



## I. Operational Updates

### A. THE EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND (ERF)

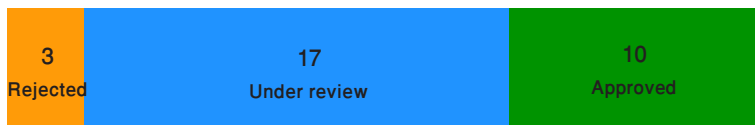
#### Project and Financial Status:

As of January 31, 2008, a total of 30 project proposals have been submitted to the ERF since August 2007, with a total value of \$5,353,871. Nine project proposals have been submitted by international NGOs and twenty by Iraqi NGOs. Ten projects have been approved, while 17 projects are currently under consideration. Three projects have been rejected by the Technical Review Committee (TRC). A total of \$2,162,442 has been donated to the ERF, of which \$1,953,560 has been committed, leaving the ERF with a balance of \$144,009 on hand. With seventeen projects in the pipeline, totalling a present requirement of \$2,985,857, further contributions to the ERF are urgently required.

Current partners of the ERF include Mercy Corps, Italian Consortium of Solidarity, Todya Organisation, Mamoura Humanitarian Establishment, New Iraqi Woman Organisation and Relief International.

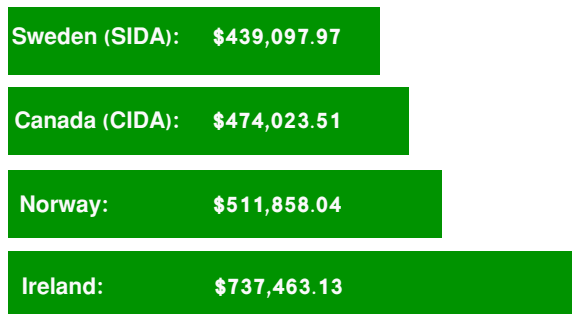
#### Status of ERF Projects:

30 projects submitted as of January 31, 2008.



#### Contributions to the ERF - \$2,162,442

3% allocated for fund administration



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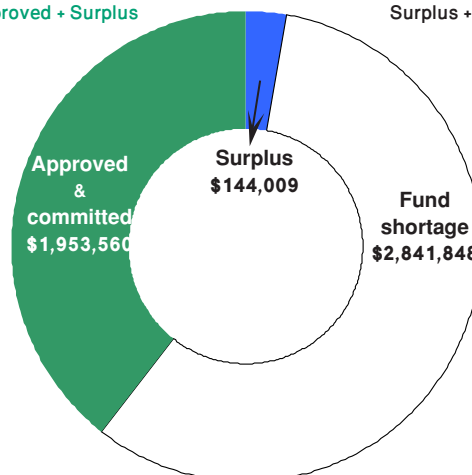
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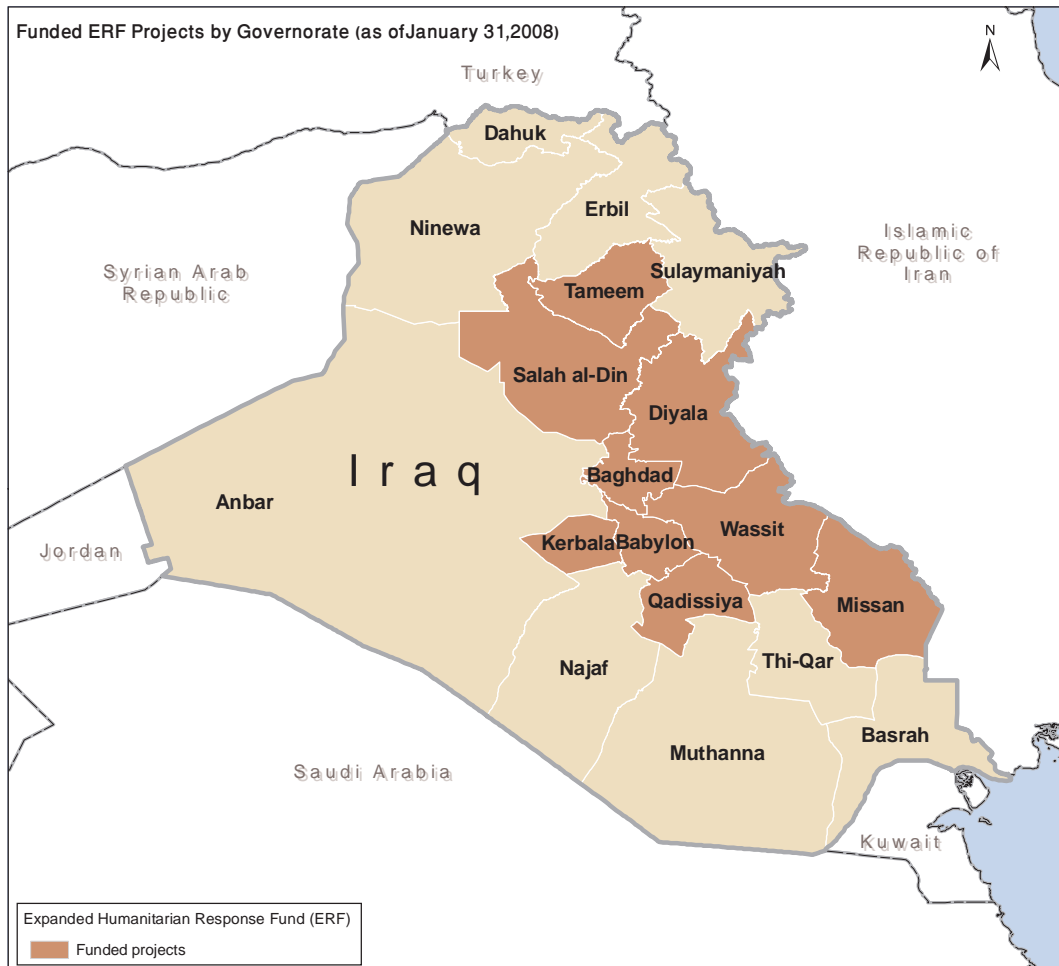


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Contribution to the ERF  
**\$2,162,442.65**  
Approved + Surplus

Projects Under review  
**\$2,985,857**  
Surplus + Shortage





**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs**

Created by OCHA, January 2008

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**TABLE 1: ONGOING PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE ERF**

NO.	GOVERNORATE	SECTOR / ACTIVITIES	BENEFICIARIES (APPROX.)
1	Diyala, Tameem (Kirkuk) and Salah al-Din	Shelter / NFI Distribution	1,420 families
2	Baghdad	Food / Food Distribution	1,500 families
3	Qadissiya	Food and Shelter / Food and NFI Distribution	1,540 families
4	Kerbala and Diyala	Food and Shelter / Food and NFI Distribution	1,500 families
5	Babylon	NFI Distribution	1,500 orphans
6	Kerbala, Missan, Wassit	WATSAN / Shelter	1,420 families

### Change of Composition of the Technical Review Committee

According to the Charter of the ERF, members of the TRC are elected for a rotating period of six months. For the last six month period, the TRC was comprised of UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, ACTED and Premiere Urgence, whose tenure expired on January 31, 2008.

New members of the TRC are due to be elected from February 15, 2008 for a period of six months. The new TRC will include donor representation as well. OCHA will continue to provide the secretariat support for the TRC.

New members of the TRC include from the NGO community: Danish Refugee Council and HELP, with Premiere Urgence as substitute, from the donor community Canada and Norway and from the UN system IOM and WHO, with WFP as substitute.

[\(For further details on the ERF, please see the ERF Charter, which can be obtained from OCHA Iraq office\)](#)

## B. PROJECTS COMPLETED UNDER THE ERF:

To date, four projects have been completed under the ERF targeting a total of 3,800 families (approximately 22,800 individuals) in Baghdad and Najaf. These projects assisted vulnerable and displaced families through the provision of essential food and non-food items (NFIs)<sup>1</sup>.

1. A total of 1,000 families in Baghdad (Al Khadra', al Jamia, and Ghazaliya) received food and NFI items, through a project implemented by Islamic Relief.
2. A total of 1,000 families in Najaf (Kufa, Manathra, Haidariya, Abbasiya and Mushkhab) received food packages, through a project implemented by Iraqi Relief Organisation.
3. A total of 1,500 families in Baghdad (Tarmiya and Dujail) received food packages, through a project implemented by the Iraqi Youth League.
4. A total of 300 families in Baghdad (Al Bataween) received food and NFI, through a project implemented by Terre des Hommes.



Charitable Society for Caring and Rehabilitation of Iraqi Children  
Baghdad August 2007

## C. THE NGO MICRO GRANT:

Two new projects have been approved under the NGO Micro Grant: one to provide food and shelter distribution targeting 1,352 families in Kirkuk governorate, and the second project targeting around 4,000 families and providing them with health services through a mobile clinic in the remote areas in Najaf governorate. Current implementation partners include: Iraqi Institution for Development and Cultural Humanitarian Iraq of Future Organisation (CHIFO).

With these two projects, the NGO Micro Grant funding stands at zero balance. As there are 28 other projects in the pipeline, with a total value of more than \$1 million, more funds to the Micro Grant are urgently needed.

## D. NGO CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING:

NGOs play a crucial role in assisting in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Iraq. While NGOs have the experience and operational capacity to successfully

implement projects some, however, do not have the management capacity to apply successfully for the ERF which has more comprehensive and complex requirements than the micro-grant.

( see also bulletin No.1)

In order to ensure that positive working relationships established between OCHA and NGOs through the micro-grant, are built on and used for the ERF, and as part of OCHA's mandate to strengthen the capacity of NGOs working in Iraq, two NGO capacity building training workshops on proposal reporting, writing, monitoring and evaluation will be held during January and February.

The first workshop was launched in Baghdad on January 3, 2008 and lasted for eight days over a span of two weeks. The training, organised by Al Yaqeen Centre with funding by OCHA Iraq, targets representatives from organisations who have either implemented projects or are prospect partners to the ERF and the NGO Micro Grant. The goal of this workshop was to build and strengthen the capacity of NGOs in project development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, with the aim of increasing their efficiency and effectiveness in humanitarian relief.

Within 3 months of the end of the NGO training, Al-Yaqeen will visit each of the NGOs, in their area of operations, to monitor to what extent they are implementing the skills and techniques they learned in the workshop.

### Al Yaqeen Center

"Al Yaqeen Center is an Iraqi civil society organisation established in March 2005 as an initiative of a group of Iraqi activists, academics and lawyers to improve the civil society action and activities to empower Iraqi communities to seize their desired roles to build a democratic, stable and prosperous Iraq. The programmes and activities of the center are designed to employ the indigenous talents and capacities of the communities in a way to tackle the basic needs and issues of Iraqi communities that hinder the progress of democracy, dialogue, peace building and good governance."



Iraqi Relief - Najaf December 2007

### Beneficiary Story: Abu Yasser

Abu Yasser is the head of a household of 17 members, all of whom share a mud house at Baath in Baghdad governorate. Abu Yasser has type-2 diabetes, and because it has been left untreated, has resulted in both of his legs being amputated.

Yasser, the eldest son, is 28 years old and has become the only breadwinner for the entire family, working in the market as a goods carrier. With his monthly salary barely amounting to \$100, and with the rising cost of living, this money barely covers his father's medicine, let alone the needs of the entire family.

Abu Yasser's family fled their village in Sabea al Boor after being threatened and after their house was destroyed. Adjusting to life as IDPs has been difficult for the family: the girls in the family dropped out of school because the family could not cover the expenses and Abu Yasser has not received food rations for over eight months.

Thanks to the ERF, through a project implemented by Iraqi Youth League, Abu Yasser's family has received essential food supplies for one month.



Abu Yasser/Iraqi Youth League, Tarmiah- Baghdad, December 2007.

### E. HUMANITARIAN OVERVIEW

Latest figures from UNHCR<sup>2</sup> indicate that over 2.48 million people are currently displaced inside Iraq. New displacement is occurring at a lower rate than in the past, but violence does continue to cause displacement. As noted by IOM<sup>3</sup>, ongoing violence in Kirkuk and Salah Al-Din has displaced large numbers of families. A massive explosion in Mosul in January displaced dozens of families, and a new military offensive in the area may well result in additional displacement.

According to IOM the onset of a cold winter has exacerbated the IDP humanitarian situation. Widespread electrical shortages and a national fuel crisis mean that few IDPs can properly heat their shelter. Fuel distributions are often

provided to IDPs only with valid PDS cards, so those IDPs without access to PDS rations are especially vulnerable in winter, since they cannot afford the extremely high fuel prices.

Nutrition is an ongoing problem for Iraqi families, compounded and exacerbated by the failings of the PDS. For at least 12 million Iraqis, the PDS remains a critical lifeline, yet the government's declining ability to administer the PDS, and insecurity and local administrative failures, all weaken the PDS delivery.

Few Iraqis are receiving their full PDS rations each month. Iraq's displaced families are even worse off: 78% do not access the PDS regularly. Furthermore, the Ministry of Trade has announced that the number of items in each basket will decrease commencing January 2008, due to budgetary considerations.

Despite numerous ongoing efforts to improve the situation, the vast majority of Iraqis still lack access to safe water and sanitation. In a recent UNICEF<sup>4</sup> report the overall water and sanitation situation is reported to have worsened in 2007. The dilapidated water and sanitation infrastructure and the overall lack of access to safe water is the single biggest reason for the spreading of waterborne diseases in Iraq.

### F. HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES FOR THE ERF

In conjunction with the decision to launch a Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for Iraq in 2008, the exercise of developing and agreeing on a common humanitarian action plan (CHAP) took place in January under the auspices of the Humanitarian Coordinator. An OCHA-facilitated CAP workshop brought together humanitarian partners - including Iraqi Government officials, representatives from the NGO and donor community, UN agencies, IOM and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement (the ICRC and the Federation participated as observers) - to discuss the humanitarian consequences in the context of Iraq, assess priority needs and identify existing gaps and agree upon priority strategies for addressing vulnerability.

Participating UN agencies and NGOs also developed best, worst and most likely scenarios based on available information and analysis of how the crisis in Iraq may evolve in 2008.

The workshop identified that, immediate and urgent needs in Iraq can be linked to: 1) acute deprivation of essential rights and services; 2) lack of protection and rights violations; and 3) lack of access to impartial humanitarian assistance.



The first of the urgent needs due to acute deprivation (health care, nutrition, water, sanitation and shelter) identified five vulnerable groups: communities trapped in conflict-affected areas, displaced families and returnees, communities hosting displaced families, families in remote or minority areas and refugees. It was noted that serious gaps continue to exist with regard to provision of food and non-food items, safe drinking water and sanitation and basic health care to the affected populations. These priority needs and gaps will determine the humanitarian priorities for the ERF and the selection of projects to be funded by the ERF will be determined to the extent these projects are in accordance with the priorities identified by the CHAP.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION:**

In order to meet the growing food needs of IDPs, WFP's new 12-month emergency operation, targeting 750,000 IDPs, started on January 1, 2008. The first deliveries of food to Iraq left Jordan on January 28 and distributions to beneficiaries are due to start as soon as possible, in Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk. Under this intervention, WFP will specifically target:

- Post-Samarra IDPs;
- IDPs that have moved from one governorate to another;
- IDPs that do not have access to the PDS;

While also prioritising:

- IDPs with female-headed households; and,
- IDPs in camps or camp-like settlements.

In the food sector, funds from the ERF will therefore focus on interventions that target vulnerable families who are not being assisted under the WFP programme. Specifically, applicants are encouraged to focus on beneficiaries who are:

- Vulnerable host community members;
- IDPs who are not registered with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration; and,
- Those who are displaced within governorates.

**II. ERF in Context to the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP)**

The ERF is a funding mechanism to support the humanitarian response and funding strategy for Iraq in 2008 and, therefore, will become an integral part of the CAP. Over the last 4 years, there was no common humanitarian strategy in place for Iraq and with the introduction of the ERF in May 2007, the selection of projects funded under the ERF was done on an ad-hoc basis, based on information available within the specific sectors at the time of approval. With the CHAP now agreed, the ERF builds on a clearly defined strategy for humanitarian action.

The ERF will add value to the CAP by continuing to enable quick action in the event of sudden emergencies, by addressing priority gaps within different sectors and facilitating small-scale, targeted and responsive emergency interventions addressing urgent needs. It is also a mechanism to allow more NGOs to engage and to address breaking emergencies as soon as they occur, while increasing opportunities for local actors to respond to needs. With a ceiling of \$20 million, the inclusion of the ERF into the CAP document, as a CAP project, will provide donors with an opportunity to support projects proposed that are administered and managed by OCHA.

A decision was taken to produce a "modest" CAP for 2008 with a view to have a clear humanitarian focus upon which the common humanitarian action plan could build and further develop over the year. The official launch of the CAP Iraq 2008 has been scheduled to take place in Baghdad on February 12 2008.

**Endnote**

- 1- The food distribution projects provided each beneficiary with the sphere standards' daily recommended calorie intake of 2,100 calories for a period of one month.
- 2- IDP Working Group, Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq - Update (3 February 2008)
- 3- IOM Iraq Displacement Assessment and Statistics, February 1, 2008.
- 4- Iraq's Children 2007 - A Year in the Life

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