In the second quarter of 2023, WHO released more than **US$ 18 million** from the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE), enabling a rapid response to the conflict in Sudan; the continuing global cholera outbreaks; the emergency in northern Ethiopia; the humanitarian crisis in Haiti; and Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar.

Nine Member States have committed or contributed more than US$20 million to the CFE this year.
IN FOCUS: Sudan

Since April 2023, intense fighting has severely disrupted health care in Sudan. Millions of people have been displaced, inside and outside the country, adding to the already 3.7 million people displaced before the conflict.

Insecurity has created challenges for health workers, patients and ambulances to reach health facilities. More than two-thirds of all main hospitals in affected areas are out of service – while shortages of medical staff, supplies, safe water, and electricity are putting the ones still functioning at risk.

In some areas, critical services such as maternal and child health have been interrupted, and blackouts continue, endangering patients and perishable medical supplies. With four million children and pregnant or breastfeeding women acutely malnourished, worsening food insecurity coupled with poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) will make a bad situation worse.

To ensure health facilities in Sudan have the medications, medical equipment and other supplies needed to save lives, on 19 April 2023 WHO released US$ 3.6 million from the CFE.

CFE funds are helping to deliver crucial health services by supporting the emergency and surgical capacity of major hospitals across priority spots. This includes distributing nearly 190 metric tons of medical supplies, such as blood bags, diagnostic kits and medicines for trauma injuries, using all possible means by air, land and sea. WHO is also working to coordinate the health response, reinforce disease surveillance, and provide psychological first aid to survivors of gender-based violence.

With this funding, WHO and partners have contributed to addressing the urgent health care needs of people affected by the conflict across 14 states. CFE funds have also enabled WHO to provide health care to the displaced in neighbouring countries, most of which are already facing ongoing protracted emergencies. (NB: An additional US$2.5 million was released from the CFE on 11 July to support life-saving activities in neighboring countries in response to the conflict).

In June, WHO appealed for US$ 145.2 million to respond to the emergency in Sudan and refugee-receiving neighbouring countries until the end of 2023. This will address the health needs of 7.6 million people who require urgent health assistance in Sudan and of almost 500 000 individuals forced to flee to the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan. To date, less than 10% of the appeal has been funded.

More than three months since the escalation of violence, the emergency in Sudan continues. WHO remains on the ground, committed to protecting the health of the Sudanese people. The international community is called upon to take urgent action so that WHO and other humanitarian actors can scale up the underfunded emergency response to avoid preventable disease and death.