



OCHA-managed Pooled Funds

2020 OVERVIEW

CBPF Country-based
Pooled Funds



United Nations

CERF

Central
Emergency
Response
Fund

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CREDITS

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Front Cover

Caption: A girl in Taung Paw IDP camp (pop: 2,900) in Myebon Township, Rakhine State, Myanmar on 24 February 2016.

Credit: ©OCHA/P.Peron

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Numbers are rounded. Denominations are represented in United States dollars.





Indonesia. UNICEF WASH Project in Sigi Regency Central Sulawesi Indonesia.

Credit: OCHA/Anthony Burke

INTRODUCTION

This edition of the OCHA-managed Pooled Funds Overview is the first of its kind. Designed based on feedback from donors and other stakeholders, it presents 2020 highlights of the accomplishments of the OCHA-managed pooled funds, the Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), and how, together, they made a difference for millions of people globally that needed humanitarian assistance.

The Overview is intended to complement the CBPF Synthesis Report and the CERF Annual Results Report by offering a brief consolidation of the Funds' impact and results achieved. As such, it gives an outline (rather than telling the full story)

of the Funds and their impact – with more details covered in the [CBPF Synthesis Report](#) and [CERF Annual Results Report](#).

The Overview includes key information about the Funds, offers insights into how their complementarity fosters greater efficiency and strategic impact, and provides a summary overview of allocations made and people assisted in 2020. It further highlights the Funds' strategic added value in humanitarian operations and provides an overview of donor contributions to the Funds in 2020.



ABOUT OCHA-MANAGED POOLED FUNDS

The CBPFs and CERF are some of the most effective ways to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches people caught up in crises. Managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), they enable humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance by providing fast and flexible funding when and where it is needed most. Designed to foster more coherent and timely humanitarian responses, support in-field coordination mechanisms, and reinforce the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators (HC) and Resident Coordinators (RC), the Funds have been instrumental in driving humanitarian reform efforts and have been a key pillar of the humanitarian architecture. Today the Funds channel some \$1.5 billion annually to humanitarian organizations around the globe and every year help save millions of lives.

Central Emergency Response Fund

CERF is an essential enabler of global humanitarian action.

CERF funding allows responders to kick-start relief efforts immediately when a new crisis emerges and to scale-up and sustain protracted relief operations to avoid critical gaps when no other funding is available. CERF disburses two types of grants: Rapid Response (RR) grants that provide support when a new crisis hits or when an existing emergency deteriorates significantly, and Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) grants that provide support for critical needs in underfunded and often protracted crises. CERF also has a loan facility to cover critical funding gaps in humanitarian operations based on indications that donor funding is forthcoming. As the UN's global emergency fund, CERF is

managed by Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) on behalf of the Secretary-General and can respond in any country at any time through prepositioned donor contributions at the global level. Through the leadership of the ERC at the global level and HCs at the country level, CERF is also well suited to help catalyze system change and promote closer alignment between global priorities and policies, and field practices.

“Fifteen years after the UN's Pooled Funds were set up, it is hard to imagine effective humanitarian response without them. They have become an essential tool for a quick, effective response to ease suffering in humanitarian crisis around the world. With generous donor support, they have saved and transformed millions of lives. They are an emblem of hope and solidarity.

- António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Country-Based Pooled Funds

The CBPFs allow donors to pool their contributions into country-specific Funds to support local humanitarian efforts.

CBPFs operate in a limited number of countries and provide predictability for HCs and partners by availing funding on an annual basis in the respective country. CBPFs empower humanitarian partners in crisis-affected countries to deliver timely, coordinated and principled assistance, working with best-placed responders to address priority needs. This ensures that funding is available and

prioritized locally by those closest to the people in need. Greater involvement of local and national actors in humanitarian action and in-country leadership by the HCs allows scope for innovation and contextually appropriate strategies to advance global priorities and to leverage greater coherence in humanitarian responses.

Ensuring complementarity

When CBPF and CERF resources are provided to the same contexts, the HCs ensure that the resources are used in a complementary and coherent manner. At the country level, the HC can decide how best to use these different funding sources based on the comparative advantage of each, as part of an 'integrated' approach. OCHA, in support of HCs, helps translate this vision into allocation strategies that ensure coherence and best use of resources for greatest overall impact.

While each context is unique, one or several of the following principles often underpin joint CBPF-CERF allocation strategies:

- **Temporal sequencing:** CBPF and CERF allocations can be used to support different phases of an emergency response – allowing for continuity in the scaling up of critical humanitarian services.
- **Complementary Fund recipients:** CBPF and CERF allocations can be designed to provide funding to different types of recipient organizations in a way that best addresses the overall humanitarian situation, with CBPFs typically providing most of their funding to a wide network of front-line national and international NGO partners, and CERF focusing on fewer, large-scale grants for direct operational requirements of UN agencies.
- **Complementary sectoral focus:** Informed by each Fund's comparative advantage, CBPF and CERF allocations can be designed to address needs in different sectors, in order to achieve the desired programmatic coverage.
- **Complementary geographical targeting:** CBPF and CERF allocations can be designed to target different geographical locations, in order to achieve the overall spatial coverage desired to meet the needs of the most severely affected communities.
- **Common promotion of global priorities and cross-cutting issues:** CBPF and CERF allocations can be used together to reinforce consideration of, and attention to,

key themes, cross-cutting issues and good practices that are recognised by the wider humanitarian community as important to quality of aid.

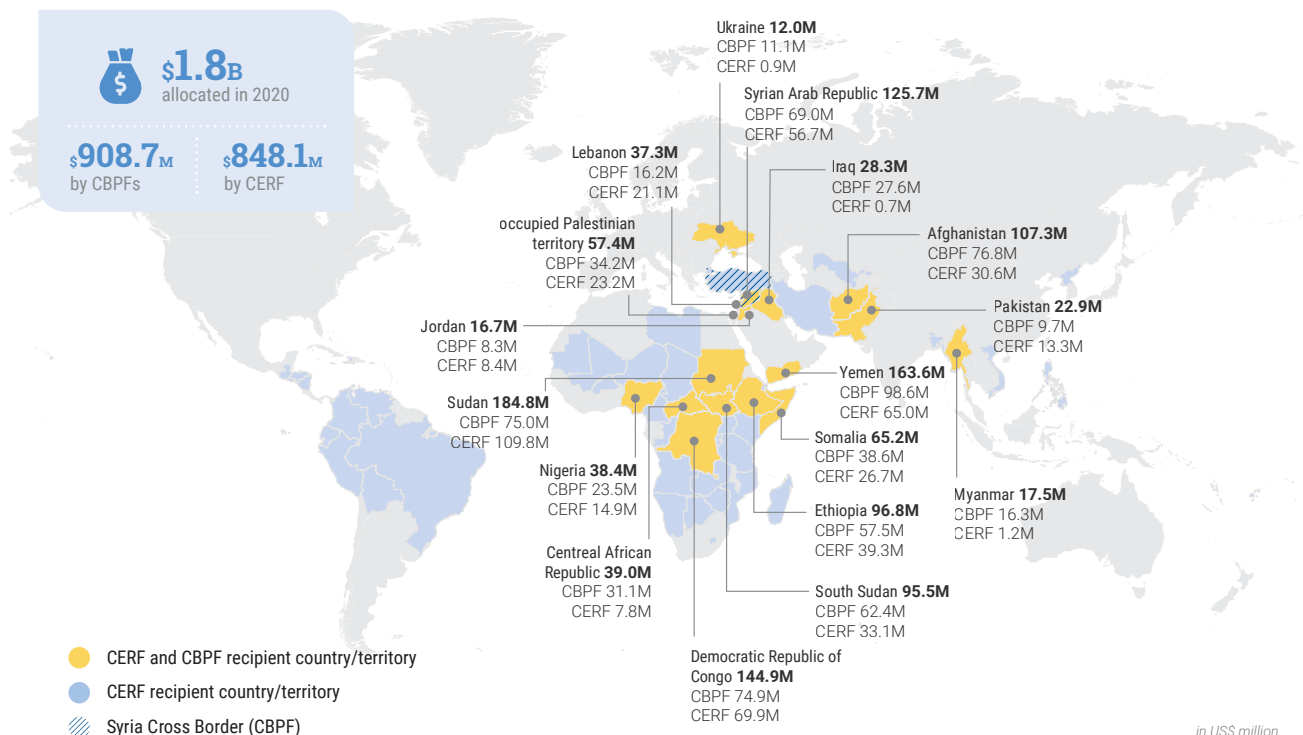
Joint CBPF and CERF response to impacts of COVID-19 in CAR

In 2020, CERF and the Central African Republic Humanitarian Fund (CAR HF) worked together to provide a timely and coordinated response to COVID-19 in CAR. Early in the year, CERF allocated \$1.8 million to UNICEF and WHO, as part of a large innovative global CERF block grant to front-load UN-led response to the pandemic. This early funding was used to contain the further spread of the virus. Shortly afterwards, the CAR HF released \$5.2 million to sustain the response and support front-line NGO response. As the needs evolved further, NGO funding availability again proved insufficient and another \$5 million was allocated from CERF to NGOs in CAR to scale up and decentralize the COVID-19 response. This allocation was part of CERF's \$25 million allocation to NGOs in six countries - the first-ever direct NGO allocation from CERF.

The sequencing of the allocations and their complementary programmatic alignment ensured a well-coordinated, timely and sustained response that could not have been achieved by either Fund alone.



Central African Republic. Victor had to abandon his fields, but is currently working as a weaver. He wants to get back to farming to support his children.
Credit: OCHA/Anne Kennedy

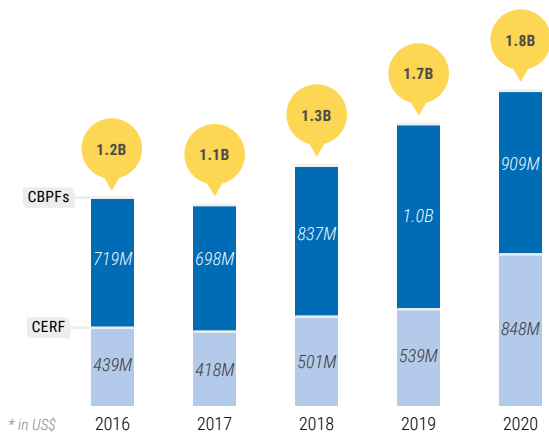


ALLOCATIONS IN 2020

In 2020, global humanitarian needs and funding requirements for UN-led appeals skyrocketed beyond \$38 billion, largely due to the primary and secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ Against this extraordinary level of need and growing funding gap, the OCHA-managed pooled funds responded by collectively allocating a record-breaking \$1.8 billion to 59 countries, hereby making 2020 the fourth consecutive year with record-high allocation levels and marking a remarkable 44 per cent increase since 2017.

Allocations by region

The combination of CERF's global reach and the CBPFs' ability to support local humanitarian efforts enabled the Pooled Funds to respond with the tools best suited for the given contexts. The highest share of funding was allocated towards humanitarian interventions in African countries, which received a total of \$858 million, some 49 per cent of all allocations, followed by the Middle East with \$615 million, approximately 34 per cent. While this represents significant increases in absolute terms for countries in Africa and the Middle East compared to 2019, the relative shares of funding are on par with earlier years.



In 2020, CERF allocated funds to 17 countries that also had a CBPF. This is a marked increase from 2019, when CERF funded 11 of the 18 CBPF countries. This increase was largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which required the deployment of complementary resources from both Funds to help tackle the dramatic increase in humanitarian needs.

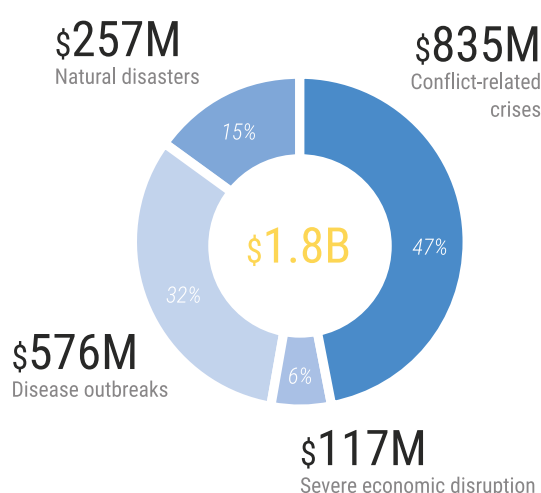
¹ Monthly Funding Update, December 2020 – [Global Humanitarian Overview 2020](#)

With a total of \$307 million allocated, humanitarian operations in Syria received the largest amount of funding from the Pooled Funds.² Funding allocated by the OCHA-managed pooled funds to humanitarian operations in Syria aimed to ensure life-saving assistance to people displaced by the ongoing conflict, as well as addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country's vulnerable communities. Humanitarian operations in the Republic of Sudan received the second-largest amount of funding with a total of \$179 million. This included \$104 million from CERF in response to the impact of the country's current economic situation, a looming famine, as well as COVID-19 related challenges, while a total of \$75 million from the Sudan Humanitarian Fund targeted people impacted by floods

and supported refugees from the Tigray region, as well as ensured timely local efforts to mitigate famine and acute malnutrition.

Allocations by emergency type

During the year, CBPFs and CERF responded to the consequences of the major drivers of humanitarian needs: conflicts, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as severe economic disruptions.



Joint CBPF and CERF allocation to bolster health response in Yemen

In November 2020, CERF made an allocation of \$35 million to Yemen from the UFE window. The allocation was part of a larger funding package to bolster the health response in the second half of 2020. Funding from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) and bilateral donors was used to pay allowances to several thousand health workers, helping to lay the foundations for the implementation of key health-related humanitarian interventions throughout the country. Capitalizing on this intervention, CERF funding was used to implement high-priority, critically underfunded health-related programmes. The complementary allocations from CERF, YHF and bilateral donors collectively injected some \$80 million into a coherent health-related response in Yemen at a time of critical funding shortfalls and increased needs.



Yemen. Children receive biscuits in Dar Saad camp in Aden City, November 2020. Credit: YPN/UNOCHA/Ayman Fouad

Conflict-related emergencies

In 2020, conflict remained one of the primary drivers of humanitarian needs. Civilian populations continued to bear the brunt, accounting for more than 90 per cent of total casualties of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.³ To ensure life-saving assistance for civilians caught in violent conflicts, CBPFs and CERF allocated a total of \$836 million to conflict-related crises in 23 countries. This was the largest share of funding from the OCHA-managed pooled funds in 2020 (47 per cent), driven partly by the ongoing conflict in Syria, which, in 2020, left over 60 per cent of the country's population in need of humanitarian assistance.

Disease outbreaks

In 2020, disease outbreaks continued to increase the humanitarian needs in almost all countries with ongoing emergencies. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded already dire situations, hindering essential health services, disrupting supply chains and impacting livelihoods. CBPFs and CERF

² This includes some \$55 million from the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund in Turkey.

³ Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research, [Conflict Barometer 2020](#).



Chad. Saidia Abdelkerim is a Chadian returnee from Sudan.
Credit: UNICEF/Bahaji

were central to the humanitarian community's response to disease outbreaks, allocating \$576 million to address the primary humanitarian impacts (COVID-19, Ebola, cholera), some 27 per cent of total funding.⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic accounted for some 81 per cent of total funding allocated from the OCHA-managed pooled funds in response to disease outbreaks. CBPFs and CERF also enabled urgent life-saving assistance in response to the humanitarian consequences of the Ebola outbreak in DRC, allocating more than \$40 million, as well as to cholera outbreaks in Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Uganda with a total of some \$32 million.

Natural disasters

In 2020, more than 95 million people worldwide were caught in natural disasters and required immediate assistance.⁵ In response, OCHA-managed pooled funds allocated a total of \$257 million (15 per cent of total funding) to ensure timely life-saving responses in 27 countries. The needs were mainly driven by frequent droughts and extreme weather events,

including, among others, life-saving needs stemming from droughts in Eastern, Central, Southern and North-Western Africa. The Pooled Funds also ensured critical responses to hurricanes, cyclones and other tropical storms, primarily in Central America and South Asia, and enabled timely responses to locust outbreaks in Southern and Eastern Africa.

Severe economic disruption

In addition to conflicts, disease outbreaks and natural disasters, CERF also provided \$117 million to enable UN agencies and partners to respond to the humanitarian consequences linked to severe economic disruption in highly fragile contexts. This included an allocation to Sudan of \$100 million – the largest single country allocation by CERF to date – enabling life-saving interventions to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition and to increase protection for 3.9 million people.

⁴ An additional \$105 million was allocated from CERF in response to the secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including for food insecurity and GBV.

⁵ Estimation based on data provided by the International Disaster Data-base EM-DAT.

Responding to the impact of COVID-19 with speed and agility

The CBPFs and CERF played an important role in the delivery of emergency aid following the outbreak of COVID-19. The Pooled Funds responded to the primary, health impact of the pandemic with speed and agility and also addressed the secondary impacts of the pandemic, focusing on broader needs such as food insecurity, protection and gender-based violence.



SUPPORTING THE HEALTH AND WATER/SANITATION RESPONSE

Together, OCHA-managed pooled funds allocated **\$233 million** to scale up the health and water/sanitation response. Humanitarian partners served remote, vulnerable communities with essential health care and protective equipment, and increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Partners also raised awareness about the spread of COVID-19.



ADDRESSING THE SECONDARY IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC

CBPFs and CERF provided **\$204 million** to meet critical humanitarian needs that arose as a result of COVID-19. Over \$113 million was provided to address food insecurity and restore livelihoods – including through distribution of food parcels, agricultural inputs and cash transfers. In response to increasing risk and exposure to GBV, the OCHA-managed pooled funds made targeted allocations to strengthen prevention and response – with some \$30 million allocated by CERF and \$6.6 million allocated by CBPFs to scale up GBV prevention and response. The Pooled Funds also prioritized broader protection needs, with an additional \$20 million provided to benefit the most vulnerable people impacted by the pandemic.



SUPPORTING LOGISTICS AND COMMON SERVICES

The pandemic severely disrupted international supply chains. CBPFs and CERF allocated **\$56 million** to ensure critical supplies could reach those in need. This funding enabled WFP and other humanitarian partners to expand logistics and support services, including the transportation of supplies and flights for emergency workers.



Innovating in response to COVID-19

CBPFs introduced flexibility measures in the use of budgets and adapted monitoring arrangements while maintaining sound accountability and oversight. UN agencies were granted maximum flexibility on where to use CERF funding. CERF also introduced innovative allocation approaches to channel funding to where it was needed most, and to remain in step with the evolving nature of the pandemic.

Channeling resources to NGOs for front-line COVID-19 response

The CBPFs and CERF provided **\$226 million** to international and national NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies and other local partners. These resources were channeled directly or by way of subgrants. CBPFs allocated some 63 per cent of total resources to NGOs. Of total funding, 36 per cent (\$330 million) benefited local and national actors specifically. CERF disbursed \$58 million to NGOs and partners, including by way of sub-grants from UN agencies. This included an innovative allocation of \$25 million specifically to international and national NGOs in six countries. One third of all NGOs supported under this allocation were national or local NGOs.

TOTAL ALLOCATION FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

\$493M

48 
COUNTRIES

CBPFs

ALLOCATION*

\$252M

CERF

ALLOCATION*

\$241M

**This includes reprogrammed funds for COVID-19-related activities in on-going projects.*

in US\$ million

PEOPLE ASSISTED IN 2020

2020 was an exceptional year for the OCHA-managed pooled funds. In the face of ever worsening humanitarian needs compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Funds remained central to the humanitarian community's ability to meet the most urgent needs of millions of people caught in humanitarian emergencies worldwide. Throughout 2020, CERF was able to assist a record 69.3 million people across 59 countries – more than twice as many as in 2019. The CBPFs enabled partners to provide timely life-saving assistance to 36.3 million people – some 30 per cent more than in 2019.⁶

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable

In 2020, the OCHA-managed pooled funds continued to make significant headway in helping the humanitarian community reach the most vulnerable by prioritizing four critical yet generally underfunded areas of humanitarian response: women and girls, people with disabilities, education in protracted crises and protection. Building on momentum from 2019, further positive results were achieved in all areas in 2020.

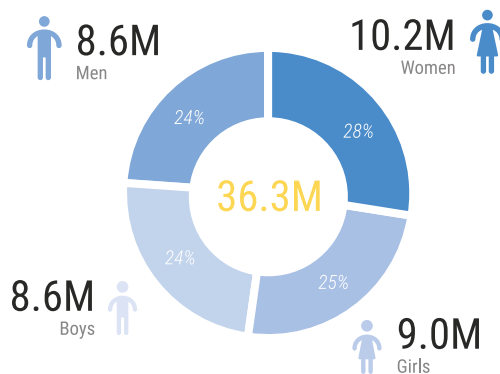
Underfunded areas of humanitarian response

-  Support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment.
-  Programmes targeting people with disabilities.
-  Education in protracted crises.
-  Other aspects of protection.

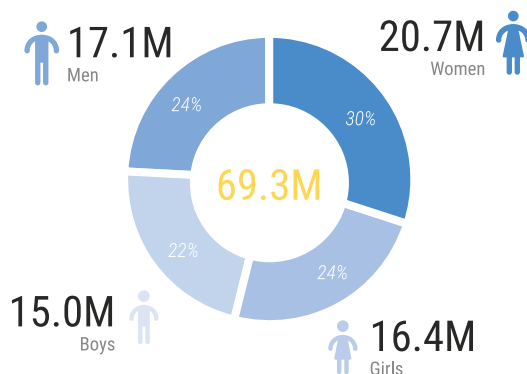
Enhancing gender equality

In 2020, the Pooled Funds remained responsive to the different needs, challenges and opportunities that women and girls face in humanitarian emergencies. Again in 2020, the majority of people assisted with CERF funding – a record 37.1 million or 54 per cent – were women and girls. CERF also assisted a record number of children under the age of 18 – some 31.4 million (45 per cent of all people assisted) with the majority (52 per cent) being girls. Like CERF, the majority of people assisted with CBPF funding – 55 per cent (19.4 million) – were women and girls, an increase from 51 per cent (14.1 million) in 2019.

People assisted with 2020 CBPF funding



People assisted with 2020 CERF funding



⁶ Due to the comprehensive multisectoral nature of responses funded by OCHA-managed pooled Funds, people often receive assistance from a number of different projects and sectors. The Funds use a rigorous methodology to avoid double counting of beneficiaries. The numbers may include a limited number of people indirectly targeted through COVID-19 awareness campaigns.

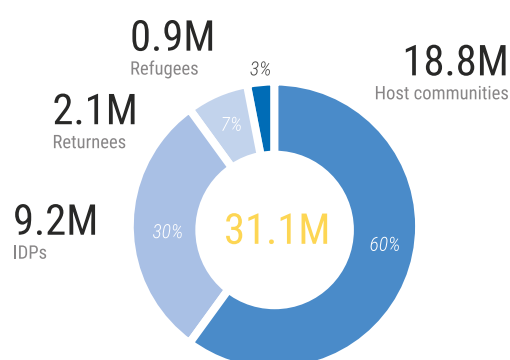
Ensuring inclusive assistance

During the year, the Pooled Funds continued to encourage partners to ensure that humanitarian action is inclusive of people with disabilities. Pooled Fund partners were asked to address the essential needs and protection, safety and dignity of all people with disabilities in humanitarian crises. As a result, over 8.1 million people assisted (12 per cent of all people assisted) with 2020 CERF funding were people with disabilities, of which the majority – 4.2 million or 53 per cent – were women and girls. By supporting inclusive needs assessment and influencing the coordination mechanisms, CBPFs played a significant role in removing the barriers for people with disabilities to access humanitarian assistance and protection. In 2020, CBPF partners supported 3.1 million people with disabilities (some 9 per cent of all people assisted).

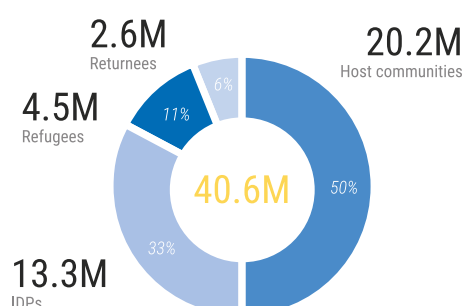
Assisting forcibly displaced people

Addressing the humanitarian consequences of population displacement and mitigating new displacement remained an essential part of humanitarian operations funded by the OCHA-managed pooled funds in 2020. CERF enabled

Displaced people assisted with 2020 CBPF funding



Displaced people assisted with 2020 CERF funding



UN agencies and partners to assist 13.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 4.5 million refugees, 2.6 million returnees and 20.2 million people hosting displaced populations. In total, CERF targeted 40.6 million people that were affected by displacement in the world's most severe humanitarian crises. This represents 59 per cent of all people targeted with 2020 CERF funding. Funding allocated by the CBPFs in 2020 enabled the provision of life-saving assistance to 9.2 million IDPs, 2.1 million returnees, almost 1 million refugees and 18.8 million people hosting displaced populations. In total, CBPFs targeted 31.1 million people affected by displacement in the world's most severe humanitarian crises. This represents 85 per cent of all people targeted with 2020 CBPF funding.

Joint CBPF-CERF response to displacement in Afghanistan

In the last quarter of 2020, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and CERF conducted a joint allocation to respond to the COVID-19 induced needs of displaced people. Each mechanism prioritized different districts within the Herat region, with CERF supporting districts with higher numbers of cross border returnees, IDPs and marginalized migrant populations, while the AHF prioritized support through mobile services in districts with greater needs among host communities and other vulnerable groups.



Afghanistan. The 6,000 displaced people in Dand fled fighting in southern Afghanistan in October. Credit: OCHA/Fariba Housaini






































Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Around 400,000 children are threatened by malnutrition owing to disruption of health services by the unrest.

Credit: OCHA/Otto Bakano

CBPFs: PEOPLE TARGETED BY SECTOR

SECTOR	PEOPLE TARGETED
 Critical Health Care	11.8M                                  

ADDING STRATEGIC VALUE ACROSS HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

OCHA-managed pooled funds are designed to ensure that every dollar allocated saves lives while delivering strategic improvements in the humanitarian response. Their results go well beyond the number of people assisted. They include immeasurable benefits across the humanitarian community.

Meeting life-saving needs

The Pooled Funds ensure that humanitarian actors can respond to humanitarian crises whenever and wherever needed.

2020 Highlights: The combination of CERF's global reach and the CBPFs' ability to support local humanitarian efforts enabled humanitarian actors to support the most vulnerable – where needed, when needed. For instance, with allocations of over \$50 million, the Pooled Funds played a pivotal role in containing the impact of the locust outbreak in Eastern and Southern Africa, mitigating the impact on food insecurity for millions of people.

Enabling fast assistance

The Pooled Funds are among the quickest sources of funding for humanitarian action, enabling the speedy scale-up of operations when and where required.

2020 Highlights: The Pooled Funds were instrumental in kick-starting the global COVID-19 response, making funding available only days after a “public health emergency of international concern” was declared at the end of January. Thanks to CERF's speed and agility, UN agencies could start implementing CERF Rapid Response projects just 3.5 days on average after the initial funding request. Almost three-quarters of CBPF allocations during 2020 were in the form of quick, flexible, and fast-tracked disbursements to respond to unforeseen needs.

Enhancing coordination

The Pooled Funds strengthen coordination among the humanitarian community and support the achievement of collective objectives.

2020 Highlights: RC/HCs continued to reiterate the strategic added value of both CERF and CBPFs in enabling coordinated responses. CERF's response to the outbreak of Ebola in the DRC in 2020 reinforced coordination mechanisms required to quickly ramp-up the response. Some \$40 million was allocated to strengthen and integrate local health services, community-based surveillance, and alert and rapid response systems in the most affected areas.

Expanding humanitarian access and assistance to displaced people in Tigray

The dramatic escalation of conflict in Tigray at the end of the year triggered massive displacement and the suspension of basic services and humanitarian projects. In December 2020, the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund released \$12 million for the deployment of mobile teams to deliver life-saving health services, distribute food, and improve protection in most affected displaced people. The allocation created space for dialogue with stakeholders to expand humanitarian access to previously inaccessible parts of the region.



Ethiopia. Hawzen Woreda in the Tigray Region, seeds are being distributed for the Meher season. Credit: GOAL/ Anteneh Tadele

Enabling principled humanitarian action and ensuring quality programming



The Pooled Funds support principled and quality programming that is accountable to affected people.

2020 Highlights: In 2020, the Pooled Funds continued to promote the incorporation of the IASC commitments on Accountability to Affected People (AAP) in project design. Both CERF and CBPFs continued to expand the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), providing record levels of funding for cash-based programming – some \$230 million in total. In Afghanistan, for example, the AHF released \$10.8 million to support winterization initiatives, with the majority of the funding being used for CVA. CERF then followed on with this, allocating \$15 million in cash-based assistance to address worsening food insecurity.

Providing flexible cash assistance in urban areas in Mozambique

Following a prolonged drought in Zimbabwe, in April CERF released \$20 million from its Rapid Response window to scale up WFP's cash operation over 14 months, to strengthen social safety nets in urban and peri-urban areas. The project provided unrestricted cash transfers to some 151,500 people to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements, reduce their need for urgent assistance, and improve their access to services, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mozambique. "My house collapsed. I had to leave in the middle of the night with my children. I was so afraid. The wind was so strong and trees were falling. I wasn't sure I would survive" - Hortencia, Beira. OCHA/Saviano Abreu

Supporting women-led organizations to tackle GBV

In response to an exponential increase in GBV due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CERF allocated \$25 million to UNFPA (\$17 million) and UN Women (\$8 million) in the form of global grants for tackling GBV in 11 countries. The funding was provided on the condition that at least 30 per cent was passed on to local women-led or women's rights organizations that work to prevent, respond to and mitigate violence against women and girls. An early estimation suggests that both agencies will exceed this target, with over 50 per cent of CERF funding to UN Women and 35 per cent to UNFPA going to local women-led or women's rights organizations.



Democratic Republic of the Congo. Women of Élinya have been victims of sexual violence while collecting water. OCHA/Alioune Ndiaye

Meeting the needs of the most vulnerable



The Pooled Funds help the humanitarian community reach the most vulnerable.

2020 Highlights: Again in 2020, the majority of people assisted with CERF funding, 37.1 million or 54 per cent, were women and girls – up from 15.5 million or 53 per cent in 2019. CERF funded education activities for three million people and protection activities for almost nine million people – both new records. The majority of people assisted with CBPF funding, 19.4 million or 55 per cent, were women and girls – up from 14.1 million or 55 per cent in 2019. CBPFs also provided emergency education for a record 800,000 people and assisted almost record-equalling 3.5 million people through protection activities.

Advancing system change



Beyond providing life-saving assistance to millions of people every year, the Pooled Funds contribute to advancing new and innovative approaches to humanitarian action.

2020 Highlights: Leveraging their speed, funding availability, and global reach, the Pooled Funds enabled partners to work together across sectors to respond to predictable hazards in a more timely and effective way. CERF successfully supported three multi-stakeholder 'Anticipatory Action pilots' providing \$33.4 million to Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Somalia. CBPFs continued to support anticipatory approaches in a range of contexts, providing funding ahead of unfolding crises, such as the \$7 million allocated in March 2020 by the Humanitarian Fund for the occupied Palestinian territory to mitigate the anticipated socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable.

Strengthening localization



The Pooled Funds contribute to an increasingly localized humanitarian response.

2020 Highlights: The Pooled Funds continued to strengthen the role of national and local actors in humanitarian response. CBPFs channelled a record-breaking \$330 million to national and local actors, while consolidating representation of national NGOs in Advisory Boards and enhancing their influence on Fund governance and operations. Some \$73 million in CERF funding was sub-granted by UN agencies to 588 national and local actors over the course of 2020. CERF also made its first-ever direct allocation to NGOs and promoted partnerships with women-led and women's rights organizations to address the increasing number of GBV incidents during the pandemic.

Supporting localization and strengthening coordination between NGOs in Somalia

The Somalia Humanitarian Fund promotes effective programming and improvements in the quality of aid through enhanced coordination across humanitarian partners. Through an allocation of \$0.4 million in December 2020, it supported the Somalia NGO Consortium to develop a strategy for inclusion of the most vulnerable people in humanitarian action, facilitating dialogue with local authorities to expand humanitarian access, and developing capacities of NGOs.



Somalia. A mobile team in Somaliland's Marodijex examines patients and hands out nutrition supplies, including iron tablets, to drought-affected families.

Credit: IOM/Mary-Sanyu Osirer

Enabling flexible and agile responses



The Pooled Funds are agile in adapting to changing operating environments and enable humanitarian partners to adjust to the evolving needs on the ground.

2020 Highlights: The Pooled Funds' ability to pivot and adapt to the changing environment was instrumental in facilitating the humanitarian community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Funds introduced innovative approaches to ensure \$500 million in resources reached the field and implementing partners with lightning speed. Partners were also supported in adapting to the new needs and operating environment, recalibrating the design of projects and activities to address emerging priorities.



Chad. Mahamat Djouka, 17, made friends with Boudemi and other boys like him when he arrived to Tagal after fleeing his island.
Credit: UNICEF/Tremeau

DONOR SUPPORT IN 2020

Donor contributions

In 2020, donors contributed a combined total of just over \$1.5 billion to OCHA-managed pooled funds (\$863 million to CBPFs and \$639 million to CERF). Considering that 2020 was a particularly volatile economic year, the continued high-level of support to the Funds is a tremendous show of commitment. As a result, and with a significant CERF carry-over from 2019, CBPFs and CERF in 2020 were able to deliver unprecedented results, demonstrating that with an increase in resources, so much more can be achieved and so many more lives can be saved.



\$1.5^B
contributed to OCHA
Pooled Funds in 2020

\$863^M
to CBPFs

\$639^M
to CERF



63

MEMBER STATES



GERMANY **349.7M**
CBPFs 224.3M
CERF 125.3M



UNITED KINGDOM **269.5M**
CBPFs 182.1M
CERF 87.4M



NETHERLANDS **173.9M**
CBPFs 75.1M
CERF 98.9M



SWEDEN **159.3M**
CBPFs 70.4M
CERF 88.8M



NORWAY **99.3M**
CBPFs 42.4M
CERF 56.9M



BELGIUM **76.5M**
CBPFs 52.2M
CERF 24.3M



DENMARK **65.3M**
CBPFs 34.5M
CERF 30.8M



CANADA **59.1M**
CBPFs 36.5M
CERF 22.5M



SWITZERLAND **52.4M**
CBPFs 28.3M
CERF 24.0M



IRELAND **46.4M**
CBPFs 35.0M
CERF 11.4M



AUSTRALIA **22.1M**
CBPFs 13.9M
CERF 8.2M



REPUBLIC OF KOREA **16.9M**
CBPFs 11.1M
CERF 5.8M



FINLAND **16.7M**
CBPFs 1.2M
CERF 15.5M



ITALY **14.6M**
CBPFs 9.1M
CERF 5.5M



FRANCE **14.1M**
CBPFs 12.9M
CERF 1.1M



NEW ZEALAND **11.8M**
CBPFs 3.5M
CERF 8.3M



UNITED STATES **10.0M**
CBPFs 10.0M
CERF -



LUXEMBOURG **9.6M**
CBPFs 4.1M
CERF 5.5M



SPAIN **6.3M**
CBPFs 2.9M
CERF 3.4M



QATAR **6.2M**
CBPFs 5.2M
CERF 1.0M



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES **5.0M**
CBPFs -
CERF 5.0M



ICELAND **1.7M**
CBPFs 956.7K
CERF 708.3K



RUSSIAN FEDERATION **1.5M**
CBPFs -
CERF 1.5M



AUSTRIA **1.2M**
CBPFs -
CERF 1.2M



KUWAIT **1.0M**
CBPFs -
CERF 1.0M



CHINA **500.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 500.0K



TURKEY **450.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 450.0K



ESTONIA **347.1K**
CBPFs 236.0K
CERF 111.1K



JAPAN **263.6K**
CBPFs -
CERF 263.6K



POLAND **254.5K**
CBPFs -
CERF 254.5K



INDONESIA **220.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 220.0K



LIECHTENSTEIN **200.2K**
CBPFs -
CERF 200.2K



PORTUGAL **192.5K**
CBPFs -
CERF 192.5K



SLOVAKIA **152.9K**
CBPFs 117.6K
CERF 35.3K



SAUDI ARABIA **150.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 150.0K



LITHUANIA **115.7K**
CBPFs 115.7K
CERF -



MONACO **111.1K**
CBPFs -
CERF 111.1K



BULGARIA **108.6K**
CBPFs 108.6K
CERF -



CYPRUS **106.8K**
CBPFs 90.3K
CERF 16.5K



TURKMENISTAN **100.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 100.0K



MALAYSIA **100.0K**
CBPFs 100.0K
CERF -



SOUTH AFRICA **85.3K**
CBPFs -
CERF 85.3K



PHILIPPINES **60.0K**
CBPFs 10.0K
CERF 50.0K



MOROCCO **50.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 50.0K



SINGAPORE **50.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 50.0K



KAZAKHSTAN **50.0K**
CBPFs 50.0K
CERF -



ANDORRA **41.3K**
CBPFs -
CERF 41.3K



MALTA **33.6K**
CBPFs 33.6K
CERF -



AZERBAIJAN **25.0K**
CBPFs 25.0K
CERF -



BANGLADESH **20.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 20.0K



CAMBODIA **20.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 20.0K



THAILAND **20.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 20.0K



IRAN **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



MONGOLIA **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



MYANMAR **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



PAKISTAN **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



SRI LANKA **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



VIETNAM **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K



ARMENIA **5.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 5.0K



MONTENEGRO **3.3K**
CBPFs -
CERF 3.3K



GUYANA **3.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 3.0K



PERU **2.9K**
CBPFs -
CERF 2.9K



BHUTAN **1.5K**
CBPFs -
CERF 1.5K

8 OTHER DONORS



EUROPEAN COMMISSION **4.4M**
CBPFs 4.4M
CERF -



BELGIAN GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS **1.4M**
CBPFs -
CERF 1.4M



UN AND OTHER AGENCIES **1.0M**
CBPFs 1.0M
CERF -



JERSEY **955.2K**
CBPFs 955.2K
CERF -



CATALAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION **329.9K**
CBPFs -
CERF 329.9K



BASQUE AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION **200.4K**
CBPFs -
CERF 200.4K



PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH UN FOUNDATION **464.2K**
CBPFs 377.5K
CERF 86.7K



BAHA'I INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY **10.0K**
CBPFs -
CERF 10.0K

* in US\$

Donor funding trends

In 2020, a total of 63 Member States and Observers, five other government bodies, numerous private sector and international organizations, and hundreds of individuals contributed to CBPFs and CERF. Several of these donors also increased their contributions. Donors recognized the CBPF's and CERF's critical roles in ensuring life-saving support to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other humanitarian crises, and continued their unwavering support to the Funds. The largest support came from Germany (\$349.7m), United Kingdom (\$269.5m), the Netherlands (\$173.9m), Sweden (\$159.3m) and Norway (\$99.3m). Several donors increased their support compared to 2019, including 16 Member States and two regional/local authorities for CERF, and 13 Member States for CBPFs.

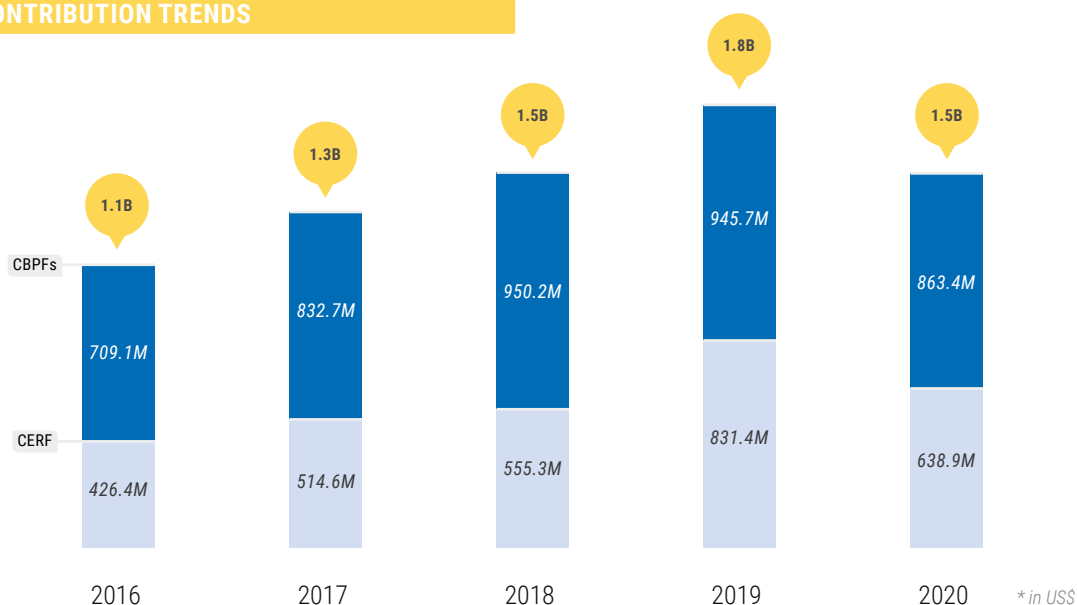
Approximately 90 per cent of 2020 contributions to CBPFs and CERF came from the ten top donors. Support from traditional top donors remained strong, accounting for more than \$1.3 billion. The year also saw a broadening of the donor base. Eight Member States returned as donors to CERF, along with three Member States that contributed for the first time. Likewise, four Member States contributed to at least one CBPF for the first time and two Member States returned as donors. Along with several private contributors that supported CBPFs and CERF for the first time, the European Commission also contributed a total of \$4.4 million to the CBPFs in South Sudan and Ukraine – the Commission's first support to the Pooled Funds.

An increasing proportion of funding for CBPFs and CERF came through multi-year agreements. Predictable and timely funding is of critical importance and at the end of 2020, the Pooled Funds had 17 active multi-year agreements at a total value of \$624.2 million, accounting for over 42 per cent of total contributions received during the year.

Fourteen past recipients of allocations from the Pooled Funds contributed to either CERF or at least one CBPF in 2020. They are part of the group of 55 recipient Member States that over the years have given back to CBPFs and CERF – a strong demonstration of solidarity with people in need around the world.

OCHA is focused on ensuring a broadening and deepening of the donor base. Strong OCHA-managed pooled funds able to deliver on their mandates is the collective responsibility of all Member States and an important step towards the humanitarian community's commitment to leave no one behind and reach the furthest left behind first. In a context of unprecedented humanitarian needs, OCHA's resource mobilization efforts for the Pooled Funds will, in 2021, continue to focus on achieving sustained and maximized support from top donors, as well as on broadening the donor base, while at the same time striving for increased income predictability and timely funding. In 2021, CBPFs and CERF will scale up best practices in communicating the impact of the Funds and create tailored content, helping donors to communicate to domestic audiences the value of investing in the Funds, as well as supporting their resource mobilization peer-to-peer efforts.

DONOR CONTRIBUTION TRENDS



Donors enable **OCHA's Pooled Funds**
- **the CBPFs and CERF** - to support
emergency life-saving humanitarian
activities throughout the world. As
crises persist, so does our resolve.
With your help, we respond.



@UNCerf
@CBPFs
#InvestInHumanity



**United
Nations**

Further information, including real-time funding details, can be found on:

Pooled Funds Data Hub

CERF website

OCHA website