

INTRODUCTION

This guidance note describes the approach to the Central Emergency Response Fund's (CERF's) 2020 first allocation round to underfunded emergencies (UFE). This includes the overall funding amount available and preliminary considerations for the country selection. The note also presents guidance from the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), including to consider four important and often underfunded areas of humanitarian action.

AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

Based on the CERF's 2020 projected availability of funds and historical cash-flow analyses, the ERC foresees an allocation amount of **\$125 million** for this UFE round. To achieve greater impact in each emergency, the number of countries will be smaller than in previous allocation rounds with comparable amounts. The ERC will select **around 10 humanitarian emergencies** to receive funding based on funding requirements and humanitarian needs. Consequently, this round will have a clearer **strategic focus** on the most underfunded and at the same time severe humanitarian crises. Similarly, within each country, Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) and UN or Humanitarian Country Teams (UNCTs/HCTs) must define a clear focus in their prioritization strategy that describes how they will use the funds to achieve greater impact. Ideally, this would mean a limited number of agencies and no more than one grant per agency. This will help achieve at-scale interventions to achieve greater impact and reduce transaction costs.

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. 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 this 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.

As in the previous round, the CERF secretariat has integrated the ERC's four priority areas throughout the entire UFE process¹ as follows:

(I) The data-driven analysis includes measures of (gender-) inequality on different human rights aspects such as health and education, and of the prevalence of violence against women and girls in the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability (CIRV).

(II) The allocation letters from the ERC to RC/HCs of selected countries will feature language on the 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) The prioritization strategy and application templates 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 gender-based violence and on persons with disabilities. The CERF secretariat will compile, and the ERC will review, an analysis of how each selected country has taken the four priorities into account in their strategies.

COUNTRY SELECTION PROCESS

As stipulated in the Secretary-General's Bulletin on CERF,² UN agencies operating in the recommended emergencies should address core underfunded humanitarian needs with 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 funds by 31 December 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 countries with a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) or equivalent appeal/plan and seek recommendations of additional priority countries with underfunded humanitarian emergencies from OCHA's Operations and Advocacy Division (OAD) and UN agencies making up the Underfunded Emergencies Working Group (UFEWG)³.

For the funding analysis, the CERF secretariat uses OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) data to analyze the funding levels of humanitarian operations. CERF will

base the analysis on funding data reported in FTS for countries with an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan in both 2019 and 2020 (called “HRP countries”). Regional refugee response plans will be considered equivalent only when they are tracked on FTS in sufficient detail. UN agencies that are UFEWG members will separately provide funding data on 2019 humanitarian operations and 2020 requirements for countries without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan (called “non-HRP countries”).⁴

The financial analysis is combined with a risk, vulnerability and severity analysis to reflect humanitarian needs. The Index for Risk Management (INFORM), INFORM’s Global Crisis Severity Index and other indicators are used to create the CIRV. The methodology is described in detail in a separate document.⁵

The CERF secretariat will consult the UFEWG, the Humanitarian Financing Working Group led by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and other parts of OCHA,⁶ and review documents such as Humanitarian Needs Overviews and HRPs to collect qualitative information on the humanitarian emergencies under consideration.

Humanitarian emergencies without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan will be identified and prioritized by members of the UFEWG. UN agency members will provide additional details on their humanitarian programming and funding requirements and coverage for the countries to be collectively recommended for ERC consideration.

COUNTRIES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The CERF secretariat conducts a global analysis of humanitarian emergencies including HRP and non-HRP countries.

(I) Countries or regions with an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan considered for this round:

- Burundi
- Chad
- DPRK⁷
- Haiti
- Libya
- Niger
- CAR
- DRC
- Ethiopia
- Iraq
- Myanmar
- Nigeria

- oPt
- South Sudan
- Ukraine
- Somalia
- Syria
- Yemen

(II) Countries without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan considered for this UFE round:

Humanitarian emergencies without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan 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 that are not tracked with sufficient detail in FTS are considered as part of this non-HRP group.

(III) The following countries received an allocation in the previous UFE round and are therefore not normally eligible for funding in this round:

- Afghanistan
- Burkina Faso
- Eritrea
- Sudan
- Venezuela regional allocation
- Bangladesh
- Cameroon
- Mali
- Venezuela

FINAL DECISION

Based on the various analyses and the stakeholder consultations the CERF secretariat will prepare an allocation recommendation for the ERC, potentially with different scenarios for consideration. 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 2020 FIRST ROUND TIMELINE

Preparation	
16 October	CERF secretariat circulates the UFE Draft UFE 2020 First 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)
21 October COB	UFEWG members submit initial priorities for countries with non-HRP countries to CERF secretariat
22 October	1st UFEWG meeting: Review of Guidance Note and preliminary discussion on recommended non-HRP countries
23 October	Deadline for comments on UFE 2020 First Round Draft Guidance Note
24 October	Final version of the UFE 2020 First Round Guidance Note is posted on the CERF website and disseminated to UN agency focal points
Country Selection	
28 October	CERF shares (1) preliminary severity analysis for initial non-HRP countries as well as (2) a preliminary funding and severity analysis for HRP-countries with the UFEWG
29 October	2nd UFEWG meeting facilitated by UFEWG lead to finalize list of non-HRP countries for recommendation to the CERF secretariat
31 October	UFEWG lead shares the final list of non-HRP countries with the UFEWG and the CERF secretariat
4 November	Deadline for UFEWG members to complete online recommendation forms for the non-HRP countries
6 November	Cut-off date for FTS data on 2019 HRP funding to be used for CERF funding analysis
11 November	CERF completes and circulates final funding and severity analysis of all countries under consideration
12 November	Deadline for UFEWG members to submit priorities for HRP-countries
13 November	Consultations with OCHA's APMB and CBPFS as well as with the ICVA-led humanitarian financing working group
14 November	3rd UFEWG meeting: Consultations with UFEWG on all countries considered for this round
19 November	CERF shares consolidated funding and severity analysis and a shortlist of recommended emergencies for discussion with the Deputy ERC and ERC
End November	ERC decides on selected emergencies and allocation amounts

Early December	CERF notifies RC/HCs of UFE allocations via letter from the ERC
January	Webinars for agencies and other parties involved in selected countries
January	4th UFEWG Meeting: Lessons learnt
TBD	ERC announces UFE 2020 First Round and issues press release
Field Prioritization Process & Submission	
22 January	Deadline for RC/HCs for submitting prioritization strategy to the ERC
31 January	CERF will provide feedback on prioritization strategies
14 February	Deadline for submitting full application to the CERF secretariat
Submission Review	
31 March	UFE 2020 First Round closes (i.e., cut-off for field revisions to projects)

¹ 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

² ST/SGB/2010/5 (23 April 2010) available at: <https://undocs.org/ST/SGB/2010/5>

³ UFEWG members include headquarters representatives from: FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

⁴ UN agencies are requested to report to FTS timely and accurate funding information on both countries with an HRP or equivalent plan/appeal and countries without such plans/appeals.

⁵ Overview of Technical Methodology is available here:

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

⁶ 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.

⁷ DPR Korea Needs and Priorities 2019