



United Nations

# CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

## QUARTERLY UPDATE 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2012

Women and children camp in the grounds of the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Brazzaville, after a huge munitions blast in the city. © Laudes Martial Mbon/IRIN

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 a quarterly overview of the income and expenditures of CERF. Since its inception, CERF has committed \$2.5 billion in 85 countries and territories.

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### Pledges and Contributions for 2012

CERF is off to a strong start in 2012. As of mid-April, CERF has received US\$381 million in pledges; \$340 million has been received for 2012. During the annual CERF High-level Pledging Conference held in December 2011, 45 UN Member States, Observer States and a regional government pledged a total of \$375 million to the Fund. CERF is now supported by 126 of 193 UN Member States and Observer States.

### Reduction of CERF's Loan Window

Over the years, CERF's loan facility had fallen into relative disuse and the balance of the loan window ballooned to \$76 million due to accumulated interest. Based on CERF Advisory Group and Five-year Evaluation recommendations, the CERF loan element was reduced to \$30 million by General Assembly Resolution A/66/L.28 in December 2011. Slightly more than \$46 million in funds were transferred to the grant element.

Year	Funding (millions)
2006	\$299
2007	\$385
2008	\$453
2009	\$391
2010	\$429
2011	\$465
2012	\$340

### Responding to Drought and Food Insecurity

To kick-start efforts to support countries facing drought and food insecurity, CERF gave more than \$33 million to humanitarian partners in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa in the first quarter of 2012.

In the Sahel, \$27 million was given to six countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal to support an estimated 1.6 million people in the first quarter of 2012. Senegal received the largest amount from CERF in 2012 in response to drought, amounting to almost \$7 million, followed by Mali which received \$6 million. Since November 2011, CERF has given a total of \$38 million to seven countries in the Sahel in response to drought and food insecurity.

WFP has received the majority of all CERF funds given for drought in the Sahel, amounting to \$16 million or 58 per cent of all CERF grants to the region, with projects funded in all six countries. UNICEF received the second largest amount, \$5 million, or 19 per cent of all CERF funding for the Sahel.

Following the onset of the drought and subsequent food crisis in the Horn of Africa last year for which the CERF provided \$128 million to UN agencies in 2011, several areas previously at crisis levels of food insecurity have shown modest improvement, namely, parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, following favorable October-December rains, coupled with the major response of humanitarian actors in the field.

#### CERF Funding for Drought in the Sahel, First Quarter 2012

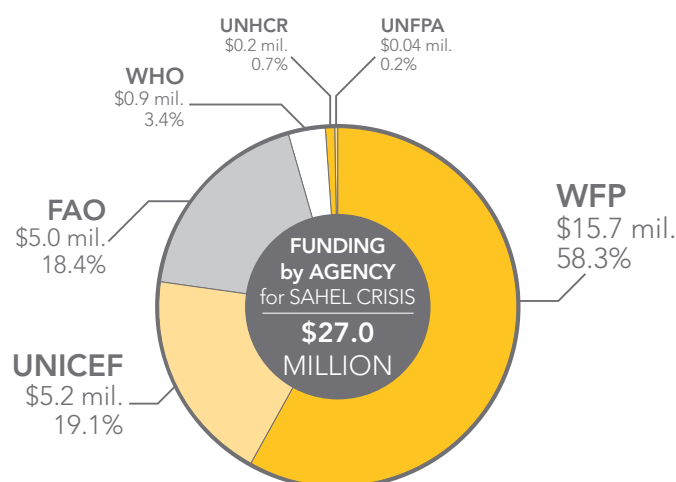
Country	Grand Total US\$
Senegal	\$6,932,070
Mali	\$6,057,932
Cameroon	\$4,798,922
Gambia	\$4,834,117
Chad	\$2,401,897
Mauritania	\$2,000,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,025,077</b>

Yet current food security conditions and expected outcomes are mixed across the Horn of Africa. Eritrea remains vulnerable to recurrent droughts which adversely affects 80 per cent of the population who depend on subsistence agriculture and pastoralism for livelihood. Additionally, there has been a progressive increase in malnutrition in the country due to the effects of drought and food price increases in local markets. Due to lack of food, the number of admissions to community-based therapeutic feeding centres increased between January and November 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. In response, CERF provided \$4 million to five UN agencies in Eritrea through the underfunded emergencies window in March 2012, \$3.5 million of which was given for drought and food aid.

Djibouti has been struck by the worst drought recorded in 60 years, according to UN estimates. The lack of rain has resulted in the depletion of water sources and seepage of salt sea water into ground water sources. The resulting reduction of water resources for consumption has led to food insecurity and hunger, with an attendant loss of livelihoods and income; degradation of health; and malnutrition, especially among children. Some 80 per cent of Djibouti's rural population, estimated at over 240,000, depends on livestock for livelihood support and herders have suffered sizeable losses. As part of its response to the drought in the Horn of Africa, more than \$6 million was given by CERF last year to UN agencies in Djibouti. CERF continues to support humanitarian relief in the country with the allocation of \$4 million in the first quarter of 2012, of which \$3.4 million was given in response to drought.

## Advisory Group Meeting 29-30 May 2012

The CERF Advisory Group will hold its first meeting of the year in Geneva, Switzerland on 29 and 30 May 2012. The Advisory Group will meet several Humanitarian Coordinators and discuss their perspectives on CERF and its impact in the field. AG members will also meet Inter-Agency Standing Committee members to discuss funds disbursements to implementing partners. Ms. Valerie Amos, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, will provide an update on the use of the Fund. The CERF secretariat will also give an update on CERF policy issues and take stock of CERF's Performance and Accountability Framework.



## Funding by Country

CERF gave a total of \$179 million to 24 countries during the first quarter of 2012. Of this \$179 million, some 58 per cent, or \$104 million, was given through the first underfunded emergencies (UFE) grant round to 13 countries to help fill critical gaps in humanitarian aid and even out funding disparities in crises that have been neglected.

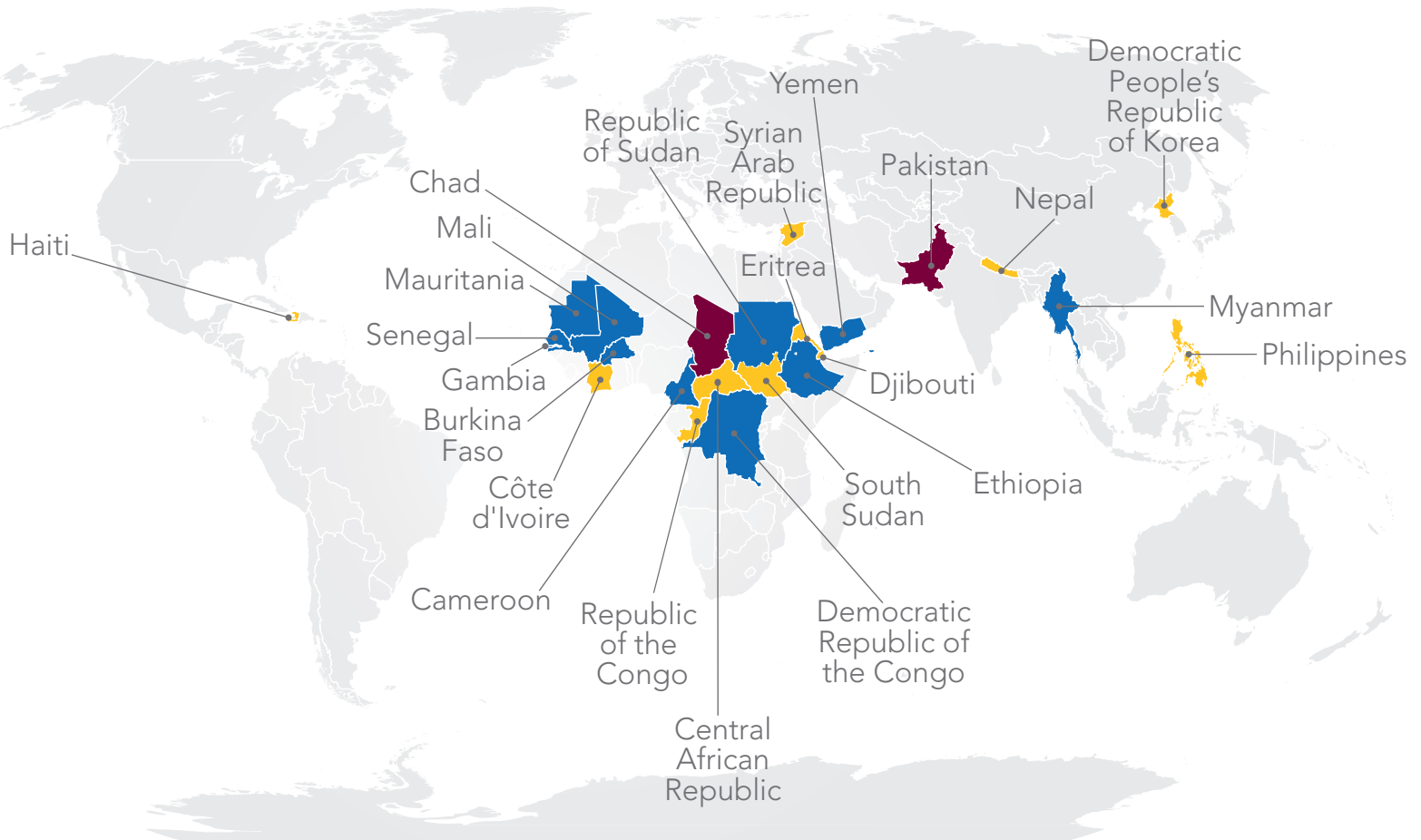
Newly independent South Sudan received almost one-fifth (19 per cent), or \$20 million of UFE grants. Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) received the second and third largest allocations of underfunded grants (\$15 million and \$11 million respectively). The food sector received the largest share of UFE grants, amounting to 19 per cent, with the largest food allocation of \$4 million given to UNHCR to support Iraqi refugees living in Syria. The second and third largest proportions of underfunded grants were given to the nutrition (17 per cent) and health (16 per cent) sectors.

CERF gave \$76 million through the rapid response window to 13 countries. Humanitarian partners in Pakistan received the largest sum of rapid response grants during the first quarter (\$12 million), followed by the Democratic Republic of Congo (\$9 million) and Mauritania and Mali, which each received \$7 million.

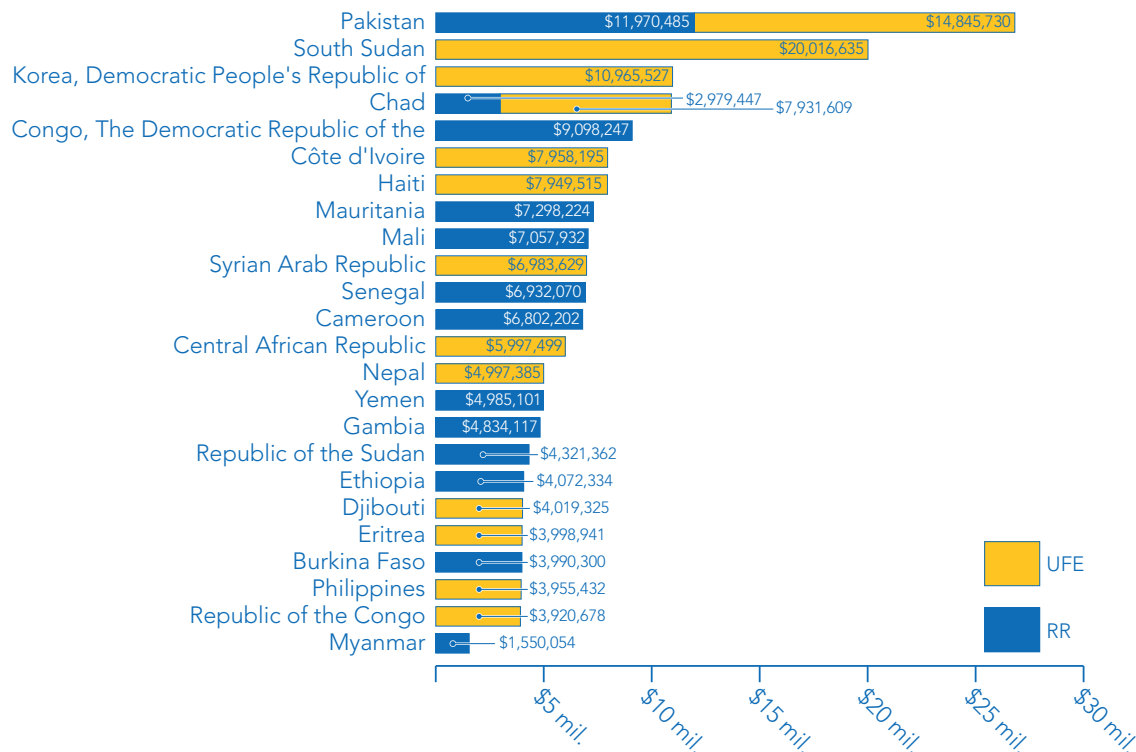
Rapid Response Grants

Underfunded Emergencies

Rapid Response + Underfunded

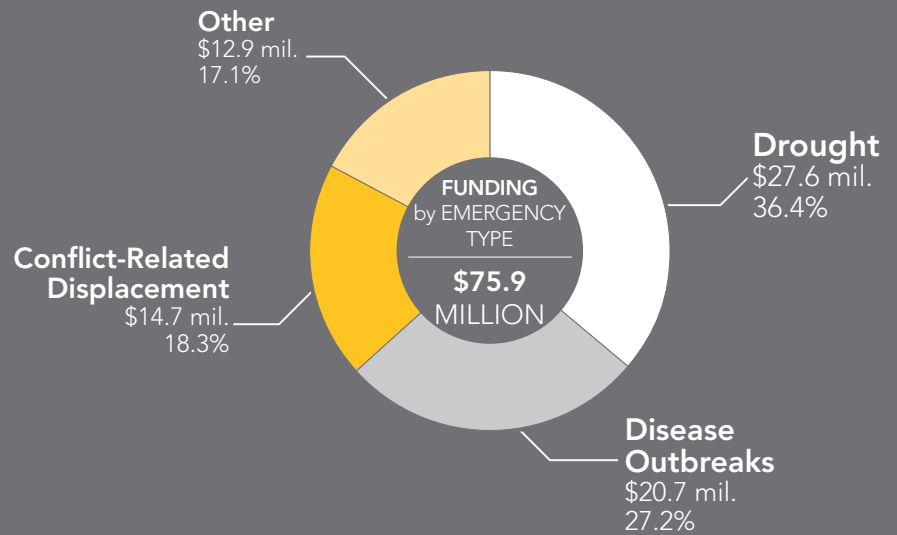


### First Quarter Funding by Country



## Funding by Emergency

CERF disbursed \$76 million in rapid response funds in the first quarter. Of rapid response funds, CERF gave \$15 million for conflict-related displacements in five countries, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mauritania, Myanmar and the Republic of Sudan, while \$28 million was given in response to internal strife and insecurity in Pakistan and Mali. Drought-related projects in eight countries received \$35 million. Protracted humanitarian emergencies in DPRK, Chad and Nepal received 13 per cent of CERF funds, while projects responding to disease outbreaks in Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Republic of Sudan and Yemen were given \$21 million, or 12 per cent of funds through the rapid response window.

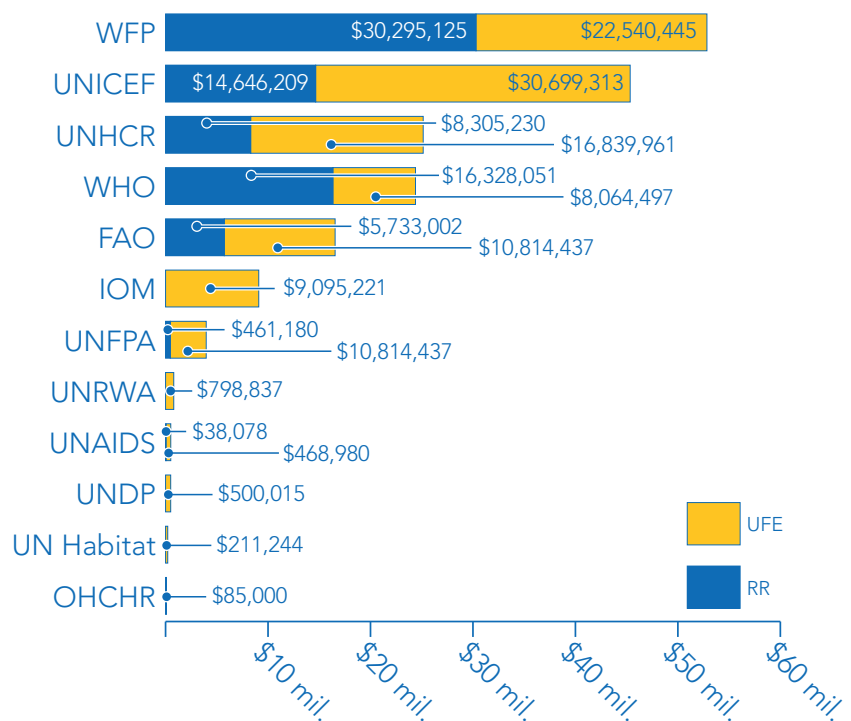


## Funding by Agency and Sector

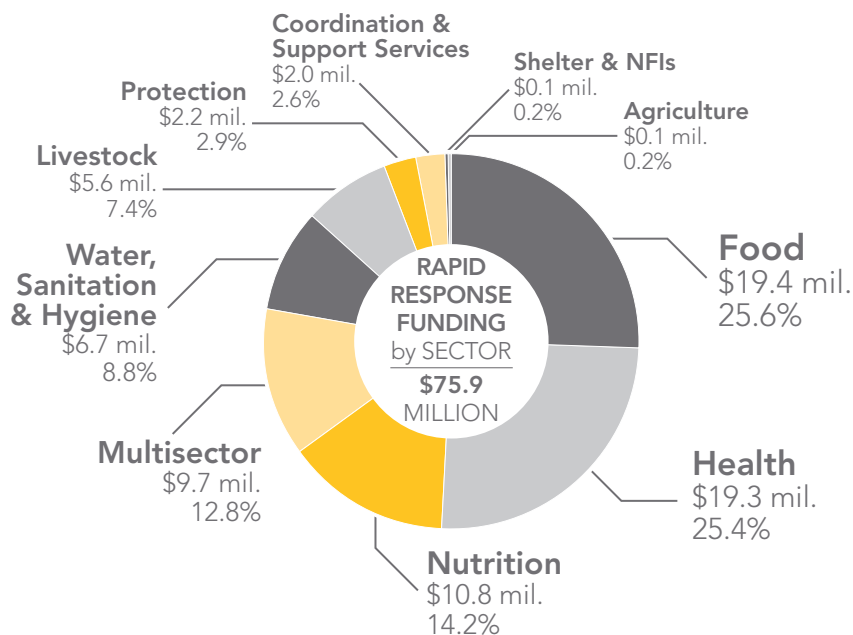
CERF gave \$179 million to 11 UN agencies and IOM during the first quarter of 2012. WFP was the top recipient of CERF funds during the quarter, having received \$53 million, or 29 per cent of CERF funds, in 19 countries. WFP was also the top agency recipient of the Fund's rapid response window, having received some \$30 million in funding; the largest rapid response grant given in the first quarter was \$6.5 million to WFP to deliver emergency food for more than 1.4 million people in DPRK.

UNICEF was the second largest overall recipient for the quarter, having received one quarter of CERF grants (25 per cent), \$15 million of which was given through the rapid response window.

UNAIDS has been given some \$507,000, more than 92 per cent of which was allocated for two underfunded projects in Chad and Eritrea, and a third rapid response project in Mauritania to prevent the spread of HIV among Malian refugees. CERF gave more funds to UNAIDS in the first quarter of 2012 than the total amount given to the agency in 2011.







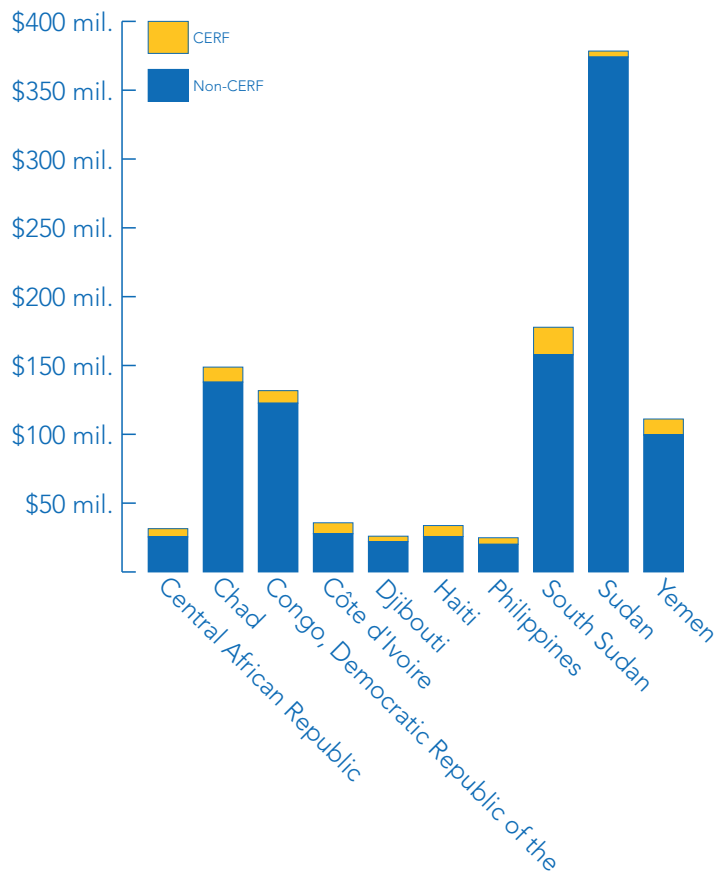
Food was the top funded sector during the first quarter of the year, having received \$39 million, or some 22 per cent of funds for projects in 16 countries. The food sector was also the largest recipient of rapid response grants, having received 26 per cent of all funds. Health projects were the second highest funded of the CERF, with projects funded in 22 countries totalling \$36 million, \$19 million of which was given through the rapid response window.

## CERF and Humanitarian Appeals

In the first quarter of 2012, the CERF allocated \$87 million to key life-saving projects in 10 countries with consolidated appeals. Of this amount, \$57 million was provided through the underfunded emergencies window to fill critical funding gaps and ensure continued life-saving assistance to people. Furthermore, \$30 million enabled humanitarian country teams to respond quickly to new emergencies within six appeals. The \$87 million provided from the CERF was 9 per cent of all humanitarian funding received by these 10 appeals. The Fund has been a significant source of funding in countries, for example, CERF provided more than 30 per cent of all funding received towards the Haiti appeal, and 28 per cent of all funds received for the Côte d'Ivoire appeal.

Among countries with consolidated appeals, South Sudan was the largest recipient of CERF funding. CERF provided \$20 million to South Sudan through the underfunded window; this amount represents 13 per cent of all humanitarian funding received by the South Sudan appeal in the first quarter of the year, allowing partners to bolster critical pipelines in the country and ensure a prompt response to multiple emergencies.

## First Quarter Contributions to CAP and Flash Appeals



## CERF Assists Malian Internally Displaced People and Refugees

Mali is currently facing its worst humanitarian crises in two decades as a result of the deteriorating security situation in the north following internal conflict. Since January, over 200,000 people have fled their homes and are displaced in the country, or have fled to neighbouring countries already under strain due to drought-related food crisis. In response, CERF provided more than \$10 million in rapid response grants during the first quarter to humanitarian partners in Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso. Funds were used to support 19 projects of eight UN agencies in the three countries. Of the agencies funded, WFP received the largest share of grants, \$5 million, to support humanitarian air services in Mali and Mauritania, and emergency food assistance in Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

## CERF Policy

The CERF secretariat is in the final stages of preparation for its annual country-level reviews of the added value of CERF funding. In 2012, four independent consultants will study CERF's support in 2011 to humanitarian response to the Horn of Africa famine (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia), forced displacement resulting from post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire (including Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia), and Yemen. The studies, which are based on the 2011 reports on the use of CERF funds submitted by RC/HCs, will provide an additional level of assurance of the Fund's operational impact, and help identify policy issues to be addressed at the field or headquarters level. Reports from previous reviews conducted under the PAF are available on the CERF website at <http://cerf.un.org>.



A scene at the Warabung displaced persons camp in Kachin State, northern Myanmar December 2011 © IRIN



## CERF: Providing life-saving measles immunizations in Yemen

CERF allocated almost \$5 million to support a national immunization campaign to protect 7.9 million Yemeni children under age 10 from a deadly measles outbreak.

Measles has re-emerged in epidemic proportions in Yemen, claiming the lives of more than 155 children under age 5 in Yemen since the middle of last year. A total of 3,800 new measles cases were reported between January 2011 and early March 2012. If left unchecked, the epidemic could infect an estimated 30,000 children and cause 5,000 deaths per year, according to an OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin published in April 2012.

CERF funding will provide \$2.4 million to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and \$2.6 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) in support of a national health campaign to stem the measles outbreak. To increase cost-effectiveness, the vaccine programme will include measles, polio and vitamin A supplements - activities which were funded by other partners. Increasing immunity to polio is a priority in Yemen because cases of the wild polio virus are increasing in neighbouring countries. Lack of vitamin A significantly increases the risk of illness and death from common childhood infections.

"This money will help prevent the deaths of thousands of Yemeni children," said Mr. Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF Representative in Yemen. UNICEF will use the funds to buy vaccines and implement the immunization jointly with WHO and Yemeni partners.

### Victims of a Broken Health System

WHO says measles outbreaks can be particularly deadly in countries recovering from conflict. In Yemen, conflict and insecurity have caused extensive damage to public health services over the past year, and interrupted the routine immunization of children.



CERF funding will support a measles immunization programme to protect millions of vulnerable children in Yemen. © UNICEF

Overcrowding in shelters for internally displaced persons, lack of clean water and sanitation facilities, and high malnutrition rates among young children also increase the risk of infection and reduce the ability to fight it. Yemen has the world's second-highest rate of chronic malnutrition in children after Afghanistan, with nearly two thirds of children suffering from stunting.

Initial funding for the immunization programme has been provided by the Government of Yemen, humanitarian partners and CERF. However, additional resources are now needed. The campaign will cost about \$29 million, leaving a significant funding gap.

The humanitarian community has requested \$447 million through the Consolidated Appeal Process for almost 4 million people in need in Yemen in 2012. Those needs include food, emergency health care and shelter.