



## NGOs AND THE FTS

### What is the FTS?

The Financial Tracking Service is a global, on-line, real-time database of humanitarian funding needs and contributions. It serves to improve resource allocation decisions and advocacy, by clearly indicating to what extent populations in crisis receive humanitarian aid, and in what proportion to needs. The FTS offers a series of analytical tables that show humanitarian aid flows to specific crises, and also allows users to produce custom tables on demand. It covers all countries for which humanitarian funding is reported. FTS is managed by OCHA and located on [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts).

### How can the FTS help NGOs?

- **Publicising proposals:** The FTS shows not only contributions, but also proposed projects (if they are registered in a Consolidated or Flash Appeal) with their budgets and unfunded balances. NGOs can therefore use the FTS to publicise their humanitarian projects and draw attention to funding needs.
- **NGO visibility:** If informed of contributions, FTS can show each NGO's full effort in a given crisis.
- **Fundraising:** FTS shows major donors to each crisis, including those that have made uncommitted pledges for which NGOs can apply.
- **Advocacy:** Financial tracking provides raw material for advocacy, by identifying crises with the greatest resource needs, highlighting under-funded crises and sectors, monitoring changes in humanitarian resource needs in evolving situations, and tracking the timeliness of donor response to urgent needs. Financial tracking also gives credit where it is due.
- **Coordination:** FTS offers an overview of which implementing organizations and donors are working in emergencies, in which sectors and to what scale. It also provides details about the projects of each of the implementing organizations.

### How can NGOs help the FTS?

- **Share humanitarian project funding information with FTS.** FTS depends on appealing agencies (and donors) to provide the raw data. FTS is a recording service that can only post what is reported to it. Seriously incomplete data undermine the FTS' reliability and its usefulness for advocacy, visibility, and coordination – and understate the humanitarian efforts made by NGOs. *Conversely, up-to-date, accurate information makes FTS a powerful coordination tool which provides all stakeholders with an overview of humanitarian activities, funding gaps and priorities in each emergency.* To inform FTS of errors or omissions, please e-mail [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).
- **Encourage your headquarters** to use FTS and to share project funding information with FTS.
- **Make suggestions for improving FTS.** FTS is always improving to make data more complete and accessible to users. All stakeholders should feel free to suggest improvements. E-mail: [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).

### How can NGOs access FTS?

FTS can be accessed online at [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts). File sizes are small, so downloads are fast even with slow connections. We hope the choices on the home page are self-explanatory, but if not, you can start by clicking the "help" link.

### How can NGOs share project funding information with FTS?

Reporting methods are not very formal. NGO field offices or HQs can inform FTS of contributions by e-mail (to [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int)), fax, letter, via our on-line form ([www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts), then click the "report a contribution" link at left. This can be done in the form of a copy of the funding contract for example. (In some countries where OCHA has an information officer or NGO liaison officer, s/he may facilitate sharing project finance information.) We aim to not cause you any significant extra work. If you are not using our on-line form, we only ask that you specify at least the following:

1. Amount in original currency (e.g. euros, USD), or if in-kind, the amount, description, and value of goods
2. Donor country and organisation (e.g. US / OFDA, EC / ECHO)
3. Date of contribution

4. Whether the contribution is a pledge, a commitment, or a disbursement (see definitions on FTS home page)
5. Relevant CAP project code (if the project was registered in a Consolidated or Flash Appeal) or a brief project description

If any financing for humanitarian projects came from your NGO's own private fundraising, or from other non-official sources like the DEC, or unearmarked funds from official donors, please cite that.

### **FAQ: Does FTS cover only CAP contributions, or countries with CAPs?**

No. FTS is a global humanitarian financial tracking service: in 2007, it posted 8630 humanitarian contributions for 130 countries, from 400 donor governments and organisations, to 750 implementing organisations. The FTS database contains all humanitarian contributions reported by appealing agencies and donors, both to projects included in the CAP and projects that are implemented outside of the appeals. FTS also tracks humanitarian funding for countries where there is no Consolidated Appeal Process.

### **Why should NGOs include their project proposals in the CAPs?**

The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) is both an appeal for funding and a tool used by aid organisations to plan, implement and monitor their activities together. The humanitarian agencies and NGOs that work together in the field are all encouraged to engage in this process in order to provide a coherent overview of their objectives, planned activities and funding needs. Over the years, the CAP has become the humanitarian sector's main tool for coordination, strategic planning and programming. As a planning mechanism, the CAP has contributed significantly to developing a more strategic approach to the provision of humanitarian aid. As a coordination mechanism the CAP has fostered closer cooperation between governments, donors, aid agencies, the Red Cross Movement and non-governmental organisations, and as such we strongly encourage the participation of all humanitarian NGOs.

Speaking with a common voice, UN agencies and NGOs are better able to raise funds for immediate action, demand greater protection, get better access to vulnerable populations and work more effectively with governments and other actors.

In 2007, more than 250 NGOs registered project proposals in Consolidated and Flash Appeals, appealing for a total of US\$ 677 million, towards which some **\$529 million** in contributions have been reported.

### **How does FTS define humanitarian aid for statistical purposes?**

For activities outside of formal Consolidated and Flash Appeals, FTS has let donors and implementing agencies self-define humanitarian activities and contributions. To achieve more consistency, FTS and a working group of the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative have developed a fairly broad definition to apply in case of doubt. The definition is posted on the FTS website: <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/exception-docs/AboutFTS/Definitions-Glossary.doc>

### **SAMPLE OF ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN CONSOLIDATED APPEALS**

ARREC	CRS	HT	MDM	TGH
ACF	CWS	Humedica	MEDAIR	UMCOR
ACTED	Danchurchaid	IA	MENTOR	UNAIDS
ADRA	DDG	ILO	MERLIN	UNDP
Africare	Diakonie Emergency Aid	IMC	NCA	UNDSS
AMI-France	DRC	INTERMON	NPA	UNEP
ARC	EM-DH	Internews	NRC	UNESCO
ASB	FAO	INTERSOS	OCHA	UNFPA
ASI	FAR	IOM	OHCHR	UN-HABITAT
AVSI	FHI	IPHD	OXFAM	UNHCR
CARE	Finnchurchaid	IR	PA (formerly ITDG)	UNICEF
CARITAS	French RC	IRC	PACT	UNIFEM
CEMIR INTERNATIONAL	FSD	IRD	PAI	UNJLC
CESVI	GAA	IRIN	Plan	UNMAS
CFA	GOAL	IRW	PMU-I	UNOPS
CHF	GTZ	Islamic RW	PU	UNRWA
CHFI	GVC	JOIN	RC/Germany	VIS
CISV	Handicap International	JRS	RCO	WFP
CMA	HealthNet TPO	LWF	Samaritan's Purse	WHO
CONCERN	HELP	Malaria Consortium	SECADEV	World Concern
Concern Universal	HelpAge International	Malteser	Solidarités	World Relief
COOPI	HKI	Mercy Corps	SUDO	WV
CORDAID	Horn Relief	MDA	TEARFUND	ZOA
COSV				