

A photograph of a woman with a red and white headscarf holding a young child. The child is wearing a blue and brown hoodie and is smiling. The woman has a serious expression. They are standing in front of a wooden structure, possibly a doorway or window frame. The image is framed by a white border.

COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS

# 2020 IN REVIEW



United Nations

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### For additional information, please contact:

Donor Relations Section  
[ocha.donor.relations@un.org](mailto:ocha.donor.relations@un.org)

### Front Cover

Quasai Al-Khatib, a widow, is displaced from Kafr Nabl. She has been living in Barisha IDP camp, Syria, for 10 months, with her children, and two of her grandchildren. © OCHA

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**OCHA**

United Nations  
Office for the Coordination  
of Humanitarian Affairs



# FOREWORD

Mark Lowcock,  
Undersecretary-  
General for  
Humanitarian  
Affairs and  
Emergency Relief  
Coordinator, United  
Nations Office for  
the Coordination  
of Humanitarian  
Affairs (OCHA),  
New York.  
@ OCHA/Palmero



The year 2020 was a challenging one for people in crises and the humanitarian community, with humanitarian needs reaching unprecedented levels due to conflict, climate shocks and the spread of infectious diseases. The COVID-19 pandemic in particular created devastating social and economic conditions across the world, exacerbating hardship and suffering for the world's most vulnerable people.

OCHA's Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) were at the forefront of the humanitarian response, demonstrating their ability to respond quickly and effectively to growing and changing needs. CBPFs provided crucial life-saving assistance and protection to millions of people at greatest risk. The Funds were instrumental in supporting the pandemic response efforts in the 18 countries where they were present, allocating a total of US\$909 million million to operational partners to address top priority needs.



CBPF funding enabled fast procurement of protective materials and essential medical supplies, as well as COVID-19 community education to promote safe behaviour. Special efforts were made to support NGOs to adjust to the pandemic, including by introducing a set of measures to provide them with the flexibility to adapt their programmes and operations to the new requirements. This enabled funding to be used to address new priorities and operational challenges as they arose. Thanks to their flexibility, agility and speed, the Funds were able to mobilise and effectively support humanitarian responses.

Beyond responding to COVID-19, the Funds supported partners to sustain response to a range of other new and ongoing crises. Together, 18 CBPFs allocated \$909 million to 690 partners. Funding went directly to the partners at the front lines, including to local and national partners (which received 36 per cent of all CBPF funding) and international NGOs (42 per cent). Local and national actors received a greater share of all funding than in any previous year to help hard-to-reach communities, reflecting OCHA's commitment to advancing on the localisation of humanitarian response.

The Funds also increased support to critical areas typically underfunded in humanitarian operations, prioritizing efforts to support women and girls including prevention and response to gender-based violence, education in protracted emergencies, disability inclusion and other protection initiatives. This made humanitarian operations more inclusive and expanded outreach to vulnerable people disproportionately affected by disasters and emergencies.

2020 was also an important year for expanding pooled funding to new locations. We set up our 19th CBPF in Venezuela, which made its first allocation early in 2021. We took important strides towards establishing a Regionally-hosted Pooled Fund for West and Central Africa – a new type of fund that will bring the benefits of pooled funding to more countries with significant humanitarian needs. These developments are part of OCHA's efforts to continue delivering direct, timely and substantial funding to frontline responders.

In my role as Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), I've seen first-hand how CBPFs have become increasingly instrumental in promoting effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness across the wider humanitarian response. Humanitarian Coordinators across the world have told me about the value these Funds bring to their local contexts. In a spirit of continuous improvement and guided by the Global Evaluation we continue to look for ways in which the Funds can add value to collective efforts.

I am deeply grateful to all CBPF donors and partners who have placed their trust in the Funds, and I count on your continued support. These achievements would not have been possible without your collaboration and commitment to saving and protecting lives.



---

**MARK LOWCOCK**

**Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian  
Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**OCHA's Country-based Pooled Funds remained pivotal to the coordinated humanitarian response in 18 countries, leveraging contributions from Member States to allocate funds flexibly and efficiently to those partners best placed to respond.** The generosity and sustained confidence of donors was reflected in the high level of contributions, amounting to \$863 million.

**With a total of \$909 million allocated, the most urgent needs of 36.3 million vulnerable people were addressed, including women and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.** CBPFs were instrumental in responding to acute humanitarian needs, most significantly those arising from conflict (\$440 million allocated or 48 per cent) and the COVID-19 pandemic (\$252 million allocated or 28 per cent).

**Again in 2020, funding to national partners and actors was increased, making the Funds the largest source of support for local and national actors** in response to the pandemic and to meet humanitarian needs more broadly - capitalising on their proximity to affected people and harnessing local knowledge and social networks.

**Support to chronically underfunded priorities was scaled up.** By placing more emphasis on support to women and girls, people with disabilities, education in emergencies and other aspects of protection, the Funds promoted system change and improvements in the quality of the wider response. All the Funds considered and prioritized GBV in their allocation strategies and processes.

**The success of the response to COVID-19 was enhanced through the introduction of innovative flexibility measures.** These allowed partners to adapt their work to the new context and scale up key activities following the onset of the pandemic, with funding released as early as February.

**Important progress was made in addressing recommendations from the [2019 Global Evaluation of CBPFs](#) and the [OCHA-NRC Study CBPFs – the NGO perspective](#), shaping strategic priorities for the Funds.** The two main governance mechanisms of the Funds, namely the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) and the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform introduced remote ways of working at the global level, mitigating the impact of the pandemic on in-person meetings.

# HIGHLIGHTS

Germany became the **largest donor** to the CBPFs

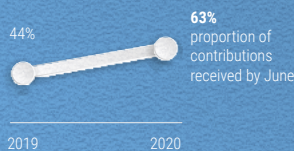


Greece and Slovakia made their first contributions



The European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (**ECHO**) contributed for the first time to CBPFs

Early payments of contributions enabled the CBPFs' early response to strategically prioritized needs



The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund was the biggest Fund, allocating

**\$185 million** channeling

**74%** of the funding to local and national partners



All **18** operational CBPFs responded **quickly** and **with flexibility** to the **impact of COVID-19**, allocating more than

**\$252 million**

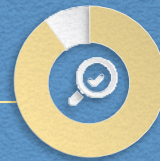


The **Venezuela Humanitarian Fund** was established, receiving

**\$5.4 million** in initial contributions

CBPFs remained **accountable** and **trusted** mechanisms, completing

**90%** of all **planned project monitoring** despite restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic



More than

**200**

NGOs around the world participated in the sessions of the **CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform**



**Stronger partnerships** with local women-led organisations (WLO) and women's rights organisations (WRO)

**38** partners were **WLO/WRO**

Promoting **cash-transfer programming**:

**10%** of the total amount allocated supported cash and voucher assistance



CBPFs provided

**36%** of the total amount allocated to **national and local actors**, leading progress towards the Grand Bargain commitment for a **localized response**





# ALLOCATIONS



Local women from Ballas village, in southern rural Aleppo, Syria, talk to humanitarians about their living situation and the challenges they go through.

© OCHA/Ourfali

In 2020, the Country-based Pooled Funds prioritized the most critical humanitarian needs, allocating funds to those partners best placed to respond.

In 2020, the Funds allocated \$909 million to humanitarian operations in 18 countries, about 10 per cent less compared to 2019, reflecting a slight decrease in donor contributions.

“The UN’s Country-based Pooled Funds have saved millions of lives and show the power of a locally-driven humanitarian response. Because they are guided by the people they serve, these Funds make the very best use of available resources and capabilities. None of this would be possible without generous donor support.”

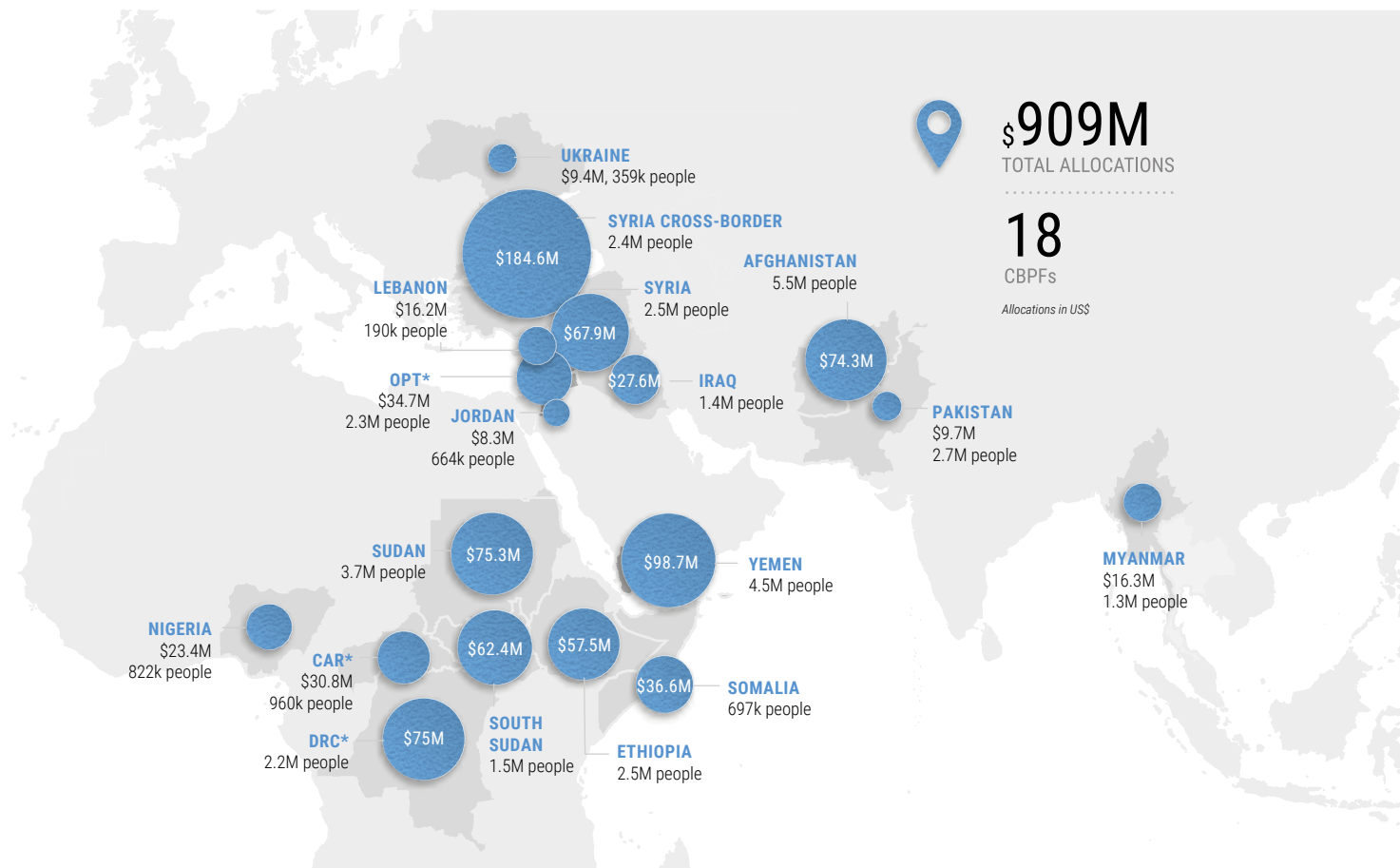
— António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

**2020 allocations provided timely, life-saving assistance for 36.3 million people, in response to emergencies driven by COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict, natural disasters and disease outbreaks.** The Funds remained instrumental in responding to the needs of people caught in conflict (48 per cent of resources) and affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (28 per cent of resources). 10 per cent of all funding allocated went to addressing needs arising from natural disasters, and 5 per cent for response to disease outbreaks other than COVID-19.

**In 2020, allocations played a key role in transforming the way the humanitarian community delivers assistance.** Allocation strategies promoted further response to women and girls, people with disabilities, and protection, and called for greater attention and progress on access and localization. Through CBPF allocations, RC/HCs have sought to advance quality programming and to advance important initiatives.

## ALLOCATIONS AT A GLANCE

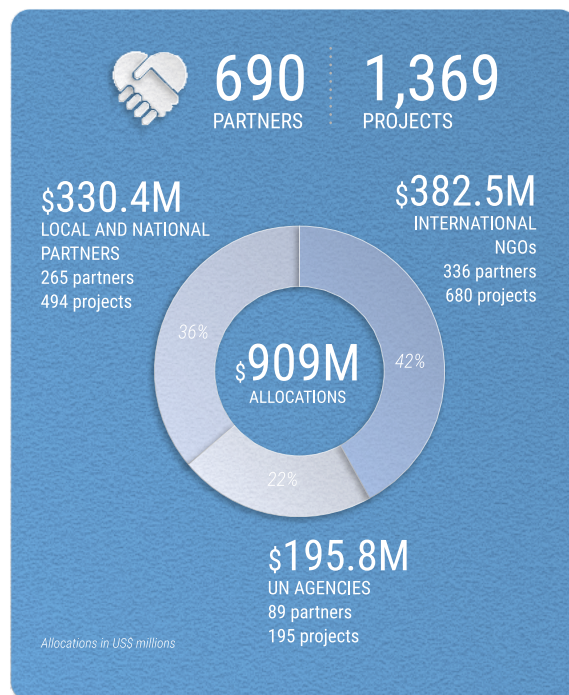
In 2020, the Funds supported the delivery of timely and effective life-saving assistance for more than 36.3 million people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict.<sup>1</sup>



**\$909M**  
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS

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**18**  
CBPFs  
*Allocations in US\$*



<sup>1</sup> Methods to avoid double counting of targeted and reached beneficiaries are applied.

## ALLOCATIONS BY EMERGENCY TYPE

**\$252M**  
TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED  
FOR **COVID-19 RESPONSE**



### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

**In 2020, the humanitarian response from the Funds was acknowledged by the humanitarian community for its high level of efficiency and flexibility in adapting to changing needs and operating conditions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.** The Funds responded early, with the first allocations launched in February. NGOs were at the centre of efforts to respond, closest to the people in need. Some \$252 million was directed to the COVID-19 response, around one quarter of the total amount allocated during the year. Speed was crucial – allocation processes, including project selection and review, were completed on average in two to four weeks, with disbursements in less than one week following approval of grant agreements. As of 30 April, only one month after the launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, 12 pooled funds had released a total of \$71 million to respond to the pandemic.

(\*for more detailed information see [page 18](#) of this report: *On the Frontline of the COVID Humanitarian Response*).

**\$440M**  
TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED  
TO ADDRESS **CONFLICT**  
**RELATED NEEDS**



### CONFLICT

**Their proximity to people affected by conflicts positioned CBPFs to provide critical lifesaving assistance, and to enhance humanitarian access in hard to reach areas.** Approximately \$440 million was allocated to address conflict related needs, representing 48 per cent of the total amount allocated during the year. Although operational space continued to be restricted by violence, threats against personnel, and bureaucratic impediments, the Funds worked to identify those partners most able to reach people in need. Where appropriate, projects specifically aimed at enhancing access were prioritised. For example, the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund rehabilitated 20km of roads to facilitate movement of humanitarian goods from Bab Al Hawa to northern rural Aleppo, following a UN Security Council Resolution limiting operations to one cross-border point only.

CBPFs also ensured that projects addressed the disproportionate humanitarian needs of internally displaced people affected by armed conflict. For example, the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund channeled \$12 million to assist those affected by the sudden onset conflict in Tigray region.

**\$92M**  
TOTAL AMOUNT ALLOCATED  
TO SUPPORT PEOPLE SEVERELY  
AFFECTED BY **NATURAL**  
**DISASTERS**



### NATURAL DISASTERS

**The agility of the Funds enabled partners to provide a timely response to natural disasters.** Some \$92 million (10 per cent of the total amount allocated in the year) was provided for life-saving response in eight countries, to respond to the impact of erratic weather and climate shocks.

**Most of the funding was for flood response, with some funding addressing the impact of drought and harsh winter conditions.** To illustrate, the Syria Humanitarian Fund released \$4 million for winterisation activities benefitting Palestinian refugees. The allocation targeted female headed households, the elderly, orphans and people with disabilities.

**\$49M**  
TOTAL AMOUNT  
ALLOCATED TO RESPOND  
TO OTHER **INFECTIOUS**  
**DISEASE OUTBREAKS**



### DISEASE OUTBREAKS

**The Funds responded to infectious disease outbreaks (other than COVID-19), including cholera, dengue, ebola, malaria and polio.** They allocated \$49 million over the course of 2020, representing 5 per cent of the total amount allocated. For instance in DRC, the Humanitarian Fund improved coordination practices for the Ebola response, releasing \$2 million to establish a coordination system in Mbandaka, the epicenter of the outbreak. This included the setting up temporary camps, coordination and information management for logistics, and cargo services from Kinshasa. The initiative enhanced coverage of assistance across health zones, expanding reach and preventing overlaps to improve the overall coherence of the response.





Thousands of families were affected by the Beirut blast. Partners, with LHF support, are restoring houses, distributing food parcels, and providing psychosocial support.

© UNDP Lebanon

## LEBANON

### Coping with catastrophe

Sitting in a living room in Bourj Abi Haidar, in the heart of Beirut, Bouchra, who is over seventy, repeats almost the same words as other families affected by the blast. “Since the Beirut blast our days have been really dark,” she says. Bouchra lives with her husband, her three children and her sister. “The blast made our house uninhabitable. Everything broke, the windows, the furniture. We can’t afford to fix it up... we can barely afford to eat.” Her daughter earns 450,000 liras per month (the equivalent of \$50) and her two sons, whose wages have both been cut, together earn around only \$133 every month.

For two months, Bouchra was provided with a hot meal everyday by CARE International, through local partner Nusaned (‘We Support’), that fed the whole family – through funding from the Lebanon HF. The COVID-19 outbreak had yet to be controlled, so masks and disinfectants were also provided to reduce the risk of transmission.



Omar Saado, a senior field officer with Nusaned said, “It’s all about being more respectful to others as well as showing compassion. We are working on the ground with families like Bouchra’s, affected by the Beirut blast. We are restoring houses or distributing food parcels. People are very vulnerable and what we learned allows us to better protect our participants.”

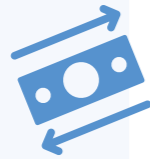
## ALLOCATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

### Afghanistan HF

Promoting a flexible and agile response, the Afghanistan HF provided

**\$12.5 million**

with 17 per cent of the total amount for **cash-based assistance**. Cash was used predominantly for **shelter repairs, rent and winterization supplies**.



### Democratic Republic of Congo HF

Enhancing the quality of the wider humanitarian response, the DRC HF allocated

**\$2.2 million**

to strengthen the co-facilitation of clusters at the national and sub-national levels, and to **improve data and analysis essential** for better coordination and planning of humanitarian response.



### Ethiopia HF

The Ethiopia Fund quickly provided

**\$12 million**

to **reach civilians caught up in the Tigray conflict**, immediately following its onset. With humanitarian corridors mostly blocked and essential social services disrupted, the Fund tailored its life-saving response to include **mobile health and nutrition support** bringing services closer to the most affected people.



### Syria Cross-border HF

In order to **facilitate humanitarian access** after the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) limited humanitarian operations to one cross-border point from August 2020, the Fund released

**\$0.4 million**

to rehabilitate 20km of roads to **facilitate the movement of humanitarian goods from Bab Al Hawa to northern rural Aleppo**.



### Syria HF

Harsh winter conditions at the beginning of the year put the lives of Palestinian refugees at risk. In January 2020, the Syria HF released

**\$4 million**

in the form of **cash and non-food items** for highly vulnerable people, including **women-headed households, the elderly, people with disabilities, and orphans**.

### Ukraine HF



Protecting the **most vulnerable elderly and people with disabilities** along the "contact line" against COVID-19, the Ukraine HF Fund allocated

**\$2 million**

to provide **hygiene kits, cash assistance, psychosocial support, medical supplies and food items** among others to the targeted groups.



### Iraq HF

In view of the sudden and uncoordinated closure of several IDP camps, some 34K people were displaced. In December 2020, the IHF released

**\$5.6 million**

targeting the districts with the **highest number of new arrivals**, to provide **cash for shelter, as well as WASH and protection services** to the most-affected families.

### Central African Republic HF

Using **CERF and CAR HF** in a complementary and coherent way, both Funds provided

resources to **address needs resulting from COVID-19 pandemic**. The CERF

funding was instrumental in supporting essential **supplies of PPE** to scale up the response. The CAR HF played a crucial role in **strengthening the capacity of front line partners to deliver aid**.



### Yemen HF

Ensuing value for money through **complementary and joined up response**, the Yemen HF Fund allocated

**\$19.8 million**

to provide **allowances to health workers**, to distribute **emergency kits to IDPs** in hard-to-reach locations and to **raise community awareness on COVID-19**.

The allocation was launched in **complimentarity with the CERF and bilateral donor contributions**.

### Somalia HF

Maintaining timely, life-saving assistance in response to multiple emergencies, the Somali HF allocated

**\$22 million**

for integrated programming to address the **triple threat of flooding, desert locust infestation and the COVID-19 pandemic**.



### Lebanon HF

**Empowering women** and increasing their participation in humanitarian action in a meaningful way, the Lebanon HF allocated close to

**\$500k**

to support **GBV response for migrant and domestic workers** whose vulnerability was exacerbated by COVID-19 and lockdown measures. Part of the allocation was channeled through WLO.



### Jordan HF

The Jordan HF used part of its allocation to address GBV. The Fund allocated

**\$1 million**

for **GBV prevention and response**, including **clinical management of rape**.

### oPt HF

The heavy rainfall at the end of 2019 and extensive flooding in Gaza Strip exposed an already vulnerable population to waterborne diseases, property losses, disruption in access to livelihoods and services, and displacement.

The oPt HF released

**\$2 million**

in January 2020 to ensure **access to quality drinking water, upgrade key WASH facilities, provide shelter** for the most vulnerable households, and **support hospitals with medical supplies**.



### Sudan HF

Responding to emergencies in **newly accessible and underserved locations**, the Sudan HF dedicated

**\$1 million**

to respond to **critical needs of people in Jebel Marra and South Kordofan**. By supporting multisectoral projects, the Fund **helped improve access to basic services and strengthened community resilience** to recurrent shocks.



### Pakistan HF

Providing an **immediate response in the Sindh province that was severely affected by floods**, the PHPF allocated

**\$2.5 million**

in record time of

**9 days**

, enabling local and national partners to distribute food and provide gender-sensitive WASH services for the most badly affected households.



### Myanmar HF

The MHF launched an allocation of

**\$7.2 million**

to address the **protection needs of children, women, people with disabilities, and sexual minorities** in remote locations in non-government-controlled areas in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine, and Shan. Activities strengthened **GBV prevention and response, mental health services and reproductive health**. The allocation increased visibility of the specific needs of the most vulnerable in these locations to catalyze additional funding from other sources.



### Nigeria HF

Heavy rainfall and the risk of cholera overlaying Covid-19 and escalating violence in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe triggered a record allocation of

**\$22.2 million**

in June. With a specific focus on **protection**, funding was used to **assist women, persons with special needs, unaccompanied vulnerable children, and adolescent girls at risk of GBV**, as well as to rehabilitate camp infrastructure including water and sanitation facilities.



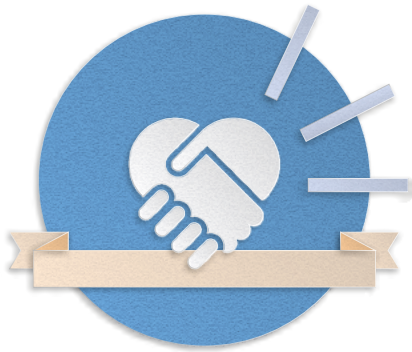
### South Sudan HF

A marked escalation in violence combined with flooding and Covid-19 significantly increased hunger at the end of the year, with an estimated 60 per cent of the population classified as acutely food insecure. The SSHF, in complementarity with a CERF allocation, released

**\$13 million**

in December to **reduce the risk of famine, supporting the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, protection to girls and women at risk of GBV, and strengthening humanitarian air cargo services**.

# DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



**In 2020 donors contributed \$863 million, signalling their continued confidence in the Pooled Funds as an effective and efficient life-saving mechanism.** By

pooling their contributions, donors enabled the Funds to maximise benefits for people in need.

flexing donors' efforts to expedite payments, in view of the additional COVID-19 requirements. This was an increase in the level of early payments as compared to previous years, where payments in the first half of the year amounted to 44 per cent (2019), and 42 per cent (2018). With allocation decisions taking place on the ground, close to affected populations, timely contributions supported an agile response in fluid and rapidly changing contexts, allowing operational partners to act quickly, adapting and scaling up most urgent life-saving activities.

**Contributions helped millions of people in crisis, and allowed humanitarian leadership to ensure the most vulnerable people received aid first.** With support from the Funds, humanitarian leadership strengthened its support to underfunded priorities and expanded reach to the most marginalized communities and people. In 2020, the CBPFs supported humanitarian activities benefiting 3.1 million people with disabilities (9 per cent of total people targeted).

**Early payment of contributions enabled CBPFs to make resources readily available when they were required.** Almost two thirds (63 per cent) of the total amount contributed by donors in 2020 was received during the first half of the year, re-

**Contributions to CBPFs offer value for money and allow donors to focus their assistance using well-established, in-country response structures.** The Funds ensure the most strategic, effective and efficient use of funding in difficult and often dangerous circumstances, aligning limited resources with response priorities and making donors' contributions go as far as they can in saving lives.

**OCHA's sustained efforts to broaden the diversity of donors continued to yield results, with new donors contributing in 2020, and more donors contributing to more of the Funds in comparison to previous years.** In 2020, for the first time since the inception of CBPFs, the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) contributed to the CBPFs, on a pilot basis,



The UK is proud to be a strong advocate for Country-based Pooled Funds in 2020. The pooled funds have enabled a wide range of donors to come together to support flexible and rapid responses to COVID-19, ensuring that humanitarian aid gets to those who need it most.

— Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
United Kingdom



“Fetching water is not as difficult as it was before,” says Hawo Mohamud, a mother living in New Camp IDP site in Qardho. She used to walk up to 10KM per day to bring clean water home. After floods in 2020 made life in the camp even more challenging, humanitarian organizations provided shelter, piped water, and other supplies. Clean water is now more accessible at health centers and schools as well. © OCHA Somalia

supporting the South Sudan and Ukraine Humanitarian Funds. Greece and Slovakia also made their first ever contributions to the Funds.

**OCHA was able to pass on to local and international partners the benefit of multi-year financing. Five donors made multi-year commitments, which in turn supported better planning and more sustainable impact.** In 2020, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom provided funding through multi-year contribution agreements. This was the same number of donors with multi-year agreements in 2019 (Canada, Germany, Qatar, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom).

**CBPF funding targets are set at 15 per cent of funding received for corresponding HRPs. In view of increased needs and uncertainty surrounding aid volumes it is ever more timely to increase funding to the pooled Funds, building on their cost efficiency and ability to deliver tangible results on the front line.** In 2020 the Secretary General’s call to donors to channel 15 per cent of humanitarian funding through CBPFs was not met. When resources are pooled, donors’ combined contributions create critical volumes that can promote better collaboration and coordination and achieve greater impact at lower administrative costs than if individual contributions are made to specific projects.



## SOMALIA

### I used to walk at least 10 kilometers every day to fetch water

Hawo Mohamud is a mother of nine children living in New Camp IDP site in Qardho. About two thirds of the population here are children and women. Opportunities to make money are very limited, and many families just cannot meet their basic needs. Hawo was left with injuries after a caesarean delivery last year and can no longer do manual or domestic jobs like cleaning and washing clothes in the nearby town.

“I used to walk at least 10 kilometres every day to fetch water, carrying heavy jerrycans on my back. However, due to my condition, I am no longer able to make the long trek or carry out any hard labour,” explains Hawo. “I have resorted to begging, which is the only source of income for my family. My eldest sons are now 14 and 13 and they have dropped out of school to help me look after my other kids.”

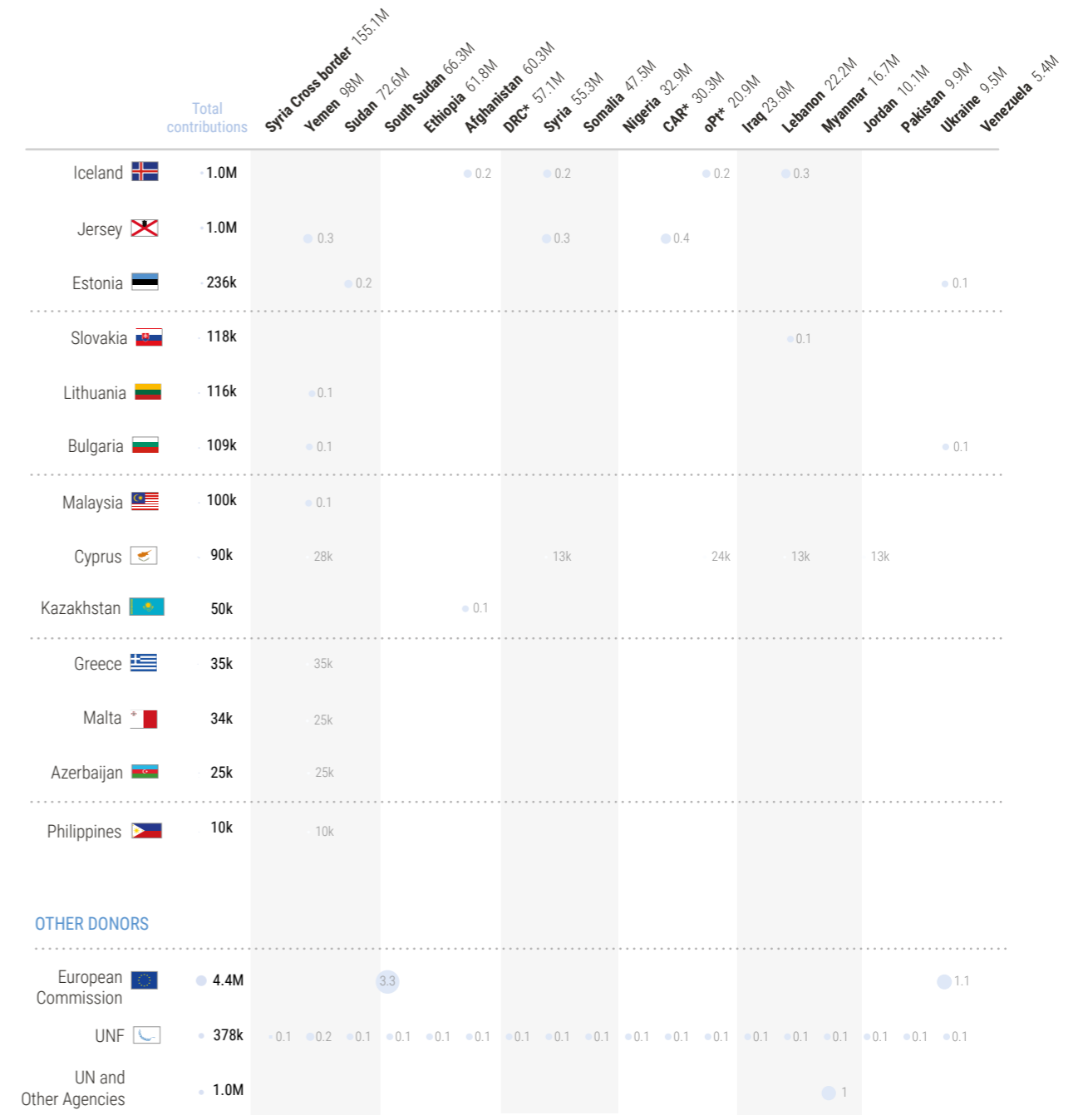
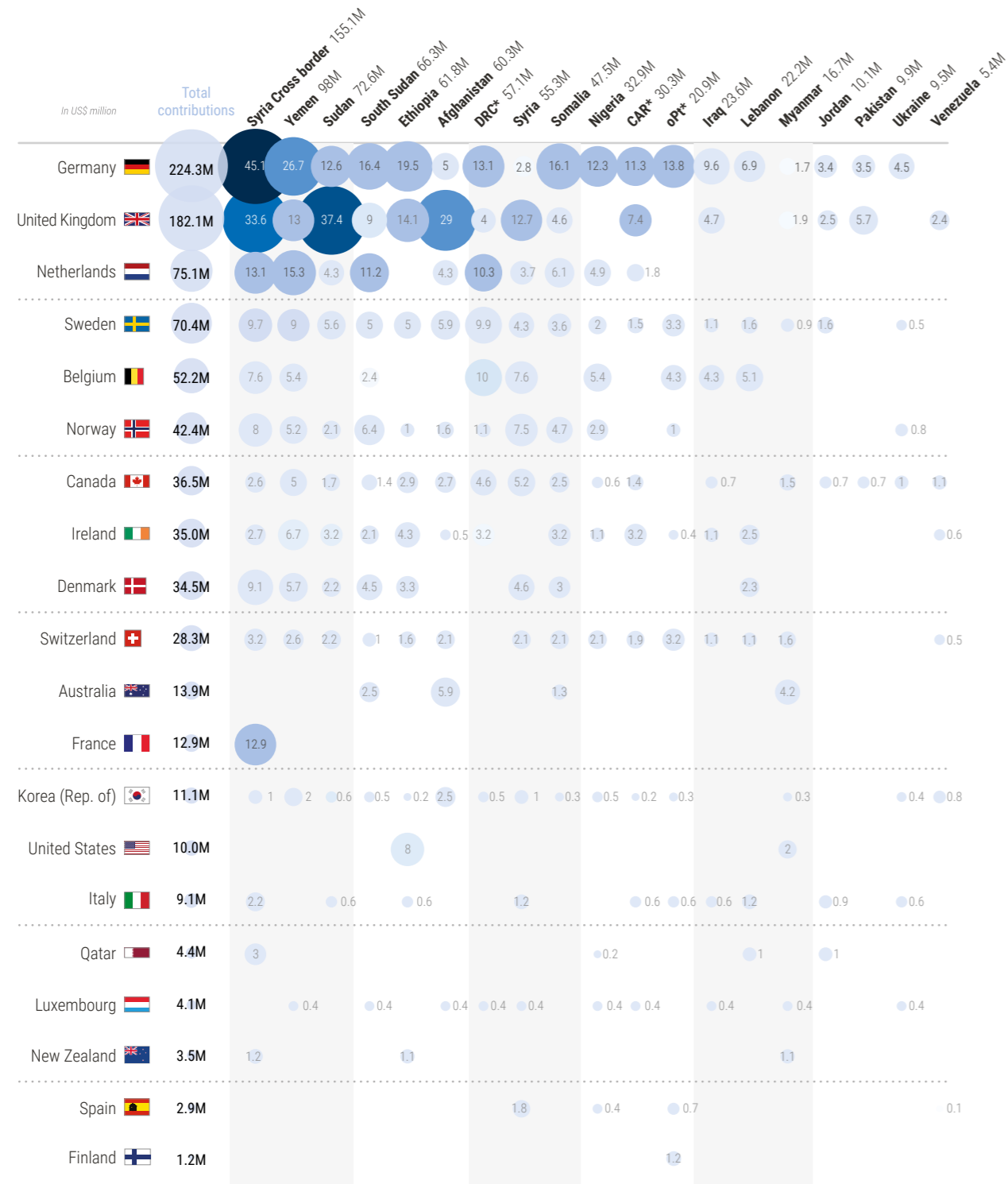
After the 2020 floods, which made life even more difficult, humanitarian organizations stepped in to provide families with basic goods and services like shelter, piped water, mattresses and jerrycans. New Camp is one of seven settlements benefiting from a Save the Children International (SCI) piped water project, implemented thanks to funding from the Somalia HF. Public amenities like the health centre, schools, and children’s play areas now have free, clean water.

“The water kiosk is close to my house. Fetching water is not as difficult as it was before so I am thankful to this humanitarian organization,” says Hawo. Now she can move to sorting out other problems. Hawo knows that her children’s situation will not improve if they are unable to get an education: she hopes that more humanitarian projects will provide job opportunities and education.

## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

CBPFs are funded by voluntary contributions from Member States and other donors. In 2020, total contributions reached \$863 million to 18 CBPFs.

**\$863M** CONTRIBUTIONS  
**36** DONORS



\* CAR: Central African Republic  
DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
oPt: occupied Palestinian territory

# RESULTS

## **The Funds addressed top priority humanitarian needs for 36.3 million people, in line with evolving crises and contexts in each country.**

Results went beyond the protection and assistance provided directly to people in need – the Funds were instrumental in taking forward globally agreed priorities, promoting wider action and system change. Galvanizing a rapid and flexible response to the COVID-19 pandemic, advancing localization, and bringing greater attention to underfunded priority areas were three standout achievements during the year.

## **ON THE FRONT LINE OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

### **CBPFs continued to be the largest source of humanitarian funding for local and national partners – in the pandemic response and more broadly.**

In 2020, a total of \$252 million were allocated to respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 18 countries with pre-existing humanitarian needs. The Funds supported a localized, front-line response to the pandemic, allocating 67 per cent (\$168 million) to NGO partners, including 32 per cent (\$80 million) to local and national actors, and 35 per cent (\$88 million) to international NGOs.

### **Funds were swiftly released in response to the impact of the pandemic, allowing humanitarian organisations to start activities as early as February.**

Critical support was provided to fragile health systems which faced severe shortages of supplies to cope with the pandemic and sustain other services. By 25 March, following the launch of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) for COVID-19, \$3.3 million had been released by four CBPFs. By early May, coinciding with the second iteration of the GHRP, 12 CBPFs had allocated more than \$82 million, with half of the funds supporting NGO projects. By November CBPFs had provided \$223 million to 254 partners, including \$145 million (65 per cent) to NGOs. As

of February 2021, a total of \$252 million had been released to support the response to the pandemic, over two thirds for front line NGO activities. On average, allocation processes were completed within one month and disbursements within seven days of concluding grant agreements.

### **The Funds introduced flexibility measures to help partners adapt to the changed operating environment while retaining sound accountability and oversight of resources.**

The flexibility measures were provisions to allow partners to reprogram existing resources, to expand remote and offsite working arrangement and to scale up activities in response to the new circumstances. The measures were greatly appreciated by NGOs, building on recommendations from a joint [OCHA-NRC study](#), and informing the IASC's guidance for flexible funding for humanitarian response in the context of COVID-19.

### **Allocations supported national and local health authorities in scaling up preparedness and response and helped vulnerable communities to mitigate risks.**

Through their extensive and diverse networks of partners, the Funds supported the establishment or operation of over 1,000 health facilities, including isolation centers and intensive care units, benefiting around 2.3 million people. Some 3.8 million people were reached through health awareness campaigns and hygiene promotion activities, and more than 36,500 health

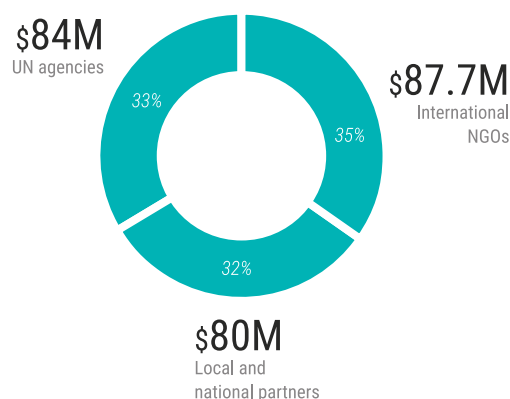
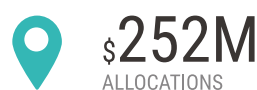


workers trained on early detection and case management. Some 19.7 million units of personal protective equipment (PPE), primary health care kits, and medical supplies were delivered.

**The Funds also addressed the non-health related needs of the most vulnerable, given the secondary impact of the COVID pandemic on all aspects of life.** Over 277,000 people received cash assistance to purchase household essentials such as food, water, medicines, utilities, or to pay rent. Some 616,000 people received shelter materials and emergency items such as hygiene supplies and tools. Improved access to clean water supplies, safe drinking water and handwashing facilities benefitted 3.9 million people, and another 1.3 million people received hygiene and sanitation kits. The Funds provided essential protection services for 642,000 people, with awareness campaigns, psychosocial support and legal counselling. Of these, around 293,000 people benefited from GBV prevention and response initiatives at a critical time when risks and exposure increased due to the COVID-19 environment.

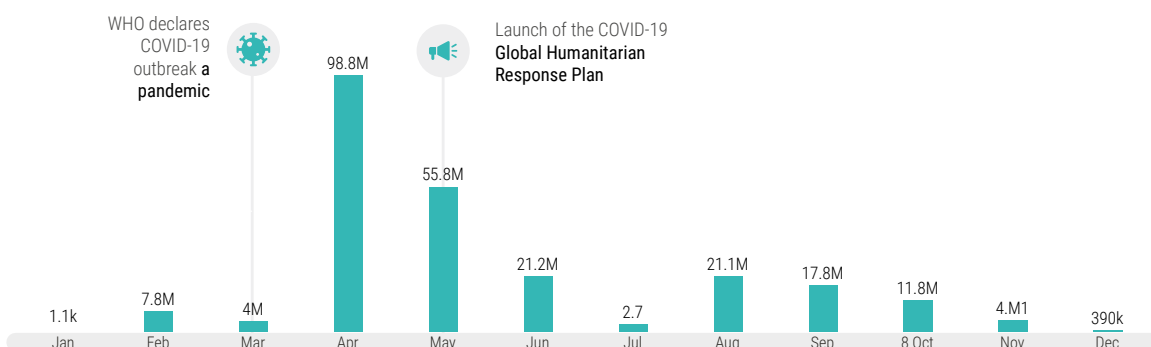
**The Funds also supported large-scale logistics efforts to enable the response, and to ensure that humanitarian services could be delivered to those most in need.** This included the operation of 4,570 cargo flights and 51 humanitarian hubs, boosting coordination and the efficient delivery of aid, and ensuring the continuation of activities to address wider humanitarian needs, including rehabilitation of water infrastructure, treatment of malnourished children, provision of maternal health services and other life-saving activities.

## CBPFs COVID -19 RESPONSE



### COVID-19 RESPONSE ALLOCATION TIMELINE

Allocations in US\$ million



## SUPPORTING LOCALIZATION



**The Funds remained a powerful funding instrument to meet Grand Bargain commitments, particularly the localization of aid.**

The Funds strengthened the role of national and local actors in the response, and promoted their leadership in coordination, prioritization and delivery of humanitarian assistance. Collectively, CBPFs channelled \$302 million to national and local actors, 36 per cent of the total amount allocated and well above the 25 per cent global benchmark set at the World Humanitarian Summit. Of 690 partners receiving funding, 257 or 37 per cent were national or local organizations. Twelve of 18 CBPFs surpassed the 25 per cent benchmark. In ten Funds more than a third of all funding went to national partners.

**Increased funding to local actors was accompanied by continuing efforts to build their capabilities for successful engagement with CBPF requirements and standards.**

This includes discussing key findings of the capacity assessments, monitoring activities and audits with the respective implementing partner, where areas of weaknesses were identified. All the Funds conducted training for partners on project cycle management, accountability and risk management. Additional topics included, among others, the centrality of protection, disability inclusion and humanitarian principles. In total, 162 training activities took

place to train more than 900 national NGO partners and more than 3,000 national NGO staff.

Some Funds also supported local capacities through specific allocations. The Funds in Lebanon, Myanmar and Yemen allocated funding to projects dedicated to capacity building for national partners, while in Somalia the Fund contributed to strengthening the NGO Consortium in coordination, advocacy, representation and information sharing.

**While localization is recognized as a secondary aim of CBPFs, their overarching aim remains to support partners best placed to respond in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner.**

At the onset of the COVID-19 response the CBPFs capitalized on the comparative advantage of international actors, including INGOs and UN agencies, to procure essential supplies at scale when needed the most. In contrast, flood response in Pakistan and Somalia was led by local partners given their proximity and ease of access to the most affected communities in hard to reach areas. Additionally, the Syria Cross-border Fund primarily supported local partners undertaking most of the frontline response to escalating violence in Northwest Syria.

**In 2021 CBPFs will continue supporting localization and consolidating their leading role in supporting national partners.**

As signatory of the Grand Bargain, OCHA is reviewing its approaches to localization to further enhance the contribution of CBPFs to the localization agenda. This includes defining country-specific expectations and targets for funding and for promoting the successful engagement of national and local actors, including WLO, with Fund governance, processes and requirements.

## UNDERFUNDED PRIORITY AREAS

**The Funds have progressively scaled up support to four priority areas that are chronically underfunded** - support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence (GBV), reproductive health and empowerment; programs targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection.

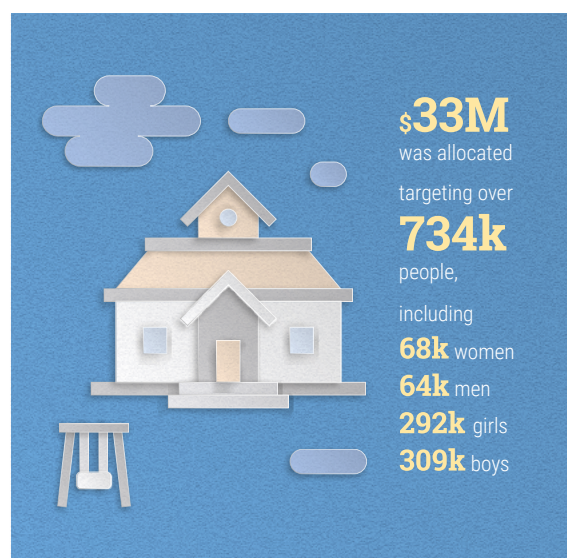
**Reflecting their important role in shaping the humanitarian system, The Funds continued to increase visibility of, and attention to, these underfunded areas.** The designation of the underfunded priorities by the ERC in 2019 sought

to ensure that the humanitarian system gives appropriate and preferential consideration to most vulnerable and hardest to reach people. The Funds remain committed to strengthen visibility and advocacy and promote further donor investments in these areas.

**The Funds continue to strengthen their focus on the underfunded priorities.** An action plan to promote learning across Funds and to further enhance the approach for addressing the underfunded priorities has been developed and will be implemented in 2021 and beyond.

### Increasing attention to education in protracted crises

**Education is a lifeline for children in emergencies and protracted crises. The Funds promoted vital investments in quality education as a means to shape the future of communities and to foster social stability.** In 2020, the Funds supported innovative solutions to ensure uninterrupted learning for children in the COVID-19 environment. From establishing safe learning spaces in South Sudan to producing self-learning materials in Iraq and Afghanistan to initiating remote learning programmes in oPt, the Funds empowered humanitarian partners to innovate and enhance access to education for children in protracted crises aggravated by the pandemic. In 2020, CBPFs allocated 3.6 per cent (\$33 million of total amount allocated) to emergency education projects, benefiting an estimated 292K girls and 309K boys.



### Supporting innovative education solutions for children in Iraq

The COVID-19 outbreak in Iraq weakened an education system already undermined by years of conflict. Due to the lockdown, more than nine million students lost access to school-based

education. The Iraq Humanitarian Fund looked into innovative modalities, allocating \$1.5 million to partners to produce self-learning materials for children in remote, hard to reach locations, and to support the Ministry of Education Federal Education TV Channel in the production of programmes covering the official curricula as well as topics such as psychosocial wellbeing and COVID-19 prevention and awareness.

## Promoting consideration of, and response to, protection risks

**Protection is a major concern in all humanitarian crises. The Funds ensured that protection is mainstreamed across, and central to, response strategies.** A study conducted by NRC in 2020 on protection financing commended the Funds not only for their support to protection activities, but also for their role as a strategic catalyst in driving increases in funding to the sector. In 2020, the Funds allocated some 10.6 per cent of total amount allocation (\$96.6 million for protection activities), targeting nearly 3.4 million people.

### Providing psychological services for populations injured in the armed conflict in Yemen

In 2020, some 24 million Yemenis, 80 per cent of the entire population, required some form of humanitarian or protection assistance. The situation was further exacerbated by COVID-19, heavy rains and flooding, escalating conflict and collapse in the value of local currency. In parallel, the humanitarian response remained hugely underfunded, with two of the UN's major lifesaving programmes forced to close, and key components in 14 others suspended. The Yemen Humanitarian Fund made \$5 million available to support critically underfunded protection programmes. The funding supported partners to provide referral and specialized protection and psychological services for populations injured as a result of armed conflict. 20 safe spaces and two shelters were established to protect 238,000 women and girls, who also benefited from livelihoods activities.



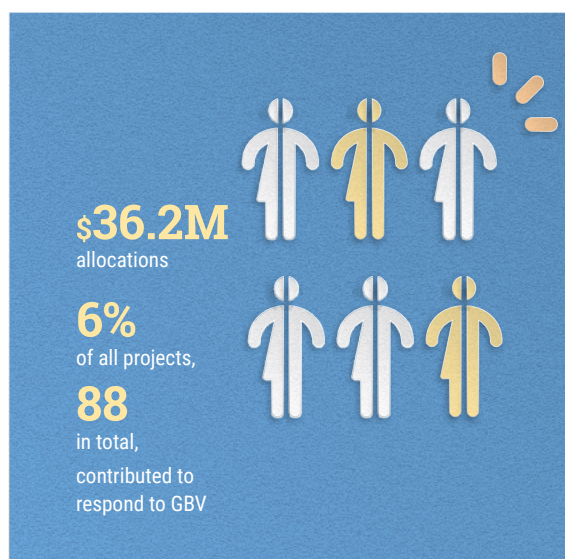


## Supporting women and girls and addressing gender based violence

**In 2020, the Funds championed support for women and girls in a myriad of ways, from including gender experts in project reviews to GBV specific funding allocations to developing guidance.** In 2020 the Funds increased consideration of GBV in allocation strategies, increasing visibility of GBV as a key concern and highlighting the need for additional attention and resources within the wider response.

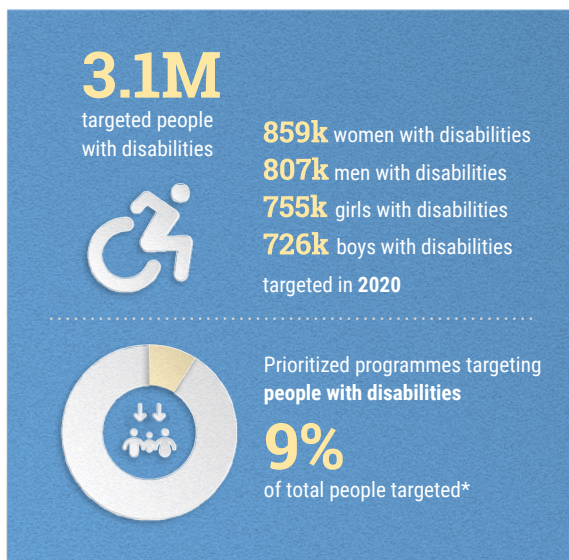
**In 2020, the Funds directed 64.5 per cent (\$586 million) of the total amount allocated to projects contributing to gender equality, including across age groups,** in accordance with the IASC Gender with Age Marker (GAM) assessment. CBPFs allocated \$36.2 million to projects that included GBV programming, this is 4 per cent of total allocations compared to 3.7 per cent in 2019.

**Beyond this, the Funds strengthened participation of Women-led/Womens Rights Organizations, and fostered greater consideration of gender in prioritisation strategies, funding decisions and opportunities to promote change.** The Funds actively promoted women's participation in governance arrangements: across the 18 funds in 2020, women represented international NGOs in 12 Advisory Boards and local and national partners in 11. OCHA established a Pooled Fund Gender Contact Group - bringing together gender and GBV experts to provide advice on making the Pooled Funds more gender responsive and influential on the wider system.



### Preventing GBV in South Sudan

In South Sudan, the cumulative effects of years of prolonged conflict, chronic vulnerabilities and weak essential services have left 7.5 million people – more than two thirds of the population – in need of humanitarian assistance. Serious protection concerns continue, with affected populations expressing fear over persistent insecurity, abuse, human rights violations and gender-based violence (GBV). In 2020, the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund established a funding envelope of \$2 million dedicated to GBV prevention, mitigation and response for affected women and girls. Activities included the provision of dignity kits, awareness raising and behavioural change initiatives, and the establishment of safe and friendly spaces for women and girls.



## Addressing the needs of people with disabilities

**In emergencies, people with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and fall through the cracks in humanitarian response. CBPFs made considerable efforts to ensure that their response is inclusive of the needs of people with disabilities.** Through supporting inclusive needs assessments and influencing coordination mechanisms, CBPFs played a significant role in lowering the barriers people with disabilities face in benefitting from humanitarian assistance and protection. In 2020, CBPF partners supported 3.1 million people with disabilities which is 9 per cent of total people targeted.


**In the spirit of continuous improvement, OCHA has taken steps to foster reflection and to make the CBPFs more inclusive.** In 2020, OCHA established a Pooled Fund Disability Contact Group, bringing together disability practitioners and technical experts, to provide guidance to OCHA to strengthen policy and practice.

### Promoting the use of inclusive data systems in DRC

To enhance participation of people with disabilities in the planning and implementation of humanitarian response in DRC, and their access to assistance, the Humanitarian Fund allocated \$0.8 million to promote strategies and data systems that are inclusive and accountable to people with disabilities and other groups of people facing discrimination. Activities include training of cluster coordinators on issues of disability and inclusion in humanitarian action, data collection mechanisms, support to local and national actors in the implementation of inclusion activities, and community sensitization about disability through local media.

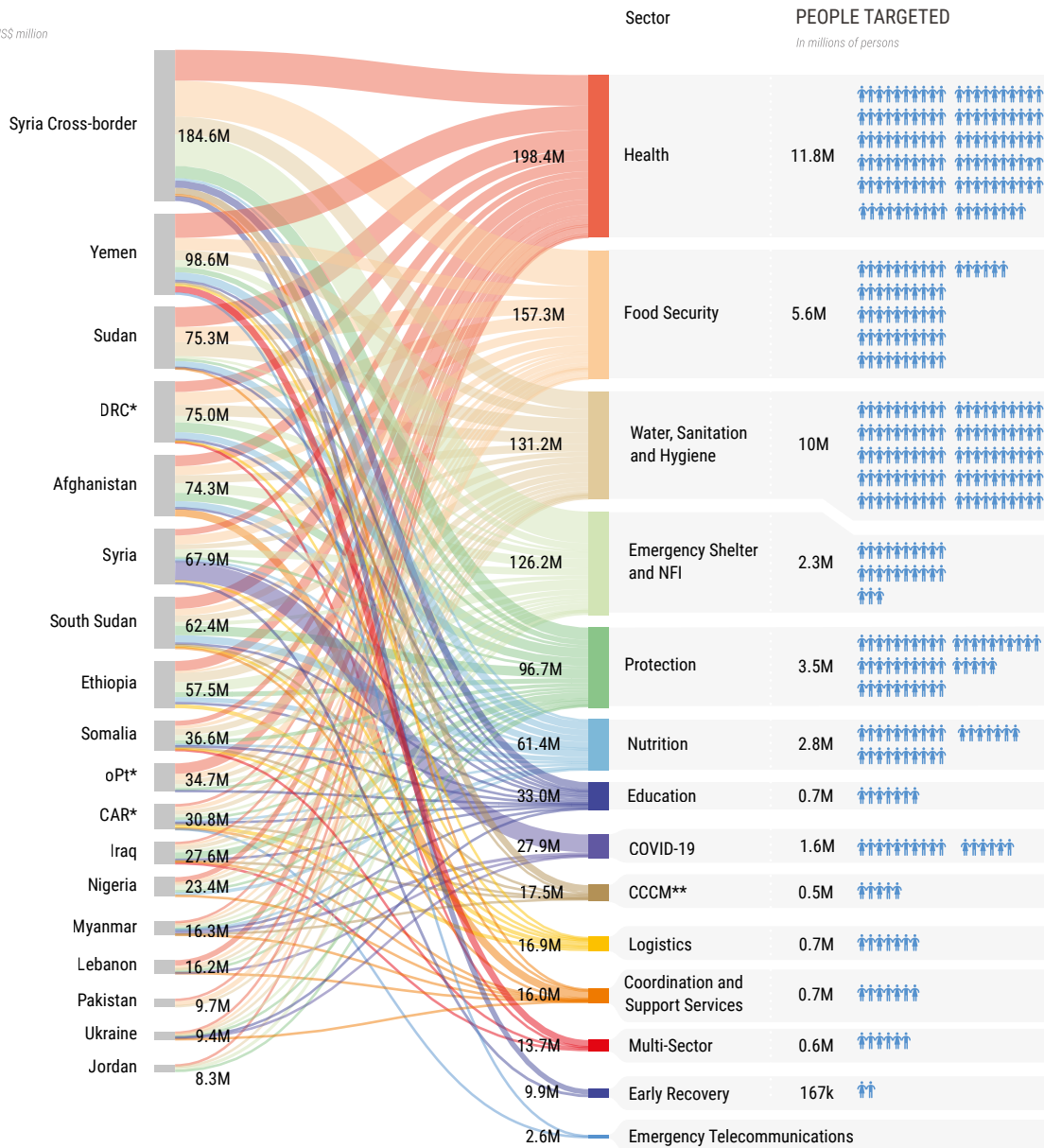
## RESULTS AT A GLANCE

In 2020, CBPFs in 18 countries provided life-saving aid, including food, clean water, shelter, health care, protection support and other assistance to millions of women, men, girls and boys.

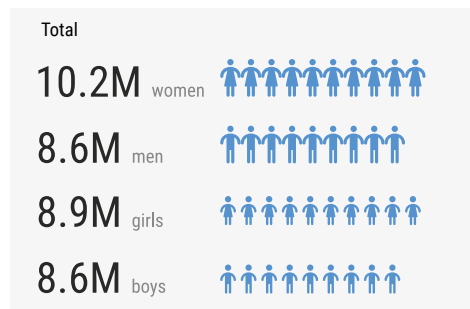
 **\$909M**  
ALLOCATIONS

 **36.3M**  
PEOPLE TARGETED

*In US\$ million*



\* CAR: Central African Republic  
 DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo  
 oPt: occupied Palestinian territory  
 \*\* CCCM: Camp Coordination and Camp Management





Top: In Lakes State, South Sudan, the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund supported Women Aid Vision (WAV) to provide safe and friendly spaces for women and girls, and individual and group psychosocial support. They also provided trainings for community volunteers to respond to GBV. Right: Rebecca, a volunteer with Women's Aid Vision in Lakes State, explains, "Women and girls are overworked... [and] at risk of sexual assault."

© OCHA South Sudan



## SOUTH SUDAN

# Big impact from simple solutions

Rebecca Atong lost her husband to communal violence and is now raising six children alone, in Yirol East County. Yet she still finds time to serve her community as a matron in her church, supporting women and girls affected by gender-based violence.

An increase in targeted attacks against women and girls during intercommunal fighting, as well as rising sexual violence in early 2020 towards displaced people and host community members in Lakes State, led Women Aid Vision (WAV) to provide safe and friendly spaces for women and girls, and individual and group psychosocial support. WAV selected Rebecca as a Community Volunteer for its GBV project.

"Women and girls in our community are overworked. They are expected to forage for roof thatching materials in the forests, which means walking long distances, putting them at risk of sexual assault." Rebecca also explains that at night women and girls are also vulnerable to sexual abuse - while using the toilet outside, or even while asleep in their homes when extended family members visit.

In June 2020, WAV ran a comprehensive case management training on GBV, where Rebecca learnt how to conduct a safe referral and how to disseminate information on



available services. Rebecca says, "We also learned some local risk mitigations, like collecting firewood or water in small groups, and encouraging adolescent girls to either stop moving around at night or to move with their closest brothers for safety. We have encouraged community members to practice these local solutions to avoid some of the GBV risks, and this has worked very well." Rebecca has noticed the difference in her community from simple solutions like providing women with solar-powered torches and menstrual kits.

With the support of the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, WAV activities in Lakes State enabled 1,667 women to access GBV services and safe spaces in 2020. Training community members to deliver vital services has meant that they in turn have strengthened access to health, psychosocial support, legal aid and security and safety services, as well as raising awareness through volunteer outreach and radio.





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

## Responding to the needs of people with disabilities

“Sometimes, you stop a bus and the driver says you can’t get on because you won’t be able to pay.” Venant Mataboro often experiences this situation when he goes to his workshop. He has been repairing shoes for many years in the city of Bukavu, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A father of five, Venant gets up every morning to support his family. With a crutch in his hand his days are often strewn with difficulties that are hardly visible to others. When he doesn’t earn enough to pay his return fare, he has to walk home. At his pace, every kilometre takes a long time.

Beyond the daily discrimination, lack of income, problems in getting enough food and physical barriers like almost non-existent pavements, COVID-19 has highlighted the inequalities and vulnerabilities faced by people like Venant with limited mobility.

Since the first coronavirus case was confirmed in the DRC in March 2020, some protection measures have been implemented in the country. However, people with disabilities have experienced new barriers. Getting water, using sanitation facilities or

Venant in his workshop. He has been a shoemaker for many years in the city of Bukavu, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. His days have difficulties that are not always visible to others.

© Esther Nsapu.

obtaining public health information has become quite challenging. “I often go to the Uzima Health Centre. Every trip used to be a problem though, because there were no latrines adapted for people with disabilities,” explains Venant.

Taking into account the specific needs of vulnerable people and adapting services accordingly is crucial in the COVID-19 context. In 2020 TEARFUND, with funding from the DRC Humanitarian Fund, built good quality WASH infrastructure in 12 health centres for long term use, including by people with disabilities. In parallel, hygiene kits were provided to 1,200 vulnerable families, including those with disabilities.

An estimated 3.8 million people with disabilities needed assistance in the DRC in 2020. More than 620,000 people with disabilities, like Venant, were helped through HF funding. While this figure is more than double the number reached in 2019, much more needs to be done to ensure more effective humanitarian support for disabled people.



Water in Alteh camp. Residents were buying expensive bottled water and lacked basic water and sanitation facilities. BINAA, supported by the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, established a WASH project in the camp, providing trucking, latrines, and water tanks to ensure safe access to clean water and sanitation.

© Binaa for Development

## SYRIA

### **With the daily water supplies, people are less afraid of COVID**

When Yousef first came to Alteh camp in 2019, the camp did not have basic water and sanitation facilities. Many people displaced there were forced to buy expensive water. Living in a small tent with his wife and three children, Yousef is currently out of work.

When local partner BINAA established a WASH project in the camp - supported by the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund - living conditions for residents noticeably improved. Clean drinking water was provided regularly via trucking, and latrines and water tanks were set up to ensure people had safe and dignified access to sanitation.

Yousef still worries that in the current situation they need more support, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. When the first COVID cases were confirmed in northwest Syria in 2020, it caused panic and a lot of fear among the camp residents, especially as there was limited protection or even clear information about the virus. But now, with the increase in daily water supplies, the hygiene kits and better information, people are less afraid.



## AFGHANISTAN

## The benefits of cash assistance

Bibi Gul never planned to leave her home, but when conflict erupted five years ago, she and her husband took their children and fled. Now living in Ferozkoh in Ghor province, she found herself alone trying to support her family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My husband became addicted to heroin and for months he could not work. Then he left, and we haven’t heard from him since. We don’t even know if he is alive,” she said. Bibi Gul found work doing laundry and cleaning houses. “Everything we have comes from what I earn day-to-day. My monthly income is around 1,000-1,500 AFS (US \$13-\$20) and it’s not enough to provide the essentials.”

In addition to living in a new place with no social support networks, the challenges faced by displaced families have been intensified by the effects of the pandemic. “For the last five months, we have been living in a makeshift shelter, but I don’t know how much longer the landowner will allow us to stay here,” she explained.

Ghor is in the highlands of Afghanistan, with one of the harshest winter seasons in the country with heavy snow and biting winds.

“My oldest daughter is eleven. She helps by collecting cartons and plastic from the street for the heater,” said Bibi. “The long winter season is very harsh here and we have not been able to keep warm. I was afraid that my children would die or become very ill. I worried we would not make it through.”

AfghanAid provided Bibi Gul with urgently needed cash that enabled her to purchase a stove and fuel. The assistance, provided by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, keeps the family safe and warm. It also allows them to use their money to buy food and save something as a contingency to meet unforeseen needs. “I am so grateful to AfghanAid for coming to our aid. Now my children will have a warm room and I can keep them safe from illness.”

Bibi Gul fled violence in her hometown five years ago, bringing her children to Ferozkoh in Ghor province. Her work as a house cleaner is not enough to provide for her children, and the winters in Ghor are particularly harsh. Cash from the AHF and AfghanAid allowed Bibi Gul to purchase a stove and fuel and put some money aside for unforeseen future needs.

© OCHA  
Afghanistan



# GOVERNANCE

## Pooled Fund Working Group

**The Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) continued in its stewardship of the Country-based Pooled Funds, through its advice to OCHA on policy and strategic matters.** While unable to meet in person, the PFWG was able to increase the frequency and quality of engagement through an intense agenda of virtual meetings - including thematic webinars on key policy issues and “deep dive” discussions with certain Funds. The PFWG re-doubled its resolve to support to enhancements in the reach and effectiveness of the Funds, mindful of the impact of the global pandemic on humanitarian needs and aid flows, and of the unique positioning of CBPFs to optimize use of limited resources and promote improvements in the quality of assistance.

**In mid 2020, donor co-chair of the PFWG transitioned from Sweden to the United Kingdom.**

Sweden completed its tenure as co-chair having played a pivotal role in supporting important initiatives, notably the 2019 Global Evaluation of CBPFs and the transfer of the Managing Agent role from UNDP to OCHA in CAR, DRC, South Sudan and Sudan at the beginning of 2020. With the United Kingdom’s support as incoming co-chair from June 2020 the PFWG conducted five thematic webinars, making important contributions to defining the strategic direction for the Funds.

**The PFWG provided advice to OCHA in its formulation of the Management Response Plans to the 2019 Global Evaluation of CBPFs and the OCHA-NRC Study CBPFs – the NGO perspective.**

The Management Response Plans set out actions

in follow up to the findings and recommendations of both initiatives, shaping strategic priorities for CBPFs and for the CBPF Section at OCHA headquarters.

**The PFWG provided valuable feedback to steer OCHA’s efforts in relation to important aspects of policy and operations, as well as new initiatives.** The PFWG was instrumental in advising OCHA on the establishment of the Regionally-hosted Pooled Fund in Central and West Africa, the role of CBPFs in Anticipatory Action, and CBPF practices and opportunities in promoting localization. Conclusions and agreements reached in discussions will inform the update of the CBPFs Global Guidelines in 2021.

## CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform

**The CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform made important progress in coordination, outreach and communication across the NGO community on matters related to Country-based Pooled Fund.**

Financial support from Germany and Sweden helped to consolidate work of the Platform’s co-chair, NRC, and its Secretariat. NRC facilitated regular communication and consultation across the Platform’s ‘core group’, comprised of ADA South Sudan, ARDD Jordan, ICVA, IRC, Oxfam, Save the Children UK, Trocaire and WHH, thereby compiling and synthesizing the views and feedback of the wider NGO community in relation to the Funds.



Lamlam Abraha owned a hotel in Tigray region, Ethiopia. She and her daughters had to flee when violence broke out last year. "I will never forget that day...my daughters and I escaped, the heavy sound of the bullets around us, a sound like rain." They sought refuge at Um Rakoba refugee camp in Sudan. For now, Lemlem runs a coffee stand in the camp.

© Ibrahim Suleimann



SUDAN

## Running to save our own lives

"I might forget everything else, but I will never forget that day on which my daughters and I escaped with fire around us – everything was burning along the way, the heavy sound of the bullets around us, a sound like rain in Tigray," she says.

She and her family travelled on foot, living at first under trees and sleeping rough until arriving in Um Rakoba camp in November 2020. At first, the situation in the camp was very dire.

With funding from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund, international NGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH) has been scaling up its response to help the refugees in Um Rakoba, ensuring that the most vulnerable have drinkable water, safe and proper sanitation facilities, and sound awareness about hygiene-related issues, including for COVID-19 prevention.

WHH is also ensuring that refugees get timely support with emergency shelter and household supplies. The protection needs of women and children from both the refugee and local host communities are addressed through safe spaces and information on where to get help.

With shelter and sanitation support provided through Welthungerhilfe and the Sudan Humanitarian Fund, Lamlam and her children feel somewhat more stable.

"Although it is not my home, I feel as safe and comfortable as in Dansha, where my home is. I can sleep and not be afraid of scorpions or snakes. I am sure to find a place to sleep and materials to sleep on. I am sure to have a meal because I have cooking utensils, and I am sure to drink and shower because I have water storage, jerrycans and a place to shower without fear."



When in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic struck, OCHA was very fast in reaching out to NGOs through the CBPF-NGO Dialogue Platform to consult on measures that would enable partners to continue reaching those most in need. New needs had emerged, but old ones had not disappeared – it was vital to find ways to respond rapidly and effectively, leaving no one behind.

– Cecilia Roselli, Director of Humanitarian Policy and Representation Office in Geneva

### Two large surveys were conducted across the Platform's members, to guide the work of the co-chair and the Secretariat.

One concerned NGOs' experiences in the implementation of the COVID-19 flexibility measures, which helped provide valuable feedback to OCHA in assessing the impact of the measures. The second identified NGOs' training needs and served as the basis for development of eLearning modules on CBPFs, to be launched in 2021.

The Platform conducted two online events, to discuss OCHA's COVID-19 flexibility measures and its Management Response Plan to the OCHA-NRC study titled "CBPFs, the NGO perspective." Both events were attended by over 200 NGO representatives from around the world, reflecting the strong engagement across the Platform's global membership on important issues related to the Funds' policy and operations.

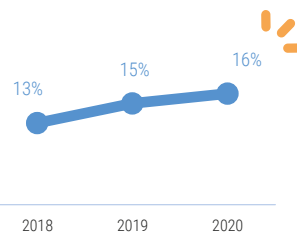
# PERFORMANCE

**The management of the Funds at the country level is guided by five key performance principles: inclusiveness, flexibility, timeliness, efficiency, and accountability and risk management.** A common set of indicators for each principle gauges performance. A concise overview is provided here, and detailed reporting for each CBPF can be found in respective annual reports here: <http://bit.ly/CBPF2020AR>.

## INCREASING INCLUSIVENESS

**In 2020, the Funds continued to promote inclusiveness and diversity in governance arrangements, allocation processes, management, and administration.** The Funds strengthened representation of local and national partners in Advisory Boards, to be represented with the same number of seats as international NGOs and UN agencies.

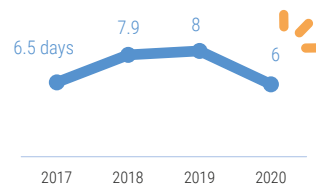
### PROPORTION OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL PARTNER REPRESENTATIVES IN ADVISORY BOARDS



## IMPROVING TIMELINESS

**In 2020, CBPFs continued to improve disbursement timelines, to provide funds when and where most needed.** Speed of disbursement is a key performance metric, reflecting the aim to meet top priority, time-critical needs. In 2020 disbursement timelines shortened as compared to the previous year, and better than the global target. Funding was disbursed in record six days, compared to eight days in 2019.

### AVERAGE WORKING DAYS OF DISBURSEMENT PROCESSING



## ENHANCING FLEXIBILITY

**In 2020, the Funds made strides in enhancing their flexibility - identifying new measures to sustain and adapt humanitarian operations to the COVID environment.** This allowed partners to be more responsive, scaling up and re-programming activities to meet evolving needs and overcoming operational challenges. The measures also allowed projects to be re-purposed to respond swiftly to emerging needs as result of the COVID-19 outbreak, in accordance with new restrictions put in place by the authorities which affected the ability to implement activities as planned.

**The Funds promoted cash-based programming as a flexible and efficient response option where feasible, for both COVID-19-related and other humanitarian needs.** In 2020 \$89 million, 10 per cent of the total amount allocated, supported cash projects, of which the majority (70 per cent) involved unconditional and unrestricted cash transfers. This is an increase from 2019 when \$63 million was provided through cash assistance programmes, equivalent to 6 per cent of the total amount allocated.

## PROMOTING EFFICIENCY

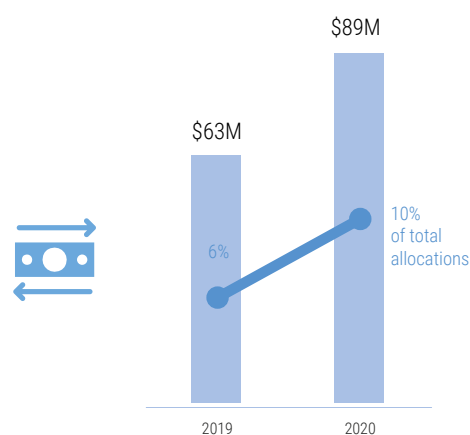
**In 2020, the Funds continued to promote efficiencies. They ensured value for money in Fund management by ensuring effective disbursement mechanisms and minimizing transaction costs.** In 2020 the cost of OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Units was equivalent to just 3.6 per cent of the total amount allocated. Management costs are defined in consultation with the Advisory Board, taking into consideration the size of the Fund and the operational environment.

## ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

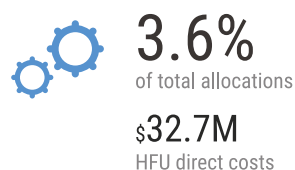
**In 2020, OCHA continued to enhance its risk management practices, building their effectiveness and ability to partner with increasing numbers of actors.** OCHA ensured that resources were safeguarded by adapting to contextual risks and through the implementation of robust management and oversight systems.

Continued progress was made in implementing the suite of capacity assessments, programmatic monitoring, financial spot checks and project audits. In 2020, 91 per cent of projects that were identified for monitoring were examined.

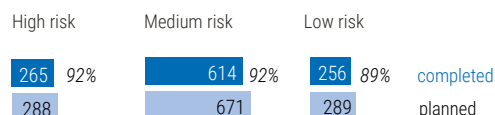
### CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING



### HFU DIRECT COST IN PROPORTION TO ALLOCATIONS



### PROGRESS ON MONITORING ACTIVITIES



# MANAGEMENT

Throughout 2020 important progress was made in strengthening the management of the Funds, including clarifying program approaches, simplifying processes, strengthening risk management and enhancing information management. This work was grounded in findings and recommendations from the Global Evaluation of CBPFs and the OCHA-NRC Study on the NGO Perspective of CBPFs and will be consolidated in the coming year.



## Clarifying program approaches

**In 2020, efforts focused on reviewing program approaches in key areas where the Funds can strengthen their leadership, such as localization, complementarity, underfunded priorities and anticipatory action.** Lessons learned were identified, and ways in which new guidance and the alignment of practices can drive wider improvements in the quality of humanitarian assistance. In the year ahead, OCHA will finalize the compilation of good practices for incorporation in updated Global Guidelines.



## Strengthening compliance

**In 2020, major steps were taken to enhance compliance, strengthening approaches and protocols.** Efforts focused on updating procedures for handling cases of suspected or alleged Fraud and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse involving partners. This involved continuing customization of the on-line Grant Management System (GMS) to enhance real-time tracking and management of incidents. Investigative capacity was strengthened through improved collaboration with OIOS, and expanded capabilities to carry out forensic audits.



## Simplifying processes and tools

**Important progress was made in enhancing flexibility and agility in the Funds' operations. This involved streamlining processes and simplifying tools and templates in order to improve the speed and efficiency of allocations.** In 2020, OCHA continued building the complementary and coherent use of CBPF and CERF through the harmonization of proposal and reporting templates. Another major step taken was the introduction of flexibility measures for the COVID-19 response, ensuring the Funds were fit for purpose in responding quickly in a new and complex operating environment. Processes will continue to be refined in 2021.



## Enhancing data visualization and information

**2020 saw the development of the Pooled Fund Data Hub, a one-step data visualization platform for both CBPFs and CERF, enhancing real time information for stakeholders.** The public-domain Data Hub includes extensive information about donor contributions, allocations, partners and project portfolios. It allows users to customise queries easily, according to their areas of interest. At the same time, OCHA took forward its work on a harmonised Grant Management System for CERF and CBPFs (OneGMS), which will improve the user experience for partners throughout the project cycle, and enhance the ability to analyse trends across the portfolios of the two Pooled Funds.





Kinshasa, December 2020. A child receives food from a mobile canteen supported by the HF-funded partner Mdecins du Monde Belgique.  
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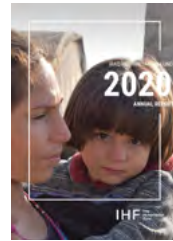
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Full reports are available here: <http://bit.ly/CBPF2020AR>

# DONATE



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



Individuals, corporations and foundations can visit <http://bit.ly/GiveToCBPFs> to contribute directly to CBPFs.



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

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# DATA & ANALYSIS

For real-time contribution and allocation data with easy-to-use filters and views please visit the Pooled Fund Data Hub:

<https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/>





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**CBPF** Country-based  
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