



affected by conflict."

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Carronfoot, Dumfries.

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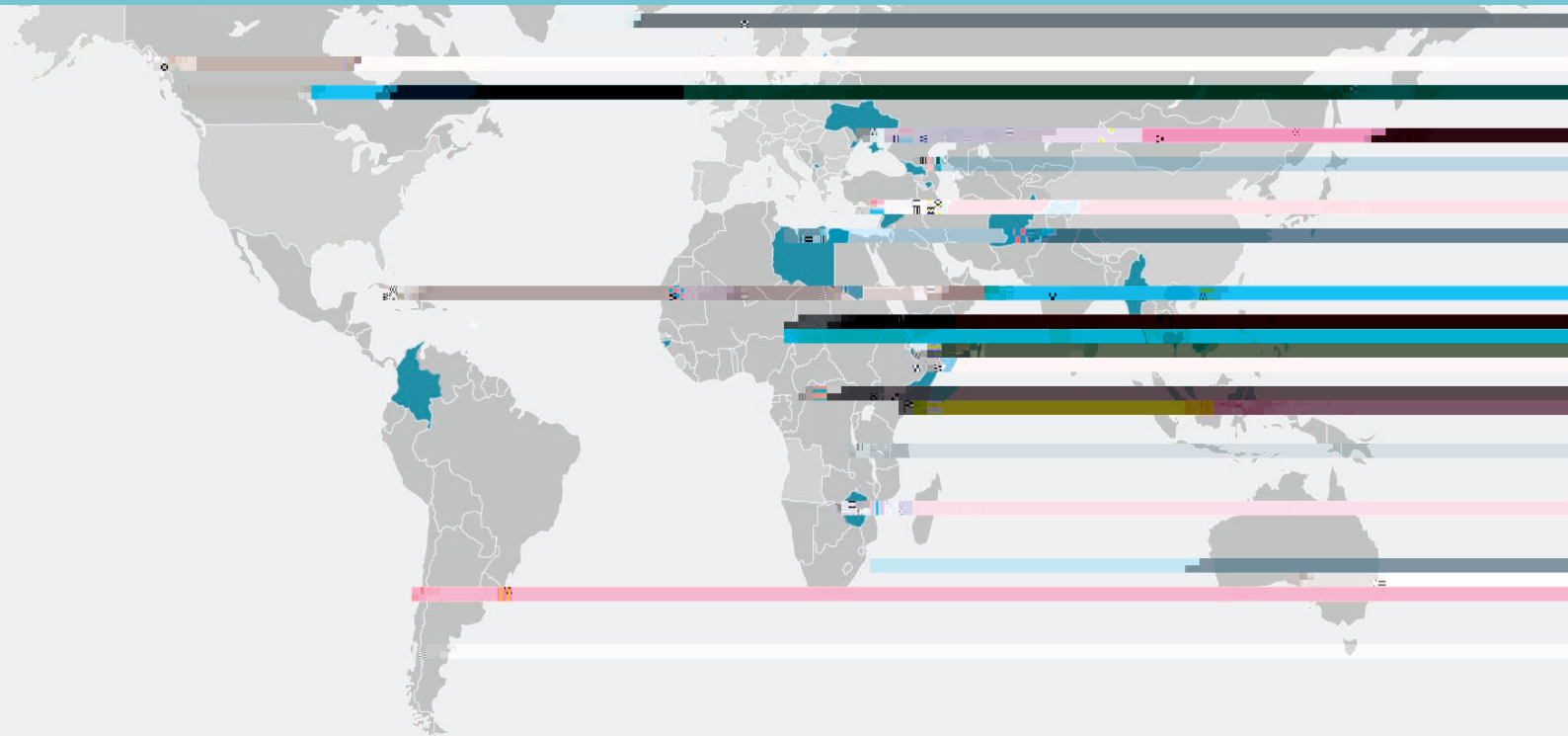
COVID-19 has changed the world, and more changes are yet to come. The pandemic and the climate crisis

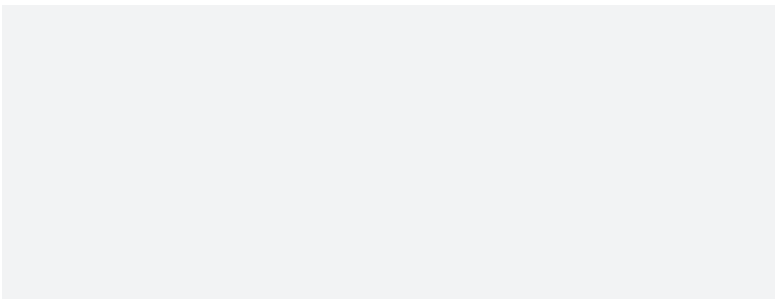
Over five million confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been recorded, with more than 330,000 deaths.<sup>1</sup> The true number is unknown, but will be far higher due to an absence of systematic testing and contact tracing. As national governments work to slow the pandemic, a concerning picture is emerging about its wider impact.

The IMF forecasts the worst global economic downturn in ninety years, with the World Bank estimating that this will push 49 million people into extreme poverty, the first increase in global poverty since 1998.<sup>2</sup> While less affected to date by the immediate emergency, Sub-Saharan Africa

March 2020 saw much of the world go into lockdown. Airlines were grounded, borders closed, with curfews and restrictions on movement introduced across the globe. As many agencies evacuated international staff, HALO ensured it had the right staff in place to continue demining where it was safe to do so.

With some teams demining HALO restricted A



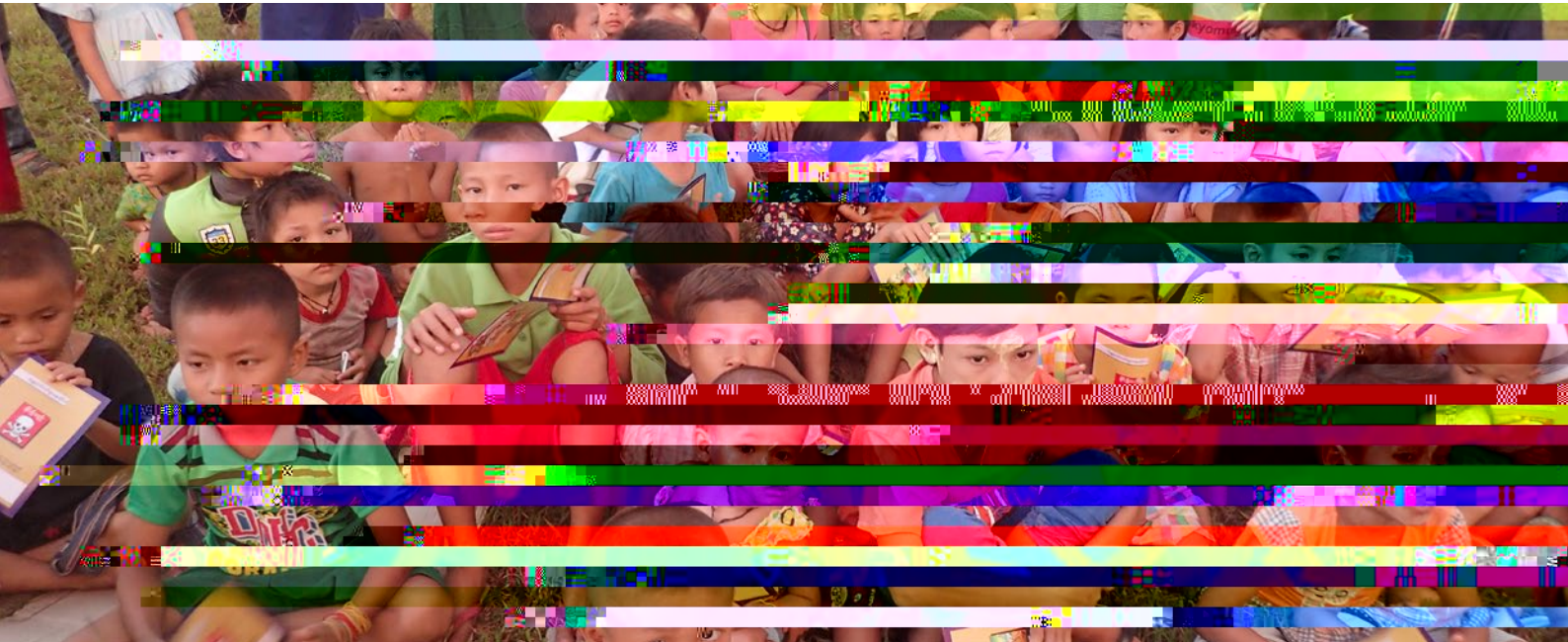


"With most Zimbabweans already struggling to put food on the table, the COVID pandemic risks even wider and deeper desperation. We must

this tragedy turning into a catastrophe."







For the tens of thousands of displaced families living in temporary camps in Myanmar, the COVID-19 pandemic is a terrifying new threat. Social distancing

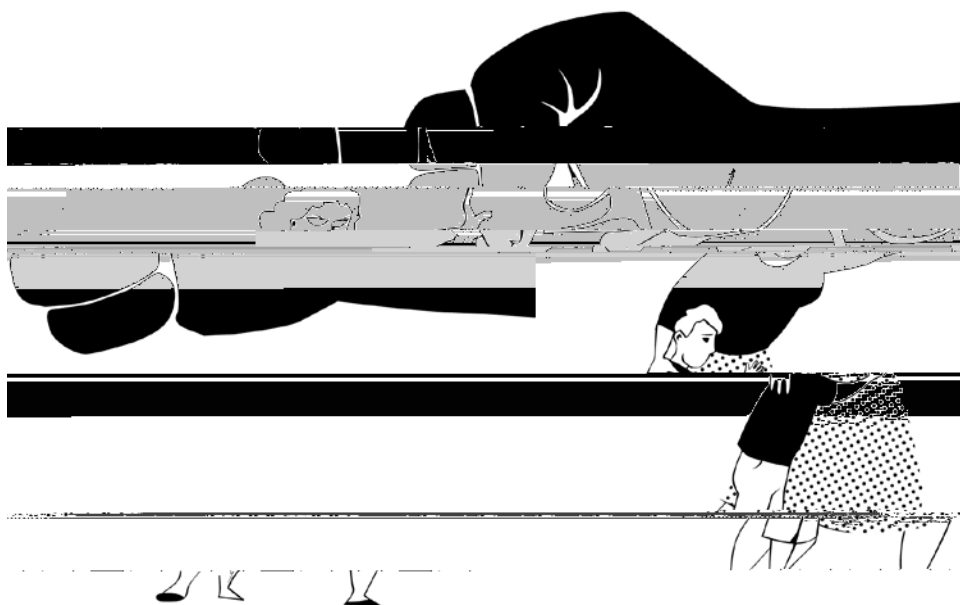
“For those countries already experiencing humanitarian crises, the consequence [of the COVID-19 pandemic] is exacerbated by pre-existing challenges such as a lack of access to basic services... particularly

internally displaced persons.”



Surging 'R' numbers, overwhelmed health systems and rising mortality rates. Many of the impacts of COVID-19 are highly visible. But beneath the surface, other equally dangerous side-effects are emerging. Across the world, millions of families have been asked to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But what do you do if you have no safe place to stay?

For vulnerable groups, including asylum seekers, refugees and victims of domestic violence, sheltering at home is often not an option. In Kosovo, as the country went into lockdown, HALO teams







<sup>1</sup>WHO, "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Situation Report 24," 23 May 2020, <https://bit.ly/2ZKLy5H>

<sup>2</sup>Daniel Mahler, et al., "The impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) on global poverty: Why Sub-Saharan Africa might be the region hardest hit," 20 April 2020, <https://bit.ly/2TEObSH>

<sup>3</sup>OECD, "COVID-19 and Africa: Socio-economic implications and policy responses" 7 May 2020, <https://bit.ly/2B5BycT>

<sup>4</sup>OCHA, "Yemen Situation Report," 6 May 2020, <https://bit.ly/2ZG6QB5>

<sup>5</sup>UNOCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan: Yemen (Geneva: UNOCHA, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2X7WnwX>

<sup>6</sup>OCHA, "Afghanistan: Weekly Humanitarian Update (11-17 May 2020)," 17 May 2020, <https://bit.ly/2zvMQqc>

<sup>7</sup>Food Security Information Network, "2020 Global Report on Food Crises: Joint Analysis for Better Decisions," 2020, <https://bit.ly/2zyS84f>



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