

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 crises around the world. Since its inception, CERF has allocated an average of 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 assurances that funds involved are managed transparently 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 a Performance and Accountability Framework, a first draft of which was circulated in 2009. The Performance and Accountability Framework was formally adopted in 2010.

Annual Independent Reviews

The Performance and Accountability Framework mandates that CERF commissions independent reviews annually, within a sample of three to five countries as determined by the Emergency Relief Coordinator. The CERF Advisory Group supported the inclusion of this independent country-level mechanism. Since the first pilot review in 2010, the CERF secretariat has conducted 26 reviews, and three reviews have recently been commissioned for 2018.

The main purpose of each review is to assess the added-value of 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 Performance and Accountability Framework. In addition, each review contains a forward-looking element, exploring certain strategic questions unique to specific allocations. The final report also includes 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 hires independent evaluation experts with expertise in humanitarian financing and specific thematic areas depending on the focus of the review. The reviews are completed within three to six months and final reports published on the CERF website. In 2018, CERF has commissioned three independent reviews focusing on (i) the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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 to the Venezuela regional refugee and migration crisis as well as the recent country-specific rapid response allocations to Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Brazil, respectively.

Overview of CERF PAF reviews to date¹:

Year	Countries
2018	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC): RR allocations including for L3 scale-up and Ebola responses and 2018 Round 1 UFE allocation
2018	Cuba and Eastern Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Sint Maarten, British Virgin Islands and Turks and Caicos, Cuba, and Dominica): 2017 hurricane rapid response allocations with a strategic focus on early action
2018	Venezuela RR regional allocation (Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) and country-specific RR allocations to Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru: Venezuela regional refugee and migration crisis
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) RR and UFE allocations 2015-2016
2015	South Sudan Refugee Crisis (South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia) : Regional refugee crisis, RR allocations 2014
2015	Syria Crisis (CERF allocations to Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq) : Syrian conflict and regional refugee crisis, CERF RR and UFE 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) : 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

¹ Includes past reviews as well as the three reviews commissioned for 2018. The full list including final reports is also available online at: <http://unocha.org/cerf/reportsevaluations/evaluations/country-reviews/performance-and-accountability-framework>