



CERF Advisory Group met in Geneva

The Advisory Group met in Geneva on 19 and 20 November and included the eight members newly appointed by the Secretary-General. The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. John Holmes, briefed the members on the progress of the Fund since their last meeting in June 2008 and the potential impact of the global financial crisis on CERF. The Advisory Group also discussed the management response to the Two-year Evaluation of the Fund.

New members of the Group received an introductory briefing on the Fund from the Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New York, Mr. Rashid Khalikov. The Advisory Group met with UN agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the IFRC and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss outstanding CERF-related issues.

ERC visits Chad and Sudan

The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has just concluded a ten-day mission to Chad and Sudan. He met with senior Government officials, the diplomatic community, and humanitarian country teams and visited several IDP camps in both countries.

CERF has allocated nearly \$30 million to Chad since March 2006, including \$12.3 million this year. Sudan is the second largest CERF recipient, having received \$77 million since the Fund's inception and \$16 million in 2008.



The ERC speaks with women from the Taiba IDP camp in Zalingei, West Darfur

CERF nearly reaches GA goal

In the past few days, some \$18 million in contributions have helped CERF get within \$500,000 of reaching the \$450 million goal the General Assembly set for 2008. In November, CERF received contributions from Andorra (\$33,495), Armenia (\$5,000), Bulgaria (\$5,000), Sri Lanka (\$9,982) and the USA (\$5 million). Spain provided an additional \$12,719,000 to CERF for 2008, making it the fifth largest contributor this year.

With some exchange rate fluctuations, total pledges and paid contributions in 2008 come to \$449,445,114. The General Assembly set the target of \$450 million in resolution A/RES/61/134 for the grant element.

CERF Pledges and Contributions Top ten contributors, 2008 ¹	
Contributor	Amount
United Kingdom	\$ 80,239,000
Netherlands	\$ 63,900,000
Sweden	\$ 56,264,400
Norway	\$ 55,258,765
Spain	\$ 43,634,984
Canada	\$ 39,037,523
Ireland	\$ 33,301,074
Germany	\$ 14,790,000
Denmark	\$ 9,931,473
Australia	\$ 9,571,000

CERF has funded projects in 67 countries since inception¹

Since 1 January 2008		
	Amount	Countries
Rapid Response	\$ 288.4 million	52
Underfunded Emergencies	\$ 128.3 million	20
TOTAL	\$ 416.7 million	
Since inception March 2006		
Rapid Response	\$ 698,579,696	64
Underfunded Emergencies	\$ 328,342,591	33
TOTAL	\$ 1,026,922,287	

¹ As at 4 December 2008



Country allocations and highlights for November 2008

In November, CERF allocated over \$18 million for relief activities in eight crisis-affected countries.

Chad

Continuing refugee flows from Sudan into eastern Chad combined with conflict and internal displacement have left hundreds of thousands in need of assistance. CERF has allocated \$1.6 million to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in support of its ongoing refugee and IDP programmes, which are assisting hundreds of thousands with shelter, water and supplies.

In addition, CERF has provided \$1 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) so that the agency can support humanitarian partners with logistics and transport.

Guatemala

A tropical depression at the end of October caused widespread flooding across Guatemala, damaging infrastructure and leaving thousands homeless. CERF responded with an immediate grant of nearly \$1.5 million for WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and World Health Organization (WHO) to address the immediate food, health, sanitation and emergency agricultural needs of the affected populations.

Guinea-Bissau

A cholera epidemic which started earlier this summer in Guinea-Bissau still has not been brought under control despite efforts by the Government and humanitarian partners. The situation has prompted CERF to provide \$600,000 to UNICEF and WHO to stop the spread of the deadly disease. Some 20,000 affected people will receive direct assistance, while the entire population of the country will benefit.

Nepal

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia, and rising food prices are having a devastating impact on the population. More than 41 percent (11 million) of the population is undernourished. Poor infrastructure and social services aggravate the situation. A CERF grant of \$3 million will help FAO, UNICEF and WFP target the most vulnerable.

FAO will help 30,000 poor farming families feed themselves and their communities. CERF has contributed to WFP's massive food aid effort, which assists over 2 million people. UNICEF will use CERF funding to assist tens of thousands of malnourished infants and children.

Pakistan

A powerful earthquake struck Baluchistan province in southwestern Pakistan on 29 October, bringing added hardship to an area already suffering from some of the country's lowest health and social indicators. With the harsh winter approaching, a quick response was required to assist the tens of thousands of victims of the earthquake.

CERF provided \$2 million in quick emergency funding for seven relief agencies. The multi-sector relief effort includes logistics support, education for children who lost their schools, and the provision of healthcare, hygiene, food and shelter.

Sri Lanka

A recent escalation of violence between government forces and rebel groups following a breakdown of peace talks has forced tens of thousands of innocent civilians to flee to host communities and makeshift camps.

Ensuring adequate shelter and accompanying water supply and sanitation facilities are priorities in the weeks and months ahead.

As part of the international community's overall relief effort in the country, CERF has allocated \$1.6 million in emergency financing to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNICEF.

The funds will be used for essential water and sanitation needs of current and projected new displaced populations. As many schools are being used as displacement camps, the emergency education needs of children are also being addressed by the CERF allocation.



Displaced Sri Lankan families collect emergency shelter materials [Photo:UN]



Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe continues to face major economic and humanitarian challenges. The crisis in the country is rapidly worsening due to poor harvests, as well as deteriorating health, water and sanitation services, and politically-motivated violence which lead to displacements, destruction of property and loss of lives. The effects of soaring global food prices combined with hyperinflation have added to the misery.

CERF has provided \$5 million in emergency funding to WFP for the coming months. WFP aims to assist an estimated 3 million people up to December and increase assistance to an estimated 4 million people for the first quarter of 2009, the peak hunger period.

The funding will address the immediate food requirements of nearly 800,000 beneficiaries threatened with malnutrition, including 500,000 children. With the deepening nature of food insecurity and rapid reduction of household food stocks, food assistance will play a critical role in life-saving support to vulnerable households.

CERF helps flood victims in Yemen

Following days of heavy rain, sudden and severe flooding in late October devastated Yemen, affecting as much as one-third of the country. Housing, agriculture and infrastructure suffered extensive damage. Yemen remains one of the least developed countries in the world, and as a result the Government was stretched to provide emergency services to flood victims.

One of the biggest fears following the flooding was a major disease outbreak due to stagnant water, rubbish and dead animals in populated areas. In response, CERF provided over \$500,000 in immediate funding to UNICEF and WHO to support vaccination campaigns and disease control efforts.

Over one million children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years will receive through measles and polio vaccinations, and an additional one million people will benefit from improved health services thanks to the provision of fresh water, emergency medical supplies and equipment. Mosquito spraying in high-risk areas has also helped prevent malaria and dengue fever outbreaks.

A delayed response might have resulted in a wide-spread epidemic, which would have cost significantly more money and resources. By providing a small and quick injection of funding, CERF helped prevent the situation from spiralling out of control, saving resources and countless lives.

As part of the overall international relief effort in Yemen, CERF provided \$2 million in multi-sector support of the relief activities of six UN agencies.



Fear of disease outbreak following flooding in Yemen prompted CERF to support emergency vaccination and disease control activities. © Muhammed al-Jabri/IRIN

Last of CERF's \$100 Million Reserve for Global Food Crisis allocated

With the approval of a request for \$3 million for FAO, UNICEF and WFP programmes in Nepal, the ERC allocated the last of the \$100 million for response to the global food crisis.

Given the magnitude of the crisis and the sharp increase in demand for funds from CERF, the ERC announced in May 2008 that a reserve of \$100 million from existing resources would be set aside for essential humanitarian projects related to the global crisis.

In total, the ERC received grant requests for the food crisis from Humanitarian/Resident Coordinators (HC/RCS) in 30 countries for 108 projects. By 1 December 2008, the \$100 million reserve had been allocated to emergency programmes in 26 countries. Funding was allocated in line with CERF's life-saving criteria, to protect the households most vulnerable to food price shocks from nutritional deprivation and resorting to harmful coping strategies.

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on the newsletter and the CERF website (<http://cerf.un.org>) are most welcome. Our email address is cerf@un.org

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