Humanitarian Outlook and Sida´s Humanitarian Response 2019

February 2019

Humanitarian Outlook 2019 – Deterioration, Stabilisation and Potentials for Recovery

The year of 2019 seems to indicate a diverse humanitarian landscape. While the overall trend is still alarming, a multifaceted humanitarian outlook is observed. In 2019, 134 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 42 countries. To respond to the needs of the most vulnerable 95 million people, US$21.9 billion is required. These crises however, have different facets and levels of severity. Simply put, four categories are distinguished.

- Firstly, crises that show **severe deterioration**, such as Afghanistan because of the widespread drought leading to 2.5 million severely food insecure, many of those already vulnerable due to the armed conflict. And Latin America, which is experiencing the largest exodus in its modern history as more than 3 million refugees and migrants have left Venezuela in 2018. But also Cameroon and Central African Republic; both countries plagued by intensified ethnic violence in 2018, which has dramatically increased the humanitarian caseload. In CAR for example, 65% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance. And finally Yemen, which for the second consecutive year is the largest humanitarian crises worldwide, with more than 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Afghanistan and Yemen are far from alone in terms of acute food insecurity. In just two years, from 2015 to 2017, the number of people in crisis-level food insecurity or worse increased from 80 million to 124 million people worldwide.

- Secondly, a group of countries that stay **relatively stagnant, yet in deep level of humanitarian distress**, such as Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan. What characterises these 3 countries, is the same phenomenon manifested in most of today’s humanitarian crises. Namely, the viscous combination of armed conflict, extreme poverty and climate induced crises such as recurrent droughts - in those very pockets. For that reason, these areas (such as Borno State in northern Nigeria) need to be addressed through a development approach that tackle root causes behind the decade long humanitarian crises and that could pave wave to stability and development. Syria, if not adequately addressed through other means complementing the acute humanitarian response, might very well fall into the category of countries defined by decades of stagnation, marred by a protracted humanitarian crises. The average humanitarian crisis now lasts more than nine years (many have stretched over decades). Nearly three quarters of people targeted to receive assistance in 2018 are in countries affected by humanitarian crisis for seven years or more.

- Thirdly, countries that might see some sort of **stabilization** such as in Iraq due to somewhat improvement in security and Burundi. These two countries are still poised with the multiple challenges, such as the large number of people being or have been forcibly displaced. This scenario is not unique for Burundi and Iraq, as the number of forcibly displaced people rose from 59.5 million in 2014 to 68.5 million in 2017; the vast majority (45 million people) are internally displaced.

- And finally, countries in which the humanitarian situation has shown **improvement** to the extent that humanitarian response plans are no longer required such as Mauritania and Senegal. Looking back throughout Sidas humanitarian assistance, it is particularly encouraging to note that countries which once received substantial humanitarian assistance such as Rwanda, Cote Divoire and Angola are – despite a number of political and socioeconomical challenges – are some of the fastest growing economies in Africa.

Knowing that in 2018 only 60% of humanitarian needs were met, surely 2019 is another year where humanitarian needs greatly exceeds resources. Sida is again faced with what can only be described an excruciating prioritization exercise. With such magnitude of acute needs, lifesaving interventions are given precedence with the aim of aligning with the core humanitarian mandate “saving lives and alleviating suffering”, which is a central in “Strategy for Sweden’s humanitarian aid provided through Sida 2017–2020”. This precedence is rooted in the **four humanitarian principles**, particularly the principle of **importality**, with its compelling urge to ensure that humanitarian action is carried out based on “needs alone”, giving priority to the “most urgent cases of distress”.

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Looking back on 2018 – Humanitarian Trends

In 2018, five trends were evident in humanitarian emergencies. Some of these (point 2-5) are regretfully extended from previous years, while point 1 has become more predominant in 2018.

1) **The lack of immediate peace dividends**: Countries such as Colombia, South Sudan, Yemen and CAR are all countries that have recently (2017 - 2019) signed peace agreements or are engaged in due processes. Yet, the absence of immediate peace dividends – on a structural and profound way - might hamper the possibilities for long lasting peace and development. In fact, Colombia has witnessed a rise in violent incidents in formerly FARC controlled areas and South Sudan still faces pockets verging to famine. Yemen, is yet another country that has embarked on a reconciliation process in which the two parties have come to terms on a number of issues ranging from prisoner exchange to humanitarian access. And in Iraq, the Government has declared victory over ISIS and is keen to embark on a stabilization process. Yet, if populations in these countries do not – in their everyday life – feel the very tangible benefits from that peace (including improved infrastructure, social services and economic development), then there will be little motivation to sustain it. The lack of immediate peace dividends is not new for 2018, but the fact that no less than five countries out of the 15 largest humanitarian crises supported by humanitarian aid from Sida, are in fact engaged in peace or stabilization processes, calls for a heightened attention towards that momentum in terms of realization of that peace.

2) **Widespread breaches of humanitarian law**: While humanitarian law has since its establishment been repeatedly breached, what we witness today is a deepening climate of non-respect of IHL. In 2018, we have seen examples such as the attack in Afghanistan killing more than 95 people carried out by using an “ambulance”, or the raid hitting a school bus in Yemen resulting in the death of 40 children. Education facilities were targeted in Cameroon, and civilians were yet again attacked in Maiduguri Nigeria, such as the 18 civilians who lost their lives following a suicide bomber in the local fish market. Aerial bombardments have been directed at local health facilities, and the use of cluster and chemical weapons has not stopped. Beyond these more visible and well-reported examples, we see continuing problems in terms of the torture and killing of detainees, the recruitment of minors, the use of starvation as a tactic, including by sieges, and widespread gender-based violence against civilians. Also, we witness more targeted attacks on humanitarian personnel. Between 2014 and 2017, a total of 660 attacks were recorded on more than 1,200 aid workers. Nearly 90 per cent of the victims were national aid workers, reflecting an uneven distribution of risk in the most insecure areas. Attacks have also become more violent. In 2017 alone, 139 aid workers, or 44 per cent of those attacked, were killed – the second-highest recorded annual death toll since 2013.

3) **Impeded humanitarian access and lack of protection**: Lack of protection is taking new proportions when large segments of populations in need of humanitarian assistance – simply cannot be reached. Despite the 2018 UN resolution 2401, aimed at granting humanitarian access to eastern Ghouta (Syria), humanitarian access was still largely hindered, attacks continued and basic obligations under international humanitarian law were not enforced to protect civilians. In 2017, more than 500 000 people lived in areas under siege and 4,7 million people were in hard to reach areas only in Syria. On top of security, impeding humanitarian access, mere administrative hurdles can be as disrupting, something increasingly experienced by Sida´s humanitarian team while on field missions. In Yemen, reaching Sa’ada from Sana’a required Sida’s humanitarian team member to pass through almost 15 check-points in addition to notifications and green lights needed from all warring sides in concerned governorates. And even in Iraq, where violence has somewhat decreased, the route from Mosul to Erbil was plagued by 5 checkpoints (in the short route of 85 km), administered by different actors. The lack of line-of-command, and blurriness between formal and non-formal entities at check points, makes it near to impossible to provide humanitarian assistance in a predictable manner in certain pockets of humanitarian crises in countries such as South Sudan, Syria, DRC and Yemen.

4) **Insufficient funding resulting in painful priorities**: Yet another year (2018) closed with humanitarian needs only being 60% covered. This pushes humanitarian actors to the edge in making difficult priorities. Another worrying global trend on humanitarian financing is the fact that up to 30% of overall humanitarian funding goes to projects outside the coordinated humanitarian appeals. Had this percentage been channelled into the Humanitarian
Response Plans, then global humanitarian needs would have “only” been 10% underfunded (in comparison with today’s 40%). This forces Sida to look even closer at projects it approves for humanitarian funding, expecting that they are clearly within the HRPs (with exception of ICRC and a small number of programmes where clear rationale is provided). Consequently, in 2017, more than 90% of Sida’s humanitarian funding to crises with Humanitarian Response Plans went to the HRPs (excluding support to ICRC and the Red Cross).

5) Acute humanitarian emergencies transforming into to chronic crises: As humanitarians struggle to respond to new and quickly deteriorating crises such the Venezuela crises and Myanmar crises, DRC (the Kivus) and Nigeria (Borno state), there is also a need to address chronic humanitarian needs persisting in countries with decade long conflicts such as South Sudan, Sudan, Afghanistan and Somalia. In these countries the need for resilience programming that can transform a humanitarian pocket to a vicinity of development and thrive - is a necessity.

Tangible progress and concrete outcomes in 2018

Despite the challenges surrounding each of the 5 points stipulated above, still strong achievements are witnessed in the humanitarian response globally and with strong impetus from Sidas humanitarian response. Each of the examples below therefore focus on the documented progress in some of the most difficult operational environments. Some examples built on further progression of Sidas humanitarian responses in 2017, yet focusing on the transformation from the most acute phase to sustainable solutions.

Yemen: Similar to last year, Yemen is still beleaguered by a demolished infrastructure and destroyed health, water and sanitation facilities. This in combination with the recurrent cholera outbreaks (affecting more than one million people in 2017 and 0,3 million people in 2018) and the high levels of acute malnutrition (more than 4.4 million) could have led to vast numbers of casualties, as was the case following the Haiti cholera outbreak in 2010 (with more than 10 000 casualties) or the Somalia famine in 2011 (250 000 casualties). Yet, the number of causalities in Yemen due to cholera has been somewhat contained around 2200 people, partly due to a timely Sida support disbursed already in Jan-Feb 2017 and also in Jan-Feb 2018. And by following the situation closely and providing further assistance throughout the year. From 215 MSEK (January 2018) to 363 MSEK (December 2018), including a substantial increase in the autumn 2018 as a response to military escalation in western Yemen. The emergency allocation to Yemen included rehabilitation of water systems (eg by ICRC and Islamic Relief) to limit expensive water trucking assistance and rebuilding existing structures. Protection of civilians has been another priority, not the least the many IDPs (approx. 3.3 million) being the result of constant attacks and new conflicts in Hodeida and surrounding governorates. IOM, together with UNHCR and NRC are examples of actors assisting IDPs with shelter and food assistance in spontaneous camps or among host communities, who themselves having extremely limited resources. In Yemen, the numbers of deaths resulting from the humanitarian crises has consequently been somewhat contained due to a substantial humanitarian response – yet the deep suffering and continuous vulnerability of Yemeni people still persist, and will still persist as long as peace is not fully realised and the road to development paved.

Iraq: has initiated the transition from armed conflict and L3 emergency to recovery and resilience. Humanitarian partners made enormous efforts responding to life-saving needs of those populations fleeing IS. In 2017 Sida was one of the first agencies to support the humanitarian evacuation of Mosul and consequent set up for shelter and infrastructure of basic needs for the affected IDP. By the end of 2018, 2.9 million people out of 3.4 million people (85 per cent) targeted by humanitarian partners were reached with some form of humanitarian assistance in Iraq due to strong international humanitarian assistance. At the same time, focus is gradually shifting to post-conflict transition towards durable solutions and to increase the resilience of affected people by supporting access to basic services and enhancing livelihood opportunities for those returning to conflict affected neighbourhoods and villages. As the humanitarian response eased the needs of the initial phases of the crises, the people of Iraq are still extremely
vulnerable (particularly the IDPs), and therefore proper rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation is urgently needed for development and true stabilisation.

**Myanmar and South Sudan**, witnessed some of the fastest refugee crises in 2017, and subsequently Sida was one of the fastest donors supporting some of the fastest expansions of refugee programmes in Bangladesh and Uganda. The generous reception of host communities and national authorities in 2017 have no doubt facilitated the respective humanitarian operation. At certain times, Uganda received more than 3000 refugees per day as South Sudanese fled the horrors of ethnic violence. Bangladesh received more than 600 000 refugees in less than 6 months, which is believed to be the fastest refugee crises in modern history. From Sida’s perspective the Myanmar crises provoked one of the largest increases in humanitarian support as Myanmar which started the year at 42 MSEK in fact quadrupled during the year, which ended on more than 200 MSEK, mainly to shelter, food, protection, health and WASH in Cox Bazaar/Bangladesh. And at the height of the South Sudan crises Sida supported the response by no less than 26 Rapid Responses (which usually are taken within 24 hours).

In 2018 the humanitarian support continued to both countries, yet with a heightened attention towards sustainable solutions. In Bangladesh vast forest areas around the camps were destroyed in order to provide firewood needed for cooking the “dry food” aid that was provided in the initial phase of the response. In response to this, Sida provided humanitarian funding (25 MSK) to initiate the roll-out of Liquid Petroleum gas stoves, which eventually will cover the entire camp population and largely reduce the need for firewood. In addition to that program, using development funds Sida is currently conducting an appraisal of a longer term project aimed at supporting eco system rehabilitation, including re-forestation through FAO, IOM and WFP. In Uganda, a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) has been developed, with the objectives of further strengthening Government policy and protect asylum space, support resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities, expand durable solutions including third country options, and invest in human capital and transferrable skills. During 2018 Sida supported these efforts in several ways, including through loosely earmarked humanitarian funding of 28 MSEK for UNHCR:s work in response to the South Sudan situation and an additional support of 29 MSEK for other strategic humanitarian partners in Uganda. Sida’s humanitarian unit also provided innovative multi-year funding of 18 MSEK to two projects aimed specifically at building resilience in refugee and host communities, and made joint efforts with the Africa department and the Swedish embassy in Kampala through a contribution for the Swedish Civil Contingency Service (MSB)’s support for the implementation of the CRRF. Sida also contributed to ongoing efforts at the embassy to include refugees and host communities in longer-term development interventions, thereby addressing the nexus between development- and humanitarian situations and support.

In terms of progress, we also think back to where many of us stood, almost 7 years ago (July 2011). When the United Nations, partly due to the inability to quickly upscale a humanitarian response in the Horn of Africa - declared famine in **Somalia**. This was the year where 250 000 people died of hunger, only in Somalia and in less than a year. The food insecurity and nutrition indicators back then looked very similar to the ones documented in 2017. Agonizing memories from the famine in Somalia urged us to quickly expand the humanitarian resources to not only Somalia but to four countries that were simultaneously hit by extreme food insecurity and hence risking falling into widespread famines; **Somalia, Yemen, South Sudan** and **Nigeria**. Already in December 2016 – in the midst of supporting the evacuation of Aleppo – we decided had to revisit our thinking on these four countries. And in February 2017, we in fact updated our initial allocation due to the quickly deteriorating situation, with disbursement of funds already in January and February – hence bridging the critical start-of-the-year-period where funds are urgently needed yet few donors ready to disburse funding. In 2018 Sidas humanitarian assistance has closely monitored these four crises and ensured substantial support to the four crises also in 2018 just to ensure that there would be no relapse and reverting to yet another humanitarian crisis, which so far has been averted. The peace processes in South Sudan, and Yemen pose possible opportunities and so does the regional initiative for the Lake Chad Region.
Unless these initiatives are truly led by national authorities and genuinely supported by regional or international actors, these countries will prevail in yet another decade of humanitarian limbo.

In the DRC, the country’s poor economic development leaves the population vulnerable to the sudden onset of crisis, which given the volatile context are constant. People do not have the resilience to withstand the shock, and their immediate displacement further depletes the hosting communities’ resources, thus initiating an evil cycle of aggravating needs. Assistance through rapid responses are essential to meet needs and save lives, and thereby mitigate impact on the host community. In 2018, Sida responded rapidly with immediate lifesaving assistance and protection through five rapid response projects, at a total of nearly 14 MSEK. Sida also contributed 10 MSEK to UNICEF and its RRMP to be able to immediately respond to the needs of nearly 900 000 beneficiaries in 2018.

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At the same time as we respond to acute humanitarian needs, Sida also aspires to support strategic and long term thinking, particularly in chronic emergencies. Hence, starting in 2017, a small proportion of Sida’s humanitarian budget supported a number of multi-year projects that aim to support A) multi-year Humanitarian Response Plans or resilience plans and B) programmes that ultimately are handed over to national actors through a clearly phased exit/hand-over strategy. Sida’s humanitarian budget now supports not less than 25 multiyear programmes 2017 – 2019 in countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Sudan, Lebanon, Mali, Niger and Cameroon and Chad. And 4 multiyear programmes for 2019 – 2020 (in CAR, Yemen, Palestine, South Sudan/tbc). At the same time, strengthened collaboration with Sidas’ development programmes is manifested in several countries which receive both humanitarian and development funding (se graph below), such as Sudan, Somalia, Mali, DRC, Iraq and Syria, where development funding and humanitarian funding more progressively works towards building those synergies that ultimately can have a transformative effect, and paving way for a path of developmental, including sustainable social services and activities geared towards self-reliance. A summary of some recent examples is found in the paper “Sida -the Nexus of Humanitarian and Development Programmes – in practice”. In line with these efforts Sida also engages with both humanitarian and development actors around key strategic frameworks such as the Humanitarian Response Plans and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, to reinforce complementarities and synergies between humanitarian and development efforts where appropriate. See graph below on humanitarian development support in 2018. Please note, all development support are derived from Sida’s BISI lists for 2018.
**Sida’s Allocation Process – Methodology, Criteria and Process**

**STEP 1 Humanitarian Analysis – based on the Humanitarian Principles:** Each year Sida allocates more than half of Sweden’s total humanitarian assistance, which for 2019 amounts to 4 050 million SEK. In adherence to the “Swedish Governments Strategy for humanitarian aid 2017-2020”, Sida has developed an allocation methodology in close collaboration with the Swedish Ministry for Foreign affairs. This methodology aspires to **translate the humanitarian principles into a practical tool that guides Sida’s humanitarian allocation.** In particular, the principle of **impartiality** has strongly influenced the allocation tool. Therefore, Sida’s allocation methodology is grounded in several objective indicators such as; the **scale** (number of people) of humanitarian needs, the **severity** of humanitarian needs (including food insecurity/IPC levels), the **number of people targeted** for the humanitarian response, the **financial coverage** of respective humanitarian appeal, **national capacities** to respond and underlying risks, as well as distinct indicators related to **forgotten crises.** This allocation modality and the corresponding work-process can be summarised in four distinct steps are followed.

**Firstly** a global **quantitative** and indicator-based analysis is conducted to compare the severity of different crises. Taking place in early November, it identifies an initial allocation for respective crises.

**Secondly,** a **qualitative** analysis takes place in mid-November with the production of respective Humanitarian Crises Analysis (HCA), for each of the major crises. While the quantitative analysis determines the **initial allocation for each crisis**, the qualitative analysis determines the exact **channels/organisations and agencies** for which humanitarian funding is channelled. The HCA is first and foremost influenced by the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). Sida’s HCA is also informed by Sida’s extensive follow up missions in the field.

**Thirdly,** and following the final draft of Sida’s Humanitarian Crises Analysis, a consultative process takes place to warrant each analysis, including its proposed allocation to each respective organisation. This process involves not only Sida’s humanitarian staff in the field and in Stockholm, but also development colleagues and colleagues from MFA. In parallel, a systematic dialogue is conducted with humanitarian implementing partners with a focus on their activities and how these respond to needs and priorities articulated in each HNO and HRP. Sida’s Humanitarian Crises Analysis is only finalised with the release of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in December each year.

**Finally,** Sida’s proposed humanitarian allocation is shared with MFA and with Sida’s Strategic Partners and funds are disbursed during Q 1.
STEP 2 Disbursement of funds - Speed has been a priority for Sida’s humanitarian staff which increased its level of disbursement from 3.8% (by March 2014), to 22% (March 2015), 54% (March 2016), 75% (March 2018) and XXX (March 2019), which is highly appreciated by the humanitarian community and a characteristic of Swedish humanitarian assistance globally. Following the early disbursement of around two thirds of Sida’s humanitarian budget, the remaining one thirds is set aside for the Emergency Reserve, which is disbursed throughout the year to sudden onset or quickly deteriorating crises. The fastest mechanism for humanitarian response through Sida is the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) which can provide humanitarian assistance within 24 hours, with 168 responses conducted through the RRM, to countries such as CAR, Venezuela and Syria (RRM Map below).

STEP 3 Close monitoring - Field Missions to hard-to-teach areas: Back to back with disbursement of funds Sida intensifies the follow up in the field. In 2018, the humanitarian unit conducted more than 40 field missions to more than 100 projects in Somalia, Kenya, Ukraine, DRC, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Niger and Cameroon. Most missions are conducted to project sites, which mostly are in difficult or hard-to-reach areas. Already in the allocation phase (when writing the Humanitarian Crises Analysis) Sidas humanitarian unit outlines where the follow up will be conducted in the coming year. New for 2019 is that this information is visualised through a map which outlines A) Humanitarian Needs in 2019, B) Sidas humanitarian response in the country for 2019 and C) expected sites for follow up in 2019.

Step 4 Transparency – sharing information on analysis, process and decisions

From 2015, all “Humanitarian Crises Analysis” have been published on Sida’s internet site. This concerted effort to increase transparency was augmented in 2018 when also the document detailing the process, criteria and methodology for humanitarian allocation (i.e. this very document) was for the first time translated also to English and published on Sida’s internet. New for 2019 is that each HCA includes more details on each organizations specific humanitarian operations in respective crises, and their location, visualised through the maps mentioned above.
Sida’s Humanitarian Allocation 2019

For 2019, Sida will allocate humanitarian funding to more than 30 crises worldwide. **Fifteen of these crises are large scale humanitarian crises** and therefore each has its own Humanitarian Crisis Analysis. The remaining 15 crises are smaller in nature, yet particularly vulnerable as some are forgotten crises and thus severely underfunded. T

Sida’s humanitarian budget 2018 – A breakdown

For 2019, Sida’s initial humanitarian budget, as per the Government’s Letter of Appropriation, is **4 050 MSEK**.

**Predictability:** For 2019, **2/3** of the humanitarian budget is disbursed to Sida’s humanitarian partners early in the year – this is to support early planning for human resources, supply and logistics. **100%** of the support is channelled through multiyear agreements. This increases predictability for UN agencies and NGOs alike.

**Flexibility:** A total of **1/3** of the humanitarian budget is set aside for flexibility to ensure that Sida stands ready to support sudden onset and deteriorating crises at any time, throughout the year.
Within the **predictability budget-line**, 5 distinct budgets are appended and collectively add up to the 65%:
1. *Large* ongoing crises 55% for 2019 (55% for 2018), 2. *Other* crises 5.5% for 2019 (5.8% for 2018), 3. *Regional* support, which mainly is directed to regional offices 1.5% for 2019 % (1.9% for 2018), 4. *Capacity development* support 0.5% for 2019 (0.5% for 2018) and 5. *Method support* 2.5% for 2019 (2.5% for 2018)

Within the **flexibility budget-line**, three different budgets add up to the 29%
1. *Unallocated* funds 7% for 2019 (8.3% for 2018), 2. The *humanitarian reserve* 16% for 2019 (19.3% for 2018) and 3. the *Rapid Response Mechanism/RRM* 6% for 2019 (6.8% for 2018). The RRM is a mechanism that enables Sida’s Strategic Partners to submit a proposal to Sida and obtain funds within 24 hours in addition to the unallocated funds which also serve the same purpose. The RRM mechanism is exclusively used in sudden onset emergencies and quickly deteriorating humanitarian situations.

Around 6% of the humanitarian budget is set aside for **resilience programming** through multiyear programming.
GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN 2019 AND SIDA’S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

As stated above, in 2019, 135 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 42 countries. To respond to the needs of the most vulnerable 95 million people, US$21.9 billion is required.

Below is a brief summary of the humanitarian situation for the 15 large crises funded by Sida in 2019. Note that the figures might differ from the respective Humanitarian Crises Analysis (HCA) 2019 as the HCAs also include information on multiyear programmes that are not reflected below. Also note that the numbers of people in humanitarian need and targeted populations are from December 2018 (and are frequently updated). Graphics and text below are courtesy of OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) December 2019.

Yemen¹

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Yemen 2019, published on Sidas website.

PROJECTED SITUATION

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world. Nearly 80 per cent of the entire population – 24 million people – require some form of humanitarian assistance and protection. Eighteen million people across the country are food insecure, including 8.4 million who are suffering from extreme hunger. Seven million Yemenis are malnourished, including close to 2 million children and more than 1 million lactating and pregnant women.

One third of all districts in the country are already pre-famine and at least 12 million Yemenis may require food assistance in the months ahead unless urgent steps are taken to increase household incomes, expand imports and ease monetary restrictions. The impact of the conflict is staggering. Partners estimate that as many as 57,000 people have been killed or died since 2015. As many as 3.9 million people have been displaced in the past three years, including 600,000 people who have fled the intensive fighting and strikes in Huydaydah Governorate since June.

According to partners, more than 13,500 conflict-related incidents have been recorded between January and mid-November 2018, including many that resulted in the damage or destruction of civilian facilities including irrigation systems, agricultural sites, schools, hospitals, water points and sanitation plants. More than a quarter of all children are out of school and civil servants and pensioners in northern Yemen have not been paid salaries and bursaries for years. Fifty per cent of health facilities are shut and more than 70 per cent do not have regular supplies of essential medicines. Last year, Yemen was hit by the worst cholera outbreak in modern history, impacting close to 1 million people. The Yemeni economy is on the verge of collapse. Cumulative losses in real GDP are estimated at 47.1 per cent over the past three years. More than 600,000 jobs have been lost. Between June and September, only one letter of credit for importers of food and fuel was issued. Shortages of foreign exchange, artificial increases in money supply, lack of liquidity, restrictions on imports and remittances, long delays at ports and irregular customs and taxes are driving the country to the brink of famine. The cost of a food basket has increased by 60 per cent in the past 12 months and fuel prices have doubled in the past 2. Hundreds of thousands of families are being forced out of local markets, unable to purchase the basic necessities required to survive.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

In response to the crisis, more than 200 humanitarian organizations have launched the largest humanitarian operation in the world. Each month, the UN’s World Food Programme is distributing 100,000 metric tons of food commodities at more than 5,000 points, reaching more than 8 million Yemenis. During the past year, nearly 9 million people have received health care, 10 million

¹ The Yemen HRP was launched on 19th February 2019. The numbers presented in the GHO in November 2018 have been revised as follows: 24,1M people in need; target population 18,8M of which 14,3M in acute need; funding required 4.2B.
have received water and sanitation support and 4.6 million people have benefitted from nutrition programmes. Nearly 3 million are receiving protection services. In the face of one of the largest food crises in recent memory, humanitarian organizations are doing everything possible to scale up operations to roll back food insecurity and avert famine.

Organizations are working around the clock to upgrade and expand the logistics framework, open additional hubs in high risk districts and introduce a new risk management system to help improve the operating environment. Strategies for averting famine, alleviating hunger, reducing malnutrition, protecting civilians, fighting cholera and water-borne diseases and slowing institutional collapse are being revised and fine-tuned.

Based on the preliminary results of country-wide assessments, including the IPC, at least 24 million Yemenis are in need of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian organizations are likely to require close to $4 billion during 2019 to address the immediate and life-saving needs of an estimated 15 million people, of whom 14 million are in acute need.

To ensure funds are channelled into the activities that will have the most and quickest impact, the 2019 HRP is being sequenced across first-line, second-line and full-cluster activities.

**SYRIA**

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Syria 2019, published on Sida’s website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE IN NEED</th>
<th>PEOPLE TO RECEIVE AID</th>
<th>FUNDING REQUIRED</th>
<th>COVERAGE IN 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>13.0M</td>
<td>11.2M</td>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>60%</td>
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**PROJECTED SITUATION**

The political and security landscape in Syria is likely to remain complex and fluid in 2019, most notably in the north-west, and possibly in parts of the north-east. Other areas will see increased stability and security, including in areas where changes of control took place in 2018. The level of spontaneous return of IDPs may exceed the level of new displacement for the first time in 2019, but conditions for safe, voluntary and dignified return are not anticipated to be in place across much of the country. Living conditions in overcrowded IDP sites, the needs of host communities and the impact of drought on food security and livelihoods will be key concerns, as will the impact of funding-related cuts for assistance to vulnerable Palestinian refugees.

An estimated 13 million people are likely to continue to require humanitarian assistance in 2019, with life-saving assistance and protection needs, as well as early recovery and livelihoods support expected to become more pronounced. Humanitarian partners have identified six broad vulnerability categories, indicative of particularly severe needs cutting across sectors:

i) people living in hard-to-reach or newly accessible areas;

ii) people currently or recently exposed to high intensity of hostilities and living in areas contaminated with explosive hazards;

iii) IDPs living in last-resort sites; iv) newly displaced populations;

iv) spontaneous/self-organized returnees; and vi) overburdened host communities.

**RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

Similar in scope to 2018, the response under the 2019 HRP will continue to be prioritized based on i) protection and vulnerability criteria for groups at highest risk, and ii) geographical severity of needs, both sectoral and intersectoral. This approach will continue to ensure a focus on life-saving activities and protection efforts, particularly in areas affected by hostilities, with a high
density of IDPs, and where gaps in response are most pressing. At the same time, support for basic service provision and expanded access to livelihood opportunities will be more prominent. Ensuring continuity of services and assistance through the most direct routes will remain a priority, as will sustained advocacy to improve the quality of humanitarian access from inside Syria. Cross-border assistance is expected to continue to provide a critical lifeline to millions of people in the north-west of the country.

**Syria Regional – Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey** As the Syria crisis enters its ninth year, more than 5.6 million Syrian refugees are registered in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. These host countries continue to show great solidarity in shouldering the weight of the crisis in terms of hosting refugees, even as some continue to contend with mounting economic and social pressures. Despite the exceptional generosity of host governments, the situation for Syrian refugees and affected host communities across the region remains extremely challenging. Many refugee families have become increasingly vulnerable with each passing year of displacement, and in some host countries, poverty rates exceed 60 per cent among refugees. An estimated 35 per cent of Syrian refugee children remain out of school. In 2018, over 270 3RP partners contributed to securing the most basic needs of refugees and supporting host communities in support of national efforts and with generous donor funding. Over 1.2 million children were enrolled in formal education, and food assistance was provided to over 2.3 million people. Some 450,000 families received cash assistance, giving them the choice to spend according to their most pressing needs.

Support to host governments and vulnerable host communities remains central to the 3RP’s work, and partners directly support national and local systems in areas such as health, education, protection and social safety nets, as well as creating livelihoods and economic opportunities for tens of thousands. In 2019, 3RP partners will continue to assist the millions of refugees who need access to international protection and humanitarian support across the region. At the same time, 3RP partners will continue to ensure resilience-building, sustainability and local engagement are integrated into programming.

**IRAQ**

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Iraq 2019, published on Sidas website

**PROJECTED SITUATION**

The period between 2014 and 2017 was characterized by a scale-up to a Level 3 emergency response to the massive humanitarian needs arising from the Government of Iraq’s conflict with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) armed group. Years of intensive fighting have displaced 6 million people. Since the end of hostilities, almost 4 million IDPs have returned to more than 1,400 areas of origin across Iraq’s seven governates.

The return of IDPs is a significant step towards durable solutions in the aftermath of the conflict. Despite the scale of return, the rate of IDP return steadily decreased in 2018, with returns significantly less than initially projected. More than 1.9 million IDPs remain displaced, of which more than half have been displaced upward of three years. It is these long-term IDPs that now make up most of the still displaced population. These IDPs reside both in camps and in informal settlements and are dealing with protection concerns and lack of access to essential services, which can place a burden on already vulnerable host communities. It is difficult to gauge IDPs’ plans to resolve their situation, but reasons for continued displacement invariably include destroyed, occupied or disputed housing, the presence of explosive hazards, the absence of livelihoods and services, and lack of social cohesion and security. It is becoming increasingly clear that a significant majority of current IDPs may not return to their area of origin. Data related to IDPs show that the number of those who wish to pursue solutions other than return to their area of origin may have been underestimated.
RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

In 2019, a responsible transition from humanitarian relief towards recovery, stabilization and development solutions will be necessary to avoid the risk of more protracted displacement and ensure that returns which have taken place are sustainable. Towards this end, while continuing to provide life-saving assistance to Iraq’s most vulnerable, the response under the HRP will effectively target post-conflict transition towards durable solutions, strengthening the centrality of protection across the humanitarian response, and preparedness for further conflict-induced displacement, natural hazards and disease outbreaks. Between 2018 and 2019, the number of people in need is expected to decrease from 8.7 million to 6.7 million, and the number of those likely to receive assistance under the HRP is estimated to decrease from 3.4 million to 1.8 million. Those targeted for humanitarian assistance include 500,000 returnees facing the most severe conditions, 500,000 IDPs in camp settings, 550,000 IDPs in out-of-camp sites and 200,000 IDPs living with host communities. The response will be geographically focused in 35 of Iraq’s more than 100 districts. The financial requirements of the 2019 HRP are estimated to be about $570 million, slightly higher than for the 2018 HRP, as humanitarians grapple with specific challenges and related costs of protracted displacement and scaling up programming for preparedness activities. The needs of 250,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq will be addressed separately through the Syria 3RP.

PALESTINE

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Palestine 2019, published on Sidas website

PROJECTED SITUATION

Humanitarian needs are expected to increase in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2019, and the main drivers of humanitarian vulnerability are expected to remain largely unchanged. The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is likely to remain extremely fragile. The long-standing Israeli blockade on Gaza, imposed citing security concerns, is expected to continue, alongside the internal Palestinian political divide. Both factors are likely to prevent a genuine improvement in the access of people to livelihoods and basic services. As a result, the health system is likely to remain overstretched, clean water and sewage treatment will be insufficient, and the level of unemployment will remain high. Both factors will also prolong the existing environment conducive to violence, in which further demonstrations, clashes and casualties may emerge. In the West Bank, policies and practices affecting vulnerable communities in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city are expected to continue, putting Palestinians at risk of forcible transfer. These include demolitions, forced evictions, discriminatory planning policies, access and movement restrictions, settlement expansion and settler violence, and the continued loss of access to and use of land and resources.

As a result, humanitarian needs are expected to further deepen in 2019. At least 1.9 million Palestinians will be at risk of conflict and violence, forcible displacement and denial of access to livelihoods, and in need of protection assistance. This includes vulnerable households that have resorted to negative and harmful coping mechanisms. Overall, 1.6 million Palestinians – 31.5 per cent of the population – the majority of whom reside in Gaza, are considered food insecure and will remain in need of food assistance or other forms of social transfers, according to 2014 figures. Palestinian refugees, female-headed households, and farmers, herders and fishers are particularly vulnerable considering their direct exposure to the effects of the conflict and their dependence on small-scale productive activities to meet their daily needs.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The 2019 HRP will mark the second year of the 2018–2020 multi-year humanitarian response strategy. Some 2.5 million people have been jointly identified by the humanitarian community as in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2019. These needs will be addressed through efforts that protect the rights of Palestinians living under occupation, provide access to basic
services for those who are vulnerable, and support the ability of Palestinians to cope with and overcome the effects of the protracted crisis, while more sustainable solutions are sought. The 2019 HRP will maintain the centrality of protection at all levels of humanitarian action, as a shared system-wide responsibility. Despite increasing needs, the number of people targeted for humanitarian assistance and protection in 2019 will be lower than the previous year. Some 1.4 million people will be targeted in 2019, compared with 1.9 million in 2018. This reduction in the number of people targeted is due to the decrease in funding for the oPt. In 2018, the funding levels for the humanitarian response were the lowest ever, and the operational space for humanitarian action has diminished. As a result, humanitarian organizations have been forced to reduce their planned interventions for 2019 by strictly focusing on the most severe needs, in coherence with the funding predicted for the year. This approach, for lack of a better alternative, leaves many Palestinians without the humanitarian assistance and protection they critically need. Humanitarian organizations stand ready and able to respond to Palestinians not covered by the response plan in 2019 should operational conditions and funding be improved.

The 2019 HRP uses the project-based costing approach. Compared with the 2018 HRP, the funding requirements have decreased by 35 per cent, and represent the lowest since the Consolidated Appeal Process for oPt in 2006.

Lake Chad Basin (Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Nigeria)

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for LCB 2019, published on Sidas website.

Cameroon

In 2019, the Boko Haram conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region is entering its sixth year, resulting in insecurity and economic breakdown across the region. Although in 2018 regional military forces made gains against the insurgency and managed to temporarily improve the security situation in certain areas of the Lake Chad Basin, Boko Haram attacks continued in other areas. The ongoing conflict led to new refugee influxes and many areas of origin in Nigeria are still not safe for voluntary return, leading to a protracted refugee situation for those who have been forced to flee. The 2019–2020 Nigeria Regional RRP aims to address the needs of 228,000 Nigerian refugees hosted in and outside of camps in Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as 55,500 impacted host community members. Life-saving humanitarian assistance will continue to be required, while at the same time support for development is increasingly important to reduce vulnerability. In 2019–2020, regional RRP partners will focus on strengthening the resilience of refugees and affected host populations, while aiming to ensure close collaboration across the nexus of humanitarian assistance and development interventions. The protection sector will continue to advocate for access to asylum and non-refoulement and enhance protection monitoring and response in the region, as agreed in the 2016 Abuja Action Statement. Child protection as well as prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence will be prioritized. Furthermore, reginal RRP partners will enhance access to education, provide shelter and non-food items, address food insecurity and strengthen water and sanitation infrastructures, building on achievements made to date, and will work strengthen the health sector, prevent malnutrition and offer a wider range of livelihoods projects to enable affected people to become less dependent on humanitarian aid.
The humanitarian crisis in Niger is worsening, with the number of people in need of assistance reaching 2.3 million in 2018—an increase of 400,000 people compared to 2017. A scale-up of humanitarian aid is urgently required, as indicators across multiple sectors are deteriorating. The nutrition sector is the hardest hit, with 1.7 million people requiring nutrition support, an increase of 250,000 people from last year. Chronic vulnerabilities related to food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and floods are being compounded by growing insecurity in the regions bordering Mali and in the Diffa region. Further, overcrowding in camps and displacements sites have worsened the living conditions of the displaced population and exacerbated the protection risks faced particularly by children and women.

In 2017, the humanitarian response made a major difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. Food assistance reached over 720,000 people. Further, over 237,162 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition and 243,602 for moderate acute malnutrition, while over 106,000 pregnant women received nutritional supplements (as of September). Some 112,000 people were reached with protection activities, and a network of community-level protection mechanisms was also established. Military operations against Boko Haram in the Diffa region and terrorist groups in regions bordering Mali continue. Moreover, the population growth rate of 3.9% puts pressure on natural resources and leads to significant land degradation. In 2018, increased funding is required to respond to the growing needs in almost all sectors.

**Chad**

The humanitarian crisis in Chad is also worsening, with the number of people in need of assistance reaching 4.4 million in 2018—an increase of 100,000 people compared to 2017. A scale-up of humanitarian aid is urgently required, as indicators across multiple sectors are deteriorating. The nutrition sector is the hardest hit, with 2.3 million people requiring nutrition support, an increase of 200,000 people from last year. Chronic vulnerabilities related to food insecurity, malnutrition, epidemics and floods are being compounded by growing insecurity in the regions bordering Libya, Niger and Sudan. The security situation has deteriorated due to ongoing fighting between the Chadian army and Chadian rebel groups operating across the border. In the Lac region, Boko Haram is likely to maintain an offensive posture, causing additional displacement and delaying the return of more than 124,000 IDPs to their homes. In the eastern part of the country, the tripartite agreement signed in 2017 by Chad, the Sudan and UNHCR has yielded modest results. So far, only 353 of the 336,000 Sudanese refugees returned to Darfur. In 2019, voluntary returns are expected to remain low. In the south, the prospect for return of refugees from CAR is low due to insecurity.

The socioeconomic crisis and subsequent austerity measures will continue to impact the living conditions of Chadians. On a positive note, the preliminary results of the 2018/19 agropastoral season point to a probable increase in cereal production compared with the previous season. However, some areas are likely to experience a drop in agricultural productivity, particularly in the Sahel belt, due to a rainfall deficit and poor geographic distribution of rains. The sustained closure of the borders with Nigeria and CAR will continue to hinder livestock trade and transhumance. The humanitarian needs analysis of the country shows that vulnerable people are spread over a large part of the territory, particularly in the Sahel belt and border areas. People in regions affected by displacements (East, Lac and South) are more vulnerable due to pressure exerted by the displaced population on natural resources and lack of essential services. In 2019, humanitarian operations will remain vital to address food insecurity, malnutrition and recurrent epidemics, and to meet the needs of more than 330,000 Sudanese refugees. Humanitarian actors will also provide emergency assistance to more than 173,000 people displaced by the armed conflict in the Lac region and to 145,000 refugees and returnees from CAR. In 2019, 4.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance, which is almost a third of Chad’s population, and humanitarian organizations will aim to reach 1.7 million people with humanitarian assistance.
RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The 2019 humanitarian response will focus on areas where vulnerability levels are the highest. This includes the areas of the Lac region and eastern and southern Chad that are hosting refugees or returnees, as well as the Sahel belt, where food insecurity and malnutrition are severe. Humanitarian organizations will prioritize providing a multisectoral emergency response to the most vulnerable people and improving access to basic social services and livelihoods through sustainable solutions. The organizations will also focus on protection for and advocacy on behalf of affected communities in the Lake Chad area and the south and supporting voluntary returns in areas of origin with assistance packages. The funding requirement for the response will be about $500 million.

Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE IN NEED</th>
<th>PEOPLE TARGETED</th>
<th>REQUIREMENTS (US$)</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.5M</td>
<td>6.1M</td>
<td>$1.1B</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, the Boko Haram conflict in the Lake Chad Basin region is entering its sixth year, resulting in insecurity and economic breakdown the region. Although in 2018 regional military forces made gains against the insurgency and managed to temporarily improve the security situation in certain areas of the Lake Chad Basin, Boko Haram attacks continued in other areas. The ongoing conflict led to new refugee influxes and many areas of origin in Nigeria are still not safe for voluntary return, leading to a protracted refugee situation for those who have been forced to flee. The 2019–2020 Nigeria Regional RRP aims to address the needs of 228,000 Nigerian refugees hosted in and outside of camps in Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as 55,500 impacted host community members. Life-saving humanitarian assistance will continue to be required, while at the same time support for development is increasingly important to reduce vulnerability. In 2019–2020, regional RRP partners will focus on strengthening the resilience of refugees and affected host populations, while aiming to ensure close collaboration across the nexus of humanitarian assistance and development interventions. The protection sector will continue to advocate for access to asylum and non-refoulement and enhance protection monitoring and response in the region, as agreed in the 2016 Abuja Action Statement. Child protection as well as prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence will be prioritized. Furthermore, regional RRP partners will enhance access to education, provide shelter and non-food items, address food insecurity and strengthen water and sanitation infrastructures, building on achievements made to date, and will work strengthen the health sector, prevent malnutrition and offer a wider range of livelihoods projects to enable affected people to become less dependent on humanitarian aid.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for DRC 2019, published on Sidas website.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE IN NEED</th>
<th>PEOPLE TARGETED</th>
<th>REQUIREMENTS (US$)</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.1M</td>
<td>10.5M</td>
<td>$1.69B</td>
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In 2018, the crisis in DRC, a protection crisis fuelled by ethnic and political conflict, drastically worsened, spreading to previously unaffected areas and impacting the Great Lakes region. The ongoing conflicts across much of eastern and central DRC continue to cause significant displacement, damage to property and tragic loss of human life. While the majority of displaced people remain within the country, more than 130,000 new refugees have fled the DRC since the beginning of 2018. In particular, refugee flows to Burundi, Uganda and Zambia have increased significantly. New arrivals have joined refugees from previous waves of violence, bringing the total number of Congolese refugees in Africa to some 765,000. The already unstable security and socioeconomic situation in the DRC has been further aggravated by political uncertainties exacerbated by the ongoing electoral process, and the risk of further displacement remains high. This would have a disastrous impact on the precarious humanitarian situation and raise
the spectre of increased regional instability. At the same time, the underlying drivers of humanitarian needs, including protection, are not likely to change in the coming years. The 2019–2020 regional RRP therefore aims to address the needs of an anticipated 1,152,000 Congolese refugees in seven countries of asylum (Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia), and assist 1,588,000 members of host communities.

Country-level objectives and activities by partners in the countries involved in the regional RRP will be guided by five strategic objectives: 1) Preserve equal and unhindered access to territorial asylum and international protection, promoting the full enjoyment of rights and the civilian character of asylum; 2) Support all efforts to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements; 3) Achieve minimum standards in the provision of multisectoral assistance to refugees and host communities, with a view to anchoring the response in government systems, development plans, multi-year strategies and regional protection frameworks and policies, focusing on the needs of children and women; 4) Promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities through the implementation of targeted self-reliance and resilience programmes and respect for the natural environment; and 5) Foster economic self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees and host communities by expanding the use of cash assistance, reducing the dependency of refugees on humanitarian aid and promoting social economic growth in line with national and development plans.

SOUTH SUDAN, and South Sudan Regional

193 MSEK

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for SS 2019, published on Sidass website.

South Sudan

People in need: 7.0M
People targeted: 6.0M
Requirements (US$): $1.7B
Change from 2017: ↑ 5%

South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan

People in need: 3.1M
People targeted: 3.1M
Requirements (US$): $1.5B
Change from 2017: ↑ 9%

On 12 September 2018, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed by the government, opposition and other political parties in South Sudan. Although violations of the ceasefire agreement have been reported and important contentious issues remain between the parties, the advent of the agreement marks a turning point in South Sudan’s war beleaguered history. However, the humanitarian situation remains dire. One in three South Sudanese people is forcibly displaced as an IDP or refugee, and 7 million South Sudanese remain in dire need of emergency aid. The 2019–2020 South Sudan Regional RRP is a response to the magnitude of forced displacement from South Sudan. Despite a reduction by 90,000 in the number of new arrivals witnessed in 2018, South Sudan’s refugee crisis remains by far the largest in Africa, and the third globally after Syria and Afghanistan. Through the RRP, 91 partners are seeking to attend to the lifesaving needs of 2.8 million South Sudanese refugees, over 80 per cent of whom are women and children, including over 60,000 separated or unaccompanied children. South Sudan also hosts 300,000 refugees on its soil who are supported in the 2019 HRP. All six countries which host South Sudanese refugees have been exemplary in granting them asylum and supporting approaches that build refugees’ self-reliance. Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda have operationalized the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), and CAR, DRC and Sudan have applied out of camp policies consistent with the CRRF and the Global Compact for Refugees. To further support these approaches, the regional RRP identifies key areas of intervention which can support the resilience of refugees and their host communities and improve social co-existence and peace in the region, such as skills training and peace education. Despite these efforts, the scale of the displacement has put enormous pressure on host countries and communities. Greater international solidarity and responsibility sharing are urgently needed to support them.
SOMALIA

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Somalia 2019, published on Sidas website.

PROJECTED SITUATION

Somalia remains among the most complex and long-standing crises in the world. The overall food security situation in Somalia improved in 2018 as a result of the above-average Gu rainfall and sustained humanitarian assistance. However, the humanitarian situation in Somalia remains primarily a protection crisis and needs are still substantially high, with 4.2 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and protection in 2019. Recurrent climatic shocks, ongoing conflict and insecurity, and limited access to essential services have compounded the situation of the most vulnerable people, such as IDPs and marginalized groups, and those living in certain locations, especially in some rural areas. More than 2.6 million Somalis are internally displaced due to conflict, climatic shocks, exclusion and marginalization. From a geographic perspective, the most severe needs are those of people living in Jubaland State, South West State, the Hiraan region of Hirshabelle State and Banadir region, and Awdal region. The most significant needs include protection, food security, health, nutrition, education, WASH requirements, shelter, and camp coordination and camp management.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Considering insecurity, access constraints and estimated response capacity, the 2019 HRP will target 3.4 million people – 80 per cent of total people in need – with the provision of multisectoral humanitarian assistance and protection. In line with the Centrality of Protection Strategy, response activities are designed through a protection lens and will target in particular those living in the most vulnerable circumstances, including marginalized communities. Furthermore, humanitarian response will also contribute to resilience building and will compliment investments by development partners to foster sustainable resilience in beneficiaries and through institutional capacity-building. The HRP relies on a project-based costing methodology. Each cluster has defined targets and indicators for the provision of assistance, and projects correlate to the identified targets, with related budgeting. Compared with 2018, which set a financial requirement of $1.54 billion, the financial requirements for 2019 have been reduced by 27 per cent, with a total funding requirement of $1.1 billion. The reduced financial requirement is due to an improvement of the humanitarian situation, a more focused approach in defining humanitarian needs and a revised methodology in calculating the total number of people in need. Accordingly, compared with last year, humanitarian needs and corresponding targets have decreased by 32 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively.

ETHIOPIA

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Ethiopia 2019, published on Sidas website.

PROJECTED SITUATION

Ethiopia
Ethiopia saw a dramatic increase in internal displacement in 2018 (at its peak in August 2018, estimated at 2.8 million), and it is expected that internally displaced people will continue to require assistance in 2019. Despite favourable rains in 2018, pastoral and agropastoral communities continue to face challenges in recovering after two consecutive years of droughts. It is still unclear how the anticipated El Niño phenomenon may affect the region in 2019. The humanitarian situation in the first half of 2019 will be dependent on the duration and intensity of the 2018 kiremt rains (February–May), and subsequent meher harvest (October–January) on which most of the country relies. Nevertheless, even if there are no new climatic shocks in 2019, the current drought-related humanitarian caseload will decrease only slightly, and will be offset by conflict-induced displacement. As such, for 2019 at least 8 million people will require food assistance, at a cost of $1.2 billion.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The three strategic response objectives will remain and guide the humanitarian response into 2019. The objectives are to 1) save and protect lives and reduce morbidity in complex emergencies and natural disasters; 2) protect and restore livelihoods; and 3) prepare for and respond to other humanitarian shocks, including natural disasters, conflict and displacement. Food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection are likely to remain response priorities. More emphasis is to be placed on Government support in seeking durable solutions, including return, local reintegration and relocation of IDPs, and prevention of new conflicts through peace and reconciliation efforts, in line with the development-humanitarian nexus. Even in years with an especially productive harvest, Ethiopia’s food needs have remained at about 3.5 million people in need of food assistance. Although the current kiremt rains appear favourable, the true extent of their impact will remain unknown until the completion of the meher assessment in kiremt-receiving parts of the country. Coupled with ongoing intercommunal conflicts and the likelihood of future conflicts, it is anticipated that the number of people in need of assistance is unlikely to change in 2019. It is estimated that about 8 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance and targeted to receive aid under the 2019 Humanitarian and Disaster Resilience Plan (HDRP), a number that is similar to 2018. Requirements of the 2019 HDRP are estimated to be about $1.2 billion, a slight reduction compared with 2018.\(^2\)

SUDAN

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Sudan 2019, published on Sidas website.

Sudan

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>REQUIREMENTS (US$)</th>
<th>CHANGE FROM 2017</th>
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<td>4.3M</td>
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PROJECTED SITUATION

The situation in Sudan has evolved significantly in recent years, with a clear aim of the Government to shift towards peace and development programming. The collective outcomes framework that connects humanitarian and development programmes is a current focus of both the Government and the international community. While much work remains, progress has been made to enable the international community to invest more efforts and resources in life-changing as well as life-saving activities and durable solutions. Collective outcomes – around livelihoods, social services, the environment and governance – also provide an effective framework for the Government and the international community to engage so the balance can shift towards achieving sustainable development goals. However, Sudan is currently unable to benefit from debt relief and developing financing remains limited. Humanitarian funding, therefore, remains pivotal to mitigating risks and vulnerabilities while supporting the most vulnerable until development funds become more readily available. With this backdrop, and in line with the objectives of the Sudan Multi-Year Humanitarian Strategy 2017–2019, the humanitarian community continues to focus on delivering life-saving assistance, including in response to South Sudanese refugees, and people in newly accessible areas in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile. Second, humanitarian organizations will continue to ensure that the most vulnerable are able to have their basic needs met and access essential services. Third, partners will support improved nutrition status and increased resilience. Humanitarian operations will prioritize providing the most vulnerable with the necessary tools and resources to become more self-reliant, complemented by development programming to boost resilience and enable recovery. Although the revitalized peace process in South Sudan, facilitated by Sudan, offers new opportunities, most South Sudanese refugees are expected to stay in Sudan during 2019. While access has opened in some new areas in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, the UN and partners will continue discussions to access vulnerable people in areas controlled by non-State actors and respond to their needs. Should these efforts be successful, this could lead to additional needs and response requirements.

19
One of the greatest challenges the most vulnerable face is an erosion of purchasing power due to the economic situation. Many are struggling to meet their essential needs, with the price of sorghum having risen by 138 per cent in one year. Recent studies show that vulnerable households are likely to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as cutting expenditures on education, health, and other goods, and reducing the quantity and quality of meals. Malnutrition rates are likely to stay at high levels; about 2.4 million children under age five suffer from wasting annually, out of whom close to 700,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition. Challenges in accessing development financing due to the impact of previous sanctions and the listing of Sudan as a State sponsor of terrorism is limiting the ability to offset social impact in these areas.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The downsizing of the UN–African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur reflects significant improvements in the situation, including improvement in humanitarian access. It is important that international partners work closely with Government partners to support the effective delivery of humanitarian and protection assistance to the IDPs, returnees and refugees. Partners will also endeavour to put increased focus on community engagement to improve humanitarian programming throughout the programme cycle linking response efforts more closely with affected people’s priorities. Humanitarian organizations, while focusing on the delivery of relief response, will also collaborate effectively on joint analysis and advocacy for recovery and development assistance to address the underlying causes of displacement.

Central African Republic (CAR)

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for CAR 2019, published on Sidasa website.

Central African Republic

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>2.5M</td>
<td>1.9M</td>
<td>$516M</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECTED SITUATION

The number of people in need of assistance and protection in the CAR has increased from 2.5 million in 2018 to 2.9 million in 2019, of whom 1.7 million are in need of acute and immediate. This is a 16 per cent increase since last year, and represents 63 per cent of the country’s total population of 4.6 million people. More people are affected by the intense conflict in several regions of the country, and many people are experiencing increasing difficulties accessing assistance alongside the continued absence of essential services. Additionally, an increasing number of security incidents have affected the ability of humanitarian organizations to reach people in need. The people experiencing the most critical needs include IDPs (643,000 persons), returnees or repatriated people (252,000 persons), host communities (271,000 persons) and some non-displaced people (1.8 million persons). About one in five Central Africans has been forcibly displaced and the CAR refugee population in neighbouring countries is estimated to be 573,000. Conditions for comprehensive and sustainable returns are still impeded by insecurity and protection issues, as well as lack of access to essential services and legal support. The current social, political and economic indicators suggest that the humanitarian situation could further deteriorate in 2019. The slow and insufficient deployment of State-run essential services, the lack of progress towards political solutions, continued activity by armed groups and intercommunal tensions in many parts of the country are likely to result in recurring violence and widespread insecurity. Lack of humanitarian access is likely to remain a key impediment to assessing needs and delivering assistance. Violence against humanitarian organizations averaged more than one incident per day on between January and September 2018, and attacks on civilians averaged 34 incidents per day during the same period. Attacks are likely to continue to increase in 2019, leading to a reduction in the field presence of humanitarian organizations in certain areas where needs are most acute.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

The strategic objectives of the CAR HRP are being developed in an extremely complex operating environment and dwindling financial resources. In 2019, the humanitarian response will focus on integrating protection, humanitarian principles and proximity of the response to people in need across these objectives. Using unit based costing, clusters assessed the cost of each sectoral activity in the sub-prefectures that scored at least 3 in the severity of needs on a 0–6 scale, thus targeting only people with the greatest need of humanitarian assistance according to their vulnerability. Ongoing interventions by development actors were also taken into consideration to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and avoid possible overlaps. As a result of this tightened targeting and prioritization, the estimated funding requirement for 2019 is $430.7 million.
Mali

In Yemen, Sida’s humanitarian allocation is to (X) one year projects to the following organisations (X, Y and Z)

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Mali 2019, published on Sidas website.

**Mali**

<table>
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<td>3.8 M</td>
<td>1.6 M</td>
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<td>↓ 16%</td>
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**PROJECTED SITUATION**

The humanitarian situation in Mali has significantly deteriorated over the past year due to conflict and increasing intercommunal clashes in the country’s northern and central regions. Moreover, the poor rainy season in 2017 has continued to impact the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people. Even though the agropastoral production for 2018 was average or better, it is still difficult to predict the impact on the overall humanitarian situation because of people’s eroded coping mechanisms. The security situation remains unpredictable and could continue to deteriorate in northern and central Mali if a sustainable solution is not found for the conflict and intercommunal clashes. An improvement in the security situation would require an effective implementation of the peace agreement in the north, the restoration of the rule of law and basic social services in the entire territory of Mali, and the ability of national and international forces to ensure the protection of civilians. Although the prospects for the agricultural season for 2019 are average to above average, food insecurity will continue to affect hundreds of thousands of households in areas with poor agropastoral production due to conflict, rainfall deficit in certain areas and loss of crops from flooding.

The results of the 2018 SMART survey show that four regions surpass the WHO Global Acute Malnutrition alert threshold of 10 per cent: Gao, Menaka, Segou and Tombouctou. The severe acute malnutrition rate remains at a worrying level, as the national rate of 2 per cent is still above the emergency threshold. Overall, 7.2 million people living in Mali’s 50 cercles, or administrative districts, are affected by the consequences of the conflict and natural hazards such as drought and floods. Among them, 3.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019. The people affected are mostly located in the conflict-prone areas in the northern and central regions of the country, as well as areas in the southern regions affected by recurrent food insecurity and malnutrition crisis and floods. The most vulnerable groups include IDPs, returnees, refugees and their host communities, and agropastoral households. Among them, women and children are considered to be the most vulnerable, as they are more exposed to protection abuses in conflict situations and to severe malnutrition in the Sahel region in general.

**RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

The number of people in need of assistance is expected to reach 3.2 million (or one out of five people in Mali) in 2019, a decrease of more than 1 million people compared with the beginning of 2018. Humanitarian organizations will target about 2.3 million of the most vulnerable people, complementing humanitarian programmes undertaken by the Government and entities not participating in the HRP and considering the efforts of development actors. Humanitarian organizations have considered access constraints and their operational capacities in determining the number of people they can realistically assist. In support of national efforts, humanitarian organizations will contribute to the achievement of three key strategic objectives in the 2019 HRP:

1) save and preserve lives, restore dignity and ensure minimum access to essential social services (health/ nutrition, WASH, education) for acutely vulnerable populations through integrated emergency assistance in coordination with development partners; 2) anticipate and respond to recurrent shocks by strengthening the resilience of communities to reduce the vulnerability of affected populations; and 3) ensure a humanitarian protection response for conflict-affected people at risk of violations of human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law, accountability to affected populations and humanitarian access.

Based on projects submitted in the HPC Project platform, an estimated $310 million will be required for the response effort in Mali. This estimate will be reviewed at the end of the ongoing project review process.

**MYANMAR CRISIS (incl. Bangladesh)**

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Myanmar 2019, published on Sidas website.
August 2017 an estimated 700,000 Rohingya refugees, including more than 400,000 children, began arriving in Bangladesh, fleeing violence, intimidation and persecution in Myanmar. Those arriving joined over 200,000 Rohingya who had fled earlier bouts of violence, bringing the total Rohingya population in Bangladesh to over 899,000 by end October 2018. The fundamental protection nature of the crisis is underlined by the status of the Rohingya as a stateless population. Refugees arrived exhausted, destitute, traumatized, and in urgent need of assistance and protection. Thanks to a rapid and significant humanitarian response and the lifesaving generosity of the people and Government of Bangladesh, the situation of the Rohingya refugees has stabilized over the course of 2018. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition has dropped below the emergency threshold, immunization coverage stands at 89 per cent, and the percentage of women delivering in health facilities has risen from 22 per cent to 40 per cent during 2018. In a significant step forward for protection, the Government of Bangladesh, supported by UNHCR, has initiated a verification exercise and begun issuing biometric identification cards to Rohingya refugees – for some, the first identity documents they have ever possessed. Nonetheless, Rohingya refugees remain in a precarious situation. Their immediate humanitarian needs are compounded by the extreme traumas they suffered before or during their displacement. Limited access to education and livelihoods and the lack of freedom of movement contribute to a high state of stress for refugees. The needs and mental wellbeing of the most vulnerable — particularly the elderly, persons with disabilities, at-risk women and children and survivors of violence — require a scaled-up and more focused response. These will build on refugees’ strong sense of solidarity and community support, and the remarkable efforts they are making to improve their own situation. Beyond the emergency response, under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh, efforts were also made to protect the refugees against inclement seasonal weather – including monsoons and cyclones, which continues to put the population at risk. The response plan for 2019 aims to address the need of some 899,000 refugees. It will also support 330,000 members of host communities whose environment and livelihoods have been put under strain by the scale of refugee influx. While durable solutions are sought for Rohingya refugees, the plan places protection at the center of the response both through the protection framework, protection and gender mainstreaming and through trying to ensure that refugees’ voices are heard. Alongside meeting urgent humanitarian needs, the humanitarian community also aims to improve living conditions, build refugees’ resilience to seasonal shocks and foster social cohesion through host community engagement. These efforts will only be successful if people are offered hope for sustainable, dignified lives.

AFGHANISTAN

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Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Afghanistan 2019, published on Sidas website.

Afghanistan

PROJECTED SITUATION

The year 2019 is expected to be another tumultuous year for the people of Afghanistan, with presidential elections in April that could be accompanied by a spike in violence. People are increasingly in acute need, and chronic vulnerabilities related to poverty, food insecurity and unemployment have grown, further undermining opportunities for a peaceful and prosperous future. Regional politics and economic realities in neighbouring countries will continue to determine influxes of Afghans returning from Iran and Pakistan. Undocumented Afghan returns from Iran are projected at 570,000 in 2019 as the effects of United States-imposed sanctions are felt. Lower numbers of returns from Pakistan are expected following improvements in the protection
environment there, which has seen the expiry dates of Proof of Registration cards (issued by the Government of Pakistan) extended through to 30 June 2019 for registered refugees.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS
The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection services has almost doubled since the beginning of 2018, from 3.3 million to 6.3 million. Of these, 4.5 million (70 per cent) will be targeted by humanitarian partners. The difference is in part because the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster will focus on the 2.5 million who are severely food insecure due to drought rather than the entire 3.5 million people in need, as a combination of factors (e.g. above-average precipitations, provision of previous assistance, improving pastoral and agricultural production) should help cover their needs. Significant prioritization is also influenced by the operational capacity of partners, funding expectations based on historical trends, and a recognition that the Government of Afghanistan also has a responsibility to meet some of these needs. Afghanistan uses unit-based costing (UBC) to develop its financial requirements. In line with the response context analysis outlined above, financial requirements are expected to be about $611.8 million in 2019, $457 million in 2020, and $392 million in 2021.

COLOMBIA & the regional VENEZUELA CRISIS

Sida’s humanitarian analysis, organizational allocations as well as operational focus of each agency is be found in Humanitarian Crises Analysis for Colombia and the Regional Venezuela Crises 2019, published on Sida’s website.

Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing the largest exodus in their modern history. More than 3.0 million refugees and migrants have left Venezuela, and at least 2.3 million since 2015. Ongoing political instability, the deteriorating socioeconomic situation and growing insecurity and violence are expected to result in further pressure on an already stressed population, leading to a continued outflow of refugees and migrants. In 2019, an estimated 3.6 million people will be in need of assistance and protection, with no prospects for return in the short to medium term.

The majority of Venezuelans are fleeing to countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including to Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. These countries are all covered by the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP). The receiving countries have responded commendably, largely maintaining open-door policies and demonstrating considerable solidarity with refugees and migrants from Venezuela despite the strain on their reception capacity. This openness and solidarity was reflected in the landmark Quito Declaration adopted in September 2018, following a meeting between receiving countries aiming to articulate regional coordination. Nonetheless, the continued outflow expected in 2019 will further challenge the capacity of host governments to respond to the influx and will also impact the absorption capacity of local communities. In addition, the vulnerability of the people leaving the country has increased in the past months. The majority have walked thousands of kilometres, for many weeks, crossing two or more countries. Many of them are pregnant women, single mothers with children, ageing persons, and people with health and nourishment problems who require urgent support. In addition, some Venezuelans are likely to remain without a regular status that would ensure their access to rights and services, and some may lose their current regular status, thus exposing them to all forms of exploitation and abuse, violence and discrimination. A scale-up of humanitarian assistance, as well as increased support to socio-economic inclusion mechanisms, is urgently required to complement governments’ efforts and to ensure communities continue to accept refugees and migrants in a safe and welcoming environment.

The Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, with some 75 partners, aims to meet the needs of more than 2.2 million refugees and migrants as well as an estimated half a million members of host communities. The plan seeks to respond to people’s needs in an integrated and comprehensive manner, in line with governments’ priorities and in support to their regional response. Its strategic objectives are: 1) to provide refugees and migrants with life-saving goods and services; 2) to ensure that they enjoy rights and protection, and to reduce the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, and labour exploitation; 3) to ensure that they are socially, economically and culturally integrated in empowered communities, to reduce stigmatisation, discrimination and xenophobic reactions; and 4) to strengthen host governments institutions to manage a regional and coordinated response. Only a regional and comprehensive approach will allow actors to cope with the magnitude and complexity of this challenge.