

United Nations Development Group Iraq Trust Fund

Project: 66937: F8-07

Date and Quarter Updated: 1 January–31 March 2009 - 1st Quarter 2009

Participating UN Organisation: UNDP

Sector: Protection and Emergency Response

Government of Iraq – Responsible Line Ministry:

Relevant Iraqi Local Authorities who support NGO and INGO in realising projects.

Title	Support to the Expanded Humanitarian Response Fund (ERF)				
Geo. Location	Iraq–Countrywide				
Project Cost	USD\$15,000,000				
Duration	24 months				
Approval Date	19/11/2008	Starting Date	19/11/2008	Completion Date	19/11/2010
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Actively invite, process, and select projects responding rapidly to humanitarian key gaps, and disburse funds accordingly. 1.1.2 Monitor and evaluate impact of funded projects. 1.1.3 Administer the processing of funds directly to implementing partners. 1.1.4 Consult with SOTs and relevant partners to invite projects targeting key humanitarian gaps. 1.2.1 Actively invite, process, and select Iraq NGO projects responding rapidly to humanitarian key gaps. 1.2.2 Monitor and evaluate impact of funded projects. 1.2.3 Provide TRC with regular updates on current humanitarian trends. 1.3.1 Prioritize projects that have the potential for creating an enabling environment/compliment recovery activities already taking place. 1.4.1 Consult with relevant partners inviting projects for pre-positioning of essential items for sudden onset crisis. 1.4.2 Pre-position by relevant agencies both within Iraq and Jordan of essential items to facilitate rapid response capacity.
Procurement	The modality of programme execution is through grants/MOUs to implementing partner

(major items)	NGOs. Therefore, implementing partners are responsible for procurement of project inputs in accordance with the programme's guidelines, which is monitored by OCHA staff.
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Funds Committed	USD 7,412	% of approved	0.05%
Funds Disbursed	USD 7,412	% of approved	0.05%
Forecast final date	19/11/2010	Delay (months)	0

Direct Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries	% of planned (current status)
Men		N/A
Women		N/A
Children		N/A
IDPs		N/A
Others		N/A
Indirect beneficiaries		N/A
Employment generation (men/women)		N/A

Quantitative achievements against objectives and results		% of planned
Protection needs and gaps in essential services for vulnerable communities affected by crises in Iraq are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ERF is in the planning stage for promoting the programme, and enhancing its procedures. Receiving and reviewing proposals for funding initiated. 	N/A
Improved capacity, coverage, coordination and impact of humanitarian action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ERF is in the planning stage for promoting the programme, and enhancing its procedures. Planning for the structure, procedures and establishment of Iraqi Field Coordinators and identifying their respective roles and responsibilities within the ERF system in Iraq. 	N/A
Strengthened links between immediate action for families in crisis and support for early recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ERF is in the planning stage for promoting the programme, and enhancing its procedures. Planning the structure, procedures and establishment of Iraqi Field Coordinators system in Iraq. Setting up and establishing the review and clearance process to be conducted by the Sector Outcome Teams (SOTs) and Technical Reviewing Committee (TRC). 	N/A
Enhanced emergency preparedness to respond to crisis in Iraq.	The ERF is in the planning stage for promoting the programme, and enhancing its procedures.	N/A

Qualitative Achievements against Objectives and Results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ERF Charter was improved and finalized by OCHA in March 2009. The Charter, provides a detailed description of the requirements and procedures of ERF as a funding mechanism. The Charter enhanced and detailed the majority of identified guidelines and procedures indicated in the ITF Programme Document. Planning was initiated to establish the Iraqi Field Coordinators system in Iraq. This was done through OCHA hiring field coordinators that cover all of the country to strengthen the monitoring and follow-up on executed projects at the field. Efforts were invested to enhance the clearance and reviewing system by the Sector Outcome Teams (SOTs) and the Technical Reviewing Committee (TRC).

Main Implementation Constraints and Challenges
Constraints and challenges will be increasingly evident after the release of funding to NGO partners and actual implementation of the approved projects. However, based on ERF experience from Non-ITF funding, the programme can anticipate delays in executing the funded projects due to security concerns, and delays in the bank transfers to some NGOs in Iraq.