



**ERF:** The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) for Iraq aims to fill critical humanitarian gaps within different sectors through a rapid 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 by primarily Iraqi NGOs. The maximum grant is \$50,000.

## I. Operational Updates

### THE EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND (ERF)

#### Project and Financial Status:

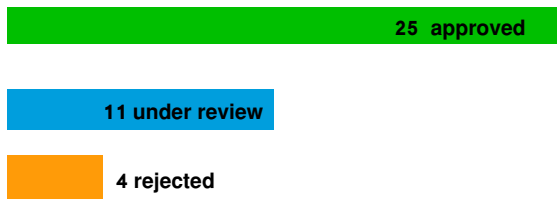
As of April 30, 2008, a total of 40 project proposals have been submitted to the ERF since August 2007 (12 have been submitted by international NGOs and 28 by Iraqi NGOs).

Of these 40 projects, 25 have been approved: nine are completed, five are ongoing and another 11 projects are pending receipt of committed funds from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), all with a total value of \$4,021,364.

A further 11 projects are currently under review, totalling approximately \$2,072,706. Finally, four projects have been rejected by the Technical Review Committee (TRC).

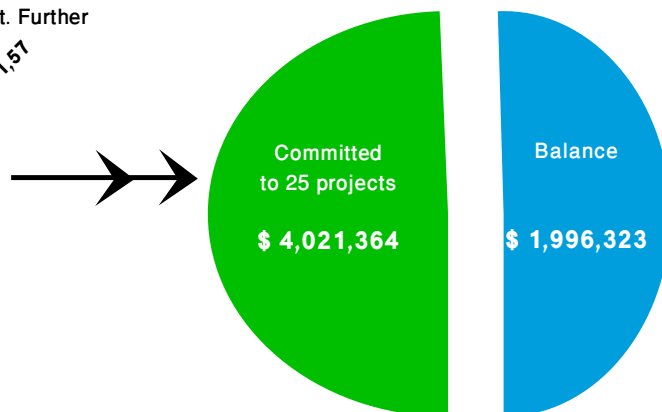
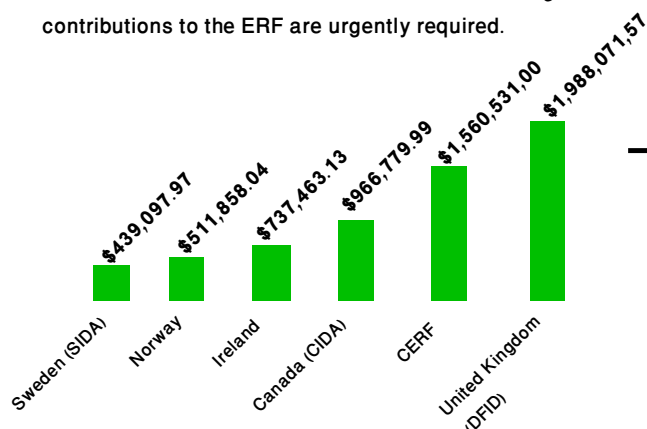
Current partners of the ERF include Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development, FUAD, Al Mamoura Humanitarian Establishment and the Italian Consortium of Solidarity.

#### Status of 40 ERF projects submitted:



#### Contributions to the ERF:

A total of \$6,017,687 has been donated to the ERF (with three percent allocated for fund administration), with the CERF allocating a total of \$5 million to cover the immediate funding deficit. Further contributions to the ERF are urgently required.



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

Table 1: Ongoing projects funded by the ERF

NO.	GOVERNORATE	SECTOR / ACTIVITIES	BENEFICIARIES (APPROX.)
1	Al-Anbar	Food security & NFIs	24,000
2	Dahuk	WATSAN	320
3	Baghdad	Food security & NFIs	2,592
4	Diyala	Food security & NFIs	11,406
5	Diyala	Food security & NFIs	1,764



Work in progress to provide clean potable water in Dahuk through an ERF-funded project targeting 320 beneficiaries.

### Projects Completed Under the ERF

To date, nine projects have been completed under the ERF, targeting a total of 5,880 families and 1,500 orphans (approximately 36,780 individuals) in 10 governorates. These projects assisted vulnerable and displaced families through the provision of essential food and non-food items (NFIs), shelter, water and sanitation.

One project was completed during the reporting period implemented by Relief International (RI). RI has installed water tanks in Al Shabenat Village, Kerbala to provide clean drinking water to 200 families (IDP and vulnerable families in the host community). To ensure sustained activity, the local water authority is regularly delivering water to this village. Also, 15 individuals from the village benefited through employment as labourers for the duration of the project.



Before; collecting water from far away. Photo: RI

One of the beneficiaries was Um Hassan who has eight children, a vulnerable member of the community. She explained to RI the daily burden of obtaining 20 litres of clean water. "I leave my home and my children every day to walk a distance of 3km to collect water for my children so they will not drink contaminated water. This process is sometimes repeated twice or more in one day, and in addition I do not have the money to secure my daily food and water needs," she said. Um Hassan pointed out that many women in the surrounding area have the same problem.

RI installed three water tanks in locations close to IDP populations. After the completion of the project, RI staff returned to the village to speak with the beneficiaries, and reported that the joy of the IDP families was overwhelming at the arrival of clean drinking water. The children raced to fill small containers to drink clean water, expressing gratitude and congratulations.



After - new water tanks throughout the village. Photos: RI

## FACTS ABOUT THE ERF

- The ERF provides quickly-disbursed funds for national and international organisations to undertake 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 will seek replenishment with fresh contributions on a rolling basis. The Fund will grant a maximum of \$400,000 and a minimum of \$25,000 per project.
- Contributions to the ERF will be treated as 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.)*

## THE NGO MICRO GRANT

One project is ongoing under the NGO Micro Grant. The project targets around 4,000 families and provides health services through a mobile clinic in the remote areas in Najaf governorate. It is implemented by Cultural Humanitarian Iraq of Future Organisation (CHIFO). The NGO Micro Grant funding currently stands at zero balance. OCHA is currently not receiving further proposals under this grant pending receipt of urgently needed funds.



Mobile clinic in Najaf governorate. Photo: CHIFO

## HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Five years after the outbreak of the war in Iraq, the humanitarian situation still causes grave concern and needs are widespread. Humanitarian access to Iraq's vulnerable groups remains limited and rife with coordination and funding challenges, particularly in the central and southern governorates. Insecurity has impeded the timely and efficient delivery of humanitarian assistance. Moreover, the protection crisis continues to cause urgent humanitarian needs among vulnerable groups and is characterized by violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Displacement of Iraqis may have slowed down, but continues to cause concern, as the number of registered IDPs inside Iraq is an estimated 2.7 million (March 20, 2008). Of these, 1.2 million were displaced before 2006 and more than 1.5 million were displaced in 2006 and 2007; less than one percent was displaced in 2008.

The limited returns that have occurred so far represent only a small fraction of the displaced population. Internal displacement in Iraq continues to demand ongoing assessment of needs and protection concerns and a targeted humanitarian response.

New displacement still occurs in some locations, due to military operations and generalized violence. The recent insecurity and fighting in Sadr City and Basrah caused some displacement, though figures are difficult to confirm.

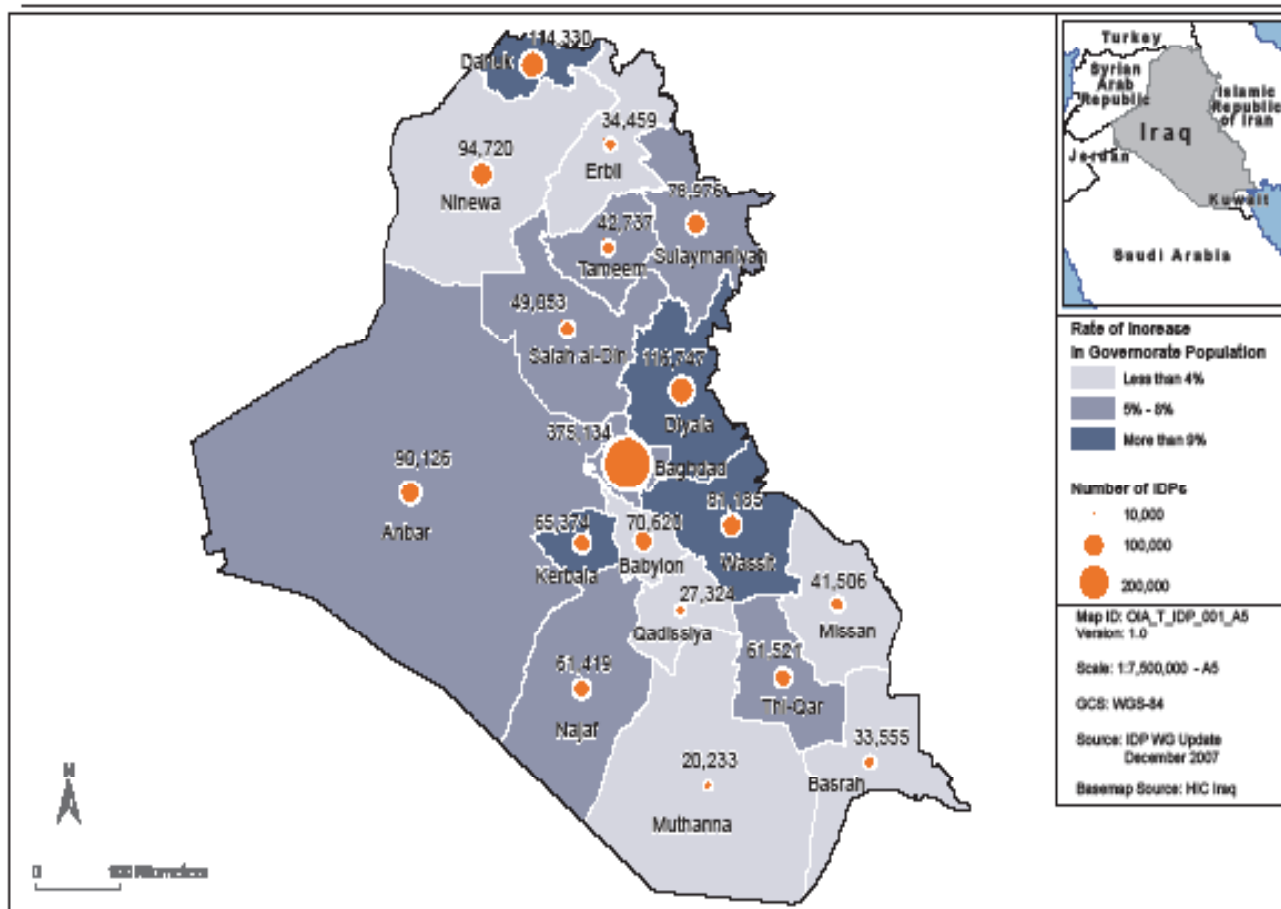
## Sadr City

With 2.5 million inhabitants, Al Sadr City in east Baghdad is one of the poorest and most overcrowded districts in Iraq. In late March intense fighting broke out between militias linked to Muqtada Al Sadr and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) / Multi-National Forces in Iraq (MNF-I). On May 10, an agreement was reached between the Sadrist bloc in Parliament and the Prime Minister's United Iraqi Alliance party to end hostilities.

The fighting severely limited humanitarian access into Sadr City, impeding the delivery of urgently needed assistance like food, water and medical supplies and disrupting people's daily lives. In many areas, civilians were prevented from going to work; schools, markets and shops were closed or damaged; medical staff and people in need of medical care were not able to reach hospitals and primary health centers; and ambulances could not move freely around the city to collect the wounded. Access has been particularly limited in sectors 1-9 and the Jamila market area, controlled by ISF/MNF-I, and in the sectors to the northeast as fighting moved to this area.

UNAMI confirmed that 387 people were killed in Sadr City between March 24 and May 8, many of whom were civilians. Reports indicate that thousands of families were forced to flee from their homes due to the fighting, with IOM monitors reporting that 500 families sought refuge with host families, in schools or mosques in the periphery of Sadr City.

Numerous houses and public buildings were damaged or destroyed, as was the city's already-limited water infrastructure. Lack of electricity and/or petrol in many sectors prevented water pumping, so families had to carry water by hand from community cisterns being filled intermittently by emergency water tankers. There was concern about water quality and the potential spread of communicable diseases. Monthly PDS food distributions were disrupted. By early May, WFP received reports from the Ministry of Trade that distributions for April and May had taken place, but some families may still experience shortage of food.



## Humanitarian Crisis in Iraq

### BASIC FACTS & FIGURES ON IDPs

- It is estimated that over 2.77 million people are currently displaced inside Iraq as of March 20, 2008. New displacement is continuing at a much lower pace than for the past two years but secondary displacement has been reported in Baghdad. Most of the post-2006 IDPs come from Baghdad and Diyala.
- While the majority of pre-2006 IDPs were displaced in the three northern governorates (53%) and in the south (33%), 58 % of post-2006 IDPs are displaced in the six central governorates, 27% in the south and 15% in the three northern governorates.
- Percentage of IDPs compared to total estimated governorate population is highest in Dahuk, Baghdad, Wassit and Kerbala.
- More than 560,000 IDPs are living in Baghdad governorate. 40 percent of surveyed IDPs in Baghdad have fled due to direct threats and forced eviction from their property, while between 10 percent and 17 percent have fled due to generalized violence and fear.
- According to the current estimation, the number of IDPs in need of adequate shelter and food is now higher than one million (70%). In addition, over one million do not have a regular income. Around 300,000 persons (20%) have no access to clean water and are in need of legal aid to enable them to access other basic services.
- Displaced Iraqis tend to seek refuge with family and friends, but many IDPs are also in schools, clinics and other public buildings, or makeshift camps on public lands or in the desert.
- Movement of IDPs is constrained: Nine governorates are restricting entry (require sponsorships, proof of endangerment, etc.), while eight are imposing measures which limit registration.

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

## II. Update on the Consolidated Appeal Process

At the end of April 2008, the joint emergency appeal for Iraq was funded at 25 percent of the \$265 million requested by UN agencies, IOM and NGOs for relief aid inside Iraq in 2008.

### CAP Funding of the ERF:

The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) for Iraq had received almost \$2.5 million, at the end of April 2008, as contributions were made by Canada (\$492,756) and the United Kingdom (\$1.98 million). This amounts to 12 percent of the total ERF funding request of \$20 million included in the CAP.

### Iraq CAP 2008 Funding Status:

Total requirements:	\$265 million
Funding (commitment/contributions):	\$66.5 million (25%)
Unmet requirements:	\$198.6 million
Pledges (uncommitted):	\$50.8 million

CAP Funding per Sector:	
Agriculture/Food Security:	No funding or pledges
Coordination and Support Services:	\$3.1 million funded (47%)
Education:	\$1.3 million funded (7%)
Food:	\$37.2 million funded (39%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$1.9 million funded (6%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$10.9 million funded (30%)
Protection/Human Rights/Law:	\$8.6 million funded (33%)
Sector not yet specified (incl. ERF):	\$2.5 million funded (12%)
Water and Sanitation:	\$966,445 funded (5%)

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

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

[www.ochairaq.org](http://www.ochairaq.org)

The OCHA Iraq website is now up and running.

Visit [www.ochairaq.org](http://www.ochairaq.org) to access this edition of the ERF bulletin, as well as past issues. Henceforth, the ERF bulletin will be translated into Arabic, Kurdish and Turkman as well, to be shared with our partners.

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