

IRAQ

Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF)

Bulletin

No. 12 | September 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:

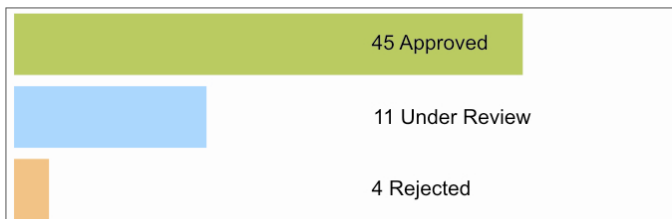
The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF):

Project and Financial Status:

The ERF has received a total of 60 project proposals/funding requests since August 2007, as at the end of September 2008. Of these, 17 proposals have been submitted by international NGOs and 43 by Iraqi NGOs. The ERF's Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 45 funding requests of the total 60 project proposals received. Twenty seven of the projects funded have been completed and seventeen are ongoing. The total cost of the funded 45 projects is \$7,665,946.00

A further eleven projects, totaling an estimated \$1,275,340 are currently under review. Finally, four projects have been rejected by the Technical Review Committee (TRC). 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: Iraqi al Amal Association, Darya Center, Terre Des Hommes and Todia Organization.

Status of 60 Funding Proposals Submitted:



Contributions to the ERF:

The ERF has received a total of \$8,013,914 in contributions since August 2007 (3% of funding is dedicated to the administration of the fund). A \$15m million grant was approved

on 7 July by the International Reconstruction Fund for Iraq (IRRFI) from the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) to the ERF and is undergoing transfer processing to the Fund.

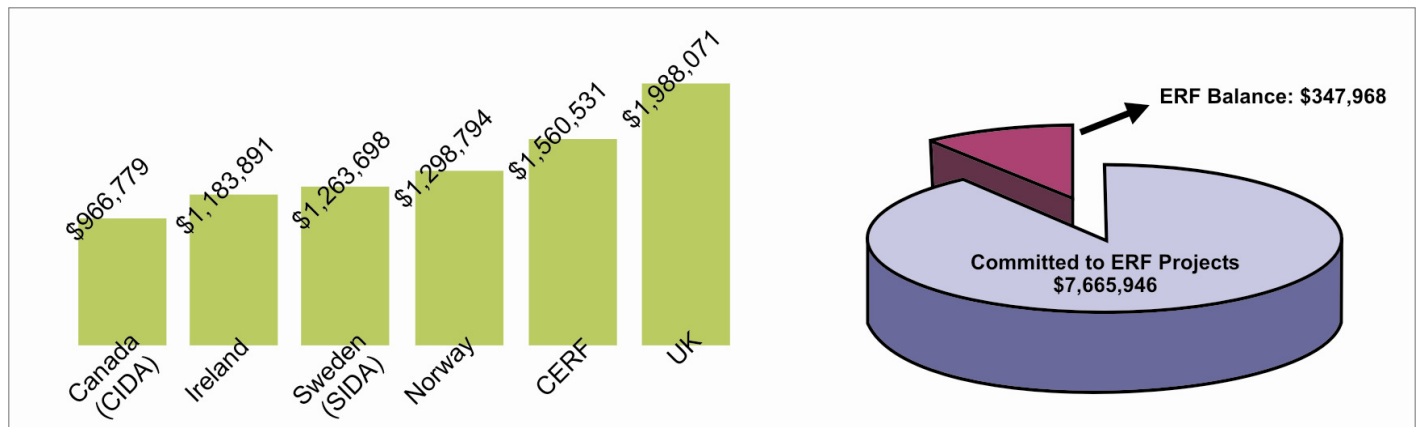
The Technical Review Committee (TRC)

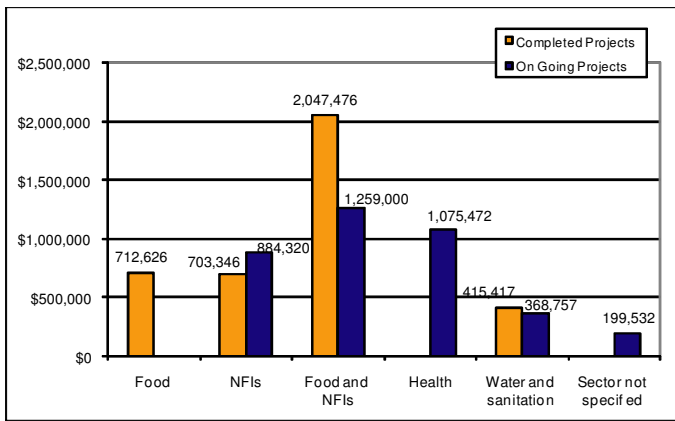
A new Technical review Committee (TRC) has been re-constituted under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator. The new membership comprises representatives from UN/International Organizations (UNICEF, IOM), Donors (Italy and Norway) and NGOs [(the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Terre Des Hommes (TDH)].

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 has been endorsed by relevant Sector Outcome Teams. The proposal is to be submitted to the Peer Group Review in Baghdad on October, 14 2008 for clearance.

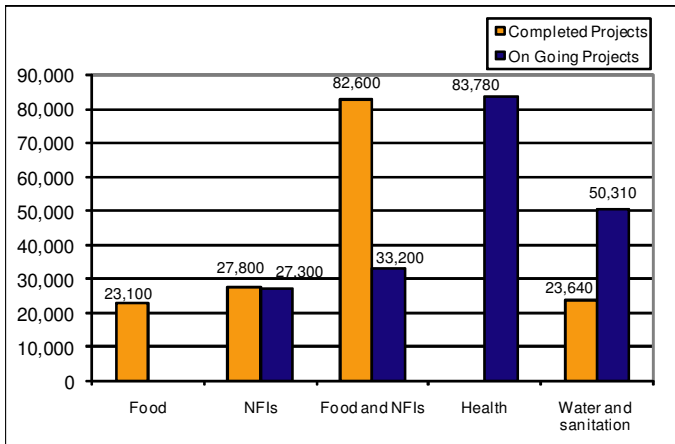
OCHA and the TRC continue to implement recommendations from the June 2008 external evaluation of the ERF. This includes those measures to speed up the processing of grant applications, ensuring greater partnerships/consultation, and enhancing preparedness. The revitalized ERF will focus on cross-sectoral interventions which seek to:

- Address vulnerabilities in communities acutely deprived by crisis, through bridging the gap in access by affected populations to essential services;
- Provide protection for the most vulnerable civilians against violations of their human rights;
- Improve the capacity, coverage, coordination and impact of humanitarian action;
- Strengthen the links between immediate action for families in crisis and support for early recovery.





Funding



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 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.

Food distribution to IDPs affected by armed conflict in Basrah: Rafah Organization for Relief and Developments (RORD)

The civilian population is disproportionately affected by insecurity, including but not limited to during security operations, such as the one in Basrah in late March. Violence,



Widows in Thi-Qar receiving humanitarian assistance / Love and Peace Society

Highlights of ERF-funded Projects:

Food and NFI Distribution to 1000 Widows in Thi Qar: Love and Peace Society

The violence in Iraq has resulted in the internal displacement of up to 2.8 million people and loss of heads of household / breadwinners for many families. Levels of vulnerability among the displaced population vary across and among groups. A significant majority of IDPs have no access to the Public Distribution System because they have not been registered in areas of displacement as a result of loss of entitlement documents and bureaucratic procedures. Orphans and older widows are some of the most vulnerable IDPs, without employment amidst rising food inflation. In consultation with local authorities, community leaders and local communities in Thi Qar, Love and Peace Society identified 1,000 vulnerable widows in need of assistance in five of the Governorate districts: Chebaish, Suq Al-Shiuk, Shatra, Rifae and Nasseriya. Many of the beneficiaries (55%) are older widows without the social safety nets afforded by their families or those of their deceased husbands, many of whom have been killed in the violence elsewhere in the country, occasioning the widows' displacement.

The local NGO sought and received funds from the ERF to provide temporary relief by distributing food and non-food items to the identified widows and their families. The selected beneficiaries had not previously received any assistance and have a bigger number of families than the average in the area, including orphans. The project, implemented in August and part of September 2008, was closely coordinated with local authorities, who have plans to build the income-generation capacity of widows through vocational training in sewing, carpeting and food processing. In addition, Love and Peace Support coordinated the assistance with humanitarian organizations in the area, significantly with the Red Crescent Society, as well as with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) to ensure non duplication of provision of assistance.

checkpoints and blockades made it difficult to get provisions into Basrah, leading to the exhaustion of food stocks in the city. In spite of improvement in the security situation in Basra, some

families remain vulnerable, and suffer from food shortages. IDPs in Basrah face additional hardships due to lack of adequate housing, potable water and sanitation facilities. Many of the IDP families have not been able to transfer their PDS ration cards after fleeing their habitual residence. As many of them lack fixed income, general food shortage and the rise in food prices creates additional difficulties.

In their ERF funded project, Rafah Organization for Relief and Development (RORD) identified IDP families of particular vulnerabilities from among the IDPs in Basrah. Target groups were female headed households, families with many children, persons with disabilities and widows. The project distributed essential foodstuffs to 600 families for a period of one month.

Humanitarian Highlight: Cholera Outbreak

The outbreak of cholera in Iraq in 2008 was first reported in Missan in early August. Cholera is endemic in Iraq where the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that up to 600 cases of cholera occur annually. The latest outbreak has led to the deaths of 8 people in Missan (01), Baghdad (01), Babil (03), Basra (01) and Qadissiya (02). A total of 462 cases have been confirmed in thirty districts in 10 governorates across Iraq. The most affected governorate is Babil, accounting for 230 and three of the confirmed cases and deaths respectively. The nine other affected governorates are Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Diwaniya, Diyala, Kerbala, Missan, Najaf and Wassit. The 462 confirmed cases remain below the annual average of 600 cases. Humanitarian organizations, led by WHO, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and NGO partners complementing government response to the outbreak through distribution of medical supplies and public health information campaigns to prevent further spread and limit the impact of the disease. WHO assisted the Ministry of Health with the establishment of 950 surveillance sites countrywide in 2007, following a more severe cholera outbreak. The cholera preparedness plan, revised in June 2008, has been operationalized by the Ministry of Health. The government and humanitarian partners are providing technical support distributing oral dehydration salts, water purification tablets, and potable water in affected areas.

PROBABLE AND LABORATORY-CONFIRMED CHOLERA CASES IRAQ¹, 07/08/2008–13/10/2008

Province	No. of districts affected	No. deaths reported	No. of cases under investigation	No. of laboratory-confirmed cholera cases
Baghdad	8	1	0	73
Missan	1	1	0	03
Babil	4	3	15	230
Kerbala	3	0	02	34
Najaf	2	0	0	08
Diala	1	0	0	01
Basra	5	1	04	49
Anbar	1	0	0	9
Qadissiya	4	2	05	54
Wasit	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	30	8	26	462



Female-headed household receive assistance provided by Rafah Organization in Basra

Update on the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP)

Consultations on and preparations of the Iraq 2009 Consolidated Appeal continued in August. Workshops were convened in Amman, Baghdad and Erbil with the participation of donors, NGOs, UN agencies and other partners in Iraq and across the region. Discussions have also continued with authorities and partners in the region on Pillar II of the CAP to ensure the needs of Iraqi refugees in neighbouring countries are effectively addressed. The 2009 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, comprising both pillars, will be launched in November.

As a result of these consultations and discussions, 4 strategic priorities have been agreed for 2009. Firstly, humanitarian partners will target assistance to the most vulnerable due to conflict, discrimination and neglect. Secondly partners will continue to advocate with the Government of Iraq and other actors to meet humanitarian commitments and tackle underlying causes of humanitarian needs. In addition, partners will capitalize on increasing access to ensure wider, more effective and visible humanitarian response in Iraq and finally, work towards ensuring equitable and gender responsive receipt of humanitarian assistance.

The Iraq CAP 2008 is now funded at \$149million (55%). 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:	\$1.5 million (18%)
Coordination and Support Services:	\$5.5 million (80%)
Education:	\$4.6 million (23%)
Food:	\$ 81 million (82%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$4.9 million (15%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$21.6 million (57%)
Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law:	\$14.2 million (55%)
Sector not yet specified (incl. ERF):	\$10.6 million (53%)
Water and Sanitation:	\$5 million (24%)

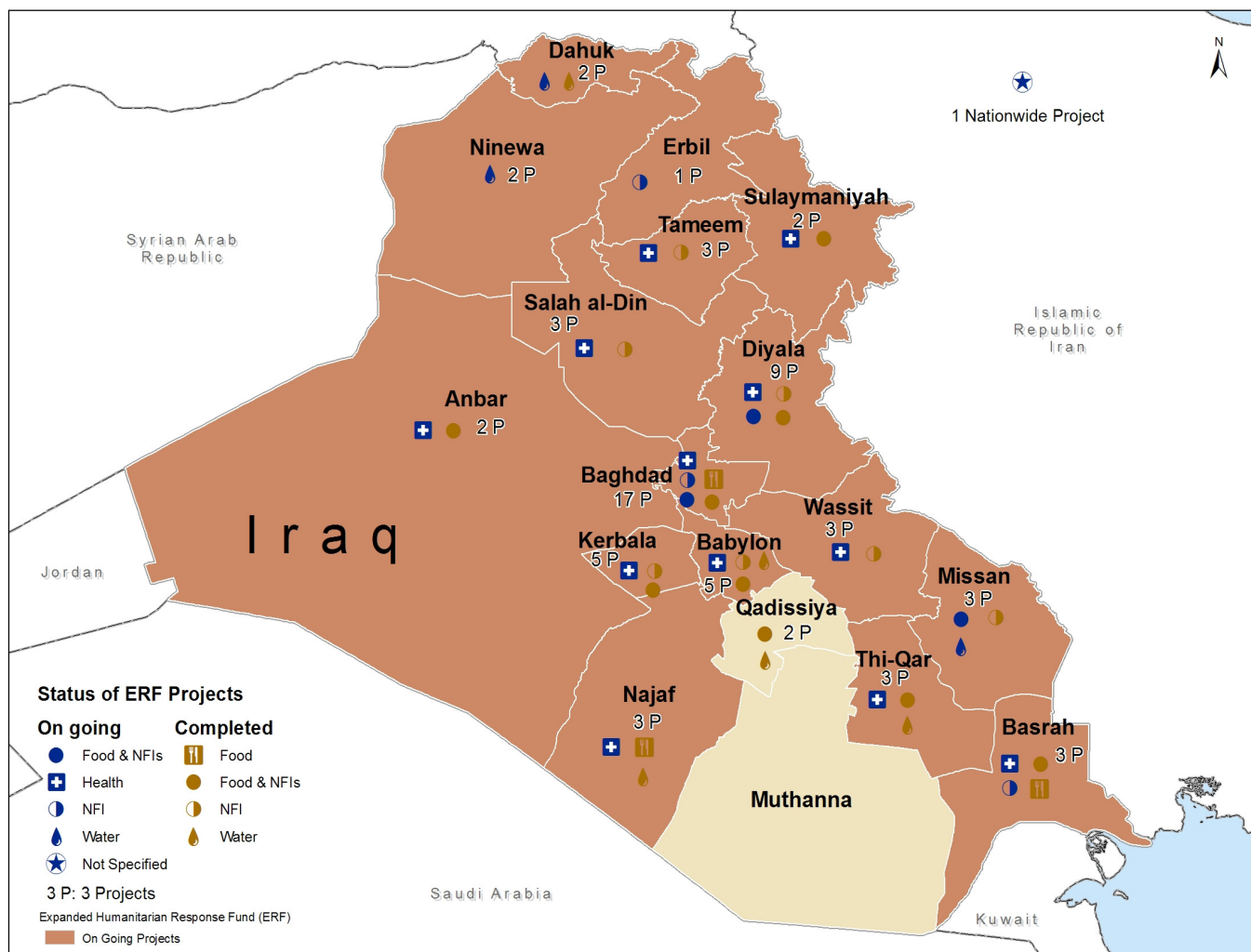
For more information on Iraq CAP 2008 funding, please visit:

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

¹ Health and Nutrition Sector Outcome Team Cholera situation reports and WHO Daily Situation Report on Diarrhea and Cholera in Iraq as of October 5, 2008

Appendix

Governorates with ERF Approved Projects (as of September 2008)



The number of projects in this map exceed the total number of approved ERF projects as some are implemented in more than one governorate.

Created by OCHA, September 2008

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