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MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

The Direct Consequences for Aid in Africa



MISSION REPORT

March - 2026

**An invisible
consequence of
international crises**

**Humanitarian aid
depends on a complex
international logistical
network.**

MIDDLE EAST CRISES AND THE IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS IN AFRICA

Drive Against Malaria Foundation

When people think of humanitarian operations in Africa, they often focus on the conditions within the affected countries themselves: malaria outbreaks, disease control, malnutrition, conflicts, floods, drought, and limited access to healthcare.

What is often overlooked is that humanitarian aid depends on a complex international logistical network. Events taking place thousands of kilometers away can have direct consequences for aid delivery to some of the most remote and vulnerable communities in Africa.

For organizations such as Drive Against Malaria (DAM), global crises are rarely isolated events. Disruptions elsewhere in the world can quickly escalate into operational challenges on the ground.



THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SUPPLY CHAINS

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ONE OF THE LARGEST HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS REGIONS IS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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DAM and the close cooperation with the U.N.

Many humanitarian goods destined for Africa first pass through major international logistics hubs before reaching their final destination.

These so-called "hubs" function as central storage and distribution points where emergency supplies, medical equipment, food products, and other humanitarian goods are stored and subsequently shipped to countries around the world. Close cooperation with the United Nations forms an integral part of Drive Against Malaria's humanitarian activities. During its missions, DAM works closely

together with UN organizations, in particular the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and UNICEF, in support of humanitarian aid and public health initiatives in remote and vulnerable communities. One of the most important humanitarian logistics regions is located in the Middle East, particularly in the United Arab Emirates. Over the years, this region has grown into a crucial link between Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Humanitarian organizations, UN agencies, governments, and NGOs use these logistical routes because they often constitute the fastest, most reliable, and most cost-effective way to transport relief supplies.



WHY AFRICA DEPENDS ON THESE ROUTES

The Consequences of Disrupted Routes

Although Africa is geographically close to many humanitarian operations, logistical connections within Africa are often more complex than one might expect at first glance.

Direct freight connections between African countries are often limited. In some cases, it is simpler, faster, and cheaper to transport goods via an international logistics center outside Africa than directly between two African countries.

In addition, humanitarian organizations are regularly confronted with:

- Limited freight capacity.
- Varying quality of infrastructure.
- Complex customs procedures.

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THESE CHILDREN MUST NOT BECOME THE VICTIMS OF EVENTS OVER WHICH THEY HAVE NO INFLUENCE WHATSOEVER.

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Delays at border crossings.

- Import restrictions.
- Unpredictable administrative requirements.

As a result, many aid organizations have historically become dependent on international logistics hubs to efficiently transport relief goods to Africa.

A crisis on the other side of the world seems far removed from these children. Yet they are connected to the same international aid chains that bring food, nutritional supplements, medicines, and medical support to their communities. When these routes are disrupted, the consequences often affect precisely the people who are least visible – and who need the help most.

DRIVE
AGAINST
MALARIA



THE TRANSPORT EXAMPLE OF THERAPEUTIC NUTRITION

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THE IMPACT OF THE CRISIS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST :
FOOD BLOCKED

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Air routes closed - power blocked

Drive Against Malaria regularly supports communities where malaria and malnutrition occur simultaneously.

Among the products used in humanitarian interventions is Plumpy'Nut, a ready-to-use therapeutic food for severely malnourished children.

This peanut-based food product has grown worldwide into one of the most effective means for the treatment of acute malnutrition in young children.

Such products are often delivered via international humanitarian partners and logistics networks that rely on stable transport routes.

When these routes are disrupted, delays can occur that affect the delivery of essential nutritional support to communities that depend on it.

The ongoing crisis in the Middle East shows how strongly humanitarian operations worldwide are interconnected.

Although the direct consequences are primarily felt in the region itself, the indirect consequences extend much further.

Air routes may be modified, restricted, or temporarily closed.



FREIGHT CAPACITY MAY DECREASE

Collaboration with WFP and the experience from years of field operations

Freight capacity may decrease and transport schedules may become unpredictable. Humanitarian supply chains may face longer delivery times and higher costs.

For organizations active in Africa, this creates additional uncertainty in the planning and execution of aid operations.

The consequences are not solely logistical in nature. Delays in the transport of relief goods can affect medical programs, nutrition projects, disease control, and emergency relief interventions.

Ultimately, it is often the most vulnerable population groups that experience the consequences of this most severely.

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FOR ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN AFRICA, THIS CREATES ADDITIONAL UNCERTAINTY.

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Having been active for years in remote and challenging areas of Africa, Drive Against Malaria has learned that successful humanitarian aid depends not only on fieldwork but also on the timely recognition of external risks.

Experience has shown that waiting until supply chains actually grind to a halt is not a workable strategy.

Humanitarian organizations must pay constant attention to:

- International security developments.**
- Disruptions in transport corridors.**
- Logistical bottlenecks.**
- Customs and border risks.**
- Alternative supply routes.**
- Emergency and continuity planning.**



ENSURING HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Conclusion

Drive Against Malaria remains committed to continuing to provide life-saving aid to communities in need, regardless of the challenges facing the international humanitarian system. This requires flexibility, strong partnerships with the UN, UNICEF, and WFP, and careful planning and continuous monitoring of international developments.

Humanitarian aid never stands alone.

A conflict in one region, a disruption of transport links elsewhere, or a logistical bottleneck on the other side of the world can have direct consequences for families, children, and communities thousands of kilometers away. Understanding this interconnectedness is essential for effective humanitarian planning.

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STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

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The current crisis in the Middle East reminds us that humanitarian operations are part of a global network.

The routes along which food, medicines, therapeutic nutrition, and other emergency supplies are transported are often invisible to the general public, but form the backbone of international aid.

Protecting these supply chains is not merely a logistical challenge, but a humanitarian necessity.

For organizations like Drive Against Malaria, the ability to recognize risks in a timely manner and adapt to changing circumstances remains essential to ensure that help continues to reach the people who need it most.

Drive Against Malaria Foundation NL & UK



DRIVE AGAINST MALARIA TAKES NO POLITICAL STANCES REGARDING INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS

Drive Against Malaria Foundation U.K & NL

Professional Training – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Participation in international training on the use of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) for malaria diagnosis, alongside an international team of medical professionals. The training focused on field application, diagnostic procedures and the importance of rapid diagnosis in remote and resource-limited settings.

Drive Against Malaria takes no political stances regarding international conflicts. Our focus remains on one goal: reaching people in need, wherever they may be, and continuing life-saving aid wherever possible.

Drive Against Malaria Foundation NL & UK - March 2026 <<

