



The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) aims to help fill critical humanitarian gaps within different sectors through readily available flexible funding for emergency response to:

1. Save lives and protect threatened livelihoods
2. Meet critical short-term humanitarian needs
3. Respond to sudden-onset complex humanitarian emergencies.

The maximum grant possible through the fund is US\$400,000. ERF resources address needs arising from both natural disasters as well as conflict-related or other man-made crises.

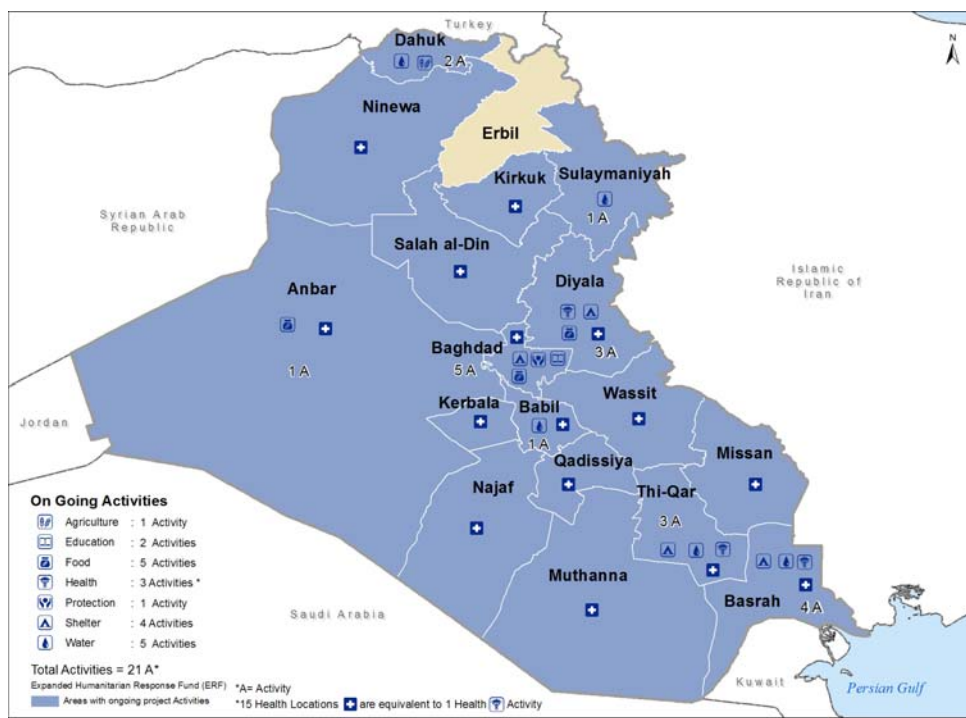
ERF Project Updates for October:

During the month of October 18 ERF projects, involving 21 activities, were under way. In addition to these eighteen projects, the Humanitarian coordinator approved six new projects at the recommendation of the Sector Outcome Teams and the Technical Review Committee. The total value of the additional projects is US\$ 974,573.

The six newly approved projects were for support of vulnerable Iraqi families in the sectors of health, shelter, food, water, and agriculture. Overall, the Humanitarian

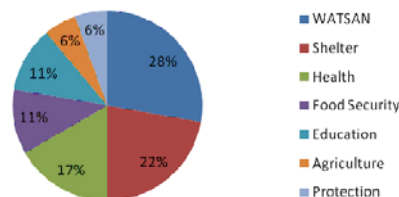
Coordinator has approved 86 ERF project proposals since the beginning of the ERF program in 2007.

The map below shows the location of the current 21 activities. It can be noted that ERF Projects are covering 17 of the 18 governorates. While it can be observed that Erbil had no project activities during October, there are three new projects under review now which, if approved in November, will include Erbil.



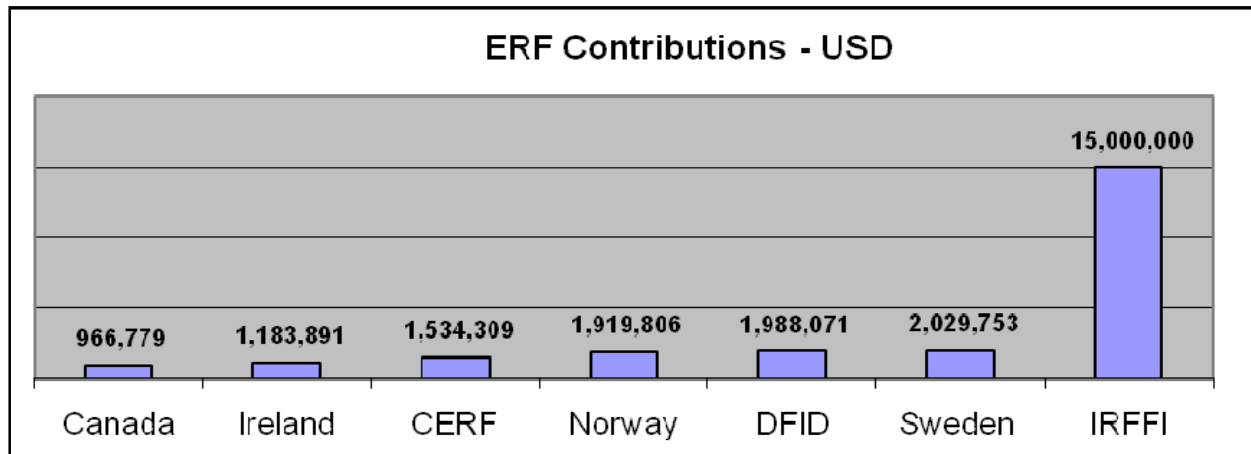
During October, the most frequently funded sector continued to be water and sanitation at 28 per cent followed closely by food security at 24 per cent. The ERF's only protection project is nearing completion as of October. Protection continues to be the least funded sector (as well as the sector for which ERF receives the fewest proposals) at 5 per cent. Agriculture projects also represent only 5 per cent of the total in October; however there are three additional agriculture projects under review for November.

Projects by Sector





ERF Financial Status: The graph below shows total contributions to the ERF since inception in 2007. There were no new donations to the fund during October:



Total Contributions = US \$24,648,831 Total Expenditure = US \$ 13,630,594 Total ERF Balance = US \$9,369,264

As mentioned above, there were six additional ERF Projects approved during October. Of these six new projects, three were focused on the food sector while two are in the sector of water and sanitation. All six new projects in October were awarded to national Iraqi NGOs. A summary of these new projects can be found in the chart below:

| Projects Approved During October 2009 | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Sector | Governorate | Beneficiaries | Funds disbursed (US\$) | Duration |
| Agriculture | Dohuk | 9,900 | \$ 344,367 | Three months |
| WATSAN | Dohuk | 12,710 | \$ 292,571 | Five months |
| WATSAN | Sulaimaniya | 215 | \$ 135,051 | Five months |
| Food & health | Basra | 2,400 | \$ 54,060 | Two months |
| Food & Shelter | Diyala | 900 | \$ 110,534 | Two months |
| Food | Diyala | 2,220 | \$ 37,990 | One month |
| | | 28,345 | \$ 974,573 | |

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 by violence, and other vulnerable groups.
- 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 US\$400,000 and a minimum of US\$25,000 per project.
- Contributions to the ERF are un-earmarked and pooled, i.e. they lose their donor identification.

ERF Spotlight on Pana Center for Combating Violence Against Women

With funding from the ERF the Pana Center, an Iraqi NGO, provided critical assistance to 423 displaced women headed households in Kirkuk with shelter items including mattresses, blankets, stoves and a hygiene kit. The 1,781 total beneficiaries selected were among the most vulnerable families living below the standard living condition without regular income. This ERF-funded project helped these displaced women and their families adapt to the environment in which they were displaced and alleviated a significant part of their suffering.

Among the beneficiaries of this project was Hamameh Abdallah Al Obaidi, whose husband was kidnapped and killed, leaving her with three children to support. Loss of livelihood and fear caused Hamameh and her children to flee their home and go to Kirkuk where they approached one of her late husband's friends for help. Hamameh and her children were able to stay for a few days, but due to the poor economic situation of her late husband's friend as well as the lack of space in which he and his family were living, she was obliged to leave. Her ten year old son had to leave school to support her in selling old clothes. While receiving her shelter package, Hamamah said, "The assistance provided by Pana Center was a huge comfort to me and my children. I am very grateful for this assistance."



Hamameh is a beneficiary of Pana Center's project in Kirkuk.



Hamameh and two of her children.

Priorities for ERF in November:

- Preparation for upcoming December training of Iraq Field Coordinators on monitoring ERF projects
- Providing improved guidance to NGOs who wish to apply for ERF funds by posting sector and financial guidance on the ERF website
- Improve targeting of ERF projects by mapping of key vulnerability indicators from each sector
- Selection of six Technical Review Committee (TRC) members for the 15 November 2009– 15 May 2010 term. The TRC members are an integral part of the ERF process due to their role in recommending projects for approval to the Humanitarian Coordinator.

All the ERF documents are downloadable in English and Arabic from
www.ochairaq.org
 For further information about the ERF, please contact
erfiraq@un.org