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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
FOR THEIR SUPPORT

CREDITS

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The latest version of this document is available on the OCHA website at https://bit.ly/CBPFsreview.

For real-time contribution and allocation data with easy-to-use filters and views please visit the CBPF Business Intelligence portal: http://bit.ly/CBPFBI.

For additional information, please contact:

Donor Relations Section
ocha.donor.relations@un.org

Front Cover
Yemen: 12-year-old Etaab fled violence in Al Hudaydah and now lives in a shack in the desert outside Aden. © OCHA/Giles Clarke

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FOREWORD

2018 was the most impactful year ever for the OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs). A record US$950 million was raised for life-saving action in 17 of the world’s most severe and complex humanitarian emergencies.

Under the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators, CBPFs support essential components of humanitarian response to save lives and provide protection services to the most vulnerable people affected by crises.

Everyone involved in the hundreds of partnerships and nearly 1,500 projects that comprise the CBPFs should be proud that our combined efforts have provided crucial life-saving support to tens of millions of people. Grants went directly to the best-placed relief organizations, including national (25 per cent) and international NGOs (43 per cent).

In this report, we take stock of how the 17 funds around the world ensured the most efficient use of donor contributions in 2018 and how relief workers on the ground used those investments to save and protect lives. We have also produced detailed reports for each Fund, which are available at: [http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR](http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR).

Every dollar committed though a CBPF helps to maximize the impact of humanitarian assistance, by empowering humanitarian leadership and a local response and ensuring the most strategic and effective use of limited resources. My thanks to all CBPF donors – your contributions are truly life-saving.

MARK LOWCOCK
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

ABOUT CBPFs

For more than 20 years, Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) have steered resources to the world’s most severe humanitarian emergencies.

The Funds collect money from all over the world, so that relief organizations in countries affected by natural disasters and armed conflict can deliver life-saving assistance to the people who need it most.

Contributions are pooled together into single funds and made available locally, allowing aid organizations at the front lines of emergency responses – those closest to people in need – to deliver the highest-priority aid where and when it is needed most.

Aid organizations work together to ensure that CBPF resources go to the most important parts of the emergency operation at the right time, making the collective response smarter and more agile.

CBPFs are established when a new emergency occurs or when an existing humanitarian situation deteriorates.

They are managed locally by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) under the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs). Advisory Boards provide oversight and advice on key decisions and ensure efficient and effective management.

CBPF allocations complement other humanitarian funding sources, such as bilateral funding and allocations from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

CBPFs are one of the easiest and most effective ways to help humanitarian organizations deliver urgently needed aid and to make sure that donor contributions save more lives and protect people affected by crises.

CBPF REPORTING

This document provides a global overview of CBPFs in 2018. It considers the achievements of the 17 funds that were active in 2018. The publication is paired with 17 individual Annual Reports that present detailed information on the management and achievements of each Fund during the year. They can be found here: [http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR](http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR).

For up-to-date information and analysis of CBPFs, please visit the new CBPF Business Intelligence portal here: [http://bit.ly/CBPFBI](http://bit.ly/CBPFBI).

Contributions were recorded based on the exchange rate when the cash was received, which may differ from the Certified Statement of Accounts that records contributions based on the exchange rate at the time of the pledge.

1 Since the first CBPF was opened in Angola in 1997, funds have been established in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Turkey (to support operations in Syria), Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2 The Humanitarian Coordinator is the senior most United Nations official in a country experiencing a humanitarian emergency.
CBPFs IN 2018

In 2018, the humanitarian community was challenged by unprecedented levels of humanitarian suffering that left 133 million people needing emergency assistance. Of the $25 billion required to provide aid, donors contributed $15 billion to UN-coordinated appeals. A record $950 million of that amount was channelled through CBPFs in support of emergency responses.

With allocations to 686 relief organizations, CBPFs ensured greater inclusivity by involving a broad range of partners in prioritization and programming processes. In 2018, 25 per cent of allocations ($208 million) went directly to national NGOs, leveraging their proximity and access to affected people and making better use of their local knowledge and social networks to deliver to the most vulnerable communities. In Syria, for example, CBPFs improved aid delivery in hard-to-reach areas by providing direct funding to Syrian NGOs with reliable access inside the country.

Access to CBPF funding allowed humanitarian organizations on the ground to adapt and tailor solutions to emerging challenges, including with immediate response and prevention activities after a cholera epidemic broke out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and by mobilizing a comprehensive response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Sagar in Somalia.

CBPFs were invaluable in volatile contexts with rapidly shifting situations, including in northern Nigeria, where funding for the UN Humanitarian Air Service helped humanitarian organizations to reach and rapidly scale up aid and protection support for people fleeing violence.

CBPF funding also helped humanitarian partners to better time, plan and adjust humanitarian responses in 2018. For example, in Yemen, timely allocations helped humanitarian partners to prepare life-saving aid, including food, medical supplies and shelter materials, before conflict escalated in Al Hudaydah in June.

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While allocations from CBPFs constituted a relatively small portion of global humanitarian funding during the year, their strategic value and focus on the most urgent needs of crisis-affected people meant that they were critical to the delivery of timely, coordinated and principled assistance.

During the year, 17 CBPFs ensured that funding went to locally prioritized programmes for maximum impact. The funds allocated $836 million to 1,455 humanitarian projects providing millions of people with health care, food aid, clean water, shelter and other assistance.

The Funds empowered humanitarian leadership, allowing HCs to directly support and drive the most critical components of humanitarian responses, including activities that improve the ability of actors on the ground to deliver more effectively. For example, in Iraq this included support for common services such as a call centre for displaced people to connect with, and inform, humanitarian services.

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In 2018, CBPFs supported the delivery of timely and effective life-saving assistance for more than 56.3 million people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict. CBPFs ensured greater inclusivity by involving a broad range of partners in prioritization and programming processes. In 2018, 25 per cent of allocations ($208 million) went directly to national NGOs, leveraging their proximity and access to affected people and making better use of their local knowledge and social networks to deliver to the most vulnerable communities. In Syria, for example, CBPFs improved aid delivery in hard-to-reach areas by providing direct funding to Syrian NGOs with reliable access inside the country.

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2018 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

CBPFs are funded by voluntary contributions from Governments and private donors. In 2018, donors contributed a record $950 million to 17 CBPFs.

2018 RESULTS

In 2018, CBPFs in 17 countries ensured the delivery of life-saving aid, including food, clean water, shelter, medicine, protection support and other assistance to millions of women, men, girls and boys.4

* Not all contributions received are allocated in the same year.
** Total includes double counting as the same people often receive aid from multiple sectors.
*** CAR – Central African Republic
**** DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo
***** UNF – United Nations Foundation (private contributions)
****** CCCM – Camp Coordination and Management

For details on people reached, please consult detailed reports for each CBPF here: http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR.
CBPF PERFORMANCE IN 2018

Five key principles – inclusiveness, flexibility, timeliness, efficiency, and accountability and risk management – guide the management of CBPFs and how they achieve the strategic objectives of improving humanitarian responses, strengthening leadership and ensuring better coordination and resourcing of humanitarian plans. Each CBPF measures performance through a common CBPF methodology and set of indicators for each principle. Examples are provided below and detailed reporting for each fund can be found in individual CBPF Annual Reports here: http://bit.ly/CBPF2018ARB.

INCLUSIVENESS

By making funding directly available to national and international NGOs, UN agencies and Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations, CBPFs leverage the diversity and comparative advantages of a broad range of humanitarian organizations. Other partners, including donors, are included in governance, strategy and decision-making, making the response more agile and encouraging collective ownership of the response.

Inclusive governance considers representation of CBPF stakeholders on Advisory Boards. In 2018, there was an even split between donor, NGO and UN agency representation.

AGGREGATE COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY BOARDS

ALLOCATIONS BY TYPE

CBPFs support the delivery of agile responses in rapidly changing emergency situations. With programmatic focus and funding priorities set at the country level, they empower humanitarian partners, allowing them to identify solutions and address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

CBPFs primarily support the delivery of HRPs through standard allocations, while retaining flexibility to fund unforeseen events through reserve allocations. This allows HCs to drive funding to locally-identified needs and priorities. One flexibility indicator – flexible allocation process – measures use of the most appropriate modality based on intended operational impact with a suggested ratio of 75 per cent for standard allocations and 25 per cent for reserve allocations.

ALLOCATIONS

Working in close coordination with the sectoral clusters, the [oPt Humanitarian] Fund targets the most urgent priorities and, through the engagement of multiple stakeholders in the assessment of projects and in its decision-making processes, the Fund is able to ensure transparent allocation of the funds.

Combining flexibility and strategic focus with its robust accountability system, the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund supported collective prioritization, helped ensure timely allocation of scarce resources, and strengthened humanitarian coordination, leadership and the efficacy of the wider response.

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Jamie McGoldrick, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory.

ALLOCATION BY TYPE

$371.4M

$836M

$464.2M

IN US$ MILLIONS

IN US$ MILLIONS

IN US$ MILLIONS

7 Mobilize resources and support coordination in support of Humanitarian Response Plans.
8 The CBPF Common Performance Framework.
9 Other measures for inclusiveness are inclusive programming, inclusive implementation and inclusive engagement.
10 Other measures are flexible assistance, flexible operation and flexible implementation.
I deserve the opportunity to learn

Somalia

Thirteen-year-old Farhiya had never gone to school before the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF) helped rehabilitate the local school in Awdinle, a small remote village in South West State in Somalia where she lives with her parents and six siblings.

In Somalia, the primary school enrollment ratio is among the world’s lowest with 70 per cent school-age children out of school. The numbers are grimmer in rural areas and settlements for Internally Displaced People, where only 17 per cent of children are enrolled in primary schools.

“I want to develop myself through education and I know I deserve to learn. I am grateful to my teachers and parents who are helping me to get an education and to those who supported our school, because without their help this not have been possible,” Farhiya said.

With SHF support, relief organizations including Rural Education and Agriculture Development Organization – a local NGO – helped rebuild structures including latrines, provided learning materials, gave teachers $120 monthly incentives and supplied clean water. In 2018, some 600 students – of which more than half are girls – enrolled in Awdinle school and now have access to a safe and protective learning environment.

The DRC Humanitarian Fund once again proved to be a critical strategic tool to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Congolese. The Fund enabled us to respond rapidly to new and unforeseen emergencies – the ‘crises within the crisis’ – requiring immediate response, such as the cholera outbreak in the Kasais or the abrupt closure of several sites for internally displaced persons in Kalemie.

- Kim Bolduc, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC, Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the DRC

Efficient prioritization measures the extent to which CBPF funding is prioritized in alignment with HRP. In 2018, 92 per cent of total CBPF allocations addressed country-specific HRP strategic objectives.

- Mark Cutts, Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis

Efficient management is a measure of whether CBPFs are cost-efficient and context-appropriate. In 2018, the average cost of running Humanitarian Financing Units (HFU) within OCHA offices was less than 2 per cent of total contributions to all CBPFs.

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“It was hiding under my bed when it happened”

Amira,* a sixty-year-old Syrian, farmed citrus and apples in Lattakia Governorate with her family of five before the war began and her home was bombed.

“I was hiding under my bed when it happened,” she said. “We heard the sound of a plane, then a barrel bomb hit, and the house collapsed over us … I woke up in the hospital.” Following the destruction of their home, Amira and her family were displaced five times before settling in a camp near the Syrian-Turkish border.

With funding from the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria (THF), the International Organization for Migration helped Amira and 1,000 other families with new tents designed to help them withstand the harsh winter months. During 2018, THF allocated $18 million to the wintertime response in northwest Syria, benefiting more than 500,000 people.

“Before we had the new tent, every day was an experience with death because of the cold. I can finally feel safe this winter,” said Amira adding that one day she would return to her village in Lattakia. “At that point, I will forget all the difficulties of displacement and the bombardments, but I will not forget the ones who helped us during those challenging times.”

* Not her real name.

Syria

CBPFs ensure the most effective and efficient use of limited resources, making taxpayer’s money go as far as it can to save lives and reduce the suffering of millions of crisis-affected people around the world.

Management of CBPF processes enables timely and strategic responses to humanitarian needs. CBPFs employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

CBPFs allocate funds as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate. They allow operational partners to act quickly knowing that resources are available immediately for the most urgent life-saving activities.

CBPFs aim to process payments without delay so that partners can start activities immediately. This is especially important for projects that cannot start without receiving the funds. With a global average of 8.5 days for the first disbursement, CBPFs met the 10-day target set for the timely disbursements in 2018.

Timely allocations are only possible thanks to early and predictable funding from donors.

11 The third measure is timely allocations.

12 Other measures of efficiency are efficient scale and efficient prioritization.
ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFs provide transparency and accountability. They safeguard the limited resources that are available for humanitarian action by adapting to contextual risks, and effectively assessing and monitoring partner capacity and performance through robust management and oversight systems.

One way by which CBPFs support accountability and risk management is by ensuring that CBPF-funded projects are appropriately monitored, reported and audited. Monitoring humanitarian projects is a challenge in areas that are dangerous or difficult to access, and in 2018, more than two thirds of projects that were identified for monitoring (through field visits, financial spot-checks or remote call monitoring) were examined. Of the nearly 2,000 required project audits, some 1,380 were conducted. Projects not monitored or audited in 2018 will be reviewed in 2019.

The Humanitarian Financing Unit supported by the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) Advisory Board, updated its Risk Management framework and scaled up a wide range of risk management activities ... to ensure the compliant use of donor contributions. The value of these actions cannot be overstated with a number of cases of the misuse of funds identified and funds returned to the IHF.

“For general information about CBPFs please visit http://bit.ly/OCHA_CBPFs

Full reports are available here: http://bit.ly/CBPF2018AR