

**Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator**  
**Stephen O'Brien**  
**Remarks to the press at the launch of the 2017 Global Humanitarian Overview**

*Geneva 5 December 2016*

*As delivered*

I am launching today, on behalf of the United Nations and hundreds of our humanitarian partners across the world, the Global Humanitarian Overview for 2017.

This appeal 2017, comprising strategic and coordinated response plans covering 33 countries, is calling for US\$22.2 billion – the highest amount we have ever requested.

This is a reflection of a state of humanitarian need in the world not witnessed since the Second World War: more than 128 million people urgently need our support and solidarity to survive and live in safety and dignity. More than 80 per cent of the needs stem from man-made conflicts, many of which are now protracted and push up demand for relief year after year. These crises affect entire regions.

This international appeal maps out what humanitarian organisations plan to do to meet the needs of 93 million of the most acutely vulnerable people affected by crisis next year.

The collective plans are effective and efficient investments - the best way to help those who need help now. Funding to support the plans that we present today will make a vital difference in the lives of millions of people:

it will translate into life-saving food assistance to people on the brink of starvation in the Lake Chad Basin and South Sudan;

it will provide protection for the most vulnerable people in Syria, Iraq and Yemen;

and it will enable education for children whose schooling is disrupted by El Niño, among many other responses.

The humanitarian ecosystem – made up of many diverse partners - continues to grow in strength every day. This year, more local responders, national governments, the private sector, international organizations and others have saved, protected or supported more people than in any previous year since the founding of the United Nations.

Together we have raised this year \$11.4 billion towards the coordinated appeals - more funds than ever before even though it only represents half of what was needed.

We are deeply grateful to the donors for their continuing and steadfast support and generosity – working together towards a common goal, leaving no-one behind, has never been more important.

So what is new in the appeal for 2017?

First, it incorporates key outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit which was held in May of this year. In Istanbul, we recognized that the only way to get people out of a perpetual cycle of crisis is to reduce need and vulnerability at its source.

This has translated into multi-year planning in several countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Somalia, to promote a more predictable humanitarian response and ensure optimal coherence between development, peacebuilding and humanitarian frameworks.

Over time, we trust this new way of working will reduce the need for band-aid humanitarian relief and at the same time put national and local authorities in the driver's seat.

Secondly, we committed to the Grand Bargain, in which aid agencies must step up efficiency and transparency, and donors must increase flexibility including through longer-term financing and increasingly fund local aid organisations on the frontline of any response.

Thirdly, some countries have significantly raised their appeal while other have reduced theirs. For example Nigeria, where relief operations are pushing into formerly Boko Haram controlled areas, is in 2017 a billion-dollar-plus appeal and has nearly doubled.

On the other end, the requirements in Ethiopia have dropped from \$1.6 billion this year to \$895 million in 2017 reflecting a calibration and prioritisation of the response to the needs that still persist.

Representing the collective vision of hundreds of partners, this 2017 Global Humanitarian Overview offers effective strategies to tackle the most pressing humanitarian needs based on core humanitarian principles.

The appeal 2017 provides an actionable framework for reliable, value-for-money investment in humanity. Thank you.