



Department
for International
Development



Performance Agreement

Between the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland and the
United Nations Central Emergency
Response Fund



October 2017

Why providing humanitarian assistance is important

1. The world is faced with a growing number of humanitarian crises, lasting longer and affecting a growing number of countries and individuals. In 2017, the humanitarian system has faced a number of challenges including conflict, famine and disease still threaten millions of lives in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria; devastation has been wrought by Hurricane Irma and Maria; and man-made conflict has caused thousands to flee Myanmar for Bangladesh. Reducing humanitarian need over the coming years will be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring no one is left behind.
2. As an outward facing and generous nation, Britain continues to play a leading role in responding to humanitarian need and building a global crisis response system which is fit for purpose. By doing so, Britain helps to build a safer, more stable and prosperous world which benefits all.
3. The UK has more than doubled its humanitarian funding in the last five years, reaching £1.4 billion in 2015/16. We have responded to 32 crises including providing clean water for over 3.2 million people affected by war in Syria; shelter for 200,000 people in the aftermath of the earthquake in Nepal; 2,800 tonnes of aid to make Sierra Leone Ebola-free; clean water, hygiene and sanitation to 430,000 displaced Iraqis; and emergency support for the victims of war in Somalia, South Sudan and the Lake Chad region.
4. The UK's Multilateral and Bilateral Development Reviews made clear the UK's intention to use UK aid to make a transformational change to the wellbeing of the poorest people around the world. The UK was also a driving force behind the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, where the world agreed a clear vision for a radically improved humanitarian system. As one of the largest humanitarian donors, we will use our funding to support progress in delivering reform, particularly through a more efficient and effective UN-led humanitarian system that can meet vulnerable people's long-term needs.

The importance of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

5. The CERF is a humanitarian fund established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 to enable the provision of timely and predictable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters, armed conflict and complex emergencies. In 2015, the CERF allocated a total of \$470 million to support humanitarian responses in sudden onset and underfunded crises in 45 countries. CERF ensures the channelling of critical resources to UN humanitarian agencies to support and promote a fast and effective response to rapid onset emergencies; to enhance assistance in deteriorating contexts; and to strengthen core elements of humanitarian action in under-funded crises. CERF is a vital component of the global humanitarian architecture with its strategic value added going beyond the provision of the funds allocated:
 - It provides timely and flexible funding that fills critical gaps at pivotal times of emergency operations;
 - Its funds are directed to urgent needs prioritised by country level actors, which reinforces collaboration and coordination among humanitarian partners;
 - It enables responders to kick-start humanitarian action while mobilizing funding from other sources to continue and expand aid delivery;

- It is global in reach, having helped people in 98 countries faced with humanitarian emergencies since 2006.
6. CERF enjoys broad support with 126 Member States having contributed since 2006, 47 of which have also received CERF support. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in the capacity as the Emergency Relief Coordinator manages the CERF on behalf of the UN Secretary-General and is supported by the CERF secretariat which sits within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

UK support and engagement with the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund

7. UK support to, and engagement with, the CERF is considerable; reflecting our shared commitment to develop effective and efficient funding mechanisms that strengthen humanitarian leadership and strategic coordination. The UK is the largest government funder of CERF. In 2015 UK support to the CERF helped contribute to:
- The management and allocation of \$470 million to sudden onset and underfunded crises, providing vital funding to 436 projects across 45 countries affected by crisis
 - Rapid responses that targeted life-saving interventions in, amongst many others Yemen, South Sudan, Ethiopia, El Niño-related emergencies and in response to the Nepal earthquake
 - Improved humanitarian response by allocating resources according to priority or marginalised needs as well as unmet gaps in protracted interventions including in Syria, Somalia, Lebanon and Sudan.
 - Humanitarian organisations' provision of, amongst others, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance to 18.7 million people affected by humanitarian crises, health services to 12.8 million, food assistance to 10 million, protection to 5.7 million, agriculture support to 3.4 million, shelter and non-food items to 2 million and nutrition assistance to 2 million including 1.5 million children.
 - CERF allocations determined at the global level promoting the collective prioritisation of UN led humanitarian action at county level, reinforcing collaboration and coordination of humanitarian response.

Reforming the United Nations System

8. The UK is a committed member of the UN recognising its unique mandate and the critical role it plays in responding to global challenges, as a key part of the rules-based international system. Our vision is an effective UN that fulfils its key objectives as outlined in the UN Charter; and a UN that can respond effectively to the changing challenges of our time, building and sustaining peace, preventing conflict, responding effectively to humanitarian crises whilst preparing and delivering for the longer term.
9. A year on from agreeing the Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of the World Humanitarian Summit, and with unprecedented humanitarian needs continuing to grow, we require more from the UN system than ever before. The system needs to step up to meet this challenge, becoming more transparent, efficient and accountable. Fundamental to this is action on sexual abuse and exploitation, to ensure the strongest possible measures are in place to protect vulnerable populations, especially children.
10. It is firmly in the UK's national interests to work towards an international humanitarian system fit to withstand the challenges of 2017 and beyond. UN humanitarian agencies

remain key agents for delivering international responses at scale. The UK will provide core humanitarian funding to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); the - Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); and five UN agencies; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF); World Food Programme (WFP); World Health Organisation (WHO); and International Organisation of Migration (IOM). Core funding will support agencies to maintain their capacity to respond rapidly to urgent humanitarian needs, shore-up operations in neglected or protracted crises and provide core services from headquarters.

11. The UK and CERF want to see commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, in particular, the 'Grand Bargain' between the main humanitarian agencies and bilateral donors, implemented as soon as possible. We are determined that the UK's core voluntary contribution is also linked to ambitious reforms across the system. For the first time, we will make the release of 30% of funds contingent on all agencies working together to deliver WHS and Grand Bargain commitments, aligned with the key improvements identified in the UK's 2016 Multilateral Development Review as vital for the humanitarian system. These include leadership and collaboration, effectiveness, and accountability and transparency. Agencies will also need to do more to protect the most vulnerable people in crises.
12. Four years of un-earmarked core humanitarian funding (amounting to £220m in total) will be provided to CERF to support faster and more flexible humanitarian response, as well as strengthened leadership and coordination. This will be underpinned by an individual Results Framework to allow DFID to track the results that UK funding helps to achieve. 30% of these funds from Year 2 will be dependent on achievement by CERF and the other UN Humanitarian Agencies within the UN Humanitarian Business Case of joint performance criteria that contribute to system-wide reform.

Performance Agreement Criteria

13. To support UN reform efforts and to ensure the UK taxpayer's contributions deliver the greatest possible impact, we have agreed four areas which *all* UN humanitarian agencies will prioritise for further improvement. These priority areas are underpinned by specific quantitative targets to be met by all partners for performance-conditional funding to be released.
14. As a global humanitarian pooled fund, CERF is non- operational. On this basis, CERF will contribute to the priority results areas below through the functioning and application of its financing mechanism.

Leadership and Collaboration

15. In this time of acute humanitarian need, more effective leadership and coordination are crucial to ensure available funds can make the greatest impact. Competition for resources among agencies must give way to greater collaboration to deliver the best possible collective outcomes for people in need, regardless of legal status or what agencies can supply. In protracted or recurrent crises, more coherence between humanitarian and development action is vital in order to shrink humanitarian needs over the long term and achieve the SDGs.
16. To secure the UK's performance-conditional funding, agencies will:

- Contribute to **high quality joint impartial and timely assessments of need**. (For example, CERF will promote joint needs assessments).
- Contribute to **a common, multi-year and comprehensive response plan** that draws on the expertise of humanitarian and development actors and engage where possible with national authorities. (For example, CERF will support humanitarian activities within a common response plan).

Effectiveness

17. A more effective response system should support countries at risk of humanitarian crises to be more resilient and prepared, well before disaster strikes. When an international humanitarian response is activated, aid should be delivered in the most effective and efficient way, offering the best value for money. Cash transfers, particularly digital transfers, can be faster, safer and more cost-effective than providing relief in-kind, and they support local economies. We want to see cash transfers being used systematically, and at scale, wherever appropriate.

18. To secure the UK's performance-conditional funding, agencies will:

- Ensure it **manages risk more effectively**, using risk analysis to target investment in emergency preparedness in high-risk countries and respond faster and better. (For example, CERF will use risk analysis as part of the evaluation of CERF proposals and to inform allocations from the CERF in high risk countries).
- **Increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming** to deliver more efficient and effective responses. (For example, CERF will support the use and coordination of cash-based programming).

Transparency and Accountability

19. We need more transparent and accountable humanitarian responses. The UK wants to be able to track in real time what UK humanitarian funding pays for and delivers, using improved, consolidated and open data. Beyond agencies being accountable to donors such as the UK, we also want to see much greater accountability of the UN-led humanitarian system towards populations affected by crises. Agencies should ensure that affected people are better informed, allowed to participate in the decisions that affect them and ultimately empowered to make choices for themselves.

20. To secure the UK's performance-conditional funding, agencies will:

- **Role-model transparency** on financing and operations, working towards improved scores according to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). (As a fund, CERF has committed to publish data according to the IATI standard).
- Invest in systems that **communicate with and seek feedback from affected populations** to improve humanitarian responses.

Protection of Vulnerable People

21. For the UN humanitarian agencies we will also expect to see collective action to improve the protection of vulnerable people. The UK and UN partners believe that upholding people's basic rights and freedoms in times of crisis is a moral duty. Protection should be at the centre of humanitarian action, with agreed standards to ensure the safety and dignity of those most marginalised and vulnerable in times of crises.

22. To secure the UK's performance-conditional funding, CERF will:

- Contribute to **comprehensive protection strategies** that address the needs of the most vulnerable in crises (most often women and children, people with disabilities and older people). (For example, CERF will fund priority protection needs as per its lifesaving criteria).

Performance Management

23. CERF's performance against this agreement and the criteria within it will be assessed during an Annual Review processes, Strategic Dialogues, and DFID reporting/review requirements including impartial independent monitoring and evaluation, if required. A decision will be made thereafter on the release of performance-conditional funding as of year 2.

24. The UK will work to support independent scrutiny of CERF, for example through the CERF Advisory Group, to ensure that it is following best practice in seeking value for money.

25. DFID has a zero tolerance approach towards fraud, bribery, theft, terrorist financing and corruption and any other misuse of funds.

26. CERF will work with DFID to address the suggestions from the completed Central Assurance Assessment concluded by both parties.

27. This Performance Agreement will be updated annually and re-published with refreshed targets for CERF future performance as required.

The Department for International Development:
leading the UK government's fight against world poverty.

Department for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG
UK

and at:

Abercrombie House
Eaglesham Road East
Kilbride
Glasgow
G75 8EA
UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7023 0000

Fax: +44 (0)20 7023 0016

Website: www.dfid.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ukdfid

Twitter: @DFID_UK

Email: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk

Public enquiry point: 0845 3004100 or +44 1355 84 3132 (if you are calling from abroad)

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