

Common Humanitarian Fund in the Central African Republic

Biannual Review of the Advisory Board, 25 September 2008

Participants: Véronique Bérvas (French Cooperation), Sitta Kai-Kai (WFP), Cédric Pérus (ACF), Annie Raykov and Jocelyn Kolenga (UNHCR), Boris Varnitzky (IRC), Nicolas Rost and Severin Yangou (OCHA)

Agenda

1. Selection of CHF projects for immediate financing
2. Review of the first standard allocation of the CHF
3. Update on ongoing ERF activities
 - Selection of projects for evaluation
4. Miscellaneous
 - Election of new members for the Advisory Board

1. Selection of CHF projects for immediate financing

The first standard allocation of the new Common Humanitarian Fund in CAR has been almost completed. Of the \$2.3m that the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. allocated based on signed pledges from donors, \$711,007 (a carry-over from the now closed Emergency Response Fund) is immediately available. The members of the Advisory Board prioritized projects that are in urgent need of funding (e.g. because of the starting school year) by organisations that do not have the capacity to pre-finance activities and decided on the following projects for immediate financing:

- ACTED/JUPEDEC: Improve access to basic services for vulnerable people in Haut-Mbomou prefecture by supporting local development committees (\$160,000)
- Première Urgence: Improving infrastructure in conflict areas (\$185,000)
- COOPI: Emergency education for children from 3 to 15 years in Paoua sub-prefecture, Ouham-Pendé (\$149,293)
- Triangle GH: Assessment of food security in Vakaga and northern Haute-Kotto prefectures in the northeast (\$37,450)
- AMI: Strengthening the health system to improve primary healthcare, EPI and mother-and-child health in Bamingui-Bangoran and Nana-Gribizi (\$100,000)¹
- IRC: Water supply and hygiene promotion for people in Nana-Gribizi prefecture (\$30,000)
- Solidarités: Supporting displaced people and others affected by violence in Ouham, Nana-Gribizi and Bamingui-Bangoran (\$30,000)

¹ This project has not yet been finally approved (see below).

2. Review of the first standard allocation of the CHF

In general, the first standard allocation of the CHF was well implemented; urgent needs were identified and priority humanitarian projects selected for funding. The members of the Advisory Board and OCHA draw the following lessons and recommendations from the first standard allocation of the CHF:

- The performance of clusters during the selection process of projects for CHF financing varied. While most clusters submitted their recommendations and projects on time, the health cluster has yet to submit its recommendation and list of selected projects.
 - ➔ OCHA to follow up with the health cluster and keep the Humanitarian Coordinator a.i. informed
- Several NGOs felt that while it is necessary to fund the Humanitarian Air Service they would have preferred to be more closely involved in this decision process.
- The members of the Advisory Board, as well as several other organisations, felt that more information was needed for cluster members and leads to make an informed decision on the selection of projects for CHF funding. They decided that organisations should be asked to present a project document with more details than the one-page CAP form before the special cluster meeting during which the next standard allocation will be discussed.
 - ➔ OCHA to prepare a more detailed project form based on the existing CHF project form (see attached).
- The CHF project form will be simplified so that indirect administrative costs are calculated separately.

3. Update on ongoing ERF activities

The Emergency Response Fund was upgraded to a CHF in July 2008. In June, the ERF had been closed for project submissions (except in case of a breaking emergency). The implementation of projects funded by the ERF, however, is still ongoing. OCHA informed the Advisory Board of measures taken to reinforce the management of the ERF (and, subsequently, the CHF):

- The first evaluation of ERF-funded projects took place in August. A UN/NGO/donor mission evaluated AMI's health project in Ndélé; the report is available on the CHF website. A second evaluation of six projects in Paoua is planned between 30 September and 6 October 2008. The members of the Advisory Board asked OCHA to organise a third evaluation mission for all ongoing ERF-funded projects in Kaga-Bandoro before the end of the year. Early next year, the members asked OCHA to organise an evaluation of Mercy Corps' and Merlin's ERF-funded projects in Bouar.
 - ➔ OCHA to organise an evaluation mission to Kaga-Bandoro before the end of 2008 and to Bouar early in 2009.
- Websites for the ERF (www.hdptcar.net/erf) and the CHF (www.hdptcar.net/chf) have been created to improve transparency

- An ERF/CHF online database is now fully functional and has improved the daily management of projects
- UNDP is hiring an international and a national staff for the financial management of the ERF and CHF
- OCHA is hiring a senior international staff for the programmatic management of the ERF and CHF, in support of the Humanitarian Coordinator

4. *Miscellaneous*

The UN Country Team and the NGO community will elect new members for the ERF/CHF Advisory Board at their next respective meetings. The French Cooperation agrees to continue being a member of the Board. In addition, OCHA will contact other donors to see if a second donor is interested in becoming a member. As Ireland, Sweden and the UK, important donors of the ERF and CHF, asked to be associated by email to the Advisory Board during a meeting in New York on Common Humanitarian Funds on 15 July 2008, they will be copied on correspondence among Board members. This option is open to other interested donors.

(The UN Country Team later decided that UNICEF and UNFPA would become members of the Advisory Board. The NGO community decided for now that ACF and Solidarités would continue to represent it, with IRC as a backup.)