



TALKING POINTS FOR CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF) HIGH
LEVEL APEAL EVENT

8TH DECEMBER

Dear Excellences, Colleagues,

I am delighted to contribute to today's appeal for the 2021 CERF. As a front-line responder, CARE International can attest that rapid response funds are, quite simply, lifesaving.

Last week, OCHA launched the 2021 Global Humanitarian Overview, announcing 235 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, the majority of whom are women and children disproportionately affected by crisis, including by the GBV shadow pandemic due to COVID-19's secondary impacts. Given this, the UN Secretary-General's announcement that \$25 million of CERF funds will go to GBV is welcome. Yet, this represents a small fraction of GBV needs. **CARE urges donors, UN agencies and International NGOs to put Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in the center of our response in 2021. CARE hopes that CERF allocations will prioritize the full range of women and girls' specific needs and rights, thereby setting the stage for larger investments by UN agencies and donors alike.**

The economic contraction caused by COVID-19 has also impacted the viability of local frontline partners women and girls turn to in an emergency. Women's organizations urgently need substantial, timely, more flexible and predictable funding to retain core staff and grow their institutional capacity. The IOM CERF pilot that enabled the rapid disbursement of \$25 million to frontline responders should be scaled up in 2021 and prioritize local women's organizations. **Also, donors, UN agencies and INGOs, need to do better at tracking and reporting on our funding to local women's organizations.**

Finally, **CARE urges the humanitarian community to support local women's organizations to take on leadership roles in humanitarian coordination and decision-making spaces, including in the CERF Advisory Board.** CERF can be a catalyst to deliver on our collective goal to have a more agile, gender responsive and accountable humanitarian system.

I thank you for your attention.

WFP Statement:

WFP is grateful for CERF's longstanding and steadfast support over the years. CERF has been a key partner in saving lives and providing support for emergency cash and food assistance. CERF has thus far provided WFP with US \$ 208 million in 2020 alone.

WFP is facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, with famine being a real risk. Today, Parts of Burkina Faso, Yemen, North East Nigeria and South Sudan are close to famine. In all of these countries, conflict is a common denominator and the primary reason communities are unable to access the food they need to survive. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an additional compounding factor. Sustaining current levels of response in these contexts is not enough. There is an urgent need to scale-up to avert famine in these countries. **With needs increasing and resources decreasing, CERF's importance will increase even further.**

WFP appreciates its partnership with OCHA and the broader humanitarian community and values the role of the CERF for its life saving work. Also WFP often shoulders a large component of the services of benefit to the humanitarian response as a whole. We partner with CERF on both fronts – life saving food and cash and services for the system. For this we are grateful and can be counted on a strong partner in saving lives through CERF funding.

CERF is unique in that it provides rapid funding for life saving interventions – maintaining the speed and flexibility of these funds is critical for the humanitarian community. Thank you for your support!