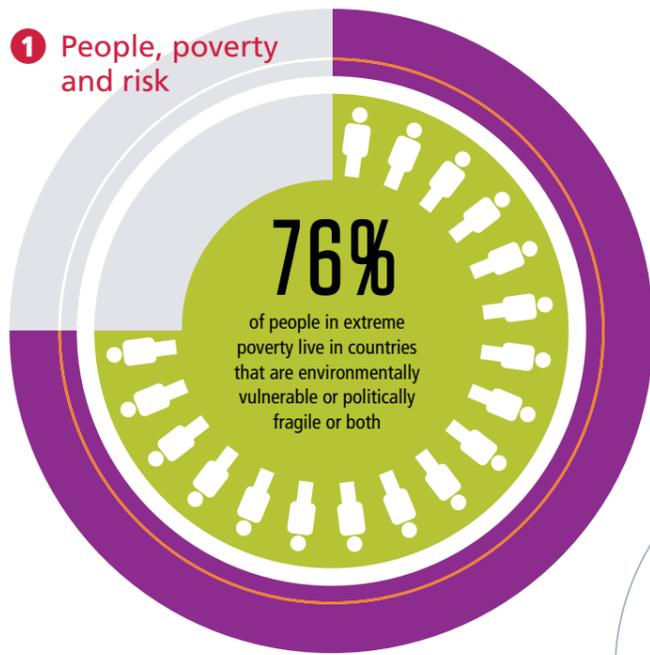


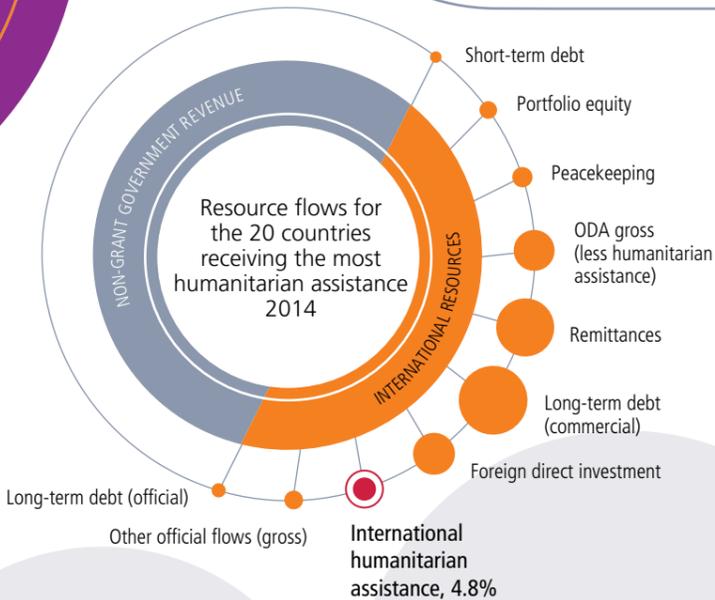
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS

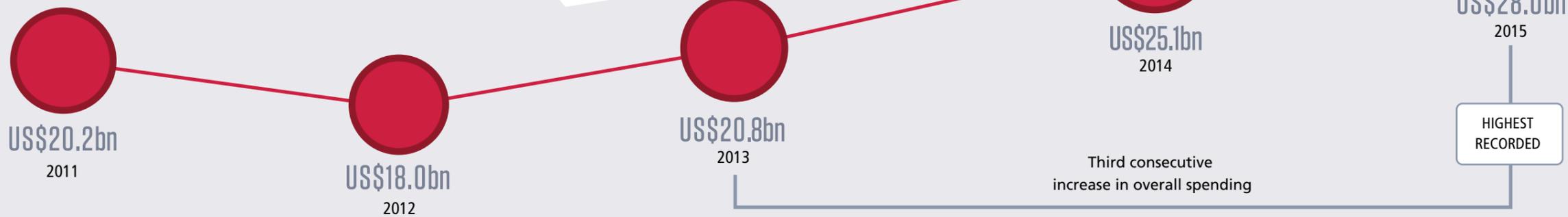
1 People, poverty and risk



2 The financing context

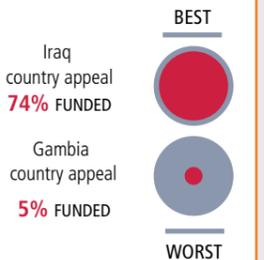


3 Total international humanitarian assistance*

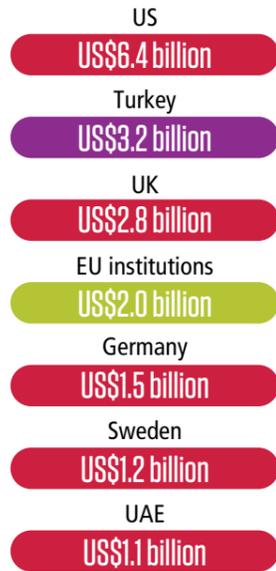


4 UN-coordinated appeals, 2015

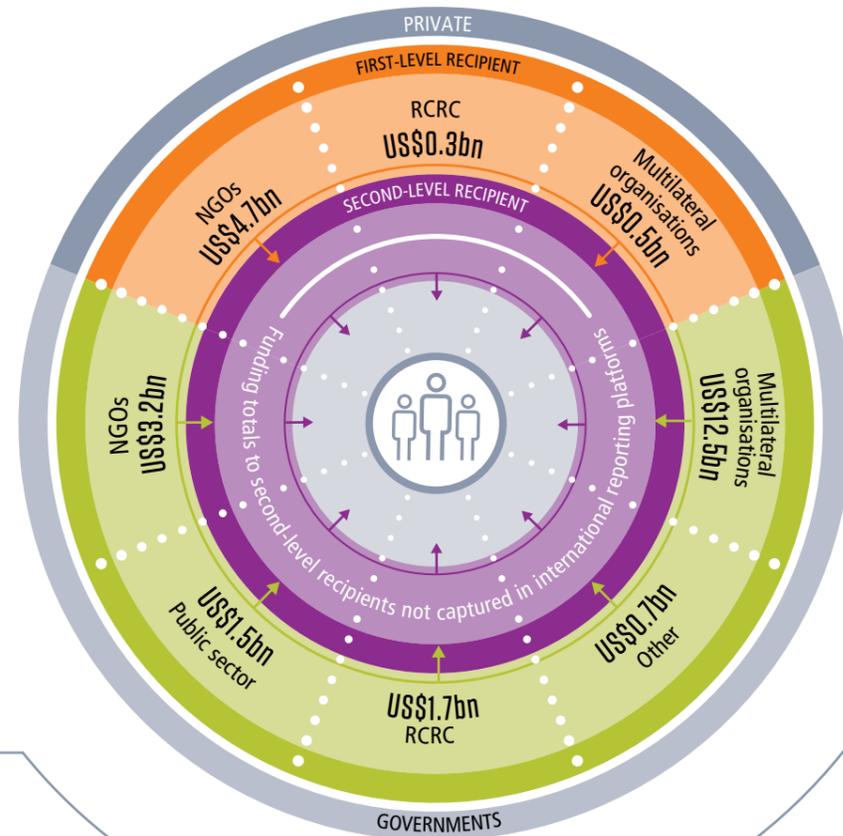
45% SHORTFALL
Largest to date



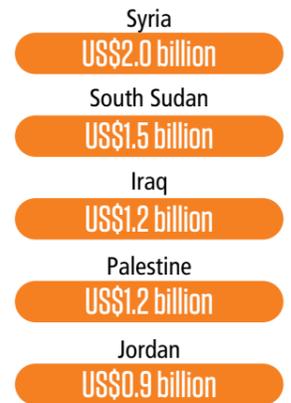
5 Donors, 2015** (largest volumes)



6 First-level channels of funding, 2014



7 Recipient countries, 2014



Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data, UN OCHA FTS, UN CERF, UNCTAD, UNHCR, World Bank data, SIPRI, IMF and Development Initiatives' unique dataset for private voluntary contributions. Notes: For full details of methodology, see the *Methodology and definitions*.
*Data consists only of humanitarian assistance directed internationally by donors. **Contributions of EU member states include an imputed

amount of the EU institutions' expenditure. EU institutions are also included separately for comparison and are shaded differently to distinguish from government donors. Turkey is shaded differently because the humanitarian assistance it voluntarily reports to the DAC is largely comprised of expenditure on hosting Syrian refugees within Turkey so is not strictly comparable with the international humanitarian assistance totals from other donors in this figure.

Executive summary

People living in poverty are hardest hit by disasters and insecurity, which in turn make them more vulnerable to future shocks and deeper poverty. At least 76% of people living in extreme poverty – around 677 million people – are estimated to live in countries that are either politically fragile, environmentally vulnerable or both. However, the real number is likely to be much higher, since it is often those most at risk who are missing from poverty data.

As conflicts continued in 2015, including in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and South Sudan, those living in forced displacement reached another record high of over 65 million people, with most displaced people remaining in middle- or low-income countries in their own regions. In the same year, disasters caused by natural hazards affected an estimated 89 million people. This included those affected by large-scale, sudden-onset emergencies such as the Nepal earthquake, though less high-profile and localised events undoubtedly affected many more.

In the face of such human suffering, the World Humanitarian Summit and other global processes have intensified the search for new types and scales of financing, efficiencies and good practice to make finite humanitarian resources go further and bring about better results for crisis-affected people. However, international humanitarian assistance is neither sufficient nor appropriate to address the full spectrum of people's needs and vulnerabilities in crisis contexts.

Addressing these needs requires a wide range of resources and a sophisticated financing toolkit ranging from insurance for natural hazards, to concessional loans and guarantees for long-term refugee hosting. Not all tools will work everywhere, but combining finance streams and approaches that are right for the context, timed to anticipate and prevent crises, scaled appropriately, and targeted at the right people can mitigate the escalation of high-risk situations into humanitarian crises.

Domestic governments have the primary responsibility to prepare for and respond to crises in their own territories and often invest significant resources in doing so. Many governments invest significant amounts in national disaster risk reduction and response, while refugee hosting is another crucial domestic element of humanitarian response. However, counting the contributions of all governments to support refugees in-country is complex and there is no single platform that captures this expenditure. More transparent and comparable data is needed to inform predictable, durable and equitable financing solutions to support refugees and host communities.

International resources, both private and public, can be critical in supporting the investments of local, national and regional actors to address risk, build resilience and respond to protracted crises. In 2014, official development assistance, excluding humanitarian funding, accounted for an aggregate 12% of known international flows to the recipients of the most humanitarian assistance.

International humanitarian assistance accounted for just 4.8% of all international flows to the recipients of the most humanitarian assistance in 2014. While small in comparison to other investments, it remains a vital resource for many people affected by crises. As such, international humanitarian assistance has continued to grow year on year, reaching a record high of US\$28.0 billion in 2015. This is the third consecutive annual rise – though less pronounced than increases in recent years.

Rises in humanitarian funding came from both government and private donors, who increased their respective contributions by an estimated 11% and 13% from the previous year. In 2015, 20 government donors contributed 97% of all international government contributions. The largest percentage increases have come from governments in the Middle East and North of Sahara region, a rise of almost 500% since 2011, mainly driven by contributions from Gulf states in response to crises in the Middle East.

International humanitarian assistance increased in 2015 for the third consecutive year, reaching a record high of US\$28.0 billion.

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While overall humanitarian funding increased in 2015, the gap between requirements and contributions to UN-coordinated appeals grew. The amount requested through UN appeals stood at US\$19.8 billion, a slight decrease from the previous year; but contributions fell by considerably more, leaving an unprecedented shortfall of 45% (US\$8.9 billion) – a funding gap that played out very differently from country to country.

Humanitarian funding in 2015, both inside and outside of the appeals, was increasingly concentrated in a relatively small group of emergencies. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Financial Tracking Service (FTS), five crises – in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Iraq and Sudan – accounted for more than half of all funding allocated to specific emergencies. This is in contrast to 2011 and 2012, when the five largest crises received around one third of the total.

The annual list of persistently underfunded or 'neglected emergencies' frequently features the same countries year on year. The priority crises in the EC's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)'s Forgotten Crisis Assessment index for 2015 included Algeria/Western Sahara and Myanmar, both of which have appeared on the index every year since 2004.

Long-term crises continue to absorb the largest volumes of international humanitarian assistance. In 2014, 91% of official humanitarian assistance from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors went to long- and medium-term recipients, reinforcing the rationale for more multi-annual humanitarian planning and financing.

How funding reaches crisis-affected populations has implications for the efficiency and effectiveness of the assistance provided. In 2014, around two-thirds of funding from government donors was channelled via multilateral organisations, mostly to the six major humanitarian-related UN agencies. Despite calls and commitments for more support to local actors, data from the FTS shows that funding channelled directly to local and national non-government organisations (NGOs) remains low, accounting for just 0.4% of international humanitarian assistance in 2015.

Pooled funding continues to play an important role in humanitarian financing. UN-led humanitarian pooled funds mobilised US\$1.3 billion in 2015, a 28% rise from the previous year. Investments in country-based pooled funds grew in particular, with an increase in funding of almost 50% in 2015 from the previous year.

Flexible financing is understood to bring a number of benefits. However, the proportion of fully unearmarked contributions to UN agencies received from government donors decreased from 24% in 2012 to 16% in 2014; and unearmarked funding for NGOs represented just 8% of the overall funding they received in 2014.

Greater transparency and traceability of funding could bring efficiency gains and improve accountability to crisis-affected populations. Likewise, an overview of all relevant resources in crisis situations, including and beyond humanitarian assistance, could improve the targeting of resources to those most in need. Better reporting to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) Standard provides an opportunity for achieving this.

91% of official humanitarian assistance in 2014 went to long- and medium-term recipients, including both recurrent and protracted crises.



THE STORY

Kambia, Sierra Leone
April 2015

Albert Foday-Kamara (left), and Bai Turay, from the national health ministry, work with the Kambia district health management team, overseeing the storeroom housing the burial team's equipment.

CREDIT

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INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Poverty, vulnerability and humanitarian need continue to challenge the world's capacity to prevent, respond to and rebuild after crises. At the same time, global processes from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to the Sustainable Development Goals and the World Humanitarian Summit have demonstrated an appetite for change and instigated a major rethink of the way that financing is delivered in crisis settings. A more diverse and complex financing landscape is emerging. This is promising in the creative solutions that it offers, but also potentially challenging – more complicated to navigate and more difficult to keep track of the relevant funding flows and their impact on vulnerable populations.

This year's Global Humanitarian Assistance (GHA) report is designed to respond to exactly that challenge. Development Initiatives (DI) is an independent and objective organisation that has been producing the GHA report every year since 2000. With each edition we seek to add value by making complex data and information on poverty, crises and the financial resources to tackle them clearer, more accessible and easier to act on. This year, we have updated the structure and content of the report to reflect the critical issues and approaches that have emerged over the last twelve months.

As in previous years, the GHA Report 2016 provides a clear guide to the critical questions of how much humanitarian assistance there is, where it comes from, where it is spent and how it gets there. It also provides analysis on other areas that are critical in the context of the global shifts outlined above. For example, it shows that chronic poverty and vulnerability to crises are closely linked, and provides new analysis on the diversity and scale of resources already at play in preventing and responding to emergencies. It also looks in detail at some of the ways that the efficiency and effectiveness of financing in crisis situations could be improved, such as multi-year approaches in protracted crisis situations, more traceable funding to improve the accountability of the response to crisis-affected people, and flexible financing through unearmarked contributions.

Looking at the funding in such detail reveals the need for much stronger data on both the resources themselves and their impact on vulnerable people. It is clear that much more comprehensive and comparable data is required in a number of areas, including domestic contributions for crisis prevention and response, funding for local and national actors, and spending on cash-based programming.

This year's GHA report provides a strong independent evidence base for all those involved in making decisions that lead to better outcomes for people affected by crises. It also aims to contribute to and prompt further efforts to improve the quality of information and its use.

2015 and 2016 were important years in terms of setting out a clear agenda to end poverty and reduce the impact of crises on the most vulnerable people; however, the years to come will be much more critical, as the journey to put those commitments into practice begins in earnest. The GHA Report 2016 is part of our contribution to that process. We look forward to the conversations that the report is designed to instigate and inform, as well as your feedback on how we can keep providing better data and analysis to increase the resilience of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people and ensure that no one is left behind.

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