

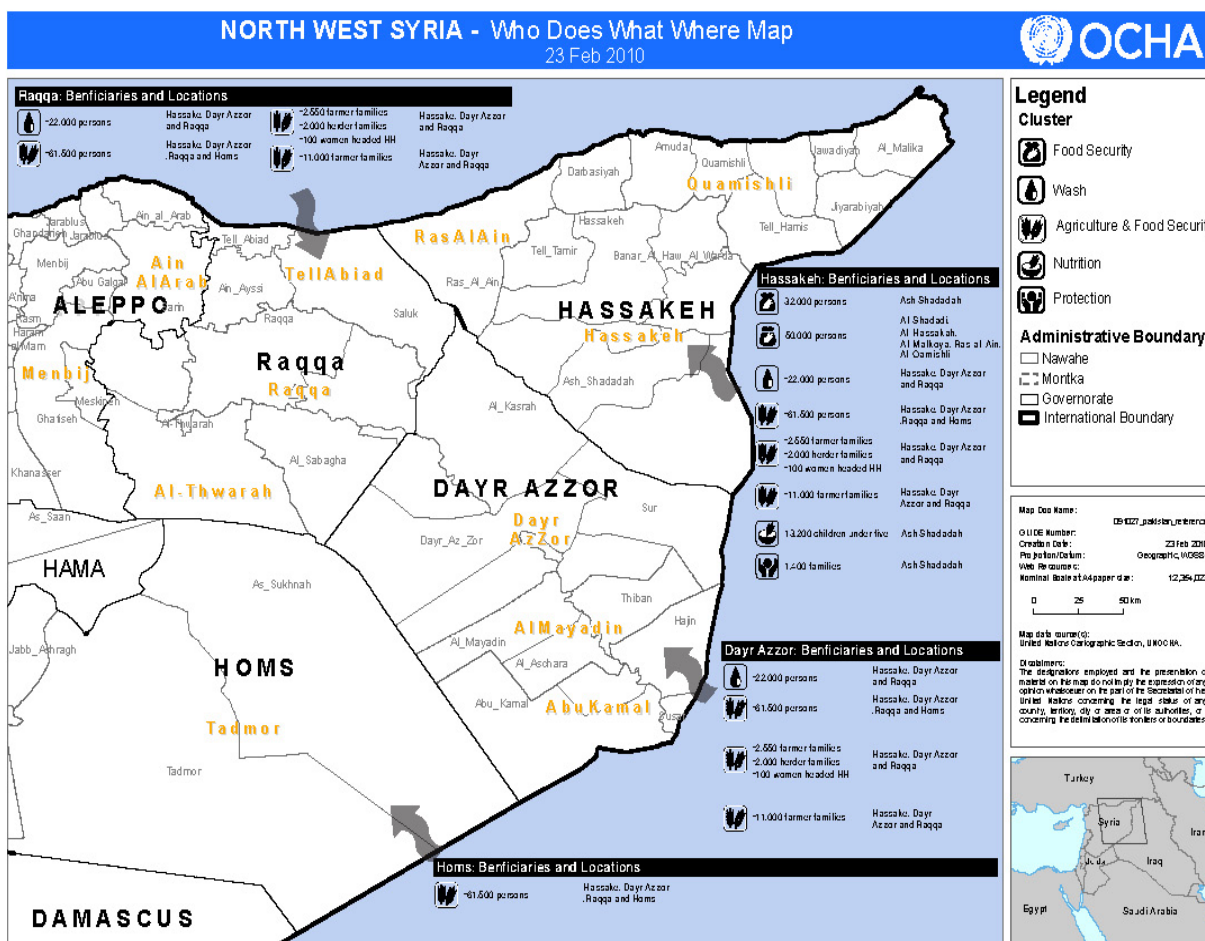
**ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR  
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Syria</b>
<b>Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator</b>	<b>Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed</b>
<b>Reporting Period</b>	<b>1 January 2009 – 31 December 2009</b>

**I. Summary of Funding and Beneficiaries**

Funding (US\$)	Total amount required for the humanitarian response:	Iraqi Refugees Emergency: \$203,448,232 Syria Drought Response Plan: \$52,938,616 Total: \$256,386,848		
	Total amount received for the humanitarian response:	Iraqi Refugees Emergency: \$160,290,368 Syria Drought Response Plan: \$12,660,809 Total: \$172,951,177		
	Breakdown of total country funding received by source:	CERF	\$3,287,464	
		CHF/HRF COUNTRY LEVEL FUNDS	0	
		OTHER (Bilateral/Multilateral)	\$169,663,713	
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Rapid Response window:		\$3,287,464	
	Total amount of CERF funding received from the Underfunded window:		0	
	Please provide the breakdown of CERF funds by type of partner:	a. Direct UN agencies/IOM implementation:		0
		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:		\$3,287,464
d. <b>TOTAL:</b>			\$3,287,464	

Beneficiaries	Total number of individuals affected by the crisis:	220,000 Iraqi Refugees registered by UNHCR 1.3 million individuals directly affected by drought
	Total number of individuals reached with CERF funding:	45,000
		4,735 children under 5
		13,375 females
Geographical areas of implementation:	Drought affected areas in the North-Eastern Governorates (Hassaka, Deir-Ezzor, Arraqah),	



## II. Analysis

For years, Syria has been coping with the effects of refugee influxes from elsewhere in the region. Syria is hosting nearly one million Iraqi refugees and about 400,000 Palestinian refugees<sup>1</sup>. Most of the Iraqi refugees are not planning to return to Iraq in the near future. Many Iraqi refugees are living below poverty line due to years of displacement and the lack of a legal framework to incorporate them into the Syrian work force. While the Government of Syria (GoS) gives Iraqi refugees access to schools and healthcare at a significant cost to its budget, Palestinian refugees enjoy almost all rights except nationality.

Now in addition to the refugee issues, Syria is facing humanitarian challenges of its own. Syria has been seriously affected by drought for the third consecutive year. This phenomenon devastated the livelihoods of 1.3 million Syrian citizens, 800,000 of them were severely affected and 300,000 were considered the most vulnerable. The prolonged drought directly affected the quality and quantity of food intake and the quality of accessible water. As a direct consequence more than 100,000 households migrated to the western parts of Syria.

In support of measures implemented by GoS, the UN launched the Syria Drought Response Plan (SDRP) on 12 August 2009 and requested a total amount of US\$53 million for food, livelihoods and water/health assistance. The objective of the plan is to enhance and complement the Syrian Government assistance. The GoS welcomed this step and issued an official letter supporting the response and welcoming assistance<sup>2</sup>. In addition the GoS supported implementation by providing subsidized seeds and fodder and free of charge services<sup>3</sup>.

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Syria decided to invite donors to participate in the process from the beginning. Therefore, diplomatic missions based in Syria were debriefed and invited to participate in assessment missions. Yet, SDRP is poorly funded. This poor funding to SDRP has equally disappointed GoS as well as the international community. The rainy season arrived and no funds were channelled to allow for implementation of timely critical interventions. In October 2009 Syria received the first wave of rainfall. The rains were greeted with optimism and the hope that Syria would not suffer from drought during the 2009/2010 season. Therefore, the UNCT decided to request further emergency support from CERF. The UNCT in Syria hoped that CERF support would encourage other donors to contribute.

UNCT decided to focus on four major activities. The first project was for the restoration of food security by distributing emergency food assistance through the World Food Programme (WFP). The second project was to maintain food security through support to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for distributing seeds to small scale herders/ herders in the most affected region. The third project, a collaboration between WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), was for the distribution of therapeutic food to malnourished children and for the installation of a surveillance system for malnutrition. Finally, the United Nations Development

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<sup>1</sup> Palestinian refugees came to Syria in two waves; the first one in 1948 and the second one in 1967. Some Iraqi refugees came to Syria in the 1990's. However, the major bulk of the Iraqi refugees sought asylum in Syria in 2003. The mass influx occurred in 2006 after the destruction of the Shiite shrines and break out of the sectarian unrest during 2006 and 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Syrian Government have officially requested that the international community avoid the use of "Appeal" since it has a negative resonance in Arabic. The GoS also insisted to avoid all opening ceremony with media coverage.

<sup>3</sup> US \$720,000

Programme (UNDP) worked collaboratively with FAO to restore livestock by allowing the affected population sustainable access to fresh water.

The above-mentioned activities were selected based on lessons learned from the 2008 Drought Flash Appeal and in discussion with donors including ECHO, and the diplomatic missions.

The prompt CERF allocation of \$3,254,880 toward the SDRP allowed the UNCT to maintain food security for some among the most vulnerable population affected by the prolonged drought and decrease the avoidable morbidity and mortality of acute malnutrition among under 5 children and women of child-bearing age. CERF funding assisted in the restoration of livestock and funded water projects. People were given access to improved drinking water as incidences of water borne diseases and gastroenterological illnesses were on the increase since 2006. The delay in providing sufficient funds to SDRP participating agencies made the above mentioned objectives a priority for the UNCT intervention within the current appeal and in the mid-term review of the SDRP that was released in February 2010.

The current humanitarian funding situation in Syria shows that donors will support direct humanitarian activities like emergency food distribution, designed under SDRP but not other measures designed under the same response plan - like fodder distribution, support for resilience capacity, and health projects. Therefore, the much-needed CERF funding helped the UNCT to apply a more comprehensive assistance program for the affected population. For example, the water and health and nutrition sectors are solely funded by CERF. To increase the impact of the humanitarian assistance funded by CERF, the UNCT decided while designing CERF proposal to choose the most drought affected region - the Al Shadadi district. This allows participating UN agencies to focus their activities in that area.

WFP designed an Emergency Operation (EMOP) project to provide immediate assistance for 300,000 people among the most severely affected people in the three governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Al-Raqqa and Deir Ezzor. WFP used the CERF allocation to reach 32,000 beneficiaries out of 300,000 (76% of the target) with the first supplementary food distribution in the northeast part of Syria. They reached this target by distributing a basket cover 75% of the daily ration. FAO provided 10,000 farmers (144,000 people) with seeds procured by the CERF allocation. UNICEF used the funds they received from CERF to distribute supplementary Therapeutic food to children severely malnourished children and to equip primary health centres in Al Shaddadi district with a nutrition surveillance system to identify malnourished children. Finally, CERF funds allowed UNDP to provide the affected population with access to sustainable fresh water resources, without imposing more pressure on the water reservoir.

The CERF contribution to the drought in Syria for the second year had a major impact on enhancing and improving the relationship of the UNCT with the GoS. The CERF's added value was seen clearly as CERF was the first to fund the projects designed under the SDRP. Donors channelled additional funding following the announcement of the CERF allocation of \$3.2 million to SDRP. At the operational level, CERF allocations helped 11,000 farmers to rescue the 2009/2010 season by providing seeds at a critical time. CERF funding allowed WFP to start the first distribution cycle to the affected population of the Al-Shaddadi district, helping many families to return to their villages.

In summary, CERF's continuous support over the past two years has had a clear impact on the relief efforts. It helped in enhancing and strengthening the relationship of the UN agencies with the GoS as the main implementing partner, and the beneficiaries of the CERF allocations. Further the UNCT designed projects under the SDRP. The selection of projects to benefit from

CERF funding ensured that the impact of CERF funds would not vanish after three months but would support the entire mitigation efforts. CERF funds allowed beneficiaries to obtain the needed resilience capacity and become independent.

### 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 targeted beneficiaries	CERF's added value to the project	Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms	Gender Equity
Emergency Food Assistance	09-WFP-067 SYR-09/F/25695/56 1 Drought Relief Emergency Food Assistance	\$1,424,137	Proposed in the SDRP: \$27,275,100  Actual project budget approved: \$22,330,337	Original targeted 42,000 beneficiaries (5,500 families)  A Women 6,868  Girls under 5: 2,305  Girls aged 5-18: 6,507  B: Men: 7,083  Boys under 5: 2,448  Boys aged 5-18: 6,789  Targeted beneficiaries for general food distribution: 32,000  Nutritional activity under 5 years: 4,753  Pregnant and lactating women: 1,374	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food requirements for targeted population are satisfied;</li> <li>▪ Malnutrition rates are stabilized;</li> <li>▪ Migration from the affected area is decreased and voluntary return increased;</li> <li>▪ School drop-out rates have decreased or stabilized;</li> <li>▪ Negative coping strategies are significantly reduced;</li> <li>▪ Local capacities in coping with emergency issues at community level are being developed.</li> </ul>	<p>This project was designed to target 42,000 beneficiaries. CERF funding alone was insufficient to cover this number, thus the actual number of beneficiaries targeted using CERF funds is 32,000.</p> <p>The food assistance has been used to prevent further reduction in the quantity and quality of food consumption levels in the targeted area (measured by food diversity, number of meals) as well as reduce rates of moderate malnutrition. Improvements for the beneficiaries cannot be accurately evaluated, as at this point in the project WFP is in the process of collecting information related to improving food security and analysing data from field visits.</p>	CERF's funding allowed for the preparation of a more coordinated and consolidated response with UN agencies in the most-affected drought area. A new initiative was undertaken in terms of treatment of malnutrition, where WFP joined efforts with UNICEF to provide supplementary feeding with RUSF (Ready to Use Supplementary Food) to most vulnerable under two years, and to provide pregnant and lactating women and moderately malnourished infants between 2-5 years of age with fortified blended food (Wheat Soya Blend, oil and sugar).	Monitoring and Evaluation is conducted by WFP Food Aid Monitors using WFP standard formats of questionnaires on daily basis in targeted areas. WFP's implementing partner, the Badia Commission, is present during monitoring which contributes to capacity-building.	Targeted beneficiaries under general food distribution: 32,000; of which men -16,320 (51%) and women - 15,680 (49%).  For the Supplementary Feeding Programme, the ratio is 51.49% (2,411 boys and 2,342 girls).

						<p>Procurement and distribution of food commodities with CERF contribution are as follows: Rice 350 mt; Bulgur 576 mt; Chickpeas 218.5 mt; Oil 173.85 mt; WSB 225 mt; Sugar 22 mt; and Nutributter 12 mt. This is allowing the provision of a daily ration of 1,680 kcal/day for 32,000 beneficiaries in the targeted population.</p> <p>Initiation of a blanket supplementary feeding programme for infants under 2 years of age in the worst drought-affected area of Al Shadadi.</p>			
<b>Food Security and Livelihood</b>	<p>09-FAO-034 SYR- 09/A/25688/12 3 Emergency Response to Support Livelihoods and Food Security of Drought-Affected Small-Scale Farmers in the North-Eastern Governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic</p>	\$1,400,000	\$4,989,050	9,603 households (76,824 individuals)	19,206 ha to be cultivated and sown, crops residues sold/used as animal feed	<p>The provided assistance will enable beneficiaries to produce (2 ha x 900 kg = 1,800 kg of barley) or (2 ha x 1,300 kg = 2,600 kg of wheat) per targeted household.</p> <p>In general, farmers who received barley seeds will earn in total 21,600 SYP, detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grain: 1.8 MT x 7,000 SYP = 12,600 SYP</li> <li>■ crops residues: 9,000 SYP</li> </ul> <p>TOTAL = SYP 21,600</p> <p>While farmers who received wheat seeds will earn 39,000 SYP detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grain: 2 MT x 15,000 SYP = 30,000 SYP</li> <li>■ crops residues: 9,000 SYP</li> </ul> <p>TOTAL = SYP 39,000</p> <p>Although rain season seems good so far, however quantity of crops produced is subject to receiving additional rains in the upcoming six weeks approximately mid of April.</p>	CERF funds supported affected poor farmers under the SDRP	Done jointly with GoS and local communities on a continuous basis.	<p>Female headed households represented 10.5% of the total number of beneficiaries.</p> <p>This is due to the fact that land ownership is usually in men's hands.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Health and Nutrition</b></p>	<p>09-CEF-058A SYR-09/H/25700/1 24 Provision of therapeutic food to Malnourished children of Al Shaddadi district in Hassake governorate</p>	<p>\$263,327</p>	<p>\$520,000</p>	<p>13,200 under 5 children to benefit from nutrition surveillance system, including 1500 malnourished children benefit from Therapeutic feeding.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approx. 1,500 malnourished children to receive therapeutic food.</li> <li>2 .Mild &amp; moderate cases of malnutrition to be properly managed at the PHC level.</li> <li>3. All severe cases of malnutrition to be referred to hospitals.</li> <li>4. By the end of CERF grant period, the targeted 10 PHC centres to be implemented and set up of nutrition surveillance system for all U5 children in the catchments area.</li> <li>5. Approx. 13,200 U5 children to have access to nutrition surveillance and record of their nutritional status (growth monitoring)</li> <li>6. Monthly reports produced by each centre.</li> </ol>	<p>1. All <i>U5 malnourished children received therapeutic food</i> during the last 2 months and it is expected to achieve the targeted number within the coming 2 months as the project is ongoing.</p> <p>2. Approximately <b>3280</b> U5 children visited the PHCs, 54% of them with mild level of malnutrition (between -1 and -2 SD), <b>21.3% were moderately malnourished</b> (between -2 and -3 SD), and <b>5.6% were severely malnourished</b> (below -3 SD). Mild &amp; moderate cases were treated by physicians working in those PHCs, and the nutritional status of all those children is monitoring on a weekly basis.</p> <p>3. Severe cases of malnutrition, approx. 5.6%, where referred to the children`s hospital in Hassake. The medical team in the hospital received special training on treating the severely malnourished children. After passing phase 1 of severe malnutrition, children continued their treatment as outpatients under the supervision of physicians at PHCs.</p> <p>4. All the targeted 10 PHCs started the implementation of nutrition surveillance system (after building their capacity on growth monitoring and managing deferent cases of malnutrition), and will continue this system as part of their regular work</p>	<p>The allocation of CERF funds and provision of therapeutic feeding through NSS program saved approx. 5.6% of U5 children who are severely malnourished, maintained the life of approx. 21% of children who are moderately malnourished, and enhanced the nutritional status of all children in general through the raising awareness among mothers in the targeted area.</p>	<p>Monitoring was done through the monthly report of the targeted 10 PHCs in addition to regular field visits to the targeted area.</p> <p>As the project is ongoing, the final assessment of the project will be done in cooperation with MOH after 4 months.</p>	<p>Both girls &amp; boys benefited from the project, growth monitoring cards were designed for both sexes (taking into consideration the new WHO standards)</p> <p>49.8% of children under 5 who visited the targeted centres were girls, and 50.2% were boys.</p> <p>Health education activities targeted mothers who were informed about good nutrition practices (including exclusive breastfeeding &amp; complementary feeding).</p>
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						<p>5. The 10 health centres in addition to 2 mobile clinics are working on nutrition surveillance in the drought affected area and they are accessible to all targeted U5 children. It is expected to reach the targeted number of children within the coming 2 months.</p> <p>6. All centres are providing MOH with monthly reports to follow up the implementing of NSS &amp; therapeutic feeding,</p>			
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	<p>09-UNDP-012 SYR-09/WS/25703/779</p> <p>Provide sustainable access to clean drinking water to 13 areas (8 areas in Deir Azour Governorate , 2 areas in Hassakeh Governorate and 3 areas in Raqqa governorate).</p>	\$200,000	\$599,200	22,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhance access to clean water in the north eastern region through the rehabilitation of Roman wells</li> <li>▪ Incidences of water borne diseases and gastroenterological illness reduced.</li> <li>▪ internal migration reduced and return of households after water</li> <li>▪ decreased household expenditures on water procurement</li> <li>▪ rate of drops-out of school reduced due to reduced internal migration and improved living standards</li> </ul>	<p>UNDP managed to rehabilitate 35 wells instead of 13 planned wells. Previous experience and knowing the needed resources to complete the projects allowed UNDP to manage the fund efficiently and increase the number of wells by three times. This allow the same fund to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ provide free access to safe drinking water for households, herders, and cattle in the rural drought affected area</li> <li>▪ improve living household standards in these areas</li> <li>▪ enhance the health situation of local communities through reducing diarrhoea cases resulting from unsafe water.</li> </ul> <p>Increased beneficiaries from planed number of 5,240 beneficiaries to 22,000</p>	<p>The allocation of CERF funds allowed UNDP to support the GoS in its efforts for enhancing resilience capacity for drought affected population.</p>	<p>UNDP's followed management programme guidelines related to applying M&amp;E tools including: monthly progress reports, work plans, ad hoc field visits, technical visits, etc.</p>	<p>The project targeting women and men equally, with a focus on the special hygiene needs of girls and young women.</p>

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

No funds were forwarded to NGOs.

## **Annex 2: Acronyms and Abbreviations**

<b>CERF</b>	Central Emergency Response Fund
<b>ECHO</b>	European Commission Humanitarian Aid
<b>EMOP</b>	Emergency Operation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GOS</b>	Government of Syria
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Centers
<b>SDRP</b>	Syria Drought Response Plan
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>RUSF</b>	Ready to Use Supplementary Food
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme