

Country-Based Pooled Funds

Donor Focus: Jersey Overseas Aid | October 2017



Investing in Humanity

OCHA

Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA) first supported country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) with a GBP 495,000 (US\$603,659) grant to support life-saving humanitarian action for the most vulnerable people in Syria through the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) in 2016. It contributed another GBP 500,000 (\$646,831) to the SHF in 2017.



ABOUT CBPFs

CBPFs enable humanitarian partners operating in countries affected by natural disasters and armed conflict to deliver timely and effective life-saving assistance to people who need it most. They allow Governments and private donors to pool their contributions into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts.

CBPFs are established by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) when a new emergency occurs or when an existing humanitarian situation deteriorates. They are managed locally by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in consultation with the humanitarian community.

Funding is allocated through an inclusive and transparent process in support of priorities set out in coordinated Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). This ensures that funding is prioritized locally by those closest to people in need. Funding from CBPFs is directly available to national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations and UN agencies.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has managed CBPFs to bolster aid operations in the world's most severe and complex humanitarian crises since 1997, allocating more than \$5 billion to relief organizations delivering assistance for millions of people. There are currently 18 active CBPFs (see map on page 3).

The Funds are critical to the humanitarian community's ability to deliver principled, coordinated and more effective aid. Funding channelled through CBPFs has more than doubled over the past decade, from \$287 million in 2006 to \$704 million in 2016.

Following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), the previous UN Secretary-General called for an increase in the proportion of humanitarian appeal funding channelled through CBPFs to 15 per cent by 2018. At current levels, this would translate to \$2 billion per year.

HOW CBPFs WORK

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



Aid workers on the ground identify the most urgent types of humanitarian assistance that affected people need.

CONTRIBUTIONS



Donors provide voluntary contributions to specific CBPFs.

REQUESTING FUNDS



Humanitarian partners work together to prioritize life-saving relief activities. They request CBPF funding through the Humanitarian Coordinator.

MANAGING FUNDS



Contributions are pooled into single funds.

ALLOCATING FUNDS



Based on expert advice from aid workers and on needs, the Humanitarian Coordinator allocates CBPF funding.

SAVING LIVES



Relief organizations use the money for urgent aid operations. They always track spending and impact, and report back to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

www.unocha.org

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

CBPFs IN 2016

In 2016, the humanitarian community was challenged with unprecedented levels of humanitarian suffering that left 130 million people needing emergency assistance. Of the \$22.1 billion required to provide assistance, donors provided \$12.6 billion. A record \$704 million of that amount was channeled through CBPFs in support of coordinated emergency responses.

While allocations from these funds constituted a relatively small portion of global humanitarian funding in 2016, the strategic value of CBPFs and their focus on the most urgent life-saving needs of crisis-affected people meant they were critical to the delivery of timely, coordinated and principled assistance.

Life-saving support

During the year, CBPFs ensured that funding went to locally prioritized programmes for maximum impact. The funds allocated \$713 million to 635 partners to support some 1,300 humanitarian projects, providing millions of people with health care, food aid, clean water, shelter and other assistance.

About 65 per cent of these allocations were disbursed to NGOs, including 18 per cent (\$129 million) directly to national and local NGOs, making CBPFs their largest source of direct funding. Another 35 per cent was allocated to UN agencies, and the remaining 1 per cent supported the efforts of Red Cross/ Red Crescent organizations.

The Haiti Humanitarian Fund, which was crucial to the 2010 earthquake response, was closed in 2016.

Improved humanitarian action

In 2016, CBPFs empowered humanitarian leadership, allowing HCs to directly support and drive the most critical components of humanitarian responses. They also ensured greater inclusivity by involving a wider range of partners in strategic prioritization and programming processes.

CBPFs were invaluable in volatile contexts with rapidly shifting contexts, including in Syria where timely allocations helped humanitarian partners truck clean water into besieged Aleppo when the city became completely cut off.

Access to flexible CBPF funding also allowed partners to adapt and tailor solutions to emerging challenges, such as immediate response and prevention activities after cholera broke out in Yemen.

CBPF funding helped humanitarian partners to time, plan and adjust humanitarian responses in 2016. For example, in Iraq, a \$45 million allocation enabled partners to preposition supplies and set up camps and emergency sites to assist and protect civilians ahead of the Mosul offensive.



Credit: OCHA / Franck Kuwonu

Improved fund performance

In 2016, OCHA strengthened its management of CBPFs, including its ability to manage risks and ensure proper oversight and accountability. To better support CBPF grant-management processes and to provide transparency, OCHA added an online Business Intelligence platform (www.gms.unocha.org/bi) to its Grant Management System to present real-time contributions and grant information.

Stronger support for CBPFs

Donors contributed a record \$704 million through CBPFs in 2016. Seven top-ten donors increased their contributions, and five Member States returned as contributors. This reflects the international community's growing recognition of CBPFs as flexible, timely and inclusive funding mechanisms that support the delivery of a more effective, principled and coordinated response.

The current Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, acknowledged the importance of CBPFs, urging donors to support HRP through the funds. For example, following the April pledging conference for Yemen, he called on Heads of State to channel their contributions through the Yemen Humanitarian Fund.

Delivering WHS commitments

CBPFs contribute to the delivery of WHS and [Grand Bargain](#) commitments, including support for national and local responders (see box), improved transparency, more flexible funding and promotion of cash-based programming.

Localization of aid

In 2016, CBPFs were instrumental in ensuring greater localization of aid—a key commitment of the WHS.

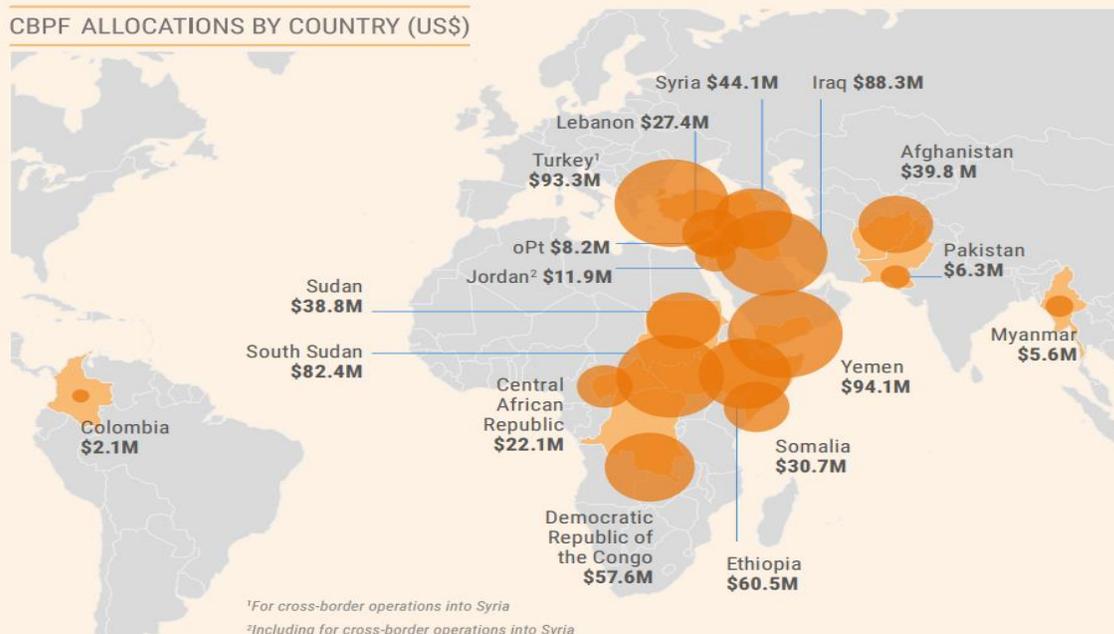
CBPFs were the largest source of direct international funding for national NGOs, receiving 18 per cent (\$129 million) of the \$713 million allocated that year. They also promoted equitable inclusion of local actors in the collective prioritization, programming and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

With CBPF support, local actors demonstrated the added value of their proximity and access to affected people, understanding of needs, and local knowledge of culture, language, territory and social networks. In Syria, for example, CBPFs improved aid delivery in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, such as Aleppo, by providing predictable and sustainable direct funding to Syrian NGOs with reliable access inside the country.

Beyond just access to funding, OCHA has used CBPF grant processes to build local actors' capacity, and it has encouraged UN agencies and international NGOs to work in partnership with local responders in the delivery of their CBPF-funded projects. For example, the Turkey Humanitarian Fund, which funds cross-border operations into Syria, encouraged international partners to include activities for capacity-building components for local counterparts in their grant applications.

2016 Allocations

CBPF ALLOCATIONS BY COUNTRY (US\$)



JERSEY AND CBPFs

As one of the United Kingdom's Crown Dependencies, the Island of Jersey is autonomous and self-governing, with its own parliament, legal system, and international aid programme: Jersey Overseas Aid (JOA).

JOA has become a valuable supporter of CBPFs and is currently the largest non-UN Member State donor to the CBPF funding mechanism.

JOA began contributing to CBPFs in 2016, with a grant of GBP 495,000 (\$603,659) for the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF), which it increased to GBP 500,000 (\$646,831) in 2017.

Jersey's contributions to CBPFs represent about 5 per cent of its annual aid budget, and about 25 per cent of its humanitarian funding.

Why CBPFs?

As a relatively small donor, JOA carefully selects grant recipients that can maximise the impact of its resources. The proven effectiveness of CBPFs in ensuring timely and strategic grants in volatile

emergencies represented a high return on investment.

"Through the SHF, we are able to 'pre-position' money when we know where, but not precisely how it will be required. Our aid can then be deployed rapidly, and at the point of greatest need. This magnifies our usefulness."

Simon Boas, Jersey Overseas Aid Executive Director

For a small donor, complex and protracted crises can be difficult environments to navigate. CBPFs allow JOA to provide aid in multiple sectors at the absolute frontline of a humanitarian emergency without the risk and cost of choosing individual partners. The professional, transparent and low-cost administration of the funds make this an efficient and low-risk way for JOA to provide support.

JOA actively engages with OCHA's Funding Coordination Section at headquarters and with the SHF Advisory Board at the field-level. This keeps JOA comprehensively appraised of the situation on and the Fund's response and provides a platform to engage around the strategic direction of the CBPF mechanism.

Syria Humanitarian Fund

Civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict in Syria. In 2016, the SHF allocated \$23.2 million to support 30 projects that reached more than 1.5 million of the most vulnerable people in Syria. Below are some examples of how Jersey's contribution has made a difference.



Two-year-old Abdul Qader received life-saving treatment for severe malnutrition and infections through a SHF-funded project providing medical services in besieged and hard-to-reach locations in Homs.



Rashid, 12 years old, plays with his baby sister. They moved back into their home in Homs after their family was fled to find safety in Damascus. Al Insha'at Association, a national NGO, received SHF funding to rehabilitate 200 homes and support returnees in Homs.



Hoda*, a social worker for a SHF-funded UNFPA project that brings gynecology/reproductive health and counselling to almost 4,000 families in Al-Qahtaniya district in north-east Syria. She said "too many women and girls in Syria have survived or witness terrible violence first-hand, including gender-based violence and forced marriages."
* not her real name



16-year-old Leila's class has just moved back into her old school building. "I was so happy to hear this news and be in a normal learning environment again," she said after ADRA, an international NGO funded by SHF, provided new shelters to Internally Displaced People and started rehabilitating the schools they had moved in to.

Photos: UNOCHA

Find out more about these and other stories in the 2016 SHF Annual Report [here](#).

For general information about CBPFs, please contact Tomas de Mul (demul@un.org) or visit: <http://bit.ly/CBPFs>