 9.7 billion and 11.2 billion by 2100. More than half of the global population growth between now and 2050 will take place in Africa.

**Economy**

**BASELINE:** GDP growth in 2015 has remained consistent since 2013 with growth rates of 2.4 per cent. The richest 1 per cent of the global population owns 50 per cent of global wealth. Since 2010, the wealth of the bottom half fell by over a trillion dollars—a drop of 38 per cent. There are now more global middle class members in China (109 million people) than there are in the United States (92 million).

**PROJECTION:** By 2018, global economic growth is projected to increase by 3 per cent. Risks to GDP growth include policy and geopolitical uncertainties, deteriorating conditions among key commodity exporters, decreased activity in advanced economies, and rising private sector debt.

**Diaspora**

**BASELINE:** In 2015, remittance flows exceeded $581 billion. Of that amount, developing countries received approximately $432 billion, or three times the size of Official Development Assistance.

**PROJECTION:** With slow growth, remittances are expected to reach $651 billion worldwide by 2018, with developing countries receiving $484 billion.

**Food security**

**BASELINE:** Approximately 795 million people are undernourished globally; that is equivalent to just over one in nine people worldwide. The prevalence of undernourishment globally has decreased to 10.9 per cent of the global population compared with 18.6 per cent between 1990 and 1992.

**PROJECTION:** Global food production needs to increase by 50 per cent in order to feed 9 billion by 2050. However, climate change threatens to decrease crop yields by more than 25 per cent.

To explore the full report, visit its interactive companion microsite [www.unocha.org/datatrends2016](http://www.unocha.org/datatrends2016)
The protracted and recurrent crises we see around the world today are a direct result of this vulnerability. In some cases, this vulnerability is exacerbated by the absence of political solutions to conflicts. The humanitarian community has placed renewed emphasis on better understanding the drivers of crises, to move towards an evidence-based model where the root causes of humanitarian need are better understood and, therefore, the humanitarian community can serve affected people in a more effective way.

**Poverty**

**BASELINE:** In 2013, an estimated 767 million people were living below the international poverty line of $1.90 per person per day. Almost 10.7 per cent of the global population were poor by this standard. Roughly 50 per cent of the world’s poor live in sub-Saharan Africa.

**PROJECTION:** The goal of ending poverty by 2030 cannot be reached at current levels of economic growth. If the poverty goal is to be accomplished, income distribution must improve.

**Urbanization**

**WORLD POPULATION**

1/5

600 CITIES

60% Global GDP

Reside in urban areas

**BASELINE:** Fifty-four per cent of the world’s population resides in urban areas. Six hundred cities contain one fifth of the world’s population and produce 60 per cent of the global GDP. Asia has the highest number of people living in urban areas, followed by Europe, Africa and Latin America.

**PROJECTION:** By 2030, 5 billion people will live in cities in towns. The majority of urbanization will occur in Africa and Asia.

**Migration**

**244 million**

International migrants IN 2015

**5,350**

Migrants died GLOBALLY

**3,771**

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES died in the Mediterranean trying to reach Europe

**1,004,356**

Total number of sea arrivals to Europe

**Climate change**

**BASELINE:** Fifteen of the sixteen hottest years on record have been in the last century, with 2015 registered as the warmest year on record.

**PROJECTION:** If global greenhouse emissions continue increasing, the average global temperature could rise by more than 4°C (7.2°F) by the end of the 21st century.

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