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## Financial Tracking Service Tracking Global Humanitarian Aid Flows

# TIPS FTS GUIDE



United Nations Office Humanitarian Affairs

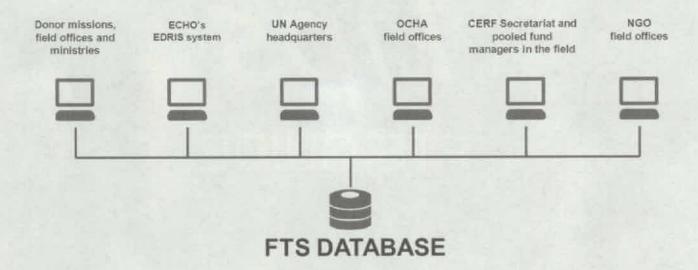
### **#1: DATA SOURCES**

#### What is FTS?

The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is a global, on-line, real-time database of humanitarian funding needs and international 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. FTS offers a series of analytical tables that show humanitarian aid flows to specific crises, as well as donor profiles and quick donor searches. FTS also allows users to produce custom tables on demand. It covers all countries for which international humanitarian funding is reported. FTS is managed by OCHA and located at <a href="http://fts.unocha.org">http://fts.unocha.org</a>.

#### Where does the information come from?

As most of you already know, FTS is a global, on-line, real-time database of humanitarian funding needs and international contributions. However, FTS is not telepathic: it is a recording service that can only post what is reported to it. Regular reporting mechanisms exist, but they require consistent support from all partners to ensure accuracy. The graphic below presents an overview of our main data sources and a detailed explanation follows.



#### 1. Donor missions, field offices and ministries

Many donors send a consolidated report to FTS on a monthly basis, while others report major funding decisions as they are made. For some donors, their field offices play a major role in updating FTS, while for others, the information is channelled through the Permanent Missions in New York or Geneva, or comes directly from the concerned department (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, USAID, etc.).

#### 2. ECHO's EDRIS system

The HOLIS EDRIS system contains real time information on ECHO and Member States' contributions to humanitarian aid.

The EDRIS system automatically sends the confirmed reports to OCHA and contact persons of the FTS via e-mail in an electronic format. Regularly, all confirmed reports are also sent to OCHA via FTP in a flat file format. OCHA only includes contributions once they have been confirmed by the receiving partner. For more information, see: <a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.start&cfid=3619&cftoken=1111cf96f33b89f5-B87B3785-ABEC-FF3F-2908E3DC06833607">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hac/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.start&cfid=3619&cftoken=1111cf96f33b89f5-B87B3785-ABEC-FF3F-2908E3DC06833607</a>

#### 3. UN Agencies

UN Agency headquarter offices report directly to FTS. As agreed in the 65th IASC Working Group meeting (5-7 July 2006), agencies agree to report once a month to FTS. To maintain consistency, FTS only accepts funding

information from HQs (with the exception of UNDP field offices). However, field staff are often in the best position to spot errors or omissions, so everyone's attention is needed.

#### 4. OCHA field offices

As per OCHA policy (November 2009), FTS is the centralized repository of humanitarian funding data and OCHA field offices provide crucial support in promoting FTS and forwarding information gathered at the field level (which is cross-checked with agencies and donors when required).

#### 5. CERF Secretariat and pooled fund managers in the field

The CERF Finance Unit reports directly to FTS, sending an e-mail to the CERF focal point in Geneva regarding receipt of new pledges and/or contributions. Information is cross-checked via the CERF website and the weekly CERF numbers report. Contributions to CHFs and ERFs are cross checked via their specific website, managed by OCHA and UNDP.

#### 6. NGO field offices

NGO field offices: FTS primarily relies on NGO field offices to report funding through email (<a href="fts@un.org">fts@un.org</a>) or through the on-line reporting form: (<a href="http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=submit-submit14pts&type=donor">http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=submit-submit14pts&type=donor</a>). If informed of contributions, FTS can show each NGO's full effort in a given crisis. In addition to funding from official donors, FTS can show the results of a NGO's private humanitarian fundraising campaigns for particular countries/projects.

FTS staff in Geneva cross-check all information received. Seriously incomplete data undermine the FTS' reliability and its usefulness for coordination and visibility. Conversely, full information makes a powerful coordination tool and helps all stakeholders see the full extent of humanitarian activities and resources in each country.

#### How contributions are classified in the FTS database?

FTS, in its database, classifies the contributions as contributions reported by Donor, Agency, Agency and Donor and Other. In 2011, FTS has recorded US\$12.7 billion contributions and most of them, the 44% with US\$5.7 billion, were contributions reported by Donor.

Reported by	Contributions (\$)
Donor	5.7 billion (44%)
Agency	3.8 billion (30%)
Agency and Donor	3.2 billion (26%)
Total	12.7 billion