

## Annex 7: Brief - Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Over the past 6 years, FAO has benefited from just under US\$ 5 million in CERF funding which has been implemented through nine projects, all but one targeting conflict affected and post conflict returnee populations in north-east Sri Lanka (see table 1). All projects were of a relatively short duration (3-9 months).

Table 1. FAO/CERF Projects under implementation during the period 2006-2012.

Project Symbol	Project Title	Actual Start Date	Actual End Date	Total Budget (DWH)
OSRO/SRL/110/CHA	Emergency agricultural assistance to newly resettled and flood-affected farmers in the Northern Province 11-FAO-032	2011-10	2012-06	\$1,400,000
OSRO/SRL/002/CHA	Humanitarian Assistance for Urgent Provision of Essential Agricultural Inputs for Returning IDPs in the North	2010 - 04	2010-07	\$679,027
OSRO/SRL/101/CHA	Emergency Agricultural Assistance to Flood Victims in the Eastern and Central Province of Sri Lanka.11-FAO-003	2011 - 02	2011 - 09	\$500,000
OSRO/SRL/703/CHA	Immediate agricultural assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and conflict-affected households	2007-04	2007-07	\$500,000
OSRO/SRL/705/CHA	Urgent agriculture support project to assist returning IDPs in the Batticaloa district	2007-09	2007-11	\$465,519
OSRO/SRL/801/CHA	Urgent food security assistance to vulnerable IDPs, host families and other economically-affected families in the conflict-affected districts of Kilinochchi/Mullaithivu, Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna.	2008-05	2008-07	\$401,704
OSRO/SRL/604/CHA	Immediate emergency agriculture support for improved food security and nutrition in Jaffna	2007-01	2007-04	\$375,570
OSRO/SRL/803/CHA	Emergency agriculture assistance in support of returnees, IDPs, host families and other vulnerable families in the districts of North province during 2008 Maha season	2008-09	2009-06	\$360,000
OSRO/SRL/105/CHA	Emergency agricultural assistance to newly resettled and flood-affected farmers in the Northern Province -11-FAO-032	2011-03	2011-12	\$99,999

- **What, if any, was the added value of having these projects funded by CERF rather than from another source?**

Due to displacement, and restrictions on access imposed both by the Government and LTTE, FAO was not able to provide significant assistance to conflict affected households during the civil war (see main report, Figure 3). In war affected areas in the east, some support was provided early using residual Tsunami response funding. Between 2004 and mid 2009 (end of the war) 11 projects specifically targeted the conflict affected for a total of just over US\$7 million – 30% of which was provided through CERF funding.

- **Did CERF funds lead to a fast response? Did CERF funds help respond to time critical needs?**

In general, the CERF funded projects contributed to a larger overall response framework to assist conflicted affected populations immediately after their return to original areas of origin. While funding amounts from CERF were modest, they represented ‘early funding’ in several instance. For example, in 2007 CERF provided some of the earliest resources for assistance - 3 grants for conflict affected households (IDPs and returnees) in the north and east.

In early 2008, with CERF funds (SRL/801), FAO tried to assist conflict affected in the Kilinochchi/ Mullaithivu districts which was still in active conflict. Due to an escalation in violence, families fled and the CERF supported activities (poultry distributions) were suspended. Interviews with other agencies indicate that access to the most critically affected areas was intermittent during the final months of the conflict.

At the end of 2010/beginning of 2011, eastern Sri Lanka was hit by flooding. CERF funds (together with Australian and Austria) were provided to FAO in Feb 2011 – the first funding materialize in support of FAO’s flood recovery programme. Many of those affected by the floods were acutely vulnerable due to the fact that they had only recently resettled in the area.

- **Did CERF funds result in other funds being mobilized?**

There is no evidence that CERF funds provided leverage for additional fund raising. Funding was relatively plentiful for international agencies for both the Tsunami response and for the conflict/post conflict humanitarian assistance programme.

- **Other**

Almost 100,000 beneficiaries were reached through the 9 CERF projects for a total of just under 5 million USD – for an average cost/beneficiary reached of \$50/beneficiary. As for the FAO portfolio more generally, females were targeted only sporadically and mostly in the context of vegetable gardens and poultry raising.