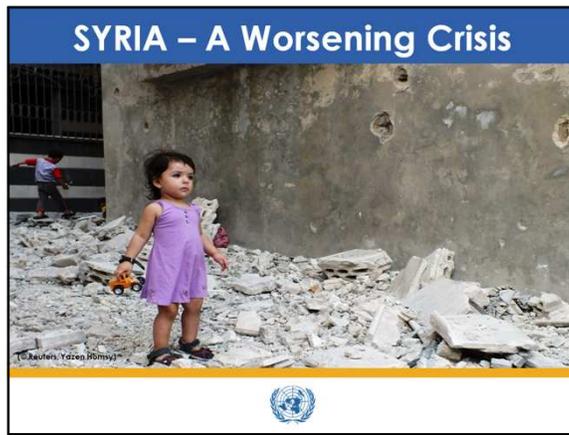


Good morning and welcome to this briefing on the Central Emergency Response Fund.

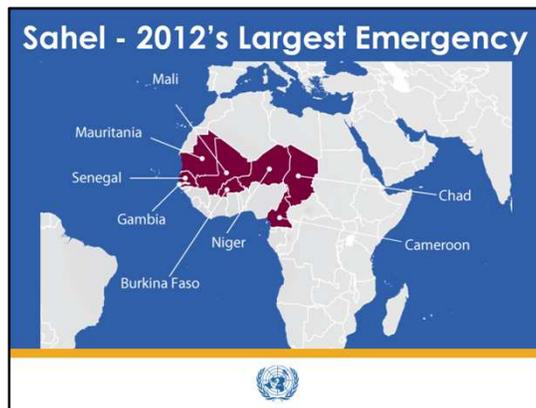
I want to give you an overview of how CERF has been used this year. I will also address some of the lessons learned from our country reviews and highlight progress with the management response plan that was developed in response to the Five-Year Evaluation.



I want to begin with Syria. The violence inside Syria is not abating, and humanitarian needs have been growing by the day. Internal displacement is rising, as is the number of people fleeing to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

We have been very proactive in using CERF to respond to the UN's response, and we have given new allocations at key moments in the crisis. Overall, CERF has given nearly \$52 million to Syria and the region since the crisis began in 2011. In 2012, UN agencies and IOM in Syria have received more than \$36 million in CERF funds, and a further \$12 million has gone to support Syrians in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

CERF has delivered on its mandate: it responded quickly and generously, it kick-started emergency operations in every country affected by the Syrian crisis. Greater assistance remains critical and I appealed to governments to complement CERF's efforts by increasing their financial support to the Syria Response Plan and to support assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries.

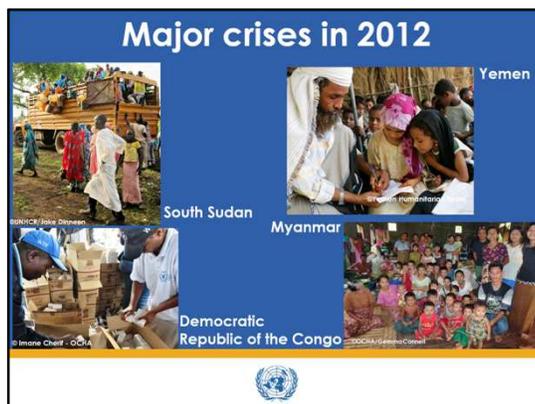


Severe food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel have presented CERF and the humanitarian community with a major challenge in 2012.

The CERF secretariat has been working closely with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Humanitarian Country Teams to support the response. Since the start of the crisis, CERF has allocated more than \$100 million, or 20 per cent of CERF funds allocated in 2012, to countries in the Sahel to tackle food insecurity and nutrition needs, address displacement and prevent disease outbreaks.

This includes \$22 million to assist internally displaced Malians within their home country as well as those who have sought refuge in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso.

The feedback on the use of CERF from the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Teams has been very positive. They indicated that our early and sustained responses were essential in speeding up their response to the crisis.



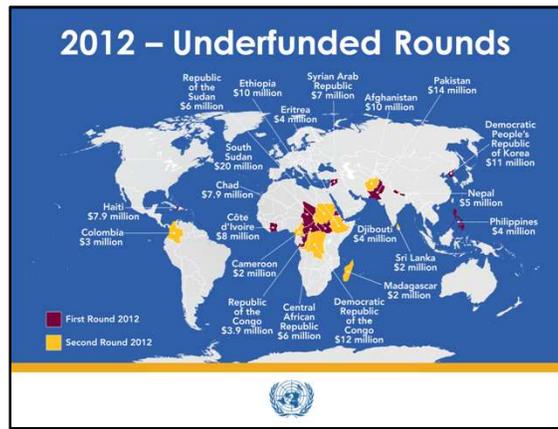
Overall, CERF allocations are considerably higher than in previous years. As of 24 October, I have allocated nearly \$440 million through the rapid response and underfunded emergencies windows. This is the highest amount we have ever allocated in a calendar year. We have now given out as much money through the rapid response window as we did in the whole of 2010 or 2011.

This is being driven by the needs in the Sahel and Syria, but also by significant allocations in South Sudan, DRC, Pakistan and Yemen.

This year, the main sectors supported by CERF are food – more than \$107 million; health - \$72 million and water and sanitation – \$50 million. CERF has increased its support to support all three sectors as compared to 2011.

CERF continues to rank as one of the largest humanitarian contributors to IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, and WHO and as a top 10 contributor to WFP.

WFP and UNICEF continue to be the two largest CERF recipients and are followed by UNHCR, which has seen its CERF funding increase 5 per cent from 2011 to 2012 because of refugee crises and population displacement in the Sahel, South Sudan, and Syria. WHO and FAO are the fourth and fifth largest CERF recipients this year. As in previous years, these five agencies have received about 90 per cent of all allocations.



This year, CERF frontloaded nearly \$104 million in the first Underfunded Round so that humanitarian partners in 13 underfunded crises could move ahead with implementing their 2012 activities. In August, I allocated a further \$55 million in the second Round to strengthen operations in eight countries. We have circulated this information to you.

To follow up on a recommendation from the Five-Year Evaluation, the CERF secretariat commissioned an independent consultant to review the underfunded emergency process.

The findings indicate that the country-selection process for the Underfunded Window is sound and no major revisions are proposed. However, the report recommends exploring opportunities for engaging additional stakeholders in the country selection process and for improving communication within UN agencies. These recommendations are already being used to inform the first round of the 2013 allocations.



The independent CERF country reviews under the Performance and Accountability Framework are important tools for CERF to help us to assess the added value of CERF and to explore key operational aspects.

This year, we covered a total of eight countries in the Horn of Africa, West Africa, and the Philippines. Let me highlight a few key findings.

CERF plays an important role in Ethiopia because it adds value in terms of absolute availability of resources and for filling time-critical gaps. CERF was particularly important for the drought response in 2011 through its timely support for key pipelines and underfunded sector.

In Somalia, the underfunded emergency allocation at the beginning of 2011 was found to have offset a critical funding shortfall in combination with the Somalia Common Humanitarian Fund.

In Cote d' Ivoire, Liberia and Ghana, the review found that CERF played an essential role in enabling agencies to strengthen their capacities and quickly scale up the humanitarian response across a range of sectors, in an environment characterized by low funding levels.

In the Philippines, CERF had added value by:

- Providing timely and flexible funding for emergency response.
- Enabling agencies to leverage other funding.
- Filling critical gaps and supporting coordination at Humanitarian Country Team level.

All of the reviews have been posted on the CERF website.



We have made progress on the Management Response Plan for the Five-Year Evaluation and I would draw your attention to seven points.

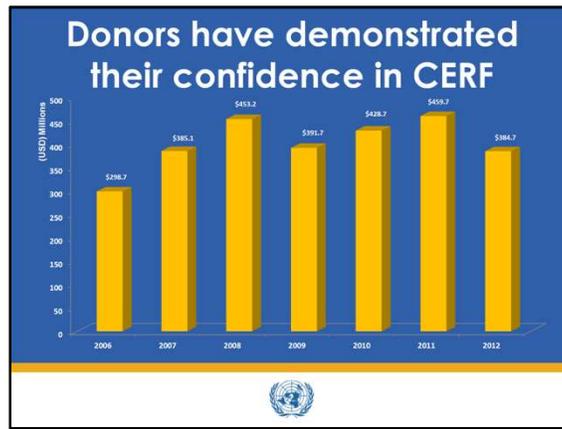
- We revised the template for the annual narrative reports on Humanitarian Country Teams' use of CERF funds and the accompanying guidelines. The quality improved and more reports were submitted on time as compared to previous years. By the end of June all the reports were posted on line.
- A key issue for all of us is the pace of disbursements from UN agencies to implementing partners. The level of reporting on sub-grants to implementing partners by CERF recipient agencies has improved significantly. Details on more than 800 sub-grants were reported in Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator's country reports submitted in 2012, up from less than 120 in 2011. This allowed us to conduct more detailed analysis on the timing of CERF funded sub-grants to implementing partners. It has also provided us with more information on the linkages between disbursement times and implementation of activities, and confirmed that activities by implementing partners are often started before funds are received from CERF recipient agencies. We are continuing our discussions with agency headquarters on this issue.
- CERF will soon launch a formal *After Action Review* process in a number of recipient countries to increase accountability and to inform better reporting. Based on lessons learnt from the pilots, CERF expects to roll-out the *After Action Reviews* as a standard part of the CERF cycle at country level.

## Update on the MRP

- CERF Loan Reduced
- Shared evaluations of CERF recipient agencies
- Synergy between the pooled funds
- Review of the Performance and Accountability Framework



- The CERF loan window has been reduced to \$30 million and \$46.4 million was transferred from the loan element to the grant element. This has been very important given our extensive activities this year.
- The CERF secretariat is working with recipient agencies to increase evaluations of CERF-funded activities. IOM is evaluating its CERF-funded interventions this year, and WFP plans to include the role of CERF funds in a broader evaluation in 2013. UNHCR has also expressed a willingness to do something similar.
- The Five-Year Evaluation recommended better synergies between CERF and country-based pooled funds - the Emergency Response Funds and Common Humanitarian Funds. The CERF is preparing improved guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators and pooled fund managers.
- We are in the process of hiring an independent consultant to review the Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF), and determine what changes to the framework may be required.



2011 was a remarkable year for fundraising for CERF and Member States contributed more than \$459 million. To date in 2012, CERF has raised more than \$384 million in pledges and contributions. While we still have a long way to go to reach the \$450 million target mandated by the General Assembly, we are expecting contributions from several Member States and should come close to the target by the end of the year.

One other positive note - more than 60 per cent of the pledges for 2012 were turned into contributions by the end of the first quarter, giving us the funds we needed to respond to emergencies right from the beginning of the year.

We have done a tremendous job of allocating money where it is most needed, successfully accomplishing what Member States and donors have entrusted us to do. Ultimately, our performance will determine if donor support can be maintained.

We will be holding our CERF High-Level Conference in New York on 11 December, and I hope that your governments will fully participate and express your support for the Fund.

Before I conclude, I would like to congratulate our seven newest members of the CERF Advisory Group. We received more than 30 high calibre nominations and the competition was exceptionally tough this year. It was important to the Secretary-General to ensure greater gender balance while maintaining a strong geographic balance, and a healthy donor and recipient balance.

Yesterday, the Advisory Group ended its two-day meeting here in Geneva and we will meet again next spring.



I will be happy to take any questions you may have.