



AUGUST 2009

Member States briefing on CERF planned for September

As part of a year-round effort to keep Member States informed on the use of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), John Holmes, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), has invited the Permanent Representatives of all Missions in New York to a briefing on September 11th in the ECOSOC Chamber.

CERF allocates \$55 million to 11 underfunded crises

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator allocated some \$55 million in July to boost humanitarian response in 11 neglected emergencies where people are suffering from hunger, malnutrition, disease, and conflict.

The funds will be granted to UN humanitarian agencies and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and through them to partner organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to support humanitarian projects in the affected countries. Countries were selected to receive grants based on an analysis of the funding levels of their aid programmes, the severity of the humanitarian needs, security, and other constraints on aid delivery.

Humanitarian actors in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) received the largest single allocation, some \$10 million. Allocations were also provided to support life-saving activities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (\$9 million), Zimbabwe (\$9 million), Kenya (\$8 million), Ethiopia (\$6 million), Chad (\$5 million), Central African Republic (\$2.8 million), Algeria (\$1.5 million), Eritrea (\$1.5 million), Guinea (\$1.2 million) and Djibouti (\$1 million).

This is the second and final round of allocations from CERF's window for underfunded emergencies in 2009. The first round allocated some \$75 million to 14 countries. In 2008, a total of \$128 million was allocated to underfunded emergencies.



Refugees gathering to eat, ©UNHCR/Algeria

Table 1: CERF underfunded allocations (second round 2009)

Country	Amount (US\$)
Algeria	1,500,000
Central African Republic	2,800,000
Chad	5,000,000
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	10,000,000
Djibouti	1,000,000
Eritrea	1,500,000
Ethiopia	6,000,000
Guinea	1,200,000
Kenya	8,000,000
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	9,000,000
Zimbabwe	9,000,000



Country allocations and highlights for July 2009

In July, CERF provided more than \$12 million for emergency assistance to relief agencies working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Philippines.



A displaced woman in a camp, ©UNHCR/ DRC

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Joint Congolese-Rwandan military operations against the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) militia group have caused significant displacement since January 2009 in north and south Kivu, with 1.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the two provinces.

Some 250,000 people in the troubled provinces will receive urgently needed humanitarian assistance thanks to a \$7 million CERF allocation. Together with Government authorities, United Nations humanitarian agencies are working to provide families in need with basic necessities including shelter, water and sanitation, primary healthcare and education, as well as assistance to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Some \$4 million of the CERF funding will assist 43,000 displaced families with basic relief necessities through the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Another \$2.5 million will provide potable water to 250,000 persons—also through UNICEF—in the severely affected areas of Walikale and Lubero, where water-borne diseases have doubled in the past few

months. In addition, \$500,000 will bolster the World Health Organization’s efforts to make basic healthcare accessible to 170,000 people including 3,200 children less than five years of age. The CERF funding will pay for health kits to be used in 10 clinics.

Philippines

A recent escalation of hostilities between government and rebel forces in Mindanao has forced more people into IDP camps. Assessment missions by UN, NGO and government partners found humanitarian needs among the displaced to be acute. Food insecurity, acute and chronic malnutrition, lack of shelter or basic water and sanitation facilities, and the threat of outbreak of communicable diseases in IDP camps have been identified as significant threats unless there are urgent interventions.

In response to a request for immediate funding, CERF has provided more than \$5 million to six UN aid agencies in Philippines. World Food Programme (WFP) will use a \$1.6 million allocation as part of its programme to feed displaced persons. With \$1.7 million from CERF, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) will undertake emergency nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene programmes for the displaced in IDP camps. Children in the displacement camps will receive protection and educational assistance from UNICEF, as well. The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) will address the reproductive health needs of IDP women with a \$173,000 grant,

while World Health Organization (WHO) will use \$433,000 in CERF funding to provide emergency health services and immunizations to some 80,000 people. The International Organization



A woman and child at an evacuation camp in Mindanao, ©IRIN/Philippines



for Migration (IOM) plans to undertake an emergency support programme for displaced persons using \$1 million from CERF. The multi-sectoral programme aims to provide shelter, supplies, clean water and sanitation to IDPs, together with protection and psychosocial support for particularly vulnerable families. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will use a \$200,000 CERF grant to expand and upgrade an emergency communications system for use by the humanitarian community in the conflict-affected area.

Regional meetings to discuss CERF and strengthening humanitarian partnerships

Over the past several years, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been engaged in efforts to build partnerships with a broad group of Member States. CERF has been successful in engaging a diverse group of partners to support humanitarian action. Since 2006, 108 Member States have contributed to CERF and supported the life-saving work that is carried out with CERF funds across the globe.

To date, OCHA has helped support four regional events in Istanbul, Abu Dhabi, Seoul and Mexico city in order to build humanitarian partnerships. This year, regional partnership meetings will be held in Singapore and Florianópolis, Brazil. The meeting in Singapore (26 and 27 August) will include governments, humanitarian agencies and other relief actors in the Asia-Pacific region, while the event in Florianópolis (2 to 4 September) will include representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

With increasing demands being placed on the international humanitarian response system, the effectiveness and timely delivery of humanitarian aid remain key factors in ensuring the survival of populations affected by disasters. There is a continuing need to improve aid coordination at all levels, particularly given the presence of new actors in emergency response. Additionally, enhanced

cooperation in the fields of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction is also required.

CERF in the News

- “UN releases 1.5 mln dollars in urgent aid for W. Sahara refugees” (AFP)
http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gTSIIkpoE_BQwtKMiOu-iWPVPnmQ
- “Ethiopia: Concern over rising malnutrition as UN provides \$6m for aid” (Reuters)
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/TRI/N/e5291e0c54f6b6ffe9bc7e7cbb6215fb.htm>
- “Humanitarian agencies seek additional \$200 million in revised appeal for Chad”
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7U8SKX?OpenDocument>
- “UN Central Emergency Response Fund gives \$6 million to Ethiopia”
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/ASAZ-7U8AWV?OpenDocument>
- “UN avails \$9 million for Zimbabwe relief”
<http://www.zimonline.co.za/Article.aspx?ArticleId=4883>

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