

# THE RESPONSE

As of 2014, there were



**4480**

humanitarian organisations



**4 out of 5**

being local NGOs working in-country

For better or for worse, humanitarian response is a growth industry. In economic terms, growth in the humanitarian system is ‘sticky’ – when organisations enlarge their capacity in response to a surge in emergency funding, they tend not to shed staff and other resources to the same degree afterwards. Many of the largest INGOs operating today have grown by successive big leaps related to major emergencies.

At over \$20 billion in recorded direct contributions to emergencies in 2014, the system has reached its highest funding level in history. Yet increases in the number of people targeted for assistance have outstripped the growth in funding: the average amount contributed per aid recipient has dropped by a quarter since the last SOHS period.

Not all sectors are funded equally either and the gap between coverage and stated requirements has widened. Protection was only funded at 30% of stated requirements. Aid practitioners’ perception of sufficiency has declined to a new low of 24% (from 36% in 2010 and 34% in 2012).

In 2011-2014, 6-8% of total government flows went through pooled funding instruments. Yet national NGOs and others reported no real increase over the time period in review. Donors continue to rely on their habitual partners – which are almost entirely international organisations. Little serious exploration has been done of the potential feasibility of funding disaster-affected governments or national NGOs directly.

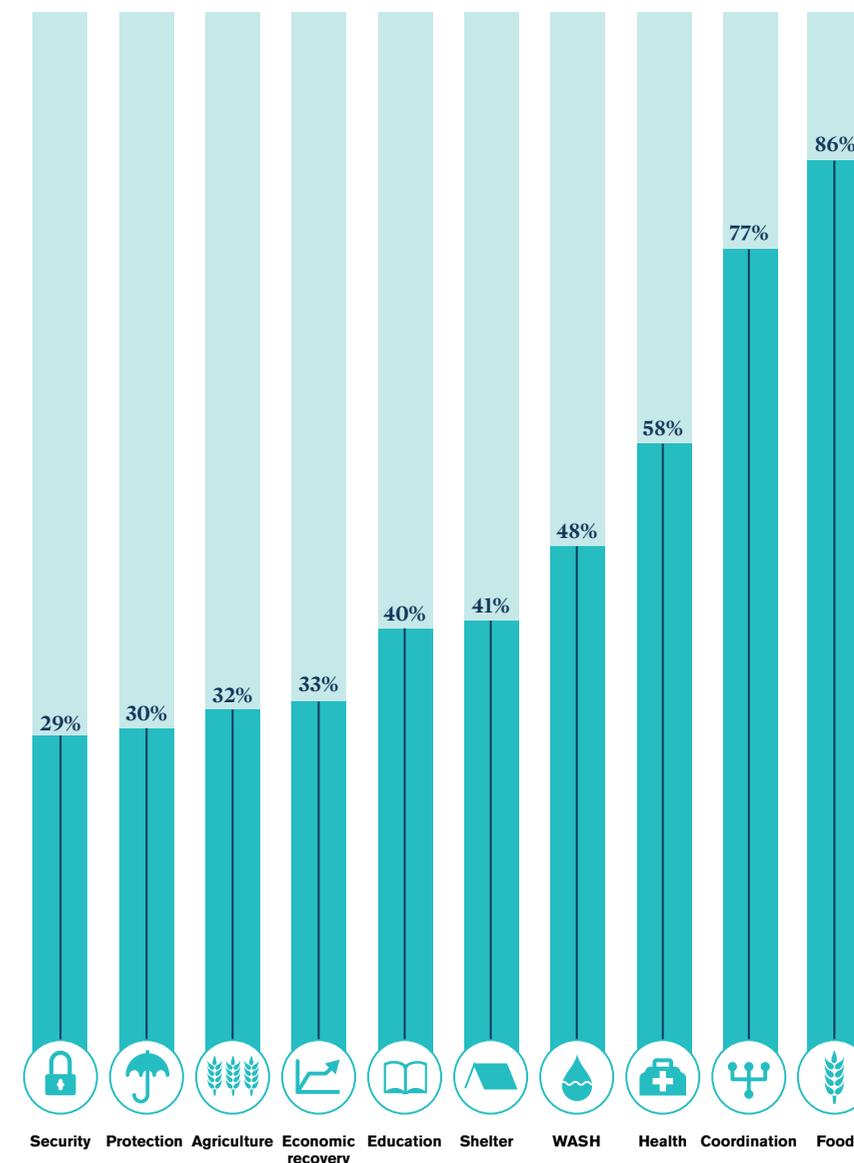
## Humanitarian expenditures, 2013 (USD millions)



Source: Humanitarian Outcomes (2015).

During the past few years humanitarian country teams in a small number of contexts have explored the use of multi-year humanitarian planning rather than the standard 12-month cycle.

## Percentage of stated coverage requirements by sector



Source: FTS (downloaded 11 January 2015).