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## EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUNDS

The name **Emergency Response Fund (ERF)** is used as an umbrella term covering a broad number of country-based pooled funds sharing the general characteristics outlined below. The specifics of the individual funds reflect the country contexts in which they have been established and therefore vary. ERFs are known under different names in different countries including Humanitarian Response Funds (HRF).

An ERF is established to provide NGOs and UN with a rapid and flexible in-country funding mechanism to help respond to small shocks and meet the short-term emergency needs of vulnerable communities. The aim of an ERF is to provide initial funding for a sudden onset emergency to enable humanitarian partners to respond to a crisis without delay. An ERF is not intended to provide core funding to projects or programmes in a protracted crises, although some ERFs may provide funding to critical gaps in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) on an exceptional basis.

An ERF is under the overall management and oversight of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) with day to day management and financial administration performed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). UN Member State contributions constitute ERF funding. Funds are channelled through OCHA to NGOs and UN agencies. When needs emerge partners submit proposals for funding to OCHA, and the HC makes decisions on ERF grants supported by a technical Review Board and by sector/cluster groups. An Advisory Board with donor, UN and NGO participation advises the HC on policy issues and strategic direction of the fund.

In general, ERFs are relatively small in size (less than \$10 million), provides small to medium sized grants (less than \$500,000) and predominantly fund NGOs.

As of April 2012, there are 13 ERFs managed by OCHA: Afghanistan, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, oPt, Pakistan, Syria, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

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## COMMON HUMANITARIAN FUNDS

The main objective of a **Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF)** is to enable the HC and the humanitarian community to ensure timely and predictable funding for humanitarian needs providing grants to priority projects. In countries with a CAP, all organisations participating in the process are eligible to receive CHF funding. CHF funds come from UN Member State contributions.

Allocations from a CHF are based on a consultative allocation process that engages sector/cluster groups and other relevant stakeholders at country level in a comprehensive prioritisation exercise. CHFs have two allocations modalities: the standard allocation and the Reserve. Two standard allocations rounds/year are typically undertaken, which allocate the bulk of funding.

The HC is responsible for the overall management and oversight of the CHF, the day to day management is performed by OCHA, and the financial administration is undertaken by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF). MPTF receives and manages donor contributions to the fund. UNDP and OCHA at the field level act as Managing Agent channelling funds to NGOs partners.

The HC makes final decisions on CHF grants in consultation with an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board which includes donor, UN and NGO representatives, also advises the HC on policy issues and strategic direction of the fund.

CHFs also maintain a Reserve that is used by the HC to respond to unforeseen emergency needs. The CHF Reserve is similar in function to an ERF and it typically consists of a defined percentage (10-20) of donor funds contributed to the CHF.

CHFs are established to support humanitarian emergencies in countries where there is a Consolidated Appeal Process. A critical mass of funding against the size of the overall humanitarian response is essential for having a CHF.

As of April 2012, CHFs exist in the Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.