

ABOUT CERF

Invest in Humanity

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is one of the fastest and most effective ways to enable urgent life-saving humanitarian action for people affected by crises anywhere in the world.

HOW CERF WORKS

Established in 2005 as the UN's global emergency response fund, CERF pools contributions from donors around the world into a single fund allowing humanitarian responders to deliver life-saving assistance whenever and wherever crises hit.

CERF has a US\$1 billion annual funding target and is fully unearmarked to ensure funds go to meet the most urgent, life-saving needs.

During emergencies, humanitarian organizations on the ground jointly assess and prioritize needs and apply for funding from CERF. Funds are immediately released if these proposals meet CERF's criteria, i.e. the needs are urgent and the proposed activities will save lives.

CERF disburses two types of grants:

- Rapid Response grants provide support when a new crisis hits, when an existing emergency deteriorates significantly or in response to time-critical needs.
- Underfunded Emergencies grants provide support for critical needs in underfunded and often protracted crises. These are allocated during two rounds per year.

CERF also has a loan facility to cover critical funding gaps in humanitarian operations based on indications that donor funding is forthcoming.

CERF allocations are designed to complement other humanitarian funding sources, such as Country-Based Pooled Funds and bilateral funding.

CERF MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Relief Coordinator manages CERF on behalf of the UN Secretary-General and is supported by the CERF secretariat of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The CERF secretariat ensures that funds are allocated properly, disbursed in a timely manner, and that the use of funds is reported appropriately and transparently.* The CERF Advisory Group provides policy guidance to the Secretary-General on the use and impact of the fund.

* As a revolving fund, CERF may disburse more or less than its income within a calendar year.

CONTRIBUTIONS



Donors contribute to CERF before urgent needs arise.

IDENTIFYING HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



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

MANAGING FUNDS



CERF pools these donations into a single fund.

REQUESTING CERF FUNDING



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

ALLOCATING FUNDS



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

SAVING LIVES



Relief organizations use the money for life-saving aid operations. They track spending and impact, and report back to CERF on people reached with CERF funding.

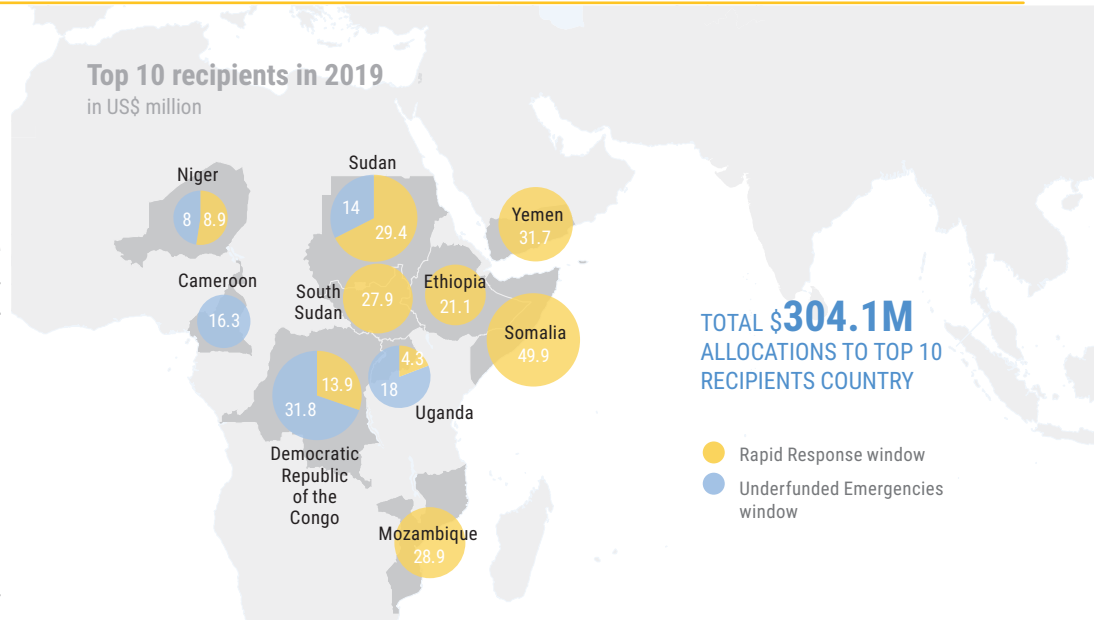
FUNDING RECIPIENTS

\$6.1B TOTAL ALLOCATIONS TO
106 COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES
SINCE 2006

Each year, on average, CERF grants have helped humanitarian partners deliver critical health care to 13 million people, water and sanitation to 10.3 million people, food assistance to 6.6 million people, protection to 4.3 million people, agriculture support to 3.5 million people, nutrition programmes for 2.3 million and shelter to 1.9 million people.* In addition, the Fund supports services for refugees and displaced people, mine action, emergency education and camp management for millions of people in need.

In 2019, CERF allocated \$539 million to support life-saving humanitarian action in 49 countries and territories. Some \$339 million went to kick-start and scale up operations in 34 countries or territories and \$200 million was released to bolster aid operations in 23 of the world's most neglected crises.

* Includes averages from 2015 - 2017. Figures from 2018 allocations will be available by the end of the first quarter of 2020. As part of ongoing enhancements to the CERF reporting framework, the CERF secretariat put in place an improved methodology resulting in a clearer distinction between people benefiting directly and indirectly from CERF-funded humanitarian action, leading to more accurate figures.



TOTAL \$304.1M
ALLOCATIONS TO TOP 10
RECIPIENTS COUNTRY

● Rapid Response window
● Underfunded Emergencies window

2019 allocations by sector

in US\$ million

Health	\$95.8M
Food Assistance	77.5
WASH	73.4
Nutrition	55.6
Agriculture	54.5
Protection	52.7
Other*	129.1

* CERF also supported Shelter and Non-Food Items, Education, Multi-sector Refugee Assistance, Camp Management, Multi-purpose cash (not sector-specific), Mine Action, Early Recovery and Multi-sector

2019 allocations by agency

in US\$ million

WFP	\$149.6M
UNICEF	142.1
FAO	51.3
WHO	51.3
UNHCR	48.8
IOM	47.4
UNFPA	37.1
Other*	11.0

* Other agencies: UN Women, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNESCO, OHCHR, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

CONTRIBUTORS

Since its inception, 127 UN Member States and observers as well as regional governments, corporate donors, foundations and individuals have enabled CERF's humanitarian partners to deliver \$6.1 billion worth of life-saving assistance in over 100 countries and territories.

In 2019, donors contributed a record-high of \$831.4 million to CERF.

IN 2019 CERF RECEIVED

\$831.4M

FROM **54** DONORS

Top 10 donors in 2019

in US\$ million

UK	\$394.6M
Germany	105.4
Sweden	82.3
Netherlands	61.0
Norway	53.1
Denmark	22.5
Canada	21.7
Belgium	19.2
Ireland	11.3
Finland	9.0
Other*	51.3

* For a complete list of CERF donors go to: <https://cerf.un.org/our-donors/contributions>

DONATE

01 Member States, observers and other authorities that wish to contribute to CERF can contact the OCHA Donor Relations Section (ocha.donors.relations@un.org)

02 Individuals, corporations and foundations can visit <http://bit.ly/GIVETOCERF> to contribute directly to CERF.

03 For general information about CERF, please contact cerf@un.org or visit cerf.un.org