



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

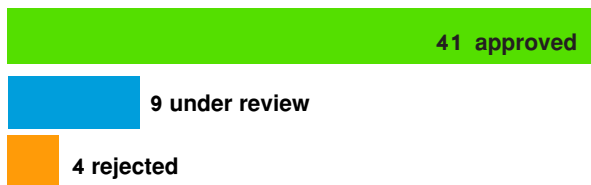
Project and Financial Status:

As of July 31st 2008 a total of 54 project proposals have been submitted to the ERF since August 2007. Of these, 15 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 54 project proposals received. Seventeen of the projects funded have been completed, 18 are ongoing, and funds have been disbursed/are under disbursement for six projects. The total cost of the funded 41 projects is \$6,704,282.00.

A further nine projects, totalling an estimated \$1,414,300 are currently under review. Finally, four projects have been rejected by the Technical Review Committee (TRC). Current partners of the ERF for ongoing projects include: International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society (KURDS), Rafha Organization for Relief and Development, Todya and Helan Organization .

Status of 54 Project Proposals Submitted:



Contributions to the ERF:

The ERF has received a total of \$6,781,609.50 in contributions since August 2007 (three percent of funding is dedicated to the administration of the pooled fund). A \$15 million infusion was approved on 7 July by the International Reconstruction Fund Facility (IRFFI) from the Iraqi Trust Fund (ITF) to the ERF and will serve to significantly replenish the ERF's rapidly dwindling resources.

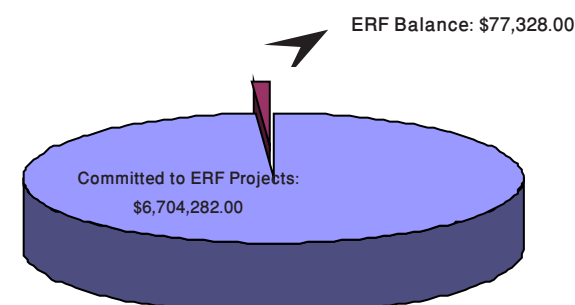


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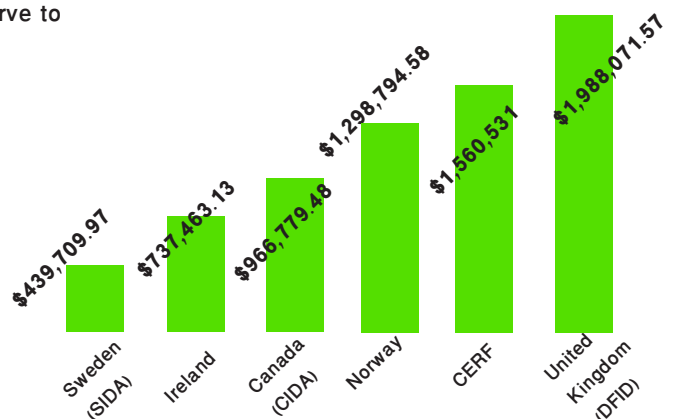


Table 1: Ongoing Projects Funded by the ERF

NO.	GOVERNORATE	SECTOR / ACTIVITIES	BENEFICIARIES (APPROX.)
1	All Iraq	Needs Assessment	Humanitarian agencies to make more informed policy decisions affecting humanitarian and development assistance
2	Wassit, Baghdad, Babylon, Kerbala, Anbar	Health / Handicap Relief	648
3	Baghdad	Food Security / Food items	2,500
4	Conflict zones	Health / Medical tools to hospitals emergency rooms	Approx. 25,100 individual attending the hospital emergency room
5	Baghdad	Food Security / Food items	600
6	Baghdad	Shelter / Non food items	800
7	Babylon	Health / Clinic	800
8	Erbil	Food Security / Food items	2,000
9	Diyala, Basra, Thi Qar	Shelter / Non food items	4,500
10	Thi Qar	Shelter / Non food items	1,000
11	Wassit	Health / Clinic	5,000
12	Baghdad, Anbar	Food Security / Food items	2,100
13	Baghdad	Shelter / Non food items	314
14	Basra	Health / Clinic	600
15	Baghdad	Food Security / Food items	2,650
16	Ninewa	Shelter / Non food items	5,927
17	Baghdad , Najaf	Food Security / Food items	1,000
18	Diyala	Shelter/ Non food items	150

***Total direct beneficiaries from the ERF funding to date are 75,322 families.**

Ongoing Projects Funded by the ERF

A total of 18 ERF projects are ongoing in eleven governorates in the northern, central and southern areas of Iraq. These projects will provide 11,700 families with food and 9,600 families with non-food items (NFIs). Health continues to be a priority sector in ERF's consideration and funding will cover four health projects to provide medical assistance to 10,948 families. In addition the ERF is financing a project to supply medical and associated consumables and equipment to Iraqi victims of violence and armed conflict at hospitals' emergency rooms. One ERF project will provide clean water to 5,927 families in Ninewa.

Completed Projects Funded by the ERF

The KURDS completed one ERF project during the reporting period. The water project targeted 80 IDP families and host communities in Zavi Rash Village / Dohuk governorate in providing sufficient potable water (125 ltr per person per day). It included raising awareness on the water use, creating employment opportunities and capacity building for the community ,

The project was intended to ensure the provision of sufficient potable water through supply and installation of a submersible water pump, installation of a 40m³ steel distribution tank, extension of feeding pipe line and extension to the beneficiaries' residences through a generator provided and installed by the project.

Beneficiary Story:

A new comer IDP who fled from Mosul in 2005 because of personal safety concerns, Wa'ad Abdul-Qadir Hassan is a 32-year-old IDP married with one child who has settled in Zavi-rash village.



Wa'ad Abdul-Qadie Hassan/ KURDS

Wa'ad and his family endured drinking water using plastic hose connections. During the implementation of the water project, Wa'ad also worked as a labourer for thirty days and generated some income for his family



Generator Room / Zavi Rash Village / KURDS



Water Storage Tank / Zavi Rash Village /KURDS

Haraa Humanitarian Organization implemented a project in Baquba / Diyala providing 388 widows and their children with food and clothes. The beneficiaries are considered some of the most vulnerable displaced Iraqis, residing in abandoned buildings or with host families in very difficult situations without any supporter or assistance.

The project was welcomed by the beneficiaries in easing their plight, and some widows and children wrote some thank-you notes to UNOCHA and requested that similar projects be undertaken in the future. Haraa Humanitarian organization will be contacting the Social care office in Diyala to register these widows for government assistance.



Iraqi Relief Organization (IRO) implemented a project in Najaf for extension of a 1500m water network in Al-Askari Quarter, located 5 km north of Najaf center, and considered one of the areas that suffers from severe lack of potable water. More than 3000 families live in the area and host new IDP families. The increase in the area's population has led to severe constrains on basic social services and water shortages have contributed to health problems and epidemics. The provision of clean water in the area limits the potential for further outbreaks of diseases and epidemics.



Shennan is one of the beneficiaries / IRO

IRO sought feedback from beneficiary families after the implementation of the project. All families in the project area now have access to clean water, Shennan who is living in this area said "previously, water was rarely available and usually we have to bring it from afar obliging us to spend extra time and effort, but now, with this project, fresh and clean water is available all the time.

Kurdistan Village Reconstruction Association (KVRA) implemented a project in Peranagroon town, 40 km to the north of Sulimaniya District. The town is host to 298 IDP families living in old, damaged buildings in miserable conditions. No assistance has been provided in this area from any humanitarian agency amidst food shortages as a result of delays in the transfer of the IDPs' ration cards. Unemployment rate is almost 100%. The project provided food sufficient for one month, and NFIs to these families such as mattresses, children clothes, kitchen set and hygienic kits



Trucks loading food and NFIs to Peranagroon town/ KVRA



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 and the maximum project implementation period is nine months.
- 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.)

B. THE NGO MICRO GRANT

The pooled NGO Micro Grant fund balance stands at zero balance. OCHA is currently not receiving further proposals under this grant, pending commitment of urgently needed funds.

Representation at the Technical Review Committee

According to the Charter of the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund for Iraq (ERF), members of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) are elected for a rotating period of six months. The TRC is currently comprised of WHO, IOM, HELP, DRC, and donor representation from Canada and Norway. The term of the current TRC, whose tenure expired on 31 July 2008, has been extended until 15 August 2008.

Effective 15 August 2008, the TRC will include 2 representatives and one alternate from UN agencies / IOM and 2 representatives and one alternate respectively from the NGO and 2 representatives from the donor community. Membership to the next TRC remains the subject of ongoing consultations and therefore undetermined. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) will chair the TRC meetings on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and will provide secretariat support to the Committee.

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

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has

allocated \$5 million for life saving emergency response in Iraq to enable better coverage of the core humanitarian needs as laid out in the 2008 Consolidated Appeal (CAP) for Iraq. Iraq is among seven countries selected for the second round of the under-funded window of the CERF, which makes allocations to fill critical funding gaps in humanitarian emergencies two times a year on the recommendations of agencies, emergencies' funding trends and extensive consultations with stakeholders. The UN Country Team has approved two applications for funds to respond to critical needs in Iraq

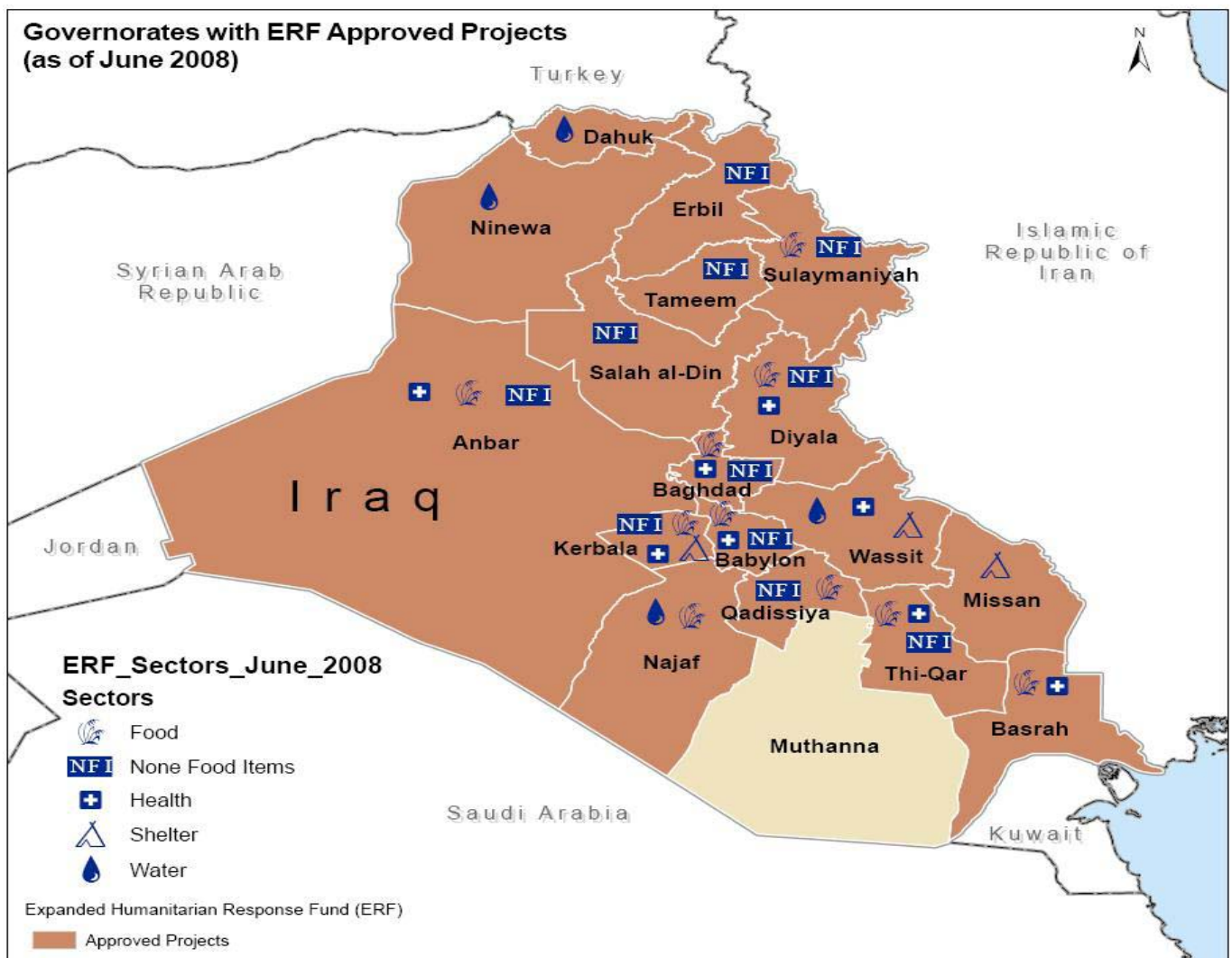
The International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI) contribution to the ERF

Humanitarian needs in Iraq continue to call for a concerted and comprehensive international response to assist and protect vulnerable Iraqis. Urgent needs across key humanitarian sectors are widespread and accumulating due to acute deprivation or near absence of essential services; armed conflict, generalized violence and rights violations; long-term internal displacement; and natural disasters.

Against this backdrop and to more rapidly respond to sudden emergency situations, humanitarian actors led by the Deputy Special Representative Secretary General / Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/HC) have been actively pursuing avenues for additional humanitarian funding. The IRFFI Donor Committee Meeting approved on 7 July the DSRSG / HC request to transfer some of the interest accruing to the Iraq Trust Fund to the OCHA - managed ERF. Donors agreed to permit the allocation and transfer of a total of \$15 million (out of total interest accrued of \$20 million) to reinforce the OCHA-administered ERF for Iraq.

The revitalized ERF fund will focus on three core areas in line with the recommendations of the recently completed Evaluation (see previous Bulletin).

1. Fund projects related to "normal" ERF programming activities;
2. Enhance emergency preparedness through pre-positioning of essential items for sudden onset crisis; and
3. Better respond to acute vulnerabilities in previously neglected accessible areas of Iraq. The funds are expected to be transferred to the ERF within the next 4-6 weeks.



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

Created by OCHA, June 2008

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II. Humanitarian Overview

Security Operations in Diyala

A joint MNFI-ISF security operation was launched in Diyala Governorate on 29 July. Following the commencement of the operation, the emergency response coordination mechanism was activated with Sector Outcome Teams monitoring the humanitarian situation in the Governorate and elevating their emergency response preparedness. The National Operations Centre (NOC) through the Baqubah Operations Centre has secured two humanitarian access routes for aid from Baghdad: (1) Baghdad-Khan Beni Sa'ad-Baqubah ("old route") and (2) Baghdad-Husseinyie-Al Ghalbiye (Al Ghalbiye check point)-cross the bridge-Al Khalos area-Baqubah ("new route"). All assistance from Baqubah to other locations within the Governorate is to be secured but accessed on a case-by-case basis. Humanitarian partners continue to advocate for humanitarian access, access to social services (e.g. PDS distributions), respect for the principles of distinction and

proportionality. The operations, which continue, have not spawned widespread humanitarian concerns.

Iraq Humanitarian Forum Launched

OCHA launched the Iraq Humanitarian Forum on July 30. The IHF is designed as an operational coordination forum for all humanitarian actors in Iraq. The initial meeting discussed among others, the rationale for the IHF's establishment as well as its structure, chairing modalities and linkages to other coordination structures (SOTs). The expectations of the humanitarian community from the Forum were also discussed. The IHF will convene once every month and will be hosted by the NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq (NCCI).

Participants in the inaugural meeting were briefed on the key findings of the recently concluded evaluation of the ERF and its key recommendations, which are to be implemented through a work plan, on whose development is underway.



Priority Needs of IDPs

Decreasing violence resulted in a net decline in displacement in Iraq during the first half of 2008 and although returns are increasing, the net displacement ratio is zero, with numbers of internally displaced persons estimated at 2.8 million¹. Many of Iraq's internally displaced are faced with the real threat of secondary displacement through evictions and deteriorating living conditions. IDPs in Iraq continue to face poor access to basic services such as shelter, food, health care, water and continuing protection concerns.

Displacement across the country's governorates is complicated by inability to transfer identification and social services entitlement documents, principally Public Distribution System (PDS) food ration cards. Seventy percent of IDPs assessed by IOM report intermittent or no access to PDS rations, 14% have no access to health care, and 30% cannot access medications². Economic conditions have deteriorated for IDPs and steep rent and food prices against limited employment opportunities further worsens the plight of the internally displaced. High summer temperatures of up to 45 degrees in recent months have made life particularly difficult for many IDP families unable to afford fuel.

The IOM Mid-Year Review of displacement in Iraq indicates that 61% of assessed IDPs wish to return home, and as much as 82% are inclined to return if displacement is within the same governorate compared to 50% occupied, 15% say it is destroyed, and 43% of assessed returnees have found their property in use or partially or completely destroyed upon returning home.

Up to 40% of those assessed do not know the state of their property. These findings present the need for a workable property rights framework as well as need for continued reconstruction assistance to address the needs of IDPs who wish to return to their homes. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) IDP returnees (as well as refugees) are entitled to one million Iraqi dinars (estimated \$835).

The IOM assessment indicates that 62% of the IDPs assessed reported they have received some form of humanitarian assistance amidst continuing security and access challenges for humanitarian organizations, which have provided 19% of the assistance to IDPs.

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, Sabaeans-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)



III. Update on the Consolidated Appeal Process

Planning for the 2009 Consolidated Appeal has commenced with the objective of agreeing on, through stakeholders' consultations, a strategic framework for assisting the government of Iraq address the emergency needs of vulnerable Iraqis. The 2009 Consolidated Appeal is conceived to comprise both an inside Iraq (pillar 1) and a regional pillar (pillar 2) to enable a more comprehensive response to both the displacement within Iraq and to respond to the needs of Iraqi refugees in the region. UNHCR is leading the CAP's pillar II Secretariat in the planning process.

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, Austria, and Estonia, 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.

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 from various donors through the CERF (\$1.6 million). The IRFFI has approved the allocation of \$15m to the ERF. Pending the transfer of the transfer of the \$ 15 million from the ITF, total funding of the ERF in 2008 currently stands at \$4.8 million (24%) of the \$20 million originally requested for the ERF.

Funding per Sector Outcome Team:	
Agriculture/Food Security:	\$1.5 million (18%)
Coordination and Support Services:	\$5.5 million (80%)
Education:	\$4.4 million (22%)
Food:	\$78.9 million (79%)
Health and Nutrition:	\$4.8 million (15%)
Housing and Shelter:	\$13.9 million (37%)
Protection/Human Rights/Law:	\$12.5 million (48%)
Sector not yet specified:	\$1.1 million (6%)
Water and Sanitation:	\$4.7 million (22%)

Endnotes

1. IOM-Iraq Displacement and Return-2008 Mid-Year Review.
2. IOM-Iraq Displacement and Return-2008 Mid-Year Review.

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

<http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pagelader.aspx?page=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>