



COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL

OVERVIEW

In the absence of a vaccine or widely available effective treatment, COVID-19 will continue to have significant implications on people of concern to UNHCR. With the second wave of the pandemic already being felt, border closures are likely to continue to affect access to asylum and territory.

The economic downturn means many people of concern, particularly urban populations, have lost or seen a major reduction in their income and are struggling to meet their basic needs. UNHCR monitoring indicates that 74% of refugees can only meet half or less of their basic needs. With the World Bank predicting the deepest global recession since WWII, these needs will deepen, further compounding vulnerabilities.

There has also been a global spike in gender-based violence among people of concern with increased levels of intimate partner incidents,

a heightened risk of violence for women engaging in the sale and exchange of sex, and a higher risk of child marriage and teenage pregnancy. Gender inequalities are deepening: many women and girls are seeing their access to assistance and services limited even further and their unpaid care responsibilities increasing.

And of course, COVID-19 has disrupted education. Before the pandemic, of the 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, about 7.4 million were of school age, of whom some 48% were out of school. The COVID-19 pandemic could cause this number to rise as children fail to return to school, are unable to pass examinations, or drop out due to economic pressures or early marriage and pregnancy.

To respond to these needs, UNHCR is therefore urgently appealing for \$455 million.

How is UNHCR responding?

UNHCR has taken a two-pronged approach to its COVID-19-related planning: (1) maintain ongoing COVID-19 programming, particularly in the health, WASH, shelter and protection sectors (mainstreaming) and (2) ramp up programming focused the exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts of COVID-19 and protection sectors (supplementary needs).

Mainstreamed activities

Building on lessons learned in 2020, in 2021 UNHCR will work to maintain the same levels of responsiveness, adaptability and flexibility, whilst strengthening resilience as staff and people of concern adjust to living and working with COVID-19 in the medium term.

As part of its ongoing response to COVID-19, UNHCR will continue to advocate the inclusion of people of concern into national health services and COVID-19 response plans and strategies, including through activities to rehabilitate, construct and equip public infrastructure and adapt services to increase absorption capacity in key sectors. At the same time, country operations will continue supporting authorities to implement basic measures to prevent the spread of the virus in camps and settlements. This includes enhancing health staff capacity and community health workers to strengthen active surveillance and investigation of COVID-19 cases, supporting the creation or upgrading of quarantine and isolation facilities, providing COVID-19 testing, procuring medicines and PPE and maintaining and improving WASH at hospitals, clinics, reception and transit and communal facilities and schools, as well as community outreach on hygiene best practices.

UNHCR will also step up protection monitoring and community engagement activities given the increasing number of individuals who are at-risk, as well as adapting protection case

management by applying COVID-19 protocols including for registration and counselling to allow these critical activities to proceed remotely where necessary. UNHCR will also intensify its work to ensure that people of concern have access to civil and identity documentation to safeguard access to crucial employment, financial and public services as well as to reduce risks of statelessness. UNHCR will continue to advocate for access to asylum in spite of pandemic-related restrictions, including through support to authorities and the provision of legal assistance. UNHCR will also adapt its voluntary repatriation procedures to take into account COVID-19, including additional buses to allow physical distancing and the provision of PPE. UNHCR will also step up its efforts to improve living conditions through repairing, upgrading and extended existing shelter to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on displaced persons.

Supplementary needs

This mainstreamed response will be augmented with a supplementary appeal for additional activities, in particular those that were not or could not be part of the regular planning exercise. The supplementary response thus focuses on exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts related to COVID-19 as millions of people of concern fall into conditions of extreme hardship. Activities to respond to these needs have been included as six priorities within the supplementary appeal.

Prioritized areas of response



Reducing vulnerability through cash assistance,

helping meet basic needs and facilitating access to services. It will also achieve specific protection outcomes resulting from the pandemic, in such areas as gender-based violence and child protection, and support governments as part of their national social protection response.



Protecting incomes and livelihoods,

through short to medium-term interventions; limited start-up capital; consumption and enterprise support; market linkages and value chain assessment; and supporting agricultural investment to improve food security.



Preventing and responding to gender-based violence,

in particular strengthening the availability, accessibility and quality of GBV case management, including remote case management, and response programming; expanding prevention activities; strengthening national systems, inter-agency coordination and partnerships with women-led organizations and groups led by forcibly displaced women/girls; as well as conducting quality analysis on GBV and strengthening GBV risk mitigation.



Promoting mental health and psychosocial wellbeing,

through training first line responders, including community outreach volunteers, community health workers and protection first responders in assisting people in distress; strengthening mental health and psychosocial well-being within protection programmes to improve protection outcomes; establishing brief psychological interventions such as Problem Management Plus or Interpersonal Therapy for Depression; strengthening identification and management of mental health conditions within general health care using the mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide; assisting people with severe or complex mental health conditions; integrating MHPSS and social and emotional learning in refugee education programmes.



Communicating and engaging with communities,

through strengthening accountability to affected populations/risk communication and community engagement (AAP/RCCE) approach to analysis of data and organizational adaptation during the COVID-19 response in 2021; strengthening community engagement and partnership with non-traditional partners to enhance AAP/RCCE; strengthening accessibility and inclusion for digital solutions for AAP and RCCE (two-way communication).



Restoring education,

including through reopening schools safely in accordance with health protocols; mitigating learning loss through investing in online and offline distance education or alternative solutions; and supporting the most vulnerable through unconditional cash grants for the most vulnerable, in particular for adolescent girls.

In addition, a limited number of critical health, WASH and shelter activities that could not be mainstreamed into regular programming are included, as well as a small global stockpile of key items to respond rapidly to needs and safeguards shortages of PPE or instability on global markets; ensuring a capacity to respond to major new COVID-19 outbreaks in 2021 and providing logistical support where necessary for the delivery of vaccines to people of concern. There will as well be a small provision for key business continuity elements for UNHCR in the pandemic.

Funding the response

Considering activities already mainstreamed into the Global Appeal, plus supplementary needs, UNHCR's total financial requirements for COVID-19-related activities in 2021 will be approximately \$932 million. Of that amount, this supplementary appeal requests \$455 million for activities needs related to the exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts of COVID, as well as a limited number of critical health, WASH and shelter needs, as outlined above, and in the financial tables below.

Mainstreamed, supplementary and revised total needs for COVID-19-related activities by region/global | USD millions

Region/Global	ExCom approved budget (mainstreamed*)	Supplementary budget	Revised total requirements
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	72	94	166
Southern Africa	19	20	39
West and Central Africa	66	25	91
The Americas	41	74	115
Asia and the Pacific	87	45	132
Europe	33	14	47
Middle East and North Africa	151	128	279
<i>Field operations sub-total</i>	469	400	869
Global stockpile, outbreak response, vaccine delivery support	-	50	50
Business continuity	-	5	5
<i>Global sub-total</i>	-	55	55
TOTAL	469	455	924

* Figures for the mainstreamed portion of the budget are tentative and will be reviewed as operations finalize detailed planning for 2021 over the coming weeks. This amount also includes a portion of requirements related to the exceptional socioeconomic and protection impacts of COVID-19 for which budgetary space within the ExCom-approved budget has been identified.

Supplementary needs for COVID-19-related activities by theme and by region/global | USD millions

Region/Global	Reducing vulnerability through cash assistance	Protecting incomes and livelihoods	Preventing and responding to gender-based violence	Communicating and engaging with communities	Education	MHPSS	Exceptional activities	Total
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	22	17	6	5	31	11	1	93
Southern Africa	5	3	2	1	5	2	3	20
West and Central Africa	8	6	3	1	5	1	-	24
The Americas	19	15	5	8	5	4	18	74
Asia and the Pacific	20	3	3	3	1	2	14	45
Europe	12	-	1	1	-	1	-	14
Middle East and North Africa	88	5	4	4	8	6	13	128
<i>Field operations sub-total</i>	173	50	24	24	55	26	49	400
Global stockpile, outbreak response, vaccine delivery support	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Business continuity	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
<i>Global sub-total</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	55
TOTAL	173	50	24	24	55	26	104	455