CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING IN 2020
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Left: A returning refugee family rebuilds and reintegrates in Tarakhil Daag, Afghanistan.
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Cover Image: Somali refugee women gathered in the Women’s Wellness Centre, run by the International Medical Corps in Melkadida Refugee Camp in Ethiopia.
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The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.
Sudanese refugees observe physical distancing while listening to health and sanitation messages over a speaker system at Ajuong Thok camp in South Sudan.

**INTRODUCTION**

UNHCR is mandated to provide protection, assistance and solutions for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, stateless persons, internally displaced people and others of concern to the Office, of whom there were 86.5 million at the end of 2019.

With COVID-19 sweeping the globe, more than 20 million people worldwide are confirmed to have been infected, including more than 19,000 people of concern to UNHCR, a number which is almost certainly not reflective of the reality.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the already dire humanitarian needs globally, particularly in low and middle-income countries, which currently host more than 85% of the world’s refugees. The pandemic is destabilizing entire sectors of the economy, with millions depending on fragile incomes that are now at risk. More generally, violence, persecution and civil strife continue to uproot millions. Few conflicts have abated in recent months, while some, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the Sahel and the Syrian Arab Republic, have gotten worse. Driven in part by the effects of the pandemic on livelihoods, gender inequality and gender-based violence have increased, internal displacement has been exacerbated, and freedom of movement and access to asylum reduced.

All these trends are likely to continue through 2020, with the virus acting as a ‘force multiplier’, making the needs of people of concern to the Office more acute and more complicated to address. UNHCR has already taken steps to invest more in key areas in response to the protection, public health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on people of concern. This includes ramping up cash assistance, which is fast, safe and can help cover rent, food, and other basic needs that arise for refugees and displaced persons. Water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter capacity, and health services are all being reassessed to take into account COVID-19 prevention and response. It includes partnerships, especially at the national level, in which UNHCR has already invested considerably in the context of the Grand Bargain and the Global Compact on Refugees, and which are even more indispensable in the midst of a pandemic as
INTRODUCTION

UNHCR’s work has not stopped. To inform our transformation and engage partners on the future of work, UNHCR harvests lessons about how UNHCR performs and delivers protection and aid, remotely and in-situ, to inform our transformation and engage with partners on the future of work.

But the important factor to stress is that UNHCR’s work has not stopped.

Global funding overview as of 25 August 2020

The effects of this underfunding are felt across the range of UNHCR’s activities and around the world. Ten situations—the primary subject of this report—are particularly affected. These situations comprise 56% ($5.160 billion) of UNHCR’s budget. Examples are given in each of these situations of where underfunding has already (as of August 2020) brought activities to an end, and where activities are on the brink of being cancelled or scaled back if funding is not forthcoming soon. As these examples show, underfunding is affecting all areas of UNHCR’s response, from protection, to assistance and resilience activities, to solutions.

While some instances of underfunding are due to new needs or reprioritization resulting from COVID-19, many examples pre-date the pandemic and demonstrate the impact that chronic underfunding can have on the lives of people of concern and UNHCR’s ability to respond.

These 10 situations also highlight the importance of flexible funding: all of them have benefited from allocations of flexible funds by the organization, which has gone some way to making up the shortfall. UNHCR wishes to extend its sincere thanks to all donors who have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked funding in 2020.


top donors of softly earmarked funding

Further information on the use of flexible funding by UNHCR in 2019 is available in the Report on use of flexible funding in 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Activities affected by underfunding

Protection

- Protection monitoring
- Support for those with specific needs
- Community-based protection
- Registration and documentation
- Family reunification
- Child protection and child-friendly spaces

Assistance and resilience

- Emergency preparedness and response
- Health services (primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Education support
- Technical and vocational training
- Emergency and long-term shelter
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion
- Infrastructure and road improvement
- Winterization
- School construction and rehabilitation
- Core relief items
- Housing and energy supply

Solutions

- Voluntary repatriation programmes for refugees
- Return monitoring
- Return and reintegration assistance for IDPs
- Comprehensive solutions strategies
- Resettlement activities

UNHCR’s budget was $9.131 billion with, as of the end of August 2020, funds available to it of $4.458 billion. This included $3.804 billion in voluntary contributions, of which 72% was either earmarked or tightly earmarked. Overall, UNHCR’s budget had a funding gap of 51%.

Beneath the trends caused by the virus, serious as those are, the triggers and drivers of forced displacement remain, as do the needs of people of concern and the challenges in providing protection, assistance and solutions.
Top 10 most underfunded situations in 2020
as of 25 August 2020
The South Sudanese refugee population remains the largest in the region and is one of the most vulnerable. Whether in camps, settlements or urban areas, some 2.3 million refugees are living in extremely precarious conditions, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite border closures, lockdowns and other movement restrictions, a steady flow of new South Sudanese arrivals in asylum countries continues to be reported. Most refugees face high levels of poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities, and are hosted in some of the poorest areas, where communities are already struggling to meet basic needs. Some 1.6 million people are internally displaced in South Sudan.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the South Sudan situation in 2020 stand at $720.9 million. As of 25 August 2020, $677 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $171.8 million to the South Sudan situation, raising the current funding level to 33%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in South Sudan and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including health, livelihoods, infrastructure and solutions, with further cuts anticipated in the second half of 2020.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

**Health care in Uganda**
Underfunding has required UNHCR to reduce the number of health workers in all settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees in Uganda since the start of 2020. The reduction increased the workload of remaining health workers, who in some locations consult 70 patients per day (compared to a standard of below 50), creating a risk of burnout, attrition and lesser quality of care. Underfunding has also limited the procurement of needed medicines, which may contribute to preventable deaths and loss of confidence in the health-care system.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 876,981 individuals
**Funding needed:** $4.6 million

**Durable solutions in South Sudan**
Recent developments in South Sudan require UNHCR to significantly scale up leadership and preparedness measures for the return of millions of refugees. As of June 2020, due to funding restrictions UNHCR’s response has been limited to technical support to the Government for the drafting of the national framework for returns, relocation and the establishment of a return monitoring mechanism at 37 border points and in some key return areas. While identification of gaps in community-based support in return areas has taken place, funding to implement these quick-impact projects has been limited.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 100,000 individuals
**Funding needed:** $800,000

**Infrastructure and road improvement in Ethiopia**
Since July 2020, access road maintenance in Nguenyyiel, Tierkidi and Okugo camps in the Gambelle region of Ethiopia has not progressed due to underfunding. With the onset of the rains, parts of the camps in Tierkidi and Okugo become inaccessible affecting the delivery of services and emergency medical responses. Access roads in the Nguenyyiel camp need urgent maintenance to prevent parts of the camp from being cut off.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 200,000 individuals
**Funding needed:**
- Road maintenance $600,000
- Other infrastructure $1.2 million

**Livelihoods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Since January 2020, due to a shortfall in funding, livelihood interventions have been reduced in three camps hosting South Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Meri, Bili and Birungi). Only 27% of South Sudanese refugees are benefitting from livelihood support, which is limited to the agricultural sector.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 7,000 households
**Funding needed:** $3.5 million

**Infrastructure and road improvement in Kenya**
As of July 2020, due to shortfalls in funding, various infrastructure and road improvement projects within Kalobeyei and Kakuma camps in Kenya have been deprioritized or suspended. Poor road conditions and lack of adequate storage facilities have complicated access and assistances to refugees. Significant amounts have been spent on repair and maintenance of vehicles rather than direct assistance to beneficiaries.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
- 122,000 refugees and 30,000 host community members

**Funding needed:**
- $1.5 million
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Shelter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
As of October 2020, due to the shortfall in funding a reduction in shelter assistance for individuals with specific needs in three camps hosting South Sudanese refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Meri, Bili and Birungi) is expected. This reduction will significantly increase protection risks, forcing refugees to live in the open or to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 3,000 households
Funding needed: $2.3 million

Family latrines programme in Kenya
Cash assistance for families to construct improved latrines in the Kalobeyei settlement will not be implemented in the second half 2020 without additional funding. Refugees remain in substandard and undignified living conditions. The use of communal latrines exposes them to environmental hazards and communicable diseases including COVID-19.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 1,500 families (7,500 refugees)
Funding needed: $350,000

Child protection and mental health in Uganda
Child protection and psychosocial case management services in settlements hosting South Sudanese refugees have been scaled down since the beginning of 2020 due to lack of funding. This situation will continue to persist in the second half of 2020 without additional funding. The reduction in the number of case workers will result in children at risk not receiving home monitoring visits, with the caseworker to child ratio of 1:300 dramatically higher than the international standard of 1:25. Mental health issues and suicide will continue to rise among refugees in part due to lack of mental health services.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 55,750 children at risk and 45,000 individuals with mental health and psychosocial support needs
Funding needed: $1.2 million

Support to new arrivals in Ethiopia
Lack of funding will leave UNHCR unable to strengthen and expand shelter and services to respond to the large number of new arrivals at the Pagak reception centre in Gambella, Ethiopia. Required activities include expansion of the facility, provision of food, support to unaccompanied and separated children, relocation to refugee camps and rehabilitation of shelters in the receiving camps. The risk of further spread of COVID-19 among the population remains high, with the centre congested and sanitation and hygiene rapidly deteriorating.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 8,900 new arrivals
Funding needed: $2 million

Durable solutions for IDPs in South Sudan
In a context of declining funds and a steady increase in the IDP population in South Sudan, UNHCR will have to deprioritize solutions-focused activities for IDPs in the second half of 2020 in order to cover lifesaving and protection interventions, including for the newly displaced. UNHCR will not be able to carry out envisioned quick-impact projects that would include housing, livelihoods and area-based co-existence initiatives to ensure sustainable returns.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 200,000 IDPs
Funding needed: $1.4 million
SPOTLIGHT: BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Siblings Nyamach and Nyakoang Lul are among more than 42,000 South Sudanese refugee children in Ethiopia who are either unaccompanied or separated from their parents or guardians. After fighting broke out in their hometown of Guel Guk, Upper Nile State, Nyamach and her younger sister, 13-year-old Nyakoang, fled to safety in Ethiopia. For the past four years, the Lul sisters have made a home for themselves in Jewi, one of seven camps hosting more than 300,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia’s Gambella region. South Sudan’s conflict has had a devastating impact on children, who account for over half of the more than two million South Sudanese living in exile.

In Ethiopia, most refugee children live with their families, but a significant number – more than 42,000 – are either unaccompanied or separated. Lack of funding has left UNHCR unable to respond to the large number of new arrivals at the Pagak reception centre, including strengthening support services for unaccompanied and separated children, like the Lul sisters.

“We take care of one another – it’s just the two of us”
- Nyamach Lul
Although a peaceful transition of power followed the presidential elections in December 2018, the security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has continued to deteriorate, mainly in the east, in what is one of the most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises in Africa.

Approximately 1.67 million people were newly displaced in 2019, despite Government efforts to promote returns for refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs. UNHCR continues to support IDPs (including through shelter, building of schools, health centres and other community infrastructure, and provision of cash assistance) along with some 919,234 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries and the wider Southern Africa region.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the DRC situation in 2020 stand at $343.5 million. As of 25 August 2020, $26.8 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $93.6 million to the DRC situation, raising the current funding level to 35%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in the DRC and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including shelter, cash assistance, durable solutions, education and water, sanitation and hygiene, with additional cuts to programmes expected in the second half of 2020 should further funding not be received.
### Education in Burundi and Zambia

Planned construction and rehabilitation of schools and classrooms in refugee camps in Burundi and Zambia were suspended as of February 2020 due to lack of funds. In Zambia, only four out of a planned 80 classrooms were completed meaning some students were unable to resume their studies in the context of COVID-19. In Burundi, the existing lack of funding for education was worsened due to reprioritization of funds to respond to COVID-19, exposing out of school children to protection risks including SGBV, while crowded classrooms also increase the risk of COVID-19 contamination.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
- 35,000 refugee students in Burundi
- 6,000 refugee students in Zambia

**Funding needed:**
- Burundi $600,000
- Zambia $800,000

### Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania

Due to underfunding and reprioritization (including in the context of COVID-19), planned construction of retaining walls for shower facilities in camps in Rwanda to prevent their structural collapse was not implemented as of July 2020. Funding shortfalls in the United Republic of Tanzania led to 25% of refugee households not receiving family latrines as planned, and delays in the decommissioning of filled, collapsed and communal latrines in the three refugee camps.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
- Over 76,000 Congolese refugees in Rwanda
- 4,815 Congolese refugee households in the United Republic of Tanzania

**Funding needed:**
- Rwanda $200,000
- the United Republic of Tanzania $2.3 million

### Voluntary repatriation from the Republic of the Congo

Although a priority in 2020, assisted voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees from the Republic of the Congo to the DRC could not be carried out from January 2020 due to unavailability of funds, in addition to COVID-19 related issues. As a result, refugees ready to return home to the DRC continue to wait for assisted repatriation, delaying durable solutions.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
- 10,000 Congolese refugees

**Funding needed:**
- $1.7 million

### Shelter and cash assistance for IDPs in the DRC

Emergency shelter interventions for IDP families in South Kivu Province were stopped in January 2020 due to the shortfall in funding, while cash programming for IDP women at risk was reduced, with only 680 women being supported. Highly vulnerable displaced people continue to live in substandard and undignified shelters, exposed to environmental hazards, while women at risk, without opportunities for financial independence, may resort to negative coping mechanisms and are exposed to SGBV and other protection risks.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
- 8,000 IDP households in need of shelter
- 100,000 IDP women at risk

**Funding needed:**
- $22 million

### Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

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<th>JANUARY</th>
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Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

**WASH in the Republic of the Congo**

Due to lack of funding and reprioritization of funds towards the COVID-19 response, the planned construction of family latrines for refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been put on hold, however with sufficient funding could be resumed in the second half of 2020. The ratio of people per latrine is high at 32, compared to the recommended 20, resulting in public health risks.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 8,000 individuals
- **Funding needed:** $450,000

**Emergency shelter programme for IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

The funding shortfall will prevent UNHCR from implementing essential emergency shelter interventions for IDPs in North Kivu Province from October 2020. Highly vulnerable displaced people are currently forced to live in substandard and undignified shelters and are exposed to environmental hazards.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 6,000 IDP households
- **Funding needed:** $2 million

**Reception arrangements in Uganda**

As of September 2020, underfunding will result in the suspension of core relief item distribution for new arrivals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Uganda, and halt construction and expansion of collection points, transit centres and reception centres (including quarantine facilities). Without core relief items – including soap for hand washing during COVID-19 – refugees lack basic necessities and may face additional health and protection risks.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 50,000 people
- **Funding needed:** $2.8 million

**Health and nutrition in the United Republic of Tanzania**

Provision of specialized equipment such as x-ray machines, incubators, pediatric vital sign monitors and automated external defibrillators to facilitate secondary and tertiary health care referrals have not been procured so far in 2020 due to underfunding, meaning that some people will not have access to needed medical care in the second half of 2020. Provision of supplementary nutrition to people at risk in the three refugee camps will also be required due to reduction of the food basket.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 17,640 people in the health sector and 6,135 people at risk of malnutrition
- **Funding needed:** $750,000

**Livelihoods in Zambia**

An initiative to strengthen access to employment opportunities for youth and women by supporting development of artisanal skills, as well as visual and vocal artistry, in the three settlements in Zambia will not been implemented in the absence of further funding from September 2020. This intervention would in part mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on refugee livelihoods.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 1,500 people
- **Funding needed:** $500,000
Emmanuelle Ochaya, 56, is among an estimated 45,000 people who fled attacks in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that erupted in May 2020. She was part of a group who became stranded in a remote and inaccessible area, as the borders between the DRC and Uganda remained closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown. When Uganda temporarily re-opened two border crossing points through Guladjo and Mount Zeu in Zombo district in July 2020, some 3,000 asylum-seekers (including Emmanuelle) crossed into Uganda. UNHCR and partners, in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Health Ministry and the district local government, have been working around the clock in Zombo district to strengthen reception capacities, including quarantine facilities at the border, and to ensure adequate levels of emergency assistance are available. However, funding constraints are limiting UNHCR’s ability to respond to the needs of new arrivals, including for vulnerable individuals like Emmanuelle, who are fast-tracked for assistance.

“The needs are huge and growing.”

- Joel Boutroue, UNHCR’s Representative in Uganda
A Somali refugee stands next to her brothers at a World Vision school being used as a temporary shelter in Bar Amino, Ethiopia. © UNHCR/EDUARDO SOTERAS JALIL

SOMALIA

The Somalia situation is one of the world’s longest-running displacement crises.

The country has been facing a series of challenges in 2020, including COVID-19, riverine and flash flooding and an infestation of desert locusts, all of which are compounded by ongoing armed conflict. Many people remain in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, and shelter and non-food items have been identified as priority needs within Somalia. Over 778,000 Somali refugees in host countries also continue to rely on protection, assistance and support in the search for durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Somalia situation in 2020 stand at $425.7 million. As of 25 August 2020, $62.9 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $111.6 million to the Somalia situation, raising the current funding level to 41%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in Somalia and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including shelter, education and solutions, while additional programme cuts are anticipated in the second half of 2020 should further funding not be received.
Shelter in Djibouti
As of June 2020, only 10% of households in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl refugee settlements were planned to be constructed for returnees in South Central Somalia had to be cut by half. Returnees without shelter will be vulnerable to evictions and homelessness, making their return and reintegration potentially unsustainable.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 20,500 individuals
Funding needed: $16.2 million

Education in Ethiopia
As of May 2020, funds were reallocated from adult and youth literacy activities in Melkadida, Ethiopia, towards COVID-19 prevention activities, suspending the activities for the rest of 2020. Young women who are raising children and unable to regularly enroll in schools particularly benefit from adult literacy classes, and their suspension leaves them with no further educational opportunities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 48,700 individuals
Funding needed: $250,000

Shelter for returnees in Somalia
As of April 2020, due to a shortfall in funding, the number of durable shelters that were planned to be constructed for returnees in South Central Somalia had to be cut by half. Returnees without shelter will be vulnerable to evictions and homelessness, making their return and reintegration potentially unsustainable.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 38,000 returnees
Funding needed: $1.2 million

Durable solutions in Kenya
As of March 2020, the Dadaab solutions strategy was put on hold, including the verification exercise and the relocation of non-Somali refugees from Dadaab to Kakuma. Other durable solutions including repatriation and resettlement were also put on hold, with only a few emergency resettlement cases being processed. Many refugees in Dadaab have been displaced for years or decades. The suspension of the Dadaab solutions strategy will result in further delays, including for the most vulnerable.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 48,000 individuals
Funding needed: $1.5 million

Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Energy in Ethiopia
Since the beginning of 2020, due to underfunding there has been a lack of household energy supply to refugees in all three Jijiga camps. De-prioritization of the provision of household energy supply for cooking and logistics support in Jijiga will continue in the second half of 2020 in the absence of further funding, increasing deforestation around the camps and exposure of girls and women to SGBV during firewood collection.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 39,000 individuals
Funding needed: $340,000 including transport and logistic costs

Cash and financial assistance in Kenya
Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and strict lockdown measures in Kenya, it has been difficult for urban refugees in Nairobi and urban settings of Mombasa, Nakuru and Eldoret to sustain themselves. Urban refugees are struggling to pay rent and resorting to negative coping mechanisms; and incidents of SGBV are on the rise. Additional cash assistance for these refugees is needed, as are funds to relocate those refugees who are unable to remain in urban areas to Kakuma camp.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 40,000 individuals
Funding needed: $1.1 million

Shelter maintenance in Yemen
As of September 2020, due to the shortfall in funding and re-prioritization to focus on lifesaving activities, construction and maintenance work in the Kharaz refugee camp in Yemen will be reduced. The living conditions of families in Kharaz camp will continue to deteriorate, increasing risks of communicable disease and impacting social cohesion with surrounding Yemeni communities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 8,900 refugees
Funding needed: $720,000

Core relief items, emergency shelter and multi-purpose cash grants in Somalia
By August 2020, over 597,075 people will be displaced in Somalia due to flooding, conflict or evictions, compounded by a locust infestation and COVID-19. Additional funding is required to procure and distribute core relief items and emergency shelter for 10,000 of the most vulnerable IDP households in the South Central and Puntland Regions of Somalia. Highly vulnerable displaced people will otherwise lack basic and domestic items including emergency shelter and other essential services.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 10,000 households (60,000 individuals)
Funding needed: $1.6 million

Cash assistance in Djibouti
Beginning already in June 2020, due to shortfalls in funding cash assistance will no longer be provided to settlement-based refugees in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl settlements. Vulnerable refugees may be unable to meet their basic needs during the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 22,800 refugees in Ali-Addeh and Holl-Holl
Funding needed: $110,000
Insecurity continues in the Central African Republic (CAR), despite progress including relative calm in some parts of the country.

The signing of tripartite agreements in 2019 allowed UNHCR to facilitate the voluntary return of over 12,400 Central African refugees from Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR has continued to provide protection for over 600,000 Central African refugees in neighbouring countries and pursued solutions in collaboration with development actors and host governments. Activities in support of some 658,998 IDPs in the CAR include protection monitoring, SGBV prevention and response, provision of emergency shelter and non-food items, and support to return to areas of origin where feasible.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the CAR situation in 2020 stand at $150.4 million. As of 25 August 2020, $2.7 million have been received specifically for the CAR situation (2% of the overall needs). Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to additionally allocate $56.9 million to the CAR situation to raise the current funding level to 40%. These low funding levels have led to large cuts to programmes in various sectors by UNHCR’s operations in the CAR and in countries of asylum in the first half of 2020, including camp coordination and camp management, shelter and core relief items for IDPs, and livelihood support and essential health-care services for refugees, with further cuts expected in the coming months.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

Health care in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Due to a shortfall in funding, the provision of specialized equipment and the construction of health-care centres in camps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosting Central African refugees were suspended in January 2020. Capacity-building activities for medical staff and other stakeholders in nutrition (infant and young child feeding practices) and reproductive health (clinical management of rape survivors) were also canceled. Refugees and host community members will lack adequate access to health services which will increase health risks such as malaria, malnutrition, measles or diarrhea.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 35,000 individuals

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 113,400 IDPs

Funding needed: $465,000 (primary health care only, without COVID-19 response); $750,000 to cover COVID-19 response gaps

Latrines, shelter and cash assistance for refugees in Chad and the Republic of the Congo

In January 2020, latrine construction, shelter rehabilitation and cash assistance for Central African refugees in southern Chad and the north-east of the Republic of the Congo were suspended due to lack of funding and further due to re-prioritization linked to the COVID-19 crisis. This leaves the ratio of people per latrine at 32, well above the standard 20, in the Republic of the Congo; while women and girls in Chad no longer benefit from cash assistance for menstrual hygiene dignity kits. A planned cash assistance project in Chad to improve access by victims of SGBV to essential services, livelihoods and social safety nets could not be established, while families in the Republic of the Congo remain in sub-standard shelters in need of repair.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 100,000 refugees

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 113,400 IDPs

Funding needed: $2.3 million

Livelihoods and health care for refugees in Cameroon

Since January 2020, the number of Central African refugees benefitting from livelihood support and essential health care services in the East, Adamawa and North regions of Cameroon has been reduced due to funding shortfalls. UNHCR has only maintained health services for children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly; and 150,000 refugees are facing hunger, malnutrition and disease and are at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms in the absence of opportunities to produce their own food and undertake other economic activities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 150,000 refugees

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 113,400 IDPs

Funding needed: $800,000

Voluntary repatriation programme for Central African refugees

Based on return intention surveys, UNHCR planned to assist a minimum of 25,000 Central African refugees to repatriate voluntarily from countries of asylum in 2020. Available funds have only supported the return of 5,000 refugees by mid-2020. This may result in uncoordinated spontaneous returns to zones that are still unstable, increasing the risk of multiple displacements and possible loss of life. Reintegration activities, including support for livelihoods and rehabilitation of community infrastructure, are not available, fragilizing social cohesion between returnees and local communities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 20,000 refugees with the intention to return to the CAR

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 113,400 IDPs

Funding needed: $10.2 million

Counselling and psychosocial support for Central African refugees

Since January 2020, UNHCR has had to limit its camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) activities as well as shelter and core relief item (CRI) distribution for IDPs due to funding shortfalls. As the cluster lead for CCCM, shelter and CRIs, UNHCR covers only 68 of the 132 IDP sites across the country (52%). Over 113,000 IDPs are exposed to weather conditions and various risks, including in terms of health and sexual and gender-based violence, which are further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 113,400 IDPs

Funding needed: $4 million

Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Protection programme for Central African refugees in Cameroon

From October 2020, UNHCR will be unable to maintain education support for Central African refugees in the East, Adamaoua and North regions of Cameroon, potentially increasing school dropout rates and exposing children to multiple protection risks including child labour and SGBV. From September 2020, UNHCR will have to significantly reduce registration of newly arriving refugees, along with continuous registration activities and biometric enrollment, resulting in a high number of unregistered asylum-seekers, whose lack of documentation and status exposes them to greater protection risks.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 20,000 children (education support) and 300,000 refugees (registration and protection services)

Funding needed: $2 million

IDP return assistance programme in the Central African Republic

By September 2020, UNHCR will be unable to maintain assistance packages for IDPs returning to their areas of origin in accordance with government guidelines. The absence of support for IDPs that voluntarily wish to return to their areas of origin will increase protection risks and could result in up to 40,000 IDPs remaining dependent on aid in IDP sites.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 40,000 returning IDPs

Funding needed: $2.5 million

Community-based protection for Central African refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

A community-based protection initiative to empower communities and promote social cohesion in North Ubangi, South Ubangi and Bas-Uele Provinces in the DRC will not be implemented if further funding is not received in the second half of 2020. Human rights violations and protection risks encountered by refugees from the Central African Republic are not being identified, analyzed and prevented. Local resources and capacity will not be strengthened.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 171,483 individuals

Funding needed: $450,000

Health care and logistics for Central African refugees in Chad

Due to underfunding, referrals to secondary and tertiary health services for refugees in southern Chad will be cut in August 2020, and as of September UNHCR will be unable to cover logistics costs such as fuel and spare parts. The health situation of 89,000 refugees with treatable medical conditions will worsen and may eventually become life-threatening. Lack of funds for logistics, in a zone that is characterized by long distances and difficult road conditions to access refugee settlements, will reduce UNHCR’s field presence significantly.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 89,000 Central African refugees

Funding needed: $1.2 million
There are some 1.4 million IDPs in Iraq, more than half of whom have been living in displacement for at least three years. Despite efforts to rebuild the country and revitalize local economies, significant challenges are hindering returns. In Iraq, UNHCR works with the Government and development actors to incorporate IDPs’ needs in development plans and support their gradual absorption into the Iraqi social welfare system. There are also some 278,600 Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey for whom UNHCR provides protection and basic services in support of neighboring countries’ efforts, while also working towards comprehensive solutions.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Iraq situation in 2020 stand at $475.7 million. As of 25 August 2020, $117.6 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $41.3 million to the Iraq situation, raising the current funding level to 33%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in Iraq and in neighbouring countries to cut or reduce some critical programmes including health and education. If adequate funding is not received, UNHCR will have to further reduce or cut programmes such as cash assistance and winterization support.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

Access to health care services for Iraqis in Egypt

Since the start of 2020 due to lack of funds, health support for Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers has been scaled back and limited to only emergency cases. From October 2020 onwards, UNHCR will not be able to support any Iraqi refugee and asylum-seeker patients in Egypt with primary, secondary and tertiary health care services, nor will the Office be in a position to support patients with their monthly medication expenses. Referrals to secondary and emergency health services will also stop. This will affect the well-being of refugees with treatable medical conditions, who may also risk developing conditions that are life-threatening. Primary health care is the entry point to all health systems for Iraqi refugees and is essential to maintain, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
100 Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers
Funding needed:
$150,000

Education for Iraqi refugee and asylum-seekers in Egypt

In August 2020, lack of funding required UNHCR to reduce the size of education grants provided to Iraqi refugee and asylum-seekers students enrolled in private schools by 20-40%. This will leave Iraqi refugee families no choice other than to cover education expenses on their own. If they are unable to do so, many young refugee children may be forced to drop out of school, ultimately contributing to a greater likelihood of children engaging in labor or other activities exposing them to additional protection risks. UNHCR provides education grants for each student once a year. The payment of the education grant usually takes place during the last trimester of the calendar year.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:
800 students
Funding needed:
$200,000
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)

The winterization programme covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021. UNHCR will have to reduce its winterization assistance – provided mainly in the form of cash grants – to vulnerable Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, IDPs and returnees in Iraq, as well as refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities in Iraq. People of concern will face increased vulnerabilities and greater protection risks. Household members will be more at risk of worsening health conditions and resorting to negative coping strategies to meet their winter needs, including indebting themselves to cover heating costs or limiting their food expenses.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 544,876 individuals
Funding needed: $23.5 million

Cash assistance for IDPs in Iraq in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

By September 2020, cash assistance related to needs driven by the COVID-19 pandemic will be reduced or suspended due to funding shortfalls. IDPs are at risk of contracting COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses, which can be easily spread among communities in camp-based settings. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, cash assistance has proven invaluable to ensuring that IDPs are able to purchase hygiene products, such as hand sanitizer or core relief items, to reduce the likelihood of transmission.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 63,636 IDP households
Funding needed: $14 million

Legal assistance for IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq

By October 2020, UNHCR will have to reduce the provision of legal assistance, information and representation to IDPs and refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq. Legal assistance is crucial in helping families to obtain civil documentation, which enables them to access education, health care and other government assistance and compensation schemes, such as government grants for returning IDPs.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 22,403 individuals
Funding needed: $3.8 million

Multi-purpose cash assistance for refugees in Egypt and Iraq

Lack of funding will force UNHCR to reduce or stop its multi-purpose cash assistance to Iraqi refugees in Egypt and refugees of other nationalities in Iraq in September 2020. Cash assistance helps families meet their basic needs and mitigates the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on families and communities, many of whom have lost their livelihoods due to COVID-19 restrictions. Without additional funding, people of concern may resort to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 1,189 households
Funding needed: $3.4 million
The Burundi situation remains one of the least-funded refugee situations in the world. As of June 2020, 333,703 Burundian refugees were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the already precarious condition of Burundian refugees in the region, including pressure on the health and sanitation systems in remote areas of countries of asylum. Some Burundian refugees have opted for voluntary repatriation, which is ongoing from the United Republic of Tanzania and was initiated recently from Rwanda. UNHCR is not promoting return but is assisting those refugees who indicate they have made an informed choice to repatriate.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Burundi situation in 2020 stand at $189.9 million. As of 25 August 2020, $19 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $48.5 million to the Burundi situation, raising the current funding level to 36%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in Burundi and in neighbouring countries to cut programmes and activities across a range of sectors, including voluntary repatriation, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and cash assistance, with cuts anticipated to other programmes should further funding not be received.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Since January 2020, the planned construction of boreholes and latrines in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province has been reduced due to a shortfall in funding. Burundian refugees have been living in unsanitary and substandard conditions and are at increased risk of communicable diseases.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 5,000 households
Funding needed: $250,000

Sanitation and hygiene in the United Republic of Tanzania
As of June 2020, a reduction in funding led to deprioritized construction of family latrines for 40% of Burundian households in the three camps (Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli) in the United Republic of Tanzania. 35% of households are using communal latrines or sharing with other households which results in conflicts, lack of ownership and hygiene, increased public health concerns, and protection risks particularly for women and girls.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 17,000 Burundian refugee households
Funding needed: $2.4 million

Monitoring and reintegation assistance in return areas in Burundi
Since January 2020, underfunding has hampered UNHCR’s ability to monitor and provide reintegation assistance in the return areas of Makamba, Muyinga and Ruhigi in Burundi. Monitoring activities have been conducted at approximately one third of what was planned, which in turn has meant UNHCR has been unable to provide necessary protection assistance. Reintegration support has had to be almost entirely deprioritized. For example, shelter kits have only been provided to the most vulnerable returnees. The extremely limited support provided jeopardizes the sustainability of return.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 88,000 refugee returnees since 2017
Funding needed: $6.3 million

Education in Rwanda
As of July 2020, the planned construction of 20 classrooms in Mahama camp, Rwanda, was deprioritized in order to address COVID-19 needs. The reduction will set back the progressive decongestion of overcrowded classrooms (more than 100 children per classroom). This is particularly concerning in the COVID-19 context.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 20,000 children
Funding needed: $300,000
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Cash assistance for household energy in Rwanda

Monthly assistance in terms of cooking energy for refugee families in Mahama camp in Rwanda could be interrupted from September 2020 in the absence of further funds. All camp-based refugees rely entirely on humanitarian assistance for cooking energy since firewood use has been banned. Disruption of assistance means refugees would have to resort to illegal means to acquire cooking energy, risking detention and conflict with hosting communities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 65,000 individuals
Funding needed: $1 million

Distribution of core relief items in the United Republic of Tanzania

Since January 2020, due to a shortfall in funding distribution of core relief items has been reduced in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province. This will not be able to be provided through the second half of 2020 unless further funding is received. Refugees continue to lack essential household items such as blankets and cooking utensils.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 5,000 households
Funding needed: $500,000

Voluntary repatriation to Burundi from Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania

With increased interest in return following the elections in Burundi in May, additional funds are needed from September 2020 to facilitate repatriation in safety and dignity from both the United Republic of Tanzania (where assisted returns have been ongoing since 2017) and Rwanda (where refugees have recently requested assistance to repatriate with several thousand having already signed up). Funding is needed for protection personnel to undertake registration and verify voluntariness of return, for reception and return packages in Burundi, and to implement the necessary COVID-19 prevention measures, including screening and testing capacities, quarantine centres and safe transportation.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 20,000 returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania, 8,000 returning from Rwanda and 2,000 from other asylum countries
Funding needed: $1.6 million in the United Republic of Tanzania, $1.5 million in Rwanda and $6.5 million in Burundi

Core relief items in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Since January 2020, due to a shortfall in funding distribution of core relief items has been reduced in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province. This will not be able to be provided through the second half of 2020 unless further funding is received. Refugees continue to lack essential household items such as blankets and cooking utensils.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 5,000 households
Funding needed: $500,000
Aisha and her husband, Matias, are among the thousands of Burundian refugees living in eastern DRC who received cash to construct houses and toilets. The couple who met in the DRC after fleeing Burundi’s conflict in 2017 built their new home — and crucially a toilet — with money they received from UNHCR’s ‘cash for shelter’ project. Since the project began, Burundian refugees have benefited from improved access to better shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene. However, funding constraints are limiting UNHCR’s ability to meet these pressing needs for other Burundians displaced in the DRC. Since January 2020, the planned construction of boreholes and latrines in refugee camps and sites in South Kivu Province has been reduced due to a shortfall in funding. Burundian refugees have been living in unsanitary and substandard conditions and are at increased risk of communicable diseases.

“Water is life.”
- Aisha
The Syria situation entered its tenth year in 2020 with more than 5.5 million Syrian refugees hosted by neighbouring countries, of whom 45% are children and 21% are women.

Living conditions are precarious, with more than 60% of Syrian refugees living in poverty. UNHCR and UNDP continue to co-lead the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria crisis (3RP), coordinating the work of more than 270 partners in the five main hosting countries. Inside the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), UNHCR continues to support IDPs through protection activities, core relief items and shelter activities, while also mobilizing emergency responses to new displacement.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Syria situation in 2020 stand at $1.991 billion. As of 25 August 2020, $684.9 million have been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $66.4 million to the Syria situation, raising the current funding level to 38%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in neighbouring countries to cut or reduce some programmes. Further cuts are expected in the second half of 2020 if more funding is not received.

### KEY POPULATION DATA

**As of 30 June 2020**

- **5.5 million** Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries
- **6.7 million** IDPs
- **18,344** refugee returnees to the Syrian Arab Republic (total returnees in 2020)
- **160,000** stateless persons

*Source: OCHA*
Nine years of conflict weigh heavy on a Syrian refugee. She and her family fled her home in 2013, when fighting broke out in Homs, and sought refuge in Jordan.

Education for Syrian refugees in Egypt

As of August 2020, UNHCR has had to reduce the size of education grants provided to Syrian refugee children and youth enrolled in public schools in Egypt by 40%. Grants will now only cover a maximum 25% of educational expenses, placing vulnerable low-income refugee and asylum-seeker students at high risk of dropping out of school and exposing them to multiple protection risks. UNHCR has also had to reduce its support to the Ministry of Education for teacher trainings by 90%, potentially impacting educational outcomes. UNHCR provides education grants for each student once a year. The payment of the education grant usually takes place during the last trimester of the calendar year.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:

28,000 Syrian refugee and asylum-seeker students

Funding needed:

$2 million

Health care for Syrians in Egypt

Since the start of 2020, due to lack of funds, health support for Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers has been scaled back and limited to emergency cases. As of October 2020, UNHCR will not be able to support Syrian refugee patients with their access to primary and lifesaving health-care services or with their monthly access to medications. Referrals to secondary and emergency health services will also stop. This will affect the well-being of refugees with treatable medical conditions, creating a risk that they become life-threatening. Primary health care, as the entry point to the health system, will be essential to maintain, particularly in operations with a COVID-19 response.

Number of impacted beneficiaries:

5,500 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers

Funding needed:

$1.25 million

Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)
The winterization programme covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021. Without adequate funds, UNHCR will have to reduce or stop its winterization assistance to vulnerable IDPs in Syria and Syrian refugees in the region, including cash assistance for winter and core relief items specific to winter. Syrian IDP and refugee families will face increased vulnerabilities and protection risks. Household members will be at risk of worsening health conditions, as well as of resorting to negative coping mechanisms to meet their winter needs, such as going into debt to pay for heating or decreasing their food expenditure.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 3.1 million individuals
Funding needed: $182.9 million

Education support in Turkey
From September 2020, UNHCR will have to reduce education support to Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey. Some 85,000 secondary-school aged youth will be unable to commence e-learning for the new academic year, without the necessary tablets and smart devices to access online learning modules – the new modality of teaching in Turkey since the start of the COVID-19 crisis.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 85,000 students
Funding needed: $2.6 million

Multi-purpose cash assistance in Egypt and Iraq
From September 2020, provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees will have to be reduced. Without funding in the final quarter of 2020, nearly 11,000 Syrian refugee families will be unable to meet their daily basic needs, pay rent and maintain access to essential services. Due to mobility restrictions and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, vulnerabilities of Syrian households have been exacerbated, as many have lost their jobs or regular sources of income. Highly vulnerable refugee households may resort to negative coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 10,956 households
Funding needed: $14.5 million

Emergency response in Lebanon
As of September 2020, UNHCR will not be able to provide support to vulnerable families affected by the August 2020 explosion in Beirut. Without funding, families will not have means to repair their damaged apartments or to move to another one if their house was completely destroyed. The explosion comes on top of the deepening economic crisis and COVID-19 restrictions, which had affected living conditions for vulnerable refugees and host communities and who will soon be exposed to the upcoming harsh winter. Vulnerable families may be forced to resort to negative coping strategies to meet their needs. Most commonly, this includes decreasing food expenditure and increasing household debts. Families may also reduce expenditure on essential non-food expenses, namely rent, health and education.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 100,000 people affected by the blast
Funding needed: $35 million (including $32.5 million for shelter interventions and $2.5 million for protection activities)
Falak Selo knows what the sudden loss of home, country and loved ones can do to a person’s mental wellbeing. She was studying philosophy at the University of Damascus in 2013 when the civil war reached the area where her mother and sister were living. She abandoned her studies to flee with them to the town of Akre in northern Iraq, which now shelters over 1,000 Syrian refugees. Accommodation is cramped, with little natural light, but Falak has learned skills to help her cope, and, since 2017 she has been sharing them with other refugees at Akre through her role as a community worker with UNHCR’s mental health and psychosocial support unit. Funding shortfalls may force UNHCR to reduce or stop its multi-purpose cash assistance to refugees in Iraq come September 2020, which was programmed to help families mitigate the negative socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. These factors are major contributors to alarming reports that UNHCR has been receiving of a surge in mental health issues among refugees and forcibly displaced people across the Middle East region, and beyond, since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic and that trained community workers – many of them refugees themselves like Falak – are trying to address.

“It’s a place where you see a lot of pain in people. It gives me a feeling of fulfillment when I see that people are trusting me and coming back for my support.”

- Falak Selo
Tradesmen work to build a house in Tarakhil Daag, a suburb of Kabul city, Afghanistan. While the local community, returnees and IDPs live adjacently, the groups generally have limited interaction. UNHCR’s community-based protection project aims, in part, to promote peaceful coexistence between different segments of the community. Particularly as more returnees and IDPs are expected to settle here in the coming years.

With the crisis in Afghanistan entering its fifth decade, Afghans are the second largest refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate globally. Pakistan remains the world’s second largest refugee-hosting country for refugees under UNHCR’s mandate, and the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks sixth. The Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) provides the overarching policy and operational framework for strengthening support to host countries while creating the conditions for sustainable return and reintegration; augmented by a support platform under the Global Compact on Refugees launched in 2019 and focused on resilience and youth empowerment through education, health and skills. In addition, with more than 400,000 new conflict-induced IDPs recorded in 2019 in Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to co-lead the protection cluster and shelter and non-food items cluster, focusing on food, shelter and long-term integration of IDPs.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Afghanistan situation in 2020 stand at $273.5 million. As of 25 August 2020, $86.6 million have been received. Flexible funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $25.4 million to the Afghanistan situation, raising the current funding level to 41%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations in Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries to cut or reduce programmes across a range of sectors, including protection monitoring, health services, school construction and vocational skills training, with further reductions expected in the second half of 2020 should more funding not be received.
Primary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran

UNHCR assists the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in providing inclusive and free primary health care services by supporting selected health posts in remote locations and highly populated refugee hosting areas. From January 2020, 23 health posts could not be supported due to a lack of funding. This negatively impacts the availability of free quality primary health care services for refugees, at a time when the Government is struggling to maintain the current level of service provision for refugees but has also generously extended free testing and treatment for COVID-19 to people of concern.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 57,500 refugees and host community members

Funding needed: $1 million

The purchase of tool kits for technical and vocational skill courses in Pakistan

UNHCR had planned to provide toolkits to 1,000 Afghan refugees and Pakistanis trained in a six-month technical and vocational skills course in institutes located throughout Pakistan. These could not be purchased as of March 2020 as originally planned due to lack of funding. This will impact the timely implementation of training activities and divert resources from implementation of other activities for refugees and host communities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 1,000 refugees and host community members

Funding needed: $100,000

Access to secondary and tertiary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran

From January 2020, UNHCR has only been able to cover universal public health insurance fees for a third of the 300,000 most vulnerable refugees. While refugees may also enroll by themselves without UNHCR’s support, the cost of insurance premiums is not affordable for many, who are already amongst the most vulnerable in society and impacted still further by dwindling employment opportunities due to COVID-19. This can result in either going without necessary treatment or the accumulation of debts and subsequent negative coping mechanisms to make ends meet.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 200,000 vulnerable refugees

Funding needed: $17.2 million

The purchase of medical equipment in Pakistan

Since 2015, UNHCR has supported Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, by providing medical equipment related to cancer treatment, which benefits both Afghan refugees and members of the host community. As of March 2020, UNHCR has been unable to provide this support in line with its agreement due to lack of funds, impacting access to tertiary health services in an area of Pakistan which is densely populated by Afghan refugees.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 300 patients a month (3,600 in 2020)

Funding needed: $900,000
Protection monitoring in Afghanistan

In a context of ongoing conflict, combined with the health and economic impact of COVID-19, protection monitoring is vital to ensure urgent protection needs are identified and addressed as early as possible through appropriate response mechanisms. Protection monitoring also provides data to support programme design and implementation. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR ceased conducting focus group discussions from April 2020 and changed the primary modality of protection monitoring to household-level interviews. This requires more resources to maintain the scope and reach of monitoring.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 11,600 people
Funding needed: $500,000

Registration in Pakistan

In 2020, UNHCR planned to improve the registration of Proof of Registration (POR) card holders by collecting a standard minimum set of data for all individuals. However, due to limited resources, as of March 2020 UNHCR was only able to update or modify the data for a small number of POR card holders. With the current registration data set, UNHCR is unable to effectively identify POR card holders with specific needs, including those with urgent or emergency protection concerns or who are in critical need of resettlement.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 1.4 million POR card holders
Funding needed: $7.3 million

School construction in the Islamic Republic of Iran

In the first half of 2020, UNHCR has had to progressively decrease the number of schools that it will be able to support in building, due to a lack of funding worsened by a general increase in construction prices. As of August 2020, UNHCR has only been able to co-fund the construction of seven prioritized schools in areas hosting Afghan refugees. The Government had assessed the need to construct 85 twelve-classroom schools in 2020 alone to ensure the inclusion of Afghan children in the public education system. The Islamic Republic of Iran has accommodated some 500,000 refugee students (including undocumented Afghan children) during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 12,960 refugee and host community children
Funding needed: $7.8 million
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

**Cash assistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

In the second half of 2020, a significant increase in needs due to the economic situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran, amplified by COVID-19, coupled with insufficient funding will result in many vulnerable Afghan refugees not receiving needed multi-purpose cash assistance. In June 2020, 95% of Afghan households that UNHCR interviewed reported a decrease in the breadwinner’s income which they attributed to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. One in three respondents also reported that the main breadwinner in their household was unemployed.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 3,000 vulnerable Afghan refugees
- **Funding needed:** $900,000

**Primary health services for Afghan refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran**

As of mid-2020, UNHCR may be unable to support the provision of necessary medical supplies and medicines to 134 primary health-care centres due to underfunding, impacting access to primary health care for refugees and host communities. This is particularly crucial in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has heightened pre-existing vulnerabilities, with some refugees reporting difficulties in accessing basic health services and treatment.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 335,000 refugees and host community members
- **Funding needed:** $1.2 million

**Emergency preparedness and response in Afghanistan**

In Afghanistan’s rapidly evolving humanitarian landscape, it is crucial to be able to rapidly mobilize a response to sudden-onset crises by avoiding lengthy procurement and transport lead times, notably through adequate warehouse capacity. The absence of dedicated funding will impact UNHCR’s ability to maintain needed warehousing capacity, and in the long term one or more warehouses may have to be closed. The absence of dedicated funding for this important activity will also result in diversion of unearmarked funding to cover the cost of warehousing, which impacts other activities in Afghanistan.

- **Funding needed:** $200,000

**Support to persons with specific needs in Afghanistan**

In the context of conflict-induced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic, many government and community safety networks have broken down or are no longer accessible. UNHCR provides targeted support through cash and in-kind assistance or referral to specialized services to individuals with acute vulnerabilities and protection risks, including through established networks. Insufficient funding in the second of half of 2020 will impact UNHCR’s ability to continue to provide this support, including for women at risk, survivors of SGBV, those with medical or legal needs and children. This heightens the susceptibility of vulnerable individuals to abuse and exploitation, and may place them at risk of irreversible and lasting harm.

- **Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 2,434 individuals
- **Funding needed:** $1.2 million

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:** 335,000 refugees and host community members

**Funding needed:** $1.2 million
In the context of ongoing domestic upheaval, some 4.5 million Venezuelans have sought refuge worldwide.

This continues to be the largest exodus in the region’s recent history and one of the biggest displacement crises in the world. Within the framework of the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, UNHCR is providing lifesaving assistance in border areas to new arrivals, supporting access to basic goods and services, promoting peaceful coexistence with host communities, as well as access to fundamental rights, such as documentation, education and employment.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Venezuela situation in 2020 stand at $260.7 million. As of 25 August 2020, $68.7 million has been received. Flexible funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $48.8 million to the Venezuela situation, raising the current funding level to 45%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including child protection and livelihoods, with further cuts anticipated in the second half of 2020.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

**Access to livelihoods through the Graduation Approach in Colombia**

As of May 2020, due to funding shortfalls UNHCR was only able to support 50 vulnerable Venezuelan households in Antioquia and Choco departments to strengthen their access to livelihoods through the Graduation Approach, instead of the 1,200 households planned for 2020. According to UNHCR’s Rapid Livelihoods Assessment, 67% of Venezuelans in Colombia have lost all source of income since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March, leaving them at increased risk of exploitation, SGBV, eviction and health challenges. Some have found it necessary to go back to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela where they face significant protection risks.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
1,150 households, approximately 6,000 individuals

**Funding needed:**
$500,000

**“Communication with communities” for Venezuelans in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru**

Venezuelans in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are able to access UNHCR through ad hoc and small-scale managed hotlines that provide orientation and information on rights and protection pathways. Hotlines have become particularly vital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to a reduction in funds, UNHCR has not been able to turn these into professionalized national call centres as planned, and is relying on individual partner and staff mobile numbers. In Colombia, a three-month pilot with a professional service provider in the border city of Cúcuta lacked funding to continue until the end of the year or to be expanded to other locations. The lack of professional call centres has also required UNHCR to divert key resources, including UNHCR protection and NGO partner staff, to service helplines, affecting other strategic priorities.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
100,000 individuals

**Funding needed:**
$1 million

**Child-friendly spaces in Colombia**

As of June 2020, due to funding shortfalls UNHCR was unable to continue to support the child-friendly space it has been running with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) since 2018 at the Simon Bolivar Bridge in Cucuta, the main border crossing point from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. An estimated 10,000 newly arrived Venezuelan children in the second half of 2020 will be left without supervision while their parents are going through immigration procedures and receive orientation, exposing them to significant risks in the crowded border crossing space.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**
10,000 children

**Funding needed:**
$400,000
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Reception conditions for Venezuelans in Brazil and Colombia
As of September 2020, funding gaps will result in insufficient capacities to receive vulnerable new arrivals in Brazil and Colombia, which are expected to increase due to deteriorating conditions inside the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as the eventual easing of border restrictions. Reception facilities will no longer be able to provide shelter and services to address basic needs in line with minimum standards. Limited resources will also prevent authorities from ensuring that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are in place in reception facilities.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 9,500 individuals
Funding needed: $1.8 million

Core relief items and cash assistance for Venezuelans in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador
As of September 2020, a shortfall in funding will prevent UNHCR from assisting Venezuelans of concern with emergency multi-purpose cash and vouchers and core relief items in key border and urban reception areas in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. Measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated vulnerabilities of displaced families who have lost income as a result of lockdowns. Individuals may live in substandard and undignified conditions without adequate access to food, medicines, shelter and housing, resulting in negative coping mechanisms and increased protection and public health risks.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 36,800 individuals
Funding needed: $3.3 million

Socio-economic inclusion and education for Venezuelans
As of August 2020, a funding shortfall will result in a lack of early recovery and livelihood programmes to support vulnerable Venezuelans who have lost income due to COVID-19, including in the Southern Cone, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Planned support to facilitate recognition of qualifications and insertion into the labour market will also be limited due to funding, despite government efforts to ease requirements for foreigners to access critical job sectors like public health. 8,900 individuals will be unable to access income-generating opportunities, leaving over 25,000 people in conditions of severe vulnerability. Likewise, lack of funding will result in the discontinuation of UNHCR’s support to Venezuelan children through school materials.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 14,900 individuals
Funding needed: $4.8 million
Mixed movements, involving people of concern to UNHCR but also migrants, continue to affect countries in the East, West and North of Africa, as well as four main countries of arrival in Europe.

For many on the move, North or West Africa are destination regions; while for others, North Africa is a transit hub for those seeking to undertake the dangerous journey towards Europe. It is estimated that at least 15% of refugees and asylum-seekers do not stay in their country of first arrival. While border closures and other measures implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 saw a decrease in mixed movements to Libya in early 2020, the overall number of people on the move along these routes has not significantly diminished. Sea departures from Algeria, Tunisia and Libya increased, while they slightly reduced from Morocco. UNHCR continues to work with governments and partners in the region to ensure access to territory, asylum and basic services, working to strengthen protection systems as well as opportunities including education and vocational training that provide alternatives to risky irregular travel.

UNHCR’s overall requirements for the Central Mediterranean route situation in 2020 stand at $474.8 million. As of 25 August 2020, $230.9 million has been received. Flexible funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional $81.1 million to the situation, raising the current funding level to 66%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR’s operations to cut programmes across a range of sectors, including education and basic services, with further cuts anticipated in the second half of 2020.
Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding

Cash assistance to vulnerable refugees in urban settings in North Africa
In most countries in North Africa, UNHCR provides only partial cash assistance for short periods. Since the beginning of 2020, due to underfunding, this already limited assistance has been cut further. Estimates suggest that between 30% to 75% of urban refugees have lost their jobs during COVID-19 pandemic, and an increasing number have been forced to move to less protected shelters as they are unable to pay their rent. Verification exercises undertaken by UNHCR indicate that cuts in cash assistance are leading some refugees to consider they have no other option than to move onward to another North African country or across the Mediterranean Sea.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 50,000 individuals

Education services and vocational training in Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan
Due to lack of funding, a gradual reduction in education and developmental activities, vocational training and support for alternative care mechanisms has taken place since 2017 in countries along the East and Horn of Africa route towards North Africa, including for the “Live, Learn and Participate” project, the “Telling the Real Story” project and joint screening mechanisms for children on the move with governments and partners. Such activities are vital to meeting the needs of populations in key countries of asylum and transit and providing alternatives to dangerous onward movements. These reductions continued into 2020, compounded by shrinking asylum space, lengthy RSD procedures, and lack of staff to meet the needs of growing numbers of new arrivals, including many children (upwards of 60% in some areas), often unaccompanied and separated from family members.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 50,000 people

Assistance and services along routes in West and North Africa
Insufficient funding prevented UNHCR from expanding outreach, assistance and services to asylum-seekers and refugees along key routes as planned in the first half of 2020, particularly for those in remote areas, including in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Tunisia. Although partners are the first responders in hard-to-reach areas during the COVID-19 pandemic, by June 2020 some partnerships patiently developed over the last two years had to be reduced. This impacted referral mechanisms between agencies, while the lack of basic protection and assistance services—including food, shelter and psychosocial support—exposes asylum-seekers to protection risks, including human trafficking and can impact on access to asylum procedures in practice. Assistance to victims of trafficking of concern to UNHCR was extremely limited.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 300,000 individuals
Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

Livelihood activities in camp situations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania and Niger

In the absence of further funding in 2020, UNHCR will not be able to prioritize or scale up livelihood activities for camp-based populations (both refugees and IDPs) to enhance resilience and self-sufficiency. This may result in increased vulnerability of displaced communities and encourage them to seek protection or livelihood opportunities elsewhere, including by embarking on dangerous irregular onward movements.

Access to family reunion in Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya and Sudan

In the absence of further funding in 2020, UNHCR will have to suspend plans to expand its initial pilot project on access to family reunion in Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya and Sudan. Access to family reunion had been considered as a key priority in UNHCR’s risk mitigation strategy to prevent unaccompanied and separated children, as well as young women, from embarking on dangerous irregular onward movements, relying on smugglers and human traffickers.

Number of impacted beneficiaries: 10,000 individuals