



United Nations

# CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

1 July - 30 September 2013



Credit: OCHA / C. Illemassene

### Record Single CERF Allocation - US\$50 Million for Humanitarian Agencies in Syria and the Region

On 13 September 2013, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), Ms. Valerie Amos, allocated US\$50 million from CERF's rapid response window to scale-up life-saving assistance to the growing number of people affected by the crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries. The funds were released for Syria (\$20 million), Lebanon (\$15 million), Iraq (\$10 million) and Jordan (\$5 million). The combined amount is CERF's largest allocation to date to support a coordinated response to a single crisis. In addition to the \$50 million allocation, the ERC also approved a loan request of \$27 million from the World Food Programme (WFP) to further address humanitarian needs in Syria and the region.

An estimated 6.8 million people in Syria – almost one-third of the population – require urgent humanitarian assistance. The on-going conflict has internally displaced 6 million people, while another 2 million people have fled to Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and countries in North Africa. Nearly half of the affected people are children.

Since the conflict began in 2011, CERF has allocated \$134 million to help humanitarian agencies provide life-saving assistance in Syria and neighbouring countries. (*See page 3 for more information about the allocation to Syria.*)

### Appointment of new CERF Advisory Group Members

In September, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed six new members to the CERF Advisory Group. They were selected from a pool of more than 20 highly qualified nominees, with consideration given to gender and geographic distribution. They equally represent donor and recipient countries.

The new members are: Mr. Brouz Ralph Enneric Coffi (Côte d'Ivoire), Ms. Jette Michelsen (Denmark), Dr. Eltje Aderhold (Germany), Mr. Jozef Andriessen (Netherlands), Dr. Ahmed Mohd Al-Meraikhi (Qatar) and Major-General Julius Oketta (Uganda).

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 through 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 overview of the income and expenditures of CERF over a three-month period. Since its inception CERF has committed nearly \$3 billion in 88 countries and territories.

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The next CERF Advisory Group meeting will be held on 4 and 5 November 2013 in New York and will be hosted by the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations.

More information on the Advisory Group, its members and meetings is available on the CERF website at [cerf.un.org](http://cerf.un.org).

The Recommendations and Conclusions from the May 2013 meeting ([A/67/987](http://cerf.un.org/A/67/987)) were issued on 12 September 2013 and are available on the CERF website at [cerf.un.org](http://cerf.un.org).

## CERF's First Policy Side-Event at ECOSOC

On 16 July 2013, CERF held its first policy side-event, "The Right Place, the Right Time: Understanding CERF's Impact", during ECOSOC's Humanitarian Affairs Segment in Geneva.

Discussions, chaired by the ERC, explored several dimensions of the CERF process, including the optimal timing and size of CERF allocations; CERF's ability to leverage additional funds for a crisis; and the effectiveness of providing CERF funds during mega-emergencies where its impact may seem minor in relation to the overall scale of needs of a large crisis.

The ERC was joined by four panel members who drew upon their experiences and shared their thoughts on CERF assistance during the 2011 Horn of Africa drought, the 2012 Sahel food security and nutrition crisis, and the current crisis in Syria and its neighbours. Panel members were Mr. Radhouane Nouicer (former Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria), Mr. Eugene Owusu (Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia), Ms. Elisabeth Rasmusson (Assistant Executive Director, WFP), and Mr. Robert Piper (Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel).

Attendees posed thought-provoking questions that led to a lively debate. Topics included implementation of the CERF Management Response Plan (MRP), the five-year evaluation, strengthening Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) oversight of the implementation of CERF-funded activities, the influence of CERF Underfunded Emergency (UFE) window allocations on Member States' funding decisions, leveraging CERF to increase donor funding to emergencies, diversifying and strengthening CERF's resource mobilization base, and exploring ways in which to speed up the disbursement of CERF funds to NGOs.

The event was a great success. There was a high turnout of senior-level representatives from Member States, humanitarian agencies and NGOs, positive feedback on the presentations and a heightened interest in CERF's work.

## Performance and Accountability Framework

In 2013, independent humanitarian experts reviewed programmes in six countries as part of CERF's Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) to assess the added value of CERF to the humanitarian response. Yemen, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were reviewed individually, while Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger were included in a review of CERF's contribution to the response to the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel.

The studies confirmed CERF's ability to rapidly disburse funds, noting that the CERF secretariat was quick to process formally submitted applications. When applications were submitted early in a crisis, CERF funds enabled a timely response. The review also noted CERF's crucial support to smaller or less visible crises in places with limited in-country international donor presence.

However, the reviews also pointed to continued challenges related to timing and quality of CERF RC/HC reports. The ERC has introduced a new reporting schedule for 2014, which will lead to a lighter workload and higher-quality reports.

A review of the PAF, conducted by an independent expert, was concluded with the submission of a final report in September. The study was commissioned by CERF to find ways to strengthen CERF's accountability and performance systems and indicators. The CERF secretariat will assess the report's findings and follow up as necessary.

The country reviews and the PAF review will be discussed at the next Advisory Group meeting, to be held on 4 and 5 November in New York, and will be available on the CERF website: [cerf.un.org](http://cerf.un.org).



# RAPID RESPONSE ALLOCATIONS

During the third quarter (1 July to 30 September 2013), the ERC approved \$127 million in CERF allocations. The majority, \$83 million, was allocated through the rapid response window. The largest portion went to humanitarian agencies in Syria and the region to keep pace with the growing needs from that crisis. Sudan (\$10.5 million), South Sudan (\$6 million), Madagascar (\$5 million) and Uganda (\$5 million) also received significant allocations.

## Rapid Response – Syrian Crisis

As of 30 September, nearly \$16 million of the \$50 million announced for the Syrian crisis had been released to support refugees in Lebanon, Iraq and Jordan:

**Lebanon:** UNHCR, IOM and UNRWA have received a total of \$6 million to assist newly arrived refugees and the large population of refugees who remain displaced since the Nahr el-Bared Camp in northern Lebanon was closed in 2007. An additional \$9 million is expected to be released to UNICEF, WFP, WHO and UNFPA by early October.

**Iraq:** Eight humanitarian agencies (WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNDP, and IOM) received \$9.5 million to deliver emergency assistance to the refugees in Iraq's Kurdistan region. Nearly \$500,000 is expected to be released in early October to address gender concerns among the population under a UNDP project.

**Jordan:** Eight agencies (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, IOM, UNRWA, UNFPA and UN Women) will receive \$5 million to provide assistance to Syrian refugees.

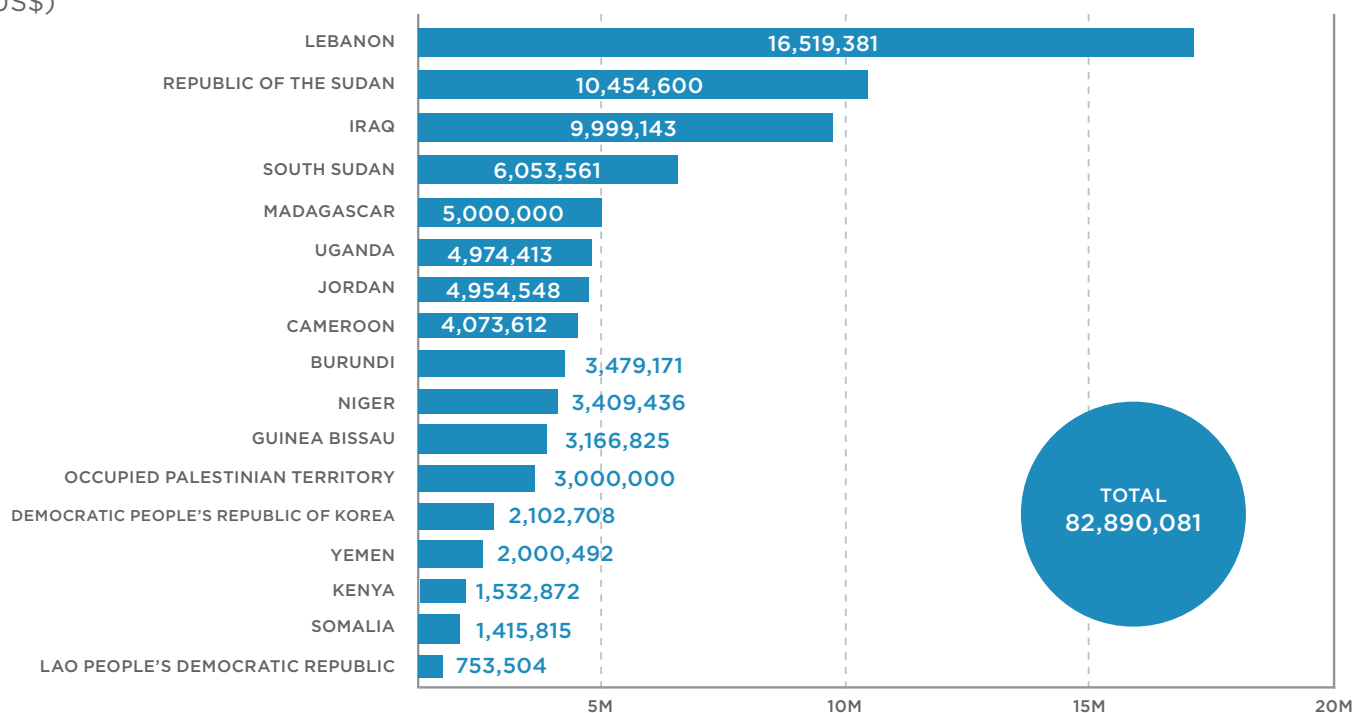
**Syria:** Another \$20 million will be directed to support aid operations in Syria.

## Responding to the Crisis in South Sudan

Despite continued inter-communal violence in Jonglei, South Sudan's largest and most populous state, humanitarian partners gained access to previously inaccessible and insecure areas to reach vulnerable and displaced people facing severe food insecurity.

In August 2013, CERF allocated \$6 million to assist some 60,000 people displaced or affected by violence in Pibor and surrounding counties in Jonglei. The bulk of the \$5 million rapid response grant went to WFP for the provision of emergency food assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNICEF received almost \$667,000 to provide emergency nutrition supplies and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Nearly \$12 million has been allocated to provide humanitarian assistance in Jonglei in 2013.

## RAPID RESPONSE ALLOCATIONS (1 July to 30 September 2013) (in US\$)



# UNDERFUNDED EMERGENCIES

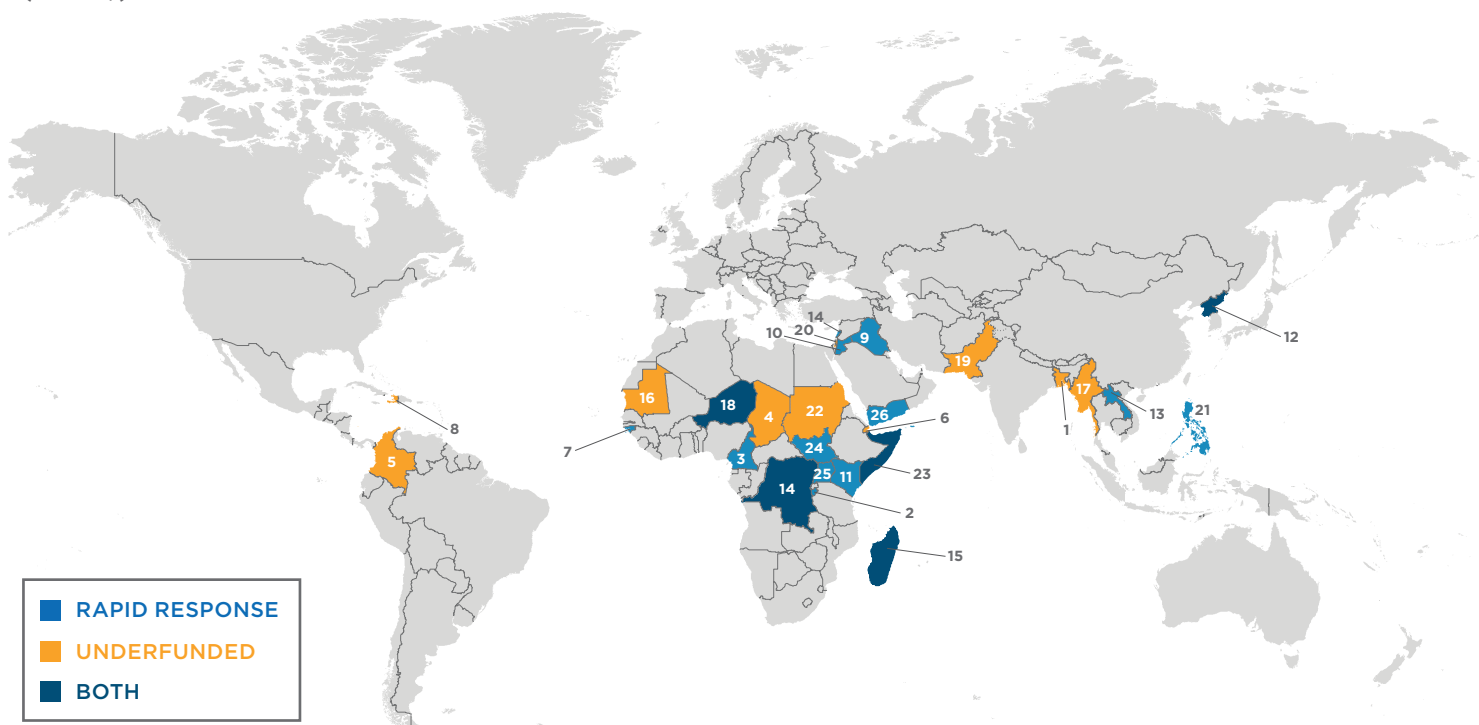
In July, the ERC announced an allocation of \$75 million to neglected emergencies in 13 countries around the world. The new allocations bring the total amount provided through the UFE window in 2013 to an unprecedented \$175 million.

These latest allocations will support humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh (\$2 million), Chad (\$8 million), Colombia (\$3.5 million), Djibouti (\$3 million), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (\$6 million), Haiti (\$1.5 million), Madagascar (\$3 million), Mauritania (\$4 million), Myanmar (\$3 million), Niger (\$8 million), Pakistan (\$10 million), the Philippines (\$3 million) and Somalia (\$20 million). Three countries – Djibouti, DPR Korea and Haiti – received allocations from the first and second round because of continued funding constraints.

“ Millions of people around the world are in dire need, but we don't always see or hear of their plight. This money will save lives by ensuring that humanitarian organizations can continue to support the most vulnerable men, women and children caught in the midst of devastating disasters and conflicts. ”

ERC Valerie Amos

## TOTAL GRANTS DISBURSED (1 July to 30 September 2013) (in US\$)



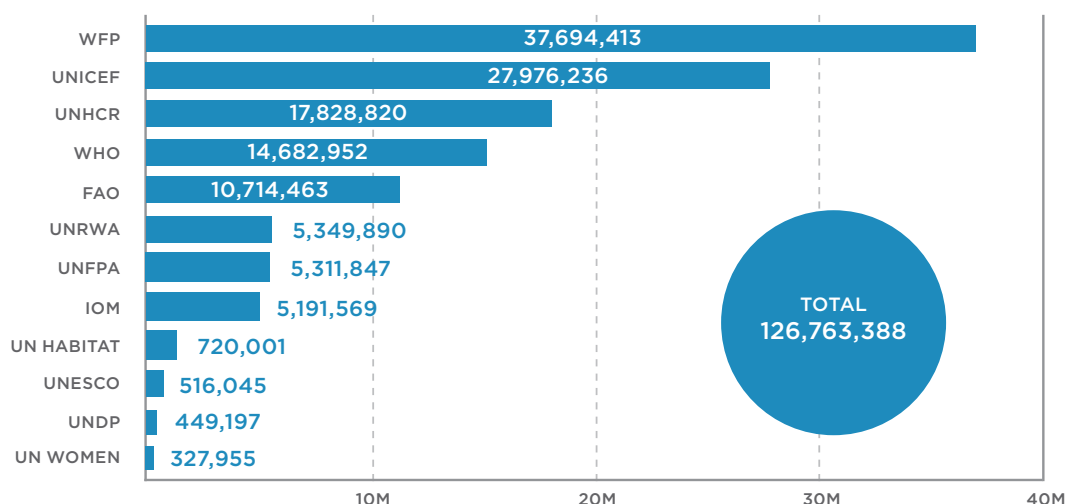
1 BANGLADESH / 2,000,642	14 LEBANON / 16,519,381
2 BURUNDI / 3,479,171	15 MADAGASCAR / 8,003,483
3 CAMEROON / 4,073,612	16 MAURITANIA / 2,499,955
4 CHAD / 2,749,996	17 MYANMAR / 2,999,832
5 COLOMBIA / 2,258,255	18 NIGER / 5,606,795
6 DJIBOUTI / 899,974	19 PAKISTAN / 9,553,985
7 GUINEA-BISSAU / 3,166,825	20 OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY / 3,000,000
8 HAITI / 1,495,064	21 PHILIPPINES / 1,998,909
9 IRAQ / 9,999,143	22 REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN / 10,454,600
10 JORDAN / 4,954,548	23 SOMALIA / 7,636,289
11 KENYA / 1,532,872	24 SOUTH SUDAN / 6,053,561
12 KOREA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF / 8,098,087	25 UGANDA / 4,974,413
13 LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC / 753,504	26 YEMEN / 2,000,492

# ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF CERF *(Both windows)*

## Funding by Agency *(US\$ millions)*

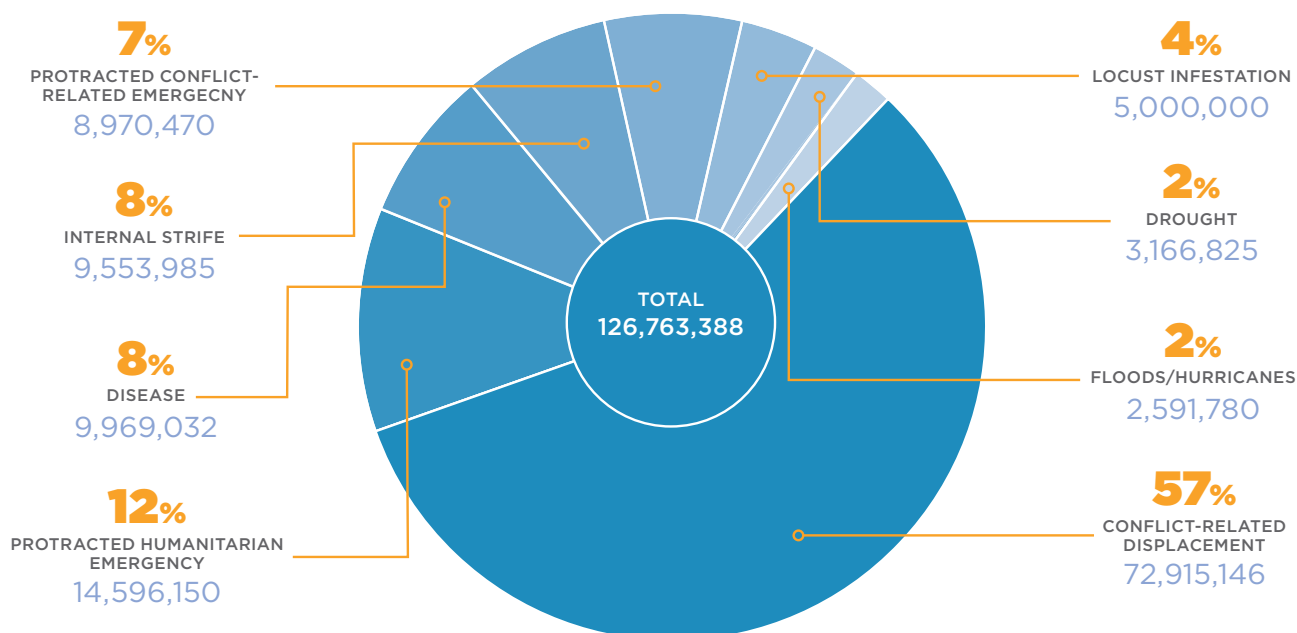
WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR were the top three recipients of CERF funds during the third quarter. They received \$84 million, or nearly three-quarters, of CERF's \$127 million funding allocated under both windows during this time period.

The largest allocation went to WFP (\$38 million), including \$5.4 million to provide emergency food assistance to IDPs in Jonglei state in South Sudan.



## Funding by Emergency Type *(US\$ millions)*

Nearly \$83 million, or 65 per cent, was allocated to support conflict-related displacement and internal strife in 15 countries. The crises in Syria, Sudan and South Sudan accounted for the greatest amounts. Other large allocations were used to respond to disease outbreaks (\$10 million), including yellow fever, polio, cholera and dengue.

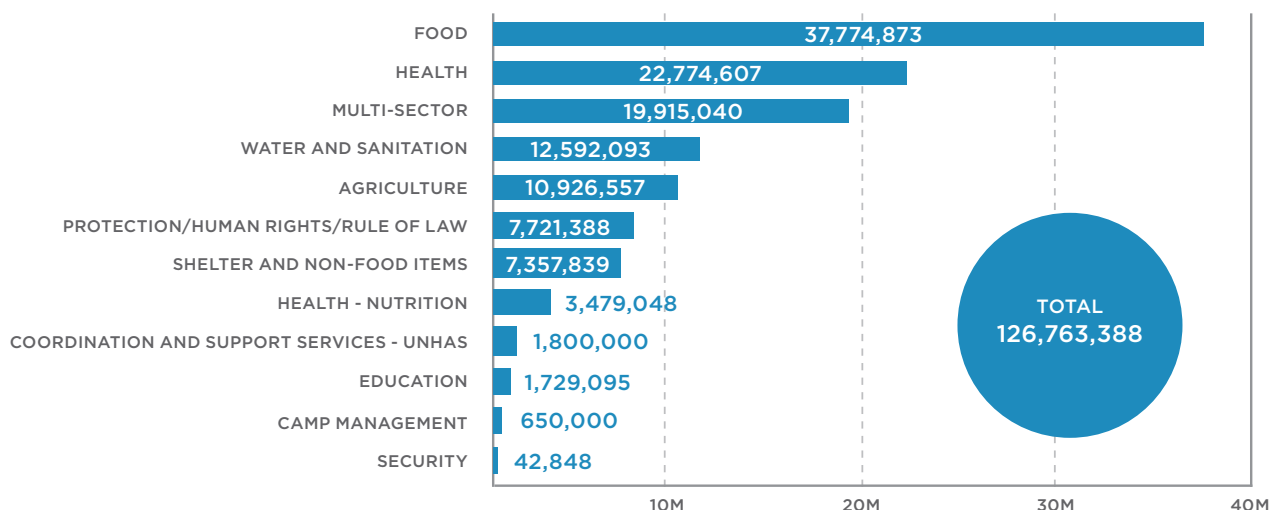




# ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF CERF *(Both windows)*

## Funding by Sector (US\$ millions)

Consistent with previous quarters, the food (\$38 million) and health (\$23 million) sectors remained the biggest recipients of funding from CERF. Together, the sectors make up 48 per cent of the total quarterly allocation. Multi-sector accounted for the third largest allocation to provide assistance to refugees.



During emergencies, schools provide education and a protective environment to Ethiopian children.

Credit: WFP/Melese Awoke