

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund
Project: 66937: F8-07
Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January–31 March 2010
1st Quarter 2010

Participating UN Organisation: UNOCHA, UNDP **Sector:** Protection and Emergency Response

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:
Relevant Iraqi Local Authorities who support NGO and INGO in realising projects.
Please kindly refer to list at back of report for partners.

Title	Support to the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF)				
Geographic Location	Iraq–Countrywide				
Project Cost	USD\$15,000,000				
Duration	24 months until 31 October 2010				
Approval Date (SC)	13/11/2008	Starting Date	13/11/2008 (approval date)	Completion Date	31/10/2010
Project Description	<p>The Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund has the aim to help fill critical humanitarian gaps within different sectors through readily available flexible funding for emergency response to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Save lives or protect threatened livelihood; 2) Meet critical short-term humanitarian needs; 3) Respond to sudden onset complex humanitarian emergencies. <p>The ERF quickly responds to undertake urgent humanitarian activities in Iraq reflecting a flexible and localized approach to humanitarian action. Specifically, the Programme provides a useful channel to better target funds for unmet/urgent needs as a result of geographic, sectoral and funding gaps in humanitarian response and/or government capacity.</p>				

Development Goal and Immediate Objectives

Outcome 1: Improved support to vulnerable Iraqis through timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection.

Outputs, Key activities and Procurement

Outputs	<p>Output 1.1: Protection needs and gaps in essential services for vulnerable communities affected by crisis in Iraq are met (OCHA lead, UNDP).</p> <p>Output 1.2: Improved capacity, coverage, coordination and impact of humanitarian action (OCHA lead, UNDP).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhanced capacity of NGOs at the field level through support of projects responding to key gaps. b) ERF projects respond to identified needs based on updated data analysis (information). <p>Output 1.3: Strengthened links between immediate action for families in crisis and support for early recovery (OCHA lead, UNDP).</p> <p>Output 1.4: Enhanced emergency preparedness to respond to crises in Iraq (OCHA).</p>
Activities	<p>1.1.1 Actively invite, process, and select projects responding rapidly to humanitarian key gaps, and disburse funds accordingly.</p>

	<p>1.1.2 Monitor and evaluate impact of funded projects.</p> <p>1.1.3 Administer the processing of funds directly to implementing partners.</p> <p>1.1.4 Consult with SOTs and relevant partners to invite projects targeting key humanitarian gaps.</p> <p>1.2.1 Actively invite, process, and select Iraq NGO projects responding rapidly to humanitarian key gaps.</p> <p>1.2.2 Monitor and evaluate impact of funded projects.</p> <p>1.2.3 Provide TRC with regular updates on current humanitarian trends.</p> <p>1.3.1 Prioritize projects that have the potential for creating an enabling environment/compliment recovery activities already taking place.</p> <p>1.4.1 Consult with relevant partners inviting projects for pre-positioning of essential items for sudden onset crisis.</p> <p>1.4.2 Pre-position by relevant agencies both within Iraq and Jordan of essential items to facilitate rapid response capacity.</p>
Procurement (major items)	The modality of programme execution is through grants/MOUs to implementing partner NGOs. Therefore, implementing partners are responsible for procurement of project inputs in accordance with the programme's guidelines which is monitored by OCHA staff.

Funds Committed	USD 8,558,365	% of approved	57%
Funds Disbursed	USD 7,421,284	% of approved	49%
Forecast final date	31/10/2010	Delay (months)	0

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men	47,870	N/A
Women	52,629	N/A
Children	133,883	N/A
IDPs	56,273	N/A
Others	178,109	N/A
Indirect beneficiaries	9,905	N/A
Employment generation (men/women)	898	N/A

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results			
Protection needs and gaps in essential services for vulnerable communities affected by crises in Iraq are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 projects were funded by 31 March 2010 for the total amount of USD 8,178,390. The un-used funds from closed grants were about USD 42,000 by the end of Q1 2010. During the reported quarter, seven (7) new projects were funded for \$1,908,015. Three projects were under Education Sector, two under WatSan, one under Agriculture and one under Health. Sectors most frequently funded to date are: WatSan 30% and Shelter 24% of funded projects, Education 20%, Agriculture 11%, Health 9%, 	% of planned	60% of the total dedicated programme budget is committed for this output.

	<p>and Food 6%.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nineteen (19) projects are completed with operational and financial closure and final reports submitted from recipients. • Fourteen (14) additional projects are operationally complete with the recipients either working on their required reporting or their submitted reporting is presently under review. • The funded projects served and will be serving an estimated 235,000 beneficiaries in all sectors. • The programme served/will be serving about 240,000 beneficiaries with 36% under WatSan, 16% under Shelter, 15% under Agriculture, 12% under Health, 11% under Food, and 10% under Education. 		
<p>Improved capacity, coverage, coordination and impact of humanitarian action.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventeen (17) Iraq Field Coordinators (IFCs) covering all Governorates nationwide except for Ninawa. Recruitment for the 18th IFC was under process in 1st Quarter 2010. The IFCs strengthen the monitoring and follow-up on execution in the field. • Sector Outcome Teams are groups of UN agencies and international partners who have technical expertise in specific areas, such as health, shelter, water and sanitation. The SOTs confirm the need and priorities of their relevant sectors based on statistics and information, including known gaps with approvals by the HC. Seven projects were approved during Q1 2010. • All projects (100%) are reviewed by SOTs and TRC before the approval of funding. • To improve the SOT and TRC role in the post-approval so they are updated on ERF progress and spending related to each sector. • Eighty one percent (81%) of funded non-governmental organizations (NGO's) under the programme were 	<p>% of planned</p>	<p>94% of the planned progress was accomplished based on indicators and taking into consideration the geographic coverage.</p>

	<p>national Iraqi NGOs. The Programme up to 31 March 2010 partnered with 29 Iraqi NGOs and 7 International NGOs. Please refer to list of implementing partners at the end of this report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme covered all of Iraq, conducting sixty (60) activities in 17 out of the 18 Governorates. 		
Strengthened links between immediate action for families in crisis and support for early recovery.	All ERF projects are prioritized by the SOTs and TRC Committee to support projects with potential early recovery activities and critical shortfalls in the MDGs.	% of planned	100%
Enhanced emergency preparedness to respond to crisis in Iraq.	The Programme funded one grant to supply life saving medical items to Public Emergency Departments in Iraq, covering fifteen (15) Central and Southern Governorates targeting an estimated 21,000 crisis-affected individuals accessing emergency rooms. Estimated gender ratios of beneficiaries: 25% men, 40% children and 35% women. Items are available at the Ministry of Health Emergency Departments, which make the medical supplies easily accessible to those in need. This grant is expected to operationally close during Q2 2010.	% of planned	83% of planned activities taking in consideration the geographic coverage.

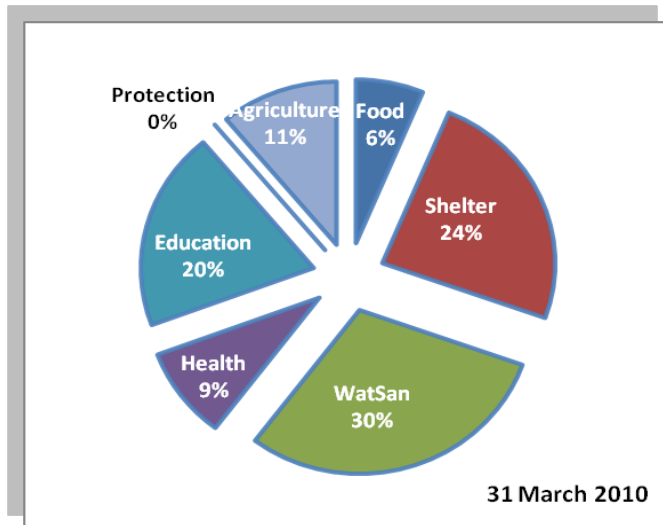
Qualitative Achievements against Objectives and Results

- The ERF Charter was improved and finalized by OCHA in March 2009, providing a detailed description of the requirements and procedures of ERF as a funding mechanism. The Charter enhanced and detailed most of the guidelines and procedures indicated in the ITF Programme Document.
- Several procedures and forms were reviewed and created for a better execution of projects.
- A new structure was established with additional analysis and formality to determine eligibility of applicants, to avoid wasting the efforts and time of SOTs and TRC in reviewing proposals from ineligible organizations 3rd Q 2009.
- Established the position of Iraq Field Coordinators in Iraq: Seventeen (17) IFCs were hired by OCHA covering Iraq's Governorates, with recruitment in process for the IFC Ninewa. The IFCs strengthened the programme's abilities in monitoring and follow-up on the executed projects in the field.
- A new Technical Review Committee (TRC) for reviewing ERF proposals under all sectors was assigned for another six-month term through June 2010.
- Payment cycle has been reviewed, tracked and improvements were made within areas under our control.
- The approval process with SOTs and TRC has been reviewed and improved where possible. OCHA increased their follow-up efforts and created new mechanisms to improve the time needed for the approval process.
- A training workshop was conducted during 13–16 December 2009 in Erbil Iraq for seventeen (17) IFCs and eleven (11) Information Management Officers who can become involved in the future. The content of the Workshop was on the full cycle of the ERF Programme from receiving proposals, through approving/funding them, to proper closure of executed projects. Based on the feedback of the trainees, the workshop helped the participants understand the phases of the programme, which enriches OCHA's staff capacity in the field to conduct proper monitoring, follow up and reporting on executed projects.
- A draft Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) was made to cover the full cycle of ERF Programme's

steps and procedures, and to specify roles and responsibilities of the implementing partners, OCHA and UNDP.

- Three workshops were conducted for partner Iraqi and international NGOs during February and March 2010. The workshop's aims were to promote the programme and increase the professional capacity of NGO partners in their proposal and reporting quality. The workshops introduced the full cycle of the programme, covering all major steps that NGOs go through from submitting the proposal, funding and execution, ending with reporting and closure. About seventy-five (75) participants attended the three workshops representing seventy-five (75) Iraqi and international NGOs. The received feedback from participants was positive, indicating more understanding to the process and the reporting requirements.
- Analysis of funded projects up to Q1 2010 by Sector:

Sector	Funded Projects	%
Food	\$ 514,858.93	6%
Shelter	\$ 1,975,298.66	24%
WatSan	\$ 2,441,036.96	30%
Health	\$ 738,287.40	9%
Education	\$ 1,606,666.00	20%
Protection	nil -	0%
Agriculture	\$ 902,242.50	11%
Total	\$ 8,178,390.45	100%



Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges

- With the change in the MNF-I structure and withdrawal from cities, there is a risk of increased violence with the implications presently not known.
- There are an insufficient number of slots in Iraq for UN staff and limited opportunities for movement into the Red Zone. This makes it more challenging to follow-up and monitor the executed projects in the field.
- To mitigate the impact of risk, OCHA is increasing its coverage inside Iraq, establishing a field coordination structure in each Governorate.
- NGOs are requested to send a signed vendor form that includes all the necessary required banking information. Sometimes the received information is not accurate; as a result, the internal vendor approval process becomes delayed affecting the authorization of payments and transfer of funds.
- The main programmatic challenge is to avoid delay in the approval process for the many received proposals due to the following constraints:
 - Lack of consistent and quality feedback on proposals from some sector teams, which makes the level of given technical review insufficient for the next reviewing group in the approval process.
 - Slow response from some NGOs to the SOTs and TRC questions and concerns, due to weak capacities.
- Issues from the 1st Quarter 2010 Iraqi elections could affect the cooperation and response by the relevant Iraqi Local Authorities to ERF Projects with potential affect on priorities, security measures, budgets and commitment levels of relevant Local Authorities.

List of Implementing Partners

Iraqi and International NGOs

Period: 1 January 2009 - 31 March 2010

No	Partner NGO
Iraqi NGOs	
1	Afkar Society for Development
2	The Iraqi Democratic Women Group
3	Dhi Qar Forum for Civil Society Development
4	Humanity Al Zahra Association for Human Rights
5	Al GHAD League for Woman and Child
6	The United Foundation for Relief and Abiding Development (FUAD)
7	Darya Center for Developing Women and Community
8	Iraqi Civil Society Institute
9	New Iraqi Woman Organization
10	Iraq Relief Organization (IRO)
11	PANA Center for Combating Violence Against Women
12	Love and Peace Society
13	Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization (ISHO)
14	Harikar NGO
15	Disabled Children's Care Organization
16	Haraa Humanitarian Organization
17	Iraqi Youth League
18	Brotherhood Association Humanity of Human Rights and Defending the Rights of Deportees and Effectuated
19	Mamoura Humanitarian Establishment
20	The Development Foundation for Culture, Media and Economy (DFCME)
21	Charitable Association for Taking Care of Widows and Orphans / Al Anbar / Al Ramady
22	Smile Organization for Relief and Development
23	Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO)
24	Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society Organization (KURDS)
25	Iraqi Al-Firdaws Association
26	Youth Activity Organization
27	Al Erada Organization of Aids and Development
28	Kurdish Human Rights Watch, Inc. (KHRW)
29	Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Organization (KURDO)
International NGOs	
1	Peace Winds Japan
2	Premiere Urgence (PU)
3	Islamic Relief Worldwide
4	Millennium Relief & Development
5	Norwegian Church Aid
6	War Child UK
7	Japanese Emergency NGO - JEN