

### Introduction

1. This note presents the Emergency Relief Coordinator’s (ERC) final decision for the first Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) round of 2024, totalling \$100M.

### Outcome of the Analysis

2. **The CERF secretariat analyzed humanitarian needs, risks, vulnerabilities and funding levels,**<sup>1</sup> complemented by a review of qualitative information, consultations with UN agencies through the inter-agency Underfunded Emergencies working group (UFEWG)<sup>2</sup>, NGO consortia, 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 round unless an exceptional situation warranted this**<sup>3</sup>. No exception was made in this round.
4. **The CERF secretariat categorized 27<sup>4</sup> countries into four tiers** reflecting how strongly they emerged as candidates for UFE funding based on the various dimensions of the analysis, including the level of support from the UFEWG, and other factors.
  - **Tier 1:** These emerged as very strong candidates for inclusion.
  - **Tier 2:** These emerged as very robust candidates, but not as strongly as those in Tier 1.
  - **Tier 3:** These countries have unmet humanitarian resourcing needs and are robust candidates for funding but are not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1 and 2.
  - **Tier 4:** These countries also have unmet humanitarian needs, and an allocation could be well justified, but they are not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1, 2 and 3.

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chad</b></li> <li>• <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo</b></li> <li>• Lebanon</li> <li>• <b>Sudan</b></li> <li>• <b>Syria</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Honduras</b></li> <li>• <b>Niger</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colombia</b></li> <li>• Ecuador</li> <li>• <b>El Salvador</b></li> <li>• <b>Ethiopia</b></li> <li>• <b>Nigeria</b></li> <li>• <b>Guatemala</b></li> <li>• <b>Somalia</b></li> <li>• <b>South Sudan</b></li> <li>• Pakistan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burundi</li> <li>• Dominican Republic</li> <li>• Indonesia</li> <li>• Iraq</li> <li>• Jordan</li> <li>• Kenya</li> <li>• Madagascar</li> <li>• Mauritania</li> <li>• Tanzania</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine</b></li> <li>• Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

HRP countries in **bold**

<sup>1</sup> The CERF secretariat has been monitoring funding levels in the *Financial Tracking Service (FTS)* since November 2023, but all figures in this document are as of 17 January 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Consisting of FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO.

<sup>3</sup> Fourteen countries received funding in the second UFE round of 2023: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Haiti, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, oPt, Uganda, Venezuela, Yemen.

<sup>4</sup> Only countries that received some support from the UFEWG have been included in this summary note.

## Scenario

5. Based on this analysis, and considering the overall envelope of \$100M, the ERC decided to allocate funds to 7 countries. These include all countries in Tiers 1 and 2.

Country	Amount
<b>Chad</b>	\$15M
<b>DRC</b>	\$20M
<b>Honduras</b>	\$6M
Lebanon	\$9M
<b>Niger</b>	\$10M
<b>Sudan</b>	\$20M
<b>Syria</b>	\$20M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100M</b>

*HRP countries in bold*

6. **The starting point for determining the country funding envelopes is an initial baseline calculated through a basic standard funding-based formula<sup>5</sup>.** Individual country envelopes are then adjusted as appropriate by taking into consideration a number of other relevant factors emerging from the broader analysis and consultations, such as (i) current and projected humanitarian developments in each country; (ii) relevant funding information, including on-going or potential upcoming CERF allocations; (iii) ensuring meaningful impact on the ground and reasonable transaction costs for field partners engaging in the collective prioritization and application process, and (iv) considering the skewing effect of absolute funding requirements for mega-crises.
7. Annex I provides a brief summary of each country context along with the rationale for selection. Annex II contains detailed data for each country.

<sup>5</sup> Funding baseline for HRP countries: 25% of the available overall envelope is distributed evenly across all of the selected countries to create a minimum baseline. The remaining 75% is allocated as a proportion of each country's 2024 HRP requirements relative to the requirements of all the HRP countries listed in the scenario.

## Annex I - Summary of Country Analysis

### Tier 1 – in alphabetical order

#### **Chad**

*[CIRV: 62, 2023 Funding: 34% of \$920.6M]*

- **Context:** Chad continues to experience a protracted humanitarian crisis, with nearly a third of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. Armed conflict, internal displacement, food insecurity and health emergencies remain as the main drivers of humanitarian needs. The challenging socio-economic situation is also having a severe impact on the most vulnerable people. The humanitarian situation has worsened since the outbreak of armed conflict in Sudan on 15 April 2023, with the influx of thousands of people into eastern Chad. By 14 January 2024, over 520,000 refugees and around 130,000 Chadian returnees had arrived. With the worsening security situation in Darfur, an estimated 250,000 refugees are expected in 2024. The new refugees join more than 598,000 refugees and asylum-seekers who had already been living in Chad for several years. This makes Chad one of the countries receiving the largest number of refugees in the world, with more than 1.1M refugees and asylum-seekers at the end of 2023. Critical food insecurity (IPC4+) is projected to increase by 150%.
- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$920.6M and funded at 34%. In 2024, the HRP requirements have increased by 30% to \$1.2B.
- **Consultations:** Chad received **very high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023, CERF allocated \$23M via one \$14M Rapid Response (RR) allocation in April to respond to the refugee movements from Sudan, and one \$9M Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation in May focused on the response to floods.
- **Rationale:** Chad received very high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and an above average CIRV score.<sup>6</sup> Chad was also listed as a priority country by ICVA.

#### **Democratic Republic of the Congo** *[CIRV: 77, 2023 Funding: 40% of \$2.3B]*

- **Context:** The DRC grapples with some of the world's most complex humanitarian challenges. An estimated 8.7M people need urgent humanitarian assistance, stemming from a mix of ethnic, territorial, and resource-based conflicts, compounded by natural disasters and disease outbreaks. Decades of armed conflict have traumatized the nation's social fabric, with violence tragically becoming a norm. In addition to the fighting involving the M23 armed group and the related crisis in North Kivu, the ongoing unrest in Ituri, as well as inter-community violence and ongoing unrest in South Kivu, Maniema and other provinces are of deep concern. The escalating violence has displaced over 6.3M people and caused significant protection concerns. In 2023, over 9,000 cases of GBV survivors were registered monthly. In addition, food insecurity is a major concern, with over 25.4M people currently being severely food insecure, including 2.9M projected to be in critical food insecurity (IPC4+) – the third-highest number globally. The withdrawal of MONUSCO could worsen the dire humanitarian situation further.
- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$2.3B and funded at 40%. In 2024, HRP requirements have increased by 15% to \$2.6B.
- **Consultations:** The DRC received **very high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023 CERF allocated \$56.5M via two \$750,000 anticipatory action allocations in January and June for cholera, one \$10M RR allocation in January for displacement, one \$22M Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation focused on displacement and conflict, one \$13M RR allocation for displacement in August, and one \$10M RR allocation for displacement in November.
- **Rationale:** DRC received very high support from the UFEWG, has below average funding and one of the highest CIRV scores. DRC was also listed as a priority by ICVA.

<sup>6</sup> As of 17 January 2024, the average funding level for eligible 2023 HRPs was 42% and the average CIRV score was 60 (see Annex III)

## Lebanon

[CIRV: 52, non-HRP country]

- **Context:** Lebanon is experiencing a constantly evolving multi-layered crisis. Since 2019, the country has been going through a complex economic and financial crisis, further deepened by a political deadlock, a steady deterioration of social stability and systems, and additional internal and external shocks. The 2020 Beirut port explosions, the summer 2021 fuel crisis and the most recent cholera outbreak in the country highlighted the deeply rooted unfolding crisis as well as multiplied the needs. Global and regional developments, including the COVID-19 outbreak and more recently the impact of the Ukraine crisis and global economic deterioration, further impacted on the situation. Lebanon also continues to manage the spill-over from the Syrian crisis and hosts the largest number of refugees per-capita in the world. The severity and magnitude of humanitarian needs is largely driven by people's inability to meet their basic needs and access basic services primarily in the food, education and health sectors. This is compounded by harmful coping strategies, which result in heightened protection risks. In addition, since 8 October 2023, there has been a continued uptick in the exchange of fire at the Lebanese southern border between armed groups and Israel, displacing tens of thousands and exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities for all population groups. In this context, the situation of ordinary people in Lebanon is worsening day by day.
- **Funding:** Non-HRP country. The 2023 Emergency Response Plan was funded at 36%.
- **Consultations:** Lebanon received **very high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023 CERF allocated \$8M via an Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation in May to address deteriorating humanitarian needs resulting from economic crisis.
- **Rationale:** Lebanon received very high support from the UFEWG and has one of the highest CIRV scores among non-HRP countries.

## Sudan

[CIRV: 80, 2023 Funding: 43% of \$2.6B]

- **Context:** In mid-April 2023, Sudan descended into a major conflict, with fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces starting in Khartoum and spreading nationwide. This violence has caused civilian casualties, substantial damage to infrastructure, and catastrophic displacement. Over 6.1M people have been forced to flee, adding to the existing 3.8M IDPs. Sudan now faces the world's largest internal displacement crisis and the most significant child displacement crisis, with 3M displaced children. In 2024, half of Sudan's population, 24.8M people, will need humanitarian assistance. While this figure is in line with estimates from 2023, the severity of needs has intensified. "Catastrophic" conditions<sup>7</sup> have been observed in 17 locations, almost half of which are in Darfur, compared to 14 locations in May 2023. Nearly one in three people could soon become food insecure. The health system is collapsing, with outbreaks of cholera, dengue fever, measles and malaria being reported. Conflict-related sexual violence is rampant, and a generation of children is at risk of missing out on education. Nearly one in three people could soon become food insecure. Critical food insecurity (IPC4+) is projected to increase by more than 200%, affecting 4.9M people – the highest number worldwide.
- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$2.6B and funded at 43%. In 2024, the HRP requirements have increased by 5% to \$2.7B.
- **Consultations:** Sudan received **very high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023 CERF allocated \$60M via one \$18M Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation in May, one \$22M Rapid Response (RR) allocation in June, and one \$20M RR allocation in November to respond to conflict-related needs. During the UFE consultation process, the country team submitted a Rapid Response request to get ahead of potentially catastrophic food insecurity.
- **Rationale:** Sudan received very high support from the UFEWG, has the highest CIRV score overall and only slightly above average funding. Sudan was also listed as a priority by ICVA.

<sup>7</sup> According to the Sudan [Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024](#), "severity 5 (catastrophic) in Sudan JIAF 2.0 application is driven by protection concerns and are the localities with more than 100, 000 IDPs, hard-to-reach and experiencing recent violent attacks."

## Syria

*[CIRV: 64, 2023 Funding: 38% of \$5.4B]*

- **Context:** In 2024, 16.7 million people are assessed to need humanitarian assistance across Syria, up from 15.3 million in 2023. Of the 16.7 million people in need, 5.5 million are displaced, including over 2 million who live in last resort sites. At least 12.9 million people across Syria need food assistance. After 12 years of hostilities and persistent economic crisis, people in Syria saw their already difficult situation worsen when a series of earthquakes hit northern Syria and Türkiye on 6 and 20 February 2023. Post-earthquake, the economy further declined with high inflation, currency depreciation, and rising commodity prices, which in turn increased poverty and aid dependence. The economic downturn also hindered access to already limited services and increased the cost of humanitarian responses. By last quarter of 2023, the cost of the food basket had doubled compared to January and had quadrupled in two years. Additionally, hostilities escalated in northern Syria and Deir-ez-Zor Governorate in late 2023, displacing over 120,000 people. Regular attacks on water and electricity facilities in north-east Syria disrupted basic services. It is possible that the conflict in northern Syria and Deir-ez-Zor will intensify in 2024, increasing already dire humanitarian needs. In addition, ongoing cholera outbreaks could worsen due to water shortages, and food insecurity is expected to increase.
- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$5.4B and funded at 38%. In 2024, the HRP requirements have decreased by 19% to \$4.4B, in part due to a stronger prioritization of activities.
- **Consultations:** Syria received **very high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023 CERF allocated \$40M to respond to the 6 February earthquake via one \$15M Rapid Response (RR) allocation in February and one \$25M Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation in April.
- **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 ICVA.

### Tier 2 – in alphabetical order

## Honduras

*[CIRV: 46, 2023 Funding: 15% of \$280.4M]*

- **Context:** The primary needs in Honduras stem from the impacts of violence, human mobility, food insecurity and malnutrition, and the effects of climate change. During the lean season between June and August 2023, around 25 per cent of the population, 2.4M people, faced food insecurity. Of these, 2.07M were in crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC 3) and 352,000 in an emergency situation (IPC 4). Food insecurity may worsen in 2024 with potential drought conditions caused by El Niño. Additionally, a threefold increase in human mobility compared to 2022 has resulted in almost 400,000 refugees and migrants requiring assistance. Refugees and migrants face a high level of vulnerability given the dire condition of migration routes and the distance from protection networks. Moreover, increasing levels of crime-related violence – the highest in the region – resulted in the forced internal displacement of at least 247,000 people in 2023, with forced recruitment by criminal gangs and gender-based violence being primary triggers.
- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$280.4M and funded at only 15%, the lowest globally. In 2024, the HRP requirements have decreased by 27% to \$205M.
- **Consultations:** Honduras received **high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** In 2023 CERF allocated \$6.5M via one Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) allocation in May to address deteriorating humanitarian needs resulting from economic crisis.
- **Rationale:** Honduras received high support from the UFEWG and has the lowest funded 2023 HRP. Honduras was also listed as a priority by ICVA.

## Niger

*[CIRV: 68, 2023 Funding: 43% of \$583.9M]*

- **Context:** Throughout 2023, Niger faced a dire humanitarian crisis. The worsening security situation resulted in the number of IDPs increasing by 17 per cent from January to September, reaching 436,398. Additionally, floods affected over 169,000 people, including 52 deaths, as of 9 October. Food insecurity remains a major concern, with over 2.3M being in IPC3 and 4 between October and December 2023. Niger also hosts displaced people from Nigeria and Cameroon, many of whom are in dire need of assistance. A diphtheria

outbreak further compounded the crisis, with 2,351 cases and 163 deaths reported across 21 health districts, as of 23 October. The sanctions imposed on Niger by the international community and ECOWAS following the 26 July coup d'état are exacerbating the socioeconomic situation of the population. Restrictions on humanitarian operations imposed on 31 August, and the requirement for military escorts for expatriate partners, have drastically limited aid access, especially in remote areas. As of 16 October, numerous humanitarian missions were cancelled, potentially leaving around 550,000 people in military operation zones without crucial aid across various sectors.

- **Funding:** The 2023 HRP was budgeted at \$583.9M and funded at 43%. In 2024, the HRP requirements have increased by 3% to \$604M.
- **Consultations:** Niger received **high** support from the UFEWG.
- **CERF:** The last CERF allocation to Niger was a \$9.5M Rapid Response (RR) allocation in August 2022 for Anticipatory Action.
- **Rationale:** Niger received high support from the UFEWG, has an above average CIRV score and only slightly above average funding. Niger was also listed as a priority by ICVA.

### **Tier 3 and 4 countries: not recommended given the funding limitations**

These countries also have unmet humanitarian needs but are not as well placed for selection as those in Tiers 1 and 2 based on a variety of factors including the level of support from the UFEWG, above average funding levels, below average levels of humanitarian needs, and/or the amount of CERF funding previously allocated.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> For example, while South Sudan received very high support from the UFEWG, it has the best funded HRP of the countries considered in this round and has received several CERF allocations over the last year, including \$10M as recently as in January 2024. In the context of the limited funding available for the UFE round, South Sudan therefore did not make the final shortlist. Likewise, while Ethiopia has high humanitarian needs and its 2023 HRP coverage was below average, it only received medium support from the UFEWG and also received several CERF allocations in 2023. In addition, the country is being considered for a RR allocation to address the drought.

## Annex II - Summary of countries with UFEWG support by category

Tier	Country (*non-HRP)	2023 HRP Funding		2024 HRP Req.	CIRV **	UFEWG support <sup>9</sup>	CERF Funding	
		HRP Req.	Received**				2024	2023
Tier 1	Chad	\$921M	\$315M (34%)	\$1,181M	62	Very high	-	\$23M
	DRC	\$2,253M	\$890M (40%)	\$2,600M	77	Very high	-	\$56.5M
	Lebanon*	-	-	-	52	Very high	-	\$8M
	Sudan	\$2,565M	\$1,091M (43%)	\$2,696M	80	Very high	-	\$60.1M
	Syria	\$5,414M	\$2,038M (38%)	\$4,400M	64	Very high	-	\$40M
Tier 2	Honduras	\$280M	\$43M (15%)	\$205M	46	High	-	\$6.5M
	Niger	\$584M	\$251M (43%)	\$604M	68	High	-	-
Tier 3	Colombia	\$283M	\$130M (46%)	\$332M	47	High	-	\$6.5M
	Ecuador*	-	-	-	42	High	-	-
	El Salvador	\$98M	\$26M (26%)	\$87M	39	Medium	-	-
	Ethiopia	\$3,995M	\$1,343M (34%)	\$2,878M	61	Medium	-	\$35.5M
	Nigeria	\$1,312M	\$535M (41%)	\$860M	59	High	-	\$9M
	Guatemala	\$126M	\$31M (24%)	\$125M	47	High	-	-
	Somalia	\$2,599M	\$1,130M (44%)	\$1,700M	70	High	-	\$28M
	South Sudan	\$2,056M	\$1,042M (51%)	\$1,789M	65	Very high	\$10M	\$34M
	Pakistan*	-	-	-	67	High	-	\$6.5M
Tier 4	Burundi*	-	-	-	48	Medium	-	-
	Dominican Republic*	-	-	-	44	Low	-	-
	Indonesia*	-	-	-	36	Low	-	-
	Iraq*	-	-	-	51	Low	-	-
	Jordan*	-	-	-	42	Low	-	-
	Kenya*	-	-	-	59	Medium	-	\$8M
	Madagascar*	-	-	-	54		-	\$12.5M
	Mauritania*	-	-	-	40		-	-
	Tanzania*	-	-	-	51		-	-
	Ukraine	\$3,946M	\$2,686M (68%)	\$3,108M	54		-	-
	Zimbabwe*	-	-	-	55		-	-

\* Non-HRP, \*\* As of 17 Jan 2024

<sup>9</sup> Low = 1-5 points; Medium = 6-10 points; High = 11-15 points; Very high = ≥ 16 points.