

# CERF News



A SOUND HUMANITARIAN INVESTMENT  
THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

DECEMBER 2009

## CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND PLEDGES: MOST SUCCESSFUL TO DATE

At the 8-9 December high-level United Nations conference convened in support of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), donors pledged generous contributions totaling \$424 million for 2010. The figure marks an increase of more than 10 percent from last December's conference, when some \$380 million was raised.

Five new donors stepped forward - Madagascar, Mauritania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, and the Sovereign Order of Malta. Several long-standing donors also announced significant increases in their contributions, including Norway, Belgium, Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Slovenia, South Africa, and the United States. One private donor, Western Union, increased its pledge by 50 percent.



Photo by Eskender Debebe (DPI)

“In the coming year, we do not know exactly how the combination of conflict, climate change, demographic shifts, and a global economic slowdown will conspire to create emergency needs,” said United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. “But we do know that we will face such challenges, and that CERF will be an important part of the response,” he added.

“I am delighted to see so many donors renew and strengthen their commitment to the humanitarian cause,” said John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. “The CERF is crucial

for our ability to assist quickly millions of people around the globe, as it enables us to carry out immediate life-saving activities wherever and whenever required.”

Opening the session was the President of the United Nations General Assembly Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki. He encouraged all Member States to contribute to the Fund. Also present on the podium were the Minister of State for International Development, United Kingdom, Mr. Gareth Thomas, and Mr. Tabrani, Senior Advisor, National Agency for Disaster Management, Republic of Indonesia. For more information, visit <http://cerf.un.org>.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE CERF ADVISORY GROUP

On 8 December, the recommendations and conclusions of the Advisory Group from the November 2009 meeting were issued. In those recent discussions, the Advisory Group recognized the solid performance and management of the Fund in 2009. The Advisory Group commended CERF's work towards finalising a Performance and Accountability Framework and recommended the Fund pilot the evaluation approach in one or more countries in early 2009. In particular, CERF will complement reporting arrangements with independent evaluations in a small number of selected countries.

Additionally, the Group reviewed the underfunded window, CERF's relationship with Non-Governmental Organisations and recognized that significant progress had been made to finalize the revised Secretary-General's Bulletin on the CERF and on the umbrella Letter of Understanding. The Group recommended that the CERF's “Life-saving Criteria” should continue to be defined as tightly as possible, but that some



flexibility should be maintained to take some preventive, time-critical actions.

Finally, the Group expressed their preference to have the April 2010 meeting in a recipient country in order to meet with the affected government and humanitarian partners, and look more closely at the added value of the CERF.

The full Recommendations and Conclusions are available at <http://cerf.un.org>.

## COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2009

In November, CERF allocated some \$9.6 million to UN agencies in seven countries worldwide. Humanitarian agencies working in El Salvador and Cape Verde were first time users of CERF funding, receiving a combined total of \$3 million to reach 375,000 beneficiaries. Agencies working in Guinea, Indonesia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, and Nicaragua received the remaining allocations.

### Cape Verde

CERF allocated \$474,000 to respond to a massive outbreak of dengue fever in Cape Verde. Cape Verde is experiencing its first dengue type 3 outbreak in addition to the highest number of laboratory confirmed cases of A H1N1 in the West Africa sub-region.

As there is currently no specific anti viral treatment or vaccines for dengue, case management relies solely on supportive clinical care and on training of health care workers in the early detection

of symptoms, diagnosis and rapid hospital referral of patients at high risk for severe disease. Outbreak response is also dependent on surveillance and laboratory confirmation of cases occurring in new areas to plan and target appropriate control interventions.



*Primary school child in Praia, Cape Verde.  
© Phuong Tran/IRIN.*

Responding to the situation, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will use \$314,000 and \$160,000 respectively to provide health-related assistance to 354,000 people.

### El Salvador

To provide emergency assistance to Hurricane Ida's victims, CERF allocated \$2.5 million to humanitarian agencies in El Salvador.

An estimated 2,000 homes, 117 schools, 25 health facilities and 37 bridges have been damaged or destroyed. Overall, about 12 percent of the Salvadoran territory was affected.

Responding to this situation, the WHO received \$593,000 to provide emergency health service and restore water and sanitation infrastructure for 75,000 affected people. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been allocated \$530,000 to provide shelter for 356 families. UNICEF will use \$426,000 to provide psychological support, and water, hygiene and sanitation supplies. The World Food Programme (WFP) received \$423,000 to provide emergency food assistance to 25,000 people. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has been allocated \$292,000 to re-establish food production and the livelihoods of 2,875 families affected by the hurricane. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will use \$120,000 to restore and strengthen the capacity of the local primary health system to provide emergency reproductive health services, which will benefit 17,500 women and their families and 7,500 adolescents. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) has been allocated \$100,000 to improve management of temporary living centres and provide shelter kits.

### Guinea

A total of \$1.1 million was allocated to UNICEF and WHO to provide emergency health support to the victims of the crackdown on demonstrations in Conakry, Guinea.

### Syria

In response to a severe drought in Syria, CERF has



allocated \$3.3 million to UN humanitarian agencies in the country.

Drought has affected Syria since 2006 and this year's drought is the third one in three consecutive years. According to the Government of Syria and two UN Assessment Missions in 2009, some 1.3 million inhabitants in the north east have been affected by this disaster. Over 800,000 people have lost nearly all their livelihoods and face extreme hardship. Up to 80 percent of those severely affected live on a diet consisting of bread and sugared tea, which covers less than 53 percent of both caloric and protein requirements. People affected by drought are not able to sustain or restore their livelihood without emergency support such as food aid, farming inputs, water assistance, animal feed, and other types of assistance.

In response to the situation, WFP received \$1.4 million to provide emergency food assistance to 42,000 drought-affected people, including 5,500 families. FAO will use another \$1.4 million to support livelihoods and food security of 11,000 drought-affected small-scale farmers. UNICEF received \$263,000 from CERF to provide therapeutic food to 1,500 malnourished children. UNDP will receive \$200,000 to provide sustainable access to clean drinking water for 400 households.

## Indonesia



*A young mother and her child outside their home near Jakarta.  
© Esther de Jong/IRIN*

To further assist in the recovery of the earthquake that struck Western Sumatra at the beginning of October, CERF allocated some \$600,000 to WHO to provide health supplies for 1.2 million people.

## Yemen

To strengthen the security measures for the UN system,

CERF allocated \$342,000 to UNDP in Yemen, following a string of bomb attacks in Sana'a.

The primary threat to humanitarian workers in the country stems from ongoing hostilities. As a result, many of the UN offices in Yemen require a substantial upgrade. Humanitarian workers are not currently equipped with radios or armored vests. For example, on 9 October 2009 a convoy of WFP-hired trucks was ambushed in the northern Yemen governorate of Al-Jawf.

In response to this situation, UNDP will use \$342,000 from CERF to strengthen UN security measures to protect 127 international and 420 national UN staff, some 160,000 IDPs and other civilians affected by the conflict.

## Nicaragua

To assist approximately 20,000 people affected by Hurricane Ida, CERF allocated \$2 million to UN humanitarian agencies in Nicaragua.

The hurricane's heavy rains caused floods and major destructions in the country, damaging schools, housing and infrastructure. The hurricane also threatened food security, one of Nicaragua's main development problems.

In response to the situation, the WFP will use \$786,000 to distribute food assistance to the affected populations. The International Organization of Migration (IOM) will provide non-food items with an allocation of \$786,000. FAO has been allocated \$447,000 to rapidly reestablish livelihoods and replace fishing equipment in affected areas to ensure food security. WHO will provide water and sanitation services and emergency health intervention using \$311,000. UNICEF will provide psychosocial support for children, safe drinking water, and protection of children from malnutrition and domestic violence with an allocation of \$131,000. UNFPA received \$70,000 to reduce maternal mortality.

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### YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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