



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

HIGHLIGHTED UNDERFUNDED SITUATIONS IN 2018

SEPTEMBER 2018

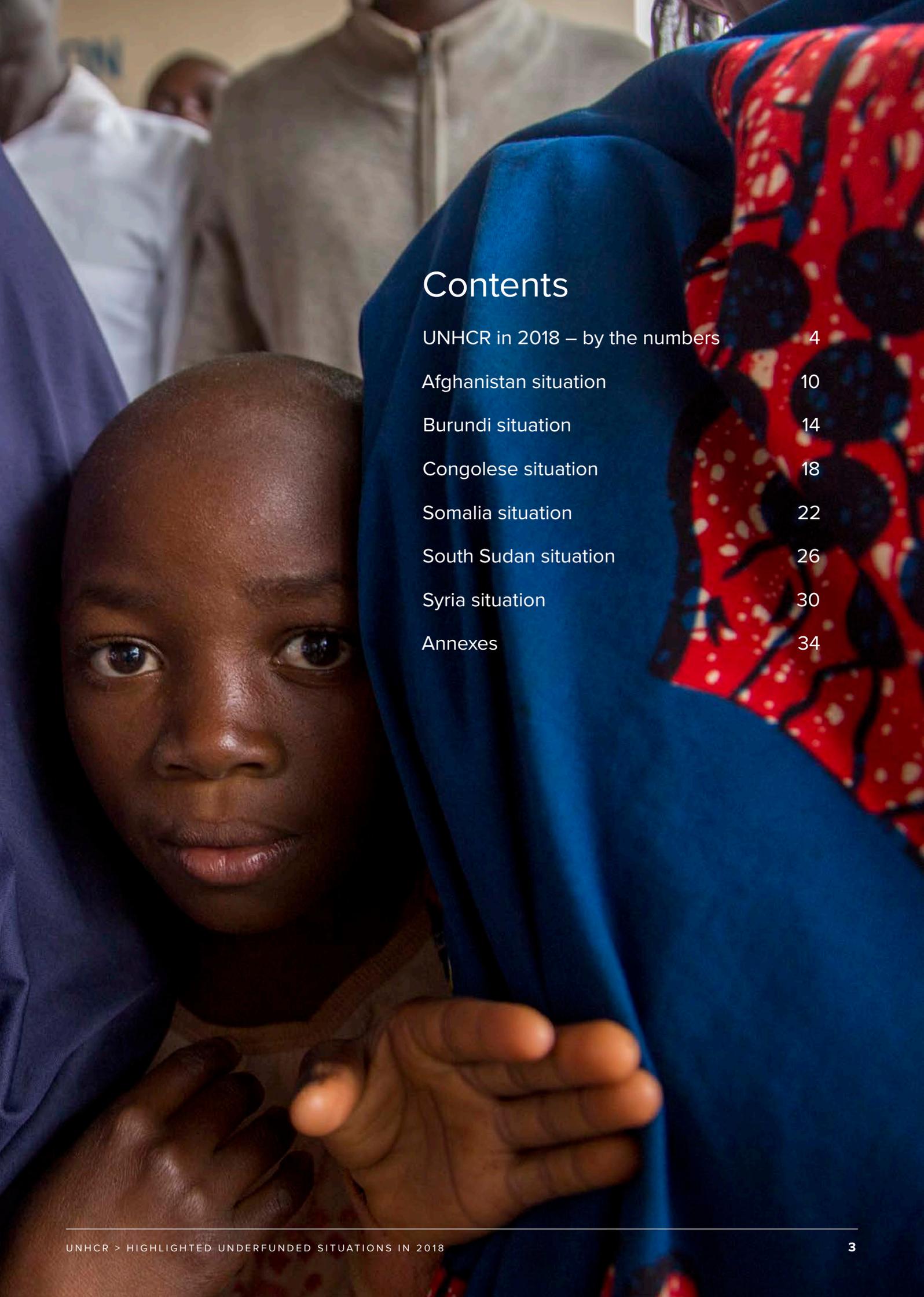


Right: Burundian returnees gather in Higiro Village, northern Burundi for the arrival of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. While on a mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and Burundi, UNHCR Chief Filippo Grandi called on the international community to support those countries as they work towards solving the protracted refugee situations in the Great Lakes region. All three Central African neighbours shelter large numbers of refugees from each other, as a result of more than two decades of conflicts. Grandi assured all sides that UNHCR would support dialogue and push for increased funding. During his visit, he met Congolese refugees in Rwanda and Burundi, Burundian refugees in DRC and Rwanda, and Rwandan refugees preparing to return home after more than 20 years in Congo. People fleeing unrest in DRC are at a record high. By the end of 2017, over 3 million Congolese people were internally displaced and 600,000 in exile across Africa. Musasa Camp in northern Burundi was opened to accommodate Congolese families in 2008.

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Cover Image: Wazmina, 12, holds her brother, Sabwaman, 2, at a UNHCR Repatriation Centre in Peshawar, Pakistan. They and their parents and extended family are going through the process of returning to Afghanistan with the assistance of UNHCR. At a UNHCR voluntary repatriation centre in Nowshera in the Pakistani administrative region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi spoke with refugees who had decided to return home. The centre is providing them with support to start over, including a US\$200 cash grant for transport, shelter and food. So far in 2018, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary repatriation of almost 10,000 Afghan refugees, including some families who have lived in Pakistan for close to 40 years. The number of refugees choosing to go home has declined this year, due to worsening insecurity in Afghanistan, and remains a relatively small number compared to the 1.4 million refugees who remain in the country.

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The most underfunded situations for UNHCR in 2018 are indicative of the staggering cost of inaction when displaced people and humanitarian needs are at a historic high, and underline the all-but impossible situation in which UNHCR has less funds with which to do more, and in which it needs to invest to stabilise volatile situations and alleviate human suffering.

As of September 2018, UNHCR’s budget has never been higher at \$8.2 billion, and is currently 45% funded.

This growth is concurrent with the unabated levels of global displacement, and as a result of new emergencies. At the beginning of 2018, there were some **71.4 million people of concern** to UNHCR worldwide—refugees, IDPs, returnees, and stateless persons.

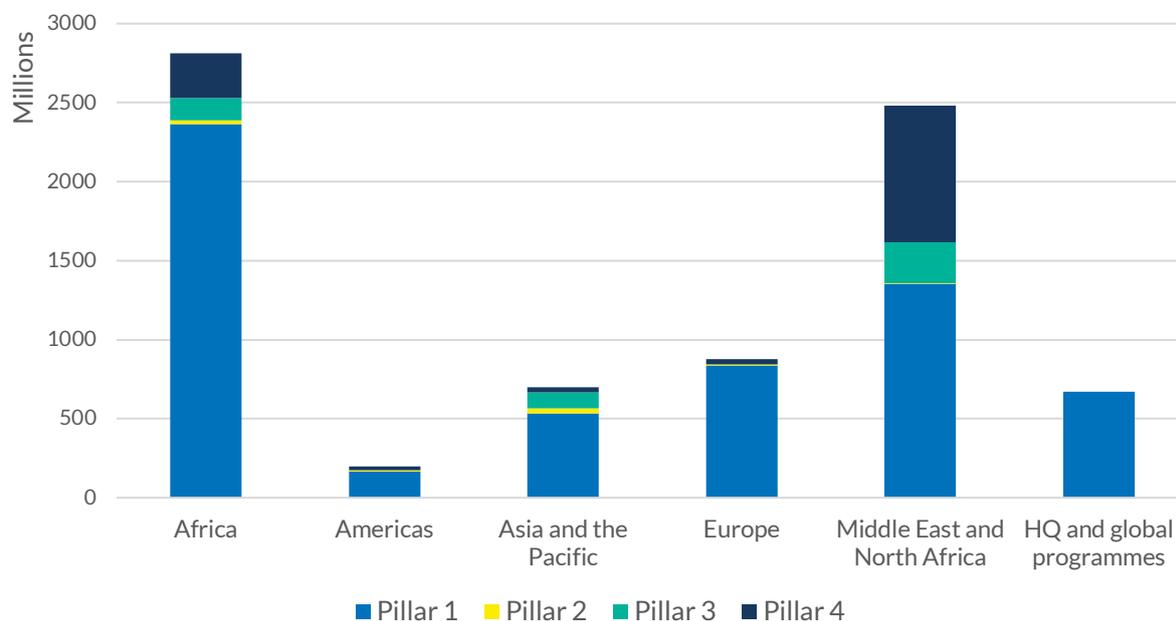
The funding gap is widening, now standing at **\$4.5 billion**. Based on indications received from donors and analysis of funding trends, UNHCR estimates the gap may reduce to **\$3.7 billion** by year’s end.

Such a funding gap would have a devastating impact on people of concern—the number of which is projected to grow to **79.8 million** by the end of 2018—and would require radical reprioritization of support for critical needs.

Although the levels of funding are similar to 2017 at the same period, the budget is larger—reflecting much greater needs. There are other signs of concern: significant though the level of contributions is, the amount is plateauing and not keeping pace with needs. Additionally, UNHCR is seeing a continuing decline in the percentage of flexible income—unearmarked or softly earmarked funding.

This document outlines the overall situation regarding UNHCR’s budget and income in 2018, and highlights six situations in particular—four of which are in Africa—which are in urgent need of funding before the end of the year in order to implement critical and high priority programmes. The costs of inaction are high. Needs worsen, become more compounded. Emergencies become protracted. Solutions are put off. Crises become forgotten. People suffer. But timely support by donors may still avert the worst.

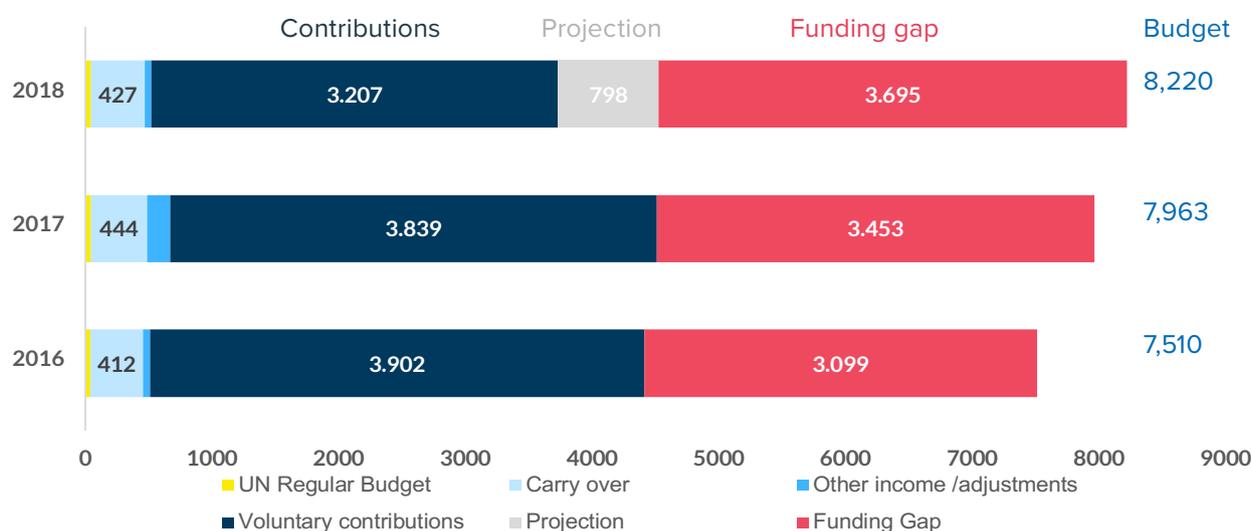
2018 budget by region and Pillar



Comparative analysis

Over the past decade UNHCR has received remarkable support from donors, for which it expresses its deepest appreciation. While the needs—and consequently the budget—continue to grow, the level of voluntary contributions started to plateau in 2017, and the funding gap increased from \$3.1 billion in 2016 to almost \$3.5 billion in 2017.

Budget and estimated funds available as of September 2018 compared to 2017-2016 | USD millions

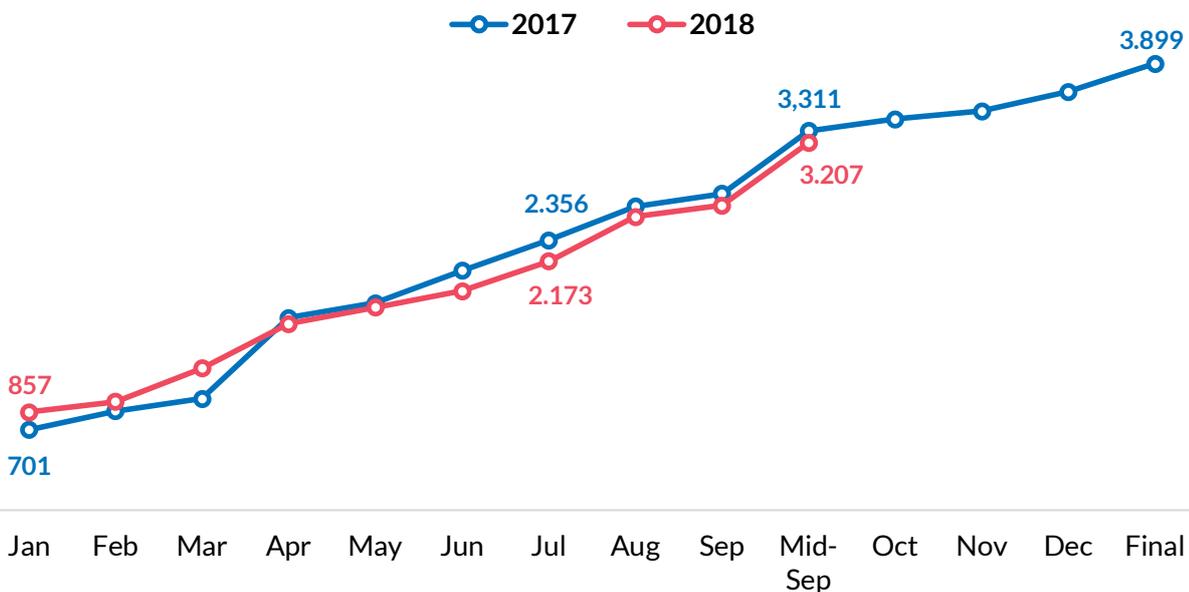


Income

In terms of fresh income in 2018, UNHCR has recorded \$3.2 billion in voluntary contributions as of the middle of September 2018. There is another \$798 million in projected income. The lion’s share of funding—92% (see Annex)—has come from 23 donors which have contributed over \$20 million. This includes private funding channelled through two of UNHCR’s National Partners (in Spain and the USA) as well as private donors in Qatar and the Republic of Korea. Taking into consideration the UN Regular Budget (\$43 million), the 2017 carry-over (\$427 million) and other income and adjustments (\$50 million), UNHCR currently has funds available of \$3.727 billion, representing 45% of the Office’s needs.

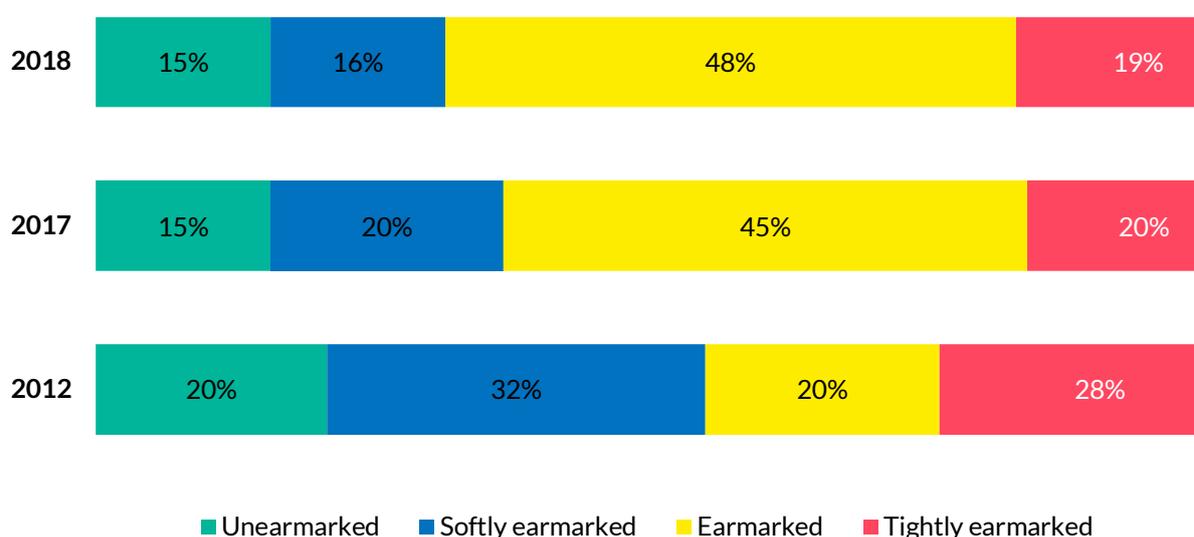
Although there was a most positive start to the year with the record amount announced at the December 2017 Pledging Conference, by the end of May UNHCR was behind 2017 levels. Significant recent contributions have enabled the Office to reach 2017 levels, but the needs are significantly higher in 2018. Early pledges and timely disbursements of funding are essential for timely and effective delivery of response.

Timing of contributions | 2017-2018 | USD millions



Of the income received to date, 31% is flexible funding—either unearmarked, or softly earmarked.

Flexibility of funding | 2017-2018 vs 2012



Note: percentages do not include 2% of received income, the flexibility of which is to be determined.

The year saw the continued decline in the percentages of flexible funding—unearmarked or softly earmarked funding—and the increasing trend towards tighter earmarking, despite Grand Bargain commitments. While 2018 data is not final, around 70% of UNHCR’s funding is earmarked or tightly earmarked, meaning to the country or sector level. The share of flexible funding this year has reduced to 30% from 35% in 2017, in particular due to reduction of softly earmarked funding. This is a continuation of the trend since 2012 when 52% of funding was flexible.

Contributed without restrictions on its use, **unearmarked funding** allows UNHCR the critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern in the greatest need and at the greatest risk, anywhere in the world. To date, UNHCR has received \$482.8 million in unearmarked funding, with Sweden, private donors in Spain (most of which is channelled through the National Partner, *España con ACNUR*) and Norway providing nearly 40%.

Donors contributing over \$10 million in unearmarked funding | USD

Donor	Funding
Sweden	98,191,833
Private donors in Spain	52,824,608
Norway	42,522,172
Netherlands	39,099,526
United Kingdom	31,694,696
Denmark	25,477,707
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	25,403,623
Switzerland	15,758,835
France	14,000,000
Germany	13,725,845
Private donors in Italy	13,459,596
Private donors in Japan	12,985,134
Italy	11,180,124
Private donors in Sweden	11,161,022
Subtotal from donors	407,484,722

Softly earmarked funding at the situational or regional level allows UNHCR to use it across the range of countries and activities in a given region or situation in accordance with the priorities and activities identified by the Office. To date, UNHCR has received \$329.2 million in such funding. With \$179.6 million, or 54%, the United States of America is the top donor of softly earmarked funding, followed by Germany with \$69.9 million.

Donors contributing over \$1 million in softly earmarked funding | USD

Donor	Funding
United States of America	345,700,000
Germany	69,909,143
Private donors in Germany	12,389,899
Sweden	12,257,613
Private donors in Australia	10,332,532
Denmark	8,860,082
Canada	6,441,477
Finland	6,172,840
Norway	5,105,300
Australia	3,782,148
Private donors in the Switzerland	3,349,057
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	3,271,230
Private donors in Spain	2,703,917
Private donors in the United States of America	2,183,051

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