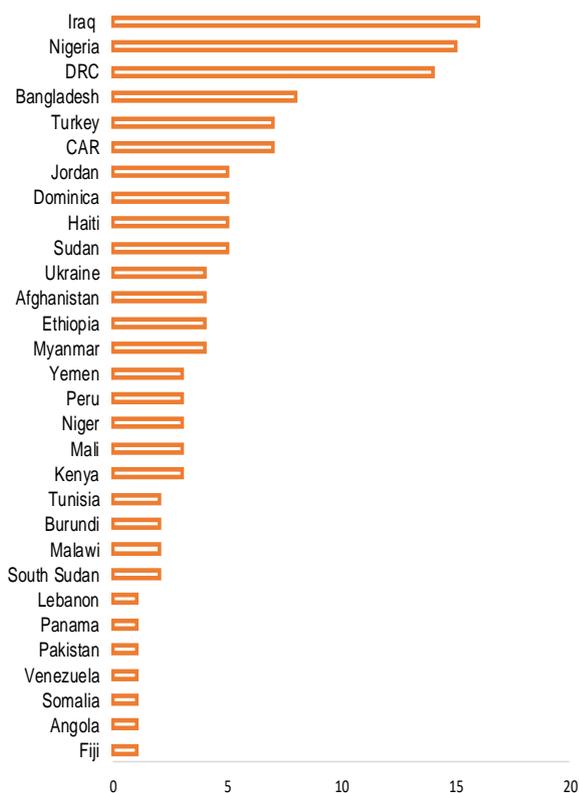


In 2017, the Surge Capacity Section (SCS) deployed **133 personnel to 30 countries**. The trend represents a significant increase in deployment duration, alongside a slight decrease in the number of personnel deployed. The decrease of seven per cent (equivalent to 10 deployments) reflected the discontinuation of two Roaming Senior Surge Officers in 2017 and a small reduction in Emergency Response Roster (ERR) and Stand-By Partnership (SBP) deployments.

### Deployments by Country

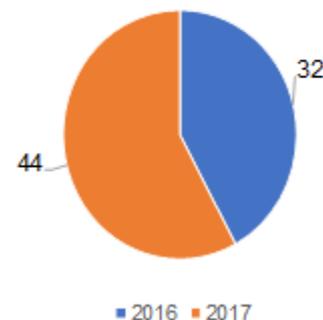


SCS-managed surge days in 2017 totalled 19,368, the equivalent of 74 full-time staff. This is an increase of 2,636 days (14 per cent), compared to 2016. The average assignment length for ERR and Associates Surge Pool (ASP) deployments was similar to that of last year (ERR at two months, ASP at eight months), whereas the duration of SBPP deployments **increased by 45 per cent**: from four months in 2016 to six months in 2017.

The **Africa II region** (Francophone Africa plus Nigeria) **received the highest number of surge deployments** with 44 personnel fielded to Nigeria, Central African Republic, Burundi, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Niger. The Middle East and North African region (MENA) region followed with 34 deployments. By country, **Nigeria and Iraq received the highest number of surge deployments (15), followed by the DRC (14) and Syria (12)**. All surge personnel support for the Syria response was based remotely in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

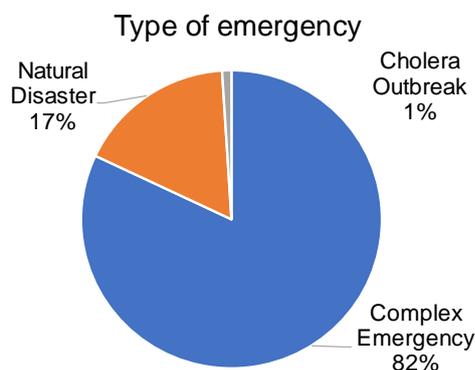
In October 2017, DRC was declared an L3 emergency following unrest and fighting in South Kivu, Kasai and Tanganyika. Surge deployments to **L3 designated emergencies in 2017** (Yemen, Iraq, Syria and DRC), **increased by eight per cent** compared to 2016.

Deployments to L3 emergencies 2016/2017



The majority of surge deployments (82 per cent) supported **complex emergencies**. By mechanism, 88 per cent of ERR, 94 per cent of ASP and 67 per cent of SBPP deployments were to complex emergencies. The SBPP mechanism was used most frequently **to support natural disaster** emergencies (39 per cent), followed by the ERR at 10 per cent.

The **Humanitarian Affairs Officer (HAO)** continued to be the most requested profile (49 per cent), followed by the **Information Management Officer (IMO)** at 21 per cent.



There was a five per cent increase in **Civil-Military Coordination Officers' (CMCOs) deployments**, which supported operations in Bangladesh, Central African Republic, DRC, Fiji, Jordan, Nigeria and Turkey. Requests for **Pooled Fund Managers (PFMs)** also increased from five deployments in 2016 to fifteen in 2017. PFMs supported the management of pooled funds in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Yemen. There was also increased demand for specialized profiles including Community Engagement, Cash Coordination and Environmental Specialists, which were provided mainly through the SBPP.

Of the 133 deployed, 62 per cent were men and 38 per cent were women, depicting a slight decrease in the proportion of women deployed. The P3 level was the most requested (38 per cent) which represented a slight increase from last year, followed by P4 at 36 per cent. Senior P5-level surge comprised five per cent of all deployments.

### Surge Challenges

Meeting the demand for French speakers to deploy to the numerous emergencies in Africa II was a key challenge. Sourcing specialized skills, such as protection, gender, civil-military coordination, access negotiation, pooled fund management and cash coordination also presented challenges, particularly when coupled with language requirements. Similar challenges arose after a cycle of consecutive hurricanes (Irma, Maria, Jose) devastated the Caribbean region, where both Spanish and French speakers were required. The ERR was also impacted by OCHA's on-going restructuring process, resulting in fewer staff volunteering, alongside increased reluctance by supervisors to release staff.

### Associates Surge Pool

2017 saw a 23 per cent increase in the number of ASPs deployed compared to 2016. The increase is mainly associated with the more consistent use of ASP as the first option to fill critical staffing gaps.

A total of 35 members deployed to 16 OCHA field operations; the majority to complex emergencies. Afghanistan, Sudan and Jordan (for Syria /Yemen crises) received the highest number of ASP surge. Over half of the requests received (61 per cent) were to fill critical staff gaps, with the remainder for new or escalating emergencies.

At 57 per cent of requests the HAO continued to be the most demanded profile. The IMO profile followed at 26 per cent, CMCO at 11 per cent and Public Information Officer at six per cent. The HAO profile included eleven PFMs and one Reports Officer. The levels deployed ranged from P2 (8 per cent) to P5 (9 per cent). At 54 per cent, the P3 level continued to constitute the majority of deployments followed by the P4 level at 29 per cent.

Thirteen ASP members attended OCHA-managed residential courses: Field Response Surge Training (FIRST), OCHA Induction Course for SBP, Coordination Assessment and Information Management (CAIM), Civil-Military Coordination and Information Management Training. OCHA SCS sponsored eight ASP members to participate in the trainings.

### Emergency Response Roster

OCHA's internal surge roster – the ERR – continued to support L3 emergencies with deployments to Iraq and DRC, as well as to two new declared Corporate Emergencies – Bangladesh (Rohingya crisis) and Nigeria.

The upward trend in ERR deployments from 2012 stabilized in 2017, with 50 members deploying to 17 countries. Nigeria and Iraq received the highest number of ERR deployments (10 each), followed by DRC (9), CAR (5) and Bangladesh (3).

With fewer large-scale sudden onset natural disasters in 2017, the proportion of ERR deployments to complex emergencies increased to 90 per cent. This compares to 52 per cent in 2016 and 73 per cent in 2015.

The HAO profile was the most deployed profile, maintaining the same level as previous years - 54 per cent, followed by administration support and IMOs (14 per cent each).

The average lead time from receipt of endorsed request to deployment, increased from 13 days in 2016 to 17 in 2017. Visa issuance delay was the main reason for the increase.

Ready availability of fluent French and Spanish speaking ERR members also challenged and delayed deployments. To overcome this challenge, SCS worked closely with CRD and regional offices to identify ad hoc solutions to fill needs as quickly as possible.

Surge requirements generated by the number of new, corporate and L3 emergencies continued to test OCHA's ability to meet and sustain the required surge capacity. In 2017, 36 per cent of deployments were requested for a three-month duration, which required strong commitment from the staff deployed, as well as from the releasing supervisors.

### Stand-By Partnership

In 2017, 48 SBP experts supported OCHA's coordination efforts in 23 country offices facing new or escalating emergencies. As in 2015 and 2016, SBP deployments decreased slightly compared to 2014, when the number reached 76. In contrast deployment duration increased by 45 per cent from four to six months.

Of the 48 SBP experts deployed in 2017, nearly half of them (23) supported L3 emergencies and OCHA-declared Corporate Emergencies in Bangladesh (2), DRC (2), Ethiopia (3), Iraq (4), Nigeria (3), Somalia (1 with a further 2 based in Kenya), Syria (4 based in Turkey) and Yemen (2).

The HAO continued to be the most requested profile (17) with just over half being generalists (9) and eight with specializations including protection, access, cash coordination and community engagement. IMOs and CMCOs continued to be in high demand with 11 and nine deployments respectively.

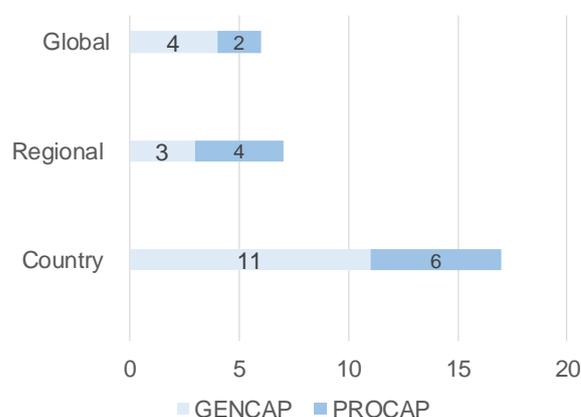
Several technical deployments in relatively new areas (cash, community engagement, environment) of expertise, took place. This trend is expected to continue in 2018.

### Protection and Gender Standby Capacity (ProCap and GenCap)

In 2017, the Unit supported the deployment of 38 advisors (13 ProCap and 25 GenCap). ProCap advisors were deployed to strengthen the centrality of protection in humanitarian planning and response, while GenCap Advisors continued to support gender mainstreaming, including gender equality programming.

The majority of the advisors were deployed at the country level in support of interagency processes, including technical support and strategic advice to Humanitarian Coordinators /Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams. Advisors also provided support to national governments on policy development, capacity building and accountability strengthening. A handful of deployments were also made to support regional efforts and global initiatives.

GenCap/ProCap Deployments



ProCap and GenCap supported deployments to 24 field locations at the country and regional level, providing inter-agency support to the humanitarian system. ProCap and GenCap missions were fielded to several L3-declared crises (DRC, Syria, Yemen). Guidance was provided on a range of protection challenges in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Congo-Brazzaville, Egypt (regional), Ethiopia, Jordan (regional), Kenya (regional), Myanmar, Pakistan, Panama (regional), Sudan, Turkey (regional), Uganda and Ukraine. Five ProCap advisors supported global initiatives, including providing expertise within the Global Cluster for Early Recovery (hosted by UNDP in Geneva), a roaming advisor for the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (hosted by

UNICEF in Geneva), travelling, as needed, to the field and a home-based assignment to support the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Protection Policy. Three Geneva-based GenCap deployments supported the development and roll out of the Gender with Age Marker (GAM).

ProCap conducted a total of four trainings in Jordan, Kenya and Switzerland (one in Bern and one in Geneva) attended by 96 mid-level professionals from stand-by rosters and UN organizations. ProCap Advisors trained over 500 government officials and local actors on protection standards in their respective field locations. Three Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) trainings were held in 2017 (Ukraine, Congo-Brazzaville and Lebanon), benefitting 79 professionals. In addition, a number of GenCap Advisors delivered training sessions to humanitarian actors in their respective field locations.

### **Surge Staff Development / Training**

SCS continued to strengthen the content and delivery of the FIRST with 48 OCHA staff and two ASP members attending two courses hosted by the Norwegian and Austrian Governments. In May, SCS conducted a review of the FIRST course to assess content for relevance against the everchanging humanitarian context. Organized with a robust practical field focus, the FIRST is open to ERR members with two spaces per course allocated for ASP members.

SCS continued collaboration with SBPs on training events, organizing and facilitating two SBP HAO Induction Courses in 2017. The course focused on the roles and responsibilities of HAOs aiming to prepare partners for rapid deployment to OCHA Field Offices. A total of 35 SBP and two ASP roster members were trained. OCHA also reserved space for SBPs to attend the Information Management and Coordination Training and the Preparedness and Response Effectiveness (PREP) training courses.

The SBP Training Secretariat, a cross-partner project, continued to work to integrate the Common Induction Training Package (CITP) into Partner-specific trainings. The Training Secretariat regularly reviews the content of the CITP to maintain its relevance in the changing humanitarian context. As the primary focal point for the CITP, the Training Coordinator

attended the UN Learning Managers Forum held in Bonn, Germany. The Forum focused on new learning approaches inside and outside the UN system, good practices and updates on new learning methods.