



CERF

A SOUND HUMANITARIAN INVESTMENT
THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

The Central Emergency Response Fund

\$2 billion in Emergency Funding

<http://cerf.un.org>



- Last week, I allocated \$5 million to the UN Country Team in Pakistan to provide urgent assistance to newly displaced people. With this allocation, the CERF has now disbursed more than \$2 billion dollars to humanitarian agencies working in natural and conflict-related emergencies. The funds have addressed the urgent needs of the most vulnerable people around the world, whether in high-profile emergencies or the most forgotten crises. The fact that we have been able to do this in just five short years is a tribute to the Member States in this room, who entrusted these funds to us in order to ensure a better, faster and more equitable humanitarian response.
- Since its inception, the Fund has disbursed funds to 2,424 projects in 82 countries and territories. This support has gone to crises in the public eye, such as the situation in Cote d'Ivoire where I allocated \$10.3 million in March, but also to smaller crisis, such as Namibia, where I allocated \$1.2 million in March following severe flooding.
- Of this \$2 billion, more than \$1.3 billion (66 %) went towards the Rapid Response window, while \$680 million (34 %) went to the Underfunded window.
- More than 54 % has gone to support food, health, and water and sanitation - our biggest sectors. The biggest recipient agencies are WFP (more than \$700 million), UNICEF (\$482 million), UNCHR (\$218 million), and WHO (\$197 million). But we have also provided support to smaller agencies such as UNIFEM (now UNWomen) (\$715,000) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (almost \$700,000). To ensure the safety of humanitarian aid workers and humanitarian access, CERF also allocated (nearly \$8.2 million) to UNDP and UNDSS, and provided \$65.9 million to support UN Humanitarian Air Services.
- The generous contributions from Member States make it possible for CERF to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable. There can be no doubt: CERF saves lives.



- Let me turn to what we have been doing in 2011. While our work has not been dominated by one single large crisis, the CERF has played a major role in west Africa, north Africa and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
- To date in 2011, the CERF has allocated \$69.2 million in rapid response funding. At this point in 2010, the CERF had disbursed \$108.7 million, with almost half going to the Haiti and Chile earthquakes.
- Two of the most notable allocations this year have been conflict related.
 - The post-election violence in Cote d’Ivoire led to a dramatic increase in displacement and vulnerability. In March, I allocated \$10.3 million to the UN in Cote d’Ivoire, and a further \$6 million to the UN in Liberia, where 80,000 people had fled. These funds are to provide shelter, water and sanitation, food security, health, and protection. This means that CERF makes up almost 25% of the contributions of the Regional Appeal.
 - The CERF has also assisted in the response to the crisis in Libya. Within a week of the start of the enormous exodus across the borders into Egypt and Tunisia, I allocated \$5 million to UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, WHO and IOM in Tunisia to help meet the needs of people in transit camps. I also approved nearly \$1.5 million to jump-start the operations of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, which is safely ferrying humanitarian staff and supplies into Libya, and to support the establishment of an emergency tele-communications network for the humanitarian community in Libya.
- I would also like to highlight the situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is facing large food shortages after a very harsh winter. DPRK is one of the world’s most chronically underfunded humanitarian emergencies. The UN-led recent Rapid Food Security Assessment recommended scaling up food assistance. According to WFP, some 6.1 million people are in urgent need of assistance and that figure could grow as the year progresses. Last week, the CERF allocated nearly \$10 million for food, agriculture, nutrition and health. This is on top of \$5 million allocated in February through the underfunded window. The CERF is the largest source of funds for humanitarian operations in DPRK, but this is not a sustainable situation and I call upon Member States to see what they can do.
- The first Underfunded round of 2011 was completed at the end of March, and some \$84 million has been disbursed to agencies working in 15 countries.
 - Many of the countries targeted for assistance, including DPRK, Myanmar and the Central African Republic are past recipients.
 - The occupied Palestinian territory and Iran received underfunded allocations for the first time. The occupied Palestinian territory received funding due to the relatively low level of funding received against its consolidated appeal.
 - Funding in Iran was targeted at Afghan refugees in response to the case made by the UN agencies operational there.
- The second Underfunded round for 2011 is already underway, and the CERF Secretariat is working with UN agencies and IOM to identify the most under-funded situations. We most likely will allocate approximately \$60 million through the second round.



- Our Accountability to our donors and beneficiaries remains our priority.
- The CERF is a partnership between donors and beneficiaries. As ERC, I am keenly aware of the need to be accountable to both. Last year, dozens of Member States, corporations and private individuals invested \$429 million in CERF. In turn, we delivered results for upwards of 22 million people. This year, we plan to use the \$381 million invested so far to leverage faster and better coordinated emergency responses.
- The CERF's Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) was finalized in 2010 and is now fully implemented. The Performance and Accountability Framework
 - clarifies accountability for CERF requests and CERF funds,
 - maps tools for monitoring performance and accountability and
 - defines key performance indicators for the CERF.
- As part of the PAF, we are undertaking independent country reviews to verify reporting and establish the added value of CERF. In 2010, independent consultants completed the first four reviews in Kenya, Mauritania, Sri Lanka and Chad. The four reviews are all available on our website.

For 2011, four reviews are underway in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Colombia and Bolivia, and the reports should be available by the end of June.

- The CERF Five-year Evaluation is in its final stages. The independent consultants began their work in November 2010 and the final report is due to be submitted by the end of June.
- The evaluation consists of 16 country studies, including seven field missions (Afghanistan, Kenya, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia and oPt). The countries were selected to provide the widest possible representation of CERF recipient countries.
- A draft of the synthesis report will be provided within the week to the evaluation steering and reference groups, which consist of representatives from Member States, UN agencies and NGOs.
- Following the finalisation of the evaluation report, the CERF Secretariat will work in consultation with partners to prepare a Management Response Plan. This Plan will be included in the Secretary-General's Report on the Use of the CERF for the 66th session of the General Assembly. The plan will be a key factor in determining CERF's future directions.
- I am confident that CERF will continue to deliver impressive results in 2011 and beyond. We will make every effort to streamline processes to improve performance.



Timely and quality reporting is essential in providing us feedback to continually improve the performance and management of the Fund and to demonstrate its added value. Our primary reporting tool is the annual Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator's report. Over the last three years, we have been aggressive in improving the tracking of CERF funding through better reporting. This year, we have seen another increase in the number of RC/HC reports that have come in on time. 38 of 47 reports (81%) were submitted on time versus 46% in 2010. As of this week, only two reports are still outstanding.

I want to highlight four themes that emerge in the reports that illustrate the CERF's added value:

- 92% of countries reported either implementing gender-specific interventions funded by CERF or taking into consideration gender-specific needs in project design, implementation and monitoring. As a positive example, I want to highlight the report from Pakistan. In response to ongoing displacement in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (former North-West Frontier Province), CERF allocated \$9.9 million to meet humanitarian needs including to support the urgent protection needs of women and girls and to respond to gender-based violence.
- 75% of countries reported on partnerships with governments. In Kenya, CERF funding has strengthened the close partnership between the humanitarian country team and the Government. CERF funds were essential in providing technical and logistical support to the Kenyan Ministry of Health to scale up nutrition interventions and the management of acute malnutrition in response to high food insecurity and malnutrition threats among children under 5.
- 61% of countries reported that CERF funds helped improve coordination among UN agencies, or with NGOs and Governments. In the Central African Republic, the Resident Coordinator reported that CERF funds created incentives for UN agencies to develop joint proposals to maximise the impact of the funding.
- 56% of countries reported that CERF funds expanded the number of beneficiaries reached. The RC for Somalia reported that without CERF funding, an estimated 800,000 children under 5 would not have benefited from immunisation against measles, DPT, polio, or received Vitamin A supplements. Additionally, more than 600,000 women of child bearing age would not have received tetanus vaccination as required every six months.



- The CERF Advisory Group continues to provide guidance and expert advice on the management and use of the Fund, which is key to ensuring our accountability to you.
- Last month, I met with the CERF Advisory Group in Nairobi, Kenya, the first time the Group had met outside New York or Geneva. The Advisory Group had the opportunity to meet with the Kenyan Minister for Special Programmes, the Somalia and Kenya humanitarian country teams and the independent consultants undertaking the five year evaluation. The Advisory Group also travelled to the Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya to see firsthand the impact of CERF funding on humanitarian emergencies in Kenya.
- The Advisory Group is currently finalizing the Recommendations and Conclusions of the meeting before submitting them to the Secretary-General. However, I would like to briefly outline what was discussed in Nairobi:
- I shared with the members the highlights of the Fund's use in 2010, thematic trends and the performance of the CERF vis-à-vis its mandate in 2011. The Advisory Group also reviewed a number of papers prepared by the CERF Secretariat on the loan element, the use of the CERF in protracted crisis, and the role of NGOs in the implementation of CERF projects. The Group discussed the preliminary findings of the General Assembly mandated five-year evaluation with the leader of the evaluation team, and reviewed the Performance and Accountability reviews for Chad, Mauritania and Sri Lanka.
- The Somalia and Kenya humanitarian country teams made comprehensive presentations on the particular challenges they were facing, and the different ways in which the CERF has been helpful to meet these challenges. They highlighted that
 - CERF has contributed to improved coordination;
 - Is fast, flexible and predictable; and
 - Has helped to leverage more funding.
- The presentations also identified areas for improvement such as
 - faster disbursement of funds from UN agencies to NGOs,
 - further clarification on the life-saving criteria;
 - more flexibility in CERF to fund protection and preparedness; and
 - better understanding of the possibility of funding development activities that naturally flow from humanitarian activities.
- On the last day of the meeting, the Group visited Kakuma refugee camp, and met with beneficiaries, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and Kenyan Government officials.
- All the background documents for the meeting are available on the CERF website.



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Funding Situation

- \$2.3 billion from 123 Member States, Observers, public and private donors
- So far, \$381 million in 2011
- 38 Member State contributors have also received support from CERF



- All this would not be possible without your continued support.
- To date, CERF has received \$2.3 billion in pledges and contributions from 123 Member States and Observers, together with public and private donors.
- For 2011, the CERF is in a strong financial position. So far, \$381 million in pledges and contributions has been raised from some 65 Member States, Observers and public and private donors. Some 76 % (\$288 million) has already been received into our accounts. I would like to thank those donors who have converted their pledges and allowed us to put their funds to use.
- I have every reason to believe that pledges and contributions for 2011 will rise significantly in the weeks ahead.
- In 2010, the Fund added 12 new donors. In 2011, we have already welcomed Serbia as a new donor to the Fund and pledges of support from Kyrgyzstan, the Flemish Government, and one NGO. Ten donors who did not contribute in 2010 have returned with contributions for 2011.
- Most importantly, a total of 38 countries have both contributed to and received assistance from the Fund – a great show of political support and solidarity for the Fund.
- I am very pleased at the broad level of support for CERF. Some two-thirds of the General Assembly has contributed to the Fund.
- Still, CERF receives most of its funding from a relatively small number of Member States. As Emergency Relief Coordinator, I am making every effort to diversify this funding base, in order to limit over-reliance on specific donors.
- We need the support of all Member States to ensure that this vital humanitarian investment remains viable and effective, and can meet unexpected needs whenever and wherever they occur.
- As I mentioned, three-quarters of our donors have already converted their pledges. I appeal to donors who have not converted their pledges to do so as soon as possible.
- If you have not yet made a pledge for 2011, it is never too late to do so and I encourage you to consider making a pledge.

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Prospects for the rest of 2011

- Needs will grow
- Funding will be limited
- CERF needs to leverage better responses



- 2011 is already off to a difficult start. And we know that violence, floods, earthquakes, droughts and preventable diseases will drive millions more people into desperate need. Life-saving aid operations will cost billions of dollars. Given the challenges that the global economy is facing, that money will be hard to find.
- At present, we are carefully monitoring the situation in the Horn of Africa where drought could put approximately 8.8 million people at risk. The food security situation is expected to worsen due to reduced rains, in addition to increased staple food prices, high fuel prices and declining purchasing power. The Horn of Africa has been the recipient of roughly a quarter of CERF allocations over the last five years. If conditions continue to deteriorate, CERF may need to make a major contribution to food-security emergencies as we did in 2008. More broadly, we are also closely monitoring trends in food prices.
- Although CERF has become the United Nations sixth largest source of revenue for humanitarian appeals, CERF only makes up almost 3% of total humanitarian spending. So we will not be able to address all of the needs that will arise in 2011. But we can leverage relatively small amounts of funding to ensure a more effective response.

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