

2017 Humanitarian aid trend

based on 2017 Creditor Reporting System (CRS)

Amid relatively stable overall ODA levels, humanitarian aid increased in 2017, reaching USD 16.5 billion¹, representing a 7% increase from 2016. The Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa remained the main recipients of DAC humanitarian aid. Interestingly, as humanitarian funding towards the Syria crisis has begun to taper, Yemen has doubled its humanitarian budget. Except for the Sahel region, a cut in humanitarian aid budget was generally not compensated by a corresponding increase in development ODA, leaving fragile countries at risk. The largest humanitarian budgets are allocated in countries where humanitarian access is severely restricted (Syria, northern Nigeria, and Yemen), a trend which challenges the efficiency of some humanitarian operations. Protracted crises are still receiving significant amounts of funding, however, some crises with emerging humanitarian needs in 2017, such as Venezuela and surrounding countries, did not receive massive humanitarian or development investments, calling into question the link between early warning and early action in such contexts.

Who are the main providers?

The **United States** remains the biggest donor country, increasing its aid contribution by 13% since 2016, providing USD 8.1 billion which is half of the total amount of humanitarian ODA. A majority of the increase in aid has been allocated to sub-Saharan Africa (DRC, Ethiopia, and Cameroon). As in 2016, **Germany** remains the second largest DAC humanitarian donor, having increased its portfolio by 7%. With USD 1.85 billion, **The European Commission** humanitarian budget has decreased by 25% in 2017 while the **UK** has increased its budget by 29%, making it the fourth biggest humanitarian DAC member.

Sweden has increased its humanitarian aid spending by 321%, mainly to compensate for the sharp decrease in 2015 due to in-donor refugee costs. With USD 383 million, Sweden has almost reached the spending level it had in 2014.

Denmark, Australia, Italy, Poland, and Portugal are increasing their humanitarian aid by 30-40%.

New Zealand, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, and Iceland have decreased their humanitarian aid budget despite an overall steady or generally increasing ODA, while **Canada, Hungary** and **Slovenia** are decreasing both their overall ODA and humanitarian portfolios.

Where does it go?

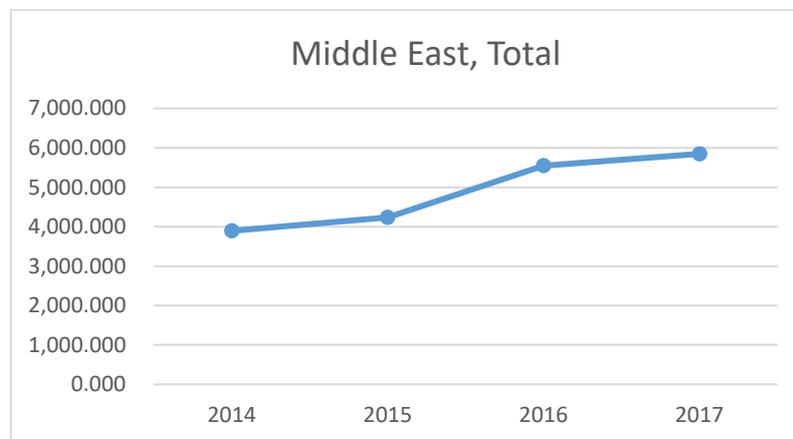
The Middle East (USD 6,305 billion including Turkey²)

DAC Humanitarian response is dominated by the crises in the Middle East, which, including humanitarian aid in Turkey, represents 38% of overall humanitarian aid in 2017. Humanitarian response to the Syria crisis has started to decrease (-9.6%) along with overall ODA (-17%) to the affected countries (**Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey**). Meanwhile, response in **Yemen** has doubled

¹ All amounts in USD constant price, commitments.

² Turkey is included into the « Europe » CRS geographical classification. It is here summed up with the Middle East as most of its humanitarian aid relates to the Syria crisis response.

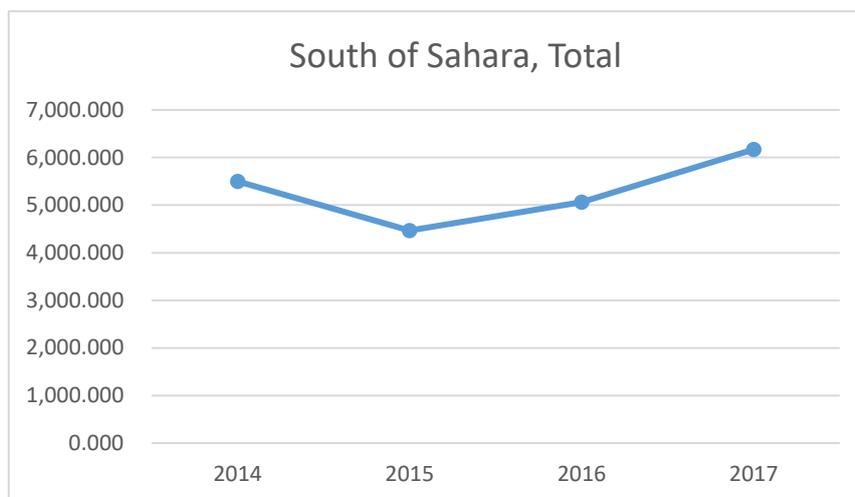
since 2016, from USD 555 million to USD 1.1 billion notably due to large contributions to WFP, to address the unusually high level of food insecurity and famine in the country.



There have been 1,477 humanitarian projects from 30 DAC members reported in the Middle East in 2017.

Sub-Saharan Africa (USD 6, 170 billion)

Overall, humanitarian aid to sub-Saharan Africa is increasing (+21.8%) with distinct pattern reflecting crisis.



Nigeria, the richest country in Africa, experienced the biggest increase in humanitarian budget (+136.9%), with 21 DAC members contributing to humanitarian response in Northern Nigeria. A large share of humanitarian aid has been allocated to food aid and food security in the most productive areas of Nigeria.

Democratic Republic of the Congo increased sharply (+75.4%) because of the incoming waves of newly displaced people and recurrent cholera epidemics. The Ebola epidemics only hit the DRC in 2018, suggesting that the DRC humanitarian budget has increased again. In spite of a several-decade-long multiform crisis in the DRC, development finance has not increased.

The **Sahel region** (Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso) decreased its humanitarian portfolio by 23%, a reduction compensated by a 32.3% increase of its overall ODA.

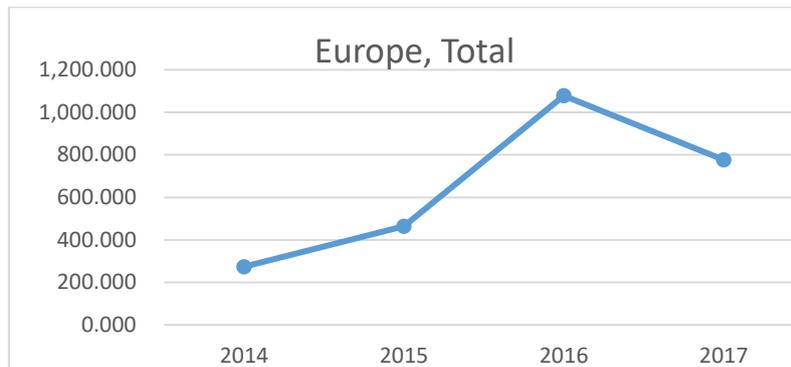
Sharp decrease was noted in **Central African Republic** (-6%), **Chad** (-26%), **Burundi** (-16%), all countries in which humanitarian needs remain particularly high. A steep decrease (-51%) in humanitarian aid in the three West African countries affected by the Ebola epidemics in 2014-2015 has not been supplemented by development funding (-49%). These countries, however, remain particularly fragile. (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea)

While **Angola** has not been particularly affected by any major crisis, its humanitarian portfolio increased sevenfold, notably due to a USD 13.9 million support from the United States for refugees fleeing from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

There were 2,798 humanitarian contributions from 28 DAC members reported in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2017.

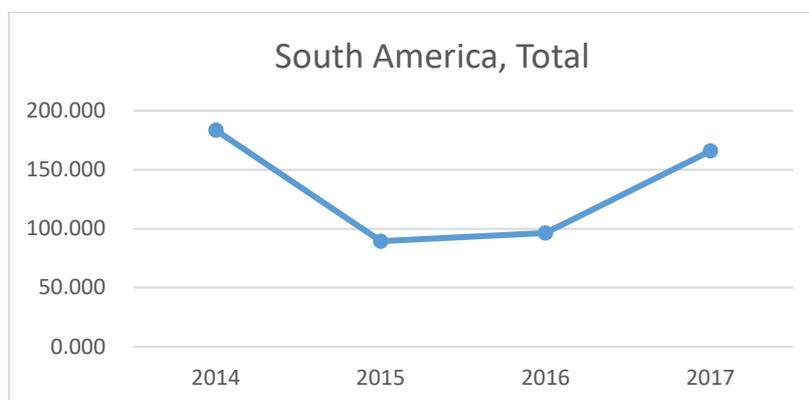
Europe (USD 777.2 million)

Humanitarian response in Europe is generally decreasing. The humanitarian budget was cut in half in **Ukraine**, a decrease that has not been compensated by a corresponding increase in development finance. The assistance to European countries along the migration route in the Balkans has also dropped, but most of the decline is due to a decrease in assistance to **Turkey** (-39%).



South America (USD 165.8 million)

Humanitarian aid in South America is increasing (+72%) mainly in **Bolivia**, in **Equator** because of Disaster Risk reduction projects, as well as to a much lesser extent, in **Colombia** and **Venezuela** due to the crisis in Venezuela. Migration patterns in South America are mixed, leading to a sharp increase in regional response, notably due to UNHCR appeals in the region.



North Africa (USD 157.8 million)

The crisis in **Libya** has taken most of the DAC humanitarian response funding (+177%), either responding to basic needs in Libya, or through regional approaches to migration to Europe.

Oceania (USD 41.5 million)

Humanitarian response in Oceania has been largely allocated to disaster risk management by DAC members in the Pacific region. It correlates with the occurrence of large-scale natural disasters, peaking when the region is hit by any large-scale natural disaster. There have been 158 humanitarian projects from 8 donors reported in Oceania in 2017.

