

UNFPA HUMANITARIAN THEMATIC FUND 2020 ANNUAL REPORT





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Overview

The Humanitarian Thematic Fund (HTF) is a UNFPA cofinancing mechanism launched in late 2018 that provides flexible, multi-year funding for the increasing number of UNFPA humanitarian programmes around the world, providing greater opportunities for "bridge" funding to ensure continued delivery of needed humanitarian assistance, especially during gaps in dedicated donor cofinancing. It is administered by the UNFPA Humanitarian Office.

Lower Costs and Localization

The HTF is an un-earmarked pooled donor funding mechanism dedicated to UNFPA humanitarian operations that greatly reduces the transaction costs associated with management of individual donor agreements, allowing for a lower indirect cost rate (7 per cent in lieu of 8 per cent), while harmonizing and simplifying reporting requirements. Strengthened quality assurance over country office proposals ensures well-designed programme implementation and reliable programme reporting. In the spirit of the Grand Bargain¹, these actions enable UNFPA to flexibly provide rapid resource allocation in response to emergencies and opportunities to support underfunded crises.

Local actors are critical both as first responders in a crisis and the providers of long-term support. In all its humanitarian operations, UNFPA depends on local implementing partners, many of which are community-based organizations or local women's organizations. In 2020, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) played a critical role in UNFPA's humanitarian response, including programmes supported by the HTF: 63% of all HTF funds provided to partners went to local NGOs, four times the share allocated to international NGOs. In 13 of the HTF supported countries, the totality of partner implemented funds went to local NGOs. The HTF has functioned well as a flexible, reprogrammable funding source for UNFPA to respond to humanitarian crises with maximum budget flexibility.

Flexible and Multi-Year Funding

As UNFPA's most flexible humanitarian funding mechanism, the HTF provides timely, strategic and multi-year funding to support rapid and ongoing humanitarian response, preparedness and strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus around the globe. During the course of the year, the HTF worked well in parallel with UNFPA's Emergency Fund, which is funded from the core budget and which, like the donor contributions of the HTF, support under-funded humanitarian emergencies to provide life-saving funding in emergencies. The HTF has the advantage of being able to be spread out over multiple years, if necessary.

Rapid and Life-Saving Response

Because of its robust quality assurance workflow involving expedited but thorough technical reviews by the respective regional offices and the Humanitarian Office, as well as its low overhead structure, UNFPA advocated with partners to prioritize the channeling of all central COVID-related co-financing through the HTF. In 2020, the HTF supported UNFPA country offices around the world to respond to the pandemic quickly and effectively.

Therefore, as with much of UNFPA programming in 2020, the work of the HTF during the year was motivated by the urgent need to rapidly address the COVID pandemic, which threatened the health, social and economic spheres of every country in the world. The pandemic diminished social services, economic activity, financial resources and infrastructure and exacerbated people's existing vulnerabilities – including those of lowincome households with limited or no access to critical healthcare services and lack of safe and nutritious food, women at the frontline of the response, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, refugees and with limited livelihood opportunities, and migrant and informal sector workers.

¹An article on how HTF reduces transaction costs published on IASC Grand Bargain website: <u>The Grand Bargain in Practice: UNFPA's pooled fund reducing the costs of humanitarian response</u>

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Given the special context of the COVID-19 pandemic, effective and efficient humanitarian response was needed more than ever, and the HTF proved to be the most flexible and central funding source for UNFPA in response to the pandemic, especially to countries that were part of the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) (an inter-agency plan that aggregated the pandemic appeals of several United Nations agencies, including UNFPA). Around \$5.3 million worth of personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided globally to countries in need using HTF funds, and this equipment proved to be of vital importance in ensuring the safe implementation of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) response interventions during the pandemic.

The response to COVID-19 also highlighted the value of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in providing affected persons with the ability to meet basic needs, support

local markets and re-invigorate economies. There is a growing trend for cash to be used to provide assistance in a broader range of countries. For example, In Syria, UNFPA began providing monthly transfer amounts to women to cover the cost of a standard package of hygiene items that women could use for their urgent needs. The hygiene voucher was a top-up to WFP's general food assistance electronic voucher (e-voucher), using a prepaid card to buy goods at WFP-contracted retailers, based on feedback from women requesting an amount for hygiene items such as diapers, soap and tissues. The program reached over 70,000 women in 2020 and is continued into 2021. In the Philippines, more than 2,500 pregnant women were provided "cash for health" assistance to be able to access prenatal services, facility-based deliveries and postpartum check-ups. This cash-based assistance allows for rapid and flexible responses, supports autonomy and dignity, and is aligned with a growing global humanitarian use of CVA.

Donor Contributions

In 2020, its second year of operations, the HTF's contributions increased exponentially reaching a total of \$29.96 million thanks to financial contributions from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Australia, Finland, Canada, Republic of Korea, UNFPA's "Individual Giving Programme," and Iceland. These generous contributions allowed UNFPA to reach a milestone in its humanitarian work during 2020 – responding to the largest number of countries facing humanitarian emergencies within a given year in the past decade.

Table 1 - Donor Contributions in 2020

Funder	Amount	
United Kingdom	\$12,500,000	
Denmark	\$5,786,476	
Norway	\$3,380,663	
Australia	\$2,988,048	
Finland	\$2,389,486	
Canada	\$1,073,729	
Republic of Korea	\$500,000 ¹	
Iceland	\$136,556	
Individual Giving Programme	\$1,203,862	
Total:	\$29,958,820	

"In 2020, the Republic of Korea committed 2.5 million USD to the HTF to fund projects for the years 2020 to 2022. In 2020, the HTF received 500K USD.



Allocations Overview

2020 Allocations by Country

In 2020, the <u>HTF</u> allocated a total of \$25.6 million to provide time-critical and life-saving humanitarian support in 69 countries (including through UNFPA regional offices), which is a significant increase compared to the <u>HTF allocations</u> of 2019.

	Country	Region	Allocation
1	Afghanistan	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 1,218,706
2	Albania	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
3	Asia Pacific regional office	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 107,000
4	Armenia	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 430,266
5	Azerbaijan	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 312,198
б	Bangladesh	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 566,290
7	Belarus	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
8	Bhutan	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 230,909
9	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 284,658
10	Brazil	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 351,075
11	Cameroon	Western and Central Africa	\$ 625,689
12	Caribbean sub-regional office	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 107,000
13	Central African Republic	Western and Central Africa	\$ 194,184
14	Chad	Western and Central Africa	\$ 7,729
15	Colombia	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 486,524
16	Comoros	East and South Africa	\$ 32,100
17	Congo	Western and Central Africa	\$ 759,879
18	Côte D'Ivoire	Western and Central Africa	\$ 192,654
19	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 329,804
20	Ecuador	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 347,446
21	Egypt	Arab States	\$ 300,109
22	Ethiopia	East and South Africa	\$ 990,891
23	Georgia	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
24	Haiti	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 123,460
25	Honduras	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 538,826
26	Indonesia	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 803,832
27	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 121,292
28	Iraq	Arab States	\$ 186,278
29	Jordan	Arab States	\$ 53,556
30	Kenya	East and South Africa	\$ 389,230
31	Kosovo	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
32	Kyrgyzstan	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 77,418
33	Lebanon	Arab States	\$ 321,000
34	Liberia	Western and Central Africa	\$ 137,896
35	Libya	Arab States	\$ 139,986

Table 2 - List of Recipients in 2020

	Country	Region	Allocation
36	Maldives	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 321,000
37	Mali	Western and Central Africa	\$ 179,964
38	Mauritania	Western and Central Africa	\$ 380,397
39	Moldova Republic	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
40	Mongolia	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 151,983
41	Mozambique	East and South Africa	\$ 328,881
42	Myanmar	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 267,500
43	Nepal	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 472,408
44	Nicaragua	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 365,404
45	Niger	Western and Central Africa	\$ 353,857
46	Nigeria	Western and Central Africa	\$ 192,600
47	Pacific sub-regional office	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 332,005
48	Pakistan	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 229,361
49	Palestine	Arab States	\$ 256,800
50	Papua New Guinea	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 741,695
51	Peru	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 241,820
52	Philippines	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 885,304
53	Latin America regional office	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 508,641
54	Rwanda	East and South Africa	\$ 192,600
55	Serbia	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
56	Somalia	Arab States	\$ 1,011,533
57	South Africa	East and South Africa	\$ 107,000
58	South Sudan	East and South Africa	\$ 435,411
59	Sudan	Arab States	\$ 1,483,505
60	Tajikistan	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 55,225
61	Tanzania, United Republic of	East and South Africa	\$ 267,500
62	Turkey	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 453,771
63	Uganda	East and South Africa	\$ 210,469
64	Ukraine	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 25,806
65	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	Latin America and the Caribbean	\$ 295,033
66	Vietnam	Asia and the Pacific	\$ 438,700
67	Yemen	Arab States	\$ 3,374,821
68	Zambia	East and South Africa	\$ 160,500
69	Zimbabwe	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$ 11,930
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2020 Country Recipients



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