

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS

Country	Bhutan
Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator	Claire Van der Vaeren
Reporting Period	1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009

I. Summary of Funding and Beneficiaries

Funding (US\$)	Total amount required for the humanitarian response ¹ :	\$681,385		
	Total amount received for the humanitarian response:	\$681,385		
	Breakdown of total country funding received by source:	CERF	\$463,845	
		CHF/HRF COUNTRY LEVEL FUNDS	0	
		OTHER (Bilateral/Multilateral)	\$217,540	
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Rapid Response window:	\$463,845		
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Underfunded window:	N.A.		
	Please provide the breakdown of CERF funds by type of partner:	a. Direct UN agencies/IOM implementation:	\$463,845	
		b. Funds forwarded to NGOs for implementation (in Annex, please provide a list of each NGO and amount of CERF funding forwarded):	0	
		c. Funds for Government implementation:	0	
d. TOTAL:		\$463,845		
Beneficiaries	Total number of individuals affected by the crisis:	7,290		
	Total number of individuals reached with CERF funding:	4,090		
		410 children under 5		
		1,967 females		
Geographical areas of implementation:	Five worst affected districts - Trashigang, Mongar, Pema Gatshel, Samdrup Jonkhar and Trashiyangtse			

¹ This was the initial amount indicated at the time of the CERF application inclusive of emergency contributions already made by UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNDP and World Bank. Since then, additional funds were required and have been raised by UN agencies in Bhutan amounting to US\$ 1 million.

II. Analysis

On 21 September 2009, an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck eastern Bhutan. At the time of the CERF application, approximately 1,051 homes, 22 schools and 8 Basic Health Units (BHUs) were considered to be severely damaged and beyond repair. The funds from CERF were therefore secured to cover the urgent shelter and survival needs of the worst affected populations in Trashigang and Mongar districts, through the provision of 800 tents. Out of these, 600 were to be family tents estimated to cover the shelter needs of approximately 4,800 people and 200 were to be public utility tents to ensure the continuity of vital services such as health-care and education. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, an application to CERF was made in direct response to an urgent request by the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) to the UN system for 1,000 tents.

In order to meet the urgent needs of the affected population, the UN system in Bhutan applied for funds through various funding windows and from bilateral donors. Around US\$ 49,958 was secured from the OCHA Emergency Cash Grant and utilized to procure 232 tents for the affected population. Another 136 tents were procured through UNFPA funds. The CERF grant that was approved in October 2009 was used to procure additional tents to meet the request of the RGoB. The tents procured were larger family size tents as specified by the Government.

In early October 2009, RGoB, UN and World Bank mission undertook a joint rapid needs assessment to assess the damage and needs, particularly in relation to reconstruction of damaged homes and recovery needs. The mission estimated the cost of reconstruction to be Nu 2,005 million or \$ 41.7 million.

Following the assessment findings, the RGoB sent a request to the UN Resident Coordinator to provide Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) sheets instead of tents. From emergency tents there was a shift to building temporary shelters with CGI sheets. Moreover, the flexibility and durability of CGI sheets enabled them to be reused as construction material for longer-term reconstruction.

The flexibility of the CERF enabled the UN system in Bhutan to meet the requirements of the RGoB. The CERF funds were utilized to procure 173 tents and 25,477 CGI sheets. The funds fell short of the RGoB's request for a total of 60,000 CGI sheets. However, with the CGI sheets, the shelter needs of the affected and damaged BHUs and schools in the worst affected districts were at least partially met. UN agencies are still exploring other bilateral funds to cover the full request.

Out of the 173 tents, 145 were distributed to households benefitting around 796 individuals. The tents were distributed to the six worst affected districts: Luentse, Mongar, Pema Gatshel, Samdrup Jonkhar, Trashigang and Trashiyangtse. Twenty eight tents were used in the provision of services such as health care and education. Some were temporarily used to run government offices that had suffered severe damage.

Of the total of 25,477 CGI sheets which were procured through the CERF funds, 25,386 CGI sheets have been delivered and distributed to 716 households in the five worst-affected districts: Mongar (10,699 sheets), Pema Gatsel (927 sheets), Samdrup Jongkhar (60 sheets), Trashigang (11,600 sheets) and Trashiyangtse (2,130 sheets). A total of 3,294 individuals benefitted from the procurement of CGI sheets.

In total, CERF funding was able to provide support to 4,090 beneficiaries in the six affected districts. Out of these individuals, 1,967 were women and 410 were children below the age of 5.

The CERF funds strengthened the UN Bhutan Country Team's ability to deliver as one in responding to the humanitarian crisis. The inter-agency Crisis Management Team (HCT) was supported through the work of inter-agency sectoral teams that were set up in the aftermath of the earthquake to respond more efficiently. The Shelter Task Team managed the procurement and monitoring of supplies from the CERF. UNDP was the administrative agent and the procurement of tents was done through UNICEF with the help of their regional offices in Nepal and Pakistan. UNICEF also managed transportation arrangements for the shipment of tents from Kolkata, India to the relief camp in Trashigang. By November 22, 2009, all tents procured through CERF were delivered to the relief camp in Trashigang.

The procurement of CGI sheets was executed through an international bidding process and the tender documents were prepared and evaluated in collaboration with the Shelter Task Team members and Government counterparts from the Department of Disaster Management and the Standards and Quality Control Authority (SQCA). The first consignment of CGI sheets (12 feet) were delivered by 18 March 2010. The delivery of the second consignment of CGI sheets (10 feet) is almost complete. The remaining CGI sheets will be delivered at the Trashigang district by early April 2010. The delay in the 2nd consignment was mainly due to rejection of a number of defective sheets. The quality of the CGI sheets was monitored by the RGoB's SQCA and supported by the UN system to undertake inspection checks through random sampling. This ensured that the sheets that were provided met the specifications and were of sound quality. The supplier was requested to provide additional sheets to match the number of rejected sheets which led to some delay in the distribution of the CGI sheets to the affected population.

The flexibility and timeliness of the CERF funds enabled the UN system to meet time-critical needs. Especially since no Flash Appeal was launched for Bhutan, the funds from CERF were vital to meet the shelter needs of the affected population. The funds from CERF were also the largest received at an early stage of the humanitarian crisis, in addition to the OCHA Emergency Cash Grant and UNDP BCPR Track 3 Funds, the latter supporting needs other than shelter requirements.

By enabling the UN system to meet the urgent request of the RGoB, the CERF funds also ensured better working relationships and close coordination with Government counterparts, particularly the Department of Disaster Management in Bhutan.

By December 2009, official figures stated that the damage caused by the earthquake had affected 4,614 households in 12 districts. Around 7,290 people were estimated to have been left without adequate shelter. Administrative buildings, religious buildings and Government offices suffered infrastructure damage. Additionally, a total of 91 schools and 25 health centres were severely damaged. The contribution of CERF funds to the UN relief and early recovery effort enabled shelter assistance to be provided to roughly 56% of the affected people.

Following the September earthquake, eastern Bhutan continued to suffer several aftershocks. On 31 December 2009, another earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale struck eastern Bhutan, affecting eight of the 12 districts affected by the September earthquake. Infrastructure that had been damaged by the previous earthquake suffered further damage, particularly as structures that had suffered cracks fell into further disrepair.

III. Results:

Sector / Cluster	CERF project number and title (If applicable, please provide CAP/Flash Project Code)	Amount disbursed from CERF (US\$)	Total Project Budget (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries targeted with CERF funding	Expected Results/ Outcomes	Results and improvements for the target beneficiaries	CERF's added value to the project	Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms	Gender Equity
Shelter, Health, Education, Livelihood	09-UDP-010 Provision of Shelter and Restoring Critical Services	\$463,845	\$681,385	CERF funds benefitted 4,090 individuals including 1,967 women and 410 children below 5 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to 600 earthquake-affected families whose houses have either been totally damaged and/or rendered uninhabitable are provided one tent each. ▪ Up to 22 schools that have been damaged beyond repair or sustained major damages are re-started. ▪ Up to 8 hospitals and BHUs that have been damaged totally and/or rendered unusable resume services to the community. ▪ Vital public services restored through resumption of work in 8 local government offices providing vital public and extension services to local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to 511 earthquake-affected families provided adequate shelter through the provision of family tents and CGI sheets. ▪ 28 tents utilised for public service delivery (schools and BHUs, as well as some Government offices) to complement other UN assistance. 	Rapid allocation of CERF funds allowed the project to begin shortly after the needs were identified.	The monitoring of quality of supplies, particularly of the CGI sheets was done regularly by the SQCA. Supplies that were found not to match the requirements were rejected and additional supplies were provided to replace.	CERF funds benefitted 4,090 individuals including 1,967 women and 410 children below 5 years.

Annex 1: NGOS and CERF Funds Forwarded to Each Implementing NGO Partner

Not applicable since funds were directly used by the implementing UN agencies.

Annex 2: Acronyms and Abbreviations

BHU	Basic Health Unit
CGI	Corrugated Galvanised Iron
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
RGoB	Royal Government of Bhutan
SQCA	Standard and Quality Control Authority