

Independent Review of CERF's Value-Added in Countries Affected by El Niño in 2015-2016

Review Objectives:

The Terms of Reference list the following three objectives for the review:

- Provide the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) with an appropriate level of assurance around the achievement of key performance benchmarks and planned results for the CERF mechanism.
- Assess the added value of CERF funding for the humanitarian response to the consequences resulting from the El Niño phenomenon.
- Examine the potential for a larger CERF to play a strategic role in providing early funding in slow-onset crises by responding to early warning systems and risk indicators.

The review will address the following four key questions:

1. How suited is CERF as a mechanism for responding to an El Niño-type emergency?
2. How effectively have funds been prioritized and used?
3. How have CERF operations in the countries and at regional and global level added value to the broader humanitarian endeavour?
4. How could (a larger) CERF potentially add more value in responding to slow onset crises based on early warning signs and risk indicators?

Scope of the review: This review will cover the CERF's provision of \$119 million for the El Niño response across 19 countries in 2015 and 2016. The team will do this through field missions to 1-2 countries per region (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific) as well as to the regional hub. It will cover the remaining countries through a desk review. The team plans to visit the following places, selected on the basis of a range of criteria, including the extent to which lessons from the country's experience with CERF El Niño funding will contribute to the review's strategic aspects:

Region	Countries and regional hub
Asia	Vietnam and Bangkok
Pacific	Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Fiji
Latin America and Caribbean	El Salvador, Honduras and Panama
Africa	Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Nairobi (both as a regional hub for the Horn of Africa and to conduct interviews for the Somalia response)

Users: The team anticipates that the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the CERF secretariat, the CERF Advisory Group and recipient agencies will be the primary users of the review outcomes and report. Humanitarian coordinators and donors will also have a keen interest in the findings.

Purpose of the field missions: One team member will travel to each region for the field mission, conducting key informant interviews at capital and in the regional hub with the RC/HC, recipient agency staff, non-recipient UN agencies, implementing agency staff, OCHA staff (where present), donors, relevant government counterparts and other key stakeholders involved in the El Niño response (including development actors). Recipient agencies are formally responsible for the in-depth assessment of beneficiary-level impact. Therefore, the review team will not attempt to link CERF funding to beneficiary-level changes, except where recipient agencies make this data available, and will not visit project sites. The review will also not focus on country-level CERF processes in detail but rather on key strategic issues and implications for the CERF's role in slow-onset crises and early action in future. At the end of the missions to recipient countries, the consultant will debrief the RC on preliminary findings, either verbally or through a PowerPoint or short report, as agreed with the RC.