



**development  
initiatives**

Global Humanitarian  
Assistance



# **key trends in global humanitarian assistance**

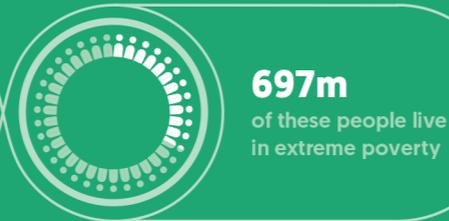
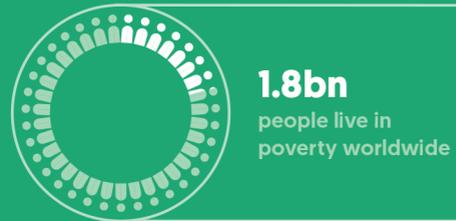
2019

# humanitarian assistance in numbers

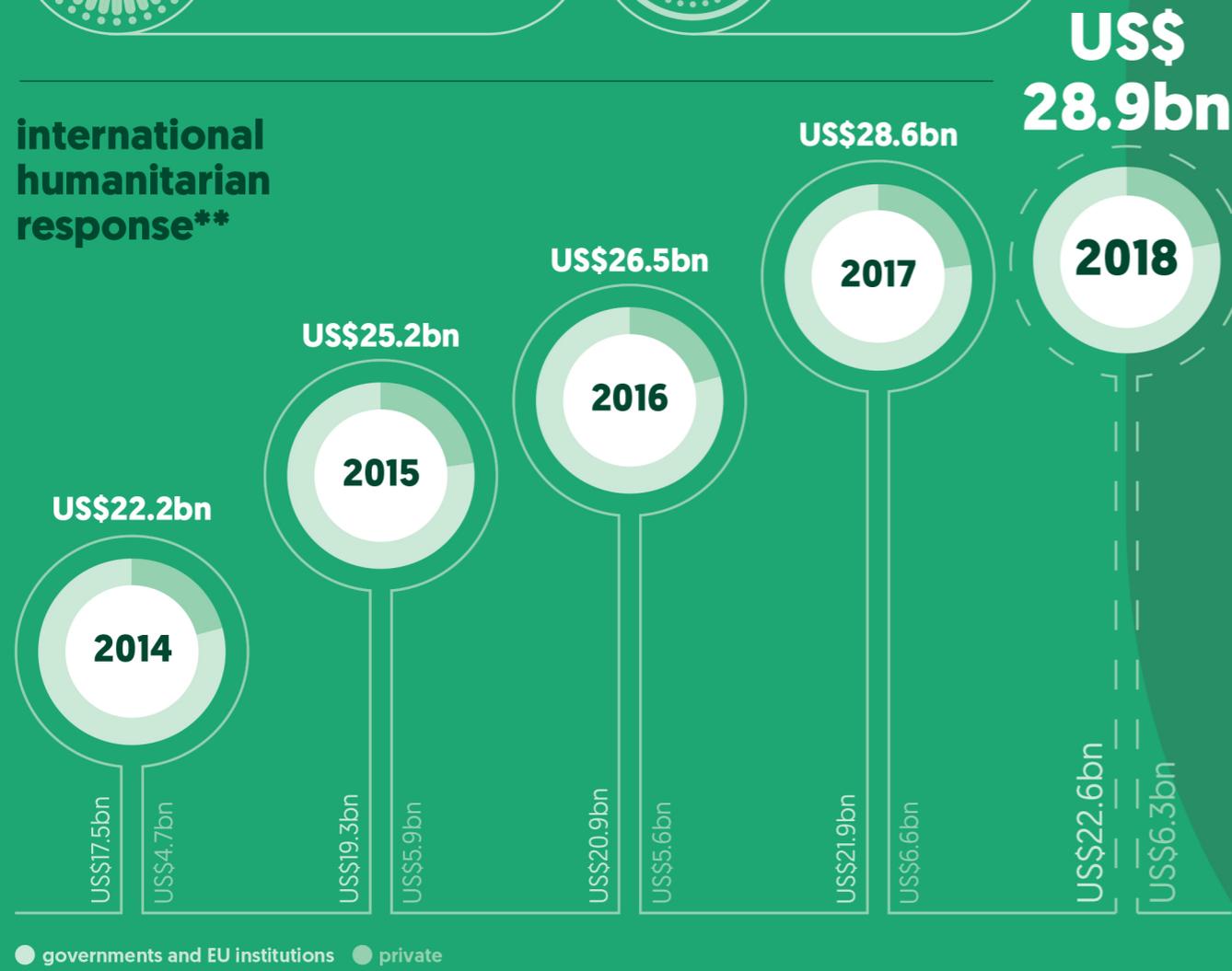
## poverty in crisis\*

**21%** of people living in poverty also live in countries with consecutive humanitarian appeals

**33%** of people living in extreme poverty also live in countries with consecutive humanitarian appeals



## international humanitarian response\*\*



\*People living in poverty are defined as living on less than \$3.20 a day; people living in extreme poverty are defined as living on less than \$1.90 a day.

\*\*Data consists only of humanitarian assistance directed internationally by donors. Data for 2018 is preliminary.

\*\*\*Contributions of EU member states include an imputed amount of the EU institutions' expenditure. EU institutions are also included separately for comparison and are shaded differently to distinguish from government donors. Turkey is shaded differently because the humanitarian assistance it voluntarily reports to the OECD Development Assistance Committee is largely made up of spending on hosting Syrian refugees within Turkey. Therefore, it is not strictly comparable with the international humanitarian assistance totals from other donors in this figure. Data for 2018 is preliminary.

## where does this come from?

donors, 2018 (largest by volume)\*\*\*



## where is it going?

recipient countries, 2017 (largest by volume)

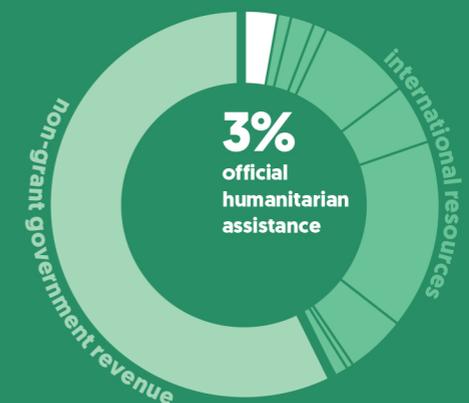


## how does it get there?

2017



## resource mix in countries with consecutive humanitarian appeals, 2017



For sources and full notes see Development Initiatives' online factsheet; Factsheet: Key trends in global humanitarian assistance 2019. Available at: [www.devinit.org/post/factsheet-key-trends-global-humanitarian-assistance-2019](http://www.devinit.org/post/factsheet-key-trends-global-humanitarian-assistance-2019)

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# key trends in global humanitarian assistance

Crisis can disproportionately impact people in poverty. Limited access to resources among the poorest people can exacerbate vulnerability to crisis, while experiencing crisis can draw people further into poverty. In 2018, countries which were the subject of humanitarian appeals for two or more consecutive years were home to 9% of the global population. Yet they accommodated just over a fifth (21%) of the global population in poverty, living on less than \$3.20 per day, and a third of the global population in extreme poverty (33%), living on less than \$1.90 per day. This data supports other evidence highlighting the trend that poverty is increasingly concentrated in crisis contexts.

Domestic governments should be the primary responders to crisis, using their own revenues, with international humanitarian assistance complementing where necessary. Yet, in countries with consecutive humanitarian appeals, non-grant government revenue accounted for only 58% of all available resources in 2017, compared with 75% for other developing countries. Resourcing and coordinating humanitarian and development responses to crisis, and to poverty in crisis contexts, is therefore vital.

International humanitarian assistance remains a critical resource for meeting the needs of people affected by crisis. In 2018, international humanitarian assistance continued a five-year trend of growth; while the pace of growth has slowed, rising by just 1% from 2017 to an estimated US\$28.9 billion, there has been an estimated increase of 30% (US\$6.7 billion) since 2014.

In aggregate, contributions of international humanitarian assistance from governments and EU institutions grew by US\$0.7 billion from 2017 to US\$22.6 billion in 2018. Among the 20 largest contributors, increases were made by seven governments (three increasing by more than 10%), with 13 reducing the volume of assistance provided (eight by more than 10%). The overall growth in international humanitarian assistance was driven by increased contributions from two countries in the Middle East and North of Sahara region. The United Arab Emirates provided US\$2 billion of assistance in 2018, an increase of US\$1.7 billion from 2017, while Saudi Arabia contributed US\$1.3 billion, a rise of US\$806 million. In contrast, aggregated contributions by European and North and Central American governments decreased. These were down by US\$1.0 billion and US\$446 million, respectively.

International humanitarian assistance continued to be concentrated in a small number of crises. In 2017, 10 countries accounted for 63% of all country-allocable humanitarian assistance. Syria, Yemen and South Sudan received almost half of the assistance to these 10 countries (30% of total country-allocable humanitarian assistance). Of the assistance directed to the 10 largest recipients, 59% went to countries in the Middle East and North of Sahara region, with 34% flowing to countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The majority of direct government funding for international humanitarian assistance (64%) was channelled to multilateral agencies in 2017, increasing from 60% in 2016. Conversely, private donors provided most (85%) of their assistance to NGOs. Funding to NGOs as a proportion of total international humanitarian assistance increased slightly, from 33% in 2016 to 34% in 2017.

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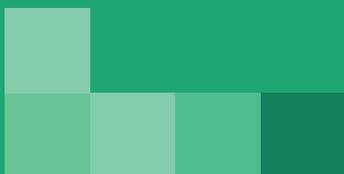
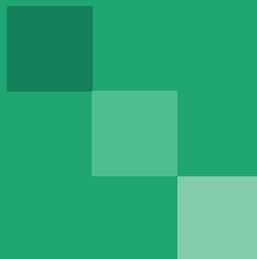
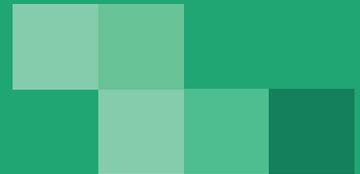
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# ***The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2019 will be launched in September.***

It will present the most comprehensive assessment of the complex and evolving financing landscape at work in humanitarian situations.

This year's report will contain new and detailed analysis of financing to protracted crisis situations.

Please check our website for updates, including the date of the next webinar in our series: 'Building coherence between crisis, development and peace actors'.



This snapshot of the key trends in global humanitarian assistance provides clear and independent top-line analysis of the latest data on international financing at work in humanitarian situations: how much is given, who provides it, where it goes and how it is delivered.

*The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2019* – to be published by Development Initiatives in September – will build on this, presenting the most comprehensive assessment of the complex and evolving financing landscape. This year's report will contain new and detailed analysis of financing to protracted crisis situations.

Transparent and reliable information, as provided by the Global Humanitarian Assistance project, is essential for all those working to address the causes and consequences of crises. Please visit our website to download and share this snapshot report and other relevant analysis. To ask questions or provide comments please contact us by email [gha@devinit.org]. We welcome your feedback.



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