

GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 2021

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



MARCH
UPDATE

SNAPSHOT AS OF
31 MARCH 2021





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Appeals figures are as reported by donors and recipient organisations to the Financial Tracking Service as of 31 March 2021. All financial data for response plans is continuously updated on fts.unocha.org. Dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars. The Global Humanitarian Overview monthly updates are produced by the Funding Trends and Resource Mobilization Unit, OCHA. For more information, please visit gho.unocha.org | hum-insight.info or contact ocha-frm@un.org



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Bangui, CAR. A doctor poses in a COVID-19 ward of a privately funded hospital in the capital Bangui. Violence in CAR has displaced more than 240,000 people since mid-December and it is estimated that 2.8 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance within the country – 57% of the population. *OCHA/Siegfried Modola*

Inter-Agency Coordinated Appeals: Overview for 2021

PEOPLE IN NEED ¹	PEOPLE TARGETED ¹	APPEALS	
237 M	159 M	36	
REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	FUNDING (US\$)	COVERAGE	TOTAL FUNDING ²
\$36.0 B	\$1.6 B	5%	\$3.5 B

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) for 2021 was launched on 1 December 2020 to help 160 million of the 235 million most vulnerable people who face hunger, conflict, displacement, the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic in 56 countries. As of 31 March, adjusted requirements were \$36.0 billion to assist 159 million of the 237 million people in need in 56 countries.

Some adjustments to requirements and to the numbers of people in need and to receive assistance have been made since the GHO launch. This month, requirements grew by \$226 million, mainly due to increases in Ethiopia (estimated) and South Sudan. The number of people in need of assistance and the number of people targeted rose by 2.4 million and 2.2 million, respectively, this month, mainly because of increases in Cameroon, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Since the last GHO update, ten inter-agency plans have been finalized and are now published and tracked on [FTS](https://fts.unocha.org): Cameroon, Chad, Haiti, Iraq, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Yemen, Zimbabwe and the Burundi Regional Response Plan (RRP). Of the 27 Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) for 2021, only four are pending finalization: Ethiopia, Pakistan, Syria and Venezuela.

Recorded funding for the 2021 GHO was \$1.61 billion or five per cent of requirements at the end of March. This is slightly less than last year, when funding received totaled \$1.97 billion or 6.2 per cent of 2020 requirements at the end of March. An additional \$3.5 billion of humanitarian funding has been reported.³ This is more than the additional funding reported at the same time last year (\$3.18 billion).⁴ Funding reports typically pick up pace during April and a notable increase in reported funding is expected next month.

The 2020 Global Humanitarian Overview is now funded at 50 per cent due to an additional \$540 million in funding reported during the month of March. Eight out of 25 plans (excluding the COVID intersectoral plans) are funded above two-thirds, as compared to 12 in 2019.

¹ In the context of UN-coordinated plans, the figure for people targeted is always a subset of the figure for the number of people in need, as it is the result of response analysis, taking into consideration humanitarian access, response capacity of partners, and responses planned/anticipated by humanitarian actors outside of the appeal.

² Total humanitarian funding includes all support to organizations and activities in UN-coordinated plans, as well as reported funding for the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, in-kind assistance, bilateral funding and others.

³ Additional humanitarian funding includes funding for the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, in-kind assistance, bilateral funding and others.

⁴ Last year, the amount of reported humanitarian funding began increasing sharply in April and May 2020, as donors make special allocations and reallocations of resources to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.



High-level resource mobilization events

The **Fifth Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”** took place on 30 March 2021 in virtual format, hosted by the European Union (EU) and co-chaired with the United Nations (UN). It was the ninth annual international meeting on Syria following conferences in Kuwait (2013-2015), London (2016) and Brussels (2017-2020). The total pledges announced for Syria and the region during the conference were \$4.4 billion (€3.6 billion) for 2021 and multi-year pledges of close to \$2 billion (€1.7 billion) for 2022 and beyond. In addition, international financial institutions and donors announced around \$7 billion (€5.9 billion) in loans, many on concessional terms.

The event included a Day of Dialogue on 29 March shaped by the outcomes of virtual consultations with over 1,500 participants, including civil society representatives from Syria and the region, NGOs, local authorities, academia, and individuals. Several side events also took place between 15 to 26 March, which also reflected the themes highlighted by the civil society organization consultations and an online survey.

The Ministerial Day on 30 March was divided into three sessions (political, regional and humanitarian) and can be viewed in its entirety [here](#). All pre-recorded statements, including those with financial pledges, can also be viewed via the same link. The financial support announced at the Brussels event funds humanitarian, resilience and development activities, including those laid out in the [Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2021-2022 \(3RP\)](#) and the [Syria 2021 Needs and Response Summary](#).

The final co-Chair’s Statement is available [here](#) and the annex on funding can be accessed [here](#).

On 26 March, the EU published a [report](#) on delivery against the pledges made at the **Fourth Brussels Conference on “Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region”** held in June 2020. The report shows that as of January 2021, donors had exceeded their original conference pledges by 54 per cent, and had already made significant progress in making funds available for 2021.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response

Humanitarian partners made strong and concerted efforts in 2020 to mitigate, prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian crises, particularly in the context of COVID-19 which deepened existing vulnerabilities and inequalities. Humanitarian partners will continue to prioritize these activities in 2021.

The final 2020 requirements for gender programming/GBV prevention and response in 18 plans / countries included in the GHO were \$409.3 million. As of end-March, reported funding against these requirements totaled \$62.6 million. An additional \$48.3 million for GBV was reported for GHO plans / countries that had not specified requirements.

In 2021, \$454.2 million of requirements have been identified in 23 plans.⁵ This figure will increase as the remaining unpublished plans are finalized. Organizations receiving funds for GBV activities are strongly encouraged to report them directly to FTS at fts@un.org.

⁵ The Humanitarian Response Plans for Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, oPt, Somalia, Sudan, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe; the Flash Appeals for Honduras and Madagascar; and the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Response Plan.

Inter-agency Coordinated Appeals: Overview for 2021

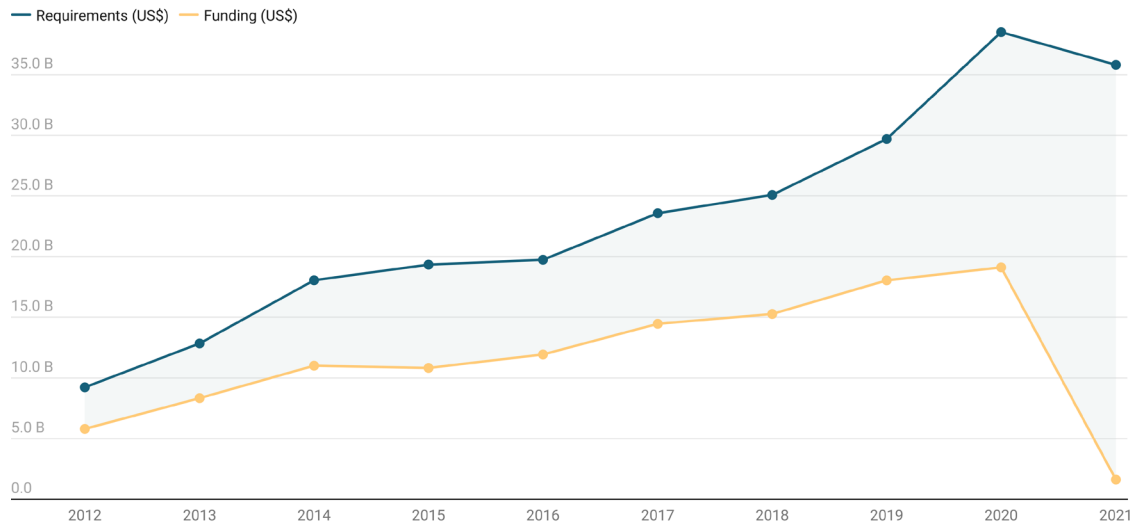
Appeals	Type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)	Funding (US\$)	%
Afghanistan	HRP	18.4 M	15.7 M	1.3 B	72.7 M	6%
Burkina Faso	HRP	3.5 M	2.9 M	607.9 M	22.7 M	4%
Burundi	HRP	2.3 M	1.1 M	194.7 M	5.2 M	3%
Cameroon	HRP	4.4 M	3.0 M	361.6 M	6.2 M	2%
CAR	HRP	2.8 M	1.8 M	444.8 M	73.1 M	16%
Chad	HRP	5.5 M	4.0 M	617.5 M	11.3 M	2%
Colombia	HRP	6.7 M	1.4 M	174.0 M	3.7 M	2%
DRC	HRP	19.6 M	9.6 M	2.0 B	54.9 M	3%
Ethiopia	HRP	23.5 M	17.5 M	1.7 B	91.4 M	5%
Haiti	HRP	4.4 M	1.5 M	235.6 M	2.6 M	1%
Iraq	HRP	4.1 M	1.5 M	607.2 M	56.3 M	9%
Libya	HRP	1.3 M	451.0 K	189.1 M	10.1 M	5%
Mali	HRP	5.9 M	4.7 M	563.3 M	23.7 M	4%
Mozambique	HRP	1.3 M	1.0 M	253.5 M	2.6 M	1%
Myanmar	HRP	1.0 M	944.5 K	276.5 M	23.6 M	9%
Niger	HRP	3.8 M	2.1 M	523.2 M	11.9 M	2%
Nigeria	HRP	8.7 M	6.4 M	1.0 B	76.6 M	8%
oPt	HRP	2.4 M	1.8 M	417.6 M	87.8 M	21%
Pakistan	HRP	10.5 M	3.3 M	285.3 M	2.5 M	1%
Somalia	HRP	5.9 M	4.0 M	1.1 B	43.1 M	4%
South Sudan	HRP	8.3 M	6.6 M	1.7 B	24.1 M	1%
Sudan	HRP	13.4 M	8.9 M	1.9 B	140.0 M	7%
Syria	HRP	13.0 M	10.5 M	4.2 B	52.2 M	1%
Ukraine	HRP	3.4 M	1.9 M	168.0 M	9.3 M	6%
Venezuela	HRP	7.0 M	4.5 M	762.5 M	1.2 M	0%
Yemen	HRP	20.7 M	16.0 M	3.9 B	442.3 M	12%
Zimbabwe	HRP	6.8 M	4.5 M	507.0 M	1.4 M	0%
Honduras	FA	2.3 M	450.0 K	90.1 M	30.9 M	34%
Madagascar	FA	1.3 M	1.1 M	75.9 M	16.2 M	21%
Burundi <i>Regional</i>	MRP	488.5 K	488.5 K	208.9 M	-	0%
DRC <i>Regional</i>	RRP	1.5 M	1.5 M	544.6 M	-	0%
South Sudan <i>Regional</i>	RRP	3.1 M	3.1 M	868.7 M	0.0	0%
Syria <i>Regional</i>	3RP	10.1 M	10.1 M	5.8 B	108.2 M	2%
Bangladesh <i>Rohingya JRP</i>	JRP	1.3 M	1.3 M	954.0 M	77.1 M	8%
Horn of Africa and Yemen <i>Regional</i>	MRP	613.7 K	311.0 K	68.2 M	5.6 M	8%
Venezuela <i>Regional</i>	RMRP	7.2 M	3.3 M	1.4 B	23.9 M	2%

The figures for Ethiopia HRP, Pakistan HRP, Syria HRP and Venezuela HRP are provisional and pending finalization of their respective response plans. Changes to the population figures and financial requirements for the RRP's have occurred because of the overlap with HRP's. The regional appeals components included are as follows: Syria 3RP and Venezuela RMRP: fully included. Burundi RRP: Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda components included. DRC excluded. DRC RRP: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included. Burundi excluded. South Sudan RRP: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded. Regional Migrant Response Plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen: Ethiopia and Djibouti included, Somalia partly included, Yemen excluded. Figures for the DRC RRP, South Sudan RRP, Syria 3RP and Bangladesh JRP are preliminary and pending finalization and approval by partners and host country. Syria 3RP population figures include refugees and impacted members of host communities. They are, however, provisional and subject to ongoing operational planning for 2021. Population figures for Bangladesh JRP include refugees, as well as impacted members of host community. Refugee population figures are estimates, calculated using October 2020 figures from ongoing joint Government of Bangladesh-UNHCR registration exercise as well as an estimated number of persons not able to be registered in the course of 2020, due to a slow-down in registration activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Total population figures will be adjusted during 2021 once registration activities fully resume.



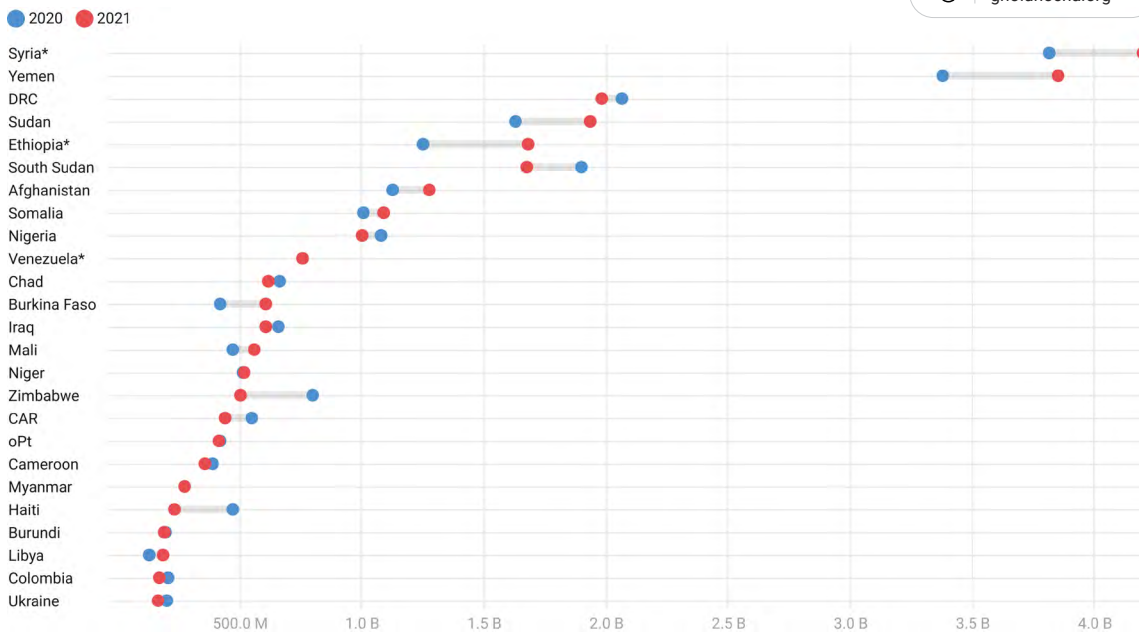
Funding gap (2012-2021)

[Explore the chart](#)
gho.unocha.org



Evolution of HRP requirements (2020 vs. 2021)

[Explore the chart](#)
gho.unocha.org



Requirements for 2021 are as of 31 March 2021. Countries marked with an asterisk have not finalized their HRPs or published advance summaries of their HRPs.



Regional focus

Middle East and North Africa

There are six inter-agency appeals in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) this year, down from ten last year. Requirements total \$15.11 billion, which is 42 per cent of global appeal requirements. This is higher than last year's requirements of \$14.91 billion, which included the Lebanon Flash Appeal and three COVID-19 intersectoral plans. The largest increases in absolute terms this year are in Yemen (\$471 million) and Syria (\$382 million), with notable decreases in the Syria 3RP (\$155 million) and Iraq (\$55 million).

The coverage of MENA requirements last year (53 per cent) is lower than in previous years. As of end September 2020, combined inter-agency plan funding for the region (\$5.5 billion) had surpassed the end September totals for the previous three years (2019 - \$4.45 billion; 2018 - \$5.08 billion; 2017 - \$4.95 billion). However, by the end of the year, 2020 combined MENA funding of \$7.93 billion was considerably lower than previous year's results (2019: \$9.15 billion; 2018: \$8.48 billion; and 2017: \$8 billion).

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to deteriorate. Some 20.7 million people – 2 out of every 3 Yemenis – need some form of humanitarian and protection assistance. Of these, 12.1 million people are in acute need. The [Yemen HRP](#) requires \$3.85 billion to assist 16 million people. In 2020, famine-like conditions returned to Yemen for the first time in two years. Half the Yemeni population (16.2 million people) is projected to face crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and above) this year. By June, five million people will be at risk of falling into famine-like conditions and 50,000 will be facing such conditions. Acute malnutrition is projected to affect 2.3 million children under age five, the highest levels recorded since the conflict began. This includes 400,000 children with severe acute malnutrition who are at risk of starving to death. Without sufficient humanitarian funding, the world will see the worst famine in decades in Yemen.

Kafr Losin Camp, Syria. Over the past few days, western Aleppo and Idlib governorates in the northwest of the country have been experiencing some of the heaviest winter storms so far this season. The heavy rainfall has flooded tents and cut off roads leading to camps for internally displaced families. *UNICEF/Akacha*

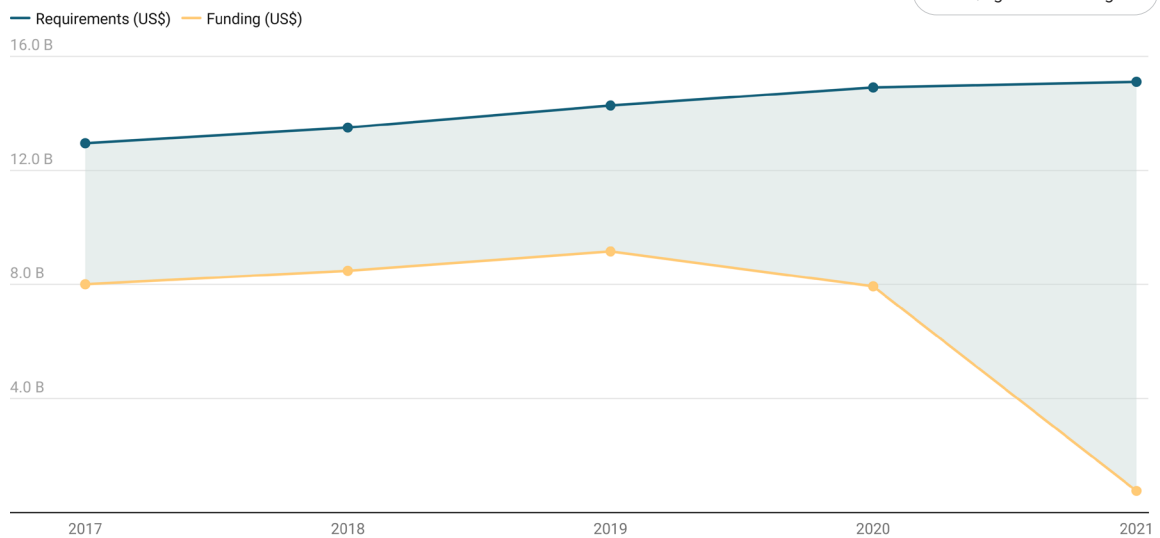


In addition, COVID-19 is surging in Yemen; the country’s total caseload almost doubled the month of March alone. Other preventable diseases, such as cholera, dengue and malaria, pose a major threat; morbidity and mortality are increasing while health systems continue to be overstretched. Over 20 million people need health assistance in 2021. The conflict has displaced more than 4 million people and millions more are struggling to survive amidst economic collapse, conflict and extreme vulnerability. The size of Yemen’s economy has shrunk by more than half since the conflict began, which is serving to worsen food insecurity as Yemen relies on imports for 90 per cent of its staple food.

Yemen requires immediate support to fill the funding gap from last year. Without it, food rations will face further cuts; millions of children will suffer from acute malnutrition and hundreds of thousands will die. Yemenis, many of them displaced, will succumb to preventable diseases without access to urgent health care and WASH services. In parallel, Yemen needs strong economic support for people to be able to afford food and other essential commodities.

Middle East and Northern Africa: Funding gap (2017-2021)

Explore the chart gho.unocha.org



The calculation of requirements and funding for 2020 includes the Humanitarian Response Plans for Iraq, Libya, oPt, Syria and Yemen; the Syria Regional 3RP; the Lebanon Flash Appeal; and the COVID-19 appeals for Lebanon, Iran and Jordan

Middle East and Northern Africa: Summary of appeals (2021)

Appeals	Type	People in need	People targeted	Requirements (US\$)	Funding (US\$)	%
Iraq	HRP	4.1 M	1.5 M	607.2 M	56.3 M	9%
Libya	HRP	1.3 M	451.0 K	189.1 M	10.1 M	5%
oPt	HRP	2.4 M	1.8 M	417.6 M	87.8 M	21%
Syria	HRP	13.0 M	10.5 M	4.2 B	52.2 M	1%
Yemen	HRP	20.7 M	16.0 M	3.9 B	442.3 M	12%
Syria Regional	3RP	10.1 M	10.1 M	5.8 B	108.2 M	2%

The figures for the Syria HRP are provisional and pending the finalization of the response plan.



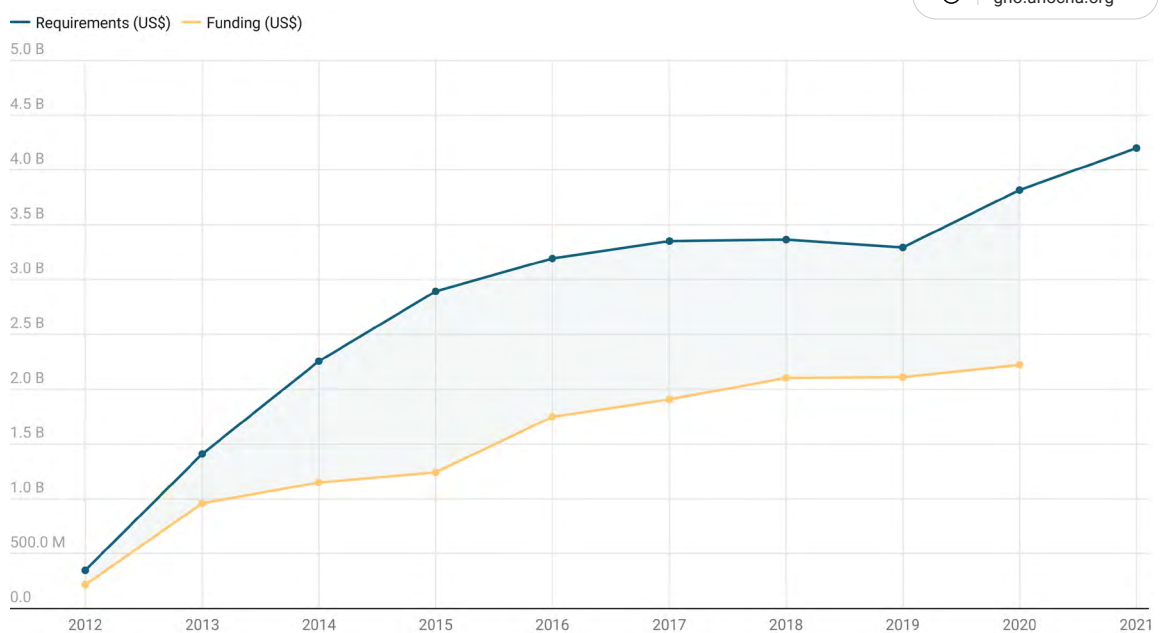
A high-level pledging event for Yemen was held on 1 March. Thirty-seven [financial announcements](#) totaling \$1.67 billion were made, including 17 announcements for the [Yemen Humanitarian Fund](#). Speedy disbursement of pledges is urged to meet the humanitarian needs of Yemenis affected by the conflict. For full documentation from the event (including written and video statements from Member States and other humanitarian partners), please visit the [event's website](#).

The Syria crisis continues to generate unparalleled needs both inside Syria and in neighboring countries, remaining one of the world's most complex humanitarian emergencies. The conflict inside Syria is characterized by ongoing hostilities which have killed hundreds of thousands of people, triggered an unfathomable displacement crisis, and led to the widespread destruction of civilian and agricultural infrastructure, including homes, schools, health facilities, water supply and irrigation systems. Today, 13.4 million people in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance – a 21 per cent increase compared to 2020 – with needs increasingly exacerbated by economic decline. At least \$4.2 billion is needed to provide immediate lifesaving, protection and resilience support within the country.

The [Syrian Arab Republic 2021 Needs and Response Summary](#) outlines the increased scope and inter-linked nature of humanitarian needs among the population in Syria, calling for a comprehensive response across all sectors to save lives, protect people and prevent further deprivation. Worsening living standards and an increase in harmful coping strategies have led additional segments of the population to develop life-threatening physical and mental health needs. These include a 57 per cent increase in the number of food insecure people to 12.4 million (up from 7.9 million in early 2020). Of these, 1.27 million people are considered severely food insecure – twice as many as in early 2020. Malnutrition rates continue to peak, with more than 500,000 children under the age of five chronically malnourished and 90,000 acutely malnourished. Mental trauma is widespread and under-assessed but certain to have long-term implications across all population groups. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the country, further straining the health system and reducing people's access to both emergency and non-emergency care.

Syria HRP: Funding gap (2012-2021)

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



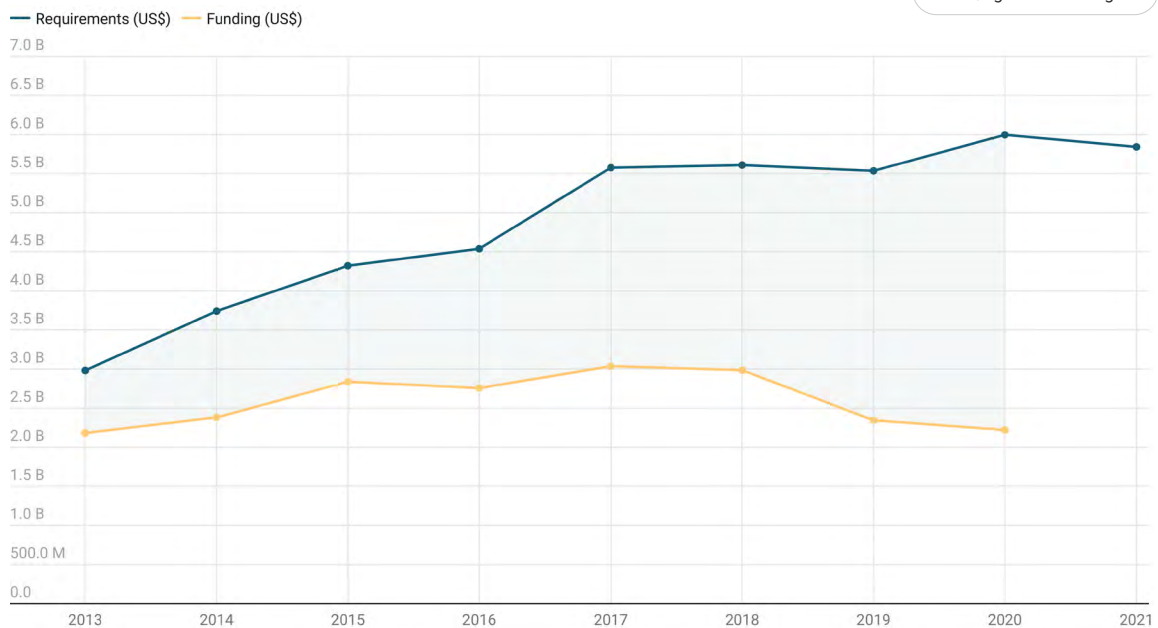
Financial requirements for 2021 as published on the Global Humanitarian Overview 2021. Awaiting finalization of the Syria HRP 2021.

With the Syria crisis entering its eleventh year, the conflict continues to drive the largest refugee crisis in the world. More than ten million people, including over 5.6 million registered Syrian refugees and some 4.8 million impacted host community members, need support in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. This is the highest number of people in need of some form of assistance in this crisis in nearly a decade. In 2021, the [Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan \(3RP\)](#) seeks over \$5.8 billion to address the growing and multiple vulnerabilities that refugees, host communities and host governments are facing. Funding in 2021 will be crucial to meet the growing needs due to COVID-19, the economic crises and the humanitarian and development challenges affecting the region.

Syria 3RP: Funding gap (2013-2021)



Explore the chart
gho.unocha.org



The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview for Iraq identified 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 2.4 million people have acute humanitarian needs. While the number of people in need remained similar to last year, the severity of needs has increased, largely due to the compounding impact of COVID-19 and the resulting large-scale loss of livelihoods, which has led to a 35 per cent increase in the number of people in acute need.

Clusters have prioritized 1.5 million people, who will be targeted for humanitarian response in 2021. The 1.5 million people include extremely vulnerable internally displaced persons and returnees who are facing a multitude of deep humanitarian and protection needs, including those who live in camps and other critical shelters, such as tents, makeshift shelters, abandoned, unfinished or damaged buildings. Economically vulnerable people with critical needs related to food security, essential basic services and protection will also be prioritized. The humanitarian response outlined in the [Iraq HRP](#) requires \$607.2 million.



Marib, Yemen. Four displaced children with family goats in a recently-built IDP settlement near Marib in central Yemen. OCHA/Giles Clarke

The Libya HRP requires \$189.1 million to assist approximately 451,000 people, or 36 per cent of the 1.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. These are people with the most severe needs as a result of a partial or total collapse of living standards and basic services, increased reliance on negative coping strategies, and widespread physical and mental harm. The response will target five groups identified as particularly vulnerable—internally displaced persons, non-displaced Libyans, returnees, and migrants and refugees— across all 22 *mantikas* in the country.

The response will be underpinned by two strategic objectives that aim at preventing disease, reducing risks to physical and mental well-being, and strengthening the protection of civilians in accordance with international legal frameworks. It also aims at facilitating safe, equitable and dignified access to critical services and livelihoods to enhance people's resilience and ensure they meet their basic needs. Protection remains at the core of the response in Iraq, and in addition to specific protection activities and services, protection will be mainstreamed across all interventions.

Humanitarian partners in occupied Palestinian territories (oPt) are appealing for \$417 million in the oPt HRP, significantly more than the \$350 million sought in 2019, but slightly below the request of \$426 million for 2020, which included significant requirements related to the pandemic. Some 2.4 million people have been identified as in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, about one in every two Palestinians in the oPt. Of these, 1.8 million of the most vulnerable will be targeted, an increase from 1.5 million in 2019. However, this means that over half a million vulnerable people, mainly in the Gaza Strip, will not receive any assistance, even if the HRP is fully funded.

Underfunding of humanitarian operations in the oPt has been a serious constraint in recent years. Regular and realistic donor funding is critical to not only alleviate the worst effects of the health and socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, but to act as a stabilizing factor in the current uncertain political and socio-economic climate.

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

MONTHLY
ALLOCATIONS (US\$)

\$ 72M

TOTAL 2021
ALLOCATIONS (US\$)

\$ 132M

TOTAL 2021
CONTRIBUTIONS (US\$)

\$ 403M

In March 2021, \$71.8 million was allocated from the CERF's rapid response (RR) window.

RR allocations included \$20 million and \$6.8 million for anticipatory action ahead of forecast drought in Somalia and Ethiopia, respectively; \$14 million in support of people affected by the fire in Kutupalong refugee camp in Bangladesh; \$10 million to stave off famine in South Sudan; \$8 million for people displaced by election-related violence in the Central African Republic; an additional \$7 million in response to severe water shortages and food insecurity in Somalia; \$5 million to Sudan for people displaced by violence in West and South Darfur; and \$1 million to support people affected by the explosions in military barracks in Equatorial Guinea.

CERF support to Syria ten years into the conflict

A decade of conflict in Syria has led to unimaginable human suffering, loss of life, displacement and economic decay. CERF has allocated \$295 million over the past ten years to provide life-saving support to 11 million affected people, including IDPs, refugees and host communities. As one of the fastest and most flexible ways of delivering humanitarian assistance, unearmarked funding from CERF has enabled UN agencies and their partners to address many of the critical needs of vulnerable populations by funding, among other things, the delivery of emergency food rations, medical assistance and education support. Today, as the conflict in Syria continues to claim lives and destroy livelihoods, 13.4 million people continue to need urgent humanitarian assistance. Donor support is required more than ever so that CERF can continue providing a lifeline to the most vulnerable people in Syria and the region.

For more information on how pooled funds have helped frontline humanitarian workers deliver emergency supplies and support for millions of people affected by the Syria crisis, [see this video](#).

CERF allocations

Allocations endorsed by the ERC

Country	Monthly allocation	RR allocation	UFE allocation	Purpose
Bangladesh	14.0 M	14.0 M	-	Fire in the Kutupalong Camp
CAR	8.0 M	8.0 M	-	Election-related violence and displacement
Equatorial Guinea	1.0 M	1.0 M	-	Bata explosions
Ethiopia	6.8 M	6.8 M	-	Anticipatory Action - Drought
Somalia	27.0 M	27.0 M	-	Anticipatory Action & Rapid Response - Drought
Sudan	5.0 M	5.0 M	-	Conflict-related displacement
South Sudan	10.0 M	10.0 M	-	Risk of famine
Total	71.8 M	71.8 M	-	



Maiduguri, Nigeria. UN agencies and local NGOs have set up this Child Friendly Space to help children in the Stadium IDP camp to continue having an education and a safe space where they can play, learn and have access to clean water. With upcoming CERF funding, partners are hoping to expand its activities and to build such centers in other camps.
OCHA/Eve Sabbagh

CERF releases \$14 million for Rohingya refugees left homeless by camp fire

On 25 March, Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Mark Lowcock released \$14 million from CERF's RR window to respond to a devastating fire that tore through the Kutupalong Camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh – the world's largest refugee camp – on 22 March. Estimates indicate that the fire displaced more than 45,000 Rohingya refugees, originally from neighboring Myanmar, with thousands more affected by the destruction of critical health, education and nutrition infrastructure, including a camp hospital. CERF funds will help set up and rebuild shelter, provide water and sanitation services, food, mental and psychosocial health assistance and other emergency services. Upon releasing the CERF funds, ERC Mark Lowcock urged the international community to stand by the Rohingya refugees, particularly to help with the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the approaching monsoon season.

CERF anticipatory action allocations for drought in Ethiopia and Somalia

Since late 2020, delayed and erratic rainfall have affected many parts of Ethiopia and Somalia, resulting in pre-drought conditions with widely depleted water reservoirs and loss of pasture and livestock. Simultaneously, locusts, COVID-19, floods and conflict have severely eroded the coping capacity of Ethiopians and Somalis. Beyond the current situation, an even worse crisis is looming in the next months: Several climate forecasts predict poor rainfall during the March-June rainy season, and experts warn of spiraling numbers of people facing emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity.

As part of its effort to promote forward-looking approaches to humanitarian action, in 2019 and 2020, OCHA, in cooperation with partners, facilitated the development of frameworks to enable early humanitarian action based on risk information. These anticipatory action frameworks, each tailored to the specific country context, set out thresholds for action and a pre-agreed set of activities, and were tied to pre-positioned CERF funding.

After thresholds for taking action were initially reached in Ethiopia in December 2020, triggering the release of \$13.2 million for a first phase of anticipatory activities, CERF allocated an additional \$6.8 million for a second set of anticipatory measures in March 2021 as food insecurity and drought forecasts were re-confirmed. In Somalia, CERF is funding the activation of the anticipatory action framework for a second time, releasing \$20 million for a set of pre-agreed, multi-sectoral interventions to mitigate the impact of the projected drought. A first activation in June 2020 already demonstrated how collective anticipatory action at scale can work, leading to a faster, cheaper and more effective response.

Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs)

MONTHLY NEW
ALLOCATIONS (US\$)

\$ 7.8M

ALLOCATIONS UNDER
APPROVAL (US\$)

\$ 8.2M

MONTHLY
DISBURSEMENTS (US\$)

\$ 20.3M

CONTRIBUTIONS
RECEIVED IN 2021 (US\$)

\$ 142M

CBPFs disbursed \$20.3 million to humanitarian partners in eight countries in March 2021. Of this amount, around 67 per cent went to NGOs, including \$3.8 million to 11 local and national partners and \$9.9 million to international NGOs. CBPF funds targeted approximately 3.3 million people, of whom approximately 52 per cent were women and girls.¹

CBPFs continue to be the largest direct source of funding for local and national partners on the front lines of emergency responses. From allocations launched in 2020, 36 per cent of CBPF funding was provided to national and local NGOs, including the funding received as sub-implementing partners of other organizations. CBPFs will continue to provide significant funding to local partners in 2021, leveraging their proximity to affected people and harnessing their local knowledge and social networks.

Disbursements per pooled fund

Actual disbursements made in March

Pooled Fund	Monthly disbursement	Number of projects	Number of organizations
Total	20.4 M	36	32
DRC	7.0 M	15	15
Afghanistan	3.1 M	1	1
Ukraine	3.1 M	5	5
South Sudan	3.0 M	4	4
Syria	2.3 M	7	7
Yemen	1.3 M	2	2
oPt	375.2 K	1	1
Iraq	238.7 K	1	1

Disbursements per type of recipient organization

Actual disbursements made in March

Type of recipient organization	Disbursement
International NGO	9.9M
UN Agency	6.7M
National NGO	3.8M

¹ The number of people targeted and reached may include double counting as some people may receive assistance from multiple projects and/or organizations.

Four CBPFs launched allocation rounds in March

- **DRC Humanitarian Fund (HF):** \$1.5 million reserve allocation to support the roll-out and implementation of the national strategy for protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). The allocation will fund prevention, community engagement, response and coordination activities for PSEA.
- **Somalia HF:** \$13.3 million standard allocation to respond to priorities identified in the HRP, including response to floods, drought, desert locusts and conflict.
- **Ethiopia HF:** \$2 million reserve allocation to respond to humanitarian needs in the northern Tigray region.
- **Syria Cross Border HF:** \$1.35 million reserve allocation to enable humanitarian access for partners implementing cross-border activities and to support field officers who serve the humanitarian community with diverse services in information, coordination, monitoring and accountability. On 31 March, the fund also launched a large-scale standard allocation of \$85 million to support priorities identified in the HRP and deliver critical support to national partners on the frontlines

As of 31 March, donors had pledged or contributed \$142 million to OCHA-managed CBPFs, including the top three fund recipients: Yemen, Afghanistan, and Syria Cross-border.

Allocations per pooled fund

Monthly allocations are approved projects/signed grant agreements in March 2021. Allocations under approval are projects under contractual finalization in March 2021.

Pooled Fund	Monthly allocation	Allocation under approval
Syria	3.3 M	1.7 M
Afghanistan	3.1 M	-
Sudan	999.6 K	115.0 K
oPt	375.2 K	-
Ethiopia	-	565.8 K
Somalia	-	911.1 K
Syria Cross Border	-	1.3 M
Venezuela	-	3.6 M
Total	7.8 M	8.2 M

Allocations per type of recipient organization

Showing approved projects/signed grant agreements in 2021.

	Allocation
UN Agency	4.3M
International NGO	3.5M

Adapting community centres during COVID-19

With support from Yemen Humanitarian Fund, INTERSOS has been running two community centres in Dar Sa'ad and in Al-Buraiqa since December 2018. These centres have become one-stop service centres and safe havens for men, women, boys, and girls to access integrated protection services, including legal services, and recreational activities. At the onset of COVID-19, the team adapted the work modalities and activities of the community center according to COVID-19 prevention measures to ensure the continuity of services, including through hotline services. INTERSOS trained its protection staff and community volunteers to deliver public information campaigns to explain virus transmission and mitigation measures, including safe hygiene practices, social/physical distancing and other protective measures, and work to combat the spread of rumors and misinformation.

"I am happy that we continue to assist people, even in this difficult situation, in Dar Sa'ad...In our centre, we mainly focus on protection needs, but we also act as a focal point for others, referring those in need to relevant partners. In the end, it feels great that we can give reassurance to beneficiaries," emphasizes Maryam Mohammed Salem, the receptionist at the community centre.



Dar Sa'ad, Yemen. Chlorinated hand-washing points have been installed and use is mandatory for everyone entering INTERSOS premises, centres and facilities. *Photo: INTERSOS*

Prevention and resilience in crowded camp

The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund supported a project to build the resilience of residents in the Fterah, Sarmada, Bnesh and Eltyeb Camps in northwest Syria to mitigate and prevent the spread of COVID-19. The project provided WASH services and family hygiene kits, conducted awareness sessions, hung posters related to COVID-19 in squares and public places. The quantity of water distributed to residents was also increased to 35 litres/person/day to cover the increasing need for safe hygiene practices, and the construction of additional hand-washing points, latrines and water tanks helped reduced crowding. In addition, five health facilities, including the Al Iman Hospital and the Jeinah Health Center, received support to ensure they could safely treat patients.



The United Nations acknowledges the generous contributions of donors who provide unearmarked or core funding to humanitarian partners, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF).