

# ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM 2014 RC/HC REPORTS ON THE USE OF CERF FUNDS

ADDED VALUE OF CERF IN 2014 AS ASSESSED BY RC/HCs

[Preliminary draft analysis for CERF Advisory Group meeting 21-22 March 2016]



United Nations

CERF

10

YEARS OF  
SAVING LIVES  
TOGETHER

The introduction of a new CERF narrative reporting framework in 2013 has improved the overall quality of reporting by Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators on the use of CERF funds (RC/HC reports) and has allowed for a more systematic and timely analysis of the data and information provided in the reports. The CERF secretariat has analyzed key performance data from all RC/HC reports submitted for 2014 CERF grants (second year under the new reporting framework) and produced several briefing notes to present the findings of the analysis.

This briefing note summarizes information on the strategic value added by CERF to the overall humanitarian action in recipient countries as reported in 2014 narrative reports by Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HC reports) on the use of CERF funds.

In 2014, CERF allocated US\$ 461 million to 15 UN agencies<sup>1</sup> responding to humanitarian crises in 45 countries. Some \$291 million were allocated from the CERF rapid response (RR) window to quickly start response operations in new or rapidly deteriorating humanitarian emergencies. The remaining \$170 million were allocated through the CERF underfunded emergencies (UFE) window to life-saving programmes in underfunded humanitarian crises.

In 2014, CERF funded a total of 589 projects that were part of 81 consolidated applications. Given the six-to-nine month implementation time frame of CERF grants followed by a three-month reporting period, the complete reports on all 81 allocations and the 589 CERF-funded projects in 2014 were available at the beginning of 2016 for consolidation. The individual RC/HC reports used for the analysis included in this briefing note can be found on CERF's website.<sup>2</sup>

As a financing mechanism directly prioritised by humanitarian partners at country level CERF adds value beyond simply being a source of funding. It enables the humanitarian community to jointly identify key needs and priorities and to strategically direct CERF funding where it has the greatest impact.

Therefore, to gauge the added value of CERF beyond project outcomes, RC/HCs and humanitarian country teams (HCTs) are asked to assess CERF's contribution to the following four objectives:

- Fast delivery of assistance to people in need
- Better response to time-critical humanitarian needs
- Improved coordination among humanitarian community
- Leveraging additional resources from other sources

Against each objective, RC/HCs provided in the CERF reports a rating along with a brief narrative justification. The feedback received strongly confirms that CERF allocations in

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<sup>1</sup> The terms "UN agencies", "UN agencies and IOM", and "agencies" are used interchangeably.

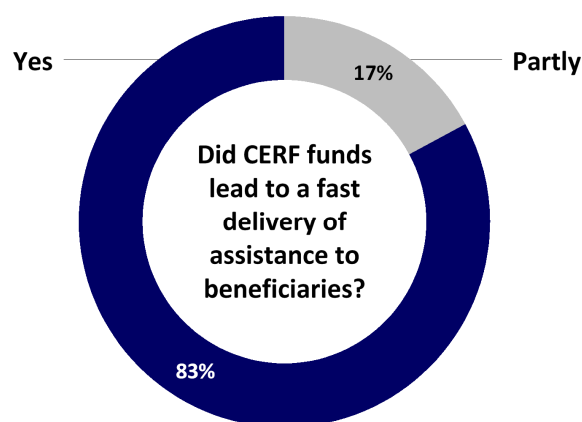
<sup>2</sup> [www.unocha.org/cerf/partner-resources/grant-reports/grant-reports-2014](http://www.unocha.org/cerf/partner-resources/grant-reports/grant-reports-2014)

2014 led to fast delivery of humanitarian assistance, enabled time-critical needs to be met, and helped strengthen coordination at country level. CERF's role in leveraging additional funding from other sources was less clear, still, more than half of the reports could clearly confirm a correlation between CERF allocations and other contributions.

The following is a detailed analysis of the reported information on the four strategic objectives of CERF. Various CERF-related studies and reviews for the period have also provided evidence on CERF's added value in these four areas. Selected examples are quoted throughout this note.

## FAST DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN NEED

Out of 76 RC/HC reports in 2014, 63 (equivalent to 83 per cent of all reports) stated that CERF funds led to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries and 13 reports stated that CERF funds partly led to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries. There were no reports in 2014, which concluded that CERF did not lead to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries.



*"Numerous examples in all five countries were observed where CERF played a strategic role in supporting start-up of operations in life-saving sectors and supported the HC/RC and other humanitarian coordination systems. CERF was observed to support not only HC/RC coordination, but also helped to reinforce UNHCR's coordination role under the recently-agreed refugee coordinator model."*

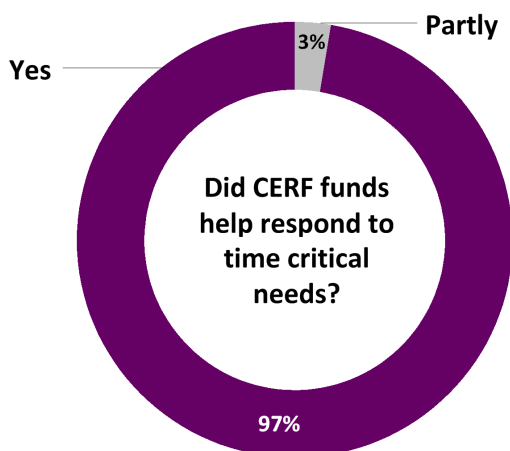
CERF Country Review South Sudan

*"Overall, the CERF rapid response window contributed to enhancing WFP's capacity to respond rapidly to unforeseen needs."*

*"There were many examples of this facility helping to start a range of operations and catalyse subsequent directed multilateral contributions."*

WFP's pooled fund evaluation

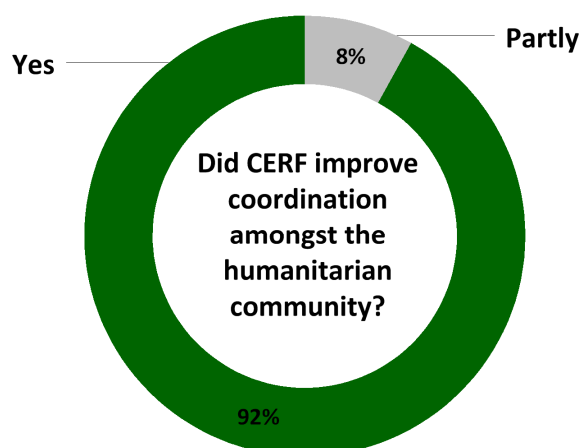
## BETTER RESPONSE TO TIME-CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



Out of 76 RC/HC reports in 2014, 97 per cent (74 reports) stated that the CERF funds helped respond to time-critical needs, while 2 reports stated that the CERF funds partly helped respond to time-critical needs. No report in 2014 concluded that CERF did not help respond to time-critical needs.

## IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

Out of 76 RC/HC reports in 2014, 69 (equivalent to 92 per cent of all reports) stated that CERF funds improved coordination among the humanitarian community and 12 reports found that the CERF funds partly improved coordination. There were no reports in 2014 that indicated that CERF did not in some way improve coordination.



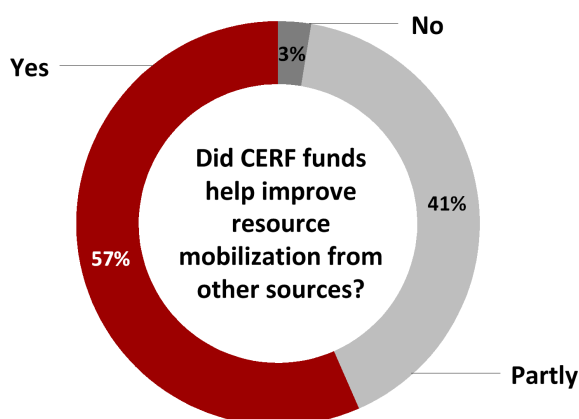
*“Funding reforms have focused on improving the speed of financing flows. Individual donors have put in place rapid drawdown mechanisms with pre-approved partners to speed the disbursement of funds, and the UN CERF Rapid Response window has significantly improved the speed of funding at the global level.”*

Future Humanitarian Financing – Looking Beyond the Crisis

*“Among other positive effects, the timeliness of the CERF RR funding facilitated a timely response to reduce risks to a vulnerable population of some 69,000 IDPs living in flood-prone areas in Rakhine state.” And “Availability of CERF funding recognized by recipient agencies as being fundamental to ability to respond to life saving needs and gaps [...]”*

CERF Country Review Myanmar

## LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM OTHER SOURCES



Out of 76 RC/HC reports in 2014, 57 per cent (43 reports) stated that CERF funds helped improve resource mobilization from other sources, 31 stated that CERF partially helped improve resource mobilization, and 2 stated that CERF did not help in this regard. While some clear examples were identified, several reports noted that determining a correlation between CERF allocations and possible donor contributions was often difficult.

*"The scale of this crisis caught most humanitarian agencies and donors off guard. CERF helped to ensure that by the time an L3 emergency was declared by the UN in February, agencies in affected countries had already started operating."*

CERF Country Review South Sudan

*"CERF is considered by UNHCR staff to make an important contribution to timely humanitarian response in comparison with other fund sources and is complementary to UNHCR's own systems of resource mobilisation such as its Operational Reserve (OR). From an efficiency perspective, despite the need for an offline system to manage CERF funding (which is also the case for other earmarked contributions), there was an acknowledgement of the comparatively light application and reporting processes."*

UNHCR's evaluation of its use of CERF

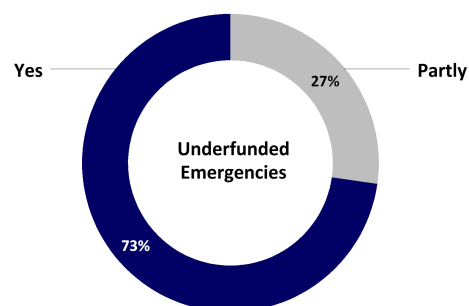
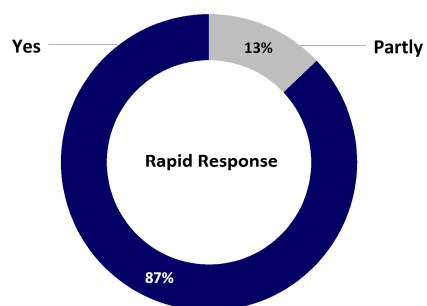
*"The CERF has added value to the humanitarian response in Sudan by: supporting a timely response to acute emergencies, enabling agencies to leverage other funding, complementing other donor funding (including the CHF), being faster and more flexible than other donors, strengthening humanitarian response capacity, and filling critical gaps and funding activities that other donors are unwilling to support. CERF funding was also attractive to agencies in Sudan because it was relatively predictable and was an important resource when there was an acute emergency."*

CERF Country Review Sudan

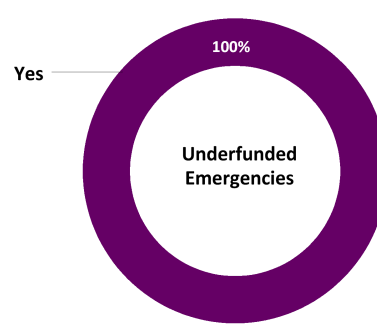
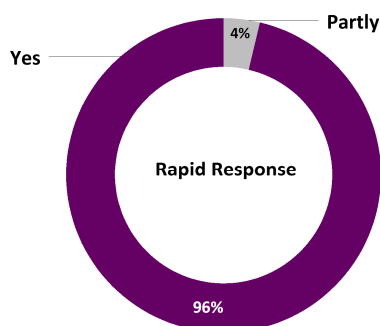
## ADDED VALUE OF CERF BY WINDOW

The following is an analysis of the reported information on the four strategic objectives of CERF by each CERF window (Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies).

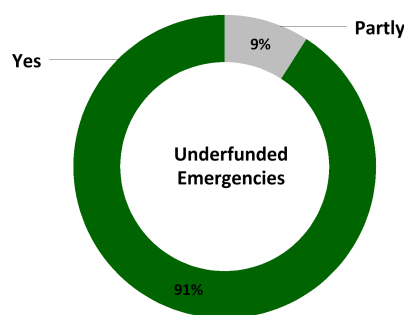
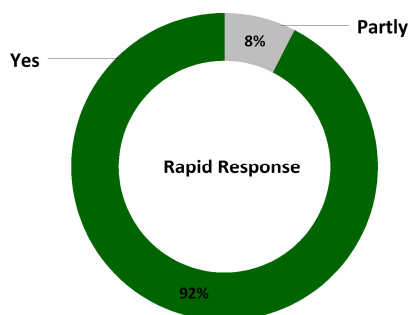
### Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries?



### Did CERF funds help respond to time critical needs?



### Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?



### Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

