

I. THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was established by the United Nations (UN) to enable timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to people affected by disasters and emergencies. The UN General Assembly, on 15 December 2005, adopted resolution [A/RES/60/124](#) by consensus and established CERF to achieve the following objectives:

- Promoting early action and response to reduce loss of life
- Enhancing response to time-critical requirements
- Strengthening core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises

CERF supports prioritized life-saving assistance to people in need. To ensure adherence to its mandate, CERF defines “life-saving” by using the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality, focusing on affected people. In doing so, CERF adopts an approach grounded in the Centrality of Protection.¹ CERF defines life-saving actions as those that, within a short time span, remedy, mitigate or avert direct loss of life and harm to people, and protect their dignity. Common humanitarian services that are necessary to enable these life-saving activities are also permissible.

II. THE LIFE-SAVING CRITERIA

While General Assembly resolution [A/RES/60/124](#) defines CERF’s mandate, the criteria for eligible life-saving humanitarian action, referred to as the “Life-Saving Criteria,” codify what activities can be funded by CERF grants, and list eligible activities by sector/cluster for the Fund’s Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies windows. CERF has developed the Life-Saving Criteria as a guidance document for use at country level by Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HCs) and UN or Humanitarian Country Teams (UNCTs/HCTs) for the development of applications for CERF funding. The Life-Saving Criteria are also fundamental for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN agencies at headquarters to support the process.

The first version of the Life-Saving Criteria was published in 2007. A revised version was developed through an inter-agency, inter-cluster collaborative process in 2009, and approved by the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) in 2010. While the General Assembly’s mandate for CERF has not changed,² the humanitarian landscape in which CERF operates has evolved, necessitating an update of the Life-Saving Criteria. In developing the updated Life-Saving Criteria, in 2019 and 2020, CERF initiated a broad process of consultations with UN agencies, the Global Cluster Coordinators and the CERF Advisory Group. The new version reiterates CERF’s mandate and considers associated policy frameworks and operational contexts. The ERC approved the updated Life-Saving Criteria on 22 October 2020.

¹ For more information please see the [Statement of the IASC Principals on The Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and the [IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).

² For more information please refer to General Assembly Resolution [A/RES/60/124](#).

III. SCOPE OF THE LIFE-SAVING CRITERIA

Inclusions in the Life-Saving Criteria

The Life-Saving Criteria have been developed with a range of crises in mind, but they must be interpreted in relation to each specific situation. The specific context of the humanitarian emergency will guide the funding decision process with an appropriate degree of flexibility. Nevertheless, CERF funds will not be used to address issues that are not situated in a humanitarian emergency context.

While the Life-Saving Criteria will be applied by considering the humanitarian emergency context, they apply to both the Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies windows, and to all types of humanitarian emergencies. The ERC, on a very exceptional basis, can decide to expand the Life-Saving Criteria if, due to the specific humanitarian context, it is deemed necessary for CERF to fund activities not ordinarily included within the Criteria. Only the ERC can take this decision, and the expansion of the criteria will be linked to a specific allocation only and will not set precedence for a general widening of the CERF Life-Saving Criteria.

The table in section V (Activities eligible for CERF funding) includes a general description of the activities in sectors recognized by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), and the conditions under which these will be funded. In countries where IASC clusters have been activated, they should discuss and review CERF applications and engage in the prioritization process.³ The table provides a non-exhaustive list of activities that may qualify for CERF funding, and should be understood as guidance. Humanitarian activities not reflected in this list may be considered for CERF funding in exceptional circumstances and based on the specific context.

Exclusions to the Life-Saving Criteria

CERF supports immediate humanitarian action only and does not fund interventions that achieve their impact for affected people only after the implementation period of a CERF-funded project. In addition, the following areas are not included in the criteria, as they are not eligible for CERF support:

Preparedness: Activities and measures taken to effectively prepare for, mitigate, respond to and recover from the impact of hazards, including seasonal preparedness. Preparedness means putting in place mechanisms which will allow national authorities and relief organizations to be aware of risks and deploy staff and resources quickly once a crisis strikes. Note that anticipatory action, which CERF can and does support in line with its mandate, is distinct from preparedness.

Disaster risk reduction: CERF does not fund disaster risk reduction, which is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development.⁴

³ This does not limit the inclusion of non-cluster activities.

⁴ For more details see www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster-risk-reduction

Specific and Contextual Considerations

While the CERF process is a collective effort by in-country humanitarian partners under the leadership of RC/HCs, the CERF secretariat may sometimes have questions for the RC/HC about 'gray areas' that need more explanation of how the requested activities are life-saving in a particular context. Providing a rationale grounded in the context can exceptionally justify a request that initially might appear to be outside the Life-Saving Criteria.

While the assessment of activities eligible for CERF funding is guided by the activities listed in section V below contextual factors are also considered. They include an overall prioritization based on the emergency type, the severity and urgency of the humanitarian need rather than solely on funding gaps; the absorption capacity of implementing partners; and the direct link of activities funded through the Rapid Response window to a 'trigger,' for example, a new crisis or deterioration in an existing emergency.

In cases where agencies have to begin or have already begun spending funds intended for other operations, or where they are using internal reserves to meet urgent priorities, an **early start date** may be indicated in the application for Rapid Response grants, allowing these expenditures to be covered from the CERF grant. The early start date must not exceed six weeks prior to the disbursement date and must not be before the onset of the emergency.⁵

IV. HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS

CERF-funded humanitarian programming must be provided in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee Law and International Human Rights Law, and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. UN agencies and implementing partners should adhere to IASC agreements and policies, to system-wide guidance and standards for example the [Sphere Handbook](#) as well as to fundamental principles such as Do No Harm. In addition, UN agencies and implementing partners should take into consideration:

Localization & Partnerships: While anchored in the UN system, CERF is a mechanism that benefits the entire humanitarian community. Hence, a CERF-funded response is a collective effort by in-country humanitarian partners under the leadership of the RC/HCs. By channeling funds through UN agencies, CERF can quickly disburse significant amounts of funding through consolidated strategic allocations ensuring at-scale interventions. At the same time, UN agencies should maximize their interaction and collaboration with governments, national and international non-governmental organizations and civil society actors, particularly during discussions in relation to the scope, prioritization and funding for grants. Recognizing that national and local actors often have the best understanding of the emergency context and acceptance by the people in need, CERF encourages strengthening partnerships with national and local implementing partners as a matter of priority.

⁵ For more details see [CERF Rapid Response Window: Procedures and Criteria](#).

Complementarity & Impact: Due to its speed of response and inclusive allocation processes, CERF adds strategic value to humanitarian action beyond the mere amount of money allocated. While CERF funding should be used for the highest-priority and immediately life-saving activities, funding from other sources may be used for non-humanitarian needs, such as reconstruction and recovery. The aim is to maximize the impact of resources available through all financing streams, so that together national resources, bilateral contributions and pooled funding mechanisms facilitate a coherent response. Where a Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF)⁶ is in place, CERF and CBPF funding should be closely coordinated and complement one another.

When designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating CERF-funded programming, attention should be given to integrating and giving due consideration to cross-cutting issues and approaches including:

Gender & Age: CERF recognizes that humanitarian action must meet distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men of various ages and backgrounds ensure equal access to assistance. CERF-funded programming should contribute to gender equality by effectively identifying and responding to the needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men of various ages throughout the entire CERF programme cycle.⁷ In all sectors of the response, agencies should ensure the application of gender equity principles that will promote the empowerment and protection of women and girls, children, the elderly, as well sexual and gender minorities.⁸

People with Disabilities: CERF recognizes that people with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable in humanitarian crisis, and that humanitarian action must respond to their specific needs. CERF encourages UN agencies and implementing partners to ensure that humanitarian action is inclusive of people with disabilities and “to take all steps to meet their essential needs and promote the protection, safety and respect for the dignity of persons with disabilities in situations of risk in humanitarian crisis.”⁹

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP): UN agencies and their implementing partners are encouraged “to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist.”¹⁰ This means that individuals accessing humanitarian assistance are the primary stakeholders and must be able to receive communications in a form they can understand, must be consulted on planned activities, provide feedback on the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and be included in decisions that affect their lives. CERF expects AAP measures to be integrated throughout humanitarian programmes by UN agencies and their partners, and will consider the eligibility of standalone AAP projects or activities on a case-by-case basis.

⁶ For more information on the harmonization of CERF and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) processes please see the [Pooled Funds Complementarity Guidance](#).

⁷ For more information please refer to the IASC [Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action](#) and to [OCHA’s resources on gender equality programming](#).

⁸ The CERF emphasizes the importance of ensuring that principles provided in the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW), the principles enshrined in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (CRC), together with the [CRC’s Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#) and other related resolutions such as the [Security Council resolution \(S/RES/1325\)](#) on Women, Peace and Security be pillars to the implementation of CERF-funded programming.

⁹ For more information please see the [Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#).

¹⁰ For more information please see the IASC [Commitments on Accountability to Affected People \(AAP\) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\)](#).

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): CERF is committed to promote the Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SH)¹¹ and expects measures in support thereof to be mainstreamed throughout entire humanitarian programmes by United Nations agencies and their partners. CERF will consider the eligibility of standalone PSEA projects or activities on a case-by-case basis.

Centrality of Protection: CERF recognizes that protection is one of the main purposes and intended outcomes of humanitarian action. Hence, the “protection of all persons affected and at-risk informs humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with States and non-State parties to conflict”¹² must be ensured by humanitarian actors through immediate and life-saving activities, and throughout the duration of a crisis and beyond. In country operations with an HCT Protection Strategy, the central tenets of the strategy should closely inform CERF-funded responses.

Housing, Land and Property Rights: CERF encourages UN agencies and partners that before any establishment or rehabilitation of camps, shelters and other constructions begins for protection and humanitarian assistance purposes, proper due diligence is conducted to avoid creating or exacerbating existing conflicts, and that people's rights to shelter in camps, informal settlements or other locations, depending on the operational context are secure. Similarly, other activities, in particular agricultural assistance, should consider housing, land and property rights.

Cash and Voucher Assistance: CERF recognizes that providing cash or vouchers (whether conditional or unconditional) for goods or services empowers crisis-affected people with choices to address their priority needs in a principled and dignified manner, while reducing overhead costs and stimulating local markets. Where appropriate, CERF encourages the use of cash and voucher assistance through common and inclusive cash systems that build on shared transfer mechanisms and joint cash programming.¹³

Anticipatory Action: Anticipatory action takes place before the humanitarian impact of a hazard event has fully materialized. The objective of anticipatory action is to prevent the impacts of an imminent event or protect vulnerable people against these impacts before they occur. Anticipatory action is not preparedness, seasonal preparedness, resilience building or climate adaptation, as anticipatory action takes place in anticipation of a specific predicted high-probability and high-impact shock, upon issuance of a warning or activation of a trigger. Preparedness, on the contrary, should be undertaken on a regular basis and within a longer time horizon.

Anticipatory action represents a distinct way of accessing CERF funding. It is applicable to crises which can be predicted with a certain degree of confidence. By using data to predict and actions to mitigate a specific highly probable and high-impact shock, CERF funds enable a better, faster and cheaper solution to humanitarian needs. Funding requests must be based on projections of humanitarian need and propose activities that aim to mitigate the impact of a shock. In such a case, targeting may be

¹¹ For more information please see the IASC [Commitments on Accountability to Affected People \(AAP\) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\)](#).

¹² For more information please see the Statement of the [IASC Principals on The Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) and [IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action](#).

¹³ For more information please see the [Statement from the Principals of OCHA, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF on Cash Assistance](#).

based on vulnerabilities and risks rather than existing, assessed needs.¹⁴ CERF supports formal anticipatory action frameworks set up in specific countries or regions for specific types of emergencies that link robust forecasting and triggers to pre-agreed financing and pre-agreed humanitarian actions. Beyond these, CERF funding for anticipatory action will be decided by the Emergency Relief Coordinator on a case-by-case basis.

Multi-sector Approach: Multi-sector approaches to humanitarian response are supported when appropriate, particularly in situations of internal displacement, refugee situations, migration and mixed situations. All activities covered in the table below are also applicable to a multi-sector approach.

¹⁴ As for regular Rapid Response and Underfunded Emergencies requests, funding allocation procedures will be detailed in separate guidelines along with anticipatory action templates.

V. ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR CERF FUNDING

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)	Ensure establishment and improvement of camps or communal settlements and basic infrastructure to facilitate the provision of life-saving assistance	All communal settings resulting from a disaster or complex emergency. CERF will not fund the construction of permanent structures.
	Initial profiling and registration of populations in communal settings, camps, collective centers and other sites	Only for newly displaced or arrived people. Ensure availability of gender, age and disability sensitive population and profile data.
	Assistance in preparing for and facilitating immediate relocation or voluntary return of affected people	
	Establishment of intra- and inter-site coordination structures, including information management systems in camps/communal settlements and across them (including using area-based approaches) to support, monitor and coordinate delivery of essential life-saving services in such locations. This can include building awareness and capacity of key stakeholders, including community leaders, working directly in the management of displacement location/settlements.	In case of new emergency and only through the Rapid Respond window. CERF funds cluster/sector or general coordination only in very specific circumstances (see below). Information management activities within camps should be done in coordination with the appropriate sectors to ensure that the respective clusters are able to ensure provision of efficient coordination in camps.
	Establishment of participatory and accountable site management systems that ensure the immediate protection and assistance needs of affected populations are addressed. This can include the establishment of effective two-way communication and information channels, feedback mechanisms and referral information to allow for meaningful participation, awareness of and accountability to the affected population.	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
Education	Provision of school tents, education and recreation materials to establish safe spaces/learning environments/temporary learning centers for children	No recurrent costs funded under the Rapid Response window
	Emergency repair of education facilities or tents and replacement of damaged learning equipment, including the provision of adequate sanitation facilities, safe drinking water and water for personal hygiene at the learning site	No recurrent costs funded under the Rapid Response window
	Training of teachers in emergencies	Support establishment of initial teaching capacity only. No recurrent costs for training under the Rapid Response window.
	Teaching essential life-saving skills and support provision of information on GBV and other forms of violence, anti-trafficking, unexploded ordnance, diseases, nutrition, health, hygiene and psychosocial health	
Emergency Tele-communications	Provision of common technology services such as emergency telecommunications in support of the humanitarian community and governments as well as life-saving communications services to affected people in an emergency	See CERF's guidelines for funding for emergency information and communications technology equipment and services.
	Provision of common technology services and solutions to establish or enable two-way communications between the affected population and the response community	
Food Security	Distribution of general food assistance and targeted food assistance	Context of specific humanitarian emergency and must take into consideration the specific protection vulnerabilities that affect women's and girls' exposure to food insecurity and GBV

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	Provision of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, tools, fishing kits and equipment) in emergency contexts to restore (and maintain, in case of anticipatory action) food security and production capacity	Agricultural activities which have a direct and immediate (within the grant implementation period) impact on restoring and protecting food availability and the livelihoods of those affected by an emergency
	Promotion of productive animal survival in humanitarian emergency situations. This can include emergency vaccinations, initial re-stocking, de-stocking, and water and supplementary feeding for animals.	Applicable when animal husbandry is a primary source of livelihood, particularly for pastoralist communities, for example when livestock are essential for nutrition, transport, ploughing and fuel
	Emergency support for the protection of vulnerable livelihoods in IDP/refugee camps or communal settlements. This can include micro-gardening, micro-livestock activities, efficient fuel stoves for cooking (Safe Access to Fuel and Energy or “SAFE”), reducing risks and mitigating environmental degradation.	Enhance immediate and direct access to food, fuel and energy in a sustainable manner, reducing risks of exposures to GBV and other threats
	Initial inputs for control of trans-boundary or country-contained plant pests and diseases severely affecting food security or to control the spread of livelihood and human life-threatening epizootic diseases	Time-critical interventions to avert disasters and which have a direct and immediate impact on protecting livelihoods or restoring these after damage assessments
	Provision of assets (including through food and cash assistance for assets initiatives), with a direct and immediate link with restoring and protecting food security. This can include the establishment of emergency embankments, spot repair of agricultural infrastructure and other emergency inputs and assets.	Time-critical interventions which have a direct and immediate impact on restoring and protecting food security

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	Support for storage, transformation and marketing of essential food production	Activities with immediate and direct (within the grant implementation period) impact on the food availability and access, and on the nutritious status of the most vulnerable affected people, and only if food production systems have been destroyed or disrupted by the emergency
Health	Ensuring equitable and timely access to emergency primary healthcare, including the link with community health systems and outreach activities.	In contexts where emergency medical care is not sufficiently available
	Referral to and support of secondary health care	Especially in case of significant trauma and injury or where there are very severe cases, for example epidemics or toxic events
	Collection, processing analysis and dissemination of critical health information including access to and availability of life-saving health services	
	Prevention, detection, and response to health emergencies and disease outbreaks	In emergency contexts of increased risk of infectious disease outbreaks, not as a general or routine public health or preparedness measure. In exceptional cases, this can include the establishment of health surveillance for early outbreak detection and response.
	Support to basic vaccinations against life-threatening diseases	In contexts where vaccination services are not sufficiently available or have been disrupted by the humanitarian emergency. Only vaccinations that can be completed within the implementation period of a CERF project.

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	Mass casualty management. This can include first aid centers, in-service, procurement and delivery of essential medicines and medical equipment, medical evacuation services and deployment of medical staff/teams.	In case of mass casualty events
	Repair of existing health facilities. This can include basic, rapid repairs or tents to ensure medical facility functionality or replacement, and provision of essential emergency medical equipment and medicines to emergency wards	In contexts where emergency medical care is not sufficiently available
	Provision of essential emergency medical equipment and medicines to health facilities.	In contexts where emergency medical care is not sufficiently available. This may include equipment and medicines to provide clinical management of rape, and the appropriate health response to intimate partner violence and the consequences of other forms of GBV.
	Address life-threatening conditions related to communicable diseases for example through immunizations, early outbreak response and containment. This can include short refresher training of frontline health staff; supply of drugs and material; social mobilization and targeted health education; reactive mass vaccination campaigns; preparation of specific ad-hoc treatment units for example cholera treatment centers.	In case of a disease outbreak
	Address life-saving reproductive health (RH) interventions in the context of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) including provision of essential RH drugs and supplies, emergency obstetric care and blood transfusions, access to family planning services and information as well as clinical management of rape survivors. Treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STI) including provision of condoms and other contraceptive methods for the protection from HIV and other STIs.	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	Medical (including psychological) support to survivors of sexual violence and other forms of GBV. This can include Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), refresher training for frontline health staff on clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence (IPV), and supply of drugs, material and equipment including through interagency reproductive health kits.	
	Addressing life-threatening conditions related to chronic diseases	Only in contexts where such care has been disrupted by the humanitarian emergency
	Provision of psychological first aid for survivors of violence and people with severe mental disorders in communities and institutions	Implement as part of Trauma Emergency Care and in the context of specific humanitarian emergency
Logistics	Transport, storage and handling in support of common humanitarian operations for example by air, road or water, including personnel and cargo, and for evacuations	See CERF Guidance on Funding for Humanitarian Air Services
	Logistics activities to overcome constraints affecting the supply chain of multiple humanitarian organizations. This can include for example emergency bridge or road repairs.	
Nutrition	Nutrition screenings and surveillance to provide time-critical information for identification of areas of urgent need, or deterioration in the nutritional situation, and for identification of cases of acute malnutrition for referral for lifesaving treatment	
	Provision of support to infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IFE). This can include promotion of early, exclusive and continued breastfeeding through support to mothers; provision of counselors and ensuring secluded areas are available for breastfeeding; provision of appropriately targeted	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	support for artificially fed infants, monitoring and policy action for prevention of uncontrolled breastmilk substitute donation and distribution; and provision of appropriate complementary foods	
	Management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition. This can include support for inpatient and outpatient treatment for severe acute malnutrition as well as community mobilization and outreach to ensure communities can identify cases and access the services, for example community-based management of severe acute malnutrition; targeted and blanket supplementary feeding for children, pregnant and lactating women and other vulnerable groups.	Support for treatment of severe acute malnutrition should be provided wherever cases exist. Supplementary feeding should be considered where levels of acute malnutrition reach emergency thresholds. Blanket supplementary feeding approaches may be most appropriate where capacity is poor, where levels of acute malnutrition are very high and where the general ration is inadequate at the initial stages of the emergency.
	Provision of supplementary feeding rations to the general population or to particularly vulnerable groups.	Only when food availability, including food assistance, is inadequate to prevent malnutrition
	Provision of micronutrient supplementation (vitamins and minerals)	Special mass campaigns should be implemented after needs or vulnerability assessment and in coordination with other sectors, for example health and/or food security sectors, on the requirements and frequency.
Protection	Deployment of emergency protection teams in disasters and emergencies, for outcomes-based protection monitoring and displacement tracking, for protection service delivery and coordination, outcomes-based human rights and protection monitoring and reporting; and inter-agency, multi-sectoral protection analysis to ensure protection remains central to the humanitarian response	Protection monitoring/field teams may require substantive staffing inputs. Results must be shared with relevant stakeholders to inform the wider humanitarian response. In case protection monitoring reports cannot be shared with non-protection actors, protection actors should include the findings in

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
		any protection analysis.
	Profiling, registration, family tracing, monitoring, documentation and case management of affected people and the establishment of protection mechanisms to address individual protection needs including provision of legal documentation for people with specific needs and other vulnerable groups, to facilitate access to essential life-saving services and humanitarian assistance	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency.
	Identification, setup and strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms, including to identify, prevent, mitigate and respond to violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law. Establishment of or support to protection community networks with affected people, community leaders and community-based groups, ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups.	
	Provision of life-saving support to people with specific needs, survivors of violence (including GBV), exploitation and abuse. This includes strengthening psychosocial support (PSS) programming and non-specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) to individuals, families, and communities that have been exposed to conflict and displacement, political oppression, torture, and GBV; and support in promoting community mobilization, activating social networks, and the establishment of community centers and safe spaces.	In close coordination with the health cluster/sector
	Support protection activities aiming to prevent, stop, or remedy violations of rights in life-threatening contexts, such as the provision of protection-related and life-saving information to affected people	
	Establishment of referral mechanisms for people with specific protection needs including support for effectively accessing services, and ensuring	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency and

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	referred victims can live in security	when service provision is available
	Support measures to ensure access to justice, remedies and reparations. This can include for example assessments of justice and security needs; support to legal advice and paralegal services in conflict-affected areas; mobile legal clinics, or support in cases of arbitrary detention and forced disappearances, and the provision of civil documentation	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency and only eligible where these activities will have an immediate impact on the protection situation within the project implementation period
	Human rights and protection monitoring, analysis, reporting, advice and interventions. This can include for example alerts or referrals to service providers, with a special focus on marginalized groups.	
Protection – Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Strengthen and/or deploy GBV personnel to guide implementation of an inter-agency, multi-sectoral GBV programme response	In an emergency context and as a first priority, support health service providers with relevant supplies and ensure that a range of appropriate psychosocial interventions are in place and accessible.
	Provision of accessible, confidential, survivor-centered services to address GBV in line with the Inter-Agency Standards for GBV in Emergency Programming. This may entail establishment of safe entry points for case management and psychosocial support services, including safe spaces for women and girls, remote services, outreach teams, shelters, community centers, or mobile teams.	
	Establishment of protection and prevention mechanisms by identifying high-risk areas and risk factors driving GBV in the emergency. Strengthen or set up prevention and mitigation strategies, mechanisms and initiatives in support of national and community-based interventions in line with IASC principles and guidelines. Risk mitigation strategies may include the provision of dignity kits and other means of sharing life-saving protection information.	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	Support the implementation of GBV risk mitigation and response into all clusters, as per the IASC Guidelines for integrating GBV in Humanitarian Action. This can include the support to national and community-based systems that mitigate GBV and ensure their full alignment with IASC principles and guidelines	
	Support quick orientation of direct service providers, community representatives and groups on mitigating and managing cases of GBV in emergencies and ensuring the full respect for the core concepts of GBV	
	Improve access of survivors of GBV to secure, confidential and appropriate (health, psychosocial, safety, legal), reporting, follow-up and protection, including to police or other security personnel	
Protection – Child Protection	Identification, registration, family tracing and reunification or interim care arrangements for unaccompanied or separated children, orphans and children leaving armed groups/forces	
	Ensure case management of vulnerable children. This can include identification, registration, referral and follow-up for other extremely vulnerable children such as survivors of GBV and other forms of violence, children with no access to basic service and those requiring special protection measures.	
	Activities in support of children at risk and affected children by humanitarian crisis. This can include advocacy, awareness-raising, life-skills training, and livelihoods support.	
	Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to affected children. This can include for example, the provision of child-friendly spaces or other community-based interventions, return to school or	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	emergency education, psychosocial first aid, mental health referrals where expertise exists.	
	Integration of children associated with armed groups/forces and prevention of return. This may involve case management and links to associated services such as education, livelihoods and mental health, and child rights monitoring and reporting	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency and on the specific activities proposed
	Identification and strengthening, or establishment of community-based child protection mechanisms to monitor, assess and address child protection issues including GBV.	
	Identification of the main physical dangers that cause unintentional injury or death to children of all ages in the emergency through consultation with local actors and take necessary action to mitigate the risk of physical dangers through infrastructure improvement and/or information campaigns	
	Identify high-risk areas and factors driving abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children in the emergency and working with others to strengthen/set up prevention strategies	
Protection – House, Land and Property	Provision of emergency support to address the humanitarian impact of forced evictions, land and resource grabs or other forms of dispossession	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency. Activities should aim to reduce risks of exposure to GBV and other threats of violence and must enhance immediate and direct access to shelter and food security.
Protection – Mine Action	Community liaison, emergency survey and clearance of explosive ordnance to restore access to people in need and enable humanitarian partners to deliver life-saving assistance (e.g., clearance of roads, bridges, food drop	

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
	zones); support freedom of movement for people fleeing war and to enable people to access basic services	
	Assistance to victims of explosive ordnance. This may include legal assistance and case management for the identification, registration, referral and follow-up of survivors and their families in line with IASC guidelines on inclusion of persons with disability in humanitarian action; establishment of protection and prevention mechanisms	
	Deliver mine risk education to affected communities, in particular IDPs, refugees, returning communities and children	
Shelter and Non-Food Items	Provision and distribution of shelter materials including items to mitigate GBV risks, such as partition materials and lighting, and basic technical advice on safe construction	Only in response to a life-saving shelter needs and with flexibility regarding context-specific design
	Construction and rehabilitation of temporary emergency shelter and technical advice on safe construction	Tents, shelter kits, or basic construction materials in support of the repair of buildings serving as emergency or transitional shelter (including collective & transit centers). In cases where people are expected to remain displaced for a longer period, temporary solutions with longer lifespan can also be considered.
	Provision and distribution of basic non-food items for affected people and host families. This can include the distribution of climate appropriate items, for example winterization kits or dignity kits.	
	Basic infrastructural works. This can include rubble removal, environmental clean-up and emergency rehabilitation of community infrastructure	Where there are risks to public health or other resources and facilities, this can include rubble removal and environmental clean-up. In case of

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
		new arrivals, activities may include site planning and improvements.
	Construction and repair of temporary or transitional structures that provide immediate shelter and repair of permanent structures when appropriate	In order to meet immediate needs and part of a comprehensive shelter strategy
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	Provision of water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene. Activities in support of the WASH sector including extraction, transport, treatment, storage, distribution and monitoring, and repair, construction and maintenance of emergency water facilities.	
	Support to sanitation systems in emergency situations. This can include excreta disposal.	Where there are public health risks or risks to other resources and facilities.
	Provision of essential WASH-related non-food items and supplies	This can include items for Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).
	Awareness raising and active participation of and accountability to affected populations in the prevention and mitigation of WASH-related diseases. This can include information/communication; optimization and effective use of facilities; and community mobilization and participation	
	Support to vector control	Where there are public health risks or risks to other resources and facilities
	Support to solid waste management	Where there are public health risks or risks to other resources and facilities
	Support drainage operations	Where there are public health risks or risks to other resources and facilities

Sector	Activities	Key considerations <i>Eligibility of all activities dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency</i>
Coordination, Safety and Security	Humanitarian coordination in new disasters	Funding for cluster/sector coordination (cluster coordinator only) will only be supported in new emergencies and only under the RR window where there is a demonstrated need for support. This coordination person must be part of a larger agency project which has been prioritized by the RC/HC and HCT. Coordination will not be supported in a standalone project.
	Provision of common security measures for safe delivery of humanitarian efforts	See separate CERF guidance on security measures
All Sectors	Provision, distribution and replenishment of quick turnover emergency stockpiles	Eligibility for CERF funding dependent on specific context of humanitarian emergency. If agencies have used supplies for the same emergency, CERF funding can be used to replenish stocks. CERF does not fund stockpiling as a preparedness measure.
	Refresher training and quick orientation for direct service providers and community representatives	Only short training for frontline responders and related to the direct implementation of emergency response, and then only at minimal levels. CERF does not fund capacity-building and training.
	Community engagement with affected communities including providing information, participation in decision-making and feedback and complaint mechanism	Link between community engagement and Accountability to Affected People must be ensured