

10 December 2024

FACTS

- CERF remains one of the most effective and fastest mechanisms available to UN agencies and their partners in countries affected by emergencies. Investing in CERF is investing in people and their future. Every contribution, no matter the size, has a significant impact on the people caught in humanitarian crises.
- As global emergencies continue to escalate, humanitarian needs surge, increasing suffering and vulnerability for millions. With humanitarian resources growing increasingly scarce, we risk leaving countless individuals without basic means of survival. We can—and must—do better.
- In 2025, new and intensifying conflicts, along with the climate crisis, are expected to exacerbate existing needs and fuel new humanitarian emergencies. In an increasingly complex operational landscape, a strong CERF can significantly enhance the humanitarian system's capacity to address needs that are growing both in scale and severity.

CERF 2024 Highlights

- **In 2024, CERF's speed has been instrumental in enabling responses to time-critical humanitarian needs, with the most urgent requests processed within hours.** In Lebanon, within hours of the escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah on 23 September 2024, CERF launched a fast-tracked \$10 million allocation to support first-line responses to the immediate needs of displaced populations and those remaining in conflict-affected areas in Lebanon, focusing on essential sectors such as health, food security, and shelter.
- **CERF played a pivotal role in 2024, with conflicts so far being the major driver of its allocations, responding to the humanitarian needs arising from new and escalating crises.** . During the year, for instance, CERF acted swiftly to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, as millions suffered from the ongoing conflict and teetered on the brink of famine. The Fund allocated \$15 million in February, followed by \$26 million in April, and another \$25 million in September, primarily focusing on preventing further deterioration in food security levels and widespread famine.
- **In 2024, CERF remained at the forefront of the climate crisis, and the Fund has so far in the year allocated nearly one-third of its annual funding to assist over 6 million people across 23 countries impacted by climate-related disasters.** This included nearly 30,000 people in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, where CERF's support helped restore livelihoods disrupted by the unprecedented Hurricane Beryl, while also providing equipment and training to cope with future shocks. To further promote climate-smart humanitarian action that strengthens resilience and adaptation, CERF also launched a \$10 million climate envelope, which would not have been possible without support from the CERF Climate Action Account. The Account was established at COP28 last year and has since provided additional funding to help CERF expand its climate action portfolio, while increasing visibility of the critical role humanitarian action plays in addressing the climate crisis.
- **In 2024, CERF remained a critical funding mechanism for mitigating the humanitarian impact of predictable humanitarian shocks through anticipatory action.** During the year, CERF allocated nearly \$15 million through Anticipatory Action frameworks against floods in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Chad – helping to assist over 526,000 vulnerable people. The allocation to Nepal particularly exemplifies the timeliness of CERF as a funding mechanism, with \$3.4 million approved within six minutes of the framework's activation in September. Since the first Anticipatory Action framework in Somalia in 2019, CERF has become the largest Anticipatory Action contributor globally, now supporting 19 frameworks across 16 countries. To date, CERF has allocated over \$100 million to support Anticipatory Action in eight countries.
- **During the year, CERF maintained its commitment to boosting operations in underfunded crises**

where unmet humanitarian needs remain alarmingly high. Through its underfunded emergencies window, CERF allocated \$200 million in 2024 to address critical funding gaps across 17 countries, including protracted humanitarian operations in the Sahel, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, and Yemen. CERF's allocations to underfunded emergencies advanced localization by promoting greater involvement of local and national organizations in prioritizing funds at the country level and through sub-granting by UN country teams. As a result, a quarter of these funds were directed to national and local partners, aligning with Grand Bargain commitments.

- **During the year, CERF continued to prioritize the most vulnerable, ensuring they received the support they urgently needed.** CERF continued to enable strengthening of critical protection services, and targeted support to at-risk groups like people living with disabilities, and also enhanced gender-based violence (GBV) interventions. For example, in response to the heightened vulnerabilities of women and girls due to conflict and displacement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CERF enabled the delivery of life-saving assistance to GBV survivors, while also reinforcing GBV prevention through awareness campaigns and capacity building for service providers and community leaders.

CERF: 20 Years of Action

- CERF was established in 2005 by a [landmark General Assembly resolution](#) to strengthen the UN coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance globally. As we near its 20th anniversary, there is much to celebrate. CERF has become a vital part of the international humanitarian financing landscape, renowned for its flexibility, speed, and ability to drive innovation within the humanitarian system.
- Over the past 20 years, CERF has allocated more than \$9 billion to assist people in dire need across over 100 countries and territories. This has been made possible through the generous support of over 140 Member States and Observers, regional and local authorities, and private donors.
- Since 2006, nearly 60 Member States that have contributed to CERF have also benefited from its funding, underscoring the Fund's "for all, by all" commitment.

Global Needs and CERF's \$1 Billion Target

- In recent years, the number of people in need globally has surged, with humanitarian funding requirements increasing from \$5 billion to assist 32 million people in 2006, to \$49 billion to assist 187.6 million people in 2024—a nearly tenfold increase.
- Recognizing CERF's value and impact, in 2016, the UN General Assembly endorsed the UN Secretary-General's call to raise CERF's annual funding target from \$450 million to \$1 billion. At its inception in 2006, CERF's \$450 million target represented about 10 per cent of total global humanitarian financial requirements. Despite more than doubling the target, the \$1 billion goal today represents just 2 per cent of the financial resources required to address the most urgent humanitarian needs.
- CERF has yet to reach the \$1 billion target, with its highest funding level recorded in 2019 (\$831 million). In 2023, Member States and other donors contributed \$559 million to CERF—just over half of the target and in 2024. Even though CERF continues to demonstrate its effectiveness in alleviating the suffering of millions of affected people, current income projections for 2024 stand at \$567 million. Additional funding, including end-year top-ups for 2024 and pledges for 2025 are critical for CERF to stay fit for purpose and provide timely financial support where and when it's required the most.
- As the UN Secretary-General has emphasized, "a \$1 billion CERF is the bare minimum to effectively help people trapped in emergencies." Stronger commitments from Member States and donors are essential to make this target a reality, providing critical lifelines to millions who rely on humanitarian assistance for survival.