

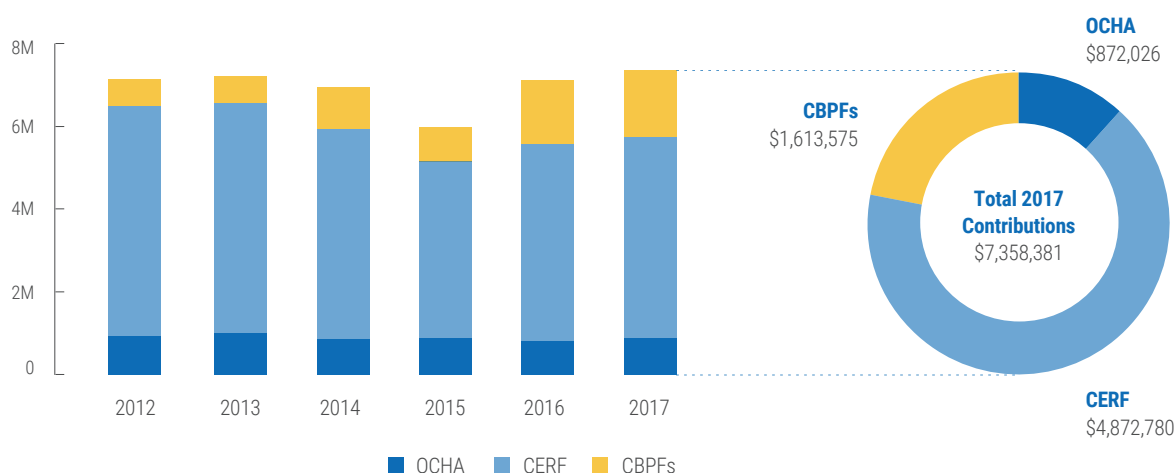
Luxembourg's Support to OCHA and Pooled Funds

Luxembourg is a long-standing and generous partner to OCHA and the pooled funds it manages, with total contributions of \$7,36 million in 2017 to date. Its contribution to OCHA has been stable over the last years, while its contribution to country-based pooled funds (CBPFs) has doubled since 2015. Luxembourg is an active member of the OCHA Donor Support Group (ODSG) and the Pooled Fund Working Group, the advisory board for CBPFs.

Luxembourg is a predictable and flexible donor and signed a multi-year agreement with OCHA for 2017-2020, committing to at least EUR 800,000 (\$872,026) each year, entirely unearmarked.

Luxembourg is a generous donor to the OCHA managed pooled funds, with \$4.8 million allocated to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2017 and \$1,6 M to CBPFs, allocated in equal parts to Myanmar, Syria, Nigeria, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and South Sudan. Luxembourg signed its first multi-year agreement with CERF for 2017-2018.

Luxembourg's contributions to OCHA and pooled funds (2012-2017)



OCHA

- 18th largest unearmarked donor in 2016
- Highest ODSG donor per capita in 2016

Humanitarian aid budget

- Luxembourg consistently allocates 15% of its ODA to humanitarian assistance

CERF

- 14th largest donor since 2006

WHS commitments

- Grand Bargain signatory
- 5% increase in Luxembourg's humanitarian aid by 2018
- 5% increase in Luxembourg's contribution to the CERF in 2017 and 2018
- 25% increase in contributions to CBPFs

CBPFs

- 18th largest donor since 2006



The ERC Stephen O'Brien visits an orphanage run by a Syrian NGO in the town of Reyhanli, during his visit to Turkey.

Credit: OCHA/ Iason Fooounten

Luxembourg's flexible funding to OCHA: an invaluable contribution to operate seamlessly

Luxembourg's contribution to OCHA is entirely unearmarked, which is critical for OCHA to quickly respond to new or worsening crises, address on-going protracted crises, advocate for the people in need and negotiate access, defending humanitarian principles and the protection of civilians.

Thanks to Luxembourg's unearmarked funding in 2016:

OCHA responded quickly to new emergencies, such as sudden-onset natural disasters and rapidly deteriorating protracted crises, including corporate emergencies: in 2016, unearmarked contributions were used to establish a new office in Burundi early in the year and to expand the capacity of offices to respond to the severe humanitarian impact of El Niño in eastern and southern Africa. Unearmarked funds were crucial to initiate the response to Tropical Cyclone Winston in Fiji (February), the severe earthquake in Ecuador (April); the deterioration of the IDP crises in Libya (Sirt) and Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and other Caribbean countries (October). Thanks to unearmarked funds, before the hurricane hit Haiti, OCHA was able to pre-deploy an UNDAC team to reinforce national and local systems and later deploy a Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator (DHC), while strengthening emergency response capacity.

OCHA maintained a presence in protracted crises to deliver core coordination services which heavily depend on unearmarked funding, such as Afghanistan, DRC,

Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan. Since unearmarked funding can be moved from one operation to another, depending on need, it has a "multiplier effect"; ie. funding can help kick start a new response and once earmarked funding is received, it can be moved to a protracted crisis.

OCHA maintained uninterrupted field operations throughout the year in Level 3 emergency response, as unearmarked funding provided invaluable support in between the payment of earmarked contributions in Iraq, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen. In Iraq, this allowed OCHA to undertake extensive preparations for the humanitarian impact of the military operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which, by year end, had displaced 100,000 people. Luxembourg's unearmarked contribution also allowed OCHA to negotiate access to people in need in Syria, particularly the millions of civilians who were besieged or cut off from assistance and to coordinate cross-border and cross-line relief deliveries and to mobilize resources for the emergency.

OCHA improved field effectiveness through support programmes to the field such as on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, the deployment of surge staff with more than 240 surge deployments to 40 countries in 2016 or global advocacy. Thanks to unearmarked funding, OCHA undertook regular public and private advocacy to urgently call to account the world's decision makers on the humanitarian situation, condemning atrocities and calling

for collective action to alleviate human suffering. This included 28 briefings to the UN Security Council in 2016.

Luxembourg contributed to greater administrative efficiency, as unearmarked funds have low transaction costs, unlike earmarked contributions which require a constant cash analysis of offices and ad hoc grant management.

Luxembourg's unearmarked funding through CERF: time-critical and flexible funding

CERF is the UN's global emergency response fund designed to provide fast and flexible funding to people affected by crises, no matter where they occur, and to scale up support to protracted emergencies that fail to attract adequate resources. Since 2006, CERF has proven to be one of the most effective ways to provide time-critical assistance. In December 2016, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's call to expand CERF's annual funding target to \$1 billion by 2018.

CERF Allocation Map



In 2016 CERF allocated **\$439 million** for life-saving operations in **47 countries**.

01. Iraq (\$33.4M); 02. Uganda (\$28.3M); 03. South Sudan (\$24.6M); 04. Nigeria (\$23.5M); 05. South Sudan (\$20.8M); 06. Ethiopia (\$20.5M); 07. Chad (\$20.0M); 08. Democratic Republic of Congo (\$16.6M); 09. Mali (\$16.0M); 10. Yemen (\$15.0M); 11. Democratic People's Republic of Korea (\$13.1M); 12. Burundi (\$13.1M); 13. Somalia (\$12.9M); 14. United Republic of Tanzania (\$12.5M); 15. Libya (\$12.0M); 16. Central African Republic (\$12.0M); 17. Haiti (\$10.4M); 18. Afghanistan (\$9.8M); 19. Jordan (\$9.4M); 20. Rwanda (\$9.2M); 21. Fiji (\$8.0M); 22. Angola (\$8.0M); 23. Ecuador (\$7.5M); 24. Madagascar (\$6.0M); 25. Cuba (\$5.4M); 26. Niger (\$5.0M); 27. Kenya (\$5.0M); 28. Bangladesh (\$4.9M); 29. Guatemala (\$4.8M); 30. Lesotho (\$4.8M); 31. Papua New Guinea (\$4.7M); 32. Mozambique (\$4.7M); 33. Sri Lanka (\$4.3M); 34. Cameroon (\$4.2M); 35. Viet Nam (\$3.9M); 36. Myanmar (\$3.6M); 37. Swaziland (\$3.1M); 38. Guinea (\$3.0M); 39. Mongolia (\$2.4M); 40. Congo (\$2.4M); 41. Eritrea (\$2.0M); 42. Djibouti (\$2.0M); 43. Cote d'Ivoire (\$2.0M); 44. Nepal (\$1.9M); 45. Malawi (\$1.4M); 46. Timor-Leste (\$0.8M); 47. Lao People's Democratic Republic (\$0.3M)



Thanks to CERF funding, a mobile team in Somaliland's Marodijex examines patients and hands out nutrition supplies, including iron tablets, to drought-affected families.

Credit: IOM/Mary-Sanyu Osire

Sufficient, predictable and timely funding is essential for CERF to meet its objectives as envisioned when it was first established. As the 14th largest donor to CERF, Luxembourg's consistent support has been a key factor in making CERF the success it is today.

Thanks to donors' support to the CERF:

CERF has provided fast and flexible funding, when and where it is needed the most. CERF is often one of the first sources of funding to sudden-onset emergencies. This strengthens the humanitarian community's ability to immediately start the life-saving response, while mobilizing funding from other sources for the continuation or expansion of aid delivery.

On average each year, CERF grants have helped humanitarian partners deliver critical assistance, such as health care to 20 million people, food assistance to 10 million people, water and sanitation to 8 million people, livelihood support to 5 million people, protection to 4 million people, and shelter to 1 million. More than half are women and girls and every year CERF ensures urgent life-saving assistance to millions of children.

CERF added strategic value to humanitarian action beyond the mere amount of money allocated: the majority of RC/HCs and HCTs confirmed that the fund led to the fast implementation of the humanitarian response and better response to time-critical humanitarian needs; improved coordination among the humanitarian community; and, leveraged additional resources from other sources.

CERF has provided humanitarian support across the globe at low transaction costs, including for lower profile crises most vulnerable to shocks. Since 2006, Luxembourg's emergency aid has reached tens of millions of people across 98 countries.

CERF has allocated one third of its funds in Underfunded Emergencies (UFE) grants for life-saving activities in protracted or neglected humanitarian emergencies where funding is low but vulnerability and risk levels are high with 6.5 million people targeted in 15 severely underfunded crises. Multi-year commitments such as the 2017-2018 Luxembourg funding agreement for CERF and early transfer of funds make such large-scale disbursements possible early in the year.

So far, in 2017, CERF has released \$117.5 million for early action and life-saving operations in the four countries in or at risk of famine – Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. CERF is currently the fifth largest funding source for humanitarian operations in the four affected countries.

Luxembourg's support to Country-based pooled funds (CBPFs)

Luxembourg has been a consistent supporter of CBPFs over the past ten years. It has doubled its contributions to CBPFs since 2015 and, in 2017, has allocated \$1.6 million in equal parts to the CBPFs for Myanmar, Syria, Nigeria, CAR, DRC and South Sudan. In 2016, Luxembourg allocated \$1.5 million to the CAR, DRC, South Sudan and Syria CBPFs.

Since 1997, OCHA has managed these funds to bolster aid operations in 27 of the world's most severe and complex humanitarian crises, allocating more than \$5 billion to relief organizations delivering life-saving assistance for millions of the most vulnerable people. Funding channelled through CBPFs has more than doubled over the past decade, from \$287 million in 2006 to a record \$704 million in 2016. The UN Secretary-General has called on donors to increase funding to CBPFs to 15 per cent of Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requirements by 2018.

CBPFs in particular play a key role in delivering commitments under the Grand Bargain, as allocations are fully flexible in-country, support the highest priority projects of the HRPs and adhere to humanitarian principles. CBPFs have empowered humanitarian leadership, giving HCs the ability to directly support humanitarian operations. They have improved inclusivity by involving a wider range of partners in strategic prioritization and programming processes, and making funds directly available to national and international NGOs, UN agencies and Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations. They are the largest source of direct funding for local and national NGOs.

CBPFs Allocation Map



01. Yemen (\$94.1M); 02. Turkey (\$93.3M); 03. Iraq (\$88.3M); 04. South Sudan (\$82.4M); 05. Ethiopia (\$60.5M); 06. Democratic Republic of Congo (\$57.6M); 07. Syria (\$44.1M); 08. Afghanistan (\$39.8M); 09. Sudan (\$38.8M); 10. Somalia (\$30.7M); 11. Lebanon (\$27.4M); 12. Central African Republic (\$22.1M); 13. Jordan (\$11.9M); 14. occupied Palestinian territory (\$8.2M); 15. Pakistan (\$6.3M); 16. Myanmar (\$5.6M); 17. Colombia (\$2.1M)

IN FOCUS

Achievements of the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) in 2016 with Luxembourg's support of \$284,250

\$44 million were allocated to 53 projects implemented by 32 partners which targeted 4.5 million people across nine sectors. Of these people, an estimated 2.3 million were living in besieged or hard-to-reach locations. Local and national NGOs directly received 21 per cent of the funds (\$9.4 million).

Access to flexible funding through the SHF has given partners the ability to innovate and tailor solutions to specific challenges. For example, the SHF supported the construction of underground "bunkered" hospitals in besieged areas to protect patients and medical staff from airstrikes and shelling.

The SHF provided life-saving support to affected communities in a timely manner, such as with the water tracking project in Aleppo when the city was cut off or through the provision of an airbridge and airdrops to cut-off areas in Hasakeh and Deir-Ez-zor.

Achievements of the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SSHF) in 2016 with Luxembourg's support of \$678,360

\$81.3 million was allocated to 211 projects implemented by 67 partners and 1.8 million people were assisted. Of that amount, 58 per cent of the funds (\$47.1 million) supported frontline activities, 30 per cent (\$24.5 million) the procurement and delivery of common core pipeline supplies, and 12 per cent (\$9.7 million) the provision of common services.

The SSHF provided humanitarian partners with funding at critical times. For example, in August 2016, it allocated almost \$30 million for the response to the escalation of conflict and displacement precipitated by the eruption of fighting in Juba in July.

SSHF funding was prioritized for the most urgent and life-saving activities, with nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and health being the highest-funded sectors. Nutrition services reached 486,700 people in need, 69 per cent of the total number of people assisted by the cluster during the year.



Abdul Qader benefitted from medical care thanks to a Al Bir and Special Services NNGO project in Homs governorate funded by the Syria Humanitarian Fund.

Photo: UNOCHA/Ghalia Seifo

The World Humanitarian Summit and OCHA's Grand Bargain implementation

With support from Luxembourg and its other donors, OCHA organized the first ever World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016 with more than 3,500 commitments made and dozens of new partnerships and initiatives launched to take forward the Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity. These were brought together on the Platform for Action, Commitments and Transformations (<http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/>) launched by OCHA, which serves as a dynamic space to report on progress, showcase results and build on the momentum.

At the WHS, donors and humanitarian partners made public an agreement on a Grand Bargain that will help to place more means into the hands of the people in need by accumulating up to \$1 billion in efficiency savings for humanitarian action over the next five years. The Grand Bargain comprises 51 concrete commitments designed to strengthen the humanitarian system through more efficient, transparent, accountable and effective ways of working beyond the Summit.

OCHA is leveraging its facilitation, advocacy and coordination functions at the global and field levels to achieve the vision articulated by the Grand Bargain. A few examples from selected Grand Bargain work streams:

Localization

Responding to the Grand Bargain focus on support to national first responders, of the total \$713 million allocated by CBPFs in 2016, \$129 million (18 per cent) was directly allocated through national NGOs. This is almost double the net amount recorded in the previous two years. Another \$37 million reached local and national NGOs through CBPF grants to UN and INGOs. In addition, CBPF grant processes incentivize UN agencies and INGOs to work in partnership with local responders. For example, the Turkey Humanitarian Fund which funds cross-border operations into Syria prioritizes UN and INGO proposals that integrate local responders.

The proportion of CERF funds contracted to agencies' implementing partners also increased year by year and reached close to 25 per cent in 2014, of which more than half were for local actors.

Increased transparency through the Financial Tracking Service (FTS)

Since the adoption of the Grand Bargain, OCHA has invested in the improvement of the financial reporting system, particularly FTS, allowing donors to see where their money goes. A new version of the FTS platform was launched in January 2017, which supports the tracking of pass-through funding, IATI reporting and greater visibility of unearmarked donations. The FTS website is continuously updated with additional features to improve accessibility and ease of use. In 2016, FTS continuously updated funding information for more than 62 emergencies and 44 appeals with 345 organizations reporting 15,000 contributions.

Needs assessment

By co-convening the Grand Bargain Needs Assessments work stream with OCHA aims to contribute to the delivery of an inter-sectoral analysis model for needs assessments in the context of crisis. This remains a top priority in order to fully understand priority needs on the ground, develop strategic priorities in the response and enhance coordination amongst partners.

Cash

The Grand Bargain provides the opportunity to scale up the use of cash-based programming and contributes to better coordination in its delivery. To ensure that cash-based assistance is effectively coordinated in the field, OCHA identified cash focal points in each country office and provided training to staff to strengthen their understanding of the technical and strategic issues of cash programming and coordination. Field offices have supported cash coordination in a number of contexts, including Iraq, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Ukraine and, more recently, Somalia and Yemen. CBPFs are cash-ready by design, which means mechanisms are in place to enable funding of cash-based programmes. In countries where markets are conducive for cash, CBPFs are encouraging its use. For example, the Jordan Humanitarian Fund has adopted cash as a programmatic modality and allocated one of third of resources (\$4 million) to cash-based projects.



On April 16 2016, Ecuador suffered a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. OCHA deployed an UNDAC team which included an environmental expert who assessed hazards posed by industries and waste.

Credit: Salomon Ruales/Mira Ecuador

Luxembourg's contribution to innovation and technology: supporting the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

UNDAC assists in the coordination of incoming international relief at the national level and/or at the site of the emergency deploying at short notice to assess, coordinate and manage information in an emergency response. Luxembourg's technical support is an invaluable contribution to successful UNDAC missions to help the United Nations and Governments of disaster-affected countries during the first phase of a sudden-onset emergency. Following Hurricane Matthew, an UNDAC team was deployed to the worst affected areas in Haiti supporting the Haitian Civilian Protection and the development of the Flash Appeal, for UNDAC's second largest deployment in its history.

Luxembourg provides in-kind support to OCHA to further develop the UNDAC Mission Software (UMS) in the form of software development resources and technical infrastructures to host UMS on the emergency.lu platform in a data center in Luxembourg. The UMS supports communication and information management for UNDAC members by allowing them to collaborate remotely, produce, share and archive documents using one single space, synchronizing in a local area network or over the internet.

Luxembourg and JPOs

Luxembourg currently funds two JPO positions with OCHA, supporting OCHA's public advocacy in New York and coordinated needs assessments in Geneva.

For further information, please contact the
OCHA's Chief of Donor Relations **Jean Verheyden**
at verheyden@un.org, or visit www.unocha.org

