

INTRODUCTION

The CERF Guidance Note describes the approach to the Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) 2020 second round, including the overall funding amount available and the preliminary considerations for the country selection.

With humanitarian needs exacerbated by Covid-19, the level of underfunding of humanitarian operations is expected to remain high in 2021. **CERF recommends maintaining an appropriate scale of UFE allocations in 2021¹ while innovating the way the UFE window is used so that it plays a stronger role in promoting system change and underfunded priorities.**

- **One ‘Traditional’ Allocation Round:** CERF recommends shifting to one formal allocation round, front-loading significant UFE resources (‘going big’) to countries that are highly vulnerable, but which have low levels of funding. CERF will seek further clarity from short-listed countries on how they expect to use the resources, before presenting them for endorsement, thereby strengthening the decision-making process. CERF notes that we can repeat the experience of the last UFE allocation where we earmarked a small portion of resources to a thematic area (GBV). *More ideas on how to approach this round are highlighted under III.1.*
- **Multiple Thematic Allocations:** CERF recommends introducing a more innovative approach to using the remaining underfunded resources – by introducing the possibility of undertaking multiple thematic allocations which directly support the underfunded priorities. Our internal review of the underfunded priorities continues to point to the fact that without greater “proactive/prescriptive” focus on these issues, our impact continues to be diffuse, which also makes lessons learning difficult. Should we proceed with thematic allocations, countries targeted will be those where humanitarian operations are not only underfunded, but where the specific theme is a high priority and where there are opportunities to affect lasting system change (incl. the presence of well-articulated plans for addressing the thematic

areas). Resources will be allocated to help CERF build momentum around the under-funded priorities, and to contribute to learning and to the development of global practice. CERF would provide these resources over a broader timeline (e.g. 2 years) to support innovation, and with greater focus on achieving advancement in the quality of aid. *While still addressing underfunded needs, this approach would represent a departure from the traditional UFE approach which considers only vulnerability and funding levels, and which supports a “crisis-wide” response. While CERF would still focus on countries that are largely under-funded (the majority of protracted crises), such a shift would need to be supported by dedicated communication to partners. More ideas on how to approach this round are highlighted under III.1.*

It should be noted that these two approaches can be **applied in parallel** – we would plan on one “predictable” traditional UFE round annually, with a number of one-off thematic allocations, throughout the year, as opportunities arise.

AMOUNT AND NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

Based on the CERF’s 2020 projected availability of funds for allocation and the amount of \$125 million already allocated during the UFE 2020 first round to emergencies in 11 countries, the ERC has decided on \$100 million for the second UFE round, which will represent a UFE record. This will represent a CERF UFE record of \$225 million in 2020.

COVID-19

Given the existing COVID focused Rapid Response Window allocation of \$95 million in support of the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), the round itself will not have an explicit COVID-19 focus, but will, through analyzing the regularly revised country HRPs, take into account the primary and secondary impacts of the pandemic, as well as addressing pre-existing humanitarian conditions.

ERC’S FOUR PRIORITY AREAS

In January 2019, the ERC identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration

¹ UFE allocations in 2018 (\$180mn), 2019 (\$200mn), 2020 (\$225mn)

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 again 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), has been 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 again 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 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 2020 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:

- 2020 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 2021

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. For this round, given the exigencies of the COVID-19 situation, and the need to prioritize speed of disbursement, CERF UFE will pilot a new lighter and faster approach, by presenting a longlist of eligible HRP countries and non-HRP countries to the UN agencies making up the Underfunded Emergencies Working Group (UFEWG) for considerationⁱⁱⁱ. UFEWG members will then be asked to prioritise up to 6 HRP and 4 non-HRP countries for consideration, and provide a justification/rationale for these countries, together with information on their funding situation.

For the funding analysis of HRP countries, 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 2020 funding data reported in FTS for countries with an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan. 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 CIRV. The methodology is described in detail in a separate document^{iv}. Ultimately, CERF will identify the long list of 20 countries for consideration through a data-driven analysis of severity indicators, including COVID-19.

COUNTRIES UNDER CONSIDERATION

The CERF secretariat conducts a global analysis of humanitarian emergencies including countries with an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan and countries without such appeal/plan. The former includes countries with an HRP or comparable annual appeal in place, funding coverage of which is tracked on OCHA's FTS in sufficient detail to allow appropriate analysis. Countries not meeting these criteria are considered countries without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan.

(I) Countries with an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan considered for the UFE 2020 second round:

CERF will consider countries with an HRP (excluding COVID-specific HRPs) by evaluating their severity and funding levels. CERF will identify a longlist of 12 and ask the UFEWG members to each prioritize 6. Countries under consideration for the longlist include:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
CAR
Colombia
Ethiopia
Iraq

Libya
Mali
Myanmar
Nigeria
oPt
Somalia
South Sudan
Sudan
Ukraine
Venezuela
Yemen
Zimbabwe

(II) Countries without an HRP or equivalent appeal/plan considered for the UFE 2020 second round:

CERF will identify a longlist of non-HRP countries based on the CIRV. CERF will then request the UFEWG members to individually vote on their top 4 non-HRP countries.

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 2020 SECOND ROUND TIMELINE

| Preparation | |
|---|--|
| 8 June | The CERF secretariat circulates the UFE Draft Underfunded Emergencies 2019 Second Round Guidance Note to UFEWG, ICVA humanitarian financing working group, OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division (OAD) and OCHA Assessment, Planning and Monitoring Branch (APMB), and CBPFs. CERF circulates quantitative funding and severity analysis (HRP and non-HRP long lists) |
| 8 -15 June | CERF consults the UFEWG on both the HRP and non-HRP long lists |
| 15 June | CERF presents finalized list of recommended countries to the UFEWG |
| Country Selection | |
| 19 June | ERC decides on selected emergencies and allocation amounts |
| Friday 19 June | ERC press release and launch of public information strategy for UFE 2019 Second Round |
| Monday 22 June | CERF notifies RC/HCs of UFE allocations via letter from the ERC |
| Friday 27 June | Deadline for RC/HCs to respond to ERC |
| Field Prioritization Process & Submission | |
| Friday 17 July | Deadline for RC/HCs submit prioritization strategy to ERC |
| Friday 31 July | Approval of strategies by ERC |
| Submission Review | |
| Friday 14 August | Deadline for submission of full application to the CERF secretariat |
| Monday 31 August | UFE 2020 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