

CERF FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS



These guidelines outline the activities of the emergency telecommunications cluster that fall within the scope of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

I. OVERVIEW

Telecommunications are essential to enable humanitarian agencies to reach affected people and safely and effectively deliver assistance especially in the first days of an emergency.

These guidelines are intended for use by 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 emergency telecommunications is in line with the [CERF Life-Saving Criteria](#):

| Sector | Activities |
|------------------------------|---|
| Emergency Telecommunications | Provision of common technology services such as emergency telecommunications in support of the humanitarian community and governments as well as life-saving communications services to affected people in an emergency |
| | Provision of common technology services and solutions to establish or enable two-way communications between the affected population and the response community |

III. GUIDELINES

CERF-funded emergency telecommunications services must directly support the response of the humanitarian system. Below are the circumstances under which CERF funds could be made available for emergency telecommunications equipment and services:

- **Establishing new services:** The setup of new basic telecommunication networks for new emergency operations. This can include parts of the start-up costs and service for the initial phases of the operations. It should be a timely intervention and should serve as a springboard for other donors to come on board.
- **Expansion of services due to context changes:** Upgrade of existing equipment and services due to a deterioration in the humanitarian situation. The need for these services will have to be carefully evaluated by the local Emergency Telecommunications cluster, the UN Designated Officer (DO) in coordination with United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the wider humanitarian community.

Considerations for CERF submissions

Sustainability: The ETC services should be sustainable. The overall management, operational and recurrent costs of the deployed infrastructure and personnel should be described in the project. The activities should be financially sustainable beyond the contribution from CERF, e.g., with all participating agencies agreeing to cost sharing in the future.

Cost-sharing among agencies: Proposed projects should include a description of existing in-country telecommunications capacity and confirm that common services are required by partners.

Type of equipment: Only basic telecommunications equipment needed for the common network infrastructure will be funded. Other equipment will need to be funded by other donors or by the agency itself.

Staff costs: Staff costs can only be considered for the first three months of the intervention in ongoing emergencies (to give agencies enough time to work out a suitable cost-sharing mechanism for sustainability), or can be considered in case of a new emergency. CERF does not cover technical experts and consultants at the regional or headquarters levels.

Training: CERF only funds quick refresher training. Training costs should be limited.

Initial telecommunications assessments: Like for other sectors, the CERF will not fund initial assessments for provision of emergency telecommunications. Exceptions will only be granted for inter-agency assessments, including initial telecommunication requirements, on a case-by-case basis.