The European Union, together with its Member States, is the world’s leading humanitarian aid donor. In 2019, the EU helped millions of people in more than 80 countries.

In 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection, a significant increase from 130 million people in 2018. The needs are increasing because of the coronavirus pandemic, among other factors. It is having major health, social and economic impacts on societies around the globe, in particular on the poorest countries and vulnerable people already facing conflict, displacement, natural disasters and the effect of climate change.

EU humanitarian aid is needs-based. It goes directly to people requiring assistance, irrespective of their nationality, religion, gender, ethnic origin or political affiliation.

EU humanitarian aid is delivered exclusively through our humanitarian partners, including NGOs, United Nations agencies and other international organisations.

2019 Humanitarian aid budget share per sector

- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Education in emergencies
- Shelter and settlements
- Others
- Health
- Protection
- Cash transfers for people in need
- Food security, livelihoods, nutrition
EU CRISIS RESPONSE WORLDWIDE

1. The EU operates a network of 50 humanitarian field offices with 465 staff spread over 40 countries. This enables us to act fast and coordinate crisis response worldwide.

2. EU humanitarian aid provides emergency funding for essential supplies, such as food, water, shelter, healthcare and education, including meeting the needs stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

- Western Balkans
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- Syria, Jordan, Lebanon
- Iraq
- Myanmar, Bangladesh
- Yemen
- Horn of Africa
- Caribbean
- Colombia, Venezuela
- West Africa, DRC and CAR

EU HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE NEXT EU BUDGET

Humanitarian crises in the world are increasing due to conflict, the global refugee crisis and worsening natural disasters due to climate change. Today, 1 in 45 people in the world need humanitarian assistance, compared to 1 in 57 people at the end of 2018. The coronavirus pandemic poses an additional danger to millions of people worldwide. It is estimated that up to 265 million people could be under severe threat of hunger by the end of 2020 due to the effects of the pandemic*. This calls for a strong reinforcement of the humanitarian aid budget, drawing on the new, €750 billion emergency instrument ‘Next Generation EU’.

To provide more flexibility to react to unforeseen challenges, the Commission is also proposing to reinforce the EU’s Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, a special instrument to respond to emergencies and catastrophes inside or outside the European Union.

The European Commission proposes a 36% increase for EU Humanitarian Aid

2014-2020: €10.9 billion
2021-2027: €14.8 billion*,
of which €5 billion under Next Generation EU (initial budget)

* in constant price

* OCHA Humanitarian overview 2020