HOW CERF WORKS: RAPID RESPONSE IN HAITI

**4:53 PM** A massive 7.0-magnitude earthquake strikes Haiti with an epicentre just 17 kilometres south-west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. The massive scale of destruction and loss of life are immediately evident.

**7:00 PM** John Holmes, who was the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) at that time, convenes a meeting with senior OCHA staff at OCHA headquarters in New York.

**10:00 PM** The ERC allocates $10 million in CERF funding to jump-start relief efforts in Haiti. The top United Nations humanitarian official in Haiti is notified.

**12 January 2010**

**FOLLOWING A DISASTER OR ARMED CONFLICT, humanitarian responders rely on donor funding to carry out relief activities.**

Following a sudden-onset emergency, CERF’s rapid-response window provides seed funds to jump-start critical operations and life-saving programmes well before fund-raising begins.

**9:00 AM** Barely 12 hours after the quake, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon formally announces $10 million in CERF allocations to the Haiti response.

**13 January 2010**

**HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES faced with a sudden disaster often struggle to find resources to start life-saving operations.**

Each year, two thirds of CERF allocations are made through the rapid-response window. Some allocations are approved as quickly as one day after an application is received.

**14 January 2010**

**THE TIME BETWEEN AN APPEAL for assistance and disbursement of funds can be long. This delay costs lives.**

Assessments and aerial reconnaissance show the needs in Haiti are massive. Government, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the world begin mobilizing humanitarian aid. But while world leaders pledge hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of troops, delivering on these promises will take time. Aid to those thought to need assistance is only trickling in.

**15 January 2010**

**CERF PROMOTES PRIORITIZATION and coordination, reducing gaps and overlaps, thus avoiding wasted resources.**

Based on available reports and assessments, and in coordination with the Haitian authorities, the United Nations launches a Flash Appeal for $575 million to support the 3 million people living in the quake-affected area for six months. A second CERF allocation of $15 million is announced. Some CERF funds go specifically toward helping agencies to start their operations with emergency telecommunications, and air transport for staff and supplies.

**16 January 2010**

**PRIORITIES FOR CERF FUNDING are determined in close consultation with the wider humanitarian community and based on needs on the ground.**

With the help of $25 million in CERF funding, humanitarian agencies jump-start their programmes to provide shelter, clean water, health services and food to some of the hundreds of thousands of people struggling to cope in the aftermath of the earthquake.

**17 January 2010**

**CERF IS INTENDED TO COMPLEMENT, not replace, existing humanitarian funding mechanisms where donations are expected late, or fall short of what is minimally required to save lives.**

By the end of 2010, nearly $1 billion had been raised for United Nations humanitarian efforts in Haiti.

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**FIVE DAYS AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE STRuck, CERF was the largest single source of funding for the Flash Appeal, and to the humanitarian response to Haiti.**