

FACTSHEET: HUMANITARIAN AID

PROTECT HUMAN LIVES AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING

Humanitarian aid is required immediately at the outbreak of any crisis, be it a natural disaster (floods, drought or earthquake) or a military conflict, which affects civilians. The goal of humanitarian aid is to save lives and alleviate suffering, while ensuring all individuals involved are treated with respect.

Humanitarian aid is provided immediately after a crisis and is provided for a definite period of time during when people in an affected area are often unable to live independently. In contrast, **development cooperation** focuses on long-term assistance and helps people create a sustainable livelihood, for example.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP HAS INCREASED BUT THERE IS A LACK OF FUNDING

Internationally, people are increasingly contributing to further humanitarian aid. Nevertheless, **the number of people in need of assistance continues to rise faster than funds become available**. The gap between humanitarian needs and ability to provide aid continues to widen.



135 million people are now in need of humanitarian assistance, more than **1/4** being people affected by conflict in **Yemen** (24 million) and **Syria** (13 million). In 2012, there were **70 million** people who were in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2002, that number was **30 million people**. That's a huge increase.

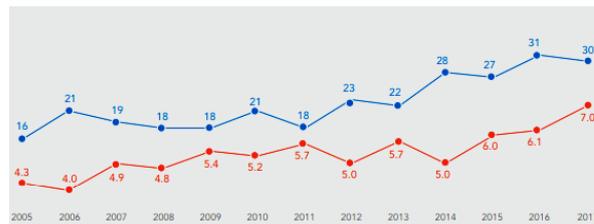
Globally, there is a lack of **40 %** of funds needed for humanitarian aid.

124 million people in more than 50 countries affected by a conflict or natural disaster suffer from food shortages.

Every third child cannot attend school in areas affected by a conflict or natural disaster.

HUMANITARIAN CRISES HAVE BEEN INCREASING IN NUMBER AND DURATION

Since 2005, the number of humanitarian crises has almost doubled and their average duration has risen from 4 to 7 years. Most of these crises are complex humanitarian emergencies with elements of a conflict, as well as a natural disaster.



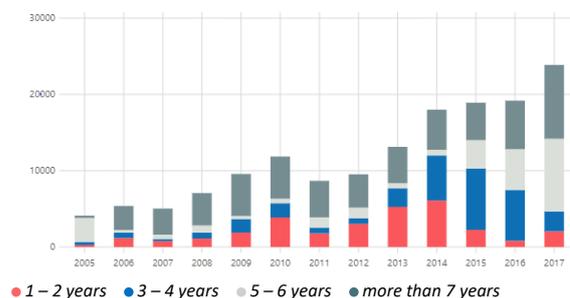
Average length of crises and the number of UN calls for humanitarian funding over time

● average length of a crisis (years) ● number of UN calls for humanitarian funding of particular crises over time

80 % of all funds are needed for a response to long-lasting crises like those in The Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan. Emergency response is also more and more often provided in the context of a conflict and subsequent forced displacement. It can be anticipated that humanitarian needs will rise in the future as a result of climate change.

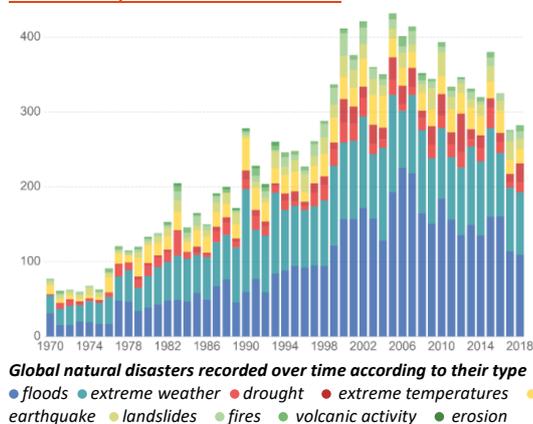
Increasingly complex crises have led to an increasing **need of coordination and joint planning** on behalf of donors, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and other actors, as well as the need to interconnect humanitarian and development aid and activities ensuring safety and peace restoration. Long-standing humanitarian crises have also led to an increase in need of **multi-annual funding of humanitarian operations**.

Funds needed depending on a crisis duration (in millions of American dollars)



THE GREATEST IMPACT OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NATURAL DISASTERS HAS BEEN EXPERIENCED BY THE POOREST PEOPLE

In the past few decades, the [number of reported natural disasters](#), affected people and economic damages has increased. The number of extreme weather events and floods has also risen. In 2017 alone, **global natural disasters affected 95.5 million people** in 123 different countries and caused an estimated [340 billion](#) dollars' worth of damages. At the same time, there has been [a long-term decline in the number of casualties caused by natural disasters](#).



As to economic damage in relation to total GDP in the last 20 years, only one high income country [has been among 10 most affected countries](#).

CONFLICTS BRING HUGE RISKS FOR CIVILIANS

The [number of global armed conflicts](#) has increased. In 2016, there were conflicts in the world than there had been in the previous 30 years. **Humanitarian law keeps being violated.** The law forbids armed attacks against civilian targets – yet, civilians make up to 70 % of the victims of bombardment. **Medical centers, schools and other civil infrastructures are becoming the targets of attacks as well.** During 2018 alone, there were [700 attacks on medical facilities](#) and [950 attacks](#) on schools and that is only what was reported.

Global conflicts have caused



[74 million people in 18 countries worldwide](#) to be affected and to suffer from food insecurity
[27 million children](#) to be out of school
[180 million people](#) not to have access to drinking water

Nepal earthquake relief

The death toll after the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015 reached 9,000. There were tens of thousands of injuries and hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless. During the immediate emergency aid provided right after the earthquake, People in Need focused on repairing more than 14, 000 households. Over 10, 000 families were provided with mattresses, quilts, solar lamps, tarpaulins, tools and sources of electrical power. People in Need delivered all this necessary equipment even to remote and hard-to-access areas. In addition, People in Need began gradually preparing people for the upcoming winter by helping nearly 50, 000 people to insulate their dwellings. 12, 000 of the most vulnerable people (elderly people, children under 5 and pregnant or breastfeeding mothers) were given warm clothes and sleeping bags.

Flood Relief in the Czech Republic

People in Need helped affected people during the floods in the Czech Republic in 1997, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2013. Thanks to the SOS Floods 2013 fundraising campaign and other donations during the floods in 2013 more than 72 million CZK were collected. Upon assessment of financial capacities and social and health conditions of the affected people, People in Need used these funds to deliver flood assistance and provided families with disinfectants, tools and equipment needed for repairs in more than 50 towns and villages. In addition, People in Need supported 1, 332 families so they could buy the basic equipment that had been lost during the floods and could begin to renovate their flooded houses and flats. Finally, People in Need supported the repairs of public spaces, like schools and libraries.

Rehabilitation of damaged water supply systems in the Ukraine

As a result of the war in the Eastern Ukraine, [the local water supply network was damaged](#). Altogether, there were 135 attacks in 2017 and 3 million people were cut off from local water supply network (which is also used for district heating). People in Need continues to provide drinking and non-potable water, repairs water supply systems and heating systems for households and public institutions (e.g. schools) in affected areas. In 2017, People in Need helped ensure adequate water supply for almost 65 000 people.

Helping displaced people in Iraq

Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes during the huge military operation in the Iraqi city of Mosul during 2016-2017. Mosul was occupied by the Islamic State and most people who fled their homes left all their property and belongings behind. People in Need helped **those who had to leave the city, those who stayed and those who came back** after the city had been liberated. Thousands of people were given materials necessary for building shelters, hygiene kits, containers for water storage and other household supplies and equipment needed for winter. PIN also helped 57,000 people gain access to drinking water by having water tanks installed or repaired. Last but not least, People in Need established temporary classrooms for children and provided 2,500 children with psychosocial support.

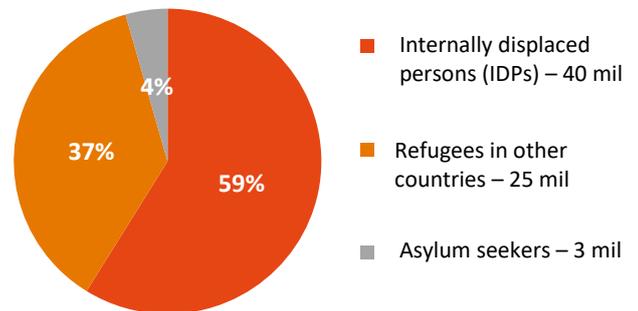
Food assistance, vouchers and cash for work in Syria

People in Need has been providing humanitarian aid in Syria since 2012. Currently, around 24,000 families are provided with food assistance every month. The most vulnerable families (e.g. immediately following displacement) are provided with ready-to-eat-packages. In areas with limited food availability, families are given durable food for the period of one month. In relatively peaceful areas with a well-functioning market, families are provided with food vouchers for which people can buy exactly what they need. This is a good way to support a local market. When the situation allows, People in Need helps individuals find job opportunities or make some extra money through the Cash for work programme. This includes things like street cleaning, waste collection, road rehabilitation, fixing water and sewage networks and repairing electrical wiring.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE WW2 HUGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE HAD TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES

68.5 million people in total have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict, violence, and gross human rights violations. This is the highest number since the end of the Second World War. Altogether **40 million people** have been displaced due to armed conflict and almost **19 million because of natural disasters**.

The number of displaced people worldwide



Humanitarian aid **helps stabilize** the areas in question and **tries to find a way to support people so they are not forced to leave their homes. However, humanitarian aid cannot be perceived as a tool to control or prevent migration.**

NEW FORMS OF ASSISTANCE ARE BEING PROMOTED AND BENEFICIARIES THEMSELVES ARE GETTING INVOLVED AS WELL

Humanitarian assistance does not necessarily consist of material or food supply only. If local conditions are favorable (e.g. if there is a local market), **direct financial aid or vouchers** are distributed more and more often. Thus, the local economy is supported and assistance becomes more flexible (people can buy what they need). This has proved to be much more effective. Aid beneficiaries can also participate in these new forms of assistance, e.g. via **Cash for Work**. These approaches allow beneficiaries to keep much more dignity as they can choose for themselves what they need most.

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES ENSURE HUMANITY, IMPARTIALITY, NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Humanitarian assistance is provided on the basis of the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence grounded in International Humanitarian Law. The principles enable effective assistance even in situations of political or security challenges. These principles have been embraced by all countries in [the United Nations General Assembly](#), European countries within the [European Consensus on Humanitarian aid](#) and by the Czech Republic in the [Good Humanitarian Donorship](#) initiative.

- **Humanity.** Humanitarian aid saves lives, protects people's health and alleviates suffering while **ensuring a humane approach and respect for the individual.**
- **Neutrality.** Those who provide humanitarian aid must not **take sides in an armed conflict** nor can they engage in political, religious, racial or ideological disputes.
- **Impartiality.** Humanitarian assistance must be provided solely **on the basis of need** without discrimination by nationality, race, gender, religion or political view.
- **Independence.** Humanitarian aid must be **autonomous from any political, economic or military objectives.**

ASSISTANCE CANNOT BE USED TO FULFIL OTHER OBJECTIVES

More often, humanitarian aid is provided in armed conflicts. [850 million](#) people live in extreme poverty and half of them live in "fragile countries". Humanitarian response often addresses these countries tackling protracted crises. The efforts to find a reasonable way to solve these (often complex) crises, fulfill immediate, as well as long-term, needs of affected people and efforts to ensure a safer and more stable environment, lead to a more profound **connection of humanitarian, development and security-ensuring activities** (the triple nexus).

Efforts to adopt a complex approach may be necessary for reaching a durable solution. However, it is important to be careful as this approach may endanger the innermost nature of humanitarian aid, namely impartiality and independence from political, security and other objectives. **Humanitarian assistance cannot be perceived as a tool for resolving conflicts** and under no circumstance can it be used for reaching objectives other than helping those in need.

LIMITED ACCESS TO AID

[In more than 50 countries](#) access to humanitarian assistance is limited. **Access to aid** is denied to many people and aid delivery is complicated by ongoing military operations or challenging terrain. In addition, **humanitarian organizations and their staff are often under great pressure** (e.g. administrative barriers, restrictions of movement or even direct attacks). At present, the worst situations are in Syria, Yemen, Eritrea and Somalia.

ASSISTANCE IS TRANSPARENT AND RESULTS ARE MEASURED

Regarding institutional donors, funds for humanitarian assistance are obtained through open tendering. Projects are based on an analysis that takes on-site needs into account and the aid is discussed directly with aid beneficiaries. Subsequently, the results are **measured** and once the projects are completed, they undergo independent auditing. The goal is to provide effective assistance to those who need it

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The humanitarian assistance budget of the Czech Republic for 2019 is **218 million CZK**. The Czech Republic plans to use it to support up to **40 projects in more than 20 countries**. Around half of the funds are competed by the organizations that present their projects in tenders opened by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The other half is used to support international organizations like UN agencies and Red Cross or through contributions from local organizations on-site. In reaction to immediate crises, the Czech Republic provides material or expert assistance.

Humanitarian assistance of People in Need in numbers

In 2017 People in Need:



Allocated **196 924 monthly food packages**

Ukraine, Syria



Restored shelters and provided **material help to 50 068 people**

Bangladesh, Ukraine, Iraq, Syria



Ensured **access to drinking water** and rehabilitated sanitation for **1 043 673 people**

Angola, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Ukraine, Iraq, Syria



Provided **psychosocial support** and protection to **75 490 people**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine



Provided **direct financial help to 116 146 people**

Ethiopia, Mongolia, Iraq, Syria, Ukraine



Helped ensure **education for 56 361 children** living in conflict and crises areas

Myanmar, Ukraine, Iraq, Syria

People in Need provides humanitarian assistance in:

Africa:

Angola
The Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ethiopia

Europe:

Ukraine

Near East:

Syria
Iraq

Asia:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Philippines
Mongolia
Myanmar
Bangladesh
Nepal

