

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

The maximum grant is US\$400,000. ERF resources address needs arising from both natural disasters as well as conflict-related crises

## Operational Updates:

### The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF):

#### Projects and Financial Status:

Five ERF projects are under implementation as at the end of March 2009. Eight projects are approved awaiting fund disbursement for the total amount of 774,852 USD.

Six proposals were received during the reporting period to provide Shelter /NFIs in Baghdad, Anbar, Thi Qar and Kirkuk, one water and sanitation project in Baghdad and one shelter / food security project in Sulaimaniya.

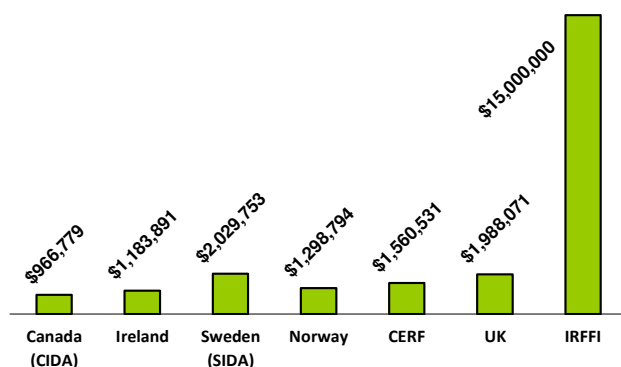
Overall, the ERF's Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 59 project proposals since 2007. One hundred and nineteen activities including in health, water, food and NFIs have been implemented all over Iraq with Baghdad (26), Diyala (13), Kerbala (10) and Babylon / Najaf (8) accounting for most of these. Of the approved and funded projects, 46 have been completed. Twelve projects totaling an estimated \$1,704,640 are currently under review, and two are pending additional information from NGO

| Approved Projects         |                        |   |                     |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Sector                    | Location / Governorate | No and type of Beneficiaries                              | Funds sought (US\$) | Duration                     |
| Water                     | Anbar                  | 25,000 IDPs and Host Community                            | 51,400              | Two months                   |
| Shelter                   | Anbar                  | 480 IDP families  | 60,083              | One Month                    |
| Shelter                   | Kirkuk                 | 477 families of IDP women headed household an disabled    | 164,123             | One Month                    |
| Agriculture               | Thi Qar                | 1000 families returnees and host community                | 36,815              | One Month                    |
| Health                    | Wassit                 | 6600 patient of IDP and Host Community                    | 121,580             | Three Months                 |
| Shelter                   | Kirkuk                 | 347 widowed families of host community/IDPs and Returnees | 48,711              | One Month                    |
| Water                     | Ninewa                 | 450 families of IDPs and Host Community                   | 142,610             | Two Months                   |
| Agriculture               | Dohuk                  | 409 families of Community                                 | 149,530             | Two Months                   |
| Projects Under Review     |                        |   |                     |                              |
| Sector                    | Location / Governorate | No and type of Beneficiaries                              | Funds sought (US\$) | Status-Under review/Approved |
| Water and Sanitation      | Baghdad                | 1200 IDP and HC families                                  | 260,305             | Under Review / TRC           |
| Shelter and Food Security | Sulaimaniya            | 483 IDP families  | 133,888             | Under Review / TRC           |
| Shelter                   | Babylon                | 650 families IDPs and Host community                      | 175,648             | Under final review           |
| Shelter                   | Thi Qar                | 1000 IDP and HC families                                  | 200,000             | Under Review / NGO           |

|           |           |  |         |                       |
|-----------|-----------|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Health    | Diyala    | 505 individual of IDP and Host Community | 124,650 | Under Review          |
| Education | Baghdad   | 3485 School Children                     | 188,573 | Under Review / TRC    |
| Education | Najaf     | 3250 School Children and 5,250 patient   | 253,438 | Under Review / TRC    |
| Shelter   | Baghdad   | 500 widowed Families                     | 52,650  | Under Final Review    |
| Water     | Muthana   | 520 families                             | 53,885  | Under Review / Sector |
| Shelter   | Kirkuk    | 423 IDP families of headed household     | 147,798 | Under Review          |
| Education | Thi Qar   | 950 Student of IDP and Host Community    | 88,805  | Under Review / Sector |
| Shelter   | Qadissiya | 200 families                             | 25,000  | Under Review / TRC    |

## Donor contribution to the ERF

Total donations received: \$21,864,766



## Status of ERF balance

**Total ERF Balance :** 13,041,867 USD  
(after the deduction of 3% Fund administration costs)

**Value of proposals under review:**  
\$1,704,640 USD

## 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.

## The Technical Review Committee (TRC)

The Technical Review Committee (TRC) comprises 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 has approved a revised ERF Charter.

## THE NEW ERF CHARTER

The new ERF Charter has been approved by the TRC and Humanitarian Coordinator and released.

Among the major changes (please see full version of the Charter) we point out:

- Refined objectives and prioritization targeting vulnerability rather than status.
- Rapid Needs Assessment form model to guide the applicants.
- Local NGOs are now eligible also without a partnership agreement with UN/INGOs. What is required is one or more letter/s of recommendation or performance evaluation/s from UN or INGOs or donors highlighting the delivery capacity (sectors and budgets), previous successful humanitarian interventions and possibly feedback from beneficiaries.
- Approval of proposals may take 17 working days in case no revisions are required (in case of complex humanitarian crises the time is cut by half).
- Financial provisions: 5% administration costs for both local and international partners; 3% of contingency (expendable upon OCHA's approval); more guidance on the bidding process; no capital assets for the partner.
- More emphasis on monitoring and evaluation.
- Organization of a set of trainings for partners on ERF guidelines and results based management, particularly focused on Iraqi partners.



The new ERF Charter, the application and reporting templates and the Rapid Needs Assessment form, in both Arabic and English, can be downloaded from OCHA Iraq website

<http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/Iraq> or requested by sending an email to [ochairaq@un.org](mailto:ochairaq@un.org) or [sunna@un.org](mailto:sunna@un.org).

## ERF in Baghdad: Training for Iraqi NGOs:

An ERF training has been scheduled in Baghdad for eight central governorates on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2009 for 35 representatives of Iraqi NGOs. The training covers the following subjects: ERF Charter: main features and understanding its objectives; how to fill in the application forms;

how to prepare a rapid needs assessment; tools on results based management; reporting techniques.

This training will be followed by similar ones dedicated to local NGOs in the North and South of Iraq (probably Erbil and Basra) during May 2009. A training exclusively for international NGOs will be held in Amman.

## Beneficiary story

Abu-Graib in western Baghdad Governorate has faced its fair-share of hardships over the course of the Iraq war. It's population has swelled and depleted with those fleeing violence and persecution of the city; and those arriving to seek a safe haven with family and friends. The violence and population movements have had a devastating effect on local infrastructure making life exceptionally difficult for the Iraqi individuals and families who currently live there.



A beneficiary receiving medical assistance - Abu Ghraib / Baghdad by K4IWS

Founded in 2003, local NGO, Knowledge for Iraqi Women Society (K4IWS) have worked towards supporting women and families through their medical, educational and food-support programs in Abu-Graib. In October 2007, K4IWS were provided their first tranche for a six-month program through OCHA's Emergency Response Fund (ERF) that focused support on a K4IWS medical center that provides outreach and support to the local community through the provision of medical check-ups, laboratory examinations and the provision of medicine: 2,200 people, mostly women, were assisted during this time.

With the conclusion of the initial project in December 2007, the K4IWS maintained the medical clinic with their own resources until June 2008 -- the local population again swelled with arriving displaced -- when they were again granted funding through the ERF to support their medical clinic (including the procurement of an ultrasound, ECG and employment of a dentist) and to expand their activities to include nutritional food baskets and educational outreach programs focused on raising community awareness regarding personal health and hygiene.



Distribution of food baskets to food insecure families - Abu Ghraib

Close ties with the local community allowed K4IWS to plan their interventions with residents who indicated that communicable diseases such as hepatitis, viral liver infection, urinary tract infection, and skin diseases were all of significant concern. Poor water quality and weak hygienic practices among the local population were highlighted as key causes for the spread of these diseases. K4IWS also undertook the distribution of 1,500 nutritional food baskets to food insecure families as well as to orphans, widows, households with no 'bread winner', the handicapped and elderly to cover shortages in the Public Distribution System (PDS); this also included providing breakfast for up to 70% of school children in the city (all activities were coordinated with WFP).

Though currently not funded by the ERF, the K4IWS continue their medical support and outreach programs in five cities in Iraq (Baghdad, Aladial, Al-Dora, Abu-Graib, Falludja and Ninawa) where they have continued to strengthen their ties with local authorities and community.

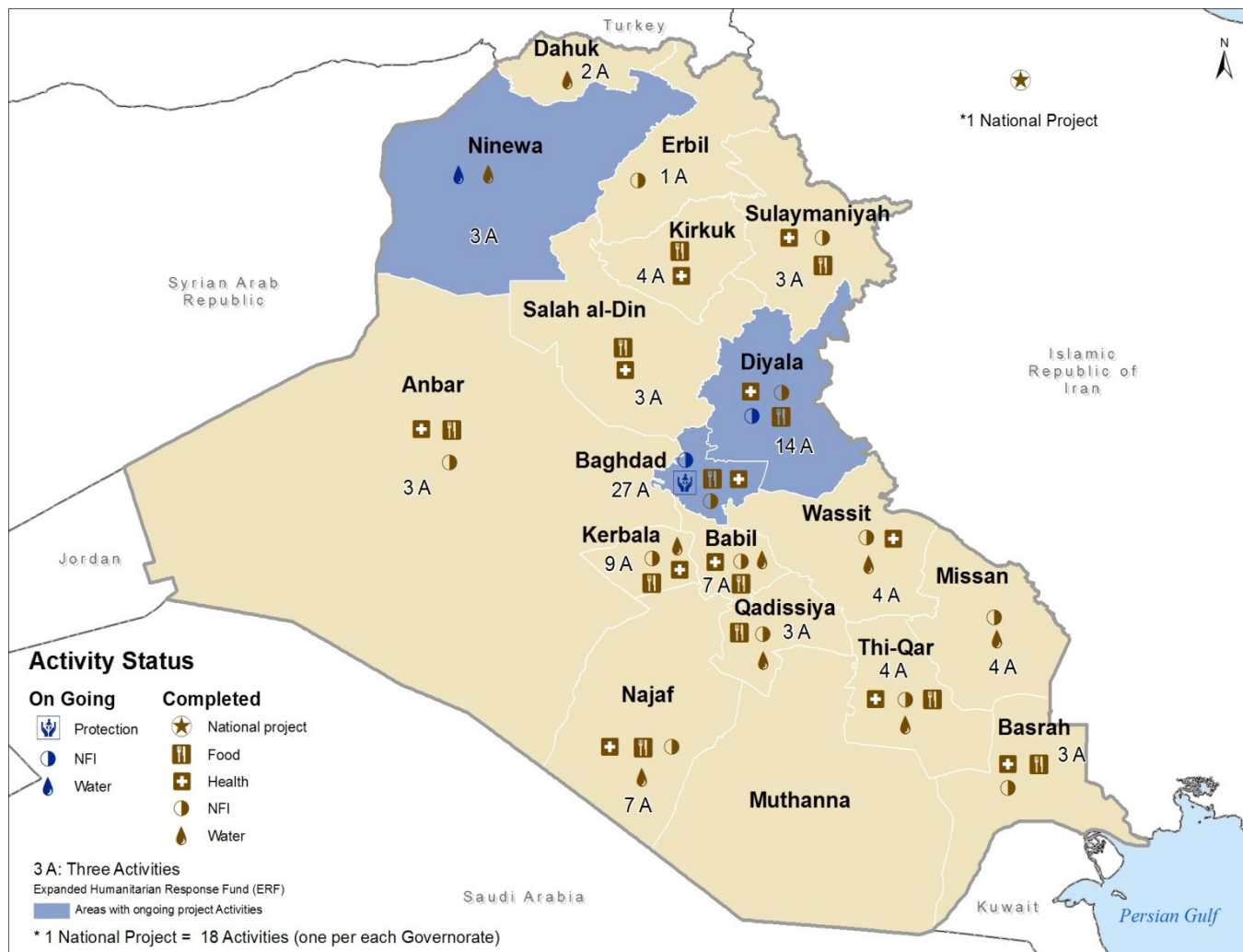
## CAP 2008 & 2009

CAP 2009, Pillar I for Iraq stands at 39% funding with US\$74,282,893 received so far of US\$192,334,256 requested, as of mid-April 2009.

CAP Pillar II for Iraqi refugees in the region stands reported at 35% funding, with US\$ 123,227,667 received out of US\$355,008,504 requested.

The numbers are based on available information. More details may be found at OCHA's Financial Tracking Service on Relief Web, at <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=835>

**Appendix I**  
**Governorates with ERF Approved Activities (as of March 2009)**



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