

CERF’s support to humanitarian operations in Madagascar and the Central African Republic

As of 8 May 2024

MADAGASCAR

Context: The humanitarian situation in Madagascar, especially in the Grand Sud region, remains dire, with over 2.3 million people projected to be in urgent need of assistance by mid-2024, due to multiple climatic hazards including drought and successive cyclones in 2023-2024. A strong El Niño episode is exacerbating these conditions and severely disrupting food production, nutrition, education, and water, sanitation, and health services in many provinces. In November 2023, a revised Flash Appeal was issued for \$162 million, of which \$38.5 million specifically planned for anticipatory actions to get ahead of the projected drought impact caused by El Niño.

CERF El Niño allocation for early action in 2023

In December 2023, as forecasts projected a worsening of drought conditions due to El Niño, CERF swiftly allocated \$4 million to Madagascar from its Rapid Response (RR) window. This proactive approach allowed for the immediate initiation of critical early response activities. Through this funding, UN agencies and partners were able to provide life-saving assistance to 73,283 individuals across various sectors including food security and livelihoods, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH.

Taking advantage of extreme weather warnings and seasonal forecasting, CERF effectively optimized the timing and impact of its interventions by strategically allocating resources during critical junctures of the crisis. By supporting comprehensive, multi-sectoral actions across multiple agencies, these early allocations contributed to a more coordinated and holistic response, enabling humanitarian actors to stay ahead of the crisis curve. This pre-emptive action not only prevented loss of life and mitigated disease outbreaks but also curbed the escalation of food insecurity (*More information on CERF’s proactive approach to the 2023-2024 El Niño episode can be found [here](#)*).

CERF’s support went beyond immediate relief efforts, bolstering communities’ resilience against future shocks. For example, it facilitated the distribution of agricultural and livestock inputs, including drought-resistant seeds, and imparted training on climate-smart farming techniques to 45,000 individuals. Additionally, the funding enabled the establishment of Early Warning and Anticipatory Action committees, empowering communities to develop proactive action plans based on weather forecasts for enhanced preparedness and adaptation.

Overview of all CERF allocations to Madagascar 2020 – 2024 (as of 8 May 2024)

Year	Rapid Response (US\$)	Underfunded Emergencies (US\$)	Emergency Type	Total (US\$)
2020	\$3,999,919	-	Drought	\$3,999,919
2021	-	\$8,000,000	Drought	\$8,000,000
2022	\$4,480,519	\$7,059,596	Storm (RR) and Drought (UFE)	\$11,540,115
2023	\$4,000,000	\$8,499,950	Drought (RR) and Storm (UFE)	\$12,499,950
2024	\$3,000,000	-	Storm	\$3,000,000
Total 2020-2024	\$15,480,438	\$23,559,546	-	\$39,039,984

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Context: For over a decade, the Central African Republic (CAR) has grappled with conflict, characterized by the persistent presence of armed groups. Violence against civilians persists alongside the adverse impacts of climate change, leading to ongoing displacement within CAR. Alarming, one in five Central Africans are either internally displaced or refugees. The influx of refugees from Sudan further adds to existing humanitarian needs. In 2024, 2.8 million people, 46 per cent of the population, remain extremely vulnerable, necessitating comprehensive multisectoral assistance. The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan emphasizes protection, local engagement, and accountability, aiming to support vulnerable communities sustainably.

CERF funding envelope to CAR to enhance Accountability to Affected People

In September 2023, CERF allocated a total of \$129.5 million in the second annual allocation from its Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) window. This included **the first-ever dedicated envelope for Accountability to Affected People, amounting to a total of \$4.65 million across 10 countries.**

The Central African Republic (CAR) benefitted from this round of CERF allocations, receiving a total of \$7 million to provide critical support across the education, protection, and nutrition sectors, especially targeting women and children. Of these, \$500,000 was specifically earmarked to support activities and systems to strengthen Accountability to Affected People under the dedicated CERF envelope.

The CERF-funded AAP project in CAR supported UNICEF in establishing sustainable, community-led feedback mechanisms across three humanitarian hubs. Key activities of the project included community engagement in needs assessments, capacity building, and designing a governance system for community-driven initiatives. To sustain the feedback mechanism, the project incentivized communities through income-generating activities, targeting close to 46,000 people. About 82 per cent of the CERF funding was channeled to national NGOs as main implementing partners.

This initiative complements a prior 2023 allocation from the CAR Humanitarian Fund totaling \$13 million, enabling – amongst others – joint information sharing and feedback centers and emergency telecommunications solutions. These efforts are contributing to improve access to information for affected populations and systematically gather and evaluate beneficiary perceptions in the CAR.

Overview of CERF allocations to CAR 2020 – 2024 (as of 8 May 2024)

Year	Rapid Response (US\$)	Underfunded Emergencies (US\$)	Emergency Type	Total (\$US)
2020	\$1,000,994	-	Displacement	\$1,000,994
2021	\$8,000,183	-	Displacement	\$8,000,183
2022	\$15,000,495	-	Violence/Clashes	\$15,000,495
2023	\$3,999,997	\$7,000,000	Refugees (RR) and Displacement (UFE)	\$10,999,997
2024	-	-		-
Total CAR 2020 -2024	\$28,001,669	\$7,000,000		\$35,001,669