



2020 UNHCR MULTI-SECTORAL JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

March 2021

This report presents UNHCR's engagement in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments in 2020 in line with Grand Bargain commitments towards improved harmonization and coordination of assessment exercises as well as increased transparency.

CONTACT US

Katharina Thote

Head of Operational and Partnership Management Unit

Division of Strategic Planning and Results

UNHCR, Geneva

Email: thote@unhcr.org

Laura Mc Kiernan

Information Management Officer

Division of Strategic Planning and Results

UNHCR, Geneva

Email: mckierna@unhcr.org

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Brazil. Indigenous Warao children take part in art contest on World Refugee Day © UNHCR/Felipe Irinaldo 2020

Acronyms

3RP	Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
CRRP	Country Refugee Response Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GCR	Global Compact on Refugees
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HPC	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISCG	Inter Sector Coordination Group
JNA	Joint Needs Assessment
JRP	Joint Response Plan
MENA	Middle East and Northern Africa
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PA	Participatory Assessment
RRP	Refugee Response Plan
RMRP	Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan
SDR	Secondary Data Review
TAI	Technical Assistance Incorporated
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
WFP	World Food Programme

BACKGROUND

What are multi-sectoral joint needs assessments?

Multi-sectoral | Assessments are considered multi-sectoral when covering two or more sectors/clusters. UNHCR considers Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) to be cross-cutting sectors/clusters by nature, and therefore, all protection and CCCM assessments are considered multi-sectoral.

Joint | For the purposes of this report, a needs assessment exercise is considered "joint" when it is conducted [in collaboration with stakeholders within sectors/clusters, situations or thematic areas, leading to a jointly owned output](#). Assessment participants must include at least one actor beyond UNHCR and its implementing partners, such as other UN agencies, NGOs not funded by UNHCR, government or development actors.

Needs assessments | A needs assessment is any type of [data gathering, processing and analysis](#) that allows for the needs, conditions and capacities of target populations to be identified and quantified/qualified. Needs may be identified through a number of assessment types, such as nutrition or intention surveys, profiling exercises or participatory assessments. Data on needs may also be collected through different techniques, such as household surveys or focus group discussions. However, it is not mandatory for primary data collection to occur. Exercises where an [agreed-upon methodology](#) is in place and [secondary data](#)¹ is sufficient to answer key questions and allow conclusions to be drawn through [joint analysis](#) are also considered needs assessments. Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Refugee Response Plans (RRPs), for example, are prominent assessment exercises commonly informed by secondary data.

Why do we report on multi-sectoral joint needs assessments?

As a signatory of the Grand Bargain, UNHCR has committed to increasing efforts towards [comprehensive and cross-sector assessment outputs](#) and is accountable to donors and other signatories for transparently reporting on implementation milestones.

1 i.e. Data that was previously collected or collected outside the scope and purpose of the assessment at hand.

How did we collect the data on multi-sectoral joint needs assessments?

Data cut-off point | Only assessment exercises for which the output was finalized in 2020 were included in this report. Although there are a number of assessments for which the data collection occurred in 2020, they will not be reported until the output has been validated and published, where applicable. This cut-off point follows the rationale that an assessment process has not been completed until the output is released.

Data collection and analysis | With inputs from country, regional and global UNHCR staff, a database of assessment exercises was compiled and validated against the inclusion criteria ("multi-sectoral", "joint", "needs assessments") and data cut-off point. A descriptive analysis of the data was conducted, and where possible, findings were complemented by qualitative inputs from country operations and contextual information.

How do we interpret the data?

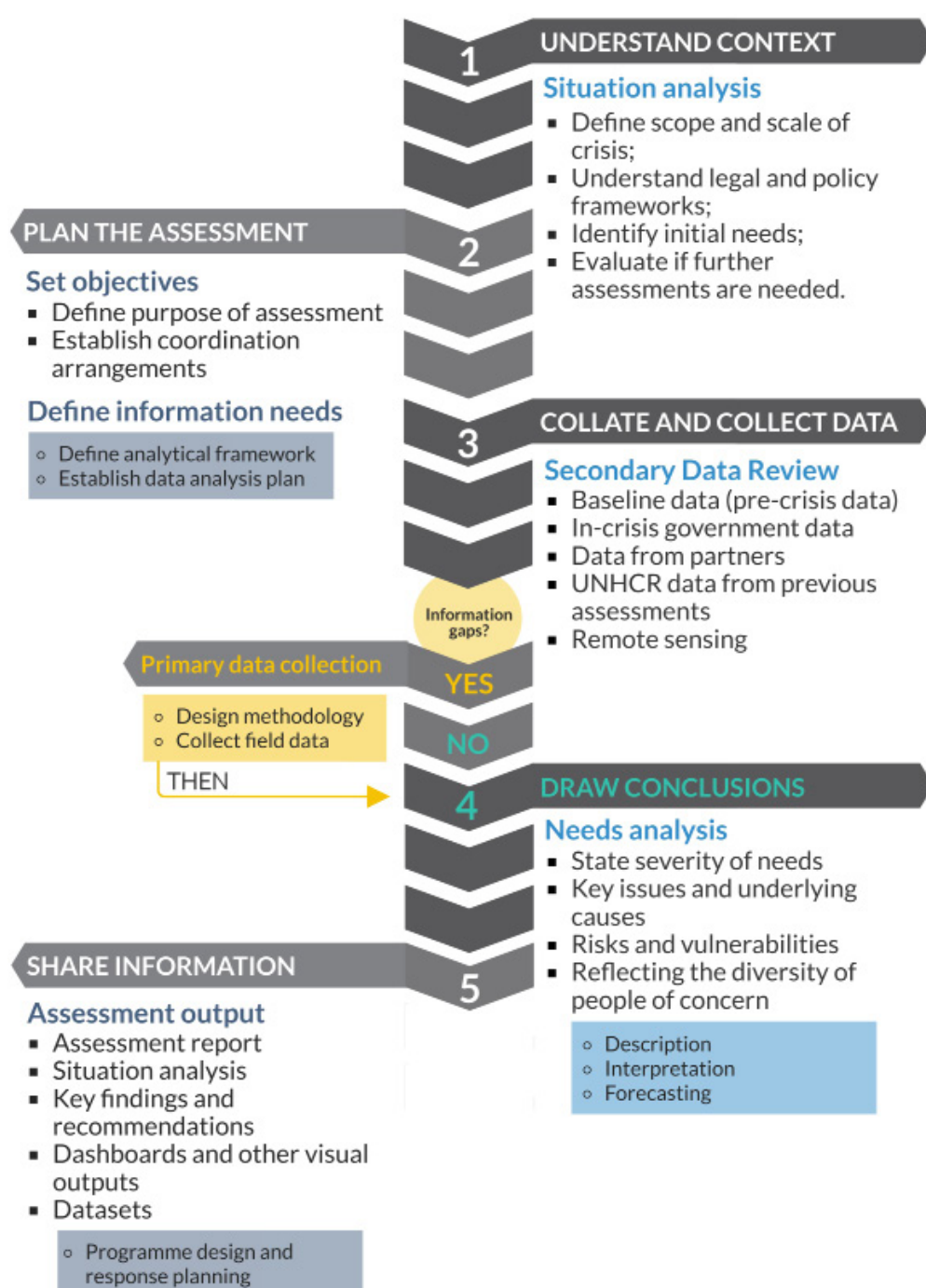
Unit of measurement | Using “needs assessments” as the unit of measurement may result in a reduced number of assessments conducted and create the appearance that countries and regions are not fully delivering on their commitments, when, in fact, the numbers may be a positive indicator of compliance with inter-agency efforts at the global level to establish minimum standards for coordinated assessments². Some of these standards include data minimization, improved data sharing and increased coordination among stakeholders, which, when upheld, are expected to avoid duplication or unnecessary data collection and encourage broader assessment participation. In some operations, better coordinated and more comprehensive exercises may decrease the number of assessments necessary to fill existing information gaps, thus resulting in lower numbers of assessments conducted.

Comprehensiveness | This report presents an indicative rather than exhaustive description of the current state of play for joint needs assessments at UNHCR. As it is largely based on inputs from the field, the accuracy of regional performance is likely affected by the level of compliance with the reporting exercise.

² For a brief overview of the assessment process mentioned, please refer to the next page of this report (page 6). Consult our [Needs Assessment Handbook](http://needsassessment.unhcr.org/) for detailed information on UNHCR's approach to needs assessment, available at: <http://needsassessment.unhcr.org/>

The assessment process

The graphic below presents an overview of the assessment process, including the decision points related to the need for primary data collection. More information on definitions and approaches to needs assessment are available in the [UNHCR Needs Assessment Handbook](#).





Colombia. Venezuelan refugee holds a dream catcher at the Integrated Assistance Centre in Maicao, northern Colombia © UNHCR/ Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo 2021

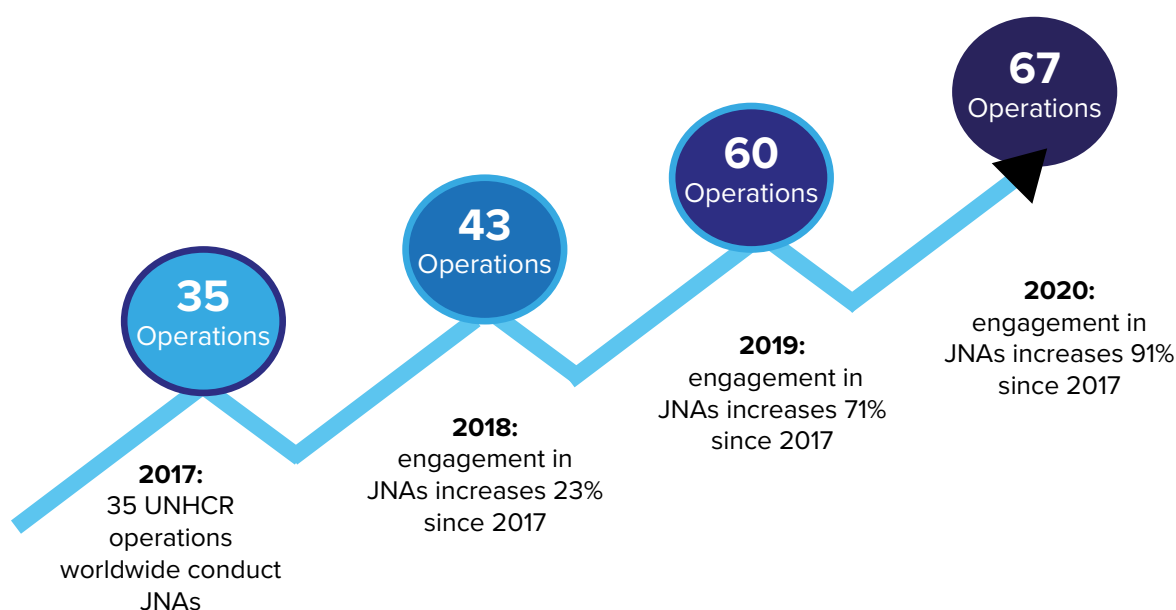
GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Overall engagement

Between 2017 and 2020, UNHCR's engagement in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments across the organization has increased by 91 per cent. In 2017, UNHCR recorded operations in 35 different countries conducting joint assessment exercises, this increased to 43 operations in 2018, 60 operations in 2019 and 67 operations in 2020. This continual increase demonstrates UNHCR's commitment to increasing participation in joint needs assessments.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic led to an increased demand for information among response actors. While almost all needs assessments informed the response to COVID-19, at least 22 per cent of the assessments covered in this report were initiated specifically to assess the impact of COVID-19 on different population groups of concern to UNHCR.

Number of UNHCR operations engaging in JNAs, 2017-2020



UNHCR engaged in [at least 129 multi-sectoral joint needs assessments](#) in 2020, compared with 105 in 2019. COVID-19 resulted in newly emerging needs and to respond effectively UNHCR required a strong evidence base upon which to inform response planning. UNHCR, in keeping with its commitments under the Grand Bargain strived to coordinate assessment activities with other actors. This is evidenced in the 12 per cent increase in UNHCR's engagement in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments between 2019 and 2020.

Types of assessments

Of the 129 assessments conducted, 18 per cent were HNOs and HRPs, 13 per cent were RRPp and 12 per cent were participatory assessments, the rest were other types of multi-sectoral joint exercises, such as vulnerability assessments, profiling exercises, rapid assessments and intention surveys.

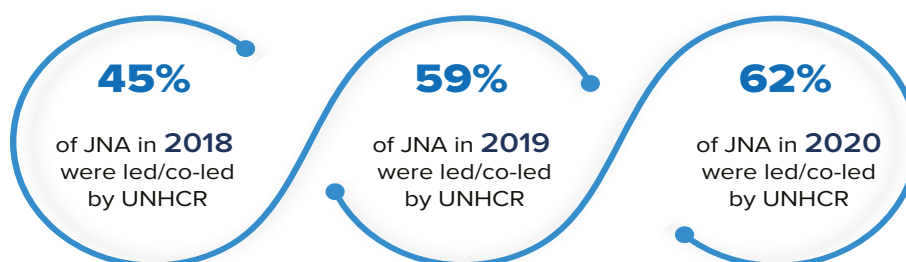
Transparency and dissemination

86% of JNA reports publicly available

14% of JNA reports kept confidential

In compliance with the [Grand Bargain Principles for Coordinated Assessment Ethos](#), UNHCR has strived to make joint assessment reports publicly available. This effort has resulted in 86 per cent of assessment reports from 2020 being made publicly available compared with 76 per cent in 2019. Of those that are publicly available 83 per cent can be accessed on online platforms and 17 per cent are available upon request. The [Grand Bargain Principles for Coordinated Assessment Ethos](#) state that sharing of results should always be weighed against risk of doing harm, which is why 14 per cent of the 129 JNA reports that UNHCR participated in remain confidential.

UNHCR leadership in assessments

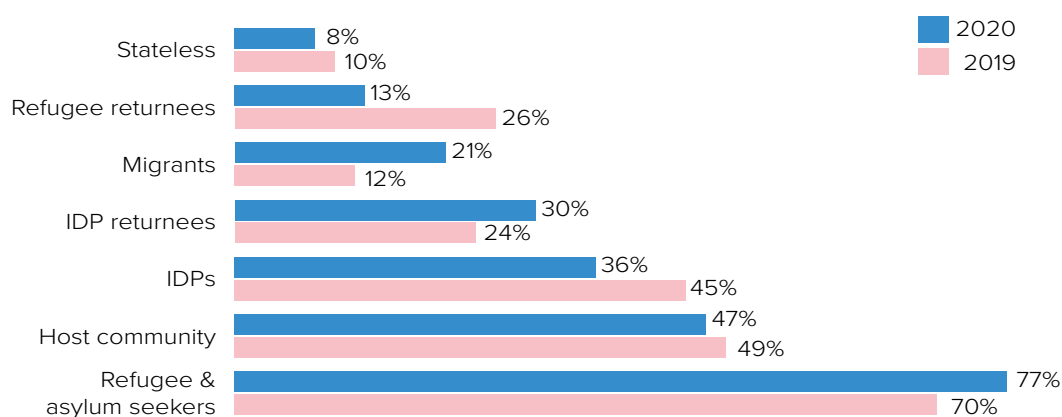


UNHCR led or co-led 80 (62 per cent) of the joint needs assessments in which it participated. UNHCR's leadership in this area aligns with the objectives set out in UNHCR's Data Transformation Strategy, which aims to position UNHCR as a leader in data on forcibly displaced persons by 2025.

Coverage of affected population groups

The needs of refugees and asylum-seekers were analyzed in 77 per cent of the joint needs assessments in which UNHCR participated in 2020. The second most assessed population group was the host community, they were included in 47 per cent of the assessments.

Representation of population groups in JNAs (%), 2019, 2020



Since one assessment often covers more than one population group, the percentage representations per group, when put together, surpass 100 per cent. For example: 77 per cent of assessments in 2020 pertained to the needs of refugees and 47 per cent assessed host communities.

The percentage of assessments covering the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers has continued to increase year on year as can be seen in the infographic on the following page in line with UNHCR's commitment under the Grand Bargain and Global Compact for Refugees. Stateless persons were included in 8 per cent of assessments in 2020 compared with 4 per cent in 2018, while host communities were included in 47 per cent of assessments in 2020 compared with 39 per cent in 2018.

Percentage of JNAs assessing the needs of refugees and asylum seekers

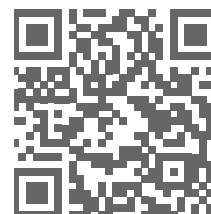


Joint Needs Assessments and the Global Compact on Refugees

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Reliable, comparable, and timely data is critical for evidence-based measures to: improve socio-economic conditions for refugees and host communities; assess and address the impact of large refugee populations on host countries in emergency and protracted situations; and identify and plan appropriate solutions”.

[Global Compact on Refugees, p. 17]³



Scan to read the full text of the Global Compact on Refugees.

The [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#)⁴ requires that UNHCR assess not only the needs of refugees and asylum seekers but also the communities that host them. In 2020, 36 per cent of the joint assessments UNHCR participated in analyzed the needs of both host communities and refugees, compared to 27 per cent in 2018. 22 per cent of assessments analyzed the needs of both IDPs and host communities and 16 per cent analyzed the needs of both IDPs and refugees.

³ The full Global Compact on Refugees booklet is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/5c658aed4>

⁴ More information about the Global Compact on Refugees is available at: <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

Examples of key findings from JNAs conducted in 2020



In Thailand, a Rapid Joint Needs Assessment found that since the onset of COVID-19 half of the survey respondents were unable to approach health facilities for treatment (52 per cent). 82 per cent of respondents were not working due to significantly reduced access to informal employment, and more than half of surveyed households (53 per cent) reported being able to meet less than half of their basic needs.



In Colombia, a Joint Needs Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 found that the main needs of respondents were food (85 per cent of households), housing/rent costs (68 per cent of households) and access to employment or sources of income (44 per cent of households). Among the households that prioritised food and housing, 76 per cent and 85 per cent respectively mentioned that money transfer (cash) would be their preferred form of response.



In Jordan, a Rapid Joint Needs Assessment on the impact of COVID-19 found that 55 per cent of households experienced an increase in food prices and 32 per cent did not have enough to eat in the week preceding the data collection. The findings also indicated that the impact of COVID-19 on the informal labour sector has the potential to reverse recent progress in relation to refugee self-reliance as more than half of respondents rely on the informal labour market as a source of income.



In Liberia, an emergency joint assessment in response to the Cote d'Ivoire situation found that there were no educational or recreational activities in the camps and many of the children were observed to be underweight, stunted or malnourished. There was also a concerning number of pregnant and lactating mothers aged between 13-17 years in need of medical and psychological support. A lack of awareness around COVID-19 among both refugees and the hosting communities was also revealed in the findings.



SPOTLIGHT ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

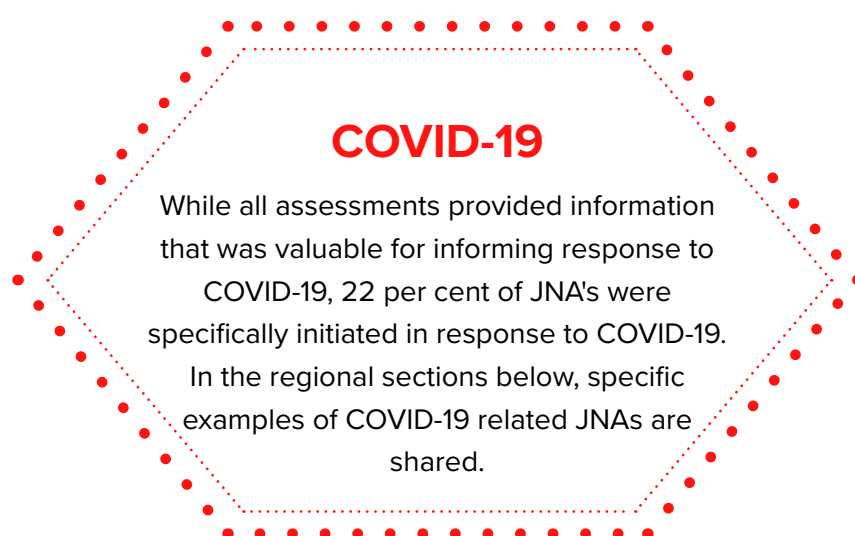
In several of the JNAs conducted consideration was given to how best to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment were factored into the design, methodology, sampling, data collection approach and analysis. This resulted in findings and insights that otherwise would have been missed.

Examples of how UNHCR operations incorporated gender equality and women's empowerment into the JNAs they led or participated in:

- ▶ The Durable Solutions Assessment conducted in Myanmar designed the data collection tools to contain specific questions on women and girls' perception of safety. Separate focus group discussions were also held for women to elicit their views and concerns in a safe environment and in the household survey, assessment teams interviewed a balanced proportion of male and female household representatives.
- ▶ The COVID-19 Impact Assessment in Thailand designed the sample so that the proportion of male to female headed households included in the survey was 64 per cent to 36 per cent, which closely corresponded to the proportion found in the overall population (73 per cent male to 27 per cent female headed households), ensuring female headed households were adequately reflected in the assessment findings.
- ▶ The Multi Sector Needs Assessment in Iraq applied an age and gender breakdown (where it was possible). The questionnaire was reviewed by protection staff to ensure questions were framed in such a manner that they did not exclude women's involvement. Where possible, it was encouraged to have not only head of household present during the interviews, however this was a challenge in practice as the data collection was conducted via phone.

Examples of the types of findings that were possible as a result of ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment were factored into the design of JNAs:

- ▶ In the revision of the 2020-2021 Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP), the operation provided partners with guidance documents on how to consider age, gender and diversity in the description of key sector achievements, sector needs and the ongoing and planned sector response.
- ▶ In Uganda, the Protection Analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on Persons with Specific Needs applied a gender lens and was able to specifically highlight the impact of COVID-19 on females with specific needs for example, in relation to their increased needs for financial assistance.
- ▶ In Myanmar, by mainstreaming gender in the design and data collection of the assessment 'Understanding Community Perceptions on COVID-19 in central Rakhine', the findings provided a deeper understanding of concerns and barriers that women and girls faced in accessing information and healthcare.





Mozambique. Half a million people displaced in conflict-torn north. UNHCR/Deilany de Souza 2020

REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

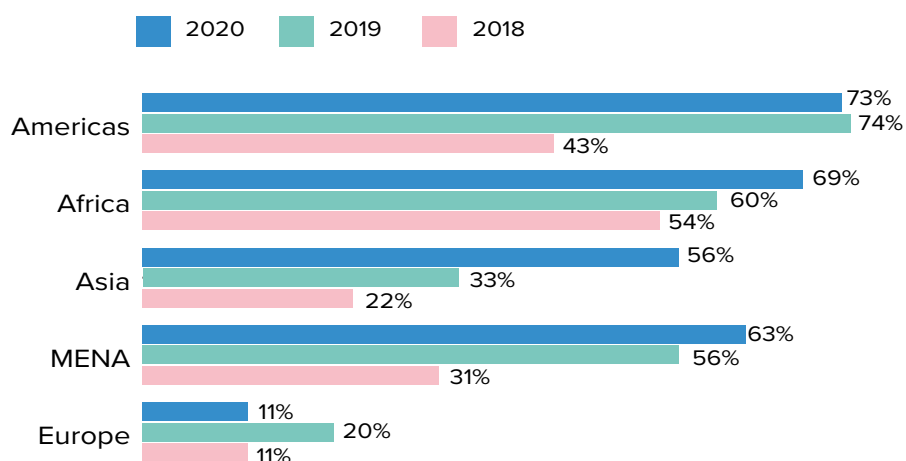
For the analysis of UNHCR's regional performance, 130 operations have been taken into consideration that fulfil the following criteria: (1) UNHCR has a permanent physical presence in the country⁵; or (2) countries that have engaged in important multi-sectoral joint needs assessment exercises⁶.

Depending on the context and/or possible restrictions in the operational environment, the space for assessments to be conducted or made public may be limited in certain situations. Furthermore, in certain contexts, depending on the scope and scale of the response structures in place there may be no need for large joint assessment exercises.

Despite this 67 (52 per cent) of the 130 UNHCR operations globally participated in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments, compared with 47 per cent in 2019.

⁵ A physical UNHCR presence was identified in 126 countries. Note this excludes China despite the presence of a UNHCR office, as refugees in the country are considered fully integrated and receiving protection assistance from national authorities.

⁶ UNHCR has no presence in Curacao, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay but the country has been included due to its relevance for the Venezuela Outflow and the RMRP.

Percentage of UNHCR operations engaging in JNAs per region, 2018-2020⁷

Several regions have increased their participation in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments. Particularly in Asia there has been a substantial increase from 22 per cent of operations engaging in 2018 to 56 per cent engaging in 2020. Similarly in MENA and the Americas a significant increase of participation in JNAs can be seen between 2018 and 2020.

Response Structures

In countries where refugee response is entirely regulated and implemented by highly capacitated and fully financed government bodies, no operational engagement from UNHCR is generally needed, as government authorities take full responsibility for protecting and assisting persons of concern. In these contexts, UNHCR focuses largely on advisory or advocacy work and there is less of a need for UNHCR to engage in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments.

⁷ Operations who engaged in joint needs assessment and analysis for the purpose of HNO, RRP, or RMRPs were included in this count.

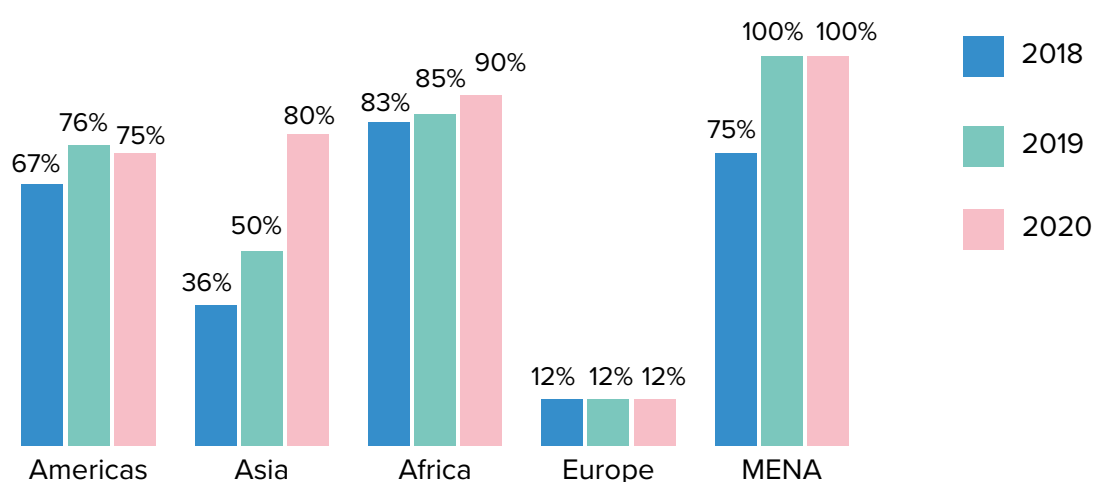
Scope and Scale

In small-scale operations, a multi-sector joint needs assessment exercise may not always be required. Responses in large-scale operations, on the other hand, often require a higher level of partner coordination - including to assess needs. Of the 130 UNHCR operations, 66 are located in countries hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern in 2020. Considering these as UNHCR's "large-scale operations", where the likelihood of a sizable cross-sector response is higher, 44 (67 per cent) of these "large-scale operations" engaged in multi-sectoral JNAs in 2020.

As can be seen from the infographic below the majority of UNHCR's large-scale operations maintained a similar level of engagement in JNA's compared to 2019. In the case of Asia, there was a significant increase from 50 to 80 per cent engagement among large-scale operations between 2019 and 2020.

Operations in Europe remained stable, which can be associated with the national response structures in some of the countries hosting large refugee populations (i.e. 100,000 persons of concern or more).

UNHCR large-scale operations engaging in JNAs per region (%), 2018-2020





Sudan. Refugees from Ethiopia arrive seeking shelter, food and safety
UNHCR/Will Swanson 2020

AFRICA

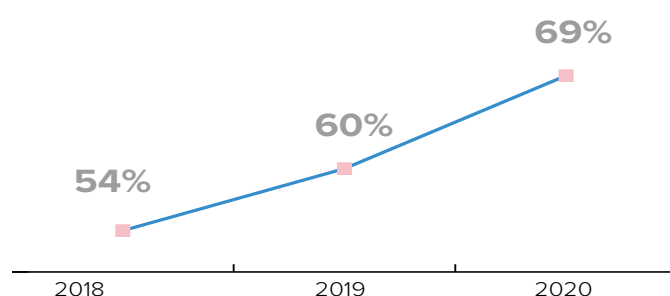
90% of large scale operations (hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern) in the East Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa, West and Central Africa and Southern Africa, led or participated in JNAs in 2020, compared with 85% in 2019

73% of all operations in the East Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa engaged in multi-sectoral joint needs assessments in 2020, in Southern Africa 67% of operations participated and similarly in West and Central Africa 67% of UNHCR operations engaged in JNAs in 2020

70% of JNA reports from the Southern Africa were made publicly available, 66% in the East Horn and Great Lakes region and 25% in West and Central Africa.

100% of large-scale operations hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern in West and Central Africa participated in joint multi-sectoral needs assessments. 8 out of 9 large-scale operations in East and Horn of Africa and 2 out of 3 large-scale operations in Southern Africa also engaged in such exercises.

JNA engagement trend among all UNHCR operations in Africa (%) 2018 - 2020



The number of UNHCR operations in Africa conducting multi-sectoral joint needs assessments has continued to increase year on year as can be seen from the trend graph above.

UNHCR engagement in joint assessment activities

In Sudan, UNHCR participated in the first-ever multi-sectoral joint needs assessment based on primary data led by OCHA, the ISCG, and REACH, which sought to understand multi-sectoral priority humanitarian needs of populations and localities across the whole of Sudan. The findings provided valuable evidence on key sectoral needs and priorities which were used to inform humanitarian response and strategic programming for non-displaced, IDP and refugee households.

In Nigeria, UNHCR participated in a Government led assessment to gather information on security trends, socio-political dynamics, living conditions, priority needs, and gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance in North West Nigeria. The assessment found that many IDPs in the different host communities or camp-like settings visited were engaging in extreme coping strategies to meet their basic needs. Many women reported begging with their children or searching for food in recently harvested farms. Due to the reliance on children to carry out the above mentioned daily chores, many are not attending school.

In [Rwanda](#), UNHCR led a Participatory Assessment (PA) with the Government Ministry in charge of Emergency Management. The PA aimed to obtain a deep understanding of the situation of displaced persons and the hosting communities, their perspectives and how the evolving context is affecting them. The findings are being used to inform the multi-partner protection and response strategy.

In [Zambia](#), a COVID-19 rapid impact survey was conducted in the three refugee settlements and hosting villages to quantify the immediate impact on livelihoods, food security and local markets. This survey was steered by Government District line Ministries and UNHCR, with the support of other agencies and aimed to inform response to newly emerging needs as a result of COVID-19.

In the [Central African Republic \(CAR\)](#), UNHCR, together with the Durable Solutions working group conducted an interagency assessment looking into the progress of work on durable solutions, analysing the gaps and identifying prospects for future sustainable solutions. The findings were used to prepare for a donor conference and for advocacy regarding implementation of Sustainable Solutions in CAR.



In [Uganda](#), UNHCR, together with the sub working group on Persons with Specific Needs (over 20 organisations including UN agencies, NGOs, Disabled Peoples Organizations, and Government) led a protection analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on persons with specific needs in refugee communities to better understand the needs and challenges faced by these communities to enable strengthened planning and advocacy. UNHCR also co-led the Rapid Gender Assessment on the impact of COVID-19. The findings of this assessment will inform humanitarian and development partners programming for the COVID-19 response and beyond.

In [Ghana](#), [Nigeria](#) and [Cote d'Ivoire](#) UNHCR operations participated in the Common Country Analysis which informs the development or review of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework guiding the cooperation between the Government and the UN system.

Refugee Response Plans

Five Regional Refugee Response plans (RRRP) were developed or updated in 2020. 16 countries participated in joint assessment and analysis to inform these plans: The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) RRRP 2020-2021 (Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia); Burundi RRRP 2019-2020 (DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and returnees to Burundi); Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for the Ethiopia Situation 2020-2021 (Sudan, Djibouti, Eritrea); South Sudan RRRP 2020-2021 (DRC, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda); and Nigeria RRRP 2019-2020 (update) (Chad, Niger, Cameroon). In addition to developing response plans, many countries in the region also developed their own specific Country Refugee Response Plans (CRRP).



Brazil. Shelter and support for Venezuelan refugees during Covid-19 pandemic UNHCR/ Felipe Irnaldo 2020

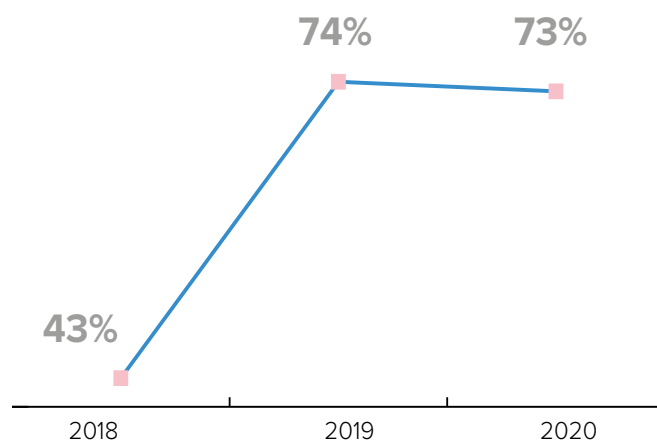
AMERICAS

75% of large scale operations (hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern) in the Americas led or participated in JNAs in 2020, compared with 77% in 2019

82% of the multi-sectoral joint needs assessments in the Americas that UNHCR participated in were led or co-led by UNHCR

88% of multi-sectoral joint needs assessments from the Americas are publicly available (or available upon demand)

JNA engagement trend among all UNHCR operations in the Americas (%) 2018 - 2020



UNHCR engagement in joint assessment activities

In [Colombia](#), UNHCR and IOM, together with 46 other actors conducted four rapid multi-sectoral joint needs assessments throughout the year to assess the situation and needs of refugees and migrants in the context of COVID-19. The findings provided key household level evidence about shocks and new coping mechanisms employed by surveyed households after the onset of restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Response Plans

UNHCR and IOM led two large joint analysis exercises in 2020 to inform the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (RMRP): the 2020 COVID-19 Review of the RMRP and the 2021 RMRP. A total of 17 countries contributed to the assessment and analysis to inform the multi-sectoral evidence base to plan a coherent and efficient joint response.



Pakistan. Afghan refugee boy reads a story to out of school refugee children
UNHCR/ Muhammad Rahim Mirza, 2020

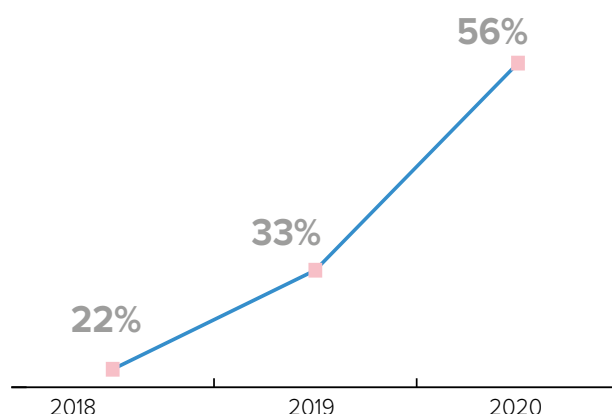
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

80% of large scale operations (hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern) in Asia led or participated in JNAs in 2020, compared with 50% in 2019

59% of multi-sectoral joint needs assessments from Asia are publicly available (or available upon demand)

68% of the multi-sectoral joint needs assessments from Asia that UNHCR participated in were led or co-led by UNHCR

JNA engagement trend among all UNHCR operations in Asia (%) 2018 - 2020



UNHCR engagement in joint assessment activities

In [Bangladesh](#), the 2020 joint multi-sectoral needs assessment, led by the ISCG, provided a comprehensive evidence base of household-level multi-sectoral needs of both refugees and their hosting communities. UNHCR together with IOM, ACAPS, REACH and TAI participated in the assessment. The findings were used to inform the 2021 Joint Response Plan (JRP) and to assess how needs have changed in 2020 with an emphasis on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings also formed the basis for a joint multi-stakeholder analysis process.

In [Myanmar](#), a joint assessment was conducted with UNDP and a number of other agencies to better understand the needs and protection risks in IDP return locations. The findings are being used by both the IDP population and humanitarian partners to inform decisions around return and response. The findings are also being used to inform advocacy with local NGOs, the Government and ethnic armed organizations on the protection risks and way forward. A participatory assessment was also conducted to understand community perceptions of COVID-19 in central Rakhine. The assessment was aimed at determining additional information needs as well as community awareness and perception towards disease prevention and response plans. The results were shared with stakeholders and partners operating in the area, and presented at national level (to the Protection Working Group) to inform and shape future community communication and engagement strategies.



Bangladesh. UNHCR provides cash support to the host community as part of the COVID-19 response © UNHCR/Hasib Zuberi, 2020

In [Thailand](#), UNHCR and other actors observed increased levels of vulnerability due to COVID-19 as a result of restrictions on movement, loss of livelihood opportunities and impacted access to healthcare among urban refugees and asylum seekers. UNHCR, together with Asylum Access Thailand, Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees, Jesuit Refugee Service, HOST international, IOM and UNICEF conducted a joint multi-sectoral needs assessment, combining the activity with an existing post distribution monitoring exercise. The assessment sought to better understand the needs of refugees and asylum seekers, the impact of COVID-19 on their wellbeing and their access to services. The findings provided a strong evidence base from which to design protection and programme interventions.

Refugee Response Plans

The 2020 Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis analysed the needs of 1.3 million persons of concern in Bangladesh. In response to COVID-19 an additional analysis of new and emerging needs was required and some 1.8 million persons of concern were identified as in need and targeted. Through the JRP, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, provide reliable and predictable evidence to inform responses in Bangladesh.



EUROPE

88% of multi-sectoral joint needs assessments from Europe are publicly available (or available upon demand)

63% of the multi-sectoral joint needs assessments in Europe that UNHCR participated in were led or co-led by UNHCR

12% of large scale operations (hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern) in European countries led or participated in JNAs in 2020, unchanged from 2019

In 2020, nine multi-sectoral joint needs assessments were conducted **in four countries** in Europe, compared with **nine** JNA conducted **in seven countries** in 2019.

Safeguarding the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers through advocacy and policy-focused work

Where governments take full responsibility for assessing, assisting and protecting refugees, UNHCR's work focuses largely on safeguarding the protection space through government advocacy, public awareness raising and contributions to policy-making. This is often the case for operations located in Europe, where countries hosting large refugee populations include Austria, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom. It is only in main refugee entry points into the European Union (EU), such as Eastern and Southern Europe that UNHCR provides services and therefore conducts assessments - where possible, jointly.

UNHCR engagement in joint assessment activities

In Montenegro, UNHCR worked jointly with the Government to conduct a survey among holders of international protection status to gain a deeper understanding of a number of issues, including around access to rights, the socio-economic context, and socio-cultural context. The majority of the survey recommendations - mostly concerning language learning, education, employment, social welfare and health care - were embedded into the draft National Strategy on Integrated Migration Management 2021-2025 and the respective Action Plan 2021-2022 whose development was in progress at the end of 2020. The survey provided a solid evidence-base for advocacy to inform the design of key policy documents and it established baseline data for any future measurement of progress in the area of integration. UNHCR also led a Rapid Social Impact Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 together with IOM, UNDP and UNICEF. The Ministry of Justice, Ombudsman, Police Directorate, several municipal centres for social care, a number of civil society organisations (CSOs) and the ILO also participated in the assessment. It aimed to understand how COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the authorities have impacted on persons of concern. The assessment findings enabled strengthened planning and coordination of response to the COVID-19 pandemic and were used to prioritize programmes and activities.

In Turkey, the Protection Sector Working Group has been undertaking quarterly joint needs assessments since June 2020. The response to the COVID-19 situation presented an opportunity for the sector to develop a harmonized, inter-agency needs assessment tool. The process aims to develop a better understanding of the protection and humanitarian situation in Turkey, establish a mechanism to systematically identify needs to better inform evidence-based programming and the larger refugee response, as well as to inform advocacy efforts at local and central levels. Findings have been presented in multiple coordination fora and used to inform the 2021-2022 3RP, which ultimately serves as the response framework for partners in Turkey. Findings are also incorporated into project proposals of partners and presented to donors as part of advocacy efforts. Local municipalities and Government were actively engaged in the process.



In Ukraine, under the leadership of the UN country team and jointly with multiple other actors, UNHCR participated in an assessment of the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 to (i) understand the immediate and long-term effects of COVID-19 on public health and people's well-being and (ii) review the current response, identify possible gaps and suggest immediate measures and policy options for the future. Two key approaches guided the assessment: The first was to map the most vulnerable groups in Ukraine, identify the barriers that affect their ability to enjoy their basic rights and understand how a response that "leaves no-one behind" should be shaped. The second was to take a human rights-based and gender mainstreaming approach and establish a conceptual framework to systematically analyze the barriers. The findings were primarily used as an advocacy tool with the Government of Ukraine.



Ukraine. New law to tackle statelessness gives hope to young stateless woman
© UNHCR/Anton Fedorov 2020



Iraq, Syrian refugee community volunteers who signed up to help other refugees have the words "Your voice is heard" written on their vests at Bardarash refugee camp. © UNHCR/Firas Al-Khateeb 2019

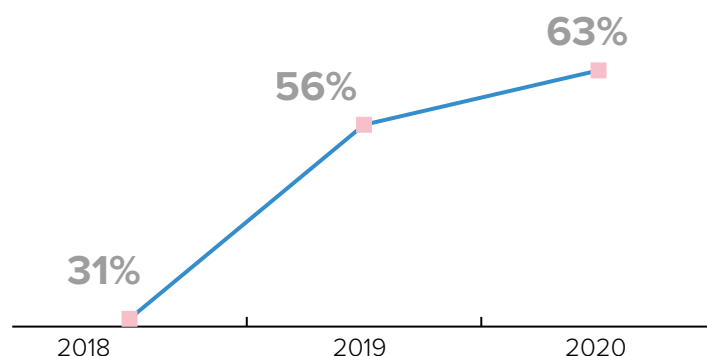
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

100% of large scale operations (hosting 100,000 or more persons of concern) in MENA led or participated in JNAs in 2020

50% of multi-sectoral joint needs assessments in MENA that UNHCR participated in were led or co-led by UNHCR

100% of multi-sectoral joint needs assessments from MENA are publicly available (or available upon demand)

JNA engagement trend among all UNHCR operations in MENA (%) 2018 - 2020



UNHCR engagement in joint assessment activities

[In Egypt](#), the Vulnerability Assessment for Refugees published in 2020 was conducted jointly by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. It replaced sector-specific needs assessments with one comprehensive multi-sectoral assessment. It also informed targeting eligibility for food assistance and multi-purpose cash assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt. While previous exercises focused on Syrian refugees only, this exercise covered a total of twelve refugee nationalities. It also informed joint resource mobilization efforts under the 3RP and the Egypt Response Plan for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers from sub-Saharan Africa, Iraq and Yemen.

[In Jordan](#), a Multi-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment (COVID-19) was carried out jointly by UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP in a move to strengthen collaboration and share resources as part of the COVID-19 response. The data was collected through a remote phone survey and the exercise included both refugee and host community families, allowing for comparative analysis of the impacts of the emergency on household-level basic needs. The analysis resulted in a number of recommendations per sector and the findings informed the planning and implementation of the response and contingency plans. The findings also contributed to fundraising and advocacy activities.

In [Morocco](#), the High Commissioner for Planning (a national institution) in cooperation with UNHCR conducted a study on the socio-economic and psychological impact of the COVID-19 crisis on refugees. This exercise provided rich data on access of refugees to national services during the pandemic, including health and education services. It also highlighted the impact of the pandemic on refugee livelihoods.

Refugee Response Plans

The 2021 3RP Regional Needs Overview is a new and innovative approach for informing the Regional Response Plan. It provides a consolidated and streamlined overview of the needs and vulnerabilities of refugees and impacted host community members at both the regional and country level, based on data and information from over 100 assessments and studies conducted throughout 2020 from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. It will inform the 3RP regional and country level planning for 2021 and beyond.



Countries engaging in JNAs per region in 2020

Americas

Argentina
Aruba
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Curaçao
Dominican Rep.
Ecuador
Guyana
Haiti
Mexico
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Asia

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Thailand

East Horn and Great Lakes region of Africa

Burundi
Ethiopia
Kenya
Rwanda
South Sudan
Sudan
Uganda
Tanzania (United Rep. of)

Europe

Montenegro
North Macedonia
Turkey
Ukraine

MENA

Algeria
Egypt
Iraq
Jordan
Lebanon
Libya
Morocco
Syrian Arab Rep.
Tunisia
Yemen

Southern Africa

Angola
Congo, (Republic of)
Dem. Rep. of the Congo
Mozambique
Zambia
Zimbabwe

West and Central Africa

Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Central African Rep.
Chad
Côte d'Ivoire
Ghana
Liberia
Mali
Niger
Nigeria

2020 UNHCR MULTI-SECTORAL JOINT NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORTING

January 2020 – December 2020



UNHCR

hqfr00@unhcr.org

P.O. Box 2500

1211 Geneva 2

www.unhcr.org