



United Nations

2022

CERF ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

2022

A fund for all, by all

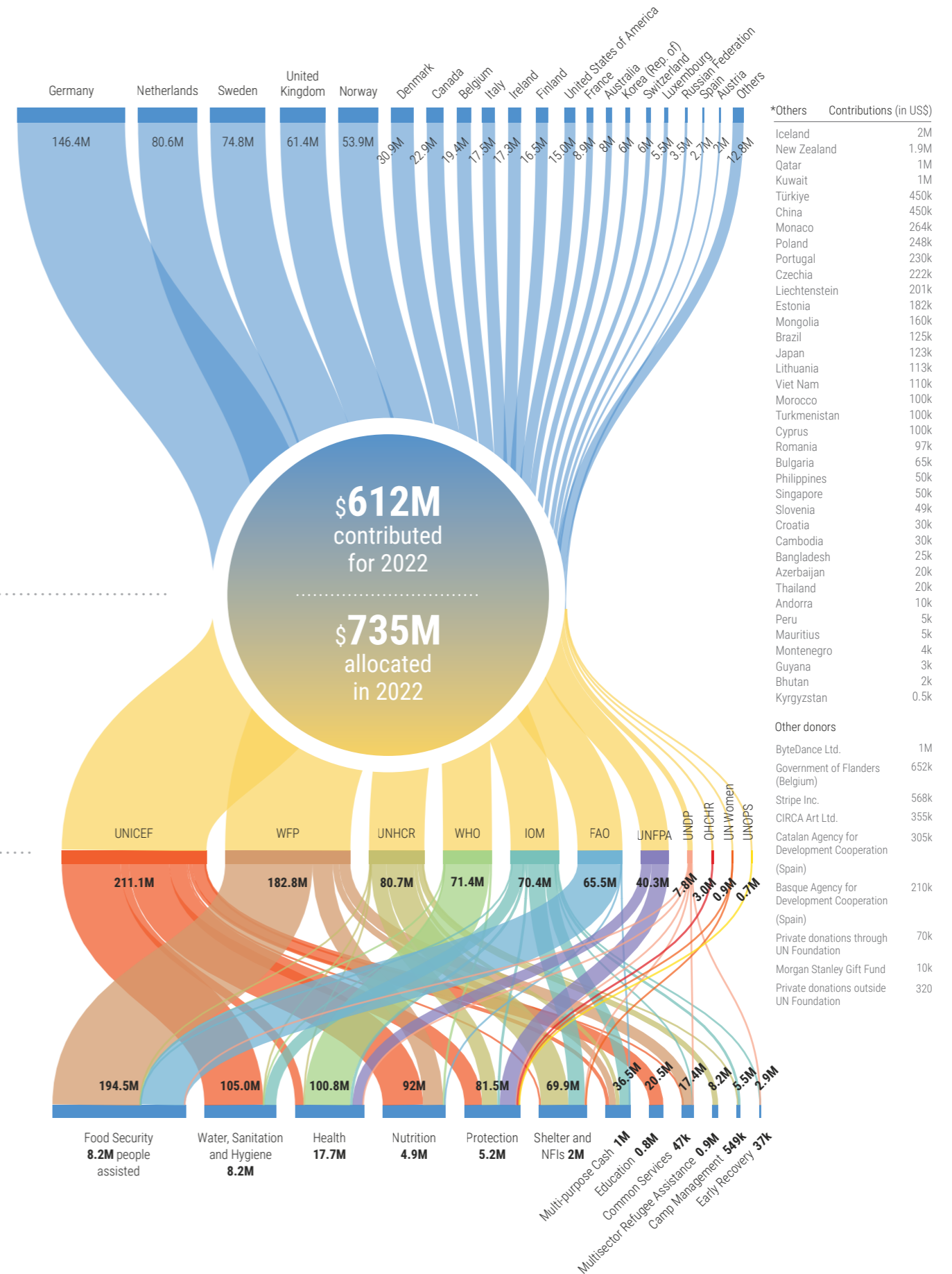
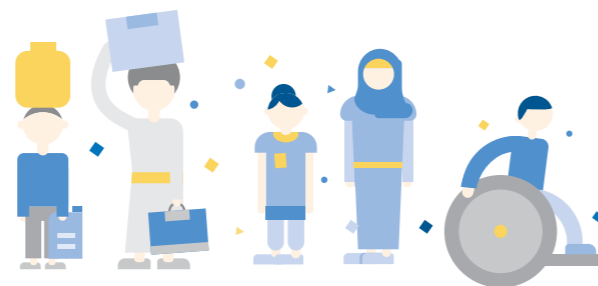
With humanitarian needs skyrocketing in 2022, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) remained an indispensable element of the global humanitarian architecture. Thanks to the generous support of its donors, CERF allocated US\$735 million for humanitarian assistance in 42 countries – the second highest amount in the Fund’s history. This enabled UN agencies and partners to provide life-saving assistance and protection for 32.7 million people across the globe. Despite donors’ fiscal pressures related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic slowdown and the war in Ukraine, CERF received \$612 million in paid contributions.

\$612M
in contributions from
58 Member States
3 Regional and local authorities
Multiple private contributions

\$735M allocated

11 UN agencies in partnership with
International NGOs
National NGOs
Government entities
Red Cross/Red Crescent societies

32.7M
people assisted
in 42 countries



Credits

This document was produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). OCHA wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its committed staff at headquarters and in the field in preparing this document.

Full project details, financial updates and real-time allocation data are available on the [CERF Data Hub](#) and [CERF website](#).

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Front Cover

Somalia. A woman waits at the water point in Kaharey displacement site.

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Foreword

2022 was another unforgiving year for millions of people caught up in crises. It was also a stark reminder of the importance of a strong global humanitarian emergency fund that is truly “for all, by all.” The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) once again lived up to that reputation by swiftly allocating US\$735 million to provide life-saving support to nearly 33 million people across 42 countries.

We saw this demonstrated in Ukraine, in February, when CERF allocated \$20.5 million within hours of the outbreak of full-scale war. As people’s lives were torn apart overnight, these funds helped our partners provide much-needed assistance, such as shelter and protection. Just weeks later, as the crisis escalated, CERF allocated another \$40 million, which provided nearly 1 million people with access to water and daily essentials at places of refuge and helped keep children safe. During my visit to Ukraine, in December, I was moved by the impact of these places of refuge as people arrived for a hot meal or simply for a chance to stay warm.

The war in Ukraine also had negative consequences for global food security. Some 50 million people were pushed closer to the brink of famine due to disruptions in grain shipments, combined with conflict and failed rainy seasons in several countries in Africa and the Middle East. Again, CERF was at hand, allocating some \$130 million, which was crucial in helping people survive a dire situation in 11 countries, including several countries of the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa.

CERF also stood by people whose lives were overturned by extreme weather-related events.

Among others, Pakistan endured monumental floods, and Hurricane Ian tore through western Cuba. In 2022, nearly one third of CERF funding went to more than 17 million people caught up in climate-related disasters in 23 countries.

CERF reinforces support for the most vulnerable. Women and girls are the hidden victims in most crises. I saw this during my visit to Mali, in May, where I heard horrific accounts of sexual violence, early marriage and denial of access to assistance. In 2022, 82 per cent of all CERF-funded projects worldwide, including in Mali, had a focus on protecting people against gender-based violence.

But we face a grim reality: the gap between global humanitarian needs and available resources is growing, and severely underfunded appeals are becoming the norm. CERF allocated a record \$250 million through its Underfunded Emergencies window, which was critical for boosting underfunded humanitarian operations in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. But much more is needed.

Escalating conflicts, climate shocks and infectious diseases are causing an astonishing rise in the magnitude and intensity of human needs. In 2022, \$52 billion was required for humanitarian assistance, up from \$38 billion the previous year. In 2023, nearly \$54 billion is needed to assist people requiring humanitarian assistance.

Apart from enabling life-saving responses to the most critical emergencies, CERF makes invaluable innovative contributions by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian system. For instance, CERF reinforced efforts to support localization of aid

through the Underfunded Emergencies window and plays a key role in scaling up anticipatory action, which provides people with critical assistance before the impact of predictable crises. In 2022, this was, among others, demonstrated in Nepal, where a \$3.2 million anticipatory allocation from CERF made assistance possible for some 75,000 vulnerable people ahead of the major flood in the Karnali River Basin.


Despite CERF’s unique capabilities, its funding can no longer keep up with these growing needs. In 2022, its funding accounted for just over 1 per cent of global requirements as captured through humanitarian appeals, down from 9 per cent in 2007.

I am deeply grateful to the donors who supported CERF in 2022. But we still have a long way to go to reach the \$1 billion annual target that Member States committed to in 2016.

I hope this report, which highlights many of CERF’s 2022 achievements, will convince more Member States that the Fund will deliver your message of hope to the people who need us the most.


Martin Griffiths

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Emergency Relief Coordinator




Djibo, Burkina Faso. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, visited Djibo in northern Burkina Faso, where hundreds of thousands of people have sought safety due to a devastating conflict and the changing climate.
© UNOCHA/Amadou Cissé

Executive Summary



\$735M
Allocated



32.7M
People assisted



42
Countries reached

In 2022, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) remained an indispensable element of the global humanitarian architecture and a key instrument for driving effective responses to growing humanitarian needs. Throughout the year, CERF allocated the second highest amount of annual funding in its history: \$735 million, to enable humanitarian action in 42 countries. With this funding, UN agencies and partners were able to provide life-saving assistance and protection to an estimated 32.7 million people.

CERF's ability to provide life-saving assistance to people in need across the globe was made possible by the generous support of its donors. CERF received \$612 million in contributions - the fourth-highest annual contribution since its inception in 2006 - despite the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic slowdown and the war in Ukraine. The 2022 contributions would have surpassed the \$638 million received in 2021 had it not been for a loss equivalent to approximately \$58 million due to unfavourable exchange rates compared to the year before.

In total, 58 Member States – up from 54 in 2021 – three regional authorities, as well as numerous private sector entities and individuals contributed to CERF in 2022. Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Norway were the five largest contributors to CERF in 2022. A total of 17 Member States increased their contributions in their national currencies compared to 2021. Moreover, \$2 million was received in donations from private entities and individuals, a large increase as compared to the previous years. Since 2006, 56 countries benefiting from CERF-funded humanitarian response have also contributed to CERF; a testament to their solidarity with people in need around the world. (See page 20)

Unprecedented 2022 CERF funding

In 2022, CERF played a pivotal role in meeting the ever-increasing humanitarian needs with a total of \$735 million allocated. Notably, CERF allocated the highest ever amount of \$247 million in response to climate-related disasters. Additionally, the Fund demonstrated its continued commitment to protecting vulnerable populations, with nearly three-quarters of people assisted being affected by displacement, the highest proportion in the Fund's history. CERF also significantly increased funding for gender-based violence protection projects, and a record amount of funding was allocated to support gender equality projects. Another notable achievement was the record-breaking 16 per cent of total CERF funding allocated to Cash and Voucher Assistance, which played a critical role in delivering effective and dignified humanitarian assistance.

Jump-starting time-critical operations

As in previous years, in 2022, CERF was often the first funding source for new emergencies. Thanks to CERF's speed and flexibility, UN agencies were able to initiate CERF-funded activities, on average only four working days after submitting an application. For example, in Ukraine, CERF funding from the Rapid Response (RR) window ensured that UN agencies and partners could start delivering life-saving assistance within hours of Russia's invasion. In total, CERF allocated \$485 million through the RR window in 2022, which enabled UN agencies and partners to reach 24 million people in new or rapidly deteriorating emergencies. (See page 36)

\$28.5M
Allocated for
anticipatory action



700k
People assisted
through anticipatory
action



4
Countries assisted
through anticipatory
funding



4
New anticipatory
action frameworks
launched

Getting ahead of predictable hazards

By making early and more forward-leaning allocations, and by facilitating anticipatory action frameworks, CERF enabled partners to get ahead of predictable hazards in 2022. During the year, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) endorsed four new anticipatory action frameworks for CERF support – for drought in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, and for cholera in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In total, 10 OCHA-facilitated, collective anticipatory action frameworks had been operationalized with CERF support by the beginning of 2023. In 2022, CERF released \$28.5 million in anticipatory funding to the DRC, Nepal, Niger and South Sudan. In addition to supporting the formal anticipatory action frameworks, CERF continued to be more forward-leaning by increasingly allocating funding for early action, based on initial signals of a significant increase in humanitarian needs. (See page 39)

Providing a lifeline for people in underfunded and protracted crises

Funding from CERF's Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) window continued to be a lifeline for people caught in crises that have attracted limited donor attention but where humanitarian needs remain significant. In 2022, CERF provided a record \$250 million through its UFE window, enabling UN agencies and partners to deliver life-saving assistance to almost 9.5 million people. For example, in Yemen, \$20 million was allocated through the UFE mechanism at a time when the sharpest year-on-year funding decrease of any UN-coordinated plan in the world forced aid agencies to reduce assistance and close programmes. CERF funding through the UFE window was also strategically used to strengthen localized humanitarian responses, and a record level of funds were sub-granted to local partners under the UFE allocations. (See page 42)

Responding to the major drivers of humanitarian need

In 2022, conflict continued to be one of the main drivers of humanitarian need. In response, CERF allocated over half of its annual funding – some \$372 million – to assist almost 12.1 million conflict-affected people. Most of this (\$177 million, or 48 per cent) was allocated in response to conflict-related internal displacement, targeting over 5 million people. (See page 45)

In response to climate-related and other natural disasters – another key driver of humanitarian needs in 2022 – CERF allocated some \$266 million for life-saving assistance to 12 million people. The majority of this funding, \$247 million, was allocated to climate-related shocks. This is the highest amount CERF ever allocated to this emergency type, and a reflection of the Fund's increasingly important role in enabling responses to climate-related disasters. (See page 47)

CERF was also at the forefront of the global response to disease outbreaks in humanitarian crises, with \$29 million provided in response to 11 disease outbreaks, including cholera, Ebola, measles and Rift Valley Fever (RVF). In 2022, CERF played a pivotal role in containing cholera outbreaks amid a dramatic increase in cases, with total allocations of \$21.5 million – double the amount that CERF provided for cholera response in 2021. This funding included CERF's first-ever anticipatory action allocation against a disease outbreak, which was released when a growing number of cholera cases in the DRC reached a pre-agreed threshold. (See page 51)

CERF RESPONDED TO MAJOR DRIVERS OF HUMANITARIAN NEED BY ASSISTING:



12.1M
people affected
by conflict-related
emergencies



12M
people affected by
climate-related and
natural disasters



6.5M
people affected by
disease outbreaks



2.2M
people affected
by other drivers of
humanitarian needs

Responding to population displacement

With displacement at an all-time high, CERF was a lifeline for 23.8 million refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and members of host communities. Nearly three-quarters of people assisted by CERF were affected by displacement – the highest proportion in the history of the Fund. Several allocations in 2022 had a specific focus on mitigating and addressing the humanitarian consequences of displacement, including in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mali, South Sudan and Uganda. (See page 65)

CERF ADDRESSED THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISPLACEMENT BY ASSISTING:



7.3M
IDPs



2.8M
Refugees



1.4M
Returnees



12.3M
Host community
members

Reaching the most vulnerable

In 2022, CERF helped improve the quality of humanitarian programming by prioritizing support for the most vulnerable, including women, girls and people with disabilities. In 2022, more than 17 million people assisted with CERF funding (53 per cent of the total) were women and girls, and almost 16 million were children under the age of 18. The protection sector had a particularly strong focus on women and girls, who represented nearly 60 per cent of the people targeted through CERF funding in the sector. An estimated 2.4 million people with disabilities benefited from CERF-funded humanitarian assistance, including 600,000 women and 1.2 million children. (See page 63)

Promoting innovation and strategic change

With humanitarian needs skyrocketing, innovative approaches to ensuring efficient and effective humanitarian action are becoming more important than ever. Beyond the provision of critical funding for life-saving humanitarian action, CERF made important contributions to driving innovations and positive system change. In 2022, CERF continued to promote a roll-out of anticipatory action frameworks, provide anticipatory financing, increase the use of early action allocations, increase the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA), reinforce efforts to support localization of aid, and strengthen accountability to affected populations (AAP). (See page 25)

Delivering better assistance

2022 was a record-breaking year for CERF's support for CVA. CERF promotes the use of CVA to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action and empower affected people to make their own choices about the assistance they need the most. CERF enabled the transfer of approximately \$114 million in CVA to 4.5 million people in 2022. CVA transfers accounted for 16 per cent of total CERF funding, up from 9 per cent in 2021. (See page 27)



In 2022, CERF rapidly allocated funds for urgent humanitarian action to meet the dire needs of people responding to sudden crises such as the devastating floods in Pakistan, the war in Ukraine, and to prevent famine in the Horn of Africa. In these pivotal moments, CERF enables humanitarian actors to respond quickly and efficiently to sudden crises. Sweden is a committed supporter and proud donor to CERF.

*Johan Forssell,
Minister for International Development Cooperation and
Foreign Trade, Sweden*

Strengthening the quality of humanitarian response

Strengthening the quality of humanitarian response is at the heart of CERF's mandate. Feedback from UN Resident Coordinators and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) once again confirmed the strategic added value that CERF brings to humanitarian responses. According to RC/HCs, overall, 98 per cent of CERF allocations enabled partners to respond to time-critical needs, 94 per cent helped improve coordination and 94 per cent helped to mobilize further resources from other sources.

Guided by strategic advice

During the year, the CERF Advisory Group provided valuable strategic advice to the Secretary-General and the ERC on the use and impact of the Fund. The Group emphasized the importance of continuing to evolve and expand CERF, advised on the strategic positioning of the Fund in the humanitarian landscape, explored CERF's ability to enhance the quality of humanitarian response and considered ways to mobilize additional resources to help CERF achieve its \$1 billion target. (See page 73)

Continuing to focus on learning

Throughout 2022, CERF remained committed to continuous learning to ensure that its approaches and processes are fit-for-purpose and are well adapted to the changing requirements. OCHA continued to ensure that dedicated learning activities were built into all activations of anticipatory action frameworks supported by CERF. In 2022, OCHA also continued to follow up on the recommendations of the expert groups on inclusion consulted the previous year. Two groups, composed of independent experts from the humanitarian sector, were set up to support learning from past and current practices, and to provide advice on further strengthening gender-based violence (GBV), gender and disability inclusion in the work of CERF and the Country-based pooled funds (CBPFs). CERF also commissioned a review of a disability allocation provided under the UFE window in 2021. The review is expected to be completed by mid-2023. Since the allocation was the first of its kind, identifying lessons learned, best practices and potential challenges will help generate learning to inform disability inclusion in CERF allocations and in humanitarian action more broadly. (See page 74)

Enhancing transparency

Ensuring transparency and availability of real-time data on CERF-supported operations remained a top priority in 2022. CERF abides by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards to ensure information is easy to access, understand and use. CERF's IATI transparency score in 2022 remained stable at 95 per cent, placing CERF among the top 10 of close to 1,500 organizations publishing their data in accordance with IATI standards. CERF also continued to publish all grant decisions on its website, via the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and via the Humanitarian Data Exchange. CERF's Annual Results Reports and a broad range of infographics are also available on the CERF website, along with allocation methodologies, datasets and summaries of country selection processes for all UFE allocations. In 2022, CERF continued to refine its online allocation tracker that provides real-time information on triggers, objectives and assistance provided for each CERF allocation. OCHA also further developed its Pooled Funds data hubs. The [CERF Data Hub](#) provides a wide array of interactive visuals, allowing stakeholders easy access to data on how CERF funding has been allocated across global humanitarian operations since CERF's inception in 2006.



It is our duty as governments, business and individuals to support people caught in violent conflict or affected by disaster. Honouring this imperative helps people in urgent need to survive, maintain their dignity and rebuild their lives and communities. This goes for highly visible crises such as the war in Ukraine or the crisis in Afghanistan, as well as for ones not covered on front pages, as in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel or elsewhere. The Netherlands considers CERF a key part of our humanitarian policy. CERF drives innovation within the humanitarian system, for example by moving forward anticipatory action efforts to be even better prepared before crises escalate. As the needs grow, we need to be more creative. I commend all donors/partners for their predictable, flexible funding to this Fund for all, by all. And I urge more to follow suit.

Caecilia Wijgers,

CERF Advisory Group member from The Netherlands

About CERF

Bentiu, South Sudan. Nyawich Dhoal carries an energy saving charcoal stove. The stoves cost 20,000 SSP and are a safer alternative to other cooking methods. Several cooking fires had caused destruction at IDP camps.

© OCHA/Sarah Waiswa



Introduction to CERF

Established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2006 as the United Nations global emergency response fund, CERF's primary role is to provide fast and strategic funding to enable humanitarian actors to respond to emerging or escalating crises by delivering life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people, when and where needed the most. Funding from CERF allows UN agencies and partners to collectively jump-start relief efforts before other funding sources are available. The Fund also serves as a strategic instrument for addressing critical funding gaps in underfunded emergencies.

Strong and predictable donor support has enabled CERF to continuously innovate and adapt to changes in humanitarian needs. Since its inception in 2006, contributions from 133 UN Member States and observers, as well as regional governments, corporate donors, foundations and individuals, have enabled CERF to provide some \$8.2 billion to deliver life-saving assistance in over 100 countries and territories. Acknowledging the importance of CERF's assistance, 58 recipient countries have also donated to CERF, making it truly a "fund for all, by all".



As a committed partner of the Central Emergency Response Fund, we commend CERF's vital work in providing timely and effective humanitarian assistance to those in need around the world. CERF's rapid response mechanism is critical in helping to save lives and alleviate suffering in the aftermath of crises and disasters. We are proud to support CERF's efforts and stand ready to continue our partnership in addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable communities worldwide.

Khalifa bin Jassim Al-Kuwari
Director General of the Qatar Fund for Development



Every CERF allocation includes targeted assistance to children, who suffer more in the dramatic impacts of humanitarian crises.

Despite its record of success, CERF continues to seek ways to improve and become even more effective. It is a centre of innovation in the humanitarian system.

António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General

In 2022, CERF allocated a total of \$735 million to support humanitarian operations in 42 countries, the second-highest annual amount in the history of the Fund. At the same time, CERF continued to serve as a catalyst for positive change throughout the humanitarian system. This included supporting anticipatory action, enabling partners to get ahead of predictable hazards and mitigate humanitarian impacts, and ensuring dedicated funding to underfunded priority areas such as GBV and the needs of people living with disabilities.

With growing humanitarian needs predicted for 2023, a well-funded and agile CERF remains important. The humanitarian system continues to face unprecedented challenges, with an estimated 339 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023 – a 24 per cent increase from 2022. The UN and its partners will require a record \$51.5 billion to meet the needs of the 230 million most vulnerable people.¹ Given CERF's proven capacity to provide fast and timely funding for life-saving assistance in humanitarian crises across the globe, reaching its annual funding target of \$1 billion, as endorsed by the UNGA, remains critical for supporting the global humanitarian system in meeting the growing needs.

¹ OCHA, Global Humanitarian Overview 2023.

CERF IS



PROMOTING COORDINATION AND COHERENCE

CERF funding is allocated to multiple organizations based on each organization's comparative advantage and in line with humanitarian partners' commonly agreed priorities. This promotes coordination among humanitarian actors, eliminates duplication and overlaps, prevents fragmented responses and supports the achievement of collective outcomes.



CATALYTIC

CERF enables humanitarian partners to quickly scale up response and leverage additional donor support through demonstrated and timely humanitarian action. CERF also allows Resident Coordinators /Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) to implement their vision for a better humanitarian response, supporting cross-cutting and other humanitarian priorities in a way that can catalyze positive change in the quality and accountability of humanitarian responses.



FAST

CERF allocates funding within hours of a crisis, making resources available when they are needed the most. Time lost means lives lost.



ANTICIPATORY WHERE POSSIBLE

Where possible, CERF enables the delivery of life-saving assistance to vulnerable people ahead of predictable emergencies, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian system.



COST EFFECTIVE

CERF offers value for money by allowing donors to efficiently assist people in need wherever crises strike. When donors contribute to CERF, they ensure that limited resources go as far as they can to save lives and reduce the suffering of millions of women, men, girls and boys caught up in crises.



SUPPORTIVE OF THE GRAND BARGAIN

CERF plays a key role in delivering the Grand Bargain: CERF funding is flexible, efficient, unearmarked, principled, transparent, supports cash programming, empowers humanitarian leadership, and promotes a coordinated, inclusive and strategic humanitarian response.



FOSTERING PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

CERF interventions support the involvement of implementing partners, particularly local organizations. Each year, approximately a quarter of CERF funds is implemented through a large network of local and international responders who have partnered with UN agencies.



GLOBAL

CERF provides humanitarian support across the globe, expanding the reach of its donors to all crises, whether new, worsening or forgotten.



PREDICTABLE

CERF is a trusted and dependable source of predictable funding for the most urgent and critical humanitarian action.



NEUTRAL, IMPARTIAL AND INDEPENDENT

CERF is fully unearmarked, principled and independent to ensure funding goes to meet the most urgent, life-saving needs wherever crises hit.



STRICTLY PRIORITIZED

CERF allocations are strictly life-saving and based on the needs identified and prioritized by humanitarian partners on the front lines of emergency responses. This ensures early responses to the most time-critical humanitarian priorities.

CERF's strategic added value

CERF is designed to ensure that every dollar it allocates leverages additional benefits in support of the humanitarian response on the ground. For each CERF allocation, RC/HCs articulate, through a "strategic statement", the added value and co-benefits that will be achieved using CERF funding – in addition to the operational, life-saving objectives that are central to all CERF allocations.

Setting out a clear, succinct strategic vision at the outset of an allocation process helps ensure that partners work towards a common strategic objective. This provides CERF and the the ERC with assurance that CERF funds are utilized to their fullest potential.

When reporting on the use of CERF funding at the end of the grant period, RC/HCs are asked to reflect on the achievement of the strategic objectives set out in the initial strategic statement, and to assess how the allocation contributed to achieving the four overarching core objectives that underpin CERF's design and mandate: speed, timeliness, coherence and catalytic effect.

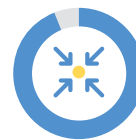
IN THE REPORTS ON THE USE OF 2021 CERF GRANTS*, RC/HCs STATED THAT:



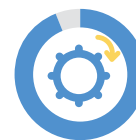
98%
of Rapid Response CERF allocations led to **fast delivery of assistance**



98%
of CERF allocations responded to **time-critical needs**



94%
of CERF allocations **improved coordination**



94%
of CERF allocations **improved resource mobilization from other sources**

*Due to the nature of the CERF reporting cycle, the RC/HC assessments only become available a full year after the calendar year under review. Assessments of 2022 allocations will only be available in early 2024.

How CERF works

In a humanitarian crisis, humanitarian organizations on the ground jointly assess and prioritize humanitarian needs. UN organizations are eligible for CERF funding and implement grants in partnership with local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), host governments and Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. RC/HCs can apply for CERF funding when new needs in the country exceed the UN organizations' capacity to respond. Determining the level and severity of needs and identifying people who most urgently need assistance requires joint planning and prioritization by UN Country Teams/Humanitarian Country Teams (UNCT/HCT) and other humanitarian organizations under the leadership of RC/HCs.

CERF is guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, and resources are allocated in line with CERF's Life-Saving Criteria. These criteria serve as guidance for the RC/HC and UNCT/HCT on how to develop applications for CERF funding. CERF ensures that funds help meet the most urgent needs of people caught in crises around the world and are used where they have the greatest potential of saving lives.

By building on the UN and humanitarian coordination architecture, CERF provides resources based on needs, risks and collective priorities. Humanitarian partners work together to identify and prioritize activities to be included in the CERF request, based on evidence, assessments of need and, especially for sudden-onset disasters, on projections and forecasts. RC/HCs submit a prioritized proposal to CERF, which then reviews the application and supports the ERC in deciding on the allocation of resources to partners on the ground.

Funding windows

CERF channels funds to UN agencies through its RR and Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) windows.

While the process of developing a formal application is similar for both funding windows, the starting point for allocations differs. For the RR window, the RC/HC – in consultation with humanitarian partners on the ground – can request funds at any time during the year in the event of new and unforeseen humanitarian needs. In these emergencies, timing is often the most important factor and CERF continues to be more forward-leaning through its RR window, both by making allocations earlier on a "no-regrets" basis – even when information is still incomplete and uncertain – and by making allocations partially based on projections and forecasts (e.g., drought, food insecurity and displacement). Thus, CERF-funded assistance reaches people sooner and, in some cases, before the peak of a humanitarian shock (see page 25). To ensure a solid evidence base for allocation decisions, CERF uses a real-time dashboard and a statistical model to facilitate the comparison of new crises with past allocations and is continuously improving its methodology.

UFE allocations, on the other hand, start with a comparative global analysis of risk, vulnerability and funding levels for ongoing humanitarian emergencies through a consultative process at headquarters level involving UN agencies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and NGOs. CERF has developed a rigorous methodology to establish a strong evidence base for the selection of the least funded and neglected humanitarian crises to receive funding. This includes three components: a quantitative analysis of funding levels and the severity of humanitarian needs and risks aggregated into the CERF Index for Risk and Vulnerability; consultations with UN agencies, NGOs and other partners; and a desk review of Humanitarian Needs Overviews, Response Plans and other documents.

Loan facility

In addition to the two funding windows, CERF has a \$30 million loan facility to cover cash-flow gaps in UN humanitarian operations. This facility can be used when UN agencies experience cash-flow problems in responding to humanitarian emergencies due to delays in receiving contributions from donors. The ERC determines the amount to be advanced in each situation.



Grand'Anse and Sud Departments, Haiti. Yolande Felix and her family had to move to a temporary shelter after the devastating August 2021 earthquake. WFP Haiti, with support from CERF and the Government, provided meals to the families there. In early 2022, CERF allocated \$8 million from its UFE window to further support relief operations in Haiti.

CERF ALLOCATION PROCESS

RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW*

UNDERFUNDED EMERGENCIES WINDOW*

Typically **2/3** of CERF's annual funding is set aside for RR allocations.



Typically **1/3** of CERF's annual funding is channeled through the UFE window.



Information on the mechanics and parameters of funding decisions can be found in the [CERF Handbook](#)

Initiation



RC/HC, country teams and CERF identify triggers for new and emerging crises.



CERF conducts funding and risk, vulnerability and severity analysis.



RC/HC in consultation with country team identifies strategic priorities and requests CERF funding.



CERF leads stakeholder consultation and document review.

Funding decision



ERC takes funding decision.



ERC selects countries and determines funding envelopes.

Processing allocation



RC/HC in consultation with country team refines/identifies strategic priorities and submits strategy and project proposals to CERF.



CERF reviews strategy and project proposals, ensures adherence to [Life-Saving Criteria](#) and disburses funding.

Implementation



UN agencies and partners implement CERF funding typically within **6 months**.



UN agencies and partners implement CERF funding typically within **9-12 months**.

* For standard allocations



Contributions to CERF

WORLD BANK GROUP
UN Headquarter, New York. CERF
pledging event in December 2022.
© OCHA/Paolo Palmero

Contributions to CERF

Broadening and deepening CERF's donor base

The total amount of contributions to CERF in 2022 was one of the highest ever received. This enabled CERF to remain an indispensable humanitarian instrument and achieve the results presented in this publication.

CERF's donors remained unwavering in their generosity and solidarity. CERF raised \$612 million in contributions, the fourth highest annual contribution since its inception in 2006, despite donors' fiscal pressures related to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economic slowdown and the war in Ukraine. The 2022 contributions would have surpassed the \$638.3 million received in 2021 had it not been for a loss equivalent to approximately \$58 million resulting from unfavourable exchange rates.

In total, 58 Member States – up from 54 in 2021 – three regional authorities as well as numerous private sector entities and individual donors contributed to CERF in 2022. CERF's largest contributions were received from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Canada, Belgium, Italy and Ireland. These top 10 donors collectively provided 85 per cent of the total income. In 2021, nearly 90 per cent of CERF's income depended on its top 10 donors. Another indication of CERF's strengthened donor base is the fact that 25 donors, including one private sector entity, contributed \$1 million or more in 2022, compared with 22 donors in 2021.

Moreover, 17 Member States increased their contributions in their original currencies from 2021.

These included Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Guyana, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland and Viet Nam. Fourteen countries also provided further contributions in addition to their initial 2022 pledges, including Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and Viet Nam.

CERF's donor base continued to expand with new and returning donors.

Kyrgyzstan and Mauritius contributed for the first time, bringing to 131 the number of Member States that have contributed to CERF during the Fund's almost 17-year history. The Fund also saw the return of 12 Member States as donors, including Azerbaijan, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Croatia, Cyprus, Kuwait, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Romania and the United States. The contributions since 2006 have helped make it possible for 56 recipient countries to give back to CERF; a testament to their solidarity with people in need around the world.



During my visit to Türkiye after the devastating earthquake I could witness myself the massive needs and intense dimension of the destruction. The Central Emergency Response Fund was one tool to kick-start the urgently needed humanitarian assistance and was doing it in a very efficient way. Furthermore, the CERF is a catalyst for change, also with regards to scaling up anticipatory action. We will continue our support for the CERF.

Louise Amtsberg, Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Assistance of Germany





























































\$612M
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2022










58
MEMBER
STATES

in US\$

MEMBER STATES

 GERMANY 146.4M	 NETHERLANDS 80.6M	 SWEDEN 74.8M	 UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND 61.4M	 NORWAY 53.9M	 DENMARK 30.9M	 CANADA 22.9M	 BELGIUM 19.4M	 ITALY 17.5M
 IRELAND 17.3M	 FINLAND 16.5M	 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 15M	 FRANCE 8.9M	 AUSTRALIA 8M	 REPUBLIC OF KOREA 6M	 SWITZERLAND 6M	 LUXEMBOURG 5.5M	 RUSSIAN FEDERATION 3.5M
 SPAIN 2.7M	 AUSTRIA 2M	 ICELAND 2M	 NEW ZEALAND 1.9M	 QATAR 1M	 KUWAIT 1M	 TÜRKIYE 450k	 CHINA 450k	 MONACO 264k
 POLAND 248k	 PORTUGAL 230k	 CZECHIA 222k	 LIECHTENSTEIN 201k	 ESTONIA 182k	 MONGOLIA 160k	 BRAZIL 125vk	 JAPAN 123k	 LITHUANIA 113k
 VIET NAM 110k	 MOROCCO 100k	 NIGERIA 100k	 TURKMENISTAN 100k	 CYPRUS 100k	 ROMANIA 97k	 BULGARIA 65k	 PHILIPPINES 50k	 SINGAPORE 50k
 SLOVENIA 49k	 CROATIA 30k	 CAMBODIA 30k	 BANGLADESH 25k	 AZERBAIJAN 20k	 THAILAND 20k	 ANDORRA 10k	 PERU 5k	 MAUTIRIUIS 5k
 MONTENEGRO 4k	 GUYANA 3k	 BHUTAN 2k	 KYRGYZSTAN 1k					

OTHER DONORS

 GOVERNMENT OF FLANDERS (BELGIUM) 652k	 CATALAN AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (SPAIN) 305k	 BASQUE AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (SPAIN) 210k	 BYTEDANCE LTD. 1M	 STRIPE INC. 568k	 CIRCA ART LTD 355k	 MORGAN STANLEY GIFT FUND 10k	 OTHER PRIVATE DONATIONS THROUGH THE UN FOUNDATION 70k	 OTHER PRIVATE DONATIONS OUTSIDE THE UN FOUNDATION 320
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Pledges from Italy of \$2,585,315 and from Nigeria of \$100,000 were not paid at the preparation of the report.

London, England. Yoko Ono's "IMAGINE PEACE" billboard campaign in collaboration with CIRCA. © OCHA.



The [CERF Data Hub](#) provides detailed information on contributions to CERF in real-time.

During the year, \$2 million was received in donations from private entities and individuals, 15 times more than in 2021 (\$142,000). This increase was partially driven by the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and notable contributions were received from ByteDance, a China-based technology company, and from the "IMAGINE PEACE" campaign by Yoko Ono in collaboration with the Cultural Institute of Radical Contemporary Arts (CIRCA), a digital art platform based in the United Kingdom.



It is with thanks to the over 3,000 people who purchased an IMAGINE PEACE print that we were proudly able to raise and donate £300,000 to CERF ... who for 17 years has been tirelessly ensuring that urgently needed humanitarian assistance reaches people in crises everywhere around the world. All of this, because of the power of an idea, the power of collaboration and the power of the people to change the world.

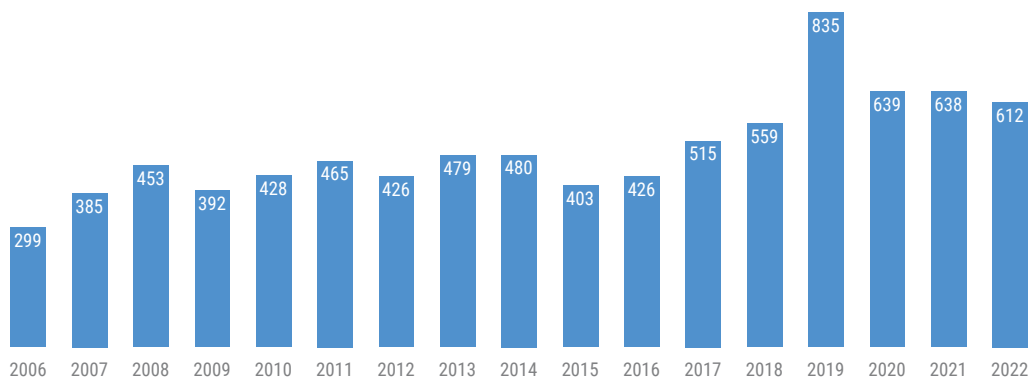
*Josef O'Connor,
CIRCA founder and Artistic Director*

Advocacy for earlier and more predictable contributions continued to bear fruit, facilitating CERF's global response to emergencies. Over \$243.4 million was received during the first quarter of the year, representing nearly 40 per cent of the overall annual income and a considerable improvement from 2021 (\$208.3

million). Additionally, nearly 67 per cent of the overall income, \$408.4 million, was received via multi-year funding agreements signed with 16 donors, similar to 2021. Australia, Denmark, Ireland, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Qatar renewed or extended their agreements for 2022 and/or beyond.

PAID DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERF (2006-2022)

in US\$ million



Despite the achievements in mobilizing humanitarian resources in 2022, CERF's overall income was still over a third short of the \$1 billion funding target endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2016. As the gap between humanitarian needs and available resources continues to expand, efforts to diversify the Funds' donor base with Member States and other donors will be further prioritized. Continued commitment and engagement of Member States and other entities is needed to make the UNGA target a reality.

Showcasing CERF's added value

The impact of CERF in rapidly delivering humanitarian assistance was showcased in 2022 to Member States, donors, partners and public audiences, using a range of digital products and platforms. Public advocacy materials included new films showing CERF in action, an animation in six UN languages demonstrating how life-saving allocations reach people in desperate need, as well as social media campaigns and other new content illustrating CERF innovations like anticipatory action.

To enhance the visibility of CERF's value, OCHA publicly showcases the impact of fast and flexible funding, and collaborates directly with donor communication teams on targeted attribution products, visibility strategies and tailored materials. Donors and partners are able to customise them for advocacy towards domestic constituencies, through self-access resources for CERF [film](#), [photo](#), [impact stories](#) and much more on the [Trello board](#).

The CERF online community continues to grow. Engagement through dedicated [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) channels reached over 540,000 followers in 2022. Regular amplification by corporate accounts and high-profile influencers like the UN-Secretary-General and the ERC brought over 1 million impressions. CERF's public [website](#) serves as the Fund's digital portal, explaining its global mandate and providing information and allocation resources, while the [CERF data hub](#) offers real-time information on contributions, allocations and people assisted.

Promoting innovation and strategic change



CERF promotes gender equality by responding to the differing needs and priorities of women, girls boys and men during emergencies. © OCHA

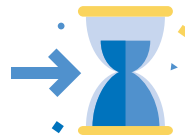
Promoting innovation and strategic change

Beyond enabling life-saving assistance, CERF allocations can be strategically leveraged to promote positive change and strengthen the humanitarian response. As the gap between humanitarian needs and available resources continues to grow, innovative approaches to ensuring efficient and effective humanitarian action are becoming more important than ever. Although CERF represents a relatively small portion of global humanitarian funding requirements – just over 1 per cent in 2022 – its allocations have a critical multiplier effect. In 2022, key efforts to strategically leverage CERF to strengthen humanitarian responses included a continued roll-out of anticipatory action frameworks, increased use of early action allocations, reinforced efforts to support localization of aid, as well as promotion of effective programming, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). While promoting these strategic initiatives, CERF continued fulfilling its core mandate of improving the speed and timeliness of emergency responses, improving coordination and strengthening resource mobilization. (see page 15).



The United Kingdom is proud to have partnered with CERF since its inception and is the largest overall donor, contributing more than \$1.7bn since 2006. We know the CERF is highly effective – we only need to look at the immediate response in 2022 to the war in Ukraine, the Ebola crisis, and food insecurity in the Horn of Africa. CERF pioneers new and innovative initiatives, such as anticipatory action – which built on the High-level Humanitarian Event on anticipatory action, co-hosted by the UK in September 2021. The UK values CERF’s ability to provide time-critical and targeted life-saving humanitarian assistance to those in need; saving lives, reducing suffering and lowering the financial cost of humanitarian financing.

Andrew Mitchell, Minister for Development, United Kingdom



Anticipatory and early action

By making early and more "forward-leaning" allocations and facilitating anticipatory action frameworks, CERF increasingly enables partners to get ahead of predictable hazards, and thereby ensures more efficient, effective and dignified humanitarian action.

CERF is increasingly ready to act on forecasts and projections, and provide "no-regrets" funding quickly, even when information is still uncertain or incomplete. Thus, CERF funding for anticipatory and early action complements the traditional funding functions in support of response to sudden onset and protracted crises.

OCHA collaborates with a wide range of partners to set up anticipatory action frameworks. Each anticipatory action framework consists of three core components that enable predictable and rapid action ahead of crises: (1) a robust forecasting mechanism linked to a clear decision-making process; (2) pre-agreed activities; and (3) pre-arranged funds that can be released to immediately initiate time-critical activities.

Since 2019, OCHA has facilitated the development of 10 anticipatory action frameworks linked to droughts, floods, storms and disease outbreaks.

As of March 2023, CERF has released a total of \$89 million for anticipatory action to six countries with frameworks (Bangladesh, the DRC, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger and Somalia) and to South Sudan under a hybrid approach.² Anticipatory action frameworks have

² Due to the imminent flooding, this approach included a multi-partner plan to avert a humanitarian catastrophe and financing from CERF.

also been established, but not yet triggered, in Burkina Faso, Chad, Malawi and the Philippines, and early action approaches in Madagascar and Mozambique are being explored.

While many humanitarian organizations are already exploring single agency anticipatory initiatives, CERF facilitates a coordinated multi-actor approach to anticipatory action. Thus, CERF plays a key role in bringing anticipatory action to scale. CERF is now supporting a portfolio of multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral anticipatory action frameworks across a range of geographical contexts and shocks. For instance, in 2022, over 50 partners from government entities, national and international NGOs, and national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies implemented CERF-funded anticipatory action with eight UN agencies.

In addition to supporting the formal anticipatory action frameworks, CERF continues to be more forward-leaning through its RR window. CERF increasingly allocates funding for early action based on initial signals of a significant escalation of humanitarian needs to ensure that people exposed to crises receive assistance as early as possible. (See page 39).



Localization

As implementing partners of UN agencies, local and national actors are key to delivering CERF-funded humanitarian programmes. OCHA, as a signatory to the Grand Bargain, has committed to supporting localization. Although CERF can only directly fund UN agencies – in line with its General Assembly mandate – it still plays an important role in enabling humanitarian action by non-UN humanitarian organizations, including local and national actors. Under the leadership of the RC/HCs, CERF allocation strategies are jointly developed by UN agencies and NGOs through their participation in Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) and cluster/sector structures. CERF funding is implemented through partnerships between UN agencies and NGOs, host governments and Red Cross/Red Crescent societies, which supports localized response and expands its reach.

In 2022 CERF strengthened its efforts to promote localization. In the two 2022 UFE allocation rounds, the ERC encouraged UN country teams to organize dedicated consultations with national and local partners on the design of CERF allocations and strengthen their engagement in the implementation of CERF funding. RC/HCs were also encouraged to set ambitious targets for CERF funding to be sub-granted to national and local organizations as implementing partners. As a result,

about a quarter of the second round of 2022 CERF UFE funding will be sub-granted to national and local partners, compared to the historical trend of less than 15 per cent on average across all CERF allocations.



Targeting the most vulnerable

CERF enhances the quality of humanitarian programming. CERF reinforces support for the most vulnerable, including women, children and people with disabilities, through targeted innovative allocations and by mainstreaming support for the most vulnerable across all funding.

Gender and GBV considerations are mainstreamed in all stages of CERF programme cycle: strategy formulation, proposal development, application reviews, funding decisions, monitoring, reporting and evaluations. CERF also collects sex and age-disaggregated data on beneficiaries of all CERF-funded projects. The Fund also requires recipient agencies to be guided by the Gender with Age Marker (GAM) when developing project proposals and to include GBV and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) assessments in them.

Like gender and GBV, CERF has also mainstreamed disability considerations in all stages of the programme cycle. The Fund also collects disability information on beneficiaries of all CERF-funded projects.

In 2022, CERF implemented several of the recommendations of the expert groups on gender and disability inclusion that were established to advise on ways to improve the impact of OCHA's Pooled Funds in terms of GBV protection, gender equality and disability-related concerns (see page 75). In 2022, CERF – informed by the expert groups – strengthened its guidance on gender, disability and GBV mainstreaming in its funding. OCHA also prepared the roll-out of a new online platform, One Grant Management System (OneGMS), which allows for improved data analysis related to GBV, GAM, gender equality, PSEA and inclusion of persons with disabilities across CERF and CBPFs funding. (See page 76)



Accountability to Affected Populations

To ensure a more accountable humanitarian response, CERF supports empowerment of communities to determine their own priorities. CERF advances AAP in humanitarian action by assessing that all AAP elements are adequately reflected in the design of CERF-funded projects. CERF requires applicant organizations to demonstrate that diverse groups of beneficiaries are directly consulted on project development and involved in project implementation and monitoring.

CERF also requires agencies to have confidential and fully accessible beneficiary feedback mechanisms and confirm that they will follow up on feedback received and inform beneficiaries of corrective actions taken. In addition, CERF promotes the use of collective AAP mechanisms, as part of the humanitarian response architecture or at the national level. In 2022 and early 2023, the joint CERF–CBPF OneGMS (see page 76) and the new standard indicators will be launched. These allow CERF to better assess compliance with AAP commitments.



Cash and Voucher Assistance

CERF promotes the use of CVA, especially multi-purpose cash (MPC), to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of humanitarian action and empower affected people to make their own choices about the assistance they need the most. CERF asks country teams to consider CVA (and MPC) as the default modality for CERF-funded response in contexts where it is appropriate, and collects specific information on the use of CVA in each project proposal. For all projects that do not include CVA as a response modality, CERF requires agencies to provide specific justifications to ensure that all options of using CVA have been explored.

In 2022, CERF further strengthened promotion of CVA use in its proposals. For instance, the ERC specifically instructed RC/HCs to use CVA as much as possible in the \$130 million allocation for 11 countries in response to rising levels of severe food insecurity. This concerted push helped ensure a record level of CVA under the 2022 CERF-funded humanitarian response, with 16 per cent of all CERF funds delivered directly to affected people in the form of cash or vouchers. The 2022-2023 launch of OneGMS also improved CERF's ability to assess and enhance the quality of cash-based programming. (See page 55).

Salamiyeh, Syria. Rubin visits a WFP-contracted retailer to buy fresh food for her family, using a WFP e-voucher. "I knew that with the voucher, I would be more capable of managing my family's nutrition needs."

© WFP Syria



Leveraging complementarity of OCHA Pooled Funds

In addition to the CERF, OCHA also manages the CBPFs. While each Fund has its own unique attributes, they all provide rapid, flexible resources fostering coherent and coordinated response under the leadership of the RC/HC.

When CERF and CBPF resources are provided to the same contexts, RC/HCs ensure that the resources are used in a complementary and coherent manner. In 2022, \$512 million, or 70 per cent of CERF funding, went to 16 countries with CBPFs, including \$44 million to countries covered by the Regionally hosted Pooled Fund.

At the country level, the RC/HCs decide how best to use these different funding instruments based on the comparative advantage of each, as part of an integrated approach. OCHA helps RC/HCs translate this vision into allocation strategies, ensuring coherence and that funding is used to achieve the greatest overall impact – a continuing priority for OCHA and its partners.

While each context is unique, the following principles underpin joint CERF–CBPF allocation strategies:

- » **Complementary sequencing:** CERF and CBPF allocations can be used to support different phases of an emergency response, allowing for continuity in the scaling up of critical humanitarian services.
- » **Complementary sectoral focus:** Informed by each Fund's comparative advantage, CERF and CBPF allocations can be designed to address needs in different sectors, to achieve the desired programmatic coverage and support a comprehensive intersectoral response.
- » **Complementary geographical targeting:** Informed by timing, scale and the operational presence of different partners, CERF and CBPF allocations can be designed to target different geographical locations, to achieve the geographic coverage necessary to meet the needs of the most severely affected communities.
- » **Complementary partnerships:** CERF and CBPF allocations can be designed to provide funding to different types of recipient organizations in a way that best addresses the overall humanitarian situation, with CBPFs typically 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 the response requirements of UN agencies.
- » **Common promotion of system-wide priorities:** CERF and CBPF 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.

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.

© OCHA/Oleksandr Ratushniak



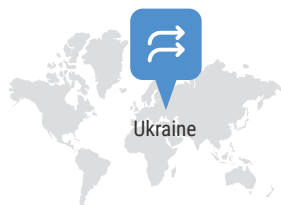
In 2022, complementary use of CERF and CBPF resources strengthened the overall humanitarian responses in several contexts, including in Ukraine and Lebanon.



Ukraine. A man collecting his child's toys from the rubble of their apartment.

On the day of the invasion, CERF allocated \$20.5 million to provide immediate assistance to civilians, and a further \$40 million just weeks later.

© OCHA/Dmytro Smolienko



Ukraine: Ensuring an urgent and comprehensive response

In Ukraine, under the leadership of the RC/HC, funding from CERF and the 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 jump-start 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 4 million people.



Lebanon: Containing the cholera outbreak

When cholera broke out in Lebanon on 6 October 2022, the RC/HC used CERF and the 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 pump-

ing 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.

CERF Allocations

Lviv, Ukraine. Children in a refugee center in Lviv supported by UNICEF's 'Spilno' cash assistance programme for families with children who have been affected by the war. UNICEF's 'Spilno' cash assistance programme is possible thanks to funding from CERF and other donors.

© UNICEF/ Aleksey Filippov



CERF allocations in review

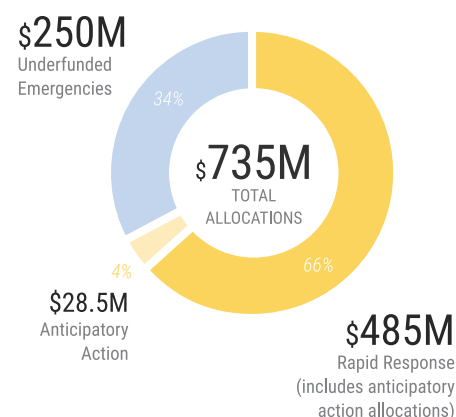
With global humanitarian needs reaching unprecedented levels, CERF allocated \$735 million across 42 countries in 2022 – the second largest annual amount in the history of the Fund. CERF again provided critical funding to jump-start humanitarian response to emerging and deteriorating crises and provided a lifeline for people caught in humanitarian crises that attracted limited donor attention. Thanks to CERF’s speed and flexibility, CERF-funded Rapid Response activities started on average only 3.7 working days after the submission of applications to CERF. The Fund further sharpened its focus on helping the humanitarian community assist the most vulnerable, including women, girls and people with disabilities. In 2022, CVA was an integral part of effective and dignified CERF-funded humanitarian assistance, accounting for a record-breaking 16 per cent of total CERF funding.³

In 2022, the combined effects of climate change, conflicts – including the war in Ukraine – global economic shocks and increasing food prices contributed to driving humanitarian needs to a record high. At the beginning of the year, an estimated 274 million people needed humanitarian assistance – a 16 per cent increase from 2021. UN-led humanitarian appeals initially requested \$41 billion to assist 183 million people in 63 countries.⁴ By the end of 2022, the estimated cost of the humanitarian response rose 26 per cent to \$51.7 billion, to address needs in 69 countries. While funding for the UN-led appeals reached a record level of \$25.9 billion, the funding gap was the widest ever, with about 50 per cent in unmet appeal requirements.⁵

Thanks to generous donor contributions, CERF responded with a near record \$735 million in allocations – the second largest amount in the history of the Fund – to ensure critical life-saving assistance to an estimated 32.7 million people across 42 countries.

CERF FUNDING BY WINDOWS

in US\$



³ The value of CVA delivered to the affected people only, not including the related delivery costs.

⁴ OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022](#).

⁵ OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022, December update](#).

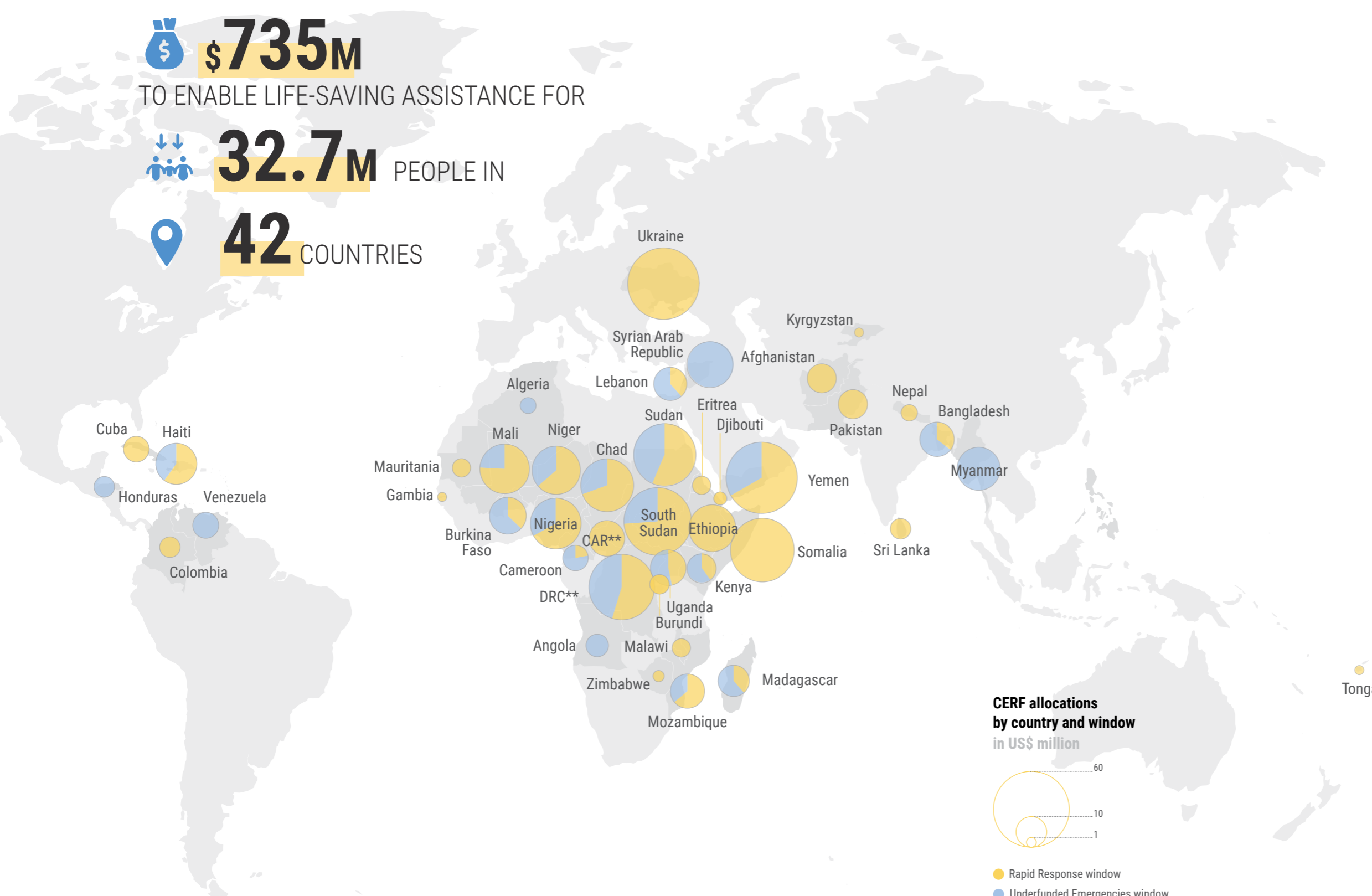
IN 2022, CERF ALLOCATED

\$735M

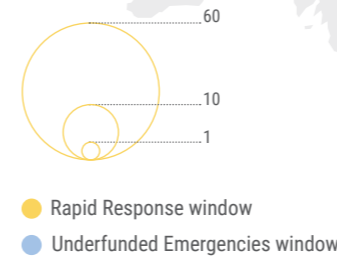
TO ENABLE LIFE-SAVING ASSISTANCE FOR

32.7M PEOPLE IN

42 COUNTRIES



CERF allocations by country and window
in US\$ million



** CAR - Central African Republic
DRC - Democratic Republic of the Congo

Allocations by country and window

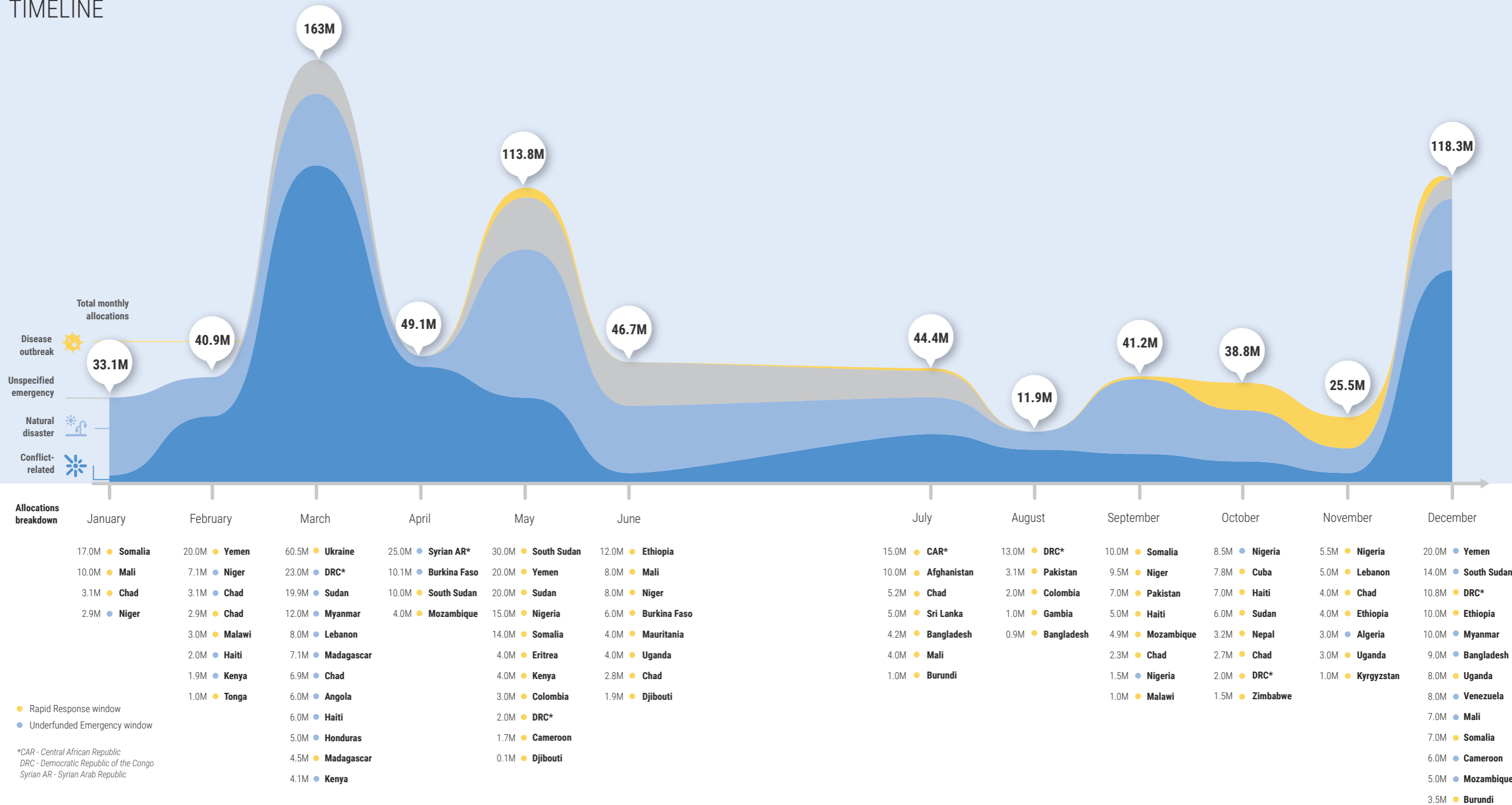
in US\$ million

Ukraine	60.5
Yemen	60
South Sudan	54
DRC*	50
Somalia	48
Sudan	45.9
Chad	33
Nigeria	30.5
Mali	29
Niger	27.5
Ethiopia	26
Syrian AR*	25
Myanmar	22
Haiti	20
Burkina Faso	16.1
CAR*	15
Uganda	15
Bangladesh	14
Mozambique	13.9
Lebanon	13
Madagascar	11.5
Pakistan	10.1
Kenya	10
Afghanistan	10
Venezuela	8
Cuba	7.8
Cameroon	7.7
Angola	6
Colombia	5
Sri Lanka	5
Honduras	5
Eritrea	4
Mauritania	4
Malawi	4
Nepal	3.2
Burundi	3.1
Algeria	3
Djibouti	2
Zimbabwe	1.5
Kyrgyzstan	1
Gambia	1
Tonga	1

2022

CERF FUNDING

TIMELINE



Jump-starting time-critical operations through the Rapid Response window



Recognizing its crucial role in ensuring life-saving humanitarian assistance, in 2022 Croatia returned as a donor with its first contributions since 2006. Croatia will continue supporting this crucial mechanism. In today's increasingly complex humanitarian environments, CERF's rapid response window and flexibility are key to responding to growing humanitarian needs, worldwide.

*Gordan Grlić Radman,
Minister of Foreign and
European Affairs of the
Republic of Croatia*

In 2022, the RR window continued to be a critical source of funding for jump-starting operations in response to and anticipation of emerging and deteriorating emergencies. Funding from the RR window amounted to \$485 million, 66 per cent of the funds allocated by CERF in 2022. These funds enabled UN agencies and partners to provide immediate life-saving assistance to almost 24 million people in humanitarian emergencies across 36 countries and territories. CERF also continued to make early, forward-looking allocations through anticipatory action frameworks and early action allocations (see page 39).

Throughout the year, CERF funding proved to be decisive in enabling time-critical and life-saving responses to new humanitarian crises. In Pakistan, close monitoring of the monsoon rains in the days leading up to unprecedented floods enabled CERF to be among the first to provide emergency funding. CERF's immediate \$10 million allocation allowed UN agencies and partners to jump-start their response activities (see page 41) and support some 520,000 people with food and drinking water, medical care, reproductive health care and psychosocial support (see page 47).

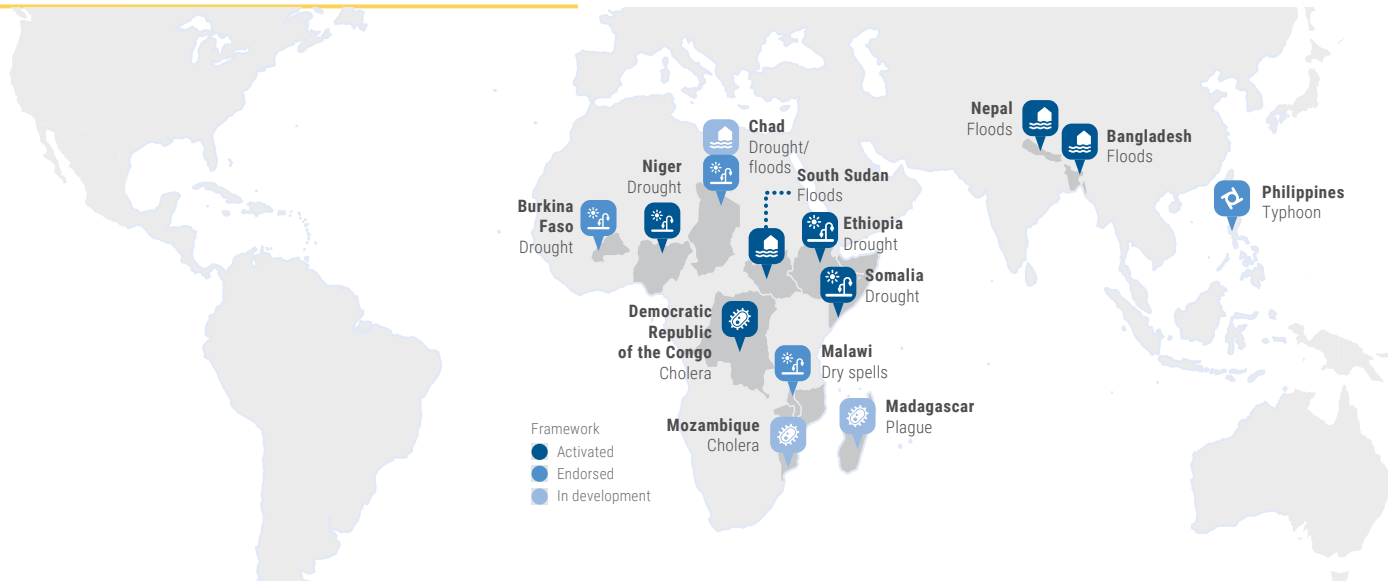
In 2022, CERF also played a crucial role in responding to rapidly deteriorating and complex humanitarian crises, as was the case in Mozambique, where violence and severe climate shocks resulted in new displacements, disruption of livelihoods and restricted access to basic services. CERF allocated almost \$5 million for the immediate scale-up of life-saving assistance to 700,000 people. The CERF allocation helped foster humanitarian coordination and boost inter-sectoral synergies among the participating UN agencies, the Government of Mozambique at national and local level, other humanitarian partners and stakeholders, including local actors and affected people (see page 45).

In response to sudden onset crises, RR funding was one of the fastest and most critical funding sources in initiating smaller-scale humanitarian responses. With an allocation of \$1 million, CERF-funded supplies were the first to reach Tonga and proved to be pivotal in jump-starting relief efforts in response to a volcanic eruption and subsequent tsunamis. The allocation enhanced the Government's response capacities with critical telecommunication equipment and bridged the gap for 10,000 people with multi-purpose cash and WASH (see page 47).



Sindh, Pakistan. Children at a school destroyed by heavy rains and flooding
© OCHA/Pierre Peron

OCHA-FACILITATED ANTICIPATORY ACTION PORTFOLIO



Anticipatory action allocations

In 2022, CERF allocated \$28.5 million for anticipatory action, which included \$13.5 million through anticipatory action frameworks for drought in Niger, flooding in Nepal and cholera in the DRC, and \$15 million through a hybrid approach⁶ for anticipated floods in South Sudan.

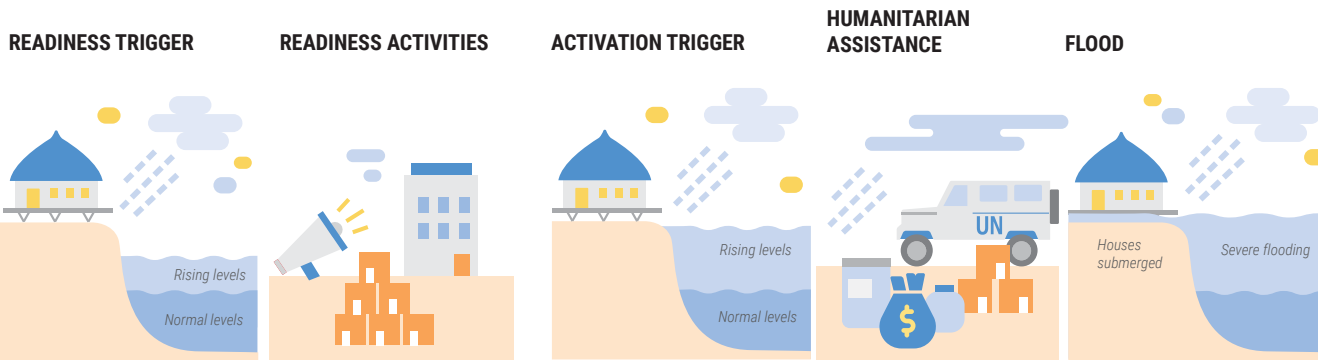
The ERC endorsed four new anticipatory action frameworks for CERF support: for drought in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger, and for cholera in the DRC, bringing the number of OCHA-facilitated, collective anticipatory action frameworks that have been operationalized with CERF support to 10 (see page 25)

⁶ Due to the imminent flooding, this approach included a multi-partner plan to avert a humanitarian catastrophe and financing from CERF.

Riverine flooding in Nepal

Considering Nepal's history of severe floods, the Resident Coordinator established an anticipatory action framework for flood response in 2021. The framework was developed in collaboration with OCHA, five UN agencies, government partners, the Nepal Red Cross and local NGOs. As with several other anticipatory action frameworks for sudden onset shocks, the initiative relies on a two-step trigger mechanism, with readiness and action stages (see illustration).

In October 2022, the framework was activated because both trigger thresholds were reached in the Karnali River Basin. Within hours, CERF approved \$3.2 million. This anticipatory funding allowed UN agencies and their partners to conduct readiness activities first – like movement of supplies and staff deployment – and then disseminate early warning messages to local communities, provide cash and in-kind assistance to families in need and facilitate access to essential services.



Flooding in South Sudan

Three consecutive years of record rainfall and flooding created a dire situation not seen for 60 years in South Sudan. While South Sudan has long been vulnerable to floods due to its location within the Nile basin and the Sudd wetlands, the situation in early 2022 far exceeded typical flood levels. This left communities extremely vulnerable to the projected flood during the next wet cycle.

The complexity of the humanitarian situation and gaps in the monitoring systems made a formal anticipatory action framework impossible to achieve in a timely fashion. Nevertheless, the imminence of a fourth consecutive flooding meant that there was a critical need to act in an anticipatory manner – despite the absence of a formal framework – to protect the worst-affected communities, rather than wait and respond to a fully-fledged crisis later.

Recognizing this, OCHA supported partners in South Sudan to devise a plan to avert a humanitarian catastrophe, for which CERF released \$15 million in early May. This funding enabled seven UN agencies and their partners to implement critical anticipatory activities. This included strengthening protective dykes around vital infrastructure, managing storm water during heavy rains and providing health and nutrition services to avert a public health emergency. This allocation was complemented by an early action allocation of \$4 million by the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF).

Partners credited CERF action ahead of the flooding as a key factor in keeping the volatile flood situation under control.


Akobo East, South Sudan. CERF supported the installation of a new borehole platform in Akobo East. "It is completely different," says Nyajouk Char, a resident. "The stairs, guardrails and handrails are really helpful because it supports us in going up and coming down with our water cans, making it accessible by everyone in the community, even the elderly."
© UNICEF South Sudan



In focus: Speed of 2022 CERF RR allocations

When emergencies strike, CERF typically funds the initial phase of emergency response, allowing time to mobilize additional resources for the continuation and expansion of relief efforts. In 2022, CERF enabled RR-funded operations to start on average only 3.7 working days after the CERF secretariat received the funding requests.⁷

In the most critical emergencies, CERF applies internal emergency fast-track procedures to speed up the processing and disbursement of time-critical allocations. This entails deprioritizing other workstreams to focus CERF’s resources on expediting priority tasks, as well as applying lighter fast-track processes where possible. CERF can only evoke these procedures in exceptional cases, when a humanitarian situation requires an immediate response to kick-start collective action and create momentum.



Information on the mechanics and parameters of funding decisions can be found in the [CERF Handbook](#).

In 2022, CERF disbursed RR grants on average 12 working days after receiving the funding requests.

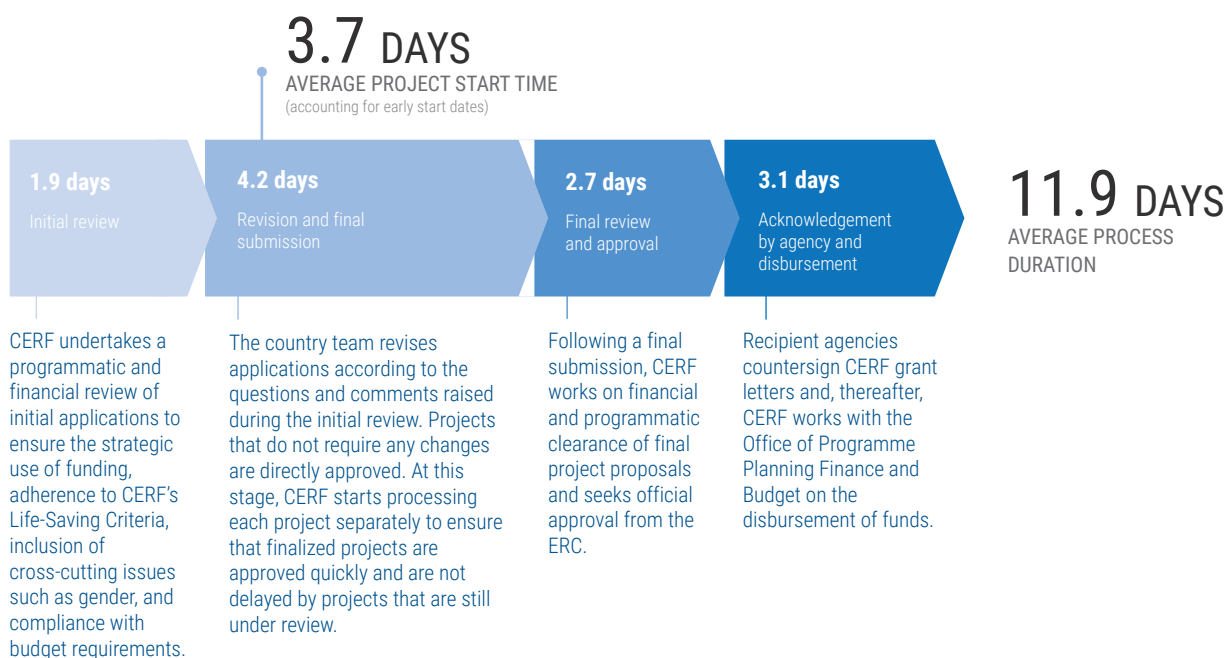
Despite a 65 per cent increase in the volume of projects from 2021, CERF was able to maintain the same speed in 2022 as in previous years.



The Government of Flanders (Belgium) is dedicated to strengthening global and in-country emergency preparedness systems. In increasingly challenging times CERF continuously shows its value as a crucial pillar of the global humanitarian system, guaranteeing swift and efficient allocation. CERF embodies the vital importance of anticipatory humanitarian action and financial response capacity.

Jan Jambon, Minister-President of the Government of Flanders (Belgium)

⁷ Recipient agencies can charge expenditures to the CERF project for activities undertaken up to six weeks before the receipt of CERF funds, using their internal reserves to initiate the response in the knowledge that CERF funds will be forthcoming. An early implementation date can be approved if it does not predate the onset of the emergency.



Providing a lifeline for people in crises through the Underfunded Emergencies window

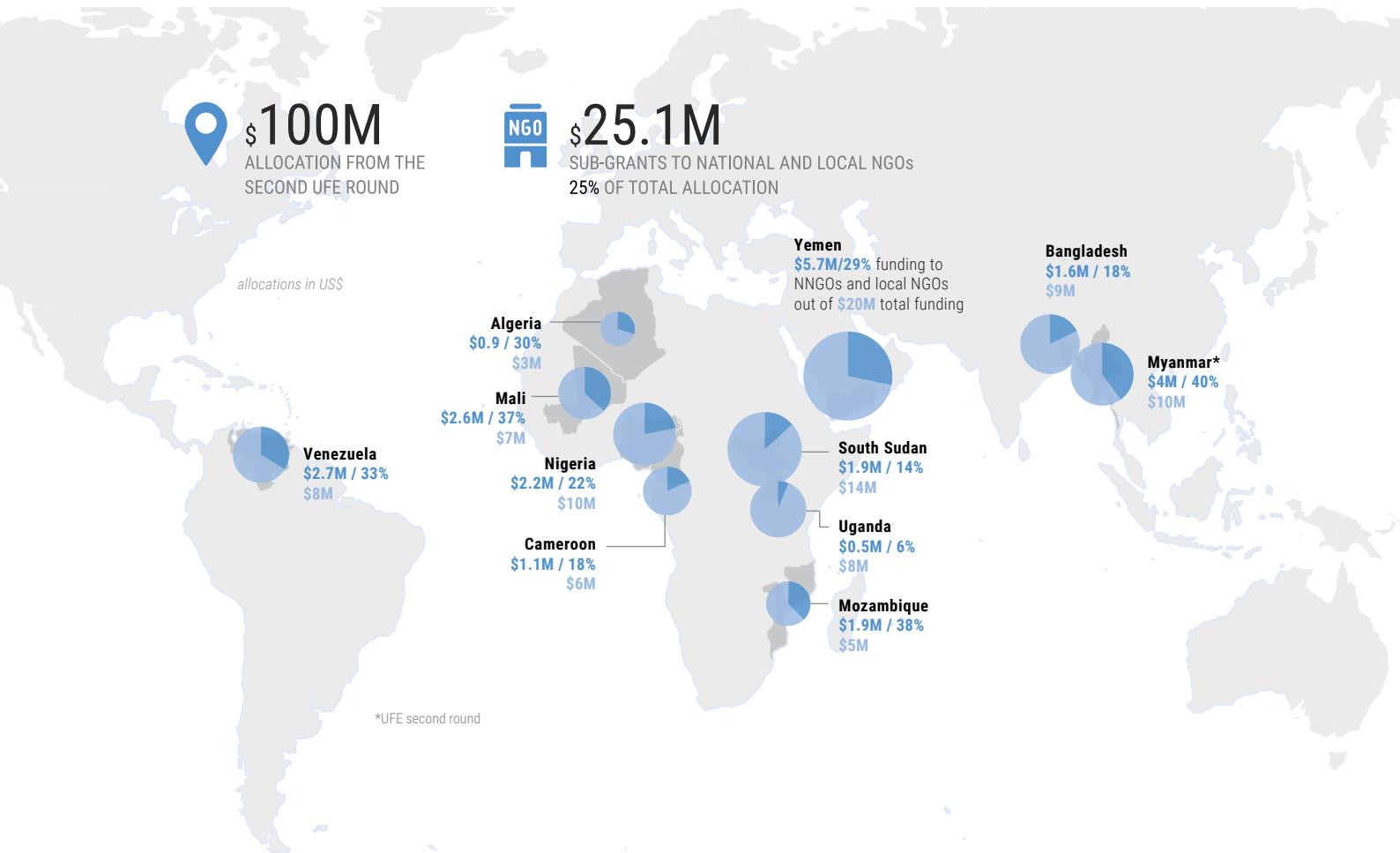
In 2022, CERF reinforced its commitment to boost underfunded humanitarian operations by allocating a record \$250 million through its UFE window to 23 countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East. The two UFE allocation rounds enabled UN agencies and partners to deliver life-saving assistance to almost 9.5 million people in countries where funding gaps were critical, and unmet humanitarian needs alarmingly high.

call for more support and funding tools for local and national responders. CERF encouraged RC/HCs to organize dedicated consultations with national and local partners on the design and prioritization of the CERF allocation. Additionally, informed by each context, RC/HCs were invited to set ambitious targets for how much of the CERF funding from the second UFE round was to be sub-granted to national and local organizations as implementing partners.

CERF funding through the UFE window was strategically used to strengthen localized humanitarian responses. In the two UFE rounds, CERF encouraged recipient countries to promote efforts to adhere to the Grand Bargain commitments on localization, which

As a result, a quarter of the funding under the second UFE allocation of 2022 was sub-granted to national and local partners, equivalent to \$25 million, a significant increase as compared to the historical trend of less than 15 per cent.

FUNDING TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SECOND 2022 UFE ROUND



In focus: Partnerships and localization

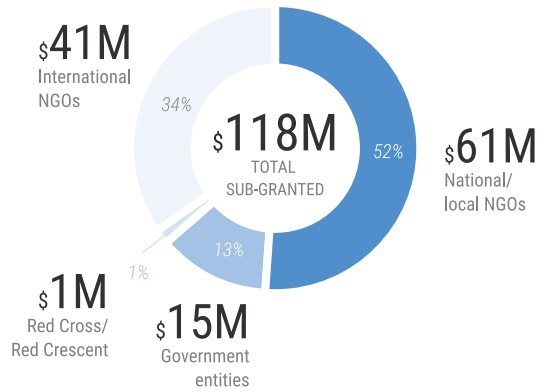
CERF funding is implemented through partnerships between UN agencies and a broad network of local and international partners, which fosters partnerships, supports a localized response and expands the reach of CERF-funded humanitarian action.

In 2021, UN agencies sub-granted \$122 million⁸ of 2021 CERF funding to 720 implementing partners, which included 327 local NGOs, 206 international NGOs, 173 governments entities, and 14 Red Cross/Red Crescent societies. The sub-granted funding constituted a quarter of 2021 CERF allocations, of which some \$80 million went to national and local partners, or 66 per cent. Funding to national and local partners made up 18 per cent of the total 2021 CERF funding.

⁸ As of the end of April 2023, 83% of 2021 CERF RC/HC reports have been finalized which covers total CERF allocations of \$453 million. The sub-grants information in this report will be updated on a rolling basis as the remaining reports will become available.

SUB-GRANTED 2021 CERF FUNDING

in US\$



Real-time information on CERF allocations is available on the [CERF Data Hub](#) and the [OCHA Pooled Funds Data Hub](#), including interactive maps and timelines.

CERF funding through the UFE window was vital in sustaining and scaling up underfunded interventions. In Yemen, for example, \$20 million was allocated through the UFE mechanism at a time when the sharpest year-on-year funding decrease of any UN-coordinated plan in the world forced aid agencies to reduce assistance and close programmes.⁹ The UFE allocation was critical in preventing the discontinuation of essential services in front-line areas where conflict intensified. It enabled UN agencies and partners to deliver life-saving and multi-sectoral assistance to over 1 million of the most vulnerable people while additional resources were being mobilized (see page 7).

Funding from the UFE window helped shed light on underfunded emergencies. For example, CERF made an UFE allocation of \$10 million to Chad, whose 2022 humanitarian response plan (HRP) was the most severely underfunded in a decade and where 1.73 million people were expected to be severely food insecure

(IPC phase 3-5). The CERF allocation was specifically intended to act as a catalyst for additional funding and aimed to enable the continuation of critical assistance to more than 200,000 people across various sectors – camp coordination, education, health, logistics, nutrition and protection.

UFE funding helped the humanitarian community reach the most vulnerable and neglected people. This was the case in Cox's Bazar, one of the most climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone regions of Bangladesh, which hosts the world's largest refugee settlement, and where funding gaps have led to critical protection concerns.¹⁰ A \$9 million UFE allocation helped address the immediate needs of over 960,000 people across the Rohingya refugee community. The CERF-funded assistance helped strengthen a dignified protection space for the most vulnerable Rohingya refugees, including some 500,000 women and children at risk of GBV, exploitation and child marriage.

⁹ OCHA, [Situational Report for Yemen](#), August 2022.

¹⁰ Bangladesh Appeal, Revision 1, UNICEF. August 2022.



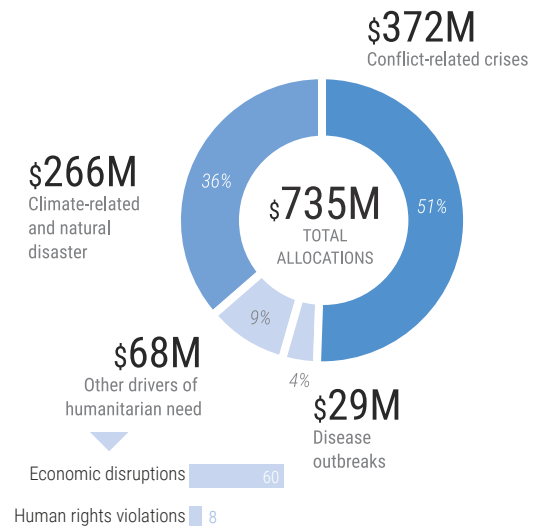
Kaharey settlement, Somalia. People queue long hours to collect water in Kaharey IDP site, which hosts 2,267 IDP households. UNICEF, with CERF funding established one water system and 80 latrines.
© OCHA/Yao Chen

The main drivers of humanitarian needs

In 2022, CERF responded to various shocks and compounding humanitarian crises. Over half of CERF allocations went towards addressing humanitarian needs caused by conflicts (see page 45) and more than a third went for response to climate-related emergencies (droughts, floods, storms, and heat/cold waves). The 2022 CERF funding to climate-related emergencies was the highest in the Fund's history (see page 47). Some 4 per cent of 2022 CERF funding went towards responses to disease outbreaks (see page 51) and some 9 per cent went to responses to other drivers of humanitarian needs.

CERF FUNDING BY EMERGENCY TYPE

in US\$



CERF categorizes each allocation according to the type of emergency most directly associated with the humanitarian needs addressed through CERF grants.

Bridging critical cash-flow gaps with CERF loans

In 2022, CERF's loan facility helped cover critical cash-flow gaps that hampered humanitarian operations. CERF provided a short-term loan of \$17 million to UNRWA in May, and two additional loans totalling \$30 million in October and December. The loans helped manage a severe cash-flow crisis and ensured the continued availability of basic health-care services, including the procurement of essential medicines, for almost 2 million Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. In July, CERF provided a short-term loan of \$10 million to FAO to support the improvement of crop production in Ethiopia.

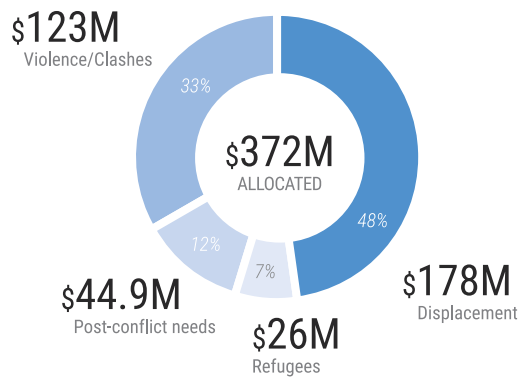


Conflict-related crises

In 2022, conflict continued to be a major driver of humanitarian needs. CERF responded by allocating \$372 million – over half its annual funding – to assist 12.1 million conflict-affected people in 22 countries. This is an increase of over \$20 million from 2021. Most of this (\$178 million, or 48 per cent) was allocated in response to conflict-related internal displacement, targeting over 5 million people, while \$123 million, or 33 per cent, enabled humanitarian assistance to 2.4 million people caught in violent conflicts, at their place or origin. In addition, \$45 million, or 12 per cent, was allocated in response to the humanitarian needs of 2.4 million people in post-conflict contexts, and \$26 million, or 7 per cent, was provided for multi-sectoral response to assist 2 million refugees.

FUNDING TO CONFLICT-RELATED CRISES

By emergency type
in US\$



CERF'S RESPONSE TO CONFLICT-RELATED CRISES



\$372M
allocated



22
countries



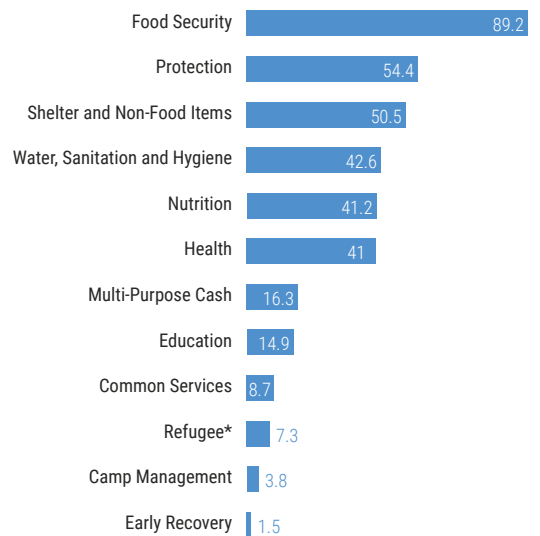
12.1M
people assisted



\$193M
Rapid Response

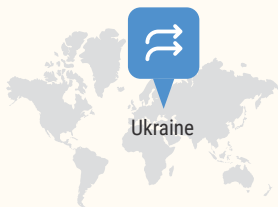
\$178M
Underfunded Emergencies

By sector
in US\$ million



*Multisector Refugee Assistance

Kyiv, Ukraine. Yulia's family fled the horrors of war in Kyiv and received cash assistance from UNICEF that allowed them to cover the basics while they got back on their feet.
© UNICEF/Andrii Boyko



Ukraine: responding to the humanitarian impact of the military offensive

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine rapidly deteriorated as armed violence escalated. The full-scale war led to a grave humanitarian crisis, with nearly 18 million people in need of aid and protection. In response, CERF allocated \$60.5 million through two allocations, making Ukraine the largest recipient of CERF funds in 2022 (see page 28).

CERF's time-critical response was crucial for ensuring immediate life-saving assistance to address the humanitarian needs of 1.5 million people. Within hours of the start of hostilities on 24 February, CERF allocated \$20.5 million through its RR window, followed by an additional \$40 million in mid-March, as the humanitarian situation deteriorated (see page 31). This funding was vital in enabling UN agencies and their humanitarian partners to provide life-saving

assistance to 1 million people at the onset of the crisis, including 114,000 people with disabilities. The allocations helped UN agencies to quickly scale up their cash and protection assistance to vulnerable people inside Ukraine and for refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries, while also enhancing the humanitarian community's response capacity through logistics and telecommunication support. In total, \$9.8 million of CERF funding was delivered as cash assistance to over 100,000 people. The CERF allocations also supported the prevention of and response to GBV and enabled GBV psychosocial support and case management to over 40,000 people.¹¹

¹¹ Based on standard indicator.



Climate-related and natural disasters

In 2022, more than 107.2 million people worldwide were affected by climate-related and natural disasters and required immediate assistance.¹² In response, CERF allocated \$266 million, or 36 per cent of all CERF funding, to climate-related disasters (\$247 million) and natural disasters (\$19 million), to provide life-saving assistance to 12 million vulnerable people in 26 countries. One-third of these countries did not have an existing Humanitarian Response Plan. This is the highest amount CERF ever allocated to this type of emergency, and a reflection of the Fund's increasingly important role in enabling responses to climate-related disasters – including in countries without established humanitarian structures.

Since 2006, CERF has provided almost \$2.2 billion (27 per cent of its total allocations) for humanitarian action in response to climate-induced disasters. The majority of this funding was provided through the RR window, which emphasizes CERF's comparative advantage in responding quickly to climate-related shocks. The annual share of CERF funding for climate emergencies has fluctuated, with the highest amount allocated in 2022.

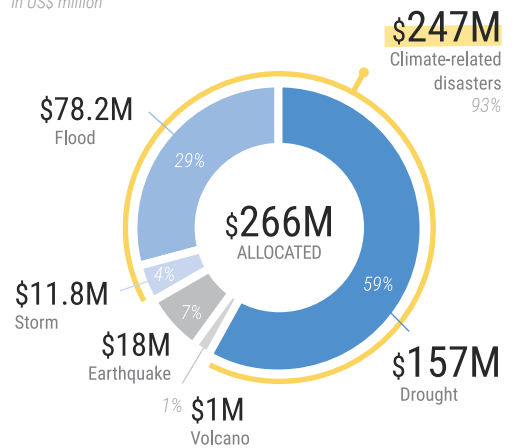


Life and dignity of all human beings are equal under any circumstance, be it man-made or natural disaster. Viet Nam is proud to be a regular contributor to CERF and United Nations' humanitarian efforts to ensure equality for all and to leave no one behind.

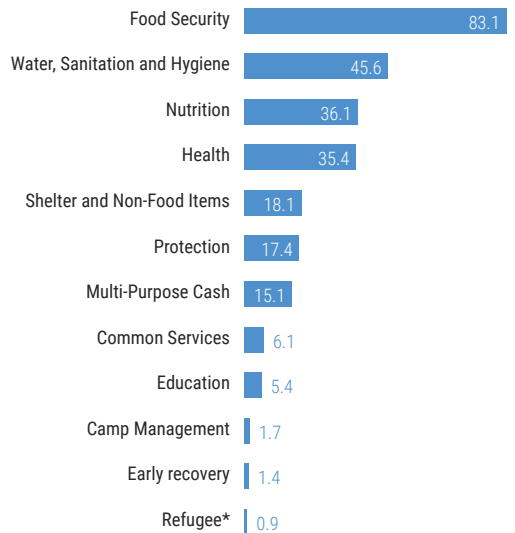
*Dang Hoang Giang,
Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam to the United
Nations*

FUNDING TO CLIMATE-RELATED AND NATURAL DISASTERS

By emergency type
in US\$ million



By sector
in US\$ million



*Multi-sector Refugee Assistance

CERF'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE-RELATED AND NATURAL DISASTERS



\$266M
allocated



26
countries



12M
people assisted



\$215M
Rapid Response

\$51M
Underfunded Emergencies

¹² www.ourworldindata.org/natural-disasters

Somalia. CERF funding supported nutrition help for Agbal's baby Cahdi and thousands of other affected children, as well as direct food assistance to 4.7 million people.
© WFP/Patrick Mwang



Time-critical response to drought in the Horn of Africa

CERF's speed and agility were key in allowing timely actions to respond to an unprecedented drought in the Horn of Africa. Following three consecutive failed rainy seasons, the Horn of Africa experienced one of its worst droughts in recent history, affecting 36.1 million people, with 21 million facing high levels of acute food insecurity, including 4.9 million acutely malnourished children. Shortages of wheat and fertilizers from Ukraine and Russia, on which the region was dependent, further exacerbated the situation in 2022.

CERF responded swiftly, enabling time-critical humanitarian efforts when the first signs of impending disaster were seen. It continued to provide support

at critical moments as the situation further deteriorated, ensuring that assistance was provided when needed the most. Through CERF's initial drought response in 2020 and 2021, a total of \$84 million was allocated to humanitarian efforts across the Horn of Africa. Of this, some \$27 million was allocated through anticipatory action frameworks in Ethiopia and Somalia (see page 39). As the situation deteriorated in 2022, CERF allocated an additional \$75 million to enable UN agencies to immediately scale up life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable in the region. This included allocations for Djibouti (\$2 million), Ethiopia (\$22 million), Kenya (\$10 million) and Somalia (\$41 million).



Pakistan. Heavy monsoon rains caused floods and landslides across Pakistan, heavily affecting Balochistan and Sindh provinces where rainfall as of 13 August 2022 was 3.5 times its 30-year-average, affecting 360,000 people.

The ERC allocated \$3 million on 19 August 2022 from CERF's RR window for the immediate commencement of life-saving activities. On 1 September 2022, the ERC allocated a further \$7 million as flooding worsened.

© OCHA/Pierre Peron



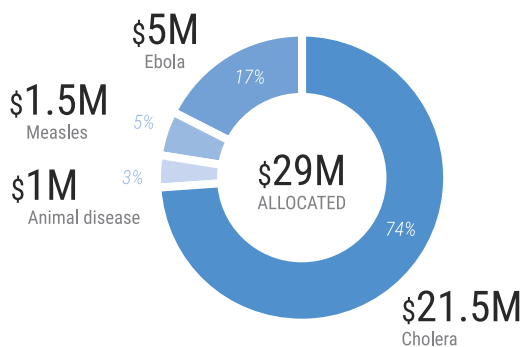
Disease outbreaks

Disease outbreaks have been on the increase over the past few years in almost all countries with recurrent humanitarian emergencies. In 2022, CERF was at the forefront of the global response to disease outbreaks in humanitarian crises, increasing its funding from \$25.7 million in 2021 to \$29 million in 2022. This funding enabled responses to 11 disease outbreaks in nine countries, including cholera, Ebola, measles and Rift Valley fever.

FUNDING TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS

By emergency type

in US\$ million



CERF'S RESPONSE TO DISEASE OUTBREAKS



\$29M
Allocated



9
Countries



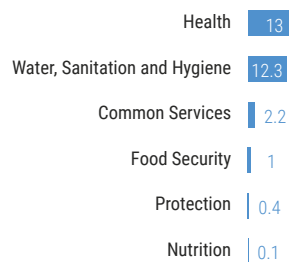
6.5M
People assisted



\$29M
Rapid Response

By sector

in US\$ million



Aleppo, Syria. Zahi Azrak Hospital in Aleppo, a treatment centre for cholera. Since September 2022, cholera has been spreading across Syria. This outbreak is the first since 2009. Funding from CERF helped close the most urgent gaps in health delivery, supporting access to services for over 750,000 vulnerable people in northeast and northwest Syria.
© WHO



Responding to cholera outbreaks across Africa, Latin America and the Middle East

CERF played a pivotal role in containing cholera outbreaks amid a dramatic increase in cases following years of decline.¹³ The Fund allocated \$21.5 million to enable time-critical responses in Cameroon, the DRC, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon and Malawi. This was double the amount that CERF provided for cholera response in 2021.

In May, CERF allocated \$1.7 million in response to a cholera outbreak in Cameroon, targeting 120,000 people with health and WASH activities. In September, CERF provided \$2 million to respond to cholera in the DRC, and later allocated \$1 million for the response in Malawi and \$7 million to respond to a resurgence of cholera in Haiti. In November, CERF allocated \$4 million and \$5 million respectively in response to outbreaks in Ethiopia and Lebanon.

At the end of 2022, CERF allocated \$750,000 for anticipatory action against cholera in the DRC, targeting 150,000 people. The funding – CERF’s first for anticipatory action against a disease outbreak – was released in response to a growing number of cholera cases in the Nyiragongo health zone, based on a pre-agreed threshold. CERF funding enabled UN agencies and partners to contain the outbreak early and prevent its spread to neighbouring areas (see page 39).

CERF funding to cholera outbreaks in 2022 targeted almost 2 million people and was critical not only in supporting the immediate responses, but also in preventing the spread of the outbreaks. It pre-empted the development of large-scale outbreaks – as was the case with the anticipatory action pilot framework for cholera in the DRC – underlining CERF’s role as a driver of time-critical funding (see page 39).

13 [Cholera – Global situation \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cholera)

Ensuring needs-based responses

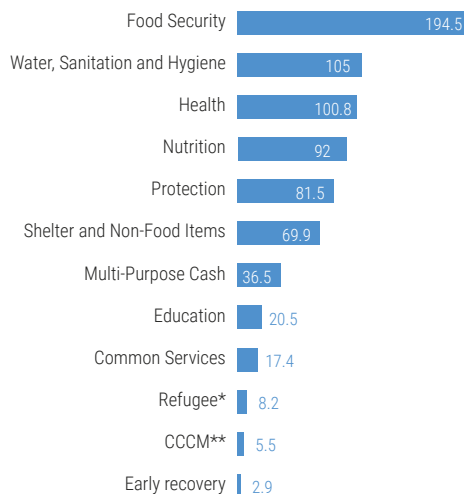
CERF allocations are based on strategic funding priorities that are informed by solid needs assessments and determined by the RC/HC in consultation with the country teams. A joint application process sets the collective priorities of humanitarian partners and ensures a well-informed and prioritized CERF response across humanitarian sectors (see page <?>).

Following consecutive failed rainy seasons in several food-insecure countries, as well as the compounding impacts of conflicts, COVID-19, rising food prices and the climate crisis, CERF funding to the food security sector remained at a very high level, making it the most funded sector in 2022. More than \$194.5 million – a quarter of CERF funding in 2022 – went to the food security sector, including life-saving food assistance (\$125.7 million) and emergency agriculture programmes (\$68.8 million). Funding to this sector, which was 86 per cent higher than in 2021, was vital for food and agriculture responses in 38 countries. For instance, CERF funding enabled WFP to provide 1.5 million metric tons of food to the most vulnerable across 26 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.¹⁴ In response to an unprecedented global food insecurity crisis, CERF’s allocations were not limited to food security and nutrition, but targeted multi-sector needs and ensured joint targeting of the most food-insecure people across identified priority sectors, including food security, WASH, nutrition, protection, health and shelter.

In 2022, WASH and health remained among CERF’s top recipient sectors, accounting for almost 30 per cent of overall funding. CERF funding to the WASH sector increased to \$105 million, from \$68 million in 2021. CERF-funded interventions in this sector enabled UNICEF and IOM to improve WASH services for 8.2 million of the most vulnerable people across 31 countries. CERF funding to the health sector also remained high, at \$100 million.

CERF FUNDING BY SECTOR

in US\$ million



*Multi-sector Refugee Assistance

**Camp Coordination and Management



USAID is proud to support the CERF as part of the United States’ global efforts to respond to historic levels of humanitarian need. The CERF was critical to getting urgently-needed assistance to humanitarian partners in Ukraine, saving countless lives through this swift action, as well as supporting countries struggling to cope with growing acute food insecurity

Sarah Charles,
Assistant to the Administrator of the USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and member of the CERF Advisory Group.

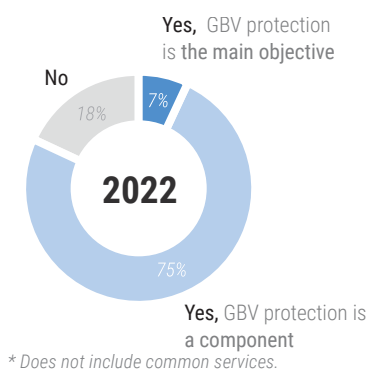
14 Based on standard indicators

Supporting the protection of the most vulnerable

The protection of all people affected and at risk informs humanitarian decision-making and is an integral part of CERF-funded responses. CERF funding to the protection sector remained high – at \$81.5 million, or 11 per cent of all funding in 2022 – and supported interventions in 31 countries.

Protection from and response to GBV remained central to the CERF-funded humanitarian response. In 2022, 318 projects, or 82 per cent of all projects, had GBV protection either as their main objective or as a programme component. This is a significant increase, compared to 212 projects in 2021, and reflects the continued centrality of protection from, and response to, GBV in CERF-funded interventions. The percentage of projects with GBV as the main objective increased from 6 per cent in 2021 to 7 per cent in 2022. A much larger share of projects, 75 per cent, featured protection from GBV as a programme component (see page 26).

GBV ASSESSMENT IN CERF-FUNDED PROJECTS*



Enhancing gender equality

CERF funding promotes gender equality by effectively identifying and responding to the needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men of various ages. All CERF-funded projects are informed by a gender and age analysis, through the mandatory use of the GAM (see page 26). In 2022, CERF allocated a record \$555 million, or 76 per cent of total CERF funding, to projects aimed at contributing to gender equality (GAM 3 and 4 scores) – a significant increase from \$372 million, or 70 per cent, in 2021, the first year the GAM was fully applied to all CERF-funded projects (see page 26).¹⁵

¹⁵ Common services such as humanitarian air services or logistics have been excluded from the analysis because they do not engage with affected people.



Haiti. After the earthquake on 14 August 2021, CERF-funded UNFPA's response contributed to the reduction of GBV and maternal/neonatal mortality in Haiti.
© UNFPA

In focus: Cash and voucher assistance in CERF-funded projects

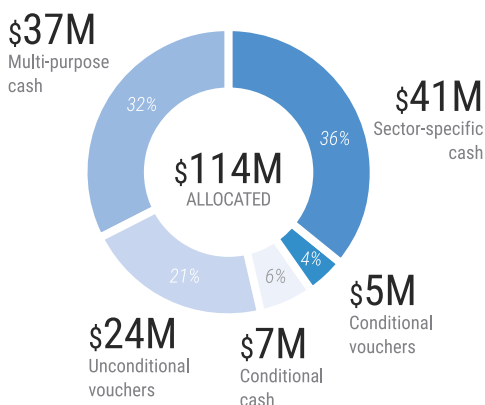
2022 was a record-breaking year for CERF's support for CVA. CERF enabled the transfer of approximately \$114 million in CVA to 4.5 million people in 36 countries (see page 27).¹⁶ CERF funded more CVA across a broader range of countries, reaching more people than in 2021. CVA transfers accounted for a record 16 per cent of total CERF funding, up from 9 per cent in 2021.

Some 75 per cent of the \$114 million were transferred in the form of cash assistance: \$37 million for unconditional multi-purpose cash assistance, \$41 million as sector-specific cash assistance and \$7 million in conditional cash assistance. The remaining 25 per cent (\$29 million) were transferred as vouchers.¹⁷

Most agencies increased their use of CERF-funded CVA. In 2022, UNICEF, for example transferred \$6.8 million in CVA, up from only \$0.9 million in 2021. Likewise, WFP transferred \$64.3 million, up from \$14.9 million in 2021. As in previous years, WFP and UNHCR were the largest and second largest implementers of CERF-funded CVA projects respectively.

DISAGGREGATION OF CVA*

By type
In US\$



¹⁶ This refers to the actual amount of cash and voucher assistance that targeted people receive, and does not include delivery costs such as staffing, monitoring and financial service providers' transfer fees. Total CVA programming therefore constitutes an even larger portion of CERF funding.

¹⁷ CERF relies on the CALP network's definitions for CVA; CERF further distinguishes between two types of unconditional cash assistance: (i) multi-purpose cash, which are transfers (either periodic or one-off) corresponding to the amount of money required to cover, fully or partially, a household's basic needs for multiple sectors and (ii) sector-specific cash transfers (either periodic or one-off), which correspond to the amount of money required to cover, fully or partially, a household's basic needs within a single sector (e.g. shelter).

KEY FACTS ON CVA*



\$114M
Transferred to people in need

▲ 162% increase compared to 2021

15.5%
Of total CERF funding dedicated to CVA

▲ up from 9% in 2021



38%
of all CERF-funded projects included CVA

▲ up from 29% in 2021



36
countries supported

▲ 50% increase compared to 2021



4.5M
people assisted

▲ 181% increase compared to 2021

Ukraine. Oleksandr with his son Makar. Their family were among those who received cash assistance from UNICEF, supported by CERF and other donors. © UNICEF



CERF'S CASH ASSISTANCE BRINGS UKRAINIANS RELIEF AND FLEXIBILITY



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“I find this cash helps better than other kinds of assistance because you know what you need most and your needs change,” says Valentyna. She used money from IOM to purchase medicine and treatment for her glaucoma which she wouldn’t have been able to afford otherwise.

Aiming to reach hundreds of thousands of vulnerable Ukrainian families affected by the war, CERF-funded multi-purpose cash assistance by IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA and FAO empowers displaced people to meet their basic needs, such as paying for food or medicines, while also supporting the local economy in areas of displacement and fostering positive interaction between host and displaced communities.

With CERF funding, UNICEF provided cash assistance in Kharkiv and the surrounding areas. “I saw a publication about UNICEF’s financial assistance on social media and applied,” says Venera, who fled with her husband and 2-year-old son Makar and had been struggling to afford the basics. “In three weeks, about 20,000 Ukrainian Hryvnia (UAH) was transferred to my account.”

The cash meant Venera and her husband, Oleksandr, could pay the rent and buy medicine, diapers and food – as well as some simple toys for their son, who has Down’s Syndrome. “The money helped us to survive a few months,” says Venera.



People assisted

Gorora village, Sudan.
Children and adults collect
water from a UNICEF-
supported water facility
funded by CERF.
© UNICEF/Ammar

People assisted

In response to record needs in 2022, CERF enabled partners to provide life-saving assistance to an estimated 32.7 million people in 42 countries. Nearly three-quarters of people reached (23.8 million) were critically affected by population displacement, the highest proportion in CERF's history. CERF continued to help the humanitarian community to support the most vulnerable, with 17.2 million women and girls, 15.8 million children and 3 million people with disabilities assisted.

Throughout 2022, CERF enabled fast and predictable life-saving assistance and protection to 32.7 million people in 42 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and the Americas.

Uganda was the country with the largest number of people assisted through CERF funding, with 3.4 million people reached. This was mostly driven by the

response to an Ebola outbreak, which reached over 2 million people with WASH and health assistance. The DRC and Ethiopia followed, with nearly 2.7 million people assisted in each country - largely through CERF responses to drought in Ethiopia and massive population displacement in the DRC.

Menaka, Mali. Scene at a displacement site, supported by CERF. Mali is experiencing a multidimensional crisis, driven by the combined impacts of insecurity, inter-communal conflict, socio-political instability, climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic
© UNICEF Mali/N'Daou

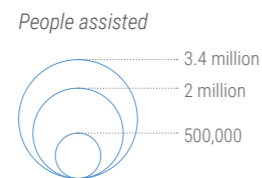


PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2022 CERF FUNDING

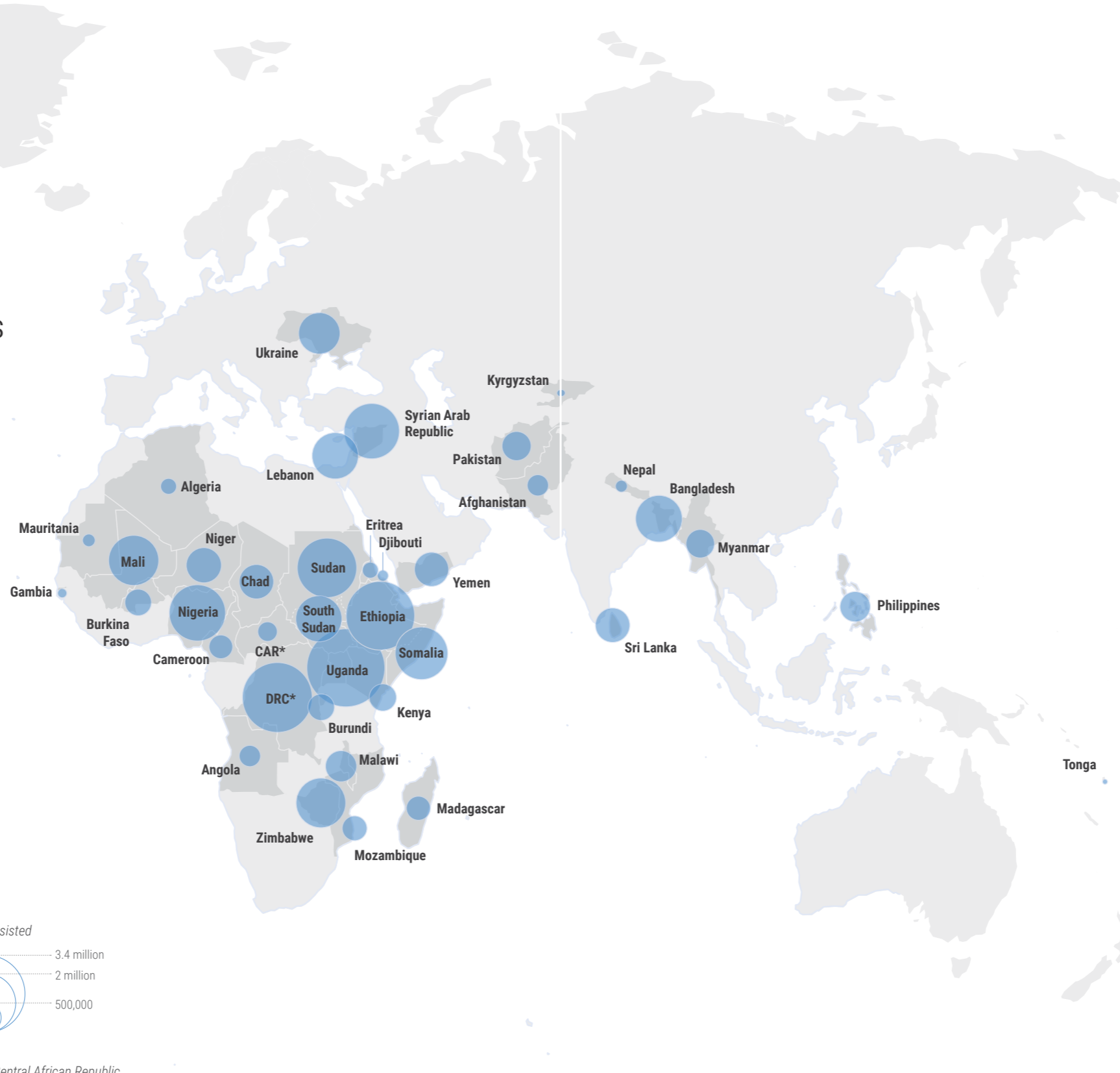


32.7M

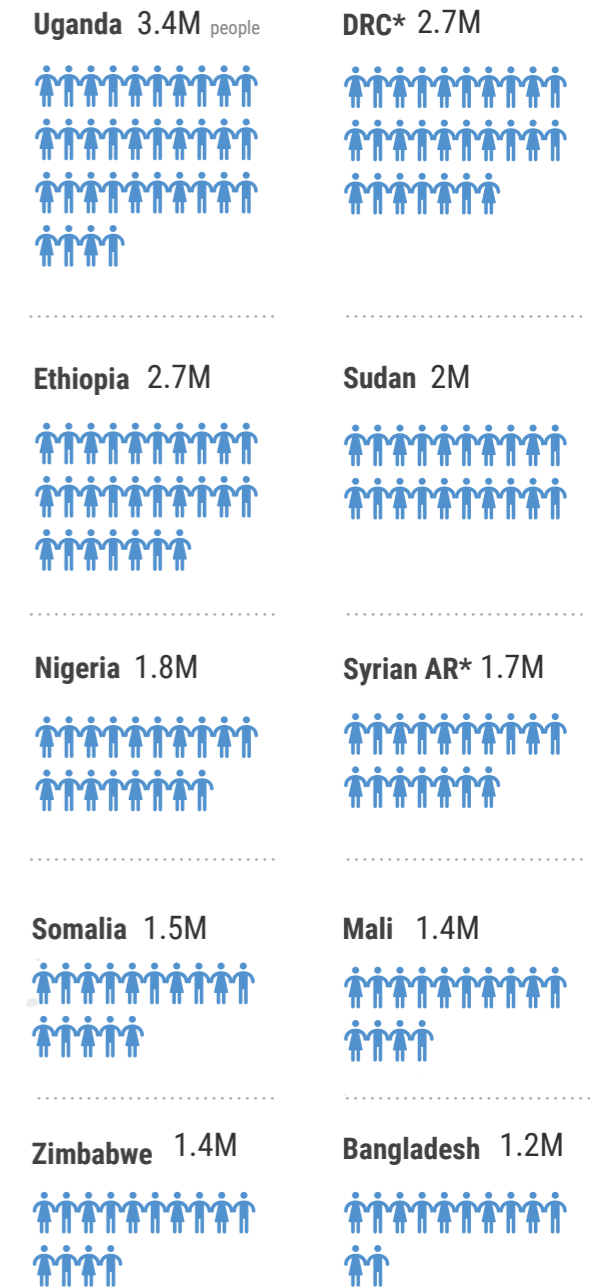
PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH CERF FUNDING IN **42** COUNTRIES



* CAR - Central African Republic
DRC - Democratic Republic of the Congo



TOP-10 COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH CERF FUNDING



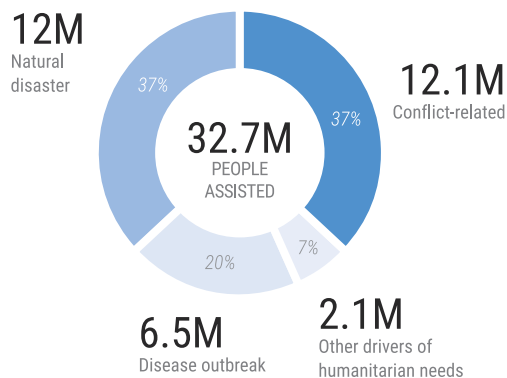
*Syrian Arab Republic

Responding to the humanitarian needs of people affected by the main drivers

Almost one third (12.1 million) of the people who received life-saving assistance through CERF funding in 2022 were reached through allocations in response to humanitarian needs caused by conflicts (see page 43). A record 37 per cent of people assisted (12 million) were affected by natural disasters, most of whom the majority (11 million) were affected by climate-related disasters such as droughts, floods and storms (see page 45). A total of 6.5 million people were assisted through CERF-funded responses to disease outbreaks, predominantly Ebola and cholera (see page 49). CERF supported another 2 million people who required life-saving assistance due to the humanitarian consequences linked to economic disruptions such as steeply rising food prices (see page 42).

PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2022 CERF FUNDING

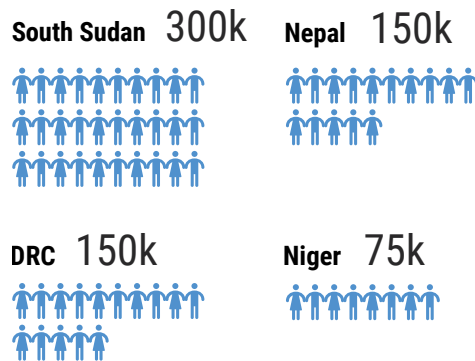
By main driver of humanitarian need



Providing assistance before emergencies strike

In 2022, the activations of anticipatory action frameworks ensured life-saving assistance for nearly 700,000 people before the peak impact of natural disasters and disease outbreaks. This assistance ensured that people in the DRC, Nepal, Niger and South Sudan were better prepared for emergencies, and received more effective and dignified humanitarian assistance (see page 39).

PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH 2022 ANTICIPATORY ACTION





Rutshuro, DRC. Women collect water outside of Remera primary school in Rutshuro. Following an increase in displaced people living there, UNICEF quickly established access points for water to allow children and their families to have sustainable access to clean and safe water. The project is funded by CERF as part of OCHA's pilot project for anticipatory action for cholera.

© UNICEF/Arlette Bashizi.



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EARLY ACTION TO PREVENT A CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN THE DRC

Alice, 32 years old, fled with her children when fighting broke out in Bugina, a village located several hours' walk away from Rutshuro, where she now lives. In the DRC, more than 190,000 people were forced to leave their homes following the clashes in the North-Kivu province. Without access to clean water and sanitation services, children and families are exposed to a higher risk of waterborne diseases, notably cholera.

Alice is filling a water jug to take home, outside of the Remera primary school in Rutshuro. "Life is very difficult here," says a student, Mani, who is washing some dishes nearby with the clean water. "When we arrived [we] had no water."

With CERF funding, UNICEF established access to clean water, constructed 272 toilets and 132 emergency showers, distributed prevention kits to 3,500 displaced fam-

ilies and educated more than 40,000 people on good hygiene practices in places hosting displaced families, to prevent a cholera outbreak.

The funding from CERF is part of OCHA's anticipatory action pilot for cholera in the DRC. "We know we need longer-term investments in water and sanitation to put cholera behind [us]," says Juan Chaves-Gonzalez, who is leading the pilot. "While that happens, we need to get ahead of it so that in countries like the DRC, catching and controlling a small cluster of cases can avoid a crisis. That's what anticipatory action for cholera is about."

CERF allocated \$750,000 for anticipatory action for cholera response in the DRC, to support UNICEF, WHO and their partners to mitigate cholera and prevent a larger outbreak.

Responding to priority needs

Consistent with previous years, the highest number of people reached with 2022 CERF funding was in the health sector (17.7 million people). Life-saving support through the health sector was crucial for responses across all emergency types. CERF funding enabled health assistance for 6.2 million people in response to natural disasters, 5.7 million in response to disease outbreaks and 4.9 million in response to conflict-driven emergencies. Thanks to CERF funding, at least 2.3 million people received vaccinations and at least half a million people received mental health and psychosocial support services.

The second and third highest number of beneficiaries were supported through the food security and WASH sectors, each of which enabled assistance to some 8.2 million people. This included at least 2 million people benefiting from agricultural inputs and at least 2 million people receiving critical WASH supplies, such as hygiene kits.

Reaching the most vulnerable

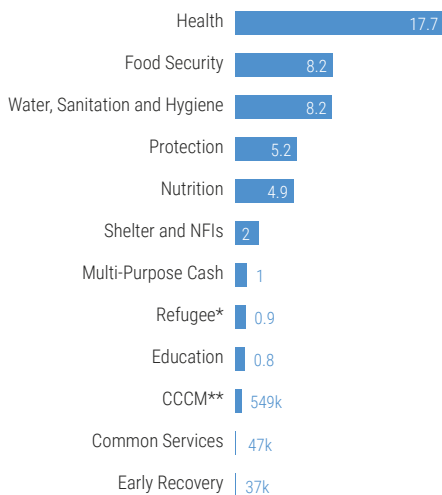
Throughout the year, CERF continued to prioritize life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable, including children and women (see page 26).

In 2022, more than 17 million people assisted with CERF funding (53 per cent of the total) were women and girls, and almost 16 million were children under the age of 18. CERF-funded assistance in the protection and nutrition sectors had a particularly strong focus on women and girls. Moreover, due to the focus on GBV nearly 60 per cent of people reached in the protection sector were women and girls. As a result of CERF's continued efforts to prioritize GBV prevention and response in humanitarian action, this was the main objective of 7 per cent of CERF-funded projects (see page 26). These projects led to the delivery of critical specialized assistance to 1 million women and girls.

PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2022 CERF FUNDING

by sector

in million

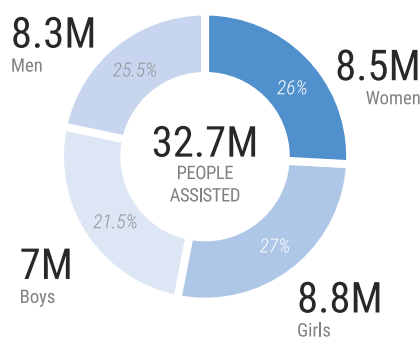


*Multi-sector Refugee Assistance

**Camp Coordination and Management

PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH 2022 CERF FUNDING

by sex and age



Beirut, Lebanon. Sana, a 32-year-old mother of two, says Lebanon's devastating economic crisis has taken a heavy toll on her family life. © UNFPA.



GBV RESPONSE AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN LEBANON



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Sana, a 32-year-old mother of two, says Lebanon's devastating economic crisis has taken a heavy toll on her family life. She has been unsuccessful in finding work to support her family. She blames the economic crisis — which has left about one third of the population unemployed — as well as her partial hearing impairment.

Suffering from severe mental health issues following the economic crisis and unable to earn a living, Sana sought help at a CERF-funded safe space provided by UNFPA. After attending multiple sessions, Sana was able to speak out openly about her mental health issues and economic concerns. "I became less worried and felt more capable and confident," she said.

CERF funding enabled UNFPA to support two safe spaces in northern Lebanon that promote women's empowerment and prevent and respond to GBV. The centres provide comprehensive services to 4,500 vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian refugees.

Sana was also given cash assistance to support her family. "This month, I was finally able to buy vegetables and ingredients to prepare their favorite meals," she said, adding that she was able to pay for educational support for her children. "It is a heavy weight lifted off my shoulders knowing that I am at ease with my family," Sana said.

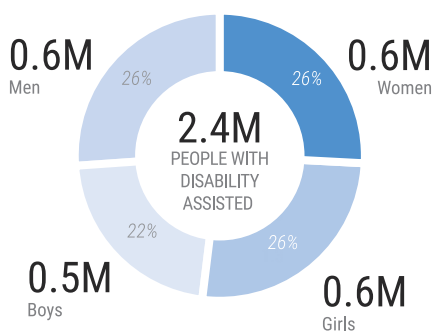
CERF also supported the sexual, reproductive and mental health of the most vulnerable people. With CERF funding, UN agencies and partners ensured that almost 2 million people in 15 countries, mainly women, had access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health services, and that at least half a million people were provided with mental health and psychosocial support services. CERF-funded interventions also ensured that at least 120,000 children were born in the presence of skilled health personnel.

The protection of people caught in humanitarian crises remained an integral part of CERF-funded responses in 2022. During the year, the Fund supported dedicated protection projects assisting some 5.2 million people. Almost half of them benefited from GBV protection and prevention services, while more than 2.2 million children were assisted with protection interventions.

In 2022, an estimated 2.4 million people with disabilities benefited from CERF-funded humanitarian assistance, including 600,000 women and 1.2 million children (see page 26). Fifteen per cent of the world's population live with a disability, most of whom live in developing countries and particularly in crisis-affected communities. According to project data, 2022 CERF funding enabled assistance for nearly 1 million people with disabilities in conflict situations, which included over 215,000 people in the DRC, nearly 115,000 in Ukraine and almost 75,000 people in Nigeria.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ASSISTED WITH 2022 CERF FUNDING

by sex and age



Providing a lifeline to displaced people

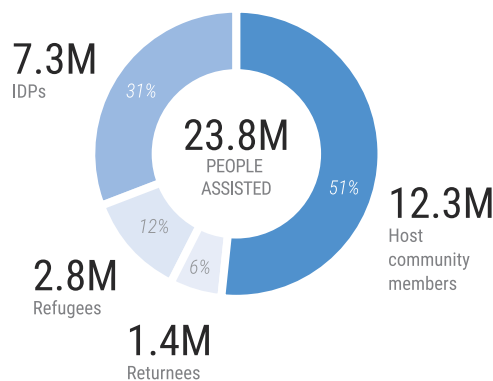
In 2022, nearly three-quarters of people assisted by CERF (23.8 million) were affected by displacement - the highest proportion in the history of the Fund.

With an estimated 103 million people worldwide forcibly displaced by mid-2022 (up from 84 million by mid-2021), addressing the devastating humanitarian consequences of population displacement remained a critical part of CERF-funded assistance. Of the 23.8 million people critically affected by population displacement, 7.3 million were IDPs, 2.8 million were refugees, 1.4 million were returnees and 12.3 million people hosted displaced populations.

The high proportion of CERF funding targeting people affected by population displacement was largely driven by conflict situations with significant IDP and refugee movements, as seen in Ukraine and Yemen. CERF also provided several allocations in 2022 focusing specifically on addressing humanitarian consequences of population displacement, including for Bangladesh, Cameroon, Mali, South Sudan and Uganda.

2022 CERF-FUNDED ASSISTANCE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

by type



Garbo town, Ethiopia. Mohammed runs a tea shop in Garbo town, Ethiopia. He used cash assistance from IOM to open his business after drought killed all his animals, leaving him without a source of income. © IOM



CERF STRENGTHENS DISPLACED FAMILIES WITH LIVELIHOODS, CASH AND NUTRITION ASSISTANCE



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“I have never seen this kind of drought in my life,” says Mohammed, a pastoralist, who lives in Garbo town, part of the Somali region in Ethiopia. Mohammed, was forced to move to Garbo as the drought killed all his livestock.

Across Ethiopia and Somalia hundreds of thousands of people are on the move because the drought is making their livelihoods impossible. Humanitarian organizations estimate that more than 2,200 people have migrated to the town of Garbo in the last five years, with more coming as the drought made it almost impossible to earn a living from livestock.

Halimo had a similar story to Mohammed. “I lost all my livestock,” she explains. “We survived, but we lost our livelihoods.”

With support from CERF, IOM provided drought-affected and displaced households in Garbo with cash to enable them to purchase basic items and find new ways to earn a living and support their families. Mohammed has opened a tea shop and Halimo is delivering water to her neighbours, using a donkey she bought with the help of cash aid. CERF’s cash assistance was critical in the Horn of Africa, offering displaced families flexibility to choose what they need to earn a living.

Methodology for calculating numbers of people assisted

CERF uses the number of people directly targeted as a proxy for the number of people assisted.

This approach allows for timely global reporting as the final data on people reached with CERF funding only becomes available when RC/HCs share grant reports with the Fund – up to one year after receiving the allocations. In fact, analyses from the past five years have shown that CERF consistently reaches significantly more people than planned. CERF will continue to monitor the reported data.

CERF applies a consistent methodology for tracking the number of people targeted. CERF requires all recipient agencies to provide detailed information on the

number of people directly targeted and reached with each CERF-funded project. The multisectoral nature of CERF-funded assistance means that people may receive CERF-funded life-saving assistance through several different sectors. For instance, the same individual could receive a vaccination, food and relief items, and also benefit from protection efforts. To avoid the risk of double-counting, CERF uses a two-step methodology to calculate the total number of people assisted through an allocation. First, sector leads, in consultation with implementing agencies, identify areas of duplication within sectors. Second, OCHA field offices or RC/HC offices identify duplications between sectors within the same CERF allocation.



Baidoa, Somalia. Women queuing to receive WFP relief assistance and nutrition from a CERF-funded project. Baidoa region is one of the most drought affected regions in Somalia with some of the highest malnutrition rates in the country.
© WFP/Geneva Costopoulos



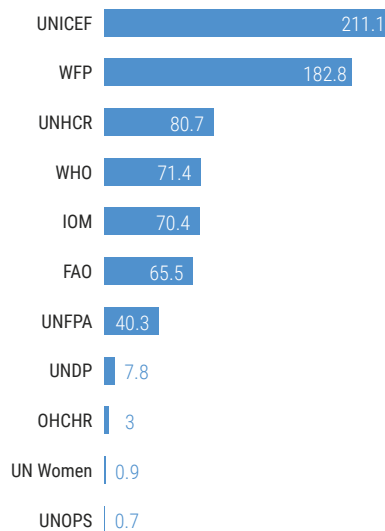
CERF recipient agencies

CERF recipient agencies

In 2022, CERF allocated a total of \$735 million to 11 UN agencies. Together with their partners on the ground, they provided life-saving assistance to 32.7 million people in 42 countries across the globe. For the second year in a row, UNICEF was the Fund's top recipient agency.

2022 CERF FUNDING TO UN AGENCIES

in US\$ million



UNICEF



With **\$211M**, or **29 per cent** of overall CERF funding, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was the top recipient agency in 2022 for the second year in a row. CERF enabled UNICEF to respond to the needs of children and families in crisis in **40 countries**. The top recipient countries of CERF funding through UNICEF in 2022 were affected by conflict and climate-related crises, including Sudan, Nigeria, the DRC, Yemen, South Sudan and Ukraine.



Across the globe, there are more children in need and at risk than ever before. They are facing an unprecedented array of crises from flooding, drought and other climate-related disasters to conflict and infectious disease outbreaks. Decisive and timely humanitarian action is critical to saving children's lives. In 2022, CERF continued to be a trusted funding mechanism for UNICEF and our partners, helping us to quickly respond to emergencies. Thanks to CERF's rapid allocation, UNICEF reached millions of children and women with life-saving services across 40 countries over the course of the year. UNICEF is most grateful to CERF and its donors for supporting our humanitarian action for children.

*Catherine Russell,
Executive Director, UNICEF*

WFP



With **\$183M** in funding, the World Food Programme (WFP) was the second-largest recipient of CERF funding in 2022. As the world grappled with unprecedented food insecurity and humanitarian needs, funding from CERF enabled WFP to respond to food insecurity and malnutrition across **36 countries**. CERF funding also contributed to WFP's provision of essential common services for humanitarian actors.



In 2022, the world faced an unprecedented humanitarian crisis as COVID-19's economic ripple effects combined with conflict, climate change, soaring food prices - and, most recently, the global impact of the war in Ukraine - sparked a perfect storm of hunger.

Across Somalia, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Yemen and Haiti, nearly 1 million people had to fight a daily battle for survival against the imminent threat of famine - a struggle that continues today. Meanwhile, protracted crises tightened their grip on vulnerable communities in nations around the world.

During this extraordinarily challenging year, CERF remained a vital partner to WFP and its rapid funding has helped us avert famine and get life-saving assistance to those who need it most, in collaboration with other agencies. WFP thanks all the donors who work with CERF for their vital support and partnership.

*David M. Beasley,
Executive Director of WFP*

WHO



The World Health Organization (WHO) received **\$71M**, or 10 per cent of total CERF funding. CERF funding enabled WHO to respond quickly to a range of health emergencies and provide life-saving essential health services on a large scale in **30 countries**, including Ukraine, Somalia and Lebanon.



CERF is a lifeline for millions of vulnerable people throughout the world.

*Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization*

FAO



With **\$66M**, CERF enabled the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to respond to food security crises and threats to people's livelihoods in 29 countries. CERF's funding to FAO through its RR window enabled the organization to deliver humanitarian agricultural assistance to the most vulnerable rural households affected by a variety of shocks - conflict, natural disasters and rising food prices - in 21 countries, while CERF funding under its UFE window was used to provide a lifeline to rural populations in several protracted crises where humanitarian needs remained significant.



Time-critical funding from CERF significantly increased in 2022, enabling FAO to assist acutely food insecure people in 29 countries. Thanks to CERF's agility, FAO has been able to help vulnerable smallholders to anticipate shocks and rapidly produce nutritious food for their communities. In Niger, CERF contributions have been fundamental in securing critical inputs for farmers and herders facing severe seed and fodder deficits, while safeguarding their livelihoods against future crises. In Sudan, the essential agricultural and livestock inputs provided to drought-affected families enabled them to meet their own needs for months, paving the path to recovery and self-sufficiency. CERF's continued support to scale up anticipatory actions and ensure timely agricultural assistance is vital to save lives and improve their livelihood.

*Qu Dongyu,
Director General of FAO*

UNHCR



With **\$81M**, or 11 per cent of total CERF funds allocated, CERF enabled the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist vulnerable refugees and displaced people across 23 countries. CERF's rapid turnaround proved critical in major emergencies, where traditional funding sources are slower to materialize, including Ukraine, the DRC and Ethiopia in 2022. CERF also enabled UNHCR to meet the needs of populations in protracted situations and forgotten emergencies. Ensuring a timely disbursement along with a sizable second round CERF UFE allocation was key to addressing the increasing funding gap in 2022.



In 2022 we passed the sobering milestone of more than 100 million people forced to flee their homes. This was propelled by major crises around the world. CERF was amongst the first to support UNHCR, allowing us to quickly deliver life-saving assistance to refugees and displaced people. CERF also provides crucial help to UNHCR's most underfunded refugee and displacement responses. This has allowed displaced people to continue receiving life-saving protection, even when the cameras and headlines have moved on.

Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

IOM



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) received **\$70M**, equivalent to 10 per cent of total CERF funding, enabling the Organization to deliver quality humanitarian and emergency assistance response to multiple crises related to conflict, natural hazards and epidemics in **24 countries**, including South Sudan and Ukraine, and in response to natural disasters in countries, including Somalia, Mozambique, the DRC and Myanmar.



In 2022 again, CERF provided substantial and urgently needed funding in response to humanitarian crises resulting from conflict, natural hazards and diseases. With CERF's essential support, IOM delivered life-saving assistance, protection services and cash assistance to thousands of people in need in 24 new and protracted emergencies. Thanks to \$67 million received, IOM rapidly and timely addressed the needs of the most vulnerable affected populations in 14 African countries including South Sudan, Nigeria, Ethiopia, DRC, Mozambique, Somalia and the Sahel, but also in Ukraine, Yemen, Haiti, Venezuela and in the Pacific, in the Philippines and Tonga.

*António Vitorino,
Director General of IOM*

UNFPA



The United Nations Population Fund

(UNFPA) received **\$40M**, or 5 per cent of overall CERF funding, enabling the agency to deliver GBV prevention and response assistance and enhance access to health care in 29 countries.



UNFPA is deeply grateful to all who contribute to CERF, an invaluable funding vehicle for effective humanitarian action. Thanks to CERF contributions, UNFPA can hit the ground running when crisis strikes with services that are a lifeline for women and girls in humanitarian settings, including sexual and reproductive health care, cash and voucher assistance, and psychosocial support for survivors of gender-based violence.

*Dr. Natalia Kanem,
Executive Director of UNFPA*

UNDP



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received a total

of **\$7.8M** from CERF to support livelihoods recovery for the most vulnerable in seven countries. In 2022, CERF funding enabled UNDP to provide catalytic support to Sri Lanka's health care system, to help maintain a hydroelectric plant in Raqqa Governorate, Syria, and to provide shelter and non-food items assistance to communities affected by Hurricane Ian in Western Cuba.

OHCHR



The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received

\$3M to provide protection to vulnerable communities affected by gang violence in Haiti, conduct human rights advocacy and protection monitoring following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, and carry out a comprehensive human rights analysis in Syria.



Thanks to CERF's grant support, OHCHR has scaled up its life-saving protection activities in response to humanitarian crises. Robust human rights monitoring, analysis, and advocacy across these three countries helped inform and strengthen the HC/HCT leadership and advocacy on protection, further providing a lifeline to crisis-affected people ensuring that no one is left behind, reducing their suffering and undoubtedly saving lives. OHCHR remains sincerely grateful for the support of CERF, OCHA, and the donors who support CERF. With a view to another year of strong and effective partnership, together we can, and we will protect and support civilian populations affected by violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNMAS



The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) received

\$698k in CERF funding to conduct critical mine awareness and risk reduction activities in Burkina Faso and Niger. UNOPS served as the grant manager.

UN Women

UN Women received

\$927k, which enabled critical protection of the most at-risk women and girls in Bangladesh and Uganda. The CERF funding also allowed UN Women to ensure that the needs of women and girls were adequately considered in the anticipatory action ahead of floods in Nepal.



As more frequent extreme weather events each year demonstrate the damage caused by climate change, flexible funding mechanisms such as CERF allow UN Women and other agencies to better prepare for and respond to the impact on some of the most vulnerable populations. In 2022, CERF funding allowed UN Women to rapidly respond to separate flooding events in Nepal and Bangladesh. It enabled the provision of comprehensive relief packages for affected women and their families through the construction of multipurpose women's centres, cash grants and livelihood support. CERF-funded programming is a crucial contributor to UN Women's efforts to ensure that all women and girls have equitable access to the services, goods and resources they need, when they need them.

*Sima Bahous,
Executive Director of UN Women*

Governance of CERF



IMAGINE PEACE

love, yoko 2022

UN Headquarters, New York. Martin Griffiths with representatives from CIRCA Art at the CERF High-level Pledging Event for 2023. © OCHA/Palmero

CERF Advisory Group

The [CERF Advisory Group](#) was established to advise the Secretary-General, through the ERC, on the use and impact of the Fund. Membership selection procedures are designed to ensure the necessary expertise in the Group, while also considering appropriate geographic and gender diversity among the members. The Advisory Group holds two official meetings a year. In 2022, the first meeting took place in May, while the second was rescheduled from December 2022 to January 2023, due to scheduling challenges.

Throughout the year, CERF worked closely with the Advisory Group, not least with a view to helping members fulfil their functions as champions of CERF. Advisory Group members played a significant role as advocates for the Fund in 2022.

In May, the Advisory Group and ERC Martin Griffiths discussed the humanitarian system's response capacity and the ERC's priorities for CERF. The ERC stressed CERF's important role in enhancing efficiency across the humanitarian system, and promoting inclusive and accountable humanitarian action. He also emphasized the importance of ensuring that CERF continues to evolve and expand to ensure that the Fund remains able to respond effectively to the increasing and changing humanitarian needs. The Group expressed support for the ERC's CERF priorities and applauded the management of the Fund, noting that CERF is increasingly important for the humanitarian system's ability to respond rapidly to the growing needs.



In 2022, CERF proved to be an effective instrument for delivering rapid, life-saving assistance and protection to people affected by humanitarian crises. Like when typhoon Rai hit the Philippines, when the drought unfolded in Somalia, the same day Russia waged the war of aggression against Ukraine. CERF allocated funds for immediate humanitarian response. Norway is proud to be a consistent, predictable, and strong supporter of CERF.

[Anniken Huitfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway](#)

The Group commended CERF for its efforts to drive reform across the humanitarian system and reiterated the importance of ensuring strategic and prioritized use of CERF, capitalizing on its comparative advantages. The Group also reiterated its appreciation for CERF's role in addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including through promotion of AAP (see "Accountability to Affected Populations" on page 27).

In January 2023, the Advisory Group and the ERC discussed current humanitarian challenges and CERF's positioning in the humanitarian landscape. The ERC expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and the lack of attention given to other protracted crises, and emphasized the pivotal role of quality humanitarian financing and the key role of CERF in ensuring efficiency across the humanitarian system. The Group expressed continued commitment to CERF's efforts to promote positive change in the humanitarian system through its innovative and catalytic approach, and reiterated its support for CERF's anticipatory action efforts, encouraging a further mainstreaming of this agenda.

The ERC flagged that climate-related crises are increasingly driving humanitarian needs and affecting the most vulnerable people, thereby further widening the gap between needs and the capacity to respond. The ERC noted that CERF fills an important niche in climate crisis response, with more than one quarter of all its funding historically provided in response to climate-related humanitarian shocks. The ERC called upon the Advisory Group to advise how best CERF can position itself in the climate-financing space. While some members raised questions about the benefits and feasibility of an expanded CERF climate-financing profile, the Group welcomed the discussion and raised several key points to help guide OCHA's thinking on the topic.

Other topics discussed during the meeting of the Group included ways to deepen and diversify the CERF donor base, and the importance of ensuring continued strategic prioritization of CERF resources. Detailed recommendations and conclusions are published on the [CERF website](#).

Commitment to learning



CERF is committed to continuous learning to ensure that its approaches and processes are fit-for-purpose and well adapted to the changing requirements of the humanitarian landscape, while at the same time disseminating learning with partners and thereby contributing to support positive change in the humanitarian system.

CERF builds knowledge and learning in several ways. For example, every year since 2009, CERF has commissioned independent studies under its Performance and Accountability Framework. These studies assess CERF's added value to humanitarian responses around the world and review whether allocations lead to meaningful results aligned with CERF's mandate.

In addition, CERF supports learning through consultations with partners at the global and field levels, formal evaluations and studies, and through CERF After Action Reviews, grant reports and dedicated learning initiatives of thematic allocations. These all provide valuable insights into CERF's value add, and help identify good practices for replication or areas that can be improved for greater impact.



Anticipatory action

During 2022, CERF continued to ensure that dedicated learning activities were built into all allocations it made under anticipatory action frameworks. OCHA and its partners have developed a multi-dimensional learning framework that combines agency-specific monitoring and evaluation, process learning and independent impact evaluations to systematically capture evidence and learning from these initiatives. For instance, a survey of over 1,400 Somalis was conducted to assess the impact of CERF-funded anticipatory action during the 2021 drought. Four out of five respondents reported improvements in their quality of life, saying the assistance increased their ability to afford food and access clean water, and improved their emotional and physical well-being. Learning from the anticipatory action frameworks is considered a common good for the humanitarian community, and results and reports are available on OCHA's website.



Gender and Disability Contact Groups

In 2022, OCHA continued to follow up on the recommendations of the Pooled Fund Contact Groups on Gender and Disability Inclusion established the previous year. Composed of independent experts from the humanitarian sector, the groups were set up to support learning on past and current practices and provide advice on further strengthening GBV, gender and disability inclusion in the work of CERF and the CBPFs. The Contact Groups concluded their work in 2022, providing several important recommendations to inform and improve the Funds' practices. OCHA is now working towards taking these measures forward in a meaningful, institutionalized way. This will require supporting actions, such as strengthened peer-to-peer learning to promote best practice and generate innovation. (see page 26)



Review of CERF disability envelope

In 2022, CERF commissioned a review of a disability envelope provided under the second UFE round of 2021. As part of this round, the ERC included a dedicated \$10 million envelope for seven¹⁸ countries to address foundational issues and advance programming for persons with disabilities. The objectives were to support interventions to address the specific requirements of persons with disabilities. In addition, it aimed to contribute to the enhancement of humanitarian actors' ability to develop and implement quality programmes that are inclusive of persons with disabilities. Lastly, the allocation sought to help promote greater accountability in the system, including by increasing and improving the participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities.

The main objective of the review is to generate learning from the targeted intervention disability envelope. Since the allocation was the first of its kind, identifying lessons learned, best practices and potential challenges will help generate learning to inform disability inclusion in humanitarian actions, including as it relates to using funding for advancing inclusion and targeted programming.

OCHA expects this review to be completed in the first half of 2023. Once finalized, the study report will be shared through the CERF website and discussed with the CERF Advisory Group. Such reviews are important stocktaking exercises for CERF, helping to identify best practices, lessons learned and areas for improvement. They provide relevant input for the broader humanitarian community by informing of lessons learned through CERF allocations, including as it relates to innovations.

18 Afghanistan, the DRC, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria and Venezuela

Transparency and accountability

CERF donors entrust the ERC, on behalf of the Secretary-General, with managing hundreds of millions in unearmarked funding to achieve the best possible humanitarian outcomes. Ensuring full transparency and real-time data on CERF-supported operations is therefore a top priority. CERF's transparency and accountability processes are guided by the CERF Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF)¹⁹ that delineates accountability mechanisms and reporting processes for the Fund. The framework is used by CERF to clarify accountability, performance and management expectations among different actors and around a set of agreed outputs, outcomes and impacts.



Components of CERF transparency

In line with its commitment to promote transparency, CERF abides by the [International Aid Transparency Initiative \(IATI\)](#) standards to ensure information is easy to access, understand and use for the broader public. In 2022, CERF continued to invest in robust reporting under the IATI.²⁰ As a result, CERF's IATI transparency score has remained stable at 95 per cent, placing CERF among the top 10 of the close to 1,500 organizations publishing their data to IATI standards. CERF also continues to publish all grant decisions on its [website](#), along with the [Financial Tracking Service \(FTS\)](#) and via the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#). CERF's Annual Results Reports and a broad range of infographics are also available on the CERF website, along with allocation methodologies, data sets and summaries of country selection processes for all UFE allocations.

¹⁹ <https://cerf.un.org/partner-resources/performance-and-accountability/performance-and-accountability-framework>

²⁰ The overall score is a composite of the ratings for timeliness, the extent to which data is forward-looking and comprehensiveness: http://publishingstats.iatistandard.org/summary_stats.html

In 2022, CERF and CBPFs made significant strides in the development of a joint online Grant Management System (OneGMS). This system enhances real-time communication of allocations through the standardization of data published across the Pooled Funds Data Hubs. OneGMS also helps to harmonize aspects of CERF and CBPF grants management processes and grants proposal formats. OCHA successfully completed the first phase of OneGMS development and rolled out the system for use by CBPFs. This followed extensive testing with field focal points and the development of an online help portal. OCHA expects to introduce its use for CERF in early 2023 and start developing phase two, which will include modules governing project revisions, as well as narrative and financial reports.

OCHA also continued to refine its online management and transparency tools. These include an online allocation tracker that provides real-time information on each CERF allocation, including the trigger for CERF funding and the assistance provided. This tool gives stakeholders the option of receiving e-mail notifications of new allocations as soon as these are decided by the ERC.

OCHA further developed its Pooled Funds data hubs. The CERF Data Hub, provides a wide array of interactive visuals, allowing stakeholders easy access to data on how individual contributions have been allocated across global humanitarian operations since CERF's inception in 2006. The OCHA Pooled Funds Data Hub, on the other hand, serves as a one-stop

data visualization platform providing data on CERF and CBPF allocations and donor contributions. The hub also offers historical information on both CERF and CBPF allocations and makes it possible to view funding flows by region, country, partner, donor and project. In 2022, OCHA added country profile pages to this hub, offering country-level snapshots of historical CERF and CBPF funding along with real-time charts and other visualizations. These data hubs complement the allocation data already available through CERF's website.



Accountability in the use of funds

Country-level reporting and monitoring is the basis for accounting to the ERC, the Secretary-General and donors on the use of CERF funds.

The RC/HC has the overall responsibility at country-level for overseeing the prioritization and implementation of a CERF-funded response, and reporting on the implementation progress and results achieved when project activities are completed. Recipient agencies are responsible for monitoring the implementation of individual CERF projects, among others by giving the RC/HC and the HCT an interim update, to show whether CERF-funded activities are implemented as intended and enable corrective actions if necessary. Following the completion of CERF-funded activities, an After Action Review (AAR) is conducted. The AAR is the cornerstone of the RC/HC reporting process in that it helps identify key points and strategic issues to be raised in the RC/HC report, and as such provides the foundation for drafting the main parts of the report. While the RC/HC takes the lead, the reporting process after the implementation of CERF grants is a joint effort by all relevant stakeholders at country level, helping to foster a collective reflection on the CERF process and the results achieved. These reports are published on the CERF website and shared by the RC/HC with all relevant stakeholders at country level.



Monitoring fraud investigations

Fraud poses a serious risk to humanitarian efforts. Potential cases of fraud related to CERF grants are treated in accordance with the rules, regulations and oversight mechanisms of the recipient UN agencies.

To ensure adequate transparency and accountability, CERF guidance sets out procedures for informing donors of potential cases of fraud in CERF-funded projects implemented by UN agencies and their partners. The guidance, developed in consultation with the CERF Advisory Group and recipient agencies, outlines the communications responsibilities of recipient agencies and CERF.

To ensure effective and consistent monitoring of investigations into potential fraud cases, CERF employs internal standard operating procedures covering all phases of the process, from initial notification by partners to the conclusion of investigations.

In line with the communications guidance, interested donors are kept informed of any new cases reported to CERF, as well as any developments in ongoing investigations. The annual report of the Secretary-General on CERF also provides a summary of reported cases.

Twice a year, CERF contacts agencies to remind them to report any new cases of possible fraudulent use of CERF funds and to provide updates on existing cases.

CERF follows ongoing cases and remains in close contact with the relevant agencies until cases have been fully investigated. Subject to the outcome of investigations, CERF may work with recipient agencies to recover funds, where feasible and appropriate. CERF shares information with its donors as soon as recipient agencies provide information about potential cases of fraud with CERF funding. Twice a year, CERF sends a consolidated overview of ongoing cases to donors and the Advisory Group. In 2021, OCHA consolidated its management of fraud processes for both CERF and CBPFs into one organizational Oversight and Compliance Unit to ensure streamlining of fraud response processes between the two Funds.



Ethiopia. Since the installation of the water purification system financed by CERF, Yer, 11, can drink clean water every day.
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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Anticipatory action	OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
AAP	Accountability to affected populations	PAF	Performance and Accountability Framework
AAR	After Action Review	PSEA	Protection against sexual exploitation
CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Fund	RC/HC	United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	RHFWCA	Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa
CIRCA	Cultural Institute of Radical Contemporary Arts	RR	Rapid Response
CVA	Cash and voucher assistance	RVF	Rift Valley Fever
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo	SSHF	South Sudan Humanitarian Fund
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator	UAH	Ukrainian Hryvnia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UFE	Underfunded Emergencies
FTS	Financial Tracking Service	UHF	Ukraine Humanitarian Fund
GAM	Gender with Age Marker	UN	United Nations
GBV	Gender-based violence	UNCT/HCT	United Nations Country Teams/Humanitarian Country Teams
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IATI	International Aid Transparency Initiative	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
IDP	Internally displaced person	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
INGO	International non-governmental organization	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification	UNOPS	United Nations Operations Services
LHF	Lebanon Humanitarian Fund	UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees
MPC	Multi-purpose cash	WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
NGO	Non-governmental organization	WFP	World Food Programme
OCHA	Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	WHO	World Health Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights		
ONEGMS	One Grant Management System		

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Visit: bit.ly/GIVETOCERF

BANK TRANSFER TO CERF

Contact the CERF secretariat in New York, USA

Chulmin Kang
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PAYMENT BY CHEQUE

Cheques need to be made out to the United Nations Foundation. The memo line of the cheques should read "Donation to CERF."

Cheques should be mailed to:
United Nations Foundation/Central Emergency
Response Fund
P.O. Box 96721
Washington, D.C. 20090-6721, USA

Please include your name and contact details so that CERF can track and respond to your contribution accordingly. Note: US tax-deductible donations can also be made via money order or wire transfer.

REAL-TIME INFORMATION



For real-time contribution and allocation data with easy-to-use filters and views please visit:

Pooled Fund Data Hub
<https://pfddata.unocha.org>

CERF Data Hub
cerf.data.unocha.org

POOLED FUND IMPACT STORIES



For more impact stories showing CERF and the Country-based Pooled Funds in action:
pooledfunds.impact.unocha.org/fund/cerf

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