

Ref.: C.L.11.2019

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) presents his compliments to Member States and has the honour to refer to decision WHA68(10) (May 2015) regarding the creation of a contingency fund to scale up WHO's initial response to outbreaks and emergencies with a capitalization of US\$ 100 million fully funded by voluntary contributions.

Today, thanks to the Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE), WHO can respond rapidly to disease outbreaks and health emergencies – often in 24 hours or less. This has saved countless lives, reduced operational costs, and mitigated further social and economic impacts.

The Director-General would like to express his gratitude to Member States who contributed to the CFE and provided nearly US\$ 40 million last year. This allowed WHO to respond to 30 events in 29 countries, including disease outbreaks, natural disasters and complex emergencies.

WHO remains vigilant to emerging health threats around the world. Additional financial support will ensure the availability of the resources to respond rapidly and effectively to the next big outbreak or health emergency. Therefore, in order to reach the capitalisation target set by the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly, Member States are encouraged to contribute to the CFE in 2019.

Queries regarding the CFE can be addressed to Ms Marcia Poole, Director of External Relations, WHO Health Emergencies Programme (email: [poolem@who.int](mailto:poolem@who.int)). Information on the CFE is also available on the website at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/funding/contingency-fund/en/>.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of his highest consideration.

GENEVA, 8 March 2019