

OCHA POOLED FUNDS COMPLEMENTARITY



OCHA

Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-Based Pooled Funds

OCHA's Pooled Funds are one of the most effective ways to ensure that life-saving help reaches people affected by crisis. When both Funds respond to the same crisis, the Humanitarian Coordinator makes sure that the money is used to maximise their joint impact.

In 2022, the combined allocations by CERF and CBPF were \$2 billion, with \$1.22 billion allocated by CBPFs and \$734.6 million by CERF across 42 countries.

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

CERF is an essential enabler of global humanitarian action. As the UN's global emergency fund, CERF is managed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) on behalf of the Secretary-General and can respond in any country at any time through prepositioned donor contributions at the global level. CERF funding allows responders to kick-start relief efforts immediately when a new crisis emerges and to scale up and sustain protracted relief operations to avoid critical gaps when no other funding is available.



COUNTRY-BASED POOLED FUNDS

The CBPFs allow donors to pool their contributions into country-specific funds to support local humanitarian efforts. CBPFs operate in a limited number of countries and provide predictable funding prioritized locally by those closest to the people in need.

Local and national stakeholders are directly involved, and the in-country leadership by the Humanitarian Coordinator allows for context-appropriate humanitarian assistance to reach people most in need.

While each context is unique, one or several of the following principles often underpin joint CBPF-CERF allocation strategies:

Temporal sequencing

CBPF and CERF allocations can support different phases of an emergency response – allowing for continuity in the scaling up of humanitarian services.

Complementary Fund recipients

CBPF and CERF allocations can support different recipient organizations to best address the overall humanitarian situation, with CBPFs providing most of their funding to a wide network of front-line national and international NGO partners, and CERF focusing on fewer, large-scale grants for direct operational requirements of UN agencies.

Complementary sectoral focus

Informed by each Fund's comparative advantage, allocations can address needs in different sectors to achieve the most effective coverage.

Complementary geographical targeting

CBPF and CERF allocations can target different geographical locations to achieve the required coverage to meet the needs of the most severely affected communities.

Common promotion of global priorities and cross-cutting issues

CBPF and CERF allocations can be used together to reinforce consideration of, and attention to, key themes, cross-cutting issues and good practices recognized by the wider humanitarian community as important to the quality of aid.

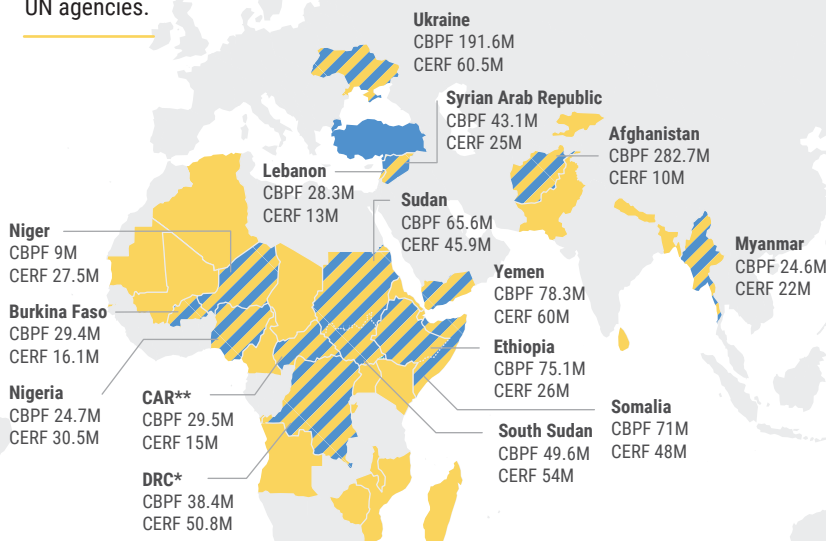
Total CERF and CBPFs allocations in 2022

\$2 BN

\$1.22 BN allocated by the CBPFs across **19** funds

\$734.6M by CERF across **42** countries.

\$512M / 71% of CERF funding went to countries that also have CBPFs.



■ CERF only recipient country
■ CBPFs only recipient country
■ CERF and CBPF recipient country/territory
 * Democratic Republic of Congo
 ** Central African Republic

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

“Fifteen years after the UN’s Pooled Funds were set up, it is hard to imagine effective humanitarian response without them. They have become an essential tool for a quick, effective response to ease suffering in humanitarian crisis around the world. With generous donor support, they have saved and transformed millions of lives. They are an emblem of hope and solidarity.”

- António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General



Lebanon Containing the cholera outbreak

When cholera broke out in Lebanon on 6 October 2022, the RC/HC used CERF and the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) funding simultaneously to ensure a swift and comprehensive response. Lebanon was fundamentally ill-equipped to deal with a potentially deadly and sustained outbreak due to a nearly completely dysfunctional public water and sanitation infrastructure coupled with an overburdened health system.

Since the onset of the outbreak, the RC/HC pursued a joint CERF/LHF allocation strategy to take maximum advantage of the comparative strengths of the two Funds. Accordingly, CERF was used to fund UN agencies to enable countrywide activities that required close coordination with government counterparts, while the LHF was used to fund NGOs in support of community-level response.

A \$5 million Rapid Response allocation from CERF focused on the core issue: ensuring that water pumping stations continued operating and providing access to clean water countrywide. CERF also supported cholera treatment centres, scaling up of the national cholera vaccination campaign and covering hospitalization costs of the most seriously affected people.

This funding was complemented by \$4.5 million provided by the LHF to a well-established network of national and international front-line responders.

These organizations focused on delivering community level activities in the highest-risk densely populated areas, ensuring water safety and support to select cholera stabilization centers.

The complementary use of CERF and LHF funding enabled a quick and coherent multi-partner response at the country and community levels, which led to the containment of the outbreak. The response enabled life-saving support to an estimated 1.5 million people at heightened risk of exposure to cholera.



Ukraine Urgent support for people affected by war

In Ukraine, under the leadership of the RC/HC, funding from CERF and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) jointly enabled immediate and comprehensive life-saving humanitarian response. CERF and UHF resources were allocated in support of different recipients – the UHF supporting local and national NGOs, and CERF supporting UN agencies, in line with the comparative advantages of the two Funds.

Prior to the war, the UHF was a relatively small Fund, with total allocations in 2021 of \$14.8 million. At the onset of the crisis in February 2022, and given the small size of the UHF, CERF resources helped jumpstart the humanitarian response by allocating an initial \$20.5 million on the day of the invasion. This funding enabled food, health, shelter, and water and sanitation assistance for nearly 1 million people affected by the hostilities in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts.

With the speedy increase in donor support to the UHF, the Fund launched a reserve allocation of \$41 million in March, in a way that complemented the initial CERF funding and ensured a critical scale-up of the response across the country. Most of the UHF funding supported front-line responders, including international, national and local NGOs, WLOs, small civil society organizations, community-based organizations and volunteer groups. This allocation strategy enabled a comprehensive response in hard-to-reach areas, including in the eastern and southern regions, which were most severely affected by conflict.

This was further accompanied by another \$40 million allocation from CERF to target UN agencies and to advance the bulk procurement of critical relief supplies and the implementation of large cash assistance and protection programmes.

Together, CERF and the UHF provided a total of \$252.1 million to address the humanitarian consequences of war in Ukraine in 2022 (\$60.5 million by CERF and \$191.6 million by the UHF). The complementary allocations strengthened the humanitarian efforts at the country and community levels and ensured fast, agile and comprehensive responses and life-saving assistance to more than four million people.



Kherson, Ukraine. With support from the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, CERF and other donors, WHO delivered life-saving medical supplies to Kherson just days after the Government of Ukraine regained control of the city. Photo: OCHA/Oleksandr Ratushniak