

INTRODUCTION

The CERF Guidance Note describes the approach to the Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) 2019 second round including the overall funding amount available and the preliminary considerations for the country selection. The note also presents particular guidance from the Emergency Relief Coordinator's (ERC) to increase focus on four important and often underfunded areas of humanitarian action.

AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

Based on the CERF's 2019 projected availability of funds for allocation and the amount of \$125 million already allocated during the UFE 2019 first round to emergencies in 13 countries, CERF secretariat foresees an allocation amount of **\$75 million** for the UFE 2019 second round. The ERC will select between **6-8 countries** to receive funding through based funding requirements and humanitarian needs.

ERC'S FOUR PRIORITY AREAS

In January 2019, the ERC identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility and recommended an increased focus on these areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests in support of a strong and effective response. These areas are (a) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (b) programmes targeting disabled people; (c) education in protracted crises; and (d) other aspects of protection.

While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for the selected country teams to present a joint strategy to more systematically and effectively address these important areas through the CERF UFE allocation. A joint strategy can include targeted sectoral action, collective actions across sectors to jointly address the issues, or a combination of both. The aim is for country teams to make the best use of the UFE funds and demonstrate a fundamental impact in these areas.

The CERF secretariat has integrated the ERC's four priority areas throughout the entire UFE processⁱ as follows:

(I) The data-driven analysis, which already includes measures of (gender-) inequality on different human rights aspects such as health and education through the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability (CIRV), will be complemented with indicators to better reflect prevalence of violence against women and girls.

(II) The allocation letters from the ERC to RC/HCs of selected countries will feature language on the ERC's four priority areas. The allocation letter provides an opportunity to directly reach RC/HCs with guidance on the four areas and how to best consider them throughout the in-country prioritization process.

(III) Both the CERF UFE Prioritization Strategy template and Application template will be modified to specifically ask how RC/HCs and country teams present a joint strategy to address the four areas. This question is in addition to specific requests for sex and age disaggregated data, the gender and age marker score, and information on prevention of sexual- or gender-based violence and persons with disabilities and other special needs that were already included in the updated 2019 application template.

COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS

As stipulated in the Secretary-General's Bulletin on CERFⁱⁱ, UN agencies operating in the recommended emergencies should address core underfunded humanitarian needs with CERF UFE allocations. Thus, the following main factors will be considered during the selection process:

- 2019 funding level of core humanitarian activities/programmes in the country
- Severity of humanitarian needs, risk and vulnerability
- Type of programmes/activities implemented
- Capacity to implement CERF funds by 30 June 2020

The UFE selection process entails a data-driven analysis of funding levels and severity indicators complemented by consultations within OCHA as well as externally with UN agencies and NGOs. As per current practice, the CERF secretariat will automatically consider for analysis emergencies with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or comparable plan and seek recommendations of additional priority underfunded humanitarian emergencies from OCHA's Operations and Advocacy Division (OAD) and UN agencies making up the Underfunded Emergencies Working Group (UFEWG)ⁱⁱⁱ.

For the funding analysis, the CERF secretariat uses OCHA's Financial Tracking Services (FTS) data to analyze the funding levels of humanitarian operations. CERF will base the analysis on 2019 funding data reported in FTS for emergencies with FTS-tracked appeals/plans. UN agencies that are UFEWG members will provide funding data on 2019 humanitarian operations for countries without FTS-tracked appeals/plans.

Financial analysis is combined with risk and vulnerability analysis to better reflect humanitarian needs. The Index for Risk Management (INFORM) data and other indicators are used to create the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability

(CIRV). The methodology is described in detail in a separate document^{iv}.

The CERF secretariat will consult the UFEWG, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) Humanitarian Financing Working Group and other parts of OCHA ^v to collect qualitative information on the humanitarian emergencies under consideration.

Countries with non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming will be identified and prioritized by members of the UFEWG. Each member will provide its recommended countries.

COUNTRIES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The CERF secretariat conducts a global analysis of humanitarian emergencies including countries with an HRP or equivalent appeal, (referred to as **FTS-tracked appeals/plans**) and countries without FTS-tracked appeals/plans. FTS-tracked appeals/plans include countries with an HRP or comparable appeal in place which is tracked on OCHA's FTS in enough detail to allow appropriate analysis. Countries not meeting these three criteria are considered countries with **non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming**.

(I) Countries with FTS-tracked appeals/plans considered for the UFE 2019 second round:

Afghanistan	Mali
Bangladesh ^{vi}	Myanmar
Burkina Faso	Nigeria
Burundi	Pakistan
Central African Republic	Somalia
DPRK ^{vii}	South Sudan
Ethiopia	Sudan
Iraq	Syria
Libya	Yemen

(II) Countries with non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming considered for the UFE 2019 second round:

Countries with non-FTS tracked humanitarian programming must be recommended by the UFEWG with broad support to move forward to the final recommendation to the ERC. Countries with flash appeals, short-term appeals and/or plans insufficiently tracked in FTS are also considered countries with non-FTS tracked humanitarian programming. Those include the Mozambique HRP, the Zimbabwe Flash Appeal and countries under Regional Refugee Response Plans.

(III) The following countries received an allocation in the previous UFE round and are therefore not entitled for funding in this round according to the UFE methodology:

Cameroon	Madagascar
Chad	Niger
Colombia	oPt
Democratic Republic of Congo	Tanzania
Djibouti	Uganda
Haiti	Ukraine
Honduras	

FINAL DECISION

Following the recommendation by the CERF secretariat, the ERC will make the final decision on the countries that will receive a UFE allocation and the amount of each allocation.

Once the final decision has been made, the ERC will inform the respective RC/HCs of their country's selection and may indicate specific criteria for consideration during the prioritization process. RC/HCs are requested to confirm their commitment to lead the prioritization process and the recipient organizations' capacity to implement a CERF allocation. RC/HCs/Country Teams are also asked to submit a prioritization strategy to the CERF secretariat after the ERC's decision has been communicated and prior to developing full CERF proposals.

CERF UFE 2019 SECOND ROUND TIMELINE

Preparation	
5 June	CERF secretariat circulates the UFE Draft UFE 2019 Second Round Guidance Note to UFEWG, ICVA humanitarian financing working group, OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division (OAD), OCHA Assessment, Planning and Monitoring Branch (APMB) and Country-Based Pooled Fund Section (CBPFS)
7 June	UFEWG members submit initial priorities for countries with non-FTS tracked humanitarian programming to CERF secretariat
11 June	1st UFEWG meeting: Review of Guidance Note and preliminary discussion on recommended countries with non-fts-tracked humanitarian programming
12 June	Deadline for comments on UFE 2019 Second Round Draft Guidance Note
13 June	Final version of the UFE 2019 Second Round Guidance Note is posted on the CERF website and disseminated to UN agency focal points, RCs/HCs in countries included in the Guidance Note & all OCHA regional and country offices
Country Selection	
11 June	CERF shares (1) preliminary severity analysis for initial countries with non-fts-tracked humanitarian programming as well as (2) a preliminary funding and severity analysis for countries with FTS-tracked Appeals/Plans with the UFEWG
12 - 14 June	UFEWG meeting facilitated by UFEWG lead to finalize list of countries with non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming for recommendation to the CERF secretariat
17 June	UFEWG lead shares the final list of countries with non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming with the UFEWG and the CERF secretariat
20 June	Deadline for UFEWG members to complete recommendation forms for all countries with non-FTS-tracked humanitarian programming recommended to the CERF secretariat
21 June	Cut-off date for FTS data on 2019 HRP funding to be used for CERF funding analysis
25 June	CERF completes and circulates final funding and severity analysis of all countries under consideration
26/27 June	Consultations with OCHA's APMB
26/27 June	Consultations with OCHA's CBPFS
26/27 June	Consultations with ICVA-led humanitarian financing working group
27 June	Deadline for UFEWG members to submit priorities for countries with FTS-tracked Appeals/Plans to be considered for the UFE 2019 Second Round

28 June	2nd UFEWG meeting: Consultations with UFEWG on all countries considered for the UFE 2019 Second Round
5 July	CERF shares consolidated funding and severity analysis and a shortlist of recommended emergencies for discussion with the Deputy ERC and ERC
Week of 8 July	ERC decides on selected emergencies and allocation amounts
Week of 15 July	CERF notifies RC/HCs of UFE allocations via letter from the ERC
22 July	Deadline for RC/HCs to respond to the ERC and provide focal point for CERF application
29 July – 2 August	Webinars for agencies and other parties involved in selected countries
TBD	3rd UFEWG Meeting: Lessons learnt
TBD	ERC issues press release for the UFE 2019 UFE 2019 Second Round.
Field Prioritization Process & Submission	
9 August	Deadline for RC/HCs for submitting prioritization strategy to the ERC
26 August	Deadline for submitting full application to the CERF secretariat
Submission Review	
30 September	UFE 2019 Second Round closes (i.e., cut-off for field revisions to projects)

ⁱ For more information on the ERC's four priority areas, please refer the Q&A document, available here:

https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Priority_Areas_Q_A.pdf

ⁱⁱ ST/SGB/2010/5 (23 April 2010) available at: <https://undocs.org/ST/SGB/2010/5>

ⁱⁱⁱ UFEWG members include headquarters representatives from: FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

^{iv} Overview of Technical Methodology is available here:

https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/Underfunded%20Emergencies_Technical%20Methodology.pdf

^v OCHA is represented by the Operations and Advocacy Division in the UFEWG and the Assessment Planning and Monitoring. Branch/Coordination Division is bilaterally consulted given their leadership HRP development and FTS management.

^{vi} Bangladesh Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis

^{vii} DPR Korea Needs and Priorities 2019