

Heatwaves will make regions uninhabitable within decades: UN, Red Cross

October 10 2022, by Robin MILLARD



A woman uses a paper sheet to fan her child amid a power cut during a heatwave in the Pakistani city of Jacobabad in May.

Heatwaves will become so extreme in certain regions of the world within decades that human life there will be unsustainable, the United Nations

and the Red Cross said Monday.

Heatwaves are predicted to "exceed human physiological and social limits" in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and south and southwest Asia, with [extreme events](#) triggering "large-scale suffering and loss of life", the organizations said.

Heatwave catastrophes this year in countries like Somalia and Pakistan foreshadow a future with deadlier, more frequent, and more intense heat-related humanitarian emergencies, they warned in a joint [report](#).

The UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released the report in advance of next month's COP27 [climate change summit](#) in Egypt.

"We don't want to dramatize it, but clearly the data shows that it does lead towards a very bleak future," said IFRC secretary-general Jagan Chapagain.

They said aggressive steps needed to be taken immediately to avert potentially recurrent heat disasters, listing steps that could mitigate the worst effects of [extreme heat](#).

Limits of survival

"There are clear limits beyond which people exposed to extreme heat and humidity cannot survive," the report said.

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