



2022 Edition

THE STATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

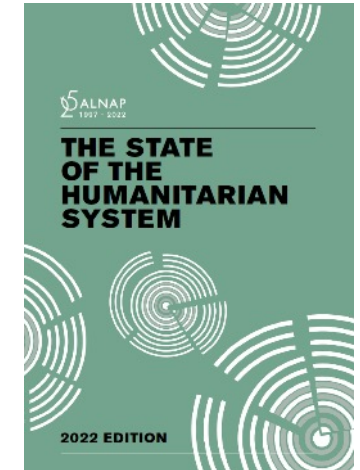
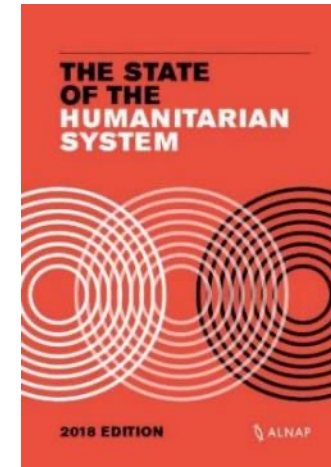
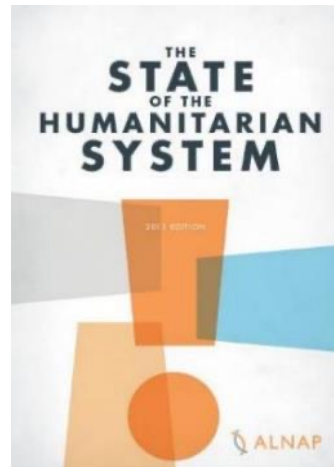
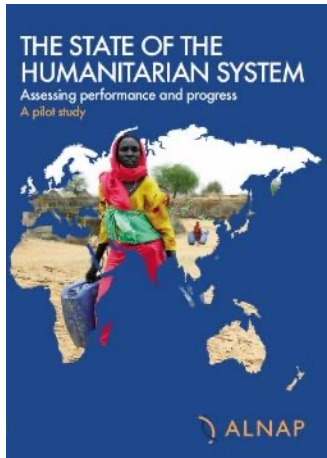
Food Security Cluster |

7 Nov 2022



15 years of monitoring performance

The longest running evidence base on the performance of international humanitarian action



2007-2009

2010-2011

2012-2014

2015-2017

2018-2021

1

**The demand
for
humanitarian
action:
crises,
caseload &
context**

2

**The size and
capacity of
the
humanitarian
system**

3

**Performance
of the system**

4

Taking stock

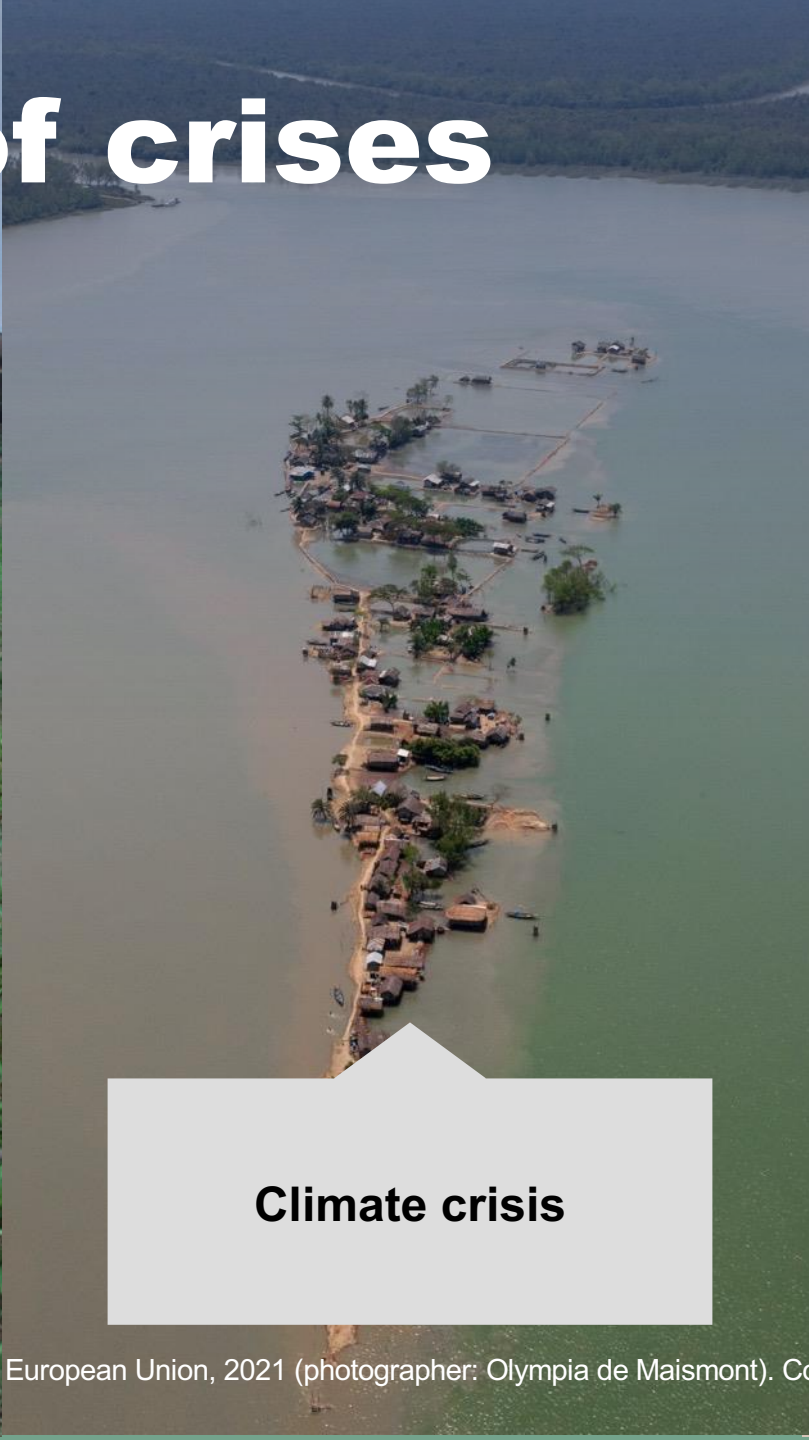


**The demand for
humanitarian
action: Crises,
caseload &
context**

Four years of crises



Ongoing conflicts

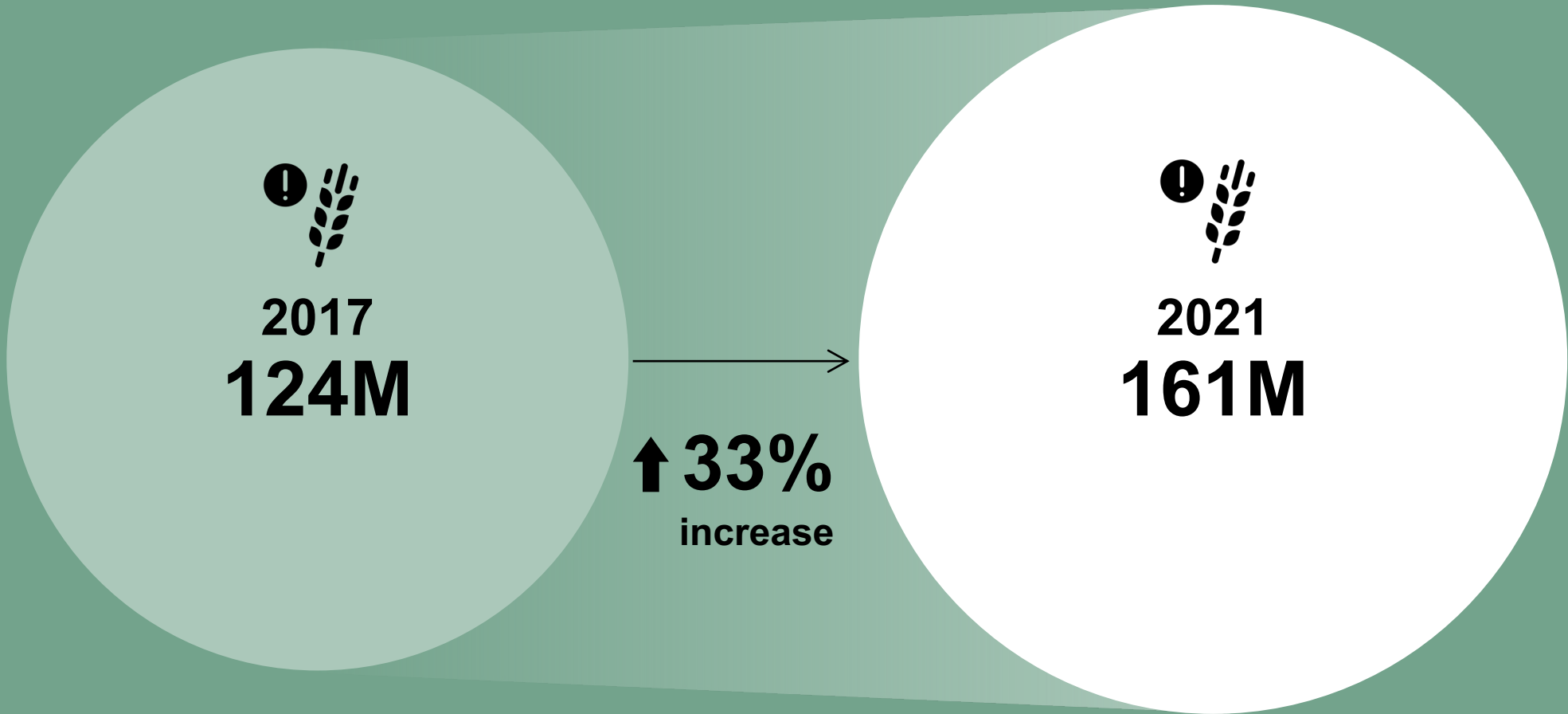


Climate crisis

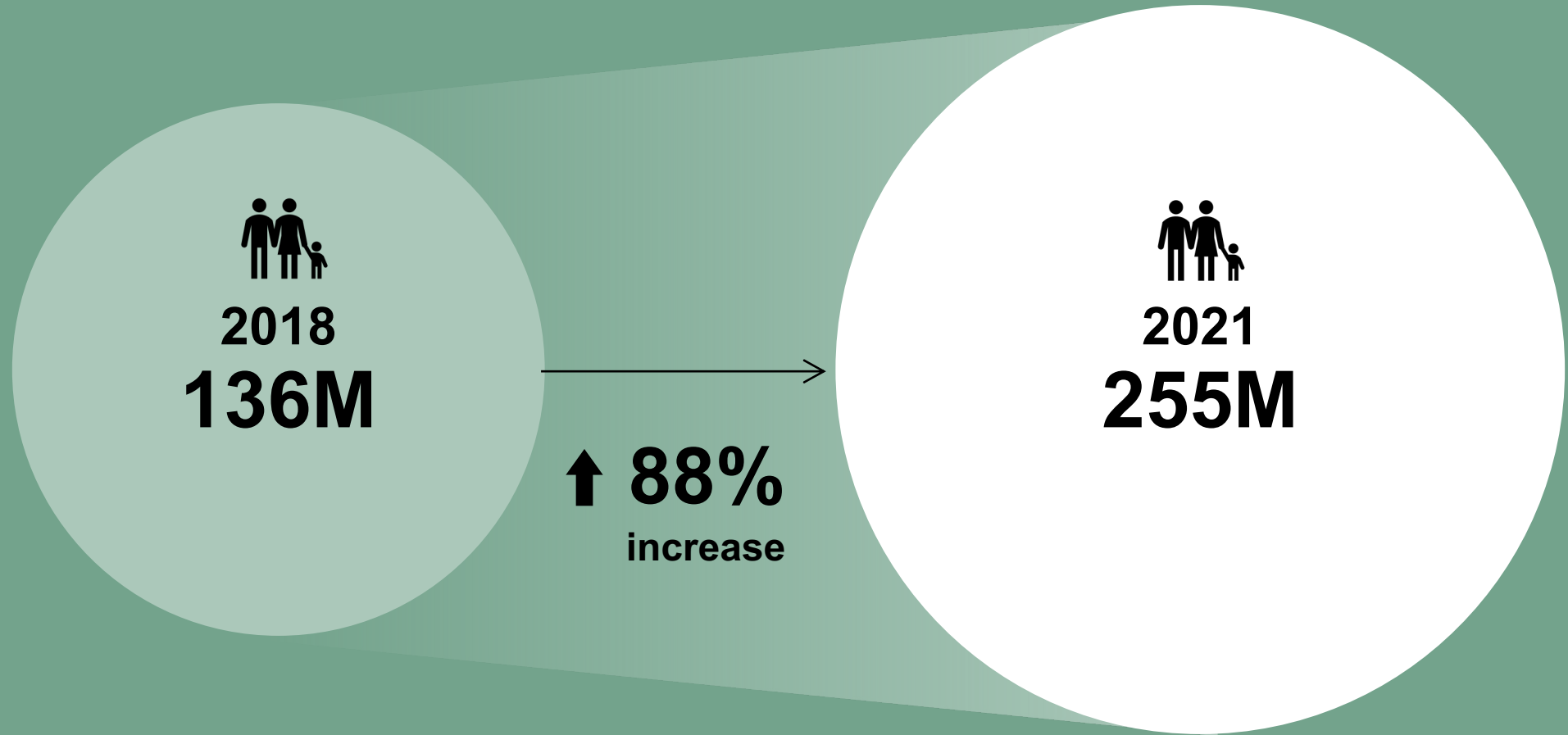


COVID-19

Acute food insecurity has risen



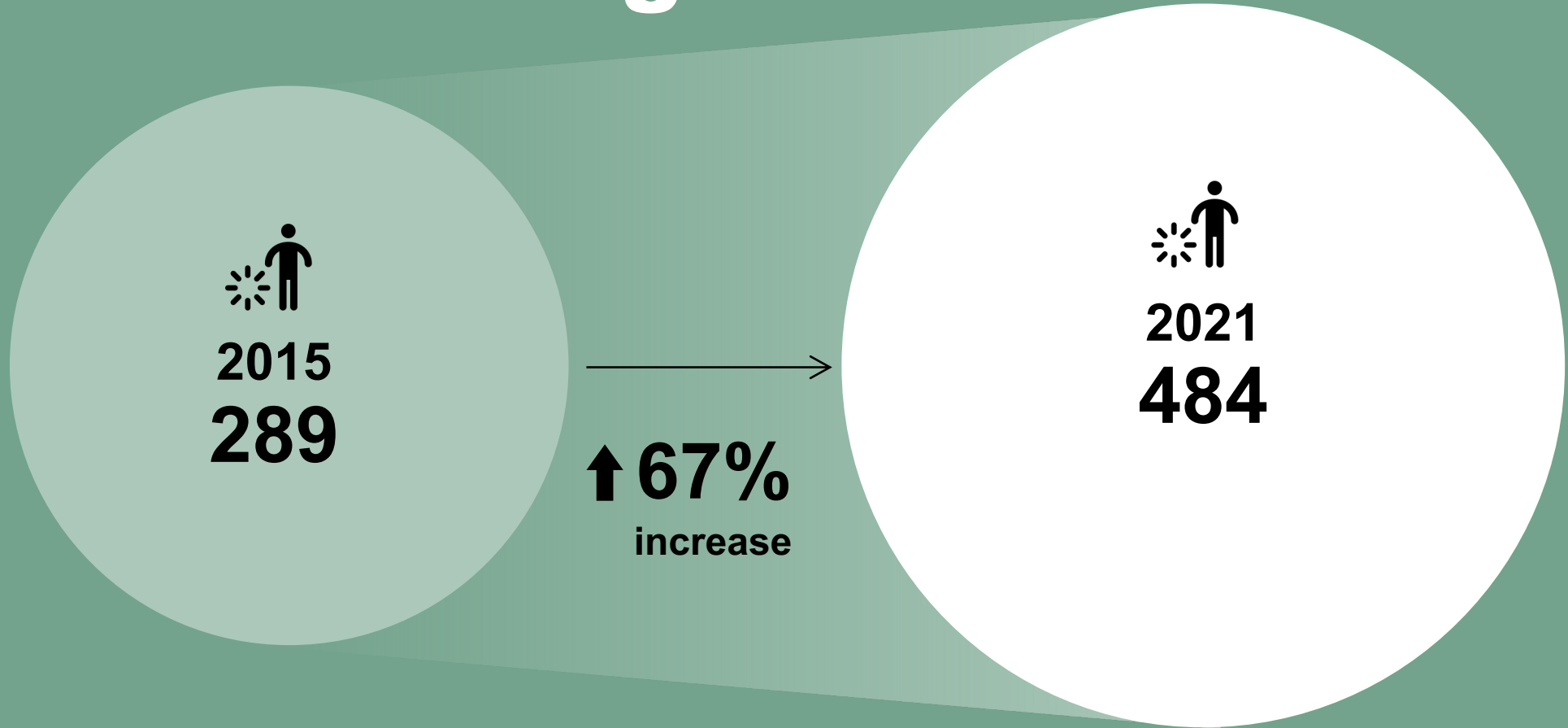
More people in need





As humanitarian caseloads grew, the enabling space to address them shrank

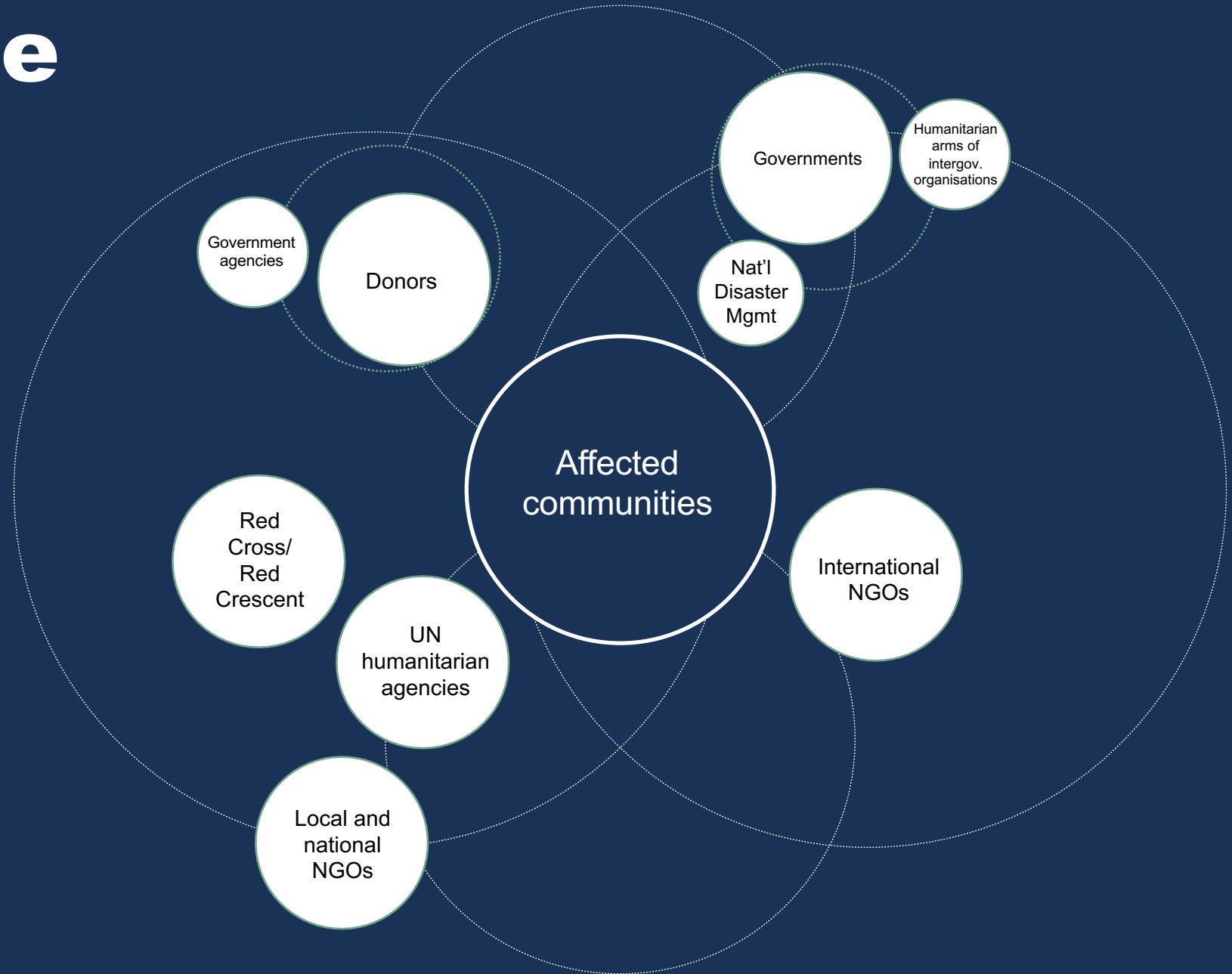
Number of aid workers being attacked is rising





The size and capacity of the humanitarian system

What is the system?

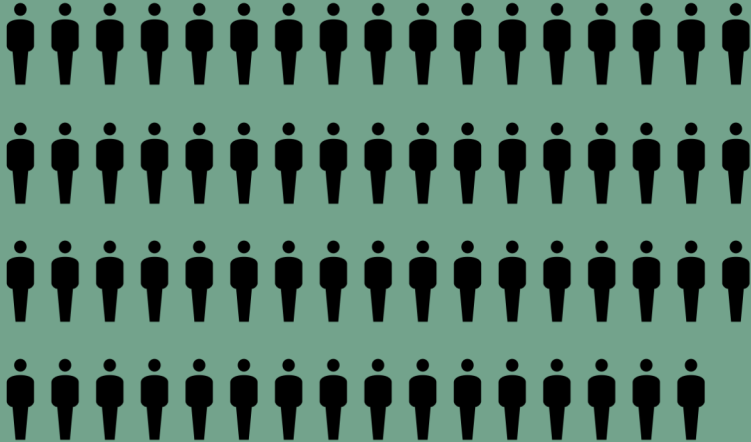
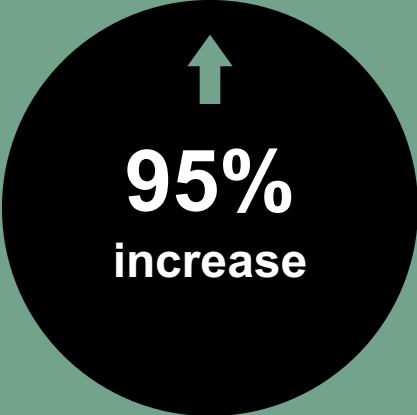


There are more staff...



2012

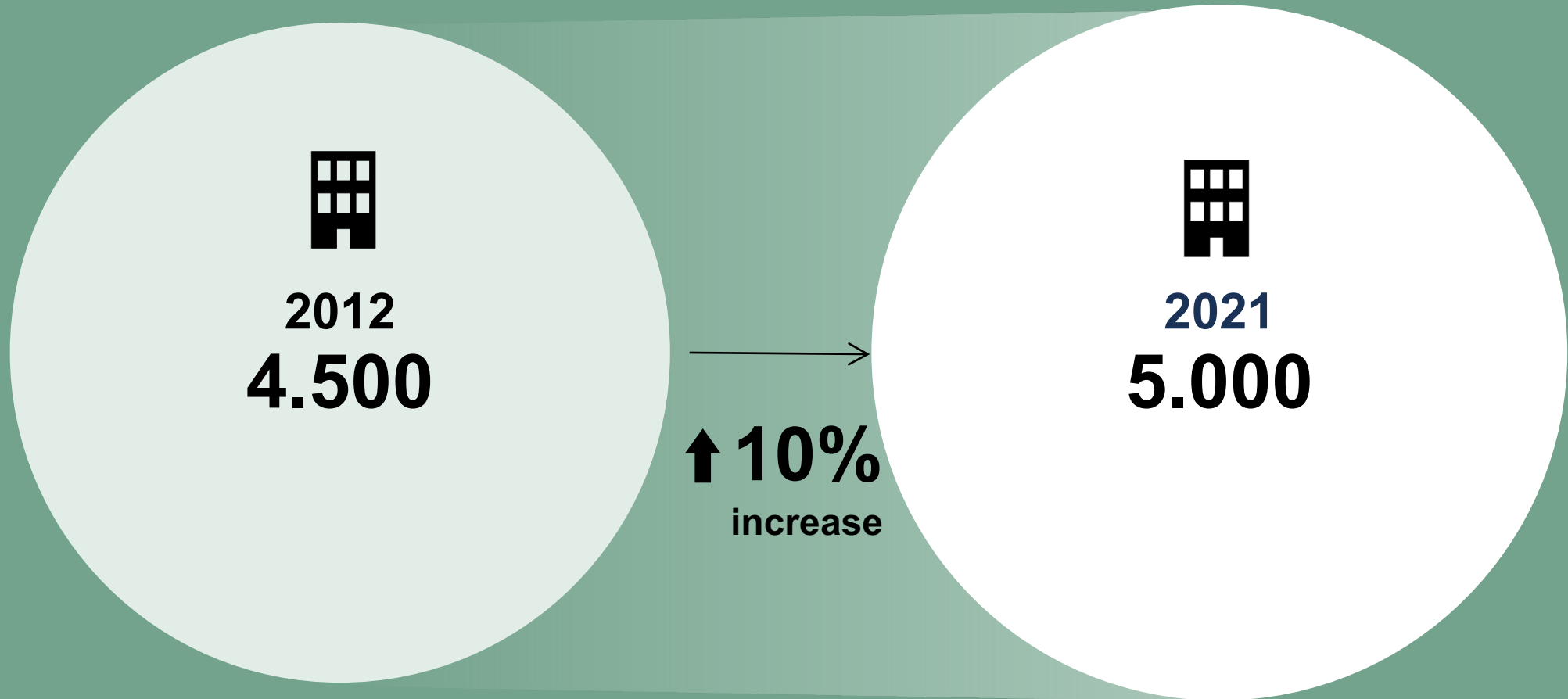
324,000



2021

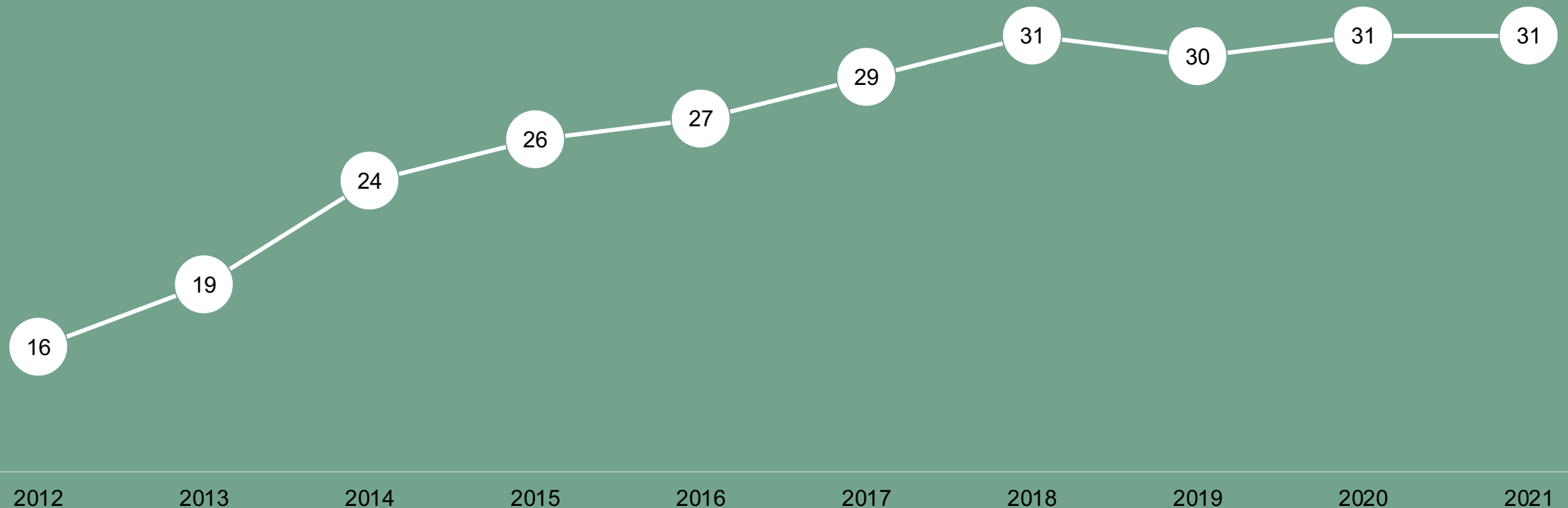
632,000

...working for more organisations



Funding doubled over a decade

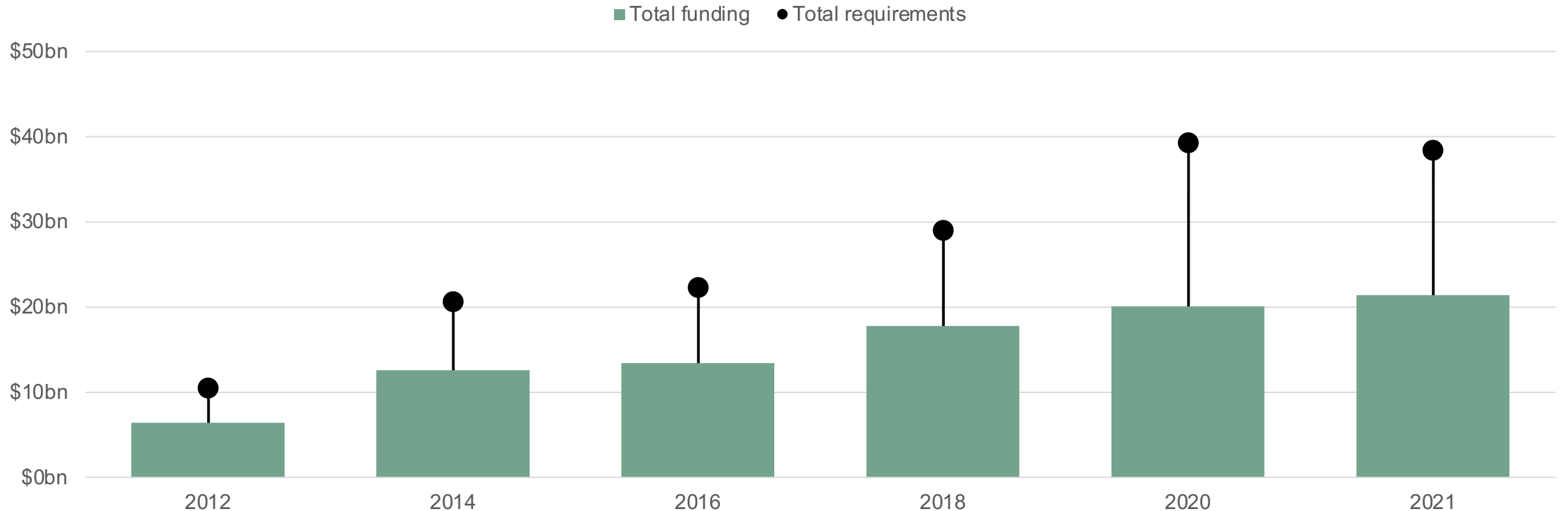
International humanitarian assistance (in \$billion)



Source: Development Initiatives (DI) based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and DI's unique dataset for private contributions.

... but funding didn't keep pace with requirements

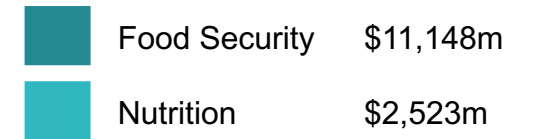
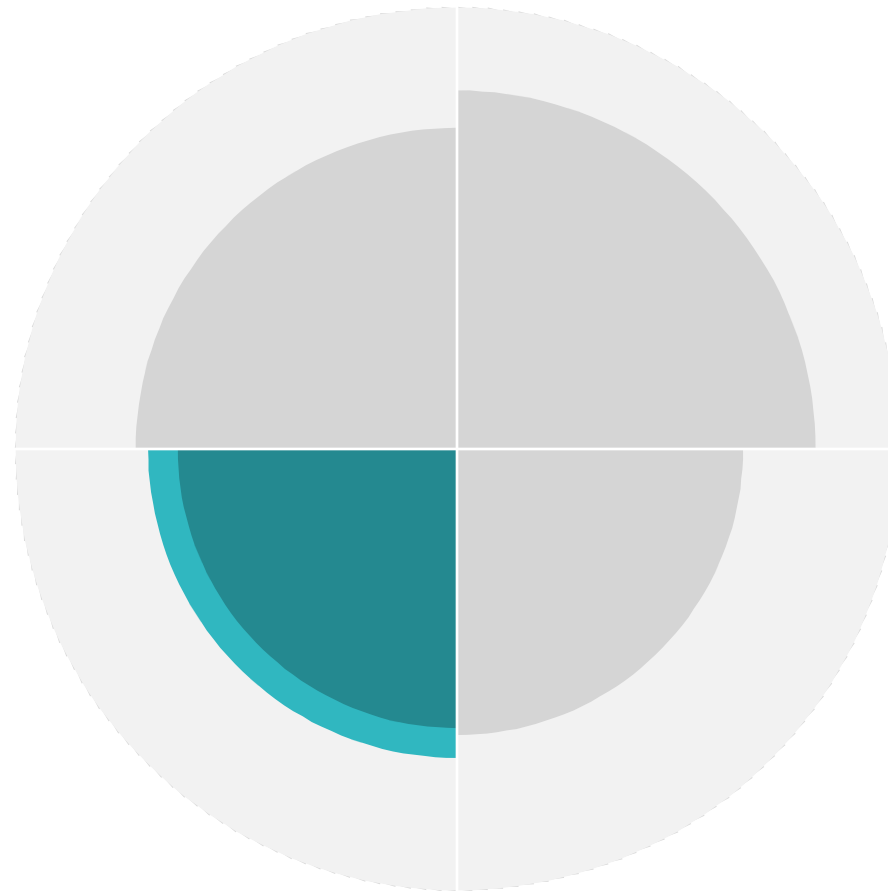
Funding and unmet requirements, UN-coordinated appeals, 2012–2021



Food security slides

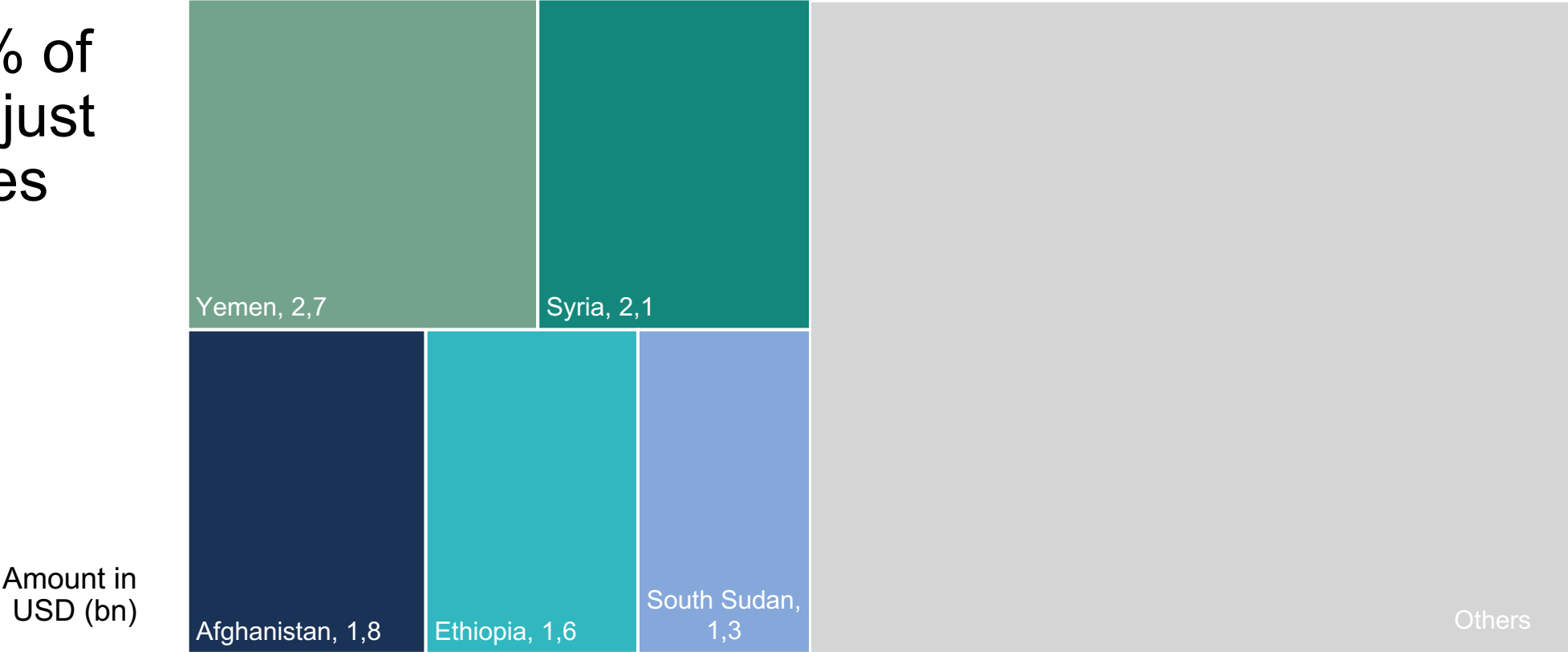
49% of IHA went to food security and nutrition...

....and yet food security was still only 53% funded against requirements in 2021

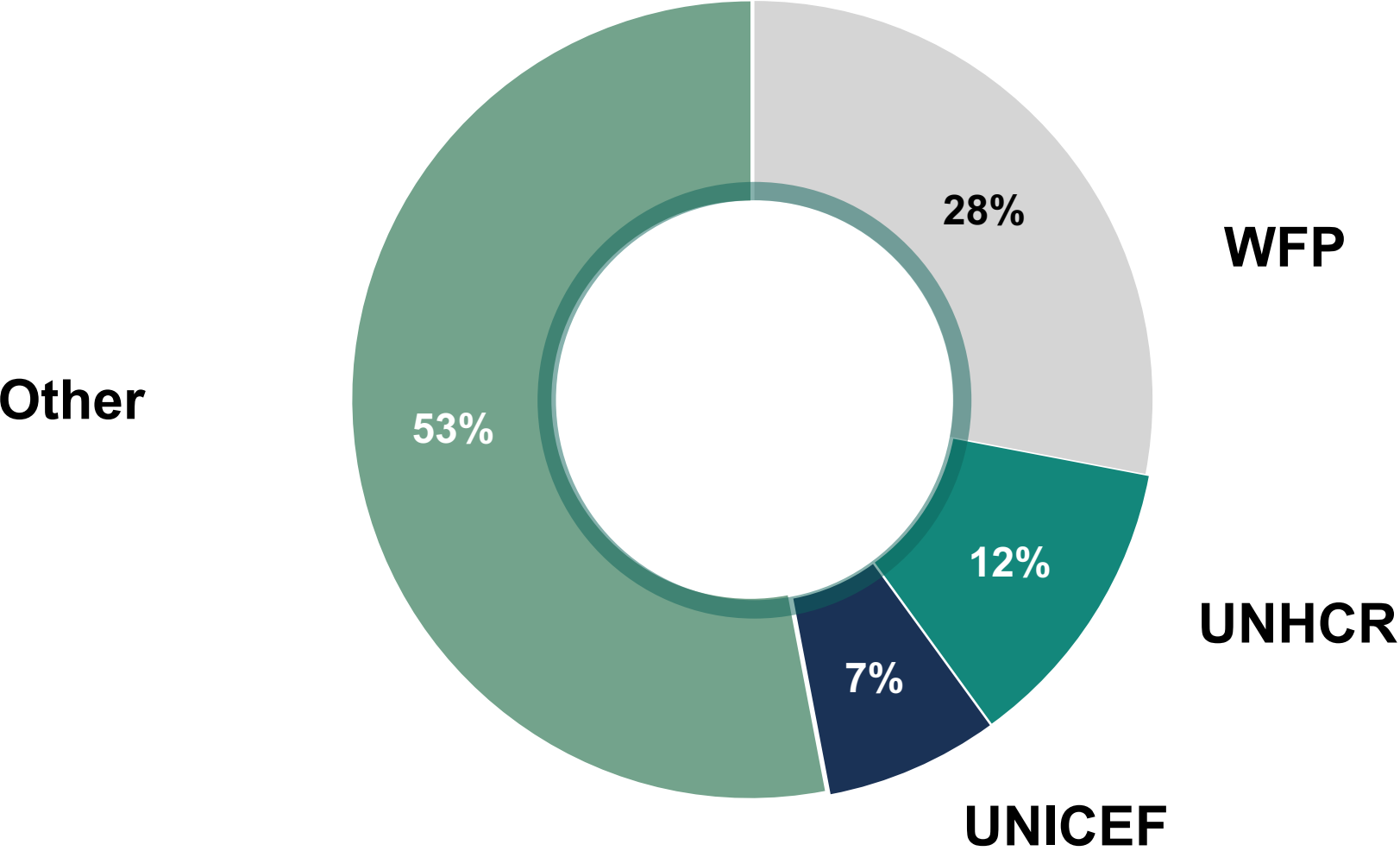


Concentration to a handful of countries

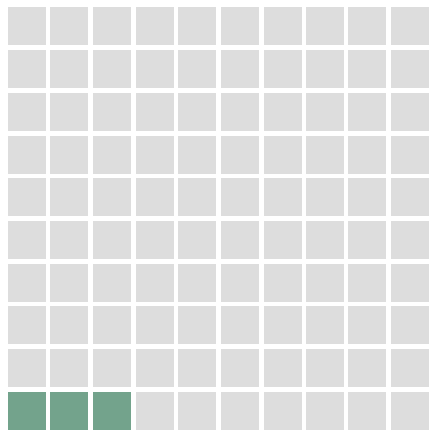
Around 40% of aid went to just five countries



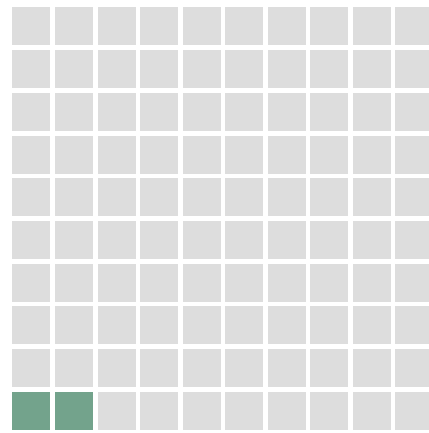
47% of funding over 2018-2021 went directly to 3 agencies



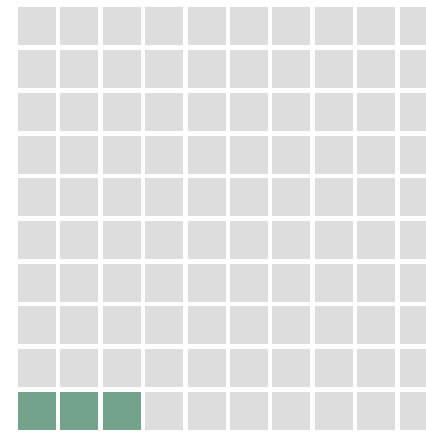
Direct international humanitarian funding to national and local actors, 2018–2021



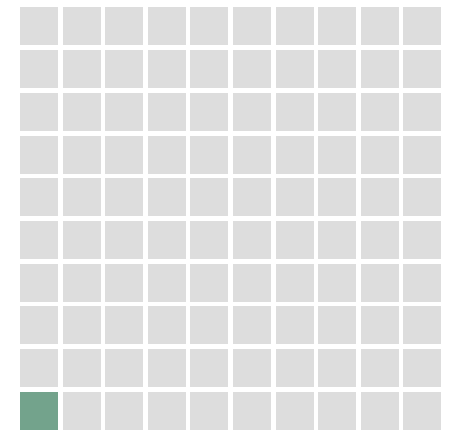
3.3%
2018



1.8%
2019

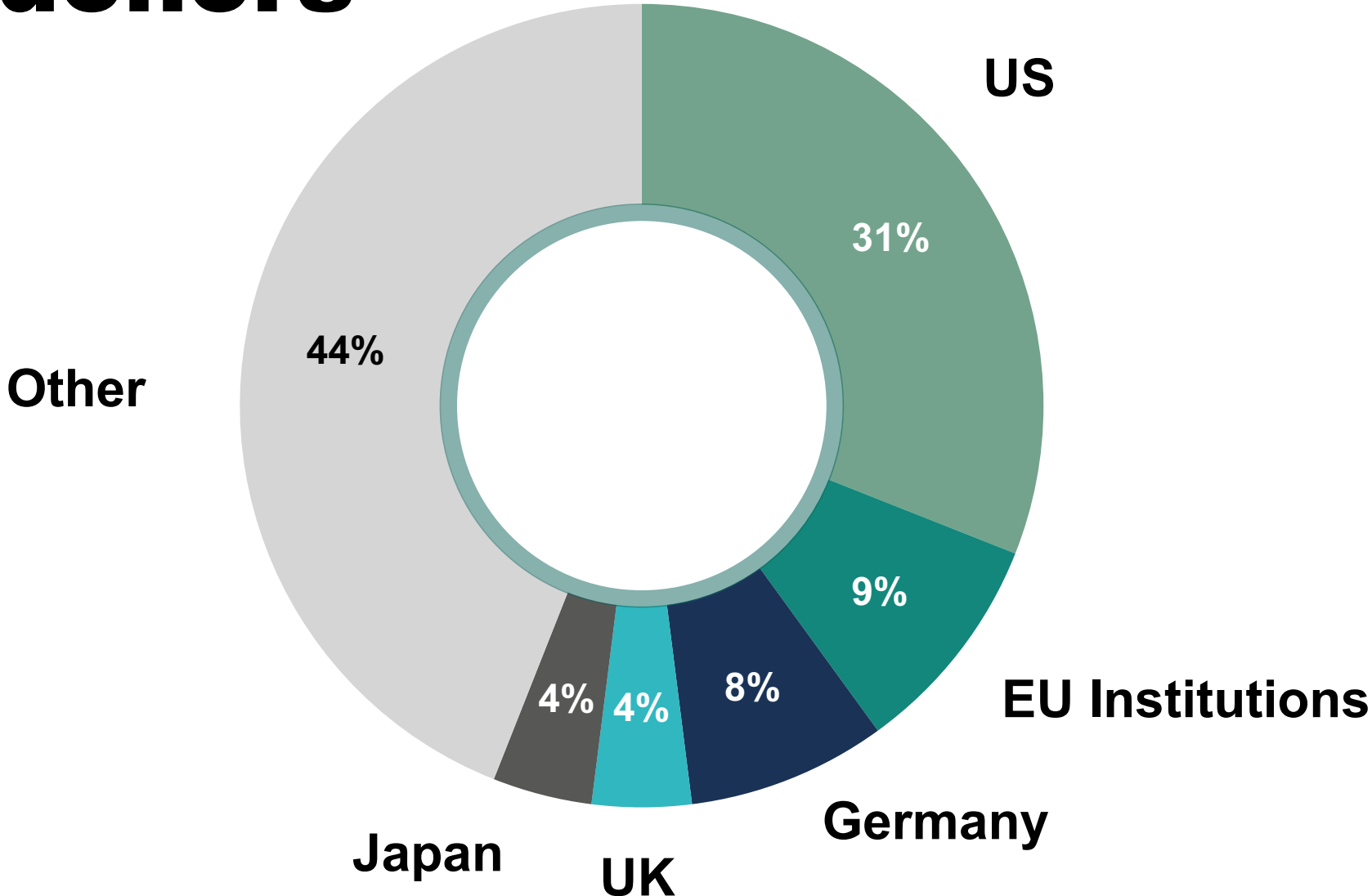


3%
2020



1.2%
2021

In 2021, 57% of funding provided by top 5 donors





**The
performance of
the system**

Does humanitarian action 'work'?

Mortality data still patchy in most crises

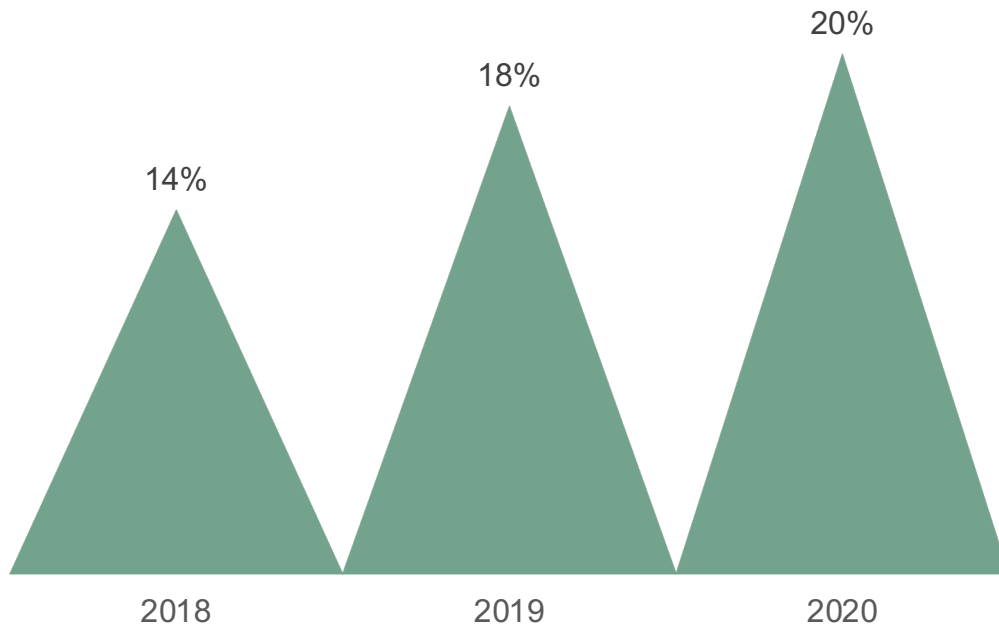
Food security, nutrition & livelihoods had
strongest outcome-level evidence

Focus on food can crowd out other needs



Cash: effective and growing

Proportion of funding for humanitarian cash and voucher assistance out of total IHA, 2018-2021



Positive outcomes



Improved educational outcomes



Improved food security & diet diversity




Increased feelings of dignity



Lower morbidity for children under five



Decline in child labour & early marriage

A white medical helicopter is shown in flight against a clear blue sky. The helicopter is viewed from a low angle, looking up. It has a white body with blue and red accents. The word 'EMERGENCY' is visible on the side of the fuselage. The main rotor blades are blurred, indicating motion. The landing gear is visible, and the helicopter appears to be in a steady climb or hover.

**Preparedness and
anticipatory action
improved the timeliness
of humanitarian aid**

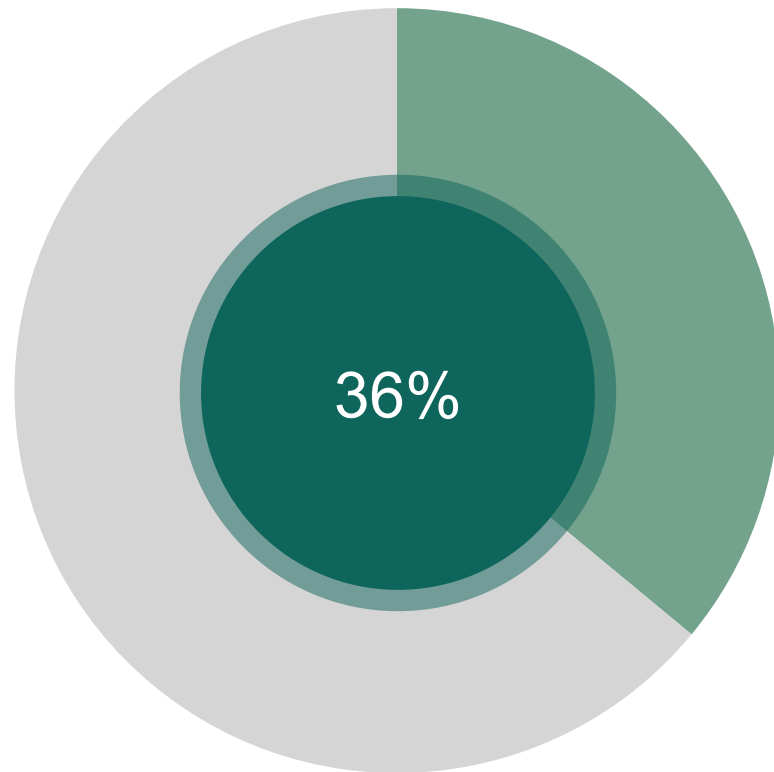
Source: ©EU/ECHO/Daniel Dickinson.

Limits to preparedness and anticipation reduced timeliness

- Lessons from 2011 were not adequately learned, despite a more positive 2017 response
- Political will is key to early action
- There are challenges to turning IPC phases into action
- What is the role of humanitarians to advocate for prevention/early action?



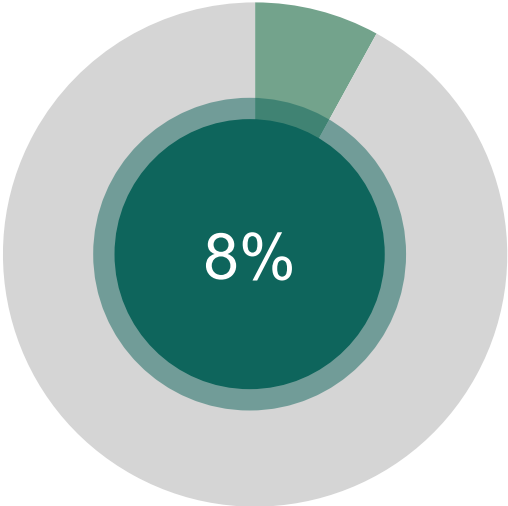
What affected people want to know: does aid go to the right people?



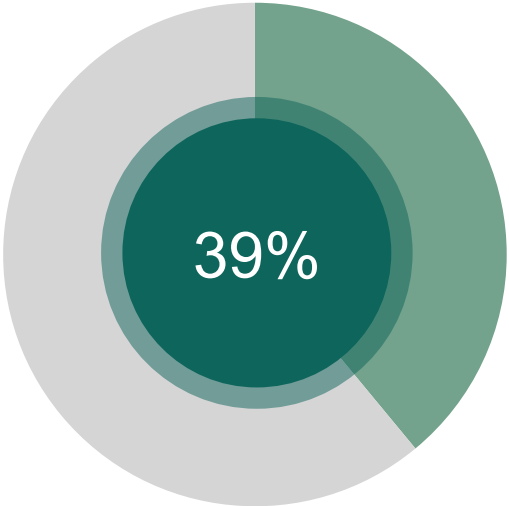
Only 36% of recipients said aid went to those who needed it most.

Shrinking space has real impact on people in crisis

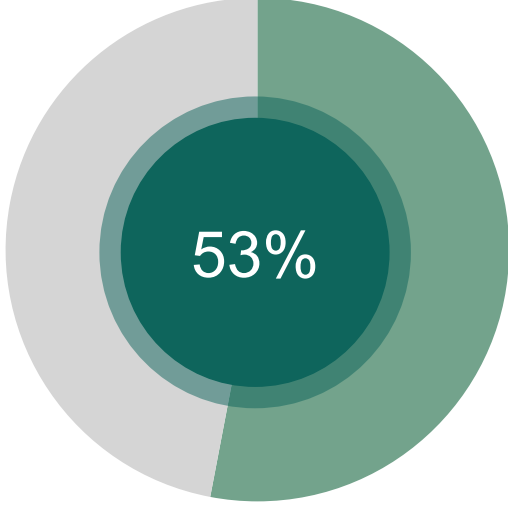
Were you satisfied with the amount of aid you received?



Tigray

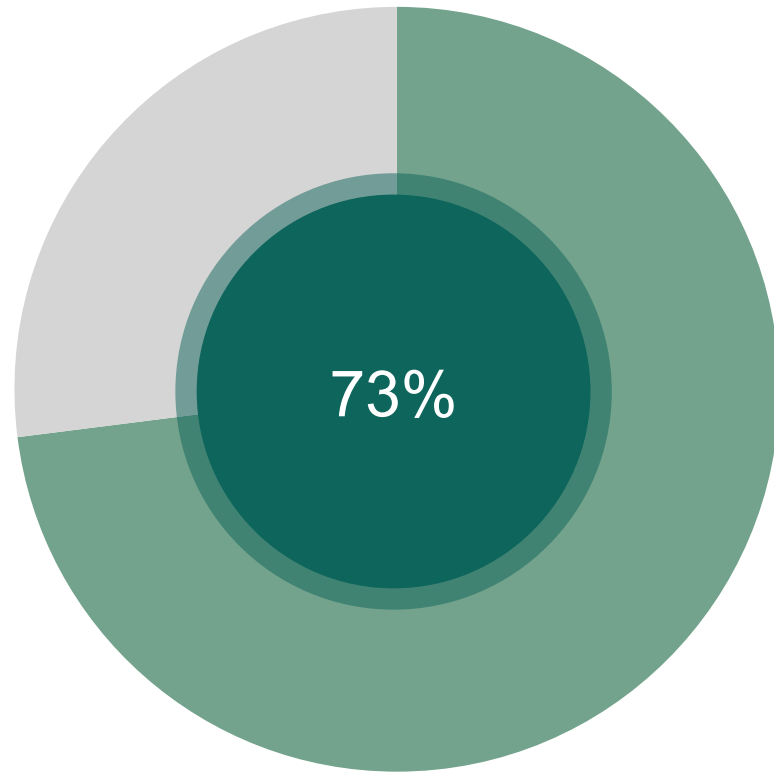


Oromia region



Somali region

What was your most significant need?



40% of aid recipients said food

But relevance of short-term aid declines over time

34% said aid addressed priority needs

... Compared to 39% in 2018



A step change in nexus thinking

People in protracted crises said aid didn't give long-term solutions

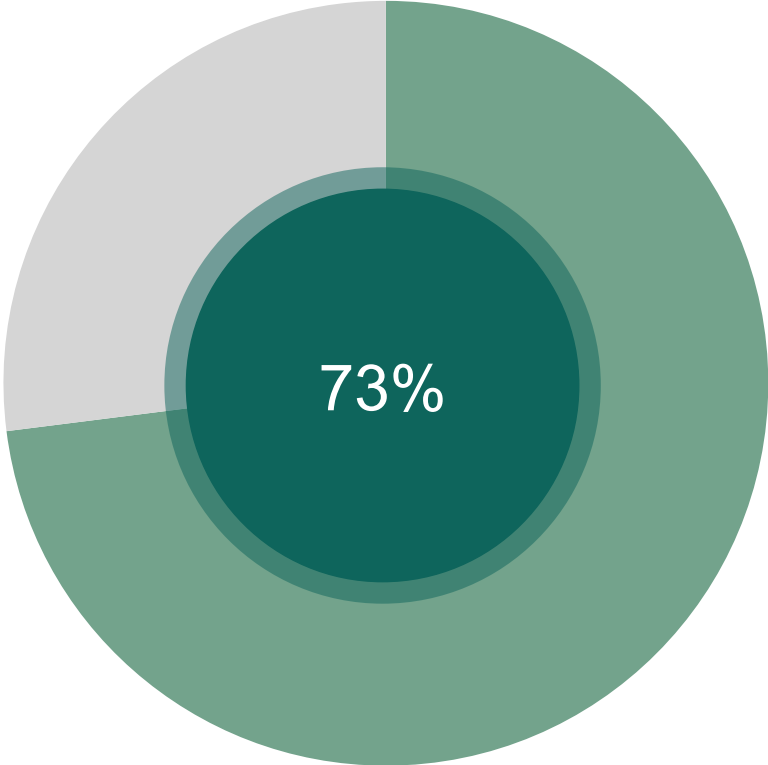
Early recovery sector only 17% funded

Multiple initiatives addressing hdp nexus

But three quarters of practitioners said nexus progress was only 'fair' or 'poor'.



How well did the system treat affected people?



73% of aid recipients said they were treated with respect and dignity

Engagement leads to better performance

Survey respondents consulted about the aid they were receiving were:

2.2

times

more likely to say that aid addressed their priority needs

2.5

times

more likely to say that the amount of aid was sufficient

2.7

times

more likely to say that the aid they received was of good quality

COVID slowed engagement progress

**Only one in three
aid recipients said they
could provide feedback or complain...**

... the same as in 2018





Taking stock

What have we learned?

In sum, the system:

- **Is larger but not in proportion to the size of the problem**
- **Is effective but narrowly so**
- **Affected people still not at the centre**
- **Is evolving, but slowly**
- **Is under direct threat**





Implications for the food security sector

- Continuing to build the evidence base
 - Prevention vs. response
 - Thinking about protracted food insecurity & resilience
 - Putting people at the centre
- 