



United Nations  
**CERF**

**CLIMATE  
ACTION  
ACCOUNT**



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# CLIMATE ACTION ACCOUNT

## CERF climate action

The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is the world's largest emergency pooled fund, enabling fast, coordinated aid when crises strike. Since 2006, it has delivered \$10 billion to support the most vulnerable in over 100 countries, with contributions from 143 donors, including governments, companies, and individuals.

With climate disasters rising, CERF is at the forefront. Since its inception it has allocated \$2.7 billion to communities hit by droughts, floods, and storms. In 2025, 22 percent of all CERF funding went to climate-related emergencies.

CERF gets ahead of disasters, empowering communities to act before predictable hazards hit. As the largest global funder of [anticipatory action](#), it supports cost-effective and impactful action that saves lives, protects livelihoods and reduces humanitarian need.

[Find out more about CERF](#)

## CERF's Climate Action Account

Climate change is driving more frequent and severe disasters, escalating humanitarian needs worldwide. Vulnerable communities – particularly in Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence – bear the brunt of droughts, floods, and storms. Yet climate financing rarely reaches those communities.

The CERF Climate Action Account offers donors a high-impact opportunity to support faster, smarter, and more cost-effective humanitarian action. It upholds the life-saving mandate of the CERF (Resolution 60/124) whilst also aligning with the commitment to deliver humanitarian

Severe flooding in Adamawa State, Nigeria. Photo: FAO


assistance that builds climate resilience (Resolutions 69/240 and 70/1). It channels additional climate-related financing to support climate action in crisis settings that otherwise would not occur. In doing so, the Account represents a step change in how CERF responds to the climate crisis, driving critical actions to:


- Support humanitarian activities that build communities' adaptive capacity,
- Strengthen and scale anticipatory action,
- Boost climate-smart humanitarian response, and
- Foster innovation and advancing best practice.

This fills a critical gap in the climate financing architecture. The CERF Climate Action Account operates efficiently and effectively, by leveraging CERF's...


- Unparalleled speed,
- Operational expertise and reach in complex crises,
- Robust, needs based allocation criteria,
- Strategic targeting, and
- Investment in coordinated, cost-effective and principled humanitarian action.

### In 2025, CERF:

 **Allocated**  
**\$97.9M**  
for climate related emergencies

 **Reached some**  
**5.5M**  
people affected by droughts,  
floods and storms in 16 countries

 **Responded to climate related**  
disasters within  
**1 day**  
on average

 **Disbursed**  
**\$47.7M**  
for anticipatory  
and early action for  
predictable climate  
shocks

 **Committed**  
**\$133.2M**  
for 24 climate related  
anticipatory action  
frameworks in 20  
countries

## Achievements

In a short space of time, the CERF Climate Action Account has become a change agent for climate-smart humanitarian action, delivering tangible results for communities on the frontline of the climate [crisis](#).

**Dedicated climate action envelopes.** In 2024 and 2025, two dedicated climate allocations were made possible by the CERF Climate Action Account. Across 17 countries, some \$20 million is supporting community-level projects that deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance, while at the same time empowering communities to become resilient and adaptive to future climate-related shocks and stresses. Aligned with national and global climate strategies, the adaptation activities are delivering lasting, life-changing results. This approach takes an important first step towards a climate-resilient future and lays the groundwork for longer-term climate programming.

**Strengthening and scaling anticipatory action.** The CERF Climate Action Account is fostering a shift towards lifesaving anticipatory action that also contributes to reducing vulnerability and supporting adaptation and resilience. This includes measures such as protecting livelihoods, safeguarding critical services and reinforcing community preparedness to climate shocks. The result is a more efficient, more cost-effective and more humane response that empowers the people we serve. Evidence supporting the cost-benefit of anticipatory action is extensive and with additional support the Account is uniquely positioned to support its scale-up in response to climate shocks.



*When it rains, the contour lines and anti-erosion hedges protect our crops, which are now thriving. The money earned through the work carried out enabled some families to pay their children's school fees, while others were able to acquire small livestock, including chickens and rabbits"*

– Jean Ndayisaba\* Mubimbi/Gisagara, Burundi  
\*name anonymized



Afghanistan: A farmer inspects his parched field in northern Afghanistan, where drought conditions continue to threaten crops and livelihoods. Photo: OCHA/Lynsey Addario

Projects supported by the first UFE climate action envelope have made meaningful and tangible differences in the lives of the targeted populations:

- In Cameroon, the provision of climate adapted seeds, crop diversification, rain-fed production and crop management training resulted in 95 percent of farmers reporting increased crop yields. Improved production helped families to meet immediate food needs and generate marketable surplus to increase income. The percentage of households able to meet basic needs rose to 90 percent.
- In Mozambique, the installation of drip irrigation systems, solar powered cold storage, food drying technologies and training in climate-smart agricultural practices helped smallholder farmers to build resilience to drought and climate variability and strengthen livelihood stability. The percentage of households adopting more sustainable coping strategies increased from 28 to 53 percent.
- In Burundi, cash and voucher assistance to plant tree siblings and restore degraded hillsides and watersheds provided communities with immediate income whilst protecting livelihoods and reducing the impact of future floods or heavy rains. The percentage of households relying on negative coping strategies such as cutting back on food or selling productive assets reduced to 16 percent.

**Transforming humanitarian action into a more powerful tool in the fight against climate change.** The CERF Climate Action Account is acting as a system-wide game-changer. It has brought a sharper climate focus across the entire CERF portfolio – systematically requesting information on climate risks, asking what actions are proposed to build climate resilience, and introducing climate related [indicators](#) to track progress and impact. These simple changes to processes are incentivizing climate-smart humanitarian action on the ground. A lifesaving humanitarian response with resilience and adaptation co-benefits maximizes impact and offers real value for money.

#### Catalysing Climate-Smart Humanitarian Action across CERF-funded projects

- >116k people received training in climate-smart agriculture, livestock management, fishing skills, practices and technologies.
- >830k people benefitted from climate-related disease control activities.
- 360 climate-smart irrigation systems and waterpoints constructed or rehabilitated.
- 36k climate-smart sanitation and bathing facilities constructed or rehabilitated.

**A platform for increased visibility and advocacy.** The CERF Climate Action Account is shining a light on ways that humanitarian action can help address the climate crisis and advocating for more climate financing to reach vulnerable areas. It also provides a platform to drive greater strategic collaboration with partners, including financial institutions and climate funds.

## Supporters and Contributions

Donor support to the CERF Climate Action Account grew significantly in 2025. Contributions of \$11.6 million were received from Australia, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Monaco and Portugal. Cumulative [support](#) since the launch

Eva Pedro Laete's field dedicated to beans multiplication and maize Guro, Manica Province.  
Photo: ©FAO/María Legaristi Royo



of the Account, including earlier contributions from Latvia and Denmark and a recent contribution from Estonia, is nearly \$28 million. More than 100 individuals and corporations have also donated, including through [climaterelief.un.org](https://climaterelief.un.org). All funding received is additional and would not have reached CERF were it not for the Account.

At a time of growing financial pressure, this speaks to donors' confidence in the CERF Climate Action Account's unique role in the climate financing space. In 2026 OCHA continues efforts to secure additional and predictable contributions. Increasing and diversifying the donor base, unlocking new streams of financing and exploring innovative funding solutions is critical to deliver on the goals of the CERF Climate Action Account.

## A call to action

The challenge is immense—vulnerable communities face escalating climate disasters with limited means to recover and become self-reliant.

We urge Member States, observers, authorities, corporations, philanthropies, and individuals to take urgent, decisive action.

By collaborating with OCHA and supporting the CERF Climate Action Account, we can build on the momentum. Increased and sustained funding can enable scaled-up humanitarian action that builds climate resilience, empowers communities, and delivers lasting change for millions of the world's most climate-vulnerable people.

[Find out more about the CERF Climate Action Account](#)



*The climate crisis demands bold collective action, big ideas, and relentless innovation. The CERF Climate Action Account is a critical tool for this effort, offering a global safety net to address growing climate-related humanitarian needs."*

– Tom Fletcher, Emergency Relief Coordinator

#### How can YOU help?



Member States, donors, foundations and businesses are invited to contact:  
[ocha.donor.relations@un.org](mailto:ocha.donor.relations@un.org)



Individuals and corporations can also donate online here:  
[climaterelief.un.org](https://climaterelief.un.org)