**Statement**

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**CERF High-Level Pledging Event for 2022: “a Fund for all by all”** 

**08 December 2021**

**Virtual**

**10.00-13.00 EST**

*Mr. Secretary-General,*

*Distinguished panelists,*

*Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

CERF is a lifeline for displaced persons and migrants caught in crises that attract limited donors attention where needs are just as urgent. With CERF’s support, in 2021, IOM delivered critical lifesaving assistance including urgently needed shelter and non-food items, access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation, health and psychosocial services and essential protection services in total twenty countries.

In **Afghanistan,** CERF enabled protection and winterization assistance to more 61,000 vulnerable, displaced populations and undocumented returnees through distribution of cash, provisions of non-food items (blanket and warm clothing) and for shelter repair. Over the past months, protection threats have indeed been a great concern especially for women that have been separated from their family during displacement, deportation, and returns. They are exposed to greater protection risks in Afghanistan where it is not socially acceptable for single women to live and travel on their own.

In **Haiti,** CERF funds contributed to the urgent relocation of persons with disabilities displaced by gang violence in the capital to functional homes where they received support to access health care and counselling. When additionally, an earthquake struck the south of the country affecting 800,000 people, IOM quickly responded with urgently needed hygiene items and shelter for more than 51,000 vulnerable people. CERF’s support also enabled IOM to respond to the needs of communities affected by conflict and displacement in the Tigray and Amhara regions **in Ethiopia**, including with adequate shelter, housing items and camp management and coordination. In **the Sahel,** IOM distributed critical shelter and housing items to displaced communities across the Lake Chad region (Chad, Nigeria) and in Burkina Faso. IOM also played a key role in delivering mental health and psychosocial support to displaced people affected by growing conflict and violence in Burkina Faso, and in identifying holistic durable solutions for displaced people including people with disabilities in **Northeast Nigeria.**

The value of anticipatory humanitarian action has also emerged thanks to CERF fundings. Today, more and more stakeholders, including IOM in the humanitarian system agree that anticipatory action constitutes an important opportunity to act before the impact of a disaster fully unfolds. In **Somalia,** IOM triggered Anticipatory Action to prevent and reduce human suffering, through provision of clean, safe water and hygiene promotion services enabling communities to reduce tensions over water and displacement during periods of drought. Moving forward, IOM’s work will expand anticipatory action in the Philippines for Cyclones and in Malawi for dry spells and floods as well as by working on pilots around health emergencies including Cholera in DRC and Mozambique and Plague in Madagascar.

Finally, CERF Funding was instrumental to support frontline responders and localization in 2021. Building on IOM’s flexible and tailored approach, the CERF was able to also pass on to NGOs light contractual arrangements and conditions for funding similar to those typically offered to UN agencies. As grant manager IOM channelled funds to 24 NGOs to support localization in the COVID 19 response. The grant allowed timely funding to frontline partners for a lifesaving response addressing the consequences of the pandemic. A lessons-learnt exercise highlighted positive results and tangible impact from this allocation, which can help inform future allocations which IOM remains ready to support.

With a growing number of crises and a considerable gap between humanitarian needs and dwindling resources, it is crucial more than ever that donors pledge generously to ensure that humanitarian actors, including IOM, can continue to prioritize and meet the needs of displaced populations, vulnerable migrants by giving also due consideration to cross-cutting issues and approaches such as gender and age, people with disabilities or accountability to affected populations.

*Thank you.*

**BACKGROUND:**

General:

* IOM has direct access to the CERF since its previous incarnation as the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, a loan facility, through General Assembly resolution [A/RES/48/57 (OP9)](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N94/056/15/PDF/N9405615.pdf?OpenElement). In December 2005, the UN General Assembly upgraded the CERF by adding a grant element through resolution [A/RES/60/124](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/124). IOM has an **Umbrella Letter of Understanding with OCHA**, signed in April 2011, containing the terms and conditions of IOM’s direct access to and use of the CERF.
* From **2006-2021**, CERF has provided over **$538 million USD to IOM** (approx. 7,3% of all CERF allocations to UN agencies) with over $403 million USD in Rapid Response funding and over $134 million USD in Underfunded Emergencies.
* In **2021**, IOM for the first time ranks **4th overall** in terms of recipient of CERF funding. IOM received so far in 2021 (23rd of Nov), over **$54 million** with over $42 million for Rapid Response funding and over $12 million for Underfunded emergencies. As such IOM has received 11% of the overall allocations by CERF to UN agencies in 2021.
* In June 2020, CERF approved the 25 million USD **IOM-CERF project “*IOM’s support to NGO life-saving assistance for the COVID-19”*** for Bangladesh, CAR, Haiti, Libya, Sudan and South Sudan, where IOM acts as grant manager and channels funding to 24 NGOs for 26 projects in these 6 countries. As of May 2021, NGOs closed their projects (last ones to close in June 2021) and have presented their final narrative and financial reports to IOM and OCHA over the period September- November. CERF commissioned an external and independent review of the allocation for which the final report has been shared with DOE Director on 4th of November. We CERF is working on a formal response to the various recommendations put forward in the report.

Anticipatory Action:

* **Existing frameworks** (endorsed by HCT and ERC): Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal, Philippines, Somalia, Malawi. **Of note, IOM is part of the AA framework in the following countries: Malawi, Philippines, Somalia.**
* **Under development**: two categories: countries in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger), and countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (Madagascar, South Sudan, DRC & Mozambique).  **Of note, IOM is part of the AA frameworks under development in the following countries: Madagascar (Plague); DRC & Mozambique (Cholera) and preliminary discussions in Chad and South Sudan.**

DG’s quote:

“CERF provided substantial and critical funding to IOM in 2021. With CERF’s essential support, IOM delivered lifesaving assistance and protection services to displaced populations and vulnerable returnees in over 20 new and protracted emergencies. It allowed IOM to quickly address the needs of the most vulnerable affected populations in critical emergencies including Afghanistan, Haiti, Yemen and across Africa in Ethiopia, DRC, Mozambique, South Sudan and Somalia as well as the Sahel.”

**Visibility in key countries:**

**Ethiopia –** with $7.8 million – **largest amount of CERF funding for IOM in 2021**:

* + Provision of Emergency Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Assistance for Populations Affected by the Northern Ethiopian Crisis and COVID-19-Related Health Services for Humanitarian Actors in Tigray – 4,8 million USD
  + Provision of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) as well as Camp Coordination and Camp Management Assistance for Populations Affected by the Northern Ethiopian Crisis – 3 million USD

<https://www.iom.int/news/iom-relocates-over-17000-people-uprooted-conflict-northern-ethiopia-new-shelter>

**Afghanistan** - In 2021, we received two grants for Afghanistan:

* + For the protection programme for undocumented Afghan returnees (1.5 million) - the following story has been shared with CERF: [https://youtu.be/Dsak0JnlJMM](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FDsak0JnlJMM&data=04%7C01%7CJDeBacker%40IOM.INT%7Cfa52a413ec8a4db97f4608d9a92d2ce3%7C1588262d23fb43b4bd6ebce49c8e6186%7C1%7C0%7C637726833759152817%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=xClF1Rzl86H0WUROwDrh7rkLKeTX6bzJGQHiBxf6AeI%3D&reserved=0) (includes CERF logo) and on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/IOMAfghanistan/status/1460570847136010244?s=20](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftwitter.com%2FIOMAfghanistan%2Fstatus%2F1460570847136010244%3Fs%3D20&data=04%7C01%7CJDeBacker%40IOM.INT%7Cfa52a413ec8a4db97f4608d9a92d2ce3%7C1588262d23fb43b4bd6ebce49c8e6186%7C1%7C0%7C637726833759162774%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=y%2BlrLVSSIXX3T0%2BTp53PtHkZdzIswcsAvR32d980Hgs%3D&reserved=0)
  + Winterization assistance of the most vulnerable displaced populations (3,5 million): <https://youtu.be/O4Mqfla_OcA>

**Haiti** - in 2021, we received 3 grants for Haiti (Haiti as they are both a contributor to the fund and recipient will likely sit on CERF High level Pledging Event Panel)

* + Addressing the most urgent needs of vulnerable IDPs affected by ramping gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for 500,000 USD for which this [article](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstoryteller.iom.int%2Fstories%2Fovercoming-adversity-ensuring-safety-and-dignity-internally-displaced-people-haiti%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2B77NUt1TKNVfY-OiqgZGp-6W_2nTmQvoiLnezrFz-jMtfiSjK-lplDWA&data=04%7C01%7CJDeBacker%40IOM.INT%7Ce3812d3981994fb8c0fc08d9a2bfa842%7C1588262d23fb43b4bd6ebce49c8e6186%7C1%7C0%7C637719766305718880%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=hjx0xxSoQ65nxIQnsTvPCtnImmoIRZqHNWSAhuPR2cs%3D&reserved=0) on our protection activities for the IDPs funded by CERF, with a **focus on people with disabilities/reduced mobility** was shared with CERF and OCHA did this story together with us and published on UN news: <https://unocha.medium.com/in-haitis-capital-displaced-people-with-disabilities-finally-find-new-homes-c330347d6a7f>
  + 2 further grants for emergency shelter, NFI, CCM and protection support for the people affected by the earthquake in the south for a total of 5,3 million USD –no direct mention of CERF but of the response: <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-provides-emergency-help-thousands-haitians-affected-earthquake> and a tweet in which CERF is mentioned: <https://twitter.com/g_loprete/status/1440289706562912274?s=20>

**Somalia** – anticipatory action project:

* + Anticipatory Action on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) to prevent and reduce human suffering, through provision of clean safe water and hygiene promotion services <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeEi8qu6fZI>