

ERF Iraq - Spotlight on Peace Winds Japan

In 2007, the United Nations established the Expanded Response Fund (ERF) in Iraq. The Fund is managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on behalf of the United Nations and the Humanitarian Coordinator. Since 2007, the ERF has funded over 80 projects of national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to support vulnerable Iraqis affected by emergencies. Among those NGOs receiving ERF funds was Peace Winds Japan, who received funding in August 2009 for an emergency water project in Taq-Harb Village of Ninewa Governorate, Iraq.

On a hill above the village, there are 150 families who have been displaced since 2006. In addition to the hardships of being displaced from their homes, the current drought made their water situation even more difficult. Many of these families were required to walk one kilometer to get water - the burden falling predominantly on the women and girls who traditionally have this role. As a result of the project, these families now have access to water services and a stable amount of water supply for drinking and for sustaining their livelihoods.

In order to provide water for all families in Taq-Harb, three existing water tanks were relocated and elevated, and 625m of water pipes were installed. In addition to this, one new deep well was constructed, and one existing well had its submersible pump replaced in order to increase the quantity of water supplied.

Upon the successful completion of this project, the amount of water supplied to the village increased more than 100% from 94 liter/family/day to 220 liter/family/day. One beneficiary said, "I could not take a shower due to lack of water, but now I can take it a couple of times a week. This project is good for our hygiene problem as well". The project has also good impact on women beneficiaries since they had to walk in the valley to get water from the water points. One of the women beneficiaries said, "It was not easy for us to get water in hot summer and cold winter on foot and we have arthritis and diseases. We all are now released from the heavy burden."



Men from Taq-Harb Village installing water lines.



A boy from Taq-Harb Village who is now able to use water supplied through the project to irrigate his families vegetable garden.

