



Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) and NGO Micro Grant IRAQ

August 2008
Bulletin No. 11

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.

I. Operational Updates

A. THE EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND

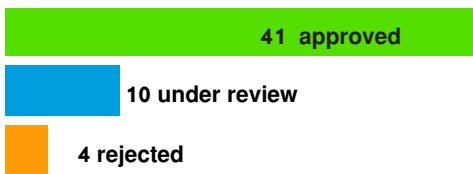
Project and Financial Status:

The ERF has received a total of 55 project proposals/funding requests since August 2007, as of the end of August 2008. Of these, 16 proposals have been submitted by international NGOs and 39 by Iraqi NGOs.

The ERF's Technical Review Committee (TRC) has approved 41 funding requests of the total 55 project proposals received. Twenty of the projects funded have been completed and twenty one are ongoing. The total cost of the funded 41 projects is \$6,807,879.00. A further ten projects, totalling an estimated \$1,504,409 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 Civil Society Institute, Love and Peace Society, The Iraqi Democratic Group for Women, Mamoura Humanitarian Establishment and Todya Organization.

Status of 55 Project Proposals Submitted:



Contributions to the ERF:

The ERF has received a total of \$7,580,879.00 in contributions since August 2007 (3% of funding is dedicated to the administration of the fund). A \$20m million grant was approved on 7 July by the International Reconstruction Fund for Iraq (IRFFI) from the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) to the ERF and is undergoing transfer processing to the Fund. The latest contribution to the ERF, totalling the equivalent of \$ 446,428.57 was received from Ireland in August.

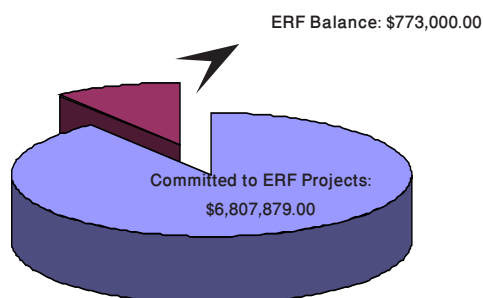


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Strengthening the ERF:

Following the recent external evaluation of the ERF, OCHA is taking concrete steps to implement the evaluation recommendations to make the ERF more effective, predictable and faster. In this context, a whole-scale review of current Guidelines and Procedures is being undertaken and dedicated staffing capacity increased to strengthen overall fund management. In addition, a newly constituted TRC will be convened and efforts to secure additional replenishment of the fund re-doubled, including the \$20 million (representing a portion of accrued interest) from the Iraq Trust Fund.

Total after allocating 3% for fund administration is 8.013.914.57

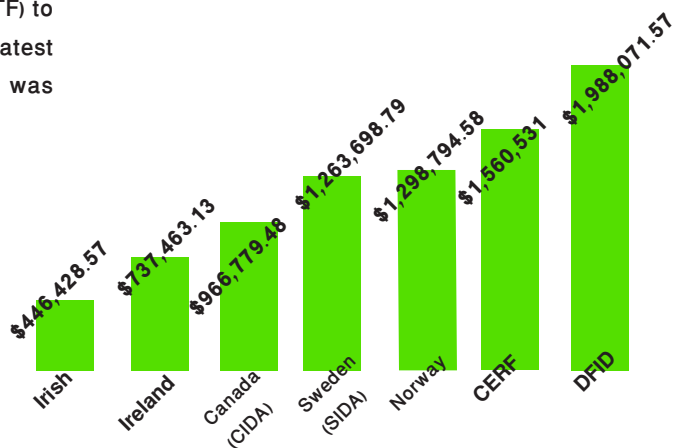
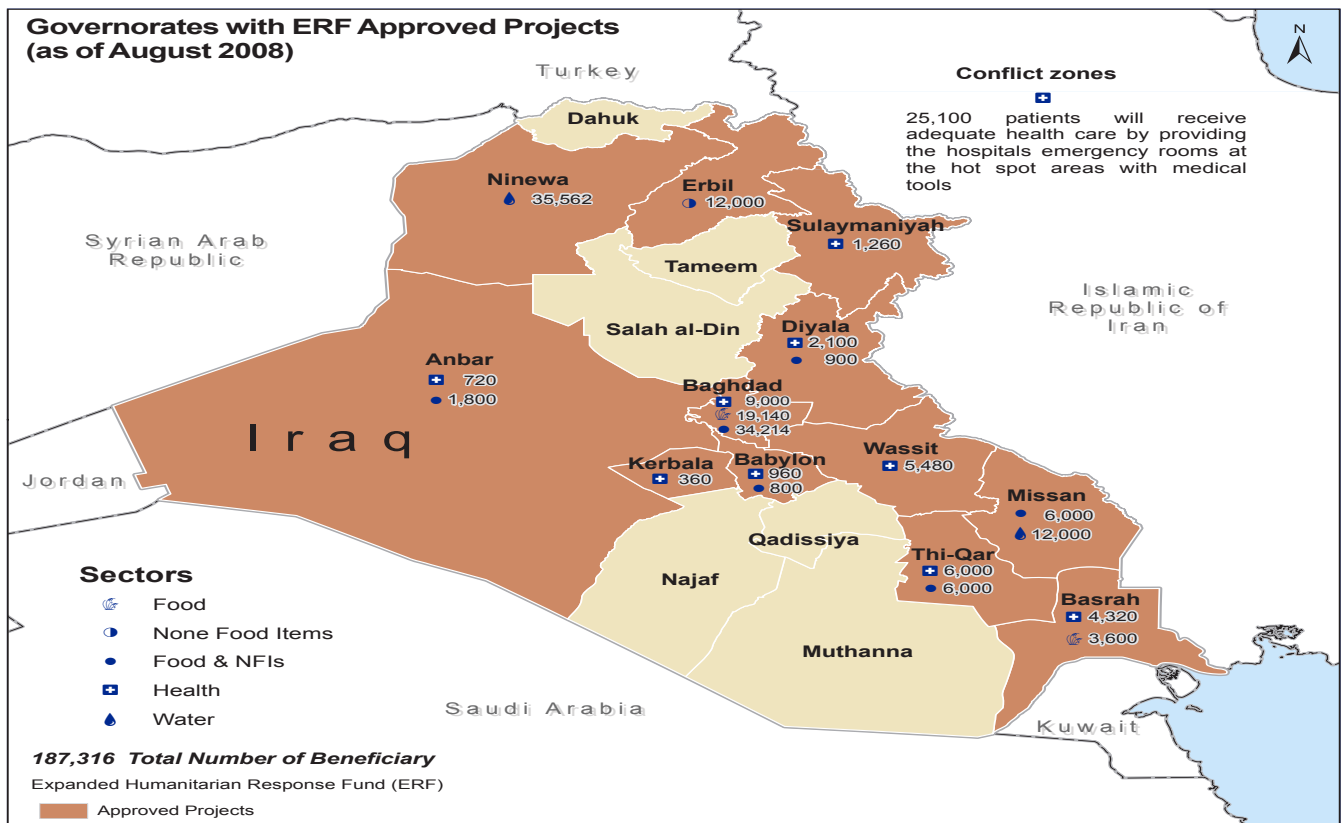




Table 1: Ongoing Projects Funded by the ERF

GOVERNORATE	SECTOR / ACTIVITIES
All Iraq	Needs Assessment
Conflict zones	Hospital Emergency Rooms in conflict-affected areas to be supported with provision of medical supplies to benefit 25,100 patients
Wassit	480 people with disabilities (PWD) to be supported with orthopedic devices, and or referred to Kurdistan for further medication. A mobile clinic to provide medical assistance to 5000 patient
Babylon	960 PWD to receive orthopedic devices, and or be referred to Kurdistan for further medical assistance.
Kerbala	Food and NFI distribution for 800 widows 360 PWDs to be provided orthopedic devices, and or referred to Kurdistan for further medical attention
Anbar	720 PWD to benefit from orthopedic devices, and or be referred to Kurdistan for further medical assistance
Baghdad	Food and NFIs to be provided to 34,214 individual, including 314 at homes for the elderly 19,140 vulnerable persons will receive food items A medical center to be equipped to provide medical services for 9000 patients
Erbil	NFIs to be distributed to 12,000 people
Basra	Food to be distributed to 3,600 food insecure people Health services to be extended to 4320 people
Thi Qar	Health services extended to cover 6000 Individual Food and NFIs to be provided to 6000 individual
Sulaimaniya	Health services provided to 1260 patients
Diyala	Food and NFIs distributed to 900 people Medical services extended to 2100 patients
Missan	Food and NFIs distributed to 6000 vulnerable individuals 12000 individual Provided with adequate water quality through the installation of a 4000 L/hr Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit a water filtration system, and four water tanks with 5000 Ltr capacity each
Ninewa	Installation of water reservoir to ensure adequate water supply for 35,562 individuals



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Created by OCHA, August 2008

NB: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Success Stories – on going projects

Premiere Urgence is implementing a project to provide medical supplies to hospital/medical centres emergency rooms in conflict-affected areas. The project is aimed at providing medical assistance to Iraqi victims of violence and armed conflict, in various governorates across the country. PU is working to enhance the medical capacity of Emergency Departments/Emergency Rooms of referral hospitals to deal with medical emergencies in times of crisis.

The response to a car bomb explosion in a crowded part adjacent to the Balad Court of Justice on August 15 is indicative of the potential of this project, which started in June. Five persons were killed and 57 others injured in the explosion. The injured were treated in Balad General Hospital which serves a wide areas including surrounding districts.

The Hospital requested assistance with increased number of patients, in addition to the patients from all the surrounding districts including Samarra and Tarmiya, which continue to experience poor security conditions.

Following the request, Premiere Urgence distributed medical consumables to replenish the hospital's pharmaceutical stock on August 19 2008.



Offloading medical consumables at Balad Hospital by PU

Completed Projects Funded by the ERF:

The Charitable Society for Caring and Rehabilitation of Iraqi Children has completed a project to assist 600 IDP families with food and NFIs in Sha'ab, Hussainiya, Rashdiya, Um Khubar, Ghzlan, Swaini, Ur in Baghdad,

Among these families, the society identified 180 widow-headed households. The vulnerable widows live in poor conditions- residing in mud houses in remote areas and below the poverty line. The project provided each family with a one month food ration for the minimum individual intake requirement of 2,100k calories per day. . Beneficiary families were also provided with blankets, mattresses, hygiene kits, kerosene stoves and storage containers.



Beneficiaries receiving humanitarian Assistance by CSCRIC

Families expressed their gratitude to the society and UNOCHA for the assistance which will have a great affect on their daily life and dignity.

Al-Yousser Organization for Assistance & Rehabilitation of Women has completed a project in Babylon, providing 800 widows with food and non food items -baskets, mattresses, blankets, hygienic kits and cold boxes.

Beneficiaries of the project are from one of the most volatile and difficult to access areas in Babylon. Provision of basic services such as education and health has ceased in the area. Extreme difficulties in provision of humanitarian assistance imply the living conditions of the population, particularly that of widows and children, have severely deteriorated



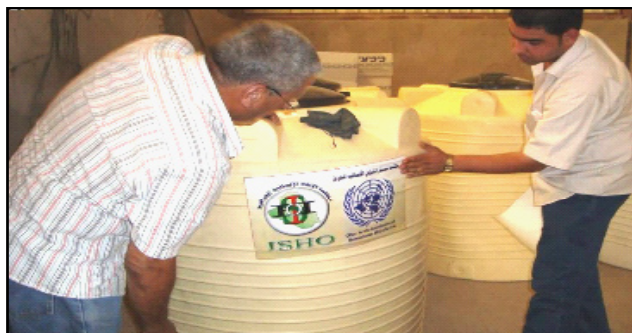
Damaged house of Rabab Hussein / Babylon

Fifty-eight year old widow Rabab Hussein is one of the beneficiaries of the project. Rahab is the head of family of ten, most of whose members are females. She witnessed the killing of her husband and son and their corpses abandoned outside the house for ten days-family members feared they would be killed if they ventured out to collect the bodies. The house was seriously damaged with the exception of one room- without windows and furniture. Rahab lives with her family, which she is unable to support, stripped bare of her possessions and without any income. Moreover, she continues to face the danger that her family tormentors will return and has to occasionally flee her house for the family's safety.

Rabab is one of many widows lacking social services and assistance in this area. Rabab thanked Al Youser Organization for their courage to access the area despite the dangerous security situation.

Iraqi Humanitarian Salvation Organization (ISHO) has completed a water project in Thi Qar, Diwaniya and Babylon governorates for 120 IDP families by installing 200Ltr./day RO units complete with piping and storage tanks. RO units of 400 gallon/daily capacity and water tanks were also installed in twelve schools and twelve public health clinics

The project included raising the awareness of families on the practical, safe and sustainable utilization of the installations. ISHO provided families with spare parts and materials for the maintenance of the units.



ISHO team installing the RO unit

Mariam, one of the beneficiaries, is a deaf girl of 22 years-an IDP living with her family in Al Sadr / ThiQar. Her family consists of a disabled father a former employee of the electricity department; her mother and six siblings The family was displaced from Al Rashdeya in Baghdad and built a basic house on a governmental property. The family is very poor and lacking stable income to support the family

Mariam, who has mastered sewing, is the only breadwinner for the family. She earns a small income to support the family of 11.

The ERF project provided important assistance to the family. Provision of portable water has reduced the family's burden of purchasing drinking water.

ISHO provided Mariam with a new sewing machine with accessories and materials as well as a small generator. Mariam and her family expressed gratitude to donors and ISHO for the assistance.



Mareim Expression her thankful

FACTS ABOUT THE ERF

- The ERF provides quick-disbursement of funds for national and international organisations for urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq to alleviate suffering of the civilian population. The ERF is not intended to respond to chronic social problems, reconstruction or other long-term development needs.
- The ERF is designed to be replenished with fresh contributions on a rolling 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 UN/IOM, NGO and donor representatives.

(For further details, please see the ERF Charter, which can be obtained from OCHA Iraq office in Amman.)

B. 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.

Central Emergency response Fund (CERF) \$5 million to address humanitarian needs in Iraq:

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is to release a total of \$5 million for life saving emergency response in Iraq following completion of grant processing procedures. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is being provided with US\$ 2.3m to extend life-saving assistance to conflict-affected populations in Basra, Baghdad, Diyala and Mosul; Dohuk, Sulemaniya and Erbil. Another US\$ 2.7 million is being provided to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to meet emergency shelter and household needs for displaced, returnee and refugee populations in Baghdad, Diyala, Najaf, Muthanna, Thi-Qar and Basrah.

II. Humanitarian Overview

Acute Water Diarrhea and Cholera

Rising cases of Acute Water Diarrhoea in the country in early August triggered a joint regional and country office review of surveillance data by WHO and the Ministry of Health.

Separately there were 7 confirmed cholera cases and an estimated 100 suspected cases for the first 8 months of 2008. Many of the suspected cases have been reported in Missan and in Baghdad. Cholera is endemic in Iraq with an average of 600 cases annually. One of the seven cases resulted in a fatality in Missan.



Five other people were killed but, either stool specimens were not collected for them or turned out negative at both the provincial and central public health laboratories. Health authorities in Iraq are looking to strengthen surveillance and case detection systems following these recent cases and the potential for a wider outbreak.

UN Assistance Strategy in Iraq 2008-2010

United Nations and the Government of Iraq signed the UN assistance Strategy for Iraq 2008-2010 August 13. The strategy provides a comprehensive approach to the myriad emergency, reconstruction and development challenges facing the country and how the UN will work together with the government to address them. The Strategy lays out plans to meet humanitarian needs, including improvements in essential social services and protection for vulnerable groups. The Strategy will be financed through external assistance channelled through the international reconstruction fund for Iraq (IRRFI), the government of Iraq and a humanitarian appeal.

Security Operation in Diyala

The security operation in Diyala governorate continued in August with limited humanitarian impact. The Operation was suspended for a week August 11 to give militants a window to surrender their weapons in exchange for amnesty. The Operation's focus shifted to Khanaqin in the last weeks of the month as Government forces sought to re-assert control in north-eastern Diyala parts of which are disputed areas. Although precise numbers are unavailable many displaced families have returned to their homes in the province since the beginning of the operation on July 29. Many of the returnees are in need of humanitarian assistance as they have had no access to Public Distribution System (PDS) rations and their homes have been looted and or destroyed

Priority Needs of IDPs

Many internally displaced people in Iraq continue to face the real threat of secondary displacement through evictions and a deterioration in their living conditions. IDPs also face poor access to basic services such as shelter, food, health care, water and continuing protection concerns. A recent Ministry of Displacement and Migration study indicates that of the 212,063 families displaced across Iraq, 43 percent are from Baghdad. In a bid to promote and facilitate IDP returns to the capital and other parts of the country, the Prime Minister issued Order number 101/S of August 2 2008. The Order requires people illegally occupying residential and government buildings in Baghdad to voluntarily vacate them within a month or be forcibly evicted. Order no. 101/S is a follow up to Order No. 83/S which penalizes illegal occupation of private property, including houses, The latest Order is to be implemented by the Ministries of Displacement & Migration and of Justice, the Reconciliation Committee,

Baghdad governorate authorities and the Baghdad Operational Command and will gradually, be enforced countrywide. The central government is leaving the timing of the Order's enforcement in other governorates to local authorities. In Baghdad, two operational centers were established in Rusafa and in Karkh for operations of the High Committees for IDPs and Reconciliation. Persons resisting evictions face possible arrest, criminal charges and imprisonment to between 3-10 years.

Two hundred and ten IDP families were evicted by Iraqi Security Forces from the Al Salam complex in Karkh District in Baghdad in mid-August. Although some of the families were compensated by the authorities, others compensation checks were refused by local banks¹.

It is estimated that 70% of the illegally occupied public buildings are occupied by militias. According to UNHCR, the measure is likely to increase the returns over time and will be followed keenly by IDPs in deciding when to return. Iraqi authorities have reported that some families have returned to Hay al-Adel and Jamiyah- neighbourhoods in Baghdad.

The government's policy is to make a one-off payment of one million Iraqi dinars (\$833 dollars) to each returning family. The government has also pledged to pay the equivalent of 6 months rent assistance (300,000 Iraqi Dinars per month) to affected IDPs unable to return to their areas or origin.

In Kirkuk, ethnic tensions over the status of the city and the disputed provincial elections law are resulting in the displacement of hundreds of families. All communities (Arabs, Kurds, and Turkmen) have been affected. Many IDPs face higher and rising rent costs, poor access to basic services and unemployment².

III. Update on the Consolidated Appeal Process

The 2009 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, whose preparation in underway will comprise both an Iraq and a regional pillar to enable a more comprehensive response to both the displacement within Iraq and to respond to the needs of Iraqi refugees in the region. Pillars I and II are led by the Humanitarian Coordinator and UNHCR respectively. A Pillar I workshop is planned for September 24-25.

The Iraq CAP 2008 is now supported by 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, Estonia, The Netherlands and the Czech Republic in addition to private donors, various donors through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Iraq Trust Fund (ITF) and allocation of un-earmarked funds by UN agencies.



Humanitarian Crisis in Iraq BASIC FACTS & FIGURES ON IDPs

- Over five percent of Iraqis are internally displaced inside Iraq, an estimated 2.8 million people. Of the 2.8 million IDPs, 1.2 million were displaced before 2006 and almost 1.6 million were displaced from 2006 to 2008.
- The peak of displacement was between June and September 2006; less than one percent was displaced in 2008. Fewer new displacements are occurring, although military operations in as Sadr City, Basrah, and along the borders with Iran and Turkey continue to displace Iraqis.
- Military operations in Sadr City led to the displacement of some 4,000 families, of which most have returned. During military operations in Basra, Mosul and Amarah, there was only limited displacement. There have been no reports of displacement during the ongoing security operation in Diyala, which commenced on 29 July 2008.
- The security and material situation on the ground in Iraq has not improved sufficiently to promote the return of refugees and IDPs.
- Returnees mostly return to neighbourhoods/districts/governorates under control of members of the sect they belong to. To date, only a few families have returned to areas under control of another sect. Very few members of minority groups (e.g., Christians, Sabaeen-Mandaeans and Yazidis) have been reported to be among the returnees.
- Access to income/employment is consistently mentioned as a priority by IDPs in Iraq, in addition to food and shelter.
- The majority of IDPs consider the PDS as their main source of food; however majority of IDPs have no or limited access to PDS due to delays in transferring ration cards or because they are not eligible to register in their area of displacement.
- For both IDPs and returnees, access to food is also hindered by a lack of family income and insecurity which impedes access to markets for both suppliers and customers. Road and neighbourhood closures, checkpoints, curfews, and military attacks also hinder access to markets.
- Rising costs of fuel, rent, and food and high levels of unemployment are causing deteriorating conditions for IDPs (and host communities) throughout the country. Attaining employment is even more difficult for women and widows, especially in increasingly conservative areas.
- Over the past few months, humanitarian organizations have seen threats of evictions of IDPs living in public buildings or in illegally erected buildings on public land. So far only small scale evictions have taken place but the threat of secondary displacement for IDPs taking refuge in these buildings remains.

(Sources: IDP Working Group, UNAMI, IOM, MoDM)

Funding of the ERF:

In the Iraq CAP 2008, OCHA requested \$20 million to replenish the ERF. Contributions since the launch of the joint emergency appeal have been received from Norway (\$784,314), Canada (\$492,756), the United Kingdom (\$1.98 million), and Ireland (\$446,428.57) and from various donors through the CERF (\$1.6 million). The IRFFI has approved the allocation of \$20m to the ERF. The transfer processing is ongoing.

Funding per Sector Outcome Team:	
Agriculture/Food Security:	\$1.5 million (18%)
Coordination and Support Services:	\$5.5 million (80%)
Education:	\$4.6 million (23%)
Food:	\$79 million (79%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$4.9 million (15%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$16.5 million (44%)
Protection/Human Rights/Law:	\$14.2 million (55%)
Sector not yet specified(inc 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>

To access the Iraq CAP Mid Year Status Report (June 2008) please visit
<http://ochaonline.un.org/humanitarianappeal/webpage.asp?MenuID=11179&Page=1672>

Endnotes

1. IOM Emergency Needs Assessments - 1 September 2008 Monthly Report, p. 6.
2. IOM Emergency Needs Assessments - 1 September 2008 Monthly Report

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