

# More support is needed now to protect the most vulnerable

**215**

COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES OR AREAS GLOBALLY AFFECTED BY COVID-19

**134**

REFUGEE-HOSTING COUNTRIES REPORTING LOCAL TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

**71 million**

PEOPLE FORCIBLY DISPLACED AROUND THE WORLD

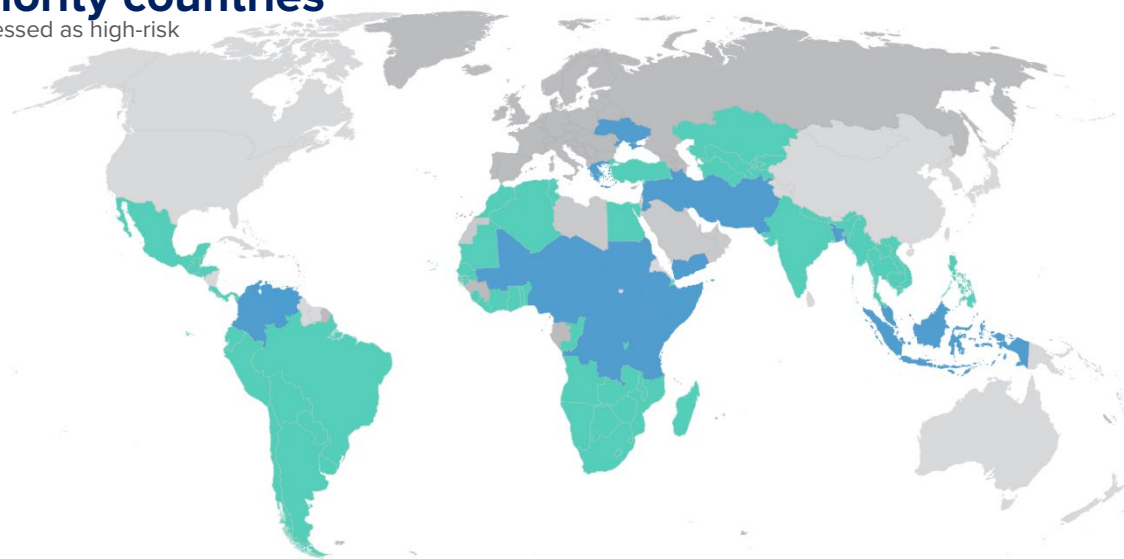
**\$745 million**

NEEDED IN REVISED FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR

## Priority countries

assessed as high-risk

*Figures as of 9 May 2020*



● Countries covered under initial appeal

● Countries covered under revised appeal

- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have an unprecedented impact worldwide, those at greatest risk include 71 million children, women and men uprooted by war and persecution. They are already scarred by having been forced to flee and are mostly hosted in countries with weaker health and water and sanitation systems. They are now facing multiple, overlapping emergencies.
- A second emergency is looming, and in some places is already happening: the erosion or eradication of livelihoods. Refugees and displaced people depend on fragile incomes, which are the first ones to disappear in situations of lockdown. Poverty strikes often even before COVID-19.
- A third crisis already faced by people forced to flee is that of heightened protection risks, including restrictions on their right to seek asylum, mental health complications, and increased rates of sexual and gender-based violence, especially against women and girls.
- To protect the most vulnerable from the COVID-19's direct and indirect impacts in countries at high-risk due to the rapid spread of virus, UNHCR has revised its funding needs and is requesting a total of **\$745 million** until the end of the year. To accommodate these additional requirements, UNHCR's 2020 annual budget will be increased through a supplementary budget of \$404 million.

- This will allow UNHCR to further scale up life-saving protection and assistance in priority countries, through strengthened health, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene preparedness and response; providing critical support to vulnerable displaced families experiencing economic shock; and helping refugee children with distance learning opportunities.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNHCR has been able to stay and deliver, stepping up its prevention and response and adjusting itself to respond remotely where needed. Everything achieved so far has only been possible thanks to the generous and timely funding provided by governments, private sector and individual donors.
- As of 6 May 2020, UNHCR's initial coronavirus emergency appeal launched in early March raised \$227 million, meaning it was 89% funded, an astonishingly generous level.
- But more support is urgently needed now to be able to keep pace with the growing needs on the ground. As the crisis has shown, it is vital that no one gets forgotten in the response. COVID-19 can be contained, but no one is safe unless everyone is safe. We are only as strong as the most vulnerable among us.

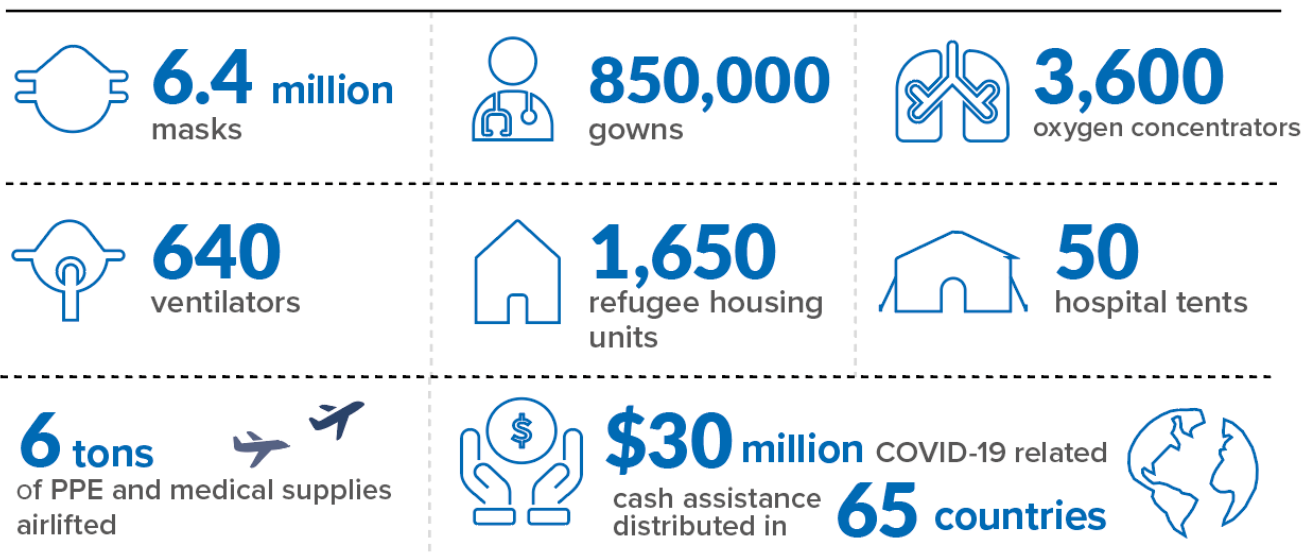
“The pandemic is inflicting deep wounds across our world. For people who fled wars and persecution, the impact on their mostly hand-to-mouth existence and on their hosts has been devastating. Together with our NGO partners, the UN is determined to stay the course and deliver for refugees, internally displaced, stateless people, and their hosts, and ensure their inclusion in public health responses and social safety nets. The needs are vast, but not insurmountable, and only collective action to curb the threat of the coronavirus can save lives. Timely, generous and flexible response from all our supporters is critical.”

**Filippo Grandi**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

## UNHCR in action

Among the key items procured to date by UNHCR





*A Syrian refugee sits inside the Wavel refugee camp, in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.*

## UNHCR's key priorities and areas of intervention



### Health, water and sanitation and hygiene

- Working with ministries of health in affected countries to ensure inclusion of those forcibly displaced.
- Undertaking risk communication and promoting community engagement with an emphasis on hygiene practices and physical distancing.
- Ensuring and maintaining continued access to essential health services.



### Cash assistance, shelter and core relief items

- Ensuring people of concern, specifically the most vulnerable, receive cash assistance and core relief items.
- Providing improved shelter and settlement conditions to reduce density and overcrowded living conditions.



### Protection and risk communications

- Protecting and advocating for refugees, IDPs, stateless persons and host communities, including by maintaining and strengthening critical protection activities and services.
- Putting people at the centre of the response and working with existing protection monitoring and reporting networks to mitigate protection risks, including sexual and gender-based violence.
- Ensuring they have access to timely and accurate information and dedicated specific measures to ensuring communication is inclusive and accessible for all.



### Education

- Supporting schools to remain open where health conditions permit and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Expanding investments in online and offline distance education or alternative solutions, ensuring forcibly displaced children can keep learning.

## Why UNHCR?

UNHCR is uniquely placed to respond to the challenge presented by COVID-19. It has long-standing relations with governments, UN sister agencies, international and local NGOs, and national health services, as well as with forcibly displaced communities themselves, connections which enable us to take swift action, support partners, and deploy resources to assist people quickly as well as help them help themselves.

- UNHCR is a truly global and field-oriented UN agency, operating in 134 countries, with over 17,400 committed staff members, 90 percent of whom are in the field and in direct contact with people in need.
- In refugee situations, UNHCR leads and coordinates the overall response by humanitarian partners in support of host countries. We already have our experienced teams in the field right now and enjoy the trust of all actors.
- UNHCR has a vast experience in emergency preparedness and response, and in working in difficult situations where movements are restricted.
- UNHCR's expertise and capacity in public health means we can support governments with prevention, coordination and in potentially responding to COVID-19 among forcibly displaced populations, as it has done in previous and ongoing health outbreaks.

## How you can help

In responding to this unprecedented challenge, partnerships and solidarity are critical.

We all have our part to play in preventing more COVID-19 outbreaks and in protecting the most vulnerable members of the community, including refugees and other people forced to flee.

Together we can overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe. Your role is crucial, and you can take action today.

Thank you for your support and learn more on how you can help at the below links:

- If you want to make an individual donation see [here](#)
- If you want to support through your business or foundation see [here](#) and [here](#)



[Read UNHCR's full revised appeal](#)



[Latest information on UNHCR's response](#)



[Revised Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#)

*UNHCR staff and Brazil's Operation Welcome Task Force assist in transferring Venezuelan refugees and migrants with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to the temporary treatment centre at a shelter in Boa Vista, Brazil.*

