# GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2020

UNITED NATIONS-COORDINATED SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2020

# Acknowledgements

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**Data sources**

Information on civilians in conflict is from the *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict* (S/2019/373). Figures on children in conflict are from the *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict 2018* (A/73/907–S/2019/509). Figures for undernourishment are from FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019* (note the figures quoted in the GHO 2019 have since been revised). Figures on acute food insecurity are from the Food Security Information Network, *2019 Global Food Crises Report*. Figures on refugees are from UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement 2018*. Figures on internal displacement are from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019*. Data on children is from UNICEF: *http://data.unicef.org*. Data on infectious diseases are from WHO. Data on HIV/AIDS are from UNAIDS, *UNAIDS Data 2019*.

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The figures for people in need, people targeted, people reached and funding requirements are a snapshot as of 13 November 2019. The figures from the response plans may evolve between this publication and each response plan's official publication.

**Front cover**

Children sit under a mosquito net strung up between trees in the village of Aburoc, South Sudan. Thousands of people are living in the open air, displaced by conflict.
*UNICEF/Hatcher Moore*

**Opposite page**

Women queue for registration during a joint UNICEF-WFP Rapid Response Mission to the village of Aburoc, South Sudan.
*UNICEF/Hatcher Moore*

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Humanitarian organizations are delivering better for people in crises by getting ahead of predictable shocks, implementing cash and voucher assistance and involving communities in every step of humanitarian action.

# At a glance

## Needs and requirements[1]

**PEOPLE IN NEED**
**167.6 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**
**108.8 M**

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)
**$ 28.8 B**

## Recent trends and challenges

PP. 10–15

**In 2019, many more people needed humanitarian assistance than we had forecast, largely because of conflicts and extreme climate events.** Donors provided a record $16 billion for inter-agency appeals between January and November 2019.

**Compliance with international law is declining. Armed conflicts are killing and maiming a record number of children, forcing them to flee their homes.** They are becoming a lost generation. Women and girls are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence. One in five people living in conflict areas has a mental health condition.

**Highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction around the world.** They are taking a heavy toll on civilians, who account for 90 per cent of the casualties when explosive weapons are used in populated areas.

**There were 791 attacks against health workers and health-care facilities in the first nine months of 2019, resulting in 171 deaths.** In 2018, 131 aid workers were killed and 130 were kidnapped in 400 attacks. Attacks against health and aid workers are putting millions of people at risk by denying them care and aid.

## Emerging trends and risks

PP. 16–21

**Climate change is increasing people's vulnerability to humanitarian crises.** The world's eight worst food crises are all linked to both conflict and climate shocks.

**Infectious diseases are becoming more prevalent and harder to control**, because of conflict, weak health systems, poor water and sanitation, and lack of access to vaccinations.

**In 2019, 33 low-income countries were in, or at risk of, debt distress.** Of these, 12 countries with humanitarian appeals are home to 40 per cent of the people in need of humanitarian assistance. A global economic slowdown could further increase vulnerability in countries already experiencing economic stress and debt problems.

## Humanitarian needs and requirements

PP. 22–29

**In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection.** This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world, and is the highest figure in decades. The United Nations and partner organizations aim to assist nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people. This will require funding of $28.8 billion.

**The situation will keep getting worse unless climate change and the root causes of conflict are better addressed.** On current trends, projections show that more than 200 million people could be in need of assistance by 2022.

**The humanitarian system is more effective better prioritized, more innovative and more inclusive than ever.** In the first nine months of 2019, humanitarian organizations reached 64 per cent of people targeted to receive aid through Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).

**Globally, at the start of 2019 some 821 million people were undernourished, including 113 million who suffered from acute hunger.** Conflict is the key driver of hunger. By the beginning of 2019, armed conflicts and persecution had driven a record number of nearly 71 million people from their homes.

## Regional and country overview

PP. 30–67

**Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis, and the number of people in need is expected to remain close to 2019 levels of 24 million**, almost 80 per cent of the population. The humanitarian response in Yemen is also the world's largest, despite huge challenges.

**The conflict in Syria continues to drive the world's largest refugee crisis, with 5.6 million refugees in the region.** In addition, more than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced.

**Humanitarian needs will also remain exceptionally high** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan.

**In Sudan, a deepening economic crisis has significantly increased food insecurity and weakened essential services**, including health, water and education. The new civilian authorities need more international support.

**In the Sahel, displacement has dramatically increased, and hunger has reached critical levels.** In the Lake Chad Basin, the humanitarian crisis shows no signs of abating as it enters its seventh year.

**The needs have also grown significantly in several other countries**, including Afghanistan, where almost one quarter of the population is likely to need humanitarian assistance following years of violent conflict, as well as severe drought.

**In Venezuela, a deepening economic crisis** has led to a severe reduction in the income of many households and a sharp deterioration in water, power and health services, prompting many to leave.

**A deepening political and socioeconomic crisis has also significantly increased needs in Haiti**, with 4.2 million people expected to be food insecure by March 2020.

## More people-centred humanitarian action

PP. 68–79

**We are getting better at addressing the needs of women and girls, and people with disabilities.** We are strengthening efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

**We are working better together** to deliver cash, which can often meet more needs, more efficiently.

**We are also strengthening collaboration** between humanitarian and development organizations.

## Innovative humanitarian financing

PP. 80–85

**Humanitarian organizations have a better understanding of what is needed most urgently, and by whom.** In 2019, anticipatory finance enabled early action in several crises, and risk insurance provided speedy payouts to support rapid response.

**The value of timely and strategic pooled funds was again clearly demonstrated.** As of mid-November 2019, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) had allocated more than $494 million to support urgent needs in 47 countries and territories, while Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) had allocated $701 million in 18 countries.

[1] See p. 28 for a breakdown of the figures.

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# Foreword

**Ouanaminthe, Haiti**
Mark Lowcock with Ivens Louis, a physiotherapist and President of the Fondation Haitienne de Rehabilitation.
*OCHA/Nadia Todres*

We began 2019 expecting humanitarian needs to be similar to those of 2018. We were wrong. Climatic shocks, the unexpected spread of infectious disease, and the impact of protracted and often intensifying conflicts have combined to drive needs to unprecedented levels this year.

Over the course of the year, I met people suffering through these crises in more than 10 countries, among them Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I heard from families whose lives had been changed forever by the Ebola virus outbreak, with loved ones lost – a situation only made worse by decades of insecurity, conflict and chronic poverty. In the Bahamas, I saw first-hand the devastating impact a severe hurricane – made more intense by climate change – can have on homes and livelihoods across nearly an entire country.

I continue to be amazed by people's determination to rebuild, and encouraged by their hope for a better future. I am humbled by the tireless dedication and professionalism of humanitarian staff working on the front lines of human suffering, often at significant personal risk.

Our collective humanitarian system is getting better. We are significantly improving our planning, forecasting and analysis; our ability to prioritize; and our coordination. We can now better identify the people most in need, we can target priority assistance to them, and we can reach them faster. We understand that women, girls and people with disabilities are always particularly vulnerable, and are translating that knowledge into our response plans. We increasingly understand the need to deal with mental trauma as well as people's physical health. We are getting ahead of more crises by taking anticipatory action. Around the world, this is reducing suffering, saving lives and cutting response costs.

In Somalia, for example, early action and a major scale-up of assistance after two failed rains in 2019 meant that 1 million people initially projected to suffer acute hunger were helped out of danger. As deadly storms hit southern Africa, early warnings and pre-positioning of aid helped us limit the number of fatalities and the severity of need. Our system is also making strides in improving coordination between humanitarian and development assistance to reduce vulnerability and risk, mitigating humanitarian need before it occurs.

I am again grateful for the generosity of donors this year. Record levels of humanitarian funding reached those in need. Member States and others provided $16 billion in response to United Nations-coordinated appeals to provide 103 million people with life-saving assistance. Seventy-five per cent of funding for humanitarian responses worldwide is now coordinated through the United Nations, making for a more efficient and effective response.

But needs are growing faster than funding.

There are two main reasons. First, the current state of geopolitics means conflicts are becoming more protracted and intense. Combatants display growing disregard for international humanitarian law. People caught up in conflict suffer displacement, hunger, psychosocial trauma, and loss of their livelihoods, education facilities and health services. That's in addition to the direct impact of fighting, bombing and other violence affecting their physical safety and security.

Second, climate change. More frequent drought and extreme weather events, such as flooding and tropical cyclones, disproportionately affect already poor and vulnerable populations. Eleven of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change have appealed for humanitarian aid in each of the past seven years. We need to do better in prioritizing climate change adaptation as part of humanitarian response.

Slower economic growth and debt problems aggravate conflict and climate change in ways that risk further entrenching humanitarian needs. In 2019, 56 million people in need of humanitarian assistance lived in 12 of the 33 countries in, or at risk of, debt distress.

The number of people needing help will grow in 2020. But humanitarian organizations are getting better at targeting help to the neediest and acting as soon as a problem arises. The humanitarian system is effective. We will continue to strive to improve it.

I fear 2020 will be a difficult year. I count on all your support.

**Mark Lowcock**

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

# Global achievements

## Measuring the number of people reached by the HRPs

**People reached**

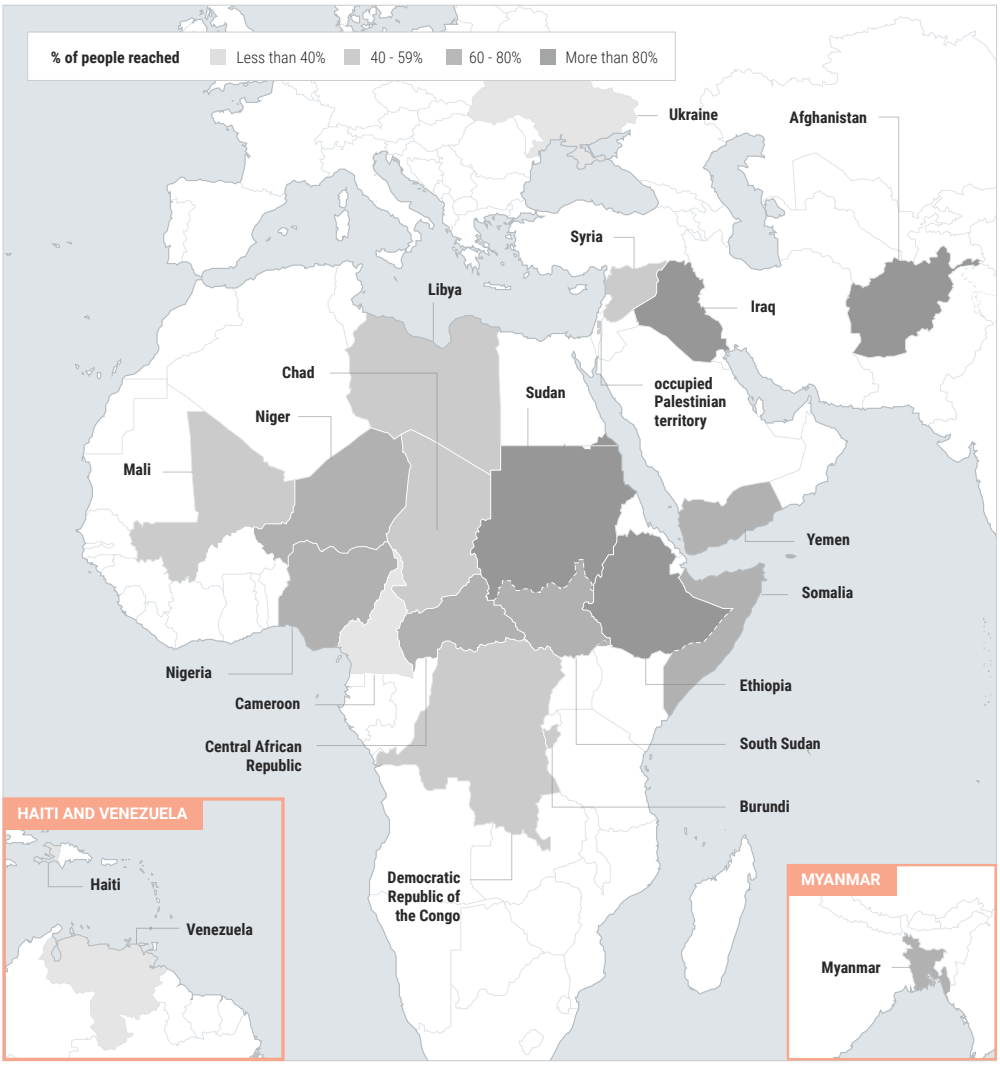
**61.3 million**

**in 22 countries**

**% of people reached**

**64 %**

In 2019, efforts were made across all countries where there was an HRP to measure the number of people reached with assistance at least once.[2] Data were gathered from 22 countries. In the first nine months of 2019, coordinated humanitarian response activities were able to reach more than 61 million people. In 2020, further improvements will be made to the methodology of calculating people reached.




## Pooled funds: localization and predictability

**CERF allocations**

**$6 billion**

CERF has provided more than $6 billion since its creation in 2006. This year, $494 million was provided to assist some 13 million people caught up in 20 underfunded and neglected crises around the world.

**CBPFs allocations**

**$167 million**

CBPFs are the largest source of direct funding to national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), with some $167 million (out of $701 million in total allocations) disbursed to national and local NGOs in 2019.

**NGO representation**

**100 %**

CBPFs uphold inclusive and transparent decision-making processes: all 18 funds include national NGO representatives on their Advisory Boards.



[2] 'Reach' refers to people who have received assistance at least once.

# A snapshot of humanitarian aid delivered globally in 2019

The figures below represent achievements by humanitarian partners. They might not reflect the total number of people reached in each case, but give a strong indication of the magnitude of the collective humanitarian response.

## Health

### Cholera

**900 k**

people were vaccinated in Beira, **Mozambique** in 6 days post-Cyclone Idai.

### Measles

**28.9 M**

children were vaccinated **globally** against measles.[4]

### Ebola

**238 k**

people in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** were vaccinated against Ebola in 2018 and 2019.[5]

## Nutrition

### Malnutrition

**6.9 M**

children (6—59 months), pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition were newly admitted for treatment **globally**.[6]

### Malnutrition

**500 k**

children (6—59 months), pregnant and lactating women were admitted to the malnutrition prevention programme in **South Sudan**.[7]

### Malnutrition

**1.4 M**

caregivers in **Yemen** received skilled Infant and Young Child Feeding support.[7]

## Food, shelter and water

### Shelter

**3.4 M**

refugees provided with shelter in planned settlements and 134,540 tents were delivered in **39 countries**.[8]

### General food distribution

**13.4 M**

people had access to general food distributions in **Yemen** and **Syria**.[9]

### Safe water

**32.2 M**

people provided with access to safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.

## Protection

### Resettlement

**81 k**

resettlement submissions to 29 countries and 55,680 UNHCR-facilitated departures to **27 countries**.[8]

### Legal status

**140 k**

refugees and migrants from **Venezuela** benefited from documentation to access legal status in countries in the region.

### Child protection

**2.6 M**

children and caregivers **worldwide** accessed mental health and psychosocial support.[4]

## Other achievements

### Livestock

**42.0 M**

livestock reached with vaccination and treatment campaigns.

### Education

**61 %**

of refugee children **worldwide** attended primary school.[8]

### Education

**1.3 M**

**Syrian** refugee children enrolled in formal general education in refugee-hosting countries in the region.

[4] Key results achieved against targets for children by UNICEF and partners through the first 8 months of 2019. In some contexts, achievements were constrained by limited resources, including across sectors; inadequate humanitarian access; insecurity; and challenging operating environments.

[5] Data collected between 8 August 2018 and 17 October 2019.

[6] This figure features data collected by the Global Nutrition Cluster from January to June 2019. Breakdown is as follows: 2.6M children under 5 treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), 2.7 M children under 5 treated for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 1.6M pregnant and lactating women).

[7] This figure features data collected by the Global Nutrition Cluster from January to June 2019. Breakdown is as follows: 398,144 children under 5 and 80,911 pregnant and lactating women).

[8] Global-level results from UNHCR and partners for the 2018 refugee response.

[9] WFP emergency dashboard figures as of 31 October 2019.

## Global trends and challenges

# Recent trends and challenges

Dozens of highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction around the world. Armed conflicts are killing and maiming a record number of children, forcing them to flee their homes and putting their lives on hold. Women and girls are at higher risk of sexual violence. Humanitarian action reaches millions around the globe with life-saving assistance – but aid workers are facing growing risks and health workers and health facilities are under attack, putting millions of people at risk by denying them access to vital care and aid.

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Highly violent conflicts take a heavy civilian toll

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Hunger is rising, and conflict is the key driver

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More people are displaced

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Attacks on health care and aid workers continue

**P. 15**
Humanitarian crises increase the risk of gender-based violence

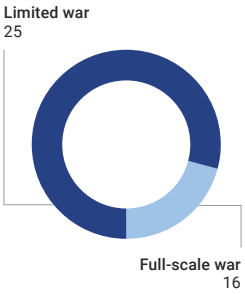
# Highly violent conflicts take a heavy civilian toll

**Benghazi, Libya**
Mohammed and his family managed to return in 2016 to their home that was bombed during the war in 2015. The living conditions are very difficult. Al Saberi area is contaminated with several explosive remnants of war. Mohammed has to walk through these hazardous areas to get to school. *OCHA/Giles Clarke*

Figure 1
**Number of active highly violent conflicts**

**41**

**Type of conflict**




Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, Conflict Barometer 2018

Highly violent conflicts are causing immense suffering and a huge need for humanitarian assistance. For the first time in four years, the number of highly violent conflicts has risen. At the beginning of 2019, there were 41 active highly violent conflicts, an increase from 36 at the beginning of the previous year.[10] These conflicts are taking a heavy toll on civilians, causing deaths, injuries, acute hunger, sexual violence, significant displacement, damage to property, loss of livelihoods and mental health conditions. Explosive weapons are being used in populated areas, including residential areas, markets and places of worship, where more than 90 per cent of the casualties are civilians – 20,300 last year alone.[11]

Sexual violence, mainly towards women and girls, remains prevalent in many armed conflicts and situations of violence, where it is used to terrorize, exert control, repress and displace communities. Persistent constraints on humanitarian access, attacks on aid workers and on health care and health personnel prolong suffering. The impact is especially severe on people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, and the consequences can be long-lasting. An estimated one in five people living in areas beset by armed conflict has a mental health condition including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.[12]

The impacts of armed conflict and other forms of violence are particularly devastating for children. Attacks on schools and medical facilities prevent them from accessing education and interrupt vital health services. Millions are forced to flee their homes in search of safety.

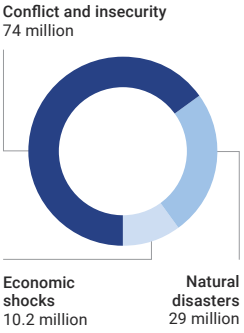
Children under age 18 make up a third of the world's population, but account for half of all refugees and 40 per cent of those internally displaced by conflict and violence. Displacement exposes children to increased risks of malnutrition and disease, and leaves them more vulnerable to forced marriage, forced labour, trafficking and recruitment into armed groups and gangs.

In 2018, more than 12,000 children were killed or maimed by cross-fire incidents, explosive weapons, landmines or combat actions – the highest figure on record. In Afghanistan, nearly one third of all civilian casualties from armed conflict were children. In total, the United Nations (UN) verified more than 24,000 grave violations against children in 20 countries that year, including deaths, injuries, sexual violence, abductions, and the recruitment and use of children in hostilities.

[10] Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, *Conflict Barometer 2018*.
[11] Action on Armed Violence, *Explosive Violence Monitor 2018*.
[12] The Lancet, 'New WHO prevalence estimates of mental disorders in conflict settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis', Volume 394, Issue 10194, pp.240-248, July 20, 2019

# Hunger is rising, and conflict is the key driver

Figure 2
**Main drivers of hunger**




2019 Global Report on Food Crises (as of 31 December 2018)

Hunger is on the rise. For the fourth consecutive year, the number of undernourished people around the world has risen, from 811 million in 2017 to 821 million at the beginning of 2019. Conflict, disasters and economic shocks caused food insecurity to reach crisis levels in 53 countries. A total of 113 million people suffered acute hunger.[13] More than half of them – 65.5 million people – were in Africa.

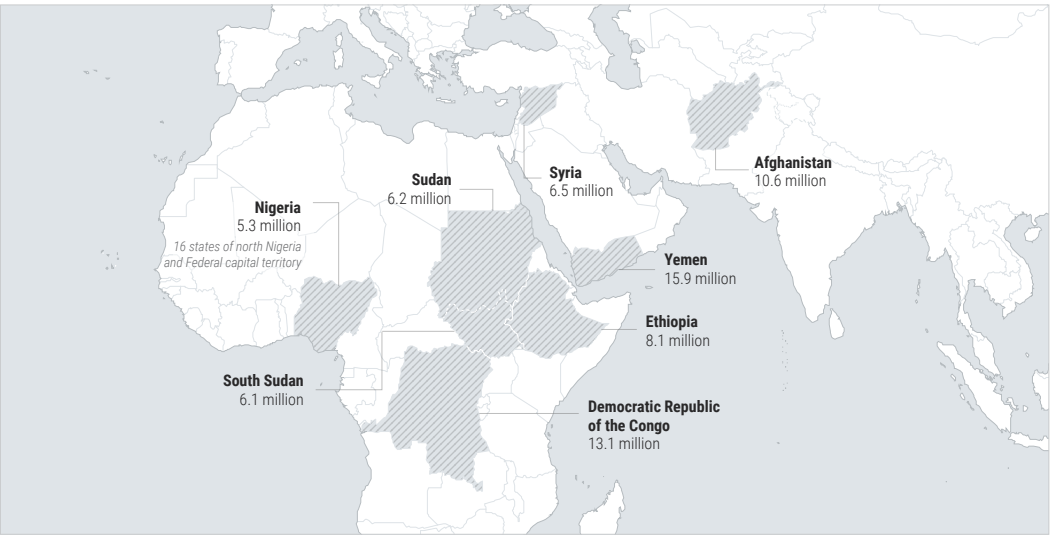
Conflict is the key driver of hunger crises. Two thirds of those facing acute hunger – 74 million people – were in 21 countries and territories affected by conflict and insecurity. The vast majority – 72 million people – were concentrated in just eight countries experiencing humanitarian crises: Yemen, DRC, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and Nigeria. Yemen remained the world's worst food crisis, with more than half the population – 15.9 million people – in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance by the end of the year. In several contexts, parties to conflict deliberately used starvation as a method of warfare, despite specific prohibition under international humanitarian law. Natural disasters were the main driver of hunger for a further 29 million people, and economic shocks were considered the primary driver of acute food insecurity for 10.2 million people in three African countries (Burundi, Sudan and Zimbabwe) and for Venezuelans in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Hunger disproportionately affects women. Even after controlling for other factors, such as poverty status, level of education and area of residence, women in all regions of the world have a 10 per cent higher chance of being food insecure than men. This reveals that gender discrimination is a key factor making access to food more difficult for women, who are more likely to be disadvantaged in the allocation of food.[14]

**Improved food security analysis**

In 2019, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) was updated to incorporate two new scales, measuring chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition, as well as a new classification called 'Famine Likely' to warn about potential famine in contexts where limited data previously was a barrier. New data requirements were also added to enable analysis in areas with limited or no humanitarian access.

Figure 3 **People facing acute hunger in the world's eight worst food crises at the beginning of 2019**




**Hunger disproportionately affects Africa.** Africa has seen a steady rise in the number of people hungry in almost all regions since 2015. More than half of the 113 million people impacted by crisis levels of food insecurity (65.5 million) live in Africa. Almost half of the people (33 million) facing acute hunger where conflict and insecurity was the main driver, reside in Africa. Climate and natural disasters pushed another 23 million people into situations of acute food insecurity – representing 80 per cent of those suffering from climate-induced hunger globally.

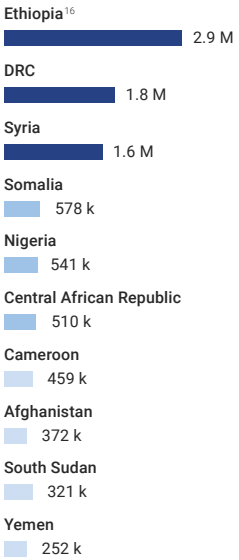
2019 Global Report on Food Crises (as of 31 December 2018)



[13] Acute hunger is defined as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 and above.
[14] FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*, pp.23-24.

# More people are displaced, and displacement lasts longer

Figure 4
**New forced internal displacements**




Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019 (Figures reflect total displacements from 1 January to 31 December 2018 and do not take into account returns)

Armed conflicts and persecution are driving a record number of people from their homes. At the start of 2019, some 70.8 million people were forcibly displaced. In 2018, 13.6 million people were newly displaced by conflict, violence or human rights violations – an average of 37,000 people every day. Natural disasters triggered a further 17.2 million new displacements, often in the same countries. Twenty-eight of the 50 countries with the highest numbers of new displacements faced both conflict and disaster-induced displacement.

The majority of forcibly displaced people remain within their own countries. At the start of 2019, there were 41.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), the highest number on record. Conflicts and violence caused 10.8 million new internal displacements in 2018,[15] the majority in just three countries: Ethiopia,[16] DRC and Syria.

The number of refugees has been growing for seven consecutive years, reaching a new high of 25.9 million at the start of 2019. Half of all refugees are children under age 18, many of whom are crossing borders unaccompanied or separated from their families. While the global refugee population has grown by only 2 per cent, the smallest increase since 2013, there were substantial increases in some parts of the world: West Africa saw a 13.7 per cent increase in the number of refugees, and Southern Africa a 6.7 per cent increase. The refugee population in Turkey has grown by 5.8 per cent – meaning that Turkey alone now hosts 18 per cent of the world's refugees. Refugee situations are also becoming more entrenched. At the beginning of 2019, 78 per cent of all refugees were in situations lasting for more than five years, a sharp rise from 66 per cent the previous year. During 2018 alone, nine situations were newly classified as protracted as they reached the five-year mark.[17]

Developing countries host the majority of the world's refugees. This can place additional strain on already vulnerable populations. Of the 46 protracted refugee situations worldwide, 22 are in least developed countries – and 11 of these countries had their own HRP in 2018.[18]

**Towards durable solutions for IDPs**

On 23 October 2019, the UN Secretary-General announced the establishment of a High-level Panel on Internal Displacement (HLP) to draw international attention to the issue of internal displacement and its impact. The HLP will prepare a report to the UN Secretary-General with concrete and practical recommendations to Member States, the UN system, and other relevant stakeholders on how to better respond to internal displacement, in particular where it is protracted, and how to find durable solutions.

**Aden, Yemen**
A young displaced resident, who fled with her family from Al Hudaydah in mid-2018, now lives with 280 other families in a former school in Dar Saad, Aden. *OCHA/Giles Clarke*

[15] Figures on internal displacement are from Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019*.
[16] Taking into account returns, the IDP population in Ethiopia at the end of 2018 was 2.1 million. On 8 April 2019 the Federal Government of Ethiopia announced its Strategic Plan to Address Internal Displacement and a costed Recovery/Rehabilitation Plan. Government-led IDP return operations began in early May 2019, and most IDP sites and camps had been dismantled by the end of that month, in particular in East/West Wollega and Gedeo/West Guji zones.
[17] Figures on refugees from UNHCR, *Global Trends 2018*.
[18] Note: Cameroon also has situations of protracted displacement and an international humanitarian appeal in 2018, but is not a least developed country.

**Aleppo, Syria**
The Sakhour health centre in Aleppo, Syria, was forced to close in 2012 after heavy fighting left only its external walls standing. Only its external walls were left standing. In April 2019, the centre reopened its doors to provide people with life-saving and primary health care, with support from the Syria Humanitarian Fund and UNHCR.
*OCHA/Hedinn Halldorson*

# Attacks on health care and aid workers continue

Health care continues to come under attack, in violation of international humanitarian law. This is putting millions of lives at risk by denying access to vital health care, preventing vaccination campaigns and hampering the fight against deadly diseases such as Ebola. Hospitals, clinics and ambulances are hit with grenades, improvised explosive devices and heavy weapons, and health workers are threatened, injured and killed. Between January and September 2019, the World Health Organization recorded 825 attacks against health workers and health-care facilities in 10 countries and territories, resulting in 171 deaths – already exceeding the number of reported fatalities for the whole of 2018. That year, WHO recorded 778 attacks on health care from 10 countries and territories, resulting in 156 deaths and 895 injuries.[19]

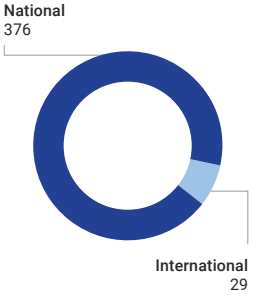
Aid workers face growing risks of being assaulted, shot and kidnapped in the line of duty. 2018 saw the second-highest number of attacks against aid workers on record, and the highest number of victims since 2013. More than 400 aid workers were affected by major violence in 226 attacks in 35 countries; 131 were killed and 130 kidnapped. National staff were disproportionally impacted, representing 85 per cent of victims and 94 per cent of deaths. Male aid workers represented the majority of victims, except in cases of sexual assault, where all reported survivors were female.[20]

**Board of Inquiry in north-west Syria**
On 1 August 2019, the UN Secretary-General established an internal UN Headquarters Board of Inquiry to investigate a series of incidents that have occurred in northwest Syria. The Board, which commenced work on 30 September 2019, will review and investigate a number of specific incidents in which there was destruction of, or damage to, facilities on the UN deconfliction list and UN-supported facilities in the area.

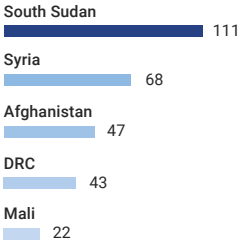
Figure 5
**Victims from attacks against aid workers**

**405**

**By type of staff**




**By country**




The Aid Worker Security Database, *https://aidworkersecurity.org* (Figures from 1 January to 31 December 2018)



[19] World Health Organization, Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care, accessed at: *https://publicspace.who.int/sites/ssa/SitePages/PublicDashboard.aspx*.
[20] Humanitarian Outcomes, *Aid Worker Security Report 2019*.

# Humanitarian crises increase the risk of gender-based violence

**Goma, DRC**
A rape survivor receives care in a hospital in Goma. Sexual violence has been used as a tactic of war by armed parties on all sides of the conflict. *OCHA/Kate Holt*

More than one third of women and girls globally will experience some form of violence in their lifetime, with devastating immediate and long-term impacts on their physical and mental health, education and livelihoods. Gender-based violence (GBV) also has significant social and economic costs. The World Bank estimates that lost productivity as a result of GBV can cost an estimated 1.2–3.7 per cent of gross domestic product in some countries.[21]

While GBV exists everywhere in the world, women and girls in disasters, armed conflict and other situations of violence face increased risks of rape, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, early and forced marriage, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Nine out of the ten countries with the highest rates of child marriage are fragile.[22] In conflict-affected areas of South Sudan, up to 65 per cent of women and girls have experienced physical or sexual violence – double the global rate.[23] Women and girls in situations of displacement are also more vulnerable to trafficking, rape and other forms of sexual assault. In Libya, the overwhelming majority of female migrants and refugees reported either being raped by smugglers or traffickers or witnessing evidence of others being abused.[24]

Despite the scale and severity of GBV in emergencies, prevention and response continue to be under-resourced. Recognizing this, a landmark conference on ending SGBV in humanitarian crises was held in Oslo in May 2019, mobilizing commitments and funding to step up efforts to prevent and respond to GBV in emergencies. More sustained funding is required, in particular for local women's organizations working on gender equality and GBV response. At the same time gender inequalities must be addressed across all sectors, recognizing the positive impact humanitarian programmes can have to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV and to address some of the underlying power imbalances that generate inequality and place women and girls at risk.

[21] World Bank, *www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2018/08/30/fact-sheet-update-on-addressing-gender-based-violence-in-development-projects.*
[22] Based on a comparison of UNICEF data on child marriage and OECD, *States of Fragility 2018.*
[23] What Works To Prevent Violence, *No Safe Place: A lifetime of violence for conflict-affected women and girls in South Sudan*, George Washington University 2017.
[24] UNSMIL and OHCHR, *Desperate and Dangerous: Report on the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in Libya*, December 2018.

## Global trends and challenges

# Emerging trends and risks

The impacts of climate change, infectious diseases, economic shocks and rising debt are exacerbating humanitarian crises and making responses more complex. In the coming years, these trends are likely to increase vulnerability, putting millions more people at risk of being pushed into humanitarian crisis.

**P. 17**
Climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities

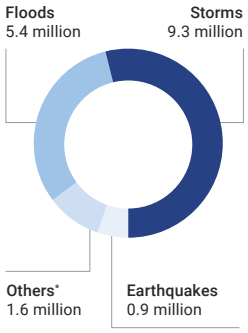
**P. 18**
Slower economic growth and debt problems risk entrenching humanitarian needs

**P. 19**
Millions in humanitarian crises are at risk from preventable diseases

**P. 20**
In focus: Sub-Saharan Africa

# Climate change exacerbates vulnerabilities

Figure 6
**Leading causes of disaster displacements**




*Droughts 764 k, Wildfires 424 k, Others 404 k

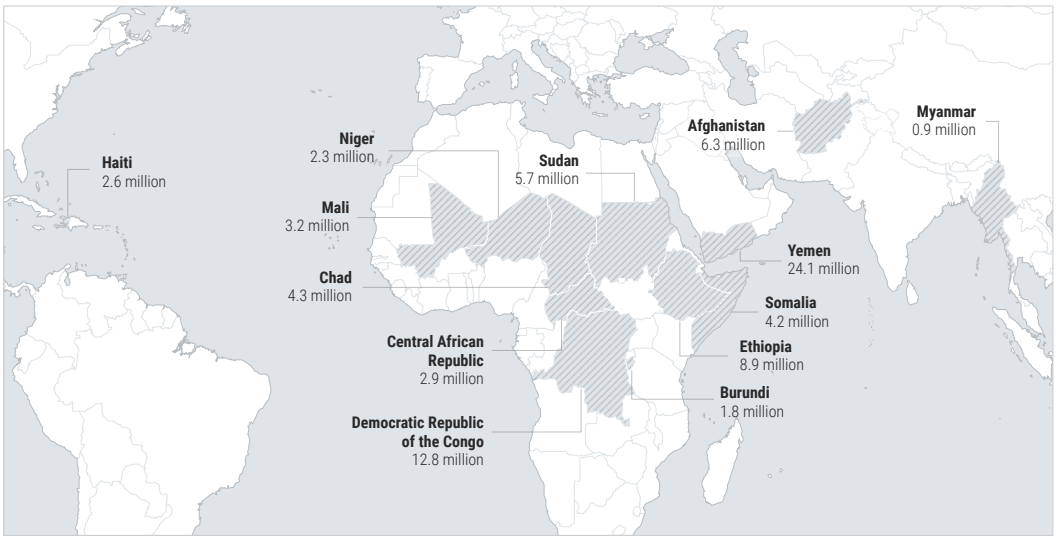
Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019 (Figures from 1 January to 31 December 2018)

Climate change is causing more extreme weather events. Storms and flooding are becoming more intense, while protracted and repeated droughts are disrupting food chains and threatening livelihoods. Climate variability and extremes are key drivers of the recent rise in global hunger and among the leading causes of severe food crises. As climate change causes temperatures to rise, risks to health, livelihoods, food security, energy, water supply and economic growth are projected to increase,[25] and with them, vulnerability to humanitarian crises.

The impact of climate change disproportionately affects the poor and vulnerable. Exposure to multiple and overlapping risks erodes people's resilience and increases the likelihood they will need humanitarian assistance. The impact is particularly devastating where conflict and climatic events come together. The world's eight worst food crises are all linked to both conflict and climate shocks. In sub-Saharan Africa, combinations of conflict, floods, droughts and other natural hazards led new internal displacements to double in just three years (2015–2018). Some of the poorest and most vulnerable are trapped in a vicious cycle, unable to leave high-risk areas or facing new risks as they move to urban areas that lack adequate housing, infrastructure and services. In 2018, 6 of the 10 largest flooding events that triggered displacement were in sub-Saharan Africa, and urban areas were the worst hit.[26]

In 2019, 13 of the 20 countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change[27] had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal. Eleven have had an appeal for the past seven consecutive years (2013–2019). Yet climate adaptation efforts are not prioritized as a part of humanitarian response. A recent study looking at humanitarian response in five highly disaster-vulnerable countries between 2016 and 2018 found that only 3 per cent of projects included in inter-agency appeals in these countries had a climate change component, and less than half of these received funding.[28] Within the scope of humanitarian action, anticipating climate-related crises and acting early can help mitigate the impact of climate on other political, demographic and socioeconomic pressures and, ultimately, save people's lives and livelihoods.

Figure 7 **People in need in 13 of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change with HRPs in 2019**



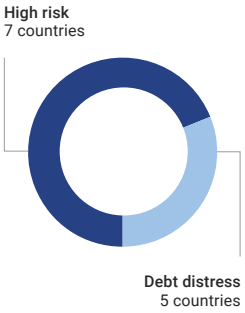

The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience. The 20 most vulnerable countries in 2019 are (from most to least vulnerable): Somalia, Chad, Eritrea, CAR, DRC, Sudan, Niger, Haiti, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Burundi, Liberia, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Mali, Congo, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Papua New Guinea. Of those, 13 had an HRP in 2019, with a total of 80 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

2019 Global Report on Food Crises (as of 31 December 2018)

[25] International Panel on Climate Change, *Global Warming of 1.5°C – Summary for Policymakers.*
[26] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2019.*
[27] As determined by the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index, University of Notre Dame.
[28] Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 'Quantifying climate change relevant humanitarian programming and spending across five highly disaster vulnerable countries', forthcoming. The five countries were Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Syria.

# Slower economic growth and debt problems risk entrenching humanitarian needs

Figure 8
**Risk of debt distress in countries with HRPs**




International Monetary Fund, (as of 31 August 2019)

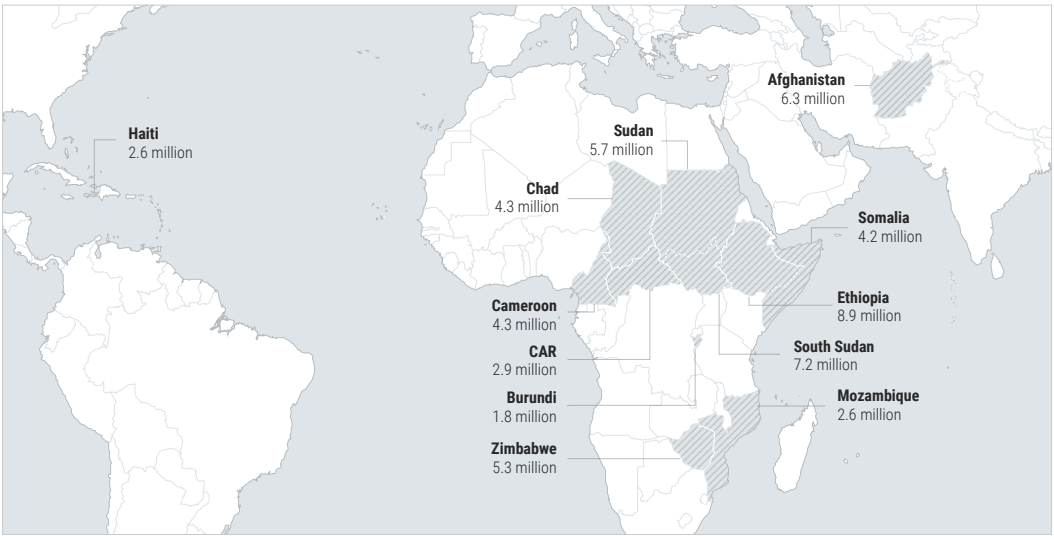
Although the world's economy continues to grow, the gains are uneven. Slow global growth in 2019 could further increase vulnerability in countries already experiencing damaging economic slowdowns and downturns.

Economic slowdowns coincide with increase in hunger. Sixty-five of the 77 countries where undernourishment increased between 2011 and 2017 experienced an economic slowdown or downturn. Most of those countries (52 out of 65) are highly dependent on primary commodities, making them particularly vulnerable to price fluctuations. Ninety-six per cent of people facing acute food insecurity live in high-commodity dependent countries such as Venezuela, where the prevalence of undernourishment has increased almost fourfold since 2014, coinciding with a period of severe recession and high inflation. Countries with weak governance and institutions, or facing armed conflict, civil unrest or instability, are those particularly vulnerable to the impact of economic decline. In 2018, 14 of the 21 countries that experienced a food crisis due to conflict and civil insecurity were also undergoing a deep economic recession.[29]

An emerging debt crisis may further exacerbate humanitarian needs. In August 2019, 33 low-income countries were assessed as being in, or at high risk of, debt distress.[30] Of these, more than one third (12) had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal in 2019, accounting for almost 40 per cent – 56 million – of people in need of humanitarian assistance. Ten of these countries host some 12.5 million people internally displaced by conflict and violence – more than 30 per cent of the global total.[31]

High debt constrains economic growth, increases vulnerability to economic shocks and detracts from development spending. Yet lending to countries with humanitarian appeals is increasing rapidly. Unsustainable debt levels in already fragile situations threaten countries' ability to move out of crisis, and will likely result in an increase in the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in the coming years.

Figure 9 **People in need in countries in or at high risk of debt distress with HRPs in 2019**




International Monetary Fund and OCHA, 2019

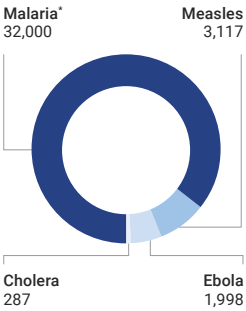


[29] All data in this paragraph from FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*.
[30] IMF, *www.imf.org/external/Pubs/ft/dsa/DSAlist.pdf*.
[31] Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Sudan. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre database (figures as of 31 December 2018).

# Millions in humanitarian crises are at risk of preventable diseases

**Mbuji-Mayi, DRC**
Dr. Elvis Badianga Kumbu holds a little girl in his arms after she was treated at the Mbuji-Mayi Children's Hospital in DRC. *UNICEF/ Vincent Tremeau*

Figure 10
**DRC - deaths from infectious diseases**




* Estimate based on average annual deaths

World Health Organization
(1 January–31 August 2019)

Protracted crises, displacement and climate change are placing millions of people at increased risk of diseases.[32] Active conflict, weak health systems, poor water and sanitation, and lack of access to vaccinations are increasing the prevalence of some infectious diseases, while making others harder to control. Disease outbreaks are worsening humanitarian needs in some of the world's most dire emergencies, demanding more resources and making responses more complex. Yemen, the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, is also fighting the worst cholera outbreak in recorded history. In DRC, the Ebola outbreak that began in August 2018 is the second-largest and deadliest in history, adding to an already enormous and complex humanitarian situation in the country.

Globally, infectious diseases pose a growing threat to millions of people. Outbreaks of cholera impact 3 million to 5 million people a year. After years of progress, cases of measles have spiked around the world due to gaps in vaccination coverage. Across Africa, reported cases in the first three months of 2019 were 700 per cent higher than for the same period in 2018. The global incidence of dengue has also grown dramatically in recent years, with half of the world's population – approximately 3.7 billion people – now at risk. Progress in combating malaria has stalled, with no significant gains made in reducing cases in the past three years. Despite important progress to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, gains are getting smaller each year, and annual HIV infections and/or AIDS-related deaths are rising in some places, including in 13 countries that had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal in 2018.[33]

Viral haemorrhagic diseases such as Ebola are rarer, but outbreaks are becoming more complicated to contain.

If these trends continue, more people will be at risk from humanitarian health crises in the coming years. Humanitarian responses can prevent and reduce the number of cases and deaths from infectious diseases through prompt and effective diagnosis and treatment, but the root causes need to be tackled. Scaling up vaccination programmes, investing in local health systems and increasing the safety of health-care facilities and workers will be critical to reduce current caseloads and manage future risks.

**Infectious diseases are not gender neutral**
The biological sex of a person can impact the exposure to a disease, as well as the severity and treatment. Infant boys have naturally weaker immune systems, making them more susceptible to infectious diseases and driving up infant mortality rates.[34] Some diseases are particularly severe for pregnant women, or may affect unborn children. Gender roles can also have a significant impact on exposure to viruses and access to health care. Women and girls are more likely than men to be caregivers for the sick, which increases their susceptibility to diseases that are transmitted by close contact, such as Ebola. They are often responsible for collecting water and preparing food, increasing their exposure to diseases such as cholera. In certain regions, women and girls are more vulnerable to contracting HIV due to greater exposure to sexual violence, exploitation and other harmful sociocultural factors.

[32] Unless otherwise stated, all figures in this section are from WHO.
[33] Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Libya, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.
Based on a comparison between inter-agency appeals (HRP and other appeals) in FTS and data on changes in new infection rates and AIDS-related deaths since 2010 from UNAIDS Data 2019.
[34] WHO, *Addressing sex and gender in epidemic-prone infectious diseases.* (2007)

# *In focus:* Sub-Saharan Africa

Figure 11 **Duration of humanitarian appeals in countries in sub-Saharan Africa** (2005–2019)

For the past 15 years, the majority of inter-agency humanitarian appeals have taken place in sub-Saharan African[35] countries. Between 2005 and 2019, 48 countries and territories had at least one inter-agency humanitarian appeal.[36] More than half of these countries were in sub-Saharan Africa.

Humanitarian organizations are also staying longer in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else. Between 2005 and 2019, the average length of an inter-agency humanitarian appeal in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 4.4 years to 11.2 years. Out of the nine countries that have had an inter-agency appeal for 10 consecutive years, five have been in sub-Saharan Africa and three have had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal for 20 consecutive years.

[35] Unless specified otherwise, sub-Saharan Africa refers to countries listed in the SDG Regional Group "Sub-Saharan Africa" by the UN Statistics Division, see: *https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups*.

[36] OCHA, *World Humanitarian Data and Trends dataset 2018*, updated with Financial Tracking System (2018–2019). Only appeals of a minimum one-year duration were counted.

## Current and future trends

Current and future trends suggest that without political, economic and development action that addresses the root causes of humanitarian need in sub-Saharan Africa, humanitarian organizations will continue to respond to escalating needs for decades to come. As a result, the UN Secretary-General has made it a priority for all humanitarian, development and peace organizations to collaborate more closely by working towards collective outcomes aimed at reducing risk, vulnerability and need. Humanitarian action can further contribute to reducing people's need and vulnerability in sub-Saharan Africa by anticipating crises and acting early, ensuring humanitarian programmes are promoting gender equality and placing women in positions of decision-making, supporting children and youth to have access to quality education in crises and reinforcing local action wherever possible.

### Women and girls

**School completion**

**< 60 %**

of girls in a sub-Saharan African country with an inter-agency humanitarian appeal completed primary school, compared with 90 per cent at the global level.

World Bank, *The Little Data Book on Gender 2019*

**Maternal mortality**

**2.5 x**

On average, sub-Saharan African countries with an inter-agency humanitarian appeal had a maternal mortality rate 2.5 times higher than the world average.

World Bank, *The Little Data Book on Gender 2019*

**Early pregnancy**

**42 %**

of women living in urban areas in sub-Saharan Africa aged 15–24 had a pregnancy before age 18. In rural areas, this figure increases to more than 50 per cent.

World Bank, *The Little Data Book on Gender 2019*

### Health and food security

**Child mortality**

**20 x**

A child born in sub-Saharan Africa in 2019 is still 20 times more likely to die before his or her fifth birthday than a child born in Australia or New Zealand.

UNDESA, *World Population Prospects 2019*

**Undernourishment**

**239 million**

In 2018, more than 239 million people were undernourished in sub-Saharan Africa, the equivalent of one in four people. More than half were in countries affected by conflict.

UNDESA, *World Population Prospects 2019*

**Life expectancy** 2050

**68.5 years**

Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest expected improvement in life expectancy at birth, which could reach 68.5 years by 2050, a projected gain of 7.4 years.

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019*

### Economy and climate

**Debt distress**

**18**

countries in sub-Saharan Africa are in, or at risk, of debt distress. Ten of these countries had an inter-agency humanitarian appeal in 2019.

International Monetary Fund

**Extreme poverty** 2030

**416 million**

will be living in extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. This would be 9 in 10 of the world's extreme poor, compared with about 7 in 10 today.

World Bank

**Climate change** 2050

**86 million**

By 2050, climate change is estimated to create up to 86 million migrants in sub-Saharan Africa, in addition to the 18 million migrants already living within the region.

World Bank, *Groundswell: Preparing for Internal Climate Migration, 2018*

### Population and education

**Education gap**

**20 %**

of children between the ages of 6 and 11 are out of school. The region has the fastest-growing school-age population and the highest rates of education exclusion.

UNESCO

**Youth population** 2050

**50 %**

The number of youth will increase by almost 500 million and is expected to make up more than half of the population by 2050.

UNDESA, *World Urbanization Prospects 2018*

**Urbanization** 2050

**60 %**

Sub-Saharan Africa is the fastest urbanizing region in the world today. By 2050, more than 60 per cent of sub-Saharan Africans could be living in urban areas.

UNDESA, *World Urbanization Prospects 2018*

**Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**
UNHCR/Paula Bronstein

## Humanitarian outlook

# Needs and requirements

In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world, and is the highest figure in decades. Funding of $28.8 billion is needed to enable the United Nations and our partner organizations to reach nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people with life-saving assistance.

**P. 24**
Needs and requirements:
Results from 2019

**P. 25**
Needs and requirements:
Overview for 2020

# Needs and requirements
## *Results from 2019*

**Rann, Nigeria**
Seven-year-old Serah, an internally displaced girl in Rann, Borno State, north-eastern Nigeria. *OCHA/ Yasmina Guerda*

When the 2019 GHO was launched on 4 December 2018, it presented initial funding requirements of $21.9 billion[37] to assist 93.6 million of the 131.7 million people in need in 42 countries. To present a more accurate and comprehensive estimate of global humanitarian needs, this figure was revised to include the regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) and other appeals. By this estimate, the total number of people in need of assistance at the beginning of 2019 was 145.7 million. The UN and partners were aiming to assist 103.2 million of the most vulnerable people in 53 countries, with a total financial requirement of $28.1 billion.[38]

During 2019, new crises emerged, such as in Madagascar, Mozambique, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, and needs increased in several other countries, bringing the total number of people in need to 166.5 million, with the UN and partners aiming to assist 117.4 million people and a total financial requirement of $29.7 billion.

As of 13 November 2019, global funding for humanitarian activities as reported to OCHA's Financial Tracking service (FTS) reached nearly $21.5 billion. Funding for inter-agency coordinated plans stood at a record $16 billion, about 54 per cent of the total requirements. More reported funding than ever before – almost 75 per cent of the total – was being directed towards response plans coordinated by the UN and partners.

Just two emergencies – Yemen and Syria and the region – received 42 per cent of all humanitarian funding for 2019. As in previous years, coverage varied widely across individual appeals. As of mid-November, appeals for Haiti and Venezuela were less than 30 per cent funded, whereas those for Ethiopia, Iraq, Madagascar and Myanmar received more than 80 per cent of their requirements.

The $16 billion raised towards inter-agency appeals thus far in 2019 demonstrate the increasing generosity of donors and the commitment of the international community to reduce humanitarian suffering. Nonetheless, growing needs continue to outstrip the resources available to meet them.

**High-level pledging events coordinated by OCHA**

Yemen (February 2019): At the Yemen event, donors pledged $2.62 billion to meet the needs of people affected by the conflict. As of 8 November 2019, 79 per cent of pledges had been committed, with full commitment expected by the end of the year.

Syria and the region (March 2019): At the 'Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region (Brussels III)' event, significant pledges for humanitarian, development and stabilization activities were made, totalling $7 billion for 2019 and nearly $2.4 billion for 2020 and beyond. Syria crisis pledges for 2019 have been fully committed.[39]

Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises (May 2019): The first-ever international conference to end SGBV specifically in humanitarian crises was held in Oslo in May. In addition to political, policy and best practice commitments, 21 donors pledged $363 million for 2019 and 2020 and beyond for activities to respond to and prevent SGBV. Of this amount, $226.2 million was announced for 2019 alone. To maintain momentum, a robust follow-up mechanism will be established at the beginning of 2020.

[37] This was the headline figure in the 2019 GHO. It includes all the HRPs, except Syria. RRPs except for the Syria 3RP and the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Response Plan were not included. Other plans (the Bangladesh JRP, DPRK Needs and Requirements, Pakistan and the Philippines) were not included either.

[38] Includes the headline figures and other appeals (as mentioned in the footnote above), and all RRPs excluding those requirements covered in HRPs. The Syria HRP is included.

[39] European Commission, *Supporting Syria and the Region: Post-Brussels Conference Financial Tracking: Report 8*, September 2019.

# Needs and requirements
## *Overview for 2020*

**Mazar, Afghanistan**
Mariam and her family fled conflict and found refuge in this village, set in a barren land, 20 kilometers away from Mazar. *OCHA/Charlotte Cans*

In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world, and is the highest figure in decades. The UN and partner organizations aim to assist nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people in 53 countries, and will require funding of $28.8 billion to do so.[40]

**A more comprehensive and accurate picture of humanitarian needs**
To present a more accurate and comprehensive estimate of global humanitarian needs, the 2020 GHO global figures include the regional RRPs and other appeals. Estimates of people in need of humanitarian assistance were also refined through the use of improved data analysis techniques.

**Humanitarian needs increase due to insecurity and climate**
Conflict is the main driver of escalating needs, but in many places, people face a combination of conflict and climatic events, which disrupt their lives and livelihoods, erode their coping capacities and increase their vulnerability to new shocks or hazards.

One of the first measurable consequences is food insecurity, which has risen in virtually every country showing increased needs in 2020. In Sudan, a deepening economic crisis has significantly increased food insecurity, driving an additional 3.6 million people to need humanitarian assistance in 2020. In DRC, a wider geographic scope of analysis of food security has produced evidence of additional food insecure areas in the country, revealing the needs of an additional 3.1 million people compared to 2019. Similarly, in Afghanistan, a broadened scope of vulnerability analysis, together with the impact of ongoing conflict and drought, has increased the number of people in need by 3.1 million.

Below-average rains and crop production compounded by persistent insecurity have driven an additional 1 million people in Somalia into humanitarian need. In Niger, a combination of escalating violence and insecurity both in the country and region, as well as improved data coverage, has increased the number of people in need by nearly 1 million people.

Regionally, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa show the largest increase of people in need, with 14.7 million more people in need of humanitarian assistance in early 2020 compared with the same time last year.

**Tighter targeting in 2020**
Improved analysis has enabled humanitarian organizations to more precisely identify groups of people or geographic areas where needs are the most acute and prioritize their responses accordingly, affecting financial requirements. In many countries, humanitarian organizations have also expanded dialogue with development partners, allowing for humanitarian planning to consider which needs can be met through other assistance frameworks. More details are provided on the improved Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) approach on p. 70 of this report.

**High-level events in 2020**
In 2020, it is likely that high-level resource mobilization events will be held for the Yemen and Syria crises, as both will require continued large-scale funding, partner engagement and policy dialogue. Key stakeholders (including donors, UN agencies and NGOs) have discussed other geographically focused events, including for the Sahel region and Sudan as strong possibilities. Ideally, these events would take place in the first half of the year. Following the success of the Oslo conference to end SGBV, plans are also under way for another thematic high-level event.

[40] Includes all requirements for 2020, excluding RRP requirements already reflected in HRPs, to avoid double counting.

# Needs and requirements

## *Results from 2019*

As of 13 November 2019

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$29.70 B**

**FUNDING RECEIVED** (US$)

**$15.96 B**

**FUNDING COVERAGE**

**54%**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**166.5 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**117.4 M**

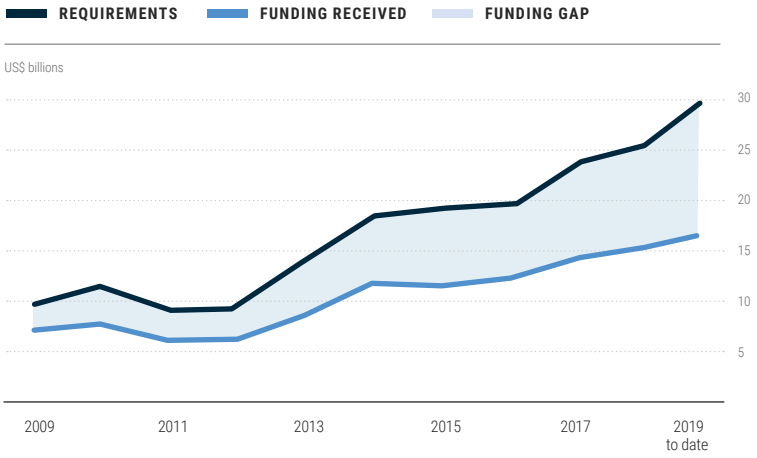
Response plans typically target a subset (usually the large majority) of people in need, because affected country governments and other entities target a portion, and/or because of capacity and access constraints among organizations participating in the response plan.

Includes all requirements for 2019, excluding RRP requirements already reflected in HRPs, to avoid double counting.

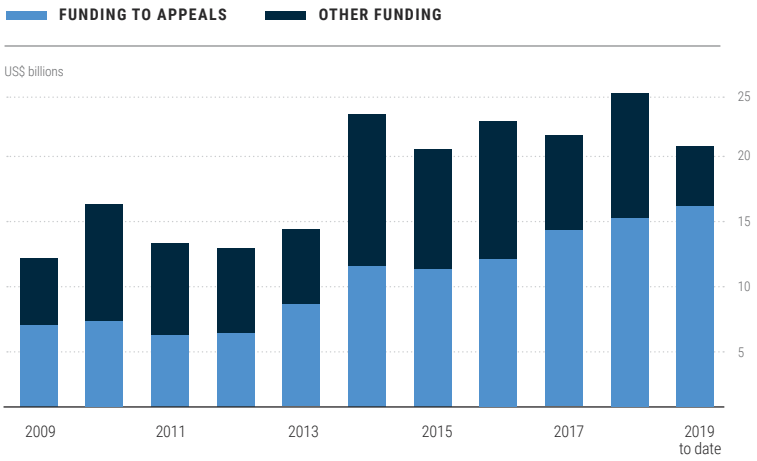
| INTER-AGENCY APPEAL | APPEAL TYPE | FUNDING REQUIRED | FUNDING RECEIVED | FUNDING COVERAGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Afghanistan** | HRP | $611.8 M | $423.4 M | **69.2%** |
| **Burundi** | HRP | $106.3 M | $64.3 M | **60.5%** |
| **Cameroon** | HRP | $298.9 M | $123.6 M | **41.3%** |
| **CAR** | HRP | $430.7 M | $287.2 M | **66.7%** |
| **Chad** | HRP | $476.6 M | $231.9 M | **48.6%** |
| **DRC** | HRP | $1.65 B | $680.9 M | **41.2%** |
| **Ethiopia** | HRP | $771.5 M | $646.6 M | **83.8%** |
| **Haiti** | HRP | $126.2 M | $36.1 M | **28.6%** |
| **Iraq** | HRP | $701.2 M | $611.7 M | **87.2%** |
| **Libya** | HRP | $201.6 M | $97.8 M | **48.5%** |
| **Mali** | HRP | $324.0 M | $160.0 M | **49.4%** |
| **Mozambique** | HRP | $620.5 M | $291.6 M | **47.0%** |
| **Myanmar** | HRP | $214.4 M | $172.3 M | **80.4%** |
| **Niger** | HRP | $383.1 M | $221.7 M | **57.9%** |
| **Nigeria** | HRP | $847.7 M | $504.5 M | **59.5%** |
| **oPt** | HRP | $350.6 M | $202.6 M | **57.8%** |
| **Somalia** | HRP | $1.08 B | $812.3 M | **75.4%** |
| **South Sudan** | HRP | $1.51 B | $1.01 B | **67.0%** |
| **Sudan** | HRP | $1.15 B | $582.0M | **50.6%** |
| **Syria** | HRP | $3.29 B | $1.73 B | **36.2%** |
| **Ukraine** | HRP | $164.4 M | $81.1 M | **49.3%** |
| **Venezuela** | HRP | $222.7 M | $55.5 M | **24.9%** |
| **Yemen** | HRP | $4.19 B | $2.97 B | **70.9%** |
| **Madagascar** | FA | $32.4 M | $29.2 M | **89.9%** |
| **Zimbabwe** | FA | $467.9 M | $233.3 M | **49.9%** |
| **Burundi** *Regional* | RRP | $261.7 M | $85.4M | **33.0%** |
| **DRC** *Regional* | RRP | $676.8 M | $146.9 M | **22.0%** |
| **Nigeria** *Regional* | RRP | - | - | **-** |
| **South Sudan** *Regional* | RRP | $984.5 M | $348.2 M | **35.0%** |
| **Syria** *Regional* | RRP | $5.53 B | $2.01 B | **36.2%** |
| **Bangladesh** | Other | $920.5 M | $613.9 M | **66.7%** |
| **Burkina Faso** | Other | $187.0 M | $76.6 M | **41.0%** |
| **DPR Korea** | Other | $120.3 M | $32.0 M | **26.6%** |
| **Iran** | Other | $25.0 M | $9.6 M | **38.5%** |
| **Venezuela** *Regional* | Other | $737.6 M | $382.6 M | **51.9%** |

| CERF ALLOCATIONS | CBPFs ALLOCATIONS | PEOPLE IN NEED | PEOPLE TARGETED |
|---|---|---|---|
| $16.0 M | $48.7 M | 6.3 M | **4.5 M** |
| $2.4 M | - | 1.8 M | **712 k** |
| $16.3 M | - | 4.3 M | **2.3 M** |
| - | $23.8 M | 2.9 M | **1.7 M** |
| $11.0 M | - | 4.3 M | **2.0 M** |
| $45.7 M | $67.4 M | 12.8 M | **9.0 M** |
| $21.1 M | $35.4 M | 8.9 M | **8.3 M** |
| $11.2 M | - | 2.6 M | **1.3 M** |
| - | $72.8 M | 6.7 M | **1.8 M** |
| $3.8 M | - | 823 k | **552 k** |
| $6.0 M | - | 3.2 M | **2.3 M** |
| $28.9 M | - | 2.6 M | **2.4 M** |
| $3.5 M | $9.4 M | 941 k | **941 k** |
| $16.0 M | - | 2.3 M | **1.6 M** |
| - | $10.0 M | 7.1 M | **6.2 M** |
| $7.7 M | $24.5 M | 2.5 M | **1.4 M** |
| $41.9 M | $41.3 M | 4.2 M | **3.4 M** |
| $12.9 M | $70.2 M | 7.2 M | **5.7 M** |
| $43.4 M | $32.5 M | 5.7 M | **4.4 M** |
| - | $34.8 M | 11.7 M | **11.7 M** |
| $6.0 M | $1.6 M | 3.5 M | **2.3 M** |
| $10.0 M | - | 7.0 M | **2.7 M** |
| $31.7 M | $130.0 M | 24.1 M | **21.4 M** |
| $5.0 M | - | 890 k | **460 k** |
| $14.1 M | - | 5.3 M | **2.2 M** |
| - | - | 223 k | **223 k** |
| - | - | 727 k | **727 k** |
| - | - | - | **-** |
| - | - | 1.5 M | **1.5 M** |
| - | $89.8 M | 5.6 M | **5.6 M** |
| $15.3 M | - | 1.2 M | **1.2 M** |
| $10.0 M | - | 1.2 M | **900 k** |
| $6.0 M | - | 10.9 M | **3.8 M** |
| $2.0 M | - | 2.0 M | **115 k** |
| $6.0 M | - | 3.6 M | **2.2 M** |

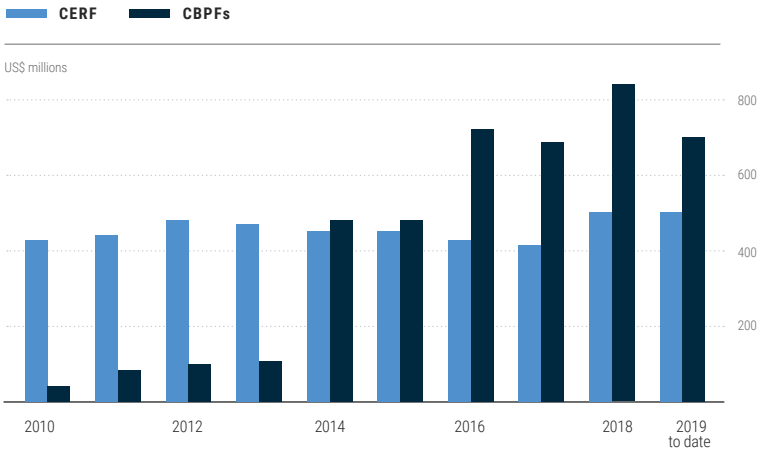
## **Funding Gap** (2009–2019)




## **Global Humanitarian Funding** (2009–2019)




## **Pooled Funds Allocations** (2010–2019)




All data as of 13 November 2019.

# Needs and requirements

## *Overview for 2020*

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$28.80B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**167.6M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**108.8M**

Response plans typically target a subset (usually the large majority) of people in need, because affected country governments and other entities target a portion, and/or because of capacity and access constraints among organizations participating in the response plan.

Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRPs, RRPS' components of countries without HRP, plus the Ethiopia component of the South Sudan RRP as the HRP does not include refugees, and other appeals.

| INTER-AGENCY APPEAL | APPEAL TYPE | FUNDING REQUIRED | FUNDING REQUIRED | VARIATION FROM 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Afghanistan** | HRP | $732.6 M | | + 20% |
| **Burkina Faso** | HRP | $295.0 M | | + 58% |
| **Burundi** | HRP | $104.0 M | | - 2% |
| **Cameroon** | HRP | $317.0 M | | + 6% |
| **CAR** | HRP | $387.8 M | | - 10% |
| **Chad** | HRP | $500.0 M | | + 5% |
| **DRC** | HRP | $1.82 B | | + 10% |
| **Ethiopia** | HRP | $973.0 M | | + 26% |
| **Haiti** | HRP | $252.5 M | | + 100% |
| **Iraq** | HRP | $520.0 M | | - 26% |
| **Libya** | HRP | $110.0 M | | - 45% |
| **Mali** | HRP | $365.6 M | | + 13% |
| **Myanmar** | HRP | $215.0 M | | 0% |
| **Niger** | HRP | $373.5 M | | - 3% |
| **Nigeria** | HRP | $789.0 M | | - 7% |
| **oPt** | HRP | $348.0 M | | - 1% |
| **Somalia** | HRP | $1.03 B | | - 4% |
| **South Sudan** | HRP | $1.54 B | | + 2% |
| **Sudan** | HRP | $1.40 B | | + 22% |
| **Syria** | HRP | $3.30 B | | 0% |
| **Ukraine** | HRP | $157.8 M | | - 4% |
| **Venezuela** | HRP | $750.0 M | | + 237% |
| **Yemen** | HRP | $3.20 B | | - 24% |
| **Burundi** *Regional* [41] | RRP | $235.8 M | | - 10% |
| **DRC** *Regional* [41] | RRP | $604.6 M | | - 11% |
| **Nigeria** *Regional* [41] | RRP | - | | - |
| **South Sudan** *Regional* [41] | RRP | $951.0 M | | - 3% |
| **Syria** *Regional* [41] | RRP | $5.20 B | | - 6% |
| **Bangladesh** | Other | $871.0 M | | - 5% |
| **DPR Korea** | Other | $107.0 M | | - 11% |
| **Venezuela** *Regional* | Other | $1.35 B | | + 82% |

[41] The RRP components included in the 2020 GHO requirements are as follows: **Syria 3RP**: fully included. **Burundi RRP**: Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda components included. DRC excluded. **DRC RRP**: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included. Burundi excluded. **Nigeria RRP**: Fully excluded (Cameroon, Chad, Niger). **South Sudan RRP**: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded.

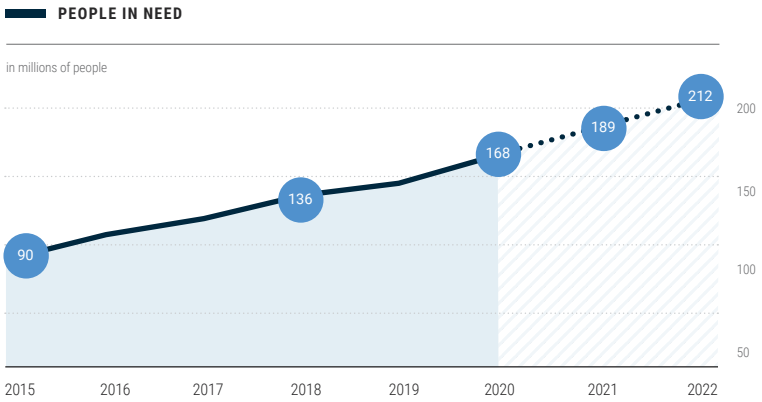
| PEOPLE IN NEED | PEOPLE TARGETED | PEOPLE TARGETED | VARIATION IN PT FROM 2019 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9.4 M | 7.1 M | | + 59% |
| 2.2 M | 1.8 M | | + 100% |
| 1.7 M | 630 k | | - 11% |
| 4.4 M | 2.6 M | | + 14% |
| 2.6 M | 1.6 M | | - 6% |
| 4.8 M | 2.6 M | | + 30% |
| 15.9 M | 8.1 M | | - 10% |
| 8.0 M | 6.5 M | | - 22% |
| 4.6 M | 2.1 M | | + 62% |
| 4.1 M | 1.8 M | | + 1% |
| 880 k | 340 k | | - 38% |
| 3.6 M | 2.9 M | | + 26% |
| 986 k | 848 k | | - 10% |
| 3.2 M | 1.9 M | | + 19% |
| 7.7 M | 5.7 M | | - 8% |
| 2.4 M | 1.5 M | | + 7% |
| 5.2 M | 3.0 M | | - 12% |
| 7.5 M | 5.6 M | | - 2% |
| 9.3 M | 5.0 M | | + 14% |
| 11.0 M | 9.0 M | | - 23% |
| 3.4 M | 2.0 M | | - 13% |
| 7.0 M | 3.5 M | | + 31% |
| 24.0 M | 15.6 M | | - 27% |
| 250 k | 250 k | | + 12% |
| 740 k | 740 k | | + 2% |
| - | - | | - |
| 1.2 M | 1.2 M | | - 18% |
| 5.6 M | 5.6 M | | 0% |
| 1.3 M | 1.3 M | | + 7% |
| 10.8 M | 5.5 M | | + 45% |
| 3.8 M | 2.5 M | | + 12% |

## Main differences in humanitarian requirements (2019–2020)

The headline figures for 2020 published in this report include all inter-agency appeals. (In previous years some have not been included in the headline.) The table below provides a reconciliation to allow like-with-like comparisons with 2019.

| | REQUIREMENTS | IN NEED | TARGETED |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GHO 2019 – At launch** [42]<br>As published on 4 December 2018 | $21.9 B | 131.7 M | 93.6 M |
| **GHO 2019 – Adjusted** [43]<br>Adjusted to include all inter-agency appeals, as of December 2018 | $28.1 B | 145.7 M | 103.2 M |
| **GHO 2019 – November** [44]<br>Total 2019 needs: GHO 2019 – Adjusted, plus additional needs arising during 2019 | $29.7 B | 166.5 M | 117.4 M |
| **GHO 2020** [45]<br>As published on 4 December 2019 | $28.8 B | 167.6 M | 108.8 M |

## Projected humanitarian needs [46] (2015–2022)




On current trends, 212 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance in 2022. Conflicts will remain the main driver of humanitarian needs in most countries currently receiving humanitarian assistance, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Recent peace agreements may lead to some improvements, but most protracted conflicts are projected to continue for years.

Extreme climate events, ranging from droughts to tropical cyclones and torrential rains, will also generate further humanitarian needs. When conflict and climatic events occur together, they will keep driving up food insecurity, all the more since mitigation and adaptation to climate change is particularly difficult in those circumstances. Conflicts and climate change will also contribute to deadly outbreaks of infectious diseases such as cholera, measles and Ebola, as a result of inadequate health, water and sanitation services.

[42] These were the headline figures in the 2019 GHO. It includes all the HRPs, except Syria. RRPs except for the Syria 3RP and the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Response Plan were not included. Other plans (Bangladesh JRP, DPRK, Pakistan and the Philippines) were not included either.

[43] Includes all the headline figures in line 1, as well as Bangladesh JRP, DPRK, and all RRPs excluding those requirements covered in HRPs. The Syria HRP is included.

[44] Update of the headline figures in line 2 to reflect changes between December 2018 and November 2019, including plans issued in the course of the year: the HRPs for Mozambique and Venezuela, Flash Appeals for Madagascar and Zimbabwe, and Burkina Faso.

[45] Includes all requirements for 2020, excluding RRP requirements already reflected in HRPs, to avoid double counting. Can be compared with line 3 to show differences between 2020 projections and 2019 outturn.

[46] The projection is based on the mean of increase (or decrease) of the overall number of people in need since 2014. It does not take into account the possibility of major new crises due to conflict or major disasters, which could result in a significantly higher figure.

## Humanitarian outlook

# Regional and country overviews

In 2020, Yemen will remain the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Needs will stay exceptionally high in DRC, Somalia, Syria, South Sudan and Sudan. In the Sahel, displacement has increased drastically, and hunger has reached critical levels. The conflict-driven crisis in the Lake Chad Basin shows no sign of abating. Two new Humanitarian Response Plans are being launched in 2020 – in Burkina Faso and Venezuela – while the situations in Pakistan and the Philippines no longer require humanitarian strategies.

**P. 31** Asia and the Pacific
**P. 35** Eastern and Southern Africa
**P. 41** Latin America and the Caribbean
**P. 44** Middle East and North Africa
**P. 50** West and Central Africa
**P. 59** Regional Refugee Response Plans
**P. 65** Other plans

# *Regional overview:* Asia and the Pacific

**Sittwe Township, Myanmar**
Eight-year-old Roma Hathu dropped out from school after completing grade 2. Roma said going to school was impossible for her because her parents do not have a regular income.
*OCHA/Htet Htet Oo*

Asia and the Pacific remains the world's most disaster-prone region – but it is also a region of growing disaster management experience, capacity and humanitarian leadership.

Three out of every four people affected by a natural disaster live in the Asia-Pacific region[47] – more than 760 million people in the past five years, with nearly 46,000 deaths. The region is vulnerable to both sudden and slow-onset events, including earthquakes, typhoons/cyclones, flooding, tsunamis, volcanoes, drought and food shortages. Climate change and environmental risks further aggravate the potential for large disasters.

More than one quarter of the world's conflicts occur in Asia and the Pacific,[48] and in recent years violence has intensified. The region now hosts 3.3 million refugees. In 2019, the impact on civilians of the conflict in Afghanistan worsened, partly due to a series of deadly attacks on civilian targets, the escalation of air strikes and election violence. July 2019 was the single bloodiest month for civilians since records began in 2009. Neighbouring Pakistan hosts about 1.3 million Afghan refugees, while itself experiencing drought and insecurity from non-State armed groups. In Myanmar, fighting in Rakhine, Chin, and Shan states has further intensified, raising the risk of additional displacement. Since the second half of 2017, more than 740,000 Rohingya from Myanmar have fled across the border to Bangladesh and now face additional threats, including monsoon rains and cyclone seasons, with alarmingly limited options for evacuation. With the increase in conflict and a rise of authoritarian regimes in the region, more focus is needed on protection and respect for international humanitarian law.

The region's vulnerability has led governments to make disaster management a priority. Over the past decade, most countries in the region have established national disaster management authorities and invested in national systems that are increasingly capable of managing small- and medium-scale disasters. These capacities will continue to grow, albeit at varying rates and degrees. However, the region remains highly vulnerable to large-scale disasters that could overwhelm in-country capacities and require international humanitarian assistance. These could be "mega" disasters such as an earthquake affecting Metro Manila, Dhaka or Jakarta, or large-scale events in countries with lower coping capacities, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan or Papua New Guinea.

Alongside growing national capacities, prominent bilateral response arrangements and regional organizations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are contributing to a more diverse response system. Countries in Asia also play an active role in international networks. For example Japan and China make important contributions to global humanitarian mechanisms such as the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and the WHO Emergency Medical Teams initiative. Countries in Asia are also increasingly becoming aid providers. As of November 2019, countries in Asia have contributed more than $891.5 million in humanitarian aid.[49]

[47] Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT) as of October 2019. Based on figures 2014-2019.
[48] Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research's 2018 Conflict Barometer.
[49] FTS, as of 5 November 2019.

# Afghanistan HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$732.6 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**9.4 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**7.1 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Fighting in Afghanistan continues to rage, exposing civilians to daily deadly risks, prompting mass displacement and choking the country's unstable economy. Years of shocks have left an acutely vulnerable population with eroded coping capacities and little hope of recovery if current conditions persist. Poverty is climbing, with more than 80 per cent of people living on less than $1.90 per day. Violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks on health and education facilities, continue to make Afghanistan one of the most dangerous countries in the world for aid agencies to operate. Despite these challenges, in 2019 humanitarian partners were able to provide support to people in need in 372 of the country's 401 districts.

In 2019, the conflict took a heavy civilian toll, partly due to a series of deadly attacks on civilian targets, the escalation of air strikes and election violence. July 2019 was the single bloodiest month for civilians since records began in 2009. Women and children accounted for 41 per cent of casualties in the first three quarters of the year. Conflict displaced 345,000 people in the first nine months of 2019 and 500,000 newly displaced civilians are expected in 2020. An estimated 4 million people displaced since 2012 have not returned to their communities.

Hunger and malnutrition are at dangerously high levels despite an enormous effort in 2018–2019 that reached more than 5.2 million people impacted by drought. In 2020, an estimated 14.3 million people will be in either crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 or 4). Recent surveys indicate that 25 out of 34 provinces are currently above the emergency-level threshold of acute malnutrition.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In view of the bleak outlook, the continued pace of the conflict and the setbacks created by the drought, 9.4 million vulnerable people – almost one quarter of the country's total population – are estimated to need humanitarian assistance in 2020. The increase compared with 2019 is mainly due to a broader scope of vulnerability analysis and the inclusion of people who require resilience and recovery assistance, in an effort to stave off a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. At least 6.6 million people are in need of protection assistance due the impact of conflict. The lingering impact of the 2018–2019 drought has placed 8.2 million vulnerable people in need of food and livelihood assistance, and natural disasters such as floods are expected to affect an additional 200,000 people in need. Fifty-six per cent of those in need are children.

The revised definition of humanitarian action in Afghanistan attempts to better capture the overlapping nature of vulnerabilities. Children are increasingly at risk from conflict, with more than 2,400 children killed in the first nine months of 2019 – an 11 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2018. Women across Afghanistan continue to be subject to gender-based violence. The high numbers of men killed over the past four decades have disrupted traditional family units, forcing women, the elderly and sometimes children to become heads of their households. At least 11 per cent of the population is estimated to have a physical disability, while an unknown number of people are suffering from mental health issues as a result of their constant exposure to conflict. People who have been displaced multiple times are acutely vulnerable due to their depleted financial and emotional reserves. Poor shelter and unhygienic conditions, particularly in displacement, leave people vulnerable to disease and unable to cope with Afghanistan's harsh winters.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, at the mid-point of the four-year HRP (2018–2021), the humanitarian strategy in Afghanistan will adjust course to reach more people in need with a broader range of assistance. In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 7.1 million people with emergency, protection or recovery assistance, requiring $732.6 million. The increase in the anticipated requirement is due to the greater number of people targeted and the inclusion of a modest range of resilience and recovery activities in several sectors, which, while more expensive in the short term, will create savings and reduce suffering in the long term. However, food security costs have been kept low, with assistance being offered for a shorter period during the lean season, in order to bring the total requirements down.

The 2020 HRP has three priority areas: emergency, life-saving responses to shocks caused by conflict and natural disasters; protection responses aimed at improving people's safety and reducing violations of international humanitarian law; and building the resilience of vulnerable people.

Looking forward to 2021, projected needs remain similar to 2020, at 9 million people, and the projection of planned reach is slightly lower, at 6.6 million people.

# Myanmar HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$215.0M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**986k**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**848k**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Humanitarian needs in Myanmar are driven by multiple factors, including armed conflict, intercommunal violence and vulnerability to natural hazards. The situation is aggravated by chronic poverty, protracted displacement, food insecurity, erosion of social support networks, and underlying inequalities – including statelessness, segregation, discrimination and gender disparities – that exacerbate the needs, vulnerabilities and marginalization of people in many parts of the country.

An estimated 600,000 stateless Rohingya remain in Rakhine State. Rohingya make up the vast majority of some 128,000 IDPs who have been confined to camps in the central part of Rakhine since 2012. The impact of this protracted displacement is compounded by movement restrictions that severely limit their access to essential services, such as education and health care, and livelihoods, deepening vulnerability and dependence on humanitarian aid. Non-displaced Rohingya in villages across Rakhine also face discrimination and extensive restrictions on freedom of movement. Humanitarian challenges in Rakhine State have grown following an upsurge in fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces and the Arakan Army since December 2018, which has displaced tens of thousands of civilians, including in southern Chin State. As of mid-October 2019, more than 32,000 people remained displaced. Restrictions put in place in January 2019 have limited the access of more than 100,000 people in rural areas of Rakhine to services and assistance they were previously receiving.

The situation in the north and north-east of the country presents both serious challenges and potential opportunities. In Kachin State, where more than 97,000 IDPs have remained in camps since 2011, there has been limited armed conflict or displacement since September 2018. In northern Shan State, on the other hand, numerous outbreaks of serious violence occurred throughout the year, causing displacement of thousands of people and involving a wide range of human rights violations. About 9,000 people in Shan remain in situations of protracted displacement since 2011. In both states, humanitarian organizations continue to face significant operational challenges, with access by and to people in need having become increasingly difficult in recent years, particularly outside main towns.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Considering the significant expansion of the protection crisis across much of Rakhine State and the continued volatility of the security situation in other areas, humanitarian needs are expected to persist at a significant level throughout 2020. Protection risks are likely to remain high for mostly stateless Rohingya, unless steps are taken to improve respect for human rights, including freedom of movement. The lack of progress in addressing the root causes of the crisis is likely to continue to limit prospects for sustainable solutions for stateless IDPs in Rakhine in 2020, and reduce the scope for voluntary and dignified return of Rohingya refugees. In conflict-affected townships, the humanitarian needs of more than 32,000 newly displaced people are likely to remain, and new population displacements are foreseeable in 2020, as there are no signs the conflict will abate.

In Kachin and northern Shan states, protracted displacement and – in the case of northern Shan – continued outbreaks of fighting are likely to continue exacerbating vulnerabilities. Unless humanitarian access improves, the situation will be further compounded by limited assistance and protection services, particularly for those in areas not controlled by the Government and other remote locations. This is likely to result in increased risky migration practices and negative coping mechanisms. Durable solutions will remain elusive for most displaced people, particularly in northern Shan. The prolonged nature of the displacement will continue to generate recurrent needs across sectors, including repair of temporary shelters and sanitation facilities, and distribution of non-food items. In Kachin State, small-scale solutions may be realized for a few thousand IDPs, with the international community supporting the Government to ensure these are sustainable and in line with international standards.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 Myanmar HRP focuses primarily on Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, Chin and Kayin states, which have the most urgent humanitarian needs stemming from conflict, movement restrictions and discriminatory policies or practices. It prioritizes the provision of life-saving support and programmes to ensure equitable access to essential services for the most vulnerable crisis-affected women, men, boys and girls. The plan also focuses on achieving durable solutions to internal displacement in line with international standards where feasible, and aims to build resilience and national capacity to prepare for, and respond to, disasters and other emergencies. Humanitarian partners will aim to reach 848,000 people – 10 per cent fewer than last year – with assistance. The decrease is the result of more realistic and prioritized targeting.

# Eastern Europe

# Ukraine HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$157.8M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**3.4M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.0M**




### Evolution of the context and crisis

Nearly six years into the conflict in eastern Ukraine, more than 3,300 people have been killed and over 7,000 civilians injured in active hostilities. While the newly elected Government has opened opportunities for dialogue and voiced a new commitment to resolving the crisis, the absence of a political solution continues to create uncertainty. About 5 million people are affected by the crisis, and communities' coping capacities are eroding under the cumulative impact of prolonged conflict and pre-existing vulnerabilities.

Despite a significant reduction in the number of civilian casualties in 2019, 3.4 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020. The elderly, people with disabilities, female-headed families and children are among the most vulnerable, as are the 350,000 IDPs who live in dire conditions across the government-controlled area.[50] Humanitarian needs also differ between urban and rural populations on both sides – with rural populations often experiencing deeper vulnerability.

The conflict has severed all interdependent networks of services, markets and employment opportunities across the "contact line", and has cut people off from the cities they relied on for employment and essential services. In non-government-controlled areas, health care, administrative services (including documentation, social benefits and banking) and employment, are either unavailable or highly compromised. In areas closest to the "contact line", the proportion of elderly people and people with disabilities is higher, creating disproportionate vulnerabilities. About 30 per cent of people in need of humanitarian assistance are elderly, and are particularly vulnerable in non-government-controlled areas, where they suffer from limited access to social benefits and health care, and have to endure the arduous journey across the "contact line" to access essential services.

Despite a challenging and uncertain environment, as of September 2019, humanitarian partners in Ukraine had reached about 900,000 people on both sides of the "contact line" with assistance and protection.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Despite recent optimism, there is a chance that the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine could deteriorate due to the worsening conflict. Planning assumptions for 2020 have projected the situation to remain stable as a low-intensity conflict with a wide-ranging impact on the population. The situation could also improve dramatically, but even if it does, communities will still need extensive humanitarian support to regain their self-sufficiency and recover.

National emergency response and preparedness capacities remain limited, despite a moderate increase in the Government's engagement in the humanitarian response in government-controlled areas. This is an area where humanitarian organizations are committed to engaging in further, in the spirit of working together with development partners.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 response will focus on saving lives, ensuring access to basic services, strengthening protection, improving national ownership of the response and securing access to people in need in all areas. Humanitarian partners will prioritize five geographic zones in the two affected oblasts as well as pockets of vulnerability identified elsewhere in the country, with an emphasis on addressing critical problems related to physical and mental well-being, living standards and protection.

Humanitarian partners are aiming to assist 2 million people (including 220,000 IDPs in the government-controlled areas) in 2020. This is similar to 2019 and is a reflection of response capacity and access restrictions. The financial requirement will be $157.8 million, a slight decrease from the previous year, which is partially due to the increasing level of participation from national NGOs making the response more cost-effective.

In 2020, the HRP also incorporates some resilience programming, guided by the humanitarian objective that supports strengthening of local responders' capacities and encourages local authorities to take over the provision of services in the areas, where feasible.

[50] Of the 1.4 million IDPs officially registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, just over 350,000 are considered in need of humanitarian assistance.

# *Regional overview:* Eastern and Southern Africa

**Southern Africa**

In Southern Africa, climate change is compounding deep-rooted poverty, economic inequality and political instability, causing humanitarian needs to rise and undermining development gains. The 2018/2019 rainy season was particularly poor, with large parts of central and western Southern Africa recording their lowest rainfall since 1981, while others endured the effects of cyclones, pests and disease. Angola, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia all declared drought disasters, while the Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe declared states of emergency due to the impact of cyclones Idai and Kenneth. Zimbabwe has been facing its worst economic crisis in a decade, while Zambia is seeing its highest levels of severe food insecurity in recent years. Internal displacement rose in 2019 due to cyclones and drought.

Nearly 12 million people across the subregion face severe food insecurity and are in urgent need of assistance. Increasing numbers of acutely malnourished children have been reported in multiple countries. Drought, floods and diminishing access to clean water have increased the risk of communicable diseases, and countries across the region reported outbreaks, including of cholera and measles. Deteriorating economic prospects have hampered access to essential services, such as education and health care, particularly in Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. Families are reportedly adopting extreme coping mechanisms, including child labour, child trafficking, early marriage and transactional sex. These factors have exacerbated the risk of transmission of HIV, and the current crisis risks jeopardizing years of progress in the fight against the disease in Southern Africa.

In the coming year, climatic shocks are likely to be a major driver of humanitarian needs. A late onset to the 2019/2020 rainy season in several countries and forecast below-average rains in early 2020 forebode the likelihood of delayed and limited harvests in several countries. The region is forecast to experience an average cyclone season, meaning that about 10 named tropical storms, 5 of which may reach tropical cyclone stage, could be seen.

Political and economic instability, if unresolved, could trigger violence and displacement, including in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Rising needs across the region are expected to heighten protection concerns and force people to adopt negative coping mechanisms with grave consequences, particularly for girls and women.

**Eastern Africa**

Conflict and violence, droughts, floods and economic shocks significantly increased humanitarian needs in Eastern Africa in 2019 and will continue to be the main drivers of needs in the year ahead. Almost 12.8 million people are internally displaced across the region due to conflict or climatic shocks. Ethiopia and Somalia both saw significant displacement in 2019. South Sudan continues to report violations against civilians, while 1.5 million people remain internally displaced. Sudan underwent a major transition of power in 2019, during which human rights violations were reported. The number of refugees in and from Eastern Africa decreased from 4.7 million in 2018 to 4.2 million in 2019, however, this remains more than double the number five years ago.

Food insecurity is rising due to a combination of conflict, extreme weather and economic shocks. In 2019, 27.8 million people were severely food insecure in the sub-region. Preventable diseases – including acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, measles and malaria – remain endemic, and outbreaks are exacerbated by conflict and climatic shocks. Countries in the region, especially Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, have been on high alert for the spread of Ebola.

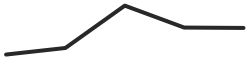
Several countries in the region face major political milestones in 2020, each of which brings opportunities, challenges and risks. These include elections in Burundi and Ethiopia (and approaching in Uganda), the transition of power and peace talks in Sudan, the implementation of the peace agreement for South Sudan and the détente between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

At the same time, the consequences of climate change will continue to drive rising needs, protection concerns and population movements. The 2019 floods in the Horn of Africa hit many countries during their harvest period and may cause increased food insecurity in the year ahead. The cumulative effects of climatic shocks are also likely to exacerbate the risk of the spread of communicable diseases, including measles and cholera.

# Burundi HRP

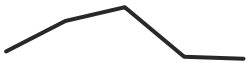
**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$104.0 M**



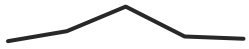

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [51]

**1.7 M**




**PEOPLE TARGETED** [51]

**630 k**




### Evolution of the context and crisis

Timid economic growth, improvement in the security situation as well as enhanced agricultural production have contributed to the reduction of acute needs since late 2018. Nonetheless, high vulnerability and deep chronic poverty continue to drive humanitarian needs. Burundi remains among the poorest countries in the world, ranking 185th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index, and is also one of the 20 countries most at risk of climate change. Burundi is highly vulnerable to economic shocks, epidemics of cholera and malaria, and climate-induced disasters. Some 44 per cent of Burundian households are estimated to be affected by food insecurity as a result of limited agricultural productivity, low purchasing power, and reduced job opportunities. Almost 54 per cent of children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition, although joint efforts over the past two years have brought this down by nearly 2 per cent.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Some 1.74 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, particularly in the north-eastern and central provinces of the country, where food insecurity is the highest. Displaced people and communities hosting them will continue to be among the most vulnerable, including 103,000 IDPs, 90,000 refugees from DRC, and a projected 50,000 returning refugees – a number that could increase as a result of ongoing discussions between the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania. All the 80,000 previously returned refugees will also continue to have acute needs. Health crises are also of high concern. As of September 2019 there were 7.2 million cases of malaria -a tenfold increase compared with a decade ago -with over 2,700 fatalities. Malaria is among the leading causes of infant mortality, child malnutrition, and school dropouts. Cholera also remains of concern with 10 health districts in four provinces having recorded a cholera epidemic. In addition, the risk of cross-border transmission of Ebola to Burundi will likely remain high. The elections scheduled for 2020 present some risks for the socioeconomic situation, which could impact humanitarian projections.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 HRP will aim to assist 630,000 people out of an estimated 1.74 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and will require $104 million to respond to the most acute needs. The HRP will prioritize the most vulnerable, particularly people affected by food insecurity and acute malnutrition, those lacking access to drinking water, and displaced people (IDPs, repatriated, returnees and refugees) and their host communities. Priority areas for the humanitarian response include five provinces where needs are the most severe (Kirundo, Ruyigi, Ngozi, Muyinga and Cankuzo), with a population of 266,000, or 42 per cent of people targeted. Food security remains the largest sector in the planned response, followed by water and sanitation, health and nutrition.

[51] Consultations are ongoing with the Government on the PIN and people targeted.

# Ethiopia HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$973.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**8.0 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**6.5 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The relatively peaceful transition of power and a host of reforms initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed led to an opening of the political space, including the release of political prisoners, journalists and bloggers, the decriminalization of opposition groups, and an invitation to exiled opposition groups to return home and peacefully engage in the reform process. Progress was also achieved on key reform areas, such as the adoption of the new Charities and Societies Proclamation that gives greater operational space for civil society organizations, as well as reforms of media, electoral and judicial laws. But there were also significant challenges. Ethnic-based violence and a breakdown in social cohesion in some areas led to the world's largest increase in IDPs over the past two years, including in areas regularly affected by climatic shocks and disease outbreaks. This has significantly changed the humanitarian landscape, and aid organizations have struggled to rapidly scale up responses in the context of mass displacement, protection concerns, and access limitations. In many cases, these challenges are compounded by insufficient financial and human resources. According to national authorities, 2.1 million IDPs have returned to their places of origin since May 2019 through a Government-led process.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The Government and humanitarian partners project that at least 8 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2020. Conflict, displacement and disease outbreaks, as well as rainfall shortages in some parts of the country and flooding in others, will remain key drivers of humanitarian needs in Ethiopia. In 2020, it is estimated that 3.7 million people will continue to be chronically food insecure. In the absence of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and practices, cholera outbreaks are expected to continue to occur. Seasonal flooding is also an annual occurrence, as are invasions by desert locusts and other pests, which are likely to contribute to significant losses in crop harvest and pastures, including in Afar, Amhara, Oromia and Somali regions. The overall condition of IDPs and returnees will continue to be dire. Hygiene and sanitation, as well as shelter conditions, are often inadequate. Protection issues, including gender-based, sexual and physical violence, are areas of concern, as are family separations and psychosocial distress and trauma, and harmful practices such as child marriages. Also of concern is that some people with specific needs are unable to access life-saving services, and that some have no legal redress for lost property and livelihood because they lack documentation. For these reasons, people in need will continue to require sustained multisector humanitarian assistance, recovery and durable solutions well into 2020. An increase in conflicts and displacements remains a possibility in 2020, given the uncertainty around the national elections in May.

### Response priorities in 2020

Four strategic objectives will guide the response under the 2020 HRP, framed around the four humanitarian consequences – physical and mental well-being, living standards, resilience and recovery, and protection. While critical short-term assistance will need to be provided, in particular to displacement-affected communities, there will be continued emphasis on supporting the Government in seeking early recovery and durable solutions for displaced populations and for the more than 3 million chronically drought-affected, food-insecure people across the country. Discussions on the scalability of existing safety nets for these population groups will therefore continue. Overall, humanitarian partners will aim to meet the urgent needs of 6.5 million people in 2020, requiring $973 million, compared with $1.31 billion in requirements in 2019.

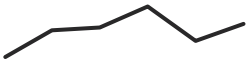
# Somalia HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$1.03 B**

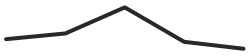
**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**5.2 M**




**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**3.0 M**




### Evolution of the context and crisis

Climate-related shocks, particularly drought and flooding, continue to exacerbate humanitarian needs and undermine community resilience across Somalia. In 2019, below-average *deyr* rains, a delayed and erratic *gu'* rainy season and a particularly hot *jilaal* dry season resulted in the poorest harvest since detailed record-keeping began in 1995, eroding food security gains. Swift donor assistance enabled aid agencies to respond quickly, but the underlying drivers of the crisis endure.

Protection concerns remain a core driver of humanitarian needs in the country. Nearly 302,000 people were newly displaced in 2019 due to climatic shocks, conflict and other factors. They have moved mainly to urban areas, joining more than 2.6 million IDPs who often live in overcrowded settlements across the country and continue to face serious risks, including gender-based violence, evictions, marginalization and social exclusion. Grave violations against children continue. In the first quarter of 2019, 612 children were recruited by armed groups, an increase of 37 per cent compared with the same period in 2018.

The operational environment is still challenging, with security incidents hindering the delivery of aid, especially in hard-to-reach rural areas. Cash-based assistance plays a major role in navigating access challenges. Strengthening the role of Somali NGOs remains a priority, and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund channeled nearly half of its funding through local and national NGOs in 2019.

Despite persistent climatic shocks and the challenging environment, the humanitarian response system in Somalia is resilient and effective. At the peak of the response in 2019, at least 2 million people were being reached every month. Mechanisms are in place to rapidly scale up and sustain the response, while partnerships with local and national partners, authorities and affected people have been expanded. These have also formed a solid foundation for strengthening linkages between humanitarian action, peacebuilding efforts and development programming.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The worsening drought will cause a surge in humanitarian needs in 2020. An estimated 6.3 million people will be food insecure, and 1 million children under age 5 are likely to be acutely malnourished. Further displacement is expected as pastoralist communities search for water and pasture, or migrate from rural to urban areas. Outbreaks of communicable diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea will potentially increase as a result of a reduction in water availability and quality.

Civilians will continue to bear the brunt of conflict and intercommunal violence. The number of people killed or wounded is expected to increase, as is the recruitment or use of children. Protection concerns will remain prominent, particularly sexual violence against women and girls, arbitrary arrests and harassment by armed actors. In areas of displacement, conditions are likely to remain conducive to insecurity and violence, including gender-based violence, while socioeconomic destitution will continue to expose women and children to domestic abuse and exploitation. In areas exposed to armed operations or violence, explosive remnants of war and the use of improvised explosive devices will continue to put the physical safety of civilians at considerable risk.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners in Somalia will aim to assist 3 million people with access to essential services, food and livelihood support. This includes 1.8 million people who are in urgent need of life-saving assistance to sustain their survival. Humanitarian partners will focus on assisting four vulnerable population groups: IDPs, refugee returnees, refugees and asylum seekers, and other vulnerable groups among the non-displaced. Overarching protection needs will be met through the provision of direct protection services, as well as ensuring that protection concerns are integrated throughout the response. Specific vulnerable groups, such as IDPs, farmers and pastoralists whose capacity to overcome future shocks is considered critical, will be prioritized for resilience-type interventions to enhance their ability to withstand future stresses in the short and medium term. The financial requirement for 2020 will remain about the same as for 2019, at $1.03 billion.

**Incorporating feedback from affected people**

In 2019, the humanitarian community in Somalia improved the way it uses data from feedback and complaint mechanisms to inform overarching strategic decisions and to incorporate the opinions of affected people into the HPC process. Community perception indicators have been incorporated in the 2020 HRP and will be regularly monitored. Findings from needs assessments are being disseminated and feedback from affected people is being sought through the radio.

# South Sudan HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$ 1.54 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**7.5 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**5.6 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

South Sudan is at a critical juncture in the peace process. While progress on the key milestones of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan remains limited, the ceasefire is holding in most places, and in 2019 there was an overall reduction in political violence. Nonetheless, the cumulative effect of years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services left 7.5 million people – more than two thirds of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance.

Nearly 4 million South Sudanese remain displaced, some 2.3 million of them outside the country. Spontaneous refugee returns – some 200,000 between November 2017 and September 2019 – strain already scarce resources in host communities. The prevalence of conflict-related sexual violence remains high. Intercommunal violence and cattle raiding affect significant parts of the country. Unusually heavy seasonal flooding in 2019 affected more than 900,000 people and pushed already vulnerable communities into deeper need.

Food insecurity reached record levels during 2019. At the peak of the lean season, some 7 million people were in crisis, emergency or catastrophe phases of food insecurity, and the prevalence of acute malnutrition significantly increased. Lack of access to life-saving services, including health and clean water, is a key driver of growing humanitarian needs. About 75 per cent of all child deaths in South Sudan are caused by preventable diseases, such as diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia. Health facilities are poorly equipped and staffed, making them unprepared for health risks such as measles outbreaks – which surged during 2019 – or the possibility of an Ebola outbreak.

Despite the challenging environment, political stability and improved access allowed for better delivery of humanitarian assistance. By the end of 2019, humanitarian partners expect to have reached 5.4 million people with life-saving assistance and protection. The UN also supported hundreds of thousands of IDPs to return home in 2019.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Population movements will continue in 2020, driven by seasonal conditions, localized insecurity, and internal boundary-setting. Returns, including refugee returns, are expected to gradually increase over the course of the year, putting further pressure on limited coping capacities. Acute food insecurity will persist, and communicable diseases will continue to undermine the well-being of vulnerable people. The risk of the spread of Ebola is still high, although South Sudan and humanitarian partners have taken important steps to prevent the potential spread of the virus, establishing task forces at highest risk locations, conducting more than 3.4 million screenings at border points, and making critical readiness upgrades to health facilities.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 5.6 million people – nearly 50 per cent of the population and 75 per cent of the people in need. While the primary emphasis is on life-saving activities in areas where humanitarian needs are most severe, the HRP also advocates for enhancing access to essential services, restoring livelihoods, and promoting durable solutions to displacement to lessen reliance on humanitarian assistance. The humanitarian community will also continue to support safe, dignified and voluntary returns.

In line with these response priorities, the strategic objectives for the 2020 HRP are: i) reduce morbidity and mortality, as well as suffering from protection threats and incidences; ii) ensure safe, equitable and dignified access to critical cross-sectoral essential services; and iii) enable vulnerable people to recover from crisis, seek solutions to displacement, and build resilience to acute shocks and chronic stresses through targeted programming to support coping capacities and livelihoods in specific geographic locations.

**Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse**

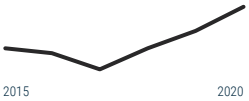
Under the joint leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, UN Women and UNFPA, the system-wide national Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has established 15 community-based complaint mechanisms (CBCM) across South Sudan to support and improve reporting and assistance for victims. The first inter-agency assessment of a high-risk area and its CBCM revealed the need to strengthen the CBCM's capacity to ensure a strong reporting system. Key to this enhancement is improved communication. Lack of awareness by communities of their rights is impacting prevention and response efforts. Fear of retaliation, insufficient confidence in reporting mechanisms, and lack of knowledge of assistance available to survivors further undermine reporting and subsequent action. The next step will be to develop and implement a comprehensive PSEA community engagement strategy that is well adapted to the South Sudan context.

# Sudan

HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$ 1.40 B**




**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**9.3 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**5.0 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

On 11 April 2019, following months of protest, the president of Sudan was removed from power. In August, a transitional government was formed with a 39-month mandate that will lead to elections. The Government is prioritizing peace and ending the economic crisis – priorities that are closely intertwined with the drivers of humanitarian needs in the country.

About 9.3 million people – nearly one quarter of the population – need humanitarian assistance. The economic crisis follows years of poor investment in public services. High inflation – which peaked at 70 per cent in December 2018, and has since decreased, holding at about 40 per cent – and rising prices are diminishing people's ability to cope and contributing to worsening food insecurity. Although initial reports indicate there was a relatively good harvest in 2019, it will not counteract the impact of price inflation. At least 17.7 million people (42 per cent of the population) suffer from some level of food insecurity. About 6.2 million people need food and livelihoods assistance. Malnutrition rates are high across the country – some 2.4 million children are acutely malnourished.

Essential services are also deteriorating. Medicine imports continue to fall, and effective distribution of drugs and medicines to clinics and hospitals is a major challenge. Water, sanitation, education, and protection infrastructure and services are similarly weak and worsening. In addition, Sudan is experiencing concurrent outbreaks of water and vector-borne diseases, including cholera, malaria, dengue, Rift Valley fever and chikungunya.

IDPs, returnees, refugees and other vulnerable groups experience some of the most acute needs. Some 1.9 million IDPs and more than 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers are living in camps, out-of-camp settlements and urban areas across all of Sudan's 18 states. This includes the largest South Sudanese refugee population in the region, some 895,000 people. Durable solutions have yet to be found, and protection risks continue. Many IDPs face harassment when trying to farm. Many women are affected by harmful traditional practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Of the 9.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, approximately 7.8 million people are affected by critical needs related to their physical and mental well-being, and some 8.5 million people are facing critical needs related to living standards. Additionally, 2.8 million people are estimated to need resilience support related to livelihoods and nutrition.

Needs will likely increase in 2020, driven by the declining economy, natural hazards, disease outbreaks, lack of durable solutions and continuing localized armed conflict. Households will continue to be stretched to afford food, driving more people into food insecurity, increasing malnutrition and resulting in negative coping strategies, including taking children out of school.

While progress in addressing the economic crisis is expected, positive impact on people's well-being and living standards will not be immediate. Even in the best-case scenario, humanitarian needs are likely to increase in the short term. Notably, needs are increasing in the east of Sudan, outside of the conflict-affected states of Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Without strengthened and expanded social protection, particularly in areas without a large humanitarian presence, more people will fall below the threshold of needing humanitarian assistance. In addition, despite some spontaneous returns, the refugee influx from South Sudan is likely to continue. By the end of 2020, Sudan is projected to host an additional 50,000 refugees.

The transitional government removed restrictions on travel permits, easing the movement of humanitarian personnel throughout Sudan, including to areas under the control of non-State armed groups, although more needs to be done. As peace talks evolve, there may also be opportunities to reach areas in South Kordofan and Blue Nile previously inaccessible to the UN from within Sudan. Ongoing advocacy is critical to ensure that other access challenges are addressed.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to reach 5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, to achieve three strategic objectives: i) provide timely multisector life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people to reduce mortality and morbidity; ii) contribute to building resilience to recurrent shocks and improving vulnerable people's access to basic services; and iii) enhance the prevention and mitigation of protection risks and respond to protection needs through quality and principled humanitarian action.

# *Regional overview:* Latin America and the Caribbean

**Ipiales, Colombia**
Johan left Venezuela last year when he was no longer able to access the HIV medication he needed. "When I asked for medicine in Venezuela it took so long to arrive that by the time it came it was expired. I left everything in Venezuela. My family, the love of my mother, my brothers. They've always been in my heart. I miss them. I want to go back, but without access to treatment it's difficult."
*IOM/Muse Mohammed*

The world's second-most disaster-prone region, Latin America and the Caribbean is feeling the impacts of climate change. Stronger seasonal hurricanes in the Atlantic and recurring climate shocks in Central America make the region vulnerable. The impacts of these shocks compound existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities and deep economic inequity. In Central and South America, a number of countries have experienced social unrest in recent months for a combination of political and economic reasons. In Venezuela, a deepening economic crisis has led to severe shortages of food and medicine and caused some 4.5 million people to leave, straining national capacities and challenging conventional humanitarian approaches there and throughout the region.

Although relatively well prepared to respond to disasters, South America remains vulnerable to extreme weather events. Seasonal dryness and high temperatures make wildfires a common occurrence, and lower-lying areas near rivers are prone to seasonal flooding. The Pacific coast is part of the Ring of Fire, placing cities along the Andes at high risk of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

Caribbean islands remain watchful for seasonal storms and have stepped up preparedness efforts, including nurturing strategic relationships with local and subregional response partners. Changing climate patterns have made readiness a key strategic priority, as shown by Hurricane Dorian's unusual path and rapid intensification into a record-breaking Category 5 storm, which devastated the Bahamas in September 2019. In Haiti, ongoing instability and the long-term aftermath of the 2010 earthquake and cholera outbreak and of Hurricane Matthew in 2016 continue to pose response challenges amid a transitioning UN presence.

In parts of Central America, growing needs due to the convergence of recurring climate change impacts, conflict-like chronic violence, political volatility and persistent inequality are prompting calls for scaled-up international attention, including in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. To provide a more comprehensive analysis of the levels of need, as well as causes and drivers, the UN is moving ahead with a subregional Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) to provide decision makers with actionable information.

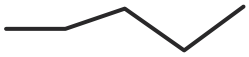
In 2020, migration from Central America is expected to continue, spurred by irregular climate patterns affecting food production in the Dry Corridor in 2019. Current migration approaches face uncertainties ahead of the northern countries of Central America implementing deals that would see asylum seekers returned from their destination country to their country of transit. These governments will likely require support to safely process and host an increased number of people seeking asylum in conditions similar to the countries they are fleeing.

The outflow of people from Venezuela is also likely to increase, possibly surpassing 5 million people by the end of 2020, including 1.4 million seeking support in Colombia, making it one of the world's largest migration crises. Various host countries have placed stricter entry requirements to ease the burden on near-exhausted response capacities and defuse growing social tensions. Political and public reactions to the continuing migration crisis may also impact needs. The escalating exodus will likely lead to more vulnerability across the region and stands to increase demand for humanitarian funding, which is currently lagging compared with other crises.

# Haiti HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$ 252.5 M**




**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**4.6 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.1 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

In 2019, Haiti suffered a deepening political and socioeconomic crisis. The resignation of the former Government in March 2019 led to a slowdown or halt of Government action and public services, as well as to a suspension of bilateral investment and support. The economic situation deteriorated and inflation rose. The price of a basic food basket – rice, wheat flour, maize, beans, sugar and vegetable oil, representing 1,870 kilocalories per day – increased by 34 per cent compared with the beginning of the year.[52] The crisis has impacted education, as schools were forced to close at different periods of the school year, affecting about 2 million children.

Food security analysis suggests that the number of food-insecure Haitians rose from 2.6 million at the end 2018 to 3.7 million by the end of 2019, mainly as a result of the deteriorating economic situation and price inflation. This number is expected to increase to 4.2 million by March 2020. Of this number, an estimated 1.2 million people will be suffering from emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC phase 4). The analysis includes, for the first time, the 3 million inhabitants of Port-au-Prince, who represent almost a quarter of the total population in the country and who are severely affected by the economic situation. The nutrition situation also worsened, with a global acute malnutrition rate close to 10 per cent, according to National Nutritional Surveillance data.

While overall needs have increased, the cholera outbreak in the country has significantly improved. In February 2019, the country reached zero confirmed cholera cases, while the number of suspected cases from 1 January to 30 September dropped by 82 per cent.

The 2019 component of the multi-year HRP (2019–2020) aimed to assist 1.3 million out of an estimated 2.6 million people in need. As of 18 October 2019, it was funded at 29 per cent, enabling aid providers to reach 455,000 people with humanitarian assistance in the first nine months of the year.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The situation is expected to remain unstable in the coming months, which will further weaken the country's economy and, consequently, the ability of the poorest Haitians to meet their basic needs as well as the capacity of the State to provide essential services.

The number of food-insecure people and of children suffering from malnutrition is expected to increase in 2020. Haiti also remains highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, droughts and floods. The long period of rainfall deficit from 2018 to mid-2019, is likely to have a negative impact on agricultural production in early 2020, further increasing the number of people in need and the severity of their needs.

In 2020, 4.6 million Haitians are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Protection is a high priority, particularly to prevent gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. The most vulnerable include people with health-care needs; those facing food insecurity; those with little or no access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation or hygiene services; people who lost their homes as a result of the floods in late 2019; and about 30,000 extremely vulnerable people who did not receive shelter assistance after the 2018 earthquake and are highly vulnerable to further shocks.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 HRP will mark the second year of the 2019–2020 multi-year humanitarian response strategy. Of the newly estimated 4.6 million people in need, HRP partners aim to assist 2.1 million people. The plan will cover the most urgent needs, focusing on providing life-saving assistance, preventing and responding to epidemics, and protecting fundamental rights. Humanitarian organizations will prioritize assistance to the most affected and vulnerable, including single-headed households, pregnant and lactating women, unaccompanied or separated children, people with disabilities, GBV survivors including survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse, people living with HIV/AIDS, IDPs, returnees and people at risk of statelessness. The HRP will complement other relevant programming instruments and strategies, while preparedness efforts in support of the Government of Haiti and its Directorate of Civil Protection will also be a top priority.

[52] National Food Security Coordination, July 2019

# Venezuela HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)[53]

**$750.0 M**

2019 2020

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**7.0 M**

2019 2020

**PEOPLE TARGETED**[53]

**3.5 M**

2019 2020

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The political and economic crisis in Venezuela continues to deepen. There have been five consecutive years of economic decline, and hyperinflation cumulatively reached 283,000 per cent between January 2017 and August 2019. Household incomes, savings and consumption further decreased. Public expenditure, investments and the ability to import and provide essential goods and services have been severely affected by dwindling revenues.

People in Venezuela face challenges in accessing food, medicines and basic supplies. Health, protection and education services have been severely impacted, as have essential infrastructure and services, including the provision of water, electricity, gas, fuel and transportation. More than 21 per cent of the population – some 6.8 million people – is estimated to be suffering from undernourishment, a fourfold increase compared with 2014. Communicable diseases such as measles and malaria have resurfaced.

Overall, an estimated 7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The most vulnerable groups in Venezuela include children at risk, pregnant and lactating women, indigenous populations, displaced people, people living with disabilities, people with chronic health conditions and serious illnesses, and elderly people. Many families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as selling assets, taking children out of school to contribute to family income, or leaving children behind when migrating to other countries.

The crisis in Venezuela has pushed millions to leave the country. In October 2019, there were about 4.5 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees worldwide. People on the move face numerous protection risks, including those related to GBV, people trafficking, exploitation and abuse, particularly in border areas with insufficient assistance and referral services. In some border areas, shelters are inadequate and overcrowded, and lack basic facilities.

In 2019, the UN and other humanitarian organizations received $155.8 million,[54] allowing them to scale up their capacity to respond to humanitarian needs across the country. Humanitarian coordination mechanisms have been established and a response plan was launched for July to December 2019, aiming to reach 2.6 million vulnerable people, including 1.2 million children and adolescents. As of October 2019, 975,000 people were reached with medicines in 109 health facilities; safe water was provided to 350,000 people; 160,000 students benefited from education; more than 100,000 children and pregnant and lactating mothers received nutrition support; 50,000 people improved their diet through food distributions and agricultural support; and 35,000 people received protection-related information, including access to services.

Despite these efforts, underfunding is hampering the humanitarian community's ability to respond. As of 13 November 2019, only 25 per cent of the required funds had been received from a small number of donors. The inability of international NGOs to register has also impacted the operational capacity to respond on a greater scale. Bureaucratic impediments, the politicization of assistance, lack of access to fuel, and insecurity in some areas are also challenging the response.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In 2020, the main drivers of the humanitarian situation are likely to continue, negatively impacting people's lives and livelihoods. The number of people in need is projected to increase as overall basic service infrastructure further declines. A large segment of the population will face food insecurity and malnutrition, and negative coping strategies could become the norm for the most vulnerable. A generation of children is at risk of losing their education. If the situation does not improve, large-scale population movements within and outside the country are likely to continue. The number of migrants and refugees is expected to increase in 2020.

### Response priorities in 2020

The humanitarian response in Venezuela will continue to focus on three strategic objectives established by the 2019 plan: i) ensure the survival and well-being of the most vulnerable people; ii) promote and strengthen their protection and dignity; and iii) strengthen people's livelihoods and resilience. As operational capacities in the country are strengthened, humanitarian partners will scale up, aiming to reach 3.5 million people in 2020.

[53] Financial requirements and people targeted are preliminary estimates.
[54] Total funding to Venezuela recorded on FTS as of 13 November, of which 35.2% is through the Venezuela HRP.

# *Regional overview:* Middle East and North Africa

**Aden, Yemen**
Twelve-year-old Soonia (left in blue) with her sisters at an informal settlement for displaced people in Dar Saad, Aden. The family fled Al Hudaydah in the summer of 2018. *OCHA/Giles Clarke*

The Middle East and North Africa region hosts some of the largest and most intractable humanitarian crises in the world. More than 42 million people across the region, in contexts as diverse as Syria, Yemen, Libya, Iraq and the occupied Palestinian territory, are estimated to require some form of humanitarian assistance and support in 2020.

The main drivers of humanitarian needs across the region remain protracted armed conflict and violence, frequently fuelled by political, social and economic grievances or geopolitical tensions. Many of the conflicts have been characterized by disregard for international humanitarian law and failure to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure. Fighting in urban areas, including the use of explosive weapons in heavily populated areas, remains of grave and growing concern. Some countries in the region are also vulnerable to natural disasters or extreme climate events, including earthquakes, drought and flooding, and to epidemics, such as cholera.

The impact of conflict and climatic events on civilians has been devastating. Thousands of people have lost their lives or suffered injury or disability, while their homes, schools, health-care facilities, places of work and public spaces have been damaged or destroyed. More than 20 million people have been displaced at some stage in recent years, many of them multiple times, either internally or as refugees to neighboring countries. In Syria alone, more than 6.1 million people remain internally displaced and at least 5.6 million have sought safety abroad as refugees.

Conflict, combined with economic decline and lack of sustainable livelihoods, has exhausted individual and community coping mechanisms, in many cases resulting in high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. In Yemen alone, two thirds of the population, 20 million people, are food insecure and 36 per cent are malnourished. More than 9 per cent of all children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

Humanitarian organizations in the region have faced an array of challenges to humanitarian access, many of which are likely to continue in 2020. In addition to insecurity and active conflict, this includes attacks on humanitarian workers as well as deliberate obstruction of humanitarian access through administrative or bureaucratic restrictions, delays or denials. The generosity of many donors notwithstanding, continued funding constraints have also affected the ability of humanitarian organizations to respond to urgent needs.

Despite the challenges, humanitarian organizations across the region have stayed and delivered, reaching more than 22.1 million people by November 2019 and planning to reach more than 28.2 million people in 2020.

# Iraq HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$520.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**4.1 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.8 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Iraq is a country in transition. The formal conclusion of major military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in late 2017 paved the way for millions of displaced Iraqis to return home. But returns have slowed since 2018 as the country grapples with post-conflict realities. Intercommunal and societal tensions persist on multiple fronts, political upheavals and natural disasters risk exacerbating existing humanitarian needs, and the spectre of armed conflict and renewed displacement lingers.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Of the 6 million people displaced during the 2014–2017 conflict against ISIL, approximately 1.5 million people remain internally displaced, 70 per cent of whom have been displaced for more than three years. Without communal reconciliation, large-scale reconstruction and widespread economic rejuvenation – all of which are outside the humanitarian sphere – these numbers are likely to persist in 2020, in conjunction with significant numbers of returnees and vulnerable host communities. The most vulnerable include families that cannot return to their areas of origin due to their perceived affiliations with extremist groups, and which therefore have significant protection needs.

The pace of closures and consolidations of IDP camps is an area of uncertainty for 2020. The second half of 2019 saw a series of unexpected camp closures and consolidations primarily in Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar, some of which were carried out with little notice to the affected communities or to humanitarian partners. Tens of thousands of people were affected. While some families relocated to other camps, the majority moved to non-camp settings, making it harder for humanitarian organizations to service their needs or track their vulnerabilities.

The humanitarian community in Iraq is broadly supportive of returns, if voluntary, dignified, informed and sustainable. Humanitarian organizations actively participate in Governorate Returns Committees – composed of Government representatives, NGOs and UN representatives – which work to identify durable solutions in areas of origin where needs are severe, support those who have already returned and encourage those yet to do so.

### Response priorities in 2020

Humanitarian partners in Iraq used the enhanced HPC approach to focus on acute vulnerability. In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist nearly 1.8 million people, out of an estimated 4.1 million people in need. These include acutely vulnerable IDPs, both in and out of camps, and returnees, who will be supported to meet needs related to their physical and mental well-being and living standards. IDPs will also be supported to strengthen their resilience and move towards economic independence to reduce humanitarian aid dependency.

A priority in 2020 will be to calibrate the response to better serve acutely vulnerable out-of-camp populations. As the number of returnees grows, humanitarian organizations will provide support related to well-being and living standards for acutely vulnerable returnees, and support increased engagement with and by governmental and development entities to develop durable solutions in areas of origin. Protection for all population groups will remain an overarching goal for humanitarian organizations in 2020, including by strengthening areas of cross-cutting application such as accountability to affected populations and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

**Improving data for humanitarian response**

The enhanced HPC for 2020 has underpinned the humanitarian response planning for Iraq, standardizing methodologies of analysis and ensuring a clear focus on the most vulnerable populations. This has strengthened joint analysis and planning rooted in humanitarian consequences, standardized vulnerability and severity of needs.

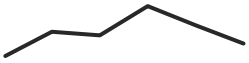
Humanitarian organizations and donors are often tempted to expand the humanitarian sphere to address an ever-growing caseload of vulnerable people in Iraq. In order to preempt programming overreach and ensure that rigorous analysis and planning is followed up with equally rigorous monitoring and reporting, humanitarian partners in Iraq use a dynamic online dashboard[55] to monitor implementation of the HRP. This dashboard is already in use and will be further improved for the 2020 HPC. By combining all the indicators collected and reported on in ActivityInfo by the clusters and the data collected in the FTS, the Humanitarian Country Team in Iraq will be able to oversee the response in real time, allowing for ongoing analysis of changes in the operating context, as well as response achievements.

[55] www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/iraq/2019-dashboard

# Libya HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$110.0M**




**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**880k**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**340k**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The complexity of Libya's humanitarian situation is increasing. The outbreak of armed conflict in the southern areas of Tripoli in April 2019 displaced 128,000 people, bringing the total number of IDPs back to more than 300,000 and reversing the previous trend of declining displacement.

Violations of international humanitarian law are a major concern. In 2019, attacks on health-care facilities increased by 21 per cent compared with the previous year, and 280 per cent compared with 2017.[56] Between January and mid-October 2019 there were 57 attacks on health-care facilities, resulting in the death of 13 health workers and injury of 48 others.[57]

The Tripoli clashes have heightened an already complex humanitarian situation, marked by years of widespread violence, direct attacks on public infrastructure and the disruption of essential services. The economy, almost entirely dependent on oil and gas exports, continues to struggle and the country is experiencing a serious liquidity crisis. Fuel shortages have caused extensive power outages. Living conditions, including access to clean drinking water, medical services, and safe housing, all degraded due to the protracted conflict situation in the country, rendering people extremely vulnerable to further shocks. Despite this, Libya remains an attractive destination for migrant workers, promising higher salaries compared with neighbouring countries. An estimated 650,000 migrants are present in Libya, most of them in an irregular status that puts them at risk of arbitrary indefinite detention.

As the situation in Libya has grown more complex, humanitarian organizations face a multitude of access challenges and constraints, driven by conflict and bureaucratic impediments. Underfunding of the 2018 and 2019 HRPs impacted partners' capacity to scale up their responses and necessary security measures. Nonetheless, by August 2019, humanitarian partners had reached 56 per cent of people targeted for humanitarian assistance

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In 2020, a projected 880,000 people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, a slight increase from the beginning of 2019 as a result of the ongoing conflict and its impact on public services and living conditions. In areas affected by conflict, needs have become more severe and this trend is expected to continue. Limited access due to the security situation will remain a major concern, cutting off areas of severe need from vital assistance.

The humanitarian situation in Libya is expected to worsen in coming months. Civilians are bearing the burden of increased insecurity: disruptions of livelihoods, social protection, health, education and shelter have a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable groups in Libya including displaced families, host communities, returnees, and refugees and migrants. The specific needs of women and girls are often overlooked, and they are at increased risk of GBV. Refugees and migrants will face high risks of protection and human rights violations, exploitation and abuse. The severity of the situation may trigger more departures by sea, increasing the risks associated with these dangerous journeys.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 HRP will aim to assist approximately 340,000 of the most vulnerable people. The international humanitarian community will also work closely with Libyan national stakeholders, including government authorities, national NGOs and civil society organizations to ensure that available local resources are increasingly leveraged to cover needs. International partners will deliver a highly focused response to meet the remaining needs not covered by national stakeholders, prioritizing IDPs, vulnerable groups, highly vulnerable returnees, and refugees and migrants. Strong coordination and complementarity with development entities and stabilization frameworks will be in place to ensure that areas of return will be prepared to receive returnees in a dignified, safe and sustainable manner. Protection will be at the core of the response, including prevention and response to GBV, child protection and mine action interventions. A feedback mechanism will improve and streamline accountability to affected populations.



[56] Safeguarding Health in Conflict, *Impunity remains: Attacks on health care in 23 countries in conflict in 2018.*
[57] WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care, *https://publicspace.who.int/sites/ssa/SitePages/PublicDashboard.aspx*

# occupied Palestinian territory

HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$348.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**2.4 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.5 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

A protracted protection crisis continues in oPt, largely attributable to the ongoing occupation, the blockade on the Gaza Strip, and continued violations of international law. These factors, and the internal Palestinian divide, will continue to drive vulnerability and humanitarian need in oPt in 2020.

The situation in Gaza remains extremely fragile. The ongoing blockade, combined with intermittent outbreaks of hostilities, impact all aspects of civilian life. In 2019, regular flare-ups of hostilities resulted in casualties and damage to homes and infrastructure, while threatening to ignite a wider confrontation. The weekly "Great March of Return" demonstrations continue to raise tensions and result in high levels of casualties. Despite some improvement in the economy in 2019, unemployment has risen to almost 47 per cent. Nearly half the population lives below the poverty line of $5.50 per day and an estimated 62 per cent of households are food insecure. Access to essential services, including health care, remains insufficient, although improvements in the electricity supply were observed.

The humanitarian situation in the West Bank is less acute, but remains of concern. Settlement expansion and related violence, and the loss of land and natural resources, impede access to essential services and livelihoods for Palestinians. In 2019, there was an increase in the number of demolitions and seizures of Palestinian-owned structures, resulting in the forced displacement of Palestinian families. Economic growth is expected to slow, reaching a five-year low, and unemployment remains high.

The deterioration in the humanitarian situation throughout oPt is exacerbated by significant shortfalls in funding for humanitarian organizations. Following the complete suspension of support from its largest donor, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) faces momentous challenges. Funding shortfalls are aggravated by increased restrictions on operational space, which undermine the humanitarian community's ability to respond to growing needs.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The political situation and other main drivers of humanitarian needs are likely to remain largely unchanged in 2020. Despite a recent solution to the Palestinian Authority's fiscal crisis, sustained funding to address longer-term structural problems is unlikely to materialize. In the absence of investment, there may be further unravelling of the social fabric in Gaza, with coping mechanisms becoming increasingly strained, deepening the vulnerability of the population, particularly women and children.

In the West Bank, policies and practices affecting Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city are expected to continue, placing Palestinians at risk of forcible transfer and leading to erosion of livelihoods. Economic development will remain hampered by the occupation and limitations on Palestinian access to land and natural resources, and by a multilayered system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical constraints, including the Barrier. In addition to political challenges and funding shortfalls, humanitarian organizations will face an increasingly difficult operational context, resulting in shrinking humanitarian space and more limited ability to provide aid to Palestinians throughout oPt.

### Response priorities in 2020

An estimated 2.4 million people in oPt will require humanitarian assistance. In the final year of the 2018–2020 multi-year humanitarian response strategy, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 1.5 million people with a financial requirement of $348 million. Their needs will be addressed through multisector efforts that aim to protect the rights of Palestinians living under occupation, provide access to essential services for the most vulnerable, and support the ability of Palestinians to cope with the effects of the crisis, while more sustainable solutions are sought. The 2020 HRP will maintain the centrality of protection at all levels of humanitarian action, as a shared system-wide responsibility.

# Syria

HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [58]

**$3.30 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [58]

**11.0 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED** [58]

**9.0 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The scale and complexity of humanitarian needs and protection concerns in Syria remain deeply concerning. Close to nine years into the crisis, the UN estimates that 6.1 million Syrians continue to be internally displaced and have exhausted their coping capacities, as have many of the host communities that have opened their homes to support the displaced. Up to 1 million people reside in last-resort IDP sites, many of which are overcrowded and lack adequate essential services, including water and sanitation. In the north-west, 2.7 million civilians remain dependent on humanitarian assistance, a situation aggravated as a result of intense hostilities during April–August 2019 that caused civilian casualties, large-scale displacements and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. In the north-east, increased conflict since the onset of the Turkish-led military offensive in October 2019 has also resulted in civilian deaths and significant displacement. More than 91,000 people – mostly women and children – remain displaced in Al Hol and other camps in north-east Syria. Vulnerable families in other parts of Syria, some less affected by hostilities, also continue to rely on essential life-saving assistance and also face hardship in accessing essential social services and dignified livelihoods due to widespread poverty and damage to infrastructure.

In 2019, humanitarian partners scaled up assistance, including to areas that changed control. During January–August 2019, an average of 5.6 million people were reached every month with some form of humanitarian assistance, a slight increase compared with 2018.[59] While reliably measuring response outcomes remains challenging, available data indicate that the humanitarian response in Syria is in many places averting a further degradation of humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities. As an example, global acute malnutrition rates remained below global thresholds and major outbreaks of disease were prevented.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

An estimated 11 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2020, with up to 5 million people in acute need. Newly displaced people, overburdened communities, spontaneous returnees, IDPs living in sites of last resort, collective centres or in open areas, households headed by women and children, and people with disabilities will remain particularly vulnerable. Further military operations in the north-west of the country are anticipated to impact the number of people in need, as well as levels of need severity.

In 2020 humanitarian access is likely to vary across the country and continue to be impacted by several factors, including hostilities, extensive contamination by explosive remnants of war, administrative regulations, and restrictions on staff movements – including to conduct needs assessments. Coordinated advocacy for humanitarian access and for a principled, needs-based response will continue to be critical for improving the operating environment of humanitarian organizations.

### Response priorities in 2020

Without a political solution, humanitarian needs in Syria will remain high in 2020 and will continue to require a large-scale humanitarian operation, both from within Syria and by cross-border actors. Similar to 2019, the 2020 HRP will have three overarching objectives: i) saving lives; ii) enhancing a protective environment, and iii) supporting the resilience of affected people. Humanitarian organizations will prioritize those with the most acute needs, while addressing multisectoral needs of underserved communities across the country in the most appropriate ways possible, including through market-based interventions. The HRP will draw on comprehensive multisector and sectoral needs assessment and analysis. As the interlinked nature of urgent humanitarian and chronic needs in Syria requires approaches that go beyond the time frame of the HRP, the humanitarian community will also look to deliver rights-based quality programming focused on social service delivery and livelihoods. This can support longer-term recovery and promote the self-reliance and dignity of affected people, such as protection services, quality education and health services, improving access to safe water and sanitation, training health personnel and building vocational skills.

The UN estimates that the overall financial requirements for the humanitarian response in 2020 will remain similar to the $3.3 billion requested in 2019.

[58] Note that 2020 people in need, people targeted and financial requirement figures for Syria are estimates, in part due to the significant operational developments in Syria since October 2019.

[59] Based on projections for September–December 2019, the average intersector monthly reach throughout 2019 will be 5.8 million people. This is an increase from an average of 5.5 million people reached monthly with humanitarian assistance in 2018. Inter-sector reach is calculated based on direct beneficiary reach.

# Yemen

HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$3.20 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**24.0 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**15.6 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Nearly 250,000 Yemeni people have died since 2015, including 100,000 people as a direct result of combat and 130,000 from hunger and disease. Although violence abated in the critical port city of Hodaida following the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, missile and air strikes increased during 2019 in other areas of the country and fighting continues along 35 front lines across 10 of Yemen's 22 governorates. In August, the Southern Transitional Council seized control of Aden from the internationally recognized Government. In November, an agreement was reached aimed at stabilizing southern Yemen.

The level of need in Yemen is staggering. Nearly 80 per cent of the population requires humanitarian assistance and protection. Close to half of all families are in acute need. As many as 4 million civilians have been displaced, including 375,000 during 2019. Conditions are worst in conflict-affected areas, including in the subdistricts where authorities continue to restrict humanitarian access.

Two thirds of the population – more than 20 million people – are hungry, and 36 cent of the population is malnourished. More than 1.6 per cent of all children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Economic decline, restrictions on imports, a shortage of foreign currency liquidity, and fluctuations in the value of the currency continue to put millions of people at risk of famine.

During 2019, cholera remained widespread in 90 per cent of the districts. Only 50 per cent of health facilities are fully functional and electricity and power are intermittent across all cities. At least 2 million children are out of school and millions more struggle to attend regularly.

The operating environment in Yemen has become one of the most non-permissive in the world. At least 5.1 million people in 75 hard-to-reach districts have been cut off from humanitarian assistance by restrictions imposed by authorities. Parties to the conflict are harming civilians, including children, and attacking schools, hospitals and water and sanitation systems, in violation of international humanitarian law. Humanitarian staff continue to be detained, harassed and threatened and their visas arbitrarily withdrawn.

Despite these difficulties, the humanitarian operation in Yemen is the largest in the world, and one of the most impactful. In 2019, partners reached an average of 13.7 million people each month. Catastrophic levels of food insecurity have been rolled back in at least 29 of the 45 districts with IPC 5 conditions. The number of sanitation teams reaching cholera-affected households has increased by nearly 90 per cent and nutrition services have expanded significantly across the country. Six major vaccination campaigns will have been completed. More than 680,000 IDPs have received emergency response kits, and 1.5 million have benefited from specialized services.

Unfortunately, programmes across the country were impacted during the year by delays in funding. By mid-September, these were so acute that two life-saving programmes were forced to close, key components in 14 others had been suspended, 6 programmes were unable to start, and 8 were due to close within two months. Financial commitments from countries in the region during the fourth quarter have improved the situation.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Yemen will likely remain the worst humanitarian crisis in the world in 2020. The number of people requiring some form of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2020 is expected to remain at 2019 levels, with at least 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.[60]

### Response priorities in 2020

During 2020, more than 242 partners across the country will aim to assist 15.6 million people in Yemen, a significant decrease from the 24.1 million targeted at the beginning of 2019 due to stricter prioritization and targeting. The response will prioritize: i) fighting hunger by providing food assistance and support to livelihoods; ii) reducing outbreaks of cholera and infectious diseases; iii) providing essential services to displaced families living in emergency and IDP settlements; iv) protecting civilians and advocating for adherence to international humanitarian law; v) rehabilitating public infrastructure to enable life-saving services to the population.

**Preparing for the worst**

Using scenarios developed during the annual programme cycle, humanitarian partners have elaborated a nationwide Contingency Plan. The Plan details measures that will be taken in the first 72 hours and for up to 30 days to address rapid, large-scale displacement and other emergencies. The Plan includes steps required to procure, pre-position, store and release core emergency pipelines. With the exception of the medicine and food pipelines, which will continue to be managed by the appropriate lead agency, all contingency pipelines will be managed by a single agency, reducing duplication and transaction costs.

[60] The figure for people in need will be updated pending the results of the annual Multi-Cluster Location Assessment, Food Security and Livelihood Assessment, and SMART surveys, all of which have been delayed in northern Yemen because of interference by authorities.

# *Regional overview:* West and Central Africa

**Sanmatenga, Burkina Faso**
The villagers of Sanmatenga live off agriculture and farming but are facing an acute food and nutrition crisis after the 2017–2018 major drought affecting six countries in the Sahel region, among them Burkina Faso. Large numbers of cattle died of thirst and hunger throughout Burkina Faso during the 2018 lean season. *OCHA/Eve Sabbagh*

West and Central Africa are among the most risk-prone regions in the world. Climate change, extreme poverty, rapid population growth and insecurity are driving high levels of vulnerability. Violent conflict, forced displacement, food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and environmental shocks continue to devastate communities. Millions of people face increasing protection risks and human rights violations, including gender-based violence, exacerbated by conflict dynamics and intercommunal tensions. In conflict-hit regions of Central Africa and the Sahel, humanitarian access is increasingly challenged due to insecurity, armed attacks and rising criminality. Although governments and local authorities across the region are making efforts to strengthen social cohesion, restore basic services, and improve security, humanitarian needs in the region remain high and are predicted to increase.

Of the estimated 500 million people living in the region, 44 million people will depend on humanitarian assistance in 2020 – a new record high and an increase of 6 million compared with 2019. However, response plans across the region remain significantly underfunded and humanitarians are forced to undertake challenging prioritization exercises in an environment of long-standing critical gaps.

In the Sahel, about 4 million people have been uprooted from their homes – 1 million more than in 2018 and a fourfold increase compared to five years ago. Food insecurity and malnutrition remain critically high, with 7.3 million people facing hunger and 2 million children suffering from severe malnutrition. More than 3,000 schools have been closed due to violence. Unabated conflict in north-east Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin and escalating violence the central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) are increasing the vulnerability of communities still recovering from a severe food crisis in 2018. In 2019, the conflict in Burkina Faso rapidly deteriorated and spread, causing mass displacements and acute needs, and there is a significant risk of spillover into West African coastal countries. Across the region, tensions between farming and pastoralist communities are increasing and frequently sparking fierce clashes. Insecurity is likely to continue in 2020, causing new displacement and critical needs, and threatening the stability of the region. Presidential and parliamentary elections in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo will be set in contexts of insecurity or political tensions, potentially leading to unrest.

In Central Africa, the crisis in western Cameroon has escalated into violent conflict, and solutions have yet to materialize. In CAR and DRC, suffering from long-running conflicts is ongoing, and new hotspots of violence and epidemics have emerged. In CAR, challenges implementing the peace agreement between the Government and armed groups are slowing response efforts. In DRC, it remains to be seen how political change can translate into tangible improvement for crisis-affected communities. The ongoing measles and Ebola outbreaks in eastern DRC remain a global health emergency and are likely to continue into the coming year.

# Burkina Faso HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$295.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**2.2 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.8 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Burkina Faso is facing a large-scale protection crisis due to spiralling insecurity and erosion of people's access to essential services in the northern and eastern parts of the country, along the borders with Mali and Niger. Attacks by armed groups and rising intercommunal tensions affected an expanding portion of the country. Since late 2018, the situation has rapidly deteriorated to encompass large parts of the East, Central North, North, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. In these areas, some 5.2 million people have been affected by the crisis – nearly one third of the population. The number of IDPs increased fivefold during 2019, to nearly 500,000 people.

Poverty, the absence of essential services and weak local governance capacity in the most affected regions continue to aggravate people's vulnerability and erode resilience. Food insecurity and malnutrition are high in areas affected by violence, where livelihoods have been limited by insecurity and displacement. At the start of the 2019–20 school year, 1,455 schools were unable to reopen due to insecurity, affecting 203,000 school-age children. An average of 57 health facilities were closed and 66 were functioning at minimum capacity in recent months, with most closures reported from the Sahel and Central North regions, restricting access to health care for more than 620,000 people.

In 2019, in the face of mounting needs and despite growing access constraints, the humanitarian community scaled up to provide life-saving response for those in need despite receiving only 41 per cent of requested funding by end-October 2019. Combined humanitarian and Government efforts reached 735,000 people (59 per cent of target) with urgent assistance, including provision of food aid, therapeutic nutrition, emergency shelter and access to health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and protection. Despite these efforts, needs outstripped response capacity in all sectors while prospects for immediate return of IDPs grew dimmer and the coping capacities of affected communities were eroded.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In 2020, an estimated 2.2 million people will need humanitarian assistance in the East, Central North, North, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. These include 900,000 people in acute need who require immediate assistance, and 1.6 million in need of support to meet basic living standards. IDPs are the most vulnerable, with 80 per cent considered to be in acute need of assistance.

In the first six months of 2020, the security situation is not expected to sustainably improve. The 2020 HNO projects that the number of IDPs could reach 900,000 by April 2020 – noting that IDP projections in 2019 were exceeded by events. Insecurity and constrained humanitarian access are likely to increase the vulnerability of crisis-affected people. They may experience heightened protection risks, inadequate health care and nutritional support, low agricultural production and lessening market availability as well as high pressure on livelihoods, insufficient access to safe drinking water. People with disabilities are likely to face inadequate access to needed support. The Government, which in 2019 already had to divert budget resources from essential services to security, also has to organize national elections in 2020.

### Response priorities in 2020

Recognizing the severity of needs and the volatility of the operational context, humanitarian organizations have sought to strictly focus the 2020 HRP on the most critical needs, while aligning humanitarian planning with development partners' efforts to support the Government in prioritizing and sequencing international assistance towards prevention and resilience activities. The humanitarian strategy focuses on providing life-saving support, including through delivery of a standard package of assistance to the most vulnerable people and households, and expanding affected communities' access to essential services and living standards, particularly where the State is unable to provide them, using modalities adapted to the challenging and volatile operating environment. Resilience and prevention efforts focus on addressing the root causes of the crisis by delivering essential social services and enhancing livelihood opportunities in the most at-risk parts of the country, and fostering resilience and social cohesion among crisis-affected communities.

The 2020 HRP aims to assist 1.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, ensuring that the most vulnerable, including IDPs, refugees, host communities, returnees and people who remain in hard-to-reach areas, receive emergency life-saving and time-critical assistance. Of these, 900,000 people in areas affected by conflict, insecurity and rising intercommunal tensions have been identified as extremely vulnerable and needing immediate humanitarian assistance and protection. With a financial requirement of $295 million, humanitarian organisations will focus on expanding access to shelter and essential social services, including education; specialized medical and psychosocial care and protection; provision of adequate and nutritious food; and livelihoods support.

# Cameroon HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$317.0M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**4.4M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.6M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

In 2019, there was a resurgence in violence in Cameroon's Far North. Ongoing hostilities uprooted more than 486,000 people (271,000 IDPs; 105,000 Nigerian refugees; and 110,000 returnees) and continue to push more people to flee their villages. Armed attacks, abductions – including of children – and looting and destruction of goods and infrastructure have led to physical and psychological trauma. Families have been separated and people have lost their livelihoods, resulting in an increase in food insecurity. Insecurity is exacerbating already limited access to essential social services such as education and health. Epidemics such as cholera, polio and measles are recurrent.

In the eastern and northern regions, Cameroon hosts 280,000 refugees from CAR, exerting significant pressure on already limited natural resources and basic social services in host areas, and exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities. In these areas, girls and young women are more likely to miss out on school and are particularly vulnerable to forced and early marriages and other forms of sexual exploitation.

What began as a political crisis in the North-West and South-West regions has now turned into a significant, complex humanitarian emergency with about 2.3 million people in need, an increase of 80 per cent compared with 2019 and an almost fifteenfold increase since 2018. The crisis has displaced nearly 700,000 people and left 850,000 children out of school. Attacks on medical staff and infrastructure have become a frequent occurrence. More than 80 per cent of Government-run health facilities are closed in the two regions, and the remaining are only partially functional. There has been an increase in maternal and infant mortality rates, and in some areas only 6 per cent of adolescent girls and women are giving birth in health centres. Human rights abuses and violations continue to be reported at an alarming rate, including torture, arbitrary arrest, detention and forced disappearances. In August 2019 alone, more than 800 protection incidents were reported, namely unlawful killings, torture and inhuman treatment. Men, especially young men, are particularly affected by such violations.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In 2020, an estimated 4.4 million people in Cameroon will be in need of humanitarian assistance. Increasing violence and the lack of progress towards political solutions in the North-West and South-West regions are predicted to cause further displacement and increase humanitarian needs. Limited availability of, and access to, basic health, water and sanitation services, and poor vaccination coverage, are likely to lead to disease outbreaks.

The security situation is likely to deteriorate further in the Far North, North-West and South-West regions due to ongoing violence and hostilities, which will cause increased protection needs and likely result in further declines in agricultural production. In these areas, limited humanitarian access due to underfunding, insecurity and poor road infrastructure, is also projected to remain an impediment to reaching people in need.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 HRP will prioritize the most vulnerable 2.6 million people based on an analysis of the severity of needs across sectors – an increase of 300,000 people compared with 2019 – with a financial requirement of 317 million. In addition to meeting the most urgent needs, the approach taken in Cameroon recognizes that humanitarian needs are exacerbated by underlying structural causes. Based on the sector severity analysis conducted during the HNO process, partners have geographically and gradually sequenced their priorities from life-saving humanitarian interventions towards longer-term programming. When and where appropriate, this will encourage complementarity with development and State entities to maximize impact in particular geographic areas, boosting the contribution of humanitarian action towards collective outcomes and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Gender equality in response planning**

Based on a secondary data review of key humanitarian assessments and of existing gender reports, an "Overview of Gender Equality in Cameroon"[61] was developed. Having key information synthetized in one document was found to be a practical way of ensuring that gender realities are central to the planning of the response. The paper provides qualitative and quantitative data on critical issues, such as gender roles and workload, women's and men's access to, and control of, resources and their participation in decision-making and public life. It provides a breakdown of data by sex and age and an analysis of the demographics of IDPs, refugees and returnees in the affected regions, and includes key gender-specific information grouped by cluster.

[61] www.humanitarianresponse.info/fr/operations/cameroon/document/données-sur-légalité-des-sexes-au-cameroun-hno-2020

# Central African Republic HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$387.8 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**2.6 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.6 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The crisis in CAR affects almost the entire country. Conflict and violence have forced one quarter of the population from their homes – fleeing either within CAR or to neighbouring countries. Between January and September 2019, the Rapid Response Mechanism registered 86 alerts compared with 65 during the same period the year before.

In 2019, extreme violence against civilians increased, even though the number of attacks targeting civilians and of clashes between armed groups decreased. There were reports of blatant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including restrictions of freedom of movement, and an average of 539 protection incidents per month were reported between January and August 2019.

More than one third of CAR's population is acutely food insecure, and 375,000 people have immediate survival needs and require emergency food assistance. Acute malnutrition is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in children under age 5.

Humanitarian organizations reached 1.1 million people in the first nine months of 2019. This was a 57 per cent increase from the same period in 2018, and the result of enhanced access and increased – though still insufficient – funding for coordinated humanitarian response. Fewer attacks against humanitarian workers were registered in the first nine months of 2019 – 218, down from 319 during the same period the previous year – but with nearly double the number of casualties.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

CAR ranks second in the world in terms of risk level, according to the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) 2020,[62] with very high risks of conflict, socioeconomic vulnerabilities and lack of human capital. There is a significant risk the security situation could deteriorate in the run-up to the presidential, legislative, regional and municipal elections scheduled for 2020 and 2021, but also due to the resurgence of localized and intercommunal conflicts. As a result, the humanitarian situation is expected to worsen, and violence against civilians and aid workers will continue. It is likely that humanitarian partners will face several simultaneous crises in different parts of the country, with a concomitant increase in fluid population movements.

In the lean season of May–August 2020, 2.1 million people are projected to need food assistance, including 675,000 people who will be at emergency levels of food insecurity. This is partly a result of rising commodity prices. In the last quarter of 2019, the price of commonly consumed foods such as cassava and maize has been rising steeply, while some cereals were no longer available in several markets. In addition, the unavailability of essential services has significantly contributed to the resurgence of epidemics that had previously been eradicated, putting more people at risk.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 1.6 million people in CAR, focusing on the most vulnerable people and the most acute needs. The humanitarian community will provide inclusive, quality and timely response based on humanitarian principles, and prioritize meeting critical needs related to the physical and mental well-being and living standards of affected people. Across all operations, humanitarian partners will strengthen efforts to protect and assist the most vulnerable, including people living with disabilities, and women, girls and boys who are at risk of gender-based or sexual violence. Humanitarian partners will also aim to provide emergency assistance to some of the most hard-to-reach people in need, using a conflict-sensitive access strategy and a flexible and local response.

**Improving data for humanitarian response**

The 2020 HPC is underpinned by the largest humanitarian data collection exercise in CAR since 2016, notably thanks to a multisector needs assessment that covered about 9,000 households in more than 500 localities across all sub-prefectures. In addition, countrywide market assessments were conducted to inform needs analysis and cash programming, while in-depth sectoral assessments were accompanied by mainstreaming feedback from affected people through innovative data visualization. To ensure these were easily understandable by all communities despite low levels of literacy, this was done through drawings that reflect people's perception of the crisis.

[62] INFORM 2020, *https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index*. CAR has a risk score of 8.6 for 2020.

# Chad HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$500.0 M**

2015 2020

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**4.8 M**

2015 2020

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.6 M**

2018 2020

### Evolution of the context and crisis

In 2019, political, military, socioeconomic and climatic developments contributed to an increasingly fragile environment in Chad. The security situation deteriorated, with a sharp increase in attacks by Boko Haram armed groups and intercommunal conflict. As of November, consensus had not yet been reached on a date for legislative elections, originally scheduled for 2015. Chad's economic situation improved slightly with the end of civil servants' strikes that had crippled basic services in 2018, but the country still faces many economic challenges, including declining oil revenues. The closure of borders also impacted the economic situation.

The deteriorating security situation resulted in the displacement of more than 50,000 people in 2019, bringing the number of IDPs in Chad to 175,000. There are 468,000 refugees from Sudan, CAR and Nigeria, who are unable to return home. In the Lake Province, attacks on civilians increased. The closure of borders impacted livelihoods. Heavy rains and flooding destroyed infrastructure, property and crops, with immediate and potential impacts on livelihoods. Climate change, low investment in the agricultural sector and crop pests and diseases drive food insecurity that affects nearly 3.8 million people. Malnutrition prevalence is above emergency thresholds in 18 of the country's 23 provinces. Chad continues to face epidemics, with malaria remaining the leading cause of under-five mortality. WASH infrastructure has been steadily deteriorating for years, exposing thousands to disease.

For the past three years, the humanitarian community has implemented a Multi-Year Framework aligned with the National Development Plan and around six collective results. The humanitarian response has focused on responding to urgent humanitarian needs, particularly to address and prevent food insecurity and malnutrition, reduce vulnerability from displacement, and respond to health emergencies. Cash has been increasingly used in the response. Low funding for humanitarian programmes in 2019, as well as limited access, affected the ability to deliver the required response. Needs have also increased as a result of drought and more extensive flooding than seen in previous years. At the same time, limited investment in addressing chronic underdevelopment has challenged longer-term and more sustainable solutions.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Insecurity, conflict and a fragile political environment will lead to the perpetuation of the situation, with increases in displacement possible. On a positive note, political dynamics in Sudan could encourage the repatriation of nearly 50,000 refugees who are currently in eastern Chad. Humanitarian access is likely to be disrupted due to insecurity in the north and east of the country and in Lake Province, while the south remains more accessible.

IDPs will have limited access to basic food and health care, and will face protection problems. Food security is likely to deteriorate. Nearly 345,000 children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition. This situation will largely affect the Sahelian strip and the south of the country. The vulnerability of displaced populations and host communities will be further exacerbated. The population will continue to face epidemic diseases, and a high proportion of children will still miss the development opportunities provided through education.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, the humanitarian response will maintain strategic objectives from 2019, and will, in coordination with development organizations, address both immediate needs and the root causes of health emergencies, malnutrition and food insecurity. The international community will seek to strengthen Government leadership in planning and coordinating development and humanitarian action. It will also improve protection accountability to affected communities and the protection of civilians, in a community-based approach. Civil-military coordination will be strengthened to improve access. The humanitarian community will promote vulnerability-based planning and implement multisector strategies. Priorities for 2020 also include improved and more systematic tracking of population movements, biometric registration initiatives, and promoting the provision of essential identity documents that enable access to work and land, thus supporting durable solutions.

Humanitarian partners estimate that 4.8 million people will be in need of assistance in 2020, of whom 2.6 million are expected to be targeted for the response, with an estimated $500 million funding required. This is similar to the 2019 HRP, which estimated funding needs at $476.6 million and the number of people in need at 4.3 million. The increases largely result from the deteriorating nutritional situation and increased displacement.

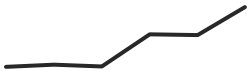
# Democratic Republic of the Congo HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$1.82 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**15.9 M**




**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**8.1 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

In DRC, violent conflict, epidemics and natural disasters compound high levels of poverty, weak public infrastructure and services, as well as conflictual dynamics pertaining to land and mineral resources, resulting in one of the most long-standing and complex crises in the world. In 2019, the overall scale of violence in DRC decreased, particularly in the Kasais and Tanganyika, and the election marked the first peaceful transfer of power in the country's history. However, armed conflict intensified in Ituri and the Kivus.

DRC is home to the largest IDP population in Africa with 5.01 million displaced people, including more than 940,000 people displaced in 2019. DRC also hosts some 517,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. Almost 16 million people face severe acute food insecurity, and some 3.8 million children under age 5 are acutely malnourished. This is the second-highest number of acutely food-insecure people worldwide. Ongoing health epidemics add to the complexity and gravity of the situation. The Ebola virus disease outbreak that began in Equateur Province in May 2018 is the largest recorded outbreak in Congolese history, and globally, the second largest in the world. As of the end of October 2019, 2,172 people have died from Ebola. DRC is also experiencing its worst measles epidemic, with more than 209,000 cases recorded between January and October 2019, and 4,189 deaths. Outbreaks of cholera also remain a major concern.

The volatile security situation, particularly in the eastern part of the country, continues to hinder access to affected people, as do poor infrastructure and bureaucratic impediments. Humanitarian organizations in several provinces have suspended their activities on multiple occasions due to critical incidents, although access in the Kasai region has improved.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Conflicts in the eastern part of DRC are expected to persist in 2020. The situation could be further aggravated by several factors, including the evolution of ongoing epidemics; refugee returns and their impact on the already limited resources and services; socioeconomic challenges and disputes over access to resources; and new national political dynamics. The expected drawdown of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) will also be a factor to take into account starting 2020.

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in DRC has risen to a projected 15.9 million for 2020, with at least 4 million people expected to be at emergency levels of food insecurity. The increase is a result of conflicts and rising food insecurity. In addition, a more extensive geographical coverage of acute food security analysis in 2019 revealed people in need in areas where there were previously no data.

Conflicts will continue to cause significant population displacements in the coming year, and no major changes in the current context and trends of refugee movements are expected. Structural underdevelopment and crises such as armed conflict, epidemics or floods are likely to continue to limit people's access to essential goods and services, impacting their capacity for resilience.

### Response priorities in 2020

The 2020 response strategy aims to address five critical problems: population movements, food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and protection. Supporting the broader aim of reducing the overall levels of vulnerability, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 8.1 million of the most vulnerable people in DRC, with an estimated financial requirement of $1.82 billion. The prioritization of response has been strengthened in the 2020 HRP to ensure that the most severe needs are addressed first, or at certain critical stages of programme implementation.

The 2020 HRP has three key objectives: to meet the basic needs and ensure the physical and mental well-being of people affected by crisis; to improve living conditions; and to provide a protective environment. Humanitarian partners will work to achieve these objectives by delivering targeted, multisector assistance, and throughout the response will mainstream key cross-cutting interventions, among them preventing and responding to GBV.

**Innovative use of data for GBV prevention**

The humanitarian community in DRC has strengthened the integration of GBV prevention in response strategies for 2020. A National Road Map for 2018–2020 has been adopted and is linked to the Global Call to Action on the protection of GBV in emergencies. It involves 143 entities and 68 partners among national and international NGOs, UN agencies, authorities and donors, and includes joined-up approaches with development and peacebuilding entities. Within the 2020 HRP, innovative programming and capacity-building will help provide effective rapid responses to GBV, including through countrywide supply of post-rape kits.

# Mali HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$365.6 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**3.6 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.9 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The crisis in Mali continued to worsen during 2019. Violence and insecurity spread from the north (Kidal, Menaka and Timbuktu) to the central and western regions, and across the border into Niger and Burkina Faso. While instability in the north is mainly driven by an armed insurgency, the centre is experiencing a rise in social unrest, banditry and intercommunal violence. Communities are increasingly being attacked and essential services, including schools and health centres, are being interrupted or halted. In 2019, 1,343 security incidents involving civilians were recorded, a majority of them in the Mopti region. An estimated 900 civilians were killed and 545 injured.

Growing instability has led to a surge in internal displacement. The number of IDPs quadrupled, from 77,000 in September 2018 to 187,000 in September 2019. People fleeing endure repeated armed attacks, the impact of explosive devices, SGBV and family separation. Many internally displaced children have lost access to education and are at risk of sexual exploitation, forced labour or recruitment into armed groups. A total of 920 schools have closed, cutting off access to education for 451,000 children. IDPs are mainly hosted by local communities (up to 79 per cent in Segou region for instance), putting a strain on already limited resources and basic services, and creating additional tensions that lead to protection concerns.

Food insecurity has risen. Heavy rains in July and August damaged crops, equipment, housing, grain stores and livestock. Food and nutrition security analyses[63] conducted in March 2019 estimated that by August 2019, more than 548,000 people would be experiencing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. In the first six months of the year, the number of children with severe acute malnutrition increased 20 per cent, from 160,000 in January to 190,000 in July. An estimated 1.2 million people are exposed to the risk of waterborne epidemic diseases.

Despite an increasingly constraining operational environment and the funding gap hovering at just under 50 per cent at a time of increasing needs, humanitarian partners were able to reach about 966,200 people from January to September 2019.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

Out of an estimated 7.8 million people affected by the crisis in Mali, 3.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2020 – an increase of 300,000 since January 2019. In the absence of the effective implementation of the Peace Agreement and the restoration of the rule of law and essential services throughout the country, political and security tensions are expected to continue in 2020. Intercommunal conflict, armed attacks and other forms of violence could escalate, causing further displacement. Women, children and individuals with specific needs, such as people living with disabilities, will be highly vulnerable to the impacts of the crisis. Men and boys, who make up the majority of civilian casualties, will continue to be at risk from violence and armed conflict.

Despite the positive outcome of the 2018–2019 agricultural season, conflicts and violence continue to negatively impact agriculture production and limit farmers' access to their land. This means that food insecurity is likely to be a serious concern for hundreds of thousands of people, and malnutrition is expected to be particularly high in Gao, Menaka, Segou and Timbuktu.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 2.9 million people with an estimated financial requirement of $365.6 million.[64] The response will focus on providing life-saving responses in the six worst-affected regions: Gao, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu. The 2020 HRP has four strategic objectives: i) saving lives and alleviating suffering for the most vulnerable people through food distribution, tackling malnutrition, access to clean water, and essential health care; ii) facilitating access to basic social services; iii) protecting livelihoods and supporting resilience; iv) ensuring a holistic human rights-based approach across the response.

[63] The Cadre Harmonisé – a comprehensive analytical framework that takes into account various indicators of food and nutrition security outcomes and the inference of contributing factors.

[64] The provisional 2020 budget was calculated as follows: The 2020 provisional budget is the sum of the eight sectoral budgets. The average response costs per cluster were multiplied by the 2020 targeted people by cluster to come up with the 2020 sectoral budgets. Annual ratios of targeted people versus fund requirements per cluster determined an average response cost by targeted people throughout the past five years.

# Niger HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$373.5 M**

2015 2020

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**3.2 M**

2015 2020

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.9 M**

2016 2020

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Niger is extremely vulnerable to a multitude of shocks. Climate change and demographic pressures compound entrenched poverty, resulting in recurring humanitarian crises such as seasonal epidemics and floods. Like other countries of the Sahel region, Niger is affected by chronic food insecurity and malnutrition. Armed violence by non-State armed groups in neighbouring countries is spilling across the border, and insecurity and attacks are severely disrupting essential social services and jeapordizing national development efforts. In addition, people in Niger remain highly vulnerable to natural disasters. In 2019, 227,000 people were impacted by flooding.

In 2019, the humanitarian situation in Tahoua and Tillaberi took a significant turn for the worse, and the situation in Diffa remained highly insecure and volatile. Attacks and threats by non-State armed groups, banditry, inter-ethnic violence and subsequent military operations by Government forces led to significant displacement. As of October 2019, at least 440,000 people had been forced to flee their homes and are living in vulnerable conditions across the country. This includes some 110,000 IDPs and 120,000 Nigerian refugees in Diffa, 78,000 IDPs and 57,000 Malian refugees in Tillaberi and 42,000 Nigerian refugees in Maradi. As a result of the State of Emergency declared in these three regions and military operations against armed groups, humanitarian access is limited in some locations and people's access to markets, education, essential services and livelihoods has been disrupted.

Despite challenging conditions, as of September 2019 humanitarian organizations had delivered food and/or cash assistance to 950,000 people, assisted more than 583,000 people with access to sufficient safe drinking water, and provided access to protection services to 275,000 in affected areas.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The humanitarian situation in Niger is projected to require more attention in 2020 compared with preceding years, with 3.2 million people in need of assistance – an increase from 2.3 million people in need in 2019. The largest projected caseload will continue to be linked to malnutrition, with about 2.5 million people suffering from acute malnutrition, including a large proportion of children under age 5.

Structural vulnerabilities in Niger are unlikely to improve significantly next year. As such, people in Niger will remain very vulnerable to climatic events such as droughts and flooding, malnutrition, food insecurity and disease outbreaks. Resilience programming, including further investment in prevention and capacity-building, is critical to reduce the vulnerability of people and communities and better respond to the root causes of these crises.

Armed conflicts in Burkina Faso, Mali and Nigeria will continue to result in instability and forced displacements in border areas. As a consequence of insecurity, humanitarian organizations in Niger have faced increased access constraints, affecting their ability to respond to people's needs, in particular in Tahoua and Tillaberi, where humanitarian operations have been put on hold.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will aim to assist 1.9 million people, an increase from the 1.6 million people targeted in 2019. Consequently, the financial requirement to meet urgent needs has also gone up, to $373.5 million.

Humanitarian access is likely to remain limited in the border areas and a flexible approach involving civil-military coordination and negotiated access will be required to reach the largest possible number of IDPs and host communities. Given the combination of both acute and structural needs, greater investment in development must complement humanitarian action in fragile areas where risks are more recurrent, with specific attention to capacity-building at the local level. Humanitarian organizations are also working with development partners to achieve a more coherent approach to reducing vulnerability and dependency on humanitarian assistance in the long run.

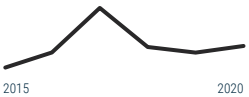
# Nigeria HRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$789.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**7.7 M**




**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**5.7 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

Ten years of conflict and violence perpetrated by Boko Haram and other non-State armed groups have devastated communities in north-east Nigeria. The resulting humanitarian crisis remains one of the most severe in the world, characterized by armed conflict, forced displacement and grave violations of civilians' human rights and dignity, including killings, sexual violence and abduction. As of August 2019, nearly 2 million people were internally displaced and another 240,000 people had sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

In Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, a resurgence in violence by non-State armed groups during 2019 reversed humanitarian gains. Despite dropping from a peak of 8.5 million people in 2017 to 7.1 million people in early 2019, as a result of improved security, scaled-up assistance and favourable climatic conditions, the number of people in need of urgent assistance is again rising. More than 80 per cent of those in need are women and children.

Humanitarian access remains challenging. Four Local Government Areas are totally inaccessible to aid workers, and the number of people out of reach increased by 50 per cent compared with the beginning of 2019. However, while Borno State continues to be the epicentre of the conflict and Yobe State has experienced a rise in clashes between Government forces and insurgents, the situation in parts of Adamawa State has stabilized. This presents an opportunity for early recovery and development programming in support of Government efforts.

While the response continues to be generously funded five years into the crisis, contributions in 2019 came late in the year. Only one third of the funding required had been pledged or received during the critical months of the lean season, the rain season and the planting season, hindering the possibility for aid organizations to build resilience for 2020.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

In 2020, an estimated 7.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance, an 8 per cent increase from 2019. Large-scale military operations against insurgents in the coming months are expected to trigger waves of mass displacement, stifle economic activity, constrain access to food, and reduce overall resilience of affected communities. Despite nascent early recovery and stabilization initiatives, more people are facing increased vulnerability due to the erosion of coping mechanisms, destruction of livelihoods and economic assets. Social and economic infrastructure are still devastated and will require considerable early recovery and development efforts over the coming years.

Food security is of particular concern in 2020 as rising insecurity, forced displacements and movement restrictions in 2019 caused families to miss entire planting seasons – some for the fifth year in a row. An estimated 3 million people were food insecure as of September 2019, an increase from 2.7 million people since the last projections in October 2018.

### Response priorities in 2020

In 2020, humanitarian partners will focus on responding to life-saving needs in the most affected states in the north-east (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states), in line with the three-year strategy (2019–2021). Out of the 7.7 million people in need of urgent assistance, the UN and partners will aim to assist 5.7 million, representing 74 per cent of those in need (compared with 88 per cent targeted in 2019). Humanitarian partners will focus on the 16 Local Government Areas most severely affected, based on a cross-sectoral assessment of the severity of needs. In addition, humanitarian partners will develop contingency plans on how to address the needs of 1.2 million civilians currently in inaccessible and hard-to-reach areas, based on a thorough analysis of access modalities.

In areas where the situation has progressively stabilized in the course of 2019, the humanitarian community will strengthen engagement with development entities on longer-term early recovery and development based on the framework for humanitarian-development collaboration agreed with the Government in 2018.

The reduced financial requirement for 2020 – from $848 million in 2019 to $789 million for 2020 – reflects the prioritization of actions implementable by partners considering the active conflict and continued shrinking of the humanitarian space. Partners have sequenced their priorities and actions for 2020, from life-saving humanitarian interventions towards longer-term programming to reduce humanitarian dependency, build communities resilience and prevent a further deterioration of the crisis. Aid organizations are also committed to increasing the focus on collective engagement with authorities on the leadership and ownership of the response with the newly established Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs Disaster Management and Social Development and the North East Development Corporation.

# Regional Refugee Response Plans

**Azraq Camp, Jordan**
Young Syrian boys playing with old tyres just before sunset. The camp stretches across a vast area of empty desert in the north of Jordan.
*UNHCR/Christopher Herwig*

Regional RRPs are developed with a regional perspective under the leadership of UNHCR. In 2020, UNHCR will continue to develop regional RRPs leading inter-agency planning and coordination for large-scale or complex refugee situations, including within mixed movements. Response activities support the objectives stated in the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and ensure appropriate linkages with the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.

The regional RRPs contribute to the application of the Refugee Coordination Model articulating protection and solutions priorities and describing the needs of refugees and other persons of concern, as well as host communities impacted by crises. As unified inter-agency plans, the regional RRPs build on different partners' comparative advantages, comprising detailed strategies aimed at responding to displacement situations with regional implications.

UNHCR, together with a broad range of entities, including the UN, other international organizations, civil society, development and financial institutions and the private sector, will continue to establish synergies with host governments to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to support sustainable development in an attempt to leave no one behind. Recognizing the importance of the whole-of-society approach, regional RRP partners will seek to evolve interventions from emergency responses to more comprehensive responses aimed at strengthening livelihoods and the resilience of refugees and other people in need, while at the same time taking into account the needs of host populations.

The 2020 regional RRPs are two-year plans with joined-up interventions for 2020 and 2021 for the delivery of predictable refugee and host community responses over the immediate and medium term.[65] The regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for the Venezuela situation is designed with a one-year implementation period.

In Africa, regional RRPs for the refugee situations in Burundi, DRC, Nigeria and South Sudan will seek to integrate a solutions approach by building self-reliance and resilience through an overarching vision and the coherent engagement of partners and host governments in the pursuit of protection and solutions for refugees. The Nigeria RRP for 2020–2021 will be co-led with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

In the Americas, under the co-leadership of UNHCR and IOM, the inter-agency response will continue to provide protection to Venezuelan refugees and migrants and in parallel will work closely with host governments and development partners to establish synergies aimed at enhancing refugee inclusion in national and local development plans.

In the Middle East and North Africa region, UNHCR will continue to co-lead with UNDP the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), maintaining its focus on providing comprehensive protection and assistance to refugees while continuing to ensure that resilience-building, sustainability and local engagement are integrated into programming.

[65] The RRP components included in the 2020 GHO requirements are as follows: Syria 3RP: fully included. Burundi RRP: Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda components included; DRC excluded. DRC RRP: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included; Burundi excluded. Nigeria RRP: Fully excluded (Cameroon, Chad, Niger). South Sudan RRP: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded.

# Burundi

REGIONAL RRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [66]

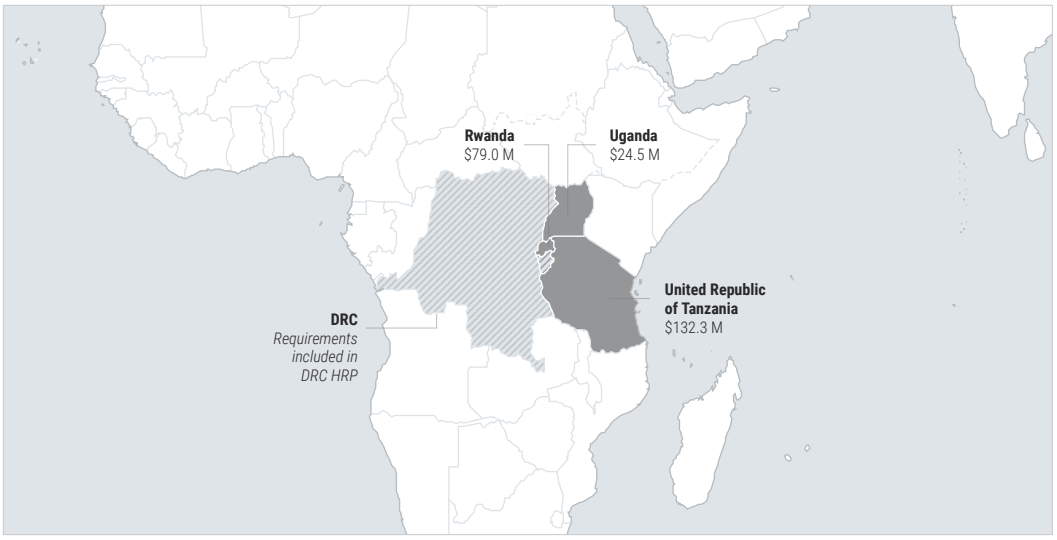
**$262.7 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [66]

**305 k**

**PEOPLE TARGETED** [66]

**305 k**




As of October 2019, there were some 325,000 Burundian refugees in neighbouring countries. With elections planned for 2020, there are concerns that the political tensions that caused people to flee may remain unresolved. New arrivals from Burundi in neighbouring countries continue to cite insecurity and human rights violations as reasons for their flight.

Despite this, more than 78,000 refugees have returned to Burundi since 2017. Returns to Burundi are not being promoted, but RRP partners are working to assist those who indicate they have made a free and informed choice to return voluntarily. In August 2019, a bilateral agreement signed by the Government of Burundi and the Government of Tanzania aimed to have refugee returns increase to 2,000 per week. UNHCR and RRP partners continue to advocate at all levels to ensure the voluntariness of returns and that they take place in safety and with dignity. It is expected that 305,000 Burundians will remain in exile by the end of 2020 in DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The 2020–2021 regional RRP for Burundi includes 37 partners and takes a comprehensive and solutions-oriented approach, emphasizing the need for refugees' inclusion in national systems (such as in Rwanda and Uganda), integrating service delivery with host communities wherever possible, and prioritizing self-reliance in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. RRP partners will undertake efforts to strengthen support for Burundian refugees in key areas, including protection, prevention and response to SGBV, shelter, and access to essential services.

After more than five years of hosting refugees, countries of asylum in the region are counting on international support and solidarity to support host communities with prevention of environmental degradation, strengthening health and educational services and investment in the development of rural communities.

Within the framework of the RRP, partners will continue to work to implement the 2019 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan for Burundi, which articulates the inter-agency strategy to provide community-based response activities reaching refugee returns in the six main provinces of return (Cancuzo, Kirundo, Makamba, Muyinga, Rutana and Ruyigi). The plan brings together 19 partners within Burundi, including Government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs.

[66] All figures are estimates.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo

REGIONAL RRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [67]

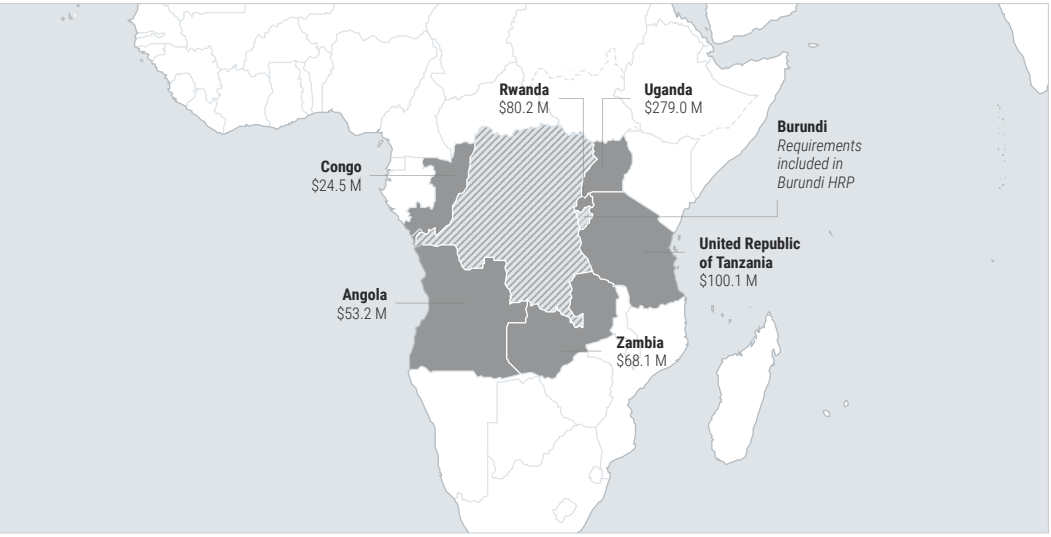
**$650.3 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**831 k**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**831 k**




In 2019, the humanitarian situation in DRC continued to deteriorate, notwithstanding significant improvements in some areas. Despite the peaceful transition of power in 2019, the causes of displacement remain mostly unaddressed. Armed conflicts and intercommunal violence continue to fuel new displacement and prevent returns. New cases of Ebola continue to be reported across eastern DRC, creating a complex humanitarian situation.

While the majority of displaced people remain within DRC (now estimated at some 5 million IDPs), tens of thousands of new refugees have fled across borders since the beginning of 2019. There are some 720,000 Congolese refugees in the region, as of October 2019.

In 2020, nearly 16,000 Congolese refugees are expected to return from Angola to the Kasai region, where fighting among armed groups has lessened and security conditions have improved. In early October 2019, the first organized convoy of voluntary repatriations took place. However, peacebuilding is still fragile due to intercommunal tensions, weak local governance and poor security.

In Uganda, further refugee influxes from DRC are expected in the coming year. At the same time, up to 20,000 refugees may return from Uganda to DRC in 2020.

The regional RRP for DRC 2020–2021 will continue to focus on addressing the needs of new Congolese refugee arrivals in the region, and those in protracted situations in the seven countries of asylum (Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia). In 2020, RRP partners will aim to assist some 831,000 Congolese refugees.

Country-level objectives and activities by RRP partners aim to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable refugees, and support livelihood opportunities through a resilience-based approach. RRP partners will also address the needs of host populations, strengthening peaceful coexistence and building social cohesion.

[67] Estimate (Rwanda component to be confirmed).

# Nigeria

REGIONAL RRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [68]

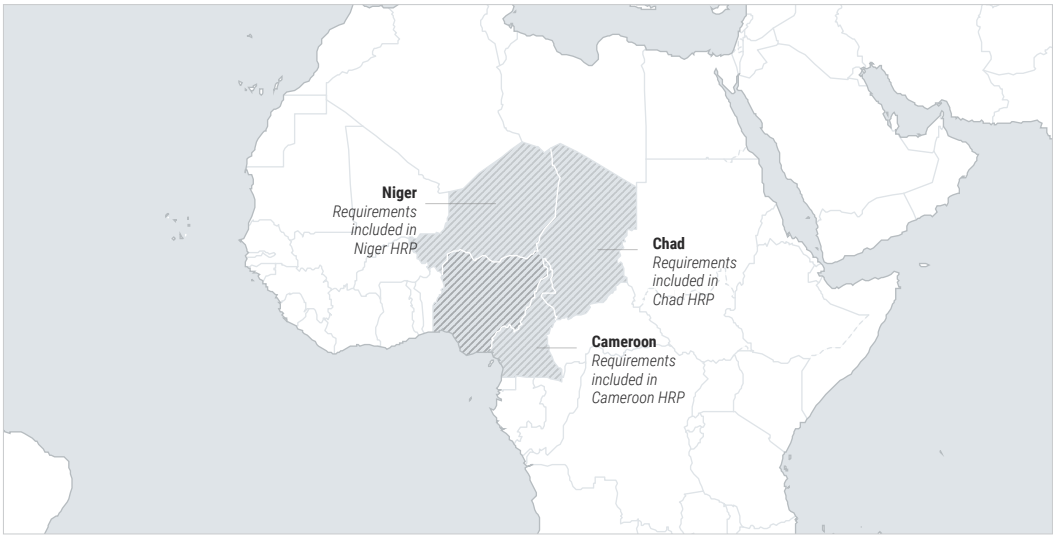
**$180.7M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [68]

**285k**

**PEOPLE TARGETED** [68]

**285k**




The humanitarian crisis around the Lake Chad Basin is entering its seventh year and shows few signs of abating. The activity of non-State armed groups continues to cause significant new displacement in north-east Nigeria, with tens of thousands of refugees having fled their homes during 2019. This already challenging situation was further compounded by escalating violence in Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara States and in north-west Nigeria, which forced an additional 50,000 Nigerians to flee to Niger's Maradi region since the first half of 2019.

The 2020–2021 Nigeria regional RRP therefore aims to address the needs of an anticipated 285,000 Nigerian refugees hosted in and outside of camps in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Life-saving humanitarian assistance will continue to be required. Providing shelter and non-food items, addressing food insecurity and strengthening access to water and sanitation remains essential. In keeping with the reaffirmation of the Abuja Action Statement in January 2019, the protection sector will continue its efforts to advocate for access to asylum, prevent refugees from being returned to danger, and increase protection monitoring and response in the region. Keeping displaced children safe and preventing and responding to sexual violence will be prioritized.

Also, broader cooperation will be sought to better respond to protection priorities, with activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law, human rights, access to justice, community security and local governance, as well as at creating conditions for safe and dignified return and reintegration in Nigeria.

Building on achievements made to date, regional RRP partners will enhance access to basic and social services, reinforcing cash transfer modalities, and will promote livelihoods activities and environmental protection. Support for development has become increasingly crucial to reduce vulnerability and mitigate risks faced by refugees and affected host communities. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, regional RRP stakeholders will strengthen strategic partnerships in 2020–2021 to enable a more comprehensive refugee response that integrates humanitarian and development approaches. Additional focus will therefore be placed on resilience, including enhancement of self-reliance and support to host communities, as well as on the consolidation of linkages to national, regional and local development plans.

[68] Estimate (Niger and Chad components to be confirmed).

# South Sudan

REGIONAL RRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

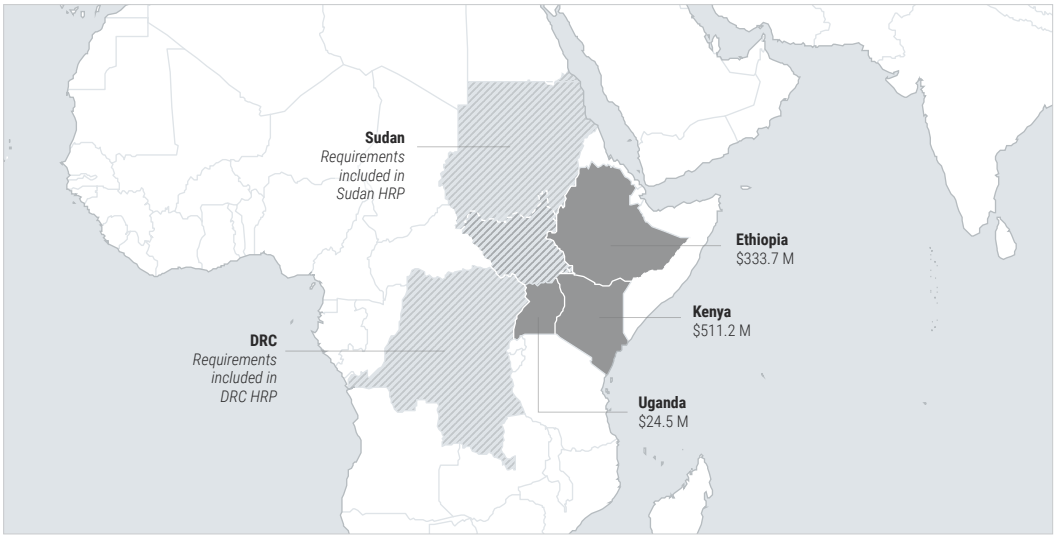
**$1.31 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**2.2 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**2.2 M**




Following the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in September 2018, the path towards peace remains slow, essential services are still not available and food insecurity is forecast to rise. In some regions of the country, conflict and insecurity continue to cause population displacement. As of October 2019, there were more than 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees in the region. The majority – 1.4 million, or 65 per cent – were children.

It is expected that South Sudan will remain the continent's largest refugee crisis in 2020, with more than 2.2 million refugees projected. Although refugee returns are not being promoted or facilitated, an increase in spontaneous IDP and refugee returns is anticipated, but not at high levels.

Looking forward, the 2020–2021 regional RRP for South Sudan aims to address the needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region, including those in protracted situations. Refugees will be hosted mainly in Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, and DRC, which continue to grant refugees from South Sudan prima facie refugee status.

A total of 94 partners across the five countries of asylum will work towards strengthening the protection environment and providing access to quality services for people with specific needs. RRP partners will ensure that life-saving humanitarian assistance is provided, and will promote self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers, encouraging peacebuilding and coexistence with host communities. Data management and analysis, along with protection monitoring of spontaneous returns, will be strengthened.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, comprehensive responses will continue to be operationalized in all countries of asylum with the adoption of progressive policies aimed at integrating refugees into national systems and supporting host communities. DRC and Sudan will continue to apply out-of-camp policies. However, as the South Sudan refugee crisis approaches its sixth year, countries in the region are feeling tremendous pressure and are counting on more support from the international community.

# Syria

REGIONAL 3RP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [69]

**$5.00 B**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**5.6 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**5.6 M**

The situation in Syria continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world, with most Syrian refugees living in neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. These countries have generously hosted refugees for nearly nine years now, making an invaluable contribution to regional and international stability. However, this has come at an exceptional cost, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities, over-stretching essential social services, and reversing years of hard-won development gains.

Entering 2020, there are some 5.6 million refugees across the region. Supporting refugees and the communities hosting them remains extremely challenging, with many individuals facing acute needs and vulnerabilities. Some 70 per cent of Syrian refugees live in poverty, while unemployment and uneven access to basic services, such as education, persist. Many in host communities face similar problems. Furthermore, host governments confront economic and other challenges that place huge pressures on their ability to ensure adequate services and infrastructure.

Since 2015, the Syria Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP) has been a key expression of the international community's support to national efforts to deal with the impact of the crisis. In 2018, 3RP partners ensured that more than 1.3 million children were enrolled in formal education, and provided food and other basic assistance to more than 2 million people. To promote self-reliance and resilience, 3RP partners supported more than 130,000 people with access to employment opportunities, while also working directly to strengthen the capacities of national and local systems in areas such as protection, health, education, and social assistance. Inter-agency efforts continued throughout 2019, however, the needs of Syrians and communities hosting them in the region remain enormous.

In 2020, 3RP partners will continue to work to ensure that people have the protection they need, promote durable solutions, help vulnerable people lead dignified lives, and strengthen national and local capacities to deliver quality services for all, now and in the future. In doing so, the 3RP will play its part in advancing the Global Compact for Refugees and contributing to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in a way that leaves no one behind.

[69] Preliminary figure pending finalization and approval by host countries.

# Other plans

# Bangladesh

ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS JRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$) [70]

**$871.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [71]

**1.3 M**




**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**1.3 M**




### Evolution of the context and crisis

In the absence of durable solutions, some 810,000 Rohingya refugees, mostly from Rakhine State, Myanmar, still live in 34 extremely congested camps designated by the Government of Bangladesh – many of them now entering their third year. Lacking legal status, they have to rely on humanitarian aid to meet their basic needs. Each day spent in uncertainty risks compounding their vulnerabilities and trauma.

As of November 2019, some 766,000 Rohingya refugees had received biometric identification cards. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition dropped from 19 to 12 per cent, and improvements in food security indicators have been observed. Major disease outbreaks have been contained to date, although 2019 has seen a spike in acute watery diarrhoea. However, sustained humanitarian efforts for Rohingya refugees and the most seriously affected host communities will be required throughout 2020, and synergies built with wider development assistance efforts in Cox's Bazar District.

Rohingya refugees have more than doubled the population in the upazilas (administrative regions) of Teknaf and Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar district, putting significant strain on host communities. Although there has been a significant increase of support – including for livelihoods, through vocational training and assistance with cash and assets, rehabilitation of schools and training of teachers – public opinion about the presence of the Rohingya refugees worsened throughout 2019.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The majority of Rohingya refugees are expected to remain in the Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas. The operating environment may become more complex, driven by such factors as evolving public opinion, decreasing social cohesion and Government policy considerations, which may present humanitarian access constraints. Dependency on external aid will continue in 2020. Without continued funds, the basic services put in place for Rohingya refugees could be at risk, which has the potential to endanger lives and lead to a rapid breakdown of the security situation.

Severe weather and natural disasters are a major risk for the health and safety of Rohingya refugees and host communities alike. The monsoon season presents a risk of loss of life and injuries due to landslides, flooding and communicable diseases, particularly for refugees living in weak shelters in congested areas. The coastal district of Cox's Bazar also faces two annual cyclone seasons, before and after the monsoon. The impact of a cyclone would be devastating for the fragile camps and the Bangladeshi communities, in particular those on the coastline, which is more exposed to potential storm surges.

### Response priorities in 2020

The humanitarian community will continue to improve protection and assistance standards for Rohingya refugees and their host communities in Teknaf and Ukhiya upazilas of Cox's Bazar. Continued efforts will be made to ensure that protection remains central to the response of the international community, and that living conditions, including access to education and livelihoods, are improved. This includes supporting the Government in strengthening public service infrastructure and delivery for all communities in Teknaf and Ukhiya. Protection, gender, environment and ecosystem rehabilitation, and disaster risk reduction will be mainstreamed, and contingency plans updated for cyclone or other major natural disasters. Effective alignment and synergies with wider development efforts are also important, and the response will continue to leverage opportunities created through the collaboration between humanitarian and development organizations, seeking the greatest efficiency and impact.

**Engaging refugees in camp improvements**

Access to the camps is critical, but difficult to maintain in the hilly, erosion-prone terrain. The monsoon season poses risks of flooding, waterlogging and erosion. The Site Maintenance and Engineering Project combines the strengths and capacities of refugees, who undertake much of the work, and the key agencies involved in the construction of the camp roads. Primary drainage channels have been strengthened and the hills have been stabilized, reducing the risk of flooding and erosion, and road access to the camps is maintained throughout the year. In total, thousands of Rohingya refugee volunteers have now undertaken these tasks – one third of them women – contributing to improving the situation in the camps.

[70] Provisional figures

[71] People in need include all Rohingya refugees (an estimated 840,000, to be validated when the ongoing joint Government of Bangladesh and UNHCR registration exercise is completed) and 444,000 Bangladeshi host communities in Ukhiya and Teknaf, of which special consideration will be given to those living close to the camps.

# Democratic People's Republic of Korea

NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$107.0 M**

**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**10.8 M**

**PEOPLE TARGETED**

**5.5 M**

### Evolution of the context and crisis

The humanitarian situation in DPRK is characterized by chronic food insecurity and lack of access to life-saving essential services, with profound impacts on the most vulnerable. Both bilateral and UN economic sanctions remain in place and have been made increasingly stringent. Deterioration of critical agricultural infrastructure and recurrent natural disasters have resulted in about 10.1 million people in urgent need of food assistance. According to a May 2019 WFP/FAO Joint Food Security Assessment, the 2018 aggregate food crop production was 12 per cent below the previous year and the lowest in 10 years. In addition, only 7 per cent of the surveyed population had acceptable food consumption[72] in April 2019, a 13 per cent decrease from November 2018. Undernutrition remains a protracted and chronic issue.

Health facilities lack sufficient medicines, equipment and expertise to provide quality services. The consequences are particularly acute for women and children. A lack of reproductive health services is a driver of the high maternal mortality rate (65.9 per 100,000 live births). Diarrhoea and pneumonia remain the two main causes of death among children under age 5. The spread of diseases, such as tuberculosis (including multidrug-resistant tuberculosis) and malaria, remain a major public health concern. About 39 per cent of the population does not have access to a safely managed water source and 16 per cent does not have access to basic sanitation facilities. The situation is worse in rural areas, where nearly half of all children are still exposed to significant risks of illness and malnourishment.

The overall scale of need has remained consistent in DPRK, with about 10.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.[73] As the drivers of humanitarian need are multiple and interconnected, humanitarian organizations are implementing a multisector response that aims to optimize limited resources and a small operational presence.

### Projected situation in 2020 and beyond

The geopolitical situation in relation to DPRK will likely remain volatile, with the result that the protracted humanitarian crisis experienced by the most vulnerable people is unlikely to abate. Prolonged dry spells, floods and limited agricultural inputs, which have increased food insecurity in 2019, are likely to persist in 2020.

Compounded by continued lack of dietary diversity, food insecurity and malnutrition will remain critical challenges. The lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services and the health system's critical shortages of essential medical supplies will continue to underpin many health and nutrition issues.

External assistance will play a vital role in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and families. However, constraints for UN agencies and humanitarian partners to provide humanitarian assistance are likely to continue, both in relation to strict UN and bilateral sanctions, which have unintentionally impacted humanitarian operations, and from continued underfunding. Restrictions related to transit-country import waivers and suspended banking channels also continue to hamper the implementation of planned humanitarian interventions.

### Response priorities in 2020

Response priorities for DPRK continue to focus on improving food security, tackling undernutrition and improving access to essential services such as health and water, sanitation and hygiene.

For 2020, UN agencies and humanitarian partners are requesting approximately $107 million to target an estimated 5.5 million people with humanitarian assistance. Food security, agriculture and nutrition will remain key response priorities due to low agricultural production and increasingly frequent dry spells and floods. Unsafe drinking water, poor hygiene practices and inadequate health services contribute to a cycle where the well-being of the most vulnerable is compromised. Therefore, humanitarian interventions will continue to focus on a multisector response to address the multiple drivers of humanitarian needs in the country. The plan will continue to focus on women and children, in particular children under age 5 and pregnant and lactating women, who represent 32 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively, of the total number of people targeted.

The response plan reflects the HCT's current operational environment, although agencies' capacity to reach those identified in the plan with a full package of assistance will remain contingent on adequate and timely funding, which has not been the trend in the past decade.

[72] According to the Food Consumption Score which is a proxy indicator reflecting household level food access and dietary diversity.

[73] In estimating the total People in Need (PiN) for 2020, the DPRK HCT used a similar methodology to 2019, using the most recent assessment data available. The PiN for 2020, at 10.8 million, therefore remains consistent with 2019.

# Venezuela

REGIONAL RMRP

**REQUIREMENTS** (US$)

**$1.35B**

2019 2020

**PEOPLE IN NEED** [74]

**3.8M**

2019 2020

**PEOPLE TARGETED** [74]

**2.5M**

2019 2020

Political, socioeconomic and human rights developments in Venezuela have led to large-scale population movements out of the country. As of October 2019, there were about 4.5 million migrants and refugees from Venezuela worldwide – including 3.7 million in the region – with few prospects for return in the short to medium term.

Refugees and migrants who are being generously hosted in countries in the region are still highly dependent on emergency humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs including access to services, shelter, food, health, non-food items, and education. They are vulnerable and have particular protection needs, such as predictable regular status, documentation, asylum and information on access and availability of services and rights. Given the multinational and multidimensional nature of movements in the region, there also exist important socioeconomic integration needs, particularly regarding access to labour, social and cultural integration and the recognition of academic titles.

Despite the best efforts of receiving countries, this unprecedented influx has placed immense pressure on governments and host communities. With new or revised entry requirements in several neighbouring countries, the ability of refugees and migrants to regularly enter and stay in some countries has diminished, resulting in a great number of irregular border crossings. While these Venezuelans on the move are not officially categorized as displaced, they remain highly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, including violence and discrimination, and to smuggling and trafficking, and are likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

The 2020 RMRP is the result of field-driven strategic planning, bringing together 137 partners, host governments, civil society and faith-based organizations, local communities and authorities, donors, as well as refugees and migrants themselves, in 17 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Coordination at regional level between partners is convened by UNHCR and IOM. The Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform is complemented by local coordination mechanisms at national and subregional levels, in close collaboration with host governments. The regional response foresees that partners engage in a strategic approach, focused both on ensuring immediate assistance and protection, and on building individual and institutional resilience in the longer term through improved collaboration with development partners.

In 2020, the RMRP seeks to complement and strengthen national and regional comprehensive responses of governments, including the Quito Process as the main technical regional intergovernmental coordination forum. To ensure that the humanitarian, protection and integration needs of refugees and migrants from Venezuela and of affected host communities are identified, planned for and met, sector groups focusing on education, food security, health, humanitarian transport, integration, non-food items, nutrition, protection – including child protection, GBV and human trafficking and smuggling – shelter and WASH have been established at regional, national and subregional levels.

**Environmental mainstreaming**

Incorporating an environmental perspective into the assessment of humanitarian needs and the design and delivery of the response limits new disaster risks generated by environmental degradation and environmental impacts, mitigates the risk of conflict with local communities, and enables partners to better implement the "do no harm" principle. The environmental impacts of the outflow of refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean are varied and complex. In the development of the 2020 RMRP, partners have piloted a sector-based environmental self-assessment, leading towards the introduction of an environment marker, to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into project planning and mainstreamed into the overall response. It is hoped that these activities will be scaled up as a result of an increased demand to see environmental considerations applied in a cross-cutting manner.

[74] Corresponds to refugees and migrants from Venezuela *in destination only.* For information concerning refugees and migrants from Venezuela in transit, in pendular movement (PiN: 500k / PT: 380k), as well as returnees (PiN: 350k / PT: 260k) and host communities (PiN: 1.49M / PT: 880k), please see the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) at: *https://r4v.info*

**Monguno, Nigeria**
OCHA/Leni Kinzli

## Delivering better

# More people-centred humanitarian action

As crises become more complex and protracted, humanitarians are constantly enhancing how they deliver for people affected by crises. Improved analysis and tools are enabling responses to be better prioritized and ensuring that the specific needs of women and girls and of diverse groups of people, including people living with disabilities, are taken into account. Reflecting the perspectives and preferences of affected people – for example, delivering aid through cash instead of goods – helps to ensure that responses have a positive impact on people's lives. Humanitarian organizations are also working with increasingly diverse partners in different contexts to put people's needs at the centre of coordinated responses.

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**P. 72** Accountability to affected populations
**P. 73** Sexual exploitation and abuse
**P. 74** Mental health
**P. 75** People with disabilities
**P. 76** Cash and vouchers
**P. 77** Humanitarian-development collaboration
**P. 78** Coordinating with the military

# Enhanced Humanitarian Programme Cycle

**Kaga Bandoro, CAR**
Gladys Ouassona is 11 years old. A native of Batangafo, she is catching up on her studies at a school in an IDP site after being displaced and spending time living in the open. She dreams of becoming a teacher.
*OCHA/Adrienne Surprenant*

Achieving the best way to deliver results for people affected by crises is a constant quest for humanitarian organizations. This is why the HPC – a series of actions to collectively plan for, manage and coordinate the delivery of humanitarian response – was enhanced in 2019.

The foundation of the revised approach is a more in-depth analysis of humanitarian needs that focuses on how humanitarian shocks and stresses impact people's lives, livelihoods and coping capacities by analysing the combined effect of shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities across different sectors. The new approach pays particular attention to reflecting the priorities identified by affected people themselves, and considers the specific needs of diverse groups of people, including women and girls and people living with disabilities. It also looks beyond the short-term causes and consequences of crises to capture chronic and structural issues and identify emerging risks.

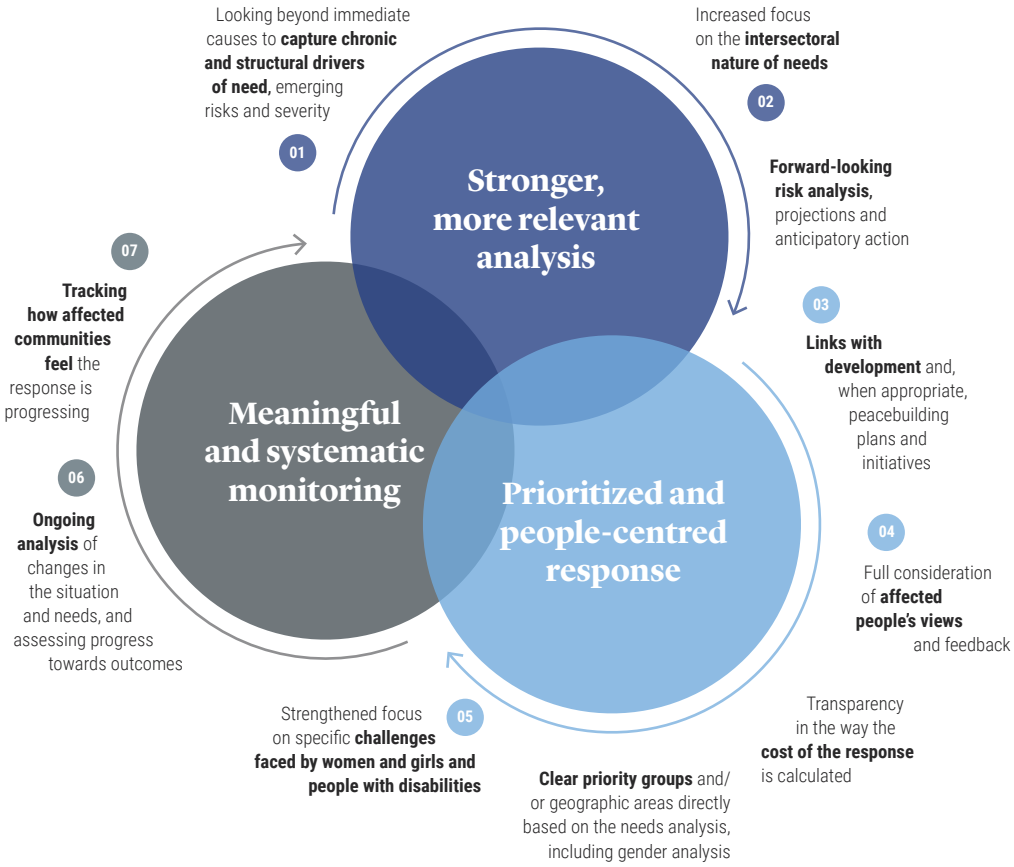
This allows humanitarians to better define which, where and whose needs are the most urgent and severe, and to develop a clearly prioritized response plan. The new approach also defines strategic and measurable objectives, articulating changes that would improve people's lives and livelihoods. A key part of the new approach is more strategic and systematic monitoring, which will allow humanitarian partners to monitor changes in the situation and needs, assess progress against the set objectives, and update the plan to respond to changes in the situation.

In 2019, humanitarians began the transition to the updated guidance and tools to inform more comprehensive and people-centred responses. The new approach builds on the existing strengths of the HPC process, which partners have said helps them with response decisions and maximizes scarce resources,[75] and on best practices identified in the field in recent years.

[75] Humanitarian partners surveyed by OCHA in 2018 rated their satisfaction with Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans at 76 per cent and 79 per cent, respectively.

# A strong approach that puts people first

The enhanced HPC uses a new analytical lens of humanitarian consequences – the effects of stresses and shocks on the lives, livelihoods and coping capacities of affected people. It organizes key evidence into four distinct yet interrelated categories of critical problems related to: physical and mental well-being (which have a direct and immediate effect on people's integrity and dignity); living standards; recovery and resilience; protection. Describing these consequences by both geographic areas and population groups allows for a more people-centred and in-depth analysis and response.




# What it looks like in practice

01 In **CAR**, the 2020 HPC is underpinned by a multisector needs assessment that covered about 9,000 households in more than 500 localities, in-depth sectoral assessments, mainstreaming of accountability to affected populations, as well as countrywide market assessments. Humanitarian partners refined estimates of the number of people in need of assistance to better reflect intersector needs and their severity using a stronger framework to bring large amounts of data together.

02 In **Sudan**, the analysis focused on identifying localities with a convergence of sectoral needs. Sectoral indicators were categorized by humanitarian consequence and ranked. As severity was calculated using the mode, instead of the arithmetic mean, localities with extreme values did not skew the overall results and those where the severity of needs converge were easily identified.

03 The 2020 HRP in **Burkina Faso** directly links, through the revised collective outcomes agreed by the Government and its partners, to planning under the Sustaining Peace and Sustainable Development frameworks. Humanitarian organizations, while responding to the most urgent symptoms of the crisis, are also working with humanitarian, development and peace partners to accelerate priority action that addresses root causes and may prevent further erosion of the situation. The basis of this coordination is the comprehensive and integrated vulnerability analysis presented in the 2020 HNO. Developed jointly to underpin the HRP 2020, the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment and the revised and extended UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the common analysis has identified the most at-risk areas in the country. These areas, where the high severity of humanitarian needs is linked to a substantial burden of insecurity-driven displacement and collapse of essential services, are jointly targeted by humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners in a concerted effort to reduce humanitarian needs.

04 The **Myanmar** HRP prioritizes the most critical needs relating to two fundamental and overlapping humanitarian consequences – physical and mental well-being (which focuses on death and injuries, human rights violations or other forms of irreversible harm) and living standards (which relate to access to essential goods and services) – in five states with the most urgent humanitarian needs. The prioritization considers response capacities of organizations outside the HRP, as well as access constraints and the outcomes of consultations with affected people.

05 In **DRC**, representatives from organizations of people with disabilities were actively engaged in the analysis and planning process at the regional and national levels, including the development of the response strategy itself.

06 Humanitarian partners in **Iraq** use a dynamic online dashboard to monitor implementation of the HRP and are improving it for the 2020 cycle. By combining all cluster-level indicators and FTS data, the HCT can oversee the response in real time, allowing for ongoing analysis of changes in the operating context, as well as response achievements.

07 In **Somalia**, the humanitarian community has improved the way it uses data from feedback and complaint mechanisms to inform overarching strategic decisions and to incorporate the opinions of affected people in the monitoring process. Perception indicators have been incorporated in the HRP and are being regularly monitored as the response evolves. Feedback from affected people is also sought through the radio.

# Accountability to affected populations

**Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh**
Women wait in line for an aid distribution at the Kutupalong refugee camp.
*OCHA/Vincent Tremeau*

**AAP in the community**
UNHCR's outreach volunteer programme helps determine how best to reach local communities and how to adapt humanitarian activities accordingly. In the Rohingya refugee community in Bangladesh, including women as Community Outreach Members proved fundamental to an effective humanitarian response. The Community Outreach Members play a key role in providing information about humanitarian assistance, raising awareness of priority issues and communicating communities' perceptions to humanitarian organizations. In the words of one front-line UNHCR aid worker: "The Community Outreach Members bring us closer to the refugee community and vice versa. They're the source of information, they live in the community, they understand very well the community's priorities and know the gaps in services and infrastructure."

Having communities at the centre of humanitarian action is critical for appropriate and timely aid and protection to reach the people in need. AAP is the commitment of humanitarians to use their power responsibly.

This means regularly providing information to affected communities, ensuring decisions are informed by the views of communities, and enabling communities to assess and comment on the performance of humanitarians. It also means raising awareness and ensuring that well-established community-based complaint mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse. Systematic accountability is viewed as essential to meeting commitments outlined by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Grand Bargain and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.

At the global level, IASC partners are working to achieve more coherent and systematic approaches to AAP. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement promoted stronger collective action, and adopted the Movement-wide Minimum Commitments and Actions on Community Engagement and Accountability in 2019. UNICEF is revising its Core Commitments for Children to reinforce obligations to quality and accountability, and IOM is promoting AAP principles across the organization.

In many countries, there has been a significant shift towards common approaches to community engagement on a whole-of-response level. This includes the meaningful participation of affected communities and diverse groups of people in all stages of the HPC, including in coordination, planning and monitoring. The aim of such approaches is to measure affected peoples' satisfaction, and adjust the overall response based on their views. In 2019, response-wide projects highlighting community perceptions of humanitarian response to inform programmatic change were implemented in Bangladesh, CAR, Chad, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, Uganda and Yemen.

In 2019, overall response planning and implementation was further enriched by the collaboration between community engagement and accountability initiatives and the technical work delivered through various protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) networks. Effective community outreach and sensitization on PSEA in response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique has been attributed to early interventions at the coordination level and highlighted as an important measure in supporting capacities across the response. As a priority for the IASC through its Results Group on Accountability and Inclusion, efforts are under way to harmonize and leverage the complementarities of these critical areas of accountability in Indonesia, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

# Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse

More people in humanitarian situations reported sexual misconduct in the past year. While it is not clear whether this reflects an actual increase in cases, or only an increase in the number of people speaking up, the humanitarian community is determined to fight this scourge.

The 2018 IASC-endorsed Strategy on Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment commits to creating a humanitarian environment free from sexual wrongdoing, where the people caught up in crises as well as humanitarian workers feel safe and respected. In September 2019, the IASC announced three overarching priorities for the coming year: to bolster prevention, expand safe spaces so all survivors can speak out, and to promote the respectful use of authority.

In 2019, IASC members scaled up their investments to deliver results in priority areas for communities affected by crises. UNICEF committed $21 million to support 32 priority countries facing humanitarian emergencies to accelerate work on PSEA. Following commitments by IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, more than half the 34 countries with ongoing humanitarian operations had PSEA Coordinators by September 2019. Under the leadership of Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators (RCs/HCs), PSEA Coordinators are responsible for leading inter-agency networks, ensuring safe and accessible reporting systems are in place, and establishing linkages with GBV and child protection referral services. The IASC also supports country-level efforts for the coordinated implementation of the 2018 UN Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse involving implementing partners.

The IASC promotes adherence to the Inter-Agency Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, which facilitates the systematic sharing of information on non-criminal sexual misconduct between humanitarian and development agencies. In 2019, 1,580 candidates have been screened and at least 10 people prevented from seeking employment in the aid sector because of misconduct. The scheme is expected to significantly expand in 2020.

In addition, the UN Secretariat entities and more than 25 UN agencies, funds and programmes use the Clear Check database to share information on former staff and affiliated personnel who were either dismissed for substantiated sexual exploitation and abuse allegations or who resigned while under investigation.

In the field, inter-agency efforts have been strengthened to facilitate access to information on protection and service delivery. In Colombia, for example, a Regional Safe Spaces Network was set up to improve coordination in case management involving SGBV and child protection, and to ensure access to quality services, in collaboration with more than 30 government and NGO partners. In Jordan, more than 30 humanitarian organizations continue to strengthen implementation of the Inter-agency Sexual Exploitations and Abuse Community-based Complaints and Referral Mechanism that was formally established in 2016.

Progress was also made in supporting enhanced accountability, including investigations. OCHA has created a $1 million fund to provide investigation capacity to IASC partners to strengthen accountability in response to allegations of misconduct.

**Mozambique: A priority from the start**

In the immediate response to tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, the IASC activated a humanitarian system-wide scale-up and 10 humanitarian clusters. Within weeks, the HCT established PSEA networks nationally and in Beira, the worst-affected area. UNICEF and COSACA (CARE International, Oxfam, and Save the Children) co-chaired the network in both locations. The HC circulated the PSEA Network Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures for inter-agency complaint handling to all members of the HCT at the outset of the response, sending a clear message that PSEA was a priority.

A PSEA Action Plan was quickly rolled out, with clear indicators for tracking progress. Communication materials on how to report sexual exploitation and abuse were posted at accommodation centres and resettlement sites. Direct communication with the Prosecutor's Office was set up to discuss alleged cases related to the Government.

**Sudan: A Joint Framework for Action**

In Sudan, the PSEA network, under the leadership of the RC/HC, and the Government of Sudan agreed on a Joint Framework for Action which addresses priority actions to strengthen collective and individual efforts by all development and humanitarian organizations. The framework outlines the priority results that the Network members will work towards for 2019–2020, in six core areas: PSEA policy operationalization, coordination and cooperation, prevention and internal mainstreaming, advocacy, complaints and investigations, and survivor support. It also includes a budget funded by partners.

# Mental health: Responses must support more than physical needs

**Supporting mental health in Syria**

When the conflict began in Syria, mental health-care services were available in just two cities. Only 70 psychiatrists and a limited number of psychologists were available. With support from WHO, mental health services have now more than doubled, with provision in more than 150 primary and secondary health centres in 11 governorates across the country, including those most affected by the crisis. These involve not just doctors, but also other health professionals and support workers who can reach more people.

Each year, conflicts and disasters kill and harm millions of people, disrupt families, trigger displacement, cause the loss of livelihoods and assets, and wreak havoc on socioeconomic systems. The consequences of these events are severe and can be long-lasting, with implications on both the physical and mental well-being of survivors.

As protracted conflicts have become the norm, there is increasing recognition of the mental health and psychosocial concerns linked to experience with ongoing violence and trauma. WHO now estimates that one in five people living in areas beset by armed conflict have a mental health condition, such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia – a significant increase from previous estimates. These traumas can extend out across communities and generations, affecting even those who have not directly experienced violence, including children of survivors.

Conflicts have a particularly devastating impact on children's mental health. An estimated 142 million children are living in high intensity conflict zones,[76] and millions more have been displaced from their homes. They may suffer from the loss or separation from a parent or their families, leading to intense grief and anxiety. The experience of living in areas that are bombarded, occupied or besieged can lead to intense fear and high levels of distress. Children in conflicts suffer both indirect and direct consequences. The number of verified grave violations against children in conflicts has increased by 174 per cent in the last decade.[77] Exposure to such high degrees of violence and exploitation leaves a severe impact on children's physical and mental well-being. It is estimated that about 24 million children living in conflict today could be experiencing mild to moderate mental health disorders that require some level of support.

Disasters also impact the mental health of survivors. Studies among survivors of the two devastating earthquakes that hit Nepal in 2015 found that more than one third of survivors (34 per cent) suffered from depression and anxiety, and just over 1 in 10 people reported having suicidal thoughts.[78]

Support for mental health needs in emergency situations is inadequate and difficult to sustain, but humanitarian organizations are taking steps to increasingly prioritize mental health and psychosocial support as an integral part of the humanitarian response in crisis and emergency situations. In October 2019, an International Conference on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Crisis Situations was held in Amsterdam, bringing together humanitarian leaders, policy makers, donors and people with lived experience to increase awareness of the importance of funding and programming for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies. In 2020, the IASC will launch the revised Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Programmes in Emergency Settings, which will provide comprehensive guidance in the assessment, research, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of this approach.

[76] Otsby et al, Children Affected by Armed Conflict, 1990–2017, Peace Research Institute Oslo 2018.
[77] Save the Children, Stop the War on Children: Protecting children in 21st century conflict, 2018.
[78] KC, Gan and Dwirahmadi, 'Breaking Through Barriers and Building Disaster Mental Resilience: A Case Study in the Aftermath of the 2015 Nepal Earthquakes. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, v.16(16): 2964, August 2019.

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**
At the Handicap International prosthetic clinic in downtown Port-au-Prince, amputees are fitted with new legs and learn how to walk again.
*UN/Sophia Paris*

# Placing people with disabilities at the centre of humanitarian action

People with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population. They are among the most marginalized people in crisis-affected communities[79] and are disproportionately affected by conflict and emergency situations. Their mortality rate in disasters is two to four times higher than that of people without disabilities.[80]

In 2019, there was a steep change in placing people with disabilities, and their human rights, at the centre of humanitarian action. The UN adopted the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, under which UN entities and country teams will measure and track their performance with respect to disability inclusion. The IASC launched its Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, which will assist humanitarian organizations, governments and affected communities to identify and address the needs of people with disabilities in humanitarian action. The Guidelines recommended assuming that 15 per cent of an affected population has a disability to inform planning and monitoring efforts, when robust quantitative data do not exist. Attention to the specific needs of people with disabilities has also been significantly strengthened through the enhanced HPC approach.

**Lebanon: Prioritizing protection for people with disabilities**
A vulnerability assessment of Syrian refugees in Lebanon found that two thirds of households had at least one member with a specific need, and 12 per cent of households had at least one member with a disability. Children with disabilities were among the most marginalized groups in Lebanon. Having a disability significantly affected the ability of Syrian children and adolescents to attend school, with almost half (44 per cent) of children with disabilities indicating that they cannot attend school due to their condition. Despite this, the specific needs of refugees with disabilities remained largely unaddressed, and women, girls and boys with disabilities are at a higher risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Given their significant protection needs, the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) has established protection as a priority for its allocation strategies. Since January 2018, 32 per cent ($7 million) of LHF funding has been allocated to projects aimed at increasing access to protection services, including by providing case management and specialized services for children with disabilities.

**Iraq: Including disability data**
The humanitarian community in Iraq has significantly improved the way disability data are reflected in its needs assessments, particularly through improvements made to the multi-cluster needs assessment. Such enhancements include incorporating the Washington Group Questions and consulting with Handicap International on the design of the assessment's questionnaire, and encouraging clusters to include disability analysis within their sections. For the 2020 HNO and HRP, disability analysis was undertaken by the Centre for Humanitarian Data; the results showed that high costs and inaccessible environments were the biggest reasons for difficulty in accessing services for people with disabilities. These findings may help influence programming in 2020.

[79] WHO and World Bank, World Report on Disability (2011). At: *www.who.int/disabilities/ world_report/2011/report.pdf*
[80] Report of the UN Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, One Humanity, Shared Responsibility.
[81] Katsunori Fujii, 'The Great East Japan Earthquake and Disabled Persons', in Disability Information Resources, Japan. At: *www.dinf.ne.jp/doc/english/twg/escap_121031/fujii.html*

# Meeting needs better: Cash and voucher assistance

**Damascus, Syria**
The Syria Humanitarian Fund provides cash assistance to 49,000 Palestinian refugees affected by the Syria crisis. Each person receives a cash transfer equivalent to $23 per month, to help make ends meet. *OCHA/Hedinn Halldorsson*

Cash and voucher assistance is widely recognized as one of the most significant areas of innovation in humanitarian assistance. It has huge potential to meet more needs, more efficiently and effectively. When crisis-affected people are provided with cash, they can prioritize their needs and meet them in a dignified way, which helps to stimulate markets and speed up recovery.

Several initiatives have sought to maximize the potential of cash to meet multiple needs in an effective and efficient manner. The Collaborative Cash Delivery Network brings together 15 NGOs to help build the structural capacities required to deliver cash assistance. The UN Common Cash Statement, initiated by UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and OCHA, similarly seeks to strengthen collaboration around transfer mechanisms, interoperable systems and programming. Building on existing cash coordination structures and engaging with a range of entities, the initiative is being piloted in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, CAR, Ecuador, Niger and Yemen. Complementing these efforts, committed donors are supporting more joined-up approaches in a number of key areas, such as the assessment of cash feasibility, coordinated engagement with financial service providers, linkages with national social protection systems and opportunities for multipurpose cash.

Discussions around opportunities to engage with national social protection systems – a key tenet of collaborations between humanitarian and development organizations – are under way. This includes both global-level engagement through the Grand Bargain and an expanding range of country initiatives for closer coordination between humanitarian, development and government entitites, and better linkage of respective systems.

**Somalia: Why Not Cash**
In 2017, cash and vouchers were instrumental in enabling an early and rapid scale-up to the famine response. Cash has proven to reduce the logistical costs of assistance in Somalia, while improving choice and stimulating the local economy when utilized appropriately. With cash and voucher assistance currently making up less than 30 per cent of the overall response, there is significant potential for scale-up – particularly in light of the large volume of digital transfers and a strong focus on financial inclusion. As a result, Somalia is implementing a 'Why Not Cash' approach to future response planning. Humanitarian partners in Somalia are also developing innovative integrated approaches to align humanitarian cash transfers with nascent safety net and social protection mechanisms, in order to build resilience and prepare for future shocks.

**Nigeria: Strengthening links to social protection**
With more than 250,000 households reached with cash and vouchers in 2018, humanitarian partners in Nigeria are working to further scale up cash and voucher assistance. To enable such a scale-up, humanitarians are collaborating with development and private sector entities, promoting government ownership, leadership and capacity, and identifying opportunities to link with national social protection systems. The Cash Working Group provides a forum for effective cash coordination and, through it, humanitarian partners in Nigeria are mapping humanitarian cash transfers and social protection programmes, while also stepping up engagement with relevant government partners.

# Humanitarian-development collaboration to end needs

Important progress is being made in operationalizing strengthened collaborations between humanitarian and development organizations. Concerted efforts are being carried out through the UN Joint Steering Committee to advance humanitarian and development collaboration in seven priority countries where Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, in support of national governments, are leading processes to articulate and operationalize "collective outcomes" that reduce need, risk and vulnerability. In five of these countries, collective outcomes have been articulated based on improved information-sharing and joint analysis, leading to encouraging changes in the way stakeholders programme, fund and collaborate towards those outcomes. In Chad, for example, the Resident Coordinator is leading the development of a second generation of collective outcomes, building on lessons learned from the first generation (2016–2019), and bringing together Government, donors, peace, humanitarian and development organizations. In Burkina Faso, the operationalization of collective outcomes in some thematic areas, particularly in the nutrition sector, has led to a positive shift among some donors, which are aligning finance towards the achievement of country-level collective outcomes.

While the types of challenges vary from context to context, the thematic areas for humanitarian-development collaboration are often the same. Food security has been identified as a priority area for collective action in the majority of these country settings. To build resilience and reduce food insecurity, simultaneous action by humanitarian and development organizations, along with investments in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, when appropriate, are needed to save lives and livelihoods, reduce structural vulnerabilities and address the root causes of hunger. Other priority areas include strengthening basic social services, durable solutions for displaced people and building resilience to climate-induced hazards.

The reform of the UN development system, including the revitalized UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, will also allow for better connectivity with humanitarian action. From 2019, the function and leadership of Resident Coordinators has been strengthened, and their offices have more analytical and coordination capacity. This will greatly improve their ability to support UN Country Teams and humanitarian organizations in performing joint analysis and joined-up planning, which are crucial for the operationalization of collective outcomes.

**Pakistan's transition framework**

In Pakistan, the transition from humanitarian to development assistance is ongoing in the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), now integrated into the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province. Humanitarian-development collaboration in FATA began in 2017 with complementary data collection and analyses by the UN and World Bank on household and institutional vulnerability. Based on these and together with the Government of Pakistan, humanitarian and development entities in 2018 drafted a three-year (2018–2020) transition framework for FATA to address the urgent needs for returning displaced people and others, while helping them overcome socioeconomic challenges and vulnerabilities over the period. It features four collective outcomes, on livelihoods and economic growth, basic services, resilient recovery, and governance and justice.

Approximately 3 million people have returned home to FATA while more than 116,900 remain in displacement. IDP returns continue, and host communities still face food insecurity, ongoing violence and lack of livelihoods in the areas of return. Pakistan also continues to face serious humanitarian challenges and remains vulnerable to shocks such as the earthquake in Mirpur in September, which affected over 10,000 households. A major drought in Sindh and Balochistan affected more than 5 million people in 2019, of whom more than 1.2 million were reached with humanitarian aid by July 2019. The drought response plan ends in December 2019, with a return to focusing on recovery, resilience and long-term development.

# Improving coordination with the military to save lives

**Marsh Harbor, Bahamas**
UN Secretary-General António Guterres witnesses first-hand the devastation left by Hurricane Dorian.
*OCHA/Mark Garten*

In almost every context, humanitarian organizations and military actors share the same geographic space, and interact in ways that create both challenges and opportunities in meeting the needs of people affected by crises.

In sudden-onset emergencies – such as Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas – humanitarian and military responders worked together to ensure the efficient use of logistics, engineering and transportation assets.

The humanitarian community has been expanding its capacity in humanitarian civil-military coordination to facilitate meaningful dialogue with parties to armed conflict. This dialogue is essential to ensure access to people in need; support the protection of civilian activities; and protect humanitarian personnel, facilities and equipment through humanitarian notification systems for deconfliction. It is also essential in reminding parties to armed conflict of their obligations under international humanitarian law. The expansion of civil-military capabilities in UN agencies and in international NGOs also requires increased coordination and coherence across the humanitarian system.

**Humanitarian Notification System for Deconfliction**
A Humanitarian Notification System for Deconfliction can assist in protecting humanitarian workers against attacks and the incidental effects of attacks in conflict settings. The notification of humanitarian locations, activities, movements and personnel to the military can help military planners ensure that air strikes or other operations do not result in the inadvertent targeting or harming of humanitarian facilities, activities, convoys or personnel. Such systems are active in numerous contexts, including Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. An example of good practice is the notification system for Yemen, which was first established in 2015. The system is run between operational humanitarian actors inside Yemen, the OCHA office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi-led Coalition. In 2019, the system migrated to an automated process where the humanitarian data for static locations, temporary facilities and humanitarian movements is transmitted electronically from Yemen for processing and onward transmission to the Evacuation and Humanitarian Operations Committee of the Saudi Joint Forces Command. While the use of the notification mechanism is not legally binding and does not guarantee the safety of humanitarian personnel, facilities or convoys, it does aid in promoting the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance in Yemen.

**Aburoc, South Sudan**
UNICEF/Hatcher Moore

## Delivering better

# Innovative humanitarian financing

With rising humanitarian needs and finite resources, the humanitarian community and donors must ensure that existing funding goes further and faster to reach those most in need; and pursue alternative and innovative financing approaches such as scaling up anticipatory action to mitigate the most serious consequences of predictable crises.

**P. 81**
Getting ahead of crises:
Anticipatory action and risk pools

**P. 84**
CERF and CBPFs:
Making a difference

# Getting ahead of crises: Anticipatory action and risk pools

**Bakel, Senegal**
Drought-affected pastoralists fill buckets at a well. Countries in the Sahel are dealing with the worst lean season in years. *OCHA/Eve Sabbagh*

The global humanitarian system reaches more than 100 million people a year and saves millions of lives. However, humanitarian action is reactive, responding only once people are suffering – when they are hungry, sick, or forced to leave their homes. Anticipating shocks and providing finance ahead of a predictable crisis can save lives and reduce suffering, as well as being more cost-efficient and effective at protecting development gains.

Improvements in data and predictive analytics have enabled more accurate forecasting of certain types of shocks or crises, such as droughts and disease outbreaks, and their likely impacts. As a result, governments and the humanitarian community have taken significant steps to introduce innovative financing approaches and instruments in response to predictable shocks. In 2019, anticipatory finance enabled early action in a range of contexts, and risk insurance provided speedy payouts to support rapid responses to disasters. These experiences are paving the way for the international community to focus on ways to use these tools to release finance earlier and with more certainty to mitigate the impact of predictable shocks.

**Anticipatory action**

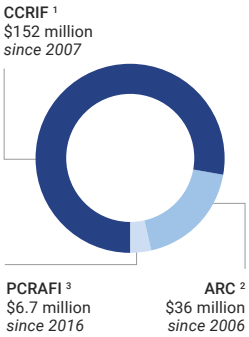
In Somalia, OCHA and the World Bank are collaborating to develop a crisis risk financing mechanism to respond to out-of-the-ordinary drought. This mechanism will release finance when a drought is predicted to create a particular intensity of humanitarian need, such as was the case in 2010–2011 and 2016–2017. The funds released would support the distribution of drought-tolerant or short-season seed varieties to sustain food production for human consumption, provide supplementary fodder to livestock, launch animal health campaigns, rehabilitate water points, and scale up cash transfers to stabilize the purchasing power of vulnerable people.

In Yemen, humanitarians have been using the new Global Cholera Risk Model to forecast the spread of cholera and target their work to treat and prevent the disease, resulting in a reduced spread of the epidemic during the 2018 outbreak compared with 2017. The humanitarian community is now exploring how such a tool, which can anticipate the risk of an outbreak of cholera weeks ahead of an epidemic in a specific location, could be used in different contexts to release finance for cholera prevention and treatment before an outbreak occurs and reaches epidemic levels, potentially saving thousands of lives.

In July 2019, the World Food Programme (WFP) in coordination with the Government of Bangladesh activated a forecast-based financing early action protocol for the first time, providing cash transfers of around $53 each to 4500 families (25,000 people) three days ahead of a flood in north-western Bangladesh. Cash was distributed via mobile banking system to the most vulnerable, including

Figure 12
**Regional risk pools: cumulative insurance payouts**

**$195 million**




[1] Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Index Facility
[2] African Risk Capacity
[3] Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative

families headed by women, as well as people living with disabilities, older people and children. The payouts helped people prepare for the impacts of the flooding by bringing family members to safety, repairing houses, and stockpiling emergency food, fodder and medicines.

In September 2019, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership was launched, aiming to make 1 billion people safer from disasters by 2025. With a secretariat hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the partnership will work with national and global partners to expand early action financing, improving early warning systems and strengthening capacities to act on the risks they identify.

In October 2019, the Start Fund allocated $325,000 in Rwanda in response to anticipated flooding for December. The funding to an NGO partner (Trocaire) will enable complementary support to Government efforts that were triggered by national weather service predictions. The anticipatory allocation will allow Trocaire to stockpile food and essential items and pre-position dry storage points. In addition, the funding will enable critical early warning messaging and awareness campaigns for people living in high-risk areas, with a specific focus on people with disabilities.

**Insurance and sovereign risk pools**

For low-probability but high-impact events, risk insurance provides a good instrument for individuals and countries. It delivers great predictability and speedy payouts, which in turn enable rapid responses. Participating in insurance schemes also helps countries, businesses and individuals to better understand their exposure to risk and develop strategies to manage it.

Countries in several disaster-prone regions have pooled their resources to create innovative risk insurance mechanisms that improve their capacities to prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Three regional multi-country instruments in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific are providing parametric, index-based insurance against cyclones and droughts, as well as rapid and predictable funding for immediate response after a disaster.

In September 2019, the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility paid out $12.8 million to the Bahamas following the impact of Hurricane Dorian, which caused widespread devastation in the northern part of the country. In the same month, the African Risk Capacity announced a payout of $22 million to Senegal to cover losses from crop failures caused by severe rainfall deficits in the 2019 season. For the first time, this triggered a separate insurance policy called an ARC Replica, whereby international partners take out matching policies to "replicate" government efforts through a coordinated response plan, effectively doubling the coverage available to vulnerable people. ARC paid $12 million to the Government of Senegal, and $10 million was provided to the START Network to launch pre-agreed activities for cash transfer and supplementary feeding and livestock fodder sales to reach about 1.1 million people and protect 340,000 animals.

In Kenya in March 2019, more than $800,000 was paid out to 6,000 pastoralists from 22 index-based livestock insurance units in the counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, and Wajir. These areas were severely affected by drought due to below-average rainfall during the short rainy season of October–December 2018, and the insurance payout enabled pastoralists to purchase animal feed, provide water, procure animal health-care services or move their animals to areas with better forage to protect them against severe starvation and possible death.

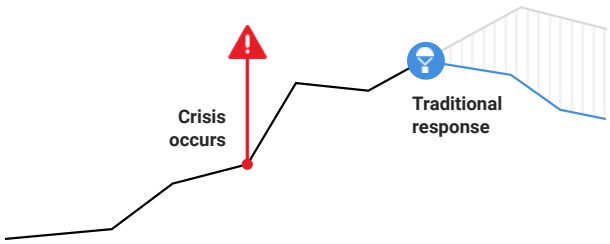
Insurance also protects development gains. Recent studies show that a lack of insurance can lead to permanent closures of business, with 40 per cent to 60 per cent failing to reopen after a disaster. The Red Cross Global Disaster Preparedness Center offers the 'Atlas: Ready for Business' mobile application, which helps small businesses prepare for disasters, including through insurance coverage options. Small businesses can work to reduce their risks and potentially have wider insurance coverage and lower premiums as a result.

However, not everything can or should be insured and governments must seek the most efficient way to layer risk, combining financial instruments such as insurance, contingency funds and loans, and catastrophe draw-down mechanisms. Meanwhile, the insurance industry should continue to leverage its analytical and financial resources to spread the benefits of insurance to the most vulnerable and disaster risk-exposed people and countries, and to promote loss mitigation over loss compensation.

# What is anticipatory action?

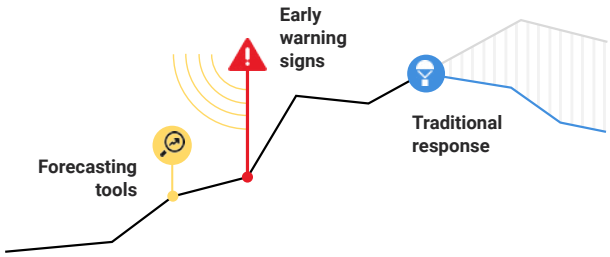
**Anticipatory action means acting ahead of a high-risk and high-probability hazard to mitigate its predicted humanitarian impact.** Anticipatory action works when three interlinked elements are in place before a crisis happens: A pre-agreed action plan that outlines feasible and impactful interventions; pre-arranged contingency financing that is predictable and fast; and forecast and decision-making rules that signal when and how the decision to release finance and activate the action plan will work. Anticipatory action, when possible, is not only more cost-efficient, but is also a more humane way of responding to crises.

## How does anticipatory action work?



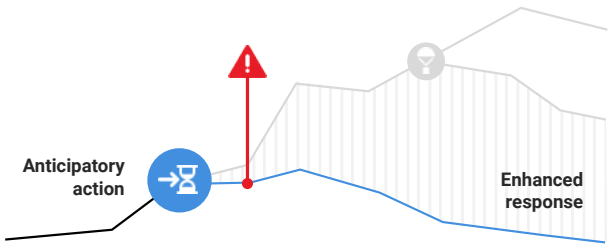

### Traditional response

Humanitarian response predominantly happens after a disaster or crisis has already struck.




### Early warning signs

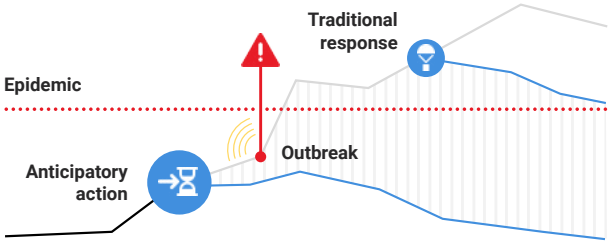
Many crises are predictable, and in most cases there are early signs. Using new and more accurate forecasting tools, a broader range of crises can be predicted before they occur. This provides a window of opportunity to get ahead of them and reduce their impact.




### Anticipatory action

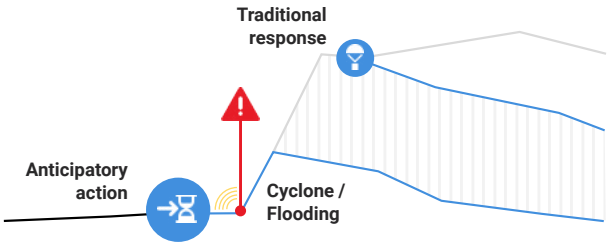
Interventions are set in motion based on shifts in risk and vulnerability to imminent hazards and without waiting for observed need. In this way, anticipatory action mitigates and potentially avoids predicted humanitarian impact.

## Anticipatory action in real-life scenarios




### Getting ahead of cholera epidemics

Detection and treatment of cholera is extremely time-sensitive. Researchers are developing a Global Cholera Risk Model that can accurately predict the risk of cholera four weeks in advance. These real-time predictions allow taking anticipatory actions that can significantly flatten the curve of a potential outbreak by alerting governments and communities, activating WASH and rapid response health teams, and chlorinating and protecting water sources.




### Cyclones and flooding

Predictions about the landfall and impacts of a cyclone can be used to trigger actions days before a storm hits, helping to protect the most exposed communities by issuing alerts and triggering evacuations to save lives, and providing affected people with cash transfers to help them prepare, minimizing loss of assets and livelihoods.

**Sittwe Township, Myanmar**
Girls with Thanaka, a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark on their faces, are seen in a school built with support of the Government of Canada through the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund.
*OCHA/Htet Htet Oo*

# CERF and CBPFs: Making a difference

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) are critical funding instruments that provide rapid and flexible funding where it is needed most, enabling timely, effective and principled humanitarian action while also strengthening leadership, coordination and coherence in emergency responses. As of mid-November 2019, CERF had allocated more than $494 million to support urgent needs in 47 countries and territories and CBPFs in 18 countries had allocated $701 million.

The value of timely and strategic pooled fund allocations was repeatedly demonstrated in 2019. Within days of Cyclone Idai making landfall in southern Africa in March, CERF allocated $20 million for the response in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In September, when critical projects in Yemen were about to close due to lack of funding, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund launched a $16.2 million reserve allocation that sustained health facilities, provided essential items, and offered services for victims of GBV, supporting 1.1 million people. The flexibility of pooled funds also allows responses to adapt to emerging risks and rapidly changing situations. In the first few months of the year, CERF allocated $10.5 million to Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda to support Ebola preparedness and contingency plans in view of the imminent risk of a spread of the Ebola outbreak from DRC.

CERF is a lifeline for people in the world's most protracted and neglected crises, where severe humanitarian needs have not attracted or are unlikely to attract sufficient funding for life-saving activities. In 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated the largest amount in CERF's history – $200 million – to assist people in 20 underfunded emergencies and help balance uneven funding levels. When used jointly and strategically, CERF and CBPFs can help partners deliver a strong collective response. For example, in Sudan, the HCT developed a joint, prioritized strategy using a $14 million CERF allocation so UN agencies could procure essential relief items, while a $20 million standard allocation from the Sudan CBPF funded non-governmental partners in the same localities to support service delivery and other activities.

**Supporting local responses**
CBPFs globally provide the largest source of direct funding for local and national humanitarian organizations. As of mid-November 2019, CBPFs had allocated $159 million directly to national and local NGOs, representing 25 per cent of 2019 allocations recorded by that date ($646 million). CBPFs also support national action in other ways. The advisory boards of all 18 operational funds include representatives of national partners, who, together with donors and international NGO representatives, advise on allocation decisions. CERF funding also contributes to national and local responses. Typically, around a quarter of CERF funds are implemented by NGOs and other partners of the recipient UN agencies, with more than half of that going to national and local partners.

Figure 13 **Pooled funds support protection, education, women and girls, and people with disabilities**

**Since early 2019, allocations from the CERF and CBPFs have increasingly focused on four chronically underfunded areas**: programming for women and girls, including prevention of and response to GBV, reproductive health and empowerment; programmes to support people living with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection.

CERF CBPFs

DRC

**Protection and GBV prevention and response.** The DRC Humanitarian Fund has responded to protection funding gaps in regions affected by violence and epidemics. Since January 2018, 13 per cent ($16 million) of the DRC Humanitarian Fund allocations have directly supported protection activities. In the Kivu regions, the Fund has allocated funding to national and international NGOs to prevent and respond to SGBV through community-based approaches.

UKRAINE

**People living with disabilities** and older people are among the most vulnerable people in need in eastern Ukraine. The first allocation by the new Ukraine Humanitarian Fund addressed the specific needs of this group, including inadequate access to food, medicine, and heating, as well as isolation from existing social services.

BANGLADESH

**Multi-year funding and programming** CERF piloted its first-ever multi-year programming to support critically underfunded education in emergencies in Cox's Bazar. Some 58,000 Rohingya and 17,000 host community children, youth and teachers will benefit from safer and better-serviced learning spaces, enhanced learning materials, vocational and other skills training, and social cohesion support through June 2021.

VENEZUELA

**Women and girls, GBV prevention** Displaced women and girls have reproductive health needs and face increased risks of GBV. In September 2019, CERF provided funds to UN agencies in Venezuela to improve access to safe delivery services, including emergency obstetric care, and to sexual and reproductive health and GBV services for more than 115,000 women and girls.

ERITREA

**People with disabilities** The vulnerability of people with disabilities is exacerbated in crises. In September 2019, CERF provided $2 million for recurrent droughts in Eritrea, including through a cash-for-work project. Specific provisions ensured that people with disabilities were given unconditional cash transfers.

YEMEN

**Education** Since 2018, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund has provided more than $10 million for critically underfunded emergency education. The first-ever allocation for education in 2018 focused on the construction of temporary learning spaces and teacher incentives. In 2019, the Fund supported education activities as part of multisector responses in areas of severe hunger and in priority sites hosting IDPs. School water and sanitation projects to keep students in class and mitigate the risk of cholera transmission also received funding.

# Abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| 3RP | Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan |
| AAP | Accountability to Affected Populations |
| CAR | Central African Republic |
| CBPF | Country-Based Pooled Funds |
| CERF | Central Emergency Response Fund |
| DPRK | Democratic People's Republic of Korea |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| FA | Flash Appeal |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FTS | Financial Tracking Service |
| GBV | Gender-based violence |
| GHO | Global Humanitarian Overview |
| HCT | Humanitarian Country Team |
| HNO | Humanitarian Needs Overview |
| HPC | Humanitarian Programme Cycle |
| HRP | Humanitarian Response Plan |
| IASC | Inter-Agency Standing Committee |
| IDPs | Internally displaced persons |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IFRC | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification |
| JRP | Joint Response Plan |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| oPt | occupied Palestinian territory |
| PSEA | Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse |
| PiN | People in Need |
| PT | People Targeted |
| RC/HC | Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator |
| RMRP | Refugee and Migrant Response Plan |
| RRP | Refugee Response Plan |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SGBV | Sexual and gender-based violence |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS |
| UNDESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNRWA | United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East |
| USG/ERC | United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator |
| WASH | Water, sanitation and hygiene |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

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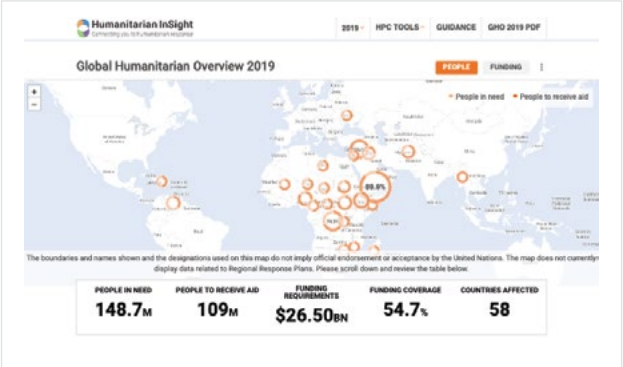

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