



## Overview of the CERF Rapid Response Window

Amount available	Two thirds of CERF's allocations come from the rapid response envelope. A maximum of \$30 million rapid response funds can be allocated to a crisis.
Purpose	Rapid response funding was initiated by the General Assembly in 2005. It provides funding for three types of situations: (a) sudden-onset emergencies (b) a rapid or significant deterioration of an existing humanitarian situation (c) time-critical interventions
Eligible organizations	UN organizations (excluding OCHA) and IOM. NGOs cannot request rapid response funding.
Application process	A rapid response allocation is a collaborative process and is managed by a country's RC and/or HC. Following consultations with the humanitarian country team, an RC/HC will solicit in-country applications for rapid response funds.  Applications are accepted throughout the year; the process requires the RC/HC to draft a cover letter to the ERC and provide a completed CERF application. The CERF secretariat will review the application and the ERC will make the final decision.
Approval criteria	Rapid response applications will include humanitarian projects that are critical to a country's emergency. Projects should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the needs of a sudden-onset emergency, rapid deterioration of an existing crisis, or time-critical intervention.</li> <li>• Be based on recent, coordinated needs assessments, demonstrate access/capacity to implement, be essential for the humanitarian response, and prioritized by the HCT and the RC/HC through a consultative process.</li> <li>• Comply with the Guidance on CERF Life-Saving Criteria (26 January 2010) and any sectoral guidelines set by the ERC at the time of allocation.</li> <li>• Jump-start or initiate an emergency response. Funds should not be used to support a previously existing emergency response. CERF will not fund 100 per cent of an emergency's project requirements except in rare circumstances.</li> </ul>
Implementation timeframe	Funds should be committed and project activities completed within six months of the date that CERF disburses funds (CERF disburses funds directly to a recipient agency's headquarters).  In situations where agencies expense funds before CERF disburses funds, the agency may request an earlier disbursement date. However, this date must not be six weeks prior to CERF's intended disbursement date and should not be before the emergency actually occurs.