

are able to draw on the Fund, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), invaluable allies of the United Nations, may also receive CERF funds as partners of these Agencies.

Managing a Fund of this size requires a high degree of oversight, and the United Nations is committed to the highest standards of transparency and accountability. Expenditures and programme results are reported to the General Assembly, the donors, and the general public through a dedicated CERF website maintained by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs at: <http://cerf.un.org>

How You Can Help

The CERF was created by all nations, for all potential victims of humanitarian disasters, as both a symbol and active instrument of international humanitarian solidarity. A number of governments have already come forward with funding and support but everyone, both individuals and corporations, can provide aid when it is needed most for those most in need. The United Nations asks you to help make this historic opportunity a success.



"Too often, aid resembles a lottery in which a few win but most lose because the aid they receive is too little too late. We must move from lottery to predictability so all those who suffer receive aid."

Jan Egeland,
United Nations
Emergency Relief Coordinator

There are two ways for individuals and private organizations to contribute to the CERF:

1. Direct donation to the CERF bank account

JP Morgan Chase Bank
International Agencies Banking
1166 Avenue of the Americas
NY, NY 10036-2780

Account Title:
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) Charitable Donations

Account No: 485 002671

ABA No: 021000021

Swift Code: CHASUS33

2. Online and tax deductible donations

It is also possible to make online and tax deductible donations through a partnership with the United Nations Foundation, a U.S. public charity. Donations can be made online or sent via check, money order or wire transfer. To learn more or make a contribution, please visit: www.unfoundation.org/cerf

For governments to make contributions to the CERF, please send a request to the CERF Secretariat at OCHA-New York.

CERF

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Yuka Nagashima
CERF Secretariat, S-3600
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
United Nations Secretariat Building
New York, NY 10017

cerf@un.org

Tel: +1 917 367 9193 and Fax: +1 212 963 1312

<http://cerf.un.org>

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND



CERF



United Nations

Why Do We Need the CERF?

When a natural disaster strikes or a conflict erupts, speedy action is critical for saving lives—and that requires financial resources immediately. Yet every time disaster hits, the United Nations has to raise money afresh and we have no guarantee that we will get the money we need to help save lives and minimize suffering.

Imagine if your local fire department had to petition the mayor for money to turn on the water every time a fire broke out. Now imagine a similar situation in humanitarian hot spots around the globe. This is the situation we faced until early 2006. Just like the fire brigade, aid workers need timely, predictable funding so that lifesaving aid can be provided when it is most needed.

Historically, the United Nations has appealed for donations after disasters occurred. Donor response has often proven unreliable and slow, with too many humanitarian catastrophes getting too little attention too late. Only a few donors can transfer funds right away. Between 2002 and 2005, on average only 16% of funds were provided for “flash” appeals during the critical first month of a crisis. Often it took longer. So funding arrived too

late to help in the earliest days. In other cases, especially in protracted crises, funding was uneven, with the result that some countries got too little funding overall or got too little funding for certain life-saving aid programmes.

What is the CERF?

Part of the solution to this problem is the new Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The United Nations has launched this US\$ 500 million fund to support rapid response and to address critical humanitarian needs in underfunded emergencies. The goal is simple: provide aid workers with sufficient funding to jump-start lifesaving relief operations by immediately deploying staff, goods and services when lives are on the line.

The United Nations continues to issue appeals for donations in response to disasters. But if new programmes are needed or if ongoing programmes are under-funded to the point that people’s very survival is at risk the UN can use the CERF to provide critical assistance.



The Fund is composed of a grant facility of up to US\$ 450 million and a US\$ 50 million loan facility.

Up to two thirds of the grant facility can be allocated to rapid response with the other third devoted to addressing under-funded emergencies. When we know that donor funds are in the pipeline, we use the loan portion for rapid response; otherwise, we use the grant portion.

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator manages the Fund on behalf of the Secretary-General and is guided by an Advisory Group of 12 independent experts. While United Nations Agencies and the International Organization for Migration



“For far too long, humanitarian assistance for disaster victims has remained a reactive process. Relief funds have been sought only after disaster has struck. Equally unacceptable is the unequal funding of different crises, with televised or strategically situated suffering receiving disproportionate attention. This has meant that, all too often, as money trickled in, lives which could and should have been saved were lost.”

Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General



FROM LOTTERY TO PREDICTABILITY

CERF