



GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2024



The Global Humanitarian Overview is an annual assessment of global humanitarian needs and how to respond to them. This document provides an analysis of the drivers of needs and an overview of the resources required to support people targeted for assistance. It also provides an account of the humanitarian system's collective achievements.

Response plan figures are as reported to the Financial Tracking Service as of 24 November 2023. All financial data for response plans is continuously updated on fts.unocha.org. Dollar signs denote United States dollars.

This document is an abridged version of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2024. Read the entire report online and explore the interactive content at

humanitarianaction.info



Zarroug school, Sudan

Rahma and her family were internally displaced following intense violence in Khartoum. She now volunteers to cook for 152 families seeking shelter at the camp for internally displaced people (IDPs) at Zarroug school. *OCHA/Ala Kheir.*

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used in this publication do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Foreword by the Emergency Relief Coordinator

Martin Griffiths

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

2023 was yet another immensely challenging year. It began with devastating earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. In April, intense conflict erupted in Sudan, plunging millions of people into disaster and despair. Then in October, catastrophic war broke out in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Alongside these events, unresolved conflicts, instability, climate change, disease and economic inequality continued to keep millions of people in a state of protracted crisis – from Ukraine, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, to Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and beyond.

By the year's end, almost 30 million more people needed humanitarian assistance than at the start.

Displacement, acute food insecurity and malnutrition continued to reach historically high levels.

And, as always, women and girls bore a disproportionate burden, suffering gender-based violence on a huge scale and persistent challenges to gender equality.

The humanitarian community did everything it could to respond.

When crisis called, we activated enhanced humanitarian action in Syria and Türkiye, Sudan, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sittwe, Rakhine State, Myanmar: Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths visits Shwe Zedi Monastery, urging expanded humanitarian access during his trip to the country. OCHA/Nyan Zay Htet



We negotiated the safe passage of aid. When Security Council authorization for cross-border UN assistance into north-west Syria lapsed, we reached bilateral understandings to ensure it could continue. Diplomatic efforts allowed the re-establishment and expansion of operations in Sudan. And those efforts continue non-stop in relation to Gaza.

We persisted in efforts to lighten the humanitarian programme cycle, and to make humanitarian action more efficient, effective and accountable to those we serve. This year, I launched the Flagship Initiative – a three-year pilot project in four countries that aims to empower affected people and devolve more direction and decision-making to the local level.

And through anticipatory action, we continued to mitigate impacts and reduce the cost of responding to predictable disasters.

But the humanitarian system is facing a severe funding crisis. In 2023, we received just over one third of the US\$57 billion required. This is the worst funding shortfall in years. Yet, we still managed to deliver life-saving assistance and protection to 128 million people around the world.

The sharp decline in resources has forced humanitarian agencies to make increasingly painful decisions, including cutting life-saving food, water and health programming.

I am deeply concerned about what this means for humanitarian action in 2024. Without adequate funding, we cannot provide life-saving assistance. And if we cannot provide that assistance, people will pay with their lives.

This year, we have taken extremely difficult decisions – many of which keep us up at night – in order to more tightly define our financial ask and to focus our responses on those people most urgently in need. However, this should not by any means be misconstrued as an improvement in the global humanitarian situation. Rather, we have ruthlessly prioritized to highlight where we, as a humanitarian community, believe funds should be targeted. Now, we need our donors to dig deep and fully fund these robust and rigorous plans.

The situation is also a wake-up call. Humanitarian assistance cannot be the entire solution; we need to share the load. It's time for much more development and other financial investments in fragile settings and marginalized communities. And it's time to redouble efforts to address the root causes of humanitarian need: conflict, climate change and economic dynamics .

The challenges are immense, but I believe that together we can turn the tide.

Martin Griffiths



GHO 2024: Abridged report

PEOPLE IN NEED

299.4 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

180.5 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 46.4 B

APPEALS

35

Trends in needs



Read the full report:
humanitarianaction.info

In 2024, nearly 300 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance and protection, due to conflicts, climate emergencies and other drivers.

In the coming year, 74.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance in East and Southern Africa. The crisis in Sudan accounts for almost 40 per cent of this total. In-country requirements for Sudan, and the whole region, have increased since the conflict erupted in August 2023, with a massive outpouring of people to neighbouring countries. Sudan is experiencing a precipitous rise in needs from 15.8 million people in 2023, to a staggering 30 million people in 2024. In West and Central Africa, 65.1 million people are in need, and the crises in Burkina Faso and Niger have expanded and have intensified, driving increased needs compared to 2023. In the Middle East and North Africa, 53.8 million people require assistance, with the crisis in Syria resulting in 32.5 million people in need, both inside Syria and neighbouring countries. In Asia and the Pacific, 50.8 million people are in need, of whom 30.6 million is due to the Afghanistan crisis. In Myanmar, needs have risen as the crisis deepened. The Latin America and the Caribbean region is now home to 38.9 million people in need, 15.9 million of whom are impacted by the Venezuela crisis and in Eastern Europe, 16.8 million people are still in need because of the war in Ukraine.

There are three main drivers of these needs:

- **Conflict: the world is experiencing more conflicts, which are more entrenched, with devastating consequences for civilians.** In 2023 alone, the eruption of widespread conflict in Sudan and hostilities between Israel and Gaza caused a dramatic spike in civilian deaths. In five weeks alone, the number of civilians killed in the Occupied Palestinian Territory was equivalent to almost 60 per cent of the total global number of civilians killed in 2022, which was itself already the deadliest year since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Almost 1 child in every 5 around the world is living in or fleeing from conflict zones.
- **The global climate emergency: the climate crisis is spiraling, leaving a trail of destruction in its path.** It is expected that 2023 will be the hottest year on record with concurrent climate disasters, from Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Southern Africa to the wildfires in Europe and the devastation wrought by Storm Daniel in Libya. Internal displacement caused by climate change surged by 45 per cent in a single year, between 2021 and 2022.
- **Economic factors: economic dynamics are overlapping with conflict, climate disasters, infectious disease outbreaks and others, as a significant driver of humanitarian need,** and are either a primary driver, or strong contributor, to rising needs in several crises, including Afghanistan, Syria and Venezuela.



As a result, more people are displaced now than at any other time since the beginning of the century. Worldwide, more than 1 in 73 people are forcibly displaced, a ratio which has almost doubled in the past ten years. Conflict and climate disasters remain the main factors driving displacement. Internal displacement reached its highest ever level at the end of 2022, with 71.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) around the globe, representing a 20 per cent increase in a year (the largest year-on-year increase since 2013). The number of refugees is at a record high, of 36.4 million, with over half coming from Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine.

Acute food insecurity is a reality for 258 million people in 58 countries, driven by armed conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes, poverty and inequality. Wasting threatens the lives of 45 million children under 5 (accounting for 7 per cent of all children). Of this figure, 13.6 million are already suffering from severe wasting, placing them at imminent risk of death. Without concerted international efforts, the food security outlook will deteriorate further in 2024 with Burkina Faso, Mali, Occupied Palestinian Territory, South Sudan and Sudan at the highest level of concern.

Disease outbreaks are causing significant loss of life. Cholera outbreaks are reported in 29 countries and these have grown deadlier in the past two years due to overstretched health systems, shortages of the oral cholera vaccine, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and the presence of multiple, parallel disease outbreaks. El Niño and other climate phenomena, including the Indian Ocean Dipole, are expected to worsen the effects of climate change and consequent health challenges worldwide, while many communities impacted by crises remain under-vaccinated for COVID-19.

However, although increased conflict, the global climate emergency and other drivers are causing needs to skyrocket in many places, the number of people identified as being in need has decreased in several countries between 2023 and 2024 for three main reasons. Firstly, there is some rare good news: following improvements, several countries have discontinued their humanitarian plans/appeals for 2024, people in need in these countries are therefore not included in the 2024 GHO.¹ These include, among others, Kenya, Malawi and Pakistan, each of which are on the road to recovery, following devastating climate shocks in 2023, but require urgent development investments to support communities suffering from the climate crisis. Secondly, as a small ray of hope, there have been some improvements within countries that still have humanitarian plans/appeals, albeit that needs in these countries remain extremely acute. For example, in Somalia, a massive scale-up in humanitarian response and the end of the drought in 2023, have led to a lower number of people in need in 2024. Meanwhile, in Yemen, the absence of large-scale conflict, greater freedom of movement and the increased flow of commercial and fuel imports in 2023, combined with targeted and effective humanitarian action, helped reduce need. Thirdly, the introduction of a new methodology for needs analysis – the Joint and Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) 2.0 – has enabled more nuanced and rigorous analysis of humanitarian needs. In several countries, this has enabled humanitarian partners to more accurately pinpoint the people and places with the greatest needs, whilst ensuring there is no duplication.

1. Four countries – Burundi, Kenya, Malawi and Pakistan – have discontinued their humanitarian plans/appeals for 2024. Lebanon will no longer produce a country-specific Emergency Response Plan but rather has moved its humanitarian response under the Syria 3RP.



Humanitarian response

In 2024, the UN and Partner Organizations are appealing for \$46.4 billion to assist 180.5 million people across 72 countries.

The Middle East and North African region requires \$13.9 billion, the largest total for any region in 2024 and accounting for 30 per cent of the Global Humanitarian Overview. East and Southern Africa requires \$10.9 billion, while West and Central Africa calls for \$8.3 billion. Asia and the Pacific will require \$5.5 billion, Eastern Europe \$4.1 billion, and Latin America and the Caribbean \$3.6 billion.

This year's global appeal reflects extensive efforts by humanitarian partners to prioritize response in areas where people face the most life-threatening needs, based on a realistic understanding of their capacity to deliver. In multiple countries, including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Honduras, Nigeria and Somalia, humanitarian assistance will be focused in geographic areas that have been recently impacted by shocks and which have the highest needs. In others, such as Chad, Mali, Syria and Yemen, the Humanitarian Response Plans for 2024 have focused the response on the most urgent humanitarian needs, whilst highlighting the urgent need for a complementary development response.

The collective work of humanitarian partners will remain focused on delivering better for people in crisis in 2024, including through:

- **Acknowledging and centering the work of local and national actors in humanitarian action.** As the first responders at the heart of humanitarian response, local and national partners can mobilize networks and offer greater access to affected people, contributing to more effective, efficient and sustainable action. A quarter of CERF funding and 43 per cent of funding from Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) is now channeled to local and national partners. Local and national actors

are now present in 83 per cent of Humanitarian Country Teams, a 3 per cent increase from the previous year.

- **Pursuing people-centred and accountable responses.** In Syria and Türkiye, in response to the 2023 earthquakes, the humanitarian community leveraged an existing hotline for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse to listen to community voices and support the respectful and dignified delivery of aid. Efforts are underway—spearheaded by Flagship Initiative countries—to ensure humanitarian action is truly grounded in people's priorities and bring responders closer to communities.
- **Promoting quality and inclusive responses, including through the use of cash.** This includes bringing together critical cross-cutting issues—such as gender, age, disability inclusion, protection and accountability to affected people—into a more holistic approach that acknowledges the unique needs of people impacted by crises and ensures a dignified and empowering response. Provision of cash and voucher assistance continues to provide an important avenue to ensure humanitarian assistance aligns with individual's diverse and changing needs and empowers people impacted by crises to take decisions that meet their own priorities.
- **Prioritizing humanitarian diplomacy.** As the humanitarian sector faces increasingly challenging environments, including 175 million people believed to live under the control of armed groups and multiple bureaucratic and administrative impediments, humanitarian diplomacy and access negotiations offer ways to constructively engage and positively influence the humanitarian space, as highlighted in Afghanistan, Colombia, Syria and Myanmar.



Global achievements

Reach and quality of humanitarian assistance

In 2023, the UN and partner organizations aimed to assist 245 million people through 36 country plans and 9 regional plans. This represents a 7 per cent increase in the original number of people targeted for assistance at the beginning of 2023, largely driven by the crisis in Sudan, the conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and natural disasters in Afghanistan, Libya, Malawi, Mozambique, Syria and Türkiye. Of all the people targeted by plans at country level, 128 million (62 per cent) benefited from at least one form of aid during the year.



Voices of affected communities

19 million people used feedback mechanisms to share their concerns, make complaints and ask questions (UNICEF)



Partnership with private actors

7.8 million people received humanitarian assistance supported by partnerships with private actors (Connecting Business Initiative)



Leadership of local actors

A third of OCHA pooled fund allocations went to national NGOs (34 per cent) or \$246 million (OCHA)

Improving food security and nutrition

Humanitarians provided critical assistance to fight food insecurity and avoid escalation to famine. People facing acute food insecurity received time-sensitive food aid and cash assistance. At the same time, emergency agriculture and livelihood support enabled communities to meet their own needs, even in remote rural areas and during conflict. In Sudan, despite active fighting at a critical moment in the agricultural season, crop seeds were able to be distributed to almost 1 million farming households in time for planting. Harvests from these seeds fed around 13 million people for over 7 months.



Food assistance

119.5 million people received food, cash and voucher assistance (WFP)



Malnutrition

17 million children under 5 years of age benefited from early detection services and treatment for severe wasting (UNICEF)



Agriculture assistance

More than 30 million people received emergency agriculture assistance (FAO)



Cash assistance

\$2.3 billion transferred to 47 million people in the form of cash or voucher assistance (WFP)



Inclusive health care

Complex and multiple health emergencies have pushed humanitarian partners to scale-up the provision of essential health services whilst also responding to new disease outbreaks. Emergency health assistance reached 46 million people from January to August 2023.

Nearly all people affected by humanitarian emergencies experience psychological distress and humanitarians have stepped up to incorporate mental health and psychosocial support in response efforts. In 2023, over 2.1 million mental health-related consultations were provided.



Emergency health care

1.4 million trauma consultations organized
(Health Cluster)



Sexual and reproductive health

Over 3,500 health facilities supported with sexual and reproductive health services
(UNFPA)



Disability

319,000 disability-related consultations organized
(Health Cluster)



Mobile clinics

8,329 mobile health clinics deployed
(Health Cluster)

Multisectoral humanitarian assistance

Humanitarians delivered multisectoral assistance based on the priority needs and preferences expressed by the communities in 2023. This included those affected by displacement. In Ukraine and neighboring countries, 2.7 million people affected by the crisis were provided with essential WASH assistance for instance, while 1.2 million people received shelter support.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster reached over 11 million displaced persons.



Coordinated assistance in camps

6,200 sites covered by 309 national and international partners across 19 countries
(CCCM Cluster)



Safe water

23.2 million people accessed a sufficient quantity of safe water
(UNICEF)



Education

13.9 million children accessed formal or informal education
(UNICEF)



Social protection

4.7 million refugees and asylum seekers benefited from government protection social programmes
(UNHCR)



Protection

Humanitarians delivered multisectoral assistance based on the priority needs and preferences expressed by the communities in 2023. This included those affected by displacement. In Ukraine and neighboring countries, 2.7 million people affected by the crisis were provided with essential WASH assistance for instance, while 1.2 million people received shelter support.



Protection

12 million people received protection services
(Protection Cluster)



GBV assistance

4.2 million people received GBV prevention and response services
(UNFPA)



Protection for women

803,000 women accessed protection, learning and livelihood support and services in 27 countries
(UNWOMEN)



Child protection

10.8 million children, adolescents and their caregivers received community-based mental health and psychosocial support
(UNICEF)

Protection and assistance under regional plans

Never before have so many people have been forced to leave their country to seek safety. Regional plan partners worked together to help refugees, migrants and host communities to meet their basic needs.



Food assistance

902,800 Rohingya refugees received regular food assistance through the e-voucher outlets and fresh food corners
(Rohingya JRP/Cox Bazar)



Cash assistance

314,776 households affected by the Syrian crisis provided with emergency cash assistance
(Syria 3RP)



Protection

606,500 refugees and migrants from Venezuela and members of affected host communities received protection services across 17 countries
(Venezuela RMRP)



Livelihoods

38,628 individuals affected by the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo received livelihood support
(DRC RRP)



Safe and coordinated response

Humanitarian operations depend on a range of coordination and support services to reach populations in need and to ensure communities can access the appropriate information and assistance. Efficient communication and transportation are critical to ensuring humanitarian safety, enabling security and medical evacuations, and connecting humanitarian partners when no other reliable systems are available. The Logistics Cluster provided 203 humanitarian partners with logistics services..



Transport services

More than 320,000 passengers and more than 5,200 MT of humanitarian cargo from 700 organizations transported to over 400 destinations (UNHAS)



Logistic services

More than 64,000 m3 of life-saving items stored and 19,400 metric tonnes of cargo dispatched (Logistic Cluster)



Coordination structures

More than 2,300 coordination mechanisms functioning in 29 operations (OCHA)



Telecommunication services

9,195 humanitarians from 360 organizations supported with Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) services (ETC)

Notations: UNHCR and UNICEF figures (including associated clusters) are midyear numbers covering the first six months of 2023. Health Cluster numbers are cumulative up to 30 August 2023. UNHAS figures cover January to October 2023. WFP figures cover January to June 2023. Logistics cluster figures cover January to July 2023.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Displaced and homeless Haitians gather for medical treatment at an IOM mobile clinic in Place Clercine. UNICEF estimates that half of the 200,000 people displaced by gang violence in Haiti are children. OCHA/Giles Clark





The cost of inaction

People die or suffer tremendously when humanitarians cannot respond. If basic services and lifesaving aid can not be delivered then people do not receive food and access to health care is limited. Hygiene becomes a challenge due to poor water and sanitation facilities, and camps become even more crowded without adequate shelter. The future prospects of children dwindle as education programmes shut down and women and girls go without access to sexual and reproductive health.¹

Inaction, such as this, is primarily linked to underfunding – and 2023 is likely to be the first year since 2010-2011 when humanitarian funding declined compared to the previous year. By 24 November 2023, nearly \$20 billion had been received against the GHO 2023 requirements, amounting to barely 35 per cent of requirements. This

contrasts with \$24.1 billion received at the same time in 2022. All evidence indicates that funding in 2023 will not reach the level of 2022, despite requirements that are more than \$5 billion higher.

This has had direct consequences: in 2023, humanitarian partners reached 128 million people with at least one form of assistance, but this was less people than in 2022. This was particularly clear in 23 countries that received less funding in 2023 than in 2022, consequently less people were reached. Humanitarian partners reached just 62 per cent of the people they aimed to assist in 2023, while in 2022 they were able to reach 79 per cent of the people targeted (157 million people), as more funding was available.

People reached in 2023

▲▲ increase in both funding received and people reached

▼▼ decrease in both funding received and people reached

▼▲ mixed results

| Plan | Plan type | People targeted | People reached | People reached % | Funds vs people reached (change from 2022 to 2023) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 21.3M | 20.6M | 97% | ▼▼ |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 3.1M | 2.3M | 74% | ▼▲ |
| Burundi | HRP | 1.6M | 840K | 52% | ▼▲ |
| Cameroon | HRP | 2.7M | 1.1M | 41% | ▼▼ |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 2.4M | 1.7M | 70% | ▼▼ |
| Chad | HRP | 5.2M | 1.3M | 25% | ▼▼ |
| Colombia | HRP | 1.6M | 1M | 64% | ▼▼ |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 10M | 7.2M | 71% | ▼▼ |
| El Salvador | HRP | 496.6K | 168.8K | 34% | ▼▼ |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 20.1M | 16.9M | 84% | ▼▼ |
| Guatemala | HRP | 2.3M | 368.7K | 16% | ▼▼ |
| Haiti | HRP | 3.2M | 2.4M | 76% | ▲▲ |
| Honduras | HRP | 2.1M | 400K | 19% | ▼▼ |
| Mali | HRP | 5.7M | 2.1M | 37% | ▼▼ |
| Mozambique | HRP | 1.6M | 1.5M | 96% | ▼▲ |

1. Data in this article was provided directly by country operations, clusters and UN agencies.



▲▲ increase in both funding received and people reached

▼▼ decrease in both funding received and people reached

▼▲ mixed results

| Plan | Plan type | People targeted | People reached | People reached % | Funds vs people reached (change from 2022 to 2023) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| Myanmar | HRP | 5M | 3.1M | 62% | ▼▼ |
| Niger | HRP | 2.7M | 2.2M | 82% | ▼▼ |
| Nigeria | HRP | 6M | 4.1M | 68% | ▼▼ |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 1.6M | 750K | 46% | ▼▼ |
| Somalia | HRP | 7.6M | 4.7M | 62% | ▼▼ |
| South Sudan | HRP | 7.4M | 4M | 54% | ▼▼ |
| Sudan | HRP | 18.1M | 5M | 28% | ▼▼ |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 14.2M | 6.8M | 48% | ▼▼ |
| Ukraine | HRP | 11.1M | 10.8M | 97% | ▼▼ |
| Venezuela | HRP | 5.2M | 2.2M | 42% | ▼▼ |
| Yemen | HRP | 17.4M | 8.7M | 50% | ▼▼ |
| Kenya | FA | 4.3M | 2M | 46% | ▲▲ |
| Libya | FA | 250K | 200K | 80% | ▼▼ |
| Madagascar | FA | 1.9M | 1.8M | 92% | ▼▼ |
| Malawi | FA | 4.8M | 2.2M | 45% | ▲▲ |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | FA | 2.7M | n/a | | n/a |
| Syrian Arab Republic | FA | 4.9M | 3M | 61% | n/a |
| Türkiye | FA | 5.2M | 5.4M | 104% | n/a |
| Lebanon | Other | 1.3M | 250K | 20% | ▼▼ |
| Mozambique | Other | 814.5K | 662.9K | 81% | ▲▲ |
| Pakistan | Other | 9.5M | 3.6M | 38% | ▼▼ |

Underfunded crises are likely to expand and deteriorate. Cuts in services frequently result in more people needing assistance later. And in 2023, underfunding affected all areas of humanitarian action.

In 2024, it is imperative that the robust and tightly prioritized response plans and appeals prepared by humanitarian partners are fully funded. The lives and livelihoods of millions of people impacted by crises depend upon the galvanization of these resources.

At the same time, there needs to be a clear and immediate step-change by development actors to focus their support on people who are left the furthest behind. With humanitarians focusing their work on the most life-threatening needs of people in areas hardest hit by emergencies it is all the more critical that development

action urgently tackles chronic needs, particularly among marginalized communities and in fragile settings. Without this, needs in these communities will become increasingly severe.



Cuts in food assistance left people at risk of starvation.

In Afghanistan, the number of people receiving food assistance drastically decreased from 13 million people in May, to 3 million in November. In Syria, the World Food Programme (WFP) had to halve food rations to many people and decreased the number of people receiving assistance from 5.5 million in the first half of the year, to 3.3 million by November. WFP estimates that for every one per cent cut in food assistance 400,000 people risk being pushed towards the brink of starvation. By mid-year, food assistance rations had been reduced for refugees in Kenya. In parallel, cash-based interventions also declined, with some families only being able to afford one meal a day (UNCHR).



A lack of funding for shelter caused people to live in inadequate and undignified conditions.

In Haiti, over 300,000 people have been forced to live in undignified conditions or remained exposed to natural disasters. In Myanmar, over half a million people are facing inadequate living conditions due to 90 per cent of the required shelter activities (construction, reconstruction and repair) not being implemented as a result of resource and access constraints.



Under-resourcing of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) have exposed people to a heightened risk of disease.

In Mali, over 1 million people are expected to face increased epidemics and water-borne diseases without WASH assistance at scale. And in Yemen, over 80 per cent of people targeted for humanitarian response had to go without improved water and sanitation in 2023, as estimated by UN Habitat.² In Chad, WASH is a particular challenge in all new refugee sites (four so far, with a total population of more than 140,000 refugees) with only 4 to 7 litres of water per person per day, well below the standard of 20 litres per day per person.



Meagre resources limited access to health care services and mobile clinics, increasing health risks for families and leaving people in hard-to-reach areas without access to health services.

In Ethiopia, the Health Cluster and partners only managed to reach 36 per cent of people targeted. Many people in remote and underserved communities did not receive assistance as partners did not have sufficient funding to deploy mobile health and nutrition teams, especially due to the high costs of fuel. Only 97 (out of 794) of targeted woredas were reached. And skilled health personnel were only able to attend 53,000 births instead of the target of 1.9 million births. In the DRC, nutritional treatment was not available for 600,000 children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition. And approximately 14,000 Syrian refugees living in Egypt risk being left without essential medication or hospital care due to poor funding. In Afghanistan, approximately 172 static and mobile health facilities have had to discontinue health service provision, impacting access to primary health care services for approximately one million people, including pregnant women, children and those with disabilities in underserved and hard to reach areas. In Myanmar, 10,000 children below 5 years of age are estimated to have died in the absence of life-saving treatment for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) throughout 2023. only 4 to 7 litres of water per person per day, well below the standard of 20 litres per day per person.

2. With funding available as of October 2023, only 21,352 individuals received access to improved water and sanitation instead of the targeted 116,760 individuals (UN Habitat).



Lack of investment in protection, including preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV), has left survivors of violence and violations, as well as those at greatest risk, without access to vital services.

In Honduras and Nigeria, only 3 and 2 per cent of the UNFPA target populations, respectively, received sexual and reproductive health services and GBV prevention. Across six country operations, only 53 per cent of targeted women and girls were able to access GBV services provided by UN Women.³ Lack of funding for the Venezuela HRP left approximately 400,000 women and girls without the necessary support to prevent and respond to GBV. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, only 7.2 million people (or 72 per cent of the projected target) were reached with one form of aid. Cuts to food aid and other assistance have been linked to increased gender-based violence.⁴

3. 262,706 women and girls accessed critical protection services, as well as learning and livelihood opportunities, instead of 495,000 (UN Women)
4. WFP, *The Cost of Inaction: The consequences of not being able to reach those most in need in Eastern DRC*, 13 November 2023



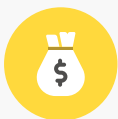
Curtailed access to education is depriving children of their future.

The loss of educational opportunities is particularly poignant for refugee families as they rebuild their life away from home. As estimated by UNHCR, in Egypt, 31,000 Syrian refugee children may lose school enrolment while 11,000 Sudanese refugee families would not receive education grants. This compounds the already-difficult economic conditions facing these refugee families: due to inflation, in 2023, only about 15 to 25 per cent of overall education costs can be covered through a grant. In Uganda, nearly 400,000 refugee learners are without education materials. And in Venezuela, 1.5 million girls and boys did not receive educational assistance through the HRP, impacting the quality of education and school attendance.



Lack of access to critical support services has fueled protection risks for forcibly displaced people.

In Chad, two new refugee sites that could host up to 100,00 refugees could not be established. This has left highly traumatized refugees living in a huge, spontaneous overcrowded site near the border (UNHCR) – a situation which augments GBV risks in particular for women and girls. In Nigeria, underfunding in the CCCM Cluster threatens to derail the provision of the much-needed site monitoring and coordination services to an estimated 2.3 million people, including IDPs, returnees and members of the host community. The most direct and immediate impact would be the absence of reception services for newly arrived displaced people, which will likely increase misinformation about services and with that, increase the risk of fights and instability.



Funding

\$4 billion

less received in 2023 than in 2022



GBV

53%

of targeted women and girls were able to access comprehensive GBV services



Food insecurity

1%

cut in food assistance pushes more than 400,00 people closer to starvation

SECTION 1

Global trends

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*Gaza Strip, OPT:
Rubble is scattered
throughout Al-Rimal
neighbourhood
following airstrikes.
UNICEF/Hassan
Islyeh*

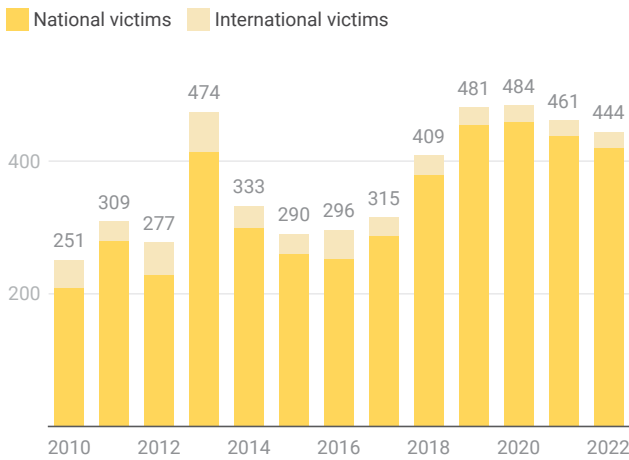
New and resurging conflicts deepen humanitarian needs worldwide

Conflicts across the world have resurged and intensified, causing massive protection issues, and driving unprecedented levels of vulnerability and human suffering. The long-term trends on the intensity of conflict, the impact on civilians, the safety and security of aid workers and the effect on children all point to a grim picture – and although 2023 year-end figures were not available at the time of writing, the current situation in contexts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the Sahel and Sudan, indicates that conflict, violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, will continue to be the most significant driver of humanitarian need in the near future, causing major suffering, bringing about waves of displacement and impacting livelihoods.

Highly violent conflicts with severe humanitarian implications persist. About 60 per cent of conflicts worldwide were fought violently in 2022 (216 out of 363 – compared to 204 out of 355 in the year prior).⁵ Sub-Saharan Africa remained the region with the highest number of conflicts classed as full-scale wars.⁶ The intensity of conflicts has increased over time, with more battle-related deaths in 2022 than in any year since 1984, an increase in conflict between States and civil conflict becoming more internationalized.⁷

Aid worker security incidents (2010–2022)

5. Political conflict is classified according to its intensity into low, medium or high. Low intensity political conflict is non-violent; it includes political disputes and non-violent crises. Medium and high intensity political conflict includes the use of violence. For full definitions on methodology, please see Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, *Conflict Barometer 2022*, p. 17
6. Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, *Conflict Barometer 2022*, p. 17
7. Obermeier and Rustad (2023); *Conflict Trends: A Global Overview, 1946–2022*, Peace Research Institute Oslo



The number of recorded civilian deaths due to armed conflicts has risen dramatically. In 2022, the United Nations recorded at least 16,988 civilian deaths across 12 armed conflicts, a 53 per cent increase compared with

2021. And those with specific needs – older persons, persons with disabilities, minority groups, children, among others – suffered the most. In Ukraine, in 2022, the United Nations recorded 7,957 civilians killed and 12,560 injured, although actual figures are likely higher. This was nearly half of the total number of civilians killed in conflict worldwide in that year!⁸ And the current situation in OPT points to an even deadlier 2023: in seven weeks of fighting, between 7 October 2023 and 27 November 2023, more than 14,800 Palestinians were reported killed and over 36,000 injured⁹. This figure is equivalent to nearly 90 per cent of the total global figure of civilians reported killed for the whole of 2022, which was itself already the deadliest year since the Rwandan genocide in 1994.¹⁰

In contrast, in contexts where political truces were reached, casualties declined: in Yemen, a six-month truce in 2022 resulted in a 60 per cent reduction in civilian casualties.¹¹

AID IN ACTION

Ukraine – those who are already the most vulnerable are also the most affected by hostilities



Ukraine: A memorial at the site of an airstrike which killed scores of civilians in the small village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region. OCHA/Saviano Abreu

In Ukraine, explosive weapons, designed to affect wide areas, were responsible for 92.5 per cent of all civilian casualties recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The majority of these were used in

populated areas.¹ The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) recorded 592 civilian casualties (221 killed and 371 injured) from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in 2022. By October 2023, these figures stood at 460 civilian casualties (108 killed and 352 injured). The high number of civilian casualties has created a new dimension of need by increasing the number of persons with disabilities.

Older persons have also been particularly affected by the conflict and often constitute the majority of those remaining in conflict affected areas. Mines and ERW pose a significant threat to the lives of older persons, especially in areas where hostilities have been intense. Despite representing only 25 per cent of the population, people over 60 years of age made up a third of civilians killed between February 2022 and February 2023.²

1. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, S/2023/345, p.2
 2. Data provided by OHCHR and HRMMU

8. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, S/2023/345
 9. OCHA OPT, Data retrieved 16 November 2023. Numbers reflect figures reported by the Ministry of Health, Gaza.
 10. Based on numbers of deaths from 1994, estimated by the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, <https://ucdp.uu.se/exploratory>
 11. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, S/2023/345



AID IN ACTION

Coming together to protect civilians



Aleppo, Syria: *Sahoud Selo lost the ability to speak and walk as a result of a stroke - which his neighbors say was caused by grief after losing his son during the civil war. Now displaced by the earthquake, he has temporarily relocated with many others to an impromptu camp. OCHA/Matteo Minasi*

The Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas was adopted and

endorsed by 83 States in November 2022, a milestone achievement to help lessen harm to civilians. In the document, States declared that they would ensure their armed forces adopt and implement policies and practices to avoid civilian harm, such as restricting or refraining from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, noting that the risks to civilians increase depending on a weapon's explosive power, its accuracy, and the use of multiple munitions. The States concerned also declared that they would ensure their armed forces take into account the direct and indirect effects of their operations on civilians and civilian infrastructure, and they would ensure assistance to victims. Implementing the Declaration must mark a departure from the 'business-as-usual' approach and contribute towards further reducing harm to civilians – but the success of such an initiative will only be as strong as the active implementation of the provisions within the declaration.

The use of **explosive weapons in populated areas is having devastating effects well beyond their intended targets**. Incidents involving the use of explosive weapons were recorded 2,399 times across 17 countries and territories affected by conflict in 2022. These incidents killed 18,163 people, and nearly 94 per cent were civilians.¹² And the situation in OPT shows that the trend is unfortunately continuing: as of 8 November 2023, the UN estimates that more than 41,000 housing units have been destroyed in Gaza¹³.

Conflict is displacing people around the globe at an unprecedented level. By the end of 2022, 108.5 million people had been forcibly displaced due to conflict and by September 2023, this figure was estimated to have risen to over 114 million people.¹⁴ Most people displaced by conflict and violence remained in their own country: conflict and violence caused 28.3 million internal displacements in 2022 – this is the highest figure ever

recorded, nearly doubling from the previous year and three times higher than the annual average of the last ten years causing major protection concerns and impacting particularly vulnerable groups.¹⁵ In **Ukraine**, the war triggered 16.9 million displacements – equivalent to nearly 60 per cent of the global total in 2022.¹⁶ As of December 2022, 74 per cent of IDPs in Ukraine thought that returning to their places of origin would offer the best prospect of a long-term solution. Such intentions were unfeasible for many due to ongoing conflict, insecurity, the presence of explosive remnants of war, absence of services and livelihood opportunities – all common elements that hinder durable solutions in conflict settings.¹⁷ The current estimates for Sudan – 6.3 million people displaced in 2023 since the conflict that began in April 2023 – have resulted in the largest displacement crisis globally.¹⁸

12. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, S/2023/345, p.2 The highest numbers of civilian victims of explosive weapons in populated areas were reported in Ukraine, followed by Afghanistan, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic.
13. OCHA OPT, Data retrieved 16 November 2023.
14. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022; UNHCR, 2023 Mid-year trends report, published October 2023. Figure includes refugees under UNRWA and UNHCR mandate; internally displaced persons, million asylum seekers and other people in need of international protection. For more details see article on Forced Displacement within the GH0 2024.
15. IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2023, p. 14
16. IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2023
17. IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2023
18. UN OCHA, Sudan Situation Report – 12 November 2023; IOM, DTM, Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 10, 14 November 2023



AID IN ACTION

Sexual violence increases as conflict increases



this site have been the victims of sexual violence. The danger of sexual violence increases in confined living conditions and daily activities such as fetching water or taking a shower carry an elevated risk. With support from CERF, UNFPA, has set up a women-only space to provide safety and mutual support. Women also receive vocational training on income-generating activities. OCHA/Alioune Ndiaye

Sexual violence – in all its forms – continues to be used as a tactic of war, with women and girls constituting the majority of victims and survivors. In 2022, in several countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mali, Myanmar and Sudan, conflict-related sexual violence was

perpetrated as a form of retaliation against individuals and communities for their perceived or actual affiliation with rival armed groups or as an instrument of intimidation and oppression, amongst other reasons.¹

In July 2023, within three months of the heavy fighting that broke out in Sudan, the number of women and girls at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse, and intimate partner violence, increased by a staggering 40 per cent, from 3 million prior to the conflict to 4.2 million women and girls². Reports of sexual violence increased in the aftermath of the conflict, with some attacks taking place along transit routes of people fleeing the heavy fighting. The survivors included girls and, in some cases, multiple rape victims in the same attack.³

Levels of GBV, including sexual violence, are alarming. Yet, GBV prevention, mitigation and response programming is chronically underfunded, and conflict makes the need for such programming even more critical.

1. Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related sexual violence, S/2023/413, p.4
2. UN – Africa Renewal, Sudan: UN condemns spike in violence against women and girls, 6 July 2023
3. UNFPA, Sudan: Top UN Officials sound alarm at spike in violence against women and girls, 5 July 2023; OHCHR, UN experts alarmed by reported widespread use of rape and sexual violence against women and girls by RSF in Sudan, 17 August 2023

Conflict severely impacts humanitarian operations. Both humanitarian workers and their assets (i.e., supplies, vehicles and buildings) face the consequences of violence and insecurity. Humanitarian access constraints persist while bureaucratic impediments, counterterrorism and sanctions measures hamper operations and drive up operational costs. **Violence against medical personnel and facilities** persists, leaving thousands without care. According to data in 17 countries and territories in 2022, 174 health care workers were killed, 301 injured, 220 kidnapped, and 55 assaulted. The largest numbers of injured health care workers were in Afghanistan, OPT and Ukraine. The kidnapping of medical personnel was most prevalent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and

Nigeria.¹⁹ Preliminary figures for 2023 indicate that the trend will continue, with the situation in OPT likely driving an overall increase in figures. As of 12 November 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported 137 attacks on health-care facilities in Gaza alone, resulting in 16 health workers killed on duty, 38 health-care workers injured, and 39 health facilities damaged.²⁰

Children remain particularly vulnerable to conflict. About 1 child in every 5 around the world is now living in or fleeing from conflict zones.²¹ In 2022, the United Nations verified 27,180 grave violations against children – nearly 3,000 more than compared to 2021 – affecting nearly 19,000 children.²² Almost 3,000 children were killed and

19. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, S/2023/345, p.4
20. UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO, Regional director call for immediate action to halt attacks on health care in Gaza, 12 November 2023; WHO, Impact of the health attacks in the Gaza Strip: 4 November 2023
21. UNICEF, Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell: "Children live in a world that is increasingly hostile to their rights", 20 November 2023
22. Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, A/77/895 S/2023/363, 5 June 2023. Violations affected 18,890 children (13,469 boys, 4,638 girls, 783 sex unknown) in 24 situations and one regional monitoring arrangement.

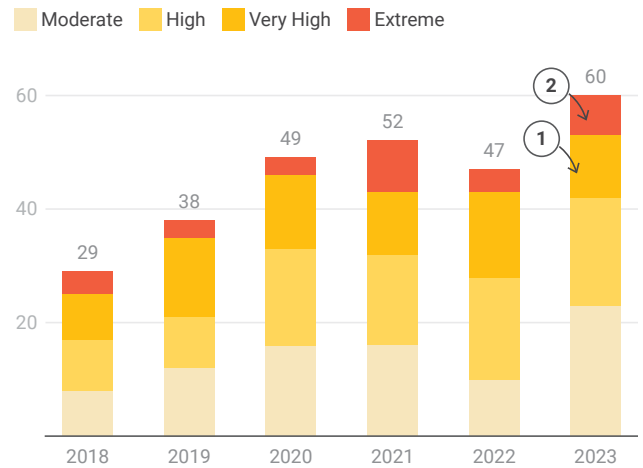


5,655 maimed as a result of conflict and violence in 2022. Violations include killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children by parties to a conflict, sexual violence and abductions, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals. Recruitment and use of children by parties to a conflict continued with 7,622 reported as recruited and almost 4,000 children were abducted.²³ Gender norms shaped the distribution of grave violations: while boys continued to be more affected by recruitment and use, killing and maiming, and abduction, girls were disproportionately affected by conflict-related sexual violence.²⁴ Attacks on schools more than doubled in 2022 with well over a thousand schools targeted, particularly in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, OPT, Myanmar, Mali and Ukraine.²⁵

Conflict and violence continue to have a significant and debilitating effect on the world economy. The global economic impact of violence was \$17.5 trillion in 2022, the equivalent to 12.9 per cent of global GDP, and a 6.6 per cent increase from the previous year. Countries experiencing violence bear a far greater financial burden to those that do not. For the ten countries most affected by violence, the economic cost of violence averaged 34 per cent of the 2022 GDP, compared to just 2.9 per cent for the ten least affected countries. Afghanistan, Sudan and Ukraine incurred the largest proportional economic cost of violence in 2022, equivalent to approximately 63, 40 and 47 per cent of GDP, respectively.²⁶

Number of countries with humanitarian access constraints (2018 - July 2023)

Among the 2024 HRP countries, Myanmar, Nigeria, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Yemen are classified as having extreme access constraints.



- ① 10 of the 11 countries with very high access constraints are 2023 HRP countries
- ② 6 of the 7 countries with extreme access constraints are 2024 HRP countries

23. Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, [A/77/895.S/2023/363](#), 5 June 2023, p. 2
 24. Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, [A/77/895.S/2023/363](#), 5 June 2023, p. 2
 25. Report of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, [A/77/895.S/2023/363](#), 5 June 2023, p. 3
 26. Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), [Global Peace Index 2023](#), p. 34



AID IN ACTION

A more dangerous world for aid workers



Central African Republic: A humanitarian convoy leaves Bangui for Birao, more than 1,000 km away, to pre-position a stock of emergency aid before the rainy season makes the roads impassable. OCHA/ R. Debruyne

Twenty years have passed since the attack on the UN headquarters at the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq. On 19 August 2003, a bomb killed 22 people, including the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years later, the 19 August was designated as World Humanitarian Day. The deadly attack led to a marked increase in security measures and standard procedures around UN humanitarian operations in conflict and insecure environments. Despite these measures, casualties have risen over the past two decades due to the persistence of conflict-driven humanitarian crises, lessening respect for international humanitarian law and the growing number of aid workers responding to crises.¹

Data from 2000 – 2022 confirms that the numbers of attacks on humanitarian workers increased over time, with the number of victims increasing

nearly fivefold in that time period (from 91 victims to 444 victims). The rise has been driven by deteriorating security in specific country contexts at particular points in time and, desolately, the majority of victims have been national staff of both international and national organizations who, on average, constituted 86 per cent of attack victims.² In 2022, a total of 444 aid workers were victims of violence in 235 separate attacks, 116 individuals were killed, 143 injured, and 185 kidnapped. Partial figures for 2023 (as of October 2023) indicate a continuing trend of deteriorating safety and security for aid workers: overall, attacks against aid workers were marginally lower in 2022 compared to the previous year, but there was a significant surge in kidnappings – increasing by 58 per cent in a single year (from 117 kidnappings in 2021 to 185 in 2022). Preliminary global data for 2023 (as of October 2023) indicated that South Sudan would remain the most dangerous operational context for humanitarian workers, followed by Sudan and Ukraine in terms of the countries with the highest number of incidents against humanitarian aid workers.³ The situation in Palestine, however, is bringing about an unprecedented threat to humanitarian workers with the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) alone reporting that 103 staff have been killed in five weeks (7 October – 15 November 2023): “More United Nations aid workers have been killed [in Gaza] than in any comparable period in the history of our organization” (Guterres, 2023).⁴

1. Humanitarian Outcomes, Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB), Aid Worker Security Report 2023
2. Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB), data accessed 25 October 2023; Humanitarian Outcomes [Aid Worker Security Database: Statistical Analysis of Data Trends, 2000-2019](#). The likelihood of a national aid worker to be a victim of an attack was calculated by looking at the distribution of attacks of international vs national staff between 2000-2022 and calculating the average over that timeframe.
3. Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB), [Aid Worker Security Report 2023 – Figures At A Glance](#)
4. UNRWA, [UNRWA situation report #31 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank including East Jerusalem](#), 15 November 2023; UN Secretary-General, [Statement at press conference on the Middle East](#), 6 November 2023



Afghanistan: This area used to be wetlands and was a viable water source, but now it is dry and hardly sustainable. During the rainy season, grass will still sprout, enough for livestock to feed. However, throughout most of the year, livestock are struggling for water and food. Once thriving villages are now losing their livestock and livelihoods to the drought. OCHA/Liz Loh Taylor

The spiraling climate crisis is intensifying needs and vulnerabilities

Soaring global temperatures and a surge in climate-related shocks and disasters are placing great strain on vulnerable people and humanitarian capacities. Climate-related disasters are driving increased levels of risks, vulnerability, human rights abuses, disrupting livelihoods, increasing displacement, influencing the spread of diseases, worsening global public health and threatening lives overall. The effects of these disasters deepen inequalities, exacerbate pre-existing human rights and social vulnerabilities. The need for proactive

adaptation and resilience solutions, which can prevent and minimize the serious humanitarian consequences, has never been greater.

Climate-related disasters are rising sharply.²⁵ The year 2023 has been declared the hottest in history,²⁶ with concurrent climate-linked disasters around the world, from drought in the Horn of Africa,²⁷ a record-breaking cyclone devastating Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar,²⁸ catastrophic wildfires in Canada²⁹, floods in Libya and China³⁰, and heatwaves across North America, Europe and

25. World Meteorological Organization, [Eight Warmest Years on Record Witness Upsurge in Climate Change Impacts](#)

26. Secretary-General's video message to the WMO "State of the Global Climate 2023" Report launch

27. WMO. (2023). [Climate change made Horn of Africa drought and Mediterranean heat "100 times more likely"](#), 5 May 2023

28. Climate change (through warming oceans) changed both the intensity and the behaviour of Cyclone Freddy: Peyton, N. (2023). [Factbox: Why is Cyclone Freddy a record-breaking storm?](#), World Economic Forum.

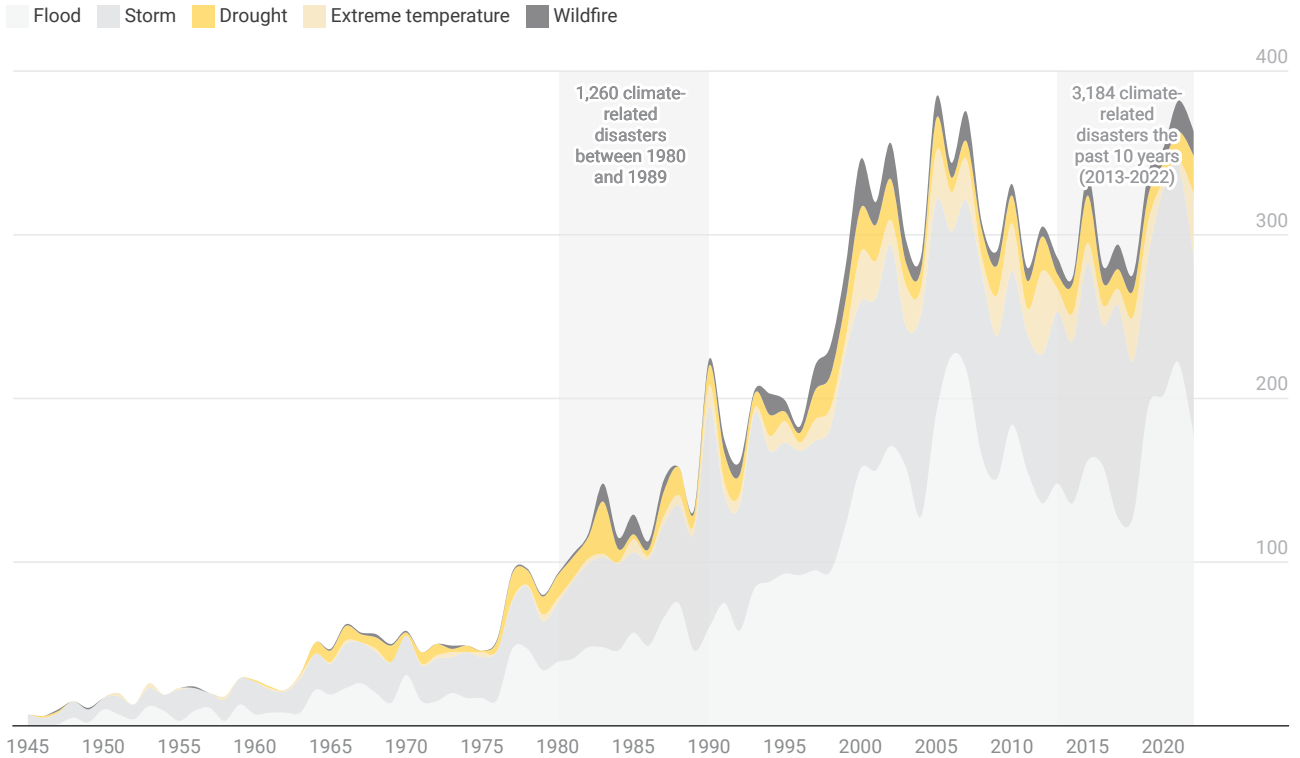
29. Made more than twice as likely by climate change. World Weather Attribution, [Climate change more than doubled the likelihood of extreme fire weather conditions in Eastern Canada, 22 August 2023](#)

30. Made more than 50 times as likely and 50 per cent more intense by climate change: World Weather Attribution, [Interplay of climate change-exacerbated rainfall, exposure and vulnerability led to widespread impacts in the Mediterranean region, 19 September 2023](#); McDonnell, S., [China's summer of climate destruction](#), BBC News, 28 August 2023



Climate-related disasters increased by 2.5 times in current decade compared to 1980s

Flood occurrences tripled, while the number of extreme-temperature was four times more during the same period.



China³¹. As of 15 November 2023, there had been 249 climate- and weather-related disasters affecting over 44 million people, causing more than 18,000 deaths.³²

Recent global temperature data indicates a shift from ‘mere’ global warming to, what UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres termed an “era of global boiling.”³³ In July 2023, the average global temperature increased to a record high for any single month ever recorded, surpassing pre-industrial averages by 1.5 degrees.³⁴ The past eight years were the hottest on record, despite the cooling effect of the 2020-2023 La Niña event.

The climate crisis is a threat multiplier, exacerbating humanitarian needs, increasing the risk and amplifying situations of conflict,³⁵ triggering displacements, intensifying food insecurity and interacting negatively with other drivers of need to deepen vulnerability. People facing pre-existing vulnerabilities, such as smallholder farmers, children and pregnant women, and displaced people, are particularly impacted by the climate crisis.³⁶ By the end of 2022, there were 8.7 million people who were displaced within their own countries due to climate and natural disasters – a 45 per cent increase compared to the previous year.³⁷ Climate-related disasters were the primary driver of acute food insecurity for 56.8 million people in 2022, more than twice the number of people in 2021.³⁸

31. Made more likely in all three regions by climate change: World Weather Attribution, [Extreme heat in North America, Europe and China in July 2023 made much more likely by climate change](#), 25 July 2023

32. Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, [EM-DAT CRED database](#). Data retrieved 15 November 2023. Calculation includes all natural hazard disaster groups listed by EM-DAT CRED except earthquake, epidemic and volcanic activity.

33. UN News, [Hottest July Ever Signals ‘Era of Global Boiling has Arrived’ says UN Chief](#)

34. World Meteorological Organization, [July 2023 is set to be the Hottest Month on Record](#)

35. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, [A/76/169](#), Human rights of internally displaced persons, 16 July 2021

36. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [Climate Change 2023 - Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\) – Longer Report](#), March 2023

37. IDMC, [2023 Global Report on Internal Displacement](#)

38. Food Security Information Network, [2023 Global Report on Food Crises](#)



AID IN ACTION

Children at high risk from extreme heat



District Rajanpur, Punjab Province, Pakistan: Eight months since the catastrophic floods in Pakistan and the extreme weather shows little sign of abating. The next monsoon season is already approaching, and many here say parts of the country felt like they skipped right past spring and straight into the scorching heat of summer. UNICEF/Juan Haro

As the climate crisis intensifies, heatwaves are emerging as a major cause of suffering and death, particularly affecting marginalized communities and vulnerable groups.¹ Children face exceptionally high risks during heatwaves, given the slow adaptation of their physiological systems to temperature shifts. Children also have less ability to adapt behaviours or change their environments.²

In South Asia, a staggering three-quarters of all children (460 million) are exposed to extreme heat, representing the highest level of exposure worldwide.³ Extreme temperatures in schools can often render learning unfeasible. To mitigate this, many schools in India, for example, have reduced teaching hours due to the intense heat.⁴

1. While this story focuses on children, it is also acknowledged that older persons also face elevated risks during heatwaves, due to high levels of dehydration and elevated mortality.
2. OCHA, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, [Extreme Heat: Preparing for the Heatwaves of the Future](#)
3. UNICEF, [76 per cent of Children Exposed to Extreme High Temperatures in South Asia](#)
4. OCHA, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, [Extreme Heat: Preparing for the Heatwaves of the Future](#)

AID IN ACTION

Libya - when a climate disaster meets pre-existing fragility



Libya: Cars are turned upside down on a city street following severe flooding. UNICEF/Abdulsalam Alturki

In Libya, Storm Daniel and the subsequent, devastating floods, killed over 4,000 people and displaced more than 40,000 individuals in September 2023.¹ Scientists are warning that such

an extreme event has now become up to 50 times more likely and up to 50 per cent more intense compared to a pre-industrial world². Libya was already experiencing pre-existing vulnerabilities, such as insecurity, political instability and weak infrastructure maintenance. Climate change acted as a risk multiplier increasing the impact of the disaster, including the increased risk of infectious diseases due to sewage contamination and stagnant floodwaters. As climate extremes become more intense and frequent due to the rise in average global temperatures, it is ever more important to invest in climate adaptation measures, such as early warning systems and climate-resilient infrastructure.

1. [Libya – Impact of Storm Daniel on Derna: Needs Assessment Report \(25 September 2023\) - Libya | ReliefWeb](#)
2. [Interplay of climate change-exacerbated rainfall, exposure and vulnerability led to widespread impacts in the Mediterranean region – World Weather Attribution](#)



People caught in humanitarian emergencies are among those most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to the climate crisis. Among these vulnerable people and vulnerable groups, women and girls face specific and additional vulnerabilities due to deeply rooted gender inequalities. Of the 14 countries currently most at risk from the impacts of climate change,³⁹ 13 will have a humanitarian response plan (HRP) in 2024,⁴⁰ 14 are

coping with conflict or fragility,⁴¹ and five faced infectious disease outbreaks in 2023.⁴² Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change could require \$4.3 trillion a year by 2030 and will only escalate the more the Earth continues to warm.⁴³ Without additional climate financing to help spur adaptation and mitigation efforts worldwide – particularly in those places where vulnerability is high – the climate crisis will continue being a humanitarian crisis.

AID-IN-ACTION

Strengthening anticipatory action and the role of Pooled Funds in climate crisis financing



Galkayo, Somalia: From late 2020 to early 2023, Somalia faced the worst drought in its recent history. More than 1.6 million people were displaced by the drought between 2021 and early 2023. With support from the Somalia Humanitarian Fund, CARE Somalia provided emergency health and nutrition services for 30,000 affected people in the Galkayo North District. This assistance included approximately 11,800 host community members and 2,800 persons with disabilities. OCHA/Yao Chen

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) are important tools in helping to address the humanitarian impacts of climate shocks and reducing climate-induced vulnerability. In 2023, the Funds are on track to reach US\$500 million in allocations, targeting millions of the most vulnerable people affected by climate shocks. This will account for over a quarter of the total

funding allocated by CBPFs and CERF in 2023 – a continued trend in the Funds' effort to address and mitigate the impact of climate disasters. The funds also play a pivotal role by enabling collective anticipatory action ahead of climate shocks. Since July 2020, CBPFs and CERF have provided \$120 million for anticipatory action. The Funds have also pre-arranged a further \$87 million for anticipatory action that has not been triggered yet.

Additional, dedicated climate financing would help to better address the impact of climate-related disasters. This type of financing would enable the Funds to support the establishment of new anticipatory action frameworks as well as enhance and diversify existing frameworks. At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, the Emergency Relief Coordinator announced a CERF Climate Action Account. The account is tailored to attract new and additional financing to CERF to help address the ever-increasing humanitarian impacts of climate-related disasters worldwide. The additional resources provided through the CERF Climate Action Account will allow CERF to scale-up climate-related humanitarian action, through anticipatory actions and response, in line with its life-saving mandate.

39. Calculated looking at those countries classified as "very high risk" using the INFORM Climate Change 2023 baseline risk, <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change>.

40. According to list of countries with an HRP at launch of GH0 2024.

41. World Bank, *Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations*

42. World Health Organization, *Health Emergency Dashboard*, Data retrieved 13 November 2023. The countries which reported an infectious disease outbreak in 2023 included Chad (dengue), Niger (diphtheria), Nigeria (diphtheria and Lassa Fever) and Sudan (cholera); WHO, *Cholera: Democratic Republic of the Congo*, 10 February 2023.

43. United Nations, *Climate action - finance and justice*, 2023



AID IN ACTION

A recipe for disaster? Climate change and population growth in ongoing emergencies



Rann, Borno State, Nigeria: A young girl plays in stagnant and polluted flood waters at an IDP site. The onset of rain and consequent flooding poses a high risk of waterborne diseases. OCHA/Adedeji Ademigbuji

Using an 'optimistic' and a 'pessimistic' scenario, the INFORM Climate Change Risk Index quantifies how climate change and population growth will affect the risk of humanitarian crises, looking to 2050 and 2080.¹ Unless appropriate climate mitigation measures are pursued, globally:

- Crisis risks will increase. Under a pessimistic scenario, the number of countries classified as having 'high' or 'very high' crisis risk will increase from 36 at present to 52 by 2050. The number of people living in 'very high' crisis risk countries will roughly triple from 580 million to 1.5 billion.
- Lower income countries will be worst affected. The countries likely to be hit hardest are located in western, southern and eastern Africa. Lower income countries will be worst affected.
- Increases in drought will be the most important driver of increasing risk. By 2050, more than 1.6 billion people – 4 times more than today – will be exposed to severe and extreme droughts. This will include almost 20 percent of the African population.

Focusing on today's humanitarian emergencies², there is no relief in sight: of all countries classified as having 'very high' crisis risk, all except one have a humanitarian appeal (13 out of 14), as do 36 per cent of the countries classified as 'high' crisis risk (8). Applying the pessimistic scenario would result in an additional 3 countries with HRPs by 2050.

- Population growth will significantly amplify the impact of climate change due to the increase in the number of people living in vulnerable, climate-affected areas and, consequently, a larger number of people stand to be affected by more severe disasters. Population growth is expected to be largest in Africa over coming decades. This is the continent which also is experiencing the most humanitarian emergencies. Under a pessimistic scenario, population growth in the 26 countries with an HRP is expected to increase by 95 per cent by 2050. This may result in an increase of 243 million people exposed to drought and floods and there will also be significant increases in risk from mosquito-borne diseases.³

1. INFORM is a collaboration between the IASC and the European Commission. It released a Climate Change Risk Index, which quantifies how climate change and population growth will affect the risk of humanitarian crises. All data used in this aid in action story can be accessed here: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change>

2. Specifically, the 26 countries with HRPs at the launch of the GHO 2024.

3. Analysis based on data from [INFORM Climate Change Risk Index](#)



AID-IN-ACTION

The gendered dimensions of climate change and humanitarian crises



Choluteca, Honduras: Sixta is a 63-year-old mother of 6. She is among the millions of people who live in Honduras' Dry Corridor, where deepening climate risks are constantly triggering food security, nutrition, health, WASH and livelihood needs. These, in turn, can prompt migration within and across borders. OCHA/Marc Belanger

Countries experiencing the impacts of both the climate crisis and humanitarian emergencies are among the most difficult and dangerous places in the world to be a woman or a girl. While it has long been acknowledged that conflict and climate change exacerbate gender inequality and contribute to a higher risk of gender-based violence (GBV), the magnitude of their impacts on women and girls has yet to be fully grasped. Climate change is not gender neutral. Women and girls in crisis settings struggle to access land and other productive assets; they struggle to access life-saving services, including sexual and reproductive health care; they are more likely to die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, and pregnant women are the most impacted by climate-driven food

insecurity and malnutrition.¹ The overlap of climate change, economic hardship and food insecurity also affects children's – and especially girls' – education, who are dropping of school at alarming rates as their responsibilities at home increase. For example, as climate change drives food insecurity, girls, in particular, are called to search for water and firewood at longer distances, consuming much of the time that could be spent on education.²

Compared to men, women and children are over 14 times more likely to be killed by climate-disasters. In addition to posing a direct threat to their lives, disasters expose women to other protection risks, which are acute in displacement contexts. Women displaced due to disasters often have to reside in congested evacuation centers and informal settlements, leaving them at heightened risk of GBV and sexual violence.³

Of the 26 countries with humanitarian response plans at the beginning of 2024,⁴ 13 are considered to be the highest at risk from the impacts of climate change,⁵ nine are also among the 20 countries with the world's highest maternal death rates; 10 are among the 20 with the highest adolescent birth rates; 12 are among the 20 countries with the worst child marriage rates and five are among the 20 with the highest rates of intimate partner violence.⁶

Far greater investment is needed to strengthen protection and to enable sexual and reproductive health systems to adapt to the climate crisis.

1. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, *Climate Change 2023 - Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) – Longer Report*, March 2023
2. OCHA, *OCHA Discussion Paper: Gendered drivers, risks and impacts of food insecurity in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa*, 10 November 2023
3. CARE (2020), *Evicted by climate change: confronting the gendered impacts of climate-induced displacements*
4. Based on the list of HRP at launch of GHO 2024
5. Calculated looking at those countries classified as "very high risk" using the INFORM Climate Change 2023 baseline risk, <https://dmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Climate-Change>.
6. Based on Data from UNFPA's *State of the World Population 2023 "8 billion lives, infinite possibilities"*, published 19 April 2023. Nine HRP countries with highest maternal mortality rates (in order of decreasing mortality, deaths per 100,00 live births): South Sudan, Chad, Nigeria, CAR, Somalia, Afghanistan, DRC, Niger, Mali. Ten HRP countries with highest adolescent births (in order of decreasing rate): CAR, Mozambique, Mali, South Sudan, Madagascar, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Somalia. HRP countries with the worst child marriage rates (in order of decreasing rate): Niger, CAR, Chad, Mali, Mozambique, South Sudan, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Honduras, Sudan. HRP countries with highest rates of intimate partner violence (in order of decreasing rate): DRC, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Cameroon.



Kelly, north-west Syria: Abdulkarim Baradei is a 33-year-old farmer. The rising prices of fuel, food and agricultural materials have made life hard for families already struggling with poverty in his village. OCHA/Bilal Al-hammoud

Economic hardship persists, increasingly becoming a primary driver of need

Economic dynamics often interact and overlap with conflict, climate shocks, infectious diseases and others, as a significant driver of humanitarian need. However, in recent years, a new trend has emerged, with economic factors becoming either a primary driver, or strong contributor, to rising needs in a number of crises. These crises reflect three different types of contexts: crises where political and economic instability left people in urgent need of assistance, contexts that began as conflicts but have since been overlaid by economic crises and contexts where chronic impoverishment left communities extremely vulnerable and any new shock could push them into humanitarian need. These situations persist within the global landscape – as such, economic hardship, driven by an uncertain global economy, will continue to influence humanitarian need.

The global economy is gradually recovering from the economic slump caused by COVID-19, yet uncertainty persists amid high inflation worldwide, disruption to the financial sector, the ongoing effects of the war in Ukraine and conflicts and the lingering economic impacts of the pandemic. Global economic growth is projected to decline from 3 per cent in 2023 to 2.9 per cent in 2024, well below the historical (2000-2019) average of 3.8 per cent.⁴⁴ This slowdown could have a significant impact on low and middle-income countries due to their heavy reliance on exports to advanced economies and limiting the ability of the poorest countries to achieve development gains.

44. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2023, p. xvi



Real GDP growth at market prices (%) for 2024 HRP countries

| Country | GDP growth % (2019-2025)* | 2023 % point differences from Jan 2022 | 2024 % point differences from Jan 2022 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Afghanistan | -2.4% -20.7% | | |
| Burkina Faso | 1.9% 5.1% | -0.7% | -0.5% |
| Cameroon | 0.5% 4.5% | -0.4% | -0.4% |
| Central African Republic | 1.0% 3.8% | 0.0% | 0% |
| Chad | -1.6% 3.1% | -0.1% | 0.1% |
| Colombia | -7.3% 3.2% | 0.4% | -0.8% |
| Democratic Rep. of the Congo | 1.7% 7.5% | 1.3% | 1% |
| El Salvador | -8.2% 2.1% | 0.3% | 0.1% |
| Ethiopia | 6.1% 7.0% | 0.7% | 0.5% |
| Guatemala | -1.8% 3.5% | 0.1% | 0% |
| Haiti | -3.3% 2.4% | -1.3% | -0.3% |
| Honduras | -9.0% 3.8% | 0.4% | 0% |
| Madagascar | -7.1% 5.1% | 0.0% | 0.2% |
| Mali | -1.2% 5.0% | 0.0% | 0% |
| Mozambique | -1.2% 5.3% | 0.0% | 0.3% |
| Myanmar | 3.2% 3.0% | 0.0% | |
| Niger | 3.6% 9.1% | -0.2% | 2.4% |
| Nigeria | -1.8% 3.1% | -0.1% | 0.1% |
| South Sudan | 9.5% 2.4% | 0.4% | 0.2% |
| Sudan | -3.6% 2.0% | -1.6% | -1% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | -0.2% -5.5% | -2.3% | |
| Ukraine | -3.8% 2.0% | -1.3% | |
| Yemen | -8.5% 2.0% | -1.5% | |

Note: *2023, 2024, 2025 GDP growth % are forecast

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be hit hard by rising food and energy prices and other spillovers from the war in Ukraine. Economic growth for the region is expected to slow to 3.3 per cent in 2023 before picking up to 4 per cent in 2024⁴⁵ – making this is the second consecutive year of an aggregate decline in growth for the region⁴⁶ - adding pressure to those already in need of assistance.

As of October 2023, eleven HRP countries, for which data is available, faced lower than projected GDP growth for 2023 and 2024, compared to predictions made in 2022.⁴⁷ In **Sudan**, economic growth is expected to decline by 15.8 per cent due to the outbreak of conflict in mid-April 2023.⁴⁸ **Niger** (-7.8 per cent), **Colombia** (-5.9 per cent) and **Venezuela** (-4.0 per cent) also face significant reductions in economic growth. Lower economic growth in these settings is influenced by compounding factors, such as

45. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2023, p. 15

46. IMF, *Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Economic Outlook: A New Shock and Little Room to Maneuver*, April 2022

47. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2023, p. 124-126

48. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2023, p. 15



climate change, new and/or resurging conflict, social unrest, high food and fuel prices and lingering economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

High interest rates and debt sustainability remain a major global concern. For low-income developing countries (LIDCs) the picture remains particularly alarming. Total debt for LIDCs increased by about 0.5 per cent of GDP over the course of 2022,⁴⁹ with more than half of these countries in or at high risk of debt distress in 2023.⁵⁰ Humanitarian settings face significant debt risks. Two HRP countries, Sudan and Somalia, are currently in debt distress. An additional eleven are at high risk of debt distress⁵¹ and may require timely fiscal consolidation and prompt restructuring of their debts to achieve debt sustainability. LIDCs currently spend 23 per cent of tax revenues on average just to make interest payments.⁵²

Inflation remains high overall, continuing to increase price pressure and erode household purchasing power. Global inflation is forecast to decline steadily, from 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.9 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024. This is attributed to tighter monetary policy aided by lower international commodity prices. Core inflation is projected to decline more gradually and is not expected to return to target until 2025 in most cases.⁵³ In response to high inflation, many central banks have raised interest rates, which has further exacerbated debt vulnerabilities.

Commodity prices have come down from their historic peak in June 2022, when prices surged due to the war in Ukraine. Despite this, prices of all major commodity

groups remain well above their 2015-2019 average levels.⁵⁴ Global energy and food price hikes in 2022 triggered a cost-of-living crisis in many countries, especially low-income countries, many of which continue to suffer from food insecurity. As of April 2023, nine out of ten low- and middle-income countries face food price inflation above 5 per cent.⁵⁵ Food prices are expected to fall by 3 per cent in 2024, if grain and oilseed exports from the Black Sea region remain stable.⁵⁶ Further escalation of the war in Ukraine could trigger a renewed energy crisis in Europe and exacerbate the already alarming food insecurity situation in low-income countries.⁵⁷

Decades of hard-won development gains in poverty reduction, employment and food security continue to be reversed. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, progress is off track⁵⁸ **Employment numbers worldwide are recovering but** remained significantly below pre-pandemic rates in 2022 and beyond - disproportionately affecting women and young people.⁵⁹ Further, the last three years saw a significant increase in the number of people projected to live in **extreme poverty**. By the end of 2022, as many as 670 million people were estimated to still be living in extreme poverty. Under current trends, the UN estimates that 575 million people will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, most of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Only about one third of countries will meet the target to halve national poverty levels.⁶⁰

49. IMF, *2023 Global Debt Monitor*, p. 2

50. IMF, *Global Debt is Returning to Its Rising Trend*, 13 September 2023

51. IMF, *List of LIC DSAs for PRGT-Eligible Countries, August 31 2023*, HRP countries at high risk of debt distress are Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Central; African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, South Sudan.

52. IMF, *2023 Global Debt Monitor*, p. 3

53. IMF, *World Economic Outlook Update*, October 2023, p. xvi

54. World Bank, *Commodity Markets Outlook*, April 2023, p. 1

55. IMF, *World Economic Outlook, A Rocky Revery*, April 2023, p. 20

56. World Bank, *Commodity Markets Outlook*, April 2023, p. 3

57. IMF, *World Economic Outlook, A Rocky Revery*, April 2023, p. 16

58. United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 – Special Edition*, p. 4; About half of the 140 targets are assessed to be moderately to severely off track, and over 30 per cent have either seen no movement or regressed below the 2015 baseline.

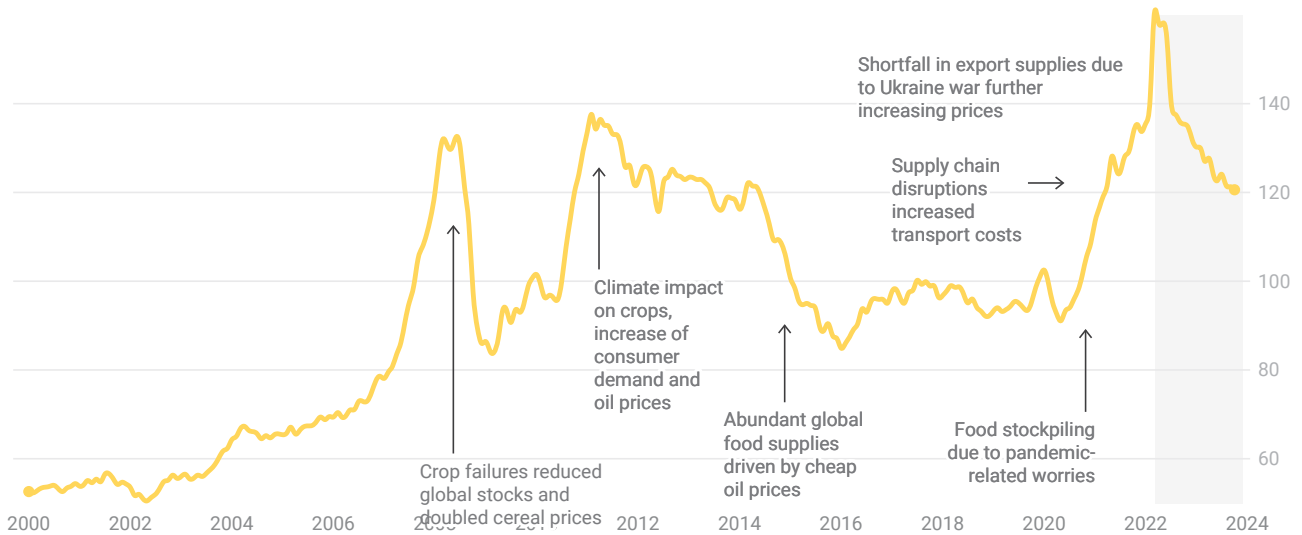
59. ILO, *World Employment and Social Outlook 2023*, p. 12 Global unemployment is projected to stand at 268 million in people 2023, up from 207 million in 2022, and about 82 million more than in 2019.

60. United Nations, *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 – Special Edition*, p. 12



Monthly evolution of the Food Price Index (2000 - Oct 2023)

Although global food prices had fallen by the end of 2022 and continued to shrink in 2023, they remained well above pre-pandemic levels.



Nyala, South Darfur, Sudan: WFP initiated a Post-Harvest Loss Reduction Programme to mitigate grain loss for small-scale farmers, which can reach up to 3 per cent of their harvest. The program seeks to enhance food accessibility, minimize aflatoxin contamination and empower smallholders to store and sell surplus grains at higher prices.
WFP/Mohamed Elamin





*North Kivu, DRC:
A young boy cleans
his water container
with stagnant
rainwater. Despite
the risk from the
cholera epidemic
that plagues
displacement sites.
Clean water and
sanitation is urgently
needed in the face
of this dire public
health crisis. OCHA/
Francis Mweze*

Disease outbreaks and converging risks threaten weak and recovering health systems

The world is witnessing a surge in health emergencies, driven by interconnected risks such as infectious disease, climate change, food insecurity, conflict and displacement. The detection and control of infectious diseases are frustrated by these multiple and concurrent factors, which increase transmission and hamper control.

Disease outbreaks do not occur in isolation from one another, and their reach is often compounded by pre-existing vulnerabilities. In 2023, at least 19 countries (out of 36),⁶¹ with a country-specific humanitarian plan, experienced a disease outbreak: for example, dengue⁶² was reported in Chad while diphtheria was reported in Niger and Nigeria (with the latter also

experiencing a concurrent outbreak of Lassa Fever). Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen all reported outbreaks of cholera and/or acute watery diarrhea (AWD).⁶³ Pakistan, in the aftermath of the devastating floods in 2022, continues to grapple with polio while reporting cholera cases. Nigeria experienced outbreaks of diphtheria and meningitis, as well as cholera. These countries all suffered from varying degrees of poverty, food insecurity, displacement, conflict and insecurity and weak health systems, making the control of disease outbreaks challenging.

61. Based on GHO 2023 list of countries with HRP, flash appeals or other country-specific plans.

62. Dengue was a broader phenomenon, with outbreaks reported across the globe: by November 2023, over 4.5 million dengue cases and over 4,000 dengue-related deaths had been reported across 80 countries and territories (source: [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#)).

63. World Health Organization, [Health Emergency Dashboard](#). Data retrieved 13 November 2023.; WHO, [Cholera- Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), 10 February 2023; WHO, [Multi-country outbreak of cholera](#), External situation report #8, 2 November 2023



Cholera outbreaks are increasing, following ten years of progress in cholera control. WHO estimates that over a billion people are currently at risk. Cholera has been reported in 29 countries and territories in 2023, with the most cases reported in Africa (16 countries).⁶⁴ More than half of the countries that reported cholera and/or AWD cases also experienced other multiple or concurrent emergencies.⁶⁵ Cholera outbreaks are largely driven by poverty and conflict-related displacement, the threat is amplified for people living in overcrowded settlements lacking sufficient basic hygiene facilities. Climate change, however, plays an increasing role in the occurrence and spread of those large outbreaks, for example, by driving displacement as well as the increased risk of transmission posed by the proximity of contaminated floodwaters. The past two years have been characterized by an increase in larger and deadlier outbreaks due to overstretched health systems, shortages of the oral cholera vaccine, lack of access to clean water and sanitation and the presence of multiple, parallel disease outbreaks.⁶⁶ Vaccination, although effective, is still not a silver bullet and people continue to die of cholera because they do not have access to safe water and basic sanitation.

Extreme weather events continue to heighten the risk of disease due to water scarcity, sanitation and health system disruptions, and population displacement. The ongoing El Niño warm weather phase, which started in June 2023, is expected to worsen the effects of climate change and bring about health challenges worldwide. For decades, El Niño has caused deteriorating weather and health conditions: between 1991 – 1992, El Niño was responsible for the drought in southern Africa affecting nearly 100 million people. El Niño is known to trigger

Rift Valley fever outbreaks in the Horn of Africa⁶⁷, and wildfires and hazardous air quality in southeast Asia. In the early months of 2024, the most severe health risks are likely to arise from malnutrition due to ongoing food insecurity, compounded by the effects of El Niño on crops and harvests. This is expected to be particularly prevalent in Southern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean where poor rainfall and above-average temperatures will affect agricultural production.⁶⁸ Other very high risks include cholera and other waterborne diseases; heat stress and air pollution; malaria; and arboviral diseases such as dengue, Zika virus disease and chikungunya.⁶⁹ In the 26 countries with a humanitarian response plan (as of January 2024), the risk of mosquito-borne diseases (malaria and dengue) is projected to increase between now and 2050, because a warming world will increase the climatic suitability for the diseases. This will put an additional 957 million people at risk of these diseases, compared to 873 million today.⁷⁰

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate existing inequalities, hitting vulnerable populations the hardest.

Countries with an HRP at the beginning of 2024 accounted for 2 per cent of the cumulative number of global cases of COVID-19 (since 2020), but they also accounted for 4 per cent of global deaths, despite representing only 11 per cent of the world's population.⁷¹ Efforts in countries such as Somalia, despite ongoing crises, have shown progress, notably in the vaccination of over 48 per cent of its population against COVID-19, but overall, countries with humanitarian emergencies are still lagging well behind the global average of 66 per cent of a country's population having completed a primary series of COVID-19 vaccination.⁷²

64. WHO, [Multi-country outbreak of cholera](#), External situation report #8, 2 November 2023; WHO, [Cholera upsurge \(2021-present\)](#)

65. In 2023, 29 countries reported cholera and/or AWD. Half of these also had a health emergency as defined by WHO's grading of acute (G1-G3) and/or protracted (P1-P3). WHO, [Multi-country outbreak of cholera](#), External situation report #8, 2 November 2023

66. WHO, Cholera report 2022 in [Weekly epidemiological record](#) #38, 22 September 2023.

67. Food and Agricultural Organization, [Africa – El Niño and increased risk of Rift Valley fever – warning to all countries](#), 2015

68. Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), [Strong El Niño event will contribute to high food assistance needs through 2024](#), 3 October 2023

69. WHO, [Public Health Situation Analysis: El Niño \(October-December 2023\)](#), 12 October 2023

70. Colon-Gonzalez, Felipe; Odhiambo Sewe, Maquins; Tompkins, Adrian et al. "Projecting the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in a warmer and more populated world: a multi-model, multi-scenario intercomparison modelling study", *The Lancet* – volume 5, issue 7, July 2021.

Risk of dengue and malaria based on [INFORM Climate Change](#) and the list of HRP countries at the launch of the GHO 2024.

71. List of countries based on those with an HRP at the launch of GHO2024. COVID-19 data retrieved on 11 November 2023 from [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

72. COVID-19 vaccination data retrieved on 11 November 2023 from [WHO COVID-19 Dashboard](#).



AID IN ACTION

Fighting floods and dengue in Peru



Peru: In the first trimester of 2023, heavy rainfall in the north and south of Peru caused flooding in many cities, affecting thousands of people. The rains contributed to the dengue epidemic that followed. Hombro a Hombro, a Connecting Business initiative Member Network, supported the Government in delivering humanitarian aid to affected communities and offered training to municipalities on managing resources during a disaster. Hombro a Hombro

In March 2023, the warm weather event El Niño Costero wreaked havoc in Peru, causing heavy rains and floods in the northern region. Approximately, 787,000 people were affected and 41,670 houses rendered uninhabitable. The floods triggered an unprecedented dengue epidemic, reaching the highest per capita dengue fever rate in the Americas, with over 172,000 dengue cases and nearly 300 deaths, prompting the Ministry of Health to declare a health emergency in 20 out of 25 regions.

Hombro a Hombro (HAH), the Connecting Business initiative (CBI) Member Network in Peru, supported the Government in three areas:

1. Logistics, to estimate the number of affected people and their needs which enable planning to meet these needs. This included estimating

the type of humanitarian aid/goods required, warehouses to store goods and coordination of the necessary logistics to supply the goods to affected people.

2. Training Municipalities on resource management, report development, crisis management, leadership and disaster risk management to help build the necessary skills to manage information and resources to respond to crises.
3. Providing heavy machinery to remove debris from affected areas, advising the Ministry of Housing on optimizing and standardizing equipment loans management.

HAH's resources enabled swift and efficient aid delivery to reach remote areas, bolstering local government capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.



AID IN ACTION

Health care workers and systems under attack



Khan Younis, Southern Gaza, OPT: An ambulance is badly damaged at Al-Nasser Hospital. UNICEF/Abed Zaqout

Attacks on health care constitute a violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. These attacks do not only kill and maim but also deprive people of urgently needed care, endanger health care providers and undermine health systems. As of 14 November 2023, WHO had recorded 941 attacks on health care across 18 countries and territories leading to 640 deaths of patients, personnel and civilians for the first eleven months of the year. Compared to 2022, this represents a massive increase with three times more deaths recorded in 2023 – largely driven by the conflict in OPT.¹

Other threats such as kidnappings have also had a significant impact on the health care system. In Haiti, 18 health care workers were kidnapped

between January and the end of November 2023, with 23 kidnappings recorded throughout 2022.² In addition to the trauma experienced by health care workers themselves, this situation also seriously impacts the functioning of health services in a country with limited health care resources and infrastructures – a situation which has worsened due to the rise in violence linked to gang activities. In a country where the last three years have been marked by a decrease in the use of health services by the population,³ attacks on health care have seriously affected the functioning of such institutions. Health services in Haiti have been shut down intermittently due to fear among health care workers, and as people lose trust in the health system.

1. WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), data retrieved 14 November 2023

2. Insecurity Insight/Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, Interactive map – Attacked and threatened: health care at risk, data retrieved 14 November 2023

3. UN OCHA, Haiti: Humanitarian note - Series - New paradigm Issue 2: The impact of violence on access to health care, 23 April 2023



*Banamba, Mali:
Students benefit
from nutrient rich
snacks, provided to
a nutritional support
group by UNICEF.
UNICEF/Tiécouira
N'Daou*

Worsening hunger crisis requires global response across all sectors

Hunger is not inevitable, but it is almost always man-made, driven by a combination of armed conflict, economic shocks, climate extremes, poverty and inequality. Today, poverty and inequality remain the largest drivers of chronic hunger, while armed conflict continues to be the biggest driver of acute hunger in the world: 117 million people were driven to hunger mainly by conflict in 2022.⁷³ In recent years, climate-related weather extremes have also destroyed ecosystems and people's livelihoods. To be effective in eradicating hunger, all these drivers need to be addressed concurrently and systematically.

Global food insecurity has reached new heights, causing 258 million people in 2022 to face high levels of acute food insecurity⁷⁴ in 58 countries/territories, up from 193 million people in 53 countries/territories in 2021. More than 40 per cent of those affected reside in five countries experiencing protracted crises: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Nigeria and Yemen.⁷⁵ In 2022, wasting threatened the lives of 45 million children under 5 (or 7 per cent of all children), of which 13.6 million were already suffering from severe wasting.⁷⁶ Women and people living in rural areas are the hardest hit by food insecurity.⁷⁷

73. Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2023 (GFERC)*, p. 19

74. Defined as Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)/Cadre Harmonisé (CH) Phase 3 or above or equivalent. For more information see [IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification](#)

75. Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2023 (GFERC)*, p. 17; UN OCHA, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023: Hundreds of millions of people face hunger as historic food crisis looms*, 30 November 2022

76. UNICEF-WHO-World Bank, [Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates \(JME\) - 2023 edition interactive dashboard](#) 31 May 2023

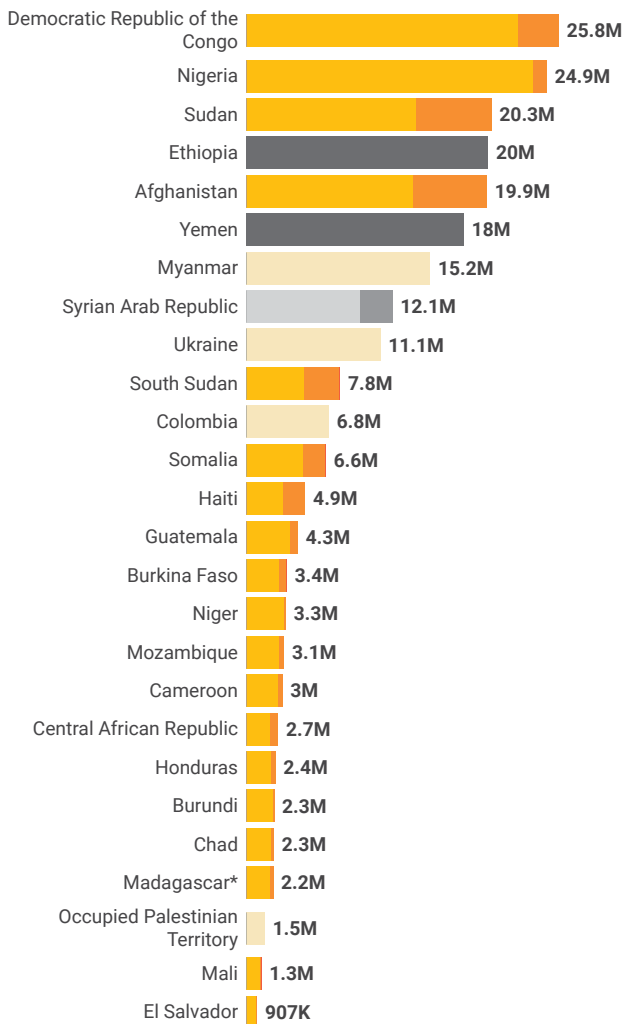
77. FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. 2023. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum.*



Number of people in acute food insecurity in HRP countries

Chart shows peak figures for 2023, in millions, where data was available

■ IPC/CH 3 | Crisis
 ■ IPC/CH 4 | Emergency
 ■ IPC/CH 5 | Catastrophe
 ■ People in need (food security and livelihoods), HNO/HRP
 ■ Moderately food insecure people (WFP CARI scale)
 ■ Severely food insecure people (WFP CARI scale)
 ■ Phase 3+ | Crisis (FEWS NET, upper bound)



The outlook for 2023-2024 remains serious and likely to deteriorate further in the absence of concerted international support. Looking at 2023, as many as 333 million people are estimated to be acutely food insecure in the 78 countries with World Food Programme (WFP) operations and where data is available. This is an increase of 184 million people compared to pre-pandemic levels.⁷⁸

By April 2024, populations in 18 out of 22 countries or territories, identified as Hunger Hotspots, are likely to face a significant deterioration in acute food insecurity levels.⁷⁹ Among these, five contexts or “hotspots” are of the highest concern: **Burkina Faso, Mali, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), South Sudan and Sudan.**

⁸⁰ In these countries, people either already face, or are projected to face, starvation or are at risk of deterioration towards catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH 5). In 2023, at least 129,000 people in Burkina Faso, Mali, South Sudan and Somalia were projected to face catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity (IPC/CH 5).⁸¹

In Burkina Faso and Mali, already high levels of acute food insecurity may further increase, driven by escalating violence and dire access for aid workers. In Mali, for the first time, 2,507 people are projected to be living in catastrophic food insecurity conditions (CH Phase 5). An upsurge in violence is expected following the withdrawal of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) at the end of 2023. In Burkina Faso, 42,694 people were projected to face catastrophic conditions (CH Phase 5) between June and August 2023.⁸²

Note: Based on GRFC 2023 and GRFC 2023 MYU, FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report November 2023 - April 2024, and updates from IPC/CH/HNO. Data for Colombia, El Salvador, Myanmar, Syrian Arab Republic, Palestine, Ukraine is from 2022. Data for Colombia comes from the HNO 2023 and does not include nutrition. For Venezuela, no data is available. Populations that are classified as ‘moderately acute food insecure’ and ‘severely acute food insecure’ as per WFP’s CARI methodology are reported as an approximation of populations facing Crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 and above). FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible, which means it follows key IPC protocols but is not built on multipartner technical consensus. For FEWS NET, upper bound of the estimated range is reported. *Madagascar has a Flash Appeal.

78. WFP, [Global Operational Response Plan](#), November 2023
 79. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)
 80. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)
 81. WFP, [A global food crisis](#), data retrieved 14 November 2023.
 82. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)



AID IN ACTION

Somalia – averting famine through multisectoral action, but not enough to stem long-term food insecurity



Mudug region, Somalia: A young boy has his malnutrition level evaluated following the 2022 drought, the worst in recent history. OCHA/Yao Chen

Famine¹ was averted in Somalia in 2022 due to the efforts of local communities and the scale-up of multisectoral humanitarian assistance (in-kind food, cash/voucher transfers, nutrition, WASH and health-related interventions) as well as slightly better rainfall than initially projected.² Somalia, however, continues to experience alarming levels of acute food insecurity due to the combined effects of below-average and poorly distributed rainfall, flooding, the extended impact of multi-season drought, limited household access to food due to

high food prices, continued conflict and insecurity and ongoing disease outbreaks. Between October and December 2023, one million people were projected to face emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4).³ While there is no prediction of catastrophic conditions (IPC 5) in the same timeframe – the first time since June 2022 – the prevalence of critically acute food-insecure people remains of very high concern, especially in central and southern areas of the country.⁴ These figures represent a fragile recovery from a severe drought that resulted in projected famine in late 2022 and early 2023 which did not materialize. Acute malnutrition remains very high, with around 1.5 million children facing acute malnutrition between August 2023 and July 2024, including 331,000 children severely malnourished.⁵

The success in averting famine could be easily derailed given that there has been no improvement on the underlying drivers of the underlying crisis. Famine prevention itself takes years of concerted development and humanitarian action, to build up resilient and sustainable food, nutrition, health and livelihoods systems.

1. Although famine as defined by the IPC (the absolute inaccessibility of food to an entire population or sub-group of a population, potentially causing death in the short term) was averted, the situation remained critical with deaths occurring from the drought even without reaching a formal famine declaration level. WHO, [New study finds that 43,000 "excess deaths" may have occurred in 2022 from the drought in Somalia](#), 20 March 2023
2. IPC, Somalia: Famine review of the IPC Analysis, 2 December 2022
3. IPC, Somalia: [Acute Malnutrition Situation for August - September 2023 and Projection for October - December 2023](#); FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)
4. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)
5. IPC, Somalia: [Acute Malnutrition Situation for August - September 2023 and Projection for October - December 2023](#); FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)

About 1.5 million people were acutely food insecure in OPT already in 2022, including 1.2 million people in the Gaza Strip (80 per cent of those experiencing food insecurity in OPT). Deteriorating security and economic conditions most likely resulted in a worsening of the food security situation even before the beginning of the current conflict in October 2023. The ongoing hostilities in Gaza have caused mass displacement and the destruction of

critical infrastructure. Gaza's food systems have been severely strained. Restricted humanitarian access has limited the amount of aid available. All of these factors are expected to worsen the current food insecurity situation.⁸³

83. FAO/WFP, [Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook](#)



Monthly evolution of the Food Price Index (2000 - Oct 2023)

Although global food prices had fallen by the end of 2022 and continued to shrink in 2023, they remained well above pre-pandemic levels.



In South Sudan, critical levels of food insecurity are expected to persist across the country, even after the start of harvests in October due to insufficient crop production, high staple food prices and a lack of resources to support the rising numbers of returnees from Sudan. In 2023, between April and July, 43,000 people were projected to face Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5).⁸⁴

In Sudan, the devastating impacts of the conflict on livelihoods, the agriculture sector and the economy at large, amid the internal displacement of more than 6 million people will drive high levels of acute food insecurity.⁸⁵ By September 2023, around 20.3 million people – or nearly half of Sudan’s total population – were assessed as facing crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 and above) levels of acute food insecurity. This is a deterioration compared with the same period last year, and the expected severe impact on agricultural production – due to inaccessible or insecure lands, combined with climate extremes – is expected to significantly dampen the traditional seasonal improvement.⁸⁶

Persistently **high food prices** are adding extra pressure to food insecurity worldwide. Although global food prices had fallen by the end of 2022, and continued to shrink in 2023, they remained well above pre-pandemic levels.⁸⁷ Domestic food prices, by contrast, increased in all 58 countries/territories with food crises by the end of the 2022, with food inflation over 10 per cent in 38 of them,⁸⁸ and making essential purchases unaffordable for many people. The war in Ukraine also caused fertilizer and freight costs to surge, placing additional pressure on food prices by increasing the cost of production and transport.⁸⁹

Humanitarians continue to fight against the growing hunger crisis. **However, humanitarians have also faced increasing financial pressure in their operational costs** associated with insecurity and volatility in areas of operation, the higher cost of commodities and cost of food, fuel and transport. For example, WFP’s current operational costs are, on average, 27 per cent higher than before the COVID-19 pandemic, with highest impact observed in countries such as Nigeria, South Sudan and Syria.⁹⁰

84. FAO/WFP, *Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook*

85. FAO/WFP, *Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook*; UN OCHA, *Sudan Situation Report – 12 November 2023*

86. FAO/WFP, *Hunger Hotspots – early warnings on acute food insecurity: November 2023- April 2024 outlook*; UN OCHA, *Sudan Situation Report – 12 November 2023*

87. FAO, *State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023*, (SOFI), p. 12

88. Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2023 (GERC)*, p. 8

89. Food Security Information Network, *Global Report on Food Crises 2023 (GERC)*, p. 13

90. Estimates provided by WFP directly



Ending the hunger crisis will require political solutions to end conflict, funding at scale and the strong collaboration of development and humanitarian actors, with both working side by side in the most fragile contexts. While more than 79 per cent of humanitarian funding goes to countries with food crises, only 33 per cent of

development funding and a fraction of climate financing is spent in food crises countries. Greater investment in disaster risk reduction, resilience and anticipatory action could also bring increased efficiencies, with the benefits outweighing costs by two to five times, or more in some cases.⁹¹

AID IN ACTION

Placing women and girls at the heart of efforts to fight hunger



Bulengo displacement site, DRC: A woman tends to her cabbage crops in a small garden adjacent to her shelter. OCHA/Francis Mweze

There is a clear link between gender equality, poverty and hunger and one cannot be addressed without the other. Women make up most of the workforce in agriculture, accounting for between 40

to 80 per cent of the workforce. For example, in the Sahel women constitute 40 per cent of the labour in agricultural production, 80 per cent in processing and 70 per cent in distribution.¹

However, on average, only 15 per cent of land is owned by women and they have limited access to capital, training, inputs and equipment. On average, women receive only 10 per cent of total aid for agriculture, forestry and fishing. Yet, closing the gender gap in key sectors could lift up to 150 million people out of hunger and add trillions to the world economy.² By investing in women - including by supporting the participation and leadership of women-led organizations in the food security sector - there would be a multiplier effect benefiting not only women, but also their families, communities and countries.

1. OCHA, *OCHA Discussion Paper: Gendered drivers, risks and impacts of food insecurity in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa*, 10 November 2023
2. UNDP, *The climate promise: What does gender equality have to do with climate change?*, 28 February 2023



*Bedaka, CAR:
Georges has
welcomed more than
20 displaced people
into his home.
OCHA/Virginie Bero*

Forced displacement at record levels as a cause and consequence of increased need

More people are displaced now than since the beginning of the century. By September 2023, over 114 million people were estimated to have been forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, violence and human rights violations, with the conflict in Sudan accounting for the largest share of the increase.⁹² More than 1 in 73 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced with 88 per cent of them in low- and middle-income countries. A decade ago, in 2014, the ratio of forcibly displaced persons was 1 in 124 people i.e., the ratio nearly doubled in ten years. Most people who are forced to flee their homes never cross an international border,

with just 10 countries accounting for more than three-quarters of all internally displaced persons (IDPs).⁹³

The number of refugees grew to a record high of 36.4 million by mid-2023.⁹⁴ More than half of all refugees came from just three countries, Afghanistan (6.1 million people), Syria (6.5 million people) and Ukraine (5.9 million people).⁹⁵ Forty per cent of all global refugees were children and nearly 2 million children were born as refugees between 2018 and 2022. An estimated 23.3 million refugees and other

92. UNHCR, 2023 [Mid-year trends report](#), published October 2023. Figure on refugees includes refugees under UNRWA and UNHCR mandate as well as statistical projections. The most recent breakdown of confirmed figures available was for June 2023, which includes 62.5 million internally displaced persons (per IDMC data as of end 2022), 36.4 million refugees, 6.1 million asylum seekers and 5.3 million other people in need of international protection.

93. UNHCR, 2023 [Mid-year trends report](#), published October 2023

94. UNHCR, 2023 [Mid-year trends report](#), published October 2023

95. UNHCR, 2023 [Mid-year trends report](#), published October 2023



people in need of international protection were living in protracted situations at the end of 2022, 7.1 million more than the previous year.⁹⁶

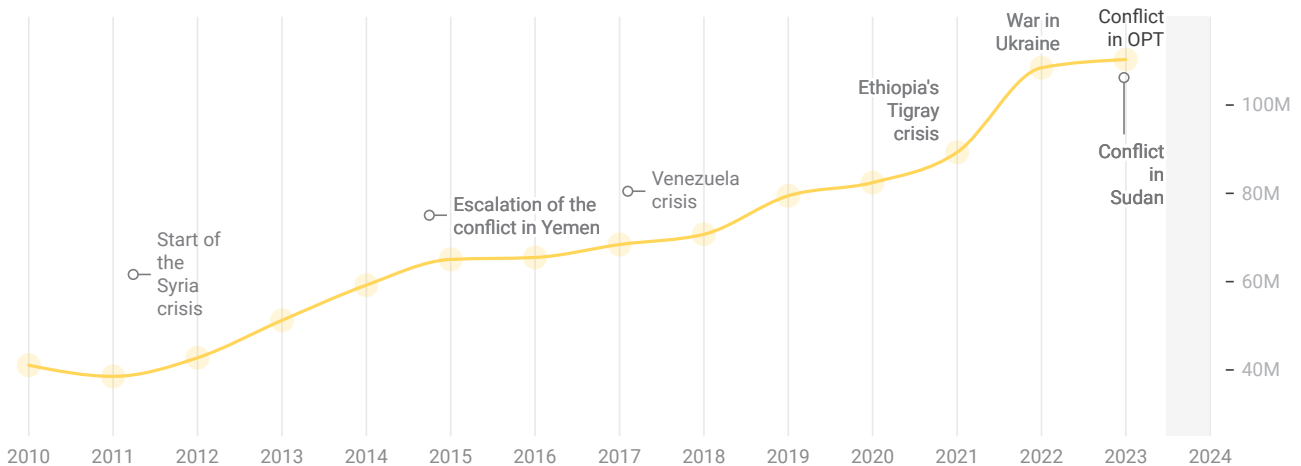
Conflict will continue to be the primary driver of internal displacement. Internal displacement reached its highest ever level at the end of 2022, with 71.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) around the globe, representing a 20 per cent increase in a year (the largest year-on-year increase since 2013). This includes 62.5 million people displaced by conflict and violence and 8.7 million displaced by natural disasters.⁹⁷ The current estimates for Sudan – 6.3 million people displaced in 2023 since the conflict that began in April 2023 – have resulted in the largest internal displacement crisis globally.⁹⁸ Out of these figure, more than 1 million refugees, asylum-seekers and migrant and refugee returnees have crossed the border into neighbouring countries, including Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan.⁹⁹ With new or resurging conflict in CAR, Mali, DRC and OPT, among others, the number of internally displaced people will no doubt continue to climb in 2024.

Displaced people, especially women and girls, are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse.

Forcibly displaced women and girls continue to face a heightened risk of **gender-based violence** in Ukraine, countries in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and elsewhere. Women and girls represent approximately half of all people displaced across borders. While violence against women and girls occurs at an alarming rate, forcibly displaced women living in humanitarian crisis and armed conflict are at an even more heightened risk: it is estimated that 1 in 5 have been subjected to sexual violence, and that displacement may increase the risk of intimate partner violence by 20 per cent.¹⁰⁰ In eastern DRC, displacement, increased food insecurity and lack of basic services is creating an alarming protection crisis. As of September 2023, more than 56,000 cases of GBV have been documented since the beginning of the year.¹⁰¹ In Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Yemen, food insecurity increased the risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and child and forced marriage.¹⁰² In resettlement centers in Mozambique, water scarcity meant that women and girls faced greater risks of sexual violence as they walked long distances in the dark to fetch water.¹⁰³

People forced to flee worldwide (2010 - mid-2023)

By mid-2023, the overall number of forcibly displaced people worldwide had risen to an estimated 110 million. This is primarily due to the war in Ukraine and other escalating emergencies. This does not include the recent displacement in Gaza.

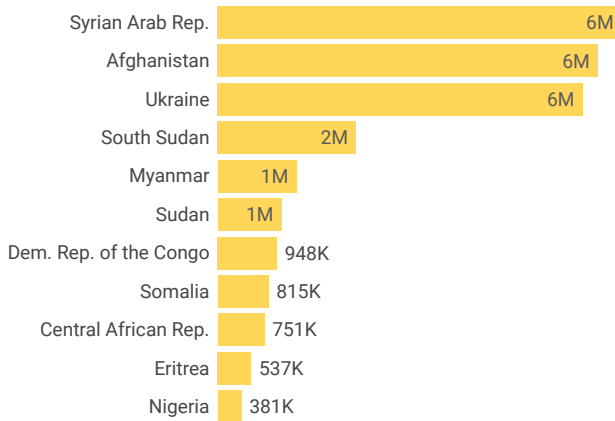


96. UNHCR, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022*, p. 22. Protracted situations are defined as those where more than 25,000 refugees from the same country of origin have been in exile in a given low- or middle-income host country for at least five consecutive years.
 97. IDMC, *Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2023*
 98. The estimates for Sudan include 5.1 million IDPs since April and 1.2 million refugees (data as of 23 November 2023). UN OCHA, *Sudan Humanitarian Update – 23 November 2023*; IOM, *DTM Sudan Weekly Displacement Snapshot 10, 14 November 2023*
 99. UNHCR, *Sudan Situation* – 27 September 2023 update
 100. World Bank, *Forced Displacement and Violence Against Women: A Policy Brief*, 12 December 2021
 101. OCHA, *Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu - Overview of the humanitarian situation*, 30 September 2023
 102. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, *S/2023/345*, p.7
 103. Report of the UN Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, *S/2023/345*, p.15



The highest number of refugees by country of origin (mid-2023)

As of mid-2023, the countries with the highest number of refugees are all from GHO countries.



Despite some positive progress, **durable solutions remain out of reach for the vast majority of people who are displaced – but there are international concerted efforts to improve collective action to reach durable solutions.**

In 2022, 6 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, including 5.7 million IDPs and 339,300 refugees and an additional 114,300 refugees were resettled. This is double the figure from the previous year and a return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels.¹⁰⁴ Following the 2022 launch of the Secretary General’s Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement is piloting comprehensive approaches to government- and development-led solutions strategies in 15 focus countries. The Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) has commissioned an independent review¹⁰⁵ to examine current practice and provide actionable recommendations on how humanitarian responses can best meet and respond to the key needs of IDPs and their host communities.

AID IN ACTION

Sudan – a generational catastrophe looms with 19 million children out of school and an immediate protection crisis



Mayo Village, Khartoum, Sudan: Girl students attend class at Umhani Primary School. More than 300 girls aged between 6 and 12 years are enrolled at the school. UNICEF/Adriana Zehbrauskas

The conflict in Sudan is having far reaching consequences – risking a whole generation of children missing out on schooling. Six months after the start of the conflict (October 2023), 19 million children are out of school, the equivalent to 1 in every 3 children in the country. Of this total, 6.5 million have lost access to school due to increased

violence and insecurity in their region, with many of them being displaced from their homes, and at least 10,400 schools shuttering in conflict-affected areas. Meanwhile, over 5.5 million children who reside in areas less impacted by war are waiting for local authorities to confirm whether classrooms can be reopened. Even before the conflict erupted in April 2023, nearly 7 million children were already out of school in a country grappling with poverty and instability. If children in Sudan are unable to go back to school, this will leave them exposed to immediate and long-term dangers, including displacement, recruitment by armed groups and sexual violence. For many children, losing access to school also means the loss of other critical services, such as nutrition, healthcare and psychosocial support. In addition to the immediate impact and risk of discontinuing education, the earning loss, if not tackled urgently, could result in a net lifetime loss of US\$ 26 billion for this conflict-impacted generation of children.¹

1. UNICEF, Save the Children, 19 million children in Sudan out of school as conflict rages on, 9 October 2023

104. UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2022, p. 3

105. The Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement is expected to be published by the end of 2023. In the meantime, further information can be found in the [Background Note](#).



SECTION 2

Delivering Better

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Dosso, Niger:
Discussions take place to identify priorities and activities with community members, WFP and multiple partners from NGOs governments and academia, as part of a training of trainers initiative. WFP/
Richard Mbouet

As local as possible: progress in making localization in humanitarian action a reality

The participation of local and national actors in humanitarian coordination structures

Engaging local and national actors (L/NAs)¹⁰⁶ is critical to the success of humanitarian action. L/NAs are often the first responders and at the heart of humanitarian response. They provide an invaluable understanding of local challenges and potential solutions, and they can mobilize local networks and offer greater access to affected populations. They contribute to both empower local communities as rights holders and to a more effective, efficient and sustainable humanitarian response with enhanced connections and accountability to the community which is being served. The participation and leadership of L/NAs in

humanitarian response mechanisms, reflecting affected people in all their diversities, is key to ensuring a response is adapted to the local context.

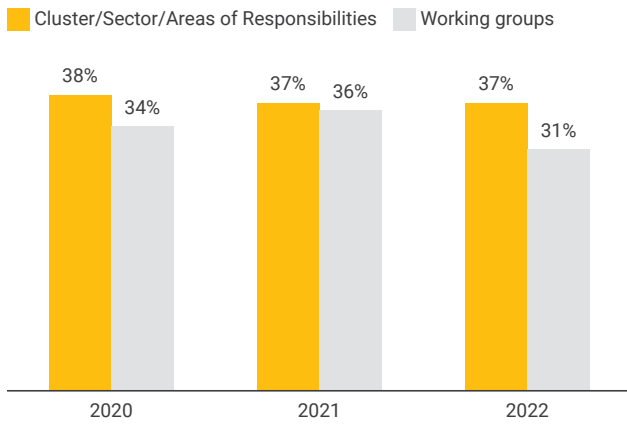
Progress was tracked through the annual mapping of IASC coordination structures covering 30 locations¹⁰⁷ during 2022, with over 2,360 coordination structures mapped at national and subnational levels. There has been an increasing level of participation across many humanitarian coordination structures, but more remains to be done in terms of facilitating L/NAs' leadership of these structures.

106. According to IASC guidance, this category includes the following entities where represented: national and local authorities, national NGOs and consortiums, national Red Cross/Crescent Societies, and national private sector.

107. The mapping covers 29 humanitarian operations, but one has two locations (Syria)

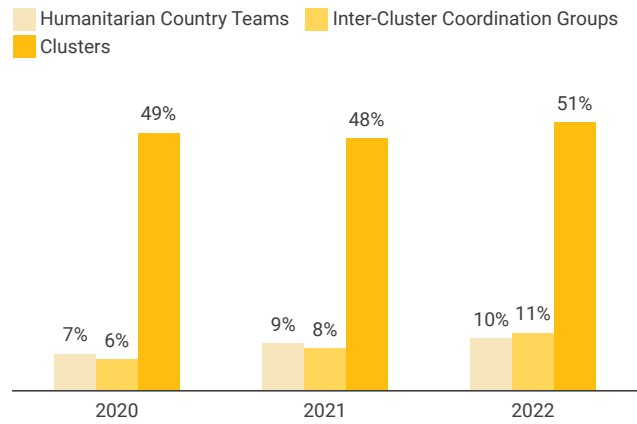


Percentage of clusters, sectors, areas of responsibility with local/national actors in leadership roles globally



L/NAs participated in the full range of humanitarian coordination mechanisms at both the national and the operational levels. They served as members of Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs), co-chaired Clusters, participated in Strategic Advisory Groups, thematic working groups and contributed to advancing operational response on inter-cluster coordination groups (ICCGs). L/NAs were present in 83 per cent of HCTs in 2022.¹⁰⁸ They also increased their share of seats on HCTs, accounting for 10 per cent of all HCT membership (up from 9 per cent the previous year). In 2022, the number of L/NAs among members of HCTs increased in Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Somalia and Syria-Gaziantep.

Percentage of total members who are local/national actors globally



L/NAs participated in 56 per cent of Inter-Cluster Coordination Groups (ICCGs) – a notable increase from 33 per cent in 2021. Globally, L/NAs constituted 5 per cent of total ICCG membership in 2022 (up from 3 per cent in 2021).¹⁰⁹ Across national-level clusters, sectors and areas of responsibility (AoRs), L/NAs’ membership increased slightly to approximately 51 per cent of the total numbers of cluster/sector/AoR members globally – a 3 per cent increase compared to 2021. L/NAs were present on 95 per cent of Strategic Advisory Groups (SAG), making up over 35 per cent of SAG membership.

Normative developments in 2023

Humanitarian donors and members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) recognize the vital role played by local and national actors in humanitarian response. In October 2022, the IASC endorsed [Guidance on the provision of overheads to local and national partners, to overcome challenges in the provision of funding to cover overheads](#) i.e. expenditures outside of normal programming, which are necessary for organizations to deliver on their mandate and ensure their sustainability. In March 2023, the Grand Bargain caucus on funding for localization – a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations – put forward [key recommendations](#) relating to the funding

of L/NAs. Signatories agreed (i) on how to measure funding going to L/NAs; (ii) to report all funding to L/NAs through publicly available platforms (notably, the Financial Tracking Service) and; (iii) to develop individual roadmaps for when and how they will meet target of channeling 25 per cent of total humanitarian funding to L/NAs.

A [collective monitoring and accountability framework](#) was also published by the Grand Bargain caucus in May 2023, which will enhance the ability to compare data on funding and identify the channels and amounts of funding reaching L/NAs from all donors. In a positive development, donors such as the EU and USAID have recently developed donor localization strategies and internal guidance.

108. Presence or participation in a coordination mechanism denotes attendance at meetings, partaking in assessments, workshops, etc. Membership denotes being a formal constituent of a group and being involved in decisions about governance, providing directions for assessments and plans, etc.

109. ICCG membership largely reflects cluster leadership – if in a given country there are no local actors leading clusters, sectors or areas of responsibility (AoRs), then likely there will be no national NGO members within the ICCG unless the ICCG decides to allocate a specific seat to local or national NGOs.



AID IN ACTION

The value of local women-led organizations in humanitarian coordination



Nairobi, Kenya: Anna Tazita Samuel (left), Executive Director of WFC, and Yusra Ali (right), Director of ADA, pictured during a workshop on resource mobilization. Trócaire/Amina Ahmed

Clusters, sectors and AoRs benefit when there is broad and diverse leadership by L/NAs as they can bring a unique perspective, reach and experience. Local women-led and women-rights organizations (WLOs/WROs) are crucial actors in humanitarian responses across contexts. Women civil society organizations have deeply rooted trust in affected communities and ensure that humanitarian assistance equitably reaches people in need.

Trócaire and the GBV AoR, have partnered with WLOs to support their leadership of GBV coordination mechanisms.¹ For example, in Somalia's Gedo region, (ADA) has been key in enhancing coordination among GBV actors particularly in remote and hard-to-reach locations, and it has helped enhance survivor-centred service provision.

In South Sudan's Warrap State, Women for Change (WFC) has taken a proactive role in steering the GBV sub-cluster, focusing on robust community

outreach and advocacy. WFC led key initiatives including radio talk shows and mobilizing local actors to participate in events such as the International Day of the Girl Child and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

Both ADA and WFC co-chair local-level GBV coordination structures under the cluster system. By prioritizing local insights and adopting context-specific strategies, these organizations have contributed to a more participatory, inclusive and effective response to GBV in their respective regions, signifying the impactful shift toward local leadership in crisis contexts.²

Local WLOs are increasing their engagement and participation in humanitarian decision-making within HCTs. The Women's Advisory Groups to the HCTs in Afghanistan (established in 2021) and the cross-border Syria operation (established in 2022) have both provided guidance to HCTS.

1. Participatory Action Research was conducted to accompany this process resulting in the *Women-led Organizations: Leadership in GBV Coordination Resource Package*, Trócaire: 2023.
2. For more information on their activities, see Active in Development (<https://adasom.org>) and Women for Change (<https://www.wfcsud.org>)



AID IN ACTION

Strengthening the voice and leadership of local actors in humanitarian settings



Pasto, Nariño, Colombia: Women NGO leaders at the launch of the Women's Voice and Leadership in Humanitarian Settings initiative. GENFAMI

The Women's Voice and Leadership in Humanitarian Settings initiative aims to strengthen the voices and leadership of **women-led organizations (WLOs)** in humanitarian planning and decision making through capacity sharing, learning and supporting grant-making. The initiative is currently led by WLOs in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal, with CARE's support. A baseline study developed for this initiative identified shortfalls in utilizing the capacities and knowledge of WLOs at the onset and throughout crises. To address this, the initiative selected 60 WLOs for capacity strengthening and technical support. This resulted in WLOs actively participating in cluster systems and emergency responses.

In a similar vein to the Women's Voice and Leadership in Humanitarian Settings initiative, in Nepal, [CARE](#) has promoted a locally led, gender-responsive emergency preparedness and humanitarian response by forging equitable partnerships with local organizations since 2021.

Nepal is vulnerable to large-scale disasters such as earthquakes and it also faces small to midsize disasters due to climate change, perpetuating poverty cycles for vulnerable groups, especially women.

In its pilot phase, [CARE Nepal's](#) Humanitarian Partnership Platform is convening and engaging local civil society humanitarian actors with diverse expertise and legacies. This initiative provides a comprehensive, coordinated, accelerated, inclusive response to localize disaster risk management policies and mechanisms, to avoid fragmented community responses. The Humanitarian Partnership Platform sprang into action on 3 November 2023, after a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Jajarkot and Rukum Districts of Karnali Province in Nepal, causing widespread damage. Through the Platform, and in coordination with local authorities, partners assessed the needs of those affected to provide immediate relief. [CARE Nepal dispatched](#) a first round of support relief supplies including blankets, shelter kits, dignity kits, and kitchen utensils, which would benefit 250 households.



Empowering local actors through pooled funds

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) continue to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches the most affected by humanitarian crises. These funds provide coherent and timely responses, support to in-field coordination and they reinforce the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs). By mid-October 2023, the Funds had allocated a total of US\$1.5 billion to assist people most in need.

Localization, in line with humanitarian response and coordination systems, remains a key priority for the Pooled Funds, emphasizing support for frontline responders and women-led organizations. The CBPF Global Guidelines, revised in 2022 and re-launched in 2023, reaffirm the importance of advancing localization as a main aim of the CBPFs. The Guidelines ensure a coherent and harmonized approach to the governance and operations of the CBPFs, they outline provisions on the quantity and quality of funding to be disbursed to L/NAs as well as for the engagement of local entities in governance and supporting the capacity development and visibility of L/NAs who are recipients of the funds.

Over the past two years, CBPFs have significantly increased support for local and national partners. By October 2023, 43 per cent of all funding from the CBPFs had been channeled to local and national partners, a continued increase from previous years, and surpassing the 25 per cent global benchmark set at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit.

Although CERF can only directly fund UN agencies/ organizations, the Fund plays an important role in enabling localization. CERF allocation strategies are jointly developed by UN agencies and NGOs, and CERF funding is implemented through partnerships between UN agencies/organizations and NGOs. During the 2022 and 2023 allocations of the CERF Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) window, the Emergency Response Coordinator encouraged UN country teams to strengthen engagement with national and local partners on the design and implementation of CERF funding. Resident Coordinators/ Humanitarian Coordinators were also encouraged to set ambitious targets for CERF UFE funding to be sub-granted to national and local organizations. As a result, recent UFE rounds have seen about a quarter of funding being sub-granted to national and local partners instead of the overall average of around 15 per cent.

In 2021, CERF issued an \$25 million multi-country, multi-year block grant to UN Women and UNFPA to strengthen GBV prevention, mitigation and response in humanitarian action. The block grant concluded in 2023. The GBV-focused allocation specifically focused on the empowerment of local WLOs/WROs, who were



Bentiu IDP Site, South Sudan: Nyekuol Kun Jok, 40, outside her restaurant. She was displaced due to floods and lives in an IDP site. With support from UNHCR through CERF she started a restaurant where she earns a daily profit of 10,000 SSP. She is able to meet her basic needs and also to employ 3 people. OCHA

to receive a minimum of 30 per cent of all funds as implementing partners. This target was exceeded in the implementation. The grant was also unique in that it built in a learning envelope to support capacity development of fund recipients. The Pooled Funds continue to actively work on increasing the funding to local WLOs, and to ensure their representation on the Humanitarian Funds' advisory boards. In 2023, countries with at least one WLO represented in their respective advisory board included Afghanistan, CAR, DRC, Lebanon, Myanmar, OPT, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen.

AID IN ACTION**ToGETHER programme – localization in practice**

Kurigram, Bangladesh: The Association For Alternative Development (AFAD) leads a community consultation on the provision of adolescent and women-friendly spaces after disasters. AFAD/Am Kamal Uddin

While participation of L/NAs in formal IASC coordination structures is important to ensure linkages with international actors, it is just as important to have peer-led spaces for collaboration with and between L/NAs, to ensure they learn from each other especially as these networks will be present in a country long after international actors depart. The **ToGETHER** program, running in numerous countries, creates opportunities to promote local humanitarian actors and advocate for their leadership role in community response. In Bangladesh, the Association for Alternative Development (AFAD), a women-led NGO, supports vulnerable communities, focusing on women and youth. The **ToGETHER** program has enabled AFAD to participate in coordination mechanisms and improve resources for small-scale humanitarian response, providing cash assistance, shelter, non-food items, protection and food security. AFAD, in turn, also supports the inclusion of local actors in UN and INGO coordination structures.

Through the program, local actors are also becoming ambassadors of localization in their countries. In Colombia, humanitarian partners have

established a collaborative workspace, culminating in the first ever Congress of Localized Humanitarian Action in Colombia in 2022, which also recently saw its second expanded edition for Latin America and the Caribbean. Today, the program partners participate in various coordination mechanisms at national level, carrying out discussion with donors, the national government and INGOs. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, **ToGETHER** partners collaborated with regional NGO leaders to create a single coordinating body for local and national NGOs, the National Council of Humanitarian and Development Forums in the DRC (CONAFOHD). In Indonesia, **ToGETHER** helped to initiate the localization forum LokaNusa, which conducts monthly discussions on a range of localization and Grand Bargain-related topics. Within five months of its establishment, over 50 civil society organizations joined LokaNusa. The forum has established strong partnerships with the National Disaster Management Agency, OCHA and the Disaster Risk Reduction Forum, promoting information sharing and local actor participation in humanitarian coordination.



*Far North Region,
Cameroon:
A psychosocial
support session
takes place with GBV
survivors. OCHA/
Bibiane Mouangue*

Collaboration and cohesion: towards better integration of accountability to affected people and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

Humanitarian actors demonstrate accountability to affected people (AAP) through the committed and responsible use of the power entrusted to them. This approach holds humanitarian actors accountable, by taking account of and giving account to people affected by crisis. AAP recognizes that affected people and communities are equal participants in the decision-making processes that drive humanitarian action.

Accountability is underpinned by community engagement. It reinforces the participation of diverse community groups, assessing their preferred and most accessible communication channels and provides systematic feedback

opportunities to course-correct humanitarian action accordingly. Accountability is also underpinned by the centrality of protection – taking a “do no harm” approach which includes safeguarding affected people from all forms of exploitation and abuse by humanitarian actors. This includes protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), one of the most serious forms of harm and breaches of accountability. PSEA continues to disproportionately affect women and girls due to unequal power relations and deeply rooted gender inequalities.



AID IN ACTION

Community radio stations and listening kiosks in the Central African Republic



Bria, Central African Republic: A listening kiosk where communities can download life-saving information and submit feedback or complaints about the humanitarian assistance provided in their community. OCHA/Isabella Leyh

Nearly half of the population in Central African Republic (CAR) is in need of humanitarian aid, a reality driven by instability due to armed confrontations, natural disasters and insufficient investment in socio-economic infrastructure. Despite the presence of over 1,000 feedback mechanisms across the country, only 27 per cent of aid recipients know how to use them.¹ This is due to lack of information and an overreliance on mechanisms like suggestion boxes, which are not in line with community preferences on how to submit complaints.

With the technical support of the interagency AAP working group, the Humanitarian Country Team in CAR, created a collective AAP service to help bolster community engagement. As part of this service, an information service network was set-up in collaboration with community radio stations to provide life-saving information as well as an avenue for community members to voice unmet needs and concerns. The service also includes collective inter-agency feedback mechanisms, such as centers for information and feedback, listening clubs and feedback kiosks. These were introduced

following research² which shows that communities have a preference for face-to-face interaction when sharing concerns.

At these feedback centres, trained agents use customer relationship management software, also used in the private sector, to confidentially record complaints and feedback from displaced people on tablets. Once connected to the internet, the information is automatically transmitted to the relevant humanitarian organizations, significantly speeding up the response process. In 2023, a mobile approach was piloted in CAR to reach marginalized and hard-to-access populations. Out of nearly 8,000 comments collected by the digital platform in 2022 and 2023, 78 per cent were resolved and 22 per cent are still in progress.

Efforts have been made to include all members of the community in feedback mechanisms with women accounting for over 50 per cent of the user base.³ To ensure the future sustainability of these community-led services, different activities are being considered to generate income. These will help finance the participation of volunteers who run the systems, ensuring that the services can continue beyond the project's current end date.

1. Based on data from the CAR Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2023
2. The CAR MSNA indicates that nearly 60 per cent of respondents prefer to provide feedback/share concerns in community meetings. An earlier report by Ground Truth Solutions and UNICEF had similar findings: more than half (62 per cent) of aid recipients preferred to provide feedback in person to humanitarians.
3. OCHA, Central African Republic: Giving a voice to those affected by conflict, 7 June 2023



Twin earthquakes struck Türkiye and northwest Syria on 6 February 2023, causing 55,000 deaths and displacing millions. These earthquakes worsened the existing vulnerabilities caused by decades of armed conflict in northwest Syria. A lack of adequate funding to meet the increased humanitarian needs pushed more people into poverty and increased their vulnerabilities.

In such a situation, the fragmented response and concentration of assistance in the hands of a few humanitarian actors increases the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud, corruption and aid diversion. To mitigate these risks, a collective approach was prioritized by the cross-border humanitarian leadership for north-west Syria. The approach aimed to deliver a more accountable humanitarian response by developing an action plan which **focused on listening to affected people**, responding to their needs in an effective, inclusive and dignified manner and timely and sensitive communications with them. The existing PSEA hotline, operational since 2019 in northwest Syria, was expanded as part of the action plan, to include all types of feedback and complaints. This also allowed for the hotline to address an increase in the number of calls from affected community members enquiring about the availability of humanitarian assistance.

The expanded hotline provides a “one-stop-shop” for communities to gain information about the availability of humanitarian assistance and services. It acts as a mechanism for reporting SEA, fraud, corruption, protection concerns and to collect community feedback about ongoing humanitarian services, which can be used to improve programming.

Staff who work on the hotline prepare regular statistical reports, which are shared with senior advisors and humanitarian leadership to inform high-level decision-making. Capacity for the hotline was boosted by re-training existing staff and hiring of new staff who collectively re-examined the digital platform and developed new standard operating procedures and referral pathways. Affected communities and humanitarian partners were also informed about the availability of the expanded hotline.

Community-based feedback committees were established to gather and convey face-to-face feedback, enabling affected people to share their reactions onto the humanitarian response and to report concerns and complaints. The referral system was expanded to ensure that all complaints, not only those that relate to SEA and other forms of GBV, were referred to the appropriate service providers and clusters for timely follow-up. Transforming the PSEA hotline into an inclusive, collective feedback mechanism, establishing community-based feedback committees and expanding the referral system were three important steps towards strengthened collective accountability and transparency within the humanitarian community in this context. A monthly complaints and feedback analysis was implemented, aiming to ensure that community voices were adequately heard. This response demonstrated how harmonizing AAP and PSEA platforms can bolster positive community engagement, ensuring that people source timely information and report concerns, leading to a more respectful, dignified, and accountable delivery of aid.



AID IN ACTION

Revamping the PSEA structure in Afghanistan



Daikundi, Afghanistan: Groups of men and women meet separately for focus group discussions during an AAP and PSEA mission. UNFPA/Afghanistan PSEA Network

In Afghanistan, the Taliban de facto Authorities' takeover in 2021 changed the humanitarian and development landscape drastically. Heightened protection risks to women and girls associated with a highly restrictive rights environment and diminished access to assistance and services – especially after the bans on Afghan women working for national and international NGOs and the UN were announced by the de-facto authorities in December 2022 and April 2023 respectively – have augmented the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). The Humanitarian Country Team responded to the changing context by boosting and expanding the existing PSEA Task Force into an inclusive and wide-ranging PSEA Network that actively engages UN, NGOs, and CSOs as equal partners. A strategic oversight body was introduced and a full-time PSEA Coordinator was deployed. Ad-hoc working groups were formalized, and the operationalization of the PSEA programme at sub-national levels was made a priority.

The newly established Afghanistan PSEA Network conducted a mapping of focal points, reporting mechanisms, victim support, capacity, gaps and needs. This activity boosted network membership from 12 to 142 entities within two months. The PSEA Network joined forces with the accountability to affected people (AAP) Working Group to conduct quarterly assessments with affected community members on PSEA issues related to awareness, access, reporting preferences, and risks.

A helpline was established to provide guidance on inter-agency standard operating procedures on processing and recording SEA, victim support and gender-based violence/child protection referral pathways in local languages. Activities included PSEA information campaigns with video animations, monthly safety and wellbeing sessions for focal points, a partnership with the UN radio programme, a training package on the [UN Victim Assistance Protocol](#). Four regional PSEA and AAP sub-working groups were also established.



Myanmar: A woman with disability feeds her elderly mother at an IDP site in Kachin. WFP/ Naing Linn Shwe

Towards more inclusive humanitarian action

In a humanitarian crisis, all individuals are at risk, but marginalized or groups with specific needs are often more vulnerable to discrimination, threats, exploitation and often are harder to reach. The vulnerabilities people experience in crises do not just happen. Rather, they are the result of current and historical processes of neglect, marginalization, discrimination, stigmatization and deeply rooted inequalities for women and girls, children and youth, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, older persons, displaced persons and migrants, persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, indigenous peoples, persons living in detention, the urban poor and rural communities. The risks these people

face compound when they have intersecting considerations, such as older age and a disability.

Concurrent and overlapping crises, including climate change, slow economic growth, insecurity, conflict, health threats and a fragmented geopolitical landscape, mean that the poor, the marginalized and those suffering from structural inequities are set to suffer the most. Ensuring that quality, dignified aid reaches all those who need it, based on their expressed priorities and preferences, is a constant challenge for humanitarians in a fragmented and competitive geopolitical landscape with difficult operating environments, especially when faced with financial resource constraints.

AID-IN ACTION

Somalia - amplifying the voice and contribution of marginalized groups in humanitarian response and decision-making



Nasiib Door IDP site, Baidoa, Southwest State, Somalia: Tools are provided to a cash-for-work programme, which has trained 30 internally displaced persons in maintenance activities to improve hygiene and sanitation at the site. OCHA/Yao Chen

Making humanitarian action inclusive means both ensuring that minority groups are appropriately targeted in the response and that their voices and contributions are included in decision-making. In Somalia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has carried out regular monitoring and reporting to raise awareness and promote the protection of the rights of minorities and persons with disabilities, and establish a baseline for minority rights in the country. A 2021 protection assessment underpinning the 2022 centrality of protection strategy of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) revealed crucial gaps in the humanitarian response, including exclusion based on disability, ethnicity and minority clan affiliation. The HCT and clusters used the assessment to recalibrate their assistance strategy in drought and conflict-affected areas – including through the launch of the Minimum Response Package in June 2022.¹ These efforts were further guided and informed by the mapping of minorities developed by OHCHR to ensure that appropriate levels of assistance were targeted towards marginalized groups and minorities. These efforts also led the HCT to extend its membership to minority-led civil

society organizations, ensuring that the voices of minorities are represented at the decision-making table.

In addition, through mentorship and capacity-building initiatives, OHCHR has contributed to the empowerment of civil society organizations to advocate for their rights and have their concerns addressed. With the help technical assistance of OHCHR in Somalia, the HCT identified organizations that are led by and/or support the rights of persons with disabilities. This work also facilitated partnerships during the drought response. OHCHR also supported the work of the National Disability Agency (NDA), including through capacity building and resource mobilization. In 2023, OHCHR's engagement with civil society organizations and the NDA, contributed to the mapping of specialized services available to persons with disabilities in Somalia by the Somali Disability Empowerment Network, and to the development of disability data collection and needs assessment surveys by the NDA. The surveys will contribute to establishing a baseline to identify gaps in analysis, policies and programmes and to inform advocacy to address those gaps.

1. IOM, [UN Agencies Expand Life-Saving Assistance for Displaced People in Response to Drought in Somalia](#), 16 June 2022



Historically, humanitarian response focused only distinct characteristics of discrimination, e.g. affiliation to an ethnic minority as a characteristic separate from gender expression, and, at the height of a complex emergency, inclusion has often been delayed as something to address later¹¹⁰. Recognizing that people experience crises in different yet interconnected ways, humanitarian response is shifting focus to address needs and also the denials of rights that so often drive them. This includes considering overlapping and intersecting forms of discrimination that can be experienced concurrently.

OCHA's strategic plan for 2023 – 2026 places particular focus on how to practically ensure this rebalance, including through a holistic people-centred coordination model. It acknowledges that the risk of exclusion from assistance and protection depends on context and community, requiring an approach that considers who is marginalized, the intersectionality of vulnerabilities and the barriers that may lead to further exclusion and vulnerability. The approach should also consider people's unique needs and priorities and subsequently tailor programmes to meet them and ensure their participation in decision-making. This less siloed, more integrated, flexible and effective response will place greater agency and flexibility in the hands of people most impacted by the crisis.

Arriving at this rebalancing is not an easy feat, as it requires the streamlining of cross-cutting issues which have – previously – been treated as stand-alone in order

to help their advancement and visibility. Examples of these cross-cutting issues are age, gender, disabilities, protection, localization and accountability to affected people. But the reality is that these issues, more often than not, feed into each other. Addressing them together - or more coherently - could help provide a more comprehensive, include, tailored response.

Achieving this holistic approach to inclusion will rely heavily on reliable and inclusive data, to understand who is in need, where they are, their demographics, what their needs are and what barriers may contribute to exclusion. For example, conflicts and disasters greatly affect vulnerable populations of migrants, yet gaps still exist in recording the number of migrants and analyzing their needs. Limited national data collection capacity and the mobility of migrants makes census data collection challenging, in addition to the concealed nature of irregular migration movements, further hinders data availability. Southern and East Africa and West and Central Africa register only 7 per cent and 3 per cent (respectively) of the total migrants in need in 2023 interagency response plans, despite the large presence of vulnerable migrants in countries such as Kenya, Mozambique or Nigeria. Having a complete picture – not just of migrants but of the affected community as a whole and their context – will help to ensure rigorous needs-based analysis and subsequently, what should be integrated into humanitarian response plans.

Cash: an inclusive mechanism for aid delivery

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in humanitarian action is a practical example of how to foster inclusiveness by addressing the diverse needs of affected populations in a more equitable and dignified manner. Cash, when provided with minimal restrictions, empowers affected individuals, including women and marginalized groups, to prioritize and make decisions based on their unique circumstances and priorities. It respects their agency and power of choice, ensuring that international humanitarian assistance aligns with their individual and changing needs.

CVA can increase accessibility to essential goods and services in a number of ways. It can be distributed in a way that can overcome barriers related to physical disabilities and geographical distance, ensuring that those who are often marginalized can access critical resources.

For example – recipients may access cash from multiple locations (such as ATMs, if available¹¹¹) instead of having to go to a distribution centre to collect a food basket. CVA can also be provided more discretely than physical goods, allowing for distribution to people who may be particularly vulnerable or at risk.

The provision of cash can help people rebuild their livelihoods and become self-reliant. This economic empowerment reduces dependency on aid and supports individuals as they reintegrate into their communities. The use of CVA is increasing in humanitarian action overall. In 2020, \$6.6 billion was disbursed as CVA. In 2022, this amount grew to \$10 billion, approximately a 50 per cent increase in only two years. However, the use of cash as a

110. HPG/ODI - Lough, Barbelet and Njeri, *Inclusion and exclusion in humanitarian action: findings from a three-year study*, July 2022

111. All aid distribution methods present some inherent challenges, for example, while ATMs may be readily available, there may also be physical barriers for people with disabilities or older persons, lack of access to banking or vendor requirements that exclude people. Cash – overall – provided through a context-appropriate distribution method, can be a powerful tool for inclusive aid.



proportion of humanitarian assistance is still minimal: in the same time period as above (2020 to 2022), there was only a 0.3 per cent increase.¹¹²

In order to maximise the opportunities for more inclusive cash assistance, the humanitarian community must ensure that affected people – particularly women and

persons with disabilities – have equitable access to financial services, financial education programmes and mobile phone ownership. These are critical ways to ensure rapid and inclusive distribution of CVA to the most vulnerable when crises occur.

AID IN ACTION

Cash as an enabler of GBV prevention and mitigation



Malicha Site, South Kivu, DRC: Akela Asseni, 35, was able to launch a fish trading business following cash assistance to displaced households at the IDP site where she lives. OCHA/Wassy Kambale

CVA can be a valuable tool for inclusion in addressing the needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings. It can support access to services, safety for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and it can be used to reduce GBV risks. CVA can also help to overcome economic barriers and is flexible and cost-effective, complementing existing humanitarian programs and bridging humanitarian and development efforts. As such, many of the actors working on GBV recommend using unrestricted cash assistance and integrating CVA in GBV case management approaches to complement other interventions. For example, to advance the use of cash assistance, in 2023 UNFPA released a guidance on designing [Cash Assistance for GBV Case Management](#).

While CVA is not inherently riskier than any other modality, like any other humanitarian assistance, measures should be in place to ensure that women and girls are not put at further risk. CVA program design should be context specific and based on consultations with women and girls. In Iraq, following the end of large-scale military operations in 2017, there was a decline in GBV as a weapon of war, but challenges remain. Emotional abuse, domestic violence, and harmful cultural practices still affect women in Iraq. Different forms of cash assistance have been crucial in supporting conflict-affected households. In 2022, humanitarian assistance in Iraq began phasing out, with government institutions and development actors taking over. Despite progress, social protection remains limited and humanitarian cash assistance continues to be vital for vulnerable populations – including for GBV concerns.

Drawing from field learning in situations such as Iraq and other places, the GBV Area of Responsibility and UNFPA developed a [GBV Risk Mitigation in CVA Toolkit](#) to help identify and mitigate potential GBV risk in cash programming and UNFPA published new indicators to integrate into cash assessments, monitoring or evaluations to better detect GBV risks to women receiving cash assistance.

112. CALP, *The State of the World's Cash 2023*, 15 November 2023



Unión Wounaan, Colombia: The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Joyce Msuya, joins a delegation visiting remote Unión Wounaan indigenous community to learn about their needs. The riverside community is one of many in the area that are suffering the consequences of an ongoing conflict between two rival armed groups. This conflict, coupled with the complex logistics required to reach Unión Wounaan and similar communities, have also contributed to longstanding humanitarian access challenges. OCHA/ Marc Belanger

Expanding the critical role of humanitarian diplomacy

Humanitarian diplomacy aims to achieve humanitarian goals through diplomatic means. Humanitarian diplomacy is the use of **high-level engagement to influence parties to armed conflicts and their sponsors to pursue humanitarian objectives**. It requires the nurturing of relationships at the highest level and is an important component of the Emergency Relief Coordinator's (ERC) vision for the future of humanitarian response.

As a way of addressing both long and short-term needs, humanitarian diplomacy can be used for different purposes, and is practiced at different levels by different individuals, from the ERC to IASC Principals, Heads of Offices, Humanitarian Coordinators and others. It can be used to help mobilize influence over actors that are impeding humanitarian access, including state actors and non-state armed groups and to raise protection concerns or respond to global humanitarian issues.

The humanitarian community as a practitioner of humanitarian diplomacy

The humanitarian sector faces an increasingly challenging environment, including the multiplication of state and non-state actors, with 175 million people believed to live under the control of armed groups.¹¹³ Increased bureaucratic and administrative impediments,

the rise of new geo-political players and restrictive policies such as sanctions and counterterrorism measures also contribute to a significant restriction of humanitarian space and a more politicized and polarized operating environment. Now more than ever,

113. ICRC, *ICRC engagement with armed groups in 2022*, 10 January 2023



humanitarians need to find new ways of constructively engaging and positively influencing actors with the potential to positively impact the humanitarian space. This is where humanitarian diplomacy offers a valuable tool, bolstering the ability and leverage to address humanitarian challenges.

For humanitarian diplomacy to succeed, the right conditions must be in place:

- Understanding of the geopolitical landscape and actors
- Identification of opportunities for agreements
- An established and solid network of relevant contacts that can be mobilized in support of negotiations.
- An important and non-negotiable point – humanitarian principles must be respected
- Ability to leverage the humanitarian community's relationships with itself and with other actors to ensure that these relationships are used in pursuit of the same, shared humanitarian goals

Humanitarian diplomacy is also dependent on circumstances outside of the control of the humanitarian community for example the willingness of conflict parties to negotiate in good faith, and their ability to ensure that their own constituencies are unified. This means that humanitarian diplomacy does not always work – however the process can still help lay the foundations for future successes such as attaining a humanitarian pause or other shared humanitarian goals.

The humanitarian community is engaged in humanitarian diplomacy in many contexts.

- In **Afghanistan**, following the Taliban takeover, the ERC actively engaged in humanitarian diplomacy with the Taliban leadership, and advocating for humanitarian principles, access to education for women and lifting bans facing Afghan female aid workers in Afghanistan.
- In **Syria**, communication channels have been established between the ERC and national authorities, allowing for high-level strategic dialogue.
- An IASC Principals humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy pilot is currently underway, which complements the ongoing efforts of the ERC and other stakeholders in the humanitarian system. The initiative aims to strengthen collective engagements that could influence both the circumstances and actors impacting principled humanitarian response in **Burkina Faso and Haiti**.

In many of these examples, humanitarian diplomacy is in its infancy and space remains for the humanitarian community to broaden efforts and find new forms of leverage that can have a positive effect on decision-makers and humanitarian objectives. Past experiences demonstrate the enormous benefits when the humanitarian community, Member States and other stakeholders align and commit to advancing humanitarian diplomacy.

New York, USA: The UN Security Council meets on the situation in Syria. Photo/Eskinde Debebe





AID IN ACTION

The Black Sea Grain Initiative – humanitarian diplomacy to address food insecurity



Baranove, Odeska oblast, Ukraine: Farmer Volodymyr Vasyliovyc, benefited from the Black Sea Grain Initiative - a UN-promoted deal between the parties to the conflict to reopen Ukrainian ports and establish safe corridors for maritime traffic. OCHA/Matteo Minasi

The negotiations leading to the signing of the **Black Sea Initiative** by the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Ukraine on 22 July 2022 demonstrated the ability of humanitarian diplomacy to deliver positive humanitarian outcomes at the global level whilst leveraging commercial incentives. The war in Ukraine and the interruption of exports passing through the country's Black Sea ports came as global food prices were already spiraling due to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on international supply chains. FAO's Food Price Index reached a record high in March 2022.

The implications for crisis-affected countries dependent on food imports were of great concern to the humanitarian community. The Black Sea Initiative and the parallel memorandum of understanding on the facilitation of food and

fertilizer exports from the Russian Federation contributed to a sustained stabilization of markets and an easing of prices. Over a 12-month period, the Black Sea Initiative enabled the safe transportation of close to 33 million metric tons of foodstuffs aboard more than 1,000 outbound ships, including 725,000 metric tons of wheat procured by the World Food Programme in support of humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. A multi-disciplinary UN team in the Initiative's Joint Coordination Centre supported the Initiative's implementation through continuous dialogue with the parties, joint inspections of inbound and outbound vessels and authorization of movements. The Initiative was not renewed after its third term, which expired on 17 July 2023, but efforts are ongoing with the parties to resume it.



SECTION 2

Response plans

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Khan Younis city, Gaza, OPT: In a moment of respite, children play at one of the schools that has been turned into a shelter for displaced families. UNICEF/Abed Zaqout.

Response Plans: Overview for 2024

| PEOPLE IN NEED | PEOPLE TARGETED | REQUIREMENTS (US\$) | APPEALS |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| 299.4 M | 180.5 M | \$ 46.4 B | 35 |

In 2024, nearly 300 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. The UN and Partner Organizations aim to assist 181 million people most in need across 72 countries, which will require US\$46.4 billion.

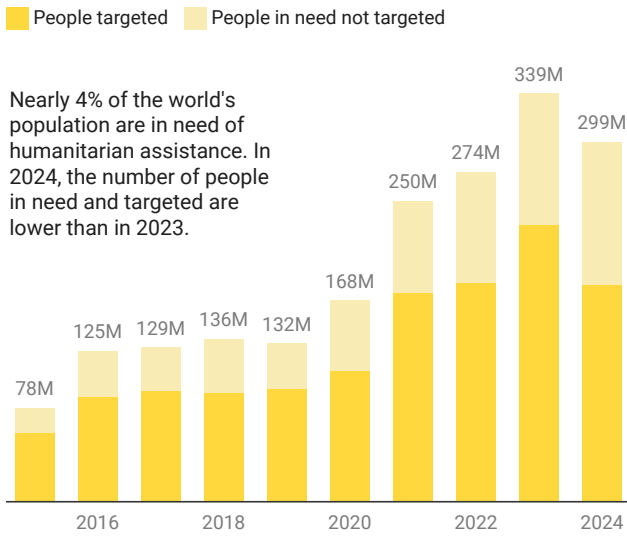
These numbers are lower than in 2023. In some rare good news, improvements in several countries have resulted in a discontinuation of their humanitarian plans/ appeals for 2024.¹¹⁴ These include, among others, Kenya, Malawi and Pakistan – all of which are experiencing some recovery since climate shocks in 2023 but are still in urgent need of development investment.

Other factors have also affected the change in figures for 2024, ranging from improvements in the humanitarian situation in certain contexts, albeit with needs overall remaining high, to implementing more nuanced methodology in others. For example, in **Afghanistan**, a fragile progress has tenuously stabilized conditions, reducing immediate needs. In **Central African Republic** and **Nigeria** humanitarian assistance will provide a more concentrated and focused response in areas that have been recently impacted by shocks. In **Cameroon**, the approach specifically addresses affected populations rather than a broader regional focus and in **Chad**, scope -setting has been refined to make a clearer distinction between humanitarian

¹¹⁴ Four countries – Burundi, Kenya, Malawi and Pakistan – have discontinued their humanitarian plans/appeals for 2024. Lebanon will no longer produce a country-specific Emergency Response Plan but rather has moved its humanitarian response under the Syria 3RP.

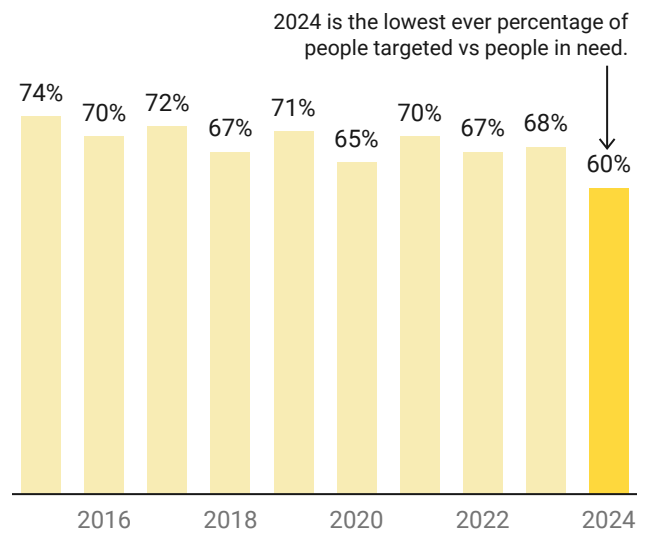


People targeted vs in need



Nearly 4% of the world's population are in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2024, the number of people in need and targeted are lower than in 2023.

Percentage people targeted vs in need



2024 is the lowest ever percentage of people targeted vs people in need.

and development needs. In **Honduras**, focus is placed on areas of higher severity and critical situations. In **Mali**, the number of people in need reduced due to the exclusion of development needs in the country plan. In **Somalia**, the country team limited the scope of the intersectoral response to the most severely affected areas, and the **Madagascar** Flash Appeal extends only until end of May 2024. In **Yemen**, the absence of large-scale conflict, greater freedom of movement and the increased flow of commercial and fuel imports in 2023, combined with targeted and effective humanitarian action, helped reduce needs.

The GHO 2024 is launching at a time when new conflicts, the climate crisis and economic factors are taking a catastrophic toll on communities around the world. The humanitarian system is also currently experiencing a severe funding crisis. Only one third of the \$56.7 billion required was received in 2023.

In the GHO 2024, humanitarians present robust appeals, based on a realistic understanding of their capacity to deliver - i.e. carefully assessing who is in need, where and whether those needs should be in the humanitarian response plan or an alternative response mechanism. The Joint and Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JI AF) 2.0 has also played a pivotal role in this strategic recalibration, offering a more nuanced, rigorous and efficient method for assessing humanitarian needs.

Two regions, East and Southern Africa have the highest number of people in need. In the coming year, 74.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance. The crisis in the Sudan accounts for almost 40 per cent of this total. In-country requirements for Sudan, and the whole

region, have increased since the conflict erupted in August 2024, with a massive outpouring of people to neighbouring countries. The number of people in need has increased by over 12 million people in 2023, to a staggering 28 million people in 2024.

All flash appeal data for the **Occupied Palestinian Territory** is intended as a place holder, given the current situation, until a full response plan can be consolidated.

Burkina Faso, Myanmar and Niger are experiencing the geographic expansions of multidimensional crises and their humanitarian consequences for civilian populations. This includes new displacements, impacts on access to basic services, livelihoods and protection, as well as increased severity of needs in areas highly impacted by violence and insecurity.

The increase in the number of people in need in **Myanmar** reflects the continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation across many parts of the country due to the spreading conflict and successive years of underfunding. The number of people displaced is expected to reach 3 million by the end of 2024. Cyclone Mocha in May 2023 also affected more than 3 million people.

In **Niger**, the impacts of the socio-economic sanctions, poor harvest and the deteriorating security situation in Diffa and Tillaberi regions have driven a rise in the number of people in need in 2024.

Requirements for **Syria**, and the neighbouring countries in the regional refugee response plan, remain similar to last year, at slightly less than \$10 billion to support 23 million people.



Humanitarian Response Plans 2024

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | 2017 – 2024 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 23.3M | 17.4M | 3B | |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 6.3M | 3.8M | 935M | |
| Cameroon | HRP | 4.3M | 2.3M | 376M | |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 2.8M | 1.9M | 393.5M | |
| Chad | HRP | 5.8M | 4.6M | 1.2B | |
| Colombia | HRP | 8.3M | 1.6M | 283M | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 25.4M | 8.7M | 2.6B | |
| El Salvador | HRP | 1.1M | 506.2K | 87M | |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 20M | 14M | 2.9B | |
| Guatemala | HRP | 5.3M | 2.5M | 125M | |
| Haiti | HRP | 5.5M | 3.6M | 673.8M | |
| Honduras | HRP | 2.8M | 1.3M | 205M | |
| Mali | HRP | 6.2M | 3.9M | 676.5M | |
| Mozambique | HRP | 2.3M | 1.7M | 413.4M | |
| Myanmar | HRP | 18.6M | 5.3M | 994M | |
| Niger | HRP | 4.5M | 2.7M | 604M | |
| Nigeria | HRP | 7.9M | 4.4M | 860M | |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 3.1M | 2.7M | 1.2B | |
| Somalia | HRP | 6.9M | 5.1M | 1.7B | |
| South Sudan | HRP | 9M | 6M | 1.8B | |
| Sudan | HRP | 24.8M | 14.7M | 2.7B | |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 15.3M | 13M | 4.4B | |
| Ukraine | HRP | 14.6M | 8.5M | 3.1B | |
| Venezuela | HRP | 7M | 4.6M | 650M | |
| Yemen | HRP | 18.2M | 11.2M | 2.8B | |



Flash Appeal 2024

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | 2017 – 2024 |
|------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Madagascar | FA | 2.3M | 1.6M | 90.5M | |

Regional Response Plans 2024

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | 2017 – 2024 |
|---|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Afghanistan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 7.3M | 7.3M | 620M | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 1.9M | 1.9M | 629.8M | |
| Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i> | RMP | 2.2M | 1.4M | 112.2M | |
| Rohingya <i>Regional</i> | JRP | 1.6M | 1.3M | 872.7M | |
| South Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 5.7M | 4.7M | 1.5B | |
| Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 5.3M | 5.3M | 1.3B | |
| Syrian Arab Republic <i>Regional</i> | 3RP | 17.2M | 9.9M | 5.5B | |
| Ukraine <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 2.2M | 2.2M | 1B | |
| Venezuela <i>Regional</i> | RMRP | 8.9M | 2.9M | 1.6B | |

Per region

| Region | # of appeals | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) |
|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Asia and the Pacific | 4 | 50.8M | 31.3M | \$5.5B |
| Eastern Europe | 2 | 16.8M | 10.7M | \$4.1B |
| East and Southern Africa | 9 | 74.1M | 50.5M | \$10.9B |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | 7 | 38.9M | 17M | \$3.6B |
| Middle East and North Africa | 4 | 53.8M | 36.8M | \$13.9B |
| West and Central Africa | 9 | 65.1M | 34.2M | \$8.3B |

Note: Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRPs, RRPS' components of countries without HRPs, and other appeals. Changes to the population figures and financial requirements for the RRP have occurred because of the overlap with HRPs. The regional appeals components included are as follows: Afghanistan RRP, Syria 3RP, Ukraine RRP and Venezuela RMRP: fully included. DRC RRP: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included, Burundi excluded. Sudan RRP: Egypt and Ethiopia included, Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan excluded. South Sudan RRP: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded. Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania included, Somalia partially included, and Yemen excluded. The full figures of the RRP can be found on their respective GHO 2024 pages. Data is provisional and will be updated on humanitarianaction.info when individual plans are finalized.



AID IN ACTION

Reimagining humanitarian coordination and response – the Flagship Initiative



Bajo Baudó, Chocó, Colombia: Women conduct a mapping exercise during a training workshop for a project with the Embera Indigenous People. OCHA/Johana Marín

The Emergency Relief Coordinator launched the Flagship Initiative in 2023, a three-year project designed to explore innovative approaches to putting affected people at the centre of humanitarian action and having their priorities drive programming and funding decisions at all levels. The Initiative aims to bring together thematic workstreams including localization, accountability to affected people, gender and the centrality of protection, further realizing the commitments of the Grand Bargain.

Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) are spearheading this initiative at the country-level in four countries: Colombia, Niger, the Philippines and South Sudan. In these countries, RC/HCs have the freedom to re-imagine humanitarian coordination and response. Their objective is to strengthen subnational presence, tailor approaches to the priorities of affected people, ensure meaningful participation of

those affected, and contribute to solutions that strengthen community resilience and self-reliance. While all approaches must fully comply with humanitarian principles, international law and recognized codes of conduct, no existing humanitarian coordination models or programme cycle processes need to be followed. Guidelines are intentionally kept light to allow RC/HCs to redefine the way forward. In 2023, RC/HCs led the development of internal roadmaps, which outline the geographic focus, key milestones and resource requirements for each country. RC/HCs established country-specific consultation mechanisms, deployed staff from the capital to subnational levels and trained staff on community engagement approaches. Learning will be an important part of the Flagship Initiative: a dedicated team will provide ongoing insights to allow for real-time adjustments. The aim is to identify innovative approaches in the four pilot countries that may be replicable and brought to scale, including in other contexts.



Bentiu, Unity State, South Sudan:

Two women at the women-only 'friendly space' in IDP Site A. Some of the women living in this site have been the victims of sexual violence. The danger of sexual violence increases in confined living conditions and daily activities such as fetching water or taking a shower carry an elevated risk. With support from CERF, UNFPA, has set up a women-only space to provide safety and mutual support. Women also receive vocational training on income-generating activities. OCHA/Alioune Ndiaye

Response plans: Results from 2023

PEOPLE IN NEED

363.2 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

245.1 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 56.7 B

FUNDING

\$ 19.9 B

COVERAGE

35.1 %

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) 2023 presented initial funding requirements of US\$51.5 billion to assist 230 million of the 339 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

By 24 November, the financial requirements for 2023 had grown 10 per cent to a record high of \$56.7 billion for plans in 74 countries aiming to assist 245 million of the 363 million people in need.

This increase was caused by multiple factors including the Flash Appeals for the earthquakes in **Syria** and **Türkiye**, floods in **Libya**, cholera and floods in **Malawi** and **Mozambique**, and the

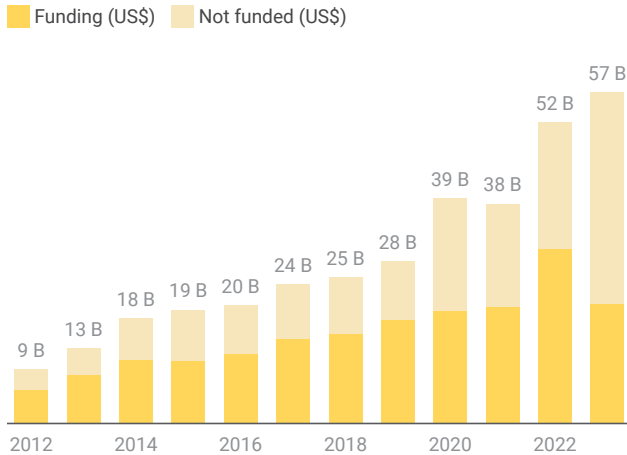
crisis in **OPT**. A new regional refugee response plan for **Sudan** and the Emergency Response Plan for **Lebanon** also account for higher requirements. Increased humanitarian needs were reflected in several other country plans, notably **Chad, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Myanmar, Niger, Somalia, Syria** and **Sudan**.

Record amounts of additional funding were mobilized in 2022, primarily due to extraordinary efforts to fund the humanitarian response in Ukraine and mitigate the global economic and food security impacts of that crisis.



Appeal funding vs requirements | 2012 - 2023 (as of 4 December 2023)

2023 is the highest requirements but lowest percentage funding.



The first two quarters of 2023 saw higher absolute funding recorded, compared to the same time in 2022. However, this positive trend did not continue as the year progressed, leading to rising concerns relating to covering even the most urgent and prioritised needs in crises around the globe.

Funding received, as of 24 November 2023, against the GHO requirements amounts to \$19.9 billion. This is 35 per cent, leaving a gap of almost \$36.8 billion. Total humanitarian funding, including for the GHO, has reached only \$27 billion, significantly less than the \$41 billion recorded last year.

Despite efforts to diversify and expand the sources of humanitarian funding, the outlook for 2024 is of serious concern, especially in light of growing needs.

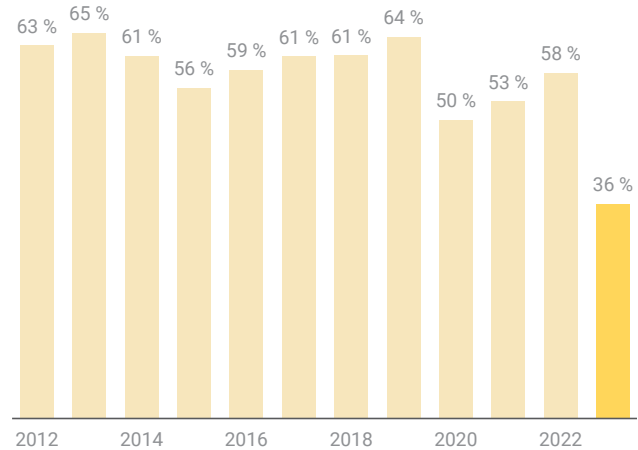
High-level resource mobilization events coordinated by OCHA

High-level events were held in 2023 to raise awareness of and mobilize financial resources for major crises:

- [The Lake Chad Basin High-Level Conference](#) was held on 23-24 January. Over \$500 million was announced to support locally led joint action.
- [The High-Level Pledging Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen](#) took place on 27 February and partners announced financial assistance totaling \$1.2 billion.

Appeal funding coverage 2012 - 2023 (as of 4 December 2023)

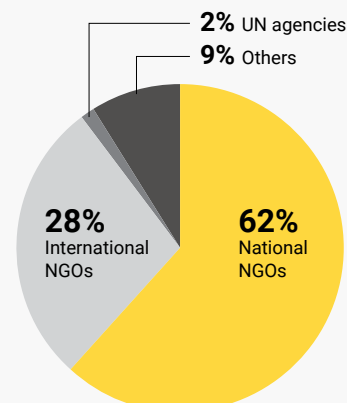
2023 is the lowest percentage funding vs requirements.



- [High-level Pledging Event on the Humanitarian Response in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia](#), 24 May, partners pledged \$2.4 billion to meet humanitarian needs in the Horn of Africa during the
- [The High-Level Pledging Event to Support the Humanitarian Response in Sudan and the Region](#) was held on 19 June. Participants announced pledges totaling \$1.5 billion for the crisis.
- [The Seventh Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region](#), from 14 – 15 June, saw the international community confirm \$4.9 billion for 2023 and \$1.1 billion for 2024 and beyond

Number of partners in the GHO 2023

1,925





Humanitarian Response Plans 2023 & Flash Appeals 2023

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | Funding (US\$) | Coverage (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Afghanistan | HRP | 29.2M | 21.3M | 3.2B | 1.3B | 40% |
| Burkina Faso | HRP | 4.6M | 3.1M | 876.7M | 297.8M | 34% |
| Burundi | HRP | 2.7M | 1.6M | 237.2M | 60.8M | 26% |
| Cameroon | HRP | 4.7M | 2.7M | 407.3M | 115.1M | 28% |
| Central African Republic | HRP | 3.4M | 2.4M | 533.3M | 251.5M | 47% |
| Chad | HRP | 7.6M | 5.2M | 920.6M | 278.4M | 30% |
| Colombia | HRP | 7.7M | 1.6M | 283.3M | 105.7M | 37% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | HRP | 26.4M | 10M | 2.3B | 837.2M | 37% |
| El Salvador | HRP | 1.1M | 496.6K | 98.4M | 24M | 24% |
| Ethiopia | HRP | 28.6M | 20.1M | 4B | 1.3B | 32% |
| Guatemala | HRP | 5M | 2.3M | 126.1M | 30.6M | 24% |
| Haiti | HRP | 5.2M | 3.2M | 719.9M | 236.3M | 33% |
| Honduras | HRP | 3.2M | 2.1M | 280.4M | 42.6M | 15% |
| Mali | HRP | 8.8M | 5.7M | 751.5M | 191.5M | 25% |
| Mozambique | HRP | 2M | 1.6M | 512.9M | 183.8M | 36% |
| Myanmar | HRP | 17.6M | 5M | 886.7M | 253.2M | 29% |
| Niger | HRP | 4.3M | 2.7M | 583.9M | 244.9M | 42% |
| Nigeria | HRP | 8.3M | 6M | 1.3B | 502.1M | 38% |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | HRP | 2.1M | 1.6M | 376.7M | 250.7M | 67% |
| Somalia | HRP | 8.3M | 7.6M | 2.6B | 1.1B | 42% |
| South Sudan | HRP | 10M | 7.4M | 2.1B | 990M | 48% |
| Sudan | HRP | 24.7M | 18.1M | 2.6B | 973.9M | 38% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | HRP | 15.3M | 14.2M | 5.4B | 1.8B | 33% |
| Ukraine | HRP | 17.6M | 11.1M | 3.9B | 2.2B | 56% |
| Venezuela | HRP | 7M | 5.2M | 719.6M | 347M | 48% |
| Yemen | HRP | 21.6M | 17.4M | 4.3B | 1.6B | 37% |
| Kenya | FA | 6.4M | 4.3M | 451.8M | 344.9M | 76% |
| Libya | FA | 883.9K | 250K | 71.4M | 38.2M | 54% |
| Madagascar | FA | 3.9M | 1.9M | 214.7M | 110.1M | 51% |
| Malawi | FA | 5.9M | 4.8M | 115.9M | 38.9M | 34% |
| Occupied Palestinian Territory | FA | 3.1M | 2.7M | 1.2B | 238.6M | 19% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | FA | n/a | 4.9M | 397.6M | 392.4M | 99% |
| Türkiye | FA | n/a | 5.2M | 1B | 538.4M | 53% |
| Lebanon | Other | 3.9M | 1.3M | 200.2M | 57.4M | 29% |
| Mozambique | Other | 975K | 814.5K | 138M | 22.7M | 16% |
| Pakistan | Other | 20.6M | 9.5M | 344M | 240.2M | 70% |

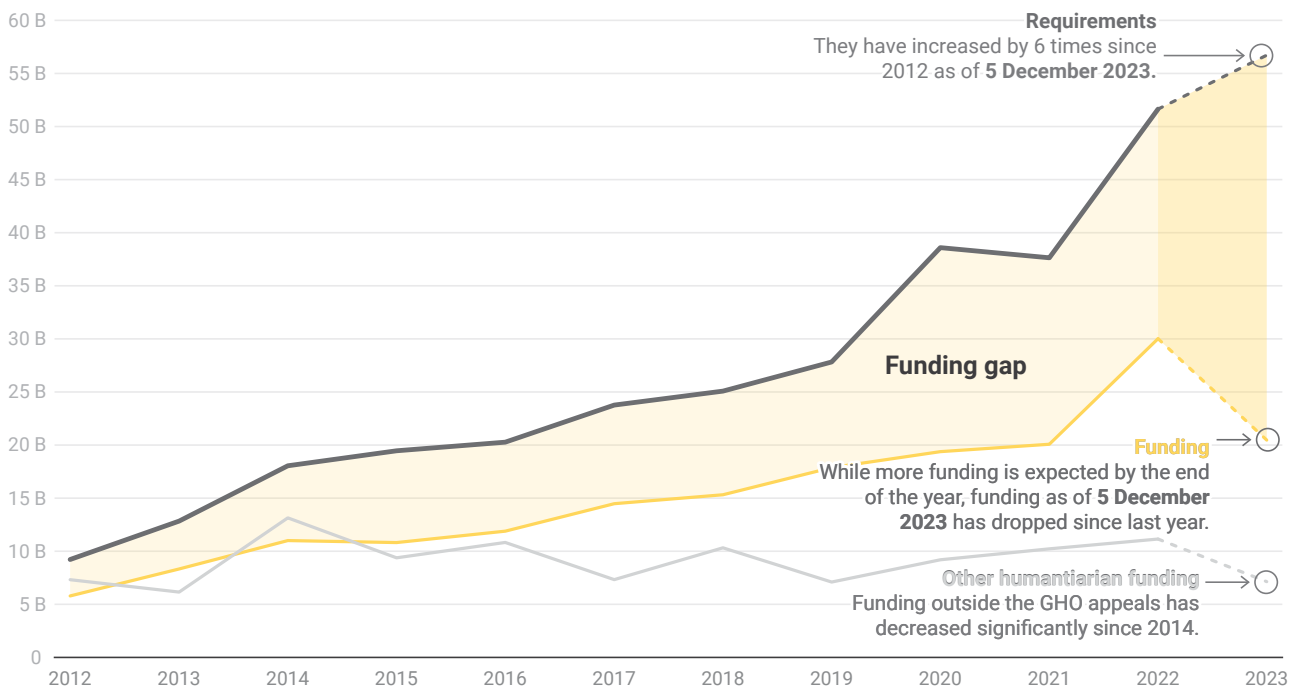


Regional Response Plans 2023

| Plan | Plan type | People in need | People targeted | Requirements (US\$) | Funding (US\$) | Coverage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Afghanistan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 7.9M | 7.9M | 613M | 168.1M | 27% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 1.5M | 1.5M | 605M | 164.6M | 27% |
| Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i> | MRP | 1.4M | 1M | 84.2M | 57M | 68% |
| Rohingya <i>Regional</i> | JRP | 1.5M | 1.5M | 875.9M | 404.9M | 46% |
| South Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 4.1M | 4.1M | 1.3B | 251.4M | 19% |
| Sudan <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 1.8M | 1.8M | 1B | 395.2M | 39% |
| Syrian Arab Republic <i>Regional</i> | 3RP | 13.5M | 13.5M | 5.9B | 1.3B | 23% |
| Ukraine <i>Regional</i> | RRP | 4M | 4M | 1.7B | 672.9M | 40% |
| Venezuela <i>Regional</i> | RMRP | 9.2M | 3.4M | 1.7B | 328.1M | 19% |

Note: Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRPs, RRPS' components of countries without HRPs, and other appeals. When calculating the GHO totals, some Regional plans figures are reduced to avoid double counting their overlap with HRPs. The regional appeals components included are as follows: Afghanistan RRP, Syria 3RP, Ukraine RRP and Venezuela RMRP: fully included. DRC RRP: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included, Burundi excluded. Sudan RRP: Egypt and Ethiopia included, Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan excluded. South Sudan RRP: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded. Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania included, Somalia partially included, and Yemen excluded. Funding data for the Afghanistan, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine RRPs are from UNHCR RFT. All other data are from FTS.

Appeal funding gap 2012 - 2023 (as of 5 Dec 2023)





AID IN ACTION

Private sector engagement in humanitarian response in 2023



Türkiye: CENACED, the CBI Member Network in Mexico, deployed a search and rescue team in partnership with the CADENA Foundation. The team brought life-detecting technology to facilitate their search-and-rescue work in the aftermath of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake, collaborating with local groups such as CINER, a Turkish conglomerate working in energy and mining. CENACED

In September 2023, a United Nations Security Council debate underscored the increasing importance of public-private partnerships and the critical role played by businesses in supporting humanitarian response. Member networks from the OCHA/UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI) responded to 15 crises in 2023, mobilizing over \$14 million and reaching more than 7.8 million people.

In Peru, Hombro a Hombro supported the Government in managing historical dengue fever cases, following floods, by providing logistical support and training on resource management and reporting. After Hurricane Otis in Mexico, CENACED worked with the Government and other allies to restore access to affected areas and provide humanitarian relief.

After the Türkiye-Syria earthquakes in February 2023, CBI coordinated in-kind support from business networks such as the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (TÜRKONFED), mobilizing over \$11 million. CBI worked with

TÜRKONFED, Business 4 Goals (B4G) and other business associations to facilitate engagement between business and the UN and leverage resources and expertise for the most effective and efficient response possible. A workshop, held in September 2023, provided an opportunity to reflect on what went well and areas for improvement in terms of business engagement in emergency response, emphasizing the importance of data collection and sharing and fostering trust between partners.

Other entities such as Miyamoto International, DHL Group, and AirLink contributed skills and resources to the humanitarian response. Miyamoto International dispatched earthquake and humanitarian experts and collaborated with Habitat for Humanity to provide shelter support.

Key successes in private sector engagement included:

- Donations totalling \$11 million in the form of 243 trucks with food and non-food items; over 21,000 blankets; 395 shelter containers; more than 1,000 tents and 15,000 beds; four soup kitchens; three mobile kitchens; 100 portable toilets and bathrooms; 53 generators and 1,000 heaters.
- Support to humanitarian partners through the provision of transportation and accommodation during the initial response week.
- Search and rescue support provided by CBI Member Networks in Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka alongside donations and medical supplies.

These actions not only strengthen engagement with business but also enhance recognition of the private sector as part of the solution to deliver better humanitarian response.



*Ayeyarwady,
Myanmar:
A smallholder farmer
distributes paddy
seeds before the
monsoon season.
FAO*

Asia

PEOPLE IN NEED

50.8 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

31.3 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 5.5 B

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world, highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards. In 2022, over 140 disasters struck the Asia-Pacific region, affecting over 64 million people and leading to over 7,500 deaths.

Nearly 80 per cent of the world's climate-induced displacement happens in Asia and the Pacific, mostly triggered by climate-related and geological hazards such as monsoon rains, floods, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and landslides. As a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP), disasters cause

more damage in Asia-Pacific than in any other region, and the gap appears to be widening. Last year alone, disasters in the region caused economic damages estimated at US\$57 billion.

Asia-Pacific is also home to several conflicts and protracted crises, with 7 million refugees and asylum seekers and some 5 million internally displaced people. The region hosts the world's largest refugee settlement in the Cox's Bazar District of Bangladesh where one million Rohingya refugees continue to rely entirely on humanitarian assistance for protection, food, water, shelter and health. The crises in both Afghanistan and Myanmar continue to deteriorate, with significant impacts on the humanitarian situation in both countries, and the potential for repercussions across the region as civilians continue to flee conflict and instability. Small-scale and localized conflicts



also characterize some countries in the region, including the Philippines and Papua New Guinea, with significant humanitarian impacts.

The drivers of humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities in Asia Pacific are increasingly multidimensional, with widespread economic downturns and cost-of-living increases compounding the effects of climate induced disasters, conflicts, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of 2022, some 69 million people in Asia-Pacific were acutely food insecure – 41.5 million people more compared to pre-pandemic levels. As of August 2023, over 28 million people in Asia and the Pacific were using coping strategies corresponding to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 (Crisis) or above.

In 2023, requirements for the region's eight response plans (HRP, RRP and HCRP) reached almost \$6.43 billion to assist 45.3 million of 77.2 million people in need. With the increased frequency and severity of disasters in the

region, the number of humanitarian priority countries in Asia Pacific has grown from seven countries in 2017 to 15 countries in 2023. This is based on a Regional Focus Model developed by the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) which identifies and analyzes where crises requiring international assistance is likely to occur.

Against this backdrop, as of mid-2023, effects attributable to a developing El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) are starting to be seen, with potential for further extreme weather events across the region. Evidence indicates that El Niño may induce water stress, changes in ocean temperatures, increased risk of forest fires and higher incidences of disease. It is also a threat multiplier that will erode coping capacities and aggravate existing vulnerabilities, including food insecurity. In 2024, it is likely that several countries in the region will be faced with multiple, compound disasters, raising the possibility that additional people will require humanitarian assistance.

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, Philippines: People carry sacks as part of a food distribution. WFP/Dale Rivera





Afghanistan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

23.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

17.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 3.0 billion

Total population
42.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2009 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Afghanistan is experiencing the residual impact of decades of conflict, years of drought conditions, and chronic and continued poverty. The situation worsened after the severe economic decline experienced in the immediate aftermath of the Taliban takeover in August 2021. Despite the significant reduction in active military fighting, the crisis in Afghanistan remains first and foremost a protection crisis, aggravated by severe climate change impacts which have today created a water crisis – both urban and rural. Additionally, food security, health, nutrition, shelter, and education needs remain high. In 2024, an estimated 23.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance to survive.

The Afghan economy remains fragile, with most families struggling to maintain their livelihoods and relying heavily on international aid and remittances. Exclusion of women from economic participation hampers recovery efforts, while deflation and economic sensitivity to shocks persist.

Increasingly, restrictive policies inhibiting women’s rights, movement and participation in humanitarian action negatively impact global engagement and donor contributions to life-saving initiatives. These restrictions on women’s work and freedom continued to grow stronger during 2023, with implications for education, healthcare, and other sectors.

Increasing bureaucratic hurdles, reduced localized negotiation opportunities, and efforts to exercise control over humanitarian activities create delays in project registration and implementation.

In the latter part of 2023, regional developments have triggered the return of thousands of undocumented Afghans and refugees from Pakistan to Afghanistan, precipitating a returnee crisis that is poised to significantly influence humanitarian response efforts well into 2024. The surge in returns to Afghanistan was propelled by Pakistan’s announcement on 3 October of a new policy

targeting the deportation of undocumented Afghans, affecting approximately 1.3 million Afghans presently residing in Pakistan. As of mid-November, over 370,000 returns, encompassing voluntary returns and deportations, were reported, with a peak of 25,000 individuals per day in early November before stabilizing at approximately 5,000 per day. This influx includes highly vulnerable populations, including women and children with heightened protection needs. Boarder points and host communities have been placed under great strain. Humanitarian organizations have scaled up assistance providing medical screening, protection, counselling, legal assistance, food, transportation, WASH, and registration service but further support is needed, especially with the onset of Afghanistan’s harsh winter. Projections indicate that, by July 2024, more than 720,000 undocumented Afghans and 50,000 refugees are likely to return.

Afghanistan is also in the grips of a climate-induced crisis. Anticipated El Niño conditions in late 2023 and early 2024 could bring both opportunities and risks, including above-normal rainfall in some parts of the country, which might support drought recovery but also trigger flooding and crop pests. A close-to-average harvest is expected in 2024, with food security dependent on socio-economic conditions and factors like seed availability and fertilizers. However, multiple districts are now in severity 5 for water and sanitation emphasizing the severity of the ongoing water needs in areas of the country, where there is little prospect of near-term improvement.

With the limited funding, humanitarian actors are forced to carry out stricter prioritization for the most in need and to set clear boundaries between humanitarian and basic human needs interventions. The lack of infrastructure (e.g., in WASH, and other sectors) is heavily contributing to compounding humanitarian needs. With a view to recovery, in addition to life-saving humanitarian funding, investments may be needed in sustainable livelihoods and infrastructure to improve resilience among the Afghan population in the face of shocks.



AID IN ACTION

Herat earthquake response



Gyan district, Pakitika Province, Afghanistan: A woman mixes dough, a traditional yogurt drink, in her damaged home, one year after the June 2022 earthquake. OCHA/Elise Blanchard

Three powerful (6.3 magnitude) earthquakes struck Herat Province on 7, 11 and 15 October affecting 1.6 million people with high intensity shaking (MMI 6+) and leaving at least 114,000 in immediate need of humanitarian assistance. Based on the latest assessments, the earthquakes left 1,480 people dead and 1,950 wounded, with available satellite imagery indicating that 513 villages were impacted. The earthquakes struck highly vulnerable communities – who are already grappling with decades of conflict and under-development – leaving them with little resilience to cope with multiple simultaneous shocks. The earthquakes also came at the start of Afghanistan’s lean season and immediately before the harsh winter months, when households’ food resources are most constrained.

In the immediate aftermath of the first earthquake, humanitarian response teams were deployed to deliver urgent life-saving assistance, including trauma care and immediate medical support. Joint assessment teams comprised of both men and women were rapidly deployed to assess the impact of the earthquakes and guide response efforts, identifying more than 3,300 homes destroyed and 21,300 damaged buildings. In-country internal surge deployment to Herat from national and sub-national

clusters enhanced local coordination efforts and enabled local staff to attend to their personal and family needs, enhancing duty of care provisions.

Within 24 hours of the first earthquake, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) allocated US\$5 million in immediate funding to expedite the delivery of essential, life-saving shelter, food, health, and WASH assistance. Subsequently, US\$5 million in CERF Rapid Response and an additional US \$5 million in AHF funding were allocated to bolster response efforts. Immediate funding has enabled the distribution of more than 6,500 emergency tents and 16,000 food packages, and more than 36,000 affected families have been reached with clean water.

In the aftermath of the earthquakes, OCHA served as a critical intermediary between the DfA and the humanitarian community. A daily movement system was implemented to facilitate approval processes and coordinate humanitarian team activities, ensuring their safety and efficiency. OCHA also worked with provincial-level DfA to coordinate response distributions and reduce duplication in the delivery of bi-lateral aid donations contributed by some Member States, the private sector and charity organizations.



Response priorities in 2024

The humanitarian response for Afghanistan in 2024 will prioritise the urgent and comprehensive needs of 23.3 million Afghan people in the face of the deteriorating protection environment for women and girls, three devastating 6.3 magnitude earthquakes in Herat Province that occurred in October 2023 and the increase in the return of undocumented Afghans since mid-September 2023. The response also prioritises acute WASH needs due to the consecutive years of drought conditions and climate change, as well as ongoing acute food security for millions.

The provision of life-saving assistance, including food, emergency and safe drinking water, and healthcare, will remain a top priority. Food assistance will be provided to 15.8 million people in Afghanistan experiencing critical and severe phases of food insecurity. Humanitarian organisations will also focus on strengthening the healthcare system, maintaining, and supporting delivering lifesaving and life-sustaining health services by ensuring accountability to affected populations, disability inclusion, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and gender-sensitive response. Furthermore, access to education for Afghan children, especially girls, remains a priority through continued support for Community-Based Education (CBE) and innovative alternative learning modalities. Additionally, efforts will be made to continue addressing malnutrition through the provision of acute malnutrition treatments and blanket supplementary feeding programs.

The humanitarian response in Afghanistan will emphasise the protection of civilians, especially women and children, who are at heightened risk of violence and exploitation in the current context. This includes providing safe spaces, legal support, and psycho-social services for survivors of gender-based violence. Humanitarian actors will also work to facilitate the safe and dignified return of displaced populations to their homes while addressing the broader issue of explosive hazards. Long-term resilience-building initiatives, including vocational training and livelihoods

support, will also be integrated into the response to enable Afghans to rebuild their lives and communities, fostering hope for a more stable future.

It is imperative to acknowledge that the operational environment is likely to become more complex with the varying implementation of various procedures and instructions from the DfA, including, but not limited to, 'the procedure for coordination of humanitarian response' and 'the directive banning Afghan women humanitarian workers,' forcing humanitarian actors to continue operations through cumbersome and labour-intensive negotiations. These could result in a shrinking humanitarian space, delayed project implementations, and increased interference by the DfA in program design and aid diversion. Furthermore, there is heightened scrutiny and monitoring of humanitarian operations, leading to a greater risk of violence against aid workers. This complex and evolving access scenario poses significant challenges for humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan.

Humanitarian partners remain committed to delivering vital humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan's most vulnerable, even in the face of reduced funding – only 34.3 per cent funded as of 31 October 2023 – and continue to emphasise the importance of women's involvement in aid provision and monitoring of aid conditions. The humanitarian partners aim to provide at least one form of assistance to more than 20.6 million people, of which 52 per cent are women and girls, by the end of 2023.

It is essential to recognise the shift from traditional humanitarian assistance to a focus on meeting the basic human needs of the Afghan population. The humanitarian actors will work closely with the Basic Human Needs actors to not only provide immediate relief but also empower communities to regain their self-sufficiency. Efforts will concentrate on supporting local capacities, livelihoods and water management to ensure that Afghans have the means to secure their food, shelter, and livelihoods.



AID IN ACTION

Maintaining Afghan women's participation in the response



Afghanistan: Mobile medical teams treat the injured after an earthquake. OCHA/Sayed Habib Bidell

Increased protection risks to women and girls associated with the highly restrictive rights environment and diminishing ability to access assistance and services – particularly following the De-facto Authorities' (DfA) ban on Afghan women working for the UN and I/NGOs – have added yet another layer of complexity to an incredibly challenging protection environment.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Framework of Operations and subsequent Monitoring Report (Afghanistan Pulse Check) was developed to track the constraints facing Afghan women participating in the humanitarian response, and their continued ability to be able to reach the most vulnerable populations, especially women and girls. The report outlines the ability of UN agencies and I/NGO partners to maintain a principled response within the operating environment, including analysis of humanitarian staffing composition and working modalities. The ongoing difficulties that organisations face as they negotiate women's participation in programming, response achievements and challenges and the impact of severe underfunding are also highlighted.

According to the monitoring report findings, humanitarian actors have been able to reach similar numbers of people with life-saving assistance compared to the same period in 2022 (21.5 million people between January and June 2023 compared to 22.9 million people during the same period in 2022). In 2023, they have not only resumed but also scaled up programmes that had initially been suspended¹. Humanitarian actors have also successfully secured local arrangements with the DfA which enabled Afghan women staff to participate across all areas of the response—from assessments to distributions and monitoring².

Despite these achievements, challenges remain, including uneven reinforcement of bans countrywide, lengthy negotiations for women's access, heightened risks of sexual exploitation of abuse, and feelings of isolation, stress, and fear among Afghan women staff. While steps have been taken to address these issues, more dedicated efforts are required to ensure that women's meaningful participation is mainstreamed throughout both programmes and workplaces.

1. The proportion of humanitarian and women-led organizations reporting that they are 'fully operating' steadily increased from 22 per cent in February, to 29 per cent in March and 36 per cent in May, to 39 per cent in July 2023
2. 41 per cent confirmed that they have secured local authorizations which enable their Afghan women staff to report to project locations, while 22 per cent indicate that they have negotiated with the DfA that their female staff can report to the office



Myanmar HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

18.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

5.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 994.0 million

Total population
56.0 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2013 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Myanmar remains a complex, protracted protection crisis. The people of Myanmar continue to face an unprecedented human rights, humanitarian and political emergency that is posing grave protection risks for civilians, limiting access to vital services including health and education, and driving deep food insecurity. Humanitarian needs have worsened across the country as conflict continues to rage, causing unprecedented levels of displacement, destruction of property and livelihoods, and mine and other explosive ordnance contamination, especially in the Northwest and Southeast. This has created dire protection threats and underscores the need for the centrality of protection to be implemented and funded across the response. The use of heavy weapons, including air strikes and artillery fire, continues to claim lives and pose risks to the safety and security of civilians, while raids, random searches and arrests are of deep concern. Forced recruitment – including of children – is being increasingly reported.

In 2024, 18.6 million people are in humanitarian need. This is almost 19 times the number prior to the military takeover and equivalent to a third of the population. This includes 6 million children, who are bearing the brunt of this crisis. The spread of conflict has driven unprecedented displacement, with the number of IDPs steeply increasing to 2 million as of 23 October 2023, which is nearly 600,000 more than at the same time last year. There are fears that this trend will continue into 2024. More than one million IDPs are being hosted in the hard-to-reach Northwest alone. IDPs are living in terrible conditions without proper shelter, often in informal sites in the jungle where they cannot easily access basic services, such as clean water. The monsoon in the second half of 2023 has been particularly miserable for people in these informal sites. Those on the move in unfamiliar locations are at escalating risk from explosive ordnance (landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices). People living in protracted

displacement, from conflicts prior to the military takeover, are also facing desperate situations with pre-existing vulnerabilities further compounded by the current situation and Cyclone Mocha, particularly for stateless Rohingya people. Extremely severe Cyclone Mocha hit the Myanmar coast on 14 May 2023, bringing wind gusts of up to 305 km/h, storm surge and accompanying heavy rains, and impacting more than 3 million people in an area where needs were already high.

Heading into 2024, 12.9 million people are moderately or severely food insecure, with food accessibility and availability presenting challenges. Agriculture has been heavily interrupted. Soaring poverty is making it difficult for households to put adequate food on the table and coping capacity is stretched to the limit. As a result of conflict, rights violations, and the adoption of negative coping strategies, more than 12.2 million people are considered to have protection needs, up from 11.5 million the previous year. Despite the dire humanitarian situation of affected people, including IDPs, the military-led State Administration Council has continued to control and limit the transportation of rice, medicine, and fuel, as well as humanitarian access to people in need throughout many parts of the country, but particularly in the Northwest and Southeast. Heavy fighting between ethnic armed organizations and the Myanmar Military in the final quarter of 2023 has driven surging displacement and further constrained access to people in need.

The combination of the considerable underfunding of the response, inflation, access restrictions and interruptions to services has resulted in many needs going unaddressed and worsening over time. There is a serious threat that basic services will collapse throughout the country. Since the military takeover many children are still not attending school. More than 30 per cent of school-age children are not enrolled in any form of learning, while half of the children has had their learning heavily disrupted for the past three years due to conflict, displacement, economic hardships, and natural disasters. While efforts are



underway to support alternative education solutions, these are currently only reaching a fraction of children. This situation places children at much higher risk of negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, trafficking, and early marriage and reduces the likelihood of permanent disengagement from education the longer it goes on. The health sector is facing similar strain, with interruptions due to conflict, attacks on health structures and staff, funding, availability of medical supplies and pressure on people not to use public services. This is contributing to worsening maternal and child health outcomes, missed routine immunizations and poor emergency care for pregnant women. While ethnic and community health organizations and alternative private services are working to cover gaps, response capacity is not commensurate with needs. Private providers are also too expensive for many people amid the current economic distress.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, humanitarian partners will work towards the following strategic objectives:

- Protection risks and needs are identified, monitored, mitigated, and met for 3 million people, while the centrality of protection is upheld across the humanitarian response including through promotion of respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. (Protection)
- Suffering, morbidity, and mortality is prevented or reduced among 3.7 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people experiencing or at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, and health threats. (Food, Nutrition, Health)
- At least 2.5 million returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people have safe, tailored, timely and dignified access to essential services and support to ensure their survival and prevent deterioration of their humanitarian needs. (Education, Shelter, WASH)

The HRP target of 4.5 million at the start of 2023 went up to 5 million post-Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, and has now modestly increased to 5.3 million in 2024. The new target amounts to 29 per cent of the total PiN of 18.6 million people. Given the centrality of protection to the crisis, the Protection Cluster is largely driving the overall increase in people targeted for humanitarian assistance, as the Cluster expanded its target significantly from 2.1 million to 3 million. Overall, there is a high correlation between the intensity of security incidents, the severity of needs and subsequent targeting decisions under the HNRP. (See maps graphic provided)

Given the sheer magnitude of the PiN, the funding landscape, and capacity constraints, the HCT prioritized the response according to severity of needs and operational capacity.

- **More focus on IDPs, returnees/resettled/integrated IDPs, and non-displaced stateless people** and less on the fourth population group – “other crisis-affected people.”
- **More focus on hard-to-reach rural areas and those with the most severe needs**, while being realistic about potential reach, given access and capacity constraints.
- **Resilience, DRR, most prevention and basic social services-type activities have been transferred** to the development objectives outlined in the soon to be finalized UN Transitional Cooperation Framework (TCF) for Myanmar to allow for greater focus on acute needs by humanitarians. The HNRP will include a dedicated section looking at “**humanitarian consequences if development actors fail to raise enough funds.**”

The Myanmar humanitarian funding requirement went up from US\$764 million at the start of 2023, to \$887 million after Cyclone Mocha in May 2023, and now to US\$994 million in 2024. The latest increase is the result of the more ambitious 2024 response target, the rise in costs of delivering assistance in hard-to-reach and insecure areas, as well as the inclusion of duty of care overheads for the first time. Inflation continues to play a major role in the costing of commodity-heavy clusters, especially where no alternatives are available in-country and cash is not viable.

Humanitarians have planned for the current situation to continue into 2024 with the potential for elections, if they take place, to be a possible trigger for increased tensions and further access restrictions. While there have been modest access openings in 2023, these were very localized, and the overall access environment is expected to remain heavily constrained, requiring a strong reliance on, and risk sharing with, local responders who are now the backbone of the response. Humanitarian operating space is under increasing threat from bureaucratic blockages imposed by the military-led State Administration Council around registration, travel, banking, and visas and continued advocacy will be required around the impacts of these constraints on the humanitarian response. Humanitarians will continue to engage with all parties in a bid to secure access, promote principled responses that are based on needs and raise civilian protection issues.



Borodianka, Ukraine: Children study in the boiler room of their kindergarten. New generators have been provided by UNICEF to provide light and heat, enabling the kindergarten to stay open amid power outages and freezing temperatures. UNICEF/Aleksey Filippov

Eastern Europe

Ukraine HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

14.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

8.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 3.1 billion

Total population
37.4 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

In Ukraine, the war continued to cause widespread destruction throughout 2023, destroying lives and livelihoods, further decimating essential services, and compounding an already grave humanitarian crisis.

Over 14.6 million people – about 40 per cent of the Ukrainian population – will need humanitarian assistance in 2024. The impact of the war remains far-reaching. It is exposing civilians in most parts of the country to significant protection risks. Needs are

more acute in the east and the south, where communities have been ravaged by intense hostilities. The humanitarian needs of Ukraine's front-line communities are reaching levels of extreme and catastrophic severity.

Over 3.3 million people in need of aid live in front-line communities in the east and south. In this part of Ukraine, including the territories under the temporary control of the Russian Federation, millions struggle to have adequate access to water, food, health, housing, protection and other essential services and supplies.



Major incidents, including the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in June 2023, and strikes hitting other vital infrastructure, exacerbated humanitarian needs in regions where the situation was already acute. Throughout the year, homes, schools, water systems and hospitals continued to be damaged. Local farmers are struggling to cultivate their lands due the heavy contamination of explosive remnants of war, this is particularly concerning in the fertile areas of Kharkivska, Khersonska and Mykolaivska oblasts.

Needs are also high amongst the nearly 4 million people who are internally displaced across Ukraine, particularly about 111,500 people currently living in collective centres. Prolonged displacement has led to many depleting their

resources and capacity to cope with loss of a job or income. At the same time, violence has pushed thousands to flee again, mainly in areas close to Sumska and Kharkivska oblasts.

Grave violations against civilians have exposed millions to increased trauma and mental health issues, and impacted children's wellbeing and education. The war has also compounded pre-existing inequalities and challenges faced by women and marginalized groups, and increased risks of gender-based violence.

The current humanitarian situation is likely to further deteriorate in 2024 if hostilities persist and attacks targeting energy and other critical infrastructure increase during the ongoing winter.

Ukraine: Oleksandr takes his two-year-old daughter, Michelle, out for a walk. Since the war began, he and his wife are doing all they can to protect Michelle from daily shelling and a lack of health care, electricity, education and basic essentials. UNICEF/Aleksey Filippov





Response priorities in 2024

The humanitarian community has worked intensively to carry out life-saving activities in Ukraine in 2023, building upon the major scale up on the response that followed the escalation of the war in 2022. Nearly 11 million people received life-saving and life-sustaining assistance from over 500 humanitarian organizations. Aid organizations made efforts to reach the most vulnerable who are exposed to hostilities on a daily basis, increasing assistance in the front-line communities, including through inter-agency convoys.

In 2024, the response will continue to focus on people with the most severe humanitarian needs across the country, prioritizing those in the front-line communities and neighbouring areas. The most vulnerable displaced people and returnees will also be prioritized.

In total, about 8.5 million people will be targeted for assistance. The strategy aims to provide principled and timely multisectoral life-saving assistance to ensure the safety and dignity of people enduring the consequences

of the war. A combination of static and mobile response modalities will ensure assistance is delivered where the most vulnerable people are. The response also seeks to strengthen the centrality of protection and reduce protection risks. To that end, specific protection activities and services will complement health, shelter, food, water, hygiene and sanitation and education interventions. In addition, gender and age-appropriate mental health and psychosocial support will be integrated into sectoral responses, as well as accountability to affected people and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Assistance to people living in areas currently under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation will depend on improved access for humanitarian organizations, which has been extremely limited since the escalation of the war, hampering operations at the required scale. The humanitarian community, however, will continue efforts and advocate for access to ensure all people impacted by the war can receive assistance, no matter where they live.

AID IN ACTION

Life under bombardment: Providing assistance close to people in Ukraine's front-line communities.



Ukraine: OCHA leads an inter-agency convoy to war-affected communities in Kherson region. OCHA

Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, humanitarian access to areas close to the front line has been increasingly challenging and unpredictable. Ground fighting, the constant threat of bombardment, heavy contamination by mines and other explosive remnants of war, made it extremely difficult – and dangerous – to implement regular humanitarian programming. Hostilities have

caused damage to roads and disrupted markets, adding to the challenges of providing assistance to people in front-line communities of Ukraine, where needs are severe and vulnerabilities high.

To overcome this, aid organizations have adapted and utilized a variety of operational modalities to ensure people lacking access to the most essential items and services can receive the support they need. An important modality for direct delivery of assistance is through regular inter-agency convoys, which every week go as close as possible to the front line with comprehensive packages of aid, including water, medicine, food, hygiene products and materials to repairs damaged houses. **Nearly 100 inter-agency convoys delivered assistance to front-line communities between January and October 2023, providing relief items to almost 400,000 people.** The support complements the extraordinary efforts carried out by local volunteer groups and NGOs, and also ensure they have supplies to carry out their life-saving duties.



Port-au-Prince, Haiti: A newly displaced woman now lives on the steps of Gymnasium Vincent. Since mid-2023, scores of schools, churches, and sports halls have been transformed into emergency shelters to house the sudden influx of residents driven out of their homes by an epidemic of gang violence. OCHA/ Giles Clarke

Latin America and the Caribbean

PEOPLE IN NEED
38.9 M

PEOPLE TARGETED
17.0 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
\$ 3.6 B

Latin America is the world's second-most disaster-prone and first most unequal region. The population face multiple vulnerabilities related to successive disasters, climate change, poverty, violence related to crime gangs and mass migration. Recurring climate shocks are becoming more frequent and severe. With forecasts anticipating that the El Niño phenomenon will persist until April 2024, millions of people will experience either prolonged droughts, intense rainfalls or both, a situation which will aggravate existing hardships in a region where more than around 32 per cent of people live below the poverty line¹¹⁵.

Central America's Dry Corridor, which spans parts of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, is already experiencing extreme weather, affecting agricultural production, food reserves and livelihoods. These impacts come as 7.7 million people in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras faced moderate to severe food insecurity in 2023 – nearly a quarter of their combined population. El Niño-linked drought conditions are already affecting 1.4 million people in Bolivia. Several Caribbean islands, as well as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay are at high risk of El Niño-induced wet conditions, with western Colombia and Ecuador considered priorities for potential humanitarian challenges. More recently, Hurricane Otis became the first

115. CEPAL - Social Panorama of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2022



category 5 storm to make landfall on Mexico's Pacific coast, leaving more than 1 million people in need of some sort of humanitarian assistance. The unprecedented rapid intensification of the hurricane from a tropical storm to a category 5 hurricane in 24 hours is consistent with climate researchers' concerns that rising sea surface temperatures are making storms gain strength faster and more often, leaving little time to prepare.

The World Bank's estimate that climate change could displace more than 17 million people by 2050 is even more troubling amid the region's ongoing mass population movements. Longstanding poverty, inequality and insecurity, including a homicide rate that is almost four times the global average, continue driving people within and across borders, creating more needs and straining response capacities. Millions of refugees, asylum seekers and other people in mixed migration situations remain across the continent and on the move. More than 408,000 migrants and asylum seekers crossed the treacherous Darién Gap from Colombia into Panama between January and September 2023, compared to 248,200 recorded in all of 2022. Honduras is another example of a country grappling with the challenges posed by migration flows,

442,600 undocumented migrants entered the country between January and October 2023, up from 188,800 in 2022. People who are on the move originate from an expanding number of countries in the region also including China and Africa. The situation in Haiti is particularly concerning in 2023, with a marked increase in violence, including gender-based violence, that is curtailing access to basic services and contributing to alarming levels of food insecurity.

The sum of the region's crises has led to growing needs. The 30 million people in need for 2024 marks an increase of 800,000 from the 29.2 million people in need in 2023. The region's six Humanitarian Response Plans for 2023 required more than US\$2.23 billion, up from US\$1.87 billion in 2022. Yet total funding has only reached US\$621.6 million – a coverage of 28 per cent, much lower than the 40 per cent coverage in 2022. None of the Humanitarian Response Plans have been covered by more than 37 per cent, with Honduras receiving the lowest coverage at 14.4 per cent as of October 2023. The number of people targeted for assistance will again exceed 14 million people in 2024, now amid the prospect of reduced humanitarian financing and worsening needs.

Chaparristique, El Salvador: Subsistence farmers in El Salvador's Dry Corridor often lack access to water, leaving them particularly vulnerable to drought linked to the onset of El Niño. FAO/Javier Orellana





Colombia HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

8.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 283.0 million

Total population
52.1 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2020 – 2024

Crisis Overview

Since the installation of the Colombian Government over a year ago, significant policy strides have been made. The Government has demonstrated a proactive commitment to advancing Total Peace efforts by fostering dialogues and ceasefires with some non-state armed groups. Simultaneously, it has championed social and economic policies that favor the most impoverished segments of society and has prioritized addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The Government’s development plan 2023-2026 places a special emphasis on initiatives that directly benefit the most vulnerable communities. These initiatives actively involve communities in sustainable solutions, emphasizing approaches that are both people and environment oriented.

Despite these commendable efforts, Colombia still grapples with overlapping persistent humanitarian challenges – particularly in areas where State presence and capacity are more limited- arising from the expanding geographical impact of internal armed conflict, its intensification in some areas, and ongoing disasters. In 2023, approximately 8.3 million people¹¹⁶ have been identified as facing urgent humanitarian needs, indicating a concerning rise in comparison to the preceding year. 50.4% of this population are women, and 30% children¹¹⁷. 1.9 million Ethnic communities (23%) are disproportionately affected. In addition, Colombia hosts some 2.9 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees¹¹⁸ who, despite progress achieved through the Temporary Protection Permit issued by the Government, still require particular attention, especially regarding socio-economic

integration. Increasing numbers of migrants and people in need of international protection (mixed movements) also transit through Colombia and the Darien region, between Colombia and Panama, on their way to North America, facing grave risks¹¹⁹.

Whilst some progress has been observed in some areas in terms of a reduction in violence from armed confrontations within the context of cease-fire agreements, concerns persist regarding key protection dimensions related to increased territorial and social control exerted by Non-state armed groups (NSAGs), including child recruitment, landmine contamination, individual displacements, gender-based violence, mobility restrictions, and access constraints. In 2023, nearly 105,000 people were affected by conflicts in 161 mass emergency events¹²⁰. A similar amount was affected by individual displacements¹²¹.

In addition, in 2023, Colombia faced various challenges related to disasters, reporting 1,646 hydro-climatic events¹²² including large-scale floods in various regions of the country, landslides on the border with Panama and the impact of tropical storm Franklin in several municipalities. Moreover, the transition from La Niña phenomenon to El Niño poses a risk to 9.3 million people across half of the country’s municipalities. Out of these, 2.9 million people are at high risk to the effects of droughts, crop loss, and livestock reductions¹²³; 142 municipalities are at risk of restrictions and water rationing water¹²⁴. In addition, WHO warns that 5.1 million people could be directly affected by health risks that have had an unusual increase in Colombia during the year 2023, such as dengue, malaria, acute

116. JIAF analysis 2023 conducted by the HCT to inform the HNO.
 117. 9.6% are children between 0 and 5 years old; 10.3% are children between 6 and 11 years old, and 10.1% are children between 12 and 17 years old.
 118. <https://www.r4v.info/es/colombia> ; <https://www.r4v.info/es/refugiadosymigrantes>
 119. GIFFM, based on analysis conducted for the RMRP 2024
 120. OCHA, Monitor
 121. UARIV, Colombia’s Victims Unit
 122. According to figures from the UNGRD as of November 6, 2023
 123. UNGRD, Ministry of Environment and HCT contingency plan for El Niño, 2023
 124. WASH cluster analysis



diarrheal disease, etc., and mental health issues¹²⁵. These challenges compound existing food insecurity concerns in Colombia, where 15.5 million experience moderate to severe food insecurity¹²⁶. Among them, 7.3 million urgently require humanitarian assistance in agricultural livelihoods, food, and nutrition, with 2.5 million facing critical needs¹²⁷.

This overview highlights the multifaceted challenges still faced by Colombia, necessitating better coordinated efforts from responders at local level, as well as more

holistic interventions under the nexus approach to manage risks, address immediate needs, and enable long-term development strategies. Strengthening the joint efforts deployed by the Government, at the national and local levels, by affected communities, humanitarian organizations, and international partners, through enhanced dialogue; community engagement and co-construction will be crucial in mitigating these challenges and fostering a more stable and secure future for the country's vulnerable populations.

AID IN ACTION

Community engagement and participation



Pizarro, Chocó, Colombia: Women participate in a community building activity as part of an emergency preparedness initiative for indigenous communities in the lower basins of the Baudó River. OCHA/Nazly Montoya

Colombia is a pilot for the Flagship initiative, with the goal of transforming humanitarian action by placing affected populations at the center of all efforts. This entails adapting response strategies and coordination mechanisms to reduce the reliance of affected individuals on humanitarian aid and to foster enduring transformations. As part of this initiative, the HCT will continue actively enhancing community engagement practices, area-

based coordination, localization, and new financing strategies to generate more impactful results for affected communities.

In 2023, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has strategically embraced Community Engagement and Participation, recognizing communities as active partners in shaping humanitarian responses through meaningful dialogues and community-based planning, including the possibility of tailoring traditional actions based on specific communities' contexts and priorities. In addition, the HCT has been transitioning to a joint, results-oriented approach that transcends individual mandates, fostering impactful, community-tailored actions. Furthermore, there has been a notable shift towards a preventive and anticipatory approach, driven by strengthened predictive capabilities and risk analysis, resulting in the development of inter-agency anticipatory action plans and the promotion of a preventive mindset in State institutions. These strategic changes are geared towards achieving sustainable impact, resilience, and durable solutions while enhancing preparedness for potential humanitarian crisis.

125. Health cluster, 2023

126. Food security cluster, 2023

127. Idem



Response priorities in 2024 and 2025

All members of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), with support from various donors have diligently worked to complement the Government's response in addressing the most critical needs. So far, as of October 2023, humanitarian assistance reached 912,485 people out of the targeted 1.6 million people¹²⁸. Furthermore, the HCT is committed to strengthening its territorial presence in regions such as Magdalena Medio, Guainía, and Vaupés, where the escalation of conflict and mixed affectations has been particularly pronounced, and the capacity to respond remains limited. Sustained funding limitations, however, remain a pressing challenge for the HCT. In 2023, the plan was financed at just 37%, posing significant challenges to reach all of the targeted population¹²⁹.

In the years 2024 and 2025, the HCT will strategically align its response into three distinctive phases:

- **Emergency Response:** Focusing on areas significantly impacted by violence and internal conflict and disasters, particularly in remote rural regions with

dispersed populations, influenced by NSAG, and where state presence and capacities are limited, including new areas affected by violence and conflict.

- **Proactive Prevention and Preparedness:** Targeting regions prone to recurring disasters, newly emerging climate change-related emergencies, and areas identified as most at risk due to El Niño phenomenon. This phase will involve enhancing predictive analysis and fostering anticipatory actions.
- **Deliberate Transition to Sustainable Development:** Enhancing the nexus (humanitarian, peace, development and climate change) approach, at territorial level to better link humanitarian responses to more durable solutions. The response strategy will prioritize the most vulnerable populations, including children, women, and ethnic communities.

To fulfill this commitment, the HCT has identified a financial requirement of \$283 million for the upcoming year.

128. OCHA, 345w activity monitoring report

129. Nevertheless, sectors such as Gender-Based Violence only received 15% of funding, which implies that it is a defunded sector regarding the specific necessities of women and children in a context of humanitarian emergencies.

Sincelejito community, Majagual municipality, Sucre, Colombia: The Demonstrative Training Center, an FAO agricultural project, enables women to cultivate food with seeds. OCHA/Luisa María Rodríguez





El Salvador HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.1 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

506,200

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 87.0 million

Total population
6.3 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2021 – 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Humanitarian needs in El Salvador are the result of extreme weather events, increasing food insecurity and the impacts of high levels of human mobility, all compounded by rising living costs and inflation due to global economic trends.

WFP’s June 2023 National Food Security Survey estimates that 17 per cent of the population (1,044,895 people) is moderately or severely food-insecure due to multiple economic and climate-related factors, primarily associated with the current drought and El Niño which is expected to continue through early 2024. The El Niño phenomenon is exacerbating inequality in access to basic services and increasing food insecurity and rates of child malnutrition. The risks of diseases may also increase due to lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation.

El Salvador is both an origin and transit location for human mobility. From October 2022 to September 2023, more than 62,800 Salvadoreans were intercepted at the United States southern border. In 2022 there were 14,437 returnees representing a 70 per cent increase compared to 2021. Returnees face humanitarian needs, such as protection and access to basic services, and may overwhelm host communities who lack capacities.

Incidents of violence have been decreasing nationally in the last couple of years allowing increased access to communities that were formerly under the control of gangs. These communities require an expansion of protection services to address accumulated unmet needs and limited coping and development capacity.

At least 596,500 women and 343,800 children are in need of humanitarian assistance due to the compounding effects of food insecurity, limited livelihoods, and gender-based violence.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, the humanitarian community aims to assist 506,214 of the most vulnerable people (around 45 per cent of people in need), requiring US\$87 million for the response. The number of people in need for 2024 increased slightly from 2023 due to El Niño-induced drought conditions and the need for protection services in communities that were previously inaccessible.

The HRP is based on collectively identified shocks that drive humanitarian needs: migration flows and El Niño conditions. The activities will provide an intersectoral response to these shocks and their humanitarian consequences, with a focus on people facing food insecurity and people in communities that were previously inaccessible. Response activities are designed to complement the country’s ongoing development projects and government efforts.



Guatemala

HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.5 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 125.0 million

Total population
17.6 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2021 – 2024

Crisis overview and projections

In Guatemala, the primary humanitarian concerns include food insecurity, acute malnutrition in children under age 5 and increased protection and basic needs due to a rise in flows of migrants and refugees. Some 5.3 million people require humanitarian assistance including food, emergency medical services and treatment, access to safe water and sanitation, shelter, and protection assistance, including information and referral mechanisms for cases of gender-based and other types of violence. In 2023, the number of people in need increased by 300,000 people compared to 2022.

Between March and August 2023, the food security situation deteriorated due to drought conditions resulting in a reduction in the basic grain reserves of small-scale farmers as well as an increase in seasonal prices. El Niño conditions are compounding needs and are expected to continue into 2024, potentially depleting the harvest of staple grains in the first agricultural cycle of May to August, which is especially concerning in the western highlands where food insecurity is most prevalent. A stunted harvest would also eliminate jobs and wages for day laborers who depend on this income.

The increase in number of children in Guatemala suffering from malnutrition is concerning. Guatemala ranks first in Latin America and the sixth in the world in cases of chronic malnutrition among children under 5 years old. Close to half of all children (46.5 per cent) suffer from chronic malnutrition. As of 27 July, in 2023 there were 14,626 cases of acute malnutrition, which represents an increase of 28 per cent compared with the same period in 2022. Of the 2023 cases of acute malnutrition, 22 percent (3,850 children) are cases of severe acute malnutrition. Given its proximity to Mexico and the United States, Guatemala is a country of origin, transit, destination and return of people in human mobility, including refugees and applicants for refugee status.

In 2024, Guatemala will continue to face challenges due to economic and social inequality, and environmental shocks. The number of people in need of protection is expected to reach 3 million, due to the increase in human mobility and the humanitarian consequences of violence and organized crime.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, the Humanitarian Response Plan will seek to address the most pressing humanitarian needs of 2.5 million people, the equivalent of 47 per cent of the 5.3 million people in need. This target was set according to the priorities based on the collectively-identified crises of human mobility and food insecurity, within the operating context and the capacities of humanitarian actors in the country. The financial requirements are US\$125.0 million. Response activities are designed to complement ongoing development projects and government efforts.

Disaster-affected areas, particularly those that are mountainous, remote, or easily flooded, represent significant logistical challenges, hindering the timely arrival of humanitarian aid. The country team will also closely monitor and manage challenges stemming from the internal context, including recurring protests and road closures.



Haiti HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.5 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 673.8 million

Total population
11.7 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2010 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Haiti is impacted by decades of a multifaceted - political, social and economic challenges, exacerbated by recurring natural hazards. Lawless gang violence has increasingly blighted all aspects of everyday life, particularly in the capital Port-au-Prince and Artibonite departments. It is estimated that 5.5 million Haitians are in need of humanitarian assistance, an increase from 5.2 million

people in 2023. Extreme violence perpetrated by armed gangs against the Haitian population has continued to spread across the country, reaching distant rural areas as the state's presence has continued to erode. Existing structural weaknesses, leading to a lack of services, have only deepened with attacks on hospitals, doctors being kidnapped and the forced displacement of several hundred teachers.

AID IN ACTION

Scaling up humanitarian response



Port-au-Prince, Haiti: A UN local partner assess needs at a new displacement camp at the Rex Medina Theater. OCHA/ Giles Clarke

Haiti has been declared as a humanitarian system-wide scale up. Despite the growing insecurity, more international staff have been deployed and organizations have expanded their reach in

the country in 2023. Enhanced advocacy efforts included the participation of the IASC Advocacy Principal Champion, UNICEF's Executive Director, in numerous multinational fora. Over 2.3 million people received some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023 so far. Negotiations with relevant influencers on the ground have led to greater access for humanitarian partners to previously isolated communities and people in dire need, which allowed the provision of vital aid such as food assistance. That in turn resulted in a drop of some half a million in the number of people at crisis level food insecurity or worse, to 4.35 million. Collaboration with the government allowed the humanitarian community to respond to the needs of Internally displaced people in makeshift locations and a concerted effort led by national authorities to contain the recent cholera outbreak.



Haitian women are paying a heavy price for this surge of violence. Rape cases increased by 49 per cent from January to August 2023, compared to the same period of 2022. Meanwhile, hospitals and schools operate intermittently at best. Staff cannot go to their workplace; sick people refuse to seek treatment and parents refuse to send their children to school for fear of being hit by stray bullets or being kidnapped. It is estimated that half a million children live in neighbourhoods controlled by gangs. The lack of access to basic services is even more concerning at a time when a cholera epidemic has spread to all 10 departments since the first cases were confirmed on October 2, 2022. Historically internal displacement has been triggered by natural disasters in Haiti, however, in a marked shift, violence has newly displaced 200,000 people. At the same time, forced repatriation of Haitian migrants from neighbouring countries has accelerated. Insecurity combined with rainfall deficits have disrupted the agricultural season, resulting in 44 per cent of the population facing acute food insecurity.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, humanitarian partners aim to target 3.6 million of the 5.5 million people who need humanitarian assistance. Priorities of the response include offering protection services to women and girls who are victims or at risk of GBV, this includes access to medical services, strengthening reception and post-arrival assistance for returnee/deported Haitians and improving living conditions in displacement sites to reduce protection risks. Access to emergency water-hygiene-sanitation services also remains a priority for people affected and those most at risk of being affected by the cholera epidemic. Emergency food assistance for people in Emergency food insecurity level (IPC4) and livelihoods assistance for people in Crisis level (IPC 3) is also a priority for the response.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti: Displaced men, women and children shelter in a boxing arena in downtown Port-au-Prince after fleeing their homes during gang attacks in August 2023. OCHA/Giles Clarke





Honduras HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 205.0 million

Total population
9.8 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

In Honduras the primary humanitarian needs stem from

- the impacts of violence;
- human mobility, including forced displacement, mixed movements and the return of Honduran migrants, many of them with protection needs;
- impacts of climate change and disasters such as drought, flash floods and more recently El Niño; and
- food insecurity and malnutrition.

Around 25 per cent of the population (2.4 million people) faced food insecurity during the lean season (June to August 2023), according to estimates from the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC). Of these, 2.07 million people were in crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3) and 352,000 people in an emergency situation (IPC 4). While the situation has slightly improved in comparison to 2022, food insecurity may worsen in 2024 in case of a worsening of drought conditions caused by El Niño.

A threefold increase in human mobility in 2023 (compared to 2022), rising to over 400,000 people so far, has resulted in rising demands for assistance in almost all humanitarian response sectors. The average daily influx of more than 6,000 people during the third quarter of 2023 has stretched the already limited national reception capacities. Refugees and migrants face a high level of vulnerability given the condition of routes, the distance from protection networks, and the risks and multiple scenarios they face that violate their rights.

High levels of crime-related violence continue to be the main cause of forced displacement within the country, with forced recruitment and gender-based violence identified as primary triggers. In 2023, at least 247,000 people have been forced to move internally to safeguard their lives, security, freedom and personal integrity.

Response priorities in 2024

The 2023 Honduras HRP is currently the most underfunded response plan globally, with a funding gap of over 80 per cent. Despite this limited funding and the threefold increase in human mobility, the Humanitarian Country Team was able to provide multi-sectorial assistance to over 200,000 people.

In 2024, humanitarian partners in Honduras will seek to respond to the needs of 1.3 million people, requiring US\$203 million. The response is based on collectively identified shocks that drive humanitarian needs - climate change, violence, human mobility and food insecurity. The response activities are designed to provide an intersectoral response to these shocks and their humanitarian consequences, focusing on the most vulnerable populations. These response activities are designed to complement ongoing development projects and government efforts.



AID IN ACTION

Responding to regional and country specific needs through anticipatory action



Terrero, Choluteca, Honduras: Gregorio is a subsistence farmer. He is among the millions of people in Honduras' Dry Corridor, vulnerable to erratic rainfall patterns that factor into protracted periods of crippling drought and severe storms. Both extremes often lead to failed maize and bean harvests. Food Security partners, including FAO and WFP, are working with Gregorio to replicate best practices such as constructing and using ferrocement 60-barrel water tanks that cost a fraction of traditional plastic tanks that can hold water for up to 60 day's use for irrigation and livestock. OCHA/Marc Belanger

Humanitarian response plans can provide opportunities to work more efficiently, as is the case with the anticipatory action (AA) framework for the four countries affected by the Central American Dry Corridor, three of which have HRPs (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, in addition to Nicaragua). Given the high probability of the continued El Niño conditions in 2024, the Emergency Relief Coordinator has approved a regional and country-specific AA framework focused on triggers in food security, agriculture, WASH, nutrition, and

health sectors. The framework will provide a timely response to the foreseen needs of the population, in line with the risks identified in the HNO, reducing the possibility of increased need for humanitarian assistance, mitigating the impact of El Niño on the most vulnerable populations, and allowing for a joint approach with more positive significant impact. The approach aims to address needs as they arise and prior to their significant impact, on the people and on costs.



Venezuela HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.0 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ \$650.0 million

Total population
28.8 million

Income level
-

INFORM Severity Index
5 / High

Consecutive appeals
2019 - 2024

Situation overview and projections

Vulnerable people in Venezuela continue to face significant shortcomings in the provision of basic services, such as healthcare, water provision, education, and energy supply. Social protection programmes have been affected and there are limited livelihood and income generation opportunities, especially for the most vulnerable, such as women, girls and boys, elderly people, people with disabilities, indigenous populations, people on the move and LGBTQ+ people.

During 2023, the economic recovery observed in 2022 showed signs of slowing down, with growth this year estimated at 3.2 percent, compared to 12 percent in 2022.¹³⁰ This comes as a consequence of large-scale economic contraction in the last nine years (75 percent of GDP), high inflation of 158.3 percent¹³¹ between January and September 2023, the continuation of economic sanctions, and an overall lack of fiscal space to invest in basic services and social programmes.

Feedback provided by communities indicates that the main priority affecting vulnerable people is sufficient access to food. Whilst the availability of food has vastly improved, the cost of a basic food basket for a family of five is equivalent to almost US\$500, which is out of reach for most vulnerable families, especially those whose income is dependent on the minimum wage (equivalent to just US\$3.7 a month) and/or government vouchers, the equivalent of US\$70.¹³² This priority is followed by access to basic services, including clean water and health, and to livelihoods, with the lack of income highlighted as one of the main factors driving vulnerable people to negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing the number of meals or quantity of food, using unsafe drinking water, cutting back spendings on health and/or education and

migrating to other parts of the country or abroad, amongst others. These negative coping mechanisms often exacerbate protection risks, including exposure to gender-based violence, human trafficking, and child exploitation and abuse.

Mixed migration flows continue, with vulnerable people still seeking economic opportunities abroad, while the trend of people returning to Venezuela is also ongoing, many due to family reunification and/or difficulties in integrating into other countries. Improved economic opportunities and access to essential services are critical to the sustainability of these returns.

In October 2023, the Venezuelan government and a major opposition platform agreed on a set of electoral guarantees for all stakeholders ahead of the next presidential elections in 2024. Within the framework of these agreements, the United States temporarily lifted sanctions on Venezuela’s oil, gas, and gold sectors, among others. These agreements follow the Social Agreement signed in 2022, aimed at improving basic services and for which the UN was asked to support with a multi-partner trust fund. Whilst it will still take time for these changes to generate sufficient income to significantly improve essential services and to create economic opportunities for the most vulnerable, it does provide an opening to continue investing in Venezuela’s socio-economic recovery, with the aim of reducing the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance.

Response priorities in 2024

During 2023, the humanitarian response continued to have national coverage, reaching 312 out of 335 municipalities across all 24 states. It also strengthened its presence in

130. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/67989-estudio-economico-america-latina-caribe-2023-financiamiento-transicion> September 2023

131. Central Bank of Venezuela. www.bcv.org.ve

132. As of 31 October 2023.



priority states, such as Amazonas, Apure, Bolivar, Delta Amacuro, and Sucre, which includes remote and hard-to-reach areas. As of September 2023, an estimated 1.9 million people (51 percent women) were reached with humanitarian assistance. Key achievements include school feeding provided to more than 500,000 children, adolescents, and personnel, facilitating access to safe water in nearly 400 hospitals and healthcare facilities, benefitting some 360,000 people, and providing GBV prevention, mitigation, and response services to more than 130,000 people. Coordination with national authorities allowed enhanced response to increasingly frequent natural disasters.

The response in 2024 will continue focusing on critical needs, strengthening basic service delivery, livelihoods, community resilience, and reducing and responding to protection risks. It will focus activities on priority thematic

areas, vulnerable groups, and municipalities, with the aim of promoting a gender responsive and intersectoral response, in which there is greater complementarity among humanitarian actors and coordination with the State. Through enhanced prioritization, together with building on past achievements and capacities, the financial ask will reduce by approximately 10 percent compared to 2023.

Whilst humanitarian access has improved, there are several operational challenges, such as logistical difficulties, bureaucratic and administrative impediments, and localised insecurity. Funding dropped by 8 per cent in 2022, and faces a 20 percent decrease in 2023¹³³. The absence of development actors and financing in Venezuela hinders the ability to address the structural causes related to the lack of basic services and livelihood opportunities.

AID IN ACTION

Putting People First: Empowering Communities Through an Interagency Feedback Mechanism



Zulia State, Venezuela: Indigenous community leader of the Yukpa community of Toromo actively participates in an informative session on the Contact Line. Gabriela Bello/OCHA

To strengthen accountability to affected populations, an inter-agency community feedback mechanism was established in 2021, endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team’s Collective AAP Framework, which included a toll-free national-level contact line to receive feedback and information from communities on the UN and partners’

programs across the country. Efforts were carried to promote the contact line with communities across prioritised states, in which communication preferences were consulted and incorporated into the initiative. This had a positive impact, as the initiative received 29,000 forms of feedback (71 per cent from women), including suggestions, complaints, request for information and assistance, and information on sensitive cases. A response is provided to the beneficiary in an average time of 26 hours, with the feedback channelled to respective partners and protocols agreed for sensitive cases such as GBV and PSEA. The feedback received has informed programmatic adjustments, including training initiatives, and adjustments in the type of assistance to indigenous communities, ensuring cultural sensitivities. The interagency contact line has strengthened the humanitarian response’s people-centred approach, adapting to community feedback and preferences.

133. As of 31 October 2023.



Gaza, OPT: Nearly 12,000 children have been vaccinated at UNRWA health centres in Gaza since 4 November 2023. This comes as UNRWA Chief Philippe Lazzarini warns of an imminent outbreak of waterborne disease & emergence of hepatitis and skin disease across Gaza. UNRWA

Middle East and North Africa

PEOPLE IN NEED

53.8 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

36.8 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 13.9 B

The ongoing geopolitical tensions in Middle East and North African region continue to fuel conflicts, leading to mass displacements, strained resources, and dire humanitarian needs

In OPT, the continued siege and bombardment of Gaza and the escalating situation in the West Bank pose immense difficulties for humanitarian response. OPT continues to face unprecedented challenges, including massive displacement, the destruction of basic infrastructure, lack of safe drinking water, acute food insecurity and attacks on health and humanitarian workers. Across MENA, 50 million people find themselves displaced within their

own countries or as refugees across borders, leading to overcrowded camps and strained host communities. Adequate shelter, healthcare, and education for displaced populations remain critical humanitarian needs, with the ongoing conflicts perpetuating. More than 40 million people need urgent support according to humanitarian partners working in MENA.

The repercussions of climate emergencies loom large, with extreme weather events becoming more frequent and severe in MENA. This is particularly evident in vulnerable regions, where communities grapple with the devastating impacts of droughts, floods, and storms, disrupting livelihoods and triggering food insecurity. The number of food-insecure people has increased by 20 per cent across the region over the past three years – reaching more than 41 million people, compared to 2019. Across North Africa, including the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, climate



change-induced warming is already more pronounced in the summer, and wet seasons are becoming progressively dryer. Recent multi-year droughts have been unprecedented in the past 500–900 years. Despite the naturally higher temperatures and lower rainfall across the Arabian Peninsula, trends of further warming and drying are also evident and are expected to worsen over the coming decades.

Economic factors further compound the humanitarian challenges, as many regions face the repercussions of economic downturns, exacerbated by the lingering effects of the global pandemic. Widespread unemployment, inflation and economic instability have left vulnerable populations on the brink, struggling to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, and healthcare. The unemployment rate is around 10,67 per cent with OPT, Libya and Jordan having the highest rates in the region. And more than 31 per cent of the population of MENA are living under the poverty line with Yemen, Syria, and Egypt having the highest rates.

In 2024, the demand for humanitarian assistance is expected to persist due to the protracted nature of conflicts, necessitating sustained efforts. It is imperative to shift the focus beyond immediate relief to encompass long-term strategies for sustainable development and conflict resolution. The anticipated escalation of climate-related challenges calls for adaptive measures and innovative solutions to mitigate the impact on vulnerable communities. Additionally, the lingering economic fallout from the pandemic demands targeted interventions aimed at rebuilding livelihoods and promoting economic resilience. A holistic and adaptive approach is imperative to address the evolving needs of the affected population comprehensively.

North-west Syria: An older man and woman sitting with children in a cave where they took shelter from hostilities. OCHA/Bilal Al Hammoud





Occupied Palestinian Territory HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

3.1 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.2 billion

Total population
5.4 million

Income level
Upper middle income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2003 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

On 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza launched more than 3,500 missiles and rockets towards Israel and breached the perimeter fence of Gaza in multiple locations. They then entered Israeli towns, communities, and military facilities near the Gaza Strip, killing over 1,200 people, wounding thousands of others and capturing over 200 Israelis and foreign nationals, with reports of rape and other sexual violence.

The Israeli military declared a “state of war alert” and began striking targets in the Gaza Strip. On 9 October, the Government of Israel ordered a “total siege” on Gaza, cutting off water and electricity connections, and closing off all border crossings preventing movement into and out of Gaza. Between 8 October and 10 November, over 10,000 Palestinians were killed, of whom 68 per cent are reported to be women and children, and over 26,000 injured, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health.

The aerial bombardment and ground incursions into Gaza continue as have rockets from Gaza into Israel. Israeli military orders to evacuate north and central Gaza to areas in south Gaza amid the ongoing hostilities, together with 35,000 destroyed and damaged homes have resulted in the displacement of 1.7 million people, 8 out of every 10 people being displaced. Half of those displaced are sheltering in 156 UNRWA facilities, which are operating well beyond capacity. Even with civilians moving away from the north, nowhere is safe as hostilities continue in the south as well.

The Gaza power plant ceased operations on 11 October due to fuel shortages, resulting in near-total electricity shutdown, forcing essential service infrastructure to rely on backup generators, also constrained by fuel scarcity. Limited fuel supplies, and only for basic humanitarian operations, were allowed into Gaza for the first time on 15 November.

The functioning of critical services is further compounded by the destruction of water and sanitation, hospitals, electricity lines and cell towers, many of these sites treated as military target. Complete disruptions of communications and internet services, including satellite connections, have been imposed by Israel three times, creating panic and severely disrupting access to essential services and humanitarian efforts. Food systems have also been breaking down with mills out of operation, bakeries shutting down and shops unable to re-stock.

The health system has been overwhelmed with overflowing patients and dwindling medical supplies, and many facilities have been withstanding several attacks, including Al-Shifa and Al Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza city, and the Indonesian Hospital in North Gaza. As many as 25 hospitals out of Gaza’s 36 hospitals are out of service or unable to admit new patients. Health conditions are exacerbated by inability of people to access potable water. People rely on unhealthy water sources which is increasing water borne diseases, in particular among children. The unsanitary conditions across Gaza, especially in heavily overcrowded IDP locations and the lack of availability of basic personal and domestic hygiene items, create a high-risk environment for public health. Reported cases of diarrhea are on the increase. Additionally, as Gaza’s food system has been stretched to breaking point and food production has virtually halted, people are likely to have inadequate nutrition, further weakening their immune systems and exposing them to various diseases. Prior to this crisis, more than half of the population of Gaza had experienced acute food insecurity since 2022, according to FAO. Currently there is scarcity of essential food commodities due to security constraints that often prevent resupplying. Additionally, prices have surged, with vegetables seeing a 32 per cent increase and wheat experiencing a 65 per cent rise. Hours-long queues are reported in front of the limited bakeries that remain operational, where people are exposed to airstrikes.



While attention since 7 October has primarily been focused on Gaza, the situation in the West Bank has been increasingly volatile. The number and severity of “settler-related” incidents of violence have increased, as have military operations in the West Bank. As many as 219 Palestinians, including 55 children and 4 Israelis have been killed between 7 October and 24 November. The Palestinian casualties in these seven weeks account for 48 per cent of all Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank in 2023. Another 2,944 Palestinians have been injured and 1,176 displaced.

Additionally, access restrictions have been imposed, severely limiting access to essential services. The full closure of the West Bank prevents movement and trade. An estimated 200,000 permits for Palestinians to work in Israel and in settlements have been suspended, depriving the West Bank economy of an estimated NIS 1.5 to 2 billion per month, which in turn is increasing economic hardship and prompting demand for humanitarian assistance and essential services among vulnerable and marginalized communities. Palestinian staff from humanitarian organizations are also unable to carry out their work in East Jerusalem. Restricting movement and reducing the presence of aid workers is making it hard for people in need to get essential help, leading to increased protection concerns.

Response priorities in 2024

The immediate priority until the end of 2023 is to scale up the humanitarian response to address the current level of needs across OPT, while accounting for the fact that the magnitude of needs and levels of operational constraints are beyond what has been seen before in the OPT. The response to date has been limited due to high levels of insecurity, extremely limited goods coming into Gaza including fuel, insufficient funding and reduced operational capacity. Ensuring operational capacity is a priority but it depends on complex negotiations for allowing staff to rotate in and out, and must account for the fact that many of the staff of humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza are they themselves directly affected, with many displaced.

The humanitarian community has not been able to keep pace with the scale and depth of need. Impediments imposed by the parties have prevented humanitarians from reaching a large portion of the population of Gaza, particularly in areas in the north, and from securing entry of sufficient humanitarian aid into Gaza. The pause that started on 24 November is expected to provide windows of opportunity for deliveries in the north.

Implementation of the response assumes an increase in humanitarian assistance into Gaza, sufficient fuel for humanitarian operations and that humanitarian actors have safe and sustained access to all people in need, across the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Gaza, Occupied Palestinian Territory: Damage following an Israeli airstrike. UNRWA/Ashraf Amra





Syrian Arab Republic HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

15.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

13.0 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 4.4 billion

Total population
23.2 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2012 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

After 12 years of hostilities and persistent economic crisis, people in Syria saw their situation worsen when a series of earthquakes hit northern Syria and Türkiye as of 6 February 2023. The earthquakes resulted in almost 5,900 deaths and more than 12,800 people injured. Many families lost their main breadwinner due to death or injury, at a time when the economic situation was already dire, resulting in millions of people unable to meet their basic needs. The earthquakes have uprooted hundreds of thousands of families. Already prior to the earthquakes, 15.3 million people (7.7 million women, 7.6 million men) were assessed to need humanitarian assistance across the country. Of the 15.3 million people in need, some 4.1 million were living under extreme or catastrophic conditions.

As Syria grappled with the aftermath of earthquakes, economic indicators took a further downturn. High inflation, currency depreciation, and increases in commodity prices continued to drive humanitarian needs in Syria. This resulted in an increase in poverty and reliance on humanitarian assistance. The situation also drove some population movement in Syria, as families moved in search of livelihood opportunities and better access to basic services. The economic decline created a compounding impact on access to services already affected by the earthquake. The economic crisis also increased the cost of the humanitarian response.

In October 2023, northern Syria and Deir-ez-Zor Governorate witnessed the most significant escalation of hostilities since 2019, resulting in the displacement of over 120,000 people in north-west Syria. More than 40 health facilities, 27 schools and 20 water systems were impacted by shelling. Regular attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity, left people without access to basic services in north-east Syria, while humanitarian access was negatively impacted by ongoing hostilities. As of mid-year 2023, the severity of access

was found to be very high in nine sub-districts, moderate in 50 sub-districts and, low in 99 sub-districts. Deir-ez-Zor Governorate was identified as having the highest number of hard-to-reach sub-districts.

A rift between armed actors coupled with community tensions in the Governorate led to displacement of thousands of civilians. With the regional military dynamics at play, it is expected that the conflict in northern Syria and Deir-ez-Zor Governorate will further intensify, leading to significant increase in humanitarian needs.

While the full overview of needs will be published in January 2024, humanitarian partners estimate that at least 15.3 million people may be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024.

Response priorities in 2024

The humanitarian community will introduce a new two-year HRP covering 2024 and 2025. The response will continue to focus on the key drivers of needs, which are protection threats, rights violations, economic deterioration, unavailability of basic services as well as environmental shocks. In a context of rising needs, humanitarian partners will address people's most urgent needs, including by expanding critically required early recovery and livelihood support programming as well as access to basic services through investments in critical civilian infrastructure required for service delivery, among other approaches. While increased efforts are made to target only those most in need and prioritize interventions, the funding forecast for 2024 is bleak. Without sustained assistance, vulnerable households are likely to continue slipping deeper into poverty. A potential continuation of hostilities that escalated in September 2023 will have devastating impact on civilians and on the already damaged infrastructure.



AID IN ACTION

Emergency Cash and Voucher Assistance in crisis: coordination and lessons learnt



Jandairis, Syria: Markets across north-west Syria were found to be largely resilient following the earthquakes. A cash-for-food project was implemented as a priority in humanitarian response. Community members used the local markets to buy food items of their choice such as eggs, oil and lentils using vouchers. OCHA/Madevi Sun-Suon

Following the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck southern Türkiye and north-west Syria on 6 February 2023, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) was selected as the most appropriate response modality. Within a week, US\$1.8 million of multi-purpose cash (MPC) was distributed to 13,000 affected families, who were either homeless, displaced, or in need of medical care. MPC's unique capability is its ability to meet diverse needs through a single distribution. This approach not only provides immediate relief but also aids local

economic recovery. The rapid fund distribution was possible thanks to experienced partners and established rapid-response frameworks. Furthermore, MPC is aligned with the principles of Accountability to Affected People (AAP) as it gives affected families the freedom and dignity to be the decision-makers to buy what they need most. In GoS controlled areas, almost 133,400 individuals benefitted from MPC amounting to US\$5 million and distributed between February and August 2023. CVA will continue to be encouraged in 2024.



Yemen HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

18.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

11.2 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.8 billion

Total population
33.4 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2008 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

In the context of nine years of conflict, sustained economic deterioration and diminished public services, dire levels of humanitarian needs continue across Yemen. While consultations with concerned authorities continue, an estimated 18.2 million people, or around 53 per cent of the population, need humanitarian assistance. Following the expiry of a truce in October 2022, truce conditions have largely continued to hold over the course of 2023. The relative respite from hostilities has supported improved humanitarian access in some areas, as well as an overall drop in new internal displacement resulting from conflict and lower numbers of civilian casualties. Sporadic clashes continue in border and frontline areas, and landmines and explosive remnants of war pose a deadly threat to civilians and impact prospects for sustainable recovery.

Yemen has one of the largest populations of internally displaced people globally, with 4.56 million people displaced. Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees face harsh conditions and heightened vulnerabilities, with an estimated 380,000 requiring humanitarian assistance.

Communities across Yemen are ill-equipped to face the climate crisis, as natural hazards such as droughts and flooding increase in number and severity. By the end of November, climate events had caused more than 229,000 new or secondary displacements, nearing the highest point in the four years since climate displacement tracking began.

In 2024, overall needs severity is anticipated to be equivalent to that in 2023. While hopes remain that a negotiated end to the conflict is on the horizon, any

re-escalation of hostilities would result in skyrocketing needs and displacement figures. Of significant concern is the likelihood of a deterioration in malnutrition, in the context of limited investments aimed at addressing the root causes of poverty, continued impediments to comprehensive vaccination campaigns in some areas, low humanitarian funding, inconsistent food assistance and ongoing economic and public service decline. Climate-induced events will continue to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, damage shelters and other infrastructure, and disrupt service supply and livelihoods.

Response priorities in 2024

Despite substantial funding and access challenges, 211 humanitarian organizations delivered aid and protection services to an average of 8.9 million people every month in 2023, including internally displaced persons, returnees, marginalized communities and vulnerable host communities.

For 2024, humanitarian partners have undertaken extensive efforts to prioritize humanitarian response programming. This is based on a need to improve and adjust targeting and interventions in light of the evolution of needs, the operational environment and existing capacities, and the recommendations of the inter-agency humanitarian evaluation of the Yemen crisis, while also retaining flexibilities for contingencies. Humanitarian actors will focus on better integration of the response in areas where needs are the most severe, while strengthening synergies with development actors in order to shift to more sustainable solutions.



AID IN ACTION

Consultations to support strategic response planning.



Taiz, Yemen: An IOM water point provides clean and safe potable water to communities displaced in an overcrowded urban settlement located a few kilometers from an active frontline. Many residents of the neighborhood have been displaced. They have arrived with little belongings and require support for essential relief items and rehabilitation of their shelters. IOM/Angela Wells

For the first time in Yemen, the Humanitarian Country Team has rolled out an area-based approach, based on 11 local consultations, to support strategic response planning for 2024. Participation includes local humanitarian agencies, cluster coordinators, local authorities—including line ministries—and development actors. Through these consultations, strategic humanitarian priorities for the 2024 response are being set from

the ground up. Assessment of the most relevant response modalities, accountability to affected populations and local ownership are at the heart of this work. In line with the protracted nature of the crisis and current de facto truce conditions, the consultations also focus on enhancing linkages between development and humanitarian interventions at local level, and priorities that can be taken forward by development partners.



Vanuatu: Jerolein (1 yr) with her mother Nancy. Jerolein is finally getting the vaccines that she missed out on when COVID disrupted services last year 2022. The nearest clinic is 20 minutes by transport and costs 600vt for a return trip. Nancy sells produce at the market in town to earn cash that she can then use to pay for transport to access health services. Due to the cyclone however, they have lost most of their garden, it will take three months before they can start selling produce again. UNICEF/ Bobby Shing

Pacific Islands

Regional overview

The Pacific region is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world. Small, vulnerable island states are isolated by vast expanses of ocean. They experience frequent and intense disasters with disproportionately high economic, social, and environmental consequences. The region faces rapid-onset events, such as cyclones, floods, earthquakes and volcanic activity, and slow-onset events (e.g., droughts). Earthquakes, along the intersection of the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates increase the risk of tsunamis to low-lying island communities and coastal areas.

In the past ten years, the region has suffered several significant disaster events, including Tropical Cyclones (TCs). The latest were TC Lola in October 2023, hitting Vanuatu and Solomon Islands; TCs Judy and Kevin in March 2023, making landfall in Vanuatu; TC Harold in April 2020, hitting Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga; TC Yasa in December 2020, and TC Ana in January 2021, both making landfall in Fiji). Flash floods (Fiji and Samoa in 2023, and Tuvalu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, all in 2020);

and volcanic eruptions took place in Vanuatu in 2017 and 2018, and in Tonga in 2022, with consequential tsunamis.

Droughts have posed a major challenge for Kiribati and Tuvalu in 2022-2023, however a higher-than-normal rainfall is expected, due to El Niño phenomenon, forecast through December 2023 to February 2024 within the Pacific Ocean.

The economic impacts of disasters are affecting the countries' growth; for reference, TC Judy and Kevin in Vanuatu led Vanuatu's GDP growth forecast for 2023 to be revised down from 3.6 per cent to 3.0 per cent, and total recovery needs estimated at US\$773 million.

In addition to the impacts of climate change, Pacific countries are increasingly exposed to various environmental hazards which are threatening the health of the population in the region. These include unsafe water, poor sanitation, air pollution, hazardous chemicals and occupational hazards. Furthermore, in the Pacific 70 per cent of deaths are related to NCDs (diabetes, cardiovascular, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases), one of the highest rates in the world.



The region was also economically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. With key industries such as tourism impacted by travel restrictions, unemployment numbers jumped in some Pacific countries. In Vanuatu, 70 per cent of the jobs in the tourism sector were lost in 2020; Fiji's tourism industry released 115,000 workers, and a survey in Samoa reported 26 per cent of business workers lost jobs. A measles outbreak also affected Samoa in 2019, impacting the economy and causing the death of more than 70 people.

Efforts by governments and humanitarian actors – including OCHA and the Pacific Humanitarian Team – are ongoing to support the countries in facing natural hazards through joint preparedness efforts and emergency coordination of international partners upon request of the national governments. Of particular interest is the Anticipatory Action (AA) Framework for tropical cyclones in Fiji. The pilot project, led by OCHA and UNDRR, partially funded by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), is the first UN-led collective AA pilot in the Pacific region. It aims to anticipate the effects of tropical cyclones, and it is the first pilot for sudden onset disasters entirely built in partnership with the National Government.

Whilst generally peaceful, the Pacific has seen conflict over the past two decades, including recent civil unrest in Solomon Islands in February 2023, due to political events. Internal conflict and social tensions remain a possibility. The economic downturns, high unemployment, joblessness, and frustrations generated by the COVID-19 pandemic could also increase the risk of social instability and/or civil unrest. In general, the Pacific region is becoming increasingly bipolarized, with competing influence of China and United States.

Pacific Island countries have shown leadership in mainstreaming climate change and disaster risk reduction. Notably, the UN resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2023, spearheaded by Vanuatu, which seeks to obtain an advisory opinion by the International Court

of Justice on States' climate-change obligations. The Resolution is "recognizing that climate change is an unprecedented challenge of civilizational proportions, and that the well-being of present and future generations of humankind depends on our immediate and urgent response to it". The document was adopted just months after the COP27 historical establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund in November 2022.

Projected situation in 2024 and beyond

The ADB's 2023 and 2024 forecasts for growth in the Pacific economy are revised up to 3.5 per cent for 2023 and 2.9 per cent for 2024 on the continuing recovery in tourism and infrastructure investment. A strong recovery in tourism and stimulus-inducing public infrastructure projects have driven faster-than-expected growth, particularly in Fiji, the second-largest economy in the subregion. However, economic growth could be impacted by the region's high exposure to natural hazards, which are predicted to be above average for the 2023-2024 cyclone season. The effects of the El Niño phenomenon on the Pacific region are expected to vary. Above-normal rainfall (Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu, northern Cook Islands and northern French Polynesia) can result in flooding - with localized crop and food stock losses and damage infrastructure, including housing, roads and schools, damage to water sources and sanitation facilities, and contamination of water supply, leading to increased risk of water-borne diseases. Below-normal rainfall, or in some cases drought (in parts of Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Niue). El Niño is also associated with higher cyclone activity in the central Pacific basin, as reported by the Tropical Cyclone (TC) outlook 2023-24, where above-average TC activity (including severe TCs) is expected in the most vulnerable countries, such as Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga.



Unity State, South Sudan: People walk on the dykes constructed by humanitarian partners to stop Bentiu and Rubkona towns from flooding. Floodwater levels have remained high, exposing people to waterborne diseases and disrupting the provision of basic services. OCHA/ Alioune Ndiaye

Southern and East Africa

PEOPLE IN NEED

74.1 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

50.5 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 10.9 B

Analysis of the regional or sub-regional context and crisis, needs and response

In **Eastern Africa**, parts of **Ethiopia, Kenya** and **Somalia** are struggling to recover after five consecutive rainy seasons where the rainfall was below average resulting in one of the worst droughts in recent history with over 23 million people experiencing severe food insecurity. While famine was averted in the Horn of Africa, the humanitarian emergency continues to rage as the region faces the intensifying impact of climate change. In most parts of the region, the El Nino phenomenon has caused wetter-than-normal conditions, which have led to devastating river and flash flooding, thus increasing vulnerability, leading to widespread food insecurity, large-scale displacement, and major protection concerns by November 2023. These conditions have hindered recovery from

droughts and triggered outbreaks of plant and livestock pests and waterborne diseases, while infrastructure damage would reduce access to essential services. In addition, continued conflicts and insecurity in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and neighbouring countries continue to force millions of people to flee their homes and countries. The region hosts more than 14 million displaced people due to conflict and climate-related risks. This number includes refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. Economic shocks, including high food prices, limit access to food and essential commodities.

Consequently, up to 65 million people will need humanitarian assistance across Eastern and Southern Africa in 2014, including over 51 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity, and more than 8 million



children and pregnant and lactating women facing acute malnutrition. The adverse impact of climate change is also increasing the risk of disease. Most of the countries that have been hardest hit by the El Niño-induced heavy rains and flooding are battling to contain diseases such as cholera outbreaks. Cases of measles are also on the rise. The combination of these factors is having devastating consequences for women and children, heightening the risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse and hampering children's access to education. Meanwhile, in areas less impacted by flooding, the wetter-than-normal conditions will allow communities to recover from the effects of the prolonged 2020-2023 drought if livelihood assistance is scaled up. The Horn of Africa also remains a major route for mixed migration movements to and from the Arabian Peninsula and to Europe. Grave violations against civilians continue to be committed in the region, including conflict-related sexual violence and recruitment of child soldiers.

In **Southern Africa**, climate change wreaked havoc with significant intensity, while the war in Mozambique's northern province of Cabo Delgado has continued to drive needs. The 2022–2023 South-West Indian Ocean cyclone season was one of the deadliest and longest-lived tropical cyclone on record, mostly due to Cyclone Freddy. The cyclone, which hit Madagascar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, Eswatini, and Zambia, between February and March 2023, left a trail of devastation and destruction in its wake; killing at least 876 people, affecting 2.7 million people and displacing 916,000 people. Despite marginal improvements in the food security situation due to scaled-up aid, the situation remains fragile in Madagascar. Seven districts—five of which are in the Grand Sud—are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis).

Communicable disease outbreaks are on the rise across Eastern and Southern Africa with some linked to climate change. In Eastern Africa, cholera cases continued to be reported in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan, while in Southern Africa cases were reported in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia with Zimbabwe recording alarming spikes in cases, according to WHO. Measles cases have been recorded in multiple countries across the regions, as has anthrax in Zambia, scabies in Malawi and polio outbreaks in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

Projected situation in 2023 and beyond

Looking ahead to 2024, needs are expected to rise in Eastern Africa, driven by the impact of El Niño, economic shocks and multiple conflicts. Needs are also expected to rise in Southern Africa, driven by El Niño, cyclones and conflict in northern Mozambique:

In East Africa: With the October-December 2023 rains projected to be wetter than normal, the enhanced rains will continue to trigger flooding (riverine and flash floods) leading to human displacement and increased needs, damage to properties and crops in flood-prone areas, limited access to services, increased the risk of water-borne diseases and plant and livestock pests. Flood-displaced populations might be subject to food insecurity, water-borne diseases, protection, and gender-based violence (GBV) risks, as well as other humanitarian challenges. Meanwhile, enhanced rains from October through early 2024 may improve water, crop farming, and livestock conditions, support continued recovery from prolonged 2020-2023 drought, which is critical in alleviating food insecurity. Economic shocks, including high food prices, will continue to limit access to essential commodities. Conflict and insecurity in Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and other neighbouring will likely continue, while the threat of violent extremism persists, mainly in Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia. This combination of climate change, economic shocks, and conflict is therefore expected to remain the main driver of potentially devastating consequences for the East Africa region in 2024.

In Southern Africa: Climate projections indicate that most of the Southern Africa region is likely to receive below-normal rainfall during the October-December period due to El Niño. Drought conditions are expected to persist with dry conditions and above-normal temperatures expected to impact key cropping areas, during the crucial December-January planting period, impacting yields in 2024. Latest data shows that more than 20 million people across Southern Africa are estimated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse food security outcomes in early 2024, with Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar's Grand Sud likely to bear the brunt of El Niño's adverse effects. Above-average rainfall projected for northern Mozambique and Malawi, north-eastern Zambia, and eastern Madagascar during the first quarter of 2024, may trigger floods due to El Niño conditions. At least two cyclones are expected to land on the eastern and western coasts of Madagascar between January and April 2024 and may result in devastation and worsening of the humanitarian situation, including in other cyclone-prone countries such as Mozambique. Communicable disease outbreaks such as cholera, measles, and others may continue to spike in cases due to wet conditions. Meanwhile, the conflict in northern Mozambique has the potential to expand geographically.



Ethiopia HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

20.0 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

14.0 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.9 billion

Total population
126.5 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2017 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Humanitarian assistance remains an essential lifeline for 20 million Ethiopians who shoulder the weight of multi-faceted humanitarian situations driven by man-made and natural hazards, including conflict, climatic shocks (drought and floods), as well as disease outbreaks. Many parts of the country have been or continue to be ravaged by hostilities, resulting in prolonged displacements of currently 4.5 million people and enormous humanitarian needs. This, for Ethiopia, comes on top of being the third largest refugee hosting African country with over 942,000 refugees assisted across 24 active camps and sites.

Ethiopia has over the past several years been affected by recurring droughts, increasing in both duration and frequency¹³⁴. The most recent drought caused by six consecutive failed rainy seasons (2022-23) is considered the most severe one the country has seen in 40 years¹³⁵. Drought is a major driver of food insecurity, and while sufficient rainfall has given relief (water availability and pasture) to previously drought-affected areas, recovery from the drought will take several years. In contrast, excessive seasonal rains have led to floods (March – May), displacing tens of thousands of people and causing additional livelihood and infrastructure loss. In addition, weather forecasts indicate that El Niño weather events in late 2023 and early 2024 will lead to more heavy rainfall and flooding (as observed in September and November), which will likely increase the number of new IDPs and risks to increase humanitarian needs, including the spread of water borne diseases. The ongoing cholera outbreak is considered the longest ever recorded in the country, since the existence of the disease was established in August 2022.

Due to both domestic and global economic shocks, the inflation rate in Ethiopia is among the highest recorded globally at over 30 per cent. As a result, prices of essential commodities have soared while the purchasing power of Ethiopians continues to be eroded. Allegations of widespread food aid diversion and its impact on the food aid distribution have deepened pre-existing vulnerabilities and contributed to food insecurity in the country. The manifestation of high malnutrition levels is also observed amid food insecurity, along with lack of sufficient nutrition response.

Response priorities in 2024

In order to meet the high needs in 2024, in light of decrease in expected funds for 2024, partners will prioritize response to new events/crisis, acute humanitarian needs in areas where intersectoral severity is at least extreme, and to the needs of people that have been identified to face extreme sectoral deprivation. At the same time, humanitarian partners will be strengthening the linkages with development and peace partners to work toward achieving sustainable solutions through focusing on critical resilience activities that were part of the Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) in the previous years. Furthermore, immediate resumption of food distribution in a principled, targeted, and accountable manner is a top priority for all partners. Additional priorities for 2024 include cholera prevention and control, nutrition response, immediate support to facilitate voluntary IDP returns in safety and dignity, facilitating unimpeded access and delivery of lifesaving humanitarian workers and supplies.

134. Common Country Analysis

135. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116872>



Madagascar FA

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 90.5 million

Total population
30.3 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
3 / Medium

Consecutive appeals
2021 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Approximately 2.3 million people in Madagascar needed urgent humanitarian assistance in 2023, extending through the first half of 2024. The prolonged drought in the Great South and consecutive tropical cyclones in the Great Southeast of Madagascar (including Batsirai and Emnati in early 2022, followed by tropical cyclone Freddy in 2023) resulted in significant damages. The reverberations of the war in Ukraine have further exacerbated the humanitarian situation in the region. Based on the results of the July IPC Acute Food Insecurity assessment in 2023, approximately 16% of the population (over a million people) in the 22 analyzed districts are grappling with acute food insecurity. In the period from October to December 2023, it is projected that the number of people suffering from severe acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 and above) will increase to 1.32 million, affecting 20 per cent of the population in the analyzed areas, including 79,000 people in emergency phase (IPC phase 4). It is expected that the situation will worsen during the upcoming food shortage period (January to April 2024), with more than 1.7 million people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. The main factor contributing to this deterioration is the El Nino phenomenon.

Acute malnutrition, resulting from the consequences of droughts and cyclones, continues to be critical. A SMART survey, conducted in May 2023, indicated a worsening nutritional situation, with a combined prevalence of global acute malnutrition at 10.7%, compared to 8.7% in 2022. One in every 10 children under the age of 5 is suffering from acute malnutrition. The youngest children, under 2 years old, are the most affected, with 17.2 per cent suffering from acute malnutrition. Specifically, support must increase by 60 per cent to address the 58,000 expected cases of SAM over the next 12 months according to the IPC. Additionally, coverage of prevention activities and MAM treatment remains significantly weak, and many support sites are non-functional due to an ongoing lack of inputs and supervision of community agents.

The WASH sector estimates that nearly 1.4 million people require WASH assistance, including over one million people in the Grand South and over 400 thousand people in the Grand South-East. Despite some improvement in the WASH sector, chronic challenges persist such as access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in the areas most affected by drought and cyclones, as well as the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or higher in the 6 districts of the Grand South and the 3 districts of the Grand South-East.

School dropout rates among children and adolescents in the Great South remain among the highest in Madagascar. This occurs in a context of persistent poverty, despite the expectations of improved food and nutritional security. The education system also faces a cumulative issue of teacher and student absenteeism. In the Great South-East, only 24.7 per cent of the schools that were damaged have been reconstructed or rehabilitated. The combined effects of cyclones and food security issues have contributed to the risk of children and adolescents dropping out of school, and this risk is expected to persist in the upcoming school year of 2023-2024.

The people of Madagascar have faced significant food and nutritional challenges due to drought and cyclones since 2020. These challenges have forced people to resort to negative survival practices. The persistence of taboos and practices that violate the rights of already vulnerable population has exacerbated the situation. Protection strategies are needed to address the needs of people facing risks which include chronic malnutrition, physical violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse, discrimination, early marriage, unwanted or early pregnancies. For people in need of protection, the scarcity of resources and continued uncertainty about their situation contributes to constant and increased levels of stress and anxiety.

In the Great South and Great South East of Madagascar, ongoing humanitarian crises continue to severely affect the lives of the population and their access to essential social services, particularly healthcare. These



crises pose persistent humanitarian risks, and the most vulnerable populations are finding it increasingly difficult to access health services. The health situation is deteriorating, leading to an increase in communicable and life-threatening diseases like malaria, acute respiratory infections (ARI), diarrhea, and poliomyelitis. The use of maternal and neonatal health services has decreased, with antenatal care (4 CPN) coverage dropping from 47 per cent to 4 per cent in the Great South East and from 55 per cent to 52 per cent in the Great South.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, humanitarian assistance aims to reach 1.6 million people, comprising 631,000 in the Grand Sud-Est and 970,000 in the Grand Sud. The primary goal of this response is to prevent loss of life, with a particular focus

on children under five years old, pregnant, and lactating women, and girls. This includes both the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition. Furthermore, efforts are dedicated to enhancing food security and restoring the livelihoods of the most vulnerable communities. A vital aspect of this response involves providing essential healthcare services, especially in maternal health, and ensuring the continuity of basic social services, including access to water, hygiene, sanitation, prevention, and case management related to protection issues, to prevent the adoption of harmful coping mechanisms. The humanitarian response plan will also encompass anticipatory action activities designed to forestall any further worsening of the already fragile situation, considering the potential risks associated with the El Nino phenomenon. Most organizations have a presence in the targeted areas, with established offices, staff, and operational logistics resources.

AID IN ACTION

UNFPA and WFP join forces to meet reproductive health and nutrition needs in southern Madagascar



Amboasary, Grand Sud, Madagascar: Women wait to receive sexual and reproductive health consultations from UNFPA-supported medical staff. At the same time, a WFP food donation takes place to help stem a devastating food crisis affecting some 3 million people in the region. UNFPA/Melvis Kimbi

Amboasary/Grand Sud, Madagascar – Just weeks away from giving birth to her fifth child, Homoroe Haova, 33, looked down at her stomach and smiled, reassured she could give birth safely as well as feed her children in the coming weeks. Ms. Haova was among 800 women waiting in line to meet with UNFPA-supported reproductive health specialists who were visiting her village in Madagascar's drought-stricken Grand Sud region.

Midwives on site operated from three mobile health clinics procured with generous support from the government of Japan. The clinics are among eight

UNFPA-supported vehicles currently deployed in Madagascar, travelling thousands of kilometres over rough terrain to reach even the least accessible areas. In adjacent maternity tents set up beside the local health centre, UNFPA-supported medical staff issued family planning advice as social workers raised awareness on gender-based violence.

Meanwhile just a few metres away, hundreds of women, most of them heads of household, gathered to collect WFP rations of rice, vegetables and cooking oil to cover their families' food needs for the following two weeks. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) reports that of nearly 3 million people living in the Grand Sud region, half need urgent food assistance.

Recurrent and relentless droughts have deprived women and girls of any means of providing for themselves or their children. Already prone to climate disasters such as cyclones, floods and drought, Madagascar experienced its worst drought in 40 years in 2021 and in the first few months of 2022 has already seen cyclones destroy thousands of homes and livelihoods.



Mozambique HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 413.4 million

Total population
33.9 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2019 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

In 2023, the humanitarian situation in northern Mozambique was marked by the steady return of IDPs to their home districts. People return for various reasons including an improved security situation, the desire to reunite with families and secure land, cultivation of crops as well as an improvement in living conditions. By August, the number of returnees stood at more than 570,000 people, while the number of IDPs stood at approximately 670,000 people. People have returned to the area of origin in northeastern Cabo Delgado while the bulk of IDPs remain concentrated in the districts of Pemba, Metuge and Mueda. Over half of those who are displaced live in host communities, including 160,000 in Pemba, others are in displacement sites. IDPs have endured violence and multiple waves of displacement over the last years and continue to rely on humanitarian assistance for survival, the majority do not have land tenure security. Communities hosting IDPs often face similar vulnerabilities and need humanitarian assistance.

The climate crisis remains a key driver of vulnerability, as Mozambique is among the top three countries in Africa most exposed to extreme climate shocks. In 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record, hit Mozambique twice bringing with it destructive wind and extreme rainfall, affecting more than one million people. The forecast for the 2023/2024 rainy season is below-average rainfall in southern and central Mozambique due to the effects of El Nino, which could potentially delay the start of the rainy season. Average to above-average rainfall is expected in northern Mozambique. Projections estimate that from October 2023 to March 2024, about 3.1 million people in Mozambique will be in IPC 3 and 220,000 people in IPC 4. According to the Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction, 1.8 million people are projected to be at risk of cyclones, floods and drought in the 2023/2024 rainy/cyclonic season.

A total of 2,250,000 million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. This includes 1,700,000 people in need as a result of conflict and 554,000 people are at risk of natural hazards in the rainy/cyclonic season that runs from October to April.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2023, 1.5 million people were reached with some form of assistance. Of these, 1.3 million people were reached with food assistance. Declining funding levels meant that the food ration was halved to continue to meet the needs of people. Some 544,000 people were reached with water, sanitation and hygiene services and 245,000 people benefitted from protection services. Funding shortfalls have, however, made it difficult to provide second line response. In 2024 there will be limited ability to provide a multisectoral package of assistance to IDPs. The rapid response mechanism approach enabled the provision of immediate assistance including food, shelter and WASH to returnees; funding shortfalls have, however, made it difficult to provide second line response. In response to the crisis brought by the compounding effects of Cyclone Freddy, floods and cholera, humanitarian organization assisted 855,000 people with water, sanitation and hygiene services and 500,000 people with food assistance.

In 2024, a total of 1.7 million people are targeted including 1.3 million people in conflict affected areas and another 429,623 for support in terms of early action and anticipatory action to mitigate against disaster across the country.

Conflict related response will geographically focus on meeting the most severe needs. This will include areas experiencing the highest number of returns, people who are landless or face the threat of eviction and areas that have seen the most significant infrastructure damage.



Life-saving multisectoral assistance will prioritise IDPs in IDP sites and host communities, host communities and returnees. Response will include protection services, shelter, food assistance, treatment for acute malnutrition, and emergency obstetric care. In addition, humanitarian partners will provide life-sustaining support for returnees who lack access to essential services, especially education, health care, WASH and livelihoods with a view to promoting resilience and self-sustenance.

Humanitarian partners will focus on life-saving and life-sustaining assistance while advocating for the creation of conditions that favor re-establishing essential services and livelihoods. Coordination will continue with the Government and development actors, who are working to rebuild infrastructure and re-establish essential services impacted by the conflict. In 2024, humanitarian partners will regularly review the operational environment,

monitoring security, the rehabilitation of public services, such as health and education facilities, access roads and markets.

It is estimated that 1.8 million people will be vulnerable to natural disasters, namely cyclones, floods and droughts. Based on trend analysis, Gaza, Inhambane and Tete provinces are at risk of drought with anticipatory action having been triggered in some districts of the three provinces. Similarly, cyclones have historically affected Nampula, Sofala and Zambezia provinces, with potentially devastating outcomes for communities and infrastructure. In 2024, anticipatory action for drought and floods and cholera will be expanded to reduce humanitarian needs in the event of natural disasters. In 2024, the humanitarian community will be strengthening the prepositioning of key life-saving supplies and have pre-agreements with service providers to allow the rapid start of operations.

AID IN ACTION

Expanding efforts to promote localization



Pemba, Mozambique: A group of young people wear hard hats and yellow vests, they are displaced people and longtime residents of Alto Gingone. A partnership with WFP and AVSI has enabled them to work together, learning to improve the drainage system in their neighborhood. UNRCO/Helvisney Cardoso

In 2023, the humanitarian community in Mozambique redoubled efforts to promote localization. For example, 35 per cent of the CERF funds recently allocated to Mozambique reached NNGOs, in an effort to ensure a greater humanitarian footprint and reach affected communities. The efforts initiated in 2023 will be further expanded in 2024, including through (i) equitable partnerships; (ii) capacity strengthening; (iii) more inclusion and participation in key coordination and decision-making fora; (iv) greater funding opportunities.



Somalia HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

6.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

5.1 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.7 billion

Total population
18.7 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1998 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

The humanitarian situation in Somalia remains extremely concerning. While Somalia managed to walk back from the brink of famine in late 2022 and early 2023, close to four million people continue to be food insecure and in need of assistance. This is against a backdrop of decades of conflict, ongoing military operations and climatic shocks displacing thousands of people every month. Excessive seasonal rains, flash and riverine floods have been particularly acute this year due to a concurrence of El Nino conditions and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole phenomenon, resulting in loss of life, the destruction of property, loss of access to basic services, further displacements, and an aggravation of the prevalence of cholera and other water-borne diseases.

Around four million people are internally displaced in Somalia due to the impact of climate change, conflict and insecurity, and other factors. Of those, more than 80 per cent are women and children, who face significant protection risks, which are heightened by pre-existing inequities. Limited access to basic services such as shelters and food renders women and girls more vulnerable to gender-based violence and disrupts their ability to live in dignity. Only 15 per cent of all pregnant women give birth in a health center; an additional 15 per cent are likely to experience a pregnancy-related complication, with a 2 per cent rate of stillbirths. Only 8 per cent of those who are newly displaced are estimated to have access to adequate shelters. Furthermore, there is an increase in eviction rates of displaced people from the sites where they have settled. Between January and October 2023, more than 170,000 people were forcibly evicted, according to the Housing Land and Property partners.

Humanitarian assistance has prevented worse food security and nutrition outcomes in many areas, but the response was challenged, in part, by funding shortfalls across all sectors. As of September, humanitarian partners have reached cumulatively about 8.4 million people with some form of assistance. The provision of humanitarian

food and cash assistance has been declining throughout 2023 as the funding shortages forced humanitarian partners to scale down their response, prioritizing the most vulnerable in areas with the greatest severity of needs. Around 1.5 million people gained access to water through temporary water supply; more than three million people accessed essential and life-saving health services, with 1.3 million acutely malnourished children and women reached with life-saving nutrition treatment services. More than 300,000 vulnerable children, more than half of whom live in the most severely affected districts of Somalia, were supported through Education in Emergencies.

It is currently estimated that 6.9 million people, a reduction of 16 per cent from last year, will require humanitarian assistance in 2024. Of those, this plan targets 5.1 million, for total requirement of \$1.7 billion.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2023, due to the looming famine, over 92 per cent of the population in need was targeted by the humanitarian response plan. For 2024, the humanitarian community has agreed that more focused targeting should take place, in view of the global situation. Therefore, around 70 per cent of the people in need will be targeted. Discussions on synergies with partners working on the longer term should be revitalized to ensure that people can be better lifted out of poverty and live sustainable, dignified lives.

The security landscape in Somalia is shifting as a result of the ongoing security transition, with anticipated changes in the architecture of international security assistance post-2024. The potential for shifting patterns of insecurity will require adaptability by humanitarians to stay and deliver and promote acceptance for humanitarian interventions in all parts of the country.

Preparedness and anticipatory measures should be implemented to mitigate the adverse effects of the seasonal rains and related flooding.



South Sudan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

9.0 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

6.0 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.8 billion

Total population
12.4 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2010 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

The people of South Sudan continue to face a complex humanitarian crisis, driven by escalating violence, economic instability, climatic shocks, and lack of or poor-quality basic services. This has led to acute food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and limited humanitarian access to people in need. In 2024, an estimated 8.5 million people, including 2 million women and 4.6 million children will need essential humanitarian assistance and protection. Conflict, insecurity and climatic shocks remain the primary drivers of humanitarian needs. Inter-communal violence, crime, and impunity have led to displacement and restricted access to essential services. Over 90 per cent of civilian casualties in early 2023 resulted from inter-communal violence. Forced migration compounds these issues, with over 2 million internally displaced and more than 2.2 million refugees, in addition to 333,300 refugees hosted within South Sudan. The conflict in Sudan in April 2023 is projected to lead to the arrival of nearly 520,000 South Sudanese returnees and over 80,000 incoming refugees by December 2023. In addition, the food security situation has significantly worsened due to flooding, ongoing conflict, displacement, and the rising cost of living. Approximately 6.9 million people (55.6 per cent of the total population) will be in crisis-level or more severe acute food insecurity especially during the lean season from April to July 2024. Communicable diseases, particularly measles along with malaria, acute watery diarrhoea and maternal and neonatal health concerns, remain major contributors to illness and death. South Sudan also grapples with severe climate change vulnerabilities, ranking as the world's second most climate-exposed nation. A staggering 95 per cent of the population relies on climate-sensitive livelihoods, heightening vulnerability to water and food scarcity, sanitation issues, and resource-related conflicts. Protracted conflicts and economic challenges severely hinder access to essential services. Only 7 per cent of the population has access to electricity, 10 per cent have improved sanitation, and 70 per cent lack basic healthcare.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2023, partners were able to reach 5 million people with at least one form of humanitarian assistance (74 per cent of the 6.8 million target, including refugees). In 2024, humanitarian partners will work towards the following strategic objectives:

- Vulnerable crises-affected people have reduced morbidity and mortality through equitable, safe, and dignified access to life-saving assistance to meet their needs.
- Vulnerable crises-affected people's protection risks are mitigated as humanitarians uphold a commitment to the centrality of protection in humanitarian action informed by communities' priorities.
- Vulnerable people's capacity to withstand the impact of shocks is increased, and humanitarian, development and peace collaboration opportunities are optimized.



The target population in this response plan results from a rigorous analysis and vulnerability criteria, establishing clear boundaries for the humanitarian caseload. The HRP target for 2024 has been refined from 7.4 million people in 2023 to 6.0 million, considering the challenges of access, security, capacity, and funding constraints. These strategic approaches ensure assistance is directed to those with the most pressing needs, also transitioning towards cost-effective cash-based interventions to promote local markets. Innovative approaches such as the Flagship Initiative and Area-Based Leadership will enhance partnerships aimed to promote community resilience. Throughout the implementation, the Inter-Cluster

Coordination Group (ICCG) will maintain monthly analysis through the needs analysis working group to prioritize areas with the greatest needs.

Anticipated tensions and conflicts leading up to the 2024 presidential elections are likely to undermine humanitarian operations and access to vulnerable communities. Climate-related issues, such as the El Nino event, may persist through 2024 and potentially into 2025, causing above-average rainfall and severe floods displacing thousands of people. The looming risk of inadequate funding may force significant portions of people in crisis levels -IPC-3 into emergency levels - IPC-4 due to limited access to sustainable livelihood opportunities.

AID IN ACTION

Severity analysis and mapping tool



South Sudan Needs Analysis Working Group

The South Sudan Needs Analysis Working Group (NAWG)'s innovative severity analysis and mapping tool has been instrumental to inform cluster and partner prioritization of their response efforts. Through a predefined set of indicators, the NAWG assesses the humanitarian situation in various counties, categorizing them into different severity

bands. This needs severity ranking serves as a crucial asset for clusters and their partners in their prioritization and advocacy efforts. Furthermore, the severity mapping is a valuable resource for the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund and other donors, guiding their prioritization and resource allocation decisions.



Sudan HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

24.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

14.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.7 billion

Total population
48.1 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1993 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

After years of protracted crisis, Sudan plunged into a conflict of alarming scale in mid-April 2023 when fierce fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) broke out initially in the capital Khartoum, but quickly expanded to other areas across the country. The current bout of violence and insecurity has resulted in high numbers of civilian casualties, extensive damage to critical infrastructure and facilities as well as large-scale displacement, with over 6.1 million people forced to leave their homes in search of safety elsewhere.¹³⁶ Together with the 3.8 million IDPs, from past internal conflict, Sudan currently faces the largest internal displacement crisis in the world¹³⁷ and the most significant child displacement crisis, with 3 million children displaced inside and outside the country.¹³⁸

The hostilities have triggered a massive deterioration in humanitarian needs across the country, increasingly hampering access to food, water, shelter, health care, cash, fuel, and other basic services for millions of people. Nearly one in three people in Sudan could soon become food insecure, while the already-fragile health system is in tatters, with looming disease outbreaks, including an alarming cholera outbreak, as well as dengue fever, measles and malaria.¹³⁹ Reports of conflict-related sexual violence are widespread. A generation of children risk missing out on a full education. High insecurity and looting of humanitarian assets and offices has compromised operational capacity and humanitarian access to key locations, particularly in Darfur, the Kordofan states and Khartoum.

In 2024, every second person in Sudan (24.8 million people) will need humanitarian assistance. While this overall figure remains on par with estimates in 2023, the “catastrophic” severity of needs has been observed now in 17 localities (in comparison to 14 localities estimated in May 2023) almost half of which are in the Darfur region. It is important to note that the severity of needs in this case was primarily driven by widespread and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.¹⁴⁰

The possible evolution of the crisis remains highly unpredictable with crossline movement of staff and supplies experiencing increasing obstacles. Civilians, particularly women, children and girls, will continue to bear the brunt of the crisis if no lasting political solution is in sight.

Response priorities in 2024

While the level of received funding in 2023 is modest compared to the unprecedented scale of needs, the humanitarian community has done its utmost to address urgent priorities, reaching five million people with some form of humanitarian assistance.

The 2024 humanitarian response requires US\$2.7 billion to accelerate the scale up of lifesaving and protection assistance and avert a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation for 14.7 million people. Targeting and the financial requirement to meet them have been tempered by a constrictive operating environment marred by unstable, unpredictable and, at times, unsafe access.

136. IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix as of 2 November 2023.

137. Of over 6.1 million displaced, 4.85 million were internally displaced – majority of whom were originally from Khartoum areas - and 1.3 million crossing the border to neighbouring countries (Egypt, Libya, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia). Sixty-five per cent of arrivals tracked in those countries were Sudanese nationals and 35 per cent were foreign nationals and returnees.

138. <https://www.unicef.org/sudan/press-releases/unicef-statement-over-200-days-war-leaves-generation-children-sudan-brink>

139. The Sudanese Federal Ministry of Health in September and October declared a cholera outbreak in Gedaref, Khartoum, South Kordofan and Aj Jazirah states, with over 1,600 suspected cholera cases and 67 associated deaths reported as of 22 October.

140. Severity 5 (catastrophic) in Sudan JIAF 2.0 application is driven by protection concerns and are the localities with more than 100, 000 IDPs, hard-to-reach and experiencing recent violent attacks.



The HCT decided, where appropriate, to reinstate the activities that seeks to restore safe and unhindered access to critical basic services and livelihood opportunities, which were paused in April 2023, to prevent further erosion of coping capacity among the most vulnerable and lay the foundation for recovery in the hope of an improvement in the situation. The response covers the entire country, however it prioritizes the critical needs of the most vulnerable, particularly those displaced and hosting communities, in the areas where high severity of sectoral needs is identified and where high severity of needs across sectors overlap.

This plan reflects the carefully balanced approaches of prioritization and feasibility with consideration of the current realities of access and operational capacity. It

sets out where the needs are, where they can be reached and how this can be done feasibly and effectively without stretching existing capacity too thin. In light of the highly fluid operational context, the HCT will regularly monitor the implementation of the response plan and adjust the course of it throughout 2024 as the operational environment evolves. In case of significant changes, including improved access to areas defined as “hard-to-reach” at the time of planning, this response plan will be revised to reflect additional actions and financial resources required to bolster the response in a timely manner and to sustain and expand access to people in need.

Rubkona County, Unity State, South Sudan: A returnee woman carries water from a water point at a transit centre. Increasing numbers of people are arriving, mostly South Sudanese returnees. OCHA/Alioune Ndiaye





Ouahigouya, North Region, Burkina Faso: Displaced and host populations explain how they live together, with understanding and compassion. OCHA/ Pierre Perron

West and Central Africa

PEOPLE IN NEED

65.1 M

PEOPLE TARGETED

34.2 M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 8.3 B

West and Central Africa is the stage for some of the world's most complex, tangled, and protracted humanitarian crises.

The impacts of brutal violence, political instability, climate change, weak governance, chronic poverty, and fraying social fabric render daily survival extremely challenging for 63.5 million vulnerable women, children and men.

The region includes **eight countries** with 2024 response plans, aiming to **target 32.8 million people** grappling with shock-induced humanitarian needs, for an estimated **funding requirement of USD 7.3 billion**.

Protection remains the most pressing need. Every day, from northern Mali to eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, across

the **Central Sahel** region and the **Lake Chad Basin**, families are attacked by non-state armed groups or caught in the crossfire of warring parties and intercommunal violence. Fearing for their lives, they have no choice but to flee their homes. Today, the region counts 15.4 million **forcibly displaced persons**, including 12.8 million internally and 2.6 million across borders, many of whom have had to flee multiple times and remain displaced for many years. Having lost their dwellings, their belongings, their sources of income and their support networks, they are heavily dependent on humanitarian aid.

Children are particularly at risk of forced recruitment by armed groups and **gender-based violence** is rampant, the majority being cases of rape with heavy consequences for the physical and mental health of the survivors.



Across the region, in 2023, some 13,000 schools, 2,250 health centres, and thousands of public institutions and markets are destroyed or unable to operate, which further affects communities' access to **basic services**, their resilience and their very ability to recover.

Severe food insecurity and related **malnutrition** remain a major concern across the board, owing to conflict which makes it unsafe to cultivate land, as well as the impacts of climate change exacerbating soil degradation, severe droughts and recurring floods. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and Burkina Faso present the most concerning figures.

In addition, the region continues to face a high number of preventable **health threats**, including outbreak-prone illnesses such as measles, cholera, diphtheria and the Ebola virus disease.

Human suffering knows no borders. As West and Central Africa faces this complex web of challenges, it is also on the receiving end of neighbouring crises, such as the resurgence of conflict in Sudan which is driving thousands to flee to Chad and the Central African Republic. This added pressure on host communities' already scarce resources will likely continue well into 2024. In addition, escalating violence in the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) is spilling over towards the south, and pushing

people, mainly from Burkina Faso, to seek refuge in the **coastal countries** of the Gulf of Guinea, namely Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo.

In attempting to deliver relief in line with international humanitarian law and principles, aid organisations are running into an ever-growing number of **hurdles**: insufficient funding deprives millions of the support they sorely need; administrative impediments slow down the implementation of essential programming; the imposition of military escorts blurs critical lines; international sanctions impact the response; closed borders interrupt supply chains; aid workers are increasingly exposed and targeted. As of November 2023, against a background of general misinformation affecting the way humanitarians are perceived, 33 attacks resulted in at least 32 aid workers kidnapped and 10 killed.

For 2024, humanitarian organisations working in West and Central Africa are committed to bolstering accountability to affected populations, strengthening support to national and local partners for more durable and cost-effective programming, and taking anticipatory action where possible to reduce risk and boost resilience. However, **the protection of the humanitarian space and the unlocking of access** to and for crisis-affected people will have to be a key priority for the successful implementation of the region's humanitarian response plans.

North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo: Lushagala is one of more than 100 spontaneous sites and collective centres in Goma and Nyiragongo hosting more than 585,000 displaced people. OCHA/ Alioune NDIAYE





Burkina Faso HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

6.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.8 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 935.0 million

Total population
23.3 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2013 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Burkina Faso continues to experience the worst humanitarian crisis in its history, with an estimated 10% of the national population (more than 2 million people) internally displaced due to violence and insecurity. Over half a million people have been newly displaced in the first nine months of the year, further overstressing the already insufficient capacity of basic social services in major IDP reception areas. The food and nutritional security of IDP and non-displaced people has been significantly constrained by limited access to productive activities and functioning markets, basic social and protection services. In 2024, the humanitarian community estimates that 6.3 million people will need humanitarian assistance across the country's 13 regions, up 35 per cent in comparison to 2023.

Among those most affected are the approximately 1.2 million people in some 40 population centres across seven regions cut off from the rest of the country. They are dependent on irregular resupply by commercial convoys moving under military escort, and humanitarian cargo flights that are more regular but limited in capacity. Humanitarian action in Burkina Faso thus relies heavily on helicopter transport for passengers and cargo, which cost 12 to 50 times more than overland transport. Moreover, humanitarian efforts are concentrated within the narrow circumference of these population centres, rarely reaching surrounding rural areas with any scale of assistance.

The civilian population of Burkina Faso is suffering from the consequences of being the world's most neglected crisis,¹⁴¹ without sufficient attention and funding from the international community. The humanitarian situation is dire and there are serious protection concerns, as well as security incidents affecting civilians which went up by 60% to 4,022 in the first three quarters of 2023 compared to the previous year.

Between January and September 2023, the humanitarian community reached some 2.3 million people with assistance (nearly three quarters of the annual target), of which 400,000 (17 per cent) in areas not originally targeted by humanitarian actors under the HRP. By the end of October 2023, the 2023 HRP had received just 33 per cent of the US\$ 877 million requested (US\$290 million).

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, humanitarian partners will strictly prioritize their actions, aiming to provide life-saving assistance and protection services to 3.8 million people, sustaining rapid response for newly-displaced persons and facilitating the most vulnerable people's access to basic services and food security support. At the same time, humanitarian and targeted development investments in resilience-building will be made for both displaced and non-displaced communities.

This approach presumes that development partners will sustain and, through a similarly strict targeting, reinforce access to basic services and livelihoods for vulnerable people in the more accessible areas of the country, as outlined in the UN Interim Development Plan (UNIDAP) for Burkina Faso. This collaborative approach, across the humanitarian-development-peace collaboration, is essential to reduce humanitarian needs and support efforts to identify solutions for crisis-affected people, particularly in view of the increasingly urbanised nature of displacement in the country, which has seen 70 per cent of newly displaced people in 2023 arriving in 10 population centres – all of which are in regional or provincial capitals.

141. NRC, World Most Neglected Crises 2022: *Burkina Faso is the world's most neglected crisis* | NRC



Moving from the distribution of emergency packages towards community-based resilience- and solutions-focused support will be critical to efforts to address the displacement crisis more sustainably, particularly for 39 per cent of IDPs who have been displaced for two or more years. It also represents an appropriate evolution of action in response to feedback from affected communities

about their needs and preferences and will help to address the expectations of national authorities relating to the engagement of international partners. The current situation is on the cusp of becoming a protracted crisis, solid groundwork must be laid for durable solutions for the displaced and their host communities.

AID IN ACTION

Localization at the core of the humanitarian response



Burkina Faso: An information session for beneficiary organizations of a capacity-building project, financed by the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa. Tin-Tua/Soiafandi Thiombiano

The increasing complexities associated with responding to the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso highlight the paramount importance of ensuring local leadership and capacity for humanitarian action. As part of the 2023 standard allocation for Burkina Faso from the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa, the national NGO, Tin Tua Association, has been funded to advance the regional collaboration on localisation with Project HOPE. This project aims to reinforce the capacity of national and local NGOs in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. As part of the Burkina Faso project, 15 national NGOs will benefit directly from capacity-building activities, addressing

needs identified by the in-country national NGO network, including on cross-cutting themes such as protection, PSEA and gender mainstreaming. The 12-month programme aims to provide a comprehensive knowledge package to reinforce national NGOs' operational and organizational skillset, with direct support being provided by a team of coaches. An additional 30 national NGOs will indirectly benefit from the project through workshops and webinars. Overall, the project has the scope to create an interorganizational capacity-building cascade effect, with benefits for efficient, coordinated, and localized humanitarian response in Burkina Faso.



Cameroon HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 376.0 million

Total population
28.6 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Some 4.3 million people are suffering from the effects of conflict and violence, climate shocks, and disease outbreaks. There are **nearly one million IDPs and half a million returnees.** The country is also hosting about half a million refugees and asylum seekers. The prolonged nature of the Lake Chad basin conflict, the North-West and South-West crisis, and the impact of the Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis are compromising affected populations' well-being and living conditions. Humanitarian needs are compounded by structural development weaknesses and chronic vulnerabilities. New or repeated displacement and insufficient humanitarian assistance contribute to the considerable erosion of the already limited resilience of the affected population and to enduring humanitarian needs.

Protection needs are widespread: women and girls are at high risk of gender-based violence and men and boys are more exposed to arbitrary arrest and detention, death, and injury. 2.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity and 1,2 million lack adequate shelter and household items.

In the **Far North region**, the number of IDPs has increased by almost 20 per cent in one year, reaching **454,000 people**. The main humanitarian needs in the region are protection, food, shelter/NFI and access to WASH services. Only 40 per cent of the population has access to safe drinking water and more than 600,000 people lack adequate shelter. Hundreds of thousands of children are exposed to critical protection risks, including family separation and school dropout, among others. **The region is also hosting nearly 117,000 Nigerian refugees**, and the response capacities in Minawao refugee camp and in Gourenouel transit center are being overwhelmed by the influx of new arrivals.

The crisis in the **North-West and South-West** remains characterized by human rights violations and abuses, short-term displacement as well as pendular movements because of fear of attacks, violence, and clashes between parties. Protection, access to food, education and drinking water are the most acute needs in these regions. Almost 500,000 people are lacking adequate shelter, and 46 per cent of schools are not functional. Educational facilities, staff and school children continue to be targeted by non-state armed groups. There is continuous destruction of houses and farms as well as looting of properties, which limits access of affected people to adequate housing and food.

Cameroon is hosting **over 353,000 refugees from CAR, 94 per cent of these refugees live in the country's eastern regions.** Access to livelihoods, food, WASH services and education remains limited for them and host communities. The number of refugees continues to exert significant pressure on natural resources and basic social services in the host areas, which often creates conflicts between the refugees and host populations over the use of scarce resources, including land.

Overall, **it is expected that violence will persist in the most-affected areas in 2024, which, together with the impact of natural disasters and epidemics, will continue to negatively impact access to basic services.** Insecurity and physical constraints will continue to render humanitarian access challenging in 2024, especially in the North-West, South-West and Far North regions. Underfunding, however, will remain the most important impediment to reaching people in need.



Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, humanitarian partners plan to reach 2.3 million people (53 per cent of PIN), requiring US\$ 376 million.

Following HCT decisions, the response will be further focused, in regard to activities as well as its geographical scope. Cameroon's response plan recognizes that each crisis requires its distinct approach. In the **North-West and South-West**, the protection of victims of violence and the provision of emergency assistance in food, nutrition, health, WASH, shelter, civil documentation, and education will continue to be the priority in 2024. In the **Far North**, assistance to displaced people and host communities, especially the most vulnerable, will be

prioritized, with the promotion of sustainable solutions through the implementation of the humanitarian, development and peace collaboration. In the **East, Adamawa and North regions**, the response will focus on reducing the dependence of refugees on humanitarian aid and the development of areas hosting refugees, while humanitarian assistance will continue to support the most vulnerable refugees and host communities.

The humanitarian community will further promote accountability to affected populations, prevention from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), localization, and gender- and age-sensitive programming and further foster the inclusion of persons living with disabilities in 2024.

Bogo IDP Site, Far North Region, Cameroon: These children are hosted at an IDP site for people displaced by an intercommunity crisis in December 2021. OCHA/Bibiane Mouangue





Central African Republic HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 393.5 million

Total population
5.7 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2003 – 2024

Crisis overview and projections

For more than a decade, the Central African Republic has been affected by conflict, with the continued presence of armed groups. Violence against civilians and the effects of climate change continue to drive displacement. Today, one in five Central Africans is either internally displaced or a refugee. A lack of access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and economic opportunities forces both the displaced and host communities to adopt negative coping mechanisms to meet needs, making them more vulnerable to exploitation and gender-based violence. More than 11,000 cases of GBV, of which 31 per cent were cases of rape, were reported in the first half of 2023 alone. Women and girls represent the quasi-totality of victims (96 per cent).

Amidst continuing pockets of violence, the crisis in CAR has been marked by three new humanitarian hotspots in 2023: (1) the resurgence of new armed groups, resulting in an intensification of fighting in the South-East, marked by executions, looting, forced displacement and the burning of houses, inhibiting the future return of the displaced; (2) the arrival of 20,520 asylum-seekers and returnees since the beginning of the war in Sudan and limited cross border traffic with Sudan; and (3) the presence of over 37,000 asylum-seekers and returnees fleeing intercommunal violence in south-eastern Chad.

The instability along CAR's borders and the consequences of the war in Ukraine have led to the disruption of supply chains, causing an increase in prices, and limiting the availability of basic food items and fuel. The minimum expenditure basket rose by 16 per cent from US\$108 in August 2021 to US\$126 in August 2023.

As of today, about 2.8 million people are severely impacted by this situation and humanitarian assistance alone will not be sufficient to guarantee their well-being.

Response priorities in 2024

During the first semester of 2023, humanitarian actors provided life-saving assistance 1.7 million people, which represents only 71 per cent of those targeted in the Humanitarian Response Plan. In line with the HRP objectives, considerable progress has been made in 2023 in scaling-up assistance to IDPs in the search for durable solutions, advancing accountability to affected people, and strengthening localisation. Humanitarian partners assisted 4,600 internally displaced households in voluntarily returning to their place of origin or in local integration. They responded to 78 per cent of the 7,500 complaints and feedback received through collective feedback mechanisms and increased the funding provided directly to national NGOs through the Humanitarian Fund from 7 per cent to 25 per cent.

For 2024, the approach of the humanitarian community in CAR will continue to consist of in the provision of multisectoral and people-centred assistance to respond to the critical humanitarian needs of the Central African populations. This will be done by ensuring that their views and preferences can influence humanitarian programming, by piloting more community-led collective feedback mechanisms, as well as strengthening the participation of local and national NGOs in coordination structures. The focus will be on the people and communities with most severe levels of food insecurity, those affected or at risk of gender-based violence, and the IDPs, refugee and returnee communities.



Emphasis will be placed on interventions responding to new shocks and emergencies, with a move away from addressing needs resulting from inadequate basic social services. Currently, humanitarian partners are often the sole actors enabling access to basic services and facilitating the return of IDPs. To prevent a degradation

of the living conditions where humanitarian phase out, immediate and increasing investments in adequate socio-economic infrastructures and services provided by development actors in collaboration with the government will be required.

AID IN ACTION

Localization of humanitarian response



Central African Republic: Members of a cooperative sort beans to later be sold collectively. OCHA/Virginie Bero

In 2023, the humanitarian response in CAR has made significant advances on localisation. With the creation of a Task Force in July 2022, regrouping national and international NGOs as well as NGO platforms and forums, a localisation strategy and action plan were adopted by the Humanitarian Country Team. Since then, humanitarian partners have coordinated efforts to increase the participation and leadership of national NGOs in coordination structures, augment the visibility of their contributions to the response, and ensure more direct and flexible funding to local actors.

Key successes include

- Making localisation a strategic pillar in the 2023 HRP;
- Publishing a mapping of 124 national NGOs covering almost the entire country;

- Establishing a baseline for localisation indicators;
- Increasing direct funding to national NGOs through the CAR Humanitarian Fund from 7 per cent in 2022 to 25 per cent in 2023, with a dedicated envelop of USD 2 million for a Localisation pillar in the last standard allocation;
- Putting in place a mailing list to share financing and training opportunities with local and national NGOs;
- Working with clusters to support national NGOs taking up leadership positions in coordination structures;
- Partnering with national NGO forums to ensure local NGOs at the sub-national level integrate into coordination structures; And
- developing a communication plan to disseminate information to communities on the localisation efforts undertaken.



Chad HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.8 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.6 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.2 billion

Total population
18.3 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2004 – 2023

Crisis overview and projections

Chad continues to experience a protracted humanitarian crisis, with nearly a third of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Armed conflict, internal displacement, food insecurity and health emergencies are the main drivers of humanitarian needs. The challenging socioeconomic situation is also having a severe impact on the most vulnerable people. The humanitarian situation has worsened since the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, with the influx of thousands of people into eastern Chad, particularly in the Ouaddai, Wadi-Fira and Sila provinces. By 16 October 2023, 442,250 refugees and 77,320 Chadian returnees had arrived. With the worsening security situation in Darfur, an estimated 250,000 refugees are expected in 2024. The new caseload of refugees joins more than 598,000 refugees and other asylum-seekers who have already been living in Chad for several years. Chad is now one of the seven countries receiving the largest number of refugees in the world, with 1,033,180 refugees as of 16 October 2023.

The influx of vulnerable people into Chad is also having a negative impact on the host populations' social, economic, and environmental contexts, with receiving communities under pressure due to the sharing of natural resources and basic social services as well as the disruption of supply routes to markets. In July 2023, food insecurity actors, as part of an ad-hoc Harmonized Framework exercise, noted that 2.1 million people living in Chad are in a Phase 3+ food crisis, 10% of whom are in emergency (IPC Phase 4). This is an increase of 300,000 and is expected to continue in 2024.

Southern Chad also continues to experience armed violence due to local inter-communal conflicts and the deteriorating security situation in the Central African Republic which has resulted in incursions by armed groups. 38,764 people have been displaced and returned. These security incidents, targeting civilians that have resulted in ambushes, theft of livestock and other

subsistence goods, are expected to continue in 2024. These displaced people found refuge in makeshift shelters and community centers (schools, churches, public places) requiring emergency assistance. In several other localities, protection incidents continue to be reported, including murders/homicides, physical assaults, kidnappings, looting, arson, theft of property, cases of gender-based violence and other types of violence not recorded due to the lack of a protection monitoring mechanism on the ground.

The situation in the Lac region of northwest Chad also remains concerning, with repeated incursions into villages by non-state armed groups targeting civilians and forcing the population to move. The Protection Cluster in the Lac province has reported a significant increase in protection incidents since July with 137 incidents alone in that month, representing a significant increase on the first six months of the year, when 336 incidents were recorded. The results of the population movement monitoring analysis published by IOM in June 2023 revealed the presence of 215,000 internally displaced persons, while 54,601 IDPs have moved in the last three months. The Government and humanitarian community hope to implement a pilot durable solutions project targeting IDPs in the Lac region in 2024. The chronically protracted humanitarian situation in Chad is expected to worsen in 2024 due to the cumulative impacts of the on-going massive influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan, population displacements due to intercommunal conflicts in the South and the protracted displacement crisis in the Lac province. The increase in the number of people suffering from acute food insecurity and malnutrition and the resurgence of epidemic diseases, poor availability of basic social services, fragile political transition and the impacts of climate change and risks of floods are also significantly contributing to the poor outlook for the coming year. Under-funding remains the major challenge for quality humanitarian response in Chad. Over the past



five years, the average funding coverage was 50 per cent. Eleven months into the year, only 27 per cent of the US\$921 million needed for 2023 has been raised.

For 2024, the humanitarian response will be carried out with an understanding that many humanitarian challenges in the country are linked to longstanding structural issues. Given the scarcity of funding, humanitarian actors will reinforce their orientation of strictly lifesaving humanitarian actions towards the most vulnerable people in the most affected areas, by prioritizing their interventions geographically through applying the JIAF 2.0 analyses.

This approach assumes that development partners will be able to expand their support for the provision of basic services and the support of livelihoods. Humanitarian partners will continue to apply the nexus approach to ensure a transition to more development approaches.

Response priorities in 2024

From January to September 2023, humanitarian actors in Chad were able to provide vital humanitarian assistance to over 1.3 million people or approximately 34% of the annual target in the revised HRP. According to field assessments, humanitarian aid remains the only safe option for communities in need, however, the level of assistance falls short of what is required in most instances with significant gaps in many sectors. In the South, humanitarian actors were unable to respond to the needs following inter-communal conflict. The response in the east to the refugee's crisis remains massively underfunded while in the Lac province, a lack of assistance has forced populations to flee to Niger. Food and nutritional insecurity are also a growing concern with massive gaps in assistance.

In 2024, humanitarian actors will place emergency assistance and multi-sector protection for the most vulnerable at the heart of their interventions. The response will be concentrated in the humanitarian priority zones 1 and 2 identified by the ICC and adopted by the HCT to better target the most affected people. For priority 3 areas, the focus will be on improved collaboration with development actors. Out of approximately 5.8 million estimated to need humanitarian assistance, 4.6 million

will be targeted for assistance. Approximately 84 per cent of the people targeted (3.86 million people), will receive emergency assistance to save their lives and preserve their dignity (strategic objective 1). In addition, the humanitarian community will support 4.5 million people to improve access to basic social services (strategic objectives 2), while resilience and early recovery (strategic 3) will be fund-raised for separately.

In 2024, humanitarian action will continue to focus on three strategic objectives defined by the Humanitarian Country Team and aligned with country strategic documents. The strategic objectives for 2024 have been revised and a multi-year humanitarian strategy will be developed to align with the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2024-26. Humanitarian actors will continue to reinforce the importance of protection, gender equality and accountability to affected populations, focusing on community-based approaches and detailed data collection to anticipate emergencies. It will remain essential to maintain emergency preparedness, response, and risk reduction measures to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of climate change.

Additionally, working closely with the Government of Chad, an Emergency Development Response approach will be adopted to the crisis in the East, to ensure the sustainable development initiatives are introduced as soon as possible to both strengthen the humanitarian response and ensure the structural and social changes required to transition to development initiatives. This will be worked towards in all of Chad and particularly in the response in eastern Chad (provinces of Ouaddaï, Sila and Wadi Fira) and will include framing the enabling/contributing factors for an emergency development response, such as the need for flexible funding, programming that targets underlying vulnerabilities and complements the ongoing humanitarian response, expanded community based/led development. This approach is needed by the fact that Chad does not receive enough official development assistance (ODA). In fact, in 2021, Chad received just US\$ 722.2 million, while the world average for the same year, based on 134 countries, was US\$ 973.45 million. This situation becomes even more glaring when we look at ODA per capita. Chad receives US\$42 per person, very low compared to neighboring countries with more than US\$60 per person.



Democratic Republic of the Congo HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

25.4 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

8.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 2.6 billion

Total population
113.6 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
1999 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

The DRC stands at a crossroads of historical challenges and ongoing crises. Rich in landscapes and resources, its eastern region has faced significant upheavals. In 2023, the escalating conflict displaced over 6.38 million people (as of August 2023), primarily from the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, making the DRC the second African nation with the highest number of displaced persons after Sudan. The western provinces of Kwango, Kwilu, and Mai-Ndombe have also experienced persistent intercommunal conflicts since June 2022, with widespread humanitarian repercussions.

Despite its vast agricultural potential, a staggering 25.4 million people in the DRC, or one in every four Congolese, are severely food insecure. This crisis is especially evident among the younger generations: 8.4 million people, predominantly children under five, face malnutrition risks—a number that has surged by 2 million in just a year. Moreover, the human rights situation is alarming. Incidents of sexual violence and severe violations against children increased in 2023, the latter by 41 per cent, compared to the same period of previous year (January-June).

The DRC grapples with some of the world’s most complex humanitarian challenges. An estimated 8.7 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance, stemming from a mix of ethnic, territorial, and resource-based conflicts, compounded by natural disasters and disease outbreaks. Decades of armed conflict have traumatized the nation’s social fabric, with violence tragically becoming a norm. In addition to the fighting involving the M23 and the related crisis in North Kivu, the ongoing unrest in Ituri with ADF’s and CODECO-related violence, inter-community violence and ongoing unrest in South Kivu, Maniema and other

provinces are of deep concern. The upcoming December 2023 elections also pose the risk of additional strife and potential instability.

The health situation, especially in the east, remains dire. Epidemics frequently emerge, with measles affecting 126,000 people from January to 10 September 2023, and cholera impacting another 29,000 (suspected cases) during the same period. Devastating floods have claimed over 600 lives, particularly in Sud-Kivu’s Kalehe in early May 2023.

The forecasts for 2024 are concerning: over 25 million people are anticipated to face increased needs, with about 21 per cent of the population likely to experience acute food insecurity. The multifaceted challenges of the DRC, ranging from conflict to health emergencies to natural disasters, underscore the urgent need for global attention and complementary responses.

Response priorities in 2024

By the end of 2023, the humanitarian community in the DRC is expected to have assisted an estimated 7.15 million people, or 72 per cent of the 2023 target of 10 million people. This is a slight drop compared to the 7.4 million reached in 2022. The efforts from June to December 2023 were particularly intensified through the IASC system-wide scale-up activation, focused on the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu. Financially speaking, as of 31 October 2023, the humanitarian community in DRC has secured US\$820 million, which equates to 36.4 per cent of the funding requested in the 2023 humanitarian response plan.



In 2024, as outlined in the multi-year HRP 2023-2024, the humanitarian strategy will address the core humanitarian concerns: population movements, food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics, and protection incidents. Humanitarian partners will direct their attention especially to areas where these challenges intersect most severely. Additionally, humanitarian actors will appeal to development actors to intensify their support in “grey zones” - areas where the population’s needs are due to

structural challenges and not directly tied to conflict or population movements. As experienced in 2023, hurdles like security concerns, lack of infrastructure and bureaucratic constraints might amplify the complexities of the humanitarian response. Despite this, the Humanitarian Country Team is committed to bolstering accountability to affected populations, deepening community ties, and leveraging local partnerships to fortify institutional and operational capacities.

AID IN ACTION

Negotiating humanitarian access



DRC: ONG nationale Africa Renaissance Initiative RDC/Désiré Kengo

Obtaining humanitarian access has been a persistent hurdle for smooth humanitarian operations. The Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG) was established in Ituri in August 2022 to address this and inspired an innovative “joint mission” approach to negotiate and streamline humanitarian access.

From January 2023, five inter-agency missions dedicated to negotiating humanitarian access have been conducted in Djugu, Mambasa, Irumu, and Mahagi. These missions, led by OCHA, involved a consortium of about ten humanitarian

actors, including various UN agencies and INGOs. The missions’ execution is overseen by the HAWG, which determines essential routes, ensuring maximum reach to beneficiaries. This route identification uses data from both UNDSS and International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) reports.

These missions are meant to engage with diverse community groups, from community leaders and youth groups to armed group leaders and civil society. Their objective is to underscore the importance of humanitarian principles, humanitarian organizations’ mandate, the necessity for unimpeded humanitarian access, and the protection of civilians. Securing the commitment from armed groups and community leaders is pivotal for achieving community acceptance.

Additionally, local humanitarian access cells are established within communities. These bodies offer localised solutions for any access challenges and keep both OCHA and the HAWG informed of emerging obstacles or areas of concern. By 30 September 2023, this initiative enabled the opening of six major roads, ensuring unobstructed movement for humanitarian teams.



Mali HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

6.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

3.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 676.5 million

Total population
23.3 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2012 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Mali faces increasing severity of humanitarian needs driven by persistent conflict-related violence and exacerbated by the negative effects of ongoing political tensions, socioeconomic challenges, and climate change. Nearly 6.2 million people are in need, with 3.9 million of the most vulnerable targeted.

As rival non-state armed groups clash for influence in northern, central and southern Mali, the deliberate targeting of civilians continues, including forced evictions from villages, movement impediments, illegal taxation, looting of livestock or property, maiming due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and an increased number of conflict-related sexual violence cases. From January to June 2023, protection actors documented 4,920 cases of human rights violations, including sexual violence (39 per cent) as well as violations of the right to life, physical and/or mental integrity and the right to property.

This context of instability continues to push civilians to repeatedly displace in search of safety. Twenty-three per cent of IDPs have displaced more than twice.¹⁴² As of April 2023, Mali had roughly 392,000 internally displaced people (54 per cent women and children), compared to 370,000 in December 2022.¹⁴³ As a result, food insecurity, malnutrition and overall humanitarian needs have reached record levels, particularly in Menaka, Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti regions. The number of people facing acute food insecurity at crisis level or worse (IPC 3 to 5) has doubled from 600,000 to 1.2 million between December 2022 and June 2023. At the same time, the nutritional situation remains alarming, with nearly 1 million children under 5 facing acute malnutrition. As of 30 June 2023, nearly 20 per cent of schools across the country were closed due to insecurity. Continued insecurity and displacement negatively affect children's

education and exposes them to protection risks including forced recruitment into armed groups, separation, and abuse. In addition, at least 1.6 million people across the country are deprived of access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services and 1 million people continue to live in makeshift shelters without adequate access to essential non-food items.

Despite severe underfunding, access and logistical constraints, humanitarian partners reached 1.7 million people by September and project reaching 2.1 million people by the end of 2023. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), requested US\$751 million to assist 5.7 million people. As of November 2023, 24 per cent of the required funds (US\$220 million) were received.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2024, the Humanitarian Country Team adopted the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), merging the HNO and HRP to sharpen analysis and response. Application of the Joint and Cross-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF 2.0) enabled an improved assessment of intersectoral humanitarian needs and protection risks against major shocks including conflict, drought, floods, and epidemics. The People in Need, targeting methodology and estimated costs have been reduced to focus strictly on humanitarian caseloads, given the deteriorating security situation, access constraints, and the reduced funding situation globally. Activity-based costing continues to improve transparency and governance.

142. International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) September 2023.

143. International Organization for Migration, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) September 2023.



The HNRP will meet two strategic objectives:

- **Save lives and alleviate suffering** for people affected by recurrent shocks through safe, equitable, inclusive multisectoral assistance based on humanitarian principles.

- **Improve inclusive, timely and appropriate access to quality basic services** for people affected by recurrent shocks in line with fundamental rights and standards.

The HNRP 2024 requires US\$677 million to meet the growing life-saving needs and deteriorating living conditions of 3.9 million people.

AID IN ACTION

Education for all



Ségou, Assetou Dembélé Diakité, Mali: A teacher welcomes 10 children to her class, they are all internally displaced due to armed conflict. UNICEF/Trazie

In Ségou, Aissatou welcomes a dozen children displaced by the armed conflict into her classroom. “When the displaced children first arrived, they were isolated from the other children. In addition to their difficulties in school, they had trouble communicating and playing with their classmates. I was able to recognize the signs of trauma, as we were taught in the training, and apply the instructions we received,” she explains, after benefiting from training to facilitate the integration of IDP children who may have difficulty adapting to school.

In Mali, children make up more than 50 per cent of internally displaced persons. This increases the likelihood of school drop out, and makes them vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups, child marriage, forced labor and all forms of violence, including gender-based violence. As of June 2023, more than 1,700 schools have closed due to insecurity, affecting 3.9 million children. At the same time, more than 3,700 internally displaced children have been assisted and accommodated in the city’s schools and in temporary learning spaces in IDP camps in the city of Ségou. Creating learning spaces and training teachers helps prevent children from dropping out of school by providing a protective environment for quality education.



Niger HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

4.5 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 604.0 million

Total population
26.6 million

Income level
Low income

INFORM Severity Index
4 / High

Consecutive appeals
2011 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

The humanitarian situation in Niger remained worrying throughout 2023. The security situation continues to deteriorate, leading to population movements. Between January and September 2023, the number of internally displaced people rose from 361,593 to 436,398, an increase of 17 per cent. The regions most affected are Diffa and Tillabéri. Due to insecurity, 989 schools remain closed – 93 per cent of which are in the Tillabéri region – affecting 84,561 children, 48.8 per cent of whom are girls.¹⁴⁴

As of 9 October 2023, more than 169,000 people (including 52 deaths) have been affected by floods. Like last year, the worst-affected region remained Maradi (with 67,500 people affected). Over the same period in 2022, more than 266,000¹⁴⁵ people were affected.

The food security situation has not improved, although the estimated number of food-insecure people during the lean season (3.3 million)¹⁴⁶ is lower than in 2022 (4.4 million). The November 2022 SMART survey indicates a global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 12.2 per cent and a severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.4 per cent. While acute malnutrition rates have fallen slightly since 2018, they have remained consistently above the WHO alert threshold (10 per cent for GAM, 2 per cent for SAM).

Niger has reported a diphtheria epidemic that began on 17 July 2023. As of 23 October, 2,351 cases have been reported in 21 health districts, with 163 deaths, representing a 7 per cent case-fatality rate.

The sanctions imposed on Niger by the international community and ECOWAS following the coup d'état on 26 July are exacerbating the socioeconomic situation of

the population in general and the displaced population in particular. This situation also has impacted the food security with increased food prices, shortages of food products and a reduction in trade and economic activities, higher inflation coupled with negative GDP per capita growth, and an increase in poverty rate¹⁴⁷. WFP market monitoring released in September 2023, using SIMA data, shows a 35 per cent increase in the average national price of rice and a 12 per cent increase in the price of sorghum, compared to the period prior to the political crisis (week of 17 to 23 July 2023)¹⁴⁸. Border closures are preventing humanitarian actors from bringing in food supplies and other relief items that could alleviate the already precarious situation of these populations. Available stocks in the country are being depleted, and if the situation does not evolve positively, there is a risk of a serious humanitarian crisis.

The suspension of humanitarian operations in areas of military operations, and the fact that expatriate partners are subject to military escort, have considerably reduced access to affected populations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. Since the decision on 31 August 2023 to suspend humanitarian and development missions in areas with military operations, many humanitarian missions have been cancelled countrywide (as of 16 October), potentially depriving approximately 550,000 people living in those military operations areas (24 per cent of people in need) of vital assistance in several sectors.

If the security situation in neighboring countries (Mali and Burkina Faso) continues to deteriorate, and sanctions by the international community and ECOWAS remain in place, 2024 is shaping up to be a year of great challenges for Niger.

144. Education cluster

145. Source: Ministry of Humanitarian Actions and Disaster Management (MAH)

146. Cadre Harmonisé, March 2023

147. WFP, Niger : Preliminary analysis on the impacts of the political crisis and sanctions on food security and markets, 12 August 2023

148. FSC Niger, Markets situations, September 2023



Response priorities in 2024

In 2023, despite the operationalization and funding challenges faced by humanitarian actors throughout the year, the humanitarian community provided assistance to 2.2 million people in at least one of the sectors. This represents 83 per cent of the targeted population under the HRP, with 42 per cent of funding coverage (US\$ 583 million as of 31 October 2023). The high number of

people reached compared to the low funding rate can be explained by the fact that the results reported by some partners also include projects carried out outside the HRP.

In 2024, the focus will be on the most vulnerable populations heavily impacted by various shocks. The persistence of sanctions, insecurity and climate change will most likely impact thousands of men and women who may fall into extreme poverty. As a result, the number of people in need is expected to reach 4.5 million, an increase of 5 per cent compared to 2023.

Niamey, Niger: This man has moved to the capital following the kidnapping of six of his sons. He and his family struggle to find food, they live in a shelter which is not stable and are afraid it will collapse when the rainy season arrives. OCHA/Michele Cattani





Nigeria HRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 860.0 million

Total population
223.8 million

Income level
Lower middle income

INFORM Severity Index
5 / Very high

Consecutive appeals
2014 - 2024

Crisis overview and projections

Fourteen years into the conflict, the humanitarian crisis in north-east Nigeria remains profound and widespread. Across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) states, over 7.9 million people face severe protection concerns, extreme deprivation beyond their existing poverty levels, and daily threats to their well-being. While the number of people in need has decreased from previous years, the severity and complexity of the needs of affected people has not diminished. Vulnerabilities differ based on location, age, and displacement status, and the interplay of the main drivers of the crisis (conflict and insecurity, the impact of climate change, disease outbreaks, food insecurity and malnutrition, population movement and camp closures, economic factors, and historical underdevelopment). Children, particularly girls, remain the most affected, together with women they make up 83 per cent of those in need. Borno is the most affected state, with more than half the people in need – 3.8 million. Adamawa and Yobe follow with 2.1 million and 1.7 million people in need, respectively.

The nature of conflict has changed in the last two years, with fewer attacks on military and government installations. Worryingly, attacks on civilians by non-state armed groups are increasing, particularly in Borno where 1,025 and 1,045 security events were recorded in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

As a result of the evolving security situation and other developments, the number of people in need may have improved in some sectors in Yobe and Adamawa states, resulting in opportunities for recovery and development efforts. In these two states, more can be done to support the Government in restoring basic services and shelter for conflict-affected people and driving solutions for displaced people. In Borno, specifically in Maiduguri, there are opportunities for identifying solutions for conflict-affected people, including the displaced, as part of urban development efforts, precarious humanitarian needs

related to food insecurity and malnutrition remain high in other areas of the state. In Borno and areas in Yobe and Adamawa, conflict continues with severe protection concerns and limited opportunities for recovery and development. High numbers of people with severe needs require a continued emergency response at scale.

Protection concerns are pressing, especially for women and girls. They are threatened by violence, abduction, rape, gender-based violence, forced and child marriage, and other violations of their rights. Children are also at risk of forced recruitment into armed groups when unaccompanied and separated from families, especially when they were formerly associated with armed groups. Women and girls still lack adequate protection, access to justice, and access to services.

Operational challenges persist. In Borno State, for instance, all primary supply routes are insecure for civilians, humanitarian workers, and supplies. Partners are still unable to deliver outside major population centres due to insecurity. Though some areas of Adamawa and Yobe states have witnessed improved security, aid organisations are still grappling with significant threats.

The persistent conflict and insecurity have severed people from their primary livelihoods, notably agricultural activities. Those who venture outside the protective trenches surrounding the population centres in many parts of Borno are at risk of being killed, maimed, kidnapped or subjected to sexual and gender-based violence (GBV). This has led to severe food insecurity across north-east Nigeria. Females, in their quest for survival, are often pushed towards negative coping mechanisms such as sex work. Young boys, in their desperation, become easy targets for recruitment by non-state militant groups.

Humanitarian funding for Nigeria is predicted to decline significantly in 2024. This reality means that the strategy for 2024-2025 is envisaging a shift to better targeted, prioritized assistance with a focus on core humanitarian activities.



This includes:

- Improving cost efficiency in terms of how aid is delivered, where possible, including a focus on multi-purpose cash.
- Localization, through both increasing the role of Government in terms of providing assistance and delivery through local organizations to reduce costs.
- Focusing on thematic and geographic plans to increase impact through more joined-up activities.
- Closer work with Government and development partners to address the root causes of vulnerability and disaster risk reduction and mitigation activities.
- Increasing interventions before crises escalate through anticipatory action to reduce suffering and for more cost-effective delivery.

Response priorities in 2024

In 2023, the humanitarian response in the BAY states has been challenged by severe funding and access limitations. Of the US\$1.3 billion requested to assist 6 million people, only 37 per cent, or US\$479.8 million, has been received at the end of October. This significant funding shortfall, compounded by persistent security challenges and movement restrictions, hampered delivery, leaving many acute needs unmet. Despite these challenges, 130 partners have reached 3.4 million people through humanitarian interventions.

In 2024, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) foresees an even tighter funding environment, predicting a sharp decline in humanitarian allocations for Nigeria. In the face of these anticipated financial challenges, humanitarian partners aim to support 4.4 million people, setting a funding target of about US\$ 860 million which includes

estimated funding requirements of US\$45 million for anticipatory interventions to address in particular climate-related shocks such as flooding and cholera outbreaks.

Given the funding constraints, the scoping/boundary setting, means that the focus will be on core humanitarian activities. The 2024-2025 strategy retains, however, a two-pronged approach: emergency response and complementing transformative action. Humanitarian partners will work more closely with Government and development partners to ensure that longer-term efforts to address vulnerability are undertaken, as well as finding solutions for displaced and other conflict-affected people. Humanitarian action will be more focused, recognising that needs vary across the three BAY states. A four-tier prioritisation framework is being utilised, with the primary objective being to reduce morbidity and mortality rates. Efforts will be made to shift from a reactive to a proactive approach to anticipate and mitigate shocks such as food insecurity, malnutrition, disease epidemics, and conflict-induced displacement. This will be guided by risk assessment emphasising geographic locations with the highest risk and the most vulnerable people within these locations. As a protection crisis, the goal remains to uphold humanitarian and human rights law, to safeguard crisis-affected people in north-east Nigeria from grave violations such as rape, GBV, and forced child marriage.

Concurrently, the secondary aim – transformative operation – underscores the importance of improving the situation of vulnerable people in a protracted crisis. This includes maintaining “ring-fenced” funding for the humanitarian operation, which needs to be sustained in parts of Borno and border areas between Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, while also scaling up development investments to accompany solutions for IDPs.



AID IN ACTION

North-East Nigeria: Strengthening Risk-Informed Humanitarian Planning for 2024



El-Miskin camp, Maiduguri, Borno State Kawu, Nigeria:
Faltuma, 40, collects sand to protect her house from flooding.
OCHA/Damilola Onafuwa

The operation in Nigeria aims to address recurring, predictable risks – such as climate-induced flooding – more proactively rather than reacting after humanitarian disasters strike. Based on solid risk analysis, since 2022, OCHA Nigeria has specifically explored options for anticipatory action¹ (AA), which is faster, cheaper, and a more dignified way to support people at risk compared to post-disaster response². In 2024, this work will be advanced through a more risk-informed

Humanitarian Response Plan, which integrates strengthened planning for readiness, anticipatory action and early response along specific timelines for each major risk.

AA activities will focus on flooding and cholera. For these risks, Clusters have identified critical time windows for implementing prioritized AA measures. As AA must be feasible within a very short lead time – typically 7-10 days for floods and 4-6 weeks for cholera – high levels of readiness for AA are required (e.g., pre-registration of the most vulnerable and at-risk households for cash disbursements ahead of floods). Pre-defined implementation arrangements, pre-agreed triggers and activation protocols, and funding are also crucial. Discussions are therefore underway to leverage both the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund as well as the CERF in support of AA.

The HCT's focus on risk-informed humanitarian programming is part of a broader effort to more closely link with disaster risk³ reduction and mitigation measures implemented by the Government and development partners.

1. "(...) defined as acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Anticipatory action works best if activities (the delivery), as well as triggers and decision-making rules (the model) are pre-agreed to guarantee the fast release of pre-arranged financing (the money)." <https://www.unocha.org/anticipatory-action>
2. OCHA's Compendium of Evidence
3. IASC Deputy Principals Meeting, February 2023 and OCHA SLG Meeting, March 2023. During the HPC Workshop in June 2023 several CO HPC focal points requested HQ support.



*Swabi, Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa,
Pakistan: Children
play with each
other in an Afghan
refugee community
on July 18, 2023
in, Swabi, Khyber
Pakhtunkhwa,
Pakistan. UNICEF/
Saiyna Bashir*

Regional Refugee Response Plans

In 2024, UNHCR will work with a wide range of partners to implement six Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) that support host governments to protect and assist refugees as well as the communities receiving them.

These will include Regional Plans for refugees from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan region, Sudan, and Ukraine. In addition, UNHCR and UNDP will continue to co-lead the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). In total, these regional plans cover 34 countries.



Afghanistan RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

7.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

7.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 620.0 million

Type of appeal
Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered
Pakistan, Iran

Refugees, Afghans in refugee-like
situations and Afghans of other status
targeted
4.8 million

Host community members targeted
2.5 million

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

Looking to 2024, the situation in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries remains challenging. The humanitarian needs inside Afghanistan remain dire – some 29.2 million people (two-thirds of Afghanistan’s population) require urgent humanitarian assistance to survive. The situation has been compounded by a devastating series of earthquakes in Herat in October 2023, as well as the potential impact of large-scale returns from Pakistan especially also due to the ‘Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan’ announced by the Government of Pakistan on 3 October. The number of returns keeps on increasing, and as of November 30, there have been 428,000 returns. Many Afghans return out of fear of arrest or deportation in Pakistan. Actions implemented have a negative impact on the voluntary nature of return/act as “pressure” upon Afghans to return, even if they are not immediately/directly targeted. Some Afghans are leaving Pakistan now in anticipation that the expiry of POR cards at the end of the year will leave them undocumented and subject to removal.

The Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan host 8.2 million Afghans, many of whom have been in these host countries for decades, around 1.6 million have arrived since the start of 2021 alone, according to government estimates. Pakistan hosts approximately 3.7 million¹⁴⁹ Afghan Refugees and Afghans of other statuses, reflecting the long history of solidarity and support extended by the country. However, the protection environment has become increasingly challenging. The presence of a substantial population of Afghan refugees and Afghans of other statuses underscores the importance of carefully navigating this evolving protection landscape. Pakistan continues to grapple with the complexities of providing adequate support and ensuring the protection of this vulnerable population while balancing the needs of its

own citizens. Recognizing the plight of Afghan refugees and those in refugee-like situations, including women and girls without documentation, there is a pressing need for sustainable solutions and comprehensive support systems. It is crucial to ensure access to education and primary healthcare for all, while also creating opportunities for livelihoods to alleviate poverty and promote self-reliance. The multifaceted challenges presented by the changing protection environment highlight the ongoing need to work collaboratively and proactively to ensure the continued safety and well-being of Afghan refugees and individuals of other statuses in Pakistan. It remains crucial to foster an environment that upholds their rights and safeguards their dignity, while also addressing the concerns of the host community.

According to government estimates, Iran hosts at least 4.5 million Afghans, including over 1 million who have arrived since August 2021. This includes 3.4 million Afghan refugees and Afghans in a refugee-like situation (including some 750,000 Amayesh card holders, and over 2.6 million recorded in the 2022 headcount exercise). Many of the remaining 1.1 million Afghan individuals in Iran – including women and girls – are without documentation due to a lack of available pathways to seek asylum or regularize their stay. Afghans continue to arrive in Iran daily, primarily via irregular routes. New arrivals join millions of other Afghans who have been generously hosted in Iran for decades, many of whom are third or fourth-generation refugees. Iran continues to grant access to education and primary healthcare to Afghan nationals, including those without documentation. However, for Afghans and Iranian host communities alike, lack of livelihood and poverty - exacerbated by the combined impact of high levels of inflation and unilateral economic sanctions - continue to drive need. The most disadvantaged in society, disproportionately comprising Afghan refugees, are increasingly forced to make difficult

149. Source: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/afghanistan>



trade-offs or resort to negative coping strategies to make ends meet. Specifically, Afghans may face challenges in covering costs related to school enrolment, healthcare, or documentation. In turn those without documentation face a particularly precarious situation due to persistent risks of deportation, labour exploitation, and further barriers to accessing services. The situation is compounded by increasing anti-Afghan sentiment across society. With durable solutions elusive to most, Afghan refugees - irrespective of documentation status - also face immediate and interlinked challenges in establishing self-reliance, leaving them susceptible to shocks and stresses.

Strategic objectives and response priorities 2024

The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Afghanistan Situation has evolved into a two-year plan for 2024-2025, with partners providing a budget for 2024 as well as an indicative budget for 2025, which will be reassessed at the end of 2024, based on the developing situation. As part of this transition, moving forward the RRP will focus just on the two major host countries for Afghan refugees – Iran and Pakistan. For 2024 and 2025, it is expected that Afghan populations, including new arrivals, will remain in need of support, exacerbated by the difficult economic situation in host countries. Host communities also need significant support, and investments in infrastructure require major attention since they continue to support large Afghan populations.

Acknowledging the huge contribution of host countries, the RRP reaffirms the regional multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach which aims at strengthening the humanitarian and development response in support of host governments. As well as building community resilience, the RRP will deliver concrete actions, with a focus on community-based interventions incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, cross-border collaboration, and durable solutions within the framework

of the [Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees \(SSAR\)](#). The 2024-2025 RRP, through four strategic objectives, will aim to:

- Ensure coordinated efforts towards solutions in line with the objectives of the SSAR.¹⁵⁰
- Reinforce a humanitarian-development nexus approach, to build resilient communities, strengthening local and national systems of host countries which have supported Afghans for decades, in the spirit of international responsibility- and burden-sharing and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. Priorities include national education and healthcare infrastructure and supporting livelihoods for Afghans and host communities.
- Support host governments to ensure access to territory and asylum, and protection in accordance with international standards, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, admission, reception, registration, and documentation.
- Respond to the basic needs of the most vulnerable, including via sustained support to government-led emergency preparedness efforts and multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral support to swiftly respond to those newly displaced by conflict, natural disasters, and other crises, as well as to existing populations who have seen their situation deteriorate due to the rising cost of living.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, partner organizations in Iran and Pakistan have developed a comprehensive response plan to address the needs of Afghans and their host communities via progressive policies that promote education, livelihoods, health and social inclusion. These will continue to be critical, as will addressing cross-sectoral priorities such as PSEA, AAP and climate action. In line with this approach, partners will continue to support host governments in maintaining and expanding their inclusive policies, which provide Afghan refugees with access to education and primary health services, while also advancing support of self-reliance and durable solutions.

150. The Objectives of the SSAR are I). Creating conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation through community-based investments in areas of high return; II). Building Afghan refugee capital based on livelihood opportunities in Afghanistan in order to facilitate return; and III). Preserving protection space in host countries, including enhanced support for refugee-hosting communities, alternative temporary stay arrangements for the residual caseload, and resettlement in third countries.



Democratic Republic of the Congo RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 629.8 million

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Angola, Burundi, Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia

Refugees targeted

966,000

Host community members targeted

891,000

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

The emergency in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the world. Decades of clashes between armed groups and widespread violations of human rights have caused unprecedented levels of need and forced millions to flee their homes. The critical situation in the country has only worsened since the start of 2023: insecurity in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri has reached new heights, with the exponential rise in incidents of gender-based violence (GBV) being particularly concerning.¹⁵¹ Traditionally safe areas, such as Mai-Ndombé, have also seen increasing violence in the past few years. As a result of this unrelenting instability, by the end of October 2023, nearly 5.8 million people were displaced within the DRC and over 869,000 had crossed the borders into Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia in search of safety – 50,000 of whom fled in the first nine months of the year alone. Tensions emerging from the withdrawal of MONUSCO and the presidential elections in December are likely to lead to further displacement.

The prolonged nature of this crisis places a tremendous strain on countries that have generously opened their borders to refugees from the DRC. Organizations have redoubled their efforts to provide protection, assistance, and solutions to those in need; however, the response has been challenging.

The reduction of the asylum space observed in some host countries has resulted in unregistered populations and asylum-seekers being left in legal limbo, with no prospect of receiving refugee status and unable to access life-saving support. Often, these populations are also unable to secure the exit permits needed for their departure to third countries through resettlement, family reunification

programmes and complementary pathways. In addition, multiple countries continue to promote encampment policies, limiting refugees to settlements that are overcrowded, in areas where basic services are stretched to their limits; this creates risks for refugee well-being, in no small part because the health conditions in host countries are fragile and outbreaks of measles, cholera and malaria place further strain on already-limited health services. Food insecurity and poor nutritional status, inaccessibility of agricultural areas, rising prices, funding shortages, and prolonged drought and tropical storms and cyclones are growing concerns among families. At the same time, lack of access to sustainable employment and livelihood opportunities, restrictions on refugees' freedom of movement and on their right to work, own land and property, and access education and justice remain major challenges. Under these constraints, refugees are increasingly vulnerable to human rights violations, exploitation, and abuse, and more frequently resort to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs.

Despite these difficulties, refugees from the DRC are expected to continue benefiting from international protection in 2024, and host governments are anticipated to make new commitments to refugee protection and assistance at the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities 2024

The DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is shifting to a two-year focus to better strategize and articulate the needs and priorities and allow for longer-term vision in ensuring solutions and resilience of the communities. The 2024-2025 plan will continue to bring together a wide range of stakeholders to provide protection, assistance, and durable solutions to 1.9 million refugees from the DRC and their host communities in

151. 24 UN entities urged immediate action to protect women and girls on 14 July 2023.



Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. In the spirit of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) and in accordance with the [Refugee Coordination Model](#), governments steer the response, while RRP Partners, led by UNHCR, will support and complement national and regional strategies, working closely with donors, development actors, the private sector, local partners and civil society.

The 2024-2025 RRP is anchored by the following strategic objectives:

Enhancing the protection environment: RRP Partners will promote policies and legislation that safeguard unhindered access to asylum and international protection, enable refugees' full enjoyment of rights and promote a conducive environment for local solutions. Partners will give emphasis to considerations around age, gender, and diversity, accountability to affected people, and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in their programming. GBV and child protection, prevention and response will be strengthened, and risk mitigation will be mainstreamed across sectors.

Contributing to dignified lives and access to basic services: RRP Partners will help mitigate challenges such as access to food, education, WASH and health services, housing, and employment opportunities through multi-sector assistance. The delivery of basic needs services to vulnerable refugee and host communities will be prioritized to ensure they receive the support they need to live in dignity, to meet their basic needs, and to strengthen their capacity and resilience to deal with future shocks.

Promoting access to and inclusion into national systems: RRP Partners will continue to work with Governments and other partners towards supporting increased access of refugees into national systems, including health, education, employment, social services and (sub-)national development plans, in support of the pledges made by host countries at the Global Refugee Forum. RRP Partners will therefore continue to strengthen public institutions across the region, helping to restore their capacity to deal with the impact of the crisis.

Promoting self-reliance and pursuing durable solutions: RRP Partners will prioritize the promotion of livelihoods opportunities and economic inclusion of refugees and vulnerable host community members, to increase self-reliance and foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. Resettlement and complementary pathways will remain critical options for vulnerable refugees without perspectives of local solutions. Meanwhile, refugees who decide to voluntarily return will continue to be supported.

The RRP brings together 95 partners, who will need US\$629.8 million to implement activities to support 1.9 million refugees and host community members in the seven countries in 2024. The RRP will emphasize the importance of partnering with local respondents and using and reinforcing national and local systems in addressing the increasing needs while supporting resilience and sustainable approaches in host countries.

Nyarugusu, Tanzania: Rehema is a refugee from DRC, she is a recent graduate of Information and Communication technology courses provided at the MultiPurpose Community Centers. UNHCR/Winnie Itaeli Kweka





South Sudan RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.7 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

4.7 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.5 billion

Type of appeal
Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered
Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda

Refugees targeted
2.3 million

Host community members targeted
2.4 million

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

South Sudan’s displacement crisis remains one of Africa’s most significant in recent years, with 2.3 million refugees hosted in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda and 2.2 million internally displaced. Most South Sudanese refugees have been in asylum for at least a decade. The roots of this crisis are deep-seated, aggravated by a long, brutal civil war, and compounded by climate change and food insecurity. A four-year streak of flooding has decimated homes and livelihoods, exacerbated food shortages and weakened the economy.

The combined number of South Sudanese returnees from 2021-22 was 525,360. However, the pace of returns surged in 2023 as a result of the ongoing crisis in Sudan. As of 30 September, 334,317 refugees returned prematurely to South Sudan, with 62,393 returns in September 2023 alone. If the conflict in Sudan continues unabated, these high trends may continue in 2024. These returns were not predicted and have been hasty. People arriving are confronted by the dire situation in South Sudan, which already has huge humanitarian and development challenges. Over three-quarters of the population in South Sudan is deemed to need humanitarian aid, and parts of the country still face insecurity and climate shocks such as floods. In 2021, only 1,015 South Sudanese were admitted to third countries such as Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States through resettlement and private sponsorship pathways. In 2022, resettlement decreased to just 994 individuals, representing less than one per cent of 114,242 admissions reported globally by resettlement States.

The prolonged displacement of South Sudanese across the region requires immense humanitarian assistance and support for host countries, which will continue into 2024. In the DRC, South Sudanese refugees are concentrated in the northern regions, notably Ituri and Haut-Uele, and many face protection risks due to ongoing insecurity,

including gender-based violence (GBV) and have limited access to education and healthcare. In Ethiopia, South Sudanese refugees reside mainly in the Gambella region, while limited numbers are also hosted in the Benishangul Gumuz region. Despite government support, many services, including education, rely on humanitarian funds. The two refugee camps in Tongo and Gure Shambola were closed in February 2022 due to insecurity, resulting in the relocation of refugees to three camps in the Benishangul Gumuz region, which has put enormous pressure on services, including WASH, within the camp. In addition, since September 2023, some 6,000 South Sudanese refugees arrived in the Gambella region, due to the conflict in Pochalla in South Sudan with numbers expected to reach 8,000 by December 2023.

Integration efforts in the region aim to improve livelihoods but remain a work in progress as the countries of asylum face their own development and security challenges. Food security is of particular concern, also aggravated by reduced food ration across the region in 2023, contributing to increased malnutrition, especially among children. In Kenya, integration into national systems and access to services such as healthcare and education has progressed, particularly within the framework of the integrated socio-economic development plans in Garissa and Turkana counties and ongoing developments on the [Government of Kenya’s Shirika Plan](#), but challenges remain for the full inclusion of refugees in national social protection, education and livelihoods programmes. Further, increased new arrivals in 2022 and 2023 have strained existing services, impacting long-term solutions. In Uganda, the Government continues to implement progressive refugee policies, allowing refugees access to land and basic services, but the impact is reduced as a result of inadequate resources. In Sudan, after having generously hosted refugees for many years, the country faces its own crisis in which refugees are caught up in the war, with some having been killed and others having to



return prematurely to their country of origin to avoid the conflict or relocating to the already overcrowded camps in White Nile State.

In 2024, it is anticipated that more than 500,000 South Sudanese (registered refugees, migrants and others) in Sudan may return to South Sudan, with the majority coming back prematurely from Sudan. UNHCR has conservatively estimated that more than 250,000 South Sudanese refugees will have resettlement needs in 2024, while additional complementary pathways for admission to third countries will continue to have strategic importance in terms of durable solutions and sharing international responsibility for refugee protection.¹⁵² Without such opportunities, South Sudanese refugees will continue to require access to humanitarian assistance, including protection, education, healthcare, clean water, and sanitation, as well as long-term solutions promoting economic opportunities.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) are the two main Regional Economic Communities of Africa with which partners will continue to pursue efforts to integrate refugees into national systems and explore regional solutions within the scope of, including promoting local solutions (e.g., the Shirika Plan in Kenya) for protracted displacement of South Sudanese.

While limited financial resources for humanitarian programmes remain the largest impediment to the response, other challenges persist. In 2024, insecurity may be a concern in the run-up to South Sudan's first elections since independence. Political instability and conflict in the DRC stemming from the upcoming December 2023 elections could also hinder humanitarian programming. If the conflict in Sudan continues, it will have broader implications for regional cooperation, security, and solutions for refugee populations living in protracted situations.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

In 2024, the South Sudan RRP requires US\$ 1.5 Billion for its partners to assist 4.7 million refugees and host community members.

The five core strategic objectives for South Sudanese refugees in 2024 include, which will also be applied across the sectoral response:

- Maintaining asylum space and enhancing protection and the realization of the rights of the refugees and asylum-seekers
- Providing quality, efficient, and timely protection and lifesaving multisectoral assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities, including prevention and response to GBV and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, child protection, birth registration, and enhancing Accountability to Affected People
- Promoting the inclusion of the refugees and asylum-seekers into national systems including for child protection, legal and physical protection, social protection, education, health, and livelihoods and resilience through strategic engagement with governments, the private sector, regional bodies and development actors
- Enhancing sustainable and durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers including opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries
- Advocating for measures allowing refugees to exercise greater self-reliance and resilience, including economic mobility, and more international support to the South Sudan situation, leveraging pledges which will be made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum

The South Sudanese refugee response plan prioritizes cross-cutting efforts to enhance protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and accountability to affected populations, ensuring the safety, rights and dignity of the refugees. In partnership, localization will be a guiding principle with national NGOs, local authorities, and local communities, including refugees. The response is also committed to climate shock mitigation across the response.

It is incumbent upon host countries, humanitarian organizations, development partners and the private sector to rally together in coordinated efforts to meet the immediate needs of refugees and contribute to lasting solutions for refugees from South Sudan.

152. <https://reporting.unhcr.org/unhcr-projected-global-resettlement-needs-2024>



Sudan RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

5.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

5.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.3 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Chad, Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan

Refugees targeted

2.1 million

Host community members targeted

408,805

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

Clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have continued since 15 April 2023, displacing nearly 6.2 million people inside and outside Sudan¹⁵³. **This is now the largest protection crisis in the region.** As of 3 November, close to 1.2 million people had fled Sudan since the outbreak of the conflict. This includes nearly 893,000 refugees and asylum-seekers (mainly Sudanese but also other nationalities of refugees previously hosted in Sudan), and over 304,000 refugee returnees (mainly South Sudanese, but also Chadians, Central Africans, and Ethiopians). Before the conflict, Sudan was host to one of the largest refugee populations in Africa (1.1 million refugees).

The situation in Sudan remains dire, with physical security, extortion, forced recruitment including of children and refugees, conflict-related sexual violence, and trafficking and smuggling. Human rights violations by parties to the conflict also continue to be reported, most notably in Khartoum and Darfur states. Areas less affected by direct conflict have received displaced people, which have stretched their services thin, and, in many instances, these states are unable to meet critical needs. Despite attempts at various ceasefires and peace agreements, restoration to peace has been unsuccessful and if the conflict continues in 2024, people will likely continue to flee out of the country, with over 600,000 Sudanese refugees, and refugees of other nationalities seeking asylum and 450,000 people returning to their countries of origin. In addition to the internal displacement of nationals in Sudan, as many as 230,000 refugees may be secondarily displaced.

The five neighbouring countries, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan were already hosting a large number of refugees, including 800,000 Sudanese refugees, before 15 April 2023. In

addition, CAR, South Sudan and Chad also host internally displaced populations. The new refugee arrivals to Chad add to the more than 400,000 Sudanese refugees who have been in a protracted situation in eastern Chad for some 20 years. In South Sudan, 76 per cent of the population was already estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, in addition to more than 280,000 Sudanese who arrived pre-April 2023. In Ethiopia, more than 20 million people need humanitarian assistance in addition to almost 50,000 Sudanese refugees who arrived pre-April 2023. The hosting countries have, for the most part, opened their borders to those seeking safety. However, humanitarian programmes are chronically underfunded and need international support to sustain the generosity of the host countries. Despite historically hosting refugees, and having the second-highest number of arrivals of Sudanese refugees, Egypt has imposed stringent entry requirements, including the mandatory need for a valid passport and visa for all Sudanese nationals, which may have impeded access to asylum.

Most new arrivals enter through very remote border locations of the neighbouring countries where humanitarian partners provide critical life-saving assistance and facilitate onward movement in extremely difficult conditions requiring extensive logistical arrangements. People are being assisted to move onwards, either to camps or settlements for refugees and places of preferred destination for the returnees. In some locations, the new arrivals opted to self-relocate due to the slow pace of the movement, congestion in transit and feeling of insecurity in border areas. Humanitarian actors also focused on establishing systems and procedures for the delivery of assistance, including protection, health, WASH and others, mitigating the manifestation of disease. The new arrivals were often traumatized and in a vulnerable situation, requiring high levels of assistance, particularly, life-saving assistance, access to basic

153. Population figures are taken from <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/sudansituation>



services and protection. With the possibility of protracted displacement, it is imperative for Regional RRP partners to build the resilience of refugees and host communities and link to broader development responses that are needed to ensure long-term stability and self-sufficiency, alongside a humanitarian response which meets life-saving needs.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

In 2024, the Regional RRP will continue life-saving and emergency humanitarian activities such as registration, provision of emergency shelter and core relief items, facilitating access to essential health and nutrition services, support to host countries to ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection, including those with specific needs, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk. Survivor-centred health, psychosocial, security, justice and other services will also be scaled up for GBV survivors. Relocation of the new arrivals to safer sites in collaboration with concerned governments remains a priority despite the huge logistical challenges. The 2024 plan will pursue a deliberate and important inclusion of resilience and systems strengthening with concerted efforts to engage development partners in complementary interventions on the humanitarian, peace, and development nexus.

The 2024 RRP will be organized around the four following strategic objectives:

- Support host countries to ensure access to territory and asylum for all individuals in need of international protection and in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement and the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum.
- Support host countries to provide timely and life-saving protection and humanitarian assistance for all those fleeing Sudan, with a specific focus on identifying and supporting the most vulnerable and those most at risk in need of specialized protection interventions and other services.
- Support host countries to build capacity and resilience so that those fleeing Sudan are included in national systems, particularly in health and education, and able to live in integrated settlements, and or in rural areas or urban areas and undertake livelihoods.
- Support neighbouring countries to ensure access to their territory for third-country nationals and assist, in close coordination with embassies and consulates, third-country nationals with immigration procedures and in contacting respective consular authorities to enable them to return home to their respective countries of origin.



Joda boarder crossing, South Sudan: Sudanese refugees and South Sudanese returnees arrive in South Sudan through Joda border point, following conflict in Khartoum. They are awaiting onward transportation to the transit site in Renk, approximately 60km away. Due to a drastic increase in new arrivals, onward transportation cannot keep up. Many are stranded for days before they are able to proceed to the transit site. UNHCR/Ala Kheir

Efforts will continue to plan for and support the medium and long-term inclusion of refugees in national systems across sectors and for livelihoods and economic inclusion. All RRP partners are committed to Accountability to Affected Populations, empowering local communities and promoting a localization agenda to foster local capacity and ownership. In addition, measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse will continue to be instituted by all organizations. As the region is prone to climate shocks, mitigation measures and other environmental interventions will be implemented across the programme to promote a sustainable, resilient response to the Sudan crisis.



Syrian Arab Republic 3RP

PEOPLE IN NEED

17.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

9.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 5.5 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan,
Lebanon, Türkiye

Refugees targeted

6.3 million

Host community members targeted

3.5 million

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

In 2024, the Syria crisis marks its thirteenth year without a political solution. Over 6.5 million Syrians, many of them displaced for over a decade, have sought refuge in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt – the five countries covered by the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). The protracted nature of the conflict, which has resulted in one of the world’s largest refugee crises, has strained public infrastructure and services in host countries, especially housing, education, health care, waste management, water and sanitation.

Recent global events and trends, including the war in Ukraine, an increase in inflation and currency devaluations, and the worsening impact of climate change, have deteriorated already fragile socio-economic conditions. Furthermore, 2023 saw additional emergencies in the region, notably the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in February, which killed over 50,000 and displaced over 3 million people, and the conflict in Sudan, which erupted in April and has forced more than a million individuals to flee into neighbouring countries, including Egypt.

Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt have been impacted by the rising food and energy prices¹⁵⁴ due to their wheat import dependence. Lebanon has continued to experience an unstable political environment coupled with a collapsing economy. Egypt, dealing with the consequences of the Sudan crisis, has seen an influx of over 330,000

individuals seeking refuge as of October 2023. The most recent conflict, erupting in October in Israel and the Gaza strip, has already generated massive internal displacement and may further affect the stability of the wider region. Iraq, although relatively stable, grapples with protracted humanitarian and development needs, political challenges, and a volatile security situation. Over the years, the inclusion of refugees into public services and policies in Iraq has been gradually achieved in most sectors. 3RP partners in Iraq have been gradually shifting from emergency humanitarian response to a longer-term solutions approach, with a focus on the inclusion of refugees into public systems and services.

A noticeable rise in poverty among refugees and host communities underscores the growing challenges, with reduced humanitarian assistance and limited or fragile social safety nets. This has resulted in increased reliance on harmful coping mechanisms, such as families reducing meals, accumulating debt, and cutting expenses on health and children’s education. Female-headed households are more prone to poverty and are frequently unable to access basic services. Incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual abuse, rape and trafficking have increased over the past year, and an estimated 7.3 million women and girls need GBV-related services. Services to respond to people with disabilities, particularly women, are also limited and women with disabilities are at higher risk of sexual and physical abuse, rape and or emotional and psychological harm.¹⁵⁵

154. UNHCR, "Exacerbating vulnerabilities: Where do global shocks leave refugees in Jordan?", <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/101132>.

155. UNFPA, "Syria: Situation for women and girls' worse than ever as crisis grinds on," June 12, 2023; Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, "Gendered Impact of the Conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic On Women and Girls," June 12, 2023.



Earthquakes struck south-eastern Türkiye and northern Syria



Antakya, Hatay Province, Türkiye: People walk over the rubble from destroyed buildings, following the devastating earthquakes that struck south-eastern Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February. UNHCR

In the aftermath of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, over 9 million people were affected, with around 3.6 million rendered homeless, particularly in the four worst-hit provinces. Additionally, the earthquakes disrupted the education of nearly 4 million children, especially in the affected provinces. Moreover, there is growing concern about the risk of early and forced marriages causing some children to abandon their education.¹

1. OCHA, "Humanitarian Transition Overview - Türkiye Earthquake Response," August 2023, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/turkiye/humanitarian-transition-overview-turkiye-earthquake-response-august-2023>.

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis, compounded by challenging socio-economic circumstances in most 3RP countries, makes preserving social cohesion vital. However, mitigating tensions between communities is becoming increasingly challenging in a context where protection space is shrinking. Funding for the 3RP is dwindling even as needs become more acute. At the end of November 2023, funding was at a mere 23 per cent of the total appeal of US\$ 5.86 billion. As international support is stretched by other global priorities and emerging crises, this decline poses a significant risk, exacerbating the crisis in 3RP countries and threatening their socio-economic stability.

Strategic objectives and response priorities

Over 270 partners across 3RP countries will continue to support government-led efforts in assisting refugees and vulnerable host community members. The 'One Refugee' approach, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the 2030 Agenda guide the 3RP's long-term, solutions-orientated response. Notably, Iraq aims to transition out of 3RP by 2025 due to successful refugee inclusion into public services and a shift towards resilience-strengthening programmes. This transition is coordinated under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation

Framework (UNSDCF), with established benchmarks set to guide the process in 2023 and 2024. The aim is to advance refugee inclusion and to fully operationalize the Humanitarian-Development Nexus under the refugee response.

"In 2024, over 17 million people in 3RP countries are projected to be in need of assistance. This includes some 6 million refugees and 11 million impacted host community members.

In 2023, up to 30 September, some 28,000 Syrian refugees were verified as having returned to Syria, reflecting a slight downward trend compared to 2022.¹⁵⁶ As of the same date, some 33,000 refugees from the region — which includes approximately 4,000 non-Syrian refugees — have been referred for resettlement to third countries in 2023. Syrian refugees continue to have the most pressing global resettlement needs, with projections indicating that over 753,000 Syrian refugees will be in need of resettlement in 2024.

In a survey of refugees conducted between January and February 2023 across the region, a mere 1.1 per cent of Syrian refugees expressed the intention to return home within the next year, even if the majority still hope to do so eventually.

156. UNHCR, "The numbers reported are only those verified or monitored by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire number of returns, which may be significantly higher," 2023, https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Durable-Solutions_August-2023.pdf.



The 3RP's 2024 response will focus on four strategic directions:

- **Protecting people:** Protection is at the heart of the 3RP response. Partners will continue to work to keep refugees and vulnerable host community members safe from exploitation, abuse, violence, and psychosocial distress and to support survivors. Access to legal aid and documentation will help people to live dignified lives and access basic services. In addition, strengthening gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response, increasing the scale and scope of specialized child protection services, and expanding community protection and refugee-host community cohesion will also remain priorities.
- **Promoting durable solutions:** Aligned with international standards and frameworks, the 3RP works towards durable solutions. It emphasizes expanding complementary pathways, resettlement opportunities, and supporting voluntary, safe and dignified returns, by ensuring that refugees can make informed and voluntary decisions. 3RP partners also commit to further enhance inclusion of refugees in development planning and programming.
- **Contributing to dignified lives:** 3RP partners are committed to assisting refugees and host communities in accessing essential services such as healthcare and education, ensuring food security, and providing them with sustainable and decent livelihood opportunities to enhance their self-reliance. The response also emphasizes enhancing housing standards for the most affected communities, boosting learning and employability skills, and advocating for their inclusion into national social protection initiatives.
- **Enhancing local and national capacities:** Enhancing access to more sustainable services for refugees and vulnerable host community members and strengthening social cohesion require strong support for national and local capacities. In alignment with the Grand Bargain commitment, 3RP partners will continue to advance localization by empowering local and national authorities, fostering community ownership, and supporting local entities, including civil society organisations and strengthening partnerships with the private sector.

Disability inclusion, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) are crucial elements of the 3RP response. The 3RP is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind, which not only entails reaching the most vulnerable populations



El-Mina, Lebanon: Syrian refugee and widow Khadra, 50, cleans lentils outside her tent in El-Mina, northern Lebanon, where she has lived in an informal refugee settlement for the past 12 years since the Syria crisis began. She shares a one-room tent with her five children, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, and has to forage for food in rubbish piles to feed her family. UNHCR/Joelle Abou Chabke

but also addresses the intersecting inequalities that hinder affected communities' access to services, resources, and equal opportunities. By adopting community-based approaches, the 3RP promotes the participation of affected populations, addressing inequalities to ensure equitable access to services and opportunities. Efforts are directed at enhancing feedback and complaint mechanisms, reinforcing the PSEA focal points network, and ensuring that protection and support for those affected by SEA are integrated across all sectors.

The outlook for 2024 and beyond is concerning due to limited multi-year funding and decreasing overall humanitarian support for the Syria situation. Underfunding has severe consequences for refugee-hosting countries like Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.



Ukraine RRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.3 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.0 billion

Type of appeal

Refugee Response Plan

Countries covered

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

Refugees targeted

2.2 million

Host community members targeted

55,000

Analysis of context, crisis and needs

The war in Ukraine continues unabated with no resolution in sight, with more than 5 million people displaced internally¹⁵⁷ and over 6.3 million abroad.¹⁵⁸ As of 28 November, 5.9 million refugees from Ukraine are recorded in Europe, close to 2 million of whom are in the countries covered by the RRP: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.¹⁵⁹

The Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the European Union, which was recently extended until March 2025,¹⁶⁰ and Moldova’s Temporary Protection regime, which came into effect in March 2023, have provided a favourable framework to ensure protection and access to rights and services in host countries for refugees from Ukraine. Still challenges remain with inconsistent approaches to the implementation of TPD, which can prevent often the most vulnerable groups from effectively accessing their rights. Over the course of 2024, governments will also be preparing for the transition phase after the end of the TPD regime.

Looking forward to 2024, barring unexpected developments, newly displaced refugee movements into neighbouring countries and beyond are expected to decrease as compared to the first years of the response, meaning a smaller yet still substantial group of refugees will be arriving to, or moving through, RRP countries in need of initial reception assistance. Among refugees present in host countries, intentions surveys indicate that while most hope to return to Ukraine one day, only 14 per cent plan to do so in the near term, primarily due to

concerns about safety and security but also the availability of jobs, basic services, education and housing in Ukraine. For those with no immediate intention to return, the vast majority plan to remain in their current host country, where they require continued support from host governments and the international community to meet their basic needs, access key services and build their self-reliance and meaningful inclusion in host communities. Some 86 per cent of refugees from Ukraine in RRP countries indicate at least one urgent unmet need, including access to food, employment, healthcare, accommodation, or material assistance while nearly a quarter of refugee households indicate having at least one member with a specific vulnerability.¹⁶¹ Challenges accessing decent work, receiving health and social services and securing sustainable housing solutions persist for many due to various and often interconnected challenges, including language barriers, limited information, financial constraints, job-matching difficulties, lack of childcare and overstretched local resources.

Moreover, on average only around half of school-age refugee children and youth from Ukraine were enrolled in schools in host countries at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, some 44 per cent of households with school-aged children report at least one child still not registered in the education system of the host country. This means hundreds of thousands of refugee children and youth continue to be at risk of remaining out of school when the 2024-2025 academic year starts in September 2024, which will mark the fourth consecutive year of education disruptions for children and youth from Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

157. <https://dtm.iom.int/ukraine>

158. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

159. The RRP also includes financial requirements related to Belarus, in the regional budget.

160. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52023PC0546>

161. Regional Protection Profiling and Monitoring (Oct 2022 onwards).



Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities

In 2024, 314 partners, 220 of which are national NGOs, will require just over US\$1 billion to support 2,245,000 refugees¹⁶² with protection, assistance, and resilience-building activities. Building on the 2023 RRP for the Ukraine Situation, the 2024 RRP for the Ukraine Situation aims to support and complement refugee-hosting countries' national response, with a focus on four regional strategic objectives:

- Ensure that refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights in host countries.
- Ensure that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.
- Strengthen refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities and increase their self-reliance.
- Reinforce the social cohesion between refugees and their host communities.

The inter-agency response will focus on five sectors, namely Protection (including Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence), Education, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion and Basic Needs, and will include a number of cross-cutting priorities, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support; Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Localization, to name a few.

The response is increasingly localized through the growth and importance given to local partners and the work with municipalities. The RRP has grown from the inclusion of 142 partners, when it first came out, to a full 314 partners appealing together for 2024. This growth has happened as local and national actors have become familiar with the refugee response plan and increasingly see the benefits of being part of a coordinated response.

162. This figure includes some third country nationals having fled Ukraine, as well as host community members in Moldova – where host communities are included due to identified needs and the absence of regional actors.

Poland: Katerina, 29, fled her hometown of Kryvyi Rih in southern Ukraine with her husband and three children. It is difficult for the family to rent an apartment. They are staying in a hostel, sharing a room with 30 other people. UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz





Tumbaco, Ecuador: Wilneydis helps her father Wilfredo to make a chair from reused tires in their backyard. They are originally from Venezuela and have been living in Tumbaco, Ecuador, for 10 months. Their family is part of the Integral Protection Program (IPP) promoted by UNICEF. The IPP seeks to protect Venezuelan children and adolescents and their families in a situation of human mobility in Ecuador and is based on a comprehensive and multipurpose strategy that combines monetary transfers with counseling to access social services, the exercise of their rights, life proposals, psychosocial support and continuous monitoring. UNICEF/ Misha Vallejo

Other plans

In 2024, UNHCR and IOM will co-lead the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh and the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) for refugees and migrants from

Venezuela. In addition, IOM will continue leading the inter-agency Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen (MRP). In total these three plans cover 24 countries.

Horn of Africa and Yemen MRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

2.2 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.4 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 112.2 mil.

Type of appeal
Migrant Response Plan

Countries covered
Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen

Refugees targeted
2.2 million

Host community members targeted
55,000



Analysis of context, crisis and needs

The Horn of Africa and Yemen is a region of origin, transit, and destination for thousands of men, women, boys and girls pushed to migrate by socio-economic challenges, climate change, conflict and instability. Most of the tracked movements originate in Ethiopia (71%) and Somalia (13%), with 153,000 migrants who had exited Ethiopia by mid-2023. In parallel, the number of arrivals to Yemen from the Horn of Africa between January and September 2023 has reached 92,357, surpassing the 2022 numbers by 26 per cent. The Eastern Route to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other gulf states via Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen is the busiest and riskiest route in the region. Migration along this route is bi-directional, including both outward migration and return movements. A growing number of Ethiopian and Somali migrants are also moving along the Southern Route toward South Africa via Kenya and Tanzania. Although such movements remain largely unmonitored, an estimated 64,525 migrants have travelled along this route in 2023.

While socio-economic drivers are the top reason for migrating, a complex interrelation of factors, including the adverse effect of climate change, environmental pressure, overpopulation, protracted conflicts and political instability are shaping mobility in the region. In particular, the Horn of Africa has grappled with the most severe drought in the past four decades, exacerbating already dire economic conditions. This environmental catastrophe, which affected over 32.1 million people, has decimated agricultural output, leading to food scarcity and soaring prices for essential commodities. The resultant food insecurity has further deepened the vulnerability of communities, prompting many to embark on perilous journeys towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in search of more stable livelihoods and improved living conditions.

Migrants' irregular status and the harsh condition of the journey exacerbate their vulnerabilities, exposing them to life-threatening circumstances. Along both routes, migrants face harsh physical conditions and considerable protection risks, including human trafficking, arbitrary detention, discrimination, xenophobic attacks, and involuntary returns. Extreme weather conditions and limited access to food, water, and medical care expose migrants to life-threatening situations, further exacerbated by ongoing conflict and insecurity in certain areas.

Migration flows along the Eastern and the Southern Route are predicted to increase in 2024. The impacts of droughts and instability in the Horn of Africa are expected to exacerbate living conditions in communities of origin and host communities, resulting in additional outward movements and heightened migrant vulnerabilities.

Response priorities in 2024

According to preliminary data from January to September 2023, MRP partners have reached 191,673 beneficiaries across Ethiopia (127,829), Yemen (18,188), Somalia (22,320) and Djibouti (23,336). Migrant men, women, boys, and girls accounted for approximately 84 per cent of beneficiaries, along with host community members (15.6%) and government officials (0.4%). Interventions aligned with the MRP 2023 Strategic Objectives and included the provision of life-saving assistance (Objective 1); quality, timely, and inclusive protection assistance, and services (Objective 2); the strengthening of access to safe and voluntary return, sustainable reintegration, and community stabilization (Objective 3); and the building of evidence, partnerships, and coordination to enhance the humanitarian response and migration management throughout the migration route (Objective 4).

While 2024 areas of intervention remain the same, the heightened needs of migrants and host community along the Southern route warrants an expansion of the response. As a reflection of the sizeable number of migrants stranded along this route, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania have been included in the MRP.

Humanitarian needs include lifesaving assistance for departing and transiting migrants, as well as migrants at destination and returnees and individual and community reintegration support, including economic empowerment, training and education initiatives. Assistance to host communities is also essential to streamline reintegration efforts and to prevent further irregular migration, combined with effective awareness raising initiatives. Activities contributing to Humanitarian Development Peace Collaboration, border management, health system enhancement, policy development, and labor migration pathways will also be emphasized in 2024.



Rohingya Joint Response Plan RMRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

1.6 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

1.3 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 872.7 million

Type of appeal

Joint Response Plan

Countries covered

Bangladesh

Refugees targeted

1.0 million

Host community members targeted

300,000

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

For several decades, Bangladesh has been providing safety to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. This was particularly notable in the aftermath of the events of August 2017, when thousands of Rohingya were forced to flee their homes due to armed attacks, massive scale violence, targeted persecution, and serious human rights violations. While the local host communities, particularly in Cox’s Bazar have responded generously to the influx of Rohingya refugees, existing socio-economic challenges, high levels of inflation and the pressures on public services and infrastructure from the large refugee presence has exacerbated their needs.

Bangladesh is among the countries most at risk to weather-related hazards, and the Rohingya refugee camps on the coast of the Bay of Bengal are extremely vulnerable to flooding, landslides, fire outbreaks, cyclones, and the adverse impacts of climate change. These hazards have a devastating impact on the congested camps, which are made of fragile materials and have impacted thousands of refugees and Bangladeshis in the past years.

As of 31 October 2023, there were over 960,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, residing in thirty-three camps formally designated by the Government of Bangladesh in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas in the Cox’s Bazar District, as well as on the island of Bhasan Char. In addition, approximately 540,000 Bangladeshis reside in the two Upazilas where the refugee camps are located.

A dignified and sustainable return to Myanmar remains the primary solution to the crisis. Until refugees can safely and voluntarily do so, the need for consistent and predictable support in Bangladesh remains key to prevent a broader humanitarian crisis. The Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-6)¹⁶³ indicates that 95 per cent of all Rohingya households are moderately to highly vulnerable and remain entirely dependent on

humanitarian assistance. Results of the Joint Multi-Sector Needs Assessments, Bhasan Char Needs Assessment, and sector-specific assessments over the past years show that the most reported needs for Rohingya refugees are access to food, shelter, protection, access to energy, skills and capacity building activities, and accessible quality health care, and education. Women, girls, and boys, who make up more than 78 per cent of the refugee population, are particularly vulnerable to risks of abuse, exploitation, and gender-based violence, made worse by an increase in security-related incidents in the camps in 2023, including killings and violence by criminal groups involved in illegal activities. In Bhasan Char, along with the needs highlighted above, the remoteness and isolation of the island reinforce the need for integrated mental health and psychosocial support services in primary healthcare facilities and at community level.

Strategic objectives and sectoral priorities 2024

Under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, the humanitarian community has been supporting Rohingya refugees and the vulnerable Bangladeshi host communities around the refugee camps over several years. In 2023, continued registration efforts have ensured that refugees have access to assistance and protection. This has allowed the identification of refugees with specific needs and their referral to appropriate services and support, including specialized services targeting women, girls, and boys as well as persons with disabilities. Shelter and camp coordination and camp management services have sought to sustain dignified living conditions in the camps and support the community in preparing and responding to disasters. Access to food and efforts to manage malnutrition rates continued to be prioritized, as well as the delivery of a minimum package of essential health services. Maintenance and expansion of WASH facilities remained a critical intervention.

163. Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA-6) Report, June 2023, available [here](#).



In parallel, focus increased on education through the Myanmar Curriculum as well as the provision of skills development following the Government's endorsement of the Skills Development Framework in 2022. This Framework aims to roll-out a coherent and inclusive programme building skills and capacity for Rohingya commensurate with opportunities available in Myanmar to prepare for voluntary and sustainable repatriation and reintegration in Myanmar. The Government also endorsed the Guidance on the Engagement of Volunteers, reinforcing the key role that Rohingya and Bangladeshi host community volunteers play in the response.

Until the conditions allow for their return to Myanmar in a safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable manner, the needs of refugees in Bangladesh remain significant and urgent, and the Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community require robust and sustained international support to provide lifesaving protection and assistance. The 2024 JRP seeks US\$872.7 million to support one million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, and 300,000 vulnerable host communities living in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas.¹⁶⁴

In continuation of the 2023 objectives of the JRP, five strategic objectives will guide the response in 2024:

- Work towards the sustainable and voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, focusing on developing refugees' capacities

through the Myanmar Curriculum, building skills that will support their reintegration upon return, and strengthening community-based efforts.

- Strengthen the protection of Rohingya refugee women, men, girls, and boys, placing affected individuals and communities at the centre of the response and strengthening support systems.
- Deliver life-saving assistance to populations in need, including access to critical services such as food, water, health, and safe and dignified camp living conditions.
- Foster the well-being of host communities to promote peaceful coexistence, including through facilitating access to quality services, strengthening of public service infrastructure, and supporting livelihoods activities.
- Strengthen disaster risk management by improving preparedness for multi-hazard crises and addressing the impacts of climate change within refugee camps and host communities.

In 2024, a distinct focus will be placed on rationalization and streamlining of the humanitarian response, based on minimum quality metrics and standardization, with a view to ensuring equitable and predictable assistance to refugees across all camps in a protracted context. Cross-cutting issues will be reinforced across programmes, including but not limited to gender, diversity and disability inclusion, accountability to affected populations, protection of sexual exploitation and abuse, and environment and climate change.

164. Note: Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted for the 2024 JRP are preliminary and pending finalization and approval by partners and the host country.

Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Community nutrition workers, known as "Pushi Apa" help Rohingya children and their mothers fight malnutrition in the camps. UNICEF/ Bashir Ahmed Sujan





Venezuela RMRP

PEOPLE IN NEED

8.9 million

PEOPLE TARGETED

2.9 million

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 1.6 billion

Type of appeal

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan

Countries covered

Argentina, Aruba, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

Refugees targeted

2.2 million

Host community members targeted

387,200

Analysis of the context, crisis and needs

Five years after the first Regional Inter-Agency Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (RMRP) was launched, humanitarian needs remain and departures from Venezuela still significantly outnumber returns, resulting in more than 7.7 million leaving their homeland.¹⁶⁵ In countries of destination and transit, Venezuelan refugees and migrants – including new arrivals, those engaged in onward movements, and those struggling to achieve stability in their host countries – have significant humanitarian assistance, protection and integration needs. The Refugee and Migrant Needs Analysis (RMNA) for 2023 estimates that 4.2 million (67.8 per cent) of the more than 6.5 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela who reside in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), have unmet needs such as food, shelter, access to documentation, decent employment and education.

Integration, protection, and food security are among the three most urgent needs for Venezuelan refugees and migrants, with 15 RMRP countries prioritizing integration, 12 emphasizing protection and 10 focusing on food security¹⁶⁶ In terms of integration, barriers to accessing the formal labour market and income-generating opportunities prevent refugees and migrants from earning decent livelihoods and becoming self-reliant, but also make them more susceptible to exploitation and abuse. They need protection from these and other threats to

their safety and dignity, including human trafficking and smuggling, gender-based violence (GBV), and detention and deportation, with those in an irregular situation facing elevated risks. Although many host countries have facilitated access to legal status or initiated regularization initiatives for Venezuelans, some 40 per cent of refugees and migrants in-destination remain in an irregular situation.

In addition, the region is seeing an unprecedented trend of onward movements of refugees and migrants, in particular on a northward trajectory, through Central and North America: a growing number (up to 60 per cent) represent new departures from Venezuela, while the remainder (some 40 per cent) are onward movements of refugees and migrants who have been unable to integrate in host countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile. As of end-September 2023, over 400,000 refugees and migrants had crossed irregularly from Colombia to Panama through the perilous Darien jungle, out of whom over 260,000 were Venezuelans.¹⁶⁷ These in-transit movements have resulted in unprecedented pressures on host communities' capacities to receive and address the needs of refugees and migrants along these routes. This has also resulted in the RMRP response expanding to cover the needs of other nationalities of refugees and migrants in-transit in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, an estimated 86 per cent having unmet needs in areas such as humanitarian transportation, shelter, WASH, and protection.

165. Updated population statistics, reported by host countries and compiled by R4V are available at: <https://www.r4v.info/en/refugeeandmigrants>

166. According to the number of people in need identified per sector in each country in the RMNA 2023, <https://rmp.r4v.info/rmna2023/>

167. See hereto: R4V Movements Report: Third Quarter 2023, <https://www.r4v.info/en/movements-report-q3-2023>



Strategic objectives and response priorities 2024

Under the current multi-year [RMRP](#) (2023-2024), as of October 2023, over 1.8 million people across 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have received some form of assistance, representing 51.5 per cent of the target for 2023. More than 830,000 people received general protection support, over 800,000 received food assistance, and more than 470,000 received health assistance from RMRP partners so far in 2023.

Based on the needs identified through the [RMNA 2023](#), the RMRP update for 2024 will focus on providing urgent humanitarian assistance to refugees and migrants in-transit (including multiple nationalities using the same transit routes) and on stabilization and integration support for Venezuelan refugees and migrants in-destination. The response strategy is also based on planning assumptions determined through consultation with more than 230 R4V partners across the region. These include anticipated ongoing departures from Venezuela, increasing by 10 per cent in 2024 in comparison to 2023., onward movements from/among host countries, increasingly northwards and along irregular routes, given the challenging socio-economic situation in host countries (which limit stability and integration). Planning also assumes limited regular pathways (which prevent regular movements and enhance human trafficking and smuggling networks) and limited and largely exploratory returns to Venezuela, in addition to the direct removals/deportations from the USA and other countries.

The Plan is structured around three strategic objectives:

- Provide and improve safe and dignified access to essential goods and critical services in synergy with sustainable development assistance.
- Enhance the prevention and mitigation of protection risks and respond to corresponding needs through supporting the protection environment in affected countries.
- Increase resilience, socio-economic integration opportunities, social cohesion, and inclusive participatory processes to improve living standards of affected populations.

The 2024 update of the RMRP will target 2.9 million refugees and migrants and affected host community members in 17 countries¹⁶⁸ to receive assistance through 14,829 activities of 248 appealing partners, with total financial requirements of US\$ 1.59 billion. This is a growth of 8.8 per cent in the number of partners compared to last year, including 66 refugee- and migrant-led organizations (or 26.6 per cent of partners). The growth in refugee- and migrant-led organizations participating in the RMRP

reflects the commitment to localization and accountability to and empowerment of affected populations to act as main agents of change in their communities.

Moreover, protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) remains a priority in the 2024 response, with four key activity areas for its prevention and two for the response to SEA organized at the regional level by the PSEA Task Force. Activities for prevention of SEA include conducting joint SEA risk assessments, supporting R4V partner organizations in their commitment to establish or enhance policies, strategies, tools and guidance to prevent SEA. Activities also include disseminating PSEA information to affected populations and institutionalizing PSEA as the core business of R4V National and Sub-regional Platforms. To improve the SEA response, activities will include working together with Child Protection, GBV and Human Trafficking & Smuggling Sub-Sectors to promote the inclusion of referral pathways for survivors of SEA at the national and local levels. Efforts will also include promotion of the development of PSEA inter-agency SOPs and community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCMs) through a practical step-by-step toolkit. Given severe underfunding of PSEA initiatives in the RMRP 2023, several multi-year strategies originally envisioned need implementation in 2024.

Multiple countries, Ecuador and Peru in particular, anticipate the impacts of a strong El Niño in 2024 affecting their response dynamics, including by aggravating needs among refugees and migrants and vulnerable host communities, and complicating humanitarian access (due to flooding, landslides and other extreme weather events). These countries outline in their respective RMRP chapters how activities for 2024 will take these environmental dynamics into account. Meanwhile, at the regional level, there will be renewed efforts to better mainstream environmental considerations across the RMRP response, including by working to move from a sector-centered environmental mainstreaming model to a country-centered one. This will be done by analyzing and mapping existing structural environmental vulnerabilities – both in the natural and built environment – at the country and local level and building response solutions and community resilience together with refugees and migrants and host communities. Focus will also be placed on promoting “nature-based solutions” such as green job initiatives as part of local integration efforts. This will be accomplished through capacity-building and advocacy facilitated by the regional R4V environmental focal point, as part of a multi-year strategy.

168. Refugees and migrants of other nationalities who are in-transit in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Peru are also targeted under the RMRP response in 2024. Country specific in-transit figures (PINs and targets) are available in the RMRP, available at: <https://r4v.info>.

How to contribute

Support response plans presented in the Global Humanitarian Overview

The response plans are developed in-country and at regional level, based on solid analysis of response contexts and engagement with national and international humanitarian partners. Direct financial contributions to reputable aid agencies are one of the most valuable and effective forms of response in emergencies.

Donors can contribute directly to aid organizations participating in the plans presented in this Global Humanitarian Overview. For more information on Humanitarian Needs Overviews, Humanitarian Response Plans, Regional Response Plans or monitoring reports, please visit: <https://humanitarianaction.info>

Contribute through the Country-Based Pooled Funds

The multi-donor country-based pooled funds (CBPF) ensure timely allocation and disbursement of donor resources to address the most urgent humanitarian needs and assist the most vulnerable people. The CBPF enable timely, coordinated, and effective humanitarian response and are distinguished by their focus and flexibility. The CBPF funds are prioritised locally; they help save lives and strengthen humanitarian coordination. The CBPF grants are received by local, national, and international NGOs, but also UN agencies and other partners.

- Governments, corporations and foundations wishing to contribute to a CBPF can contact ocha.donor.relations@un.org
- Individuals can contribute to the CBPFs at <https://crisisrelief.un.org/donate>

For more information about OCHA's country-based pooled funds, see <https://www.unocha.org/country-based-pooled-funds>

Contribute through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a fast and effective way to support rapid humanitarian response globally. CERF provides immediate funding for lifesaving humanitarian action at the onset of emergencies, and for crises that have not attracted sufficient funding. Contributions are welcome year-round, from governments, private companies, foundations, charities, and individuals. To ensure the CERF is able to sustain its support to humanitarian operations in 2024, donors are encouraged to make their contributions as early as possible. <https://www.unocha.org/cerf>

In-kind relief aid

The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed are the ones delivered. If you can make only in-kind contributions in response to disasters and emergencies, please send an email with relevant information concerning your contribution to: ocha.donor.relations@un.org

Registering and recognising your contributions

OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its purpose is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and expose gaps in humanitarian plans. Please report your contribution to FTS, either by email to fts@un.org or through the online contribution report form at: <http://fts.unocha.org>

**“The global humanitarian system is on the
verge of collapse.
Needs are rising.
And funding is drying up.
Our humanitarian operations are being
forced to make massive cuts.
But if we don’t feed the hungry, we are
feeding conflict.”**

António Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General

Remarks at the UN General Assembly, 2023



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humanitarianaction.info

