Workshop participants highlighted the critical need to identify possible criteria for inclusion/exclusion and to suggest boundaries of a CERF request prior to advising the RC/HC and facilitating the meeting with partners on the prioritization of the request. These ‘suggested’ parameters must be endorsed by the RC/HC, HCT and/or the Inter-Cluster Coordination Working Group.

Possible criteria or considerations

- Project or activity is included (ideally prioritized) in the coordinated response plan (HRP, Flash Appeal or other similar plan).
- Based on recent needs assessment
- Support an integrated response
- Geographic prioritization (selection of specific geographic areas for focused intervention)
- Access and security
- Operational capacity
  - Operational presence in the affected areas – current staffing and resources or the ability to rapidly scale up
  - Implementing partners already identified (and partnership agreements in place)
- Complementarity with other funding and resources, such as the country-based pooled fund or bilateral contributions (financial or in-kind)
- Adherence to CERF’s Life-Saving Criteria
- Timeframe of response (While the implementation period for CERF rapid response projects is six months, the activities prioritized could focus on a shorter timeframe.)
- Funding coverage of a project or sector (A funding analysis can be a useful tool for prioritizing sectors or projects for a CERF underfunded emergency application.)
- Choice of location is based on the severity of the impact
- Complementarity and synergies with other activities or projects
- Past performance