

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 Update for March 2010

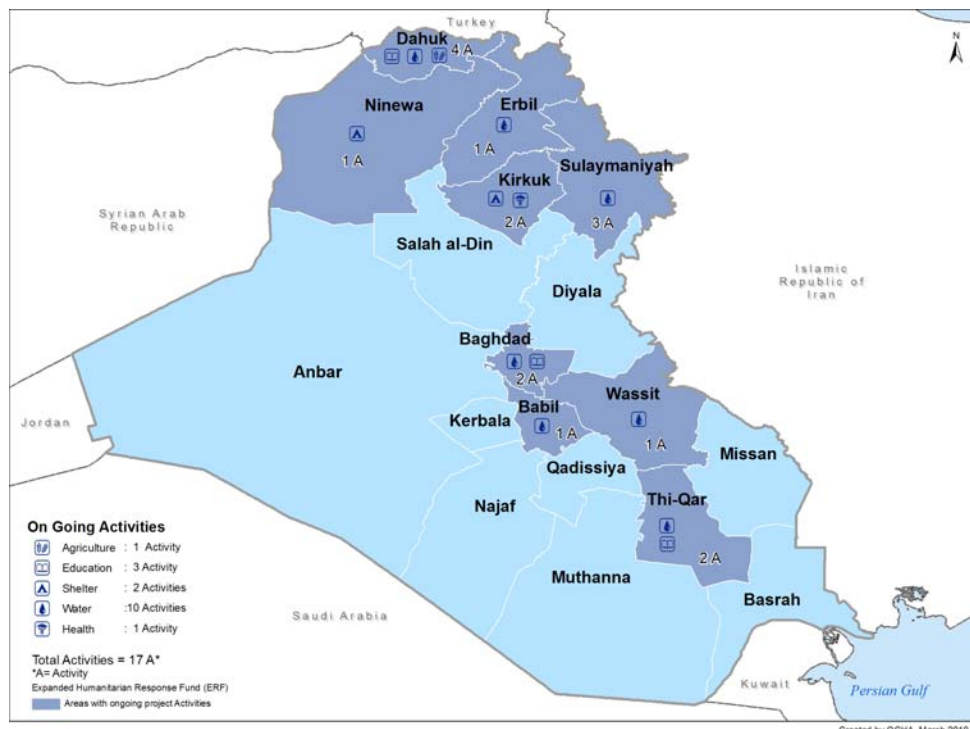
Since the beginning of the Iraq ERF programme in 2007, the Humanitarian Coordinator has approved 99 projects. Most recently in March the Humanitarian Coordinator approved three new projects which will

provide support to vulnerable Iraqi families. These projects were in the sectors of education, health, and water and sanitation. Information on these three new projects for March can be found in the table below.

Project Title	Commitments
Protection for vulnerable children in Thi Qar through the provision of safe spaces for learning	\$ 379,893.00
WatSan rehabilitation project and hygiene promotion for schools in Baghdad	\$ 289,421.00
Supporting 320 poor disabled students of Kirkuk with needed medical items	\$ 50,449.00
Total	\$ 719,763.00

Currently, the ERF team has 23 projects under review in various stages including review by the relevant sector team, review and recommendation by the TRC, or final review and approval by the Humanitarian Coordinator. The projects currently under review include agriculture, shelter, education, protection, and health. The total value of these projects under review is over US\$3 million. In addition, the ERF has received

over 50 new proposals from organizations who have not previously partnered with the ERF. Once a full eligibility review of these organizations is conducted, ERF will begin review of these new proposals and submit them for the review process with sectors and the TRC. During March 2010, 29 ERF projects were underway. The map below shows the location of the current 29 projects.



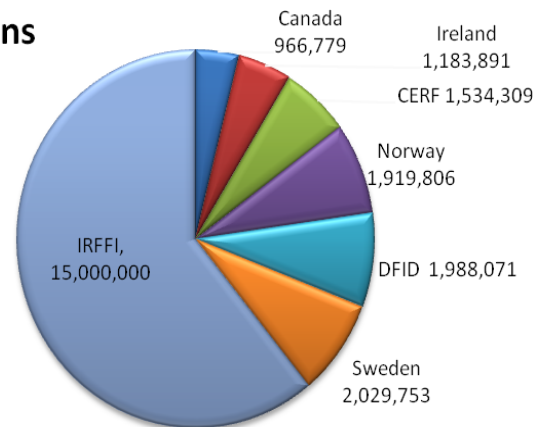
Current Funding Status

There were no new donations to the ERF in March. As mentioned in last month's bulletin, a proposal has been submitted to the Iraq Trust Fund for an additional US\$5 million in project funds. The ERF has received confirmation that this additional proposal has been approved and will be made available as soon as our current commitments equal 70 percent of the original US\$15 million given in 2009. The percentage of ITF funds committed to date equals 60 percent.

Contributions= US\$24,622,609

Balance remaining= US\$6,429,067

Contributions to the ERF 2007-2010



ERF Spotlight – Première Urgence

Première Urgence (PU) has operated in Iraq since 1997 implementing various projects funded by donors including four projects with the ERF. To respond specifically to the water crisis in Iraq, PU conducted nine Water/Sanitation projects since February 2008. In these projects, PU's doctors train communities in hygiene best practices and water-borne disease awareness while distributing water filters and hygiene kits for the immediate needs in the most affected households. Baydaa K. and Sara M. are working for PU with those households. The following interview tells about their daily work, fears and challenges, but also success stories.

Q: How long have you been working for PU?

A: We started with PU in 2008.

Q: Can you tell us a little about the recent ERF project in Abu Ghraib and Mada'in?

A: It started at the beginning of December, 2009 and will reach about 14,400 individuals in 2,400 families with water filters, hygiene kits, awareness sessions, and water tanks for the most vulnerable. We've implemented several projects like this before, and they are extremely successful in drastically reducing waterborne diseases and overall hygiene awareness among these extremely poor villages. We provide them with water filters so they don't have to rely on outside sources to clean their water, but can collect it wherever they can, and purify it in their own homes. While it may appear to be a simple project, these people are desperate for help.

Q: What keeps you motivated, working as a monitor for PU?

A: First of all to help people, especially through the promotion of health awareness. I feel a great satisfaction when I am able to directly improve the lives of these people. Also, I really love going to different areas and learning the details of life in these villages. Finally, this job allows me to develop my abilities and learn new things.

Q: What has been one of your most memorable or best experiences as a monitor?

A: The best experience I had was during our distribution in Nahrawan in the village called Jazmeah al Owla. Here we found the village mayor cooperating with the families living there and organizing the distribution of meals. It was so inspiring to see! They are well organized and involve all relevant stakeholders. I also love the feeling of joy that we see in the faces of recipient families in the villages after the distribution of materials and filters. They really appreciate that someone is taking care of their problems and they are not forgotten.

Q: Can you tell us another memorable story about one of your experiences with beneficiaries?

A: We visited a village in Dawannem, Maemel district in Baghdad late March of 2010 to conduct follow-up visits after a water filter distribution project. In the course of our visit we encountered a household of children, with the responsible one a girl of only 13 years of age. Their father was detained by coalition forces during the violence of 2003. The mother could not cope, and left her children to live near a distant relative who gives them some money and food in exchange for labor on their farm. They no longer attend school but have to spend their time working and begging for food in order to eat. During our distribution the materials were given to these children with an explanation of how and why to use them. When they received the items, each child held an item from the kit and their

eyes and mouths burst with smiles as if it were Christmas. We were thankful we could put a smile on their faces, even though it was something as simple as hygiene materials. But for these children, a little goes a long way.



More ERF Training:

In March 2010, the ERF Team continued the training began last month. As of the end of March 2010, the ERF has now provided comprehensive training to over 70 NGOs from south, central, and northern parts of Iraq. The purpose of the training was to better prepare our local partners to apply, receive approval, and implement ERF projects. Session topics included: an overview of the ERF Charter, an overview of the ERF project criteria and the types of projects eligible, humanitarian principles, Sphere minimum standards, how to write a quality proposal, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management of ERF projects.

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 \$25,000 per project.
- Contributions to the ERF are un-earmarked and pooled, i.e. they lose their donor identification.

All the ERF documents are downloadable in English and Arabic from
www.ochairaq.org/erf/

For further information about the ERF, please contact
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