



# Humanitarian Investing: Innovative Financing's Final Frontier

Tom Outlaw, MBA  
Principal, Clearwater Strategic Consulting

## Executive Summary

The scope, intensity and global distribution of humanitarian crises are growing at an unprecedented rate. In 2017, more than 200 million people – the largest number ever recorded – required international humanitarian assistance. Despite record funding increases, the growth in need continues to outpace the assistance levels governments and private donors provide. By attracting private capital to humanitarian settings, innovative financing instruments can narrow this funding gap. While no panacea, these tools can help the sector focus on outcomes, incentivize innovation, and bridge the humanitarian-development divide in an era of increasingly protracted crisis settings.