

## 01. About the Global Humanitarian Overview

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) will be launched on 4 December in Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, London and Washington.

### **What is the GHO and what's its purpose?**

- The GHO is the world's most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of global humanitarian needs, response and trends.
- It presents costed plans for the coordinated response to crises by humanitarian organizations and is the consolidated appeal for funding for 2020.
- The GHO is published by OCHA with contributions from United Nations organizations, NGOs and other organizations.

### **Why does the GHO matter?**

- The GHO is the basis for fund-raising throughout the year.
- By providing a detailed assessment of needs and how best to meet them, the GHO helps mobilize resources, target them towards those who need them most, and ensure they are used effectively.

### **Every year there is a funding gap. What are the consequences of underfunding?**

- It affects the ability of humanitarians to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable people, which can have disastrous consequences. Underfunding means that some people in need get less aid, less frequently, or not at all. This can have immediate, medium- and long-term impacts on their lives.

### **Why are the financial requirements so high?**

- The number of people in need of assistance is rising, largely as a result of conflict and extreme climate events.
- The increase in funding requirements over the years is mainly driven by several large-scale, protracted crises. In 2019, 40 per cent of all humanitarian funding went to just two protracted emergencies – Yemen, and Syria and the region.
- It's also worth bearing in mind that the world spends about three times more on ice cream than it does on humanitarian aid.

### **What is new in the 2020 GHO?**

- It presents funding needs for 2020 and estimates how many people can be reached with those resources. It assesses humanitarian situations and trends at a global, regional and country level.
- This year's GHO has strengthened regional and country analysis, including by using improved data analysis techniques.
- It highlights the impact of climate change and how it increases people's vulnerability to humanitarian crises.
- This year, the headline figures for 2020 include all inter-agency appeals, including regional refugee appeals.
- It shows some of the areas where we have made significant strides, including innovative financing such as anticipatory action to get ahead of crises that can be predicted. For example, in Somalia, OCHA and the World Bank collaborate on a mechanism to release funds when a drought is predicted to reach a certain intensity. Pre-agreed release of funds will help provide farmers drought-tolerant or short-season seed varieties to sustain food production, and scale up cash transfers to vulnerable people.
- It shows that humanitarians are getting better at meeting the different needs of diverse groups, and at listening to communities.
- It is more explicit in addressing issues related to mental health and to disability.
- It reflects the importance of prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). A landmark conference in Oslo in May 2019 mobilized commitments and funding to step up prevention and response to GBV in emergencies. More sustained funding is required, in particular for local women's organizations working on gender equality and GBV response.
- This year's GHO offers a projection of what needs could be up to 2022.
- It shows that in the first nine months of 2019, 64 per cent of those targeted in 22 countries were reached with aid and assistance.

### **Will the figures be updated?**

- The data is constantly updated on Humanitarian InSight – <https://hum-insight.info/> – which hosts the GHO online. Another site, Financial Tracking Service (FTS) – <https://fts/unocha.org/> – provides updated and verified information on humanitarian funding.
- Monthly updates are produced and posted on ReliefWeb, Humanitarian Insight, and HR.info. Translations are available in French and Arabic.

### **Where does the money go?**

- Many UN agencies and NGOs are represented in the GHO. The funding is distributed through humanitarian organizations, both UN and non-UN, collaborating and coordinating to reach people in need.