



2022 Edition

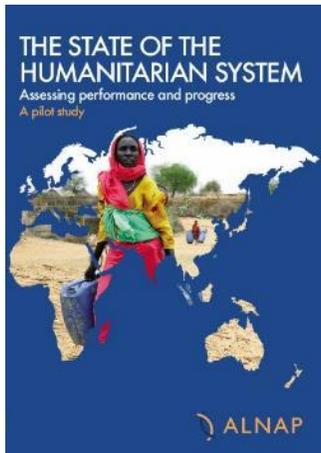
THE STATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

**Australasian AID Conference
28 November 2022**

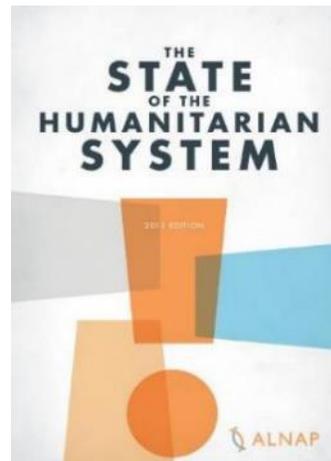


15 years of monitoring performance

The longest running evidence base on the performance of international humanitarian action



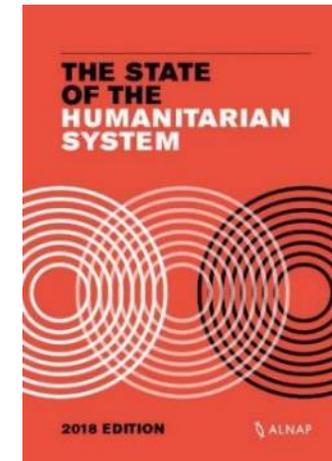
2007-2009



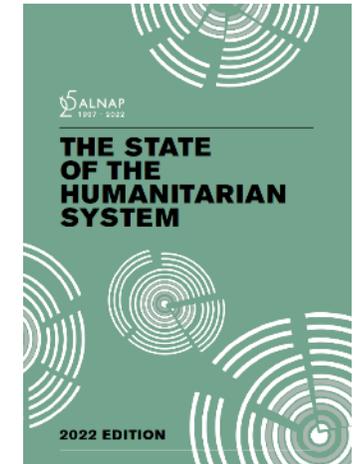
2010-2011



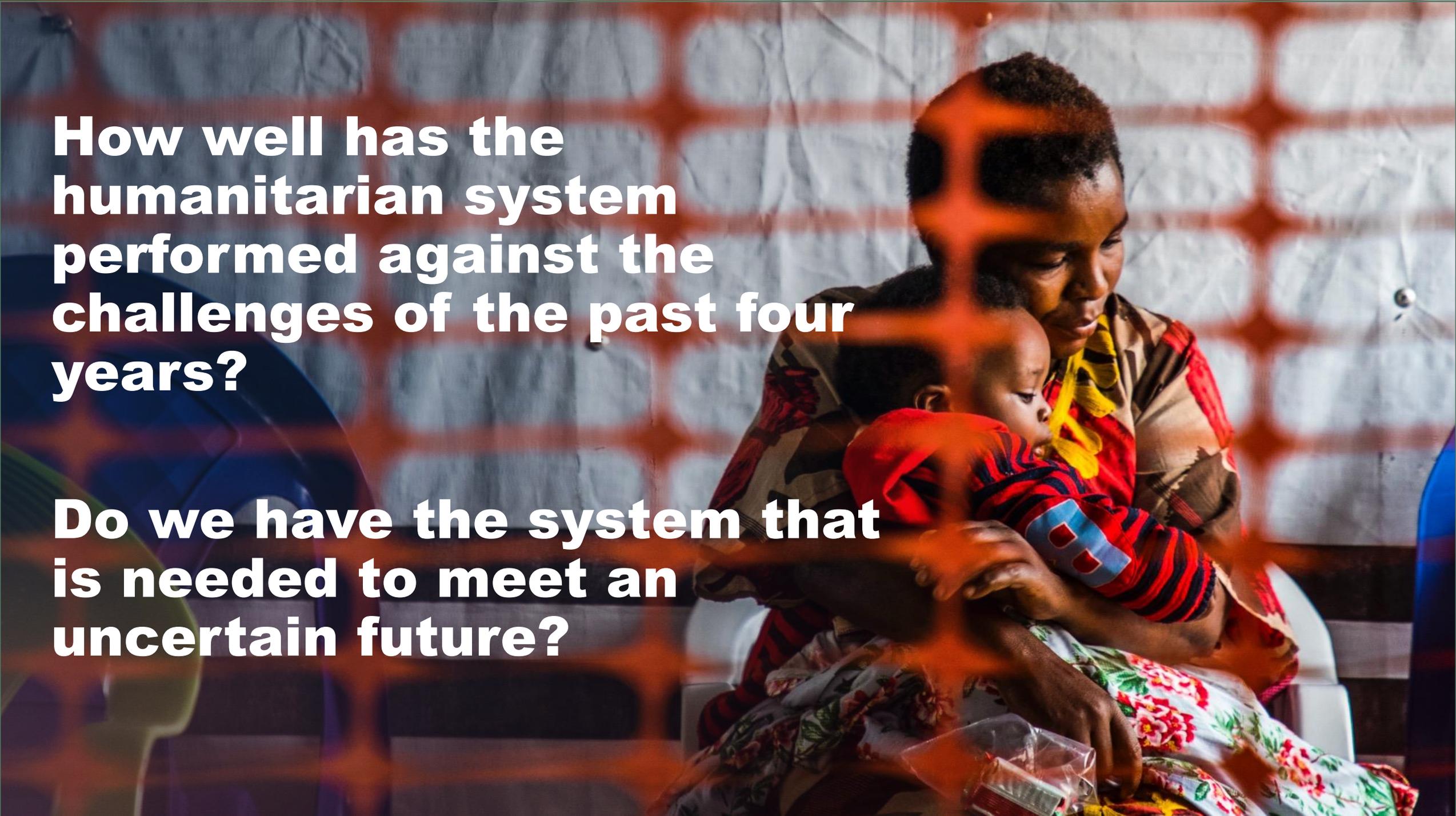
2012-2014



2015-2017



2018-2021

A woman with short dark hair is sitting and holding a baby. She is wearing a patterned top with red, black, and yellow. The baby is wearing a red and black striped shirt. They are in a room with a wall made of white plastic sheets held together by a brown grid. The lighting is warm and slightly dim. There are some colorful objects, like a blue and green plastic chair, visible in the foreground.

How well has the humanitarian system performed against the challenges of the past four years?

Do we have the system that is needed to meet an uncertain future?

1

**The demand
for
humanitarian
action:
crises,
caseload &
context**

2

**The size and
capacity of
the
humanitarian
system**

3

**Performance
of the system**

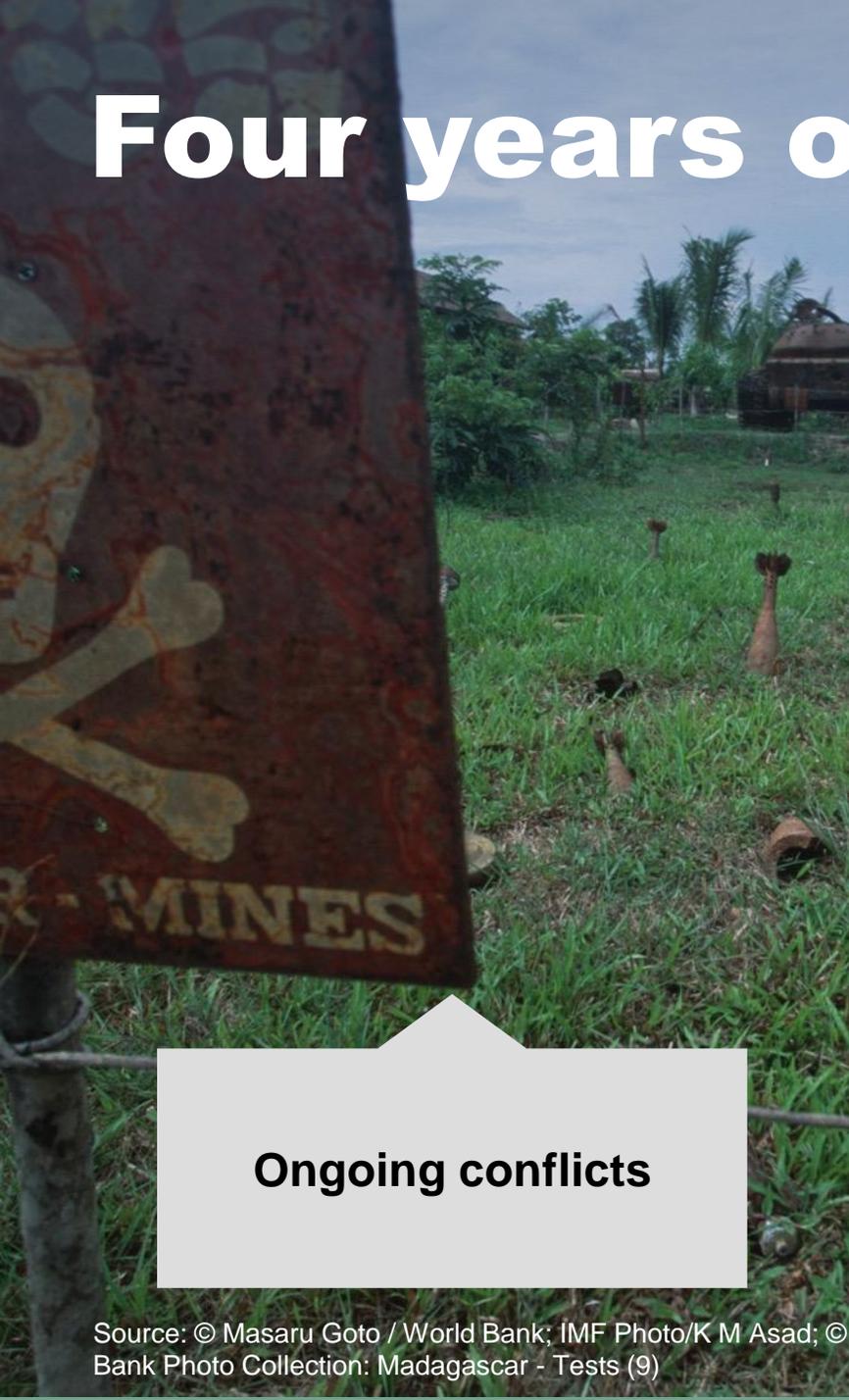
4

**Commitments,
change and
contestation**

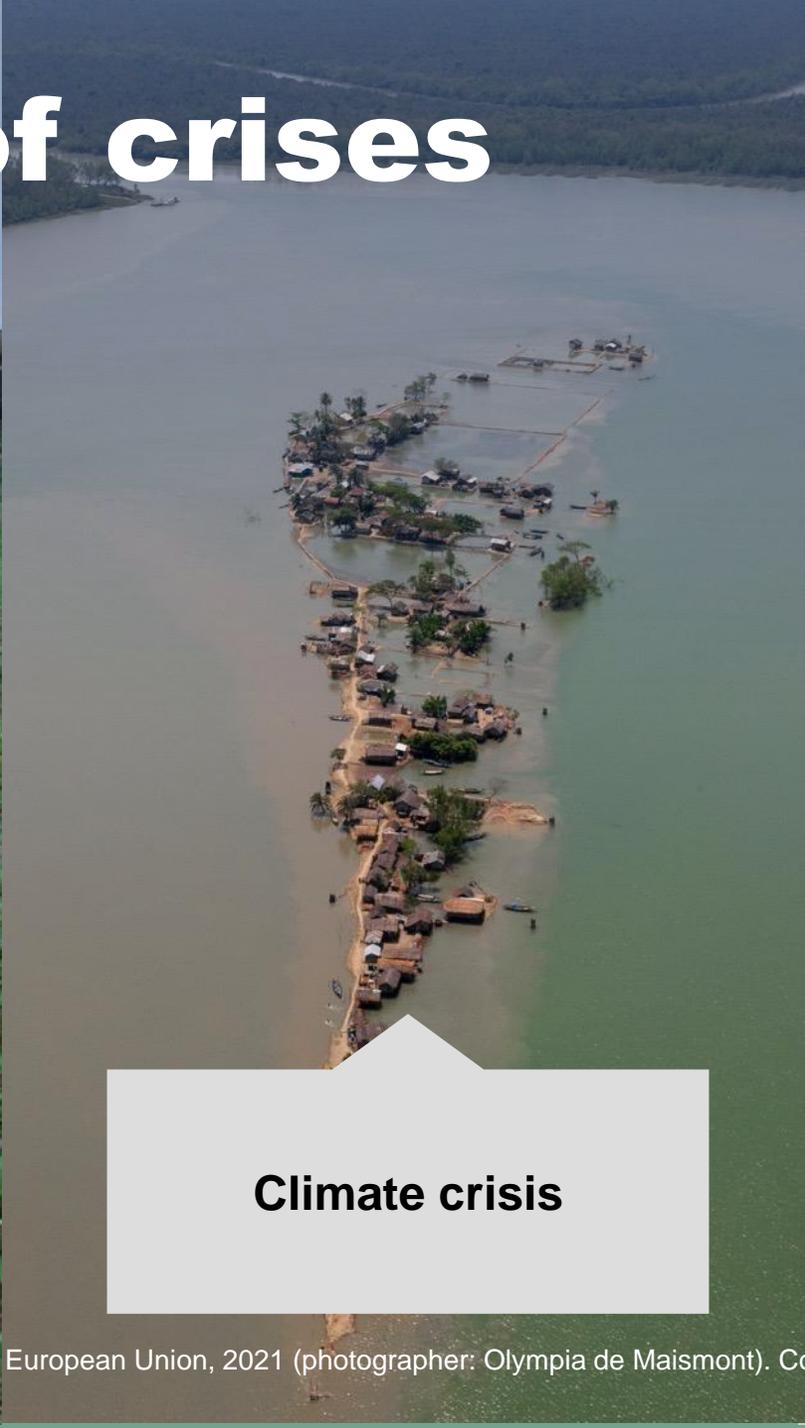


The demand for humanitarian action: Crises, caseload & context

Four years of crises



Ongoing conflicts

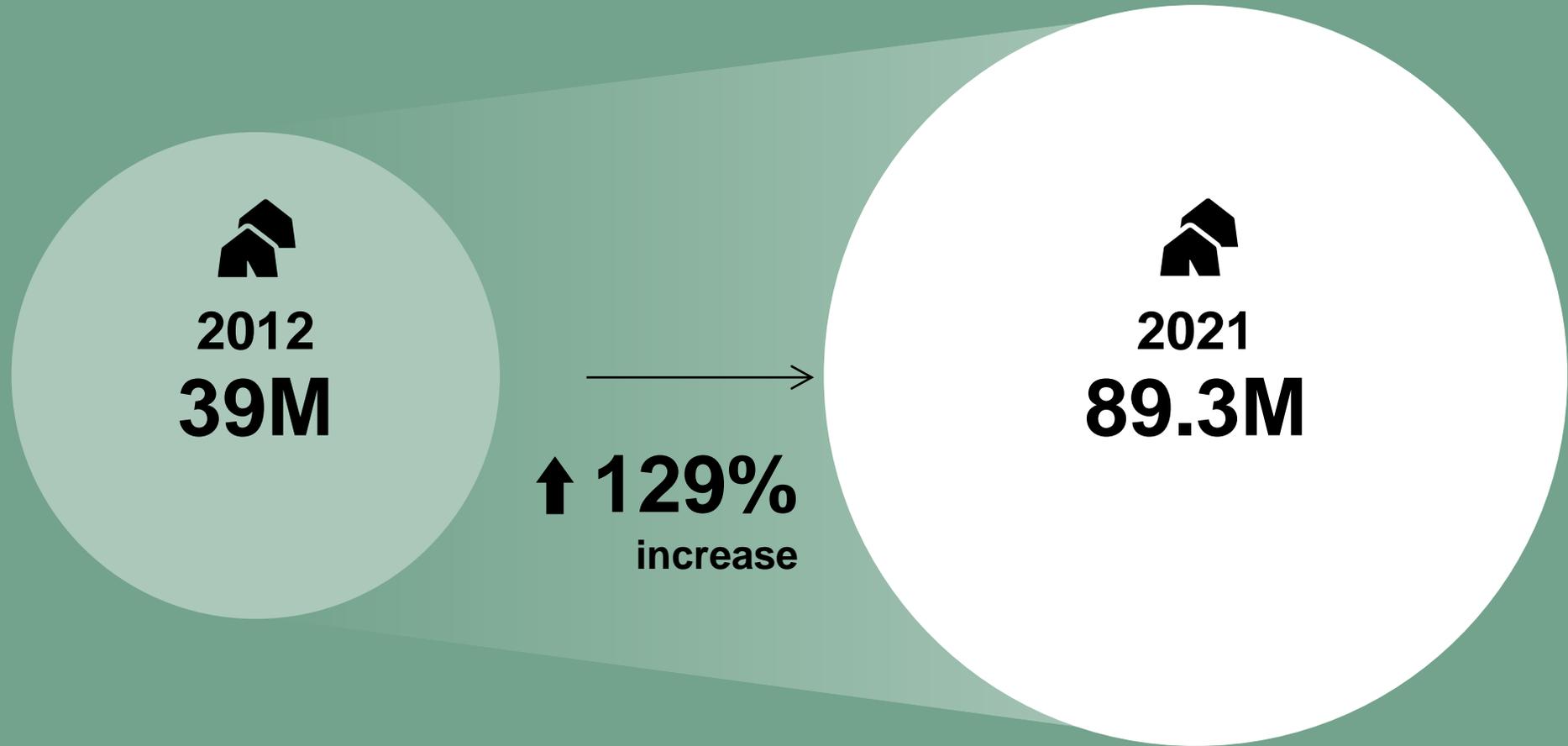


Climate crisis

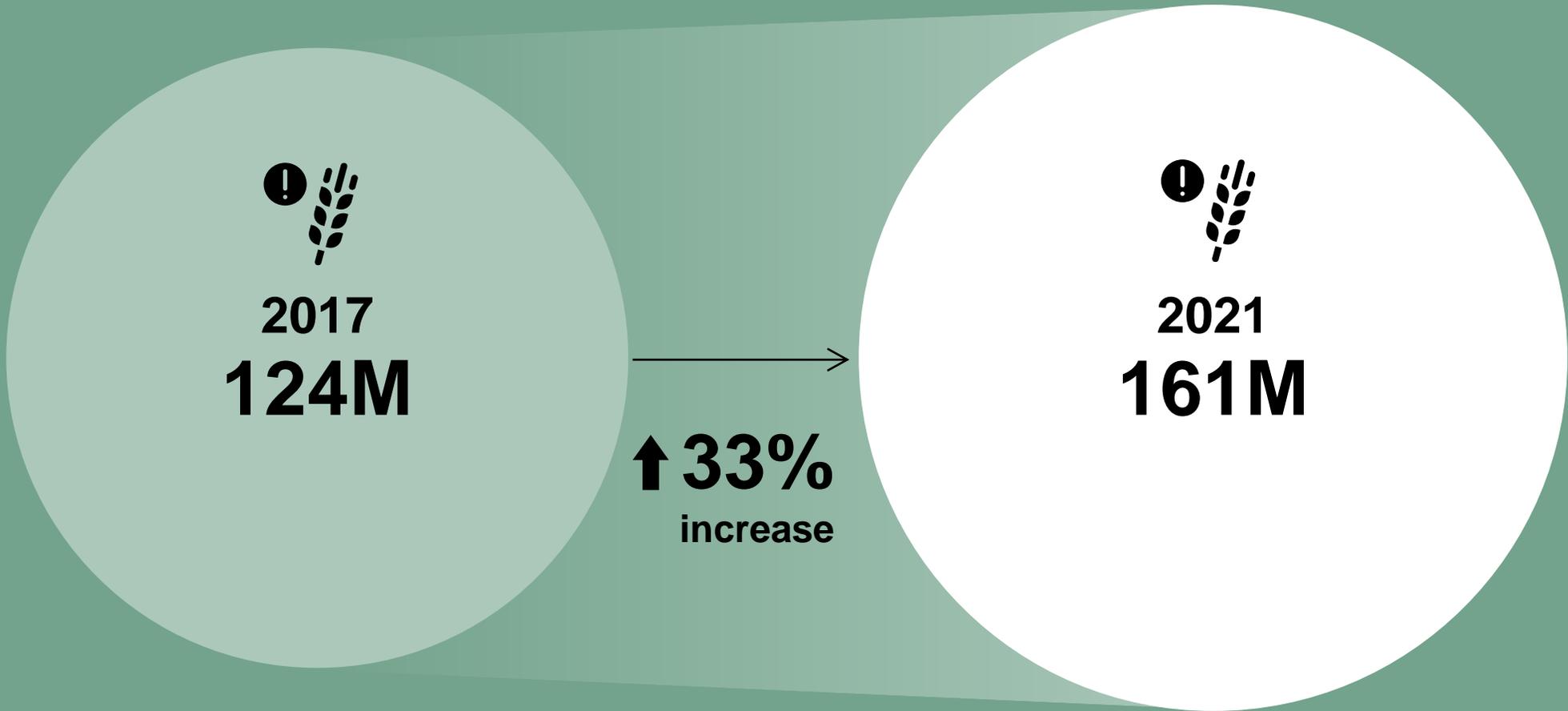


COVID-19

Displacement more than doubled

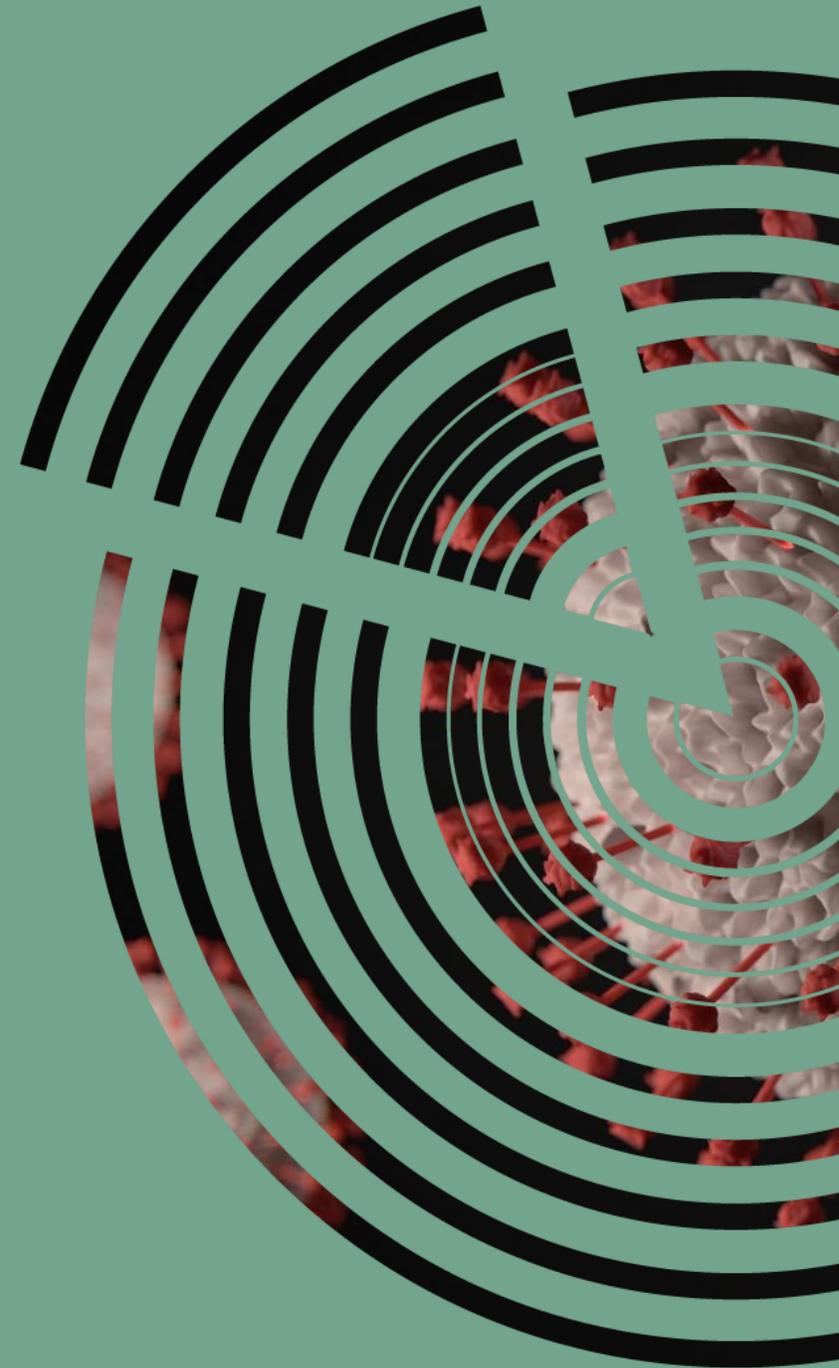


Acute food insecurity has risen

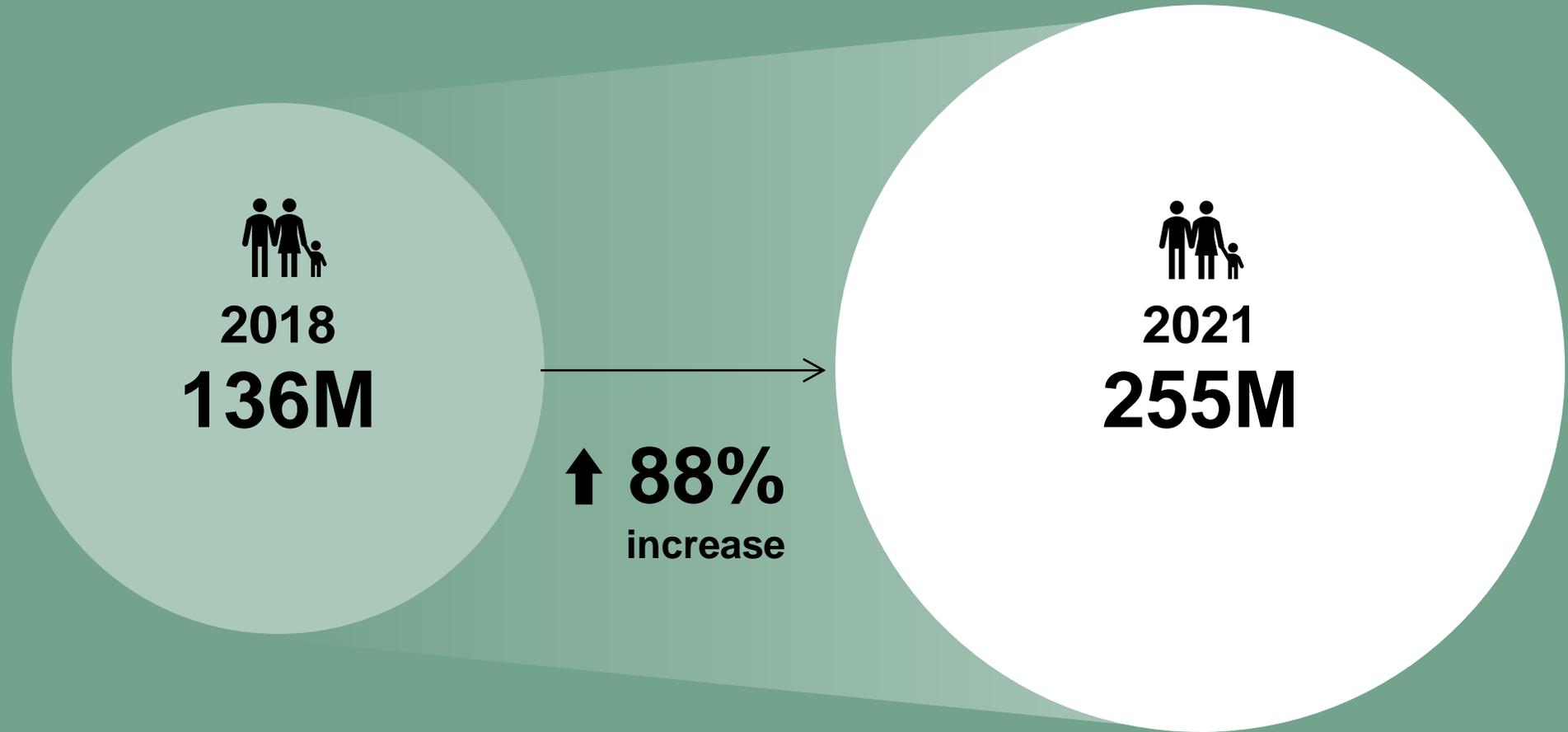


COVID-19

- Impacts of lockdowns/restrictions more severe than the virus
- Sharp increase in protection risks and education needs
- 97 million estimated to have been pushed below extreme poverty line



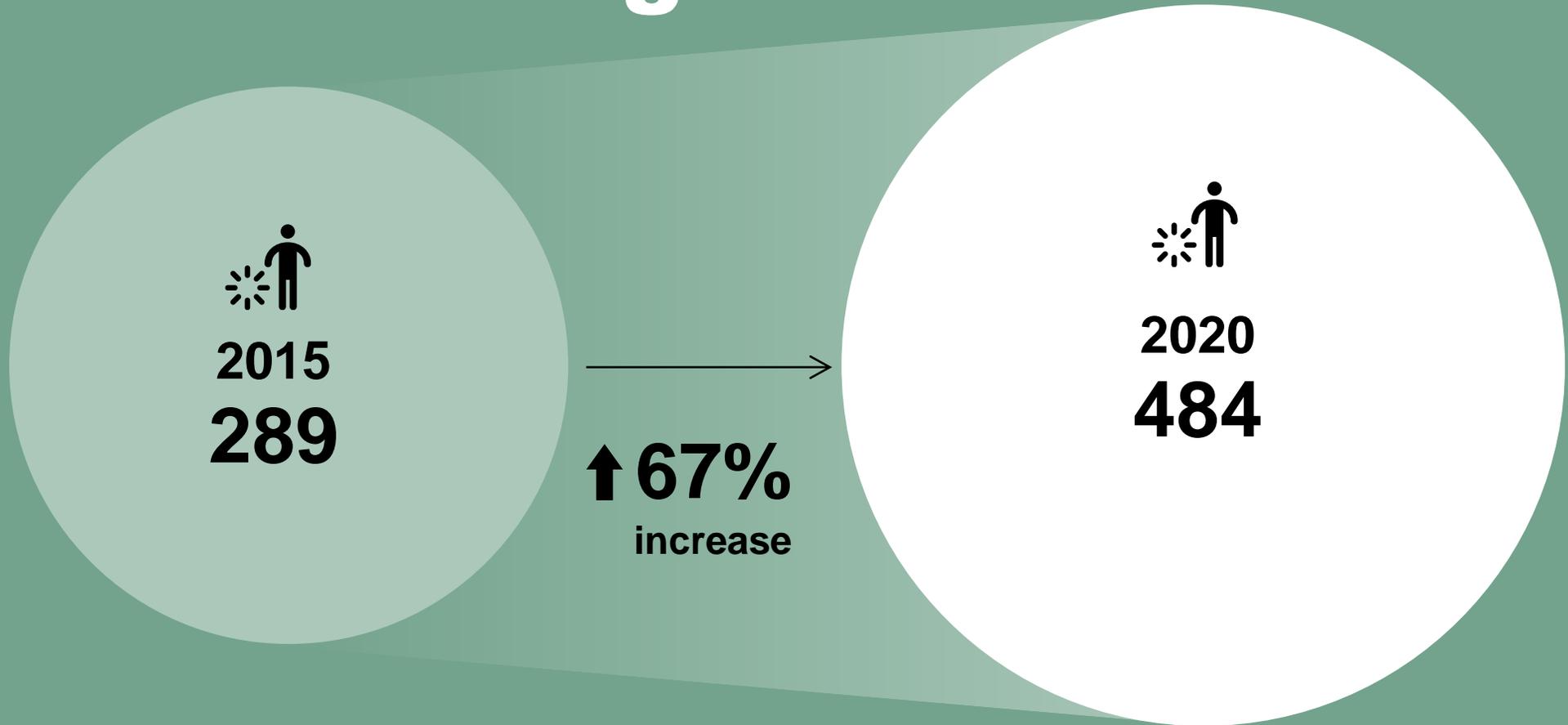
More people in need



A photograph of a war-torn city street. The buildings are heavily damaged, with exposed concrete and missing windows. Debris is scattered on the ground. Two people are walking away from the camera down the street. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

As humanitarian caseloads grew, the enabling space to address them shrank

Number of aid workers being attacked is rising



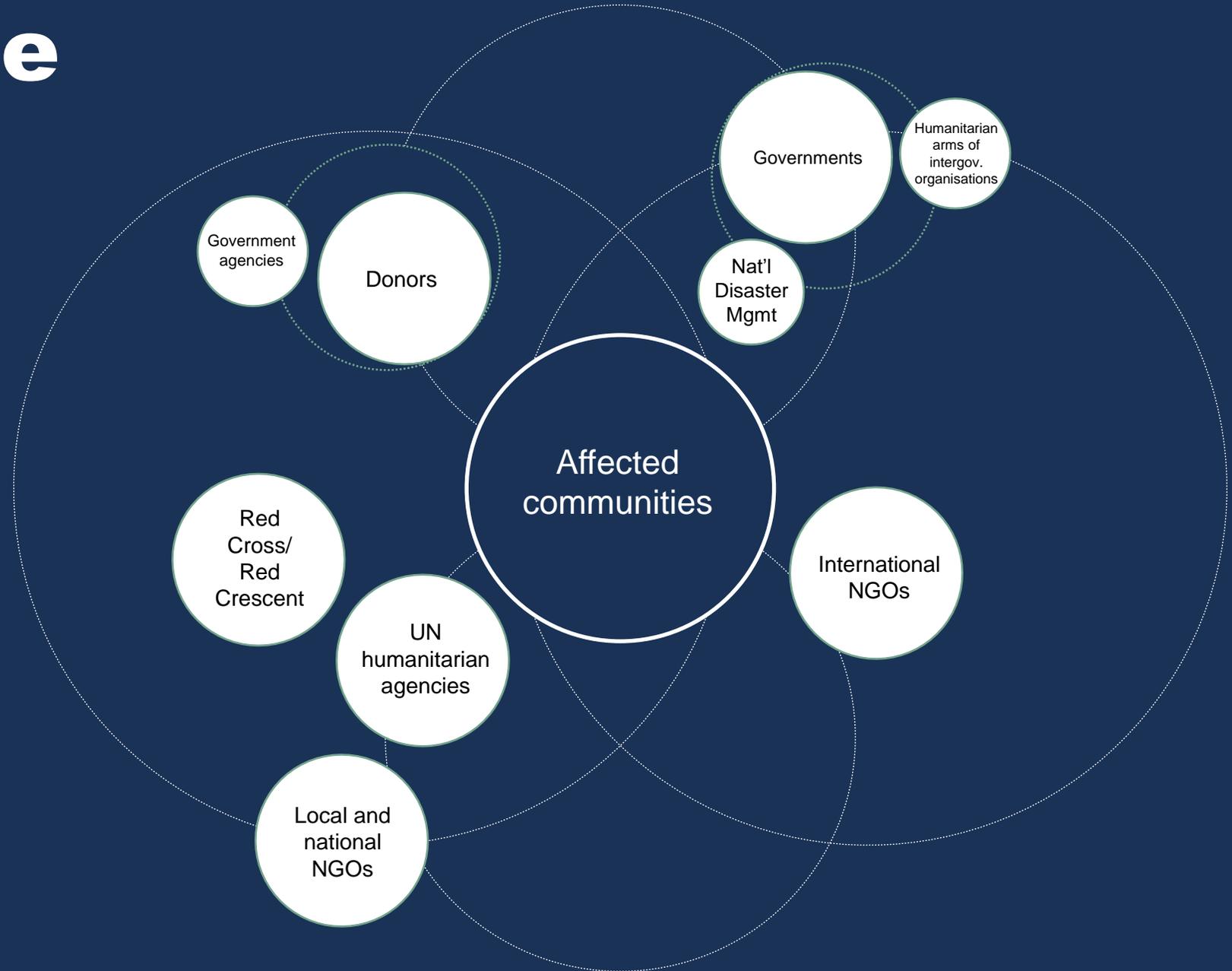


**“We’re in an
absolute crisis
of a fight for
core norms”**

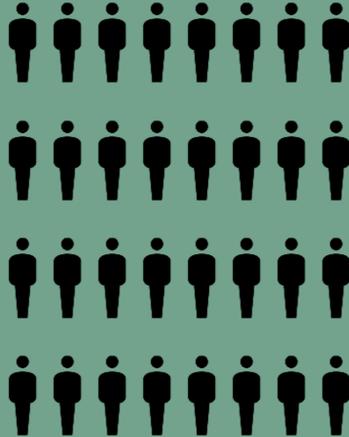


The size and capacity of the humanitarian system

What is the system?

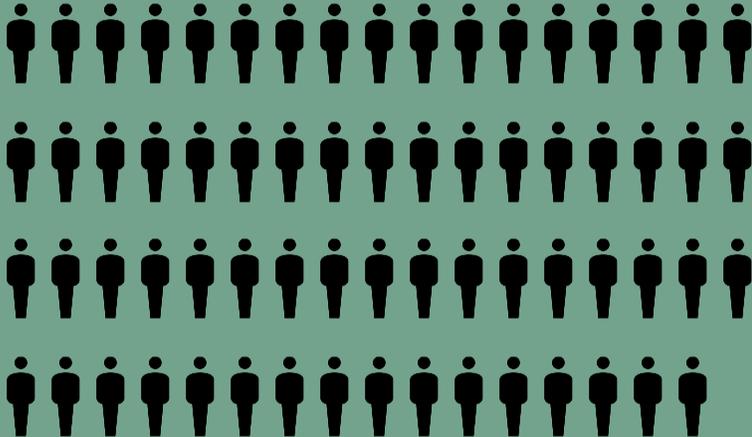


There are more staff...



2012

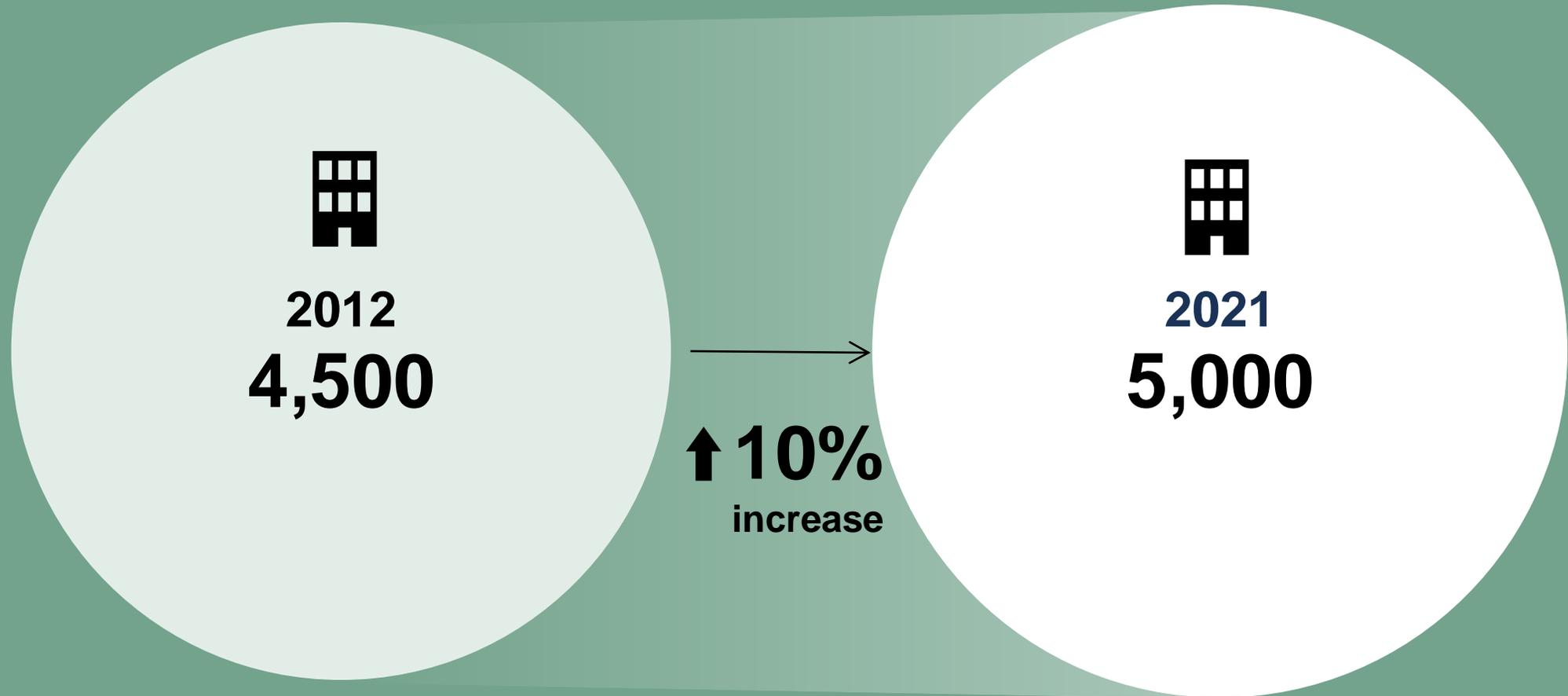
324,000



2021

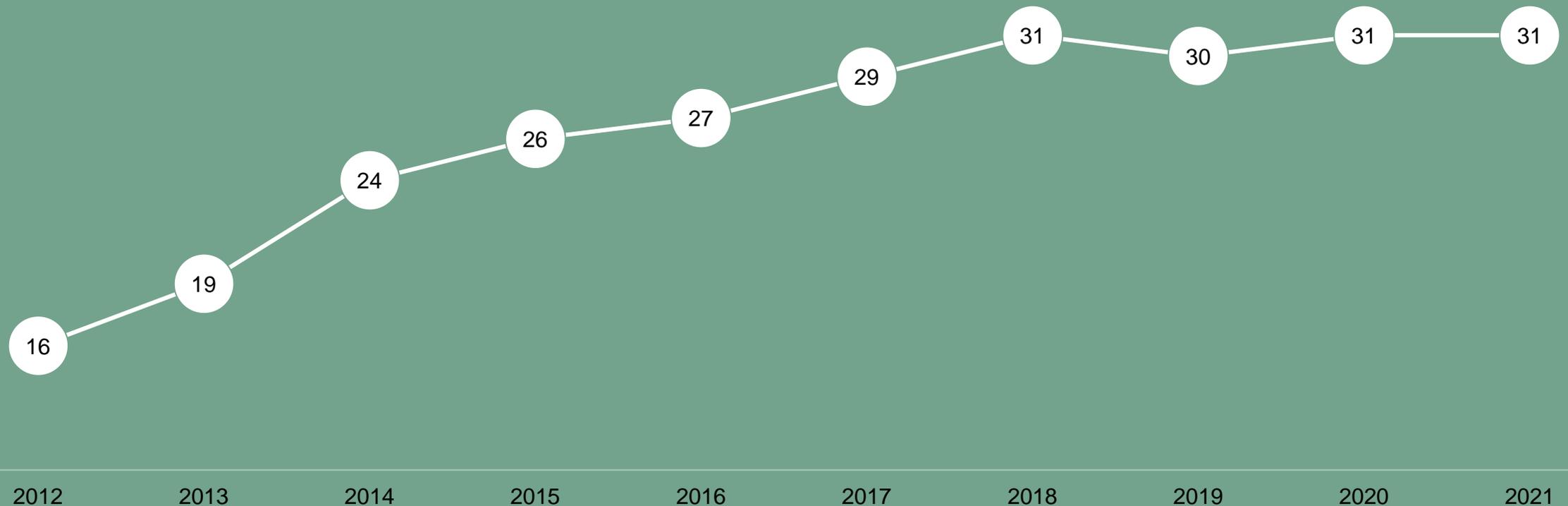
632,000

...working for more organisations



Funding doubled over a decade

International humanitarian assistance (in \$billion)

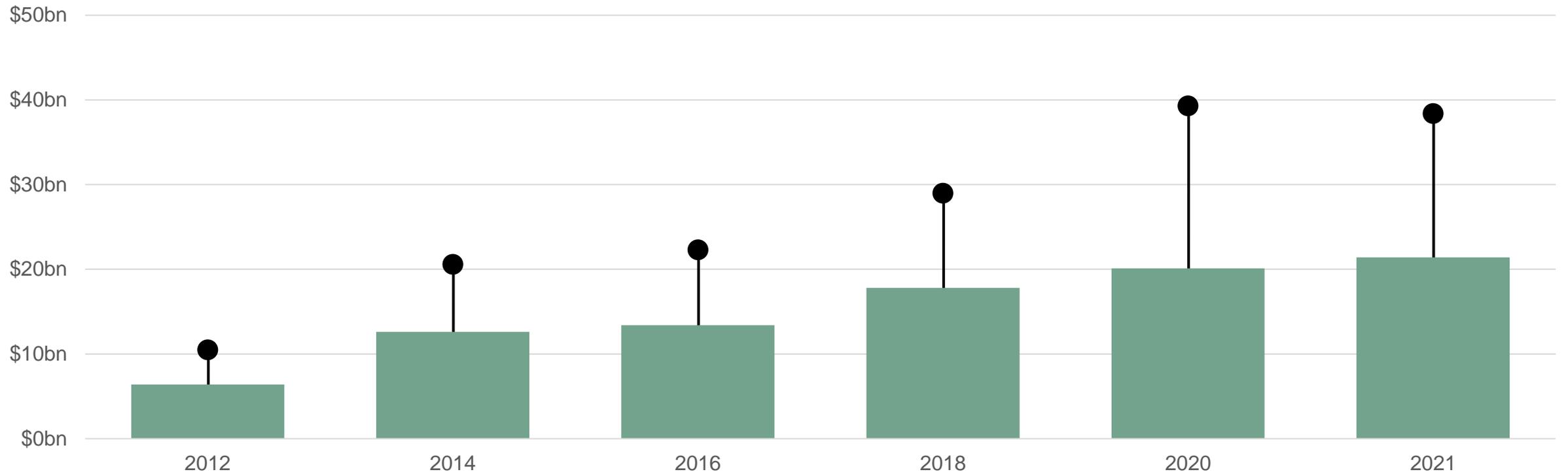


Source: Development Initiatives (DI) based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and DI's unique dataset for private contributions.

... but funding didn't keep pace with requirements

Funding and unmet requirements, UN-coordinated appeals, 2012–2021

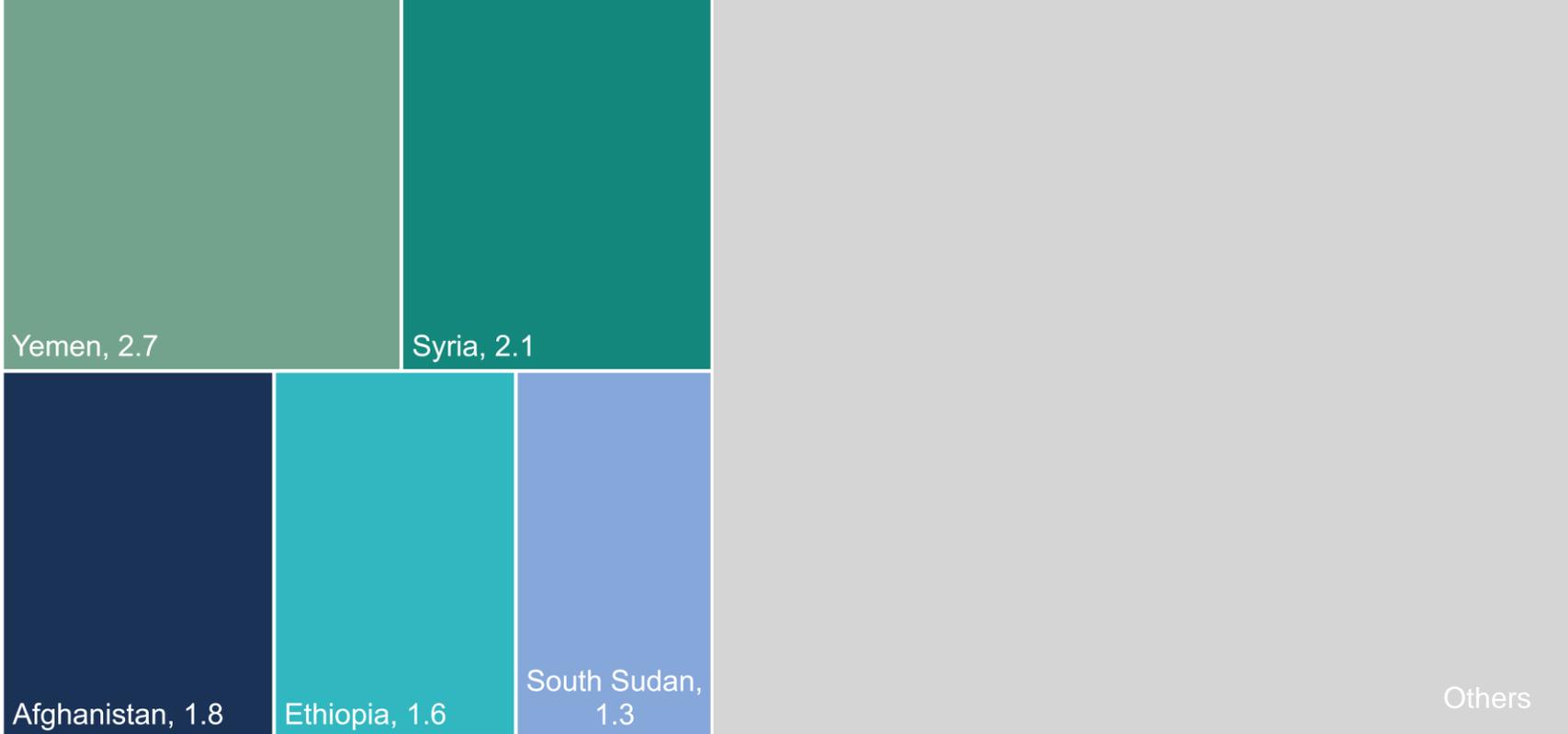
■ Total funding ● Total requirements



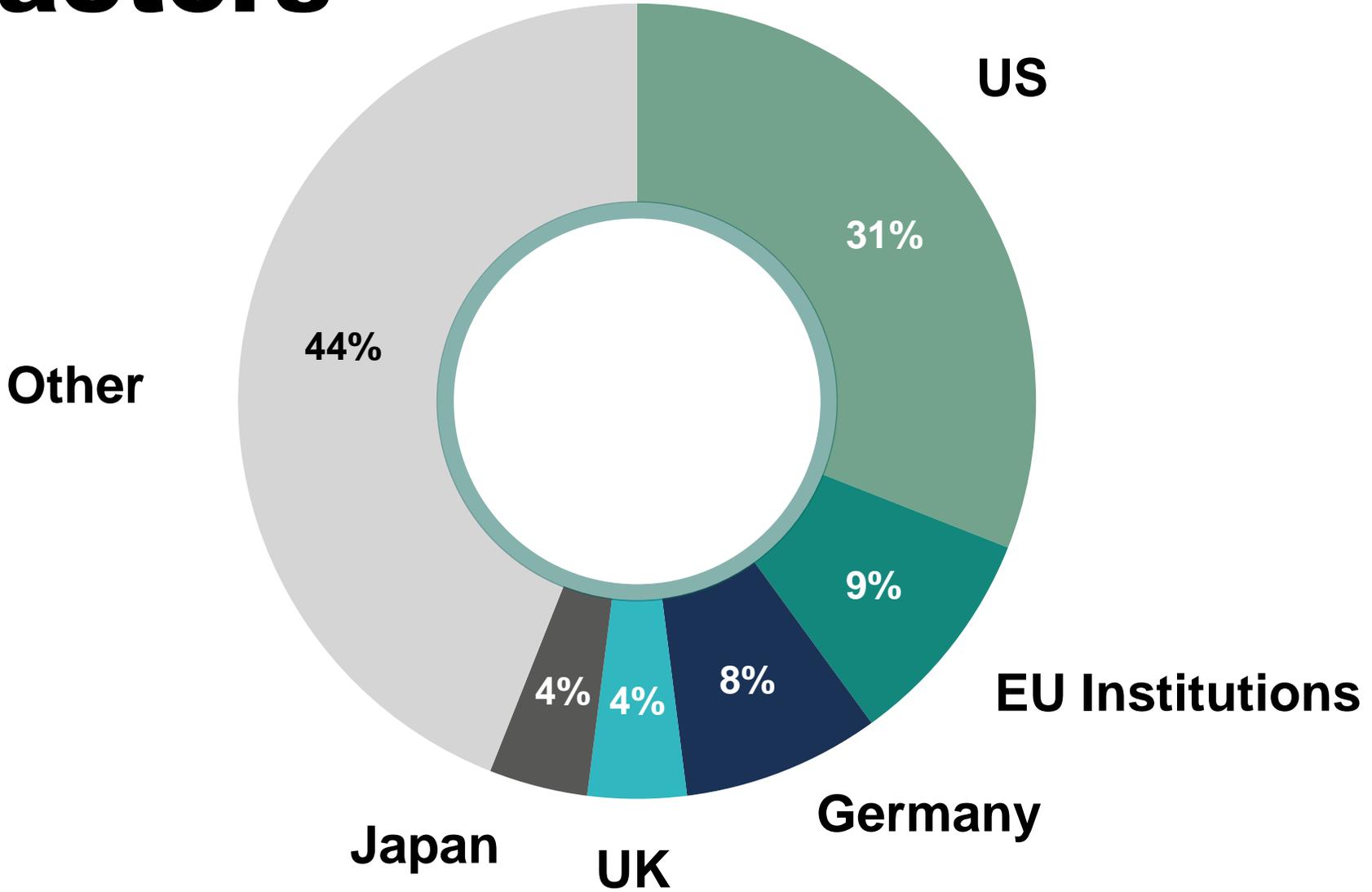
Concentration to a handful of countries

Around 40% of aid went to just five countries

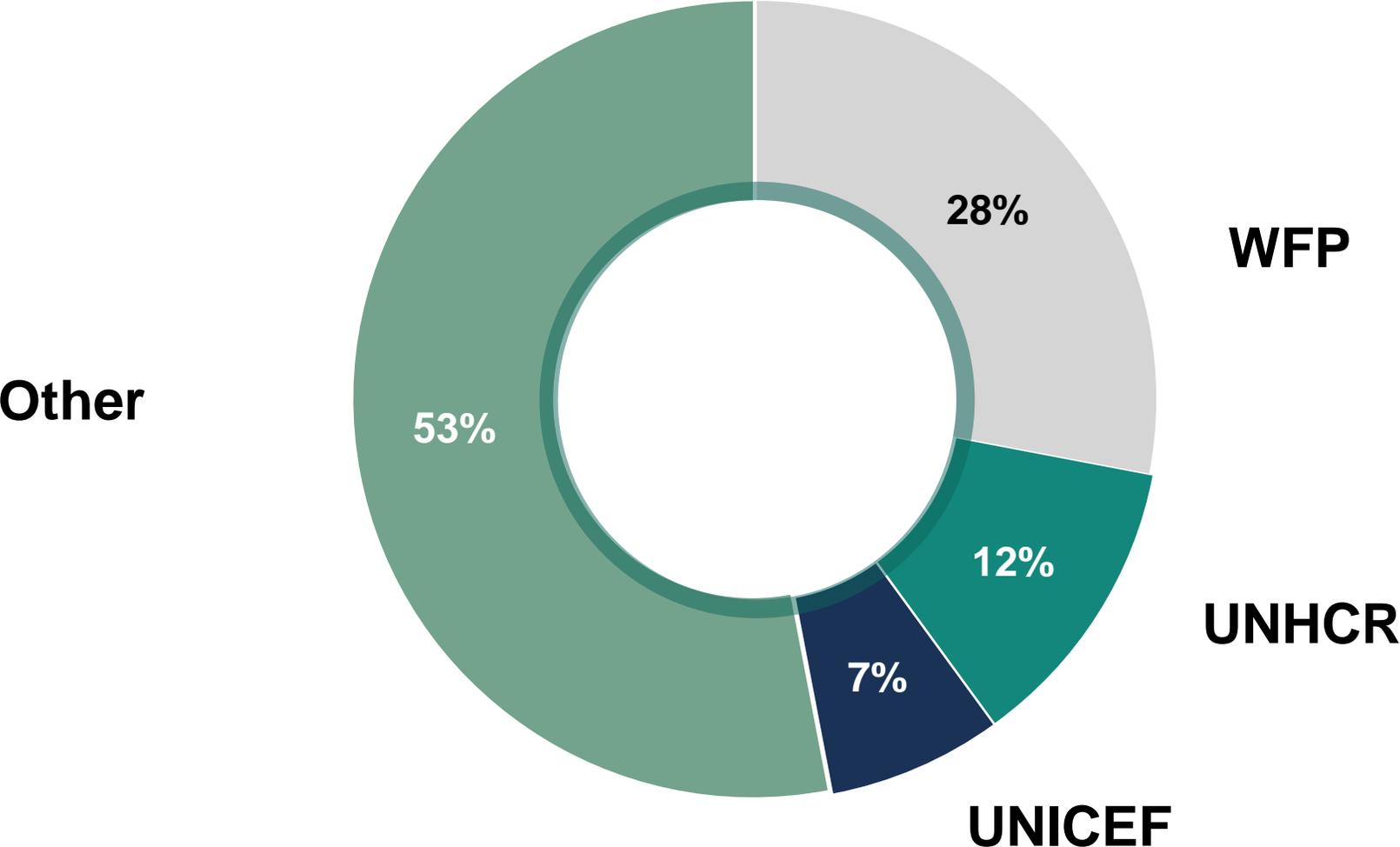
Amount in USD (bn)



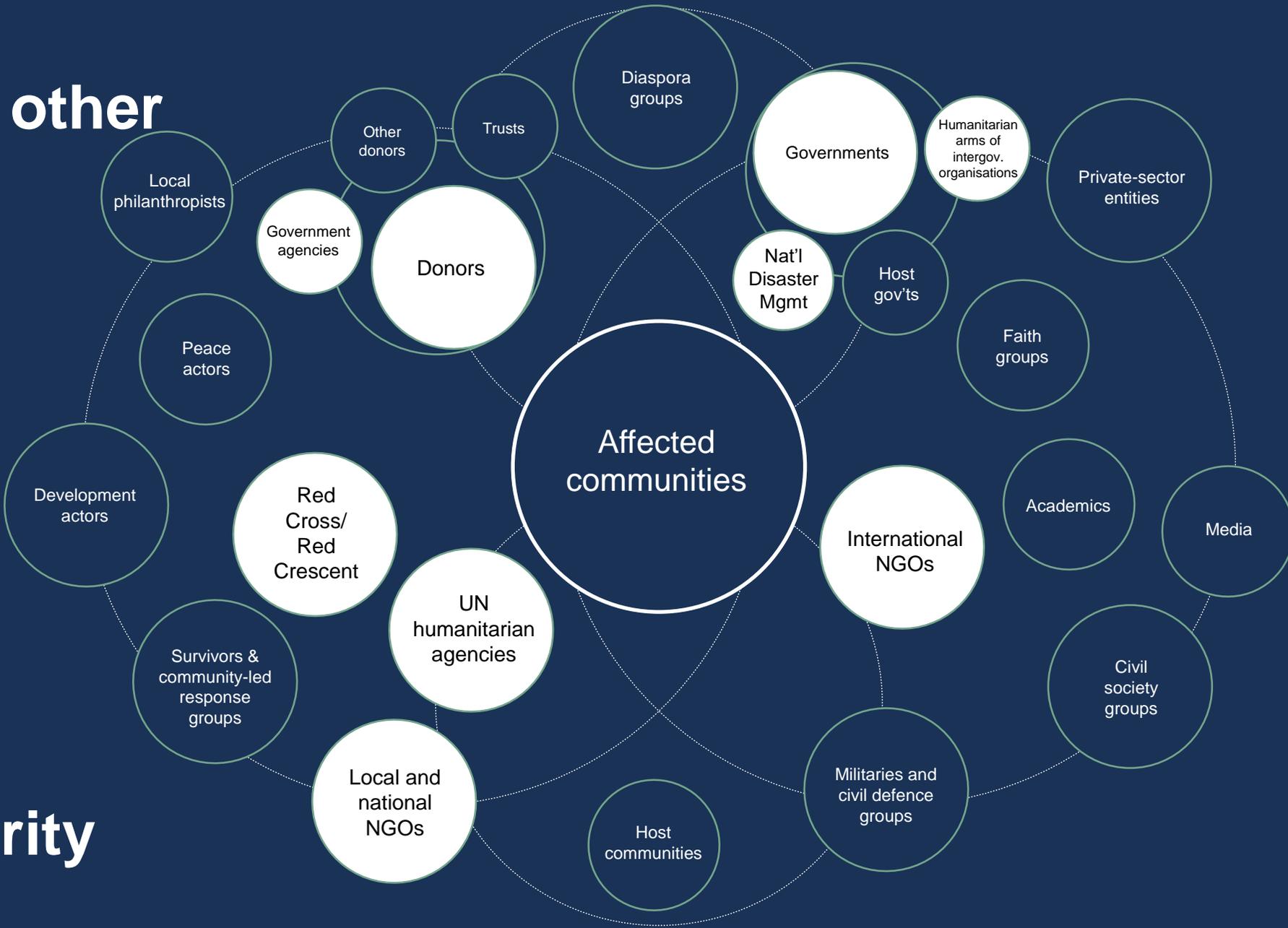
In 2021, 57% of funding provided by top 5 actors



47% of funding over 2018-2021 went directly to 3 agencies



Growing awareness of other sources of support...



...but little complementarity



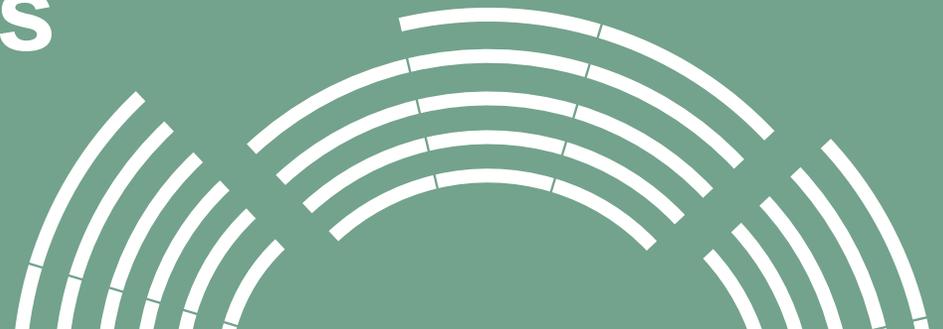
**The
performance of
the system**



How well did the system work?

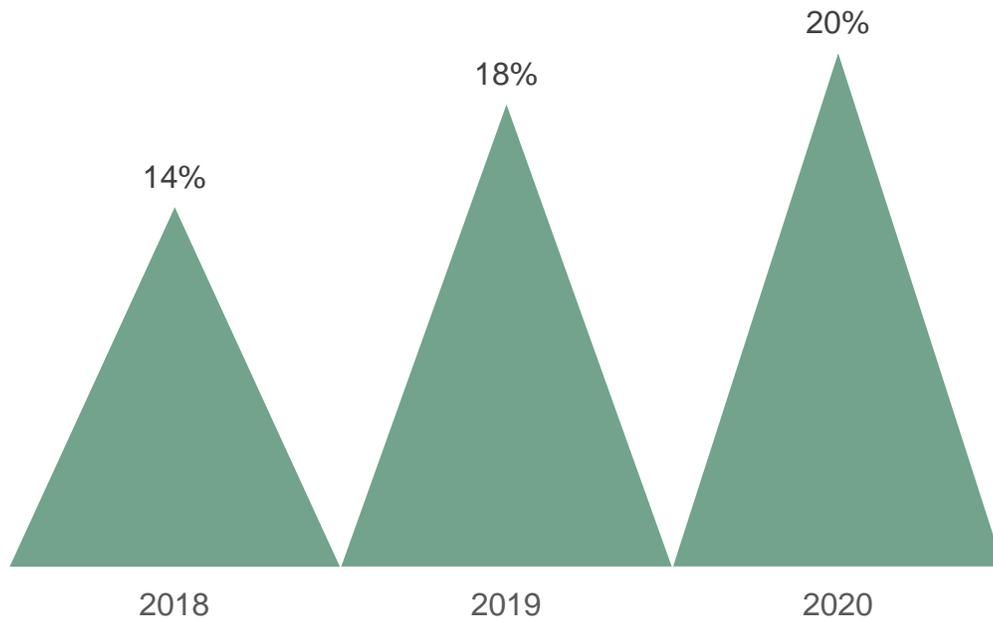
Gaps in measuring outcomes

**But clear evidence of effectiveness
across sectors**



Cash: effective and growing

Proportion of funding for humanitarian cash and voucher assistance out of total IHA, 2018-2021



Positive outcomes



Improved educational outcomes



Improved food security & diet diversity



Increased feelings of dignity



Lower morbidity for children under five



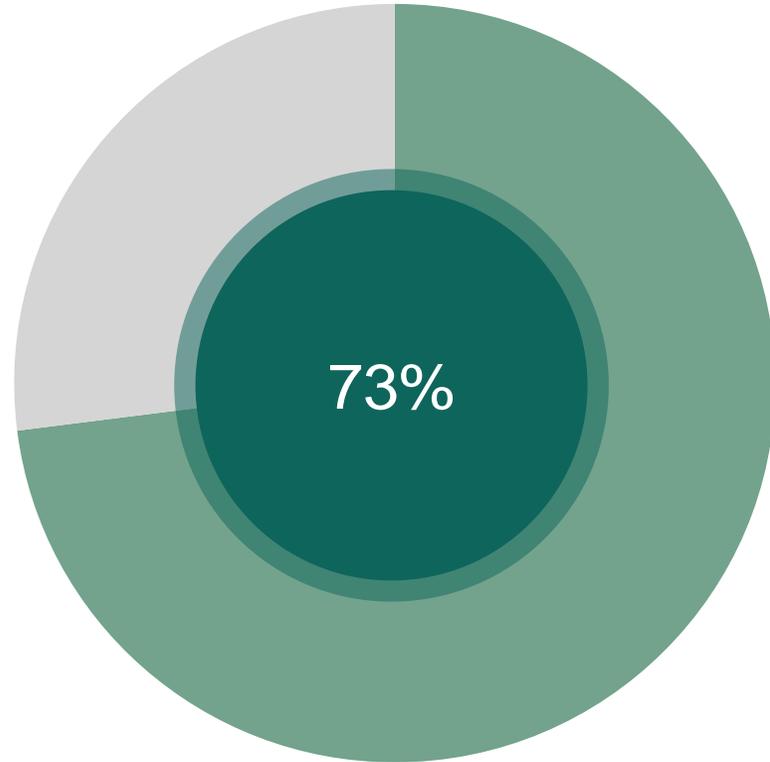
Decline in child labour & early marriage



**Preparedness and
anticipatory action
improved the timeliness
of humanitarian aid**

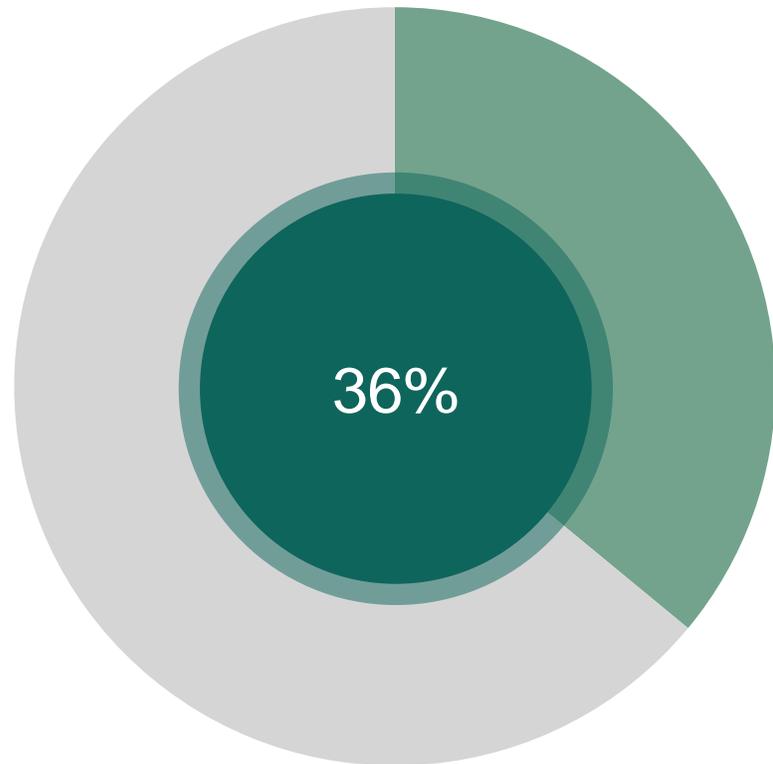
Source: ©EU/ECHO/Daniel Dickinson.

How well did the system treat affected people?



73% of aid recipients said they were treated with respect and dignity

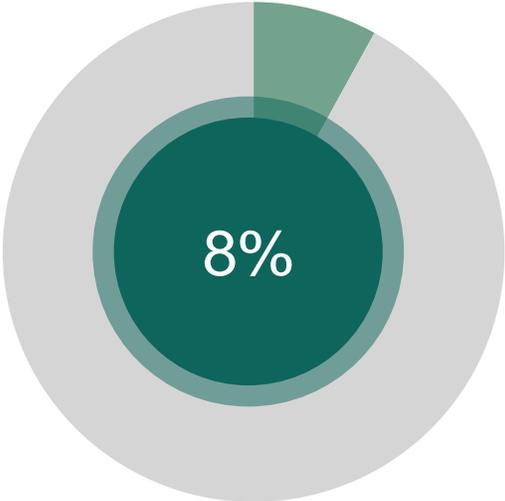
What affected people want to know: does aid go to the right people?



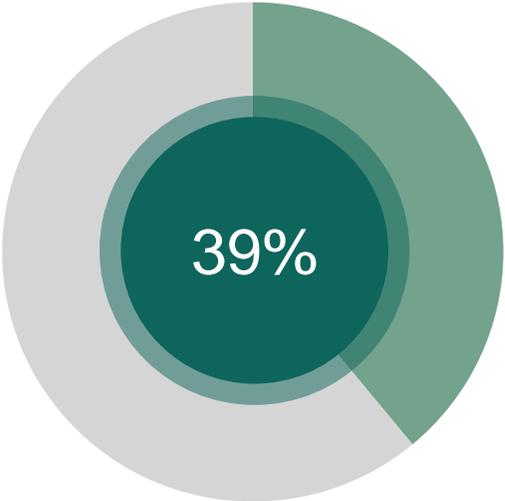
Only 36% of recipients said aid went to those who needed it most.

Shrinking space has real impact on people in crisis

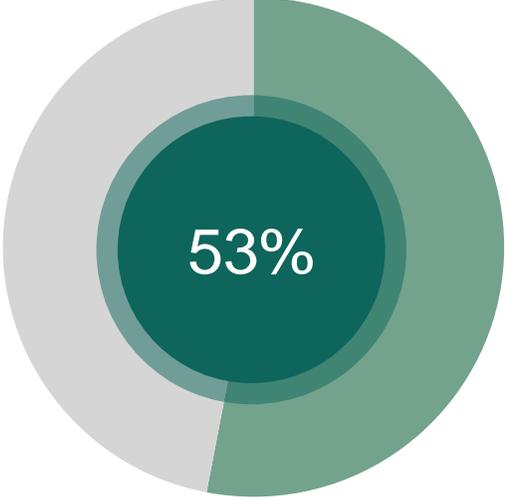
Were you satisfied with the amount of aid you received?



Tigray



Oromia region



Somali region

New and old targeting challenges

- **Confusion about criteria**
- **Different ideas of fairness**
- **Interference and diversion**
- **Applying gender, age, disability guidelines**



Engagement leads to better performance

Survey respondents consulted about the aid they were receiving were:

2.2

times

more likely to say that aid addressed their priority needs

2.5

times

more likely to say that the amount of aid was sufficient

2.7

times

more likely to say that the aid they received was of good quality

COVID slowed engagement progress

**Only one in three
aid recipients said they
could provide feedback or complain...**

... the same as in 2018

**Challenges in gathering feedback and
responding**



& lack of adaptation to duration of crises is impacting relevance

34% of aid recipients said aid addressed their priority needs...

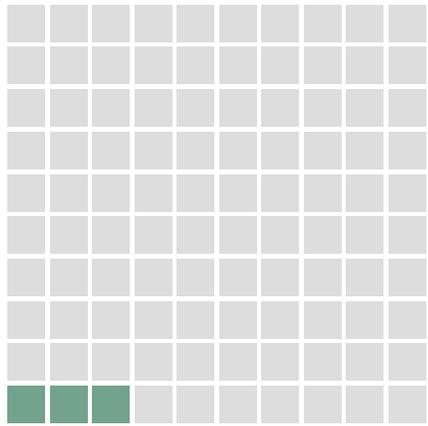
... Slightly less than 2018 (39%)



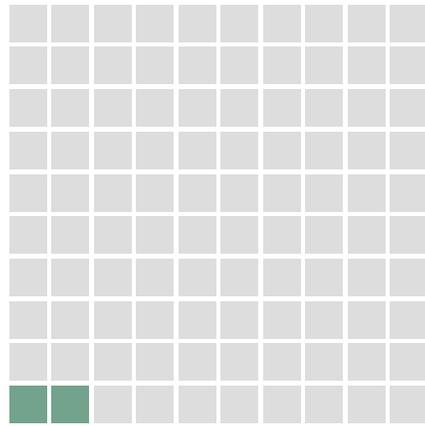


Commitments, Change and contestation

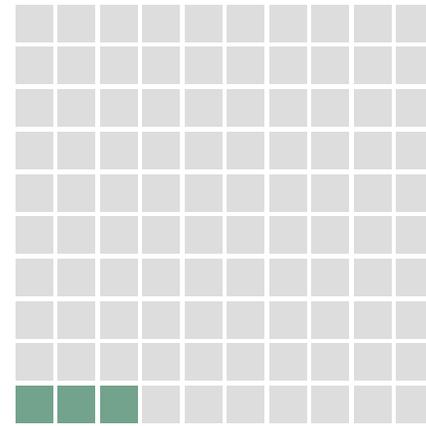
Direct international humanitarian funding to national and local actors, 2018–2021



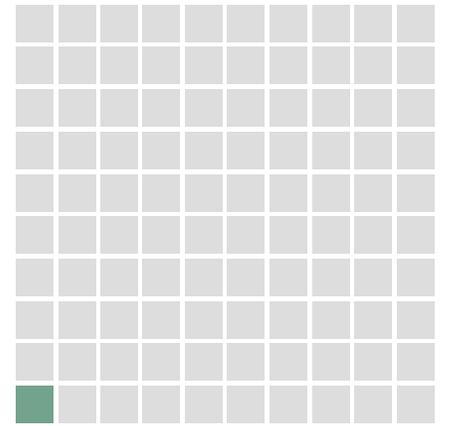
3.3%
2018



1.8%
2019



3%
2020



1.2%
2021

A step change in nexus thinking

People in protracted crises said aid didn't give long-term solutions

Multiple initiatives after 'triple nexus' recommendation

But three quarters of practitioners said nexus progress was only 'fair' or 'poor'.



**Durable solutions and
responsibility sharing for displaced
people were
distant
prospects**



A growing focus on climate and environment

Increasing awareness of the system's environmental impact

Threats of bigger and recurrent disasters

Commitments are increasing but impact is unclear





Taking stock

What have we learned?

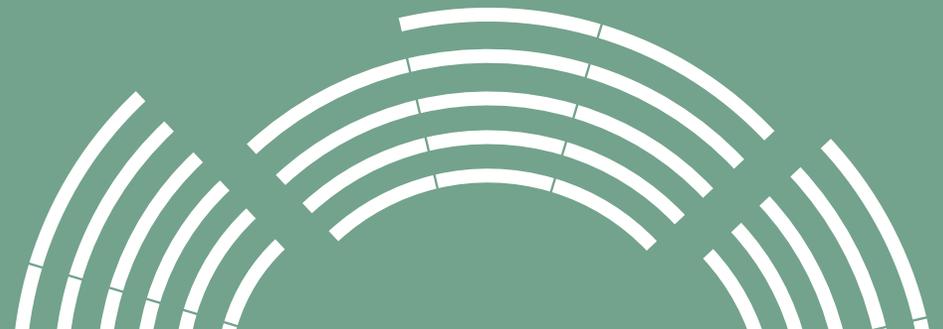
In sum, the system is:

- **larger but not in proportion to the size of the problem**
- **effective but narrowly so**
- **evolving, but slowly**
- **not putting affected people fully at the centre**
- **under increasing pressure**





Reaffirming solidarity with people affected by crisis

- ambitious for affected people
 - humble about the system's role
- 

Read the 2022 SOHS online

sohs.alnap.org





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