



A fund for all, by all

Central Emergency Response Fund High-level Pledging Event for 2026

9 December 2025

Facts and Figures

CERF delivers when it matters the most: For 20 years, CERF has been one of the fastest and most reliable sources of funding for UN agencies and their partners in emergencies – enabling life-saving humanitarian responses within hours, not weeks. In a world of escalating crises and shrinking resources, CERF remains one of the most effective tools the global community has to ensure that every contribution, no matter the size, translates into timely, life-saving assistance for people in urgent need.

Not just a Fund, but a catalyst for innovation and system-wide reform: CERF is more than a funding mechanism; it is a driver of innovation and transformative change. From enabling anticipatory action ahead of predictable shocks, to supporting climate-smart responses in countries on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and advancing more accountable humanitarian action, CERF remains an indispensable tool as the humanitarian system undergo a process of deep reform, also known as the “Humanitarian Reset”.

CERF@20: A milestone of impact, a moment for bold investment: As CERF marks its 20th anniversary and the UN turns 80, this is a defining moment to invest in a mechanism that can step in and support governments when crises strike. CERF is stretching to meet increasingly complex needs, injecting critical funding into emergencies at a time when the humanitarian system is under immense strain. Yet, with its lowest projected income in a decade, CERF urgently needs increased donor support, including contributions to its Climate Action Account, to continue delivering fast, effective solutions in response to the world’s most pressing challenges.

CERF’s \$1 Billion Target

In 2016, the General Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General’s call to more than double CERF’s annual funding target to \$1 billion, reflecting both the growing scale of humanitarian needs and Member States’ confidence in CERF’s effectiveness.

This year, CERF is facing its **lowest projected income in a decade**. In 2025, CERF is currently projected to receive some \$400 million, far below the \$1 billion target. As the UN Secretary-General has emphasized, this target is not aspirational, it is the “bare minimum needed to help people trapped in emergencies.”

Without additional support, **CERF’s ability to continue its critical work**, such as kick-starting and rapidly scaling time-critical responses to new emergencies and sustaining underfunded crisis operations, is at risk of being jeopardized. This comes at a critical time when the humanitarian system needs tools that can deliver agile, impactful solutions more than ever.

CERF 2025 Highlights

In 2025, CERF’s speed and flexibility enabled the humanitarian community to respond to time-critical needs when it mattered most. Shortly after the announcement of the ceasefire in Gaza, CERF released an additional \$11 million, on top of a \$9 million allocation one week earlier, to support the scale-up of life-saving assistance and winter preparedness under the UN-coordinated 60-day Ceasefire Response Plan.

CERF also continued to lead the way in advancing climate-smart humanitarian action through its Climate Action Account (CCAA). A second thematic allocation of \$9.5 million in 2025, complementing \$10.5 million in 2024, brought total support to \$20 million across 17 countries, from Venezuela to Myanmar, reaching some 500,000 people with innovative, context-specific interventions that address urgent needs while building adaptive capacities and resilience to future climate shocks. Continued support to the CCAA is essential to sustain and expand this work, including through an additional thematic allocation.

CERF scaled up anticipatory action to mitigate the humanitarian impact of predictable shocks and thereby ensured more efficient humanitarian efforts that save more lives. \$38 million was allocated through activations of Anticipatory Action (AA) frameworks in Afghanistan, Cuba,

the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Haiti, Mozambique, Nigeria and the Philippines. These efforts were increasingly undertaken in complementarity with Country-based Pooled Funds. In April 2025, as worsening drought conditions were forecasted in Afghanistan, the AA framework was triggered, prompting CERF to disburse \$6.75 million and the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund to disburse \$10 million. This marked the first AA framework jointly developed and funded by CERF and a Country-based Pooled Fund simultaneously.

Despite facing its most severe funding shortfall in a decade, CERF remained a critical lifeline for underfunded emergencies. Earlier in 2025, \$112 million was allocated to 10 countries through CERF’s underfunded emergencies (UFE) window. As the humanitarian system faces unprecedented funding shortfall globally, CERF is preparing another UFE allocation of up to \$100 million to support the most urgent severe and underfunded crises operations. The allocation will strategically support Humanitarian Reset priorities in select countries, such as increased community engagement, localization, and cash assistance. The final size of the allocation will depend on the ability to secure additional contributions in the coming months.

1 Since 2006, CERF has allocated nearly **\$10 B** to **humanitarian operations** across the globe.

5 CERF allocations are **100% need-based**, guided by rigorous assessments informed by humanitarian responders on the ground.

9 CERF's **first allocation** in **2006** totaled \$1.9 million and supported drought response in Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, and Djibouti.

12 In 2024, **35%** of CERF funding went to climate-related emergencies, up from an average of 30 per cent. This increase was partially driven by the launch of the **CCAA** in 2023, which provides a dedicated channel for additional financing to reach communities on the frontlines of the **climate crisis**.

17 CERF ranks as the **6th** most transparent international aid entity out of 1,600 organizations publishing data through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI Dashboard – Summary Statistics).

2 CERF has delivered life-saving assistance in **116 countries and territories** affected by conflict, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks across the globe.

6 In sudden-onset crises, CERF-funded activities begin, on average, **within 48 hours** of a **funding request**.

10 Since 2006, CERF has allocated **\$3.3 B** to **severely underfunded** humanitarian crises.

14 While CERF only directly supports UN agencies, in 2020 the Fund allocated **\$25 M** through **IOM to support front-line NGOs** responding to the **COVID-19 pandemic** – the first time in CERF's history.

18 CERF's impact is made possible by 144 donors, including **134 Member States**. Of these, 63 have also received CERF funding, reaffirming its value as a fund for all, by all.

3 The **five largest** CERF recipient countries to date are **Sudan, the DRC, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Somalia**.

7 Since 2020, CERF has allocated **\$147 M** to **AA**, enabling humanitarians to act before crises escalate

11 In 2023, CERF provided support to **26 underfunded humanitarian operations** with its largest annual UFE disbursement to date, amounting to nearly **\$276 M**.

15 In 2020, CERF made an innovative \$25 million allocation to UNFPA and UN Women to address **GBV** in **11** countries, with over **40%** of the funding transferred to **local women-led organizations**.

19 **The United Kingdom** is CERF's largest donor to date, contributing nearly **\$2 B** since 2005.

4 On average, CERF funding has helped to assist over **44 M people** each year over the past five years.

8 In Bangladesh last year, CERF released funding just **16 minutes** after **flood early warnings**, allowing partners to reach communities 5 days ahead of peak impact, before flooding cut off roads.

12 Since 2020, half of CERF's funding, or **\$4.9 B**, has supported vulnerable people affected by **conflict**.

16 For each dollar invested in CERF, about **91%** directly supports **UN agencies and humanitarian partners** delivering life-saving assistance. The remaining 9 per cent enables safe, efficient, and effective operations.

20 CERF aims to raise **\$1 B** annually, a target endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016



Facts about CERF's 20 Years of Action and Impact



CERF was instrumental in enabling the humanitarian community's response to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, rising to the moment with speed and agility

Even before the global pandemic was officially declared, CERF released \$15 million to support WHO and UNICEF's early containment efforts. Shortly after, the Fund allocated \$80 million in multi-country block grants to jump-start UN agency responses focused on health care, water and sanitation, and logistics. When funding for frontline NGOs was critically low, CERF released \$25 million through IOM to support NGO-led delivery in six countries. This marked CERF's first-ever allocation directly targeting NGOs. Later in the year, CERF responded to the pandemic's secondary humanitarian impacts, including a \$80 million allocation to address rising food insecurity in six countries across Africa and the Middle East and a dedicated \$25 million allocation to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in 11 humanitarian settings, which surged dramatically during the pandemic.

Photo: Nigeria. A girl in the CERF-funded Child Friendly Space set up by UNICEF in Stadium IDP Camp, Maiduguri, Borno State. With the COVID-19 pandemic, activities had to be adapted; the centre can now only host 50 children at a time, instead of the 200 children that could be accommodated before the onset of the pandemic. Credit: OCHA/Eve Sabbagh



In 2022, CERF acted within hours of the outbreak of full-scale war in Ukraine.

As people's lives were torn apart overnight, the Fund allocated \$20.5 million, enabling humanitarian responders to deliver urgently needed assistance, including shelter and protection. Just weeks later, as the crisis deepened, CERF released an additional \$40 million, providing nearly 1 million people with access to water, daily essentials, and safe spaces for children. As the war's ripple effects disrupted global grain shipments and compounded existing crises in several countries across Africa and the Middle East, such as violence and failed rainy seasons, some 50 million people were pushed closer to the brink of famine. Rising to the challenge, CERF allocated \$130 million to 11 countries, saving hundreds of thousands of lives, including in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa.

Photo: Ukraine. Oleksandr with his son Makar. Their family were among those who received cash assistance from UNICEF, supported by CERF and other donors. Credit: UNICEF



CERF has consistently demonstrated its ability to act early and decisively in the face of climate-driven crises

During the 2015–2016 El Niño event, one of the strongest on record, CERF allocated over \$119 million, helping to mitigate the extreme impacts of drought and flooding across 19 countries in Africa and Asia. An independent review found that CERF often provided the first funding for El Niño-related humanitarian emergencies. However, in most cases, country teams only applied for support once humanitarian impacts were already being felt, indicating that CERF funding could have been even more effective if disbursed earlier. In 2023 and 2024, CERF again stepped in to mitigate the threat posed by El Niño. By leveraging early warnings and seasonal forecasts, CERF enabled humanitarian partners to respond faster and more effectively, reaching vulnerable communities before conditions deteriorated further. CERF's forward-looking approach helped catalyze more timely and effective responses to El Niño in 11 countries, assisting approximately 2.3 million people with \$44.6 million allocated.

Photo: Mongolia. Bold Enkhbaatar and Galbayar Altantungalag and their children stand in front of their livestock pen. The 2024 dzud was one of the harshest winters in 50 years, devastating the livelihoods of Mongolia's herder communities, and resulting in the loss of 6.6 million livestock across the country. In response, CERF allocated \$1.6 million in April 2024 to enable three UN agencies—FAO, UNFPA, and UNICEF—to commence life-saving activities. Credit: FAO