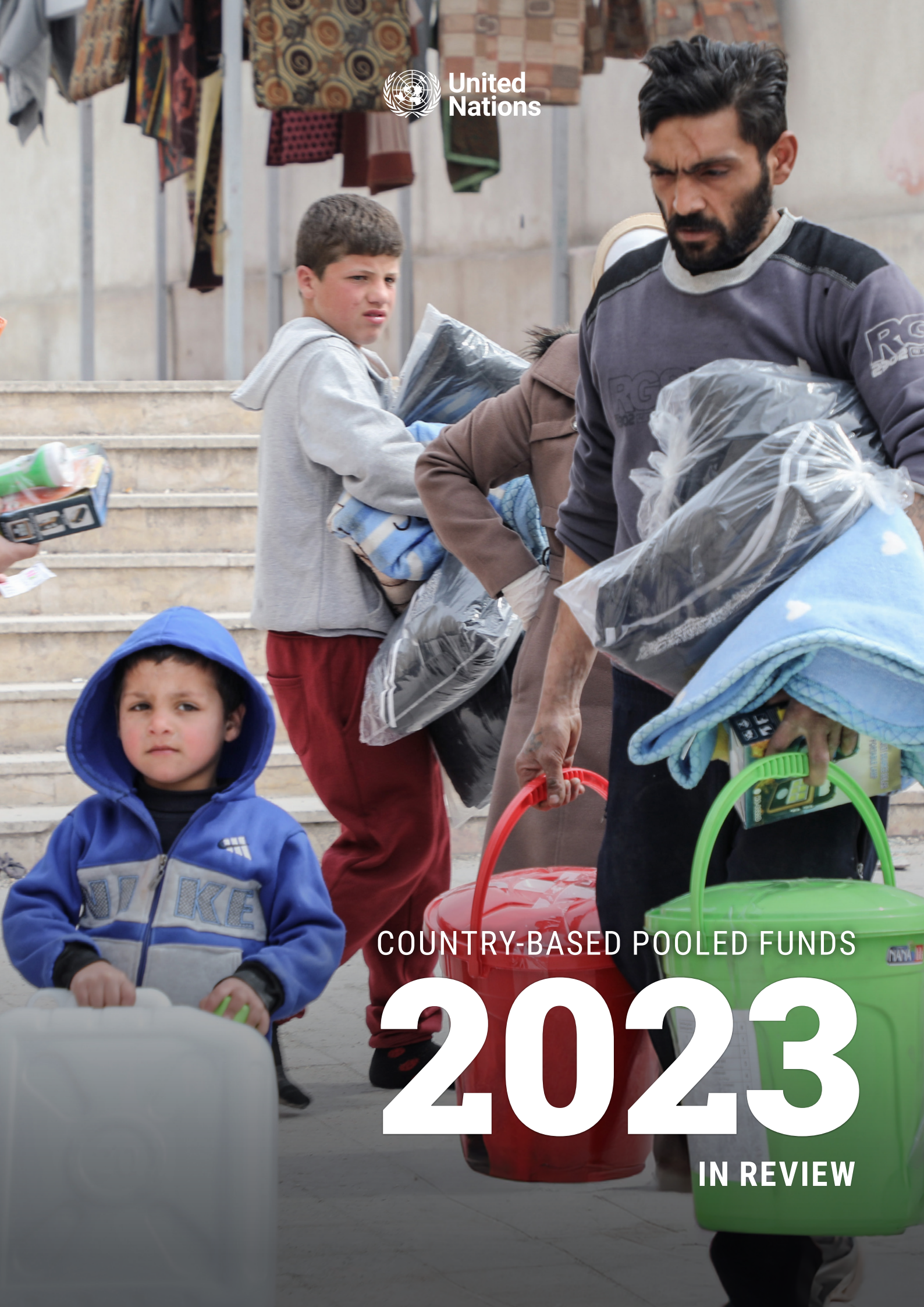




United
Nations



COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS

2023

IN REVIEW

[Credits](#)

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

Full project details, financial updates and real-time allocation data are available on the [CBPF DataHub](#).

For additional information, please contact:

Donor Relations Section

ocha.donor.relations@un.org

Front Cover: **Allepo, Syria**. Earthquake-affected community received humanitarian aid.

Photo: UNOCHA/ Sevim Turkmani

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Financial data is provisional and may vary upon financial certification.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	Letter from the Emergency Relief Coordinator
6	RESULTS AT A GLANCE
7	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
9	ABOUT THE COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS
12	CONTRIBUTIONS TO CBPFS IN 2023
15	PROMOTING LOCALIZATION
18	CATALYSING INNOVATION AND POSITIVE CHANGE
26	CBPF ALLOCATIONS IN REVIEW
35	PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2023 CBPF FUNDING
42	GOVERNANCE
46	COMMITMENT TO RISK MANAGEMENT
49	2023 Annual Reports

Letter from the Emergency Relief Coordinator

2023 was an undeniably arduous year marked by unrelenting global challenges. From Ukraine and Sudan, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the Sahel and beyond, conflict, climate change, disease outbreaks, displacement and economic shocks continued to cause immense suffering. By the end of the year, more than 362 million people found themselves in need of humanitarian aid and protection, almost 30 million more people than at the start.

For many of these people, the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) proved to be an irreplaceable lifeline. Across 19 countries with some 241 million people in need, the CBPFs showcased their huge strategic value as flexible humanitarian financing mechanisms driving cohesive, coordinated and accountable responses at scale. In all, they helped 34.5 million people receive assistance. Critically, the CBPFs ensured that much of this assistance was localized, with a record 39 per cent of all funding going to front-line responders.

The Funds' strategic value was particularly evident in several contexts.

When devastating earthquakes hit Syria in February, the CBPFs provided rapid funding to jump-start the response, working hand-in-hand with other funding sources, such as the Central Emergency Response Fund, to provide assistance to more than 9.5 million people in need.

Within hours of the outbreak of the brutal conflict in Israel and OPT, the OPT Humanitarian Fund redirected \$9 million from an existing allocation

of funds towards rapidly emerging needs in Gaza. The OPT Humanitarian Fund continues to draw on its vast established network of local and national partners as a key part of efforts to provide urgent assistance in Gaza amid staggering access challenges.

And as climate-related disasters continued to disrupt lives and livelihoods in 2023, the CBPFs showed their exceptional ability to adapt and drive innovative approaches to humanitarian action. From the Yemen Humanitarian Fund initiating its first collective to multisectoral anticipatory action programme for floods to the Somalia Humanitarian Fund ensuring early action to protect the most vulnerable populations to the effects of drought, the CBPFs strove to make aid more proactive and incisive. In 2024, the Funds will continue this increasingly urgent work in the growing number of regions prone to climate disasters.

These are just a few of the CBPFs' success stories in 2023. There are many more throughout this report. They all stand as testament to one thing: When donors generously support funds with unique local knowledge and close working relationships with local partners and organizations, the benefits for affected communities are far-reaching and lasting.

As the global challenges driving humanitarian needs show little sign of abating in 2024, I urge Member States and other donors to keep supporting the CBPFs and the empowering, positive and transformational impact they have on millions of people's lives.

Martin Griffiths
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian
Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator



“

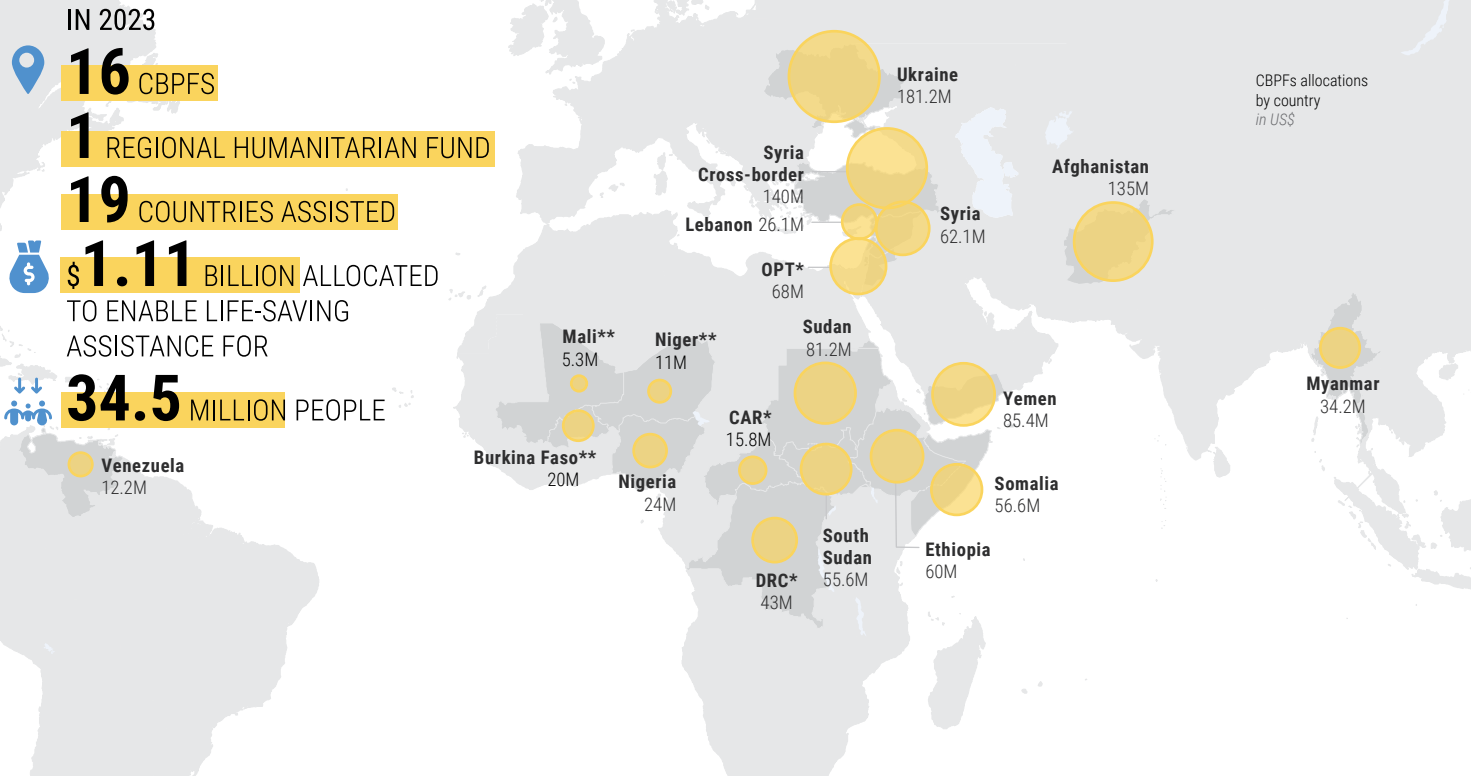
Across 19 countries with some 241 million people in need, the CBPFs showcased their huge strategic value as flexible humanitarian financing mechanisms driving cohesive, coordinated and accountable responses at scale.

MARTIN GRIFFITHS
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN
AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR

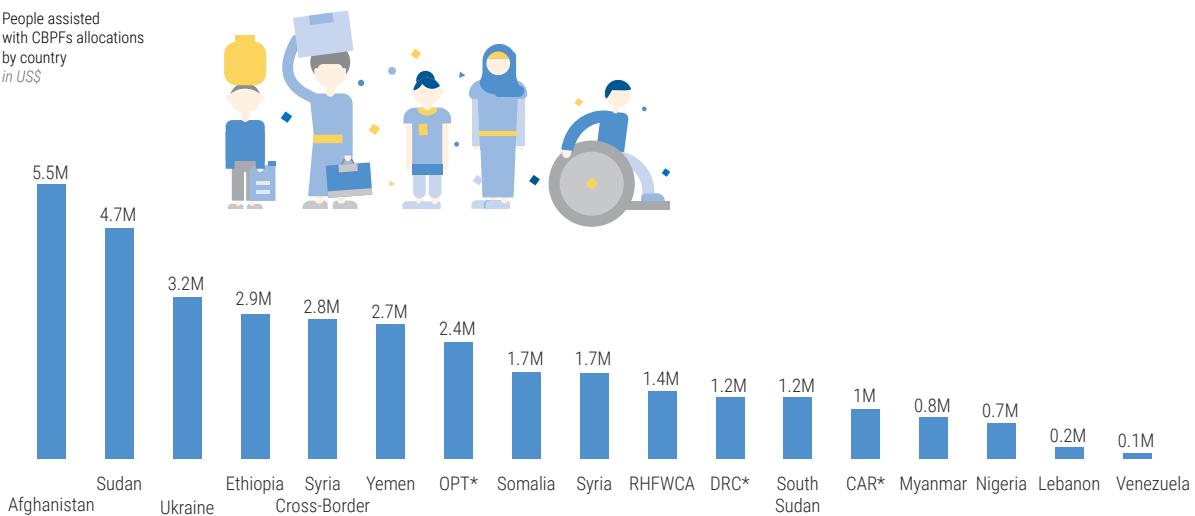
”

Rakhine, Myanmar. USG Griffiths
visiting one of the IDP Rohingya camps
in Sittwe, Photo: UNOCHA/Nyan Zay
Htet/2023

RESULTS AT A GLANCE



People assisted with CBPFs allocations by country in US\$



* CAR – Central African Republic

DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo

OPT – occupied Palestinian territory

** RHFWCA - Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger)

Executive Summary

CBPFs at the forefront of the global humanitarian response

In 2023, the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) remained indispensable elements of the global humanitarian architecture and key instruments for driving effective responses to growing humanitarian needs. Throughout the year, the CBPFs allocated the second highest amount of annual funding ever – \$1.11 billion – to enable humanitarian action in 19 countries. With this funding, partners provided life-saving assistance and protection to an estimated 34.5 million people (see page 26).

The Funds' ability to provide life-saving assistance was made possible by the generous support of their donors. The CBPFs received \$1.16 billion during 2023 – the second highest level of annual funding to date. In a year marked by financial challenges and international instability, this is a testament to donors' strong and unwavering commitment to the Funds. During the year, the donor base grew with the addition of 13 new or returning Member State donors. However, despite this remarkable achievement, several CBPFs remained severely underfunded. As global humanitarian needs soar, it is imperative to secure increased and predictable funding for the CBPFs (see page 12).

Responding to the most challenging humanitarian crises

During the year, the Funds responded promptly to a variety of complex humanitarian emergencies, including life-saving needs generated by conflicts, natural and climate-induced disasters, and disease outbreaks. Again in 2023, conflict situations accounted for the largest share of humanitarian assistance from the CBPFs (57 per cent of total funding allocated), followed by climate-related crises (34 per cent).

The Funds demonstrated unparalleled agility and flexibility in meeting humanitarian needs. By employing a flexible mix of Standard and Reserve Allocations to achieve the right balance of inclusivity, speed, focus and customized processes for optimum results, the CBPFs were instrumental in enabling multisectoral, coherent and coordinated responses. The Funds tailored their allocation modalities to suit the varying nature and urgency of crises, demonstrating their ability to swiftly adapt and scale up operations to meet emerging needs and tackle evolving and complex situations (see page 26). Moreover, the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (RHFwCA) continued to provide regionally coordinated funding, enabling agile and flexible responses (see page 18).

Reaching the most vulnerable

The Funds continued to promote quality programming to ensure that assistance and services were accessible for the most vulnerable people. In 2023, more than 17.8 million people receiving support from the Funds were women and girls and a remarkable 80 per cent of all funded projects actively advanced gender equality – a 20 per cent increase from 2022. The Funds provided some \$88.9 million to local women-led organizations. The CBPFs also allocated significant funding specifically to address gender-based violence (GBV), with \$63.2 million allocated to GBV initiatives, assisting 3.5 million survivors. Moreover, the Funds enabled life-saving support for over 14.8 million children under 18 and 4.7 million people living with disabilities. They continued to support organizations of persons with disabilities, promoting their involvement in CBPF processes through capacity-building and active participation in project review committees (see page 18). The CBPFs also continued their commitment to 'leaving no-one behind' by promoting inclusive programming and prioritizing the most vulnerable and affected people in hard-to-reach areas.

Catalysing innovation and positive change

With humanitarian needs skyrocketing, innovative approaches to ensuring efficient and effective humanitarian action are becoming more important than ever. Beyond the provision of critical funding for life-saving humanitarian action, the CBPFs made important contributions to fostering innovations and positive system change. In 2023, the Funds continued to get ahead of predicted crises and ensure early action, including through the pre-positioning of funding for a '48-hour response'. During the year, the RHFWSA expanded its coverage and, based on its success, plans for similar regional funds matured (see page 18).

Promoting localization

The CBPFs continued advancing localized humanitarian responses, allocating the largest share of funding ever to local and national organizations. In 2023, \$338 million was allocated to 344 local and national partners. This represents 31 per cent of all funding, greatly exceeding the 25 per cent benchmark set at the World Humanitarian Summit. If indirect funding through sub-grants is also taken into account, total funding provided to local and national actors reached an impressive \$429 million, or 39 per cent of total funding allocated. As well as increasing their quantity of funding, during the year the CBPFs also continued efforts to ensure a quality of funding that matches the needs of local and national organizations, advances their participation in the governance of the Funds, strengthens their capacities, and increases the visibility of local response efforts (see page 15).

Enhancing governance and partnerships

In 2023, the CBPFs made significant progress in strengthening governance, with the implementation of the revised CBPF Global Guidelines as a major milestone. The Pooled Fund Working Group helped to shape the strategic direction of the CBPFs through virtual and in-person meetings, while the OCHA CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform continued to facilitate NGO coordination, outreach and communication. In particular, discussions in these forums highlighted the role of CBPFs in promoting locally-led responses and including the voices of the most vulnerable in CBPF decision-making (see page 42).

Committing to risk management

In 2023, OCHA continued to invest in strengthening accountability and oversight, building on its solid reputation for risk-based management of the CBPFs. OCHA took additional steps to enhance tools, policies and capacities, to help prevent and effectively manage risks. These efforts demonstrate OCHA's commitment to the effective and efficient use of donor funds, and to managing risks and ensuring accountability in CBPF-funded operations (see page 46).

Syria. A woman with her cat in front of her shop. She benefitted from a business grant provided by partner organization Shafak with the support of Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF). Both shops were damaged by the earthquakes and the grant enabled them to kickstart their businesses again.
Photo: OCHA/Ali Haj Suleiman



About the Country-based Pooled Funds



The United Nations' Country-based Pooled Funds are indispensable to our efforts to save lives and alleviate suffering around the world. They allow us to channel support to meet the forgotten and neglected needs of vulnerable people and communities at the country level. They are the first choice for donors who want to get support to people affected by crisis.

António Guterres,
Secretary-General of the
United Nations

The CBPFs are essential instruments for supporting humanitarian action that saves lives, alleviates suffering and maintains human dignity. The Funds respond to substantial humanitarian needs in numerous contexts across the globe. Established by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), these multilateral instruments allocate funding based on the humanitarian needs and life-saving priorities identified at country level, embodying a commitment to a locally led, people-centred and effective response. They are established either in response to emerging emergencies or when an existing crisis escalates, demonstrating their adaptability and responsiveness.

In support of their mandate to save lives, advancing localization is central to the work of the CBPFs. Localization recognizes the pivotal role played by national and local actors deeply embedded in the affected communities in identifying needs and initiating the response during crises. The CBPFs' extensive country presence and expansive partnership networks position them as catalysts for amplifying the engagement of local and national partners in humanitarian responses. By facilitating meaningful collaboration, CBPFs contribute to building a more robust and sustainable humanitarian landscape that can effectively address the evolving challenges on the ground.

The Funds also enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of the humanitarian response through their timely, coordinated and principled assistance, while promoting innovative and strategic approaches. The Funds operate in complementarity with the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and are aligned with development and peace funding initiatives.

Donors contribute softly earmarked funding to individual CBPFs. As resources are pooled, combined contributions create critical volumes that can achieve greater strategic impact than if individual contributions were made to specific projects.

Through strategic and prioritized deployment of funding, the CBPFs support the delivery of agile and coordinated needs-based responses, strengthen focus on the most vulnerable, and ensure the best use of available resources. The Funds are managed by OCHA at the country level with the highest standards of transparency, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), who leads decision-making and allocation processes to distribute the money directly to local, national and international organizations.

The CBPFs minimize transaction costs and provide transparency, accountability and comprehensive risk management. The [Country-Based Pooled Funds Global Guidelines](#) set out the minimum global standards for effective and efficient management of the CBPFs, and ensure a coherent and harmonized approach to governance and operations. The Funds are also guided by the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

To achieve flexibility in allocation processes to fit different contexts, the CBPFs offer a range of funding modalities tailored to specific needs. For example, Standard Allocations, typically larger and more comprehensive, cater to all eligible partners, while Reserve Allocations, smaller and quicker, can be directed to pre-selected, well-established partners in response to emergent crises or sudden deteriorations of situations, as well as in protracted crises. These modalities can be used interchangeably, guided by a focused strategic intent to provide clear added value.

HOW CBPFs WORK

CONTRIBUTIONS



Donors contribute to specific CBPFs.

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



Aid workers on the ground identify the most urgent humanitarian needs and the types of humanitarian assistance that people require, such as shelter, food, clean water and medicine.

MANAGING FUNDS



Contributions are pooled into single funds.

REQUESTING CBPFs FUNDING



Humanitarian partners work together to prioritize life-saving relief activities. They request CBPF funding through the Humanitarian Coordinator.

ALLOCATING FUNDS



Based on expert advice from aid workers on the ground, the Humanitarian Coordinator allocates CBPF funding.*

SAVING LIVES



Relief organizations use the money for life-saving aid operations. They always track spending and impact, and report back to the Humanitarian Coordinator.



For a more comprehensive description of the CBPFs, please visit [These are CBPFs](#).

*CBPFs are committed to surpass the global, aggregated benchmark of providing at least 25 per cent of humanitarian funding to local and national responders.

WHY FUND CBPFS?

CBPFS are



INCLUSIVE AND PRIORITIZED

CBPFS promote an inclusive response by allocating funds to the best-positioned partners, including UN agencies, local, national and international NGOs, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This approach ensures diverse and collaborative efforts to address prioritized needs, fostering effective coordination, preventing duplication and promoting a unified response.



CATALYTIC

CBPF allocations can serve as catalysts for humanitarian operations, enabling RC/HCs to enhance responses, address cross-cutting priorities, and improve quality and accountability. By promoting efficient programming and localization, CBPFS contribute to system change and improvements to the humanitarian system.



EFFICIENT

CBPFS ensure value for money, as they efficiently manage funding with minimal operational expenses. By prioritizing strategic responses to humanitarian needs through cost-efficient processes, CBPFS maximize the impact of limited resources, saving lives and alleviating suffering effectively.



SUPPORTIVE OF THE GRAND BARGAIN

CBPFS play a key role in delivering the Grand Bargain. CBPFS provide flexible, in-country allocations, supporting top-priority projects in Humanitarian Response Plans, encouraging wider participation of partners. CBPFS enhance transparency, support multi-sectoral cash programming, and minimize transaction costs, contributing to improved humanitarian practices.



SUPPORTIVE OF LOCALIZATION

While the primary objective of CBPFS is to save lives, localization is their secondary goal. CBPFS serve as a vital mechanism for promoting localization and empowering local and national actors.



COUNTRY-BASED

CBPFS are country-based, using a local presence to ensure a more nuanced understanding of humanitarian needs and enable a timely and context-specific response.



FLEXIBLE

In humanitarian contexts marked by volatility, CBPFS can swiftly adjust their programmatic focus. This adaptability allows them to promptly ensure the delivery of agile and coordinated needs-based responses that prioritize the most vulnerable and ensure the best use of available resources.



NEUTRAL, IMPARTIAL AND INDEPENDENT

CBPFS are a trusted and dependable source of predictable funding, providing crucial support for the most urgent and critical humanitarian actors. CBPFS receive softly earmarked funding from donors and allocate it based on jointly identified priorities through an inclusive, field-driven decision-making process, ensuring resources address the most urgent and life-saving needs wherever crises occur.



ADEPT AT RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFS employ global, fund- and partner-level risk management, using accountability tools to monitor and assess partner capacity and performance.



TIMELY

CBPFS enhance humanitarian response by delivering prompt and coordinated assistance in response to emerging or escalating humanitarian needs.

Contributions to CBPFs in 2023

For a third consecutive year, contributions to the CBPFs in 2023 exceeded \$1 billion, with 47 donors generously contributing a total of \$1.16 billion. The CBPFs continued to enjoy robust support, with the donor base expanding from 39 donors in 2022 to 47 in 2023 – an almost 20 per cent increase. Despite the continued support and the escalating global humanitarian demands, several Funds experienced a funding shortfall, in line with the reduction in resources for humanitarian action in their context. As global humanitarian needs soar, it is imperative to secure increased and predictable funding to ensure the CBPFs can meet the growing need for critical life-saving assistance.



The Republic of Korea has been a steadfast donor to CBPFs. We value OCHA's enhanced partnerships with national NGOs under CBPFs, which have further strengthened its role in alleviating suffering in countries affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The Republic of Korea will continue to support OCHA in addressing the most challenging humanitarian crises.

Kweon Ki-hwan, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Republic of Korea

Broadening and deepening the CBPF donor base

In 2023, 47 donors contributed \$1.16 billion to the 16 CBPFs and 1 Regional Fund, the second highest funding level yet. An overall reduction in humanitarian resources resulted in a 13 per cent decrease in funding compared to 2022. Yet, thanks to donors' continued trust, the CBPFs once again proved to be catalytic in supporting life-saving and protection activities for millions of the most vulnerable people, while pushing forward the localization agenda.

Some 82 per cent of the total amount contributed to CBPFs in 2023 came from the top ten donors: the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Belgium and Ireland. Compared with 2022, 15 donors increased their contributions, while many others contributed to more Funds than they had in previous years.

Thanks to continued efforts to diversify the donor base, 2023 saw 13 new or returning donors compared to 2022: Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Egypt, Latvia, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and the Belgian Government of Flanders. In addition, private sector corporations and more than 15,000 individual donors from 162 countries donated to the CBPFs directly and through OCHA's online fundraising platform, [UN Crisis Relief](#) – a testimony to the growing support for CBPFs.

Donors' early contributions and multi-year agreements enabled the Funds to support the delivery of coordinated and principled assistance to people in need. In 2023, 11 donors (up from 9 in 2022) contributed \$177 million through multi-year agreements, equivalent to 15 per cent of total contributions. During the year, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Kuwait, the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom had multi-year agreements with the CBPFs in place. The predictable and timely disbursement of contributions is crucial for the CBPFs to effectively plan allocations and for ensuring agile responses in often rapidly changing crises, allowing partners to quickly adapt and scale up activities when needed. Notably, about 80 per cent of all contributions were received within a month of the pledges being made, which was critical for the planning of allocations.

Despite the generous support from many donors, an average of only 6 per cent of secured funding for Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) was channelled through CBPFs in their respective contexts, marking a decrease from the 10 per cent share they accounted for in 2022. The CBPFs' funding targets are set at 15 per cent of HRP requirements. Notwithstanding this shortfall, several Member States in 2023 channelled more than 15 per cent of their HRP funding through the CBPFs. These countries include Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland,



Nigeria. Fatima, age 1, and her mother at the PUI stabilization center in Pulka, Borno State in November 2023.
Photo: OCHA/Damilola Onafuwa



As they enable flexible and effective responses, CBPFs are a key instrument in our humanitarian policy. Their crisis-specific focus and support to local and national responders is essential to help the most vulnerable, because local organizations are on the ground before, during and after a crisis.

*Nathalie Olijslager,
Director Stabilisation &
Humanitarian Action,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
the Netherlands*

Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, with some even allocating more than half of their funding through the CBPFs.¹

In line with the expectations of humanitarian stakeholders, especially Member States, OCHA continued to strengthen communications on the impact and results of the Funds. Compelling storytelling helped illustrate how the CBPFs enable local partners to deliver aid and protection. This included a new film to champion locally led responses in [South Sudan](#), [Venezuela](#) and [Yemen](#), as well as shorter videos by individual CBPFs and partners – such as the [Yemen Humanitarian Fund's](#) video of its partner, HumanAccess.org, delivering health care in Taiz Governorate. The [OCHA Story Hub](#), a collection of stories that demonstrate the impact of the Funds, was also updated with contributions from each Fund – including from [Burkina Faso](#) and [Ukraine](#), which were compiled in response to Member State requests for earlier content on new crises. To reach a broader audience, OCHA also promoted the 'CBPFs in Action' through the [annual results campaign](#), sharing new data and content visualizing how pooled funds helped newly displaced people in [Sudan](#) and vulnerable women and girls in [Somalia](#). One of the highest-performing [social media posts](#) – in Spanish – amplified through Latin American regional networks, promoted the Syria Cross-border Fund earthquake response to new donors and potential

partners. The [CBPF Data Hub](#) provided real-time information on contributions, allocations and people assisted, while the CBPFs web page continued to serve as the [Funds' digital portal](#).

A call to action to better fund CBPFs

While many Member States demonstrated strong support to the CBPFs in 2023, there remains a considerable gap in reaching annual contribution targets. OCHA encourages all Member States to support the localization agenda by allocating 15 per cent of their contributions to HRP through the CBPF mechanism. With the growing gap between humanitarian needs and available funding, investments in the CBPFs remain the most impactful and cost-efficient way to support locally led crisis response. Year after year, the CBPFs demonstrate their ability to ensure collective prioritization, strengthen coordination, empower local and national partners, and maximize the use of scarce resources.

In 2024, OCHA will continue efforts to diversify and deepen the donor base, including by engaging government and private donors in peer-to-peer advocacy. By contributing to the CBPFs, Member States, observers and regional governments, as well as individuals, corporations and foundations, are joining hands with the international community's collective humanitarian action to reduce the suffering of millions of people caught up in crises across the world.



































¹ For the purpose of this exercise, the funding was calculated based on total donor contributions to Pooled Funds in 2023 in relation to total donor contributions to the HRPs for that same year, excluding Regional Refugee Response Plans.

THE COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS THANK DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN 2023






\$1.16B
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2023

MEMBER STATES

 NETHERLANDS 189.7M	 GERMANY 179.1M	 UNITED KINGDOM 124.7M	 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 89M	 NORWAY 77.1M	 SWITZERLAND 75M	 SWEDEN 66.4M
 CANADA 54.9M	 BELGIUM 52.2M	 IRELAND 48.3M	 DENMARK 39.6M	 FRANCE 24.9M	 ITALY 23.2M	 AUSTRALIA 22M
 FINLAND 17.5M	 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 15M	 REPUBLIC OF KOREA 8.5M	 SPAIN 7.7M	 LUXEMBOURG 6.5M	 MEXICO 6M	 PORTUGAL 5.8M
 NEW ZEALAND 4.1M	 ICELAND 2.9M	 JAPAN 1.9M	 AUSTRIA 1.1M	 POLAND 1M	 KUWAIT 1M	 CYPRUS 319k
 LITHUANIA 218k	 SLOVENIA 212k	 ESTONIA 151k	 PHILIPPINES 110k	 SLOVAKIA 108k	 GREECE 106k	 SINGAPORE 100k
 TÜRKİYE 100k	 MALAYSIA 100k	 LATVIA 75k	 BULGARIA 53k	 BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 38k	 AZERBAIJAN 30k	 EGYPT 15k

OTHER DONORS

 CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION 14M	 JERSEY 783k	 PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS 2.4M
--	--	---



For more information on specific contributions, please refer to the [CBPF DataHub](#)

Promoting localization



The Sudan HF has proven to be a valuable partner in our efforts to assist individuals with disabilities. As a national organization, we focus on implementing initiatives that prioritize inclusivity and prevention, aiming to reduce the incidence of disability and mitigate social exclusion. The Sudan HF's collaboration enables us to effectively pursue this inclusive agenda.

*Shaza Ahmed,
Executive Director
of Nada Elazhar for
Disaster Prevention and
Sustainable Development,
Sudan*

In their role as catalysts for localization, in 2023 the CBPFs directly allocated funding to 344 local and national organizations, representing 45 per cent of all funding recipients – the largest share ever. These organizations received \$338 million, or 31 per cent of the total amount allocated by the Funds during the year, exceeding the 25 per cent global benchmark set at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. When indirect funding through sub-grants is taken into consideration, total funding provided to local and national actors reached an impressive \$429 million, equivalent to 39 per cent of the total amount allocated during the year. In addition to increasing their share of funding, the CBPFs also continued efforts to ensure a quality of funding that matches the needs of local and national organizations, advances their participation in the governance of the Funds, strengthens their capacities, and increases the visibility of local response efforts.

Quantity of funding

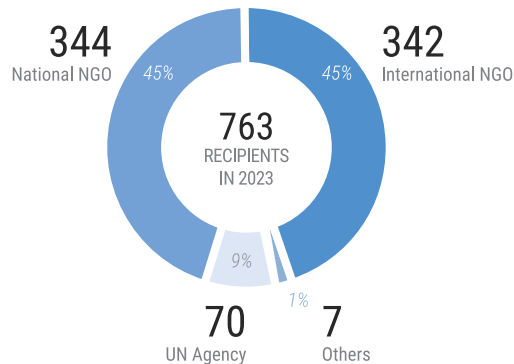
In 2023, an astounding 45 per cent of CBPF partners, or 344 organizations, were local and national NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies – a significant increase from 18 per cent in 2016. Direct funding to local and national actors (L/NAs) reached an unprecedented \$338 million (31 per cent of total allocations) exceeding the global benchmark of 25 per cent established at the World Humanitarian Summit for the sixth consecutive year. This even surpasses the previous record in 2022, when 28 per cent of funding was directed to such entities. The Somalia Humanitarian Fund (HF) exemplified this commitment by prioritizing local partners as primary responders, allocating 76 per cent of its standard allocation (\$18.6 million of the total \$25 million) to L/NAs. One such organization, Golweyne Relief and Rehabilitation NGO, received \$700,000 for drought relief in Burhakaba district. Their local presence enabled a swift response, helping to overcome logistical challenges such as blocked roads to deliver life-saving aid quickly and efficiently.

Throughout the year, the CBPFs embraced various localization approaches tailored to their specific contexts to support L/NAs. The roll-out of the revised Global Guidelines during 2023 (see page 42) spurred efforts to develop detailed localization strat-

egies, with signs of promising progress. The Lebanon HF, for instance, committed to increasing direct funding to L/NAs to 30 per cent, and actively identifying and engaging with women-led organizations (WLOs) through direct funding and capacity-development programmes. During the year, it exceeded its target by allocating 39 per cent of its funding directly to L/NAs, compared to only 21 per cent in the previous year.

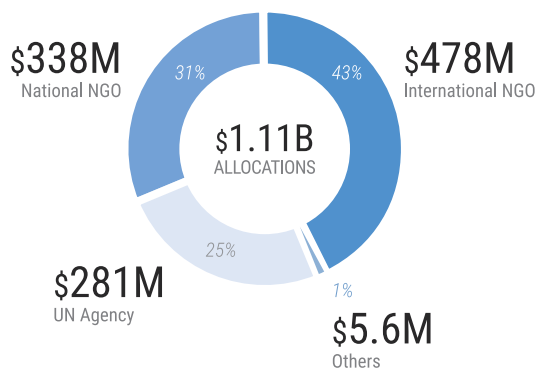
Acknowledging the untapped potential within smaller local organizations, the CBPFs continued pursuing sub-granting arrangements. By empowering larger organizations to act as conduits, the CBPFs were able to ensure that resources reached smaller, often community-based actors. In 2023, \$86 million, equivalent to 8 per cent of total allocations, was sub-granted. In Ukraine, for example, '100% Life', a national NGO partner of the Ukraine HF, joined forces with 'Ukrainian Smile', a local education NGO with deep reach into rural front-line communities. With a \$640K sub-grant, 'Ukrainian Smile' deployed mobile classrooms equipped with laptops and mental health support directly into war-torn rural areas. These classrooms aimed to bridge the educational gap for disabled children, offering a lifeline of learning amid the conflict.

2023 CBPF RECIPIENTS BY TYPE



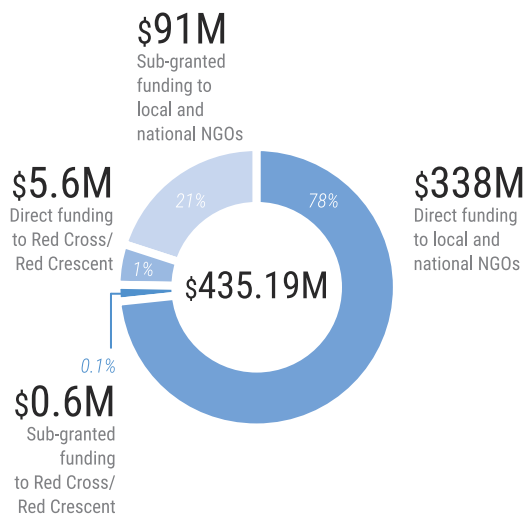
DIRECT CBPF FUNDING BY PARTNER TYPE

In US\$



DIRECT AND SUB-GRANTED CBPF FUNDING TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

In US\$



Quality of funding

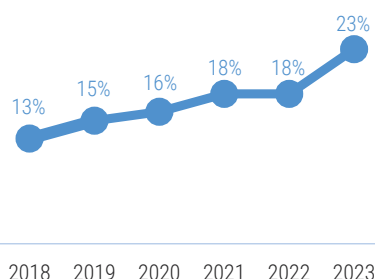
In addition to increasing the share of funding that reached local and national partners, in 2023 the CBPFs also gave added attention to tailoring funding to the specific requirements of local organizations as part of an approach to foster equitable partnerships. The revised Global Guidelines provide a framework for this commitment, ensuring adequate and fair support. This means recognizing all costs – including staffing, capacity development and security – and offering flexibility, fair programme support costs, and the possibility of multi-year funding. A prime example in 2023 was the Sudan HF: amid escalating conflict, the Fund pre-positioned \$15 million for nutrition services, enabling 25 NGOs to access funds within 48 hours and meet emerging needs in new hotspot areas. The funding covered distribution costs and empowered local partners to respond promptly and effectively in line with population movements and rapidly changing access conditions.

Governance and partnerships

During the year, the CBPFs also continued to enhance the involvement of L/NAs in the governance of the Funds, fostering constructive engagement and ensuring that their voices shape CBPF priorities and policies. This commitment to inclusivity extended to the global level, where the Pooled Fund Working Group achieved an equal representation of national and international NGOs in 2023: of the six members, three were national representatives, including one from a WLO. This diverse group brings local perspectives directly to the CBPFs' strategic discussions, working alongside UN agencies and Member States to ensure a well-rounded approach.

Progress also continued in increasing the participation of L/NAs in CBPF Advisory Boards, highlighting the commitment to balanced representation. In 2023, the number of L/NAs rose to 44, compared to only 25 in 2017. All CBPFs included at least one L/NA on their Advisory Board, with one exception due to the specific operational context. Moreover, 13 of the 19 Boards included representatives from WLOs. L/NAs also continued playing a critical role in 2023 review committees, meticulously scrutinizing project proposals and selecting those eligible for funding.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL NGO REPRESENTATION IN CBPF ADVISORY BOARDS - PERCENTAGES COMPARED TO OVERALL MEMBERS



Capacity development

In 2023, CBPFs continued strengthening the institutional and technical capacities of L/NAs. OCHA developed thematic guidance notes and supported sessions for NGOs to share experiences via the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform. CBPFs provided continuous feedback on and support for partners' policies and systems during key processes such as capacity assessments, monitoring and financial checks, helping L/NAs to improve their performance and increase their chances of securing funding. Additionally, targeted training and outreach empowered over 925 L/NAs, including 263 WLOs, with skills in proposal writing, project management, financial practices, and thematic areas like gender mainstreaming, protection and disability inclusion.

Acknowledging the need for context-specific support, many CBPFs also implemented targeted capacity-development initiatives. The Afghanistan HF, for example, provided a \$14.4 million allocation specifically designed to boost the operational capacity and compliance of national NGOs, acknowledging the highly restrictive context that impacts their ability to receive funding and deliver assistance.

Afghanistan. Women attend a sanitation learning session conducted by local Afghan organization. With funding from the AHF, the Organization for Afghan Women Capacity repaired critical WASH facilities. Photo: Organization for Afghan Women Capacity and Knowledge, Afghanistan

In January 2024, the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform surveyed 200 respondents, primarily national NGOs, on their perception of the CBPFs. Findings reflect solid progress in advancing localization since a similar survey was conducted in 2022. For example, 80 per cent of local and national actors indicating that their representatives can speak openly during Advisory Board meetings. Accessing Fund Managers was considered easy by 93 per cent of local and national respondent and 61 per cent report receiving capacity development support.

Visibility

In 2023, the CBPFs continued to amplify the voices and impact of L/NAs. They increased the visibility of these entities through high-profile engagements, such as Member State visits and social media campaigns. The CBPFs showcased compelling human impact stories and testimonials, particularly in local languages, and amplified the achievements of L/NAs in annual reports. OCHA's [Pooled Funds Impact Story Hub](#) also helped to raise awareness of their crucial role in humanitarian response. This strategic effort not only increased the visibility of L/NAs but also attracted additional support from Member States and stakeholders.



Catalysing innovation and positive change

In addition to enabling life-saving assistance, the CBPFs are strategically positioned to promote positive changes within the humanitarian system and strengthen responses. 2023 saw an increased focus on boosting efficiency and programme quality. This included the implementation of innovative approaches in humanitarian response; increased early-action and pre-positioning of funding for a '48-hour response'; a continued commitment to leave no-one behind through inclusive programming; the expansion of Regionally-hosted Pooled Funds; and improved coherence with other funding streams. These concerted efforts contributed to a more effective and streamlined humanitarian system – with lasting positive impacts on communities in need.

Innovating for effective response

In 2023, the CBPFs continued to pioneer innovative approaches, emphasizing their commitment to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian response. The CBPFs explored new allocation approaches, such as area-based and community-centred approaches, which allow for a more holistic response, streamlined interventions and greater community empowerment.

The area-based approach focuses on tackling the needs and vulnerabilities of an affected population within a defined geographical area. The response is built on an area-based assessment and analysis that prioritizes integrated outcomes and places people and their needs at the centre of decision-making. CBPF collaboration with local humanitarian actors in the area helps to inform priorities, bring in local voices and ensure an effective locally led response. The Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (HF), for instance, used an area-based approach in its allocation of \$35 million to support vulnerable returning or relocating IDPs. The approach ensured that the projects were tailored to the specific needs and context of each area. Individual experts and NGOs from the respective areas were actively involved in the review and implementation process, offering their invaluable local knowledge and insights.

The community-based approach places affected communities at the centre of the response. This involves actively engaging with community members to identify their needs, empowering them to take

ownership of the response, and strengthening existing community structures and resources. In 2023, the Sudan HF adopted this approach by allocating \$6 million to support community-based organizations working with vulnerable populations in conflict zones. Small grants were distributed, and community-based committees were bolstered to ensure that localized support reached the most affected, particularly in Khartoum and Darfur.

Flagship Initiative

The ERC launched the Flagship Initiative in 2023, empowering HCs in pilot countries – Colombia, Niger, the Philippines and South Sudan – to rethink the way humanitarian aid is delivered. To foster innovative and context-specific solutions, the key pillars of the Initiative include localized decision-making with empowered local partners, reduced bureaucracy for a faster and more holistic response, and ongoing engagement with communities. CBPFs can serve as catalysts, providing flexible resources and testing new funding approaches aligned with the Initiative's principles. In 2024, the Niger envelope of the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa and the South Sudan HF are exploring ways of supporting the Initiative. Capitalizing on past innovations, they will enhance community consultations during strategy development, prioritization, project design, monitoring and learning.

Acting early and ahead of crises

By making early and more ‘forward-leaning’ allocations and committing to anticipatory action frameworks, CBPFs enable partners to get ahead of predictable hazards, thereby ensuring a more efficient, effective and dignified response. In 2023, several CBPFs employed forecasting and early warning mechanisms, with a particular focus on mitigating the impact of floods. Notably, the Yemen HF committed \$8 million towards a country-level anticipatory action framework, with \$5 million allocated for preparedness measures and the remaining \$3 million designated specifically for anticipatory action, to be released when thresholds for specific early warning indicators are reached. The learning from the Yemen framework will inform potential replication in other contexts. Similarly, the Somalia and South Sudan HFs took proactive measures in anticipation of potential flooding, including El Niño-driven hazards. The allocations, aimed at mitigating the impact of anticipated floods, focused on critical needs such as access to safe water and sanitation, cholera case management and reproductive health support, as well as on averting acute food insecurity. The overarching goal of these anticipatory approaches was to reduce the impacts of disasters through collective, multisectoral action before crises fully unfolded – a significant shift towards proactive risk mitigation and vulnerability reduction.

To respond to sudden-onset emergencies as quickly as possible, several CBPFs adopted the ‘48-hour response’ modality. This approach, introduced as part of the revised Global Guidelines, involves pre-positioning funding with pre-selected partners to enable rapid response to emerging needs. Once circumstances require action, a quick decision on the deployment of funding can allow for response within 48 hours. In 2023, the Sudan HF promoted this approach. Aware of the constant threat of localized violence and inter-communal clashes, the Fund strategically pre-positioned resources with selected consortia of partners. In response to outbreaks of violence, and as soon as operational access was feasible, funding was released and essential items like shelter, cooking supplies and water purification tools were made readily available to address the immediate needs of those affected.

Fostering inclusive and quality programming

Committed to quality programming and rigorous prioritization, the CBPFs continued leveraging robust guidelines and data to ensure inclusive humanitarian programming that meets the needs of the most vulnerable. This commitment was further solidified with the roll-out of the revised Global Guidelines, which introduced key principles for inclusive programming.

Building on recommendations from OCHA’s Contact Groups on gender and disability inclusion, in 2023 the CBPFs integrated considerations related to gender, disability and GBV into every step of their funding processes. OCHA also developed thematic guidance for Fund Managers, outlining minimum requirements and best practices.

The CBPFs also improved their processes and systems to ensure data tracking and accountability. The One Grant Management System (OneGMS) now tracks and analyses data on GBV, gender equality, disability inclusion and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) across all funded projects, fostering transparency and continuous improvement.

Strengthening Accountability to Affected People

Throughout 2023, the CBPFs doubled down on their efforts to strengthen Accountability to Affected People by empowering communities and ensuring that their needs shape funding priorities. This commitment is evident in a number of strategies across different contexts. While some CBPFs tightened their guidelines, requiring greater community participation in projects, others dedicated targeted allocations to strengthen communication and feedback channels. The Yemen HF, for instance, required partners to demonstrate community participation in project design, and ensure access to feedback and complaint mechanisms for all beneficiaries, regardless of gender, age, disability or other factors. In the Central African Republic, a dedicated allocation supported the operation of 15 information and feedback centres, providing physical spaces for communities to voice their concerns.

Championing gender equality

The CBPFs remained dedicated to gender equality in 2023, fostering equal opportunities and access to assistance for all. A key strategy involved ensuring mainstreaming of gender throughout CBPF-funded projects and their programming. This meant consistently collecting and analysing gender- and age-disaggregated data to ensure projects reflect the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups, including women, girls, boys and men. The Funds also engaged with women-led organizations (WLOs) to ensure the needs of marginalized women and girls were adequately addressed. This commitment is evident in the widespread incorporation of WLOs in CBPF Advisory Boards, as well as the significant number of 122 WLOs that have received direct or indirect funding from the CBPFs in 2023. The CBPFs also actively promoted the participation of WLOs in Fund processes and provided tailored training specifically designed to improve their access to CBPF funding. In 2023, 28 per cent of national NGOs in CBPF trainings were WLOs – exceeding the 25 per cent target set by OCHA's Gender Action Plan.

Gender equality initiatives by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund

The Afghanistan HF worked to promote gender equality in very challenging circumstances. Amid the restrictions imposed by the Taliban on national NGOs and women's organizations in 2023, it launched a twinning programme to empower WLOs. This innovative initiative paired experienced international WLOs with their national NGO counterparts, offering mentorship and guidance on institutional management, humanitarian practices and strategic planning. In addition to capacity-building, the Afghanistan HF also prioritized WLOs in capacity assessment processes and collaborated with UN Women and other experts to ensure humanitarian interventions address the specific challenges of Afghan women and girls.

Supporting people with disabilities

In 2023, CBPFs continued to strengthen disability inclusion throughout all stages of the funding cycle, especially in allocation strategies and project selection. They partnered with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to provide, among other things, training and capacity-development, and improve understanding of eligibility criteria and funding processes. Some CBPFs went even further. The Nigeria HF, for instance, earmarked \$2.5 million specifically for disability inclusion and addressing the barriers faced by disabled women and girls. In close collaboration with OPDs, activities were designed to address the specific needs of disabled people, such as economic inclusion, protection, and gender- and disability-sensitive WASH services and community centres.

Improving humanitarian access

The CBPFs consistently championed efforts in 2023 to open and maintain humanitarian access, tackling obstacles such as bureaucratic delays, crumbling infrastructure and security restrictions. Their strategies, tailored to each context, ranged from restoring community infrastructure and establishing humanitarian hubs to supporting emergency air cargo.

CBPFs enhancing humanitarian access

Two remarkable success stories of CBPFs supporting humanitarian access in Syria and Yemen stand out. Following the devastating February earthquake in Syria, the Syria Cross-border HF earmarked 60 per cent of its \$50 million reserve allocation to set up new IDP reception centres, clear debris and rubble, and fully restore access to key community infrastructure such as roads and basic services. In Yemen, following a UN-brokered truce, the Yemen HF allocated \$1.75 million to establish a new hub in Ta'iz. The hub will not only expand access to aid in previously underserved remote areas, but also allow better data collection and, in turn, improve needs assessments, laying the groundwork for future assistance.



Somalia. Ubah and her two children are among the people displaced to Galkayo due to the Laas Caanood conflict.
Photo: OCHA/Yao Chen

Strengthening the agility of OCHA's Pooled Fund services

The Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (RHFwCA), a pilot initiative launched in 2021, has demonstrated the value of bringing pooled fund services to a complex and volatile region. The Fund extended its reach in 2023 by introducing a country envelope in Mali, complementing those in Burkina Faso and Niger.

During the year, the RHFwCA continued to promote regional synergies and approaches by aligning programming and modalities to address common priorities. A regional framework, setting out priority humanitarian areas of focus, priority modalities of assistance and cross-country collaboration and learning, was developed to strengthen a coordinated and coherent response across countries of operation. Parallel and synergetic allocations were launched in June/July 2023 in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger to address priorities related to displacement and food insecurity in common border areas. Looking ahead in 2024, OCHA is considering establishing a country envelope in Chad to address the growing humanitarian needs there due to conflict, climate change and food insecurity.

Building on the success of the RHFwCA and the growing interest from humanitarian stakeholders, OCHA is establishing new Regional Humanitarian Funds in other regions, notably in the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America and the Caribbean, and continues to explore opportunities for Southern and Eastern Africa. This includes developing a Fund model that potentially includes, where appropriate, a regional envelope to complement the respective country envelopes. Donor contributions to the regional envelope are unearmarked within the region, enhancing the Funds' agility, enabling them to engage in a wider range of locations, including for anticipatory action.

Improving coherence between funding instruments

OCHA remains committed to strengthening collaboration with development and – where appropriate – peacebuilding actors. As part of this commitment, OCHA seeks to ensure that its Pooled Funds promote a more coordinated and complementary use of humanitarian resources alongside those of the development and peacebuilding sectors.

While the CBPFs remain inherently humanitarian and focused on principled life-saving response, in 2023 they continued to leverage their extensive reach and network of local and national partners to promote collaboration and complementarity between diverse actors and funding mechanisms. This involved a variety of approaches, ranging from sharing information on allocation strategies with development and peacebuilding actors, to exploring joint funding opportunities to maximize impact and avoid duplication.



In the context of Mali, with an increasing number of people in need of humanitarian assistance, the regional fund helps us to respond rapidly. Thanks to the generosity of donors, we are able to respond and to provide immediate funding to local organisations in support of the most vulnerable communities.

*Alain Noudéhou,
RC/HC for Mali*



OPT, West Bank. Abu Waleed, farmer and leader of the Queela community, near his house. Photo: ACF

WASH solutions in the OPT: from meeting urgent needs to long-term development

The Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) HF offers a compelling example of how CBPFs can effectively reinforce a nexus approach – one that integrates humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts. A project run during the first half of 2023, funded by the OPT HF in Area C, helped to tackle urgent WASH needs in underserved communities, while linking to long-term development. Key to its success was a conflict-sensitive approach that recognized the complex political context.

The project actively coordinated with development and peacebuilding actors, aligning funding and activities to achieve collective

outcomes. It complemented government initiatives by engaging with the Palestinian Water Authority, local councils and community leaders, ensuring a comprehensive strategy that reached everyone in need.

The construction of new pipelines, rehabilitation of infrastructure and expansion of the water network provided immediate relief while building community resilience for future challenges. The project adopted a conflict-sensitive approach, recognizing the context. Hygiene awareness training, with a particular focus on women, empowered communities and aligned with peacebuilding principles.

Burkina Faso.

An EnGenderHealth class for displaced women.
Photo: EnGenderHealth



In West and Central Africa, the Regional Humanitarian Fund supports displaced women and girls



“These classes were helpful, and I share the information with other women I know,” says Roukietou.

Burkina Faso and Niger. “Our garden used to provide us with enough food. But we lost everything,” says Roukietou, a mother of two in Banwa province, Burkina Faso, who had to flee her home because of violence.

In neighbouring Niger, Amna cried herself to sleep. Also displaced by conflict, she was suddenly forced to marry an older relative. “My dreams were shattered,” she said.

Mass displacement and conflict uproot people’s lives, leading to more risks for women and girls, including hunger and poor nutrition, as well as gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.

Burkina Faso continues to experience one of the fastest-growing humanitarian crises in the world, with an estimated ten per cent of the national population – more than two million people – internally displaced due to violence and insecurity. A quarter of the population is currently reliant on humanitarian aid.

In Niger, forced displacement has been triggered by conflict, malnutrition, recurrent health epidemics, cyclical floods and drought. It means that 4.3 million people, including 2.4 million children, need humanitarian assistance in 2024.

Help to continue schooling

Amna and her family fled conflict in their village and made for a displacement site in Tillabéri. But, when Amna was only 12, she was married to her cousin, against her wishes. Then, at 14, she became pregnant.

Ultimately, Amna did leave. A friend advised her to get in touch with the international NGO Help, which offers services in Tillabéri with the support of the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa.

Amna met a Help midwife as well as a mental health counsellor. She described her regrets about leaving school and, being pregnant, her worry that she wouldn’t be able to return. The midwife and counsellors told her they would help her to get back to school.

When the baby was born, Help provided food, hygiene supplies, clothes, and formula. The counsellor and baby nurses visited regularly to check on them and make sure they were well. With support from family members, Amna has been able to return to school. “I sleep well now,” she says.

Knowledge, support, and leadership

In Burkina Faso, the international NGO EngenderHealth hosted classes on nutrition, hygiene, and child-care for displaced women like Roukietou. They were also an opportunity to learn and connect with other women who had lived through similar experiences. “These were helpful, and I share the information with other women I know,” says Roukietou.

Another displaced woman, Rakieta, conducts awareness-raising campaigns in the community, advocating for women’s rights and decision-making.

A survivor of domestic abuse herself, Rakieta works with a project run by the national NGO SOS Sahel. “I suffered so much,” she explains. Now she works to get women involved in camp leadership and joining community committees, to help protect other women’s rights – so that no one has to live through what she did.



More information on the [Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa](#)

Leveraging complementarity of OCHA Pooled Funds in Sudan

When CERF and CBPF resources are provided to the same contexts, RC/HCs ensure that the resources are used in a complementary and coherent manner. OCHA helps RC/HCs translate this vision into allocation strategies, ensuring that funding is used to achieve the greatest overall impact – a continuing priority for OCHA and its partners.

In mid-April 2023, the escalation of the conflict in Sudan aggravated what was already a dire situation, with a 60 per cent increase in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance – up to some 25 million. In response to the escalating crisis, CERF allocated \$22 million in June 2023 through its Rapid Response (RR) window. This RR allocation complemented an \$18 million CERF Underfunded Emergencies allocation, which was endorsed in February 2023 but re-prioritized to address the most time-critical and life-threatening needs arising from the new conflict, and a \$37 million allocation launched by the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (Sudan HF), both under implementation at the time of disbursement of the RR allocation.

While the CERF RR allocation was used to strengthen the humanitarian response by enabling UN agencies to increase the coverage of life-saving services across all clusters in areas with fewer access constraints – hosting over two-thirds of the people displaced by the hostilities – the allocation from the Sudan HF supported a consortia of humanitarian partners and grassroots entities to deliver vital emergency services in the hard-to-access areas of Khartoum and the Darfur states. Furthermore, the CERF RR allocation supported humanitarian coordination structures, which had been hindered by the challenging security situation, by funding crucial common services for the wider humanitarian community, such as telecommunications, safety and security, and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service.

This was followed by an additional \$20 million CERF RR allocation in August 2023 to meet the increasing funding requirements of the revised Humanitarian Response Plan, resulting from the substantial increase in the number of people affected and the growing humanitarian needs. The timing of the CERF and the Sudan HF allocations has allowed partners to sustain ongoing response efforts and adjust to the rapidly changing operational conditions, despite the sporadic injection of funding from donors.



Sudan. Rahma is one of the many displaced people who volunteers to cook for her neighbours in the camp. She is here with her family and husband after leaving Khartoum in May.

Photo: OCHA/Ala Kheir

CBPF allocations in review

In 2023, the CBPFs allocated \$1.11 billion to 763 partners – the second-highest amount of annual funding ever – with 39 per cent allocated to local and national actors. The Funds promptly responded to a range of complex humanitarian emergencies, demonstrating their versatility and capacity to operate at scale. Through the strategic deployment of funding, the CBPFs were instrumental in enabling multisectoral, coherent and coordinated responses that prioritized the needs of the most vulnerable.

In response to the escalation in humanitarian crises in 2023, the CBPFs allocated \$1.11 billion, the second-highest annual allocation to date. Across a wide variety of emergencies, from the earthquake in Syria to the conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the CBPFs leveraged their humanitarian access and strategic value to not only reach the most vulnerable, but also mitigate the impact of crises and catalyse system-wide changes.

As in 2022, the Ukraine, Syria Cross-border and Afghanistan Humanitarian Funds allocated the highest amounts of funding. The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (HF) released a total of \$181 million to respond to needs arising from the ongoing war. The Fund continued to prioritize front-line communities, vulnerable displaced people and returnees. The Syria Cross-border HF allocated \$140 million, primarily in response to the compounding challenges triggered by the February earthquakes, including a deterioration in economic conditions, increased poverty and widespread population displacement (see page 35). The Afghanistan HF allocated \$135 million in response to the deteriorating protection environment for women and girls, the needs arising from a series of devastating earthquakes in October, and the return of thousands of undocumented Afghans and refugees from Pakistan.

During the year, the CBPFs demonstrated their ability to swiftly adapt and scale up operations to meet emerging needs. The OPT HF, for instance, grew rapidly from a fund with a capacity of \$30 million to \$91 million. Hours after the conflict erupted following the 7 October attacks in Israel, the Fund allocated \$9 million, followed by a subsequent allocation of \$40 million to

address the rapid escalation in humanitarian needs. These allocations were made in complementarity with a \$12 million allocation from CERF that enabled UN agencies to deliver a time-critical response to the most pressing and life-threatening needs, thereby ensuring an optimized use of available resources across sectors and geographical areas. Similarly, amid the deepening humanitarian crises in West and Central Africa, the Regional HF expanded its reach to Mali, to address internal displacement and food insecurity. This regional approach enabled a synchronized response across Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali to tackle the humanitarian needs throughout the Sahel.

Throughout 2023, the CBPFs also demonstrated remarkable flexibility in tackling evolving and complex crises. For instance, when civil war erupted in Sudan in April, the Sudan HF employed the '48-hour response' mechanism to expedite the release of funding (see page 18), and the Somalia and South Sudan HFs effectively mitigated the impacts of El Niño-induced floods by allocating funding in anticipation of the impending humanitarian impacts (see page 18). The Somalia HF floods allocation was complemented by \$10 million from CERF, which enabled UN agencies to provide assistance for flood-affected people, displaced populations and host communities.

As local as possible, as international as necessary

In 2023, the CBPFs achieved a new milestone in their efforts to promote localized responses, allocating their largest share of funding ever to local and national actors (L/NAs). In line with the Grand Bargain

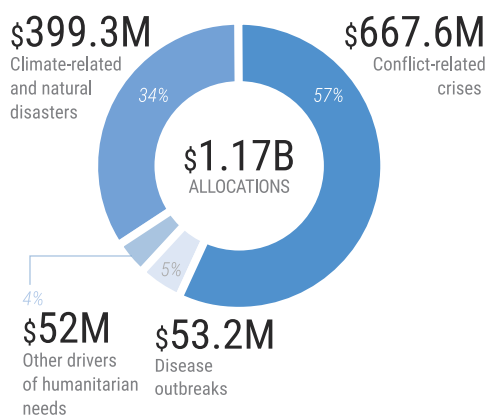
commitment to make humanitarian action “as local as possible, and as international as necessary”, the CBPFs increasingly embraced localization as a secondary key objective. Of the \$1.11 billion allocated by the CBPFs, \$338 million (31 per cent) went to local and national NGOs, and \$5.6 million (1 per cent) to Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. An additional \$91 million was sub-granted to local organizations, bringing the total L/NA share to \$429 million, or 39 per cent of 2023 CBPF funding (see page 15). The remaining \$478 million (43 per cent) went to international NGOs and \$281 million (25 per cent) to UN agencies.

Responding to the main drivers of humanitarian crises

During the year, the CBPFs responded to a wide variety of emergencies. Once again, the largest share of funding went towards conflicts, natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, disease outbreaks, and other multifaceted emergencies such as economic disruptions.

2023 CBPF ALLOCATIONS BY EMERGENCY TYPE

In US\$



Syria, Idlib. Children at play. Local organization Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation, with support from the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, implemented child protection programming including family reunification for children affected by war and the earthquake. Photo: OCHA/Bilal Alhammoud

Providing life-saving assistance in conflict situations

In 2023, the world witnessed a resurgence and intensification in conflicts, leading to a sharp rise in human suffering and displacement. The escalation of violence persisted, with 60 per cent of worldwide conflicts categorized as ‘highly violent’ (216 out of 363, up from 204 out of 355 the previous year). This unprecedented level of violence forcibly displaced an estimated 114 million plus individuals.

The CBPFs responded by allocating \$668 million to conflict-driven humanitarian emergencies – some 57 per cent of total funding allocated. Despite the highly restrictive and volatile conditions, the CBPFs – through principled and needs-based allocations – continued to enable partners to deliver life-saving assistance across frontlines and reach vulnerable populations.



Venezuela, Delta Amacuro. Dr. Palacios on mission, visiting remote villages. Photo: OCHA.



In Venezuela, reaching rural communities affected by conflict

Venezuela, Delta Amacuro. Soila Palacios is a medical doctor, a native Warao from Delta Amacuro in the far east of the country, and a language interpreter. This makes her a critical member of the team at Venezuelan NGO El Paragüero, where she regularly joins the team to translate between the Warao indigenous language and Spanish.

Delta Amacuro was one of three states in 2023 to benefit from the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund's focus on funding for indigenous communities. Soila knows this area, and these people, well. Some villages take four hours to reach by boat. Soila explains that many people feel comfortable telling her things in Warao that they wouldn't share in Spanish, or with someone who only spoke Spanish.

Delta Amacuro is a poor region, where 66 per cent of people live in extreme poverty. The economic collapse in Venezuela has resulted in loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, and a lack of basic services. Many of the most vulnerable people are forced to reduce meals or engage in other negative coping activities for survival.

Dr. Palacios supports a project for women funded by the Venezuela Humanitarian Fund and implemented by El Paragüero together with HIAS. The HIAS project aims to reach 70 per cent of the women here with pro-

tection, livelihoods, and health support.

The protection work includes legal counselling to obtain birth registration; improving systems to prevent trafficking and GBV, and strengthening child protection. Food security interventions include training on fishing, handicrafts, and local food processing: a significant driver of food insecurity is the loss of local fishing knowledge, and other 'traditional' activities. Health assistance focuses on training staff, including midwives, and strengthening community-based health surveillance, so that people look out for each other and can refer them to the clinic when needed.

Soila sees her role as more than work. "As a translator, I help empower and support indigenous people here, especially the most vulnerable," she explains. For example, during training on fishing or food processing, Dr. Palacios is on hand to translate and make sure women's questions are raised – and answered clearly. Her presence makes the women more comfortable to ask questions, and she helps them get the answers they're looking for.

With her linguistic expertise and deep understanding of the communities, Dr. Palacios helps ensure the respectful integration of diverse cultures, the full participation of indigenous people in all phases of the project, and successful outcomes for women.



More information on the
[Venezuela Humanitarian Fund](#).



[POOLED FUNDS DATA HUB](#).

Scaling up the humanitarian response in Gaza

On 7 October 2023, the humanitarian situation in Gaza spiralled out of control when Palestinian armed groups attacked Israel, killing about 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals. Israel retaliated with airstrikes, triggering a devastating humanitarian crisis with immense suffering and widespread destruction. By 30 December, the Gaza Ministry of Health reported at least 21,672 Palestinian fatalities, of whom approximately 70 per cent were women and children. Tens of thousands were injured, and many remain unaccounted for. The humanitarian situation in Gaza rapidly deteriorated, with critical shortages of food, health care, shelter, essential supplies and clean water.

Within hours of the crisis, the OPT HF pivoted its existing resources, redirecting \$9 million from an ongoing allocation to emerging needs. Partnering with pre-selected organizations with the requisite operational capacity and access to vulnerable populations, it initiated a '48-hour response' to grant urgent access to funds. This rapid activation aimed to provide critical support in the crucial initial hours.

Recognizing the immense scale of the crisis, the Fund launched its largest allocation ever – \$40 million – to support the November 2023 Flash Appeal. This funding focused on essential needs like food, health care, shelter, essential supplies and clean water. However, this sizeable allocation only represents a fraction of the estimated \$1.2 billion needed to address the overwhelming humanitarian needs in Gaza, highlighting the critical need for increased funding.



Gaza. Emergency water distribution. Water trucking, funded by the OPT HF provided safe water for displaced people. Photo: OCHA

Responding to natural disasters and the effects of climate change

In 2023, climate-related disasters continued to increase levels of risk and vulnerability, disrupting livelihoods, triggering displacement and undermining global public health. By year-end, there had been 363 climate- and weather-related disasters affecting nearly 73 million people and resulting in an estimated 24,000 deaths and \$150.7 billion-worth of economic losses.

Natural and climate-induced disasters accounted for the second-largest share of humanitarian fund-

ing from the CBPFs, with a total of \$399 million in allocations (34 per cent of total funding). The Funds swiftly responded to such crises, mitigating their impacts and, in some cases, even anticipating them. From earthquake relief in Syria and Afghanistan, to averting a massive oil-spill off the coast of Yemen (supporting the UN-led FSO SAFER salvage operation), and taking action ahead of El Niño-related flooding in South Sudan and Somalia, they demonstrated their ability to act effectively in an evolving landscape.



Yemen. Workers at the Yemen HF-funded FSO SAFER salvage operation, averting a massive oil spill off the coast of Yemen.
Photo: OCHA

Responding to the destruction caused by Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar

On 14 May 2023, Cyclone Mocha slammed into the Myanmar coast, bringing wind gusts of up to 305 kilometres per hour, as well as storm surges and heavy rains. This compounded what was already a dire humanitarian situation in Rakhine, the northwest and the northeast, triggering mass displacement, damaging homes and infrastructure, and disrupting livelihoods.

At a time when humanitarian funding was scarce, the Myanmar HF released \$25 million within days to jump-start emergency relief efforts. With import restrictions and limited access hampering the ability of aid organizations

to stockpile supplies, the Fund prioritized cash and voucher assistance and the distribution of locally procured relief items, including shelter kits and essential household items.

The Myanmar HF focused on hard-to-reach areas where displacement, needs and response gaps were the highest. To improve access to aid, it directed funding to local organizations, incentivizing partnerships through sub-grants. Throughout the year, the Fund allocated a total of \$33.6 million to respond to the humanitarian consequences of Cyclone Mocha and the compounding effects of escalating conflict, heavy monsoon rains and flooding.



Syria, Idlib, March 2023. OCHA conducted its first in-person visit to project sites in north-west Syria, funded by the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF). Photo: OCHA/Anastasya Kahala Atassi

Enabling assistance in response to disease outbreaks

In 2023, the world saw a surge in health crises driven by the interconnected impacts of infectious diseases, climate change and food insecurity. Despite a decade of progress in cholera control, outbreaks of the disease were on the rise, putting over a billion people at risk. Extreme weather events exacerbated these risks by increasing levels of water scarcity, disrupting sanitation and health systems, and displacing populations.

Water- and vector-borne diseases affected at least 10 of the 19 countries with a CBPF, and the Funds responded accordingly with a total of \$53 million in allocations. From responding to cholera outbreaks in Ethiopia, Syria and Yemen, to delivering medical supplies in Afghanistan and the Central African Republic, they addressed the immediate needs of the most vulnerable, while bolstering the long-term resilience of local health-care systems.

Addressing a cholera outbreak amid devastating earthquakes

After 12 years of hostilities and a persistent economic crisis, the lives of people in Syria were further blighted by a series of massive earthquakes that struck the north of the country. This came at a time when Syria was already grappling with a cholera outbreak (declared in September 2022). The disaster overwhelmed hospitals, causing severe distress among the affected population, especially children. Thousands of people were pushed into temporary shelters with inadequate facilities, raising significant health and protection concerns due to overcrowding.

The Syria Humanitarian Fund responded swiftly, addressing both the immediate needs in the aftermath of the earthquake and the ongoing cholera crisis. The Fund allocated \$61.5 million in total, prioritizing the restoration of access to clean water and sanitation services to prevent the further spread of waterborne diseases. This included rehabilitating water pumping stations, repairing water pipes and providing critical WASH supplies. This holistic approach aimed to reduce earthquake-related health issues, ensure WASH access in vulnerable communities, and mitigate the spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

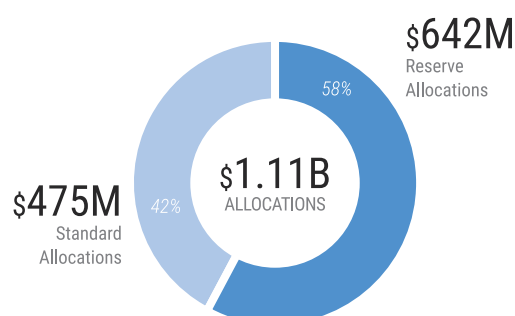
Strategic and flexible responses

In 2023, Reserve Allocations accounted for 58 per cent of CBPF funding, surpassing Standard Allocations for the first time. This increase was primarily attributed to a surge in sudden-onset emergencies in countries with CBPFs. Reserve Allocations, which rose from 47 per cent in 2022, prioritized speed and agility. Through streamlined procedures, funds were directed to partners with operational access and adequate capacity during emergencies or deteriorating situations. This flexibility facilitated targeted interventions in prolonged crises, ensuring a prompt response.

Standard Allocations, which accounted for 42 per cent of funding (compared to 53 per cent in 2022), concentrated on addressing critical priorities outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plans or other equivalent collective humanitarian plans. Allocated to the best placed partners, they were used to comprehensively address long-term humanitarian needs

2023 CBPF ALLOCATIONS BY TYPE

In US\$



Responding to emerging and compounding needs in South Sudan

South Sudan grappled with a torrent of unanticipated humanitarian emergencies in 2023. Looming food insecurity threatened to descend into famine, while measles outbreaks raged across the country. Escalating conflicts in neighbouring Sudan and Ethiopia sent waves of returning refugees and cross-border migrants into South Sudan. An infestation of tungiasis and widespread flooding compounded what was already a dire situation.

The South Sudan HF acted with utmost agility. Using only Reserve Allocations in 2023, it provided \$55.6 million to strategically address the range of diverse needs. Funding facilitated the transport of returning refugees from congested transit sites to their final destinations, easing pressure on existing facilities and avoiding further strain on limited basic services. The Fund also addressed the acute levels of food insecurity and malnutrition, providing crucial interventions to prevent and treat disease outbreaks, and implementing early action measures to prepare for and respond to flooding. Furthermore, it supported the restoration of roads and communal infrastructure, as well as livelihood initiatives for farmers, helping to bolster resilience and recovery.

Enabling needs-based sectoral response

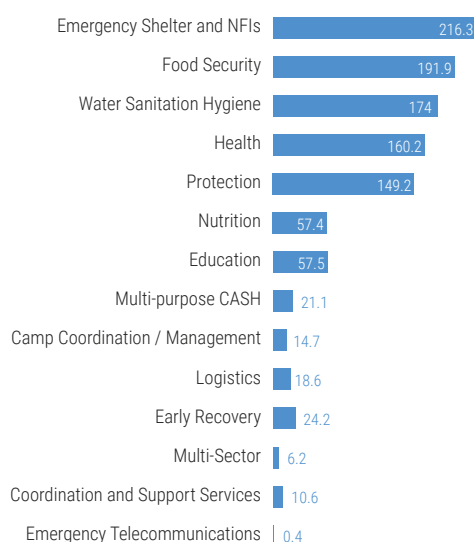
In 2023, over half of CBPF funding went towards the emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs), food security, and WASH sectors. Funding priorities were informed by robust needs assessments and the involvement of affected communities, helping to ensure a greater strategic impact.

Emergency shelter and NFIs was the highest funded sector in 2023, with \$216 million, accounting for 20 per cent of total funding. The largest allocations for the sector were from the HFs in Ukraine (38 per cent) and Afghanistan (24 per cent), and the Syria Cross-border Fund (21 per cent), and were provided primarily in response to conflicts, earthquakes and cold winters.

Food security was the second-highest funded sector in 2022, with total allocations of \$192 million, followed by WASH, with \$174 million. This sizeable amount of funding went predominantly towards food crises, flooding and disease outbreaks – as exemplified by the Afghanistan HF, which allocated \$63 million (47 per cent of total funding) to food security efforts. The WASH sector received substantial shares from the Somalia and Yemen HFs: \$20 million (35 per cent) and \$18 million (20 per cent) respectively.

2023 CBPF ALLOCATIONS BY SECTOR

In US\$ million

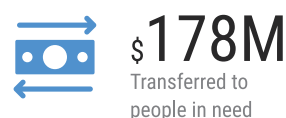


Cash and voucher assistance in CBPF projects

To advance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action and empower affected people to make their own choices about the assistance they need the most, the Funds continued to prioritize the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and multi-purpose cash (MPC), when feasible. During 2023, the Funds allocated \$178 million (16 per cent of total funding) as CVA, consistent with the previous year. A total of \$78 million in CVA was channelled through international NGOs (44 per cent) and \$46 million (27 per cent) through local and national actors. Recognizing the diverse needs of vulnerable people, the CBPFs remained committed to the Grand Bargain, granting beneficiaries the power to choose the most effective way of meeting their needs. Informed by the contexts, the Afghanistan HF provided the highest level of CVA funding with \$43 million (32 per cent of its allocations), followed by the Ukraine HF with \$40 million (22 per cent), and the Syria Cross-border HF with \$32 million (23 per cent).

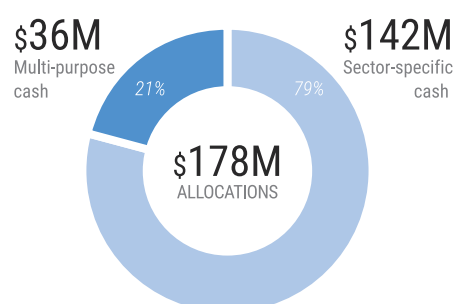
As well as promoting flexible CVA, the Funds also encouraged the use of MPC, offering people in crisis even greater flexibility to choose how to meet their own needs. In 2023, \$36 million (21 per cent) of the CVA allocation were dedicated to MPC.

CBPF CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE



16%
Of total CBPF funding dedicated to CVA

DISAGGREGATION OF CVA



DRC, Mai-Ndombe. Opeya, a village chief, fled with his children after his house was destroyed during the August 2022 attacks. With cash assistance, he purchased fishing nets.

Photo: UNOCHA/Wassy Kambale



In DRC, cash assistance helps people invest in the future

DRC, Mai-Ndombe region. It's been over a year since armed violence erupted in DRC's once-peaceful Mai-Ndombe region. Fuelled by conflict over land, customary laws and taxes, the violence spread to neighbouring Kwango and Kwilu Provinces, and to the outskirts of DRC's capital, Kinshasa

One year on, people still hope to return to their villages, but return is not imminent for those living in precarious conditions, in collective displacement centres and with host families.

Aid organizations are now increasingly providing aid in the form of cash to affected families. This gives people the freedom to decide what's best for them.

One of those people is Opeya, a village chief who lost everything in an instant when his house was reduced to ashes during the attacks in August. He fled to Bandundu with his seven children.

Caritas, a non-governmental organization, is providing cash assistance through the DRC Humanitarian Fund — an in-country funding mechanism that is now a lifeline for Opeya and his family.

Opeya will invest to start a business.

“With the money I received, I bought nets that I plan to rent out to fishermen,” he explains. “This assistance gives us hope. For now, I will settle here.”

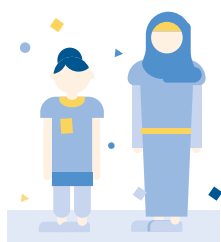


Read the original stories on [OCHA website](#).

People assisted

In 2023, the CBPFs were once again a lifeline for millions of people affected by crises, enabling humanitarian partners to assist over 34.5 million individuals across 19 countries. During the year, the Funds deepened their commitment to helping the humanitarian community reach the most vulnerable, including women, girls, people with disabilities and forcibly displaced populations.

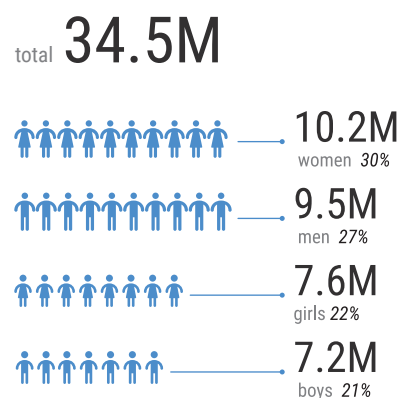
Throughout 2023, allocations from the 16 CBPFs and the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa enabled partners to deliver life-saving assistance to over 34.5 million people affected by crises. During the year, the number of people in need grew as new conflicts emerged, extreme weather and climate-related incidents multiplied, and disease outbreaks continued. By the close of 2023, some 362 million individuals required humanitarian aid and protection, an increase from 340 million people at the end of 2022.



Supporting women and girls

In 2023, more than 17.8 million people assisted were women and girls and an estimated 14.8 million were children under the age of 18. During the year, nearly 80 per cent of all CBPF-funded projects were specifically designed to address gender disparities across different age demographics (Gender Marker 4), an increase of 20 per cent relative to 2022. For instance, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (HF) supported nearly 5 million vulnerable people in 2023 with projects designed to contribute to gender equality. This included the launch of an innovative twinning programme to empower women-led organizations (WLOs) – amid the restrictions imposed by the Taliban on national NGOs and women's groups – which paired experienced WLOs with their national NGO counterparts, offering mentorship and guidance on institutional management, humanitarian practices and strategic planning.

PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2023 CBPF FUNDING, BY SEX AND AGE



Gender considerations are mainstreamed in all stages of the CBPF programme cycle: strategy formulation, proposal development, application reviews, funding decisions, and monitoring and reporting. The Funds collect sex- and age-disaggregated data on people assisted for all projects they support. All CBPF-funded projects are informed by a gender and age analysis, through the mandatory use of the Gender and Age Marker.



Syria. Darkosh School for Girls was partially damaged in the October 2023 earthquake. With funding from the SCHF, the local NGO Sadad rehabilitated the school. Photo: OCHA/Bilal Al Hammoud

Afghanistan, Herat. Shokria waits at the Ab Jalil health centre to see a doctor. With funding from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, WHO set up several health centres across the region. Photo: WHO/Zakarya Safari



In Afghanistan, empowering women with improved health care in Herat



I would have been forced to deal with my health issues by myself at home,” said Shokria. “The new health centre gives us all hope.”



Original story: adapted from original articles by [WHO EMRO](#) and [OCHA](#) Afghanistan.



More information about the [Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund](#)

[OCHA – POOLED FUNDS DATA HUB](#)

Afghanistan, Herat province. On a cold winter morning, 21-year-old Shokria visited a WHO-supported health centre close to her home in Herat province, western Afghanistan. She waited with a dozen other women from the area to see a doctor and her name was called after a short wait.

Afghanistan grapples with a fragile healthcare system and unequal access to services. Funding is insufficient and there is a shortage of healthcare professionals, leading to disease and unmet primary care needs. To make matters worse, Shokria’s village in Injil district was directly affected by the earthquakes last October. Throughout the region, many houses were destroyed and several schools and health centres damaged.

“Since our houses are damaged, we have been living in tents or temporary shelters,” Shokria said. “With high winds, it can get very cold in my place.”

With funding from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, WHO has set up eight health centres across four districts in Herat to provide vulnerable communities with critical health services. Before the centre opened, people had to travel far to access assistance. “I would have been forced to deal with my health issues by myself at home,” said Shokria. “The new health centre gives us all hope.”

Supporting quality care

The funding from AHF helped Herat Regional Hospital build up its stock of essential medicines and provide patients with high-quality care – including medicine and meals. The funding also supported training for dealing with mass casualty events like the earthquake.

Qamar was admitted to hospital with a broken leg and head injuries after an accident. “At this hospital, I received medication, food, and fruit. And there was no cost for me. I’m really happy with the service and the doctors.”

A hospital run by women for women

Run by women exclusively for female patients and their children, the Sakena Yakoobi Hospital in Herat provides essential gynecological and pediatric health care.

With funding from the AHF, the World Health Organization has been helping provide life-saving health care for 5,000-6,000 patients each month. “In just one year, this hospital has gained the trust of the community. This is because we consistently deliver quality health care,” explains Dr. Homa Niksiar, the hospital director.

Patients have noticed the high-quality care and spread the word to their friends and neighbors. Gamila accessed care here throughout her pregnancy. “A relative recommended it based on her own positive delivery experience. On her advice, I came here when I was three months pregnant and I followed up with check-ups. I was impressed by the quality of care and my doctor’s excellent communication, which made it easier to decide to have my baby here.”

Needs are huge

Dr. Faridoon Sultani, Regional Manager at the Organization for Community Coordination and Development (OCCD), WHO’s partner in Herat province, said health centres supported by WHO are functioning in eight earthquake-affected areas. “The health centres have professional staff and are supplied with adequate equipment and medicines. They see patients every day from morning till dusk,” said Dr. Sultani.

“With support from WHO, we have delivered essential health services in all the earthquake-affected areas during the first 100 days,” Dr. Sultani added. “The new centres will continue delivering healthcare in the earthquake-affected areas for three months now, but with high needs I hope we can continue to support them in the longer term.”

The CBPFs continued efforts to prioritize GBV prevention and response in humanitarian action. With a noteworthy dedication of \$63.2 million, 3.5 million people received GBV-related assistance in 2023.

Several Funds employed innovative approaches to ensure support for women and girls affected by GBV, including the Democratic Republic of Congo HF, which earmarked \$30 million for initiatives prioritizing GBV prevention and response. GBV was strategically positioned as one of three project priorities in an effort to counteract the rapid rise in violence and human rights violations within the region.



Supporting people with disabilities

In 2023, over 4.7 million people with disabilities, almost 14 per cent of all people assisted, benefited from life-saving support from the CBPFs. An estimated 15 per cent of the world's population are living with a disability, with a higher prevalence in developing countries, particularly in crisis-affected communities. In emergencies, individuals with disabilities often face heightened levels of vulnerability; they frequently encounter challenges in accessing relief services and may be less visible during assessments. The CBPFs continued to actively mitigate these challenges by championing inclusive needs assessments and promoting engagement in coordination mechanisms, helping to significantly reduce barriers to humanitarian assistance for people with disabilities.

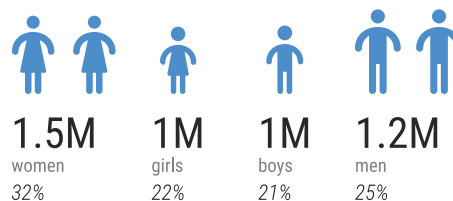
The CBPFs continued to work with partners to ensure the protection, safety and dignity of people with disabilities. For example, the Ukraine HF provided an allocation that specifically targeted people with disabilities in rural areas and near the frontlines, requiring partners to demonstrate how their projects reduce discrimination and barriers, and promote inclusivity. Projects enabled people with disabilities to fully participate in and benefit from the response. The Fund also collaborated with the protection cluster to create guidance on disability inclusion, further supporting the involvement of people with disabilities in both the needs assessment and project design.

Throughout the year, the CBPFs also continued to support organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), promoting their involvement in CBPF processes through capacity-building and active participation in project review committees. Notably, in November 2023, the Nigeria HF launched a \$13 million allocation that included a \$2.5 million disability-specific envelope focusing on OPDs, to ensure humanitarian activities are geared towards removing obstacles and enhancing disability inclusion across a number of sectors.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY ASSISTED WITH 2023 CBPF FUNDING, BY SEX AND AGE

 **4.7M**
total

By gender and age



Providing a lifeline for displaced people

In 2023, the number of forcibly displaced people reached unprecedented heights, demanding a significant increase in humanitarian aid efforts. A staggering 114 million² plus individuals were displaced due to climate disasters, conflicts and violence, both within their own nations and across borders. In response, the CBPFs provided aid to approximately 12 million displaced people – 35 per cent of all people receiving support from the Funds. Of these, 11.6 million were internally displaced and an estimated 360,000 were refugees.

² <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/global-humanitarian-overview-2024/article/new-and-resurging-conflicts-deepen-humanitarian-needs-worldwide>

CAR. A displaced family in front of what is now their home in Kaga-Bandoro. Photo: OCHA



“We no longer have a house. Going back is no longer possible,” explains Sabé Isai, who lives at Baga site.



Adapted from original stories from [the CAR Humanitarian Fund](#).



For more information: visit [the CAR Humanitarian Fund website](#)

[POOLED FUNDS DATA HUB](#).

In CAR, displaced and returnee families get help to rebuild their homes and lives

Central African Republic, Baga displacement site. Reine will soon be ten years old. Baga displacement site, where she lives, will soon be ten years old as well.

Conditions here remain very difficult. While Reine has access to essential health care and attends school, her parents lack opportunities to make a livelihood. And Reine has never lived in a permanent shelter, or knew the village life her parents grew up in.

At the height of the conflict in CAR, back in 2014, Reine’s parents fled to Baga, seeking safety. Ten years later, 489,000 people in CAR remain internally displaced – and 500 of them live in Baga displacement site. Some people want help to return home, while others fear going back.

Reine is in fourth grade and dreams of a career in health care. As an older sister, she worries about the health and wellbeing of her younger siblings. “I’m going to look after them. That’s why I’d like to work in a hospital.”

A difficult decision

For now, Reine’s parents have decided to stay put. Like many, they feel they have nothing left at their places of origin. “We no longer have a house. Going back is no longer possible,” explains Sabé Isai, who lives at Baga site.

While some families do decide to return home, they lack the resources to resettle. Their houses have been looted or simply become dilapidated.

Support for voluntary returns is a critical goal of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan.

The CAR Humanitarian Fund has disbursed over \$2.6 million to support these efforts, working with UN agencies, local, and international organizations. Since the year began, some 4,600 households received help re-establishing their lives in their places of origin, including through shelter, improved and rehabilitated water and sanitation, and essential household items. Income generation activities have also been supported.

Tiwega 1, Burkina Faso. The site hosts over 2,000 people who fled insecurity close to the border with the Sahel region. Photo: OCHA



Mental health support provided to people living in displacement in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso, Kaya. Zourata lives at the Tiwega displacement site in Kaya. Kaya is a city north-east of Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou, which has experienced a massive influx of internally displaced people since 2019. Insecurity and violence by armed groups have affected many communities in the region, eroding trust among neighbours and driving humanitarian need.

Zourata is one of thousands who fled violence and came to Kaya with very little.

“When I arrived here (at Tiwega), I was traumatized by the violence I had witnessed and the losses I had suffered. I was left with nothing because I couldn't take anything with me when I fled.”

Zourata was able to access mental health assistance and a hygiene kit thanks to a project run by the national NGO Technical Assistance Alliance for Development, and funded by the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa.

“I met with the psychologist several times individually and in group sessions.” The sessions covered protection as well as social cohesion. “My conversations with the psychologist helped me regain my composure and understand that a different life was possible here,” Zourata explained.

The awareness sessions on social cohesion have significantly improved the community life for Zourata and her fellow displaced neighbours at the site.

While they were skeptical at first, Zourata and her neighbours now eat together and engage in most of their activities side by side. “I realized that beyond the day-to-day food assistance, stronger mental health is essential for our survival. Today, I am feeling more hopeful and able to take better care of my younger children who are still with me,” Zourata added.



For more information on the [Regional Pooled Fund for West and Central Africa](#).



[OCHA POOLED FUNDS DATA HUB](#)



The high proportion of CBPF funding targeting people affected by population displacement was largely attributed to the growing number of conflict situations, natural disasters and climate-related emergencies with significant IDP and refugee movements.

For example, in the aftermath of the catastrophic earthquakes that struck southern Türkiye and northern Syria in February 2023, the Syria Cross-border HF mobilized a swift response to address the urgent needs of displaced individuals. With an estimated 2.7 million people affected by the disaster, the focus of humanitarian efforts was on providing essential support to those uprooted from their homes. The Fund earmarked a dedicated allocation of \$50 million to ensure the provision of emergency shelter, vital health services and protection assistance for displaced populations. Taking into account the scale of the crisis, in what was already a challenging environment, the Fund allocated an initial \$30 million to scale up the immediate delivery of aid, followed by an additional \$20 million to address medium-term needs such as the rehabilitation of community infrastructure.

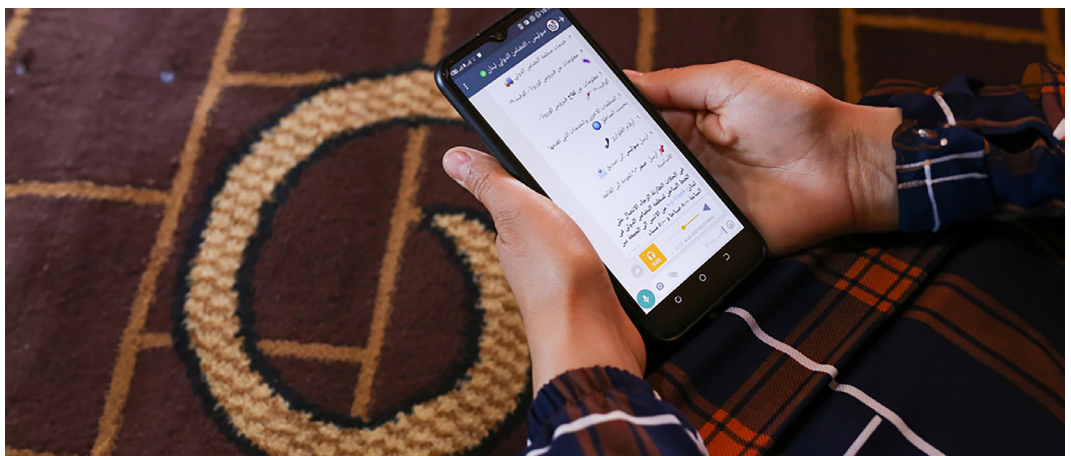
Methodology for calculating numbers of people assisted

This report uses the number of people targeted as a proxy for the number of people assisted. This approach allows for timely global reporting as the data on people reached only become available after CBPF-funded projects have been fully implemented. Analysis from the past years shows that CBPFs consistently reach the numbers of people targeted. The reported numbers of people reached will be available at <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/> and the CBPFs will continue to monitor them regularly.

Strengthening Accountability to Affected People

OCHA remains dedicated to advancing Accountability to Affected People in humanitarian response, striving for greater transparency, effectiveness and inclusivity. In 2023, the CBPFs continued their efforts to embed Accountability to Affected People principles throughout their funding processes. At the fund level, strategy papers promoted the mainstreaming of Accountability to Affected People practices and the establishment of collective feedback mechanisms. Some Funds went a step further, earmarking specific allocations for Accountability to Affected People initiatives. For instance, the Lebanon HF allocated 10 per cent of its first standard allocation to bolster accountability towards affected populations and enhance the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the response. One notable project, a collaboration between the national NGO, Farah Social Foundation, and the international NGO, Solidarités International, employed digital communication tools to empower communities. They developed the 'SOLIS Bot', a WhatsApp Chat Bot that enables aid recipients to request services, inquire about aid delivery schedules, provide feedback or seek humanitarian assistance as necessary. This innovation allows a deeper understanding of community requirements and facilitates a structured accountability process.

Lebanon. Solis Bot, a WhatsApp chatbot, a collaboration between Solidarités and Lebanese organizations supported by Lebanon HF, facilitates structured accountability and two-way communications with affected people.
Photo: Solidarités



Governance

Inclusive and robust governance

CBPFs are guided by the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence. They work in accordance with recognized international standards as determined by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and in line with humanitarian financing principles as codified through the Good Humanitarian Donorship and Grand Bargain initiatives.

The PFWG, a global level advisory body, oversees the functioning of CBPFs and advises on global policy and performance. In countries of operation, the UN RC/HC leads the Fund, supported by an Advisory Board (AB). The Funds are grounded in five operating principles of timeliness, effectiveness, flexibility, inclusivity, and risk management. Their management is defined by common 'Global Guidelines', which describe minimum standards for their effective and efficient management.

Roll-out of the CBPF Global Guidelines

From early 2023, the revised CBPF Global Guidelines were rolled out to enhance the unified and coordinated framework for governing and operating the CBPFs. The guidelines replace the 2017 Operational Handbook and bring about significant modifications to fund management. They enhance strategic aspects of Fund allocations and endorse programming methods that align with and contribute to overarching system-wide priorities. They also bolster CBPF adaptability and flexibility, facilitating effective operations in different settings.

Following the launch of the guidelines, 2023 saw the implementation of coordinated efforts at both the headquarters and country levels to ensure their successful implementation. As part of these efforts, sensitization continued within the Funds and with external stakeholders. This included one-on-one meetings between OCHA's Pooled Fund Management Branch and OCHA Heads of Offices to explain the revision process, key features of the revised guidelines, and the necessary support for the roll-out. Throughout 2023, training sessions for staff were conducted to enhance understanding of the key aspects of and modifications to the guidelines. Additionally, webinars and guidance papers on localization and programming areas were shared to assist Fund managers and partners in applying the guidelines effectively.

During the year, country offices revised the Operational Manuals for each CBPF, in line with the updated guidelines. Revisions to Advisory Board compositions were also carried out to align with the guidelines, particularly to ensure equal representation of national and international NGOs, UN agencies and donors.

The phased adaptation of OneGMS throughout 2023 played a crucial role in facilitating and reflecting the changes outlined in the 2022 Global Guidelines. For instance, it improved the tracking of funding across various programming areas, facilitated the flexible use of budgets, and enhanced risk management practices.

REVISION OF THE GLOBAL GUIDELINES:



Define localization as a secondary aim for the Funds.

While the Funds maintain their primary life-saving goal, the Guidelines also capture their leading role in advancing localization, strengthening the role of local and national actors, including WLO/WROs, in governance and the delivery of aid.



Advance the quality of aid and define 'Quality programming' areas

where each Fund adds value, enhances system change, and stimulates new ideas and transformation in the Funds and the wider humanitarian system. This aims to reinforce efforts on protection, GBV, gender equality, the inclusion of persons with disabilities, CVA, humanitarian access, anticipatory action, complementarity with CERF, and Accountability to Affected People. In line with the recommendations of OCHA's thematic Contact Groups, the guidelines require that gender and disability inclusion experts take part in Advisory Boards and project reviews.



Strengthen the articulation of the HC's vision for each Fund, providing an opportunity for HCs to set out their intended use of the Funds, and the distinctive added value that they can provide in each context. This includes setting out their goals for localization and for improving the quality of aid. The vision for each Fund sets out how it will shape the humanitarian response and advance system-wide priorities under the HC's leadership.



Introduce strategic statements for each allocation,

outlining why the allocation is appropriate at a particular time, and the added value that addressing needs through the Fund will bring in terms of system improvements and quality of the wider response.



Introduce "Regionally Hosted Pooled Funds" as a new vehicle for supporting agile and coherent approaches to regional emergencies, cross-border collaborations and synergies between country-specific actions.



Strengthen Fund risk management processes, including effective screening processes

to prove partner eligibility and assess performance, improve feedback mechanisms to support partners' systems and control measures, and implement enhanced procedures for handling incidents related to misconduct, including fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse.



Enhance financial management procedures, including greater flexibility in project budgets, delegating greater authority for financial clearances to Country Offices, and introducing a risk-based approach to project and partner audits.



Introduce provisions on Fund resource mobilization and communications, including visibility and reporting, to acknowledge donor contributions and to mobilize greater support to the Funds.

The Pooled Fund Working Group

In 2023, the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) continued shaping the strategic direction of CBPFs through a combination of virtual and in-person meetings.

In a webinar in March, the PFWG voiced support and offered guidance for OCHA on the implementation of the updated Global Guidelines. Discussions considered the revision of country-level Operational Manuals, the re-composition of Advisory Boards, and training and the preparation of additional guidance on localization and key programming areas. Separately, participants were updated on the Pooled Funds' response to the Syria earthquake.

In July 2023, Switzerland concluded its co-chairmanship of the PFWG. Switzerland's tenure was crucial for advancing discussions on the role of the CBPFs in promoting locally led responses. Both bi-annual meetings in January and June were an opportunity for Member States, UN agencies, NGOs and OCHA to formulate contributions to localization efforts, and served as a platform for mutual accountability. During its tenure, Switzerland also led efforts to amplify the visibility of the CBPFs and expand the donor base. Norway assumed the PFWG donor co-chair tenure, succeeding Switzerland, and will ensure continued focus on these priorities, enhancing the strategic impact of the Funds, including promoting the centrality of protection and reinforcing gender perspectives in humanitarian response.



Norway remains an avid ally of the CBPFs and their strategic role in the humanitarian landscape. The Funds contribute to effective life-saving assistance and protection as well as good humanitarian coordination at country level. People affected by crises must always be at the heart of humanitarian efforts. We value the progress made on localisation and will continue to advocate for increased locally led humanitarian action. This is where the CBPFs lead the way.

*Anne Beathe Tvinneheim
Minister of International Development, Norway*

In September, a thematic webinar for the PFWG focused on the centrality of protection. Participants endorsed the CBPF protection guidance note, and discussed the conceptual framework of protection and its centrality, and the independent review of the IASC Protection Policy and ensuing action plan. They also examined the CBPFs' strategic approach to protection and associated practices.

CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform

In 2023, the OCHA CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform continued to play a crucial role in facilitating coordination, outreach and communication across the NGO community on matters related to the CBPFs. The Platform's work was consolidated through a revision of its terms of reference and renewal of its membership.

The updated terms of reference aim to enhance inclusivity and localization, encouraging local and national partners to take on the role of NGO co-chairs for the Platform, either independently or in collaboration with other stakeholders. Additionally, the revision clarified responsibilities of the Platform Advisory Group (PAG), emphasizing its role in providing guidance and direction to steer the Platform. Notably, the changes formalized regular meetings between the respective co-chairs of the PFWG and the Platform.

As part of these changes, the International Rescue Committee and the Field Medical Foundation, a national partner from Yemen, became the Platform's co-chairs, succeeding Save the Children after its two-year term. The PAG membership was also renewed, ensuring balance between international and local/national actors.



The OCHA CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform remains crucial for amplifying NGO partners' voices, especially local organizations. Supported by the PFWG, it facilitates inclusive participation in PFWG events, Advisory Board meetings, and promotes dialogue among CBPFs, prioritizing localization and enhancing CBPF accessibility and effectiveness.

*NGO co-chairs of the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform
- Anna Saffer, Deputy Director of Strategic Partnerships,
International Rescue Committee
- Mazen Fadhl, Deputy Executive Director, Field Medical
Foundation*

Commitment to learning

In 2023, OCHA continued fostering a dynamic environment of learning and knowledge management for the CBPFs. This included promoting cross-fund knowledge sharing, developing harmonized approaches, and collecting insights from past innovations and allocations.

To promote peer-to-peer learning, OCHA facilitated the systematic capture and dissemination of successful practices across CBPFs. The Funds' annual reports were enhanced to emphasize best practices and lessons learned. The launch of OneGMS further strengthened information-sharing and analysis capabilities.

In 2023, OCHA also fostered cross-fund learning initiatives and the development of guidance notes for improved harmonization across CBPFs. Aiming to assist CBPF managers in promoting quality programming and aligning with the Global Guidelines, these notes provide a minimum set of activities for thematic

priority areas of the Funds such as localization, humanitarian access, Accountability to Affected People, PSEA, gender equality, GBV, centrality of protection, disability inclusion and cash assistance.

In 2024, the CBPFs will also expand the use of after-action reviews. An anticipated roll-out of after-action reviews will support improved articulation of the medium- and longer-term impact of the CBPFs, as well as glean further lessons learned. These reviews will incorporate feedback from diverse humanitarian stakeholders, ensuring that learning informs and enhances future allocations. Additionally, OCHA is exploring the possibility of conducting a global CBPF evaluation in 2024, complementing existing independent reviews.



Baidoa, Somalia. Donor representatives from the Netherlands and Denmark met with SHF partners in Baidoa. Photo: OCHA/Yao Chen

Commitment to risk management

In 2023, OCHA continued to enhance its risk management practices in the CBPFs. OCHA's robust compliance and risk management procedures to mitigate financial, reputational and other risks were strengthened with the roll-out of the revised CBPF Global Guidelines. The CBPFs have built a strong reputation for risk-based management and the Global Guideline revisions ensure that their processes incorporate lessons learned and best practices and evolve with the changing landscape. These efforts demonstrate OCHA's commitment to managing risks proactively and promoting accountability in CBPF governance and operations.

Strengthened risk prevention tools and policies

OCHA continued to strengthen its risk prevention work. During the revision of the CBPF Global Guidelines, existing processes, tools and systems were analysed and strengthened to reduce the likelihood of incidents of misconduct. The eligibility process for CBPFs, a critical element of risk prevention, underwent significant change, including refinements to the eligibility criteria. Among other enhancements, the new eligibility process includes a preliminary screening whereby an organization can self-assess conformity with basic eligibility requirements. OCHA thoroughly reviews the veracity of the preliminary self-assessment during a full capacity assessment, which is used to determine the organization's eligibility and risk rating. The new criteria apply to both new and pre-existing partners and may be complemented by other criteria specific to the country context.

Enhanced response to misconduct

In 2023, OCHA rolled out its revised 'non-compliance framework', which distinguishes between instances that constitute potential fraud and those that reflect system weaknesses. The framework provides

common instances of non-compliance and suggests progressive measures that can be applied to address them. Distinguishing non-compliance incidents related to system weaknesses from those related to potential fraud, enhances OCHA's response to misconduct by identifying potential fraud quickly and in line with the appropriate procedures. The framework is also meant to address system weaknesses before they can lead to misconduct. OCHA conducted training sessions on the practical applications of the framework, outlining how to timely identify and respond to incidents of non-compliance in accordance with the relevant procedures. Training was also conducted on the strengthened risk management procedures of the revised Global Guidelines and how to implement and operationalize them. The training empowered staff to use the tools and processes to prevent, detect and respond to misconduct, while working with partners to strengthen internal control systems.

Strengthened risk management capacity

OCHA also continued to strengthen its risk management capacity at the global and local level. OCHA's Oversight and Compliance Unit, responsible for setting global policy standards and for supporting all CBPFs in the prevention, detection and response to risks, increased its capacity. The Unit is better equipped to manage the growth in the partnership portfolio and support the Funds' engagement with an increasing number of local and national actors. Dedicated Compliance Officers in CBPFs operating in complex settings continued to yield significant results in the detection and analysis of misconduct. The Compliance Officers were supported by a series of training sessions throughout the year, including on the revised Global Guidelines.



Ireland is a strong and consistent supporter of the CBPFs. Through these funds, Ireland can support the provision of timely needs-based humanitarian assistance to some of the most vulnerable people in the world and increase direct funding to national and local actors on the ground.

*Seán Fleming,
TD, Minister of State with responsibility for International
Development and Diaspora, Ireland*

Country-level monitoring

All recipients of CBPF funding are subject to monitoring in line with the revised Global Guidelines and country-specific Operational Manuals. In 2023, monitoring templates were revised to ensure the proper use of resources and support the achievement of agreed project outcomes. Simplified monitoring templates were finalized and rolled out in 2023, ensuring greater utility for the various monitoring modalities, including site visits, peer-to-peer monitoring and third-party monitoring. The revised tools incorporate learning and best practices across the Funds.



Borno State, Nigeria. A portrait of Falmata Abba, 30, a mother of 3 in front of a shelter at the Reception Centre, Dikwa. The camp was established with grants from Nigeria HF and other donors. Photo: OCHA/Damilola Onafuwa

ANNEX

COMMON PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

The CBPFs measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.



2023 ANNUAL REPORTS

2023 reports will be included once available.



AFGHANISTAN



CENTRAL
AFRICAN REPUBLIC



DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



ETHIOPIA



LEBANON



NIGERIA



OCCUPIED
PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



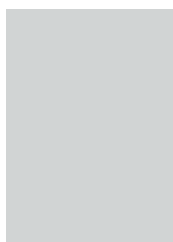
RHFCA



SOMALIA



SOUTH SUDAN



SUDAN



SYRIA



SYRIA CROSS-BORDER



UKRAINE



VENEZUELA



YEMEN

Full reports are available here: <http://bit.ly/CBPF2023AR>

#InvestInHumanity

DONATE



Member States, observers and other authorities that wish to contribute to CBPFs can contact the OCHA Donor Relations Section at ocha.donor.relations@un.org



Individuals, corporations and foundations can visit crisisrelief.un.org/donate to contribute directly to CBPFs.



For general information about CBPFs please visit <http://unocha.org/cbpf>

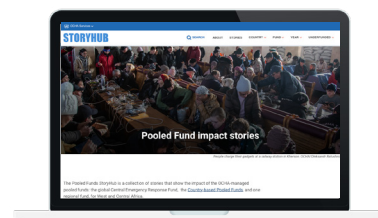
DATA & ANALYSIS



For real-time contribution and allocation data with easy-to-use filters and views please visit the Pooled Fund Data Hub: <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/>

OCHA Pooled Funds data <https://pfddata.unocha.org/>

POOLED FUND IMPACT STORIES



For a collection of impact stories from the OCHA-managed pooled funds, please visit: <https://pooledfunds.impact.unocha.org/>

CBPF

Country-based
Pooled Funds

WEB

cbpf.data.unocha.org

pfdata.unocha.org

pooledfunds.impact.unocha.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

[@CBPFs](https://twitter.com/CBPFs) | [@unocha](https://twitter.com/unocha)

facebook.com/UNOCHA

[in company/ocha-financing-and-partnerships/](https://company/ocha-financing-and-partnerships/)