



Underfunding and the Cost of Inaction:

How to address one of the main challenges to humanitarian response

*Wednesday 26 June 2024, from 1:15-2:30pm in Conference Room 7,
UNHQ, New York*

Sponsors/Organizers: OCHA

Background and Objectives: The overarching theme for this event focuses on the major challenges of underfunding towards coordinated humanitarian action worldwide. The lack of funding for humanitarian response efforts has significant and far-reaching impacts on affected populations, exacerbating their vulnerability and prolonging their suffering. Difficult decisions have been taken by humanitarian partners in relation to addressing the most pressing and urgent humanitarian needs. It highlights the real costs that underfunding has on humanitarian operations and people requiring assistance. Furthermore, it explores what humanitarian organisations, Member States and donors, host governments and local communities, and development partners need to do to mitigate the negative impact and maintain principled and sufficient humanitarian aid.

For the first time since 2010, the global humanitarian community in 2023 received less money against coordinated appeals than the previous year, with devastating consequences for crisis-affected communities. Only 40 per cent of the \$57 billion appealed for in 2023 was received and, despite stretching their resources, humanitarians reached only 62 per cent of the people they aimed to assist. In an increasingly challenging funding environment, humanitarian partners worked tirelessly to produce robust humanitarian needs analysis and developed clearer boundaries around humanitarian responses. Despite this recalibration, the humanitarian funding outlook for 2024 and beyond remains bleak and concerning.

This event aims to:

- Present the mid-year funding status of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) and highlight major funding gaps.
- Offer a broader picture of the funding landscape in crisis-affected countries, including development funding streams.
- Raise awareness of the continued increase in humanitarian needs, the widening funding gaps, and priorities.
- Describe the cost of inaction on the most vulnerable people in some of the most underfunded crises and potential countermeasures.

Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of underfunding and the cost of inaction, that will contribute to advocacy efforts for timely, predictable and sufficient funding and appropriate mitigation measures, and address under-funded crisis situations.

Discussion Points or Guiding Questions:





- What is the current status of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO), including the number of people in need across the 70 countries covered by UN-coordinated plans and funding gaps as of mid-2024?
- With increasing conflicts, limited access, and shortfall of funding, what measures have been adopted to gain efficiencies and respond to the needs of people in a growing complex environment.
- Given it is not business as usual, what are some of the concrete actions or proposed solutions that the international community can offer to help bridge this gap?
- What innovations have been introduced and what strategies are there for mitigating potential funding shortfalls?

Moderator:

- **Ms. Michelle Nichols** - Reuters Bureau Chief at the UN, NY

Panel Composition:

- **OCHA – Name TBC -**
- **Development Initiatives – TBC**
- **Donor / Partner Representative – EU/ECHO**
- **NGO Representative – World Vision or NRC**
- **Private Sector Representative – Miyamoto International**

- **Contacts:**

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