

## Summary

The CERF secretariat has developed an online grant management system (GMS) to increase efficiency, accountability, and transparency. The new system makes it easier for the CERF secretariat to review and process an average of 520 proposals per year. The entire review, approval, disbursement, and, in future, revision and reporting process takes place within the GMS, ensuring that roles and responsibilities are clear at each step. Data on applications and projects, as well as on the review process including timeliness, is collected by default. The GMS automatically publishes real-time grant information on the CERF website and sends relevant funding data to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). It will also enable CERF to publish humanitarian financing data according to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), and provide data for other purposes as required.

## Current Status

The GMS was rolled out in January 2014 and all projects this year, more than 250 as of end-March, have been processed in the system. The GMS is used by the CERF secretariat to review and approve projects, and initiate disbursement of funding. The system is currently exclusively used by the CERF secretariat but future expansions could potentially open the system up for inclusion of certain field-based processes.



The screenshot shows the CERF Grant Management System interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Task Inbox', 'Applications', 'Projects', 'Dashboard', and 'Search and Reporting'. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Projects' section with a table of recent projects. The table has columns for 'Type', 'Title', 'Code', 'CERF Country', and 'Year Processed'. The table contains four rows of project data.

Type	Title	Code	CERF Country	Year Processed
(All)	(All)	(All)	(All)	2014
	Protection and GBV/rape assistance to women and children refugees and host communities	14-RR-CEF-081	Cameroon	2014
	Medical Assistance to Central African Republic Refugees in Cameroon	14-RR-CEF-080	Cameroon	2014
	Nutritional assistance to refugees from CAR in the East and Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon	14-RR-CEF-079	Cameroon	2014
	Projet de riposte à l'épidémie de Fièvre hémorragique virale Ebola en Guinée	14-RR-WHO-034	Guinea	2014

Detail of the CERF grant management system, showing the most recent projects

## Efficiency

The GMS contains a workflow model of the review, approval, and disbursement process for CERF projects. It thus guides the CERF secretariat from the submission of an application until the funding has been disbursed, ensuring that roles and responsibilities are clear at each step of the process. The system automatically generates standard emails, notifications, letters, and memoranda, and collects data on projects and their review, thereby reducing the need for manual drafting of documents and data entry.

## Accountability

Several features of the GMS improve accountability. Data on the review, approval, and disbursement are automatically collected by the GMS, providing a record for each application and project. The status of each project under review is displayed in a dashboard. The GMS provides complete access to the data for all applications and projects. Projects and applications can be filtered by country, agency, funding window and

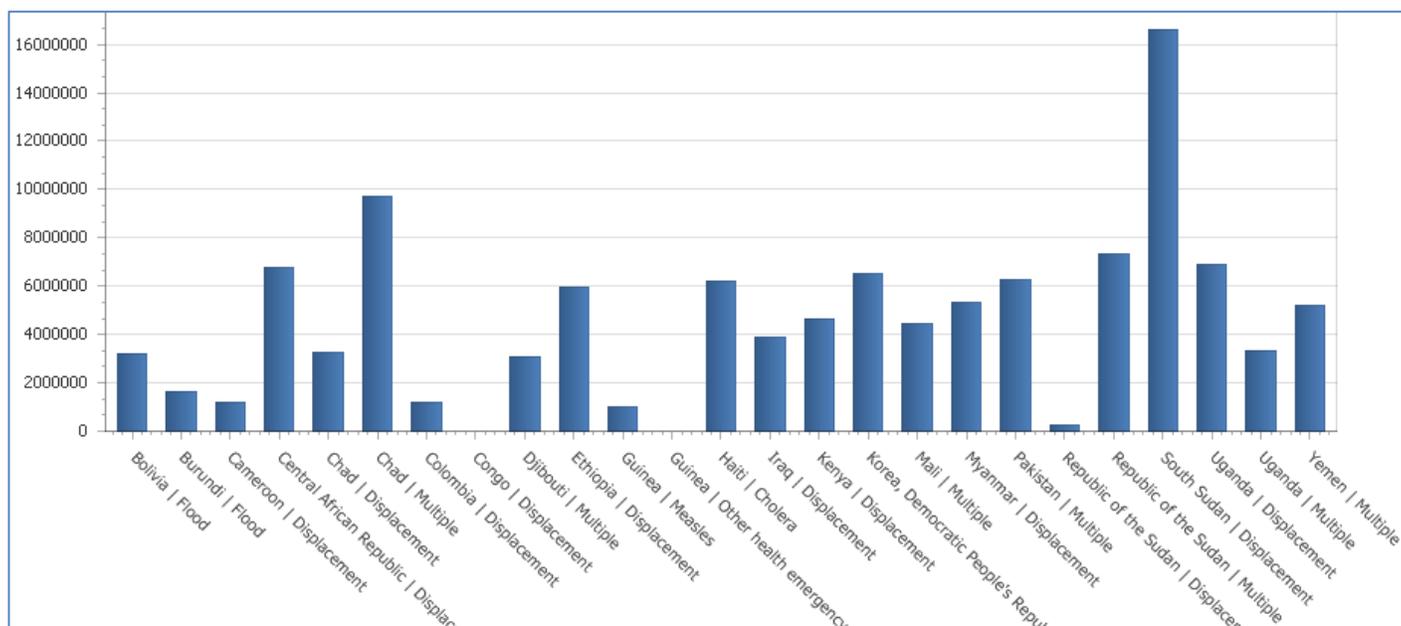
numerous other criteria, and the resulting reports can easily be customized by selecting which information should be included.

Project Title	Project Code	Current Stage and Total Duration (in days)	First Official to Final Submission
<b>Republic of the Sudan</b>			
Emergency Shelter & Non-food items response for South Sudanese refugees	14-RR-HCR-025	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span>GR</span> <span>TR</span> <span>MR</span> <span>DB</span> </div> 03 days since first submission	1
Provision of Education in Emergencies support to South Sudanese Refugees in White Nile and South Kordofan	14-RR-CEF-073	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100px;"> <span>GR</span> <span>TR</span> <span>MR</span> <span>DB</span> </div> 03 days since first submission	1

Detail of the GMS dashboard, showing the status of projects during the review and approval process

## Transparency

The GMS increases transparency by making all the data on CERF grants available in one system. Already, the system automatically sends CERF funding data to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and to the CERF website when projects are approved and when funding is disbursed. In the future, the GMS will provide enhanced data to the CERF website for real-time graphs, tables, and maps showing CERF allocations. It will provide public data according to the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and for other purposes, as required. Customized reports can easily be generated from the data, to give an overview of funding statistics and timeliness at both application and project level.



Detail of the GMS search and reporting module, showing approved 2014 funding by country and emergency as of early April.

## Next Steps

The CERF secretariat is working to improve the GMS by increasing usability and performance. Over the coming months, further modules will be considered for the GMS, e.g., for reviewing RC/HC reports, recording donor contributions, processing project revisions, and improving the collection, analysis and presentation of data.

CERF secretariat, 7 April 2014