Thursday, 30 June 2022
9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. New York (EDT) / 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Geneva (CEST)
Virtual Launch

Concept Note

Background

In 2021, conflicts, climate-related and other natural disasters, disease outbreaks and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to contribute to record-high levels of humanitarian needs. As of January 2021, 235 million people needed humanitarian assistance – the highest number in decades – with UN-led HRPs initially requesting $35 billion to assist 160 million people in 56 countries.

Against this unprecedented level of need, in 2021, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) collectively allocated $1.5 billion to lifesaving activities in more than 40 countries, as a result of the generous support of donors.

Throughout 2021, the pooled funds served as critical mechanisms for rapid and flexible funding to humanitarian partners when and where it was needed the most, including in response to the crisis in Afghanistan, the conflict in Yemen and in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, as well as the crises in Myanmar, Lebanon, and South Sudan. The funds enabled timely, effective, and principled humanitarian action while strengthening leadership, coordination and coherence in emergency responses. When used jointly, the comparative advantages of CERF and the CBPFs allowed Resident Coordinators/Humanitarian Coordinators and their partners to plan and implement humanitarian responses with greatest impact.

During the year, CERF was able to assist 51.5 million people in 40 countries and the CBPFs enabled partners to provide life-saving assistance to 43 million people in 20 humanitarian contexts. The achievements of the OCHA-managed pooled funds are reflected in their annual publications. For the second time, OCHA is convening a combined launch event to showcase the results achieved in 2021. Details of these results can be found in two annual reports:

- the annual CBPFs 2021 in Review, which provides a global overview that captures the key achievements of the CBPFs around the world, and
- the CERF Annual Report for 2021, which provides an overview of how CERF made a difference during the year.
Event

The launch of the reports will take place on Thursday, 30 June 2022 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. New York (EDT) / 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Geneva (CEST), as part of a virtual and interactive event. The event will open with a video message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and remarks by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. A panel discussion will follow that presents the main achievements and highlights of the CBPFs and the CERF in 2021, moderated by a media anchor, followed by interventions from the floor.

Objectives

- Showcase CBPFs’ and CERF’s results in 2021 and their unique added-value in delivering life-saving aid targeting the most vulnerable.
- Demonstrate the central role of the OCHA-managed pooled funds in effectively coordinating life-saving assistance for people caught in humanitarian crises.
- Galvanize increased commitment to the OCHA-managed pooled funds to ensure that they are sufficiently supported to respond to the ever-growing humanitarian needs, particularly by Member States and diverse donors, including the private sector.

Agenda (tentative)

9:00 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Opening remarks
  - Message by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)
  - Introductory remarks by Mr. Martin Griffiths, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
  - Video on the pooled fund contributions to underfunded crises

9:20 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Panel discussion

10:00 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. Interventions from the floor

10:25 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Closing remarks

Participation

- This event will be live streamed on webtv.un.org.
- All Member States, Observer Missions in New York and Geneva, and other partners are invited to join the event and express interest for interventions from the floor when registering for the event.
- The event will be hosted virtually on Webex and will be conducted in English. Interventions from the floor are to be limited to two minutes each. Pre-recorded video statements are welcome and technical guidance is available on the event webpage.

Registration

Participants are requested to complete the online registration form and indicate their intention to make a short statement by Monday, 27 June 2022 at 5:00 p.m. New York by visiting the registration page.