



United Nations

CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND



Neighborhood children pause from a game of football on the outskirts of Niamey, Niger. © David Ohana/OCHA

QUARTERLY UPDATE

2nd Quarter 2012

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 \$2.6 billion in 86 countries and territories.

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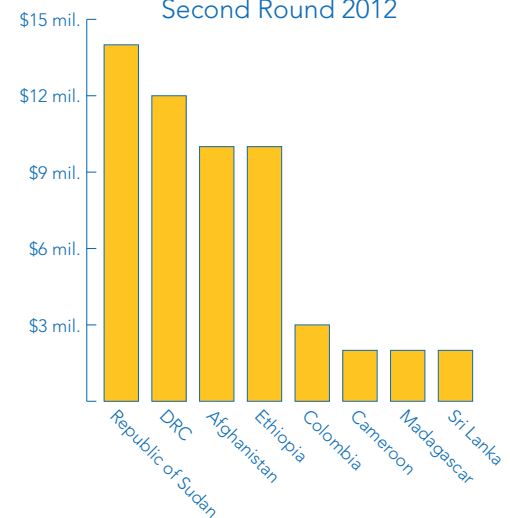
Highlights

\$55 Million Allocated in the Second Underfunded Round

Some US\$55 million from the Fund was allocated by the the Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos in July to bolster humanitarian operations in eight poorly funded humanitarian emergencies around the world: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These allocations bring the overall amount provided by CERF for underfunded emergencies in 21 countries this year to more than \$158 million. Thirteen countries were given nearly \$104 million in the first January 2012 underfunded round.

Analysis of funding levels and severity of humanitarian needs provided the basis for country selection. Subsequently, Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators in the selected countries will prioritise CERF funds for time-critical and life-saving programmes as identified by humanitarian UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and NGO partners. Humanitarian Country Teams will then submit specific projects in August and funds will be disbursed in September/October for implementation until 30 June 2013. The full details of the countries and allocations in this round can be found on the CERF website, cerf.un.org.

Underfunded Allocations
Second Round 2012



Pledges and Contributions in 2012

More than \$380 million in pledges and contributions have been made and \$345 million has already been received. The early conversion of pledges to contributions has allowed CERF to have sufficient cash on hand to meet needs around the world.

New CERF Website Launched

CERF launched a newly designed website in April 2012. The site, developed from a new content management system (Drupal), features a completely different clean design and new navigation. The website includes web stories, updates, multimedia products and graphics highlighting the efficient and effective impact of CERF around the world. The website may be accessed through the following web address: unocha.org/cerf/.

The redesign of the site is part of the CERF's efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information on the Fund and its impact to Member States, donors and the general public.

Rapid Response Emergencies

Funding by Country

The Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) approved \$133 million for 23 countries from CERF's rapid response window between 1 April and 18 July 2012. The largest allocations were given to the Humanitarian Country Teams in Niger (\$21 million), South Sudan (\$20 million), Syria (\$14 million) and Burkina Faso (\$11 million).

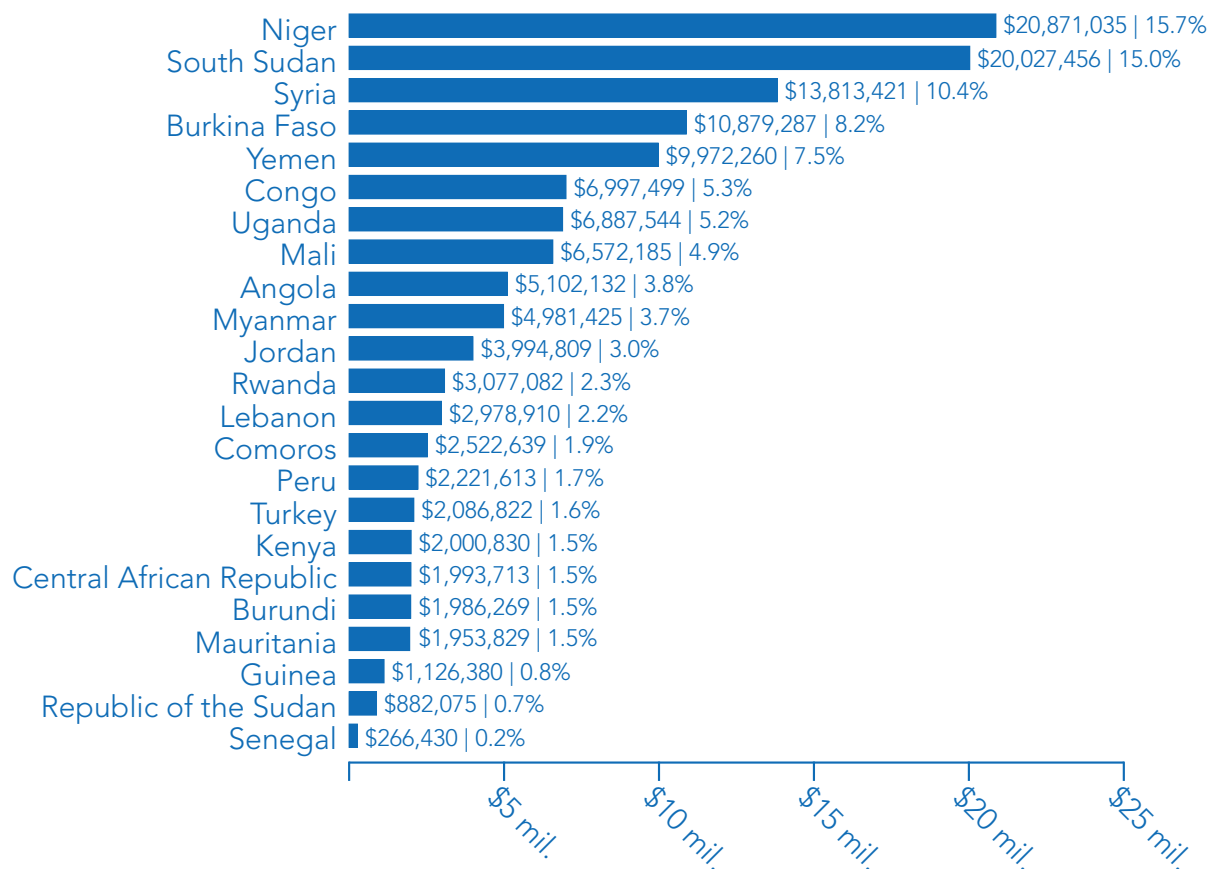
A severe food and nutrition crisis has unfolded in **Niger** in the context of high chronic food insecurity and acute malnutrition. An estimated two million people are in a chronic state of food insecurity due to rapid population growth, widespread land degradation, and heavy reliance on rain-fed subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. The resilience and coping capacity of vulnerable households has yet to fully recover from the 2011 drought crisis. In response to UN projections indicating a deepening of the crisis, CERF provided some \$16 million to WFP and FAO to improve the food security of more than 713,000 people through life-saving interventions. Activities aim to meet immediate food needs through cash transfers to affected people, scaling up humanitarian air services and restoring the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households. Nearly \$5 million was also given

to partners in Niger in April following an influx of Malian refugees and Nigerien returnees.

In July 2012, CERF gave more than \$20 million in funding to four UN agencies and IOM in South Sudan in response to a recent influx of Sudanese refugees into the country. Clashes along its northern border have left **South Sudan** coping with a massive humanitarian crisis as more than 170,000 people fled from the conflict in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States. The dire refugee situation has further deteriorated over the past month as resources have become stretched and humanitarian actors have struggled to cover a rapidly expanding refugee population. CERF money will support priority life-saving projects to benefit a targeted 65,000 people, including over 13,000 children under age 5. The cost of humanitarian operations in South Sudan is particularly high due to the almost total reliance on imported goods and services and poor road and river transport networks. UNHCR, the UN agency responsible for overall coordination of refugee response in South Sudan, received the largest allocation of \$10 million to provide protection, relief items and life-saving services in Unity and Upper Nile States.

Rapid Response Funding by Country

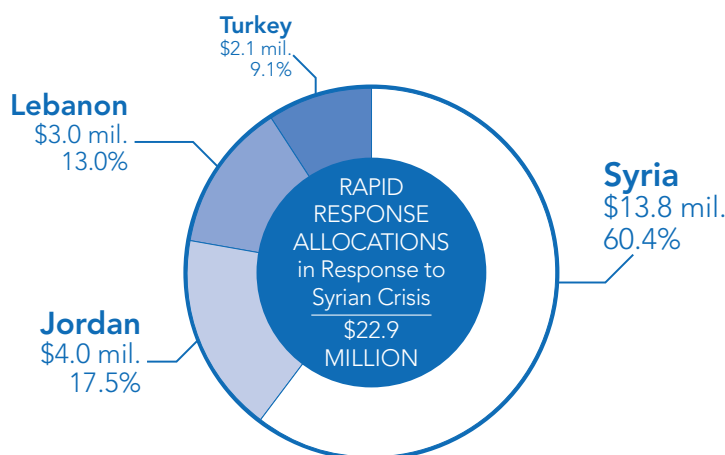
1 April to 18 July 2012





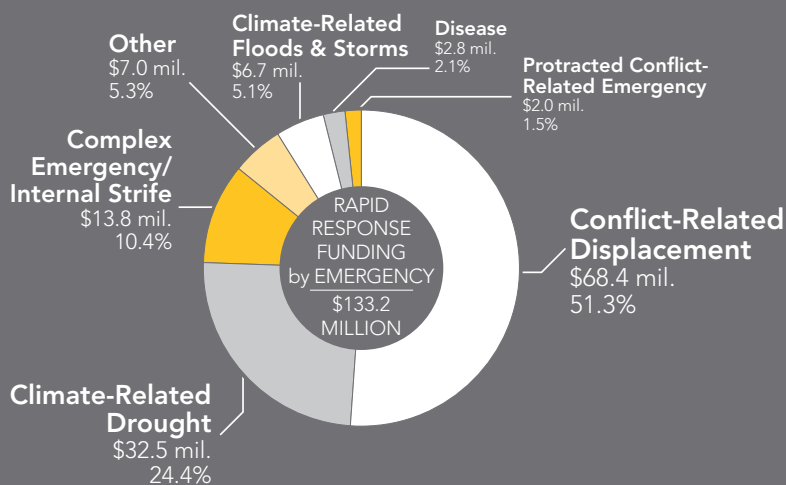
Members of a Syrian family register as refugees in Lebanon.
© F. Juez/UNHCR

In the second quarter, CERF provided nearly \$23 million in rapid response funding to assist Syrian refugees in **Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan** and to support those affected in **Syria**. Since the fighting began in Syria some 16 months ago, tens of thousands of people have been uprooted from their homes, with many fleeing to neighbouring countries. The CERF allocation will enable UN agencies and humanitarian partners to support life-saving assistance for Syrians uprooted by the fighting in their homeland. The Fund provided nearly \$3 million to UN agencies and their partners in Lebanon to support Syrian refugees. Some \$2 million was provided for similar efforts in Turkey, and nearly \$4 million for Jordan. CERF also disbursed nearly \$14 million in April to address critical priority funding shortfalls among humanitarian partners in Syria.



Funding by Emergency Type

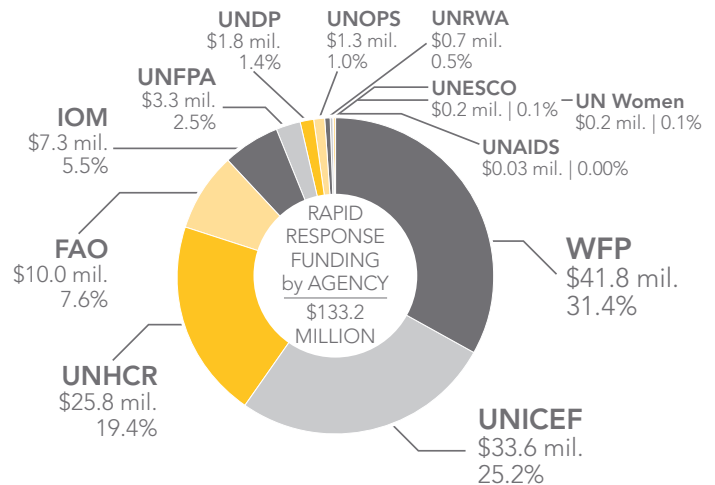
Conflict-related displacement in 12 countries accounted for the majority (51 per cent) of CERF allocations in the second quarter, totalling \$68 million. CERF gave \$32 million, or a quarter of funding, for people affected by climate-related drought in five countries, including Niger, Burkina Faso, Angola, Kenya and Senegal. UN partners in Syria were allocated nearly \$14 million, or 10 per cent of allocations, under the complex emergency/internal strife category.



To support efforts of government and humanitarian partners to aid survivors and clear up unexploded ammunition scattered by arms depot explosions and support survivors in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, CERF disbursed nearly \$7 million to seven UN agencies to provide aid to affected people. The Fund gave more than \$6.7 million to partners in Comoros, Peru and Burundi for people affected by floods and storms. WHO and UNICEF received \$1.1 million following a cholera outbreak in Guinea, while UNICEF in Burkina Faso received \$1.7 million in response to an escalation in meningitis cases.

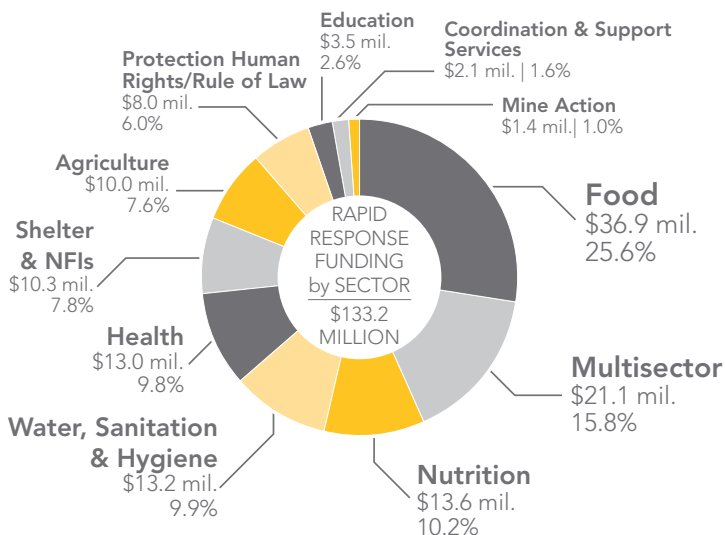
Funding by Agency

In keeping with previous trends, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR were the top three recipients of CERF funds, accounting for more than three-quarters (75 per cent) of all allocations in the second quarter. WFP in Niger received the largest project allocations (\$14.5 million) of all agencies to fund emergency food and humanitarian air services in response to the drought-related nutrition crisis. Following signature of a letter of understanding between UN Women and CERF, in July the agency received a first time grant from CERF of \$193,151 to fund protection and health activities for persons affected by conflict in northern Mali. UNESCO, having not submitted a proposal to CERF since 2010, received \$180,310 to fund protection activities for victims of the April arms depots explosions in Brazzaville, Congo.



Funding by Sector

The food sector was the top funded sector for the quarter, having received nearly \$37 million, or some 28 per cent of funding for projects in 14 countries. Multi-sectoral support for refugees increased significantly from \$9.7 million in the first quarter to \$21 million in the second; the largest allocations were given to UNHCR in South Sudan (\$10 million) and nearly \$4 million to UNICEF and UNHCR in Uganda to fund projects to support response to Congolese refugees.



Advisory Group Meeting 29-30 May 2012

The CERF Advisory Group held its first meeting of the year in Geneva on 29 and 30 May 2012. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos, provided an update on the use and management of the Fund since the Group's last meeting in October 2011. She also briefed the Group on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Transformative Agenda. The Group met with the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators from Chad, the Democratic Republic of Korea and Ethiopia to discuss their roles in coordinating the humanitarian community's response to sudden onset disasters, and how they managed CERF funds. The Advisory Group was encouraged by the feedback received from IASC members on efforts to improve the speed of disbursements of CERF funds to implementing partners and expressed their support for the improvements made so far.

For the Fall 2012 meeting, scheduled for October 2012 in Geneva, the Advisory Group requested the CERF Secretariat to provide an update on the evaluation of the Underfunded emergency window, and the outcome of the Performance and Accountability Framework reviews for the Philippines, the Côte d'Ivoire refugee crisis, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

CERF Policy

PAF Reviews

The CERF Secretariat commissioned country-level reviews of the added-value of CERF to humanitarian operations in the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia), Côte d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (Ghana and Liberia), and the Philippines. The studies are part of CERF's Performance and Accountability Framework (PAF) and are a key learning and accountability tool for the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the CERF Secretariat and other stakeholders. Field work for the reviews began in May by four independent consultants. Final reports are expected for the third quarter of 2012.

CERF Training

Each year CERF provides training for UN, IOM and NGO partners to enhance their familiarity with CERF funding and reporting processes. Workshops aim to help participants develop a clearer understanding of CERF criteria, prioritization and approval processes; improve the quality of the submissions; enhance narrative and financial reporting and share lessons learned from the region.

During the second quarter of 2012, workshops took place in Dakar, Nairobi and Bangkok and more than 150 people have been trained thus far this year. Additional trainings are scheduled for Rome, Johannesburg, Cairo and New York in the latter half of 2012.

2011 Annual Report Launched

The 2011 Annual Report of the Central Emergency Response Fund was launched in May 2012. The report is available for the first time in a web-based format at unocha.org/cerf/ar/2011. An Annual Report Summary may also be downloaded from the site.

The report notes that some \$427 million of CERF funds were allocated to 11 UN agencies and IOM in 2011. Despite the challenging global economic environment, CERF raised the highest dollar amount ever from donors in 2011; more than \$465 million was raised.



Congolese refugee children stand in front of their shelter at Nyakabande transit centre, Kisoro district, Uganda. © Samuel Okiror/IRIN

CERF: Tackling the Nutrition Crisis in Burundi

Two-year-old Arcade Maniragarura is one of many children affected by malnutrition in Burundi. Until May this year, Arcade, who has eight older siblings, was too weak to walk.

In Burundi, nearly 1 million children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. According to UNICEF figures, Burundi has the world's second-highest stunting rates after Afghanistan; half the country's children under age 5 suffer from stunting due to chronic nutritional deficiencies.

Food shortages in Burundi began when heavy rains at the end of 2011 damaged two successive harvests, affecting some 750,000 people. The deficit has made it difficult for mothers and children to access nutritious meals.

In response to this crisis, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$2 million to UN agencies, including UNICEF, in May 2012. The funds were used to help save the lives of 150,000 people, including 8,000 children under age 5.

"The CERF funding continues to help UNICEF in support of Government efforts, and contribute to reducing child death and illness among communities impacted by food insecurity," says UNICEF's Representative in Burundi, Johannes Wedenig.

With \$535,000 from CERF, UNICEF launched a Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition project, which helped provide treatment and improve



Two-year-old Arcade Maniragarura plays with his mother, Domitile Nahimana, during a cooking session at a UNICEF-supported Positive Deviance site in Burundi. © Pawel Krzysiek/UNICEF Burundi

the health-care system. Before the project, the children in Arcade's village often had to wait several days to be treated for malnutrition at health centres. The tracking and referral system was very weak.

The project allows children without any medical complications to be treated at home with ready-to-use therapeutic foods, which provides the nutrients they need.

"When I first came to see the boy, he was very weak," said a community member who first screened Arcade for malnutrition. "Look at him now! He's the most active one in the group!"



Children receive life-saving emergency food and nutritional supplementation with UNICEF support in northern Burundi. © Pawel Krzysiek/UNICEF Burundi