



CERF

Peacekeepers provide water to Ivorians displaced by post-electoral fighting.
© Basile Zoma/UN-Photo

QUARTERLY UPDATE

1st Quarter 2011

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 over \$2 billion to humanitarian agencies working in 82 countries and territories.

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Highlights

Closing of the First Underfunded Round

During the first underfunded round of 2011, the CERF disbursed \$84 million for underfunded emergencies in 15 countries. The Emergency Relief Coordinator approved 112 projects coordinated by 11 UN agencies and IOM. The countries selected for the second underfunded round will be announced on 15 July, 2011.

Western Union

On 28 February, the CERF held its first private-sector fund raising event generously organized at the United Nations by the Western Union Foundation and OCHA. In celebration of the Fund's fifth year anniversary, the CEO of Western Union, Hikmet Ersek, announced a global philanthropy challenge, whereby Western Union will match all private-sector contributions made to the CERF in 2011, up to \$250,000.

Advisory Group Meeting

The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund held its first meeting of the year in Nairobi, Kenya on 27 and 28 April, 2011. The Emergency Relief Coordinator provided an update on the use and management of the Fund since the Group's last meeting in November 2010. In addition to the regular meeting agenda, the attendees conducted a field mission to the Kakuma refugee camp, which gave them the opportunity to witness firsthand the long-term impact of the CERF funding.

CERF 2011 Training Schedule

The next regional training session on CERF application and funding procedures will take place in Bangkok on 14-15 June, 2011. Participants will develop a clear understanding of application criteria, the prioritization and approval processes, key actors and the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in the funding process. The objective of the training is to help cluster lead representatives, disaster management focal points and field and programme officers improve the quality of their submissions, while sharing lessons learned in the field. Subsequent training sessions in 2011 will take place in Geneva (September, date TBA), Cairo (25-26 October), and Panama (2-3 November).

Pledges and Contributions for 2011

CERF funding is off to a strong start for 2011. As at mid May, despite continued global economic hardships, CERF has received over \$380 million in pledges and contributions. Indications from several donors suggest that additional funds will be raised in the coming months.

Year	Funding (millions)
2006	\$298.7
2007	\$385.1
2008	\$453.2
2009	\$378.1
2010	\$429.3
2011	\$380.7

Advisory Group Meeting

The Advisory Group of the Central Emergency Response Fund held its first meeting of the year in Nairobi, Kenya on 27 and 28 April, 2011. The Emergency Relief Coordinator provided an update on the use and management of the Fund. The CERF Secretariat was recognized for its performance and management of the Fund and the improvements it has made in the Fund's accountability and transparency. The Group reviewed the initial draft of the CERF five-year evaluation and offered recommendations for subsequent versions of the report.

Other topics addressed by the Group included the country reviews of Chad, Mauritania and Sri Lanka, undertaken as part of the Performance and Accountability Framework, the future of the CERF loan facility, and the development of additional public service announcements in print and video formats. These issues will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Advisory Group in November 2011. The Group also received feedback from the Somalia and Kenya Humanitarian Country Teams on the effectiveness of the Fund in their countries.

In addition to the regular meeting agenda, the Group accompanied by the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator and members from the Kenya Humanitarian Partnership Team conducted a field mission to the Kakuma refugee camp, which gave them the opportunity to witness first-hand the long-term impact of the financing provided to Kenya by the Fund. The attendees acknowledged the importance of having been able to meet with beneficiary agencies, NGOs and government partners and requested that future meetings include similar field missions, whenever possible.



Kakuma refugee camp hospital. © Marius Dogeanu

Funding by Country

During the first three months of 2011, a total of \$120 million was disbursed to humanitarian agencies working in 21 different countries. Of that amount, approximately \$41 million was used to fund rapid response projects in eight countries and \$79 million was allocated to fifteen countries through the first underfunded round.

Rapid Response Emergencies

As a result of post-electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire, more than 180,000 Ivorian nationals fled their homes. In response to the increasingly severe risk of food insecurity, malnourishment, and lack of access to medical care, CERF disbursed over \$10 million to agencies working in the country. \$3 million was allocated to WFP for the provision of food security for IDPs and host families. In addition, UNICEF, WHO, and WFP received approximately \$1.5 million to address the nutritional needs of children and pregnant and lactating women, and another \$1 million has funded the provision of health care services for 42,000 crisis-affected people through WHO, UNFPA, and UNICEF.



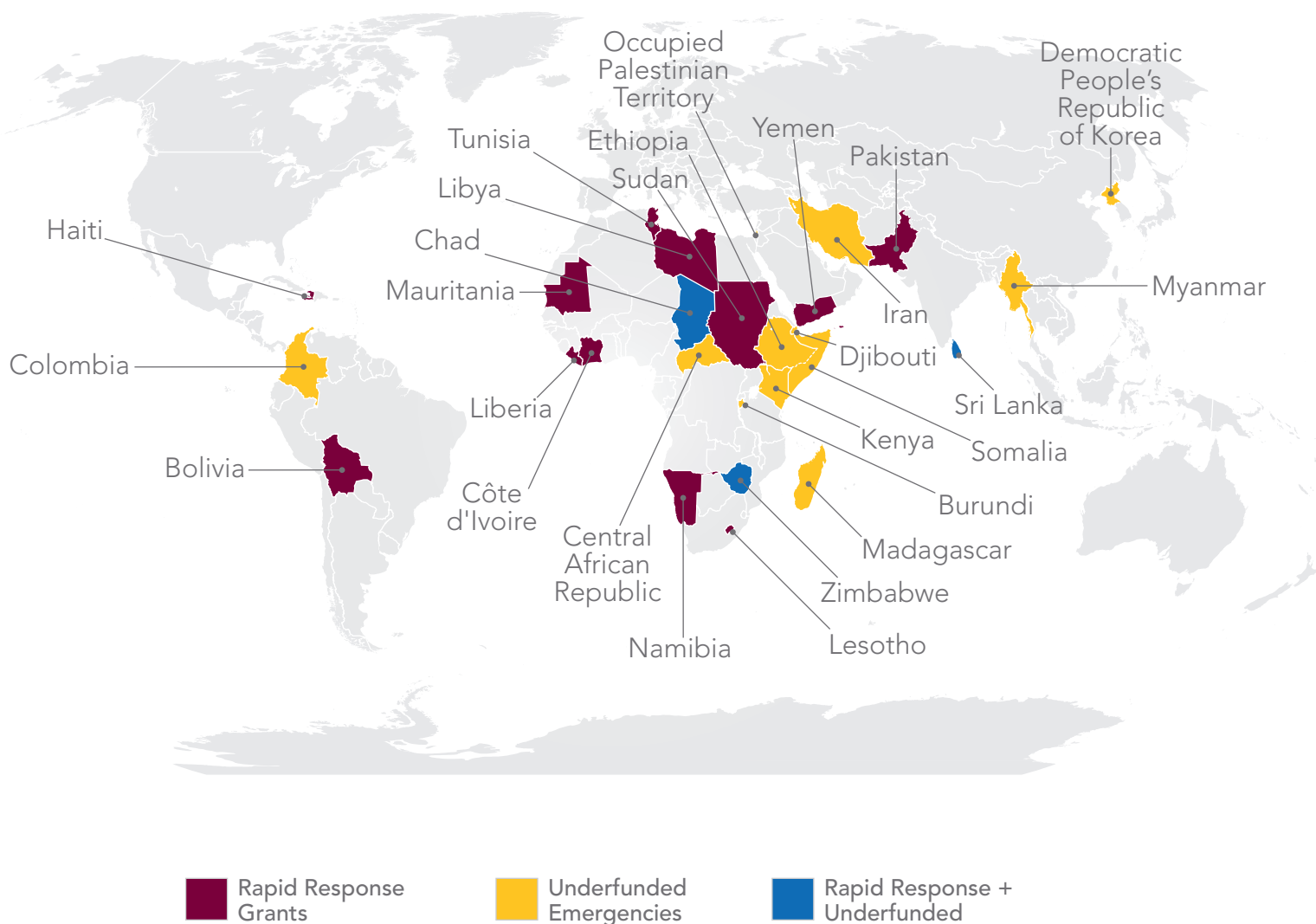
Ms. Valerie Amos, the Emergency Relief Coordinator and United Nations Under-Secretary-General (USG), at the Tunisia-Libya border speaking with people who have crossed into Tunisia to escape the violence.. © David Ohana/OCHA/AVMU

Underfunded Emergencies

Currently there are over 1 million Afghan and 50,000 Iraqi refugees living in Iran. Faced with severe socioeconomic hardships, refugees are unable to pay for the medical treatment of major diseases (such as haemophilia, thalassemia, and kidney failure), education, and food. Through CERF's underfunded round, \$1.5 million was disbursed to UNHCR for life-saving medical assistance to over 100,000 target beneficiaries, including 43,000 females and 2,000 children under the age of five. Approximately \$1.5 million was allocated--also through the underfunded round--to WFP for emergency food assistance and educational support for Afghan and Iraqi refugees. The assistance reached over 34,000 people, including 15,000 females and 5,000 children under the age of five.

During the first underfunded round, a total of \$4 million was allocated to oPt in support of 153,491 beneficiaries, including vulnerable populations in Gaza and Area C and among isolated Bedouin herder communities. The funding, including \$1 million received by UNICEF and \$900,400 received by WFP and UNRWA, is primarily focused on urgent needs in the agriculture, food, health and WASH sectors.

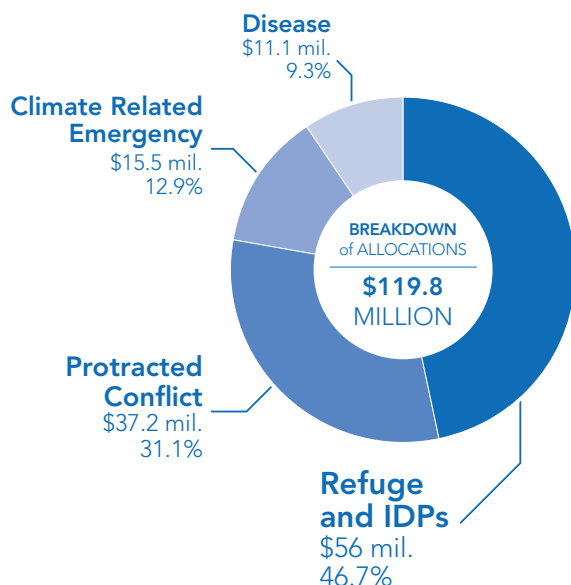
This is the first time agencies working in oPt and Iran received funds through the CERF underfunded window.



In response to the increasingly acute drought in Somalia, CERF allocated some \$10 million for humanitarian response through the underfunded window. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is using funds to improve and maintain child and maternal nutritional status, provide maternal and child health services, and implement an emergency response to increase and sustain access to safe water and sanitation facilities for IDPs. The World Food Programme (WFP) is using \$5 million for emergency food assistance and protection of livelihoods. Some \$2.5 million was allocated to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for livelihood support to IDPs and riverine communities. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is providing non-food items kits to IDPs in Puntland and Central Somalia and the World Health Organization (WHO) is providing mobile emergency health services and life-saving health interventions in the areas hardest hit by drought.

Funding by Emergency Type

For the first quarter of 2011, the largest portion of funding went to assisting refugees and IDPs. This was followed by significant spending in response to protracted conflict. This is large part because relatively more funding in the first quarter of 2011 was given through the underfunded window rather than through the rapid response window.



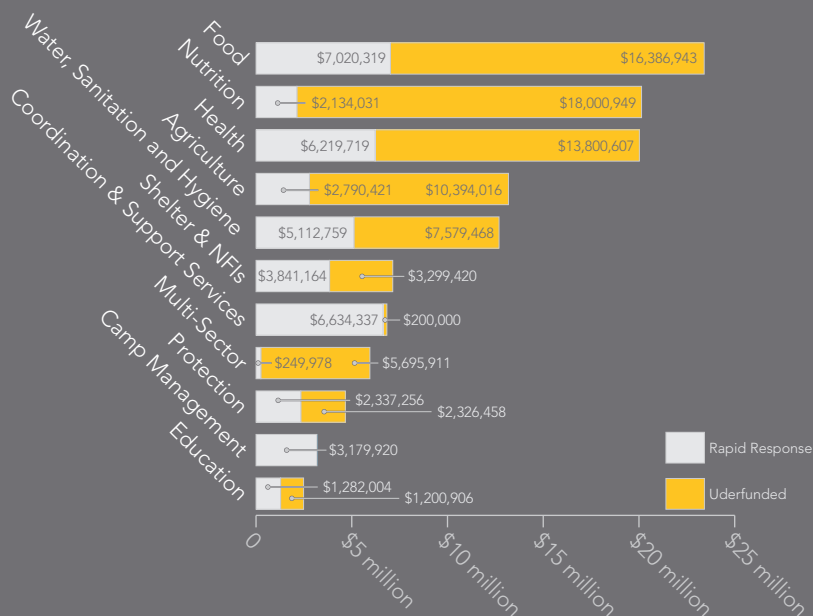
Country	Rapid Response	Underfunded Emergencies	Total
Sri Lanka	\$6,141,383	\$4,980,047	\$11,121,430
Ethiopia	\$0	\$10,998,225	\$10,998,225
Haiti	\$10,371,212	\$0	\$10,371,212
Cote d'Ivoire	\$10,299,134	\$0	\$10,299,134
Somalia	\$0	\$9,989,087	\$9,989,087
Chad	\$0	\$8,039,204	\$8,039,204
Kenya	\$0	\$5,993,848	\$5,993,848
Liberia	\$5,988,454	\$0	\$5,988,454
Zimbabwe	\$977,054	\$4,995,491	\$5,972,545
DPRK	\$0	\$4,999,783	\$4,999,783
CAR	\$0	\$4,999,120	\$4,999,120
Tunisia	\$4,997,940	\$0	\$4,997,940
Burundi	\$0	\$3,999,812	\$3,999,812
Madagascar	\$0	\$3,994,126	\$3,994,126
oPt	\$0	\$3,972,686	\$3,972,686
Djibouti	\$0	\$2,998,322	\$2,998,322
Myanmar	\$0	\$2,993,060	\$2,993,060
Iran	\$0	\$2,992,466	\$2,992,466
Colombia	\$0	\$2,939,401	\$2,939,401
Lesotho	\$1,347,306	\$0	\$1,347,306
Mauritania	\$679,425	\$0	\$679,425
TOTAL	\$40,801,908	\$78,884,678	\$119,686,586



Afghan refugee girls attend school in Iran.
© Basile Zoma/UN Photo

Funding by Sector and Agency

The two highest-funded sectors in early 2011 were food and nutrition, which accounted for 19.8% and 16.8% of total approved funds, respectively. WFP received the largest amount of funding in the first three months of 2011, with a total disbursement of \$37 million, of which over \$12 million has targeted rapid response projects and nearly \$25 million has been allocated through the first underfunded round. Other major recipients of CERF funds include UNICEF, with a total of over \$28 million and UNHCR, with a total of nearly \$14 million.



An old woman carries a child across flood waters in Sri Lanka's eastern village of Verugal during flooding in mid-January. More than 1 million people were affected and over 300,000 displaced. © Amantha Perera/IRIN

