COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS

2019 IN REVIEW
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FOREWORD

In 2019, OCHA’s Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) continued to be at the forefront of global efforts to help people caught up in crisis.

From fighting cholera and food insecurity in Yemen and supporting people affected by floods in South Sudan, to tackling gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and helping children return to school in Myanmar, our 18 funds have saved and protected the lives of vulnerable people in some of the world’s most severe crises. And we established a new fund in Ukraine to help humanitarian partners there address the acute needs of people affected by conflict, especially the elderly and people with disabilities.

Together, our 18 funds allocated a record US$1 billion targeting 27.5 million people with life-saving aid including food, clean water, shelter and health care. Almost half ($478 million) went to international NGOs, with another quarter ($253 million) going directly to national NGOs at the front line of the emergencies, leveraging their access and local knowledge to best help people affected by crisis.

During the year we continued to improve the funds and the way they operate, making them more agile and effective. We introduced new streamlined reporting processes and funding modalities, making it easier to track funding commitments and spending in real time.

We also invested significantly in strengthening risk management, laying the groundwork for inclusion of dedicated OCHA-funded investigative capacity with the internal oversight body of the United Nations, the addition of a case management module in our Grants Management System, enhanced audit options, and strengthened funds oversight and compliance capacity in early 2020. OCHA also introduced improved procedures to handle suspicion of fraud or sexual exploitation and abuse in funded projects.

The commitment and generosity of our donors made this possible and I am profoundly grateful for their support. I also wish to thank our Humanitarian Coordinators for their outstanding leadership and the hundreds of pooled fund partners who work tirelessly to make sure aid gets where the needs are greatest. I have seen the impact of their work firsthand, especially during my interactions with the many women, men, boys and girls I have met during my travels.

Our pooled funds offer the easiest and most effective way to provide help to those who need it the most. They have already shown their immense value in 2020, particularly at the front lines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time of writing, the funds had already disbursed more than $100 million in 15 countries, allowing partners to quickly procure protective equipment and to keep critical operations going. Real-time information about pooled fund support to COVID-19-related response is available here: https://pfbi.unocha.org/COVID19

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock speaks with children at a child-friendly space in an internally displaced persons camp. © OCHA/Vincent Tremeau
The United Kingdom remained the largest donor, increasing its contribution by 30% to $320 million.

Czech Republic, Estonia, Japan, Monaco and Ukraine made their first contributions.

The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund was established, receiving $7 million in contributions.

Fastest allocation: The CAR Humanitarian Fund took 19 working days for standard allocations and 4 working days for reserve allocations on average (from closing date to HC signature of grant agreement).

The Yemen Humanitarian Fund allocated a record $239.4 million to reach 3.2 million vulnerable people.

77% (more than three quarters) of all funding went directly to NGOs.

In DRC, 131 national NGO partners received training on grant management, the Gender and Age Marker, and anti-fraud mechanisms.

The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund prioritized direct implementation through national NGOs with more than 57% of the total funding.

Over 90% of projects funded by CBPFs contributed to gender equality.

$24 million was channelled to gender-based violence (GBV) projects.

20% of funding to the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund was channelled through the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund. This exceeds the target of 15%.

346 capacity assessments were conducted for new implementing partners.

1,270 monitoring and financial spot checks were conducted to ensure that projects were implemented appropriately.

HIGHLIGHTS
ABOUT CBPFs

CBPFs are one of the fastest and most effective ways to ensure that life-saving aid reaches people caught up in crises.

Since the first fund was established in 1997, CBPFs have provided an urgent lifeline to vulnerable people in 28 of the world’s most severe and complex humanitarian crises. Together they have channelled more than US$7 billion to some 900 relief organizations delivering life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable communities.

Over the past 23 years, CBPFs have become indispensable to the humanitarian community’s ability to save and protect people in need. The strong commitment and steady growth in funding from more than 70 donors around the world is a testament to their success.

Every dollar committed through a CBPF helps to maximize the impact of humanitarian assistance. These funds go to humanitarian partners who are operating on the front lines of emergency response. They focus on the most urgent needs of people caught up in crisis. Thank you to all donors for your generosity and partnership. Your investments in these funds are truly life-saving.

— António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General
How CBPFs work

The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) establishes the funds when a new emergency occurs or when an existing humanitarian situation deteriorates.

Contributions are pooled together into single funds and made available locally to a wide range of relief partners to deliver aid where and when it is needed most. CBPFs are uniquely placed to support national and local organizations on the front lines of emergency response and closest to the affected people. Relief partners work together to ensure that funding meets the most urgent needs.

CBPFs are managed locally by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and in consultation with the humanitarian community. Advisory Boards oversee the funds, providing advice to the HC on key decisions, and ensuring efficient and effective management.

At the global level, the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) brings together key stakeholders representing donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies to promote coordination among all stakeholders, advise on global policy underpinning the functioning of the funds, discuss their overall management and accountability and address common issues identified by operational partners.

OCHA’s CBPF Section in New York headquarters oversees the work of all funds and provides support on key operational, financial and compliance issues.

How CBPFs deliver value

Every dollar committed through a CBPF helps to maximize the impact of humanitarian assistance. By empowering humanitarian leadership, coordination and local response, CBPFs ensure the most strategic and effective use of limited resources. The funds foster innovation and promote collaboration on best practices, allowing the humanitarian community to jointly address operational challenges.

CBPFs make the humanitarian response more agile and cost-efficient, minimizing transaction costs, providing transparency and accountability and complementing other humanitarian funding sources, such as the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

Timely allocations that are informed by an inclusive, transparent process and are focused on the most urgent priorities set out in crisis-specific Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) make donor contributions to CBPFs highly efficient humanitarian investments.

The Iraq Humanitarian Fund will continue to support the transitioning response in Iraq by strategically funding critical humanitarian and protection assistance, while continuously strengthening the capacity of local partners through the consortium approach.

— Marta Ruedas, UN Deputy Special Representative, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq

Germany’s contribution to CBPFs helped support timely and flexible humanitarian assistance, including by local actors, who know the situation on the ground and have direct access to people affected by crises. As co-chair of the Pooled Fund Working Group, Germany took responsibility for the governance of this humanitarian financing instrument.

— Heiko Maas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Germany
CBPFs IN 2019

In 2019 the humanitarian community saw alarming levels of human suffering, with more than 160 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. The number of forcibly displaced people increased worldwide, and more women and girls were at risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) than ever before. In countries with CBPFs, crises grew more severe, protracted and complex, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Yemen and Afghanistan.

Contributing to humanitarian action
During the year, the UN and its partners appealed for $30 billion to assist 117 million of the most vulnerable people – the highest amount ever requested. Of the $18 billion contributed to the appeal, $946 million was channelled through CBPFs, marking the sixth consecutive year of record-high funding.

Throughout 2019, 34 donors provided funding to 18 CBPFs, with the largest contributions received from the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands and Belgium. Their generosity helped more than 750 partners to save and protect the lives of 27.5 million people in need. By the end of the year, partners had implemented over 1,600 humanitarian projects, providing food, health care, clean water, shelter and other assistance.

Supporting local responders
In 2019, CBPFs continued to be the largest direct source of funding for local responders at the front line of emergency response. A total of $332 million (33 per cent) was channelled to national NGOs, including $253 million directly and $79 million through sub grants, leveraging their proximity to affected people and harnessing their local knowledge and social networks. For example, the Syria Humanitarian Fund supported local NGOs in their efforts to rebuild war-torn homes in Eastern Aleppo, the former epicentre of the Syria conflict. More than 30 per cent of all allocations in Syria - $15 million - supported national partners.

Responding in agile ways
The funds were invaluable in volatile situations, empowering humanitarian leadership to adapt and respond to rapidly changing contexts. When the humanitarian situation in Yemen swiftly deteriorated with deepening food insecurity and an economy on the verge of collapse, the Yemen
Humanitarian Fund (YHF) allocated $239 million, the largest amount in the history of CBPFs. Funding was closely coordinated with CERF-funded efforts and helped the humanitarian community to act quickly, maintain critical operations and ensure life-saving aid for millions of people. For example, strategic allocations from the YHF have helped partners scale up food assistance and programmes to reduce the risks of famine, while CERF supported the entire humanitarian community through improved logistics, access, security, telecommunications and safe transportation of critical goods and humanitarian staff.

**Focusing on the most vulnerable**
The funds’ strategic value and focus also made sure that greater emphasis was given to the most vulnerable, and to areas of humanitarian response that are often underfunded or need specific consideration. Women and girls, for example, are disproportionately affected by conflicts and disasters. In 2019, they made up more than half (15.3 million) of all recipients of life-saving aid through CBPFs.

In DRC, CBPFs helped thousands of GBV survivors to get the help they needed. In Ukraine, where a new fund was established in 2019, resources were made available to humanitarian partners operating to help address the acute needs of the elderly and people with disabilities in conflict-affected areas.

CBPFs also continued to fund mental health and psychosocial support. For example the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) made a specific standard allocation targeting people with mental illness and others in need of assistance.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

**New beginnings**

Claudine and her five children arrived in Bunia, DRC, in early 2018 after attackers had destroyed her home. “The village was set on fire. We had to flee and walked for days,” she recalls. When she first arrived at the site, Claudine and her children slept in the open.

“There was nothing. There was no shelter,” she says, “To make it here, I had to rely on the solidarity of others.”

With funding from the DRC Humanitarian Fund, relief partners made sure that Claudine and many others at the IDP site received much needed shelter, protection, clean water, health care and more. As Claudine is a widow, this support also brings her much-needed relief, as she works as a day labourer to pay for food and school fees for her children.

“I would like to start a business again. Sell small things and fish on the market. Like I did before in the village,” she added.

The Humanitarian Fund for DRC remains an invaluable tool, reinforcing a collective prioritization and strategic vision to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable in 2020.

— David McLachlan-Karr, Deputy Special Representative, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in DRC
In 2019, more than 180,000 people were forcibly displaced in Nigeria, many of them for a second or third time since the crisis began. Sixteen-year-old Amina Abubaka is from Bama, in Borno State. When violence broke out, she was among thousands of people who found shelter in Dolori Camp in Maiduguri, the State’s capital.

Amina is now learning how to make soap, which is a much-needed skill in overcrowded camps such as Dolori, where proper water, sanitation and hygiene can become scarce.

“Learning how to make soap is really important for me and my family,” she explains. The soap-making project was possible with funding from the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund to local partners. They carry out training and capacity-building for internally displaced women and girls to help support personal hygiene and generate income.

“The soap will help keep us protected from diseases, and I am also making small revenues, which helps us buy food,” Amina adds.
In 2019, CBPFs supported the delivery of timely and effective life-saving assistance for more than 27.5 million people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict.¹

¹ Methods to avoid double counting of targeted and reached beneficiaries are applied.
Afghanistan

“We can breathe freely here.”

When armed groups took control of Faryab Province in northern Afghanistan, 10-year-old Mariam and her family lost three of their close relatives. Violence and fighting continued, leaving them with no other choice but to pack their belongings and search for safety.

Leaving everything behind, Mariam and her family fled to Aman Abad, an area close to Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh Province. Despite the hardship, they are hopeful they can build a new life. “My children can play and study. We can breathe freely here,” Mariam’s mother, Homaira, explains.

With funding from the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, Mariam and her family were able to set up a new home and more. Mariam is now also going to school where she can learn and work towards her dream of becoming a doctor.

“I used to get scared a lot, but now I am happy. I go to school, I have best friends,” she says.
DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by disasters and conflict and at higher risk of GBV. They face increased risks of rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and trafficking. Despite the scale and severity of GBV in emergencies, prevention and response continue to be underfunded.

In May 2019, at a landmark conference on ending SGBV in humanitarian crises, the ERC urged humanitarian leaders to intensify their efforts and announced additional funding through CERF and CBPFs.¹

By the end of the year, CBPFs support to prevent and respond to GBV grew from $17.6 million in 2018, to $24.1 million.

The achievements and results of CBPFs would not be possible without the generous support and commitment of all donors. During 2019, OCHA continued to work with donors to ensure public recognition for their contributions and demonstrate the impact of their investments through CBPFs.

This work included production and dissemination of a wide range of advocacy and information products, publications, impact stories and multimedia material. In partnership with donors, OCHA produced tailored and co-branded products to help donors communicate the value of their support through pooled funds and the importance of their partnership, with OCHA targeting domestic audiences.

The CBPFs’ global Twitter account - @CBPFs - grew by another 900 followers since the beginning of the year and has now reached over 1,600 subscribers.

Jersey may be a relatively small Government donor, but by supporting CBPFs we significantly amplify our contributions. Our resources can be deployed rapidly to where they are most needed, to agencies we would never be able to vet or oversee on our own. We are able to ‘pre-position’ money when we know where, but not precisely how, it will be required. Crucially also, we can do so through a mechanism which strengthens rather than undermines humanitarian coordination.

— Simon Boas, Executive Director, Jersey Overseas Aid

¹ More information on the Oslo conference can be found via https://bit.ly/OCHAGBV

CBPFs are funded by voluntary contributions from Governments and private donors. In 2019, donors contributed $946 million to 18 CBPFs.

* Others:
- Luxembourg: 3.6M
- Qatar: 3.9M
- Spain: 3.2M
- New Zealand: 2.2M
- Kuwait: 2.0M
- Jersey: 1.5M
- Poland: 516k
- Czech Republic: 431k
- Japan: 400k
- Iceland: 398k
- Ukraine: 381k
- Malaysia: 220k
- Lithuania: 132k
- Monaco: 114k
- Estonia: 57k
- Cyprus: 57k
- Malta: 55k
- Azerbaijan: 20k
- Philippines: 10k

** CAR – Central African Republic
DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo
oPt – occupied Palestinian territory
In 2019, CBPFs in 18 countries ensured the provision of life-saving aid, including food, clean water, shelter, health care, protection support and other assistance to millions of women, men, girls and boys.

2019 RESULTS

In $1.02B ALLOCATIONS* 27.5M PEOPLE TARGETED

* Not all contributions received are allocated in the same year.
** CAR: Central African Republic
DRC: Democratic Republic of the Congo
oPt: occupied Palestinian territory
*** CCCM: Camp Coordination and Camp Management
Coordination: Coordination and Support Services
Emergency Telecom: Emergency Telecommunications
PERFORMANCE IN 2019

Five key principles guide the management of CBPFs: inclusiveness, flexibility, timeliness, efficiency, and accountability and risk management. They determine how the funds achieve their strategic objectives of improving humanitarian responses, strengthening leadership and ensuring better coordination and resourcing of humanitarian plans. The performance of each fund is measured through a common methodology and set of indicators for each key principle.

Examples are provided below, and detailed reporting for each fund can be found in individual CBPF annual reports here: http://bit.ly/CBPF2019AR.

INCLUSIVENESS

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

Inclusive governance considers representation of CBPF stakeholders on advisory boards. In 2019, there was balanced representation among donors, NGOs and UN agencies. Throughout the year, CBPFs also supported local relief partners in directly accessing funding, including through building their capacity to qualify as eligible recipient organizations.

FLEXIBILITY

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

CBPFs help partners to respond to the most urgent humanitarian needs within country-specific HRPs. Standard allocations are issued once or twice a year, but reserve allocations are launched in response to sudden-onset emergencies, retaining flexibility to fund unforeseen events.

Combining flexibility and strategic focus with its robust accountability system, the Somalia Humanitarian Fund supported collective prioritization, helped ensure timely allocation of scarce resources, enabled humanitarian interventions and ultimately strengthened humanitarian coordination, leadership and efficiency of response.

— Adam Abdelmoula, Deputy Special Representative, UN Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator in Somalia
All funding decisions aim to address humanitarian needs in the most effective and context-specific way, and they can be important injections in making step changes in key areas of the humanitarian response. To give partners the flexibility they need to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way, CBPFs also allow for project revisions. Throughout 2019, CBPFs processed 841 revision requests, with 1,484 revisions proposed to address operational and contextual changes.

To enhance the flexibility of CBPF funds for people in need, efforts were made to prioritize cash-transfer programming. In 2019, 20 per cent of all allocations in Afghanistan and 27 per cent in Jordan were allocated through cash assistance. This was critical to giving affected people a choice of how to meet their needs, drawing on available local resources and markets. A digital cash-tracking module, launched in July, monitors progress and shows that $63 million has been provided through cash assistance programmes.

### Cash-Transfer Programming

**By Organization Type**
- **Non-Cash Programming**
  - 952.6M
- **Cash Programming**
  - 63M
  - 6%

**By Sector**
- Food: 22.6M
- Shelter and NFI: 17.9M
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): 3.6M
- Protection: 2M
- Others: 16.9M

**By Restriction**
- Unrestricted: 37.3M (59%)
- Restricted: 25.7M (41%)
- Conditional: 23.1M (37%)
- Unconditional: 38.4M (67%)
- NGOs: 16.4M (26%)
- UN Agencies: 4.8M (8%)
- Others: 3.4M (5%)

### Number of Revisions in 2019

**Revision Requests**

- Change in project duration/NCE*: 495
- Change in budget: 352
- Change in location: 198
- Change in target beneficiaries: 179
- Significant change in activities: 118
- Change in outputs: 34
- Change in bank information: 34
- Others: 19
- Change in recipient organization: 8

**Reasons for No-Cost Extension**

- Programmatic delays: 194
- Insecurity: 151
- Inaccessibility: 137
- Procurement delays: 81
- Staffing/recruitment delays: 79
- Delays in securing supplies from pipeline: 24
- Delays in disbursement of funds: 23
- Internal administrative delays: 20
- Delays in finalizing PPA*: 19
- Delays in organizations’ internal transfer of funds: 13

*NCE: No-Cost Extension
PPA: Project Partnership Agreement
TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate. They allow relief partners to act quickly, knowing that resources are available immediately and for the most urgent life-saving activities set out in country-specific HRPs.

CBPFs aim to disburse funding without delay so that partners can start activities instantly. With a global target of ten working days for the disbursement of funds following project approval through signature by the Executive Office, CBPFs excelled in their target in 2019 by taking seven working days on average to process first payments.

Timely allocations are only possible thanks to early and predictable donor funding. In 2019, 44 per cent of all contributions were received in the first six months of the year. In addition, 86 per cent of all contributions were received in less than one month from the initial pledge date.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

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

Once a partner organization becomes eligible for funding, CBPFs monitor their performance and conduct capacity assessments of how projects are being implemented. This helps CBPFs to determine operational modalities, including project duration and the amount of funding. It also allows

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE (AAP)

CBPFs promote the participation of affected people to ensure they are involved in decisions that directly impact their lives. In 2019, all CBPF proposals were required to demonstrate the meaningful inclusion of AAP in their projects. By the year’s end, 94 per cent of all projects included AAP, including through accessible and functioning feedback and/or complaint mechanisms for beneficiaries.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE

The project includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries

1 The project partially includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiaries

0 The project does not include the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or compliant mechanisms for beneficiary

EFFICIENCY

CBPFs ensure the most effective and efficient use of limited resources to respond to urgent life-saving needs. They employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

Cost-efficiency and context suitability determine whether CBPFs are managed efficiently. In 2019, the average cost of running Humanitarian Financing Units (HFUs), where country-specific funds are managed, was less than 2 per cent of the total allocations to all CBPFs.

HFU MANAGEMENT COSTS

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them to adjust risk levels during the implementation phase, if appropriate.

CBPFs also support accountability and risk management by ensuring CBPF-funded projects are appropriately monitored, reported and audited.

### IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Updated risk level based on performance index</th>
<th>2,950 Partners with performance index recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>245 Partners with adjusted risks as per performance index recommendation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>335 Partners risk under appraisal as per performance index recommendation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,370 Partners with no required changes as per performance index recommendation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **High risk**: 91% of partnerships are under review, with 9% requiring Development.
- **Medium risk**: 17% of partnerships are being reviewed, with 83% requiring Development.
- **Low risk**: 11% of partnerships are being reviewed, with 89% requiring Development.

### PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Monitoring</th>
<th>High risk</th>
<th>Medium risk</th>
<th>Low risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,270 monitoring conducted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial spot checks</td>
<td>604 spot checks conducted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final narrative report</td>
<td>1,385 projects audited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final financial report</td>
<td>1,273 projects audited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audits</td>
<td>524 projects audited</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Monitoring</th>
<th>296 completed</th>
<th>529 required</th>
<th>443 required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial spot checks</td>
<td>223 conducted</td>
<td>246 conducted</td>
<td>143 conducted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final narrative report</td>
<td>201 audited</td>
<td>592 audited</td>
<td>591 audited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final financial report</td>
<td>198 audited</td>
<td>557 audited</td>
<td>517 audited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audits</td>
<td>52 completed</td>
<td>226 ongoing</td>
<td>246 required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### COMPLEMENTARITY WITH CERF

In 2019, CBPFs and CERF allocated a record $1.54 billion for humanitarian action, with $1 billion from CBPFs and $539 million through CERF allocations.

CERF and CBPFs are designed to complement other humanitarian funding sources, such as bilateral contributions. They can be used independently, but they work in synergy as complementary tools at the country level. By leveraging their comparative advantages - including CERF’s disbursement speed and global reach and CBPFs’ ability to directly fund local NGOs - the combination of these funds helps partners deliver a stronger collective response, ensuring maximum impact of limited resources.

In Sudan, a joint approach was taken in defining the complementary use of the two funding mechanisms. A $14 million CERF allocation allowed UN agencies to procure essential relief items and was combined with a $20 million allocation from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund, which enabled local partners in the same localities to undertake the delivery of these items and other services.
“My hearing is damaged because of all the shelling and the bombing,” said Adel, as he stood in line at a cash distribution point in Damascus, Syria. He was waiting patiently for his turn together with dozens of other Palestinian refugees.

Adel worked his entire life but now barely manages to feed his family. “Without this money I wouldn’t know how to feed my family,” he explains.

The cash assistance provided through the Syria Humanitarian Fund makes an immense difference for people like Adel who are struggling to survive in Syria’s economy. More than 8 in 10 people now live below the poverty line.
In 2019, ERC Lowcock identified four priority areas that are often underfunded or lack appropriate consideration in humanitarian operations.

Following recommendations for their prioritization in programmes and activities funded by CBPFs, HCs in all countries with an existing fund have ensured due consideration of these areas throughout the allocation process.

Support to **women and girls**, including tackling GBV, reproductive health and empowerment

Programmes targeting people with **disabilities**

**Education** in protracted crises

Other aspects of **protection**

90% of all projects, 1,500 in total, contributed to gender equality

483k women with disabilities
372k men with disabilities
520k girls with disabilities
489k boys with disabilities targeted in 2019

7% of total people targeted* on

$118.3M was allocated across
299 projects
to help protect
3.6M people in need

48.2 57.8 71.2
2016 2017 2018 2019

$118.3M

$72M was allocated supporting
157 projects,
targeting over
836k people,
including
140k men
154k women
282k boys
261k girls
GLOBAL MANAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIP

Partnership is at the heart of CBPF-funded humanitarian action and helps to advance the impact and effectiveness of the funds.

Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG)

The PFWG brings together donors, NGOs, the CERF secretariat and UN agencies, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund as occasional administrators of the funds. OCHA co-chairs the PFWG together with one donor representative on a rotational basis and holds the secretariat function of the group.

In 2019, with Germany and Sweden as co-chairs, the group met twice to discuss programmatic and strategic issues including the transition of managerial and oversight functions from UNDP to OCHA in the Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, South Sudan and Sudan funds. The participation of HCs enabled a discussion on the strategic use of the funds and their added value to the humanitarian response. The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund provided insight and shared lessons from recent efforts to expand cross-border operations into Syria from Iraq, complementing existing cross-border efforts carried out from Turkey.

Sweden also hosted the annual Global Pooled Fund Managers Workshop in Stockholm.

NGO Dialogue Platform

The NGO Dialogue Platform provides an informal space for OCHA and NGOs to discuss operational challenges at a global level. The platform complements in-country dialogue and seeks ways to better partner with NGOs in delivering humanitarian aid with CBPF support. The platform provides opportunity for joint advocacy and fundraising. It is co-chaired by OCHA and one NGO on a rotational basis.

In March 2019, under the co-chairmanship of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the NGO Dialogue Platform was conducted for the first time in a field location, hosted by OCHA South Sudan. This was an opportunity to discuss country-specific issues and allow field-based practitioners to be part of the broader global discussions while also taking into consideration global issues including governance, localization, and harmonizing and simplifying contractual requirements in the framework of the Grand Bargain.

At its second meeting in June, in Geneva, participants discussed outcomes of an NRC study on operational partnerships with NGOs. Preliminary findings of the CBPF global evaluation were also presented and discussed at this session, such as the use of CBPFs to incentivize multi-sector programmes and projects, efforts to support localization and inclusion and modalities for strengthening attention to cross-cutting issues such as gender, AAP and protection.

EVALUATIONS AND STUDIES

CBPFs are highly efficient humanitarian investments. Their performance and impact are crucial to maintaining a high level of effectiveness when meeting the most urgent life-saving needs.

In 2019, a global evaluation was undertaken to assess the results and achievements of CBPF-funded humanitarian action between 2015 and 2018. A team of independent experts reaffirmed that

The Country-Based Pooled Funds are a critical tool for Sweden, as we believe in the collective ability to deliver a humanitarian response based on the humanitarian principles. CBPFs are timely and flexible and support the immediate delivery of the most urgent life-saving activities by allowing the best placed actors to reach the most in need in a principled way.

— Johann Peter Eriksson, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
CBPFs are fit for purpose and able to respond to today's growing humanitarian needs. It concluded that significant improvements had been made, including in compliance and risk management procedures. Recommendations for further enhancements included supporting funds to be more future-ready through increased anticipatory efforts. The full evaluation can be found in [https://bit.ly/CBPF2019Evaluation](https://bit.ly/CBPF2019Evaluation).

A joint initiative between NRC and OCHA reviewed the operational partnership between CBPFs and NGOs and brought together their experiences and recommendations. Building on NRC's 2017 study "Understanding Humanitarian Funds", the review assessed CBPFs' performance against commitments set out in the Grand Bargain, such as reducing earmarked donor contributions, increasing multi-year disbursements and improving access to funding for local and national relief partners. The study made several recommendations for further enhancements, such as increasing flexibility of funds on staff costs and limiting sub-granting agreements of national NGOs to high-value projects. The full study can be found in [https://bit.ly/NRCstudy2019](https://bit.ly/NRCstudy2019).

**NEW MANAGING AGENT FUNCTIONS**

Effective oversight and management of humanitarian funds are key to ensuring that CBPFs remain fit for purpose. To that end, OCHA is expanding its management function as a means to further harmonize the management of CBPFs and enhance efficiency. As of January 2020, four funds (CAR, DRC, South Sudan and Sudan) previously managed by UNDP now fall under OCHA's managerial and oversight function. The transition is supported by an increase in staffing and extensive capacity-building and training, including through field missions carried out by the CBPF section. The harmonization of the managerial model will bring substantive gains for the overall accountability and risk approach of these funds.

Myanmar

"I am very happy to receive pencils."

Kachin State in northern Myanmar hosts tens of thousands of people displaced by clashes between armed groups. Many of them are children struggling to cope with conflict-induced trauma. With funding from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), local relief partners are making sure schools can provide a safe space for post-conflict recovery.

MHF-funded projects have trained volunteer teachers on providing psychosocial support to displaced children. As many schools lack basic equipment and supplies, the fund is providing stationery, backpacks and other school supplies.

"I am very happy to receive pencils, notebooks and raincoats," said 10-year-old Hpaurip Numri San Pan.
The strong commitment of humanitarian partners to a solid prioritization and trust in the added value and comparative advantage of the Central African Republic Humanitarian Fund continues to empower us to deliver aid in a robust, inclusive, transparent and strategic manner.

- Denise Brown, UN Deputy Special Representative, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in CAR

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Grant Management System: New Releases
Quality assurance and performance monitoring are essential at each step of implementing humanitarian projects. From proposal submission to project conclusion, CBPF projects are continuously reviewed and monitored, ensuring accountability and transparency at all levels. The online Grant Management System maintains a system-wide overview of all CBPF projects by capturing results, tracking budgets and timelines and providing real-time project information. In 2019, new features were introduced to monitor how projects address gender- and age-specific needs of vulnerable people, and to track CBPF contributions to cash programming and monitor whether people with disabilities are effectively included across CBPF-funded projects.

Business Intelligence Portal
Understanding how every dollar spent translates into life-saving action is key to helping donors make evidence-based funding decisions – and helping responders make decisions.

The CBPF Business Intelligence Portal offers an in-depth insight into how funding helps responders meet urgent humanitarian needs. Users can access a wide range of information for all 18 funds, and can track allocations, numbers of people reached with life-saving aid, and types of needs addressed. The portal also provides information about donor contributions, funding trends and more. The portal can be accessed via https://pfbi.unocha.org/

OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT

Strengthening Fraud Prevention, Mitigation and Management
Preventing and mitigating fraud at all levels and promoting accountability are at the core of CBPF management and daily operations.

In 2019, OCHA introduced a series of measures for greater risk management. In collaboration with the UN’s Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), a process was started to build dedicated investigative capacity and put in place an enhanced framework on fraud and sexual exploitation and abuse. Additional independent audit companies will also be integrated into CBPF processes to improve the timeliness of audit controls and reviews.

Case Management Tracker
In 2019, OCHA began developing a case management tracker to ensure easier and more efficient management and reporting of oversight and compliance cases. The module will help automate several processes, including the triggering and tracking of conservative and assurance measures and inquiries (forensic audits, investigations and OIOS audits).

INTERNAL AUDITS AND CONTROLS

A 2019 audit of OCHA’s financial systems and internal controls included an audit of 18 CBPFs at headquarters and field visits to the funds in DRC and Nigeria. The audit demonstrated substantial progress on assurance activities and the timeliness of disbursement processes. In addition, OIOS audited OCHA country offices in Iraq, Somalia and Yemen, which together account for 37 per cent of CBPF funding. All reports are available via https://bit.ly/OIOSaudits.
The conflict in eastern Ukraine has created a deepening humanitarian crisis affecting more than 5 million people. Shelling, violent clashes and landmines are a daily threat, along with a deepening socioeconomic impact and disruption of essential services. Almost 30 per cent of all people in need are above the age of 60, making them the largest proportion of elderly people affected by any conflict in the world.

Following a scoping mission in 2018, the HC in Ukraine requested the establishment of the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) to support relief partners in carrying out urgent life-saving efforts in a rapidly changing context.

Thanks to early funding from donors, including Estonia, Germany and Sweden, the fund quickly became operational and made its first allocation of $3.2 million. Funding was prioritized to help people with disabilities and the most vulnerable elderly people who have been disproportionately affected by the crisis. The allocation was effective in bringing partners together to review their operational and policy approaches for people with disabilities, promoting innovation and the adoption of best practices.

The UHF also strengthened coordination by boosting the inclusion of national partners joined up under the HRP, from 12 to 23.

Varvara, 82, lives alone in a small house in Luhanska Oblast, Ukraine. She is in constant fear of being caught by shelling. In 2019, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund prioritized support for elderly people, who constitute 30 per cent of those who are in need and facing immense challenges due to the ongoing conflict. © OCHA/Maloletka

The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund has quickly established itself as a strong pillar of the humanitarian response, and a driver of innovation.

— Osnat Lubrani, UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine
2019 CBPFs
ANNUAL REPORTS

AFGHANISTAN  CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO  ETHIOPIA  IRAQ  JORDAN
LEBANON  MYANMAR  NIGERIA  OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY  PAKISTAN  SOMALIA
SOUTH SUDAN  SUDAN  SYRIA  SYRIA CROSS-BORDER  UKRAINE  YEMEN

Full reports are available here: http://bit.ly/CBPF2019AR
CBPFs 2019 IN REVIEW

DONATE

Member States, observers and other authorities that wish to contribute to CBPFs can contact the OCHA Donor Relations Section at ocha.donor.relations@un.org

Individuals, corporations and foundations can visit http://bit.ly/GiveToCBPFs to contribute directly to CBPFs.

For general information about CBPFs please visit http://unocha.org/cbpf

CBPF DATA & ANALYSIS

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