KEY MESSAGES ON OCHA’S POOLED FUNDS ANNUAL REPORTS 2021
Virtual Launch of Pooled Funds Annual Reports 2021

30 June 2022

OCHA’s Pooled Funds Core Features

- OCHA’s Pooled Funds - the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) – are flexible and fast financing instruments to ensure that life-saving assistance reaches people caught up in crises. The funds also play a role in supporting innovative approaches to humanitarian financing and helping the humanitarian system to evolve.

- Pre-positioning funding to CERF and CBPF is an effective way to ensure that funding can quickly be allocated when disaster strikes. The two instruments allow donors to support an effective global humanitarian response system (CERF), as well as focus resources to specific countries with high levels of need (CBPFs).

- The Funds are designed to ensure value for money and their results go well beyond the number of people assisted:
  - **Enabling flexible and agile responses**: The Pooled Funds are agile in adapting to changing operating environments and enabling humanitarian partners to adjust responses to the evolving needs on the ground.
  - **Enabling fast and time-critical assistance**: The Pooled Funds are among the quickest sources of funding for humanitarian action, driving the speedy scale-up of operations when and where required, while at the same time fostering coherent and coordinated responses that prioritise the most pressing humanitarian needs.
  - **Advancing system change, incl. through innovations**: Beyond providing life-saving assistance to millions of people every year, the Pooled Funds contribute to advancing common priorities across the system and promote new and innovative approaches for improved humanitarian action.
  - **Strengthening localization**: The Pooled Funds contribute to an increasingly localized humanitarian response by channelling a considerable amount of funding to local and national partners, as well as promoting the role of local and national actors in the humanitarian system.

Global Needs and OCHA’s Pooled Funds

- 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. At the beginning of the year, 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.

- In 2021, 76 donors contributed a combined record total of just over $1.7 billion to the OCHA-managed Pooled Funds ($1.1 billion to CBPFs and $638.5 million to CERF). While this is a significant show of support, the funds are yet to meet their funding targets and reach their full potential in the context of ever-increasing humanitarian needs.

Highlights of OCHA’s Pooled Funds in 2021

- Enabled by the generous support of donors, OCHA’s Pooled Funds – CERF and the CBPFs – collectively allocated over $1.5 billion to life-saving activities in more than 40 countries (CERF allocated $548 million and the CBPFs $1.01 billion).

- During the year, CERF assisted 51.5 million people across 40 countries, and the CBPFs some 43 million people in 20 humanitarian contexts. The achievements of the OCHA-managed Pooled Funds are reflected in the CBPF Global Report and the CERF Annual Results Report.
• With a total of $291.2 million, in 2021 the health sector received most funding from the Pooled Funds. As the second highest funded sector, $253.5 million was provided for food security. Another $251.7 million was allocated for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and $216.6 million for protection. Other sectors included shelter and non-food items ($205.1 million), nutrition ($100.3 million), education ($79 million), and camp coordination and management ($39.3 million) among others.

• In 2021, the Pooled Funds continued to respond to humanitarian needs created by a variety of shocks, as well as by multiple, compounding humanitarian impacts:
  
  o **Conflict:** Conflict remained a major driver of humanitarian needs throughout the year, and the Pooled Funds allocated close to $1.1 billion for conflict-related responses (CERF with some $353 million and CBPFs some $706 million).
  
  o **Climate-related and natural disasters:** Responses to climate-related and natural disasters accounted for the second-largest portion of funding, with a total of $279 million allocated (CERF with some $118 million and the CBPFs $161 million).
  
  o **Disease outbreaks:** The Pooled Funds allocated a total of $136 million in response to disease outbreaks (CERF with some $25 million and CPBFs some $111 million).
  
  o **Other drivers:** Another $82 million was allocated by the Pooled Funds in response to humanitarian needs caused by other drivers – including financial disruptions (CERF with some $52 million and CPBFs some $30 million).

• When funding from CBPFs and CERF were used in the same context, the Humanitarian Coordinators ensured that resources were used in a complementary and coherent manner based on the comparative advantage of each funding mechanism, thereby maximizing the impact of funding. Among others, the complementary use of CERF and CBPF funding ensured fast and comprehensive responses to the crisis in Afghanistan, the civil war in Yemen, the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, as well as the crises in Lebanon and South Sudan.

**Launch of Pooled Funds Annual Reports on 30 June 2022**

• OCHA is convening a launch event to showcase the results achieved in 2021. Details of these results can be found in two annual reports:
  
  o **The CBPF Global Report**, which provides a global overview that captures the key achievements of the CBPFs around the world (available here: https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/CBPF_2021_inReview_masterlayout_20220519_2.pdf); and
  
  o **The CERF Annual Results Report**, which provides an overview of how CERF made a difference during the year (soon available here: https://cerf.un.org/about-us/publications).

• The event will showcase the results and unique added value of the OCHA Pooled Funds in delivering life-saving assistance and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.

• The Secretary-General of the United Nations will open the event followed by a high-level panel.