



# CERF *Facts*

## What is the Central Emergency Response Fund?

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a humanitarian fund established by the General Assembly in 2006 to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to people affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The Fund is replenished annually through contributions from governments and the private sector. It constitutes a pool of reserve funding to support humanitarian action.

CERF's objectives, as set by the General Assembly, are to:

- Promote early action and response to reduce loss of life.
- Enhance response to time-critical requirements.
- Strengthen core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

CERF has a grant facility of US\$450 million and a loan facility of \$30 million, and the two components have distinct features. See the boxes below.

## Who manages CERF?

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Ms. Valerie Amos, manages CERF on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General.

## How does CERF work?

CERF allows the United Nations to react immediately when a disaster strikes. It makes funds available for life-saving activities to the United Nations and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

CERF is intended to complement, not to substitute, existing humanitarian funding mechanisms, such as United Nations consolidated appeals. CERF provides seed funds to jump-start critical operations and fund life-saving programmes not yet covered by other donors.

CERF's grant component has two elements:

- Rapid response grants to promote early action and response to reduce loss of life, and to enhance response to time-critical requirements.
- Underfunded emergency grants to strengthen core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

Since its inception in 2006, CERF has allocated about \$2.7 billion to help hundreds of thousands of people in 87 countries across the world.

### GRANT FACILITY

- Up to \$450 million, depending on voluntary contributions received.
- Established in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Allows the ERC to ensure coverage of life-saving programmes when funds are not available from other sources.
- Used to allocate funds to United Nations operational agencies to address critical humanitarian needs based on priorities established under the leadership of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in the field.
- Each applicant must justify the need for funds, taking into consideration other available resources. If a donor pledge is forthcoming, the loan facility should be used.

### LOAN FACILITY

- \$30 million available.
- Established in 1991 as the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. The Revolving Fund is now managed as part of the upgraded CERF.
- Used to make loans to United Nations agencies for emergency programmes based on indications that donor funding is forthcoming.
- Loans must be reimbursed within one year.
- Primarily used as a cash-flow mechanism allowing UN agencies to access funds rapidly while they wait for donor pledges to be transferred.

