

IRAQ

Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF)

Bulletin

No. 16 | January 2009

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.

Operational Updates:

The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF):

Project and Financial Status:

Two new proposals on shelter (Kirkuk) and assistance to persons with disability/injuries (Baghdad, Anbar, Kerbala, Wasit, Babylon and Thi Qar) were submitted to the ERF for consideration in January 2009 from national and international NGOs. The Technical review Committee (TRC) approved four projects totaling \$719,752 in January. Since 2007, the ERF's Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 51 project proposals. Of the approved and funded projects, 44 have been completed while 3 are ongoing and 4 are awaiting disbursement of funds.

Seven projects, totaling an estimated \$1,000,000 are currently under review. A Sector Outcome Team (SOT) has rejected the eligibility of 1 project following the failure by the applicants to provide satisfactory additional information. One project was withdrawn for not providing timely feedback. The SOT reviews all applications for funding to ensure there are no duplications in the response, proposals are technically sound, feasible and in conformity to SOT goals.

Partners currently implementing ongoing ERF-funded projects include Iraqi *al Amal* Association, KURDS and Mercy Corps

Contributions to the ERF:

The ERF received a contribution of US\$766,055 from Sweden in January. The ERF opening balance for 2009, after allocations for the 4 approved projects is US \$13,774,875.

The Technical Review Committee (TRC)

The 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)].

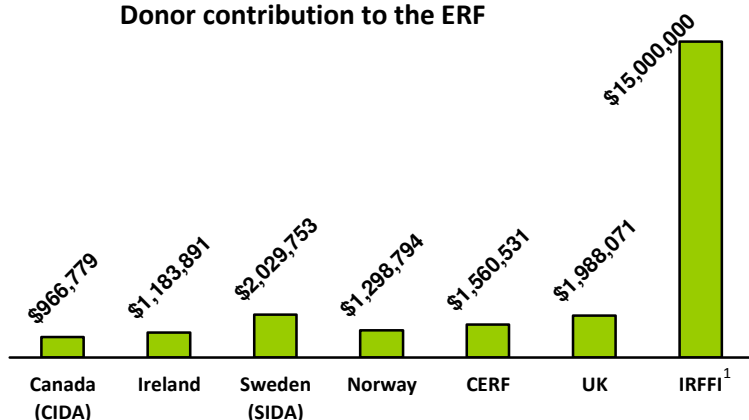
The TRC is currently reviewing revisions to the Fund's Charter, Funding Proposal and Reporting templates as well as a draft Project implementation Guidance Note.

FACTS ABOUT THE ERF:

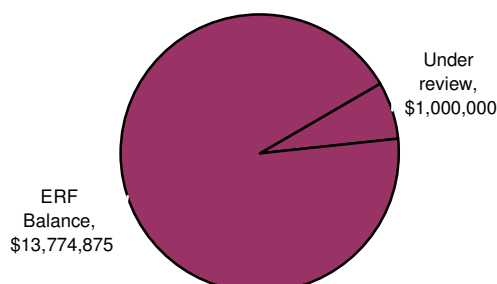
- The ERF provides quick and flexible funding to national and international organizations for urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population through emergency response to humanitarian needs. Typical beneficiaries of ERF-funded projects include, but are not limited to, IDPs, communities affected by violence, 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.)

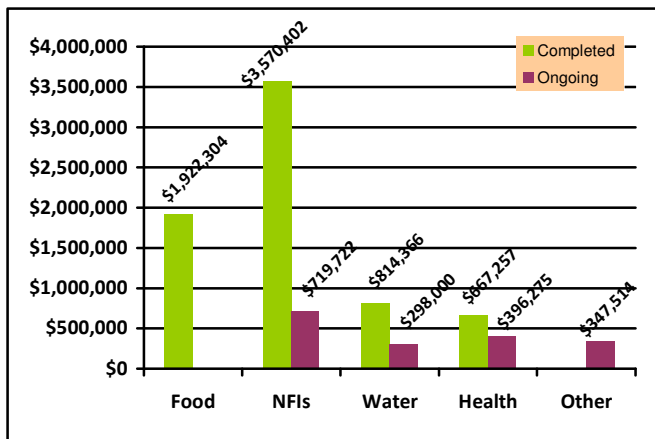
Donor contribution to the ERF



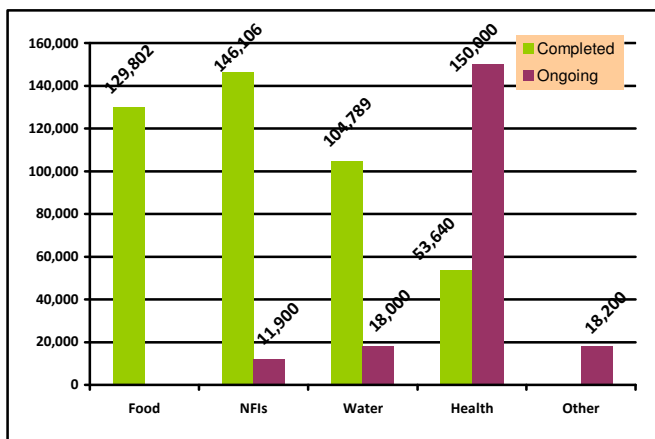
Status of ERF balance



1. The International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (<http://www.irffi.org>)



Funding status per sector (2007 -)



Number of Beneficiaries (2007 -)

Completed project in January 2009- Voice for Independent Women Organization (VIWO)

During the reporting period a project targeting 314 senior citizens in Iraq was completed, covering four elderly homes in Baghdad, Kerbala and Najaf providing food and non food items. The project was implemented by Voice of Independent Women Organization (VIWO) with the collaboration of Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). VIWO contracted a professional trainer and an academic figure to provide the needed training for MOLSA and the managements of the four homes on how to care for the elderly.



Voice of Independent Women Organization presents non-food-items to an elderly beneficiary in Baghdad

The VIWO project provided assistance to 314 elderly residents of the four homes to improve their living conditions. The services provided by the managements of the four homes have well improved as a result of the project. The project presents an example of addressing the needs of vulnerable Iraqis whose difficulties are not as obvious as those of other vulnerable population groups.

The project aims to create awareness of the humanitarian situation of senior citizens among decision makers in Iraq and the International Community and to assess the humanitarian situation of public-run homes for the elderly and adjacent communities in Baghdad, Kerbala and Najaf.

Upon completion of the project VIWO recommended that humanitarian agencies form a special task force to review vulnerability of groups such as the elderly, orphans, disabled and mentally challenged in Iraq and direct assistance to these groups. Partnership between MOLSA, relevant Iraqi Government Ministries, NGOs, the UN and other humanitarian actors is key to addressing these vulnerabilities.

The beneficiaries stated that this is the first time their situation is being addressed by non-governmental entities. "This is the first time we are visited by NGOs or aid agencies, we wish we could receive more support", said one beneficiary. "My daughter is a widow with five children. She has no income; I will share this food and hygienic items with her".

CAP 2008 & 2009

The 2008 Consolidated Appeal, requesting US\$ 274,253,721 (revised) for humanitarian operations in Iraq stands funded at 75.8%. The ERF appealed for US\$20million and received 76.7% (US\$ 15, 334,110, including the US\$15 million from the Iraq Trust Fund).

The 2009 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq is requesting US\$ \$192,334,256 to address both the needs of internally displaced and other vulnerable Iraqis inside the country (Pillar I) and another \$355,008,505 (Pillar II) to respond to the humanitarian needs of up to 2 million Iraqi refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries as well as to provide assistance to Palestinian, Iranian, Turkish and other refugees in Iraq. Information on the funding status of the 2009 Appeal can be accessed at http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha_R1_A835_0902170205.pdf

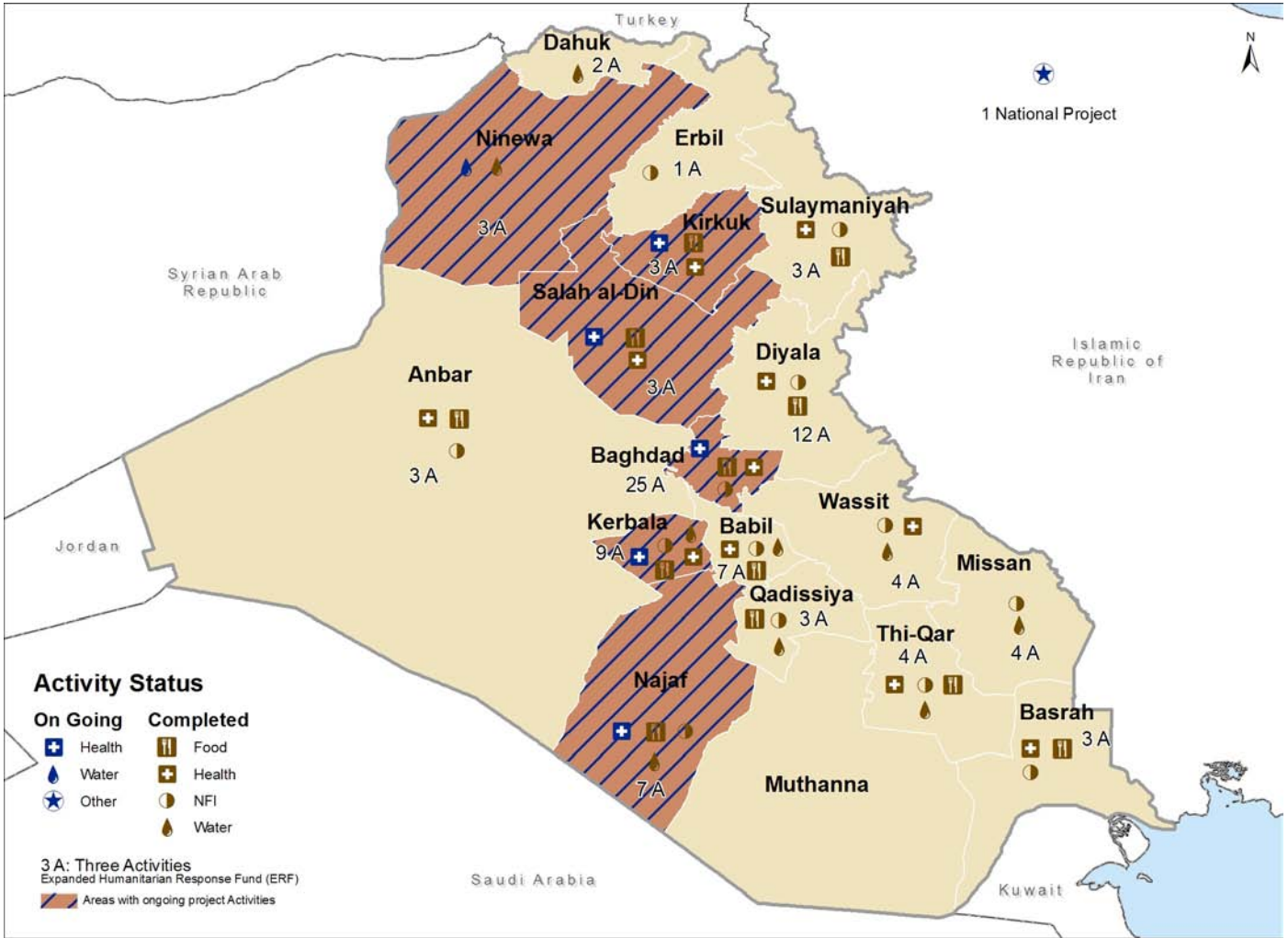
CAP 2008 Funding per Sector

Sector	Funding
Agriculture/Food Security:	\$1.3 million (17%)
Coordination and Support Services:	\$8.2 million (116%)
Education:	\$4.7 million (24%)
Food:	\$ 83 million (84%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$19.4 million (59%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$25 million (63%)
Protection/Human Rights /Rule of Law:	\$17.2 million (67%)
Sector not yet specified (incl. ERF):	\$33.2 million (166%)
Water and Sanitation:	\$15.6 million (72%)

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

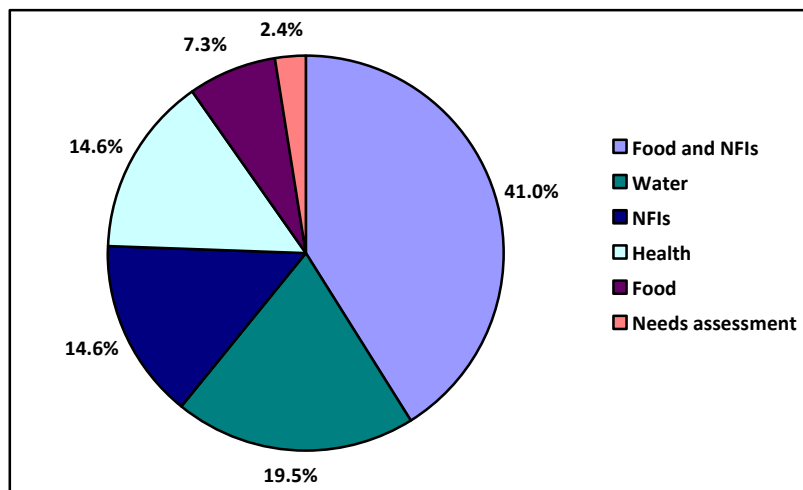
<http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=808>

Appendix Governorates with ERF Approved Activities (as of January 2009)



Created by OCHA, January 2009

ERF activities by sector



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