

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Multilateral Aid Review (MAR) Update 2013 progress rating:



MAR 2011: *Good Value for Money for UK Aid*

| Progress assessment | |
|---|--|
| Summary | Has taken reforms seriously. Improved results reporting, and has continued to be open and transparent. Impact level reporting and improving disbursement schedules remain a challenge. Committed to addressing outstanding areas of concern around value for money. |
| Baseline | |
| <p>The CERF is a UN humanitarian fund which enables timely humanitarian assistance to reach those affected by natural disasters and protracted conflict.</p> <p>The MAR highlighted several strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CERF fills a crucial gap by pre-positioning donor funding to ensure a timely response. • It has a clear mandate, leadership is strong and evaluations are acted upon. • It is well administrated and its management has improved the transparency and timeliness of the aid allocation process. • It meets UK objectives and enables DFID to deliver on humanitarian objectives. <p>The MAR also highlighted several weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no systematic reporting on results at the beneficiary level. • There are no accountability safeguards beyond those provided by the individual recipient agencies. • Lack of timeliness in projects implemented through NGOs. • There is an additional 3% management charge at Secretariat level. <p>DFID's reform priorities for the MAR Update were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving: (i) the prioritisation process for CERF applications; (ii) the performance management framework; and (iii) results reporting – assessed under <u>strategic and performance management</u>; • Improving the value for money of the CERF management charge and ensuring timely disbursement of funds to NGOs and implementers – assessed under <u>cost and value consciousness</u>; • Providing additional accountability safeguards – assessed under <u>transparency and accountability</u>. | |
| Summary of overall progress | |
| <p>There is a commitment to investigate reforms and take action where appropriate. Reasonable progress has been made against all the reform priorities. It is too early to assess the impact in the field. Achievements to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An increased focus on prioritisation. Prioritisation strategies are required in countries before CERF proposals are developed. At headquarters, the CERF examined its approach to underfunded emergencies to ensure priorities are met. • Improved results reporting. The Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) | |




leads to better results reporting at outcome, output and input level. Capturing the impact of CERF funding remains a challenge.

- Continued focus on the accountability of implementing partners. The review of the PAF later this year provides an opportunity to address this further.

Challenges remain:

- Reducing fund disbursement times from UN agencies to implementing partners.
- An examination of management and administrative charges. The value for money of the management charge remains a concern and action to address this should be prioritised.

Progress against reform priorities

| MAR reform component | MAR 2011 score | Progress rating | MAR Update score, if any change |
|---|----------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <p>Strategic and performance management CERF continues to have a clear mandate and strong leadership which uses results and evaluation to improve performance. It has an improved results framework, and effective evaluation function. Challenges remain in capturing impact of funds.</p> | 2 |  Reasonable progress | |
| <p>Cost and value consciousness Partners continue to be challenged on cost issues. Overhead rates have been examined. Concerns remain that the CERF has not yet been able to ensure that the 3% running costs for the CERF Secretariat represent value for money.</p> | 2 |  Little or no progress | |
| <p>Transparency and accountability CERF remains open and transparent. Accountability is improving at headquarters. Initiatives are underway to improve accountability to partners and beneficiaries.</p> | 2 |  Reasonable progress | |