

OCTOBER 2009

UN Secretary-General appoints new members to CERF Advisory Group

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointment of seven new members of the Advisory Group for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

The members include government officials from countries that have contributed to or received funding from CERF, representatives of humanitarian non-governmental organizations, and academic experts. The sixteen-member CERF Advisory Group provides the Secretary-General with expert advice on the use and impact of the Fund through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes.

The new Advisory Group members are:

- Ms. Luz Amanda Pulido, Director of the Risk Management Department of the Ministry of the Interior and Justice, Colombia.
- Ms. Satu Helinä Lassila, Senior Advisor of the Unit for Humanitarian Assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland.
- Mr. Silvano Langa, Senior Advisor to the Minister of the State Administration, Mozambique.
- Ms. Janina Ochojska, Founder and Head of Polska Akcja Humanitarna, Poland.
- Brigadier General Abdullah Muhammad Alsuwedi, General Manager of the General Directorate of Civil Defense and General Coordinator of the Permanent Emergency Committee, Qatar.

- Ms. Elena Madrazo, Director of the Agency for International Aid and Development (AECID), Spain.
- Mr. Jon C. Brause, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United States.

These newly-appointed members will begin their term at the upcoming Advisory Group meeting on 2 and 3 November. Member States will have another opportunity to nominate experts in mid-2010.

CERF adds two first-time contributors

Slovakia and Venezuela became first-time contributors to CERF in September, with donations of US\$10,000 and \$5,000, respectively. So far in 2009, 13 Member States, two private companies and one NGO have made contributions to CERF for the first time. Overall, 75 Member States, together with six other public and private donors, have pledged or contributed \$393 million to CERF in 2009.

Country allocations and highlights for September 2009

In September, CERF provided more than \$8.4 million for emergency assistance to relief agencies working in Guatemala, Niger and Sudan.

Guatemala

Guatemala has the highest rate of malnutrition in Latin America, with 50 percent of all children suffering from chronic malnutrition. The situation has been exacerbated in recent months by prolonged drought caused by El Niño. The country is facing its worse food crisis in recent years, with additional crop losses



anticipated by the end of 2009. This prompted the Government of Guatemala to declare a state of emergency and seek urgent humanitarian assistance from the international community.



© UNICEF/Guatemala
A toddler is weighed at a UNICEF-supported feeding centre

In support of a coherent humanitarian response, CERF has provided \$5 million to five UN agencies operating in the country. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) will operate in concert with local authorities, international donors and other humanitarian partners to provide immediate assistance to 65,000 families. The grant will allow these agencies to implement emergency agriculture, food, nutrition and health programmes in the country.

Niger

The humanitarian situation in Niger is characterized by food insecurity and high acute malnutrition rates. In May 2009, data showed that the food security situation of 40,000 households in 120 areas had worsened, particularly in the regions of Ziner and Diffa. Niger is also vulnerable to flooding during the rainy season and to disease outbreaks, such as cholera.

CERF has responded by allocating \$2.6 million to WFP and UNICEF. Some \$1.84 million will enable WFP to procure and deliver 1,464 tonnes of food to 52,000 children aged six to 35 months in Diffa and 46,000 malnourished children under five and mothers in both Diffa and Ziner. Some \$760,000 will support UNICEF to ensure availability of and access to quality treatment for severe acute malnutrition for 3,500 children under

five. It will also enable UNICEF to respond to a cholera outbreak by providing safe drinking water, ensuring treatment and disinfection of polluted water points, and conducting hygiene education.



© UNICEF Niger/2009/Holtz, UNICEF set up water bladders and taps for the flood-affected population northern Niger

Sudan

The humanitarian situation in South Sudan has seen a sharp deterioration in recent months due to inter-tribal conflict, rising food prices, the declining cost of livestock—which erodes livelihoods—and the delayed onset of rains. A grant of \$800,000 from CERF to FAO will permit the agency to help safeguard and rebuild livelihood assets for 15,000 destitute households. FAO will achieve this by providing agricultural inputs, fishing gear and livestock vaccines for the most affected households.

Underfunded Spotlight: Displaced people in Chad supported by CERF

Every year, one-third of CERF’s funds are set aside for allocations to strengthen the core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises. These allocations are given in two rounds per year to countries with high levels of humanitarian need and relatively low funding for humanitarian activities.

In 2009, \$130 million has been allocated to underfunded emergencies around the world. In the first round, \$75 million was allocated to 14 underfunded crises, including: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, Niger, Somalia, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The second round saw humanitarian agencies in 11 countries receive \$55 million, including Algeria, Central African Republic, Chad, DPRK, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya and Zimbabwe.



In Chad, more than 600,000 people will benefit from nearly \$5.5 million provided in the second underfunded emergency round to support humanitarian agencies working in the country.

Thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are in need of humanitarian support throughout Chad. Ongoing violence and insecurity in the region has displaced people within the borders and caused a massive influx of refugees from neighbouring Sudan and the Central African Republic. Recent needs assessments have shown deteriorating circumstances, such as increasing rates of acute malnutrition. Several sectors in the 2009 humanitarian appeal for Chad remain underfunded, including nutrition, agriculture and health.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) received \$1.9 million to enable nutritional, health and educational support for IDP and host populations and to provide protection activities for 10,000 children affected by the conflict. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was given \$500,000 to supply emergency farming inputs to vulnerable households in eastern and southern Chad. Some \$700,000 will assist the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide life-saving reproductive health interventions for more than 620,000 affected persons. Another \$1.4 million will enable the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to provide shelter, non-food items, and critical services to 65,000 Central African refugees in the south and 180,000 IDPs in the east. The World Food Programme (WFP) has received \$350,000 to enable Humanitarian Air Services to continue providing safe and economic transport for the entire humanitarian community. Nearly \$600,000 will support the World



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A refugee family outside their tent in Farchana camp

Health Organization (WHO) to provide essential drugs to health centres, to carry out emergency surgery for refugees, IDPs and host populations, and to address acute malnutrition for more than 100,000 people.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator briefs Member States on the use of the Fund

The United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) briefed more than 32 Member States and contributors on the use of CERF on 11 September at the UN Headquarters in New York. The ERC provided an update on recent allocations, explained steps that were being taken to improve CERF, and appealed to Member States to continue to support the Fund.

The ERC noted his appreciation of the \$1.5 billion that has been contributed to CERF since 2006. He also reported that nearly \$1.3 billion had been allocated to support emergency response since the inception of the Fund. The ERC provided an overview of the Fund’s activities in 2009, citing CERF-funded projects in Yemen, Kenya, and Pakistan. The ERC ended the briefing with an update on how CERF is working to improve its operations by developing a Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) and re-evaluating CERF’s reporting process.

The ERC periodically offers briefings for all Member States on the Fund in New York and Geneva. These updates aim to provide transparency and accountability of the funds allocated through CERF to humanitarian agencies. The next update for all Member States will be held at the High-Level Conference on 8 and 9 December in New York.

See next month’s newsletter for updates on CERF’s work following the recent emergencies in Asia and the Pacific.

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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

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Mr. Steve O’Malley (CERF Secretariat): omalley@un.org
Ms. Shoko Arakaki (External Relations and Partnerships Section): arakaki@un.org