

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

20/10/08

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

—  
**TALKING POINTS FOR DOCUMENTARY  
ON THE CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND  
New York, 4 November 2008**

**Question 1**

*[Since January 2008, CERF has contributed \$270 million to rapid response grants to 48 countries and \$125.2 million to underfunded emergencies in 19 countries. In May 2008, the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator set aside a \$100 million reserve from CERF to address immediate needs for the food crisis triggered by the recent surge in global food prices. Of the more than 16.5 million beneficiaries targeted, an estimated 8.4 million are children younger than five years.]*

**Who does CERF help?**

- The Central Emergency Response Fund helps some of the most vulnerable people in the world, especially women and children, who are hit hardest by disasters and other major crises. Since January 2008, the Fund has contributed more than \$272 million to rapid response grants to 48 countries, and \$125.2 million to underfunded emergencies in 19 countries. In May 2008, the Fund set aside \$100 million to help more than 16 million people affected by the global food crisis. Half of them were small children.

**Question 2**

*[Since its inception, CERF has allocated over \$1 billion in rapid response and underfunded grants to over 1,400 projects in 65 countries. CERF has provided food, shelter and safe water to people whose homes have been destroyed by floods, earthquakes and cyclones and people displaced by conflict. It has also supplied health care to families in need and provided life-saving drugs to families at risk.]*

**What kinds of aid are we talking about?**

In less than three years, the Central Emergency Response Fund has provided over \$1 billion in emergency assistance. It has helped people whose homes have been destroyed by disasters, as in Myanmar, or by conflict, as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has helped bring life-saving health care and medicines, safe water, shelter and food to thousands of families around the world. From Asia to Africa, and from the Middle East to Latin America, the Fund is helping to save lives when and where it matters most.



### **Question 3**

*[CERF has contributed to rapid response grants to natural disasters (35.4 percent), complex emergencies (32.5 percent) and the global food crisis (32.1 percent). CERF has allocated \$100 million to the global food crisis in 2008. East Africa and the Horn of Africa received the largest contribution from the food crisis reserve, totalling about 40 percent of funds disbursed. This is followed by West Africa (11 percent), Central Asia (11 percent), Great Lakes and Central Africa (10 percent), and Southern Africa (10 percent). The three countries that received the largest percentage of funding from the reserve were Ethiopia (22 percent), Afghanistan (9 percent) and DRC (8 percent).]*

**Why is CERF so important in today's world?**

- Millions of people are suffering from natural disasters, complex emergencies and the global food crisis. The Central Emergency Response Fund is unique because it gets money to humanitarian agencies where it is most needed within a matter of days, not weeks. Today especially, we see climate change generating more weather-related disasters. The global food crisis is increasing the number of hungry people. We need the Fund now more than ever.

### **Question 4**

*[For Rapid Response projects, the average number of days between final submission and approval was 2.7 days in the first half of 2008. CERF allocated \$22.4 million to Myanmar following cyclone Nargis and \$8 million to China following the Sichuan earthquake within two days.]*

**How quickly can CERF funds be used in the event of a humanitarian crisis?**

- The Central Emergency Response Fund provides emergency funds in just a few days. This is far quicker than other donor channels. The Fund enables UN humanitarian agencies and the International Organization for Migration to respond to emergencies more rapidly. Speed saves lives.

### **Question 5**

*[Over 100 donors have contributed \$1.1 billion to CERF including 92 Member States, one Observer State, and eight private donors. In 2008, 78 donors, one Observer state and seven private donors have contributed \$432 million to CERF. The top ten donors to date are the UK, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Denmark, and Australia.]*

**Where do CERF funds come from?**

- The Central Emergency Response Fund depends on voluntary contributions. Without the support of Member States, there would be no Fund. The strength of the Fund lies in its wide donor support. If the Fund did not exist, millions of suffering people around the world would not receive the assistance they need. I thank Member States for their generosity. I urge them to continue supporting this vital humanitarian lifeline.



Marianne  
Moran/OCHA/NY@OCHA

22/10/2008 10:26 AM

To Shoko Arakaki/OCHA/NY@OCHA, Susan  
Christofides/OCHA/NY@OCHA, Steve  
OMalley/OCHA/NY@OCHA  
cc Andrew Cox/OCHA/NY@OCHA, Shani  
Harris/OCHA/NY@OCHA, Ruxandra  
Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ

bcc

Subject CERF Documentary and Q&A for the SG

Dear all,

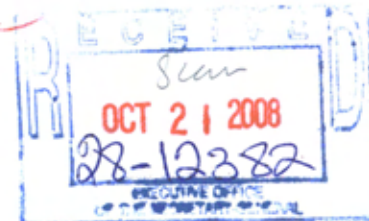
I just received confirmation from EOSG that the SG has agreed to do this documentary. It has been scheduled for 4th November. The speechwriting unit has asked if they can please have the Q&As by the **27th October**. Grateful if these could please be sent by e-mail directly to Ruxandra Ferascu (ferascu@un.org.) by the 27th.

Many thanks

Marianne Moran  
Personal Assistant to the USG  
OUSG/OCHA  
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Note to the Secretary-General

**VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ON THE IMPACT OF THE CENTRALEMERGENCY  
RESPONSE FUND (CERF)**

1. A short documentary video is currently being produced demonstrating the impact that the CERF has had on the lives of disaster victims. The video will feature segments shot on location in Haiti and northern Kenya showing how the CERF and the UN has made a difference.
2. The video will be premiered at the upcoming High-Level Conference on the CERF to be held on 4 December, in which I appreciate the agreement of your presence. It will also be used throughout the year to help raise both awareness of and financial support for the Fund.
3. Given the high visibility that the documentary will receive, I would be grateful if you could record a quote on camera to be used for the video. This would strengthen the message of the documentary and lend it more credence.
4. The recording will take about twenty minutes and can be done at a time and place convenient to you. In order to meet production deadlines, the recording would have to take place by early November.
5. If you accept, my Office will prepare a short list of suggested questions and talking points to be used during the recording.
6. I look forward to receiving feedback from your office at the earliest convenience.

*R. Khaliq*

John Holmes  
20 October 2008

Richard Amdur/NY/UNO  
21/10/2008 05:39 PM

To Yeocheol Yoon/NY/UNO@UNHQ  
cc Ruxandra Ferascu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Soung-ah  
Choi/NY/UNO@UNHQ  
bcc  
Subject ocha request for sg video quote on the central emergency  
relief fund (cerf)

yeocheol,  
given the importance of the cerf, i recommend that we agree to this request. if this is approved, all that  
would need doing is to agree on a venue (probably the studio) and timing (the video quote is needed by  
early november). i can review the talking points.

best,  
richard



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