

# REPORT ON USE OF FLEXIBLE FUNDING IN 2020

JULY 2021





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*Left: Nigerian asylum-seeker Emmanuelle and her five-year-old son, hosted in temporary accommodation in Sfax on the east coast of Tunisia.*

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*Cover image: "I fled the war by foot. UNHCR brought me to Biringi where I started farming again, as I did before." Bety Aredu, a South Sudanese refugee, at Biringi settlement in Ituri Province in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

© UNHCR/Hugh Kinsella Cunningham



# Foreword

**The world has become accustomed to big displacement crises, each one demanding a long and complex response. In every crisis, every person of concern to UNHCR is an individual with their own needs and hopes and fears—getting home, getting vaccinated, finding work, finding shelter, going to school, gaining a nationality, or being reunited with families. These needs may persist long after the crisis has faded from the headlines, and these people need UNHCR to stay and deliver and help them rebuild their lives.**

Like never before, 2020 was an extraordinary—and extraordinarily challenging—year. The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic turned our lives upside down. We found ourselves in a state of the unknown, living with unprecedented uncertainty.

And in addition to the pandemic, UNHCR had to respond to many new unexpected emergencies as well as deteriorating crises that forced more people to flee or made their lives more vulnerable across the world. Some of these emergencies made headlines, while others remained silent and forgotten, but still in dire need of urgent support.

We could not have prepared for and responded to so many emergencies and still maintained our capacity to stay and deliver globally without the incredibly generous flexible funding from our government and private donors. It is a lifeline that allows UNHCR to save lives, protect human rights and build a better future for refugees, the displaced, and the stateless, wherever and whenever they need it the most, even when it is totally unpredictable, as COVID-19 showed us.

Given UNHCR receives about a third of its overall income as flexible funding, what is it about that funding that makes it so valuable? How can it make such a difference?

This report showcases the lasting impact that such funding made in the lives of the world's most vulnerable people in their hour of greatest need.

But put simply, flexible funding is a vote of confidence in UNHCR and a sign of sincere and unqualified support for its mandate. This is because flexible funding empowers UNHCR to use its discretion to help the most vulnerable and to act most effectively to solve the problems that people forced to flee and the stateless are facing, wherever they happen to be.

Flexible funding is about leaving no one behind.

**Dominique Hyde**  
 Director of External Relations

*Abul Kalam, a Rohingya refugee, with his wife and children in his new, temporary shelter in Kutupalong settlement.*



# The role of UNHCR

UNHCR is uniquely placed to respond to the challenges posed by global forced displacement and statelessness. Mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State. By assisting refugees to return voluntarily to their own country or to resettle permanently in another one, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

With its mandate expanded by the General Assembly to cover asylum-seekers, returnees, stateless persons, as well as the internally displaced and others in certain circumstances, UNHCR's activities complement the work of governments and other UN agencies. Operating in 132 countries and territories, UNHCR has a workforce of over 17,800 committed people, 91% of whom are in the field and in direct contact with people in need.

As a humanitarian agency mandated to provide protection and assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless populations, UNHCR's impact is dependent on its ability to respond swiftly and flexibly. If UNHCR has to wait until resources are raised to respond, precious time and opportunities to make a difference and save lives would be lost. As a rights-based agency, UNHCR's ability to protect those most affected is core—and is deeply linked to its informed understanding of those that are most vulnerable and most at risk. In this light, flexible funding enables needs-based programming and direction of resources based on a holistic assessment of the intersections of needs, vulnerabilities and risks, both present and future.

**UNHCR has long-standing relations with governments, UN sister agencies, international and local NGOs, and national service providers, as well as with forcibly displaced, host and stateless communities themselves, connections which enable the organization to take quick action, support States and partners, and deploy resources to assist people quickly, as well as to help them help themselves. Thanks to this unparalleled network, UNHCR can reach people through a range of working modalities, setting objectives according to humanitarian needs. In 2020, UNHCR disbursed over \$1.455 billion to 1,145 partners, including to 728 national NGOs.**

In situations of conflict-induced internal displacement UNHCR leads or co-leads the global and country-level protection, shelter, and camp coordination and camp management clusters, responsibilities it fulfilled throughout the COVID-19 crisis. These include implementing its inter-agency commitments, mobilizing adequate resources and ensuring that protection remains at the centre of the humanitarian response.

UNHCR's assistance is available for host communities as well, with the added value of ensuring the host population understands that this assistance comes from the agency responsible for forcibly displaced people, thus helping foster social cohesion and preventing inter-communal conflict.

In summary, flexible funding supports UNHCR's key mandated, thematic and operational priorities; it allows for a more prompt preparedness and emergency response whenever and wherever it is needed; it enables UNHCR to stay and deliver when no other form of support is available; it is an investment in relationships, both of a donor's with the Office, and the Office with its partners and people of concern; and it gives UNHCR time and space to plan effectively and strategically.

# Definitions

When UNHCR refers to flexible funding, this is what it means.

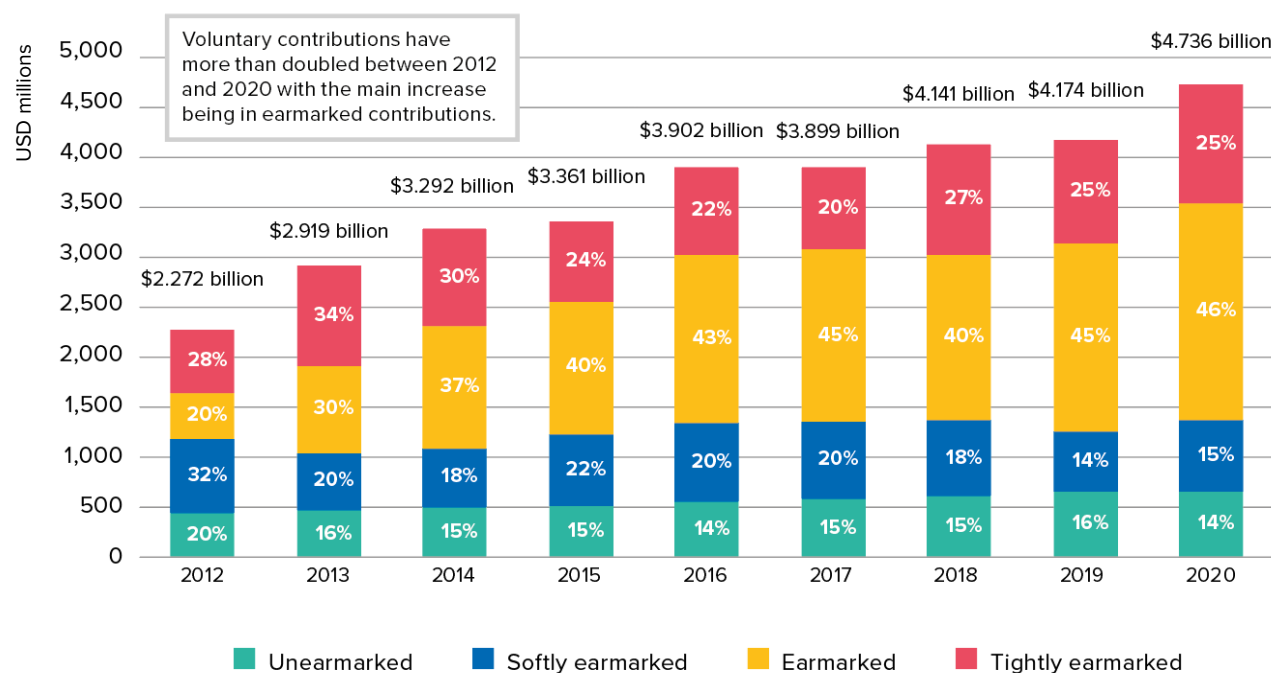
Unearmarked funding	Softly earmarked funding	Multi-year funding	Earmarked funding	Tightly earmarked funding
Contributed without restrictions on its use. It provides UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist people of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.	Allows UNHCR to allocate resources across a range of countries and activities in a given region or situation, or a specific Pillar, theme or activity in accordance with identified priorities.	Pledged for 24 months or more. Whilst not all multi-year funding is flexible, the value of this type of contribution is its predictability, allowing UNHCR to apportion resources where they are needed most at the beginning of the year.	Contributions for a specific country without any further limitations. Also includes contributions for the response to an emergency situation within a specified country.	Contributions that are earmarked for a specific project or sector within a country or division. Also includes in-kind contributions and Junior Professional Officers.

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING

# UNHCR's flexible funding

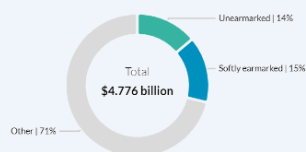
In 2020, UNHCR received \$1.377 billion in flexible funding—\$661.2 million unearmarked and \$715.5 million softly earmarked. This was 29% of total contributions received in 2020, and only 15% of UNHCR's budget. Of the total unearmarked funding, 61% was from governments and 39% from private donors; and of the softly earmarked funding, 86% was from governments and 14% from private donors.

## Contributions by earmarking level | 2012-2020

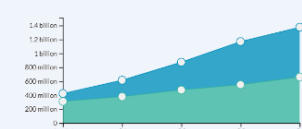


## Flexible Funding in 2020

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY EARMARKING LEVEL



### TIMING OF PLEDGES



### UNEARMARKED AND SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS IN USD

Donor	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Total flexible
Finland	7,700,770	14,205,732	21,906,502
Private donors in the United States	10,785,219	9,828,190	20,613,410
Private donors in Sweden	18,344,944	1,862,345	20,207,288
France	14,001,759	4,898,363	18,900,122
Switzerland	16,376,663	-	16,376,663
Private donors in Australia	-	15,263,747	15,263,747
Ireland	9,900,990	4,411,368	14,312,358
Private donors in China	9,978,929	1,442,812	11,421,742
Italy	10,588,235	-	10,588,235
Private donors in Canada	7,856,369	2,605,214	10,461,583
Belgium	9,876,543	-	9,876,543
Private donors in the United Kingdom	3,607,132	5,613,198	9,220,329
Qatar	8,000,000	-	8,000,000
Australia	6,523,157	-	6,523,157
<b>Total</b>	<b>661,240,221</b>	<b>715,491,174</b>	<b>1,376,731,395</b>

## Did you know?

The Global Focus website has a dedicated, up-to-the minute dashboard tracking flexible funding contributions.

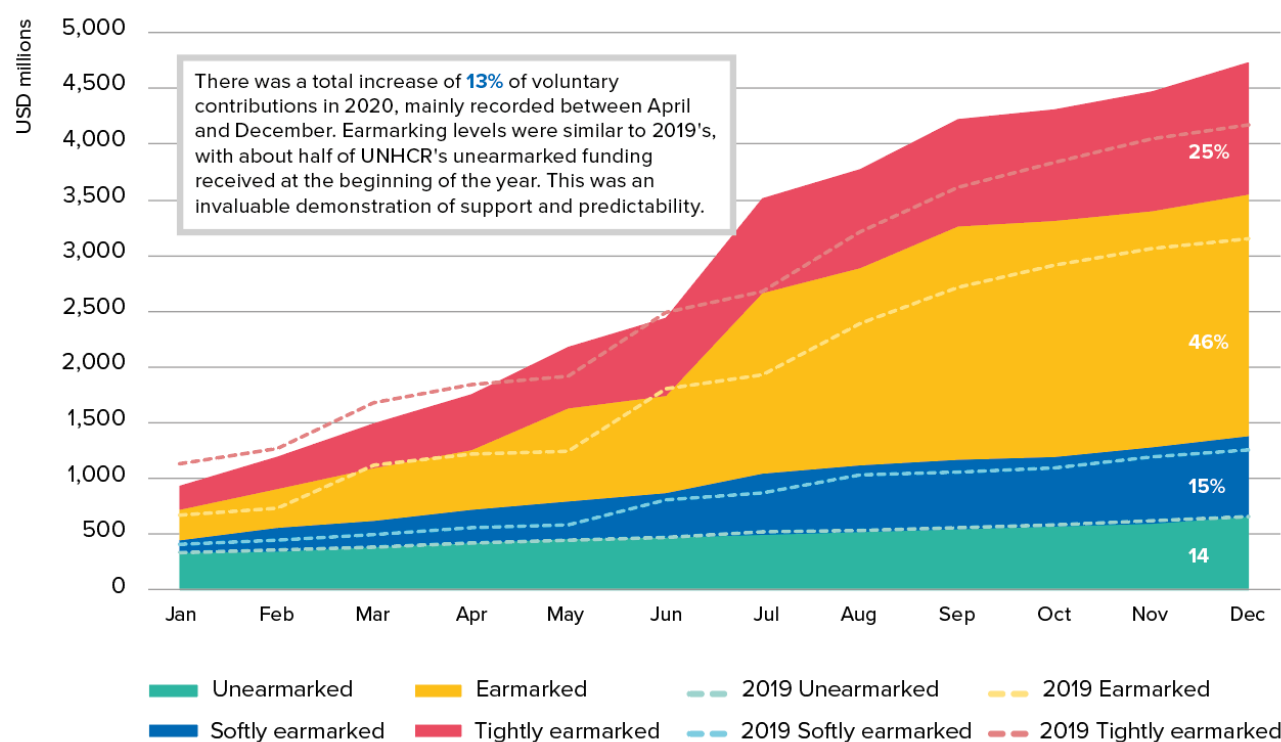


# Timeliness

Against the overall budget of \$9.131 billion, UNHCR had to allocate its flexible funding across operations around the world, as well as to the global programmes, to enable them to begin implementation. The allocation was a balancing act, measuring needs against available funding such as carry-over, multi-year funding, or funding projections. UNHCR began the year allocating some \$376 million in

flexible funding, mostly unearmarked. Much of this, some \$222.2 million, came from multi-year unearmarked funding already available at the beginning of the year. This timeliness was critically important in allowing UNHCR to continue or begin carrying out activities, especially in situations where earmarking was not forthcoming and which were low on financial support.

## Timeliness of contributions by earmarking level | 2020



### Spotlight: The United States—collaboration in the face of emergencies.

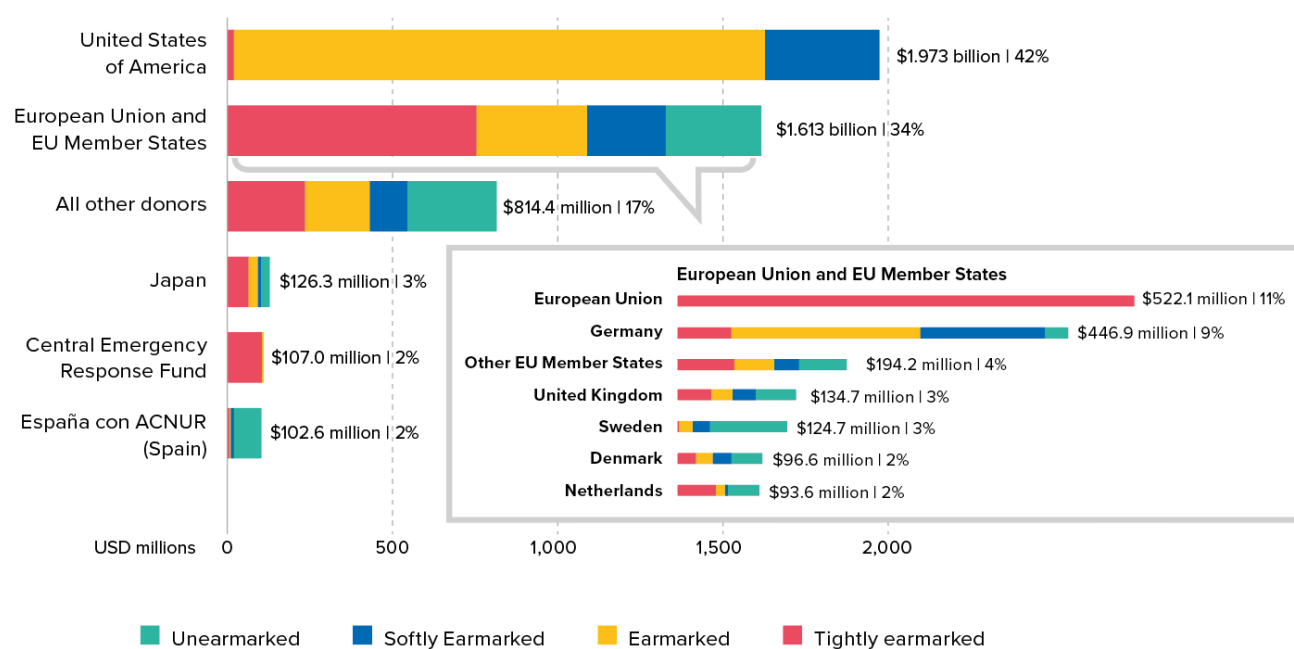
As part of its contribution of \$346.3 million in softly earmarked funding, the United States continued its strong support to UNHCR's operational reserve by providing a record \$94 million towards its Reserve Pledge for Emergencies. This flexible funding allowed UNHCR to respond swiftly to a rising series of emergencies, particularly during the last quarter of 2020, while also meeting the needs of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, support from the United States allowed UNHCR to immediately respond to the outflow of tens of thousands of people into Sudan from Tigray. The operation in Sudan was thus able to deploy critical resources along the border with Ethiopia to meet the dire humanitarian needs by ramping up infrastructure such as reception, registration, and transportation, providing urgent assistance such as shelter and healthcare, and life-saving protection such as family reunification and support for victims of gender-based violence.

# Sources of income

Unearmarked funding came to \$661.2 million. This was only \$1.7 million more than in 2019 and comprised 14% of all voluntary contributions. The public sector provided 61% of UNHCR's unearmarked funding. This was a decrease of 3% from \$417.2 million in 2019 to \$404.8 million. Sweden continued to be the largest unearmarked donor (\$88.1 million) with its multi-year, unearmarked contribution - the

gold standard for flexibility, predictability and timeliness. Governments such as the United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands and Denmark maintained consistent levels of flexible support, together accounting for over 24% of unearmarked funding. Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium all provided significant multi-year contributions of unearmarked funding (see below).

## Quality of income by top 10 donors | 2020



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_17360](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17360)

