

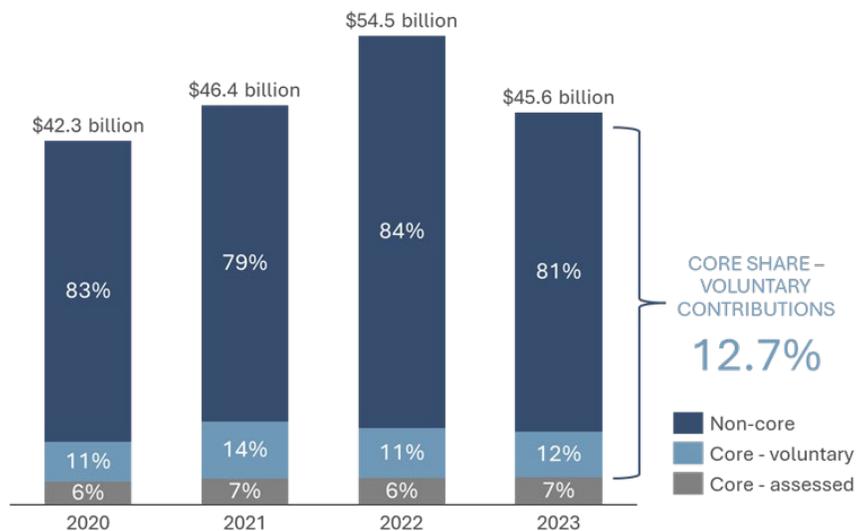


## KEY MESSAGES FROM THE 2025 REPORT ON FUNDING OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM<sup>1</sup>

1. **There was a significant decline in funding to the United Nations development system in 2023<sup>2</sup>.** Total financial contributions for operational activities amounted to \$45.6 billion in 2023, a decline of nearly \$9 billion or 16 per cent compared with 2022. Most of the funding fall was due to a decrease in non-core (or earmarked) contributions, although, core contributions also retreated by 5 per cent compared to 2022.
2. **Core contributions accounted for just 18.8 per cent of total contributions in 2023, or 12.7 per cent of all voluntary contributions.** The remaining contributions were earmarked to some extent. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, non-core contributions have grown by 44 per cent, in real terms, compared with just 13 per cent for core contributions.

**Figure 1**

**Latest trend in core and non-core funding flows, 2020-2023**



<sup>1</sup> The funding report is included in the Secretary-General report on the implementation of GA resolution 79.226 on the QCPR ([A/80/74/Add.1-E/2025/53/Add.1](#))

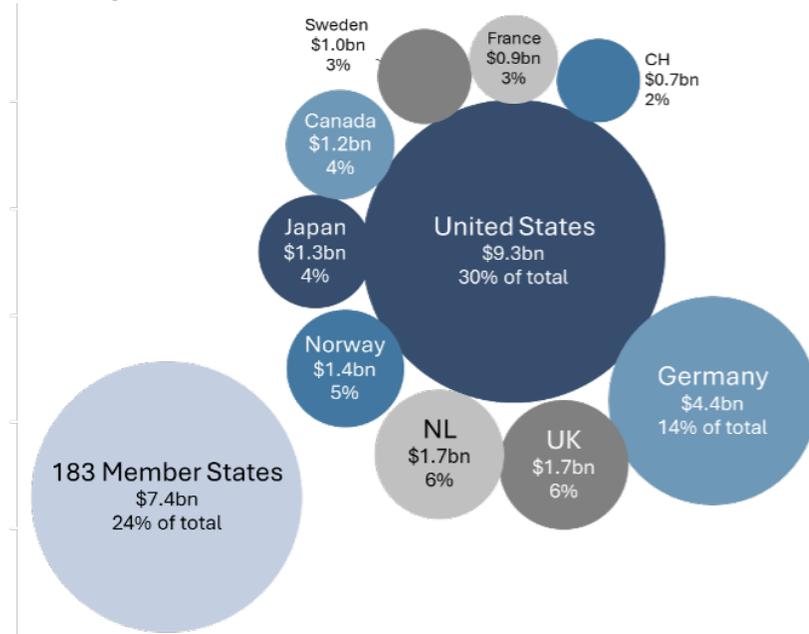
<sup>2</sup> System-wide financial data is collected by the United Nations Chief Executive Board for Coordination. The latest available data covers the 2023 calendar year.

- The United Nations development system relies heavily on its top contributors.** The 10 largest Member State contributors of voluntary funding in 2023 that together account for over three quarters of all voluntary funding from Governments, with the top donor alone accounting for 30 per cent. The remaining 183 Member States accounted for 24 per cent of this total. Full implementation of the Funding Compact and diversification of the funding base is critical for the United Nations development system to ensure sustainable funding and minimize the disproportionate impacts of donor policy changes by a small number of contributors.

**Figure 2**

**Main sources of voluntary contributions from Governments in 2023**

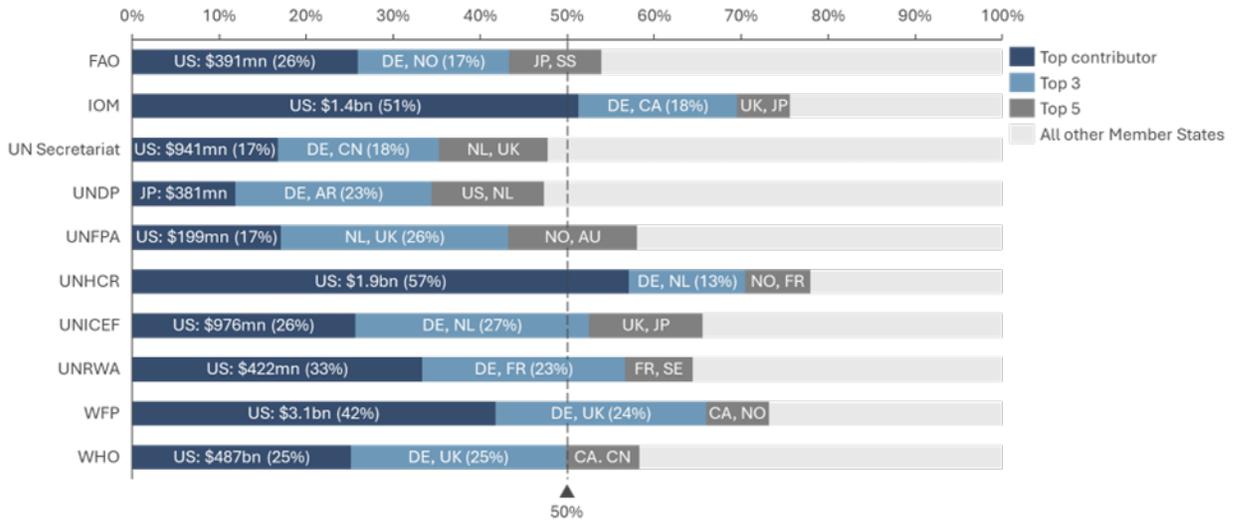
[Percentages show Member State contributions as a share of the \$31 billion received from all Governments]



- The heavy reliance on a few large donors holds true at the individual entity level, increasing budget vulnerability.** Each of the 10 largest development system entities relied on five Member States for at least 47 per cent, and as much as 78 per cent, of total contributions from Governments in 2023. The United States was the top contributor for nine of these entities and for two entities accounted for over half of total funding from Governments. Germany was the second-largest donor for 9 of the 10 largest entities, accounting for as much as 20 per cent of total funding from Governments.

**Figure 3**

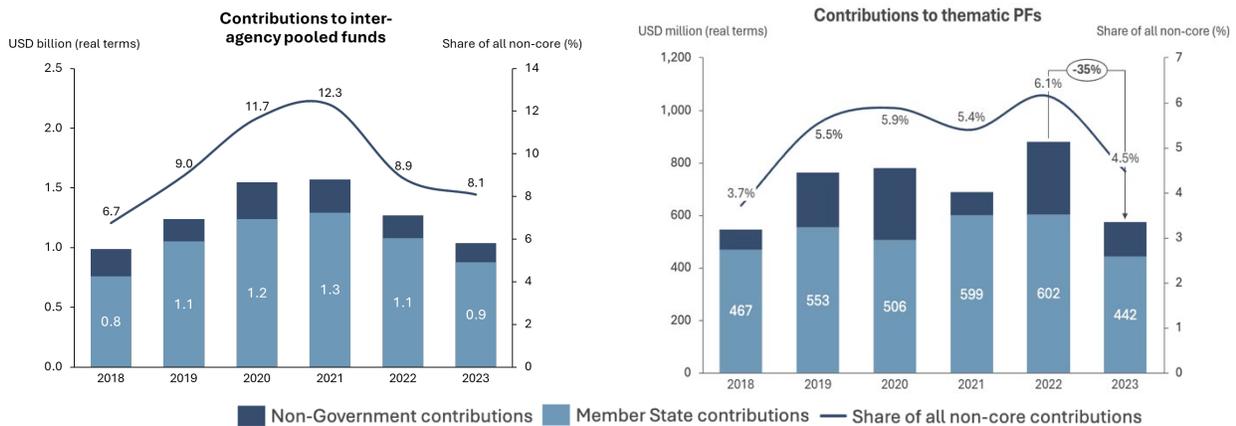
**Share of UN entities' total funding from governments provided by the top donors (2023)**



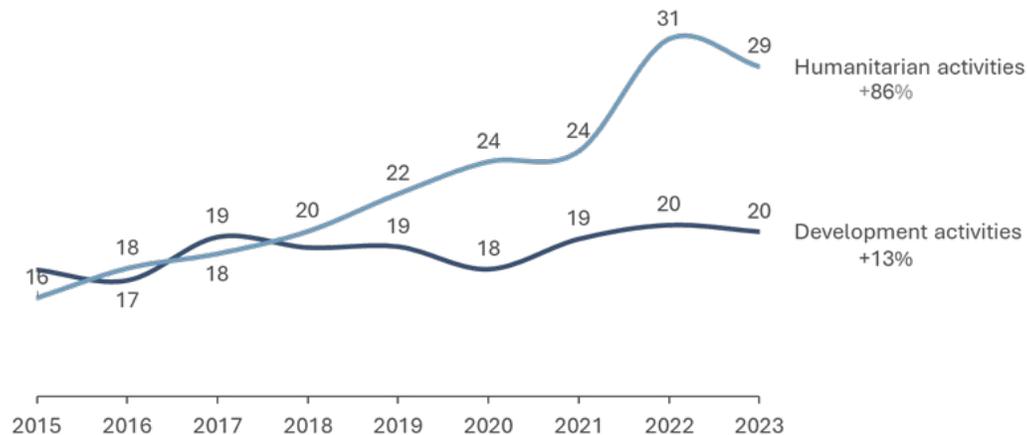
- The volume of flexible contributions to pooled funding mechanisms continued to fall well below the aspirations of the funding compact in 2023.** Contributions to development-related inter-agency funds declined for the second consecutive year in 2023 and were 34 per cent lower compared to 2021. These contributions accounted for 8.1 per cent of all non-core funding for development activities, a long way from the funding compact target of 30 per cent share by 2027. Contributions to single-entity specific thematic funds with a development focus fell by 35 per cent between 2022 and 2023, hitting the lowest level since 2018. This funding accounted for 4.5 per cent of all non-core contributions for development activities in 2023, well below the target is 15 per cent by 2027.

**Figure 4**

**Contributions to pooled funding mechanisms**



- 6. Increasingly, funding trends and resource allocations are dominated by responses to urgent humanitarian needs.** Since the start of the 2030 Agenda, resources for humanitarian activities have increased by 86 per cent, far surpassing growth in development spending. Underinvestment has exacerbated a development emergency where most countries are lagging or regressing on the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Figure 5****Allocation of resources by type of activity, 2015–2023**

- 7. Resource allocation is heavily concentrated in supporting countries responding to crises and humanitarian responses.** In 2023, the 13 largest programme countries accounted for 50% of all country-level expenditures, with 80% of those resources allocated to humanitarian interventions.
- 8. Countries in special situations together make up 56 per cent of United Nations country-level spending.** Resources allocated to countries in special situations have grown faster than average. Since 2020, spending has been up 20% for least developed countries, 34% for landlocked developing countries and 32% for small island developing States, compared to 19% for all programme countries.
- 9. The largest region for operational activity spending was Africa with nearly \$17 billion, accounting for 32 per cent of total spending in 2023 and up 14 per cent since 2020.** Of this, two thirds of total expenditure in Africa was spent on humanitarian activities in 2023.
- 10. Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions was the most targeted SDG in 2023,** based on the allocation of financial resources<sup>3</sup>, with over \$12 billion in for United Nations activities aimed towards this Goal. Goal 16 was closely followed by Goal 2 at \$11.8 billion in spending and then Goal 3, which \$9.1 billion in resources targeted.

<sup>3</sup> This includes voluntary core and non-core resources as well as resources from assessed contributions.