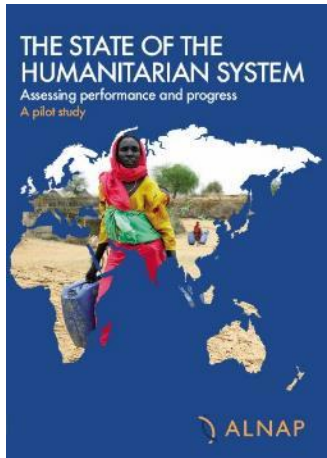

THE STATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN SYSTEM

**VENRO Working Group on Humanitarian
Assistance**
16 January 2023

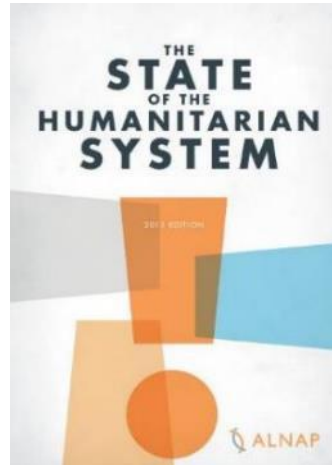


15 years of monitoring performance

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



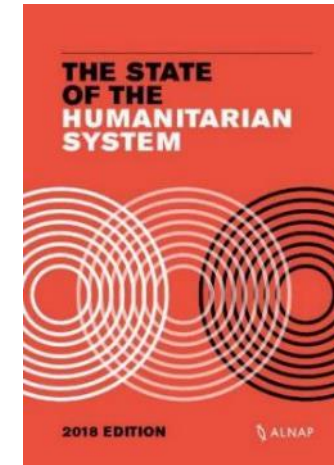
2007-2009



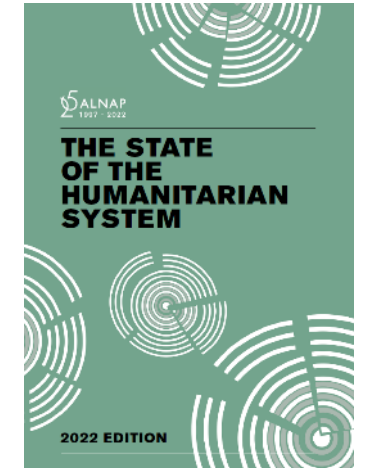
2010-2011



2012-2014



2015-2017



2018-2021

What is the system?





1

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

2

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

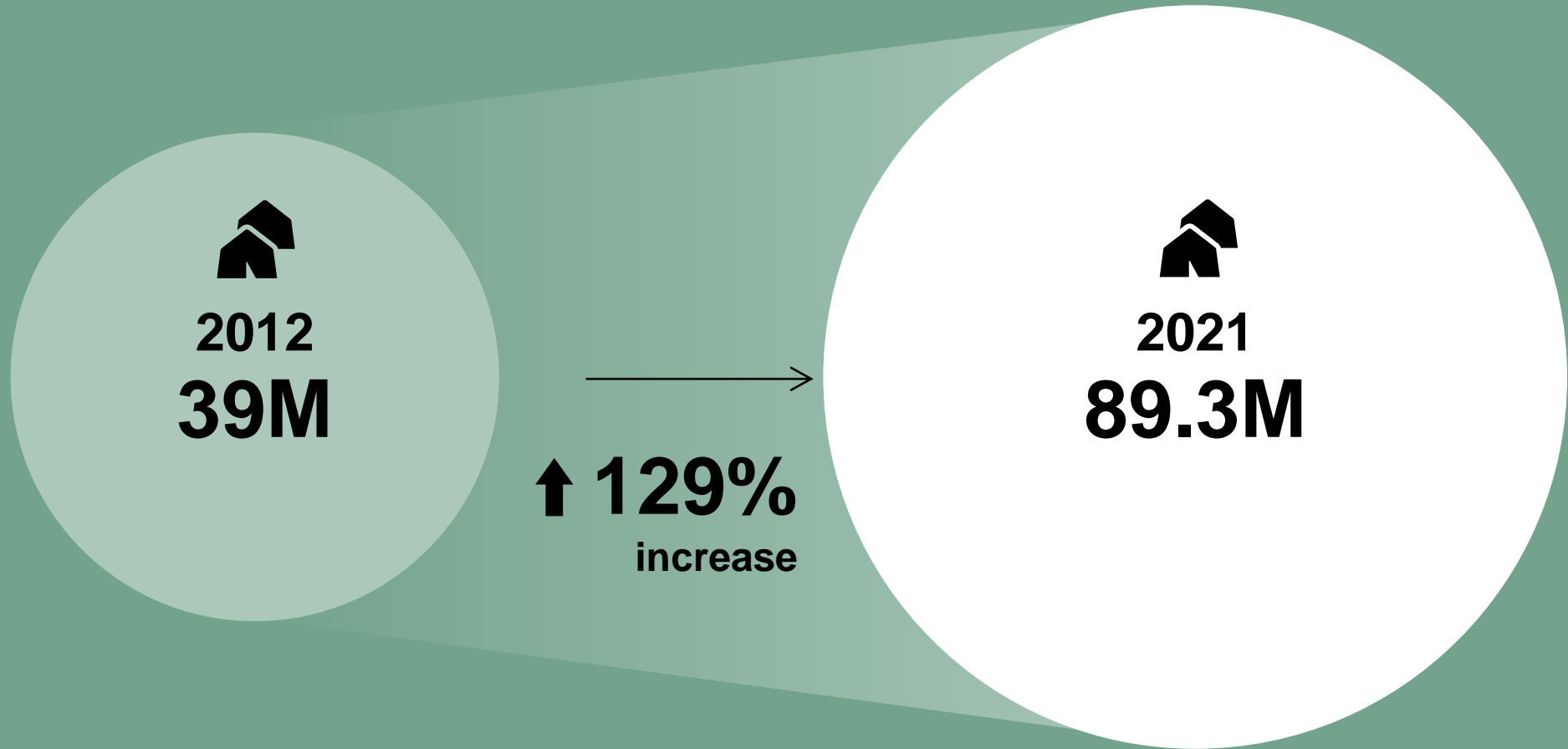
3

**Performance
of the system**

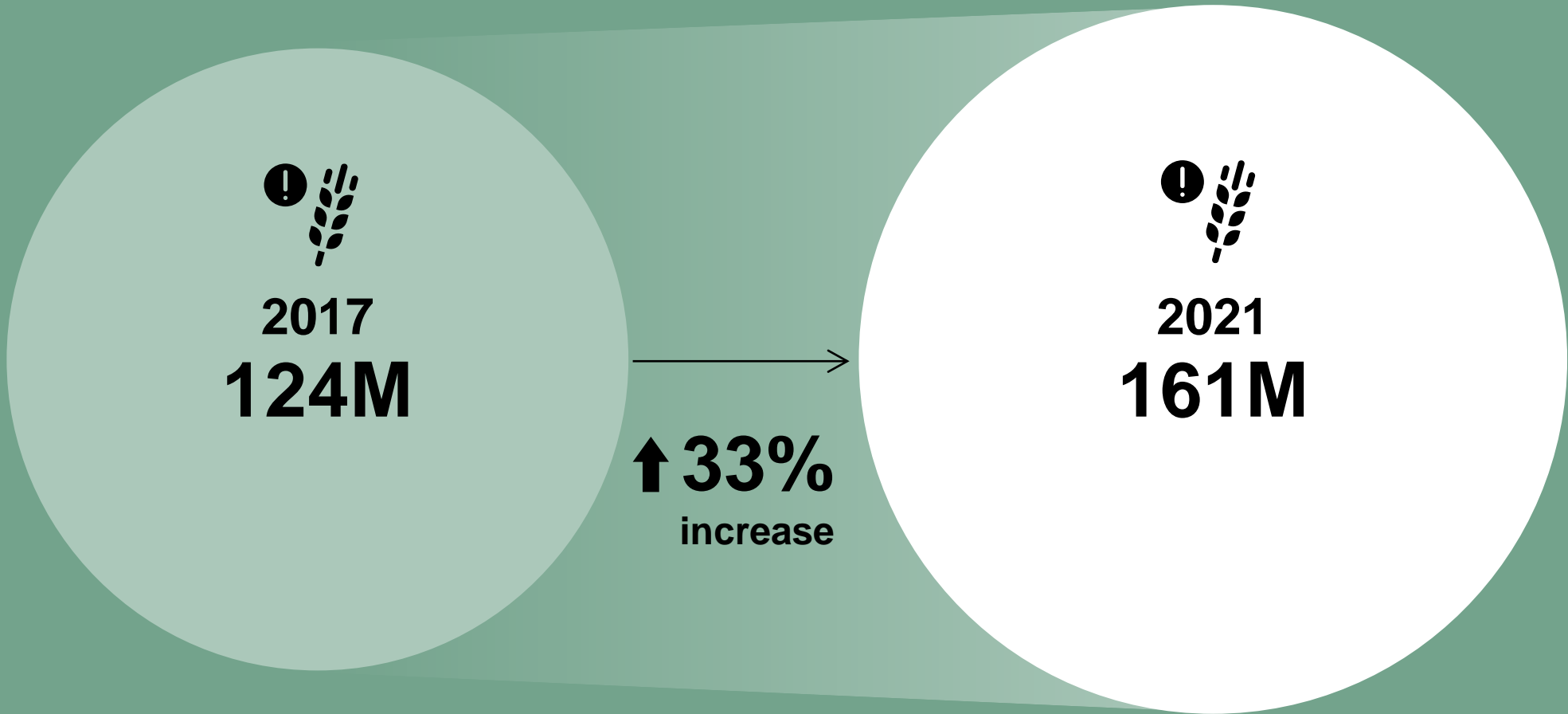


**The demand for
humanitarian
action: Crises,
caseload &
context**

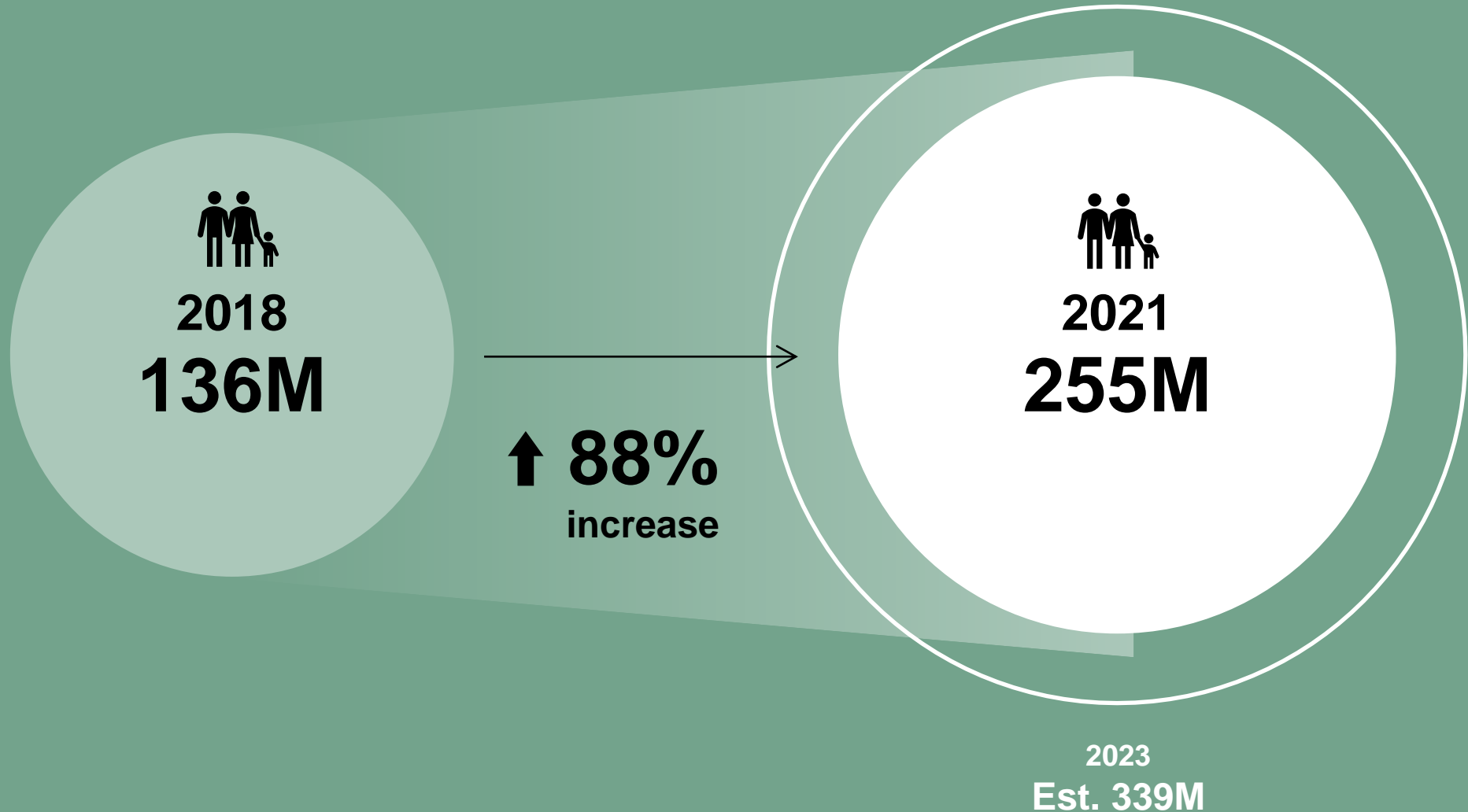
Displacement more than doubled




Acute food insecurity has risen



More people in need





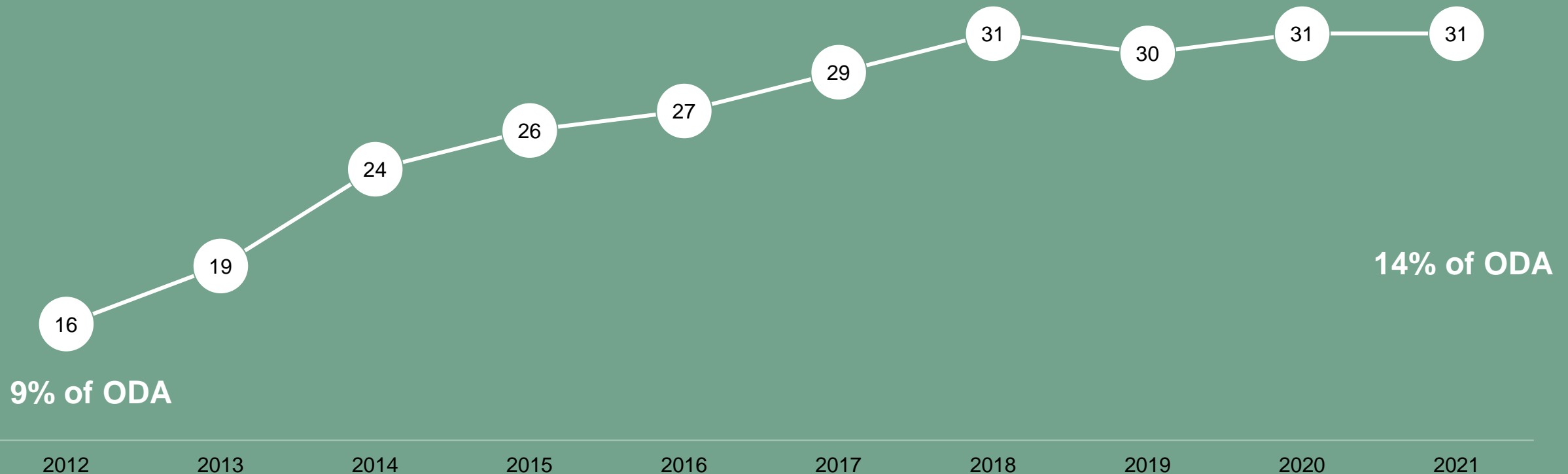
**“We’re in an
absolute crisis
of a fight for
core norms”**



The size and capacity of the humanitarian system

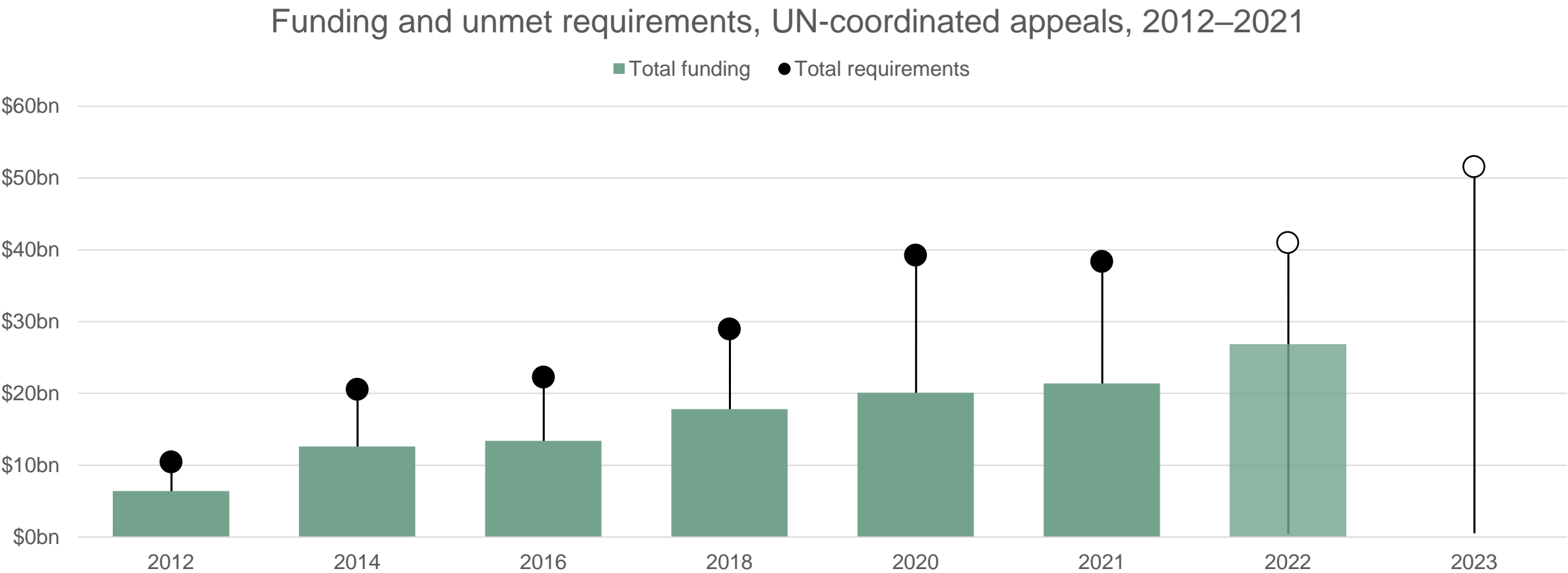
Funding doubled over a decade

International humanitarian assistance (in \$billion)

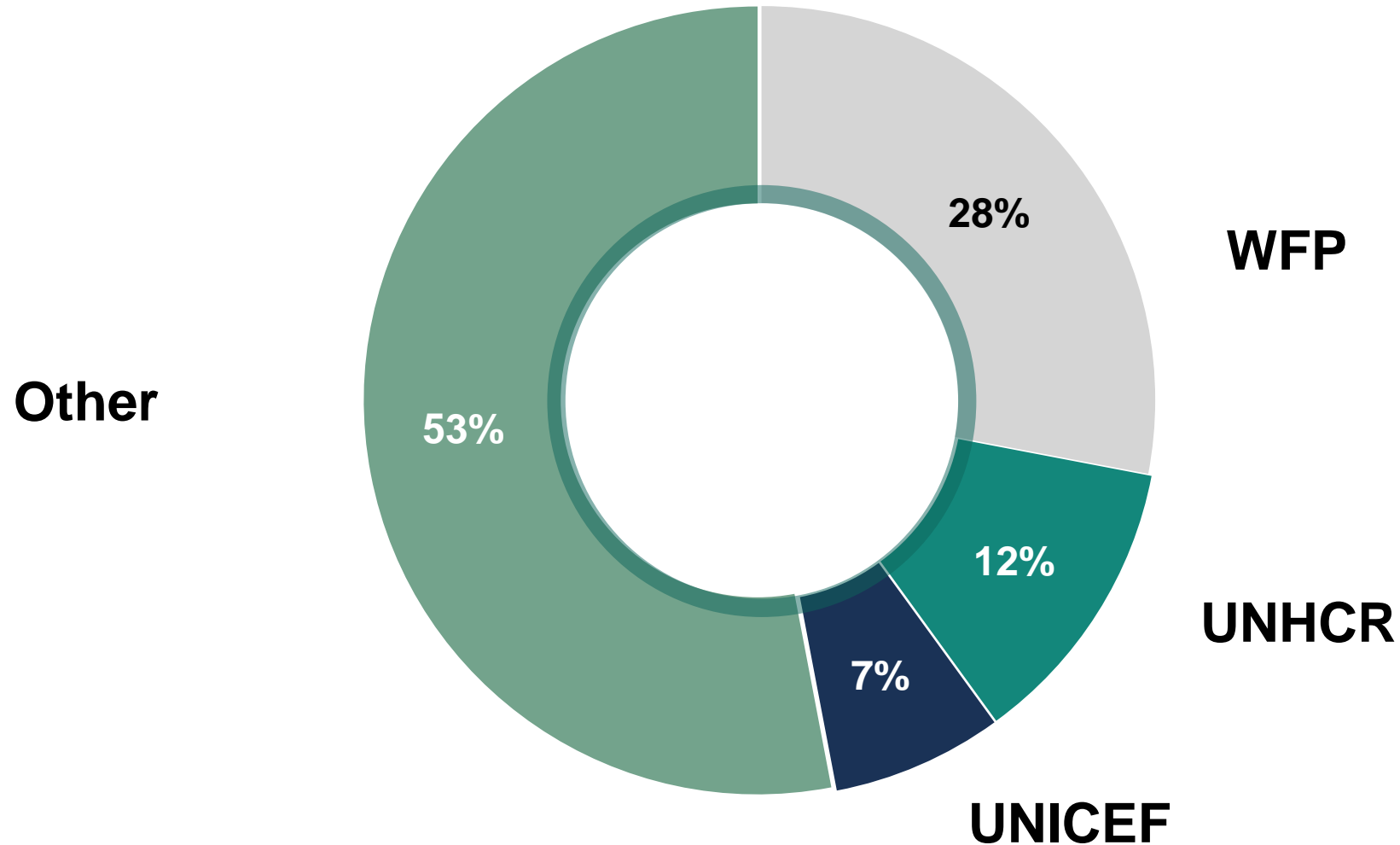


Source: Development Initiatives (DI) based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and DI's unique dataset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

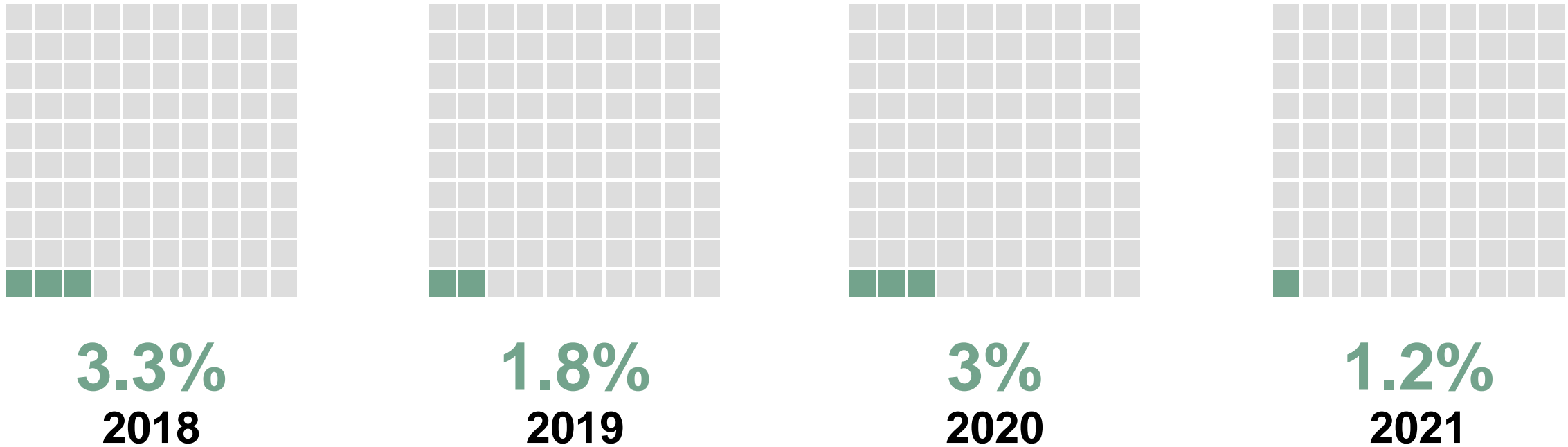
Widening gap between aspiration & resource



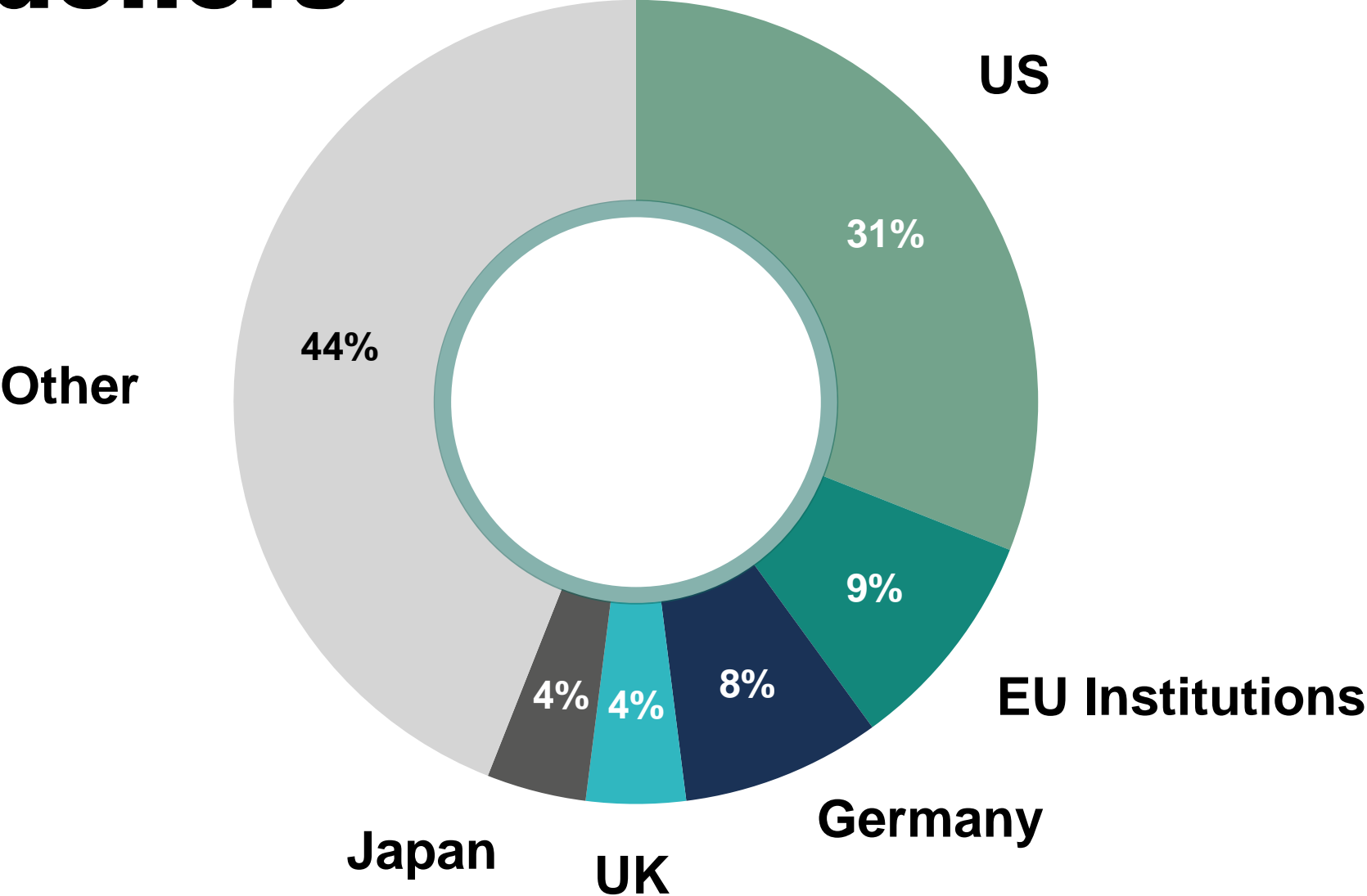
47% of funding over 2018-2021 went directly to 3 agencies



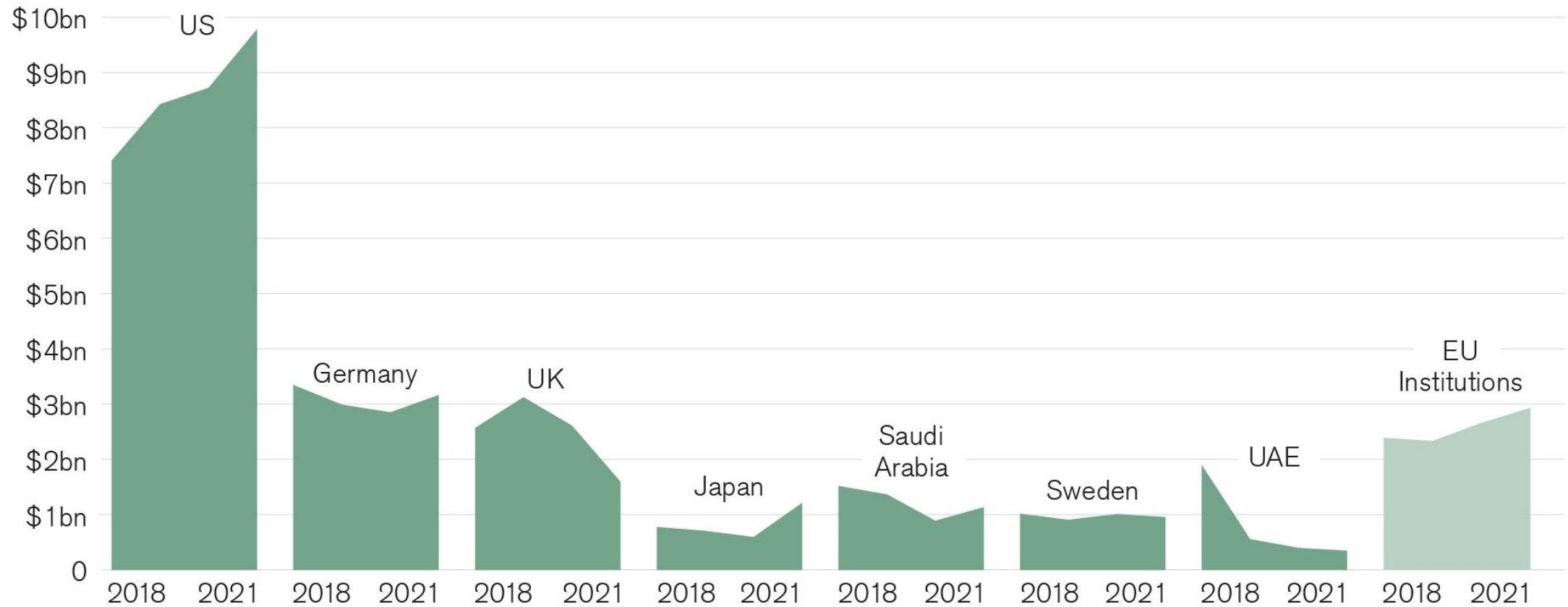
Direct international humanitarian funding to national and local actors, 2018–2021



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



Changes in top donors over 2018-2021





**The
performance of
the system**

Does humanitarian action ‘work’?

For short-term outcomes, in many contexts:
yes

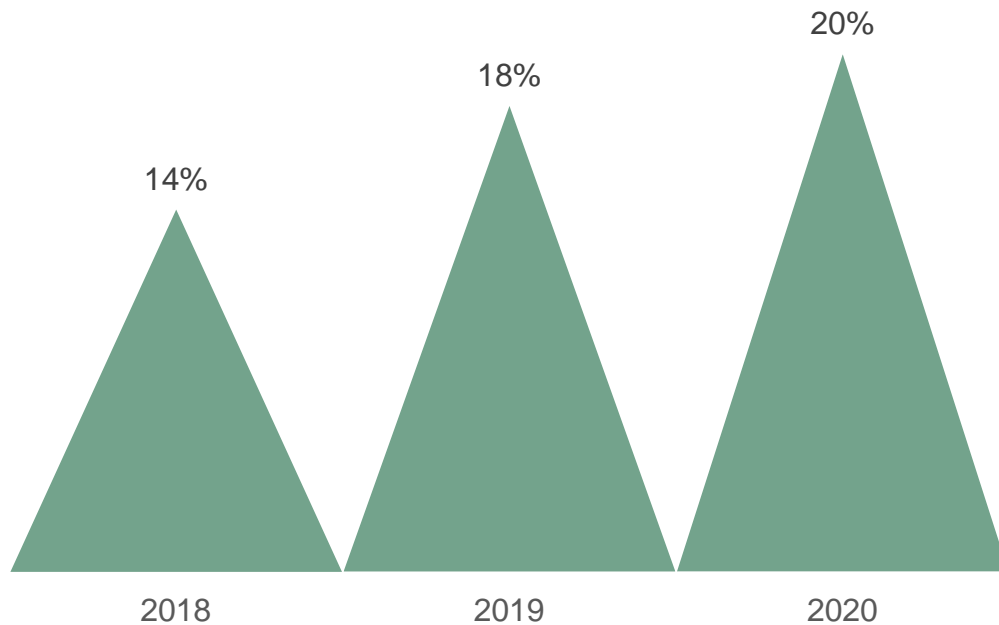
Still can't robustly answer the question, 'does humanitarian action save lives?' due to patchy mortality data in most crises

Food security, nutrition, education & livelihoods had strongest evidence base; protection the weakest



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 from a low angle, flying towards the viewer. The helicopter has 'MAYDAY' written in large black letters on its side. It has a white body with blue and yellow accents. The main rotor blades are blurred, indicating motion. The background is a clear blue sky.

Preparedness and anticipatory action improved the timeliness of humanitarian aid

Source: ©EU/ECHO/Daniel Dickinson.

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

Relevance of short-term aid is strained by longer-term crises

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

People saying aid addressed their priorities fell from 39% to 34%

Multiple initiatives addressing hdp nexus but no meaningful progress: 75% of practitioners this was 'fair' or 'poor'



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**





Reaffirming solidarity with people affected by crisis:

- Leverage Japan's growing leadership role in ongoing reform efforts
 - Invest in different ways of working: DRR, AA
 - Influence partners to work differently
- 



Read the full report here:

<https://sohs.alnap.org/>

