The Horn of Africa is facing one of the worst droughts in decades, leaving almost 12 million people in Ethiopia and Somalia in urgent need of food assistance. Extensive crop failures, record low vegetation coupled with livestock death and limited water resources are affecting Somalia and South and Eastern Ethiopia. CERF has released a total of $36.5 million to help 2.8 million people - more than 20% of the affected population - in Somalia and Ethiopia. Funds allow humanitarian partners to scale up mitigation measures, avert further loss of livelihood and respond to severe food insecurity and malnutrition. Affected people will immediately receive access to water, health, nutritional and agricultural services. This CERF grant covers only a small portion of what is required to to kick-starting early action in response to rising hunger and malnutrition levels. More resources are urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe.