United Nations

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

CERF ACTIVITIES in 2012

Boys queue to fill jerrycans and other containers with water, in Aleppo, Syria. ©UNICEF

Analysis of CERF activities in 2012

2012 marked the seventh year of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and was punctuated by a number of highlights. The Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, allocated more than US$477 million to 49 countries and territories. This included nearly $320 million through the Rapid Response window.

This $477 million is the highest amount CERF has ever allocated in a calendar year and included life-saving funding for operations in the Sahel, the Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries, as well as countries affected by Hurricane Sandy. CERF Rapid Response funding was key to jump-starting these and other sudden-onset emergencies. CERF also provided vital funding to underfunded, chronic crises. From Cote d' Ivoire to Nepal to Pakistan to Colombia, CERF support helped ensure activities successfully continued with limited pipeline breaks and logistical constraints.

2012 also saw CERF make continuous improvement in refining its work, including through the implementation of the Management Response Plan for the Five-Year Evaluation. Notable achievements included improved reporting on grants and sub-grants and several regional and country reviews, among other things.

Despite the global financial crisis, CERF received $425 million in pledges and contributions in 2012. Financial support was provided by 70 Member States and Observers, making this the fourth-highest year in terms of funding. The UN Controller transferred $46.4 million from the CERF loan window to the grant window in 2012 following the adoption of Resolution A/RES/66/119 "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations" by the General Assembly on 8 December 2011. This provided CERF with greater funding at the beginning of 2012 to assist the early, critical phases of emergency responses.

Funding by Country

CERF provided support in 49 countries in 2012. The ten largest recipients were South Sudan, Pakistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Yemen, Sudan, Myanmar, Burkina Faso and Chad.

CERF assistance to emergency crises in the Sahel and South Sudan was crucial to ensuring the lives of millions. In the Sahel, CERF provided a total of $100 million to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. And for South Sudan, CERF approved funds totalling $40 million.

Country	US$ millions	%
South Sudan	40.0	8.4%
Pakistan	36.7	7.7%
Syrian Arab Republic	36.5	7.6%

Country	US$ millions	%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	31.5	6.6%
Niger	24.6	5.2%
Yemen	23.5	4.9%
Sudan	20.2	4.2%
Myanmar	16.7	3.5%
Burkina Faso	14.9	3.1%
Chad	14.8	3.1%
Ethiopia	14.0	2.9%
Mali	14.0	2.9%
Philippines	13.0	2.7%
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	12.9	2.7%
Haiti	11.9	2.5%
Congo	10.9	2.3%
Cameroon	10.8	2.3%
Afghanistan	10.0	2.1%
Côte d'Ivoire	9.5	2%
Mauritania	9.0	1.9%
Central African Republic	8.0	1.7%
Eritrea	7.3	1.5%
Senegal	6.9	1.5%
Uganda	6.9	1.4%
Lesotho	6.2	1.3%

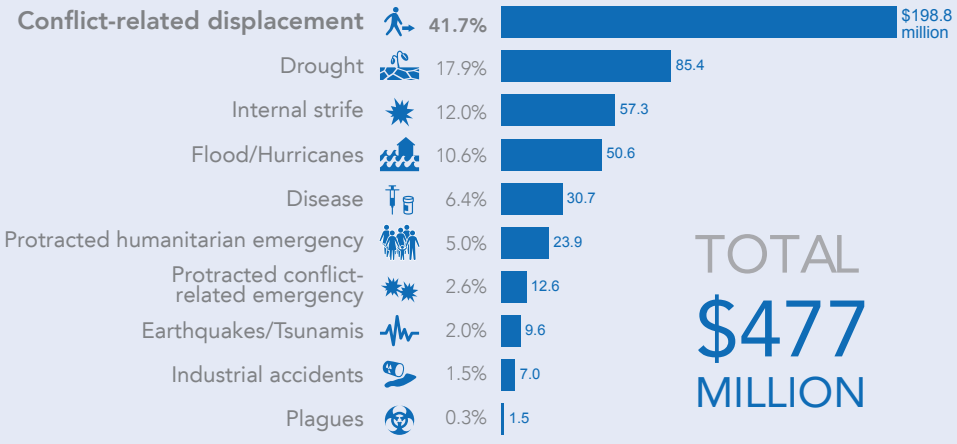
Country	US$ millions	%
Cuba	5.5	1.2%
Angola	5.1	1.1%
Nepal	5.0	1.1%
Gambia	4.8	1.0%
Colombia	4.1	0.9%
Djibouti	4.0	0.8%
Jordan	4.0	0.8%
Rwanda	3.1	0.6%
Lebanon	3.0	0.6%
Paraguay	2.6	0.5%
Iraq	2.6	0.5%
Comoros	2.5	0.5%
Sierra Leone	2.5	0.5%
Peru	2.2	0.5%
Turkey	2.1	0.4%
Zimbabwe	2.0	0.4%
Kenya	2.0	0.4%
Madagascar	2.0	0.4%
Sri Lanka	2.0	0.4%
Burundi	2.0	0.4%
Guatemala	1.7	0.4%
Guinea	1.1	0.2%
Togo	0.7	0.1%
Ghana	0.3	0.1%

Funding by Emergency Type

In 2012, CERF was hugely important to jump-starting operations in Sahel and the Syrian Arab Republic and its surrounding neighbours. The CERF secretariat worked closely with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator and the UN Humanitarian Country Team to support the Sahel response. In 2012, CERF allocated $100 million, or 21 per cent of CERF funds, to countries in the Sahel to address food insecurity and nutrition needs, displacement and prevent disease outbreaks.

In 2012, CERF approved funds totalling $49 million to UN agencies and IOM in the Syrian Arab Republic and the region. In the Syrian Arab Republic, these agencies received more than $36 million in CERF funds, and a further $13 million went to support Syrians in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

In 2012, conflict-related displacement accounted for the greatest percentage (42 per cent) of CERF allocations, totalling $199 million. The Syrian Arab Republic was the largest recipient in this category. Allocations to droughts totalled $85 million (18 per cent) and were the second-highest category. Internal strife was the third-largest category, with $57 million allocated (12 per cent).

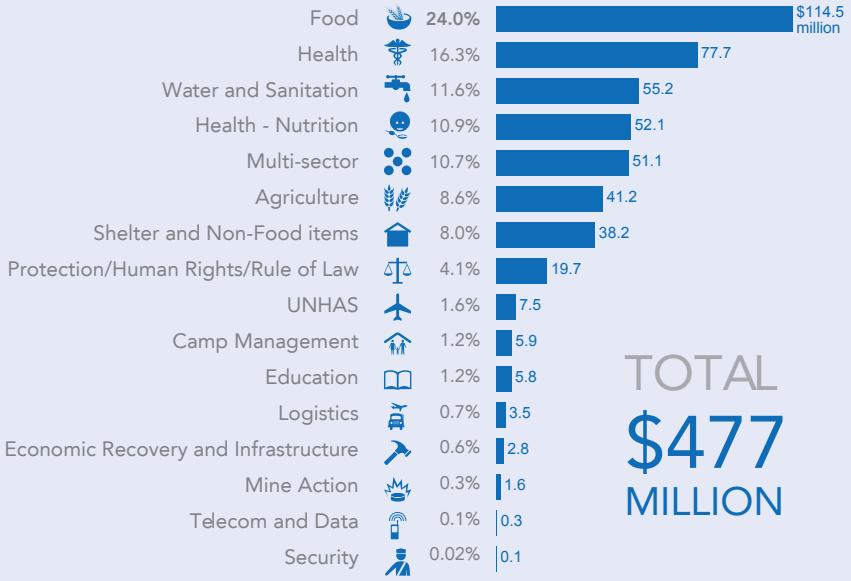


TOTAL
$477
MILLION

Funding by Sector

The food, health, and water and sanitation sectors continued to be among the most highly-funded sectors in 2012, receiving approximately $247 million, or nearly 52 per cent, of the $477 million CERF allocated.

The year was characterized by a significant increase in the health, and water and sanitation sectors as compared to 2011. This increase was attributed to humanitarian responses for the Syrian Arab Republic conflict, and for cholera and other diseases in West and Central Africa.



TOTAL
$477
MILLION

Rapid Response Emergencies

In 2012, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved nearly $320 million from CERF's Rapid Response window for 44 countries. The largest recipients were the Syrian Arab Republic, Niger, Yemen, Pakistan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Burkina Faso, Mali and Philippines.

This amount was the highest absolute amount CERF has ever allocated through the Rapid Response window, eclipsing the previous record of $300 million that was allocated in 2008. These significant increases were primarily driven by the needs in the Sahel, the Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen.

Recipient Countries	Amount Approved US$	% of total allocated funds
Syrian Arab Republic	29,493,103	9.2
Niger	24,609,716	7.7
Yemen	23,460,436	7.4
Pakistan	21,891,110	6.9
South Sudan	20,027,456	6.2
Democratic Republic of the Congo	19,715,742	6.3
Myanmar	16,651,567	5.2
Burkina Faso	14,869,587	4.7
Mali	13,954,347	4.4
Philippines	9,055,295	2.8
Mauritania	8,965,820	2.8
Cameroon	8,802,092	2.8
Congo	6,997,499	2.2
Senegal	6,932,070	2.2
Uganda	6,887,544	2.2
Chad	6,849,586	2.1
Lesotho	6,220,011	1.9
Sudan	6,163,967	1.9
Cuba	5,522,753	1.7
Angola	5,102,132	1.6
Gambia	4,834,117	1.5
Ethiopia	4,072,334	1.3
Jordan	3,994,809	1.3
Haiti	3,947,974	1.2
Eritrea	3,291,599	1.0
Rwanda	3,077,082	1.0
Lebanon	2,978,910	0.9
Paraguay	2,577,014	0.8
Iraq	2,567,704	0.8
Comoros	2,522,639	0.8
Sierra Leone	2,461,235	0.8
Peru	2,221,613	0.7
Turkey	2,086,822	0.7
Zimbabwe	2,006,304	0.6
Kenya	2,000,830	0.6
Central African Republic	1,993,713	0.6
Burundi	1,986,269	0.6
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1,955,140	0.6
Guatemala	1,654,130	0.5
Côte d'Ivoire	1,526,060	0.5
Guinea	1,126,380	0.4
Colombia	1,093,884	0.3
Togo	686,120	0.2
Ghana	312,440	0.1
Total	319,146,955	100%

Women and children sitting at Atme camp in Syria. ©IRIN

Underfunded Emergencies

In 2012, the two rounds of the Underfunded Emergency window allocated nearly $158 million. This amount is an increase of nearly $15 million as compared to the Underfunded allocations in 2011.

The first round in January allocated approximately $104 million, a significant increase as compared to the same period in 2011 when $83 million was allocated in an effort to front load. Thirteen neglected humanitarian emergencies received support in the 2012 first round: Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d' Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Eritrea, Haiti, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Congo, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. This first round allocation was particularly beneficial to IDP responses in Haiti.

The second Underfunded round in July allocated $55 million from the Fund to humanitarian operations in eight emergencies. This allocation was especially crucial to support responses in Madagascar for food insecurity that was compounded by natural disasters.

UNDERFUNDED ROUND 1 2012			UNDERFUNDED ROUND 2 2012		
Recipient Countries	Amount Approved US$	% of total allocated funds	Recipient Countries	Amount Approved US$	% of total allocated funds
South Sudan	20,016,635	19.3	Sudan	13,994,482	13.5
Pakistan	14,845,730	14.3	Democratic Republic of the Congo	11,770,546	11.4
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	10,965,527	10.6	Afghanistan	9,995,396	9.7
Côte d'Ivoire	7,958,195	7.7	Ethiopia	9,912,447	9.6
Haiti	7,949,515	7.7	Colombia	2,990,259	2.9
Chad	7,931,609	7.7	Madagascar	1,999,893	1.9
Syrian Arab Republic	6,983,629	6.7	Cameroon	1,997,430	1.9
Central African Republic	5,997,499	5.8	Sri Lanka	1,994,899	1.9
Nepal	4,997,385	4.8			
Djibouti	4,019,325	3.9			
Eritrea	3,998,941	3.9			
Philippines	3,955,432	3.8			
Congo	3,920,678	3.8			
Total	103,540,100	100%	Total	54,655,352	100%

Donors in 2012

In 2012, two Member States became first-time donors to CERF: Niger and Uruguay. Equipped with the generous support of 75 Member States and other donors, CERF received $425 million in pledges and contributions. As in 2011, more than 60 per cent of pledges were turned into contributions by the end of the first quarter, giving the secretariat the funds needed to respond to emergencies at the beginning of 2012.

Pledges and Contributions in US$

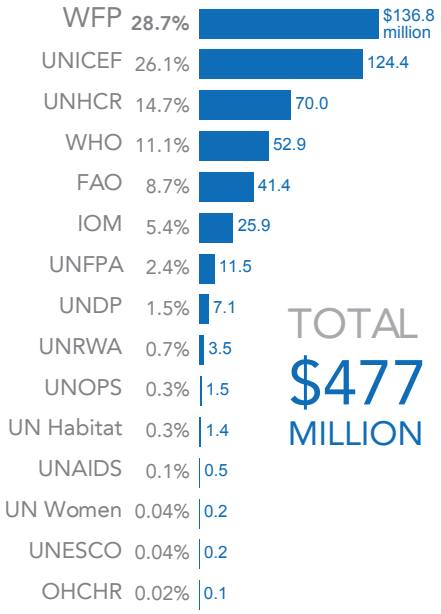
	Donors	US$
MEMBER STATES AND OBSERVERS		
1	United Kingdom	95,148,000
2	Norway	73,752,935
3	Sweden	72,132,873
4	Netherlands	52,484,000
5	Denmark	22,913,832
6	Belgium	19,430,052
7	Germany	19,402,500
8	Australia	16,272,000
9	Finland	8,517,600
10	Switzerland	5,951,684
11	Luxembourg	5,577,689
12	Ireland	5,160,772
13	United States of America	5,000,000
14	Republic of Korea	4,000,000
15	Qatar	3,000,000
16	Japan	2,700,000
17	Spain	2,608,200
18	Russian Federation	2,000,000
19	New Zealand	1,679,375
20	Kuwait	1,000,000
21	Brazil	750,000
22	Italy	645,900
23	China	500,000
24	India	500,000
25	France	392,670
26	Mexico	300,000
27	Liechtenstein	272,747
28	Poland	264,200
29	Austria	262,080
30	Portugal	253,520
31	South Africa	43,457
32	Indonesia	200,000
33	Turkey	200,000
34	Saudi Arabia	150,000
35	Czech Republic	125,120
36	Estonia	100,185
37	Colombia	100,000
38	Romania	92,461
39	Argentina	68,000
40	Monaco	64,714
41	Albania	50,000
42	Iceland	50,000
43	Malaysia	50,000
44	Singapore	50,000
45	United Arab Emirates	50,000
46	Kazakhstan	49,970
47	Chile	30,000
48	San Marino	26,525
49	Andorra	26,316
50	Israel	20,000
51	Thailand	20,000
52	Egypt	15,000
53	Ghana	15,000
54	Lithuania	10,000
55	Myanmar	10,000
56	Niger	10,000
57	Pakistan	10,000
58	Sri Lanka	10,000
59	Viet Nam	10,000
60	Armenia	5,000
61	Sovereign Military Order of Malta	5,000
62	Montenegro	5,000
63	Peru	5,000
64	Uruguay	5,000
65	Kenya	3,000
66	Guyana	2,196
67	Benin	2,000
68	Republic of Moldova	2,000
69	Mozambique	2,000
70	Serbia	2,000
71	Tajikistan	2,000
72	Bhutan	1,500
73	Afghanistan	1,000
74	Djibouti	1,000
75	Saint Lucia	500

	Donors	US$
REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES		
1	Regional Government of Flanders	380,940
PRIVATE DONORS AND CIVIL SOCIETY		
1	Western Union Foundation	150,000
2	Private Donations through UNF	36,586
3	Baha'I International Community (National Spiritual Assembly)	20,000
4	Women's International Forum	5,000
	TOTAL (as of 31 January 2013)	425,366,099

Agency Funding

Fifteen agencies received support from CERF in 2012. The top recipients remained the same as 2011: WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR. The three, combined, receive $331 million or nearly 69 per cent of all CERF funding in 2012. This represents an increase of nearly $45 million as compared to 2011.

There was a significant funding increase for UNRWA, which nearly quadrupled its 2011 funding levels due to the Syria crisis. UNHCR and WHO, respectively, experienced higher funding due to CERF's increased support to displacement and disease-related emergencies such as Ebola, cholera and yellow fever.



A girl in Koloma IDP camp in Goz Beida, Eastern Chad. ©OCHA

CERF Policy

CERF remained focused on continuous improvement in 2012, including through the implementation of the Management Response Plan for the Five-Year Evaluation. The Secretariat made significant efforts to increase the pace of disbursements from UN agencies to implementing partners. CERF saw improvement in the level of grant and sub-grant reporting, using this information to work closely with UN agency headquarters to maximize the efficiency of the CERF process and ensure assistance reaches affected people as soon as possible.

CERF completed a review of the Underfunded Window, which recognised CERF for its sound selection process. CERF began putting into place the recommendations in the first round of 2013. Similarly, CERF completed two regional reviews and one country review under the Fund's Performance and Accountability Framework. The reviews indicated that CERF had added valued to the humanitarian response by increasing the availability of resources and filling time-critical gaps and by enabling agencies to quickly scale-up their humanitarian responses. These reviews are available on the CERF website.

The CERF Advisory Group met twice in 2012. During those meetings, the Group discussed a number of items, including the revised CERF resource mobilisation strategy and efforts to strengthen corporate reporting, and met with IASC officials.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a humanitarian fund established by the United Nations to enable more timely and reliable humanitarian response to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. CERF was approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 15 December 2005 to achieve the following objectives:

- promote early action and response to reduce loss of life;
- enhance response to time-critical requirements; and
- strengthen core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

Grants from CERF are made through rapid response or underfunded grants. Rapid response grants are made in response to sudden onset emergencies or rapidly deteriorating conditions in an existing emergency. Underfunded grants support activities within existing humanitarian response efforts that have not attracted sufficient resources.

CERF is funded though the voluntary contributions of governments and private sector donors such as corporations, individuals and private organizations.

CERF was created by all nations, for all potential victims of disasters. It represents a real opportunity to provide predictable and equitable funding to those affected by natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.

This newsletter provides an annual overview of CERF's activities in 2012. Since its inception, CERF has committed over $2.75 billion to humanitarian agencies working in 87 countries and territories.

CERF Secretariat
United Nations
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
380 Madison Avenue (6th floor)
United Nations - New York
cerf@un.org
http://cerf.un.org