

Good afternoon and welcome to our Member States briefing on CERF for 2012.

I want to give you an overview of how CERF has been used this year. I will also focus on some of the lessons learned from our country reviews and I will brief you on progress with the management response plan that was developed in response to the Five-Year Evaluation.

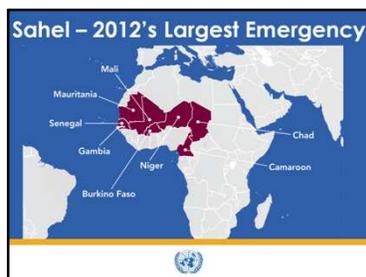


I want to begin with Syria. As the Government of Syria and elements of the armed opposition continued to engage in violent confrontation, humanitarian needs have grown by the day. As the crisis deteriorates, internal displacement continues, as does the number of people fleeing to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey.

We have been very proactive in using CERF to respond to the UN's response, and we have given new allocations at key moments in the crisis. Overall, CERF has given more than \$49 million to Syria and the region since the crisis began in 2011. In 2012 alone, UN agencies and IOM in Syria have received more than \$36 million in CERF funds. You will find the breakdown in your folders.

In Turkey, I allocated a total of \$2 million to provide refugees with shelter, non-food items, and schooling and psychosocial support to affected children. Humanitarian agencies in Lebanon, received almost \$3 million to help incoming refugees, while CERF gave \$4 million to five UN agencies and IOM to meet refugees' needs in Jordan.

CERF has delivered on its mandate: it responded quickly and generously, it kick-started emergency operations in every country affected by the Syrian crisis. Last week, a revised Syrian Response Plan was released in Geneva UN agencies and IOM increased their appeal for Syria - from \$180 million to \$347 million - to scale up their assistance to reach an estimated 2.5 million people. Today, I appeal to Member States to complement CERF's efforts by increasing your financial support to the revised Response Plan and to support assistance to refugees in neighbouring countries.



Severe food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel have presented CERF and the humanitarian community with one of the biggest challenges in 2012. I visited the region twice this year and saw the effects for myself. More than 18 million people in nine countries face food insecurity, and 1 million children under age 5 are at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition. Successive droughts, combined with conflict and displacement, have only exacerbated the crisis.

The CERF secretariat has been working closely with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Humanitarian Country Teams to support the response. Since the start of the crisis, CERF has allocated nearly \$92 million, or nearly 24 per cent of CERF funds allocated in 2012, to countries in the Sahel to tackle food insecurity and nutrition needs, address displacement and prevent disease outbreaks.

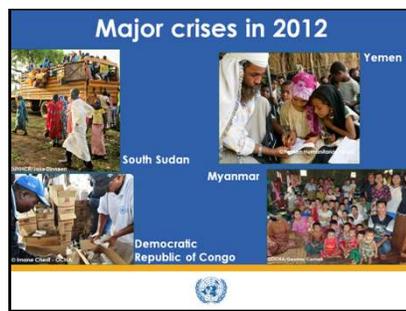
At the same time, the conflict in Mali is having serious effects inside and outside Mali. Almost 50,000 households have fled the country and some 146,000 Malians have been internally displaced. I have just returned from Mali and am particularly concerned about the 4.6 million Malians – one in five Malians - who are at risk of food insecurity. I have allocated \$6 million to humanitarian agencies in Mali to deal with food insecurity.

I have also allocated \$20 million to assist internally displaced Malians within their home country, as well as those who have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. In order to help the Malian refugees, humanitarian partners in Mauritania received \$5.5 million, while partners in Burkina Faso have received \$4 million and Niger \$5 million. I have also allocated \$5 million for IDPs in Mali.

CERF grants are being used to address urgent needs such as food, water and sanitation, shelter, protection, health – including reproductive health – and emergency education. CERF has also provided \$3 million in grants to UN Humanitarian Air Service in Mauritania, Mali and Niger to facilitate access to isolated and remote areas and reduce delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to remote regions.

The feedback on the use of CERF from the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Teams has been very positive. They indicated that our early and

sustained responses were essential in speeding up the response to the crisis.



Overall, CERF allocations are considerably higher than in previous years. As of 13 September, I have allocated nearly \$389 million through the rapid response and underfunded emergencies windows, which is a 19 per cent increase in allocations compared to this point last year. Funding for rapid response emergencies have increased by 17 per cent over last year.

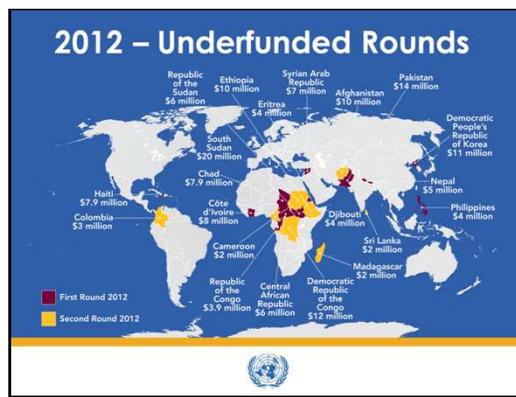
Let me highlight some of the key allocations:

- CERF provided critical support for humanitarian operations in South Sudan. Humanitarian agencies in South Sudan have received more than \$40 million, making them the largest recipients of CERF funds so far this year.
- Yemen is the fourth largest recipient of CERF support, receiving more than \$23.4 million in rapid response funding this year to enable humanitarian partners to respond to a measles' outbreak and to provide life-saving shelter, nutrition, psychosocial and WASH assistance to internally displaced people and children affected by the conflict.
- In response to the intercommunal conflict in the Rakhine State and displacement in Kachin and Northern Shan States, CERF provided approximately \$11.4 million to humanitarian agencies in Myanmar to provide emergency food assistance, treat severe malnutrition and address health needs of internally displaced people.
- Cholera outbreaks have been prevalent this year, and I allocated more than \$13.4 million to five countries. DRC was the biggest recipient with more than \$9 million. In West Africa, I allocated nearly \$6 million to support the cholera response in Guinea, Cote d' Ivoire, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Niger.

So far this year, the main sectors supported by CERF are food - nearly \$100 million; health - \$56 million and water and sanitation - \$44 million. CERF has increased its support to support all three sectors as compared to 2011. This increase primarily reflects complex emergencies in Syria, Yemen and Mali and incidences of drought, floods and cholera in the Sahel and West Africa.

In 2012, CERF has supported 14 UN agencies and IOM. CERF ranks as one of the largest humanitarian contributors to IOM, UNICEF and UNHCR and as one of the top 10 contributors to WFP. WFP and UNICEF continue to be the two largest CERF recipients and are followed by UNHCR, which has seen its CERF funding increase 5 per cent from 2011 to 2012 because of refugee crises and population displacement in the Sahel, South Sudan, and Syria. WHO and FAO are the fourth and fifth largest CERF recipients this year. The top five agencies have received more than 90 per cent of all allocations.

However, smaller agencies also received CERF funds. I allocated more than \$193,000 to UN Women in Mali for health and protection projects. OHCHR received \$85,000 for a protection project in Mauritania.

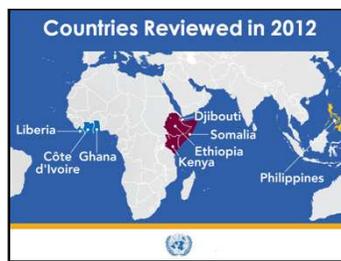


This year, CERF frontloaded nearly \$104 million in the first Underfunded Round so that humanitarian partners in 13 underfunded crises could move ahead with implementing their 2012 activities. In August, I allocated \$55 million in the second Underfunded Round to strengthen humanitarian operations in eight countries with neglected humanitarian emergencies.

You can see the countries that have received funding this year and their allocations on the map which we distributed.

Our decision to frontload this year's first Underfunded Round should help reduce the number of projects with overlapping implementation periods and budgets, and simplify reporting on the use of CERF. It will also result in higher allocations to individual countries than in previous rounds.

In order to follow up on a recommendation from the Five-Year Evaluation, the CERF secretariat has commissioned an independent consultant to review the underfunded emergency process. The review will be finalized by October. Its recommendations will inform the first round of the 2013 underfunded emergency allocations. Preliminary findings indicate that the country-selection process for the Underfunded Window is sound and no major revisions are proposed. However, the draft report recommends exploring opportunities for engaging additional stakeholders in the country-selection process and for improving communication within UN agencies around the underfunded process.



The independent CERF country reviews under the Performance and Accountability Framework are important and useful tools for CERF. They help us to assess the added value of CERF and to explore key operational aspects.

This year, we did the PAF country reviews slightly differently and conducted two regional reviews. With an additional standard single country review, we covered eight countries in 2012. This complements the eight country reviews done in 2010 and 2011.

In 2011, CERF allocated \$128 million to the drought response in the Horn of Africa, close to a third of all CERF funding allocated in 2011. Based on discussions with the CERF Advisory Group, it was decided that a regional PAF review would be useful to measure the CERF's added value to the response and inform future CERF responses to similar crises. Two independent consultants undertook missions to Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti and will conclude their work by the end of this month.

We have so far received draft reports for the Ethiopia and Djibouti country reviews. Preliminary findings conclude that CERF plays an important role in Ethiopia because it adds value in terms of absolute availability of resources and for filling time-critical gaps. The Ethiopia review also found that CERF was particularly important for the drought response in 2011 through its timely support for key pipelines and underfunded sector. For Djibouti, CERF was the largest humanitarian donor in 2011 and as such was found to play a critical role in underpinning the drought response.

The preliminary findings also identify a potential for improved regional coordination in relation to CERF allocations, and we expect that the final report will provide some concrete recommendations in this respect.

In addition, a Performance and Accountability Review was conducted to look at the response to the needs of internally displaced people and refugees resulting from the events in Cote d'Ivoire in early 2011. The review included visits to Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Ghana. The review found that CERF played an essential role in enabling agencies to strengthen their capacities and quickly scale up the humanitarian response across a range of sectors, in an environment characterized by low funding levels.

The single country review was undertaken in the Philippines, which CERF had supported through a mix of rapid response and underfunded emergency allocations. The report found that CERF had added value to the response by:

- Providing timely and flexible funding for emergency response.
- Enabling agencies to leverage other funding.
- Filling critical gaps and supporting coordination at Humanitarian Country Team level.

All of the reviews will be finalized by the end of September and be posted on the CERF website.



I want to briefly discuss the Management Response Plan that was developed in response to the Five-Year Evaluation and our progress since we last met. We have made progress on many of the follow-up actions, but I want to specifically highlight seven points.

The Five-Year Evaluation recommended strengthening CERF's monitoring and learning systems at country level and CERF has implemented a number of initiatives in response to this recommendation.

- We revised the template for the annual narrative reports on Humanitarian Country Teams' use of CERF funds and the accompanying guidelines. This year, the quality significantly improved and more reports were submitted on time as compared to previous years. By the end of June all the reports were finalised and posted on line.
- The key issue for all of us is the pace of disbursements from UN agencies to implementing partners. I am happy to report that the level of reporting on sub-grants to implementing partners by CERF recipient agencies has improved significantly with the introduction of the new reporting format and the increased outreach. Details on more than 800 sub-grants were reported in Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator's country reports submitted in 2012, up from less than 120 in 2011. This has allowed us to analyze in more detail the amounts and the timing of CERF funded sub-grants to implementing partners. It has also provided us with more information on the linkages between disbursement times and timeliness of the implementation of activities, and confirmed that activities by implementing partners are often started before funds are received from CERF recipient agencies. We are continuing our discussions with agency headquarters to better understand the role of NGO partners in implementing CERF activities, and to explore what can be done to make CERF even more effective. We also had a very useful discussion in May between the IASC partners and the CERF Advisory Group which reiterated the UN agencies and IOM commitment to improve in this area.
- To improve peer discussions and joint learning amongst country level stakeholders, CERF will soon a formal *After Action Review* process in a number of CERF recipient countries. The *After Action Reviews* are meant to strengthen CERF processes at country level by providing Resident /Humanitarian Coordinators with a tool to improve joint learning, increase accountability and inform better reporting. Based on lessons learnt from the pilots, CERF expects to roll-out the *After Action Reviews* as a standard part of the CERF cycle at country

level.

Update on the MRP

- CERF Loan Reduced
- Shared evaluations of CERF recipient agencies
- Synergy between the pooled funds
- Review of the Performance and Accountability Framework



- The CERF loan window has been revised. The General Assembly adopted a resolution to reduce the loan element to \$30 million and \$46.4 million was transferred from the loan element to the grant element as a result. This has been very important given our extensive activities so far this year.
- The CERF secretariat is working with CERF recipient agencies to increase evaluations of CERF-funded activities. IOM is evaluating its CERF-funded interventions this year, and WFP plans to include the role of CERF funds in a broader evaluation in 2013.
- The Five-Year Evaluation recommended to strengthen synergies between CERF and country-based pooled funds, such as the Emergency Response Funds and Common Humanitarian Funds. This has been a priority for us for some time and CERF has concluded a mapping exercise to establish current practices. We will use this information to prepare improved guidance for Humanitarian Coordinators and pooled fund managers.
- Next month, an independent consultant will begin to review the Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) and will take stock of two years' worth of experiences implementing the PAF. The goal of the review is to determine what, if any, changes to the framework are required.



As many of you will remember, 2011 was a remarkable year for fundraising for CERF and Member States contributed more than \$459 million. To date in 2012, CERF has raised more than \$384 million in pledges and contributions. More than 60 per cent of the pledges for 2012 were turned into contributions by the end of the first quarter, giving us the funds we needed to respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies right from the beginning of the year.

We still have a long way to go to reach the \$450 million target mandated by the General Assembly. However, we still are expecting contributions from several Member States and expect to come close to the target by the end of the year.

We are reviewing our resource mobilization strategy to broaden support among Member States. We are also encouraging Member States to increase their annual contribution levels and to enter into multi-year commitments. We believe these strategies will help to sustain CERF's funding level.

We have done a tremendous job of allocating money where it is most needed, successfully accomplishing what Member States and donors have entrusted us to do. Ultimately, our performance will determine if donor support can be maintained.



Before I conclude, I would like to congratulate and extend a warm welcome to the new members of the CERF Advisory Group. We received more than 30 high calibre nominations and the competition was exceptionally tough this year. It was important to the Secretary-General to ensure greater gender balance while maintaining a strong geographic balance, and a healthy donor and recipient balance.

Last week, the Secretary-General announced seven new members to serve in their individual capacity for a three-year term. They are

- Ms. Catherine Walker from Australia
- Mr. Wenliang Yao from China
- Ms. Nancy Butijer from Croatia
- Mr. Mathewos Hunde from Ethiopia
- Ms. Yuka Osa from Japan
- Ms. Susan Eckey from Norway and
- Ms. Susanna Moorehead from the UK.

I look forward to meeting them all at our next Advisory Group meeting in Geneva on 30 and 31 October and working with them to make sure we continue to strengthen and improve CERF.

I will be happy to take any questions you may have.