

GLOBAL 20 HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW 19

UNITED NATIONS COORDINATED
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE AFFECTED
BY DISASTER AND CONFLICT



United Nations

About the 2019 Global Humanitarian Overview

The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) for 2019 will be launched in Geneva on 4 December. It is the most comprehensive, authoritative and evidence-based assessment of priority global humanitarian needs and how to respond to them.

Why does the GHO matter?

Humanitarian crises across the globe now affect more people and last longer on average than ever before. More resources are required so that aid workers can reach all vulnerable people most in need. While donors have been generous, increasing contributions to inter-agency-coordinated response plans from US\$3.7 billion in 2007 to nearly \$14 billion thus far in 2018, needs have far outstripped resources year after year.

By providing the most accurate assessment of needs and how best to meet them, the GHO helps to: mobilize resources; ensure that the resources are targeted towards the people, sectors and areas that need them the most; and promote efficiency so that the resources are used as effectively as possible.

What is the process to create the GHO?

The building blocks of the GHO are the country Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), which outline the multiple needs of crisis-affected people and how best to assist them.

The HNO for each crisis presents the best available information on humanitarian needs based on the analysis of data from surveys, household interviews with affected people, field visits, secondary data, and consultations with country-based humanitarian organizations. Building on this, UN agencies and humanitarian partners develop HRPs, which set out detailed, costed response priorities and future projections of needs, while mapping the capacity and plans of other responders (including Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, governments and development partners) and considering access challenges.

The processes that lead up to the GHO are undertaken collaboratively and involve consultation with crisis-affected people and governments, in collaboration with national and international humanitarian partners. The result is an authoritative assessment of what resources are required to best help those most in need through an intersectoral approach.

Why the Humanitarian Response Plans should be fully funded

HRPs are focused on tangible impact. In South Sudan, for instance, years of conflict and insecurity have pushed nearly 60 per cent of the population into extreme hunger. Some 6.1 million people faced “crisis”, “emergency” or “catastrophe” levels of food insecurity at the peak of the 2018 lean season in July and August. These needs and the assistance required to address them were detailed in the HRP. With funding received for 60 per cent of the \$1.72 billion needed, large-scale humanitarian assistance reached more than 4.5 million people in every county of the country in 2018, which was, in many cases, the only thing keeping famine at bay. In 2018 at least 4 million people have received food and livelihood support, including 500,000 children and breastfeeding or pregnant women who have received emergency nutritional support.

HRPs promote transparency and accountability. Progress on the implementation of HRPs is publicly tracked, including through monthly humanitarian bulletins, dashboards and periodic monitoring reports. This enables accountability monitoring in real time.

HRPs are cost-effective. While the 2019 annual global appeal is expected to require more than \$20 billion for the fourth year in a row, the cost per person assisted is well under \$250 and covers the entire year in most cases.

Humanitarian Needs Overviews in action

Afghanistan HNO: In 2018, humanitarian agencies conducted an assessment covering the whole of Afghanistan, to get the big picture of needs and trends. This was complemented with sector-specific assessments of needs. The team also used feedback data from a humanitarian call centre to check their assessments against the concerns expressed by affected people.

Chad HNO: In 2018, the HNO reflected a wider push for greater collaboration between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors geared towards not only meeting needs but also reducing them. Priority needs were grouped into three categories – access to food, internal displacement and access to health services – which were then analysed to draw conclusions as to the underlying causes. Humanitarians and development actors examined these root causes, spanning access to services, livelihood opportunities, poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, population growth and others, to inform the HNO and dialogue with development actors.

Estimating people in need: Estimates of people in need in HNOs have become more accurate thanks to new methodology and more precise, standardized terminology. In many countries, including Iraq, Ukraine and Yemen, information management working groups collaborate to agree on the numbers. Experts in these countries are also taking innovative approaches to track changes in the number of people in chronic or acute need over time.

Yemen HNO: The 2019 HNO for Yemen is based on a highly detailed level of data. Humanitarian organizations conducted a nationwide multisector assessment in 7,880 locations, covering all 333 districts, with sectoral assessments completing the picture. To understand people’s water, sanitation and hygiene needs, for instance, teams conducted interviews with more than 8,000 households across 41 districts.

The GHO is a summary of all the HRPs as well as other types of appeals. In 2018, there were 22 inter-agency HRPs and several Regional Refugee Response Plans (3RPs), including the Syria 3RP, and other appeals.