

# GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021

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



ABRIDGED VERSION





# Foreword by the Emergency Relief Coordinator

Mark Lowcock

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

**The year 2020 has shown that the forward march of human progress is not an unstoppable force that can be taken for granted. In the space of a few months, decades of development have been knocked off course by a virus.**

Getting things back on track is not impossible. But it is not inevitable either. It will take conscious action and collective effort. It will need everyone to put their shoulder to the wheel and push hard in the same direction.

As we approach the end of this difficult year, we face a choice. We can let 2021 be the year of the grand reversal – the unravelling of 40 years of progress – or we can work together to make sure we all find a way out of this pandemic.

The virus caught the world off guard, and at the start of this year there was lots we didn't know. But at this stage, no one can claim ignorance as an excuse for inaction. We know what the problems are. We know what can – and should – be done about them.

It has been clear for some time that it is not the virus itself doing most harm in vulnerable countries. It is the secondary impacts of the subsequent lockdowns and global recession – rising food prices, falling incomes, drops in remittances, interrupted vaccination programmes, school closures. They all hit the poorest people in the poorest countries hardest.

For the first time since the 1990s, extreme poverty will increase. Life expectancy will fall. The annual death toll from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria is set to double. We fear a near doubling in the number of people facing starvation. Many girls out of school will never go back.

The pandemic has been devastating but for many of the countries whose needs we are responding to in this plan it was yet another layer of hardship on top of protracted conflicts, the effects of climate change, and the worst locust plague for a generation.

Altogether it's a toxic mix that has driven humanitarian need to levels unimaginable at the start of the year. As we look ahead we face the prospect of a return to a world in which famine – something we thought we had consigned to history – is commonplace once more. Where the rights and prospects of women and girls are set back. Where parents cannot confidently expect their babies to reach their fifth birthday.

All this can be avoided. Working together to find and fund solutions is the only way out. Wealthy nations have the means and motivation to help. It would be cruel and unwise of them to look away while battling a second wave with the promise of a vaccine on the horizon. Local problems become global problems if you let them. There is a strong moral and self-interest argument to act.

In this challenging year, the staff of humanitarian agencies have prevented the worst outcomes, displaying impressive courage, commitment and compassion. UN agencies, local and international NGOs, local partners on the ground and individuals from the affected communities themselves have worked tirelessly, hand in hand. At no point did they give up or give in.

But the outlook is bleak. Despite the increased generosity of donors, the gap between needs and the finance available keeps growing. We still don't have a response that matches the scale of the crisis. We need the plans summarized in this overview to be fully funded - \$35 billion is required to meet the needs of 160 million people. The faster that happens, the better.

This is a crucial juncture. We won't get a second chance to make the right choice. I have never been more in awe of the determination of people who live unimaginably hard lives in humanitarian tragedies, and their refusal to give up hope. Human progress is hard won and fragile. History will judge us harshly if we preside over the grand reversal.

Mark Lowcock

**Front cover:** Aicha, 39, in her tent at an informal camp in Bagoundié, 8 km from Gao, Mali, on October 16, 2020. The camp hosts 300 households who fled due to the ongoing conflict. "I hope I can go back to my home one day. What I want above all else for now is to be able to feed my children and that they can go to school to get a better future." OCHA/Michelle Cattani



# At a Glance

PEOPLE IN NEED

**235 M**

PEOPLE TARGETED

**160 M**

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

**\$ 35 B**

APPEALS

**34**

Section one

## Global trends



Read the full report  
[gho.unocha.org](http://gho.unocha.org)

**COVID-19 has triggered the deepest global recession since the 1930s.** Extreme poverty has risen for the first time in 22 years, and unemployment has increased dramatically. Women and young people aged 15 – 29 working in the informal sector are being hit the hardest. School closures have affected 91 per cent of students worldwide.

**Political conflicts** are more intense and taking a heavy toll on civilians, disproportionately affecting children. Women and girls are at increased risk of conflict-related sexual violence. Attacks against aid and health workers persist. For the ninth consecutive year, more than 90 per cent of casualties from explosive weapons in populated areas were civilians.

The last decade saw the highest-ever number of **people internally displaced by conflict and violence**, with many locked in a state of protracted displacement. There are an estimated 51 million new and existing IDPs, and the number of refugees has doubled to 20 million.

**Hunger is on the rise**, with conflict the main driver of acute hunger for 77 million people in 22 countries. By the end of 2020, the number of acutely food insecure people could be 270 million. The impacts of the pandemic and climate change are seriously affecting food systems worldwide. Funding requirements for food security in humanitarian appeals have risen to \$9 billion in 2020, up from \$5 billion in 2015.

The last 10 years were the hottest on record. Increasingly **severe and frequent weather events and natural disasters are exacerbating chronic vulnerabilities.** Additional climatic changes are expected from La Niña through the first quarter of 2021, affecting sea temperatures, rainfall patterns and hurricane activity.

**Disease outbreaks are increasing** and the pandemic has hindered essential health services in almost every country. Hard won gains are at risk. More than 5 million children under 5 years of age face the threats of cholera and acute watery diarrhoea. The pandemic could wipe out 20 years of progress in HIV, TB and malaria, potentially doubling annual death tolls.

COVID-19 made life harder for already **vulnerable groups**, including women and girls, people with disabilities, older people and those with mental health needs. Almost 24 million children, adolescents and young people are at risk of not returning to school in 2020, including 11 million girls and young women.

Fear of the virus is spreading faster than the virus itself. The pandemic and measures to contain it, are revealing **mental health and psychosocial** consequences in all countries, particularly in humanitarian settings where resources for mental health and psychosocial support are either scarce or non-existent.

COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on the full extent of **gender inequality** and women's and girls' exposure to **gender-based violence (GBV)**. Adolescent girls in conflict zones are 90 per cent more likely to be out of school, and 70 per cent of women in humanitarian settings are more likely to experience GBV. Globally, quarantine measures are exacerbating domestic violence, with 15 million new cases predicted for every three months of lockdown.

**Young people** are shaping global trends. Despite facing bleak employment prospects and the impacts of COVID-19, young people have mobilized at an unprecedented scale. This presents an opportunity for the humanitarian system to further integrate the perspectives and leadership of young people into humanitarian action.



Increased global Internet access and **new innovative technologies offer the potential to improve humanitarian action**. During the pandemic, artificial intelligence is being used for outbreak mapping, drones are delivering medical supplies and testing samples, and 3D printers are supporting the production of face shields and ventilators.

**Collaboration between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts** has increased during the pandemic. Building on this cooperation will help meet the needs of the 160 million people targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2021.

Section two

## Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals

The **Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19**, together with existing humanitarian appeals, became the largest-ever financial ask: \$39 billion. As of November 2020, donors have generously given \$17 billion to inter-agency plans.

In 2021, **235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection**. This means 1 in 33 people worldwide needs help – a significant increase from the 1 in 45 people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. The UN and partner organizations aim to help 160 million people most in need across 56 countries, which will require \$35 billion.

Section three

## Delivering better

Progress has been made on **gender equality** in humanitarian response. For example, all project submissions to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for 2020 were informed by a gender analysis and completed the mandatory Gender and Age Marker, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee completed the first-ever Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. In 2020, CERF allocated over \$60 million to GBV-focused programmes.

**CERF and the Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)** are helping us reach the most vulnerable people. Priority been placed on education in protracted crises, promoting the involvement of affected groups in humanitarian response and protection, and combating GBV.

**Local communities** – including local business networks – play a prominent role in meeting humanitarian needs. The COVID-19 pandemic and its effects highlighted the advantages of response, recovery and coordination efforts led by local organizations. The best people to communicate in local contexts are those with existing trusted relationships.

**Local people** require greater involvement in response activities and deciding priorities for frontline response. More support should be offered through appropriate funding to **local and national organizations**. In 2020 CBPFs allocated a total of \$236 million to local and national NGOs.

Cash is being used more effectively and efficiently. COVID-19 highlighted the value of **cash and voucher assistance** to meet basic needs, support local markets and re-invigorate economies. Over 200 countries have initiated or expanded social protection systems since March 2020.

Humanitarian organizations are getting better at **responding to and assessing the needs of affected people**. By working together and looking more holistically at the ways in which a person experiences a disaster, a clearer picture emerges of the variety of needs an individual and their community may face.

International responders prepared themselves to address **emergencies occurring during the pandemic**. This preparation was evident in the response to the Beirut port explosions, where international teams were tested before departure, they used remote collaboration, social media and online platforms to comply with health and safety protocols and prevent additional COVID-19 infections.

# Global achievements

## People reached with humanitarian aid in 2020

PEOPLE REACHED

**98 M**

COUNTRIES

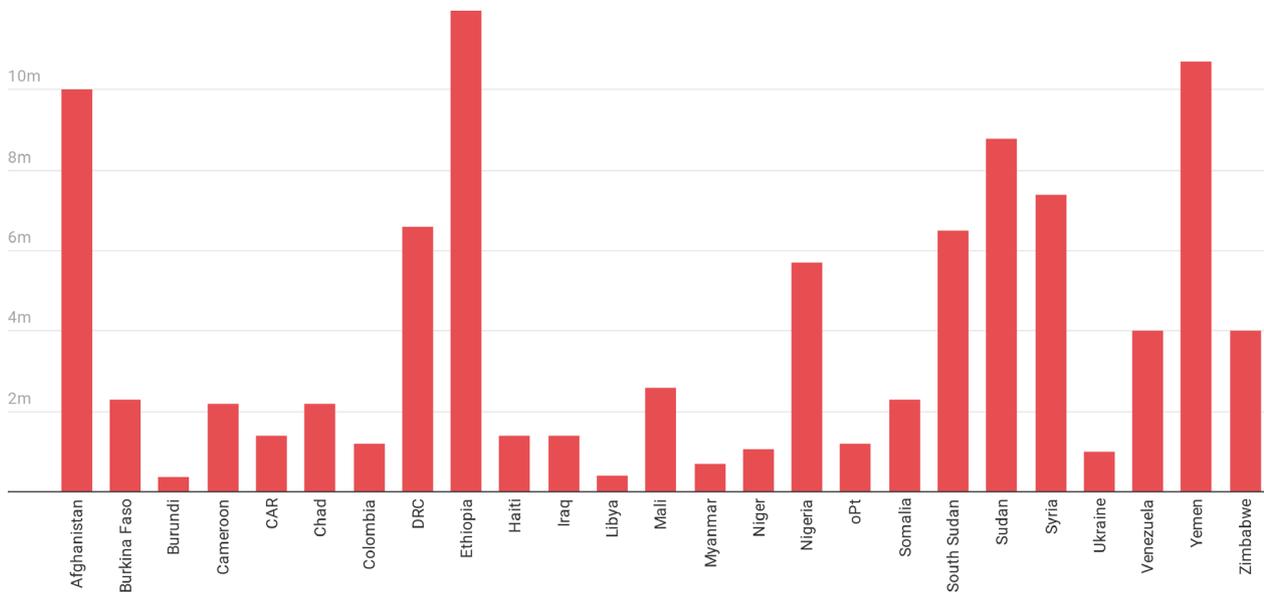
**25**

% OF PEOPLE TARGETED

**70%**[Read the full report  
gho.unocha.org](https://gho.unocha.org)

In 2020, **more than 98 million people were reached**, which accounts for 70 per cent of the total population targeted in 25 Humanitarian Response Plans, an increase of 6 per cent over 2019.

### People reached by country



Aid delivered

## Health and Nutrition



Over 10 million women and young people received life-saving **sexual and reproductive health care** and services to address GBV.<sup>1</sup>

2,412 health facilities in 52 countries provided **emergency obstetric care**.<sup>1</sup>

3.4 million children vaccinated against **measles** and 6.3 million children vaccinated against **polio**.<sup>2</sup>

Over 8.5 million doses of **cholera** vaccine distributed in seven countries.<sup>3</sup>

Over 49 million people vaccinated against **yellow fever** in six African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda).<sup>4</sup>

2.5 million children treated for **severe acute malnutrition**.<sup>14</sup>

**Aden, Yemen**

An aid worker interviews a displaced family at the Al Sha'ab IDP collective centre to understand their needs. *OCHA/Matteo Minasi*

Aid delivered

**Food, NFI,  
Shelter and  
WASH**

96.9 million people received direct **food assistance** in the first nine months of 2020.<sup>5</sup>

14.2 million people accessed **safe water** for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene.<sup>2</sup>

\$1.7 billion **cash-based transfers** to vulnerable people in 67 countries.<sup>5</sup>

13 million people had their livelihoods and food security protected in the Horn of Africa, thanks to **desert locust control operations**. This averted the loss of 1.5 million tons of crops worth over \$456 million and sufficient to feed almost 10 million people.<sup>6</sup>

844,000 MT of **food procured locally**, with a value of \$548 million.<sup>5</sup>

Aid delivered

**Gender  
Equality  
and GBV  
Prevention**

815,500 women and girls received **reproductive health services**.<sup>9</sup>

2.8 million people in 47 countries reached with **GBV-related services** (including prevention, risk mitigation and response services).<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, CERF allocated over \$60 million to **GBV-focused programmes**.<sup>7</sup>

CBPFs allocated \$390 million to projects that intend to contribute to **gender equality**.<sup>8</sup>

Aid delivered

**Localization**

CBPFs allocated \$236 million to **local and national NGOs**, continuing to be the largest source of direct funding for such organizations.<sup>8</sup>

For the first time ever, CERF allocated \$25 million for **frontline NGOs** to deliver life-saving COVID-19-related services.<sup>8</sup>



Aid delivered

## Protection and Education



1.5 million children and caregivers accessed **mental health** and **psychosocial support**.<sup>2</sup>

5,130 **children were released from armed groups** and accessed reintegration services.<sup>2</sup>

5 million people benefited from **Mine Action** globally.<sup>10</sup>

26,390 unaccompanied and separated children accessed **family-based care** or other appropriate services.<sup>2</sup>

10.8 million people received **protection services**, including legal aid and referrals to GBV services and psychosocial support.<sup>9</sup>

2.4 million children accessed **formal or non-formal education**, including early learning.<sup>2</sup>

261 million children supported globally with **distance/home-based learning** to ensure continuous education despite the pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

Aid delivered

## COVID-19



Over 25,000 health and humanitarian personnel, from 397 organizations, have been **transported** on approximately 1,450 flights.<sup>11</sup>

Over 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> of **critical COVID-19-related cargo** dispatched on behalf of 66 organizations to 171 countries.<sup>11</sup>

33.1 million **refugees, IDPs, and stateless people received assistance**. Of those people, 4.7 million refugees and IDPs received cash assistance.<sup>9</sup>

3.93 million refugees accessed **essential health services**.<sup>9</sup>

750,000 children and youth supported with **distance or home-based learning**.<sup>9</sup>

**Communities and their leaders** in 262 cities across 37 countries supported in planning and improving access to facilities.<sup>12</sup>

15 million people (44 per cent women) received **livelihood support** to counter the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.<sup>6</sup>

3 billion people reached through **messaging on COVID-19 prevention** and access to services.<sup>13</sup>

73.7 million people received **critical WASH supplies** and services.<sup>13</sup>

1.8 million health-care workers received **personal protective equipment**.<sup>13</sup>

74.8 million children and women received **essential health-care services**.<sup>13</sup>

2.3 million **health-care providers trained** to detect, refer and manage COVID-19 cases.<sup>13</sup>

74.7 million children, parents and primary caregivers provided with **community-based mental health** and **psychosocial support**.<sup>13</sup>

22.6 million children and adults provided with a **safe channel to report** sexual exploitation and abuse.<sup>13</sup>

45.5 million households benefitting from **new or additional social assistance measures** provided by Governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> UNFPA, data as of end of October 2020. <sup>2</sup> UNICEF, results achieved as of mid-2020. <sup>3</sup> WHO, data as of mid-November 2020. <sup>4</sup> WHO, data as of mid-November 2020. All interventions were mounted despite the COVID-19 context, and the flash floods affecting Ethiopia and South Sudan at the time of the campaigns. <sup>5</sup> WFP, data as of mid-November 2020. Note: The figure for direct food assistance received over the first 9 months is nearly the same as in all of 2019. <sup>6</sup> FAO, data as of mid-November 2020. <sup>7</sup> OCHA, data as of 30 November 2020. <sup>8</sup> OCHA, data as of mid-November 2020. <sup>9</sup> UNHCR, data as of mid-November 2020. <sup>10</sup> UNMAS, data as of mid-November 2020. Note: Mine Action includes clearance, victim assistance, and risk education activities. <sup>11</sup> WFP Common Services, data covers mid-March to 24 November 2020. <sup>12</sup> UN-Habitat, data as of mid-November 2020. <sup>13</sup> UNICEF, results are as of 21 October 2020. <sup>14</sup> UNICEF, results as of end-October 2020.

# Inter-agency coordinated appeals

## Results from 2020

**The Global Humanitarian Overview 2020 presented initial funding requirements of \$29 billion to assist 109 million of the 168 million people in need. By April, requirements had reached \$31 billion following the finalization of several response plans in the first quarter of the year and the addition of the GHRP for COVID-19 in March.**

By mid-November, following two updates of the GHRP and adjustments made to response plans in the context of COVID-19, requirements had reached \$39 billion to assist 265 million of the 441 million people in need in 64 countries.<sup>15</sup>

Until the July GHRP update, funding levels – both relative and absolute – were on par with previous years. Despite high levels of contributions this year, the gap between requirements and funding is larger than ever: \$22 billion.

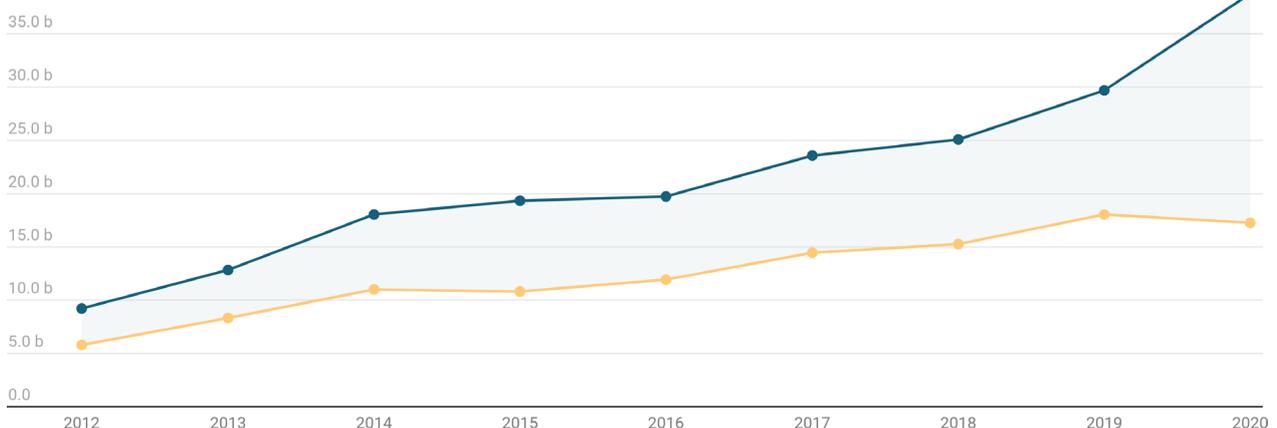
This was approximately the total amount of global humanitarian requirements three years ago. Funding for the GHRP has reached \$3.8 billion, or 40 per cent of the \$9.5 billion required.

Some of the 2020 funding was repurposed to quickly adapt the existing response, provide protective equipment for humanitarian workers and people receiving aid, and scale up response to some of the secondary socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic in humanitarian contexts. Renewed emphasis was placed on prioritizing vulnerable groups, and providing funding to NGOs, frontline responders and anticipatory action initiatives. Inter-agency guidance was issued to encourage more harmonized and flexible approaches to cascading funding.

Despite the impact of the pandemic on donor economies, additional funding was secured in several cases; significant flexible funding was provided for the rapidly evolving situation; disbursements planned for later in the year were advanced. Some good funding practices have emerged, but humanitarian organizations, particularly NGOs and local responders, are suffering from severe underfunding and have been unable to carry out many activities planned for 2020.

### Funding gap (2012–2020)

— Requirements (US\$) — Funding (US\$)



Explore the chart  
[gho.unocha.org](https://gho.unocha.org)

<sup>15</sup> Sixty-three countries were covered under the GHRP and Honduras issued a new Flash Appeal in November 2020.

## Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals: Results from 2020

Appeals	Type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)	Funding	%
 Afghanistan	HRP	13.9 m	11.1 m	1.1 b	514.4 m	45%
 Burkina Faso	HRP	2.9 m	2.1 m	424.4 m	234.8 m	55%
 Burundi	HRP	1.7 m	887.0 k	197.9 m	74.6 m	38%
 Cameroon	HRP	6.3 m	3.4 m	390.9 m	168.6 m	43%
 CAR	HRP	2.6 m	1.6 m	553.6 m	354.5 m	64%
 Chad	HRP	6.4 m	3.8 m	664.6 m	286.0 m	43%
 Colombia	HRP	10.4 m	1.7 m	209.7 m	38.4 m	18%
 DRC	HRP	25.6 m	9.2 m	2.1 b	714.9 m	35%
 Ethiopia	HRP	19.2 m	15.1 m	1.3 b	692.9 m	55%
 Haiti	HRP	10.9 m	10.9 m	472.0 m	91.9 m	19%
 Iraq	HRP	4.1 m	1.8 m	662.2 m	561.3 m	85%
 Libya	HRP	1.0 m	345.3 k	129.8 m	113.6 m	88%
 Mali	HRP	6.8 m	5.5 m	474.3 m	214.0 m	45%
 Myanmar	HRP	986.0 k	848.0 k	275.3 m	173.2 m	63%
 Niger	HRP	3.7 m	3.0 m	516.1 m	300.1 m	58%
 Nigeria	HRP	10.6 m	7.8 m	1.1 b	536.2 m	50%
 oPt	HRP	2.4 m	1.5 m	420.4 m	230.4 m	55%
 Somalia	HRP	5.2 m	3.0 m	1.0 b	791.3 m	78%
 South Sudan	HRP	7.5 m	7.4 m	1.9 b	971.4 m	51%
 Sudan	HRP	12.2 m	8.8 m	1.6 b	846.6 m	52%
 Syria	HRP	11.1 m	9.8 m	3.8 b	2.1 b	55%
 Ukraine	HRP	3.4 m	2.1 m	204.7 m	120.7 m	59%
 Venezuela	HRP	7.0 m	4.5 m	762.5 m	149.7 m	20%
 Yemen	HRP	24.3 m	19.0 m	3.4 b	1.6 b	48%
 Zimbabwe	HRP	7.5 m	6.0 m	800.8 m	206.2 m	26%
 Djibouti	FA	150.0 k	150.0 k	14.3 m	3.7 m	26%
 Honduras	FA	2.3 m	450.0 k	69.2 m	100.0 k	0%
 Lebanon	FA	1.0 m	300.0 k	354.9 m	158.7 m	45%
 Lesotho	FA	508.0 k	261.0 k	33.7 m	13.7 m	41%
<b>Burundi</b> <i>Regional</i>	RRP	2.8 m	2.8 m	267.6 m	46.7 m	17%
<b>DRC</b> <i>Regional</i>	RRP	2.2 m	2.2 m	587.4 m	39.8 m	7%
<b>Horn of Africa and Yemen</b> <i>Regional</i>	RMP	200.0 k	200.0 k	43.3 m	14.8 m	34%
<b>Rohingya</b> <i>Joint Response Plan</i>	JRP	1.8 m	1.8 m	1.1 b	624.6 m	59%
<b>South Sudan</b> <i>Regional</i>	RRP	3.8 m	3.8 m	1.0 b	99.7 m	10%
<b>Syria</b> <i>Regional</i>	3RP	9.5 m	9.5 m	6.0 b	2.1 b	34%
<b>Venezuela</b> <i>Regional</i>	RMRP	6.1 m	4.1 m	1.4 b	626.4 m	44%

## High-level pledging events coordinated by OCHA

Donors at the **High-Level Roundtable for Sudan** (January), held in London, committed to providing funding effectively, including through multi-year and flexible support. At the virtual **High-Level Pledging Event for Yemen** (June), donors announced \$1.35 billion to meet the needs of conflict-affected people. As of mid-November, 85 per cent of pledges had been committed. At the virtual **Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region** event (June), significant pledges for humanitarian, development and stabilization activities were made,

totaling \$5.5 billion for 2020 and \$2.2 billion for 2021 and beyond. Nearly all the funding pledged for 2020 has been committed. Ninety per cent of pledges made at the **Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises** event, held in Oslo in 2019, have been fulfilled. Donors at the virtual **Ministerial Roundtable for Central Sahel** (October) announced \$1.74 billion for 2020 and beyond to scale up life-saving humanitarian aid to millions of people in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

## Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals: Results from 2020

Appeals	Type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)	Funding	%
 <b>Cabo Delgado</b> <i>Mozambique</i>	Other	712.0 k	354.0 k	35.5 m	43.5 m	100%
 <b>DPR Korea</b>	Other	10.4 m	5.5 m	107.0 m	28.4 m	27%
 <b>Bangladesh</b>	COVID-19	20.2 m	7.5 m	205.9 m	61.8 m	30%
 <b>Benin</b>	COVID-19	3.0 m	1.0 m	17.9 m	3.1 m	17%
 <b>Colombia</b>	COVID-19	0.0	0.0	283.9 m	32.1 m	11%
 <b>Djibouti</b>	COVID-19	1.2 m	600.0 k	30.0 m	4.5 m	15%
 <b>DPR Korea</b>	COVID-19	0.0	0.0	39.7 m	3.6 m	9%
 <b>Ecuador</b>	COVID-19	9.0 m	2.4 m	46.4 m	19.3 m	42%
 <b>Iran</b>	COVID-19	40.1 m	25.0 m	117.3 m	70.5 m	60%
 <b>Jordan</b>	COVID-19	1.4 m	980.0 k	52.8 m	18.6 m	35%
 <b>Kenya</b>	COVID-19	13.8 m	9.7 m	254.9 m	61.2 m	24%
 <b>Lebanon</b>	COVID-19	6.0 m	0.0	136.5 m	90.2 m	66%
 <b>Liberia</b>	COVID-19	4.4 m	2.5 m	57.0 m	7.5 m	13%
 <b>Mozambique</b>	COVID-19	7.8 m	2.9 m	68.1 m	60.0 m	88%
 <b>Pakistan</b>	COVID-19	6.7 m	5.7 m	145.8 m	84.8 m	58%
 <b>Philippines</b>	COVID-19	39.0 m	5.4 m	121.8 m	18.9 m	16%
 <b>Rep. of Congo</b>	COVID-19	1.7 m	400.0 k	12.0 m	1.5 m	12%
 <b>Sierra Leone</b>	COVID-19	0.0	1.8 m	62.9 m	20.0 m	32%
 <b>Tanzania</b>	COVID-19	11.1 m	7.5 m	158.9 m	19.0 m	12%
 <b>Togo</b>	COVID-19	3.5 m	1.5 m	19.8 m	4.9 m	25%
 <b>Uganda</b>	COVID-19	13.6 m	11.4 m	200.2 m	23.0 m	12%
 <b>Zambia</b>	COVID-19	9.8 m	6.1 m	125.6 m	23.9 m	19%
<b>Famine prevention</b> <i>Global</i>	COVID-19	-	-	500.0 m	80.0 m	16%
<b>NGO envelope</b> <i>Global</i>	COVID-19	-	-	300.0 m	5.9 m	2%
<b>Operational support</b> <i>Global</i>	COVID-19	-	-	376.0 m	293.6 m	78%
<b>Unspecified funding</b> <i>Global</i>	COVID-19	-	-	-	404.7 m	-



# Inter-agency coordinated appeals

## Overview for 2021

**In 2021, 235 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This means 1 in 33 people worldwide needs help – a significant increase from the 1 in 45 people a year ago, which was already the highest figure in decades. The UN and partner organizations aim to assist 160 million people most in need across 56 countries, which will require \$35 billion.**

In 2020, COVID-19 altered the landscape of humanitarian response. There were large increases in the number of people in need. Humanitarian programming is now adjusting to treat the humanitarian impacts of the pandemic in a more coordinated way, as its health and non-health effects merge with the impacts of other shocks and stresses. For 2021, the COVID-19 analyses and responses have been integrated into 'regular' Humanitarian Needs Overviews and Humanitarian Response Plans, as part of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2021.

In **Syria**, the unprecedented economic downturn has resulted in loss of livelihoods, currency depreciation and price increases. Challenges with already weak basic services have been exacerbated by COVID-19, driving an increase in extreme poverty and food insecurity and a widespread inability to meet basic needs. In 2021 an additional 1.9 million people will need humanitarian assistance.

After almost six years of protracted conflict and economic blockades in **Yemen**, families' capacity to cope continues to be eroded. Half the population is in acute need. More people are at risk of falling into this category, as coping strategies are exhausted.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, increasing numbers of people are suffering from acute food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4). The economic situation is deteriorating, food prices are rising, and the population has been affected by flooding and localized conflict.

In **Afghanistan** an additional 4.5 million people are in need due to escalating poverty, rising food insecurity, political instability and widespread conflict.

In **Ethiopia**, the impact of the desert locust infestation and the pandemic have resulted in a further 2.1 million people needing humanitarian assistance.

### Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals: Overview per region

 [Explore the chart gho.unocha.org](https://gho.unocha.org)

Region <sup>▲</sup>	Appeals	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)
Asia and the Pacific	3	29.9 m	19.9 m	1.9 b
Eastern Europe	1	3.4 m	1.9 m	170.0 m
Latin America and the Caribbean	3	18.1 m	7.5 m	1.3 b
Middle East and North Africa	5	45.1 m	34.3 m	8.8 b
Regional Appeals	7	24.3 m	20.1 m	9.8 b
Southern and Eastern Africa	7	58.5 m	41.4 m	6.9 b
West and Central Africa	8	56.1 m	34.7 m	6.2 b



## Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals: Overview for 2021

Appeals	Type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)
Afghanistan	HRP	18.4 m	15.7 m	1.3 b
Burkina Faso	HRP	3.5 m	2.9 m	607.4 m
Burundi	HRP	2.3 m	1.0 m	195.6 m
Cameroon	HRP	4.0 m	2.4 m	360.0 m
CAR	HRP	2.8 m	1.8 m	444.7 m
Chad	HRP	-	-	-
Colombia	HRP	6.7 m	1.5 m	300.0 m
DRC	HRP	19.6 m	9.6 m	2.0 b
Ethiopia	HRP	21.3 m	16.3 m	1.5 b
Haiti	HRP	4.4 m	1.5 m	235.6 m
Iraq	HRP	4.1 m	2.5 m	630.0 m
Libya	HRP	1.3 m	451.0 k	189.0 m
Mali	HRP	7.1 m	5.8 m	498.0 m
Mozambique	HRP	1.3 m	1.1 m	254.4 m
Myanmar	HRP	1.0 m	944.5 k	276.5 m
Niger	HRP	3.8 m	2.2 m	500.0 m
Nigeria	HRP	8.9 m	6.2 m	1.1 b
oPt	HRP	2.4 m	1.8 m	417.0 m
Pakistan	HRP	10.5 m	3.3 m	285.3 m
Somalia	HRP	5.9 m	4.0 m	1.1 b
South Sudan	HRP	7.5 m	5.6 m	1.5 b
Sudan	HRP	13.4 m	8.9 m	1.8 b
Syria	HRP	13.0 m	10.5 m	4.2 b
Ukraine	HRP	3.4 m	1.9 m	168.0 m
Venezuela	HRP	7.0 m	4.5 m	762.5 m
Yemen	HRP	24.3 m	19.0 m	3.4 b
Zimbabwe	HRP	6.8 m	4.5 m	505.5 m
Burundi <i>Regional</i>	RRP	488.5 k	488.5 k	208.9 m
DRC <i>Regional</i>	RRP	1.5 m	1.5 m	544.6 m
Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i>	MRP	613.7 k	311.0 k	68.2 m
Rohingya <i>Joint Response Plan</i>	JRP	1.3 m	1.3 m	954.0 m
South Sudan <i>Regional</i>	RRP	3.1 m	3.1 m	868.7 m
Syria <i>Regional</i>	3RP	10.1 m	10.1 m	5.8 b
Venezuela <i>Regional</i>	RMRP	7.2 m	3.3 m	1.4 b



**Bria, Central African Republic (CAR)**

The town of Bria hosts the biggest IDP site in CAR: the PK3 site. Most of the site's 50,000 IDPs have been displaced several times due to repeated attacks. *OCHA/Florent Vergnes*

In **Burkina Faso**, deteriorating food security, due to natural disasters and a grave protection crisis, grounded in conflict and insecurity, coupled with the impacts of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic situation, have increased the needs from \$424.4 million to \$607.4 million. The number of people in need increased from 2.9 million to 3.5 million due to worsening conflict and insecurity in affected areas. As partners have scaled up operational capacity, the number of people targeted has risen from 2.1 million to 2.9 million.

**Zimbabwe's** requirements decreased by 37 per cent due to humanitarian organizations engaging with partners to prioritize and target the most acute life-saving and life-sustaining needs in 2021.

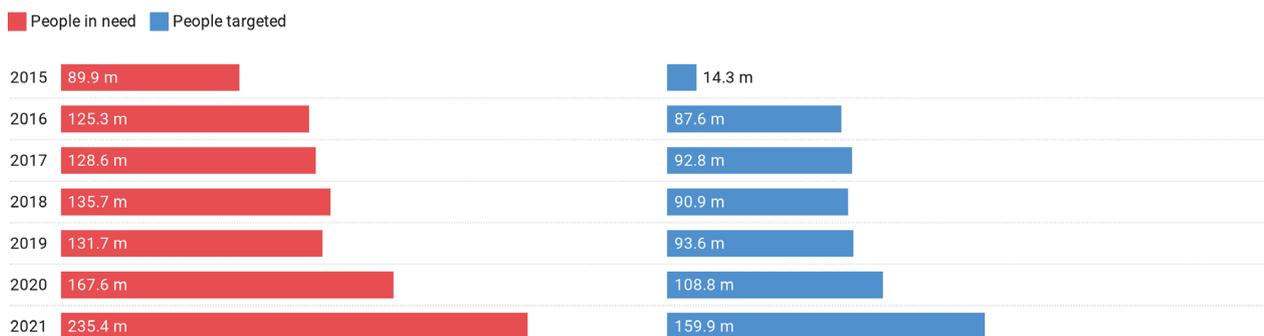
**Haiti's** requirements have decreased by 50 per cent, due to changes in response and humanitarian activities, focusing on specific vulnerable groups and geographical priorities.

In **Mozambique**, requirements increased from \$35.5 million to \$254 million due to the inclusion of additional provinces to the localized Cabo Delgado plan.

In **Libya**, the increased price of staple food, COVID-19 impacts and the oil blockade resulted in a 30 per cent increase in the number of people in need.

Of the **34 inter-agency coordinated appeals**, 11 have requirements exceeding \$1 billion. These 11 plans account for \$25 billion of the total \$35 billion requirements.

**People in need and targeted (2015-2021)**



Chart/table reflects figures at time of the Global Humanitarian Overview launch.

**“Conflict, climate change and COVID-19 have  
created the greatest humanitarian challenge  
since the Second World War... together, we must  
mobilize resources and stand in solidarity with  
people in their darkest hour of need.”**

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**António Guterres**  
United Nations Secretary-General  
*Launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021*

