

CERF Rapid Response Window and Flash Appeals

Flash appeal and CERF, a few key points:

- Humanitarian emergency situations requiring international assistance, often require both a Flash Appeal and CERF funds, especially from the RR window.
- The HC in consultation with the humanitarian Country Team, allocates available CERF funds to the highest-priority FA projects, taking into consideration the least funded sectors where contributions are less likely to be received.
- CERF doesn't replace appeals; it interacts with them
- Flash appeals and CERF requests are developed in tandem
- CERF generally provides the initial injection of funds for the most urgent life-saving projects in the Flash Appeal to cover the time lag between issuance of the Appeal and receipt of commitments and funds from donors

Flash Appeal and CERF: which one should we do first?

Ideal: Simultaneously prepare Flash appeal and prioritize projects within it for CERF funding; show CERF allocations in summary financial tables within Flash Appeal document

- **First:** Do a Flash Appeal which clearly articulates humanitarian needs, priority sectors for response, an outline of response plans, and roles and responsibilities.
- **Second:** Projects that address life-saving activities from the flash appeal can easily be submitted to the CERF mechanism. All that is required is an endorsement letter from the HC, putting them in the CERF application template and budget, and once approved signing the Letters of Understanding between submitting agencies and OCHA.
- **Third:** Revision of the Flash Appeal. As better assessment information becomes available, the projects within the Flash Appeal can be revised at any time. New projects can be inserted. The Flash Appeal is not a static document but is open and flexible.
- **Fourth:** If the emergency continues for more than six months a CAP can be considered.

Keep in mind that FTS needs to be up to date to reflect the funding situation of each project by agency. CERF Secretariat will match FTS data with the CERF allocation table and the project sheet.