



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

To: Jacqueline Badco [redacted] Date: 14 October 2012
Chairperson of UNDG-ITF Steering Committee
Through: Usman Akram [redacted] Ref: SC/BR
Head, UNDG-ITF Steering Committee Support Office a.i
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APPROVAL OF PROJECT TIME EXTENSION (C)

Table with 2 columns: Field Name, Value. Rows include Project Number (F8-07), Project Title (Support to the Expanded Humanitarian Response FUND (ERF)), Participating Agency (UNDP), Project Start Date (19 November 2008), Project End Date (19 November 2010), First Revision (Budget increase and time extension until 31 October 2011), and Second Revision (31 October 2012).

Type of budget revision requested:

- Unchecked boxes for 'Increase in project budget', 'Movement of funds between project budget components', and 'Change of project scope'. Checked box for 'Extension of project duration' with red text '31 December 2012'.

SCSO Comments:

The budget for this project is US\$ 19,912,595.5 of which US\$ 19,340,053 (97%) has been committed and US\$18,618,610(94%) has been disbursed. Project is around 90% complete.

Background

The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF) aims to assist in filling critical humanitarian gaps within different sectors through readily available and flexible funding for emergency response in order to: 1) Save lives or protect threatened livelihood, 2) Meet critical short-term humanitarian needs, and 3) respond to sudden-onset complex humanitarian emergencies.



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As of 30 September 2012, the ERF has funded 96 projects for a total commitment amount of \$18,233,788 conducting 117 activities in 18 governorates targeting 713,505 beneficiaries under different sectors.

A. Request for Time Extension

Justification

- Delayed granting process due to difficulties in NGOs' registration process.

In order to comply with the new NGO law in Iraq, NGOs applicants have faced difficulties and significant delays in renewing their registration certificates which is one of the eligibility requirements for ERF applicants. Consequently, the delay in NGOs' registration has caused postponement in the granting process by two months.

- Additional time is needed to bring the ERF Fund into closure.

UNDP has managed to grant all dedicated funds and projects' implementation will be completed by 31 October 2012 except for two projects which will be completed in November 2012. Nevertheless, closure of implemented projects will only occur in early December 2012 after acceptable narrative and financial reports are submitted by partner NGOs for the closure of grants. This will allow one month (December 2012) to receive field reports from UNAMI Humanitarian Affairs Officers (HAOs) and review NGOs' final narrative and financial reporting.

- Organizing the "Capacity Building Conference for Iraqi CSOs".

UNDP plans to organize a final Capacity Building Conference for Iraqi CSOs which will include a series of workshops to increase NGOs professional capacity and present the achievements of the ERF in the last four years. Due to delays in the granting process (as explained above) and the Eid Al-Adha Holidays that will take place late October 2012, this conference will be organized during November 2012.

Remaining activities to be completed during the requested extension:

Activity	Timeline
Execution of funded projects	By 30 November 2012
Capacity Building Conference for Iraqi CSOs	By November 2012
Receiving final narrative and financial reporting	By 2 December 2012
Field reporting on executed projects	By 31 December 2012
Final review of reports for proper closure of projects	By 31 December 2012
Fund operational closure	By 31 December 2012



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Therefore, UNDP is requesting a time extension of two months (until 31 December 2012) in order to complete all remaining activities and ensure a proper operational closure of the ERF project.

Mitigation strategy in place to ensure compliance with timeline extension requested

- An execution plan is prepared to ensure proper closure of projects' activities within the timeframe of the requested extension.
- UNDP is following up with all NGOs to avoid any delays in the execution of funded projects or the receipt of their final reports.

NOTE: As UNDG ITF is closing, extension requests for projects are reviewed and considered to be the final. UNDP has to take all measures to assure that the project will be operationally closed within the approved extension period.

SCSO Recommendations:

SCSO recommends approval of a time extension until **31 December 2012**.

Approval of the DSRSG /
Chairperson of the UNDG
ITF Steering Committee:

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