



\$380 MILLION PLEDGED FOR 2009 AT HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

Member States, led by the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, met in New York on 4 December 2008 at the CERF high-level pledging conference to renew their commitment to the Fund. Despite the gloomy world economic outlook, nearly \$380 million was raised by the end of the day.



The Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon and the ERC, Mr. John Holmes during the high-level conference in December 2008.

Ten new supporters joined the CERF: Afghanistan, Benin, Kenya, Laos, Mozambique, Oman, St. Lucia, Samoa, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Dominica, Gabon and Myanmar have confirmed that they will also become new contributors to the Fund in 2009. Since the Fund's inception, 104 governments have contributed to the CERF, more than half of the members of the General Assembly. Interestingly, 22 have both contributed to and received assistance from the CERF, demonstrating the "for all, by all" nature of the Fund.

Table 1: New CERF contributors for 2009

Country	Contribution
Afghanistan	\$ 1,440
Benin	\$ 1,500
Kenya	\$ 10,000
Laos	\$ 3,000
Mozambique	\$ 2,000
Oman	\$ 30,000
St Lucia	\$ 1,000
Samoa	\$ 2,000
Timor-Leste	\$ 1,200
Viet Nam	\$ 10,000

Eighteen countries, Albania, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Montenegro, Philippines and Sweden, have so far increased their contributions (in their own currencies) to CERF for 2009.

"Despite the very difficult economic climate, there was considerable generosity from donors, many of whom increased their contributions significantly in their national currencies," CERF Secretariat Chief Steve O'Malley said. "As in previous years, we expect additional contributions throughout the year to allow us to reach our annual goal of \$450 million, as we did in 2008."

The top ten donors account for more than 80 percent of total contributions received since the inception of the Fund. In 2009, efforts will continue to expand and deepen the CERF donor base, including tapping into more private sector funding.

Table 2: Top ten contributors for 2009¹

Country	Contribution
United Kingdom	\$ 61,444,000
Sweden	\$ 53,380,000
Netherlands	\$ 51,812,000
Norway	\$ 42,979,943
Spain	\$ 38,860,104
Canada	\$ 31,850,960
Ireland	\$ 25,906,000
Germany	\$ 19,429,500
Denmark	\$ 8,688,000
Australia	\$ 7,782,000

\$450 MILLION FUNDRAISING GOAL MET FOR 2008

In 2008, 80 Member States, the Holy See and seven private organizations committed more than \$452.5 million to CERF, allowing the Fund to exceed its annual goal of \$450 million.

The largest contributions came from the United Kingdom (\$80 million), the Netherlands (\$64 million), Sweden (\$56 million), Norway (\$55 million) and Spain (\$44 million). The largest private contributor was the professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (\$500,000).

¹ As at 31 December 2008. Exchange rate used is the average UN rate for the month of December 2008.



FIRST UNDERFUNDED ROUND KICKS OFF

The planning process for the first CERF underfunded round of 2009 has started. Due to concerns about the effect of continued exchange rate fluctuations on donor contributions, a conservative planning figure of \$120 million for the underfunded window is being used for the time being. Of this, approximately \$70 million will be allocated in the first round and \$50 million in the second round.

Since many protracted crises and countries affected by the food crisis have recently received large allocations from the CERF rapid response window, particular attention will be paid to countries that have not received significant CERF funds late in 2008, bearing in mind that allocations should be based on need.

The final decision will be made by the ERC and announced on 6 February 2009.

CERF IN 2008

Overall, in 2008 CERF proved to be an effective tool to kick-start humanitarian funding in the face of sudden emergencies as well as a dependable source of assistance for underfunded emergencies. More than \$426.7 million was allocated to 55 countries: some \$298 million for rapid response to 53 countries and over \$128.3 million for underfunded emergencies to 20 countries.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo received the most assistance from CERF, with over \$41 million in funding, with Ethiopia (\$31.5 million), Myanmar (\$28.4 million), Kenya (\$25.9 million), Pakistan (\$18.7 million) and Afghanistan (\$18.2 million) also receiving considerable support.

Thirteen UN entities and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) received funding from CERF for their relief activities. With over \$163 million, the World Food Programme (WFP) received the most, followed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF - \$100 million), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR - \$45.9 million) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO - \$41 million).

In 2008, CERF disbursed 20 percent more than last year mainly due to an increase in available funds. Donor contributions to CERF increased by approximately 16 percent from 2007 allowing CERF to provide significantly more funding to humanitarian emergencies in 2008.

CERF PROVIDING NORMALCY FOR DISPLACED SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SRI LANKA

A recent escalation of violence between Sri Lankan 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. Over 200,000 people have been displaced due to the fighting.

As part of the international community's overall relief effort in the country, CERF allocated \$700,000 in November 2008 to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help school children affected by conflict. While shelter, food, water and sanitation are critical, education facilities need to be urgently re-established.

A structured learning environment provides much needed stability for children and families caught up in the turmoil of conflict, ensures a protective environment for children, and prevents children from dropping out of school, thereby offsetting the lifelong personal and social negative consequences of lack of education.



CERF funding is helping to support education programmes for over 30,000 displaced students affected by conflict. © Brennon Jones/IRIN

Together with the Ministry of Education, the international NGO Save the Children, and a local NGO, Sewalanka Foundation, UNICEF is ensuring access to school and quality education services for displaced students in the conflict-affected Vanni area in the north of the country. Recent displacement of approximately 100,000 people includes over 30,000 school children from 154 schools.

Programme activities include the emergency construction and repair of temporary learning spaces; the distribution of school supplies; establishment of school-level first aid teams; school feeding; and the payment of teacher's incentives.



Regular monitoring will ensure that all affected children are enrolled and regularly attend school. The programme seeks to reach over 30,000 school children from the ages of 3 to 18.

COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER 2008

In December, CERF allocated over \$9.3 million for relief activities in five crisis-affected countries.

Haiti

CERF grants of over \$2.3 million will allow WFP to continue emergency food relief operations in Haiti to feed hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people. In a period of just three weeks, starting 26 August, Haiti was hit by an unprecedented sequence of hurricanes and tropical storms that led to widespread flooding. Additional assistance is required in order to maintain the pace of the current distribution, reinforce supplementary feeding for the most affected population, and stem malnutrition.

Kenya

Kenya hosts over 300,000 refugees mainly, from Somalia and Sudan. Continued insecurity in Somalia has forced additional tens of thousands to seek refuge in Kenya. CERF has provided WFP and UNHCR with \$4.5 million to deal with the increasing caseload of refugees as part of their overall emergency relief assistance programme. Funding will ensure that 67,000 new arrivals will receive adequate food, healthcare, shelter, sanitation and education into 2009.

Kyrgyzstan

Soaring food and fuel prices have limited people's ability to purchase basic food and decreased their food security. In response, CERF has allocated nearly \$2 million to four UN agencies to help vulnerable people during upcoming winter in Kyrgyzstan.

WFP is helping nearly 600,000 people receive urgent food supplies over the winter months using \$1.3 million from CERF. UNHCR has received \$110,000 from CERF to provide food rations to 1,000 asylum seekers and refugees in Kyrgyzstan.

FAO is utilizing a \$400,000 CERF grant to provide support to 4,500 farmers in Kyrgyzstan who require feed for the animals they rely on for their livelihoods.



Temporary tent shelters for families in Kyrgyzstan.
© AKIpress/2008/Osokin

A CERF grant of \$109,000 is allowing the UNICEF to house over 400 homeless children in shelters while also improving housing conditions.

Nepal

Flooding in 2008 displaced tens of thousands in Nepal. Protection concerns continue in resettlement camps, especially for adolescent girls and women. CERF will provide \$40,000 to the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for its human rights monitoring programme for some 50,000 IDPs. OHCHR will monitor human rights issues, including violence and gender discrimination, in and around camps and resettlement areas. This will help reduce human rights violations and address immediate protection concerns.

Yemen

More than 70 percent of the rural population in Yemen depends on agriculture. Soaring food prices increases the urgency of the need to boost cereal production in the country to help reduce food insecurity. FAO's programmes in Yemen have been seeking to boost agricultural production by small-scale farmers in vulnerable areas. A CERF grant of nearly \$500,000 will help FAO reach some 15,000 of the most destitute and needy farmers and their communities.

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