



THE STORY

2014 saw growing numbers of people hit by crises, with many different and multi-dimensional needs requiring many different resources. 2015's global processes offer a unique opportunity to work together towards a vision of adequate and appropriate resources for people to prepare for, withstand and recover from crises. Sudan and South Sudan were among the countries with protracted and recurrent crises where humanitarian needs rose during 2014. These women are Sudanese refugees collecting water at Doro refugee camp in Maban County, South Sudan. As well as responding to the needs of around 7.3 million South Sudanese people, humanitarian actors also struggled to assist over 200,000 Sudanese refugees living in South Sudan.

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INTRODUCTION

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The spotlight is on financing to address crisis, vulnerability and risk as never before. This is for two reasons – the urgent challenge of attempting to meet rising humanitarian needs with limited resources, and the unique opportunities to find solutions presented by a suite of global processes in 2015 and 2016. The Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) Report 2015 provides the evidence to understand the former and to inform the latter.

The challenge of rising needs is caused by both increased numbers of people affected by crisis and the broadening scope of what humanitarian action is for. In other words, as well as trying to reach the growing caseload of people hit by crises including in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Western Africa (see Chapters 1, 2 and 4), resources are required to address a greater spectrum of needs – from disaster risk reduction to protracted response and recovery (see Chapters 6 and 7). Despite record levels of international assistance, available resources cannot keep up with all of the requirements everywhere. The problem of shortfalls persists. While it is clear that meeting people's needs depends on many factors other than money – including access and appropriate capacity – a needs-based response also cannot happen without the right quality and quantity of funding.

The solutions lie both within and beyond humanitarian financing. This is why the global processes in 2015 and 2016 are so important. Within humanitarian financing, there is a need to improve sufficiency and efficiency – sufficiency being increased resources from diverse donors (see Chapter 3) and efficiency being smarter means of delivering them (see Chapters 5 and 7).

Beyond humanitarian assistance there is a need to understand and better mobilise other resources, both public and private – such as domestic, development, climate and security-related resources – in order to end poverty, reduce vulnerability and build resilience (see Chapter 8). After all, people need international humanitarian assistance only when the other resources available to them prove inadequate. Where adequate provisions exist, a shock does not become a humanitarian crisis and a crisis does not become chronic. In light of this, there have been calls for international humanitarian assistance to refocus its attention on what is 'mission critical,' and for others (including providers of development, private and domestic resources) to step up to address protracted and underlying needs – as well as, in some cases, crisis response.

The Syria conflict (see Chapter 7), Typhoon Haiyan and the Ebola virus disease outbreak (see Chapter 3) have highlighted the need for, and emergence of, responses that combine many different types of resources according to the nature of the crisis, existing capacities and context. These were very different crises (conflict, natural hazard and disease) in very different political, economic and geographic contexts, pointing to the roles that national governments, the private sector, development assistance and different configurations of humanitarian donors might play. No one crisis will mirror another and therefore the mix of resources will always need to vary to fully address the needs. Throughout this report we therefore draw comparisons and distinctions between conflict and natural hazard settings, between the income level and coping capacity in affected states and between the phase and duration of response.

Ultimately, whatever context people find themselves in, they should have the right resources to prepare for, withstand and become resilient to crises – no one should be left behind. With 93% of those people in extreme poverty (below \$1.25 a day) living in countries that are politically fragile or environmentally vulnerable or both (see Chapter 1), the need to address poverty, vulnerability, risk and crisis together is clear. The needs of people affected by crisis are multi-dimensional and so the collective test of effectiveness for all actors should be the same: impact on the inter-connected needs of affected populations.

The outcomes of the 2015 and 2016 global processes and their implementation could offer the potential to bring together the disparate development, humanitarian, disaster risk and climate communities around this vision and to mobilise the means of financing it. While all of the ongoing global processes refer to aspects of risk and

resilience to some extent, and some links are being made, they have varying degrees of relevance to financing and coherence with one another. For example, the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction set targets for disaster risk reduction, but with no accompanying financing plan; and the World Humanitarian Summit will not produce inter-governmental agreements but is likely to prompt a number of discrete initiatives on humanitarian financing.

What all of these processes do, however, have in common is the need for timely, comprehensive and transparent data – data on who is in need of what, where, as well as what resources are and could be available to meet those needs (see Chapter 9). This report aims to provide a shared and independent evidence base from the available data and to highlight where and how better data could be provided. We hope that this will inform both the ongoing global deliberations and the daily context-specific decisions faced by those working to best direct their resources to meet the needs of people in crisis.

