

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS OF CERF'S ADDED VALUE TO HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

CERF ADVISORY GROUP MEETING 19-20 JUNE 2019



The Performance and Accountability Framework

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established to enable more timely and reliable assistance to those affected by humanitarian crisis around the world. Since its inception, CERF has on average allocated close to US\$430 million annually and it is widely recognized that the key strengths of CERF lie in its ability to respond quickly and in the relatively high degree of flexibility it affords recipients compared to other sources of humanitarian funding. At the same time, CERF's donors require appropriate assurances that funds involved are managed appropriately and effectively, and meaningful results are being achieved. The Emergency Relief Coordinator function is charged with a formal fiduciary responsibility over the proper use of CERF funds, and relies upon the CERF secretariat to assist with the proper discharge of these responsibilities. In this context, a Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) serves as an effective tool.

Paragraph 19 of General Assembly Resolution 60/124 calls for "the establishment of an appropriate reporting and accountability mechanism to ensure that the funds allocated through the fund are used in the most efficient, effective and transparent manner possible." Consequently, the CERF Advisory Group at its meeting on 12 October 2006 called for the development of a Performance and Accountability Framework. In addition, the 2008 CERF Two-Year Evaluation gave as Key Recommendation 4: "The multiple lines of accountability for CERF need to be clarified, in consultation with the UN Controller and the operational agencies, to specify the roles of each actor." In response, the CERF secretariat developed the PAF, a first draft of which was circulated in 2009. The PAF was formally adopted in 2010.

Annual Independent Country Reviews

The Performance and Accountability Framework mandates the commissioning of independent reviews to be conducted annually within a sample of three to five countries as determined by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The CERF Advisory Group supported the inclusion of this independent country-level mechanism. The main purpose of each review is to assess the value added by CERF funding towards a specific humanitarian response. A major aim is to provide the ERC with an appropriate level of assurance around the achievement of key performance benchmarks and planned results for the CERF mechanism around the intended inputs, outputs and outcomes as defined by the PAF. In addition, each review contains a forward-looking element, exploring certain strategic questions unique to the specific allocations. The final reports also include recommendations aimed at improving operational aspects of CERF and may also identify relevant policy issues, which need to be addressed at a global level.

To conduct the reviews, the CERF secretariat engages independent evaluation experts with expertise in humanitarian financing and specific thematic areas depending on the strategic focus of the review. Since the first pilot review in 2010, the CERF secretariat has conducted 29 reviews and in 2018 alone, three such reviews were commissioned focusing on (i) the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2017/2018, including CERF's role in supporting the L3 scale-up in early 2018 as well as the response to the Ebola outbreaks declared in May and August 2018, respectively; (ii) CERF's support to the 2017 hurricane response in Cuba and the Eastern Caribbean; and (iii) CERF's regional allocation in response in 2018 to the Venezuela regional refugee and migration crisis as well as the country-specific rapid response allocations to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil, respectively. The DRC as well as the Cuba and Eastern Caribbean reviews were shared with the Advisory Group ahead of the 19-20 June 2019 meeting while the Venezuela review is pending finalisation.

The CERF secretariat has initiated discussions around 2019 PAF reviews and plan to commission two such reviews over the coming months. One review would focus on the four Ebola 'readiness' allocations in January 2019 to Uganda, Burundi, South Sudan and Rwanda to enable UN agencies to scale-up their capacity to respond to the potential spread of Ebola from the DRC to these countries. Another review would look at the process, and impact of the ERC's four priority

areas for CERF in a select number of pilot countries that received allocations under the 2019 UFE Round I and II where these areas were considered by the respective RC/HCs when developing the CERF applications.

Year	Overview of CERF PAF country reviews since 2010 Also available online at: https://cerf.un.org/partner-resources/performance-and-accountability/country-reviews
2018	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) : RR allocations including for L3 scale-up, Ebola responses and UFE allocation 2017-2018
2018	Cuba and Eastern Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Sint Maarten, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos, Cuba, and Dominica) : 2017 hurricane response with a strategic focus on early action
2018	Venezuela regional allocation 2018 (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) and 2018 country-specific rapid response allocations to Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru: Venezuela regional refugee and migration crisis (pending finalization).
2017	Countries affected by El Niño (Angola, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Swaziland, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe)
2015	South Sudan Refugee Crisis (South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia) : Regional refugee crisis
2015	Syria Crisis (CERF allocations to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq) : Syrian conflict and regional refugee crisis, CERF allocations 2013-2015
2015	Iraq : Complex emergency, RR and UFE allocations 2013-2015
2014	Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) : Floods RR response and UFE allocations 2013-2014
2014	Sudan : RR and UFE allocations 2013-2014
2014	Myanmar : Displacement crisis, RR and UFE allocations 2013-2014
2013	The Sahel (Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania) : Regional drought response and resulting food insecurity and nutrition crisis in the Sahel 2012
2013	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) : Displacement crisis and Ebola response. RR and UFE allocations 2012
2013	Pakistan : Conflict displacement and floods response, RR and UFE allocations 2012
2013	Yemen : RR allocations, including response to Measles outbreak 2012
2012	Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia) Synthesis and Overview : Regional review: drought and refugee response and displacement, RR and UFE allocations 2011
2012	Djibouti : Country study looking at the added value of the CERF in the overall response to the Horn of Africa Drought in 2011. RR and UFE allocations 2011
2012	Ethiopia : Country study looking at the added value of the CERF in the overall response to the Horn of Africa Drought in 2011 RR and UFE allocations 2011
2012	Kenya : Country study looking at the added value of the CERF in the overall response to the Horn of Africa Drought in 2011. RR and UFE allocations 2011
2012	Somalia : Country study looking at the added value of the CERF in the overall response to the Horn of Africa Drought in 2011
2012	Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Ghana : Regional Ivoirian refugee crisis, RR and UFE allocations 2011-2012
2012	Philippines : RR allocations 2012 in response to floods and to Tropical Storm Sendong
2011	Bolivia : Floods and drought response, RR and UFE allocations 2010
2011	Colombia : Conflict and floods response, RR and UFE allocations 2010
2011	Ethiopia : Chronic emergency, UFE allocations 2010- 2011
2011	Zimbabwe : Chronic emergency, RR and UFE allocations 2010-2011
2010	Chad : Refugee influx from the Central African Republic and South Sudan, and internal displacement. RR and UFE allocations 2009
2010	Mauritania : RR allocations 2008-2010
2010	Sri Lanka : Internal displacement, RR allocations 2009-2010
2010	Kenya : Chronic food insecurity, RR and UFE allocations 2010