



CERF *Facts*

What is the Central Emergency Response Fund?

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a humanitarian fund established by the General Assembly in 2006 to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. The Fund is replenished annually through contributions from governments and the private sector, and constitutes a pool of reserve funding to support humanitarian action.

The CERF's objectives, as set by the General Assembly, are to:

- Promote early action and response to reduce loss of life.
- Enhance response to time-critical requirements.
- Strengthen core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

The CERF has a grant facility of US\$450 million and a loan facility of \$30 million.

Who manages the CERF?

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Ms. Valerie Amos, manages the CERF on behalf of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General. The CERF Advisory Group provides policy guidance to the Secretary-General on the use and impact of CERF.

How does the CERF work?

The CERF allows the United Nations to react immediately when a disaster strikes. It makes funds available for life-saving activities to the United Nations and its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The CERF is intended to complement, not to substitute, existing humanitarian funding mechanisms, such as United Nations consolidated appeals. The CERF provides seed funds to jump-start critical operations and fund life-saving programmes not yet covered by other donors.

The CERF's grant component has two elements:

- Rapid response grants to promote early action and response to reduce loss of life, and to enhance response to time-critical requirements.
- Underfunded emergency grants to strengthen core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

Since its inception in 2006, the CERF has allocated more than \$3 billion to help hundreds of thousands of people in 88 countries and territories across the world.

GRANT FACILITY

- Up to \$450 million, depending on voluntary contributions received.
- Established in 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- Allows the ERC to ensure coverage of life-saving programmes when funds are not available from other sources.
- Used to allocate funds to United Nations operational agencies to address critical humanitarian needs based on priorities established under the leadership of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in the field.
- Each applicant must justify the need for funds, taking into consideration other available resources. If a donor pledge is forthcoming, the loan facility should be used.

LOAN FACILITY

- \$30 million available.
- Established in 1991 as the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. The Revolving Fund is now managed as part of the upgraded CERF.
- Used to make loans to the United Nations agencies for emergency programmes based on indication that donor funding is forthcoming.
- Loans must be reimbursed within one year.
- Primarily used as a cash-flow mechanism allowing UN agencies to access funds.

Who can apply for CERF funds?

United Nations humanitarian agencies and IOM can apply for CERF funding. WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR are the top three agency recipients of CERF funding. Applications for CERF funding must demonstrate that proposed activities are in line with CERF's life-saving criteria. The Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator submits applications to the ERC and the CERF secretariat, based on an in-country prioritization process.

The General Assembly resolution that created the CERF does not allow for NGOs to apply directly for CERF funding. However, NGOs frequently receive CERF funding when they act as implementing partners of United Nations agencies and IOM. OCHA cannot receive CERF grants, as the ERC is the Fund Manager.

Where does the CERF get its funds?

CERF is funded by voluntary contributions from governments, the private sector and individuals. Since March 2006, the CERF's grant component has received pledges and contributions of almost \$3.3 billion from 122 Member States and observers, regional and local authorities, together with other public and private donors. A third of the CERF's contributors have also received support from the Fund.



“The CERF was created by all nations, for all potential victims of disasters. It represents a real chance to provide predictable and equitable funding to those affected by natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.” Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

