

# COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL 2021



December 2020





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*Left: Congolese asylum-seekers line up to undergo security and health screening in Zombo, near the border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

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*Cover: World Refugee Day 2020 is celebrated in Boa Vista, Brazil.*

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# Introduction

In the absence of a universal roll out of vaccines which are under development or going through approval, or in the absence of widely-available effective treatment, COVID-19 will continue to have significant implications on people of concern to UNHCR, especially in poorer countries in which the majority of the forcibly displaced are hosted.

The economic downturn has meant that many people of concern, particularly urban populations, have lost or seen a major reduction in their source of income and are struggling to meet their basic needs. UNHCR monitoring carried out since the onset of the pandemic indicates that over 74% of refugee households, as well as most IDP households, are able to meet only half or less of their basic needs. With the World Bank predicting the deepest global recession since the Second World War, these needs will likely deepen, further compounding vulnerabilities.

With the second wave of the pandemic already being felt across many countries, border closures are likely to continue to affect access to asylum and territory. Protection incidents have markedly increased, with some UNHCR offices receiving ten times the number of usual calls for protection. The pandemic has led to a serious global spike in gender-based violence

among people of concern with increased levels of intimate partner incidents, a heightened risk of violence for women engaging in the sale and exchange of sex, and a higher risk of child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Gender inequalities are deepening, with many women and girls seeing their access to assistance and services limited even further and their unpaid care responsibilities increasing.

And of course, COVID-19 has disrupted education around the world, with the impact of school closures expected to continue for decades. Before the pandemic, of the 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, an estimated 7.4 million were of school age, of whom some 48% were out of school. The pandemic could cause this number to rise, as those who are enrolled fail to return to school, are unable to pass examinations, or drop out due to economic pressures or early marriage and pregnancy.

# How is UNHCR responding?

**UNHCR has taken a two-pronged approach to its COVID-19-related planning: ongoing COVID-19 programming, particularly in the health, WASH, shelter, camp coordination and camp management and protection sectors has been ‘mainstreamed’ into the Global Appeal. Some \$469 million is included within the Global Appeal. This includes about \$174 million linked to the exceptional socio-economic and protection impacts of COVID-19, and about \$295 million of requirements linked to COVID-19-related health, WASH, shelter and other protection activities.**

In addition to those activities, the supplementary appeal focuses on \$455 million of needs related to the exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts of COVID and a few critical health, WASH and shelter needs for which there was no possibility to mainstream into the Global Appeal. These specific needs are described in more detail in this supplementary appeal.

Considering activities already mainstreamed into the Global Appeal, plus supplementary needs, the total ‘ask’ for COVID-19-related activities in 2021 will be approximately \$924 million. Funds received will be used to bolster UNHCR’s response across the entire spectrum of forced displacement, including refugees and IDPs, and stateless persons.



*UNHCR and partner staff help to relocate Ethiopian refugees from Hamdayer border reception centre in Sudan to Um Rakuba camp.*

# Summary of financial requirements

**UNHCR’s emergency response to COVID-19 was launched in March 2020 through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan, which was an inter-agency effort coordinated by OCHA. UNHCR’s total requirements for COVID-19 were \$745 million, and as of the beginning of December, the appeal was funded at 64% (\$477 million).**

For 2021, about half of UNHCR’s COVID-19-related needs have been mainstreamed into its Global Appeal. These included:

- Continuation of public health services
- Water, sanitation and hygiene activities
- Regular cash assistance programmes
- Regular education programming
- Provision of shelter
- Provision of core relief items
- All protection activities including adaptation of protection procedures to ensure continuity during COVID-19 (such as interviews, case management, and documentation)
- Advocacy for the inclusion of refugees and IDPs in national health and education systems as well as social protection schemes
- Fulfilling leadership and coordination accountabilities at global and country level where appropriate for protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management.

However, with the pandemic evolving, and needs still emerging, UNHCR has in addition focused on a supplementary and limited set of activities related to exceptional socio-economic and protection impacts related to COVID-19. These activities focus on individuals who are newly-vulnerable due to loss of income or livelihood or were already vulnerable but whose situation has further deteriorated and may need additional support. Specific attention has been paid to activities that focus on women and girls due to heightened gender inequality linked to COVID-19.

**\$469 million**

has been mainstreamed into the 2021 Global Appeal.

**\$455 million**

are supplementary needs included in this appeal.

Bringing the total COVID-19-related requirements in 2021 to

**\$924 million**

## Mainstreamed, supplementary and revised total needs for COVID-19-related activities by region/global | USD millions

Region/Global	ExCom approved budget (mainstreamed*)	Supplementary budget	Revised total requirements
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	72	94	166
Southern Africa	19	20	39
West and Central Africa	66	25	91
The Americas	41	74	115
Asia and the Pacific	87	45	132
Europe	33	14	47
Middle East and North Africa	151	128	279
<i>Field operations sub-total</i>	469	400	869
Global stockpile, outbreak response, vaccine delivery support	-	50	50
Business continuity	-	5	5
<i>Global sub-total</i>	-	55	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>924</b>

\* Figures for the mainstreamed portion of the budget are tentative and will be reviewed as operations finalize detailed planning for 2021 over the coming weeks. This amount also includes a portion of requirements related to the exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts of COVID-19 for which budgetary space within the ExCom-approved budget has been identified.

## Supplementary needs for COVID-19-related activities by theme and by region/global | USD millions

Region/Global	Reducing vulnerability through cash assistance	Protecting incomes and livelihoods	Preventing and responding to gender-based violence	Communicating and engaging with communities	Education	MHPSS	Exceptional activities	Total
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	22	17	6	5	31	11	1	93
Southern Africa	5	3	2	1	5	2	3	20
West and Central Africa	8	6	3	1	5	1	-	24
The Americas	19	15	5	8	5	4	18	74
Asia and the Pacific	20	3	3	3	1	2	14	45
Europe	12	-	1	1	-	1	-	14
Middle East and North Africa	88	5	4	4	8	6	13	128
<i>Field operations sub-total</i>	173	50	24	24	55	26	49	400
Global stockpile, outbreak response, vaccine delivery support	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Business continuity	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
<i>Global sub-total</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>455</b>

# Monitoring

**By February 2021 UNHCR will report against the COVID-19-related indicators listed below, covering the impact of UNHCR's response from March to December 2020.**

The 2020 results will serve as the baseline for this supplementary appeal and UNHCR will report progress against these indicators throughout 2021. The report on UNHCR's response to COVID-19 covering March to September 2020 can be accessed [here](#).

Indicators	
1	Number of 3plies/medical masks procured
2	Number of people (including children, parents and primary caregivers) provided with mental health and psychosocial support services
3	Number of countries reporting incidents of COVID-19-related xenophobia, stigmatization or discrimination against refugees, IDPs or stateless persons
4	Number of people who have accessed protection services
5	Number and proportion of countries where GBV services are maintained or expanded in response to COVID-19
6	Number of people affected by COVID-19 who have received livelihood support, inputs and technical assistance
7	Number of refugee children and youth supported with distance/home-based learning
8	Number of refugee children and youth in humanitarian and situations of protracted displacement re-enrolled in pre-primary, primary and secondary education levels following the re-opening of schools
9	Number of refugee children and youth out of school due to mandatory school closures
10	Number and proportion of countries inhabited by IDPs, refugees and migrants with feedback and complaints mechanisms functioning
11	Number and proportion of countries where areas inhabited by refugees, IDPs, migrants and host communities are reached by information campaigns about COVID-19 pandemic risks
12	Number of refugees, IDPs and other people of concern receiving new or additional cash assistance related to the impact of COVID-19

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