



Evaluation of Finland's Humanitarian Aid

Final presentation

Development Evaluation Unit, MFA

14th September 2022

Evaluation purpose and questions

Purpose: Help **enhance the effectiveness** of humanitarian assistance

- identify strengths & weaknesses of delivery model
- review cooperation arrangements

Three questions:

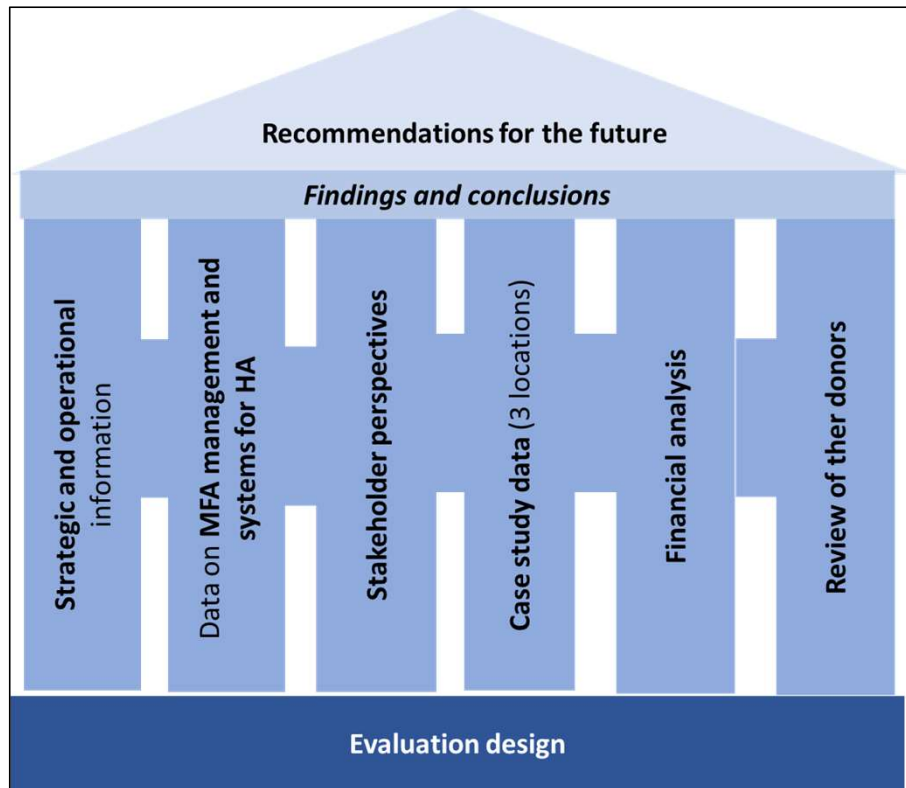
- **What successes, challenges & limitations** in the management of Finnish humanitarian assistance vis a vis Humanitarian Policy objectives?
- What has Finland's assistance delivered in terms **of results for humanitarian assistance?**
- What influence does Finland have on **partner organisations?**

How was the evaluation done? 1

| Why? Motivation | How? Channels | What principles and commitments? | What aims? | What means? Policy Goals | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>Save lives during and indirectly after crises. Alleviate suffering and human distress while respecting human dignity.</p> | <p>UN core and operational assistance</p> | <p>Humanitarian imperative International humanitarian law, international human rights treaties and international refugee law Humanitarian principles Good Humanitarian Donorship principles Agenda for Humanity</p> | <p><i>2019 Policy</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Needs-based, non-discriminatory and effective humanitarian aid Strengthens protection and respect for humanitarian principles Support the participation of beneficiaries and the rights of disabled people, women and children Improve the functioning of the humanitarian system | <p><i>1. Needs-based, non-discriminatory and effective humanitarian aid</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure aid is provided solely for humanitarian needs,; Take into account non-discrimination, accessibility and gender equality and the rights of persons with disabilities; Assistance provided whenever possible in cash instead of in-kind, Support economic recovery; Support operational cooperation, strengthen donor coordination & improve monitoring and evaluation; Support prevention, preparedness, reduction and recovery of disasters by strengthening local ownership. | <p><i>3. Support the participation of beneficiaries and the rights of disabled people, women and children</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen capacities & engage affected populations in the planning, implementation and monitoring; Mainstream climate and environmental considerations, gender equality and non-discrimination; Empower persons with disabilities, women, girls and young people; Support small-scale and medium-sized entrepreneurs to strengthen resilience. |
| | <p>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</p> | <p>Consensus on Humanitarian Aid of the European Union Treaty of Lisbon UN General Assembly Resolution 46/182 (1991). UN Security Council Resolution 1325 On Women, Peace and Security</p> | | <p><i>2. Strengthen protection and respect for humanitarian principles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen respect for humanitarian law and increase the responsibility for it; Stress the importance of the conditions for humanitarian aid and the protection of the civilian population; Increase understanding of humanitarian principles/ law; Protect the most vulnerable and who most need support; Reduce sexual and gender-based violence and enable sexual and reproductive health and rights to be realised; Ensure full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities. | <p><i>4. Improve the functioning of the humanitarian system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide rapid, predictable, multiannual, earmarked and flexible funding; Contribute to donor cooperation and co-ordination for expanded donor base; Help strengthen coordination of humanitarian & development funding; Support building cooperation between humanitarian, development and peace work; Support shared responsibilities on refugees; Support large-scale innovative and user-driven solutions; Support nature-based solutions, in natural disasters and climate risks; Support stronger cooperation with e.g. as the private sector and industry. |
| | <p>CSOs</p> | <p>Resolution 2250 Youth, Peace and Security Sendai Agreement Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action</p> | | | |

Principles: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence

How was the evaluation done? 2



Case study

- South Sudan
- Syrian regional crisis
- Bangladesh

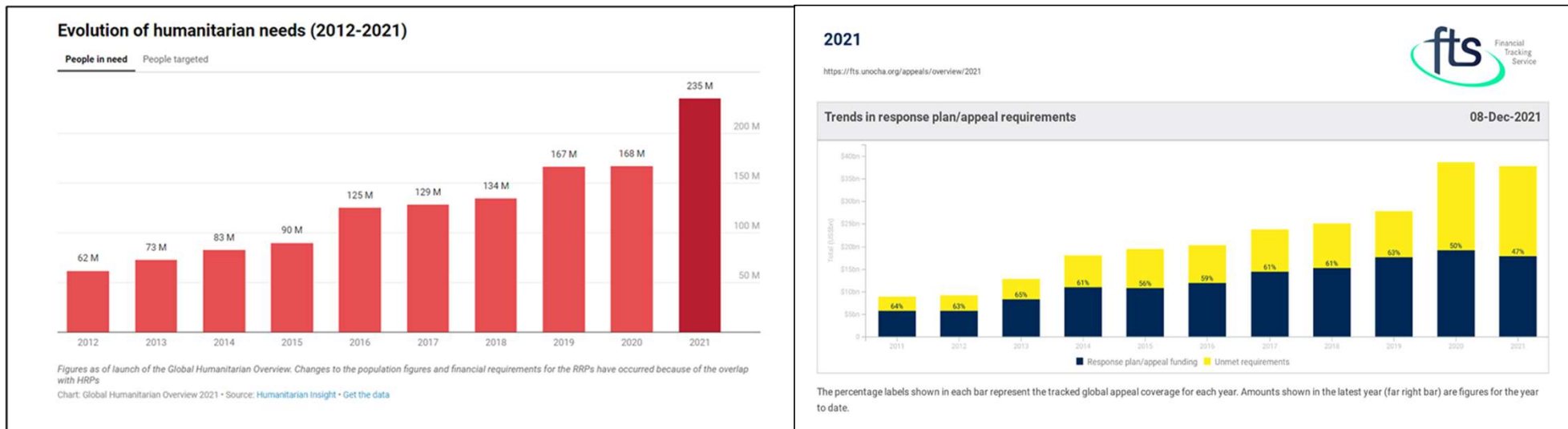
Recipient organisations

- WFP, UNHCR, CERF, Red Cross, UNRWA
- FinnChurchAid, Save the Children, Finnish Refugee Council

Donors (lessons)

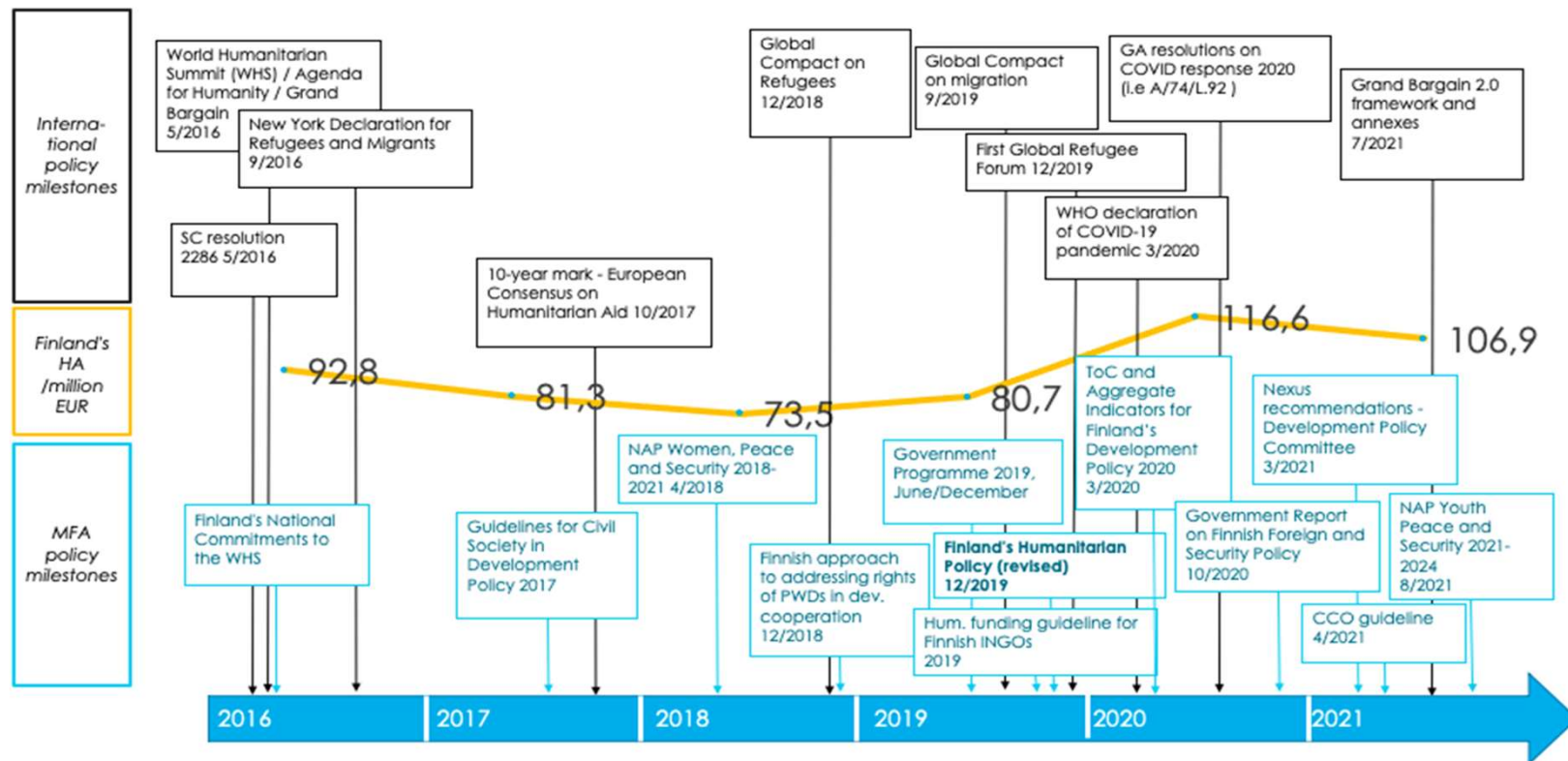
- Ireland
- Denmark

Global context – Needs increasing, but funding gap

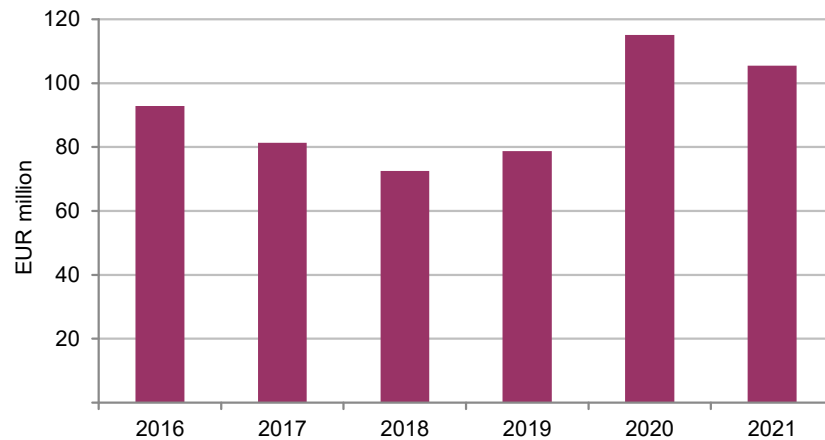


New & ongoing crises – Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria....

An evolving humanitarian system

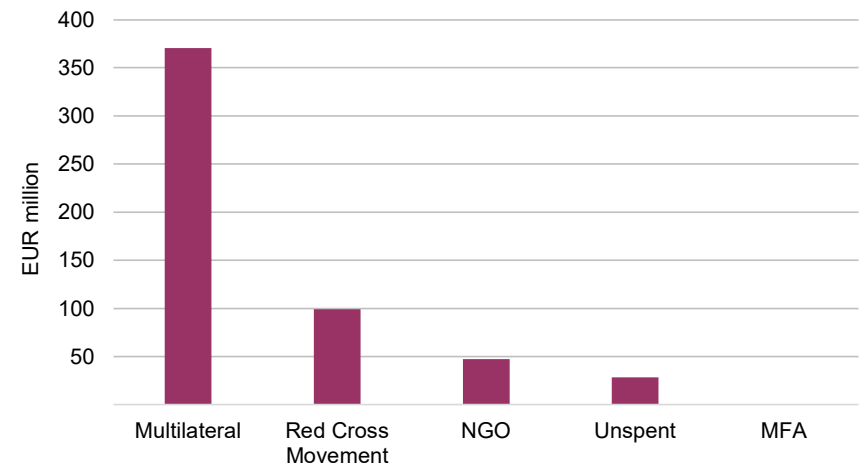


Finnish humanitarian aid flows



How much?

- Rising volumes 2016-2021
- EUR 95 million by May 2022



To whom?

- 60% - UNHCR, WFP, Red Cross

But – **Many forms** of humanitarian aid = **Under-reporting**

Finnish Humanitarian Policy

| 2012 Humanitarian Policy goals | 2019 Humanitarian Policy |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Finland is a responsible, timely and predictable donor | 1. Finnish humanitarian assistance is needs-based, non-discriminatory and effective |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2: An effective, well-led and coordinated international humanitarian assistance system | 2. Finland strengthens protection and respect for humanitarian principles |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Support is channelled through capable and experienced non-governmental organisations | 3. Finland supports the participation of beneficiaries and the rights of disabled people, women and children |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4: Humanitarian principles are known and adhered to | 4. Finland improves the functioning of the humanitarian system' |

2019 Policy

- More **strategic**
- Stronger **results focus**
- **Poorest countries**/most vulnerable
- **10%** of development assistance to humanitarian needs
- **Non discrimination & gender**
- **Triple nexus**

Q1: Successes, challenges & limitations



Q1: What successes?

- **Strongly needs-based** & aligned with local priorities
- **Adaptive capacity** & flexibility (in principle)
- **Culture of willingness** within MFA
- **Mutual trust with partners** – equitable approach
- **Policy dialogue anti-discrimination** – Gender equality & disability
- Strategic focus on **'triple nexus'** & operational application
- **Multilateral channels** support efficiency/'core funding' high-value
- Strong conceptual & policy links to **humanitarian principles**

Strong reputational capital – reliability, consistency, predictability



What challenges/limitations?

- Annual increases **out of sync with growing needs**
- **Aid distribution broad** & aims to 'please many'
- Adaptive capacity unsupported by **aid management procedures**
- Policy dialogue priorities/humanitarian principles not always **operationalised** (*trust-based*)
- **Limited aid oversight** in some contexts
- Some instances of **political involvement**
- **Boundaries of development/humanitarian assistance** not always clear
- **Internal coherence** could improve

Focus

Staff overstretched / high turnover = Knowledge gaps



Contributions to results

Weak results reporting = Under-reporting of achievements

- **Most tangible results:**
 - Providing basic commodities, services and facilities
 - Ensuring protection in humanitarian crises
- Country level '**pockets**' of achievement
- **Normative results** - gender, disability, humanitarian leadership
 - But operational results mainly gender (not disability)
- Limited improvements in **functioning of humanitarian system**

**More 'discrete results' than 'sum of the parts'
= Currently resources not used for greatest effectiveness**

Q3: Influence on partner organisations



Influence on partner organisations

Finland prioritises international engagement

Relative to size - Strong engagement in international forums

- EU, COHAFA, GHD etc

Highly valued donor

- Predictable, reliable
- Multilateral core contributions/multi-year
- Early contributions
- Flexible and open

But little real influence on organisations/countries

- Small scale
- Not very visible, especially at country level

What implications going forward?

Small donor = need maximum efficiency & effectiveness in HA

What are **Finland's comparative (humanitarian) advantages?**

- Consistent (& powerful) values
- Flexible and equitable approach
- Valued internationalism
- Strong reputational capital

Potential to demonstrate 'good donorship'



How to improve?

1. **Focus - Streamline allocations** – reduced number of multilateral agencies
2. **More strategic approach** to CSO engagement
3. Under **nexus approach**, work with **Regional Desks** – set country priorities
4. Define & promulgate **thematic priorities** & review bi-annually
5. Continue CERF contributions but **add CBPFs**
6. **Translate Humanitarian Policy**; publicise & update it
7. Develop a **streamlined results framework** for the Policy.
8. Develop a clear **humanitarian influencing strategy**, derived from Policy & apply.



Thank you