By designating a crisis a 'Level 3' (L3) emergency, the UN’s Emergency Relief Coordinator aims to mobilise the resources, leadership and capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to exceptional circumstances. The decision to designate an L3 emergency is based on five criteria: the scale, urgency and complexity of the needs, as well as the lack of domestic capacity to respond and the "reputational risk" for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the UN.\(^2\)

In 2013, there were three L3 designations – for the responses to the conflicts in Syria and Central African Republic (CAR) and to the typhoon in the Philippines. Of these, the Syria appeal was overwhelmingly the largest. The combined requirements for the response within Syria (SHARP) and in neighbouring countries (RRP) was US$4.4 billion – over 22 times larger than the appeal for CAR, which had revised requirements of US$195.1 million. In February 2014, South Sudan also became an L3 emergency.

**FIGURE 4.6**

Funding to L3 emergencies and all other funding reported to UN OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), 2013

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data
Note: Level 3 appeals data downloaded 24th June 2014. ‘Other humanitarian assistance’ includes all other humanitarian assistance reported to UN OCHA FTS for 2013. While the CAR and Syria appeals are for the 2013 calendar year, the Philippines Typhoon Haiyan appeal runs from November 2013 to October 2014. As such, 2013 funding data for Typhoon Haiyan includes funding decisions made from the date of the typhoon up to and including 31 December 2013.

**FIGURE 4.7**

Level 3 appeals and all other UN-coordinated appeals funding, 2013

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data
Note: Data for Typhoon Haiyan includes funding decisions made from the date of the typhoon up to and including 31 December 2013. Data downloaded 24th June 2014. SRP = strategic response plan.