

UNFPA Humanitarian Thematic Fund 2021 Annual Report

Table of Contents

1.	Overview	3
	2021 Allocations	4
	Regional summary	7
	2022 Allocations: Interim update	8
2.	Donor contributions	9
3.	Key achievements	10
	Rapid and life-saving response	10
	Flexible and multi-year funding	11
	Lower costs of the HTF	11
4.	Expenditure analysis	12
	Expenditure by Strategic Plan outcome	12
	Expenditure by region	13
	Expenditure by type of implementation	14
	Expenditure by category	15
5.	Programme Highlights	16
	Arab States Region	16
	Asia and the Pacific Region	17
	Eastern Europe and Central Asia	18
	East and Southern Africa	19
	Latin America and the Caribbean	20
	West and Central Africa	21

1. Overview

Every day, more than 500 women and girls die in humanitarian contexts from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. Moreover, the risk of gender-based violence increases during humanitarian crises, resulting in many women and girls suffering, and even dying, from violence. The growing frequency, intensity and scope of humanitarian emergencies in recent years have dramatically amplified these risks for millions of women and girls.

In addition to its development programmes in countries around the world, UNFPA steps in in times of crisis to provide humanitarian assistance in its core areas of promoting sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and combatting gender-based violence (GBV) along with the informed use of population data for crisis response and addressing the needs of young people. All of these needs are growing in scope and magnitude. In 2022, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimates that 275 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection, requiring \$41 billion to respond to their needs. UNFPA aims to reach as many as 55 million women, girls, and young people with humanitarian assistance in 2022 with funding sought through its humanitarian appeal.

The Humanitarian Thematic Fund (HTF), a cofinancing mechanism launched in late 2018, provides UNFPA with flexible, multi-year funding to

respond to emergency situations, including greater opportunities to react immediately and to provide for "bridge" funding to ensure continued delivery during gaps of dedicated donor co-financing. 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 to strengthen the humanitarian-development-peace nexus that links humanitarian response to longerterm development initiatives.

Given that 2021 was the second consecutive year of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the humanitarian needs revolved around pandemic response. The impacts of the pandemic continued to result in diminished social services, economic activity, financial resources, and available infrastructure. The pandemic exacerbated existing vulnerabilities among low-income households with limited or no access to critical healthcare services and safe and nutritious food; women who have been at the frontline of the COVID response; children, the elderly, and people with disabilities; refugees without access to cash assistance and with limited livelihood opportunities to support themselves; and migrant and informal sector workers, among others. Funding from the HTF has supported UNFPA country offices worldwide in responding to the needs of such vulnerable people.



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2021 Allocations

The HTF works closely with the UNFPA Emergency Fund,1 funded from UNFPA core resources, to provide life-saving funding to support countries experiencing crises. In 2021, the HTF allocated a total of \$19.1 million for time-critical and life-saving humanitarian support in 49 countries (including regional offices), three times the total of HTF allocations of 2019, and nearly in line with the allocations in 2020. The HTF has been the most flexible and rapid central funding source available for UNFPA country offices, especially as a tool to support quickly escalating crises such as those that occurred in Afghanistan² and Ethiopia³ during 2021.

UNFPA's Humanitarian Office is the administrator of the central supplementary humanitarian funding mechanisms that are designed to support country and regional offices. Central funding is intended to act as seed or catalyst funding, providing the country and regional offices with time to mobilize additional resources. The central funding administered by the Humanitarian Office consists of the Emergency Fund, funded by UNFPA's core budget, and the Humanitarian Thematic Fund, which is funded by donor contributions earmarked for humanitarian relief.

² Afghanistan: IASC System-Wide Scale-Up activated on 11 September 2021 and extended until 11 June 2022.

Northern Ethiopia: IASC System-Wide Scale-Up activated on 28 April 2021 and extended until 29 April 2022.

Table 1 - List of Recipients in 2021

Country	Region	Roll-over funds	New funds	Total Allocation
Afghanistan	Asia & Pacific Region		\$ 2,782,000	\$2,782,000
Asia Pacific Regional Office	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 37,285		\$37,285
Armenia	EECA Region	\$ 55,771	\$ 110,210	\$165,981
Azerbaijan	EECA Region	\$ 234,175		\$234,175
Bangladesh	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 220,395	\$ 48,150	\$268,545
Bosnia and Herzegovina	EECA Region	\$ 251,913		\$251,913
Cameroon	Western and Central Africa		\$ 560,491	\$560,491
Central African Republic	Western and Central Africa	\$ 129,855	\$ 658,422	\$788,277
Chad	Western and Central Africa		\$ 447,506	\$447,506
Colombia	Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 15,977		\$15,977
Comoros	East & South Africa Region	\$ 7,124		\$7,124
Congo	Western and Central Africa	\$ 472,866		\$472,866
Côte D'Ivoire	Western and Central Africa	\$ 192,654		\$192,654
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 321,757	\$ 466,156	\$787,913
Democratic Republic of the Congo	East & South Africa Region		\$ 211,738	\$211,738
El Salvador	Latin America & Caribbean		\$ 25,680	\$25,680
Ethiopia	East & South Africa Region	\$ 746,984	\$ 192,350	\$939,334
Haiti	Latin America & Caribbean		\$ 1,128,850	\$1,128,850
Honduras	Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 536,247	\$ 134,991	\$671,238
Indonesia	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 361,979		\$361,979
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Asia & Pacific Region		\$ 340,784	\$340,784
Iraq	Arab Region		\$ 246,438	\$246,438
Jordan	Arab Region	\$ 53,556		\$53,556
Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office	Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 206,814		\$206,814
Lebanon	Arab Region	\$ 79,025	\$ 71,962	\$150,987
Liberia	Western and Central Africa	\$ 137,896		\$137,896

Country	Region	Roll-over funds	New funds	Total Allocation
Madagascar	East & South Africa Region		\$ 295,554	\$295,554
Maldives	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 219,654		\$219,654
Mali	Western and Central Africa	\$ 21,840	\$ 76,612	\$98,452
Mauritania	Western and Central Africa	\$ 89,270	\$ 27,256	\$116,526
Mongolia	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 21,580		\$21,580
Mozambique	East & South Africa Region	\$ 321,000	\$ 469,128	\$790,128
Nepal	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 241,231		\$241,231
Nicaragua	Latin America & Caribbean	\$ 244,011		\$244,011
Nigeria	Western and Central Africa	\$ 17,982	\$ 481,388	\$499,370
Pacific Sub-Regional Office	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 227,343		\$227,343
Pakistan	Asia & Pacific Region		\$ 458,777	\$458,777
Palestine	Arab Region	\$ 30,200		\$30,200
Papua New Guinea	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 683,152		\$683,152
Somalia	Arab Region	\$ 290,864	\$ 12,840	\$303,704
Sudan	Arab Region	\$ 445,423	\$ 1,115,890	\$1,561,313
Syria	Arab Region		\$ 320,998	\$320,998
Tanzania, United Republic of	East & South Africa Region	\$ 61,022		\$61,022
Turkey	EECA Region	\$ 428,069		\$428,069
Uganda	East & South Africa Region		\$ 22,238	\$22,238
Venezuela	Latin America & Caribbean		\$ 282,520	\$282,520
Vietnam	Asia & Pacific Region	\$ 209,137		\$209,137
Yemen	Arab Region		\$ 536,925	\$536,925
Zambia	East & South Africa Region	\$ 25,874		\$25,874
	Grand Total	\$ 7,639,925	\$ 11,525,854	\$19,165,779

Regional summary

A total of 49 country offices and regional offices4 received HTF resources during 2021. The HTF has supported UNFPA country offices in all six regions around the world. The Asia Pacific region received the largest portion at \$6.6 million, remaining the top regional recipient in both 2020 and 2021. The high proportion of resources going to that region is mostly related to the \$2.8m allocation to Afghanistan, in the context of the scale up response. The West and Central Africa region and the Arab States region were the second and third largest recipients, followed by East and Southern Africa and Latin America and Caribbean regions.





Including three regional/sub-regional offices.

2022 Allocations: Interim update

As of April 2022, HTF funding has been disbursed rapidly to support the Ukraine response⁵. Because of its robust quality assurance and expedited workflow with thorough technical reviews by the respective regional offices and the Humanitarian Office, as well as its lower overhead cost structure, UNFPA advocated with partners to prioritize the channeling of co-financing contributions for the Ukraine crisis through the HTF. Over \$10 million has been allocated for Ukraine and Moldova, and additional funding is expected from multiple donors to support the Ukraine crisis response.

In Ukraine and neighbouring countries, UNFPA is leveraging its unique strategic position, working at the intersection of GBV and SRH to meet the needs of women and girls affected by the conflict. Through programmed 2022 HTF funding, UNFPA will be able to ensure the implementation of quality, survivor-centred GBV risk mitigation and prevention programming in line with existing key inter-agency and UNFPA guidance and standards. UNFPA will be able to ensure the continuation of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in crisis situations for people affected by the crisis in Ukraine. UNFPA will continue working to ensure that GBV in emergency interventions are complemented with life-saving SRH services.



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