

Humanitarian Appeal seeking \$7.4 billion launched in Qatar

The 2011 Humanitarian Appeal was launched on 30 November 2010 simultaneously in Doha, Geneva and Brussels. The Appeal is the biggest in dollar terms ever launched since the creation of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) in 1991. It requests US\$7.4 billion to help 50 million people in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Haiti, Kenya, Niger, the occupied Palestinian territory, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Zimbabwe and the West Africa region.

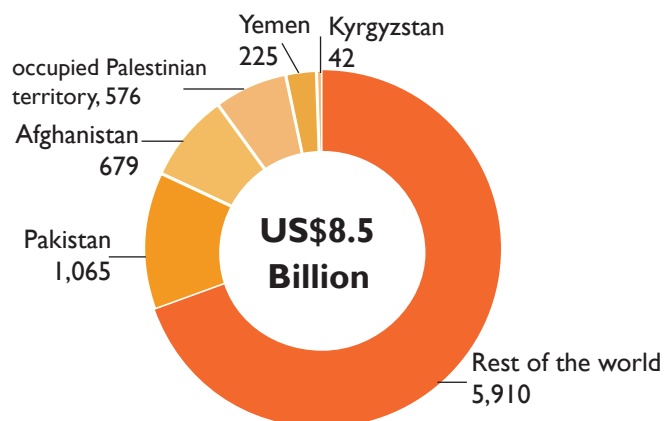
The launch in Doha was generously hosted by the Government of Qatar and included statements from H.E. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Assistant Foreign Minister for Follow-up Affairs, State of Qatar; Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; Ms. Catherine Bragg, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator; and Ali Al-Suwaidi, Qatari Humanitarian Organizations. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al-Muraikhi, Director-General in the Ministry of State for International Cooperation, moderated the event.

More than 170 people attended the launch including Doha-based diplomatic representatives, Government officials, civil society representatives and media. The launch featured a photo exhibition and screening of a short film produced especially for the event.

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2011 Requirements in MENACA in US\$ million



Total humanitarian requirements for 2011 amounts to \$8.5 billion. It includes the 2011 Consolidated Appeals (\$7.4 billion) and ongoing 2010 Flash Appeals (\$1.1 billion). The chart highlights the appeals in the MENACA region. Amounts are in million US\$. Below, photo of the launch courtesy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar.





A photo exhibition with images from humanitarian crises around the world was organized by Qatari humanitarian organizations and OCHA.

H.E. Mohamed bin Abdullah al-Rumaihi said that launching the appeal from Doha reflected Qatar's and the international community's keenness on "the necessity of joint work to alleviate the humanitarian catastrophes and disasters around the world."

"Today's launch of the appeal comes at a time when the world experiences what could be called humanitarian inaction of the international community towards the complicated crises and challenges," al-Rumaihi said. He commended Qatari charities, saying that they reach out to people affected by humanitarian crises including in Pakistan, Somalia, Indonesia, Haiti, Darfur, Yemen, and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Mr. António Guterres highlighted that "natural disasters happen twice as frequently today as they did 20 years ago and with more dramatic humanitarian impact".

Summing up the process that has led to the Humanitarian Appeal 2011, Ms. Bragg said that "UN agencies, NGOs and other international organizations have analysed the humanitarian needs and today have a concerted action plan to save lives, maintaining health and security and re-start self-sufficiency in 2011. These are the Consolidated Appeals".

Extracts from the Joint Statement of the State of Qatar and the United Nations



Questions about the Humanitarian Appeal 2011 from the audience was encouraged

"Next year, millions of people affected by humanitarian crises around the world will look to the international community to address their basic survival needs and provide services that will allow them to maintain a measure of human dignity even in the worst of circumstances. The Humanitarian Appeal 2011 is the humanitarian community's response to this urgent call."

"If adequately and timely funded, projects in the Appeal 2011 will allow the humanitarian community to help the survivors with nutritious food to eat, clean water to drink, proper sanitation facilities, shelter to protect against freezing temperatures or blistering heat, medical services, mine clearance, education and protection of the children and agricultural inputs to re-start their own food production."



From left to right: Dr. Ahmed Al-Muraikhi, António Guterres, H.E. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Catherine Bragg, Ali Al-Suwaidi.

"2010 was a rare year of two mega-disasters, the Haiti earthquake and the floods in Pakistan. Governmental and non-governmental donors rose to the challenge, allocating some \$13 billion in international humanitarian funding, the most ever recorded in a single year. Of this, the peer-reviewed and coordinated projects in Consolidated and Flash Appeals have attracted a record \$6.6 billion."

"Our call today is to maintain and hopefully increase this level of generosity in 2011. We urge the international community - governments, organizations, individuals and private funds and charities - to listen to the call of the millions in need and provide the relief and rehabilitation necessary through the humanitarian organizations working on the ground, in the midst of the emergencies, striving to fulfil the noble humanitarian mandate of addressing human suffering wherever it is found. We all have our individual roles to play. What bind us together are strong and enduring partnerships in the service of humanity."

More information about the Humanitarian Appeal 2011:
 English: <http://unocha.romenaca.org/Default.aspx?tabid=190>
 Arabic: <http://unocha.romenaca.org/Default.aspx?tabid=192>



Kyrgyzstan: UN and Partners seek additional Funds for humanitarian Services

United Nations agencies and their partners in Kyrgyzstan have appealed for US\$42 million to enable them to continue providing humanitarian assistance to more than 800,000 people affected by the unrest that rocked the southern region of the country in June.

The clashes in the southern cities of Osh and Jalalabad between Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks uprooted nearly 400,000 and many fled to neighbouring Uzbekistan. Many other people were indirectly affected by the violence.

"The traumatized population, not least the children and other vulnerable groups, continue to require a coordinated response by the international community," said Neal Walker, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan.

"The events and their fallout have had a profound impact on the social and economic situation in the country and the resulting humanitarian needs are still with us. However, I remain positive that should the situation remain stable, these needs can be addressed during the first half of 2011," he added.

The Kyrgyzstan Extended and Revised Flash Appeal was launched 24 November and builds on the original 18 June Flash Appeal, which was revised to \$96.4 million to reflect the rapid return of the displaced population and the results of needs assessments.

Humanitarian programmes listed in the original appeal have received \$51 million at the end of November, leaving the revised appeal 55 per cent funded. A quarter of the funding came from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which is managed by OCHA.

The UN and humanitarian partners in Kyrgyzstan have agreed with the Government to extend the humanitarian Flash Appeal for Kyrgyzstan for an additional six months, until the end of June next year.
<http://kg.humanitarianresponse.info/>

Text Messaging helps WFP Beneficiaries to access Food in Yemen

Mobile phones come relatively cheap in Yemen and most people have one, including those who have been internally displaced (IDPs) or otherwise affected by the conflict in the northern Sa'ada governorate.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has therefore begun using Short Messaging Service (SMS) to communicate logistical

details to beneficiaries who receive emergency food assistance as well as and instructions for attendance and pick-up. The SMS service has been an instant success.

WFP's Sa'ada operation targets 300,000 IDPs who receive 2,000 metric tons of food assistance per month. The impact of the operation has so far been very positive, contributing to improved food consumption and nutritional status among the food recipients. However, many beneficiaries are moving from place to place, and communicating logistical details of monthly food distributions has been a challenge. Beneficiaries may receive the necessary information incomplete or late. As WFP seeks to assist several communities at the same time (IDPs, returnees, war-affected), reliable and direct communication is paramount to prevent confusion and tensions.

The SMS service was piloted in one distribution centre in September 2010. The response from beneficiaries was overwhelmingly positive and the centre reported a dramatic increase in beneficiary attendance. People happily showed WFP staff the SMS messages they had received and encouraged the agency to expand this method of information sharing.

Responding to the positive feedback, WFP is collecting contact information to expand its SMS communication into a hotline available to all beneficiaries under the Sa'ada operation.

Jordan: A second Chance for highly vulnerable Refugee Youth

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is conducting an 18-month pilot project to deliver education and vocational training to the most vulnerable youth - the chronically poor, school drop-outs and low achievers - in the Irbid refugee camp in northern Jordan.



Palestinian refugee youths in the Irbid camp in Jordan. Photo: UNRWA



Irbid is one of the largest and poorest of the Palestine refugee camps in Jordan with 24,833 registered refugees of whom 5 per cent (1,242 people) are classified as the poorest of the poor.

The project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and focuses on innovative vocational training courses delivered in the camp itself and designed to meet local job market gaps. Three to six months courses will be developed to provide young refugees with basic skills and qualifications to enter the labour market. Where possible, job placement will follow the training. Enrolment into these courses does not require stringent academic pre-qualifications from target students.

The Irbid project is part of a wider UNRWA Jordan youth strategy designed to build the capacity of Palestinian refugees from early childhood to adulthood. Fifty-six per cent of Palestinian refugees are under the age of 25.

Heavy Rains kill 30 in Morocco

Heavy rains killed at least 30 people in Morocco in November. The most dramatic death toll occurred when 24 were killed after a bus plunged into a flooding river near Bouzinka, south of Rabat. In Khenifra, a house collapsed on its inhabitants, killing three. Two other persons were killed in separate drowning incidents. On 30 November, Casablanca schools were closed after the city received a record 18cm of rain overnight which submerged the city. Floods also caused disruption of national and international transportation, including the country's main airport in Casablanca.

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