

CERF FUNDING FOR THE UN HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE (UNHAS)



This guideline outlines and clarifies United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) activities that fall within the scope of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

I. OVERVIEW

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), managed by the World Food Programme (WFP), offers safe, reliable, cost-efficient and effective passenger and light cargo transport for the wider humanitarian community to and from areas of crisis and intervention

These guidelines are intended for use by the RC/HCs and country teams, as well as OCHA to guide the prioritization, formulation and selection of CERF grant requests.

II. CERF LIFE-SAVING CRITERIA

Support for UNHAS is in line with the [CERF Life-saving Criteria](#):

Sector	Activities
Logistics	Transport, storage and handling in support of common humanitarian operations for example by air, road or water, including personnel and cargo, and for evacuations

III. GUIDELINES

CERF allocations can provide funding for UNHAS to support the response of the humanitarian system or core humanitarian activities.

Requirements

Support Humanitarian Action: The proposed inclusion of UNHAS in a CERF allocation should be based on an assessment of the benefits of UNHAS to the humanitarian response, taking into consideration factors such as availability of safe and reliable commercial air services, security concerns, distances, etc. Per UNHAS mandate, the provision of air services for passengers and cargo should benefit the entire humanitarian community, including national and international UN staff members and NGOs present in the operational areas.¹

Coordination Requirements: Where applicable, UNHAS submissions should be endorsed by the local UNHAS Users Group Committee, before endorsement by the RC/HC. The submission should clearly outline the reasons for the service and be in line with WFP's Air Transport Manual. It should include, as much as possible, information on the number of organizations using the service, destinations to be served, estimated passenger figures and cargo tonnage, expected flight hours, a resource plan, including user fees and a sustainability or exit strategy.

Resource Mobilization (catalytic effect): The CERF allocation is a complementary financial mechanism that should be leveraged actively to advocate for and mobilize additional resources to respond to emergencies. In addition to WFP's resource strategy which may include cost-recovery schemes, donations or cost-sharing by agencies, country teams and the local User Group Committee who

¹ For further direction on passenger definition see WFP Air Transport Manual.

request UNHAS common air services should support the mobilization of sustainable funding for UNHAS.

Sustainability: WFP and the UN Country Team should ensure that the UNHAS project is sustainable. The overall management and operational and recurrent costs of the deployed infrastructure and personnel should be described in the project.

Clearances: WFP must have all necessary clearances for the UNHAS services to be fully functional.

Additional application requirements for Rapid Response requests

Rapid Response grants should address the need to deliver life-saving assistance in a timely manner. They should assist humanitarian organizations to quickly access areas and safely deliver life-saving assistances to beneficiaries. Therefore, CERF Rapid Response funds can normally be made available for UNHAS operations in the following three situations:

1. The establishment of new air operations for transport of supplies and humanitarian personnel. This will include parts of the start-up costs and service for the initial phase of the operation. It should be a timely intervention and serve as a springboard for other donors to come on board. The CERF does not cover the full cost of project proposals.
2. The expansion of existing services if there is a need for additional locations or higher frequency of flights due to deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The need to expand should be documented and justified along the criteria mentioned above.
3. The need for increased operational capacity due to a change in security phase in an ongoing humanitarian operation. The need for these flights will have to be carefully evaluated by the Designated Official in coordination with UNDSS and the wider humanitarian community.

Additional requirement for Underfunded Emergencies requests

If there are UNHAS operations in a country selected for an underfunded emergencies allocation, the RC/HC can propose those operations in the submission to the ERC. If the operation fits within the CERF Life-saving Criteria. However, the application should explain the reasons for underfunding and describe the fundraising efforts already undertaken and outline how the CERF allocation will be leveraged to support resource mobilization efforts.