

Securing humanitarian assistance

Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance



Displaced women and children stay warm around a campfire in Nangarhar, eastern Afghanistan.

(Nangarhar; November 2023) © UN-Women/Sayed Habib Bedill

What we do

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

Our team

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction



A supply shipment arrives at the Port-au-Prince airport in Haiti.

(Port-au-Prince; May 2024) © UNICEF/Herold Joseph



“Each year, the humanitarian community is called on to do more, but the funding gap is vast. To stem the rising tide, we must innovate, share the burden and put crisis-affected people at the heart of our efforts.”

Martin Griffiths,
former Under-Secretary-General
for Humanitarian Affairs and
Emergency Relief Coordinator

Context

Humanitarian crises soared in 2023 and were devastating for the most vulnerable people. Those crises severely strained the global humanitarian system and **disproportionately affected women and children**. Conflict, disease and disasters were amplified by climate change, causing record levels of displacement and hunger and a risk of famine – even in areas that had never before been at risk. **International humanitarian law and human rights violations continued with impunity**, including attacks on civilians, hospitals, humanitarian aid and schools. **More United Nations aid workers died in 2023 than ever in history**.

Our goals

Alongside our partners, **we coordinate neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian responses** to the world’s worst crises. **We alleviate human suffering** and provide timely and life-saving assistance. We promote adherence to humanitarian principles and respect for international humanitarian and human rights law. We **mobilize anticipatory,**

evidence-based approaches to early action and rapid response as part of effective coordination. We also convene Governments, partners and communities **to reduce disaster risk and losses**.

Our achievements

In 2023, we coordinated humanitarian assistance that **reached over 128 million people in 74 countries**, representing 62 per cent of total identified humanitarian needs. This work was enabled by donors, who **provided nearly \$23 billion of the over \$56 billion needed** in total. While substantial, that amount was still well below the \$30 billion provided in 2022. This **record funding shortfall** forced us to make difficult prioritization decisions to meet the most urgent needs.

Our largest operations supported humanitarian responses to protracted crises. We coordinated assistance for over 27 million people in Afghanistan and 11 million people in Ukraine. We also supported responses to newly emerging or intensified crises, such as in the Sudan, where we coordinated support for 8 million people. **Our coordination and response efforts were essential in alleviating human suffering for millions of people** in Yemen and in the Horn of Africa. We also supported the global response to devastating earthquakes in Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye and cholera outbreaks and floods in Libya, Malawi and Mozambique.

Our support for coordination of humanitarian assistance

\$23B

mobilized in humanitarian assistance

245M+

people targeted for assistance

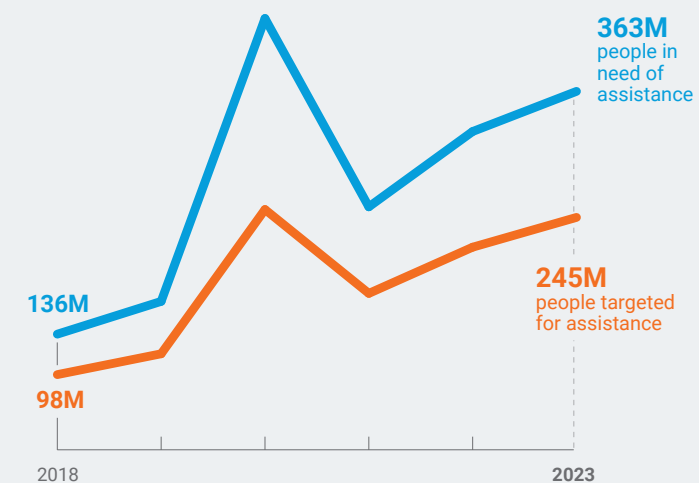
128M+

people assisted

74

countries affected and in need of humanitarian assistance

Humanitarian needs continue to rise 363M+ people in need in 2023



“The impact of disasters is increasingly eroding development gains, with dire consequences for people, society and the ecosystems on which we depend. Our task is to accelerate, bringing a dramatic shift from managing disasters to managing risk.”

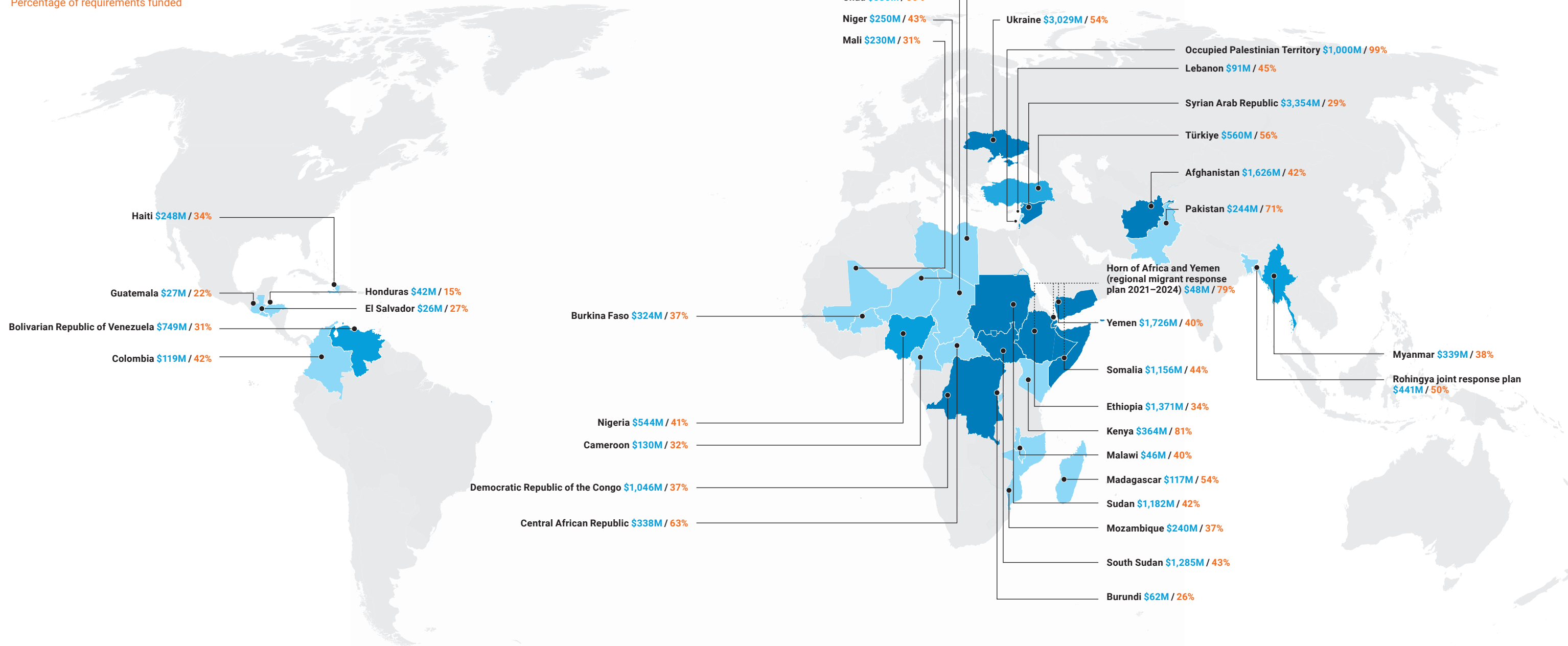
Kamal Kishore,
Special Representative of
the Secretary-General for
Disaster Risk Reduction

In 2023, the United Nations helped to mobilize \$23 billion of the \$56 billion needed to assist 128 million people in 74 countries and territories

Humanitarian funding received

- <\$500M in funding
- \$500M to \$1B in funding
- >\$1B in funding

Percentage of requirements funded



The depiction and use of boundaries and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Note: Funding totals and percentages include humanitarian response plans, regional response plans, emergency response plans and flash appeals.



United Nations personnel assess and evacuate patients at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip.

(Khan Yunis; February 2024) © Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Support provided to the Occupied Palestinian Territory required substantial and sustained humanitarian operations. The Secretary-General **also appointed a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator** and presented options to monitor humanitarian pauses and corridors. **Despite the death of over 200 colleagues, the United Nations continued to deliver humanitarian assistance to people in Gaza.**

We delivered time-sensitive humanitarian assistance to address record levels of food insecurity and avert escalation to famine. Devastation and destruction, whether caused by humans or nature, invariably led to hunger and sickness. In response, **we facilitated the delivery of food, cash and voucher assistance to 120 million people globally, as well as agriculture assistance to 30 million people.** For instance, our crop seed programme in the Sudan yielded food that fed over 13 million people for seven months.

We coordinated health assistance that reached 46 million people in 2023. That included support for over 3,500 health facilities with sexual and reproductive health services, health protection for 12 million people and gender-based violence prevention and response services for 4.2 million people. We also facilitated the delivery of over 2 million mental-health consultations to people affected by humanitarian crises.

Complex Risk Analytics Fund

The Complex Risk Analytics Fund is an innovative financing instrument that mobilizes \$20 million each year to unlock the potential of data for smarter crisis support. As a multilateral partnership, the Fund invests in cutting-edge analytics to help the United Nations family and its partners to anticipate, prevent and address emergencies. With a growing ecosystem that now encompasses over 120 partners and 40,000 users worldwide, data supported by the Fund already enhance over \$12 billion in international assistance – ensuring that aid reaches people earlier, faster and in a more targeted and effective manner. The Fund is scaling up its investments to focus on critical data, risk analytics, local capacity and a stronger risk data ecosystem.

COMPLEX RISK ANALYTICS
Fund



Around 32,000 refugees in Burundi were affected by ongoing heavy rains and severe flooding in East Africa, triggered by El Niño.

(Bujumbura; April 2024)
© UNHCR/Bernard Ntwari



An internally displaced boy collects water at the Ribat camp in Lahij, Yemen.

Early warnings save lives

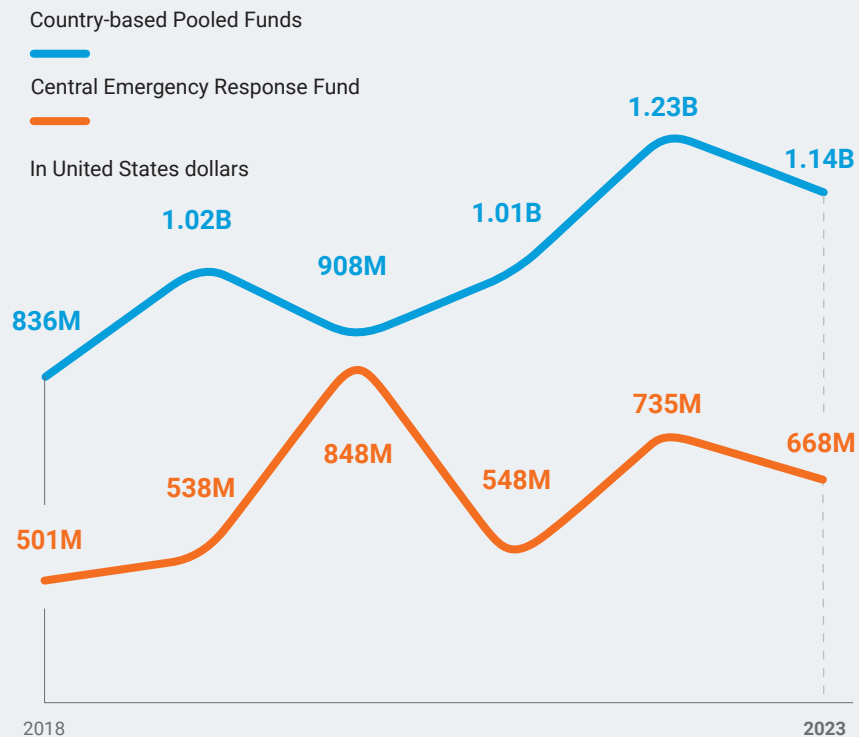
Early warning systems are among the most cost-effective ways to save lives, but they cover less than half of the world's population. The Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative is aimed at streamlining efforts, optimizing funding and ensuring inclusivity in early warning systems. Under the initiative, the United Nations collaborated with partners in Somalia on a flood forecast and anticipatory action plan. As a result, early warnings reached 440,000 people ahead of the October 2023 floods in southern Somalia, with \$2.7 million in cash transfers provided to 219,000 people. The initiative is currently active in over 30 countries.

(Lahij; February 2023) © YPN Media for OCHA/Ala'a Noman

Our Central Emergency Response Fund and country-based pooled funds disbursed nearly \$1.8 billion to enable timely and effective life-saving humanitarian responses, including in underfunded crises. Our newly launched climate action account, an innovative financing solution, helps the Fund to fill a critical niche in climate finance and rapidly scale up responses to climate-related shocks.

The humanitarian community scaled up anticipatory approaches and early warning and early action systems in 2023, including for climate-related hazards in Bangladesh, Fiji, Nepal, the Philippines and Yemen. That **enabled humanitarian organizations to act ahead of predicted natural hazards and disease outbreaks, thus mitigating humanitarian impacts while reducing response costs**. The Central Emergency Response Fund provided over \$142 million to partners for anticipatory and early action to combat rising food insecurity and the effects of El Niño. The country-based pooled funds provided over \$16 million for anticipatory and early action funding for Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

United Nations humanitarian pooled funds critical to response



Central Emergency Response Fund climate action account

The Central Emergency Response Fund is the leading global humanitarian funding tool, allocating \$500 million to \$800 million per year for emergencies. The Fund has pioneered anticipatory action to save lives and help to mitigate humanitarian impacts. Launched at the twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Fund's climate action account provides an efficient avenue for climate finance to assist the world's most vulnerable communities who are facing the consequences of the climate crisis. The new account will allow the Fund to scale up climate-related humanitarian action, through anticipatory action and response, in line with its life-saving mandate.



United Nations humanitarian staff discuss the impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy with public school staff in the village of Mahela, Madagascar.

(Mahela; February 2023) © OCHA/Viviane Rakotoarivony



Relief kits are distributed in Ouaddaï Province in Chad to newly arrived refugees from the Sudan.

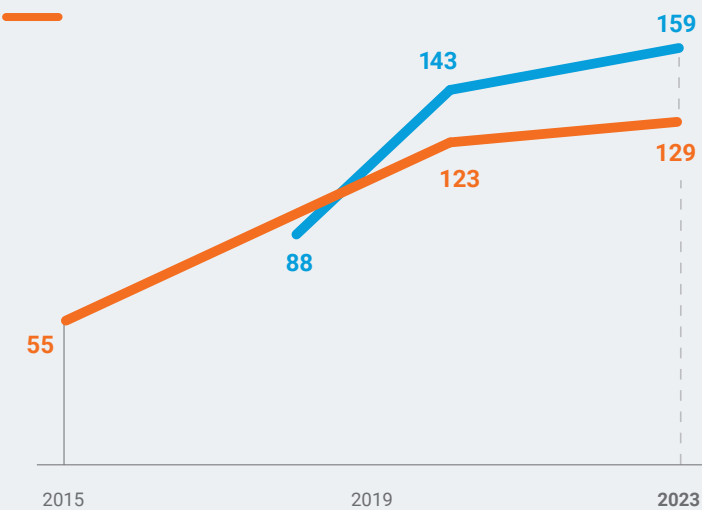
(Ouaddaï; May 2023)
© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

Under the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, **72 Member States conducted national implementation reviews and submitted voluntary national reviews.** Those reviews were completed alongside contributions from United Nations system entities, including 7 regional reports, 13 reports from non-State stakeholders, a global report on 25 non-State stakeholder constituencies and 14 thematic studies. Those reviews and reports **informed negotiations on the political declaration of the midterm review, adopted by the General Assembly in May 2023.** The reports encourage the adoption of a risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach in all decision-making, investment and behaviour on disaster risk management and development planning.

Disaster risk reduction globally

Countries with disaster risk reduction strategies

Countries using the Sendai Framework monitor

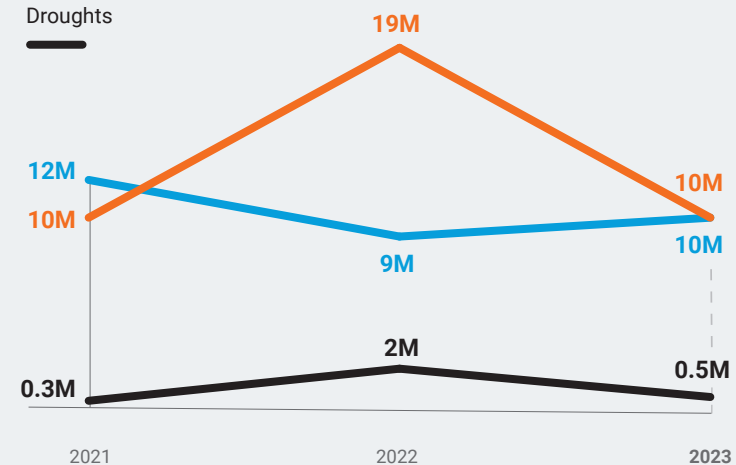


Weather-related internal displacements, 2021–2023

Floods

Storms

Droughts



Our support for disaster risk reduction

533M

people live in cities enrolled in the “Making Cities Resilient” 2030 initiative

12,000+

people engaged in training, webinars and events

159

Member States reported on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 global indicators through the Sendai Framework monitor