

Introduction

1. This note presents the Emergency Relief Coordinator's (ERC) final selection of countries for the first underfunded emergencies (UFE) round of 2023, totaling \$146 million, based on the CERF Secretariat's analysis.

Outcome of the Analysis

2. The CERF secretariat analyzed humanitarian needs, risks, vulnerabilities and funding levels¹, complemented by a review of qualitative information, consultations with UN agencies through the inter-agency Underfunded Emergencies working group (UFEWG), NGOs, and other parts of OCHA (see [Methodology Note](#)), and a consideration of on-going and upcoming CERF allocations.
3. Countries that received an allocation in the previous CERF UFE round were not eligible for consideration in this round².
4. Four countries that received very high support from the UFEWG – Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Haiti and Somalia – were not selected for inclusion in this round as each country received significant funding through a multi-country food security CERF allocation that was developed at the same time as this UFE round.
5. The CERF secretariat categorized the remaining 27 countries that received varying levels of support from the UFEWG into four tiers reflecting how strongly they emerged as candidates for UFE funding.
 - **Tier 1:** These emerged as very strong candidates for inclusion. This tier includes: all HRP and non-HRP countries that received very high support from the inter-agency UFE working group³ and have below average funding and above average humanitarian needs⁴.
 - **Tier 2:** These emerged as very robust candidates, but not as strongly as those in Tier 1. This tier includes: all countries that received high support from the working group and have above average humanitarian needs or below average funding.
 - **Tier 3:** These countries have unmet humanitarian resourcing needs and are robust candidates for funding, but were not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1 and 2. This tier includes: all countries that received medium support from the working group and countries better served by Rapid Response allocations.
 - **Tier 4:** These countries also have unmet humanitarian needs, and an allocation could be well justified, but they were not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1, 2 and 3. This tier includes all countries that received low support from the working group.

¹ The CERF secretariat has been monitoring funding levels (requirement for 2022 & 2023, and contributions in 2022) in the *Financial Tracking Service (FTS)* since December 2022, but all figures in this document are as of 7 February 2023.

² Eleven countries received funding in the second UFE round of 2022: Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen.

³ Low = 0-5 points or < 4 votes; Medium = 6-10 points; High = 11-15 points or > 5 votes; Very high = >15 points or ≥ 7 votes.

⁴ Measured using the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability (CIRV).

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4	
1. Ethiopia	8. Chad	12. Burundi	17. CAR	23. Mauritania
2. Kenya*	9. Colombia	13. Eritrea	18. Cuba	24. oPt
3. Lebanon	10. DRC	14. Niger	19. El Salvador	25. Sri Lanka
4. Madagascar	11. Honduras	15. Zimbabwe	20. Eswatini	26. Ukraine
5. Pakistan		16. Malawi	21. Guatemala	27. Zambia
6. Sudan			22. Jordan	
7. Syria				

HRP countries in **bold**; *Drought Response Plan

ERC Funding Decisions

6. Based on this analysis, and considering the overall envelope of \$146M, the ERC selected 12 countries: all countries in Tiers 1 and 2, and additionally one country from Tier 3, namely Eritrea, where a small funding amount can have significant impact.

Selected countries and funding envelopes	
Chad	\$9M
Colombia	\$6.5M
DRC	\$22M
Ethiopia	\$23M
Eritrea	\$5M
Honduras	\$6.5M
Kenya*	\$8M
Lebanon	\$8M
Madagascar	\$8.5M
Pakistan	\$6.5M
Sudan	\$18M
Syria⁵	\$25M
TOTAL	\$146M
<i>Sub-total HRP</i>	<i>\$118M</i>
<i>Sub-total non-HRP</i>	<i>\$28M</i>

HRP countries in **bold**; *Drought Response Plan

7. The envelopes were calculated based on a standard funding-based formula⁶ and then adjusted (i) by taking into consideration on-going CERF projects and other factors; (ii) to ensure meaningful impact on the ground; and (iii) to ensure reasonable transaction costs for field partners engaging in the collective prioritization and application process.
8. Adjustments to the funding envelope per country were within ~\$1M of the results of the standard formula for all countries, except for Ethiopia and Syria, for which the extraordinary high HRP requirements skewed the formula output disproportionately. Therefore, in line with standard UFE practice for mega crises, the funding envelopes were reduced for both countries; allowing CERF to increase the amounts for other countries to ensure even more impactful allocations.
9. Annex I provides a brief summary of each country context along with the rationale for selection, and annex II provides an overview of key country data.

⁵ The Syria allocation was fast-tracked by the ERC due to the impacts of the devastating earthquake on 6 February 2023

⁶ 25% of the available envelope is distributed evenly across all of the selected countries to create a baseline. The remaining 75% is allocated as a proportion of each country's requirements relative to the requirements of all the other selected HRP countries.

Annex I - Summary of Country Analysis

Tier 1

This tier includes:

- ✓ all HRP and non-HRP countries that received very high support from the inter-agency UFE working group and have below average funding and above average humanitarian needs⁷.

Ethiopia

[CIRV⁸: 74, 2022 Funding⁹: 48% of \$3335M]

- **Context:** People in Ethiopia continue to face multiple and overlapping humanitarian emergencies. The adverse impacts of climate change, conflict and disease outbreaks, coupled with global poor macroeconomic conditions and high inflation leading to high commodity and food prices, have contributed to escalating humanitarian and protection needs across the country. The number of people in need has significantly increased because of the worsening drought and conflict in parts of the country. As of October 2022, more than 4.7 million people across the country are estimated to be internally displaced people (IDPs), mostly due to conflict and drought.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 48%. In 2023, the requirements increased by 5%.
- **Consultations:** Ethiopia received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Ethiopia received \$26M through CERF's Rapid Response window.
- **Rationale:** Ethiopia received very high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score. Ethiopia was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Kenya

[CIRV: 63, 2022 Funding: n/a]

- **Context:** Kenya is facing an unprecedented drought due to five—and potentially six—consecutive below average rainy seasons. At the end of 2022, an estimated 4.4 million people are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 1.2 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and at least 2.5 million livestock have died due to the drought. This is the highest level of acute food insecurity ever recorded in the country, surpassing the 3.7 million people in IPC Phase 3+ during the 2011 drought and 3.4 million in 2017. More than 4.1 million people cannot access enough water for drinking, cooking and cleaning, with women and girls having to choose between using water for cooking and their own personal menstrual hygiene. About 884,500 children are facing acute malnutrition (including 222,700 who are severely malnourished). The drought has also exacerbated the risk of communicable diseases—including cholera and measles—heightening the risk of death, especially for malnourished children and women.
- **Funding:** In 2023, Kenya launched a drought response plan of \$473M. As a result, it is considered an HRP country in this UFE round.
- **Consultations:** Kenya received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Kenya received \$4M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$6M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Kenya received very high support from the UFEWG and has an above average CIRV score. Kenya was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

⁷ Measured using the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability (CIRV).

⁸ CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability.

⁹ All funding data from the *Financial Tracking Services* as of 7 Feb 2023.

Lebanon

[CIRV: 47, 2022 Funding: n/a]

- **Context:** In a backdrop of weakened governance and political paralysis, Lebanon is facing an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, ranking among the top 10 most severe crises worldwide, affecting all residents and population groups (Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees and migrants). In July 2022, the World Bank downgraded Lebanon to a lower-middle-income country, with a decrease of GDP to US\$20.5 billion for the first time in 27 years. Since early 2022, the local currency has continued to depreciate in value against the US dollar. More than half of the Lebanese population is now dependent on humanitarian assistance for food and basic needs. Overlapping crises have also severely impacted access to health, safe clean drinking water, and sanitation services, contributing to the first cholera outbreak in the country in three decades.
- **Funding:** In 2023, the requirements for Lebanon's Emergency Response Plan increased by 59% to \$600m. Additionally Lebanon is part of a Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan, budgeted at \$3.5B.
- **Consultations:** Lebanon received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Lebanon received \$5M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$8M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Lebanon received very high support from the UFEWG and has one of the highest CIRV scores among non-HRP countries. Lebanon was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Madagascar

[CIRV: 58, 2022 Funding: n/a]

- **Context:** The Grand Sud of Madagascar was rocked by consecutive droughts during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 rainy seasons and is now faced with the prospect of a late start to the 2022/2023 rainy season. More than 1.2 million people were projected to be in Crisis (IPC phase 3) and above from September to November 2022. Cyclone-affected areas in the Grand Sud-Est are still recovering from the devastation caused by two consecutive cyclones in 2022.
- **Funding:** n/a
- **Consultations:** Madagascar received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Madagascar received \$4.5M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$7M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Madagascar received very high support from the UFEWG and has one of the highest CIRV scores among non-HRP countries.

Pakistan

[CIRV: 63, 2022 Funding: n/a]

- **Context:** Heavy rains and a combination of riverine, urban and flash flooding led to an unprecedented climate-induced disaster in Pakistan that started in June 2022, causing widespread fatalities, killing livestock, and damaging and destroying public and private infrastructure across the country. Rain-induced landslides and floods also damaged agricultural land and forests, impacting local ecosystems. The heavy rains and floods affected around 33 million people, including at least 7.9 million people who have been displaced.
- **Funding:** Although Pakistan does not have a Humanitarian Response Plan, the requirements for the multi-year Flood Response Plan are budgeted at \$344M.
- **Consultations:** Pakistan received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Pakistan received \$10M through CERF's Rapid Response window.
- **Rationale:** Pakistan received very high support from the UFEWG and has one of the highest CIRV scores among non-HRP countries. Pakistan was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Sudan

[CIRV: 73, 2022 Funding: 43% of \$1937M]

- **Context:** International development support to Sudan has been significantly reduced since the military coup on 25 October 2021, limiting the capacity of Government institutions and development partners to provide basic social services. Consequently, communities' resilience has been undermined, pushing more people into a state of humanitarian vulnerability. The protracted political and economic crises continue to aggravate the hardship experienced by resident communities, and people affected by conflict and displacement. 3.7 million people are internally displaced and the country hosts 926,000 refugees, while humanitarian access is facing increasing challenges. A record 11.7 million people are acutely food insecure.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 43%.
- **Consultations:** Sudan received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Sudan received \$26M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$20M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Sudan received very high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score. Sudan was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Syria

[CIRV: 70, 2022 Funding: 48% of \$4444M]

- **Context:** After 11 years of crisis, most Syrian continue to face a context of continuing humanitarian decline. The country still has the largest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the world (6.8 million people), humanitarian and economic indicators that continue to deteriorate, basic services that are collapsing, an ongoing cholera outbreak, and climatic and human-caused shocks that compound an already dire situation. On top of that, Syria was severely affected by the recent earthquakes that struck the region. This multitude of challenges makes Syria one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies. As a result, at least 15.3 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2023, with needs that keep increasing across all sectors.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 48%. In 2023, requirements will increase by at least 8%.
- **Consultations:** Syria received very high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Syria received \$15M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$25M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Syria received very high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score. Syria was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Tier 2

These countries emerged as robust candidates, but not as strongly as those in Tier 1. This tier includes:

- ✓ all countries that received high support from the working group and have at least above average humanitarian needs or below average funding.

Chad

[CIRV: 70, 2022 Funding: 47% of \$511M]

- **Context:** The protracted humanitarian crisis in Chad is becoming more entrenched due to growing food insecurity and malnutrition in some parts of the country; forced displacement; the effects of climate change; and political, socioeconomic, health and sanitation challenges. The combined effects of conflict, health emergencies and climate change affected an estimated 6.7 million people in 2022.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 47%. In 2023, the requirements increased by 12%.
- **Consultations:** Chad received high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Chad received \$23M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$10M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Chad received high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score. Chad was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Colombia

[CIRV: 45, 2022 Funding: 36% of \$283M]

- **Context:** Over the past decade, Colombia has made significant development and peacebuilding efforts. Despite this progress, the confluence of increased internal armed conflict and violence in remote areas within the country; an increase in climate-related disasters; surging socioeconomic needs generated by COVID-19; and the limited institutional capacities to attend to the massive arrival of refugees and migrants has led to a deterioration of Colombia's humanitarian context, leaving an estimated 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 36%. 2023 requirements are comparable to 2022.
- **Consultations:** Colombia received high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Colombia received \$5M through CERF's Rapid Response window.
- **Rationale:** Colombia received high support from the UFEWG and has below average funding.

Democratic Republic of the Congo *[CIRV: 72, 2022 Funding: 48% of \$1882M]*

- **Context:** The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) context remains illustrated by worrying humanitarian trends. Across the country, 26.4 million people – or one Congolese out of four – are severely food insecure, despite the impressive agricultural potential of the land. Acute malnutrition hit 6.4 million people, mainly children under age 5, a number that has not decreased over the past 20 years. Armed conflicts and gross human rights violations, including sexual violence and grave violations against children, continue to push millions of people to seek safety and security away from their home: 5.7 million people are internally displaced, the highest number on the African continent. Severe yet preventable epidemics, such as measles, yellow fever, cholera and malaria, take a significant human toll every year due to poor infrastructure, constraints to health access and a low vaccination coverage, impacting children's development and their life expectancy at birth.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 48%. In 2023, the requirements increased by 20%.
- **Consultations:** DRC received high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, DRC received \$27.8M through CERF's Rapid Response window and \$23M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale** The DRC received high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score. The DRC was also listed as a priority by NGOs.

Honduras

[CIRV: 48, 2022 Funding: 41% of \$155M]

- **Context:** Honduras faces increasing multidimensional and overlapping risks in a context of extreme fragility, with political and social conflicts, the effects of climate change, forced displacement and migration. In this context, humanitarian needs are driven by many factors including high rates of poverty and extreme poverty, recurrent climate shocks, chronic violence, alarming rates of gender-based violence (GBV), limited access to basic services and the impacts of mixed movements. These sustained needs have formed a complex web of vulnerabilities that humanitarian action has sought to address with cross-sectoral approaches for several years.
- **Funding:** The 2022 HRP was funded at 41%. In 2023, the requirements increased by 81%.
- **Consultations:** Honduras received high support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Honduras received \$5M through the Underfunded Emergencies window.
- **Rationale:** Honduras received high support from the UFEWG and has below average funding. In addition, its HRP requirements increased by 81% 2023, the second highest increase among all HRP countries.

Tier 3

These countries have significant unmet humanitarian resourcing needs, but are not as strong candidates for selection as those in Tiers 1 and 2 based on a variety of factors including their funding levels, the levels of humanitarian needs, the levels of support from the working group, and/or the amount of Rapid Response funding that CERF has already allocated since January 2022.

This tier includes:

- ✓ one country that received (moderately) high support from the working group.
- ✓ all countries that received medium support from the working group.

Given that 11 countries have already been selected from Tiers 1 and 2, and considering the overall envelope of \$146M, there is limited scope for including additional countries from Tier 3 unless funding needs are relatively small. In determining whether to include any of the countries from this Tier, the CERF secretariat assessed each country on its own merits *and* assessed how each country's selection would impact the size of the potential UFE allocations for the Tier 1 and 2 countries.

Ultimately, of the 5 countries in this tier, the ERC decided to select Eritrea for the following non-exhaustive list of reasons: the level of support from the UFEWG, its CIRV score, the limited likelihood of alternative donor funding in 2023, the fact that it has not received CERF funding since May 2022, and the fact that a moderate allocation can have a meaningful impact.

Eritrea

[CIRV: 58, 2022 Funding: n/a]

- **Context:** Eritrea is vulnerable to recurrent droughts and variable weather conditions. The drought is negatively affecting food security and livelihoods, socio-economic status as well as nutrition conditions for a significant part of the population who depend entirely on natural resources. Slower economic growth and the residual effects of war also perpetuate the vulnerability of approximately two thirds of the population. A significant portion of the population in Eritrea does not have access to improved and safe water resources as well as basic health services.
- **Funding:** n/a
- **Consultations:** Eritrea received medium support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In the last 12 months, Eritrea received \$4M through the Rapid Response window.
- **Rationale:** Eritrea has one of the highest CIRV scores among non-HRP countries and received medium support from the UFEWG, but with two agencies including it in the highest priority group. In addition, a relatively small allocation to Eritrea can have a significant impact.

Tier 4

These countries also have unmet humanitarian needs but are not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1, 2 and 3 based on a variety of factors including low support from the UFEWG, above average funding levels, below average levels of humanitarian needs, and/or the amount of Rapid Response funding that CERF has allocated.

Annex II - Summary of countries with UFEWG support by category

	Country	HRP funding			CIRV	UFEWG support ¹⁰	Pooled Funding Jan 2022-Jan 2023	
		2023 HRP Req.	Changes in Req. vs 2022	2022 HRP funding level**			CERF	CBPF ¹¹
Tier 1	Ethiopia	\$3500M	+5%	48%	74	V. high	\$26M	\$75.2M
	Lebanon*				47	V. high	\$13M	\$29M
	Kenya	\$473M***			63	V. high	\$10M	0
	Madagascar*				58	V. high	\$11.5M	0
	Pakistan*				58	V. high	\$10.1M	0
	Sudan	\$1747M	-10%	43%	73	V. high	\$46M	\$63.8M
	Syria	\$4814M	+8%	48%	70	V. high	\$25M	\$39.5M ¹²
Tier 2	Chad	\$570M	+12%	47%	70	High	\$33M	0
	Colombia	\$283M	=	36%	45	High	\$5M	0
	DRC	\$2250M	+20%	48%	72	High	\$50.8M	\$40M
	Honduras	\$280M	+81%	41%	48	High	\$5M	0
Tier 3	Burundi	\$194M	+6%	49%	48	Medium	\$4.5M	0
	Eritrea*				58	Medium	\$4M	0
	Malawi*				47	V. high	\$4M	0
	Niger	\$660M	+19%	60%	68	High	\$27.5M	\$9M
	Zimbabwe*				61	Medium	\$1.5M	0
Tier 4	CAR	\$465M	+1%	90%	66	Low	\$15M	\$29.8M
	Cuba*				12	Low	\$7.8M	0
	El Salvador	\$98M	-14%	24%	44	Low	\$0M	0
	Eswatini*				44	Low	\$0	0
	Guatemala	\$125M	-18%	33%	46	Low	\$0	0
	Jordan*				44	Low	\$0	\$0.2M
	Mauritania*				40	Low	\$4M	0
	oPt	\$502M	-1%	72%	42	Low	\$0	\$20.1M
	Sri Lanka*				47	Low	\$5M	0
	Ukraine	\$3900M	-9%	80%	50	Low	\$60.5M	\$188M
	Zambia*				46	Low	\$0	0

* Non-HRP; ** As of 7 February 2023; *** Drought Response Plan

¹⁰ Low = 0-5 points or < 4 votes; Medium = 6-10 points; High = 11-15 points or > 5 votes; Very high = >15 points or ≥ 7 votes.

¹¹ Country-based Pooled Funds. Indicated funding levels for 2022

¹² Plus \$135M for the cross-border.