Humanitarian aid takes a hit in 2012

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Total humanitarian aid fell from $19.4 billion in 2011 to $17.9 billion in 2012 according to this year’s Global Humanitarian Assistance report, a fall of 8%. The report brands 2012 as the “year of recurring disasters”, with no mega-disasters like Haiti or the Japanese tsunami to galvanise support for humanitarian assistance. But that isn’t to say need for humanitarian assistance has lessened, with only 62.7% of the requirements for the United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process being funded, making 2012 the year when the smallest proportion of needs have been met for over a decade. The report also reveals the devastating impact of famine in Somalia, with estimates of the death toll between 2010-12 reaching 257,500, approximately 4.6% of the country’s population.

While the reports of human suffering and a negative trend in funding are sobering, the report does highlight ways in which actors are doing more with what they have. These initiatives include greater use of cash transfer programs, increasing access to information, improved coordination and leadership and access to new technologies.

The report also highlights the growing diversity in the humanitarian assistance landscape, with non-DAC donors contributions (in large part thanks to Turkey’s huge surge in contributions) increasing to $1.4 billion (18% of total humanitarian aid).

The report anticipates Syria will be a prominent feature of humanitarian aid this year and therefore of next year’s publication.
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS

How much humanitarian assistance was given?

International humanitarian response
US$17.9 billion
2011 US$10.4bn

Private voluntary contributions
US$5.0 billion
2011 US$5.7bn

Governments
US$12.9 billion
2011 US$13.6bn

DAC donors
US$11.6 billion
2011 US$13.8bn

Non-DAC donors
US$1.4 billion
2011 US$0.8bn

Where does it come from?

Top 5 donors
- Sweden US$3.84 billion
- Turkey US$1.6 billion
- United Kingdom US$1.2 billion
- EU institutions US$1.9 billion
- United States US$3.8 billion

Top 3 most generous donors
- Luxembourg 0.15%
- Sweden 0.14%
- Turkey 0.13%

How does it get there?

- Humanitarian assistance is channelled through
- Red Cross 6%
- Multilateral organisations 56%
- NGOs 26%
- Public sector 7%

United States
US$493 million
Largest decrease 2012

Turkey
US$775 million
Largest increase 2012
What was the need?

**NEEDS MET**
- Highest: Zimbabwe 86%
- Lowest: Liberia 38%

**Targeted beneficiaries**
- 2011: 93 million
- 2012: 76 million

Unmet needs 2012: US$3.3 billion (37.3%)

Where does humanitarian assistance go?

Top 5 recipients

- Ethiopia: US$681 million
- Afghanistan: US$771 million
- West Bank & Gaza Strip: US$849 million
- Somalia: US$1.1 billion
- Pakistan: US$1.4 billion

What is it spent on?

- Cash transfer programmes: US$76 million (2011)
- Disaster prevention and preparedness: US$532 million (2011)

Note: Using latest available data