

United Nations Nations Unies

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS, PARTNERS AND STAFF DONATE \$500,000 TO UN HUMANITARIAN FUND

(New York, July 2008): The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) today welcomed the very generous donation of \$500,000 by PricewaterhouseCoopers, on behalf of its partners and staff, to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). CERF is the UN's central donation facility, collecting contributions year-round to help ensure that funds are on-hand to allow for immediate humanitarian relief in emergencies.

PwC's donation is the largest so far by a private firm to the humanitarian fund. It is part of a larger grant prompted by cyclone Nargis in Myanmar which led PwC to pledge US\$ 1 million divided equally between the CERF and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). PwC also contributed to the earthquake relief efforts for the people of China. The firm donated US\$250,000 to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to help provide emergency food and healthcare to children impacted by the earthquake.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has collaborated with the United Nations for years, including contributing toward Indian Ocean tsunami relief efforts, membership in the UN Global Compact, and a significant commitment with the Office of The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to help the refugees of Darfur. Globally, PricewaterhouseCoopers has donated \$4 million to UNHCR.

"At PricewaterhouseCoopers, we have a strong commitment to community involvement worldwide, and believe that acting responsibly is a critical part of what it takes to be a leader," said Michael Costello, PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation President in a letter to the United Nations.

"This generous donation by PricewaterhouseCoopers, its partners and staff, could not have come at a more opportune time. Humanitarian needs have risen considerably due to various natural disasters around the world, while the rapid rises in the price of food and energy globally have left many vulnerable people in need of aid," said John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

In Myanmar, for example, the devastating cyclone Nargis in May left more than two million people in need of help, and in the Horn of Africa, more than nine million people are estimated to be in need of emergency food aid as a result of drought coupled with rising food prices.

Since it launched in 2006, the CERF has made available more than US\$800 million for rapid disaster relief, helping UN agencies, funds and programmes to save tens of thousands of lives in 62 countries struggling with disasters, armed conflicts or both. The food crisis has also put more pressure on the CERF's limited funds. The UN is still short of US\$20 million to reach its annual funding goal of US\$500 million.

The UN hopes that many more companies and foundations will follow PricewaterhouseCoopers, SCOR and Western Union in supporting the CERF. Philanthropy is an important component of responsible corporate citizenship.

In the US, PricewaterhouseCoopers, its partners and staff have donated more than \$18 million to nearly 3,000 organizations and spent over 95,000 hours in community activities during the past year.

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