THE WORLD HELPING THE WORLD

UNITED NATIONS CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND
EACH YEAR, CERF AND ITS PARTNERS HELP MILLIONS OF PEOPLE

1. DONORS CONTRIBUTED TO CERF
   $4.2 BILLION

2. CERF ALLOCATED
   $4.18 BILLION

3. FOR LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE IN 94 COUNTRIES

20 MILLION people benefit from critical humanitarian interventions in the health sector
10 MILLION people receive food assistance
8 MILLION people are assisted with critical water and sanitation interventions
1 MILLION people receive shelter and non-food items

Data as of 31 December 2015
As we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations this year, we also mark another milestone. Ten years ago, in December 2005, the UN General Assembly created the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a breakthrough to provide fast and predictable funding for early action at times of global crisis. Over the past decade, the Fund has proven itself integral to the success of the UN’s humanitarian response.

Established as a fund “by all, for all”, CERF embodies the spirit of global solidarity. Guided by the principles of neutrality and impartiality, CERF addresses crises where needs are most urgent, and it aims to save lives and protect the millions of children, women and men trapped in emergencies every day.

CERF’s donors include UN Member States and observers, regional Governments, corporations and individuals. Annual contributions have almost doubled since 2006, reflecting donors’ generosity and, crucially, their trust in the Fund.

The world has changed radically over the past decade, with old challenges intensifying and new complexities emerging. CERF’s mission is as relevant as ever, but it will require strengthened political and financial backing as it continues to innovate and become an even more robust instrument for good.

CERF is also keeping pace through its close links with the newly adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to improve the lives of everyone, everywhere. Achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals will depend in no small part on reaching the millions of vulnerable children, women and men suffering the devastating impacts of humanitarian crises. This is CERF’s raison d’être, and the Fund has an important contribution to make in realizing the 2030 Agenda’s overarching objective of leaving no one behind.

A strong United Nations requires a strong CERF. Strong donor support ensures that people caught up in crises are not abandoned, and that they have the opportunity to regain their dignity. An investment in CERF is an investment in life itself, and in our shared humanity.

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General
December 2015
11 August 2015, Amran, Yemen: ERC O’Brien with displaced children in a hygiene-sensitization session. The children are part of 50 displaced families from Sa’ada who fled air strikes to Amran city, where they are housed in a school.
In December 2015, CERF marks its first decade. CERF has made a significant impact in millions of lives at a significant pace and scale that was made possible only through the generous investment of its donors. It is this broad and deep support that has positioned CERF as the UN’s global emergency response fund.

How do we measure 10 years of our work? In each of the millions of lives saved and protected around the world: from the child attending a school in Yemen despite being caught in conflict; to the newborn in Pakistan receiving life-saving vaccinations; the farmer in Ethiopia receiving life-saving food distributions; or the adolescent girl in Syria given new confidence by a dignity kit equipped with basic feminine hygiene products.

Every year, CERF partners are able to treat 20 million people with health care, feed 10 million people with nourishing food, supply clean water and sanitation facilities for another 8 million, and provide shelter to 1 million people without a home.

CERF is fast to respond when disaster strikes, approving emergency funding in just 10 hours after Haiti’s devastating earthquake in 2010, and in 48 hours when the massive earthquake struck Nepal in 2015. CERF grants are highly efficient, and their value, while significant, goes beyond their monetary worth because every minute is vital in a crisis. Time lost means lives lost.

CERF is neutral and transparent, responding strictly according to need. It prioritizes the most vulnerable people, which is one of the core humanitarian principles. One of CERF’s most important roles is to provide life-saving support in overlooked or long-running crises where funding has run low. In these situations, CERF funding can unlock further resources by signalling to the humanitarian community that more help is needed immediately.

Today’s crises are devastating and at an unprecedented scale. This year, the number of people forced to flee their homes or their countries reached 60 million, half of whom are children. This is the highest number since the Second World War. However, we must not be disheartened. I have witnessed the strength of the human spirit among the millions of women and men determined to rebuild their lives. CERF has greatly contributed to this.

In this changing humanitarian landscape, the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the World Humanitarian Summit will be opportunities to find additional ways to meet the needs of the millions of people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict, especially at the onset of crisis, with speed, flexibility and scale. CERF is uniquely positioned to continue supporting the frontline workers to meet the humanitarian community’s needs in the future.

Our work could not have been achieved without the 125 Member States and observers, private donors and individuals who have supported CERF over the last decade. Thank you. I know that with your continuing support and investment, CERF will remain the proven robust mechanism ready to meet humanitarian needs through the next 10 years and beyond, so that together we can continue saving and protecting lives.

Stephen O’Brien
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
CERF Explained

Why CERF?

CERF in the Coming Decade
Ten Years of Saving Lives Together

An Investment in the World’s Future
GLOBAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response for people affected by natural disasters and armed conflict.

The General Assembly established CERF as a fund “by all, for all”, reflecting the spirit of global solidarity. The Fund was launched in March 2006 with a US$450 million annual funding target and a loan facility of $50 million, later reduced to $30 million.

Since that time, it has allocated more than $4.1 billion to help millions of people in 94 countries and territories across the globe, and it received almost $4.2 billion from 125 UN Member States and observers, regional Governments, corporate donors, foundations and individuals.

A third of the countries contributing to CERF have also received humanitarian assistance supported by the Fund. All contributions are voluntary and pooled together for maximum impact.

The recipient agencies—United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and the International Organization for Migration—and their partners—non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and Governments—use CERF funds for life-saving activities in emergencies around the world.

AN INNOVATION IN HUMANITARIAN REFORM

CERF provides a fast, efficient way to channel support to the people across the globe in their times of greatest need. It represents a unique opportunity to invest in a humanitarian funding mechanism that adds life-saving value to every dollar.

The UN General Assembly foresaw CERF in 2005 as part of the broader package of reforms to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response. The idea of establishing

Each year, CERF and its partners help millions of people

- EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES for over 20 MILLION
- FOOD ASSISTANCE for 10 MILLION
“CERF is an effective tool to get rapid humanitarian aid to the places and the people who need it the most, be it in a sudden emergency or a forgotten crisis. The 10th anniversary of CERF marks a decade of providing effective, life-saving support to millions of the world’s most vulnerable – we are proud to be a part of that success story.”

—Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden

CERF enabled support for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, such as Kawthar and her children, by funding child-protection services, clothing distributions and life-saving vaccination campaigns in response to disease outbreaks. CERF also funded health activities, water supply and repairs in informal settlements and food security for children under age 5. When cold weather set in at their camp, Kawthar’s family received gloves, hats and jackets provided with backing from the Fund. “They [the children] were warm and very happy,” says Kawthar.

“CERF is an effective tool to get rapid humanitarian aid to the places and the people who need it the most, be it in a sudden emergency or a forgotten crisis.”

—Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden

Kawthar, a refugee from Syria, received CERF-funded assistance from UNICEF.

A reformed CERF, which replaced a loan facility known as the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, was creative and timely. Just one year earlier, in 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami generated a huge international response, highlighting the importance of speed and reliability in funding for emergencies. The outpouring of contributions for people affected by the disaster underscored the fact that not all crises receive the attention they deserve, with many receiving too little funding to meet humanitarian needs.

CERF was created to address these challenges by introducing the UN’s global emergency response fund to deliver funding quickly and bring greater balance to emergency response. Today, the Fund is one of the most effective ways to provide assistance, including supplies, basic services and protection for millions of people in need. It is also a lifeline for those caught up in the world’s most neglected, underfunded and long-lasting crises.

As of late 2015, more than 13.5 million people needed humanitarian assistance and protection inside Syria. Some 6.5 million more remained inside Syria’s borders after being displaced from their homes, and over 4.2 million more had fled to other countries in the region.
Norway is a strong supporter of CERF. It provides critical life-saving emergency assistance and much needed support for underfunded or protracted crises.

—Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

### A SOUND HUMANITARIAN INVESTMENT

CERF is a proven investment tool with consistent returns in lives saved and futures protected. Every year, CERF grants enable humanitarian partners to provide critical health services to over 20 million people, feed some 10 million people, provide water and sanitation to 8 million people and bring emergency shelter to over 1 million people.¹

Speed is essential to any crisis response. CERF can set aside funds for an emergency within hours of a crisis, giving frontline humanitarian agencies the resources to jump-start or accelerate their work immediately. Because the Fund pools the contributions it receives, it stands ready to provide substantial, predictable support instantly and as needs arise.

CERF is efficient. It maximizes the value of donors’ funds by directing them where and when they are most needed. The CERF-funded interventions are based on priorities set collectively by humanitarian partners on the ground, using existing coordination structures and processes. In this way, the Fund reinforces collaboration and coordination among humanitarian agencies and NGOs, promoting partnership, predictability and a focus on what is most important. CERF works strategically, allocating funds with an eye to strengthening the overall response to an emergency. It supports targeted interventions with the highest potential impact, as agreed jointly by responders.

¹The annual beneficiary figures represent yearly averages, which were estimated based on the information of people reached with CERF grants, as reported through Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator reports covering the 2012-2014 period and CERF funding trends since the Fund’s inception. Beneficiary figures for specific allocations and emergencies are based on Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator reports on the use of CERF funds.
CERF is, therefore, a vital bridge, connecting donors’ generosity with the expertise and capacity of humanitarian responders. By pooling contributions, CERF helps its donors achieve an impact greater than they could achieve on their own, ensuring that the world’s most vulnerable people get the help they urgently need, when they need it most.

With its focus on immediate life-saving assistance, CERF adds value through its resources as well as by example. It accelerates humanitarian action by directing attention to crises and by leveraging funding from other sources vital to meeting significant humanitarian needs. And when it provides grants to emergencies that fail to attract sufficient resources, CERF highlights specific crises or critical humanitarian operations which, if discontinued, would undermine the survival and protection of millions of people in need.

LOOKING BACK — AND AHEAD

In its first 10 years, CERF has proven to be a success and a cornerstone of the humanitarian community. But if this is a time for celebration, it is also a time for reflection, renewed commitment and action.

CERF today receives in contributions and allocates significantly more than it did in 2006. However, its annual funding target remains the same now as it was 10 years ago. In the past decade, the world’s need for humanitarian assistance has grown dramatically. Financial support for humanitarian response has grown, but the humanitarian needs of today by far outweigh the resources that are made available for response.

Emergencies are increasingly large, complex and long lasting, and more than twice as many people now look to humanitarian organizations for help than in CERF’s first year of operation. But despite the increase in funding provided by CERF, the percentage of its annual allocations against overall humanitarian funding fell from 4.5 per cent in its first full year of operation (2007) to some 2 per cent in 2014.

The mismatch between the available and required resources can be measured in dollars but is realized in human suffering. When humanitarian agencies lack the resources for a strong response, children go without the life-saving protection of vaccinations; families endure wind, rain and cold without shelter; and entire communities face hunger, malnutrition and loss of livelihoods.

The consequences are visible today and will be felt for years to come unless enough funding is made available to close the gap. Worldwide, the momentum is already building. CERF is aligned with the UN’s new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which establishes 17 goals for improving the lives of everyone, everywhere. But those goals cannot be fully achieved without reaching the millions of vulnerable children, women and men affected by armed conflict and natural disasters around the world. The Fund has a key role in realizing the core objective of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind.

An investment in CERF is an investment in our common future. The Fund’s humanitarian mission has never been more challenging or more crucial. And the contributions that make it possible have never been better spent.
Disasters can cut people off from the essentials they need for survival: medical care, food, clean water, sanitation, shelter, protection and support. The impact is devastating and often immediate. A humanitarian response calls for substantial funding, especially in the first days of a crisis. But if the money is not available quickly and reliably, lives are at risk.

Humanitarian organizations rush to raise major funding once a crisis is under way. But that takes time, and in a disaster, time lost can mean lives lost. There are no guarantees that enough money can be secured to mount the scale of response required.

CERF raises and pools funds before the need arises. It then directs them to where they can have the greatest impact in an emergency. And it is moving faster: the amount of time the Fund requires to approve a grant was reduced by nearly half during its first decade.

FUNDING LINKED TO MOST URGENT NEEDS ON THE GROUND

Every contribution in support of humanitarian response, whether from a Government or an individual, is paired with the expectation that it will be used efficiently to help people in greatest need. CERF approves its funding allocations solely in response to the most pressing needs, which are identified by humanitarian organizations on the ground.

Humanitarian agencies and their partners are the driving force behind CERF. Through their field presence and local knowledge, they are best placed to determine where CERF grants are needed most and can be used best. The Fund’s resources are meant to kick-start operations, not replace existing or more traditional funding mechanisms.

Over the years, CERF has proven to be fast, flexible and lifesaving. The Netherlands will keep supporting CERF to provide humanitarian aid in emerging crises and the world’s most neglected disasters.

—Liliane Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of the Netherlands
that are vital to scale up and sustain humanitarian programmes.

The humanitarian community, working together, prioritizes projects that match CERF’s life-saving mission mandated by the General Assembly. Immediately following a disaster, the Resident or Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) assigned to the emergency can submit a CERF application for funds to cover life-saving projects identified by UN agencies. To keep the selection process rigorous and focused, the Fund follows the “CERF Life-saving Criteria”. This is a set of guidelines established through consultations with UN agencies, partners and humanitarian colleagues to assess how well a project responds to critical needs. Based on this expert advice, submitted through the RC/HC, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) confirms what CERF funds will be used for.

The life-saving criteria reflect the fundamental humanitarian principle of focusing first on the people in need in a crisis and on the affected communities. The criteria recognize the rights of all people as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly the right to life with dignity. CERF supports projects that provide food, shelter and health in emergencies, as well as those supporting work in areas such as education, refugee camp coordination and protection.

How CERF works

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Aid workers identify the most urgent types of life-saving assistance that affected people need, such as shelter, food, clean water and medicine.

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Donors contribute to CERF before urgent needs arise.

MANAGING FUNDS

UN agencies, IOM and their partners work together to prioritize life-saving relief activities. They request CERF funding through the top UN official in the country.

REQUESTING CERF FUNDING

CERF pools these donations into a single fund.

ALLOCATING FUNDS

Based on expert advice from aid workers on the ground, the Emergency Relief Coordinator distributes CERF funding.

SAVING LIVES

Recipient organizations use the money for life-saving aid operations. They always track spending and impact, report back to CERF and return unused funds.
HOW CERF FUNDS LIFE-SAVING ACTION

Every humanitarian emergency is unique, but all have two things in common: great human suffering and a need for funds to alleviate that suffering.

CERF’s flexible structure allows it to allocate funds at critical phases in an emergency:

• In the beginning, when resources can jump-start a response.

• At any time when the crisis fails to attract enough money for a strong humanitarian response.

The Fund approves and distributes grants through two channels, or “windows”.

Rapid Response Window
Kick-starts humanitarian assistance in a fast-moving crisis

CERF makes grants for rapid action in emergencies throughout the year as needs arise. The ERC can make a decision to support Rapid Response requests in as little as 10 hours, allowing UN agencies and their partners to start work immediately while moving forward with other fundraising efforts for long-term support. CERF enables agencies to respond to time-critical needs and creates an enabling environment for humanitarian operations. It allows UN agencies to respond quickly and save lives while they activate and pursue regular fundraising activities.

Underfunded Emergencies Window
Bolsters an emergency response when funds are scarce

This window provides support for protracted or nearly forgotten humanitarian emergencies in which funding is low but vulnerabilities and risk levels are high. Many of these crises have long faded from international headlines, which makes fundraising for humanitarian response additionally challenging. By providing grants for these crises, CERF helps to address critical needs while highlighting the importance of continued support and advocating for the most vulnerable people. The Fund makes its grants for underfunded emergencies twice each year, front loading them in the first part of the year to let humanitarian agencies start their projects early.

In July 2014, with support from CERF, IOM set up a temporary site to accommodate and provide shelter and assistance to 500 returning Chadians who had been stranded in neighbouring Cameroon. ©OCHA/Philippe Kropf
CERF responds to some crises with life-saving funding well before they capture media interest or attract significant donor support. This happened during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, when the Fund helped UN agencies and their humanitarian partners to deliver health services to families in Guinea. It happened again in late 2015, as CERF released almost $80 million to support people affected by El Niño.

**Loan facility**

CERF has a loan facility of $30 million. Recipient agencies receive loans for up to one year, allowing them to implement emergency response activities based on indications that donor funding will be forthcoming.

CERF is a cornerstone of our humanitarian assistance, giving us confidence that in a sudden crisis, help will be delivered as quickly as possible, in the early hours and days, to those who need it most. We also value the role of CERF in underfunded crises, because of our special commitment to people affected by smaller or less known crises who are likely to be forgotten.

—Seán Sherlock, Minister of State for Overseas Development Assistance, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation of the Republic of Ireland

In Chad, refugees receive CERF support

Ten-year-old Assia remembers the last night she spent in her home town of Carnot, north-west of the Central African Republic (CAR) capital, Bangui. Forces involved in the country’s civil war were moving in.

“All the children were crying and the grandmothers were praying when the militia came that night,” she says. “We didn’t have time to get anything. We left everything behind.”

Assia’s family was originally from neighbouring Chad. Now they crossed back into that country, seeking refuge, and reached a transit centre in Gore for returnees from CAR.

Assia’s grandmother says: “When we first arrived here, the environment was not good. After two days, we managed to cut down some trees, clean a bit and build houses. Then we received covering for our houses.”

CERF’s rapid response funds helped to signal to the international community that this underfunded emergency needed support. UNICEF used the money to provide health care, nutrition and child-protection programmes, among other services. It installed thousands of water points and latrines around the transit centre, conducted more than 10,000 medical consultations and vaccinated hundreds of thousands of children.

“It’s much better now,” says Assia’s grandmother.

But Assia remains concerned about another attack. She still thinks of home but is reluctant to return. “What I miss more is my big sister. She didn’t come here. It has been a long time since I have seen her. I miss her the most,” she says.

“If the war stops, I would go back to visit, but I would not stay there because I am afraid. I am afraid if I am there, another war will start and I will be stuck there.”
CERF ALLOCATED

$4.18 BILLION

RAPID RESPONSE $2.77B
UNDERFUNDED $1.41B

FOR LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE IN 94 COUNTRIES

Since 2006

CERF ALLOCATIONS (in US$ million)

$4.18 BILLION

RAPID RESPONSE $2.77B
UNDERFUNDED $1.41B

FOR LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE IN 94 COUNTRIES
THE UN’S GLOBAL EMERGENCY FUND

Since 2006, CERF has become one of the fastest and most effective ways to provide life-saving emergency assistance for millions of people in need. CERF is the world’s largest global fund for humanitarian response. It provides rapid funds for life-saving assistance in fast-moving crises, and it is a lifeline for people in the world’s most neglected, underfunded and long-running crises.

2005/2006
15 DEC 2005
CERF established by UN General Assembly resolution 60/124.

2006
CERF approval times are down from five to three days for rapid response and 11 to six days for underfunded emergencies (UFE).

2007
Approval time for UFE funding reduced to five days.

DRC, Bangladesh and Sudan are top recipients of CERF funds ($104M combined).

55 crises receive CERF funds in a single year—the most ever.

2008
Haiti hurricane
CERF surpasses the $450M funding target.

14 JUL
$100M from CERF for response to surging food prices reaching 17.8M people in 26 countries.

2009
Horn of Africa receives a third of CERF funds.

Global recession dampens donor giving for the year.

84 Member States and observers, the most ever, contribute funds in a single year.

2010
Haiti earthquake
Funding approved in just 10 hours.

In 2010
22M people receive food aid.

19M people receive water and sanitation aid.

19.5M children immunized.

1.5M people receive emergency shelter.

$450M FUNDING TARGET

$299M
$257M
$428
$415
$392
$397
$301
$268
$230
$128
$123
$77

Rapid Response (US$ millions)

Underfunded Emergencies

Total Contributions to CERF

Top 10 Recipients

DRC

Top 10 Donors

UK

104

Previous

2021

Next
Underfunded emergencies

Days for six CERF approval times are 2006 resolution 60/124.

General Assembly
15 DEC 2005

2005/2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

FUNDING TARGET
$450M

World’s most neglected, underfunded and long-running crises.

It provides rapid funds for life-saving assistance in fast-moving crises, and it is a lifeline for people in

RECIPIENTS

TOP 10

$257M

Côte d’Ivoire
Eritrea
Chad
Ethiopia
Sri Lanka
Somalia
Kenya
Afghanistan
DRC

180 230 301 268 276 77

(US$ millions)

RAPID RESPONSE

$299M

1.5M children immunized.

19.5M receive sanitation aid.

19M receive water and

22M receive food aid.

DONORS

TOP 10

Denmark
Canada
Norway
Sweden
UK

Sudan
are top recipients

donors giving for the year.

$104M

DRC, Bangladesh

180 230 301 268 276

426

303

291

300

469

303

331

158

144

465

284

175

427

284

144

465

284

144

465

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465

284

144

465

284

144

In 2012

15.5M

people receive water and
sanitation aid.

In 2013

9.3M people receive food aid.

RECORD

$480M received in annual contributions.

CERF allocates more than $128M for response in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia.

Sahel drought—CERF allocates more than $100M for response.

Syria regional crisis CERF allocates more than $50M.

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

Three L3 crises under way. CERF allocates $116M for South Sudan regional response; $60M for Central African Republic regional response; $26M for Iraq.

Four L3 crises under way: Iraq, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

$77M for Syria regional response—largest single allocation for an emergency to date.

CERF allocated about $59M for response to El Niño-related climate events.

*Contributions received or committed for 2015 as of 31 December 2015.
CERF adds value by maximizing the potential of UN organizations and partners to provide essential, life-saving humanitarian activities to crisis-affected people. The easiest way to understand this is to see CERF in action. The following examples illustrate the Fund’s approach to humanitarian assistance and leadership in recent emergencies around the world.

CERF is fast
Philippines,
SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN, 2013

The situation
Super Typhoon Haiyan—one of the most powerful storms ever recorded—made landfall on 8 November 2013, cutting across the Philippines archipelago. The disaster affected 14 million people, causing loss of life and massive destruction. The UN declared it a level-three emergency, which is the organization’s highest designation for a humanitarian crisis, triggering a system-wide response.

How CERF responded
Within 48 hours, the ERC authorized a $25 million Rapid Response grant for use by UN agencies. Using this funding, the agencies kick-started life-saving operations together. The Fund helped to feed nearly 120,000 people, contributed to clean water and sanitation for close to 110,000 people.

CERF’s unique added value
CERF funding represented just 3 per cent of the $788 million spent to address overall humanitarian needs after the typhoon. However, CERF’s impact was significant because its funds were available in the crucial first days of the crisis.

On 12 November 2013, a woman cradling a baby stands amid debris and other destruction caused by Super Typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban City—the area worst affected by the disaster—on the central island of Leyte.

people and supported health care for some 75,000 people.

CERF response to Typhoon Haiyan timeline

7 NOV
A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team arrives to support Government-led efforts.

8 NOV
Typhoon Haiyan makes landfall and cuts a path across the Philippines.

9 NOV
14 million people are affected, first assessments confirm massive humanitarian needs. The ERC, the UN Resident Coordinator, OCHA Philippines and the CERF secretariat discuss an immediate CERF allocation to jump-start the emergency response.

10 NOV
ERC announces CERF allocation.

11 NOV
L3
Humanitarian needs

12 NOV
$25M
Assured that CERF money is on its way, relief a medicine, health services and food to hundreds people.
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, ONGOING FOOD AND MEDICAL SHORTAGES

The situation
In July 2015, following 18 months of abnormally dry weather, severe water shortages led to lower agricultural production and reduced access to drinking water. Combined with scarce supplies of food and medicine, millions of people in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) were at risk of malnutrition and death from preventable diseases. In the hardest-hit provinces, about 2.4 million people required supplementary food, medicines, and hygiene and sanitation items.

How CERF responded
In 2015, the Fund gave more than $8 million in humanitarian assistance for DPRK from its Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies windows. That sum includes over $6 million for humanitarian partners to respond with life-saving and time-critical activities in the early stages of the drought, benefiting some 1.3 million people.

CERF’s unique added value
Neutrality is fundamental for humanitarian partners to deliver on their mandate to provide support for all in a crisis, and CERF helps delink response from political concerns. As part of the United Nations system, CERF and its agency partners work together to deliver aid in situations where political concerns might prevent donors from engaging and funding life-saving activities. CERF funding for UN agencies has provided a lifeline for emergency programmes, helping to ensure that support reaches those who need it the most.

With the CERF, the international donor community is able to demonstrate humanitarian solidarity with people in need in a timely, independent and impartial manner.

—Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

A child at the WFP, UNICEF-supported Provincial Baby Home in Hamhung City, DPRK, October 2011.
@OCHA/David Ohana
**CERF is enabling response efforts**

**West Africa, EBOLA OUTBREAK, 2014**

**The situation**
The deadly Ebola virus broke out in West Africa in early 2014. During the year, over 200,000 suspected, probable and confirmed cases emerged. The entire region felt the emergency’s impact. Humanitarian agencies launched a response in four countries: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

**How CERF responded**
The Fund gave $15.2 million to UN agencies in 2014 for the Ebola response. At the earliest stage of the crisis, between April and June, CERF funding helped affected families in Guinea to receive health care. As the outbreak spread, support from the Fund enabled agencies to quickly scale up life-saving projects that focused on medical-supply delivery, logistical support, and the treatment for and prevention of the virus. CERF supported vital public information campaigns that reached some 30 million people in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and it provided emergency food aid to almost 90,000 food-insecure people at risk of Ebola.

**CERF’s unique added value**
Travel restrictions and service cuts during the outbreak severely affected commercial travel throughout the region, preventing health workers and supplies from reaching people in need. CERF responded by allocating $3.8 million for the UN Humanitarian Air Service, or UNHAS, enabling agencies and partners to move personnel, medical supplies and equipment quickly and efficiently into remote locations. By removing a major obstacle to the Ebola response, the Fund empowered humanitarian workers to deliver aid across the region.

“During the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa, when commercial airlines stopped or reduced their flights to affected regions, it was CERF that was instrumental in WFP’s ability to maintain the humanitarian air service that kept vital medical personnel and supplies flowing where they were needed most.”

—Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Programme
Southern Hemisphere, EL NIÑO, 2015

The situation
Every two to seven years, the El Niño climatic event warms the waters of the tropical Pacific, affecting global weather patterns. Based on climate models, the impact of the 2015-2016 event, which includes severe droughts and floods, could ultimately be comparable to devastating Super El Niños in past decades. The consequences of a severe El Niño include food shortages due to poor harvests, rising prices, increased malnutrition and forced displacement.

How CERF responded
As of December 2015, CERF has allocated almost $80 million to support life-saving responses to the humanitarian needs of communities affected by floods, drought, landslides and other El Niño-related effects. CERF funds have helped humanitarian teams to deliver food, water and nutrition support to DPRK, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Malawi, Myanmar, Somalia and Zimbabwe.

CERF’s unique added value
CERF provided early support for urgent needs identified by humanitarian country teams and backed up by reliable data sources and assessments. This ensured that agencies could respond with life-saving activities and address the critical humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people and affected communities before the situation deteriorated further. CERF funds represented a small proportion of the overall funding needed to respond to El Niño, but they enabled crucial and timely support as national response systems and larger development organizations were set in motion to scale up assistance.

2015 El Niño-related allocations

by month

- Haiti: US$3M
- Ethiopia: 8.5M
- Eritrea: 2.5M
- Somalia: 4.9M
- Malawi: 9.9M
- Honduras: 2.3M
- Zimbabwe: 8.1M
- Ethiopia: 17M
- El Salvador: 2.7M

Rapid Response
Underfunded emergency
Drought
Flood
Colombia, ONGOING CONFLICT- AND CLIMATE-RELATED CRISSES

The situation
Colombia experiences frequent natural disasters and has one of the world’s oldest armed conflicts. Millions of its people are highly vulnerable, lacking food, shelter, protection and medical care. But despite the scale and duration of the country’s crisis, many donors around the world know little about it. This limits contributions to humanitarian agencies working in Colombia.

How CERF responded
Through its grant facility for underfunded emergencies, CERF allocated $3.5 million in 2013 for relief efforts in Colombia. The humanitarian country team used CERF funds to support some 60,000 people in areas most affected by internal armed conflict—including indigenous, Afro-Colombian and isolated rural peasant communities—while placing a stronger emphasis on women and children. CERF funds helped agencies such as UNICEF to sustain Colombia emergency operations, safeguarding thousands of children from forced displacement, landmine accidents, sexual violence and forced recruitment by armed groups.

In January 2015, CERF allocated $3 million from its Underfunded Emergencies Window for a range of projects responding to critical needs in Colombia, including food, health, clean water, sanitation and human rights.

CERF’s unique added value
Through its support for underfunded emergencies, such as in Colombia, CERF aims to ensure that all people, wherever they live, receive equal consideration for life-saving humanitarian assistance. Grants like these help to raise awareness of pressing needs in little-known emergencies, signalling to donors and humanitarian agencies that more assistance is needed.

As we face the highest levels of forced displacement in UN history, the CERF will continue to play a vital role in the humanitarian community to respond as quickly and as best it can.
—António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
The situation
The South Sudan emergency is a complex humanitarian crisis in which conflict- and climate-related threats overlap. By the end of 2014, 5 million people in South Sudan required humanitarian support, with nearly 2 million people displaced from their homes. Fighting, food shortages and flooding were among the multiple threats faced by the South Sudanese, particularly those most vulnerable, such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. A cholera outbreak during the 2014 rainy season was confirmed in the capital, Juba, and spread to other parts of the country.

How CERF responded
South Sudan received CERF funds totalling $53.7 million in 2014, more than any other country in that year. CERF released the money in a number of strategically timed and focused allocations, deploying funds where they could address the most pressing needs with the greatest efficiency. For example, CERF helped to scale up emergency operations, including refugee camp management and air transport for relief organizations. Some 370,000 people received health services. It also boosted treatment-and-prevention measures during the country’s cholera outbreak for more than 100,000 people. UN agencies directed CERF funds to humanitarian partners to improve living conditions for nearly 1 million displaced people, increase protection across the country and strengthen safety for humanitarian workers.

CERF’s unique added value
As a funding hub, CERF can coordinate among UN agencies and partners in a regional emergency, ensuring that their work is complementary and cost-effective, and that it delivers widespread, life-saving results. In South Sudan, CERF also aligned its allocations with other funding sources, including the South Sudan Common Humanitarian Fund, to ensure maximum efficiency.

CERF is efficient

South Sudan, REGIONAL CRISIS, 2014

When fighting broke out in South Sudan in December 2013, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) Toby Lanzer was up against daunting challenges as he helped to mobilize the response.

“When you’re faced with violence, it’s difficult,” Mr. Lanzer says. “When you’re faced with nearly 2 million people fleeing from their homes, 6 million people who are at severe risk of food insecurity, when you’re faced with a country that barely has an infrastructure, all of those come together and make the operating environment terribly challenging.”

The humanitarian country team needed a quick, reliable source of substantial funding to immediately jump-start the humanitarian response. CERF was the first port of call.

“I think CERF has been particularly helpful for us because it helped us get up and running quickly,” he says. “I didn’t have to go knocking on doors in donor capitals in December when the crisis broke because I knew there was money one phone call away.”

DSRSG/RC/HC Toby Lanzer greets a woman in the protection of civilians camp in Bentiu, South Sudan, in 2014.
CERF leads the response, strengthens coordination and leadership

Sahel, COMPLEX REGIONAL EMERGENCY

The situation
In 2011, severe drought affected millions of people across eight countries in the Sahel: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. It triggered a region-wide humanitarian response that continues today. Causes of hunger and malnutrition in the Sahel are complex and interrelated, but the most significant ones include acute poverty levels, recurrent conflict and chronic underinvestment in agriculture, all of which leave the region’s people extremely vulnerable to crises. More recently, a surge in violence in Nigeria and the volatile security situation in Mali have led thousands of people to flee to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania and Niger.

How CERF responded
Over the years, the Sahel region has been a major recipient of CERF grants through the Underfunded and Rapid Response Windows. From 2011 to late 2015, humanitarian agencies in the Sahel received almost $300 million from CERF for the emergency response to drought, and to displacement caused by violence and conflict. These projects provided life-saving support to refugees, IDPs and host communities.

CERF’s unique added value
Since 2011, CERF has enabled humanitarian partners across the region to intervene early and reduce the drought’s impact, even before many Governments were able to act. CERF-funded projects enabled agencies and partners to respond to the massive emergency, and the prioritized activities signalled the need for stronger humanitarian action. CERF funds were a valuable tool for humanitarian leaders, putting them at the centre of communication and decision-making, and thus reinforcing an effective response in individual countries and across the region. In this way, CERF helped to strengthen humanitarian coordination and leadership, especially in a complex crisis.

In one of the major food crises in the Sahel region of Africa, CERF was really the first large-scale response to the early warning signals... It was quick, on a real scale. It was a real game-changer in terms of both enabling the UN system and our NGO partners to respond, and sending a signal to donors and Governments that the scale of this crisis requires appropriate scale of the response.


A malnourished child in Mali, March 2012.
CERF is reliable

Nepal, MAGNITUDE-7.8 EARTHQUAKE, 2015

The situation
A massive earthquake struck Nepal and neighbouring countries in April. It killed more than 5,000 Nepalese, injured 10,000 and left over 8 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Food, water, sanitation, shelter and health care were compromised. Significant funding was vital to jump-start the humanitarian response to such a huge natural disaster.

How CERF responded
Within 48 hours of the earthquake, CERF announced a $15 million grant for humanitarian assistance to Nepal. With CERF’s backing, the UN was able to promptly provide essential health, water, sanitation and child-protection services for hundreds of thousands of people. As the humanitarian response unfolded, CERF was ready with predictable, easy-to-access funding that gave agencies the traction they needed to carry out life-saving work.

CERF’s unique added value
UN agencies and their partners rely on CERF for the funding they need to save lives. CERF has reduced uncertainty about whether adequate funds will be available to jump-start and maintain a humanitarian response. Throughout the first days and weeks of the Nepal disaster, CERF was ready with predictable, easy-to-access funding that gave agencies the traction they needed to carry out life-saving work.

Emergency work never stops. A strong, well-funded CERF keeps that work going.
– Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization

The magnitude-7.8 earthquake that struck Nepal in 2015 caused death, injury and severe damage in minutes. It killed more than 5,000 Nepalese, injured 10,000 and left over 8 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Food, water, sanitation, shelter and health care were compromised. The earthquake’s long-term repercussions included a rise in mental-health problems among Nepalis.

Within 48 hours of the earthquake, CERF had announced a $15 million grant for humanitarian assistance. With CERF’s backing, the UN was able to promptly provide essential health, water, sanitation and child-protection services for hundreds of thousands of people. As the humanitarian response unfolded, the Fund emerged as the top contributor in the UN’s Flash Appeal for Nepal.

The World Health Organization estimates that 5 to 10 per cent of people caught in a humanitarian emergency will suffer mental-health problems. It drew on CERF funds to provide care through mobile clinics in the capital, Kathmandu, and around the country.

At one clinic stop near Kathmandu, 70-year-old Gayatri Chalse told staff that she still feels as if the ground is moving. She has suffered from back pain and headaches since the earthquake. The clinic’s staff treated her for anxiety. Their patients also included 12-year-old Nikesh Pahari. After the disaster, he refused to speak or eat and was afraid to go near his house. A psychiatric social worker taught Nikesh a breathing technique that calmed him, and he relaxed enough to smile.
Germany strongly supports the Central Emergency Response Fund, which has become a central pillar of the humanitarian financing system over the last 10 years. Supporting the CERF means saving lives and directing funds to the people most in need.

—Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

In its first 10 years, CERF has built a solid record of responding quickly and effectively to the needs of millions of people in humanitarian emergencies. The Fund’s speed, reliability and impact will be even more important in the decade ahead, as the UN and its partners adapt to the world’s fast-changing and rapidly growing humanitarian needs and landscape. In this environment, CERF is presented with new challenges even as its value and credibility as a key humanitarian tool continues to grow.

Today, more people are affected by crisis than at any other time in recent history. The number of people needing support has more than doubled in the last 10 years. Conflict and natural disasters have displaced some 60 million people from their homes, more than half of whom are children. The world is now facing its worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. And as CERF turns 10, the humanitarian community is responding to four level-three emergencies.

From natural disasters in Nepal and the Asia-Pacific region to the protracted conflicts in Syria and Iraq, as well as fighting in Yemen and severe weather fuelled by El Niño, the events of 2015 put the humanitarian community under great strain. As the year drew to a close, a record number of people—more than 125 million worldwide—needed humanitarian support.
The numbers are growing because crises are growing:

- They are **bigger**, sometimes encompassing whole regions.
- They are increasingly **complex**, driven and intensified by overlapping factors including conflict and the effects of climate change.
- They **last longer**, putting a strain on limited sources of funding. Crises continue to grow, but the available resources do not keep up with the pace of growth.

**CERF: KEY TO EFFECTIVE, COORDINATED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

The growing number of large, complex emergencies calls for an approach to humanitarian assistance that supports collaboration and efficiency among humanitarian responders at country and regional levels.

CERF is central for a more effective and better coordinated humanitarian response, which makes the Fund uniquely placed to respond to the challenges posed by future crises. The Fund is managed by the ERC, acting on behalf of the Secretary-General, and it relies on and strengthens country-level humanitarian coordination structures.

Through coordination, the Fund activates the collective strength of UN agencies and their partners. By allocating a well-placed grant to one agency, CERF can produce results that enable other humanitarian agencies to do their work, not just in one country but across a whole region. And because CERF is the world’s global emergency fund, its grants can be allocated for response in several countries simultaneously, addressing the regional dimensions of emergencies.

CERF is designed to complement other humanitarian funding sources, such as country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) and bilateral funding—vital elements in ensuring that funding is channelled where the needs are greatest and for the most critical activities. When CERF, CBPFs and other types of funding are deployed in concert to achieve a joint goal, they give humanitarians a valuable tool for saving lives in the most efficient way possible.

**CERF FOR THE FUTURE**

In March 2016, CERF marks its tenth year of operation. This anniversary comes at a critical moment for the humanitarian community as it defines a new vision for assisting people in crises. The Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing is expected to launch key initiatives to improve funding for emergencies. In addition, the May 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, will be a global call to action, bringing together Governments, humanitarian organizations, people affected by humanitarian crises and new partners, including the private sector. It aims to reinspire and reinvigorate the global commitment to humanity, and to enable countries and communities to better prepare for—and respond to—crises.

As the UN’s global emergency fund, CERF is central to the future of humanitarian response. Together, we can meet the needs of the most vulnerable—to survive, to be safe and to live in dignity.
AN INVESTMENT IN THE WORLD’S FUTURE

The UN was founded to achieve what once seemed an impossible ideal: global solidarity at the time of crisis. As a Fund “by all, for all”, CERF offers people around the world a way to express their commitment to that ideal through an investment that saves lives.

When a crisis unfolds, we respond to images of people suffering with a strong, very human desire to help. That imperative is at the heart of humanitarian work. But no one needs to wait for the next disaster to aid the people who will experience it.

Contributing to CERF now ensures that funds are already in place to help when support is needed the most: in the critical first hours and days of a crisis. And by contributing to the Fund, donors can be sure that their generosity will make life-saving action possible for those most vulnerable.

In 2016 and beyond, CERF requires continued support for its second decade of life-saving operations. Few investments can offer such a guaranteed return, or one so rewarding.

Rapid response and flexibility are crucial in emergency situations. That’s why we have chosen to invest an important share of our budget through CERF. As one of the few regional governmental donors, we want to lead and encourage other regional and local Governments to join the efforts of CERF.

—Geert Bourgeois, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders

As we celebrate CERF’s tenth anniversary, we’re celebrating ten years of results. Results reflected in the faces of the millions of children that CERF has supported – that CERF has helped save – over the last ten years.

—Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF
CERF ALLOCATIONS BY SECTOR SINCE 2006 (in US$ millions)

- **FOOD** $1075.8M
- **HEALTH** 670.7M
- **WATER AND SANITATION** 442.6M
- **NUTRITION** 369.7M
- **MULTI-SECTOR** 368.1M
- **AGRICULTURE** 355.4M
- **SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS** 331.6M
- **PROTECTION** 194.9M
- **UNHAS** 106.5M
- **LOGISTICS** 84.4M
- **CAMP MANAGEMENT** 60.1M
- **EDUCATION** 58.5M
- **ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE** 15.3M
- **SECURITY** 12.6M
- **MINE ACTION** 11.7M
- **EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS** 11.6M
- **COORDINATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES** 10.8M

Rapid response
Underfunded emergency

Data as of 31 December 2015

CREDITS
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Cover photo: A child’s feet are screened for edema in the CERF-supported nutritional screening programme run by UNICEF in the village of Palenka, Jonglei State, South Sudan, in December 2014. ©UNICEF/Holt

New York, December 2015

For additional information, please contact:
CERF secretariat
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
2 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017, USA

cerf@un.org | www.unocha.org/cerf

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Since 2006, CERF received almost $4.2 billion in contributions from 125 UN Member States and observers, regional Governments, private donors and individuals. Total annual contributions have increased significantly since 2006, reflecting the generosity of CERF’s supporters and their trust in the Fund.

United Kingdom
$855.2 million

Sweden
$605.4 million

Norway
$573.8 million

Netherlands
$553 million

Data as of 31 December 2015
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**Other Contributors 1.9%**

- **Canada** $289.1 million
- **Australia** $117.2 million
- **Denmark** $143.6 million
- **Ireland** $152.4 million
- **Germany** $192.1 million
- **Spain** $194.1 million

**Private contributions** $6.92 million

**Regional Governments** $3.13 million
- **Belgian Government of Flanders** $1.96 million
- **Hyogo Prefecture (Japan)** $0.86 million
- **State of South Australia** $0.31 million

**Observers** $50,000
- **Holy See (Vatican City State)** $20,000

**Other contributors** $6.92 million
- **Belgium** $108.8 million

Amounts for 2006 to 2015 received by CERF or committed as of 31 December 2015. For the latest contribution figures visit cerf.un.org.
SUPPORTING EMERGENCY RESPONSE THROUGH CERF

CERF is one of the fastest and most effective ways to support rapid humanitarian response.

The Fund provides immediate funding for life-saving humanitarian action at the onset of emergencies and for crises that have not attracted sufficient funding.

Contributions are received year round, mainly from Governments, but also from private companies, foundations, charities and individuals.

More information about CERF and how to contribute to the Fund can be found at [www.unocha.org/cerf/donate](http://www.unocha.org/cerf/donate)