



**ENABLING QUICK
ACTION TO SAVE LIVES**

CONTINGENCY FUND
FOR EMERGENCIES (CFE)

2018
Annual report



**World Health
Organization**

WHO/WHE/EXR/2019.5

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CFE CONTRIBUTORS 2015—2018



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THANK YOU!

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FOREWORD

WHO has just started its Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023 (GPW 13) which will guide us for the next five years to promote health, keep the world safe, and serve the most vulnerable.

The GPW 13 will help chart our progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – including our commitment to ensuring that one billion people are better protected from emergencies.

The Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) is an important part of this. In 2018 alone, the CFE provided more than US\$ 37 million in rapid financing to kick-start the response to 29 disease outbreaks and health emergencies.

The CFE was critical in enabling WHO to respond to the two Ebola virus disease outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; address the unprecedented outbreak of cholera across Africa; ensure hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh had access to emergency health services; and respond to natural disasters in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Somalia and the Pacific.

The CFE allows us to respond to an emergency within hours, when every second counts.

I have personally seen the immediate impact of the CFE over the past year. In May 2018, I visited the Mbandaka and the Bikoro health zones in Equateur Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo within three days of an Ebola outbreak being declared. Senior technical staff had already reached the affected areas and

supplies were arriving, including cold chain equipment to transport life-saving vaccines. The outbreak was declared over within one month.

Hardly one week later, the Democratic Republic of the Congo was struck by another outbreak of Ebola – this time in an active conflict zone in the eastern part of the country. Thanks to the CFE, we were ready to respond, providing US\$ 2 million within 24 hours. I witnessed first-hand the impact early funding had in getting experts and equipment on the ground.

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is still ongoing, and the response is at a key juncture. The CFE continues to be a critical resource in providing cash flow to ensure we can continue to save lives and protect health while other funding is marshalled.

Last year, 13 Member States contributed more than US\$ 38 million to the CFE. Your generosity allowed us to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in the world during periods of crisis – and for this I wish to thank each and every one of you.

The next health emergency may be just around the corner. We must be vigilant and ready to act quickly to save lives and prevent suffering. I count on your continued support to ensure the sustainability of this life-saving Fund.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization

ABOUT THE CFE

The Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE) saves lives and dramatically reduces the costs of controlling outbreaks and emergencies. It has been a game-changer for WHO.

A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

To better protect people, WHO needs to get on the ground the moment a disease outbreak or other health emergency is identified.

The CFE allows WHO to do just that. It enables WHO to take rapid action to save lives and reduce suffering in humanitarian emergencies, high-threat infectious disease outbreaks or natural disasters – often within 24 hours.

The CFE allows WHO to release initial resources to kick-start an emergency response before funding arrives from donors and other sources. It also allows WHO the flexibility to scale up operations in response to an escalation in a health emergency and provide bridge financing against donor pledges to ensure cash flow and continuity in an ongoing response.

This speed, flexibility and predictability not only saves lives, but also limits the numbers of people affected, and minimises longer-term social and economic damage. With infectious diseases, it can prevent a local outbreak going national or even global.

Since being established by the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015 – following a review of WHO's response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa – the CFE has proved its value as a global public good.

WHO CONTINGENCY FUND FOR EMERGENCIES (CFE)

Funding can be released in **24 hours** for rapid emergency response to provide:



RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNICAL EXPERTS

To ensure that the right expertise is readily available.



DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, DETECTION AND REPORTING

To help prevent outbreaks.



COORDINATION WITH HEALTH PARTNERS

To ensure that the right partners provide the right help in the right place.



DISEASE VACCINATION

To protect vulnerable people in affected areas.



ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

To ensure that health care facilities are functional and are staffed with health professionals.



ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION

To ensure that cholera and other waterborne diseases don't spread.

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