

# Background

According to the global humanitarian overview (2022), there are currently 274 million people worldwide living in need of humanitarian assistance and protection from crises such as; food insecurity, lack of access to health care and sanitation, no clean water, extreme poverty, armed conflicts and more. This number shows a significant jump from 2021, which accounted for 235 million people in need—already the highest figure noted in decades. Evidently, Covid-19 has exacerbated these issues over the last two years, however the instance of unsustainable living has been rising long before the pandemic, and is projected to continue rising if change does not occur.

In light of such events, humanitarian relief has become a primary focus in Western society's non-profit and philanthropic sector. Humanitarian response is constantly evolving to match the imminent needs of vulnerable populations, both within and outside Western borders. Thus, while it is widely known that numerous factors influence the growth of at-risk populations, I couldn't help but wonder the following question:



*Why do global humanitarian crises continue to trend upwards when Western awareness and concern for said issues sit at an all time high?*

The purpose of this capstone study is to investigate current public discourse and attitudes of Western society surrounding the philanthropic sector, to determine whether or not there is a relationship between Occidental philanthropic engagement and the rise in global humanitarian crises.