

# Emergency Response Fund (ERF)



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS ZIMBABWE

## OVERVIEW

The Emergency Response Fund for Zimbabwe was established as a pooled fund in 2006. It was initially set up to meet the emergency needs of people affected by displacement but has continued to be replenished by donors thereby facilitating response to emerging response requirements in the country.

Being a pooled fund of un-earmarked contributions from various donors, the ERF operates with greater flexibility and speedier approval processes than traditional funding mechanisms. The guiding principles of the fund is to allow timely emergency and/or gap filling responses through consultative and collaborative approval processes by the representatives of key stakeholders from UN agencies and local and international NGOs participating in the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is chaired by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. Members are drawn from two UN Agencies, IOM and two NGO (national and international representatives). OCHA Zimbabwe provides secretariat support to the management of the fund while clusters are consulted for technical inputs.

Soon after the signing of the 15 September 2008 Global Political Agreement (GPA) that paved the way for formation of a Government of National Unity (GNU) the ERF was used to provide short term funds in five key sectors; WASH, health, education, protection and agriculture. This was to give implementing agencies an opportunity to kick-start or intensify some humanitarian activities as they fundraised for more resources.

## Contributions by donor

Date	Donor	US\$
Nov 07	Norway	1,316,799
May 08	Norway	799,102
Nov 08	Denmark	849,607
Dec 08	Swiss	251,256
Jan 09	Ireland	647,668
Jan 09	Italy	858,369
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>4,722,801</b>
Committed	-	2,996,820
<b>Balance</b>	-	<b>1,725,981</b>

A second funding cycle followed shortly in December 2008 that addressed funding gaps in health and WASH during the Cholera Outbreak. In one project, Oxfam GB was assisted to install a borehole in a primary school with 1,500 pupils that did not have running water for almost 10 years. The school has a tragic story following the death of five siblings as a result of cholera on October 27, 2008. This was one of 20 boreholes installed by Oxfam with ERF support.

The school is situated in Harare's Budiro high density suburb, which registered some of the early cholera cases soon after the outbreak. A nearby clinic, Oxfam officials said, was admitting some 220 suspected cases of cholera every day but the numbers have decreased due to increased availability of clean drinking water.

Implementation period for projects is limited up to a maximum of **6 months** and the funding can be made up to **US\$250,000** per project. Each implementing agency can have up to three active projects at a time. The applicant agencies are encouraged to consult relevant partners in the cluster/working group, geographical areas and local communities during development of the intervention. For the final round of consultation, the Advisory Board is normally given 48 hours to make a recommendation to the Humanitarian Coordinator. Once the approval process is completed, an agreement is entered between the implementing partner and the Humanitarian Coordinator, after which OCHA requests for the funds to be released directly to the implementing agency from the Geneva based account.

## ERF in Action- FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2008/9

### Cholera response/ WASH

Between August 2008 and May 2009, Zimbabwe experienced its worst cholera epidemic in history. The scale and scope of the current epidemic surpassed the speed of the response, making it difficult to control. A total of 98,591 cases were recorded with 4,288 deaths. The disease spread rapidly due to a breakdown in essential services such as safe water supply and health delivery. The ERF has funded nine projects in various parts of the country including Epworth, Budiro, Glen Norah, Glenview and Chikurubi in Greater Harare City. Bulawayo City as well as Mashonaland Central Province benefitted from hygiene promotion. Approximately a million people benefitted from improved water supply as well as sanitation through these projects.

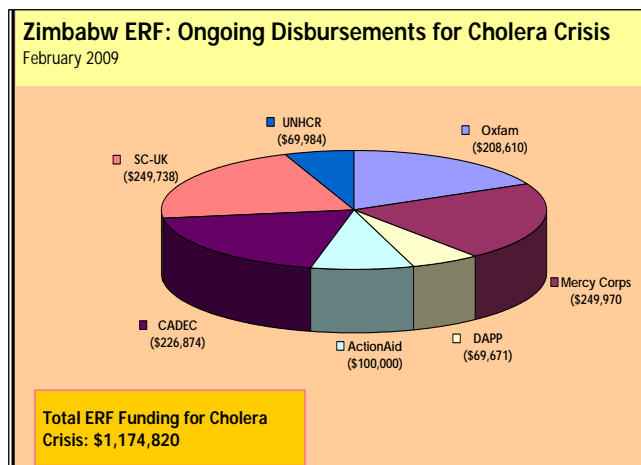
**Health** : The ERF is supporting six health related projects with 543,865 people benefiting directly from the related services. The cross-cutting interventions ranged from support to the Ministry of Health to establish Cholera Treatment Centres in areas adversely affected by cholera to countrywide maternal healthcare support being implemented through UNFPA. In the outskirts of Bulawayo, the ERF is providing diesel for running generators for power generation in three mission hospitals managed by the Bulawayo Catholic Diocese which were faced with a possibility of closure in late 2008 due to electric power outages and the inability to purchase fuel.

**Agriculture** : Zimbabwe has remained food insecure following continued significant decline in food production as a result of various factors including shortages of agricultural inputs and low productivity. The Crop and Food Assessment Mission in May 2008 found that the national cereal production was not sufficient to support country requirements. During the peak hunger season of January to March 2009, approximately seven million people were receiving food aid. The ERF is supporting three projects with resources to assist in improving food security at the household level. One project implemented through Help Germany provided sweet potato vines and trained farmers to dry the crop in order to prolong its shelf life. An additional two projects implemented by the Catholic Relief Services and World Vision dealt with distribution of small livestock such as chickens and goats to address erosion of livelihoods assets. A total of 27,750 individuals are benefitting from these interventions.

**Protection** : The nationwide political turmoil had far-reaching implications on people displaced by violence. Despite returning to their areas of origin, an estimated 80% of the Victims of Political Violence (VPVs) were unable to fully reintegrate into their communities due to lack of adequate health services, shelter, poor water and sanitation facilities, lack of livelihoods and insecurity. International Organization of Migration (IOM) received funds from the ERF to provide further assistance to people affected by violence through rebuilding of shelters and supply of food and non-food items.

**Education** : In 2008, the education system faced many difficulties, including the absence of both teachers and pupils at most public schools. An assessment led by UNICEF in February 2009, found that 94% of rural schools assessed had failed to re-open after the Christmas break. Though some improvements have been recorded in early 2009 following introduction of incentives for teachers, the situation remains critical and calls for holistic interventions that target both the teachers and pupils. The ERF is funding one project in education that is being implemented by Save the Children Norway. The intervention is seeks to provide teaching materials to 30 schools in 10 districts whose education system has been adversely affected by the above factors, thereby complementing UNICEF efforts to provide learning materials in schools. A total of 45,000 pupils will gain from this project.

## Funding allocations



Demonstration of how an eco-san toilet works in a project by CRS supported through the ERF for resettled former IDPs in Epworth. (OCHA Picture 2009)

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is in-built in each project that is funded through the ERF. Each project implementer submits a mid-term and an end of project report. OCHA staff conduct *ad-hoc* field visits to project sites. Most recently a WASH project in Bulawayo, NFIs distribution in Epworth and sweet potatoes farms were visited. In addition, financial auditing is carried out by external auditors at the conclusion of each project. After two years, the OCHA office through the ERF Board, intends to invite external evaluators to visit project sites in order to ascertain the impact of projects funded through the ERF.

**ERF Advisory Board: Mercy Corps , Christian Care, WHO, UNICEF, IOM  
Advisors to the Board: Cluster leads & OCHA**

For more information on the ERF please contact: Fernando Arroyo [arroyof@un.org](mailto:arroyof@un.org) or Lilian Nduta [nduta@un.org](mailto:nduta@un.org)