

# ANALYSIS OF DATA FROM 2014 RC/HC REPORTS ON THE USE OF CERF FUNDS

ADDED VALUE OF CERF IN 2014 AS ASSESSED BY RC/HCS



United Nations

CERF

**10** YEARS OF  
SAVING LIVES  
TOGETHER

The introduction of a new CERF narrative reporting framework in 2013 has improved the overall quality of reporting by Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators on the use of CERF funds (RC/HC reports) and has allowed for a more systematic and timely analysis of the data and information provided in the reports. The CERF secretariat has analyzed key performance data from all RC/HC reports submitted for 2014 CERF grants (second year under the new reporting framework) and produced several briefing notes to present the findings of the analysis.

This briefing note summarizes information on the strategic value added by CERF to the overall humanitarian action in recipient countries. All RC/HC reports used for the analysis that follows can be found on CERF's website<sup>1</sup>. Given up to nine month implementation time frame of CERF grants followed by a three-month reporting period, the complete reports on the implementation of all CERF-funded projects in 2014 were only available at the beginning of 2016 for consolidation.

CERF was established to add strategic value to the humanitarian response beyond simply being a source of funding. CERF's mission is to improve timeliness of humanitarian action and strengthen core elements of humanitarian response.

In 2014, CERF allocated US\$ 471 million<sup>2</sup> to 600 projects responding to humanitarian crises in 45 countries. The 600 projects were part of 81 applications prepared by humanitarian partners at country level under the leadership of RC/HCs.

To gauge CERF's added value beyond the outcomes of CERF-funded projects, RC/HCs and humanitarian country teams (HCTs) are asked to assess CERF's contribution to the following four objectives in their reports on the use of CERF funds:

- Fast delivery of assistance to people in need
- Better response to time-critical humanitarian needs
- Improved coordination among humanitarian community
- Leveraging additional resources from other sources

Against each objective, RC/HCs provide in the CERF reports a rating along with a narrative justification. The feedback received strongly confirms that CERF allocations in 2014 led to fast delivery of humanitarian assistance, enabled time-critical needs to be met, and helped strengthen coordination at country level. CERF's role in leveraging additional funding from other sources was less clear, still, more than half of the reports could clearly confirm a correlation between CERF allocations and other contributions.

Various CERF-related studies and reviews for the period have also provided evidence on CERF's added value in these four areas. Selected examples are quoted throughout this note.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.unocha.org/cerf/partner-resources/grant-reports/grant-reports-2014](http://www.unocha.org/cerf/partner-resources/grant-reports/grant-reports-2014)

<sup>2</sup> The analysis included in this note is based on reports on all 2014 CERF applications despite that some of them also included projects approved in the last days of 2013 and in the first days of 2015. Hence, the overall 2014 allocation amount referenced in this note differs by \$10 million from the official 2014 CERF allocation figure (\$461 million).

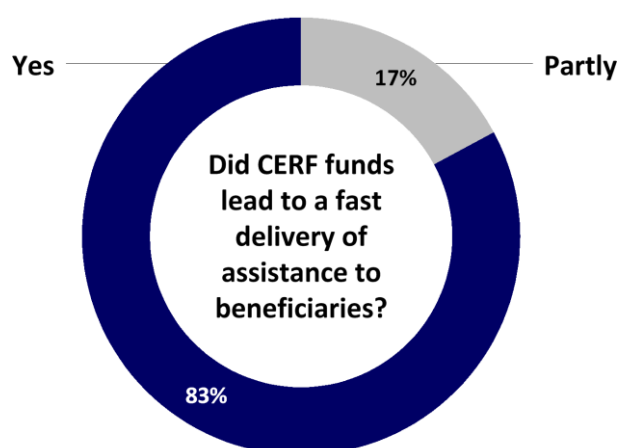
## FAST DELIVERY OF ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE IN NEED

CERF pools un-earmarked contributions from numerous donors on a continuous basis and makes them available for immediate humanitarian action when emergencies strike. As a result, humanitarian organizations can receive assurance of CERF funding within hours from large scale humanitarian disasters requiring international response and CERF disburses funds quickly once an allocation has been approved. Consequently, CERF is often one of the first sources of funding to sudden onset emergencies allowing for quick commencement of life-saving activities while other funding is mobilized.

Analysis of all 2014 RC/HC reports (76 reports) on the use of CERF funds strongly confirmed CERF's added value to the fast delivery of life-saving assistance to people in need.

Eighty-three per cent of 2014 reports stated that CERF funds led to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries. The remaining 17 per cent of reports indicated that CERF funds partly led to a fast delivery of assistance.

There were no reports in 2014, which concluded that CERF did not support fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries.



*“Overall, the CERF rapid response window contributed to enhancing WFP’s capacity to respond rapidly to unforeseen needs.”*

WFP’s pooled fund evaluation

*“Funding reforms have focused on improving the speed of financing flows. Individual donors have put in place rapid drawdown mechanisms with pre-approved partners to speed the disbursement of funds, and the UN CERF Rapid Response window has significantly improved the speed of funding at the global level.”*

Future Humanitarian Financing – Looking Beyond the Crisis

*“The scale of this crisis caught most humanitarian agencies and donors off guard. CERF helped to ensure that by the time an L3 emergency was declared by the UN in February, agencies in affected countries had already started operating.”*

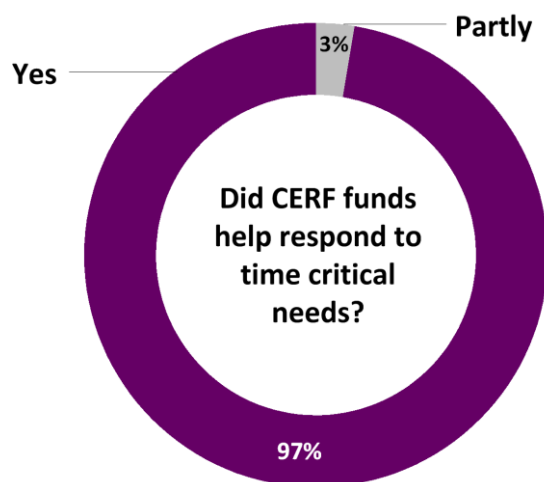
CERF Country Review South Sudan

*“The CERF funding was instrumental for fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries as the funding led to quick emergency evacuation of refugees who were staying at the entry points with very little services available. [...] This funding enabled the refugees to access appropriate services at refugee camps, particularly children with high levels of malnutrition and health concerns”*

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

## BETTER RESPONSE TO TIME-CRITICAL HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Another important aspect of timely humanitarian response is the humanitarian community's ability to meet time critical needs. These are the needs that have to be addressed at a specific time to minimize additional loss of lives and damage to social and economic assets. As a global humanitarian funding mechanism CERF can be called upon by partners to meet humanitarian needs if and when needed at any point during the year. Combined with its flexibility and quick response time this places CERF as a unique resource for the humanitarian community in responding to time critical needs.



Analysis of all 2014 RC/HC reports on the use of CERF funds strongly confirmed CERF's added value to humanitarian community's ability to respond to time-critical needs.

Ninety-seven per cent of 2014 reports stated that CERF funds helped respond to time-critical needs. The remaining 3 per cent of reports indicated that the CERF funds partly helped respond to time-critical needs.

There were no reports in 2014, which concluded that CERF did not help respond to time critical needs.

*"CERF funds helped to meet an immediate and the most critical shelter need of the vulnerable returnees to rebuild and repair their damaged houses. CERF funding responded to time-critical needs for shelter repair prior to the onset of extreme winter conditions in areas of return."*

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

*"Among other positive effects, the timeliness of the CERF rapid response funding facilitated a timely response to reduce risks to a vulnerable population of some 69,000 IDPs living in flood-prone areas in Rakhine state."*

CERF Country Review Myanmar

*"The CERF has added value to the humanitarian response in Sudan by: supporting a timely response to acute emergencies, enabling agencies to leverage other funding, complementing other donor funding (including the CHF), being faster and more flexible than other donors, strengthening humanitarian response capacity, filling critical gaps and funding activities that other donors are unwilling to support. CERF funding was also attractive to agencies in Sudan because it was relatively predictable and was an important resource when there was an acute emergency."*

CERF Country Review Sudan

*"CERF is considered by UNHCR staff to make an important contribution to timely humanitarian response in comparison with other fund sources and is complementary to UNHCR's own systems of resource mobilisation such as its Operational Reserve."*

UNHCR's evaluation of its use of CERF

## IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

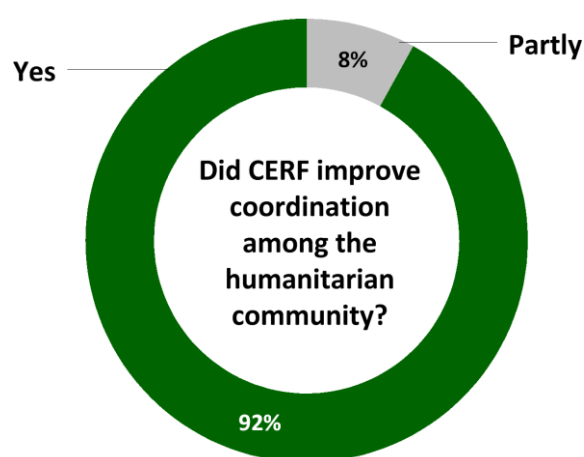
Apart from providing timely and flexible funding, CERF processes are also designed to strengthen humanitarian leadership, improve coordination among humanitarian actors and increase coherence of the response. Unlike the majority of bilateral funding that focuses on agencies' individual outputs, CERF funding is designed to enable joint response by the humanitarian community towards the achievement of collective outcomes.

As such, CERF funding is prioritized and planned jointly by country-level humanitarian organisations under the leadership of RC/HCs supported by Humanitarian Country Teams and cluster/sector leads. This strengthens humanitarian leadership and improves coordination among humanitarian actors. Furthermore, common prioritization and planning fosters coherent response, which is later reviewed and reported on jointly by implementing organisations.

Analysis of all 2014 RC/HC reports on the use of CERF funds strongly confirmed CERF's added value to the coordination among humanitarian actors.

Ninety-two per cent of 2014 reports stated that CERF funds improved coordination among the humanitarian community. The remaining 8 per cent of reports indicated that CERF funds partly improved coordination.

There were no reports in 2014, which concluded that CERF did not, in some way, help improve coordination.



***“Together with the Country-Based Pooled Fund, it [CERF] is the only mechanism that really put together all actors in each sector around the same table to define needs, identify gaps, avoid duplication and define the projects needed.”***

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

***“Numerous examples in all five countries were observed where CERF played a strategic role in supporting start-up of operations in life-saving sectors and supported the HC/RC and other humanitarian coordination systems. CERF was observed to support not only HC/RC coordination, but also helped to reinforce UNHCR’s coordination role under the recently-agreed refugee coordinator model.”***

CERF Country Review South Sudan

***“Agencies expressed that CERF funding has been a stimulus of coordination which may not otherwise occur and that in the application and reporting processes, they have been given the opportunity to discuss plans and implementation and work more closely together.”***

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

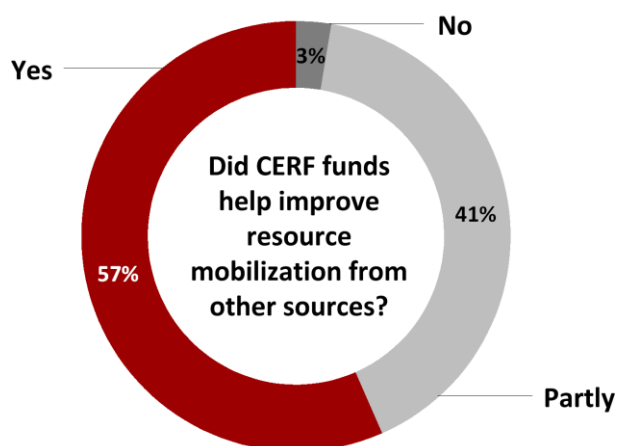
***“The [CERF] prioritisation process was considered to offer an important opportunity to strengthen coordination as well as highlighting gaps in response.***

UNHCR’s evaluation of its use of CERF



## LEVERAGING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FROM OTHER SOURCES

CERF funding can act as a catalyst which increases the profile of emergencies and boosts donor confidence in the humanitarian community's ability to respond. There are numerous examples whereby CERF funded a rapid commencement of life-saving response, which attracted additional funding from other sources for continuation or expansion of already ongoing activities. Similarly, allocations through the CERF Underfunded window are used as an advocacy tool at the global level to bring attention to severely underfunded emergencies.



While CERF's role in leveraging additional funding from other sources was less clear, still, 57 per cent of 2014 RC/HC reports on the use of CERF funding stated that CERF funds helped improve resource mobilization from other sources.

Furthermore, forty-one per cent of 2014 reports indicated that CERF partially helped improve resource mobilization.

The remaining 3 per cent of 2014 reports indicated that CERF did not help improve resource mobilization.

*"There were many examples of this facility helping to start a range of operations and catalyse subsequent directed multilateral contributions."*

WFP's pooled fund evaluation

*"CERF funding enabled the start-up of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) activities by IOM. Once the structures were in place, IOM was able to demonstrate its capacity to assume the role of cluster lead [...]. Other donors recognised IOM's value as a CCCM co-lead, and bi-lateral funding was provided in the following months. Canada, European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), and USA contributed US\$4.9 million to IOM's CCCM project activities."*

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

*"CERF funds helped to improve resource mobilization from other sources. Some examples: The implementation of UNICEF-led activities in Nutrition and WASH was showcased to partners and donors. Their results were notably appreciated by the Japanese Government which funded their upgrade and expansion. FAO-led activities and approach of urgent livelihood and food security restoration through rapid family vegetable production units were also presented to partners and donors. Additional funding was mobilized from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation."*

2014 RC/HC Report on the Use of CERF Funds

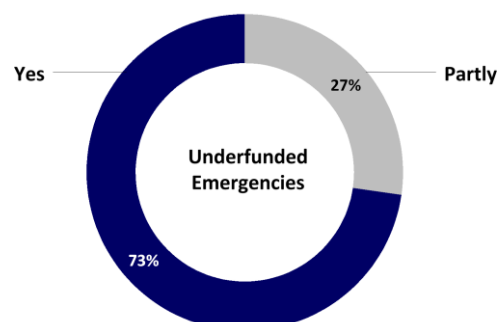
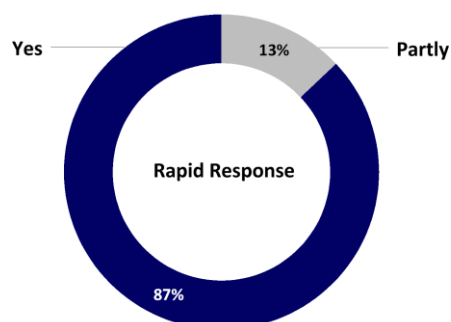
*"UNFPA was able to successfully use CERF as a strategic "catalyst" to reinforce capacities to scale up their prevention gender-based violence (GBV) activities together with a local partner and leverage additional resources for sustained engagement. "*

CERF Country Review Myanmar

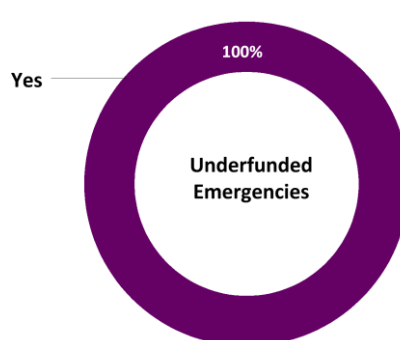
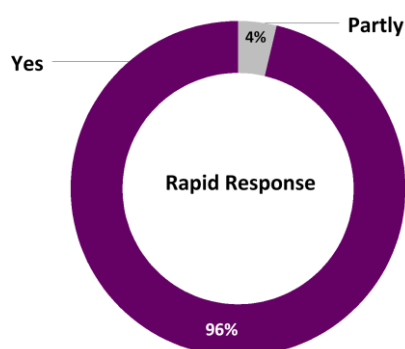
## ADDED VALUE OF CERF BY WINDOW

The following is a presentation of the reported information on the four strategic objectives of CERF by each CERF window (Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies).

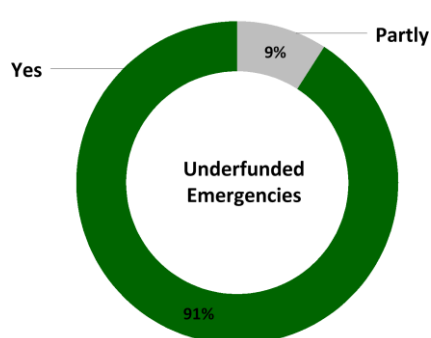
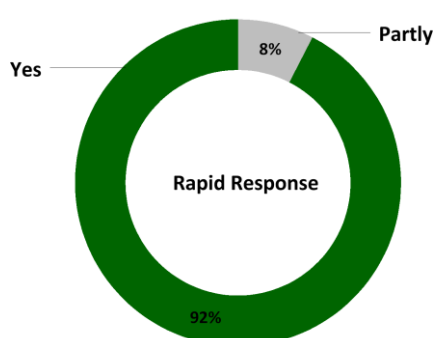
### Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries?



### Did CERF funds help respond to time critical needs?



### Did CERF improve coordination among the humanitarian community?



### Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

