

IRAQ

Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF)

Bulletin

No. 13 | October 2008

ERF: the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) aims to help fill critical humanitarian gaps within different sectors through readily available flexible funding for emergency response. The maximum grant is \$400,000.

NGO Micro Grant: the NGO Micro Grant provides small-scale funds to enable targeted and responsive emergency projects primarily by Iraqi NGOs. The maximum grant is \$50,000.

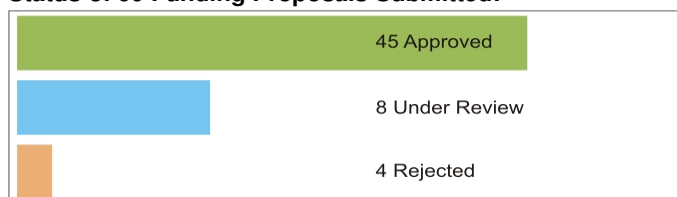
Operational Updates:

The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF): Project and Financial Status:

Seven new funding proposals for projects in food and non-food items (Sulaymaniyah and Ninewa), Protection (Baghdad), Agriculture (Thi Qar) and Health (Wasit, Dohuk and Ninewa) sectors were submitted to the ERF for consideration in October 2008. A total of 67 project proposals/funding have been received since August 2007. International NGOs account for 22 of these proposals while Iraqi NGOs have submitted 45 projects. The ERF's Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 45 funding requests of the total 67 project proposals. One national NGO project proposal will be funded by IOM and integrated within one of its programmes. Thirty ERF-funded projects have been completed and 15 are ongoing. The total cost of the funded 45 projects is \$7,552,000.00.

Eight projects, totaling an estimated \$1,000,000 are currently under review (2 are pending TRC approval). Consideration of the eligibility of six projects has been discontinued following the failure by the applicants to provide satisfactory additional information. A total of seven projects have been declined funding, four by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and three at the Sector Outcome Team screening level. A breakdown of the funded projects and where they have or are being implemented is illustrated below. Partners currently implementing ongoing ERF-funded projects include: Mercy Corps, Voice of Independent Women Organization, Heartland Alliance and Muslim Aid.

Status of 60 Funding Proposals Submitted:



Contributions to the ERF:

The ERF has received a total of \$8,261,767 in contributions since August 2007 (3% of funding is dedicated to the administration of the fund). A \$15m million grant to the ERF was approved on 7 July by the International Reconstruction Fund for Iraq (IRFFI) from the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF). The final decision on the grant proposal is expected in November.

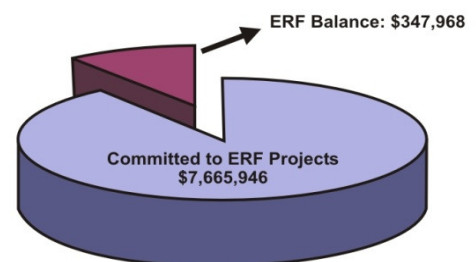
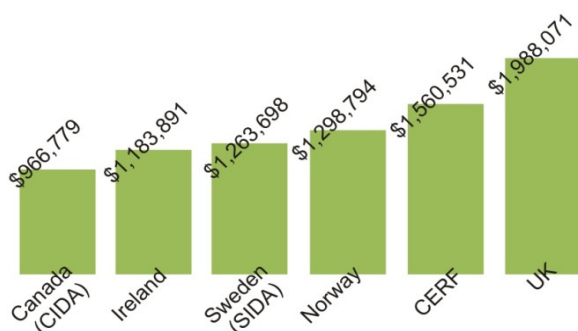
The Technical Review Committee (TRC)

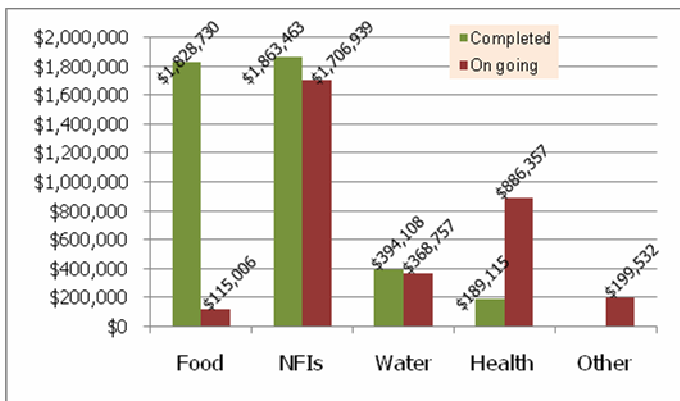
The newly constituted Technical Review Committee (TRC) comprising representatives from UN/International Organizations (UNICEF, IOM), Donors (Italy and Norway) and NGOs [(the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Terre Des Hommes (TDH)] convened for its first meeting October 28. The TRC:

- endorsed the ERF Action Plan, which, among others outlines measures to strengthen monitoring and evaluation and the role of Sector Outcome Teams (SOTs) in the project screening and approval process.
- reviewed 2 new project proposals and one ongoing project and
- Reviewed and endorsed the revised project eligibility and selection criteria-see p.5.

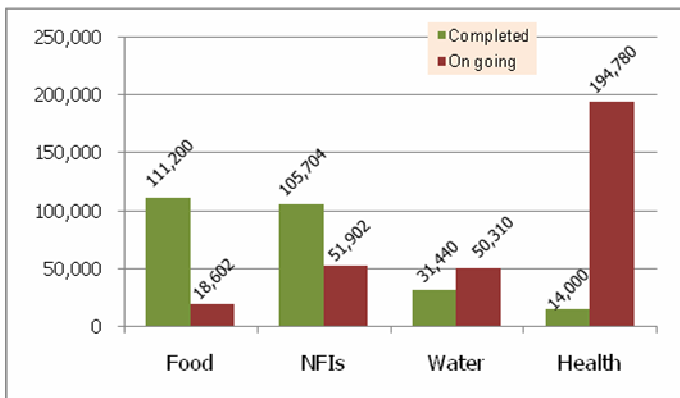
The measures are part of ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the June 2008 external evaluation of the ERF, including the speeding up of grant application processing ensuring greater partnerships/consultation, and enhancing preparedness.

Status of IRRFI Grant to the ERF: A proposal for the transfer of \$15 million portion of the interest money from the IRRFI to the ERF was presented to the Peer Group Review in Baghdad on October, 16 2008. The Peer Group endorsed the proposal, which has been presented to the ITF Steering Committee for its review and approval. The Steering Committee's decision is expected in November.





Funding¹



Number of Beneficiaries

FACTS ABOUT THE ERF:

- The ERF provides quick and flexible funding to national and international organizations for urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population through emergency response to humanitarian needs. Typical beneficiaries of ERF-funded projects include, but are not limited to, IDPs, communities affected violence, widows and persons with disabilities. The ERF is not intended to respond to chronic social problems, reconstruction or other long-term development needs.
- The ERF is replenished with new contributions on a continuing basis. The Fund grants a maximum of \$400,000 and a minimum of \$25,000 per project.
- Contributions to the ERF are un-earmarked and pooled, i.e. they lose their donor identification.
- A Technical Review Committee (TRC) is an integral part of the ERF comprising of the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration (UN/IOM), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and donor representatives.

(For further details, please see the ERF Charter, which can be obtained from OCHA Iraq by emailing ochairaq@un.org.)

THE NGO MICRO GRANT

The pooled NGO Micro Grant fund balance stands at zero. OCHA is currently not receiving further proposals under this grant, pending commitment of urgently needed funds.



Patients receiving treatment at Abu Mina Seer Medical Centre

Highlights of ERF-funded Projects

Health: Medical Centre in Abu Mina Seer, Baghdad

Knowledge for Iraqi Women Society (K4IWS) strengthened the capacity of a medical centre for 1,200 IDP families and 300 host families in Baghdad. The health project was implemented in two phases. During the initial phase (September-December 2007) K4IWS established and equipped a medical centre in Abu Mina Seer Area in Abu Ghraib / Baghdad to respond to the health needs of the local IDP and host families' population. The Medical Center extended medical services to more than 2200 beneficiaries, including to students attending the biggest, adjacent primary school. The second phase of the project (June-September) strengthened the medical center's capacity, extended its services and its impact on the health and nutrition status of the affected population through purchase of additional medical equipment, public health promotion and awareness activities and distribution of food to manage high levels of malnutrition.

K4IWS conducted 20 lectures on cholera and children diarrhea and distributed 1500 food baskets. The Centre provides general medical and dental services and retains the services of a general physician, a pediatrician, gynecologist and a dentist.

The Abu Mina Seer area of Abu Ghraib is home to a large number of IDPs and does not have a medical facility within a radius of 15 km. The medical centre's public health promotion and awareness campaigns implemented in the second phase of the ERF-funded project have been instrumental in limiting the impact of the cholera outbreak in the area. The centre plans to charge a small service fee to ensure the sustainability of the initiative.

Capacity building of Iraqi humanitarian Partners

OCHA and UNICEF Disaster Preparedness Training for Iraqi NGOs and Governorates

OCHA and UNICEF conducted a three-day workshop on disaster management in Erbil between 7 and 9 October for national ERF/HRF partners and Government

¹ The commitments to 'other' refers to assessment activities.

Emergency Cells (GEC) from across Iraq. The initiative was jointly funded by OCHA and UNICEF.

The workshop is the first of its kind to be conducted by OCHA and UNICEF inside Iraq. It offered an opportunity to enhance the coordination of emergency prevention and response capacity of partner and to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations, national humanitarian organizations and specialized emergency response agencies.

“For a long time, national NGOs have been operating alone and isolated in remote areas of Iraq. The workshop has for the first time brought them together”, said one participant.

One of the workshop sessions was dedicated to discussions on recommendations of NGOs and GECs on how to strengthen the coordination mechanisms in emergency situations between all national humanitarian actors.

Twenty participants including 12 representatives from humanitarian organizations together with representatives of GECs from Kerbala, Wassit, Missan, Thi Qar, Erbil, Suleiymanya and Dahouk participated in the workshop. Participants are working in food, non-food items, water, environmental sanitation, education and health sectors.

“Stronger UN presence will help in bringing about reconciliation in the country as a result of the development support that UN provides. It will also bring about political reconciliation and respect for human rights”, said Dr. Dindar Zebari, Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) Coordinator for UN Affairs, during his opening address.

Participants were given an introduction to the UN humanitarian system, the Humanitarian Reform and the UN cluster approach in the field. They were also introduced to International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles.

In preparation of a simulation exercise, participants were familiarized with basic and contingency planning principles. Participants took part in a response planning simulation exercise.

The workshop also introduced themes such as rapid assessment of humanitarian emergencies, monitoring and evaluation of emergency interventions, the Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers and the issue of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

Update on the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP)

The final field draft of the 2009 Consolidated Appeal for

Iraq was completed in October. The CAP is being finalized and will be launched together with other countries' Consolidated Appeals on 19 November in

Geneva. A regional launch will take place in Abu Dhabi November 24. The 2009 CAP for Iraq comprised two Pillars. The first pillar is seeking support for humanitarian activities responding to the needs of vulnerable populations inside Iraq. The needs of vulnerable Iraqis displaced outside the country (refugees) will be responded to through Pillar II of the CAP. The CAP provides an integrated and holistic framework for responding to the needs of Iraqis both inside the country and in the region on the basis of vulnerability, by all humanitarian partners. The first pillar is coordinated by the Humanitarian Coordinator with the assistance of OCHA. UNHCR is coordinating Pillar II.



Disaster Management Workshop participants

The Iraq CAP 2008 is now funded at \$164million (60.7%). Support has been received from Iraq, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, Australia, Norway, Canada, Germany, Finland, Kuwait, the European Commission (ECHO), Switzerland, Italy, France, the United Arab Emirates, Ireland, Denmark, The Netherlands and the Czech Republic in addition to private donors, various donors through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) and through allocation of un-earmarked funds by UN agencies

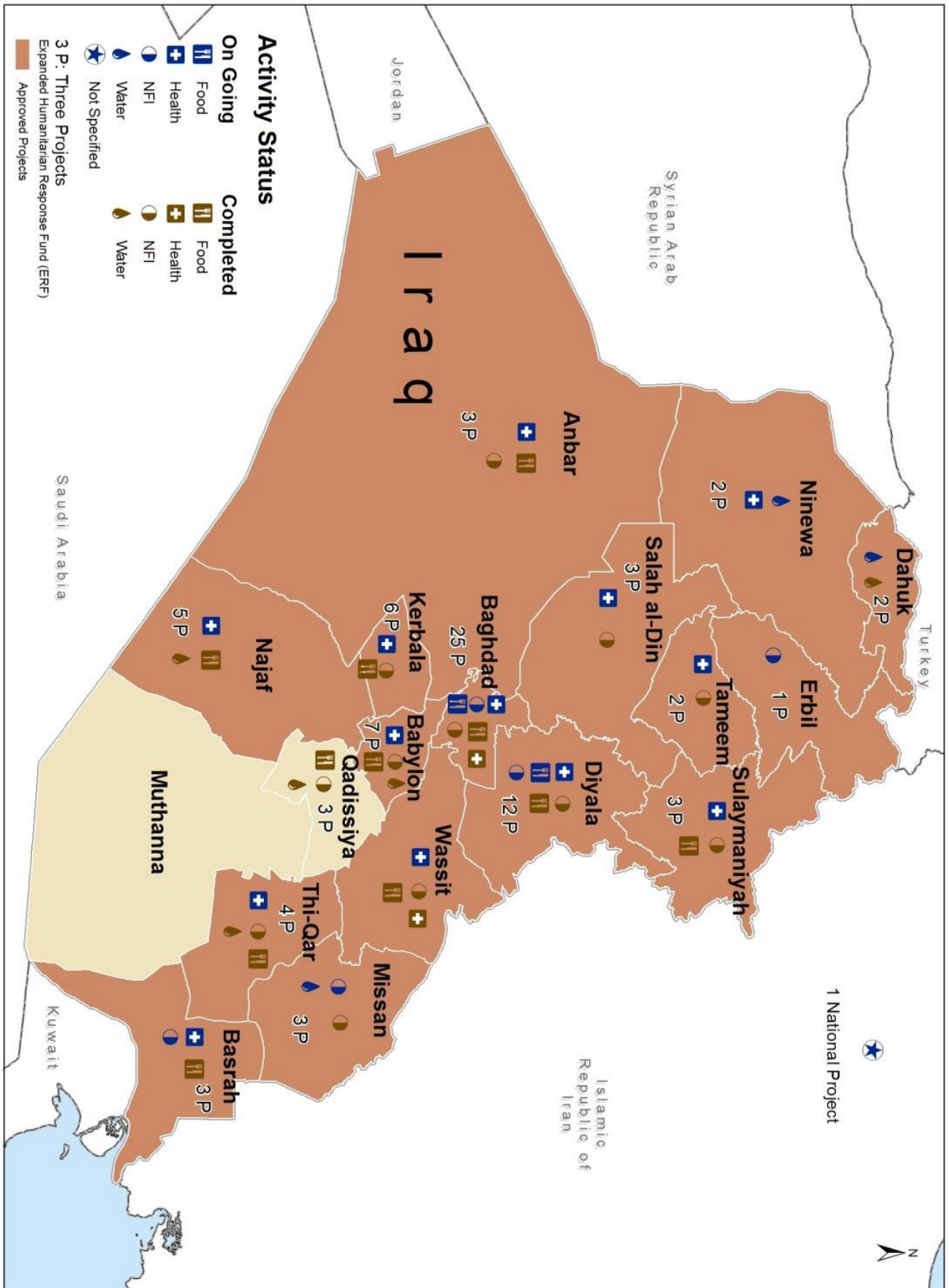
CAP Funding per Sector

Sector	Funding
Agriculture/Food Security:	\$1.3 million (17%)
Coordination and Support Services:	\$4.9 million (69%)
Education:	\$4.6 million (23%)
Food:	\$ 81 million (82%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$8 million (25%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$23.6 million (63%)
Protection/HumanRights/Rule of Law:	\$14.2 million (55%)
Sector not yet specified (incl. ERF):	\$21.2 million (106%)
Water and Sanitation:	\$5.5 million (26%)

For more information on Iraq CAP 2008 funding, please visit:

<http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pagelader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=808>

Appendix Governorates with ERF Approved Projects (as of October 2008)



Created by OCHA, October 2008

ERF: ELIGIBILITY & PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

A. Agency Eligibility Criteria

1. ALL partner agencies/organizations must: (a) Be officially registered in the country of origin; (b) Have an official mission statement (charter) for their organisation; (c) Provide documentation that substantiates previous implementation experience of a similar size and scope in the sector(s) in which funds are applied for.

Additional requirements for National NGOs

2. National NGOs must provide: a minimum of two (2) of the following supporting documentation attached to the project proposal:
 - i. (a) Letter of recommendation² or performance evaluation report(s) on previous project implementations from international NGOs and/or UN/IOM agencies, external companies; or
 - ii. Partner agreements from working with either one or more UN/IOM agencies and/or preferably international NGOs (if possible, these should be different from the one that provides letter of recommendation to illustrate range of partnerships); or
 - iii. Previous successfully completed NGO Micro Grant agreement(s).

B. Project Selection Criteria

Applicants must demonstrate that projects will have a positive impact on the lives and livelihoods of affected populations during humanitarian crisis, and its objectives and activities will aim to meet those needs identified through evidenced based credible assessments, as appropriate. Specifically;

- ALL projects should be in alignment with relevant Sector Outcome Team outcomes, and in particular with the strategic goals/objectives of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). In this way, all activities will also be working towards the achievement of national priorities as articulated in the NDS, related benchmarks and international commitments (ICI, MDGs etc).
- Projects from applicants which successfully demonstrate sufficient capacity, presence and a good track record in the area of planned intervention will be considered preferentially. [See Agency Eligibility Criteria above]
- To enhance coordination and complementarity, prior consultation between the Applicants and relevant technical SOT and national authority counterparts is deemed necessary before submission of projects to OCHA Fund Management Cell for processing.
- Projects must demonstrate that they are meeting a recognized gap in either geographically and/or sectoral in humanitarian response.
- New proposals will NOT be considered from first time Applicants until previously funded ERF supported projects have been fully completed, including all financial, audit and narrative reporting obligations. Simultaneous projects from returning Applicants will be considered at the discretion of the Technical Review Committee.
- Projects should support targeted humanitarian interventions for not more than nine (9) months.
- Projects must incorporate gender specific considerations into activities as identified by appropriate gender analysis, and interventions targeting female headed households and girls will be given strong consideration.

For further information on the ERF, please contact
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² Letter must be provided at the appropriate decision making level within the organization, notably Country Director or equivalent.