

In focus: Gulf States

Humanitarian assistance from Gulf States (Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar) peaked in 2001 (US\$658.0 million) and in 2008 (US\$777.8 million). These peaks were driven by large donations from Saudi Arabia. In 2001 98% of humanitarian assistance from Gulf States was from Saudi Arabia to the West Bank and Gaza Strip; in 2008 US\$338.8 million was from Saudi Arabia to the World Food Programme (WFP).

While Saudi Arabia gives a significant amount of humanitarian assistance, there is no single agency in charge of coordination and there is currently limited internal capacity to manage humanitarian processes and response. Saudi Arabia has no humanitarian assistance policy and is not actively engaged in international humanitarian mechanisms or coordination networks.

The 2008 peak in humanitarian assistance from Gulf States (US\$777.8 million) corresponds to peak oil prices. Since 2008 assistance has declined year-on-year to US\$180.3 in 2012, the lowest since 2004.

In 2009 the UAE was the largest Gulf State donor, giving US\$352.6 million of which US\$107.7 million was channelled to Sudan, US\$101.9 million to Pakistan and US\$81.8 million to Syria. The UAE was also the largest donor in 2011 (US\$193.3 million).

In 2012 Qatar’s share of humanitarian contributions among Gulf State donors increased to 20% from 4% the previous year (US\$36.4 million). While the majority of this funding is coded as regional, further analysis shows that it was mainly in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

It is worth highlighting that due to the voluntary nature of reporting through the UN OCHA FTS not all flows from non-DAC donors are captured, and we would expect humanitarian assistance from Gulf States to be far higher than the reported amount.

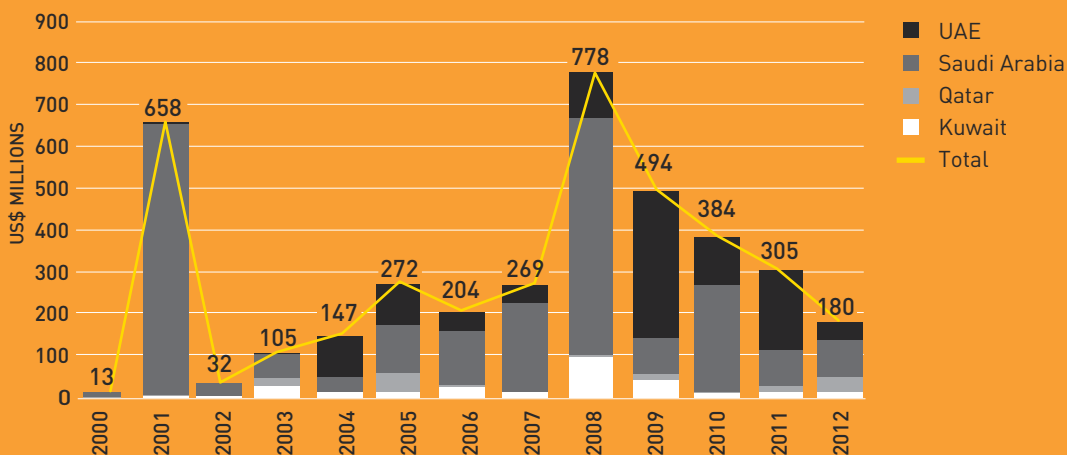
The trend in humanitarian assistance from Gulf States is quite different from the trend in wider ODA from the same donors. Both humanitarian assistance and ODA peaked in 2008 and then fell

sharply in 2009. However, whilst ODA increased to US\$6.0 billion in 2011, humanitarian assistance continued to fall (see figure 2.9). It may be that the increase in ODA is in part due to better reporting.

Collectively Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE gave US\$46.9 billion in ODA between 2000 and 2011; Saudi Arabia was the largest donor, giving a total of US\$32.8 billion in this period. In 2011 it gave US\$5.1 billion and was ranked the 10th largest government donor.

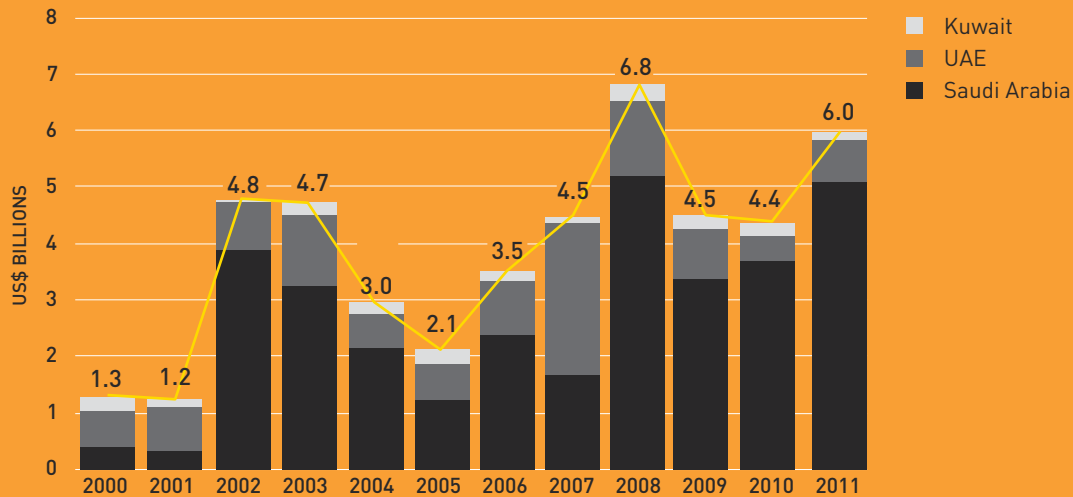
Around 35% of humanitarian assistance from Gulf States donors between 2003 and 2012 went to three recipients – Pakistan, West Bank and Gaza Strip and Sudan (see figure 2.10). The top 10 recipients of humanitarian assistance reflect regional priorities as well as cultural and religious ties between these types of donors and recipients. For further discussion of donor preferences in terms of culture, history and regional proximity see chapter 3 ‘Where does humanitarian assistance go?’

FIGURE 2.8: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM SAUDI ARABIA, UAE, KUWAIT AND QATAR, 2000–2012



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS

FIGURE 2.9: ODA FROM SAUDI ARABIA, UAE AND KUWAIT, 2000-2011



Note: Currently no data for Qatar. Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC data, constant 2011

Pakistan is the largest recipient of Gulf States' humanitarian assistance, and received a significant proportion of funding from Saudi Arabia (US\$200.6 million) and UAE (US\$77.6 million) in response to the 2010 floods.

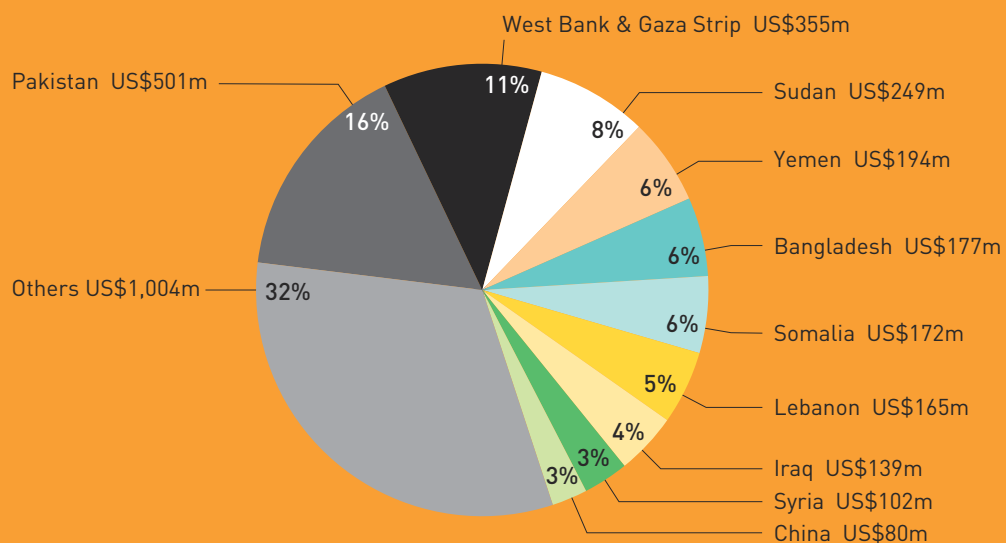
At the time of writing the Gulf States represented 26% of total

contributions to the Syria crisis. Kuwait is one of the largest government donors, having contributed US\$324 million so far.

In recent years, Gulf State donors have channelled an increasing amount of humanitarian assistance multilaterally. For example, in 2010 Saudi Arabia

channelled US\$50 million to the Haiti ERF and in 2013 Kuwait gave US\$12 million to the Syria emergency response fund (ERF).

FIGURE 2.10: TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM GULF STATE DONORS, 2003-2012



Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data