Effective Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

Group of Somali women stand near a water point at the Dayniile camp for internally displaced persons on the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somalia.
KEY PROGRAMMES

- Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response
- Emergency support services
- Humanitarian information and advocacy
- Natural disaster reduction
- Policy and analysis

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

$1.95B

$99M regular assessed (incl. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, UNHCR, UNRWA) and $1.85B voluntary contributions (incl. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-Based Pooled Funds)

SELECT MANDATES

- Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, GA resolutions 46/182 and 73/139
- International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, GA resolution 73/136
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, GA resolution 69/283
- Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, GA resolution 73/137
- Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, GA resolution 72/182
- Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GA resolution 70/1

SELECT ENTITIES

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
Students at Aal Okab school in Saada, Yemen, stand in the ruins of their former classroom. They now attend lessons in UNICEF tents nearby.
CONTEXT

Today, humanitarian crises last longer and affect more people than ever before. Complex interconnected challenges – including armed conflicts, the adverse impact of climate change, natural hazards, environmental degradation, epidemics, food and energy insecurity, water scarcity and financial and economic pressures – are increasing the vulnerability of people while reducing their ability to cope. During the year, more than 133 million women, men and children\(^8\) needed humanitarian aid and protection. Nearly 71 million people remained forcibly displaced because of conflict, violence and human rights violations – the highest figure ever recorded. More than 60 million people were directly affected by natural disasters, including 17 million who were displaced as a result.

MORE THAN 133M PEOPLE WERE IN NEED OF HUMANITARIAN AID IN 2018

OVER 68M PEOPLE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS IN 2018

\(^8\) United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, “Global humanitarian overview 2019”.

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Source: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and Centre for Research on Environmental Decisions
KEY OBJECTIVES

Based on Member States’ mandates, the United Nations humanitarian programme is designed to ensure a coordinated, effective and timely response on the part of the international community to disasters and emergencies. The United Nations advocates humanitarian principles, promotes knowledge-sharing in crises, helps to expedite assistance and develops policies for greater coherence. It also works with all stakeholders to reduce the risk and impact of natural hazards.

In the long term, the United Nations aims to support Member States in addressing the root causes of risk and vulnerability and emphasizes the need to “leave no one behind” in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Humanitarian aid cannot replace political and development solutions. That is why the United Nations is focused on mobilizing the will, skills and creativity of the global community to help end crises and promote development, so that people can become more resilient to disasters that cannot be avoided.

WORKING TO IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN ACCESS TO AVERT FAMINE IN YEMEN

After more than four years of conflict, Yemen – the site of the world’s most severe humanitarian crisis – continues to grapple with economic decline, institutional collapse, massive displacement, cholera and food insecurity. The United Nations advocated the improvement of humanitarian access across the country. As a result, by the end of 2018, 45 out of 107 local districts that were facing extreme food insecurity were no longer in a pre-famine phase.

Workers offload UNICEF-supported emergency humanitarian supplies, which are being distributed in Hodeidah, Yemen.
EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization

KEY RESULTS

To help the international community coordinate the response to disasters and emergencies, the United Nations worked with partners to formulate 30 humanitarian response plans and appeals in 2018, targeting 98 million people to receive aid across 41 countries. In Yemen, for example, the United Nations collaborated with 254 humanitarian partners to agree on priorities and a coherent strategy to meet the needs of 13 million people. Around the world, United Nations humanitarian response plans and appeals helped to consolidate financial needs totalling more than $25 billion and succeeded in mobilizing a record $15 billion in donor contributions.9

OUR SUPPORT TO COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

41 countries affected and in need of humanitarian aid

We helped coordinate

30 response plans, regional plans, and appeals...

... deployed gender and protection advisors to

21 humanitarian emergencies...

... and brought

500+ partners together...

... to help

98M people in need...

... and mobilized

$15B in humanitarian assistance

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND DONOR SUPPORT REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2018

Billions of US$

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

1 See www.hpc.tools/home/2018.
WITH 30 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLANS AND APPEALS, THE UNITED NATIONS HELPED MOBILIZE $15B OF THE $25B NEEDED TO ASSIST 98 MILLION PEOPLE IN 41 COUNTRIES

Requirements in millions of US dollars

- Humanitarian aid required
- Percentage of requirements funded

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
The Central Emergency Response Fund, which provides funding at the onset of a crisis and for underfunded emergencies, allocated over $500 million to 48 countries/territories in 2018. This included $180 million for 18 chronically underfunded emergencies, the Fund’s largest allocation ever for forgotten crises. The United Nations country-based pooled funds channelled a record amount of $836 million to 686 humanitarian partners in 20 countries/territories during the year, with national and local organizations receiving a quarter of those funds.

The United Nations also worked to promote effective knowledge-sharing and advocacy. For example, more than 9 million people visited reliefweb.org, the world’s largest humanitarian information site, an increase of 31 per cent compared with 2017. In total, 16 million stakeholders consulted United Nations humanitarian web platforms.

On many issues, the United Nations worked to advance policy dialogue. With his report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/2018/462), for example, the Secretary-General brought increased attention to conflict-driven food insecurity. Nearly 80 per cent of the world’s stunted children now live in conflict-affected countries. The Security Council, in its resolution 2417 (2018), subsequently recognized the link between armed conflict and violence, conflict-induced food insecurity and the threat of famine.

See 2018 data at cerf.un.org/what-we-do/allocation-by-country
See 2018 data at gms.unocha.org/content/cbpf-allocations.
UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN FUNDS ALLOCATED $1.3B+ TO 50+ COUNTRIES IN 2018

COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS (CBPFs)

CBPFs allow donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts. CBPFs allocation trend is shown below.

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF)

CERF pools contributions from donors into a single fund to enable rapid emergency response and to support underfunded emergencies. CERF allocation trend is shown below.

Source: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
To help reduce vulnerability to natural hazards, the United Nations continued to assist Member States in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. In March 2018, the United Nations launched the Sendai Framework monitor, a global online tool, to monitor its implementation. By the end of the year, 88 countries were reporting data to track progress, enhance knowledge and promote accountability, and 87 countries had either completed or were developing national strategies for disaster risk reduction with United Nations support.

**OUTLOOK**

In 2019, nearly 142 million people\(^\text{12}\) will need humanitarian assistance and protection, the majority because of the impact of conflicts. Many of those crises are compounded by underdevelopment, fragile institutions and environmental degradation linked to climate change. The implementation of reform initiatives will offer a unique opportunity to increase the effectiveness of the Organization and make it even more fit to help reduce the underlying drivers of crises. Increasingly, the United Nations and its partners will seek to meet humanitarian needs and to strengthen collaboration with development partners in accordance with their mandates.

\(^{12}\) See 2019 data at [www.hpc.tools](http://www.hpc.tools)
After two years of consultations, in December 2018, the General Assembly affirmed the global compact on refugees, which provides guidance on measures to better assist refugees and support host countries. More than 160 governments adopted the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, which aims to enhance cooperation in the management of international migration, including in the context of natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation.