

Southern NGOs' access to humanitarian funding: A CAFOD policy brief

April 2013

Background:

As a partnership agency, CAFOD is committed to working with sister agencies and southern NGO partners, working with organisations of all faiths and none, to deliver humanitarian aid. Working in partnership is an essential part of CAFOD's identity and stems from a commitment to recognise all women and men as equal members of one interdependent global community.

This paper provides a brief overview of humanitarian funding sources for southern NGOs. It is the first in a series of documents which CAFOD, together with other Caritas International member organisations will produce in 2013 as part of advocacy aimed at enhancing southern NGOs' access to international humanitarian financing mechanisms. The definition of southern NGOs encompasses a spectrum of non government organisations from large scale organisations with national reach, budgets comparable to European NGOs and often working beyond national borders, to small locally-based organisations which serve their local community.

Scale of Need:

Official funding for humanitarian need reached a peak in 2010 (in response to the Haiti earthquake in January and the Pakistan floods in August and September) amounting to \$11.3 billion to meet the needs of 74 million people¹. In 2011 this fell to \$8.9 billion in the UN's consolidated humanitarian appeal, to respond to the needs of 62 million people. Yet despite the fall in need, according to the United Nations the gap in unmet financing widened to levels not seen in ten years.²

¹ Since this is just the numbers included in United Nations appeals the total numbers of crises affected people are likely to be far higher than this figure.

² Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2011 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/gha-report-2011.pdf> page 6 Accessed March 11th 2013

Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB.

Tel 020 7733 7900 **Fax** 020 7274 9630 **E-mail** cafod@cafod.org.uk **Website**

www.cafod.org.uk

CAFOD is the official overseas development and humanitarian agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of the Caritas International. Registered under the Charities Act 1960 No. 285776

Foundation Trustees: Rt Rev John Rawsthorne Rt Rev Kieran Conry Catherine Newman QC Mary Ney
Director: Chris Bain **Hon Treasurer:** Charles S Reeve-Tucker FCA

Humanitarian funding is concentrated in conflict-affected and fragile states, with between 64 and 83% of international humanitarian assistance given to conflict or post-conflict countries between 2001 and 2010.³ Many of these states are also affected by natural disasters so are doubly vulnerable.⁴ In a significant number of these situations, because the state is either a party to the conflict or lacks the capacity and transparency to deliver services to its citizens, humanitarian aid is the principle type of aid going into the country. Much of this aid is channelled via multi-lateral humanitarian agencies and international NGOs for the delivery of essential services on continuous short-term funding cycles, which means that a longer-term concentration on building capacity of development partners and national actors becomes almost impossible. This concentration on addressing basic needs in protracted crises dwarves funding to build resilience, finance preparedness or support disaster risk reduction initiatives which between 2006-2011 accounted for only 1% of official humanitarian aid to the biggest humanitarian recipients (US 1.5 billion) and 0.5% of non-humanitarian ODA.⁵

Who funds humanitarian needs?

The 5 largest humanitarian donors are United States, EU institutions, United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden, which between them provided 69% of total donor humanitarian funding. New humanitarian donors have started to emerge, and although the top humanitarian donors continue to be western, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates now rank 16th and 20th of the top 20 donor governments, above a number of OECD DAC donor governments. Other relatively new humanitarian donors include China, Brazil, and Turkey which in 2011 pledged US\$49 million to the UN's humanitarian appeal for the Horn of Africa, making Turkey the 6th largest government donor to that crisis in 2011.

The role of national governments in providing humanitarian aid is difficult to calculate and there are no definitive figures. The UN resolution which addresses the role of sovereign states in emergencies noted that a national government has 'the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and emergencies occurring on its territory'.⁶ Most national governments do not report the financial cost of their domestic responses to UN OCHA's Financial Tracking Scheme (FTS) and this information is not collated internationally.⁷

Private funding for humanitarian crises has jumped in recent years, relative to government funding, increasing by 70% between 2009 and 2010, although this was also in large part in response to the Pakistan and Haiti emergencies and particularly the role of diaspora communities in response to those two emergencies.⁸ Like the role of national government

³ *ibid*

⁴ <http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/7257-disasters-conflicts-collide-improving-links-between-disaster-resilience-conflict-prevention> Accessed March 11th 2013

⁵ Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2011 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/gha-report-2011.pdf> page 7 Accessed March 11th 2013

⁶ United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 on humanitarian response, passed in 1991 <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm> Accessed March 11th 2013

⁷ See for example Development Initiatives' reports <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/domestic-response-in-uganda>, <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/report/domestic-response-in-bangladesh> Accessed March 11th 2013

⁸ Private funding includes national assistance given by families, friends and neighbours and diaspora communities as well as private sector. Globally it includes private foundations and trusts, such as the Bill and Melina Gates Foundation, and corporations. The extent of these sources of humanitarian aid has not been fully investigated or tracked.

funding, much of this money is unreported to the FTS. Other unreported funds include some appeal funds raised by the UK Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), which does not report its private income to the UN OCHA's FTS.⁹

Development Initiatives in its Global Humanitarian Report of 2011 estimated the figure for 2010 to be US\$4.3 billion, but this figure is only drawn from INGOs, Red Cross and UN humanitarian agencies, and does not include remittances or diaspora funding.¹⁰

Who receives the funds to deliver humanitarian aid?

The largest percentage of international humanitarian aid goes to multi-lateral agencies, - the UN humanitarian agencies plus the International Organisation on Migration (IOM) – which between them received a total of \$7.9 billion of the \$18.8 billion funding (from governments, private donors and pooled funds) in 2010. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement received \$1.4 billion; while NGOs (international and national) received \$3.2 billion of private and government direct funding, and \$1.56 from the pooled funds (ERFs and CHF). According to recent OCHA data, taken from the Financial Tracking System (FTS) in 2011 US\$8.4 billion of humanitarian funding went to NGOs of which a mere US\$95 million was for national NGOs; although this figure does not capture all the funds provided to national and international NGOs which is sub-granted via UN agencies, (see chart *Humanitarian Funding Flows in 2011* below).

UN agencies primarily spend their humanitarian funding on partnerships with national governments or via contracts with NGOs who act as sub-contracting partners to deliver humanitarian relief. For example in 2008 the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR channelled 25% of its total expenditure through NGOs.¹¹ In 2011 the agency transferred \$US 677 million through its 762 NGO partners, of which 151 were international and 611 national NGOs.¹² That same year, 2011 World Food Programme (WFP) had more than 2,100 collaborations with NGOs, of which 90% were local NGOs or community-based organisations (CBOs) in 171 projects in 67 countries. WFP also had partnerships with 30 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies in 32 countries. These partnerships delivered 1.9 million metric tons of food, accounting for some 50% of WFP's food distribution for 2011.¹³

However total flows going to national NGOs from UN agencies have not been calculated and no overall calculations made as to whether funds passed to NGOs are from donor government sources, pooled funds (particularly CERF) or from UN agencies' own direct fundraising.

Under current international financial tracking systems there is no way of measuring levels of humanitarian funding which goes to national NGOs nor of the source of these funds. Many OECD DAC donor governments do not fund national NGOs, either because of restrictions within their own legal or regulatory frameworks, or because they choose not to due to such

⁹ Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2011 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/gha-report-2011.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

¹⁰ Ibid page 19

¹¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c2f6.html> Accessed March 11th 2013

¹² UNHCR Global Report 2011 <http://www.unhcr.org/4fc8808da.html> Accessed March 11th 2013

¹³ <http://www.wfp.org/about/partners/ngos> Accessed March 11th 2013

factors as political and financial risk and the high transaction costs of funding individual small organisations directly . One example of this is the Belgium Government whose national legislation will only allow it to fund NGOs registered in Belgium. As a result national NGOs receive relatively little funding directly from donor governments. According to the Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2012 of the total bi-lateral funding of northern donor government funds for NGOs only 1.9% went to national and local NGOs in 2011¹⁴.

Increasing role of Southern Actors:

National governments are increasingly playing a key role in humanitarian response, for example in Pakistan where the government co-leads the clusters and in Ethiopia where government-run humanitarian task-forces parallel the international humanitarian system architecture. In the 2012/2013 response to Typhoon Pablo the Philippines government lead national clusters through its Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Recent years have seen a plethora of new humanitarian actors based in the global south, many of them significant in scale and impact. These include NGOs with both national and regional and international reach. This is particularly the case in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific, where organisations such as Mercy Malaysia and the Bangladesh based BRAC also play an important role in a number of regional coordination networks and consortia which have played effective roles in information sharing, policy and advocacy and funding coordination. Increasingly Muslim NGOs are operational at the regional and international level in humanitarian response, for example in Mogadishu 40 Muslim NGOs operated under the IASC umbrella in 2011 and many Muslim NGOs now coordinate through the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, (which also includes governments/humanitarian donors) A significant number of Islamic NGOs do not partner with INGOs and receive funding directly from supporters or via bi-lateral funds, for example from the Gulf States and do not report their activities to the FTS.¹⁵

Despite these and other examples, the UN-led humanitarian system continues to be Western dominated. The system is governed by the Interagency Standing Committee (the IASC) which along with UN agencies includes 3 international NGO consortia (ICVA, SCHR and InterAction) and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. Only ICVA and the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies have members whose headquarters are outside western capitals. The clusters are still dominated by international NGOs and UN agencies and it is only recently (within the last 5 years) that local and national NGOs from the global south have started to both participate in these coordination mechanisms, assume leaderships roles as cluster co-leads and include projects in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAPs).

On the positive side there is a gradual shift to place southern actors and crisis affected people at the heart of the international humanitarian system. In 2008 the IASC endorsed the Principles of Partnership in Humanitarian Response, which places NGOs on a more equal

¹⁴ Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2011 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/gha-report-2011.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

¹⁵ The State of the Humanitarian System 2012. ALNAP <http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-sohs-2012-lo-res.pdf> page 30. Accessed March 11th 2013

footing with UN agencies.¹⁶ Shared frameworks and reporting systems are also enabling national actors to better demonstrate their impact. For example research carried out for the NFI cluster in DRC found that the *ActivityInfo* reporting system enabled national NGOs to demonstrate distribution results in a comparable and recognised format which in turn meant they were treated with more respect in coordination forums.¹⁷

At the level of civil society, in countries such as DRC, Myanmar and Colombia national NGOs are accessing an increasing proportion of pooled funds. In other countries, such as Ethiopia where the pooled fund is not directly available to national organisations, NGOs often seek to partner with government ministries in responding to humanitarian needs.

Funding sources for National NGOs:

Despite repeated assertions by international humanitarian actors that it is important to work closely with national actors, funding sources for national NGOs remain limited. These include the following sources:

1. Pooled funds: ERFs and CHF: funding to national NGOs from these 2 types of pooled funds multiplied by 10 between 2007 and 2011, increasing from 1.7 million to US\$ 17.8 million¹⁸
2. UN agencies: which provide project funding to national NGOs, particularly UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF. This funding is mostly through time-limited project funds for humanitarian response. Although a significant funding source for NGOs which do partner with UN agencies, the projectised nature of the funding means that many of these national NGOs experience difficulties in accessing adequate funds for overheads, as well as organisational sustainability, capacity building and staff retention at the end of the project contracts.
3. International NGOs: Much often this funding is through time-limited project funds for humanitarian response, although, this is sometimes part of a longer-term partnership arrangement between national and international NGO partners, and a significant number of international NGOs are increasingly seeking to support national NGOs to develop their own capacities for humanitarian response. Commenting on funds for national NGOs from UN agencies and INGOs the 2012 Global Needs Assessment report wrote: *'this final step in the journey of humanitarian funds is largely untraceable within the OECD DAC and OCHA FTS data, making it extremely difficult to fully account for funds and to assess the extent to which donors and international organisations are working in partnership with local actors'*.
4. Domestic fundraising: from private supporters and the domestic private sector, through appeals, telethons, etc and from their own national governments. Similar to funds received by NNGOs from UN agencies and international NGOs these figures are not collated internationally, although a Red Cross survey amongst 42 national societies estimated that 10% of their total budget between 2007 and 2010 came from domestic sources. In Kenya, for example, the Red Cross operates a range of profit generating businesses.

¹⁶ www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org/doc00002936.doc

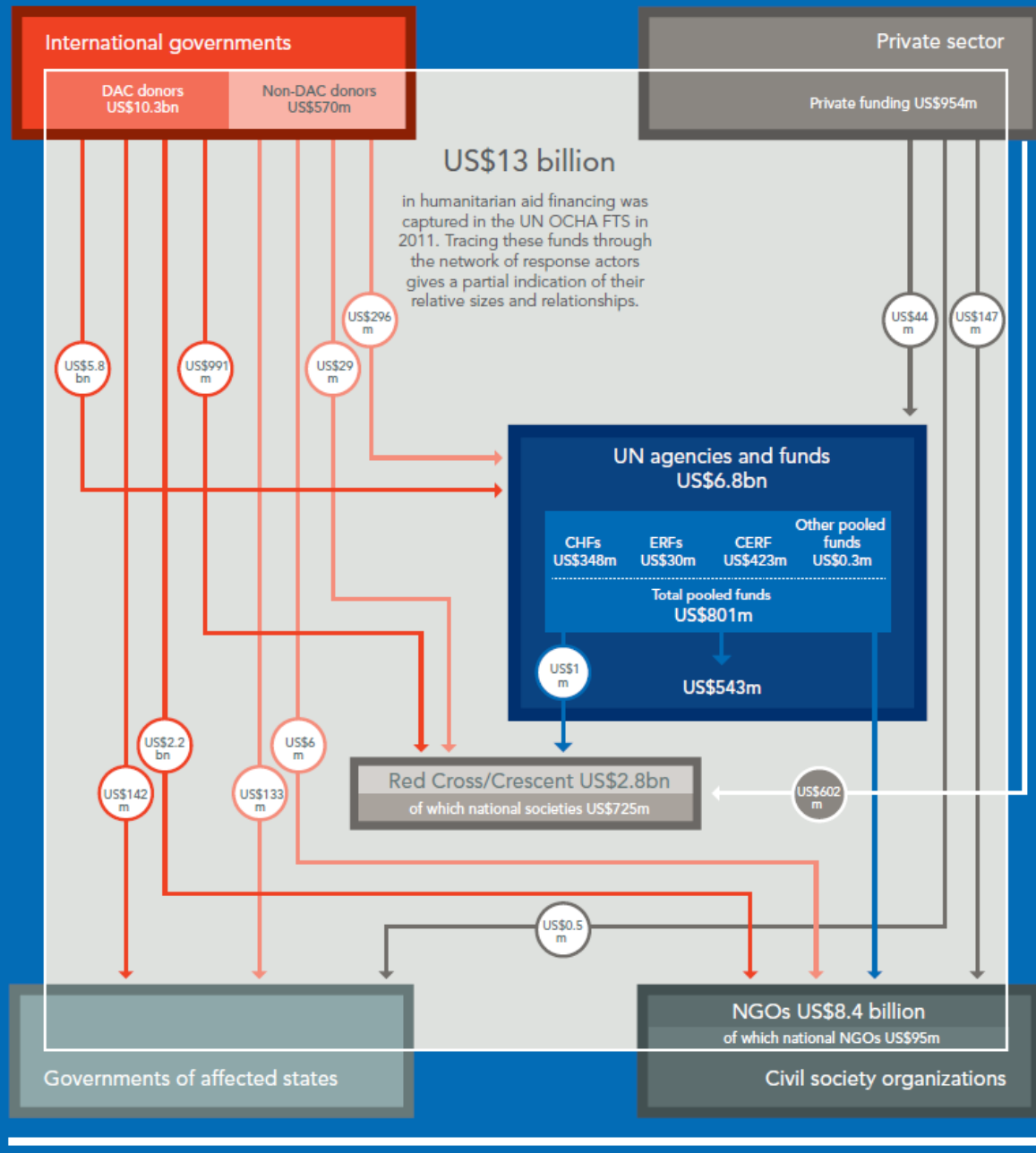
¹⁷ Personal correspondence with the author

¹⁸ Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2011 <http://www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/gha-report-2011.pdf> Page 45 Accessed March 11th 2013

Humanitarian funding flows in 2011

Accounting for the flows of humanitarian funding through the response system remains a challenge, particularly given that the distribution of funds is not easily tracked or consistently reported beyond the initial contribution.

FIGURE 25



19

- Donor global framework agreements with NGOs: with some notable exceptions, these are primarily between donors and international NGOs, thus largely excluding national NGOs except where they are implementing partners of an international NGO.

¹⁹ World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2012 OCHA <http://www.unocha.org/about-us/publications/policy-studies> on p22

6. Country or regional funding mechanisms: e.g. The British government's **West Africa Humanitarian Response Fund**. Some national NGOs receive pass-through funding from these mechanisms from their international partners.

Many national NGOs working in humanitarian response struggle to move beyond project-based funding in a way that would enable them to undertake long-term strategic planning, skill up staff and undertake institutional capacity building. The 2012 ALNAP State of the Humanitarian System report noted *'In South Sudan for example, despite a long history of operations, national NGOs in general have highly unstable and ad-hoc financing and are required to scale up and down rapidly, based on project-specific funding'*²⁰

A number of donors now require that international agencies which they fund work with local NGOs. Although this is an important step in the right direction it has not been matched with a move by those same donors to themselves directly fund national NGOs.

Role of donors:²¹

A web of restrictions and legislation of many of the major donors means that much humanitarian aid is effectively directly inaccessible to national NGOs. The full extent of this has not been mapped but amongst the most notable challenges are:

- Most donors, with the exception of a few of the largest humanitarian donors (US, UK, EU,) have limited humanitarian staff numbers, particularly at the country level²².
- Within Europe the current financial crisis has meant that a significant number of governments have reduced the number of civil servants, closed or reduced bi-lateral aid programmes and decreased staffing outside their own national capitals. As a result they have limited engagement at the country level, for example through participation on pooled fund advisory boards.
- Given that few donors have in-country humanitarian specialist staff, donor coordination primarily takes place at the international level through the Good Humanitarian Donorship, OECD-DAC and European Union member state bodies such as the Committee on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid, (COHAFA) and UN agency donor support groups.
- Retraction of donor staffing has also meant that donors are increasingly seeking to fund larger grants or contracts to consortia made up of big operational agencies, or pass funding to pooled funds or trust funds, administered by others. This makes it more challenging for national NGOs who are often too small to compete.
- Many donors do not have a systematic process to select humanitarian partners, instead relying on funding the same group of NGOs (usually based in their own northern capitals) over an extended period of years.
- Bi-lateral donors mainly fund their own nationally registered NGOs. Only 1.9% of global humanitarian funding goes directly to national NGOs.

²⁰ The State of the Humanitarian System 2012. ALNAP <http://www.alnap.org/pool/files/alnap-sohs-2012-lo-res.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

²¹ Bayne S. 2012, *Strengthening Principled Humanitarian Response Capacities: European Donor Financing Policies and Procedures*, quoted in *Tools for the Job: Supporting Principled Humanitarian Action*, Norwegian Refugee Council, 2012

²² Ralf Otto, Maria Spaak, Study on the Mapping of Donor Coordination (Humanitarian Aid) at the Field Level, Channel Research study for EU http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/evaluation/2009/Donor_coordination.pdf Accessed March 11th 2013

- Some donors, such as Belgium have legislation which means they can only fund NGOs which are registered in the donor nation.
- Some donors have rules and some have legislation which prevents them funding national NGOs or organisations which do not meet eligibility criteria such as audited accounts, US dollar or Euro bank accounts or signatory to international humanitarian standards.
- Stringent US counter-terror legislation also excludes some national NGOs from accessing international humanitarian funding.
- Most bi-lateral donors rely on self-reporting by their funding recipients, and as result have limited ability to ensure not only quality programming, but that grant recipients are adhering to humanitarian principles and standards.

A 2012 report by the Norwegian Refugee Council identified a long list of challenges for the international humanitarian system in attempting to fund according to humanitarian need. Many of these are also factors which contribute towards sidelining national actors from accessing funds including:²³

- Short funding cycles limit organisations' ability to undertake the necessary quality of needs assessments necessary to accurately identify requirements
- In many situations NGOs, particularly smaller and national NGOs lack upfront funding to contract and prepare staff to undertake a comprehensive needs assessment. (research undertaken by NRC in South Sudan in 2011 found that although the ERF does provide for such independent assessments, NGOs whom they talked to had either never heard of this provision or had not accessed it.)
- Donor trends and bias: some sectors are more fashionable than others, a situation which is true both over time and within individual emergencies. For example since the 2003 crisis sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) has been very well funded whilst other sectors have struggled to meet needs.²⁴ On the other hand, education is consistently the one of most under-funded sectors across emergency appeals.
- Provision of aid according to status can distort response and undermine principles of humanity and impartiality. Analysis of need based on 'Status' means that particular groups of people may need a particular targeted response based on their particular vulnerability, marginalisation etc. This can mean that aid allocations are based on status rather than consideration of actual need. This approach tends to marginalise other groups of people, who may also be in need, for example host families or local population who are excluded from disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes because they were not actually armed combatants, but who might also have suffered as a result of conflict.
- High profile crises in geo-politically strategic places typically receive greater funding than protracted crises. Donors sometimes make funding decisions based on criteria other than need. This can happen because of what OECD notes as '*currently no comprehensive, objective measure of global humanitarian need*'²⁵

²³ Norwegian Refugee Council, 2012 *Tools for the Job: Supporting Principled Humanitarian Action*, page 17

²⁴ *ibid* page 19

²⁵ *Towards Better Humanitarian Donorship: 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews*. OECD 2012 Page 12
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/5/50019816.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

The Pooled Funds and National NGOs:

There are 3 types of pooled funds administered by the UN. 2 are country-based mechanisms which are open to NGOs, the Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs) and the Emergency Response Funds (ERFs); the third the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is only open to UN agencies and the IOM.

- 1. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF):** The CERF is the largest of the pooled funds. In 2011 the CERF allocated \$425million to life saving responses in 45 countries²⁶. Direct CERF funding is unavailable to either international or national NGOs, who receive pass-through funds from UN agencies or the IOM. Because UN agencies do not have to report to the CERF how much of the funds received are passed to NGOs there is no clear figure for this. In 2009 a group of 9 international NGOs called on UN agencies to consistently share with NGOs information as to whether the funds received from UN agencies is from the CERF²⁷. Because funds are channeled through UN agencies there are often delays in either approval of funds or allocation of money. According to research undertaken for the CERF evaluation in 2011 it takes an average of 13 weeks for CSOs to receive pass through funding from the CERF via an UN agency for rapid response and 19 weeks for underfunded emergencies.²⁸
- 2. Common Humanitarian Funds (CHFs):** Administered by UNDP, CHFs currently operate in five chronic emergency contexts, Somalia, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic with a total of £2.1 billion contributed since they were first established. In 2012 donors contributed \$386 million to the CHFs. National and international NGOs can directly access the CHFs as well as UN agencies. Over the years since the first CHF was established UN agencies received 58% of total CHF funding with international NGOs receiving 34% direct funding and national NGOs received 8%.²⁹ Somalia and DRC have provided the highest percentages of funds to national NGOs, significantly increasing their access to international humanitarian funds. This breaks down as follows:
 - South Sudan:** 7% in 2011 and agreement for 2012 minimum allocation per project to be reduced to \$50,000 from \$200,000
 - Central Africa Republic:** In 2011 of the total CHF funds allocated only 3% or \$230,000 went to just 3 national NGOs.³⁰
 - DRC:** 13% funding to 45 NNGOs in 2010, up from 7% in 2009.
 - Somalia:** 40% of funding to NNGOs; more than half of the total number of projects funded were national NGO projects

²⁶ See: <http://www.unocha.org/what-we-do/humanitarian-financing/central-emergency-response-fund-cerf> Accessed March 11th 2013

²⁷ ENHANCING UN-NGO HUMANITARIAN FINANCING PARTNERSHIPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Action Aid, CAFOD, CARE, Christian Aid, IRC, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Oxfam, Save The Children March 2009
www.goodhumanitariananddonorship.org/UN-NGOs/Enhancing_UN-NGO_Partnerships

²⁸ CERF five-year evaluation: ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/110811%20CERF%20Evaluation%20Report%20v5.4%20Final.pdf Accessed March 11th 2013

²⁹ See: <http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/CHF-ERF%20info%20graph%20as%20of%2031Dec2012.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

³⁰ CAR CHF Annual Report 2011 <http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/CHF%20CAR%20Annual%20Report%202011.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

National NGOs have had greater success in accessing the CHF in Somalia and DRC than in the other 3 countries, Sudan, South Sudan and Central Africa Republic. The 2011 Synthesis Report of the Evaluation of the CHF found that their greatest impact was for local NGOs, 'for whom it is often now almost the only source of funding'.³¹ Research identified 2 primary factors contributed to low amounts received by NNGOs:

- Low knowledge by national NGOs about financing mechanisms and particularly CAP processes with resultant low level of involvement by NNGOs in submitting projects to the CAPs or accessing a diversity of funding sources
- Limited involvement by NNGOs in the clusters, which in many contexts coordinate allocation of funding

3. **Emergency Response Funds (ERFs):** There are currently 13 ERFs, which are directly accessible by national and international NGOs, with the exception of the largest ERF in Ethiopia where national NGOs can only receive funds via an international NGO³². In 2011 73% of total ERF expenditure of \$99 million went to NGOs, although the national NGO share of this is far smaller: According to the 2012 Global ERF evaluation, national NGOs have received a mere found 10% of ERF funds since they started in 2006.³³ 2 ERFs stand out as particularly benefiting national NGOs: Pakistan, where 23% went to NNGOs in 2011, and Myanmar where 100% of the 6 new funding commitments made in 2011 were to national NGOs and community based organisations.³⁴

For some NNGO recipients of ERF money the funding represents a significant percentage of their income. Since the Colombia ERF was set up in 2009 it has funded 8 INGOs and 6 national NGOs. It is the sole humanitarian funding source for 5 of the national NGOs engaged in ERF implementation.³⁵

Despite the fact that ERFs now represent a small but significant mechanism for funding national NGOs they nevertheless experience a number of challenges in accessing the funds and implementing project with ERF money. Amongst these NGOs cite delays in dispersing funds which can be considerable, sometimes taking up to 70 days from formal receipt of the application to release of first payment, with the fastest timeframes between 21-25 days.³⁶

Other challenges include lack of knowledge by national NGOs of ERFs and how to apply for them: in part due to time, personnel and financial constraints; most ERFs do not have an up to date website with information in local languages and key documents relevant to the ERF application process readily available; requirements on

³¹ http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/CHF_Evaluation_Synthesis_Report.pdf Accessed 11th March 2013

³² This is changing: In 2011 the HRF's Advisory Board agreed on the principle of providing direct access for national NGOs and a small working group was set up to work out details

³³ ERF 2012 evaluation

³⁴ Myanmar Humanitarian MultiStakeholder Fund Annual Report 2011

<http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/Myanmar%20HMSF%202011.pdf> Accessed March 11th 2013

³⁵ ERF 2012 evaluation: Colombia case study.

³⁶ Ibid page 29.

minimum size of funds which can exclude smaller NGOs; requirements for a US bank account; and audit requirements which withhold 20% of funds until a final audit has been satisfactorily completed. - In Colombia one local organisation faced bankruptcy because of a US\$50,000 shortfall in ERF funding pending the audit and the Boards of most national NGO recipients of ERF funding in Colombia have now instructed them to stop working with the ERF until provisions are put in place to ensure rapid audit and disbursement of withheld funds.³⁷ Finally requirements to spend funding over a short period of time are particularly challenging for projects aiming to address resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Conclusion:

Findings identified in this paper point to the fact that access to humanitarian funding depends not only on the quality of an organisation's work, but is also determined by where the organisation is based. International humanitarian funding still goes largely to northern-headquartered international NGOs which can be visible in global humanitarian capitals such as Geneva, New York and Brussels.

Further research is now needed to identify ways to address the blockages that southern NGOs face and to enable humanitarian actors, wherever they are based to operate on a more equal footing through the identification of new and creative approaches to humanitarian financing.

³⁷ Ibid page19