

GLOBAL 20 HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 20

UNITED NATIONS-COORDINATED
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED
BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT



At a glance

Needs and requirements¹

PEOPLE IN NEED

167.6M

PEOPLE TARGETED

108.8M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$ 28.8B

Recent trends and challenges

PP. 10-15

In 2019, many more people needed humanitarian assistance than we had forecast, largely because of conflicts and extreme climate events. Donors provided a record \$16 billion for inter-agency appeals between January and November 2019.

Compliance with international law is declining. Armed conflicts are killing and maiming a record number of children, forcing them to flee their homes. They are becoming a lost generation. Women and girls are at higher risk of sexual and gender-based violence. One in five people living in conflict areas has a mental health condition.

Highly violent conflicts are causing widespread hunger, displacement, death and destruction around the world. They are taking a heavy toll on civilians, who account for 90 per cent of the casualties when explosive weapons are used in populated areas.

There were 791 attacks against health workers and health-care facilities in the first nine months of 2019, resulting in 171 deaths. In 2018, 131 aid workers were killed and 130 were kidnapped in 400 attacks. Attacks against health and aid workers are putting millions of people at risk by denying them care and aid.

Emerging trends and risks

PP. 16-21

Climate change is increasing people's vulnerability to humanitarian crises. The world's eight worst food crises are all linked to both conflict and climate shocks.

Infectious diseases are becoming more prevalent and harder to control, because of conflict, weak health systems, poor water and sanitation, and lack of access to vaccinations.

In 2019, 33 low-income countries were in, or at risk of, debt distress. Of these, 12 countries with humanitarian appeals are home to 40 per cent of the people in need of humanitarian assistance. A global economic slowdown could further increase vulnerability in countries already experiencing economic stress and debt problems.

Humanitarian needs and requirements

PP. 22-29

In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection. This represents 1 in about 45 people in the world, and is the highest figure in decades. The United Nations and partner organizations aim to assist nearly 109 million of the most vulnerable people. This will require funding of \$28.8 billion.

The situation will keep getting worse unless climate change and the root causes of conflict are better addressed. On current trends, projections show that more than 200 million people could be in need of assistance by 2022.

The humanitarian system is more effective better prioritized, more innovative and more inclusive than ever. In the first nine months of 2019, humanitarian organizations reached 64 per cent of people targeted to receive aid through Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs).

Globally, at the start of 2019 some 821 million people were undernourished, including 113 million who suffered from acute hunger. Conflict is the key driver of hunger. By the beginning of 2019, armed conflicts and persecution had driven a record number of nearly 71 million people from their homes.

Regional and country overview

PP. 30–67

Yemen is the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, and the number of people in need is expected to remain close to 2019 levels of 24 million, almost 80 per cent of the population. The humanitarian response in Yemen is also the world’s largest, despite huge challenges.

The conflict in Syria continues to drive the world’s largest refugee crisis, with 5.6 million refugees in the region. In addition, more than 6 million Syrians are internally displaced.

Humanitarian needs will also remain exceptionally high in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan.

In Sudan, a deepening economic crisis has significantly increased food insecurity and weakened essential services, including health, water and education. The new civilian authorities need more international support.

In the Sahel, displacement has dramatically increased, and hunger has reached critical levels. In the Lake Chad Basin, the humanitarian crisis shows no signs of abating as it enters its seventh year.

The needs have also grown significantly in several other countries, including Afghanistan, where almost one quarter of the population is likely to need humanitarian assistance following years of violent conflict, as well as severe drought.

In Venezuela, a deepening economic crisis has led to a severe reduction in the income of many households and a sharp deterioration in water, power and health services, prompting many to leave.

A deepening political and socioeconomic crisis has also significantly increased needs in Haiti, with 4.2 million people expected to be food insecure by March 2020.

More people-centred humanitarian action

PP. 68–79

We are getting better at addressing the needs of women and girls, and people with disabilities. We are strengthening efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence.

We are working better together to deliver cash, which can often meet more needs, more efficiently.

We are also strengthening collaboration between humanitarian and development organizations.

Innovative humanitarian financing

PP. 80–85

Humanitarian organizations have a better understanding of what is needed most urgently, and by whom. In 2019, anticipatory finance enabled early action in several crises, and risk insurance provided speedy payouts to support rapid response.

The value of timely and strategic pooled funds was again clearly demonstrated. As of mid-November 2019, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) had allocated more than \$494 million to support urgent needs in 47 countries and territories, while Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) had allocated \$701 million in 18 countries.

¹ See p. 8 for a breakdown of the figures.



Foreword

Ouanaminthe, Haiti

Mark Lowcock
 with Ivens Louis,
 a physiotherapist
 and President of the
 Fondation Haitienne
 de Rehabilitation.
OCHA/Nadia Todres

We began 2019 expecting humanitarian needs to be similar to those of 2018. We were wrong. Climatic shocks, the unexpected spread of infectious disease, and the impact of protracted and often intensifying conflicts have combined to drive needs to unprecedented levels this year.

Over the course of the year, I met people suffering through these crises in more than 10 countries, among them Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, I heard from families whose lives had been changed forever by the Ebola virus outbreak, with loved ones lost – a situation only made worse by decades of insecurity, conflict and chronic poverty. In the Bahamas, I saw first-hand the devastating impact a severe hurricane – made more intense by climate change – can have on homes and livelihoods across nearly an entire country.

I continue to be amazed by people’s determination to rebuild, and encouraged by their hope for a better future. I am humbled by the tireless dedication and professionalism of humanitarian staff working on the front lines of human suffering, often at significant personal risk.

Our collective humanitarian system is getting better. We are significantly improving our planning, forecasting and analysis; our ability to prioritize; and our coordination. We can now better identify the people most in need, we can target priority assistance to them, and we can reach them faster. We understand that women, girls and people with disabilities are always particularly vulnerable, and are translating that knowledge into our response plans. We increasingly understand the need to deal with mental trauma as well as people’s physical health. We are getting ahead of more crises by taking anticipatory action. Around the world, this is reducing suffering, saving lives and cutting response costs.

In Somalia, for example, early action and a major scale-up of assistance after two failed rains in 2019 meant that 1 million people initially projected to suffer acute hunger were helped out of danger. As deadly storms hit southern Africa, early warnings and pre-positioning of aid helped us limit the number of fatalities and the severity of need. Our system is also making strides in improving coordination between humanitarian and development assistance to reduce vulnerability and risk, mitigating humanitarian need before it occurs.

I am again grateful for the generosity of donors this year. Record levels of humanitarian funding reached those in need. Member States and others provided \$16 billion in response to United Nations-coordinated appeals to provide 103 million people with life-saving assistance. Seventy-five per cent of funding for humanitarian responses worldwide is now coordinated through the United Nations, making for a more efficient and effective response.

But needs are growing faster than funding.

There are two main reasons. First, the current state of geopolitics means conflicts are becoming more protracted and intense. Combatants display growing disregard for international humanitarian law. People caught up in conflict suffer displacement, hunger, psychosocial trauma, and loss of their livelihoods, education facilities and health services. That’s in addition to the direct impact of fighting, bombing and other violence affecting their physical safety and security.

Second, climate change. More frequent drought and extreme weather events, such as flooding and tropical cyclones, disproportionately affect already poor and vulnerable populations. Eleven of the 20 countries most vulnerable to climate change have appealed for humanitarian aid in each of the past seven years. We need to do better in prioritizing climate change adaptation as part of humanitarian response.

Slower economic growth and debt problems aggravate conflict and climate change in ways that risk further entrenching humanitarian needs. In 2019, 56 million people in need of humanitarian assistance lived in 12 of the 33 countries in, or at risk of, debt distress.

The number of people needing help will grow in 2020. But humanitarian organizations are getting better at targeting help to the neediest and acting as soon as a problem arises. The humanitarian system is effective. We will continue to strive to improve it.

I fear 2020 will be a difficult year. I count on all your support.



Mark Lowcock

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for
 Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Needs and requirements

Results from 2019

As of 13 November 2019

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$29.70 B

FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$)

\$15.96 B

FUNDING COVERAGE

54%

PEOPLE IN NEED

166.5M

PEOPLE TARGETED

117.4M

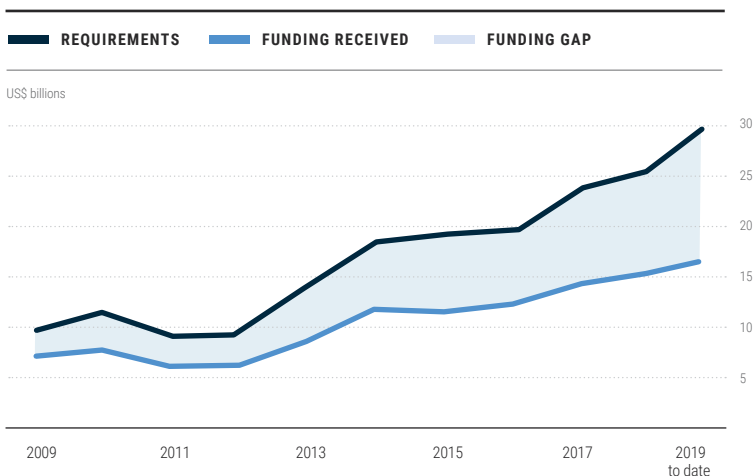
Response plans typically target a subset (usually the large majority) of people in need, because affected country governments and other entities target a portion, and/or because of capacity and access constraints among organizations participating in the response plan.

Includes all requirements for 2019, excluding RRP requirements already reflected in HRPs, to avoid double counting.

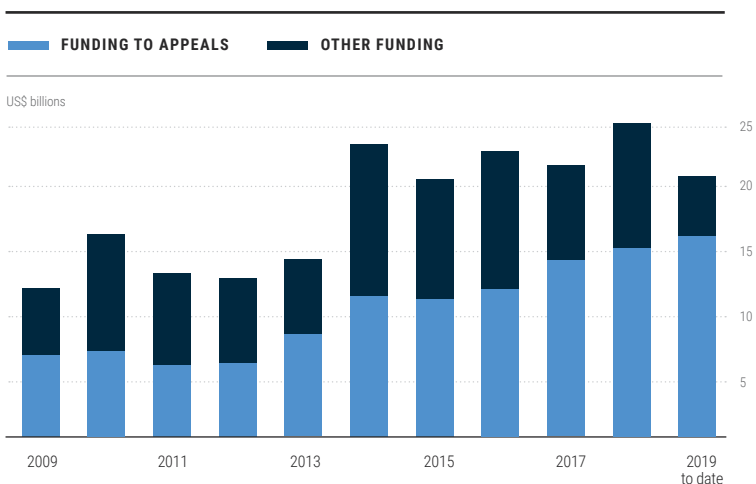
INTER-AGENCY APPEAL	APPEAL TYPE	FUNDING REQUIRED	FUNDING RECEIVED	FUNDING COVERAGE	FUNDED	NOT FUNDED
Afghanistan	HRP	\$611.8 M	\$423.4 M	69.2%		
Burundi	HRP	\$106.3 M	\$64.3 M	60.5%		
Cameroon	HRP	\$298.9 M	\$123.6 M	41.3%		
CAR	HRP	\$430.7 M	\$287.2 M	66.7%		
Chad	HRP	\$476.6 M	\$231.9 M	48.6%		
DRC	HRP	\$1.65 B	\$680.9 M	41.2%		
Ethiopia	HRP	\$771.5 M	\$646.6 M	83.8%		
Haiti	HRP	\$126.2 M	\$36.1 M	28.6%		
Iraq	HRP	\$701.2 M	\$611.7 M	87.2%		
Libya	HRP	\$201.6 M	\$97.8 M	48.5%		
Mali	HRP	\$324.0 M	\$160.0 M	49.4%		
Mozambique	HRP	\$620.5 M	\$291.6 M	47.0%		
Myanmar	HRP	\$214.4 M	\$172.3 M	80.4%		
Niger	HRP	\$383.1 M	\$221.7 M	57.9%		
Nigeria	HRP	\$847.7 M	\$504.5 M	59.5%		
oPt	HRP	\$350.6 M	\$202.6 M	57.8%		
Somalia	HRP	\$1.08 B	\$812.3 M	75.4%		
South Sudan	HRP	\$1.51 B	\$1.01 B	67.0%		
Sudan	HRP	\$1.15 B	\$582.0M	50.6%		
Syria	HRP	\$3.29 B	\$1.73 B	36.2%		
Ukraine	HRP	\$164.4 M	\$81.1 M	49.3%		
Venezuela	HRP	\$222.7 M	\$55.5 M	24.9%		
Yemen	HRP	\$4.19 B	\$2.97 B	70.9%		
Madagascar	FA	\$32.4 M	\$29.2 M	89.9%		
Zimbabwe	FA	\$467.9 M	\$233.3 M	49.9%		
Burundi Regional	RRP	\$261.7 M	\$85.4M	33.0%		
DRC Regional	RRP	\$676.8 M	\$146.9 M	22.0%		
Nigeria Regional	RRP	-	-	-		
South Sudan Regional	RRP	\$984.5 M	\$348.2 M	35.0%		
Syria Regional	RRP	\$5.53 B	\$2.01 B	36.2%		
Bangladesh	Other	\$920.5 M	\$613.9 M	66.7%		
Burkina Faso	Other	\$187.0 M	\$76.6 M	41.0%		
DPR Korea	Other	\$120.3 M	\$32.0 M	26.6%		
Iran	Other	\$25.0 M	\$9.6 M	38.5%		
Venezuela Regional	Other	\$737.6 M	\$382.6 M	51.9%		

CERF ALLOCATIONS	CBPFs ALLOCATIONS	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED
\$16.0 M	\$48.7 M	6.3 M	4.5 M
\$2.4 M	-	1.8 M	712 k
\$16.3 M	-	4.3 M	2.3 M
-	\$23.8 M	2.9 M	1.7 M
\$11.0 M	-	4.3 M	2.0 M
\$45.7 M	\$67.4 M	12.8 M	9.0 M
\$21.1 M	\$35.4 M	8.9 M	8.3 M
\$11.2 M	-	2.6 M	1.3 M
-	\$72.8 M	6.7 M	1.8 M
\$3.8 M	-	823 k	552 k
\$6.0 M	-	3.2 M	2.3 M
\$28.9 M	-	2.6 M	2.4 M
\$3.5 M	\$9.4 M	941 k	941 k
\$16.0 M	-	2.3 M	1.6 M
-	\$10.0 M	7.1 M	6.2 M
\$7.7 M	\$24.5 M	2.5 M	1.4 M
\$41.9 M	\$41.3 M	4.2 M	3.4 M
\$12.9 M	\$70.2 M	7.2 M	5.7 M
\$43.4 M	\$32.5 M	5.7 M	4.4 M
-	\$34.8 M	11.7 M	11.7 M
\$6.0 M	\$1.6 M	3.5 M	2.3 M
\$10.0 M	-	7.0 M	2.7 M
\$31.7 M	\$130.0 M	24.1 M	21.4 M
\$5.0 M	-	890 k	460 k
\$14.1 M	-	5.3 M	2.2 M
-	-	223 k	223 k
-	-	727 k	727 k
-	-	-	-
-	-	1.5 M	1.5 M
-	\$89.8 M	5.6 M	5.6 M
\$15.3 M	-	1.2 M	1.2 M
\$10.0 M	-	1.2 M	900 k
\$6.0 M	-	10.9 M	3.8 M
\$2.0 M	-	2.0 M	115 k
\$6.0 M	-	3.6 M	2.2 M

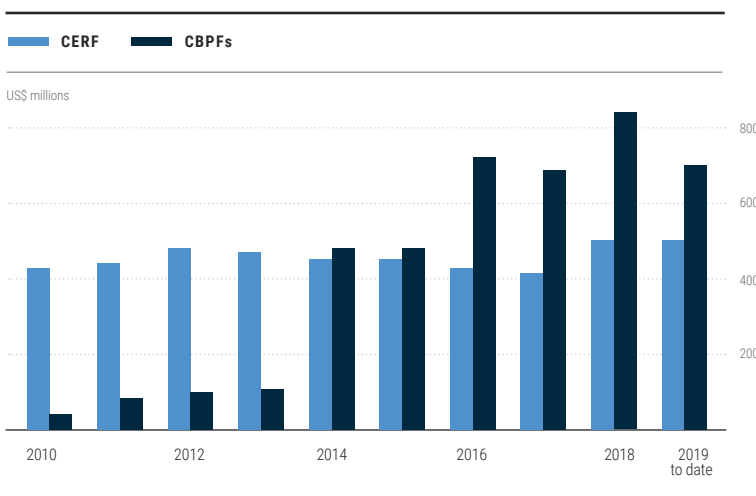
Funding Gap (2009–2019)



Global Humanitarian Funding (2009–2019)



Pooled Funds Allocations (2010–2019)



All data as of 13 November 2019.

Needs and requirements

Overview for 2020

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

\$28.80B

PEOPLE IN NEED

167.6M

PEOPLE TARGETED

108.8M

Response plans typically target a subset (usually the large majority) of people in need, because affected country governments and other entities target a portion, and/or because of capacity and access constraints among organizations participating in the response plan.

Financial requirements, people in need and people targeted include all HRP, RRP components of countries without HRP, plus the Ethiopia component of the South Sudan RRP as the HRP does not include refugees, and other appeals.

INTER-AGENCY APPEAL	APPEAL TYPE	FUNDING REQUIRED	FUNDING REQUIRED	VARIATION FROM 2019
Afghanistan	HRP	\$732.6 M		+ 20%
Burkina Faso	HRP	\$295.0 M		+ 58%
Burundi	HRP	\$104.0 M		- 2%
Cameroon	HRP	\$317.0 M		+ 6%
CAR	HRP	\$387.8 M		- 10%
Chad	HRP	\$500.0 M		+ 5%
DRC	HRP	\$1.82 B		+ 10%
Ethiopia	HRP	\$973.0 M		+ 26%
Haiti	HRP	\$252.5 M		+ 100%
Iraq	HRP	\$520.0 M		- 26%
Libya	HRP	\$110.0 M		- 45%
Mali	HRP	\$365.6 M		+ 13%
Myanmar	HRP	\$215.0 M		0%
Niger	HRP	\$373.5 M		- 3%
Nigeria	HRP	\$789.0 M		- 7%
oPt	HRP	\$348.0 M		- 1%
Somalia	HRP	\$1.03 B		- 4%
South Sudan	HRP	\$1.54 B		+ 2%
Sudan	HRP	\$1.40 B		+ 22%
Syria	HRP	\$3.30 B		0%
Ukraine	HRP	\$157.8 M		- 4%
Venezuela	HRP	\$750.0 M		+ 237%
Yemen	HRP	\$3.20 B		- 24%
Burundi Regional ¹	RRP	\$235.8 M		- 10%
DRC Regional ¹	RRP	\$604.6 M		- 11%
Nigeria Regional ¹	RRP	-		-
South Sudan Regional ¹	RRP	\$951.0 M		- 3%
Syria Regional ¹	RRP	\$5.20 B		- 6%
Bangladesh	Other	\$871.0 M		- 5%
DPR Korea	Other	\$107.0 M		- 11%
Venezuela Regional	Other	\$1.35 B		+ 82%

¹ The RRP components included in the 2020 GHO requirements are as follows: **Syria 3RP**: fully included. **Burundi RRP**: Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda components included. DRC excluded. **DRC RRP**: Angola, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia components included. Burundi excluded. **Nigeria RRP**: Fully excluded (Cameroon, Chad, Niger). **South Sudan RRP**: Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia components included, DRC and Sudan excluded.

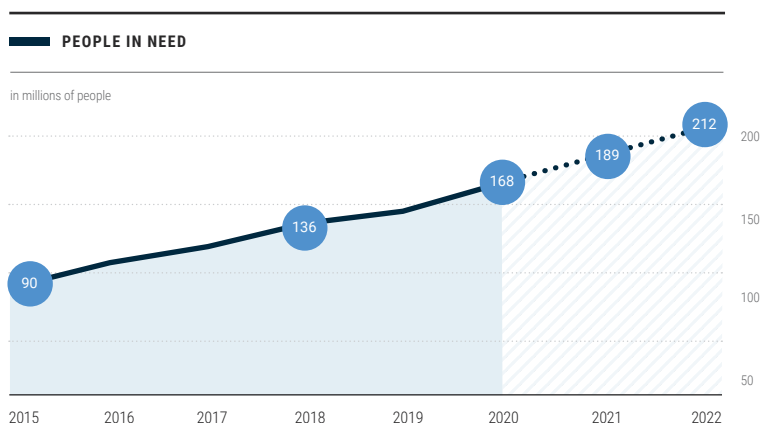
PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE TARGETED	VARIATION IN PT FROM 2019
9.4 M	7.1 M		+ 59%
2.2 M	1.8 M		+ 100%
1.7 M	630 k		- 11%
4.4 M	2.6 M		+ 14%
2.6 M	1.6 M		- 6%
4.8 M	2.6 M		+ 30%
15.9 M	8.1 M		- 10%
8.0 M	6.5 M		- 22%
4.6 M	2.1 M		+ 62%
4.1 M	1.8 M		+ 1%
880 k	340 k		- 38%
3.6 M	2.9 M		+ 26%
986 k	848 k		- 10%
3.2 M	1.9 M		+ 19%
7.7 M	5.7 M		- 8%
2.4 M	1.5 M		+ 7%
5.2 M	3.0 M		- 12%
7.5 M	5.6 M		- 2%
9.3 M	5.0 M		+ 14%
11.0 M	9.0 M		- 23%
3.4 M	2.0 M		- 13%
7.0 M	3.5 M		+ 31%
24.0 M	15.6 M		- 27%
250 k	250 k		+ 12%
740 k	740 k		+ 2%
-	-		-
1.2 M	1.2 M		- 18%
5.6 M	5.6 M		0%
1.3 M	1.3 M		+ 7%
10.8 M	5.5 M		+ 45%
3.8 M	2.5 M		+ 12%

Main differences in humanitarian requirements (2019–2020)

The headline figures for 2020 published in this report include all inter-agency appeals. (In previous years some have not been included in the headline.) The table below provides a reconciliation to allow like-with-like comparisons with 2019.

	REQUIREMENTS	IN NEED	TARGETED
GHO 2019 – At launch ²	\$21.9 B	131.7 M	93.6 M
As published on 4 December 2018			
GHO 2019 – Adjusted ³	\$28.1 B	145.7 M	103.2 M
Adjusted to include all inter-agency appeals, as of December 2018			
GHO 2019 – November ⁴	\$29.7 B	166.5 M	117.4 M
Total 2019 needs: GHO 2019 – Adjusted, plus additional needs arising during 2019			
GHO 2020 ⁵	\$28.8 B	167.6 M	108.8 M
As published on 4 December 2019			

Projected humanitarian needs⁶ (2015–2022)



On current trends, 212 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance in 2022. Conflicts will remain the main driver of humanitarian needs in most countries currently receiving humanitarian assistance, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Recent peace agreements may lead to some improvements, but most protracted conflicts are projected to continue for years.

Extreme climate events, ranging from droughts to tropical cyclones and torrential rains, will also generate further humanitarian needs. When conflict and climatic events occur together, they will keep driving up food insecurity, all the more since mitigation and adaptation to climate change is particularly difficult in those circumstances. Conflicts and climate change will also contribute to deadly outbreaks of infectious diseases such as cholera, measles and Ebola, as a result of inadequate health, water and sanitation services.

² These were the headline figures in the 2019 GHO. It includes all the HRPs, except Syria. RRP except for the Syria 3RP and the Venezuela Refugee and Migrant Response Plan were not included. Other plans (Bangladesh JRP, DPRK, Pakistan and the Philippines) were not included either.

³ Includes all the headline figures in line 1, as well as Bangladesh JRP, DPRK, and all RRPs excluding those requirements covered in HRPs. The Syria HRP is included.

⁴ Update of the headline figures in line 2 to reflect changes between December 2018 and November 2019, including plans issued in the course of the year: the HRPs for Mozambique and Venezuela, Flash Appeals for Madagascar and Zimbabwe, and Burkina Faso.

⁵ Includes all requirements for 2020, excluding RRP requirements already reflected in HRPs, to avoid double counting. Can be compared with line 3 to show differences between 2020 projections and 2019 outturn.

⁶ The projection is based on the mean of increase (or decrease) of the overall number of people in need since 2014. It does not take into account the possibility of major new crises due to conflict or major disasters, which could result in a significantly higher figure.

**“My message to world
leaders is simple.**

**Put people first:
their needs,
their aspirations,
their rights.”**

Remarks from the United Nations
Secretary-General, **António Guterres**, at
the 2019 opening session of the United
Nations General Assembly.

