

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND



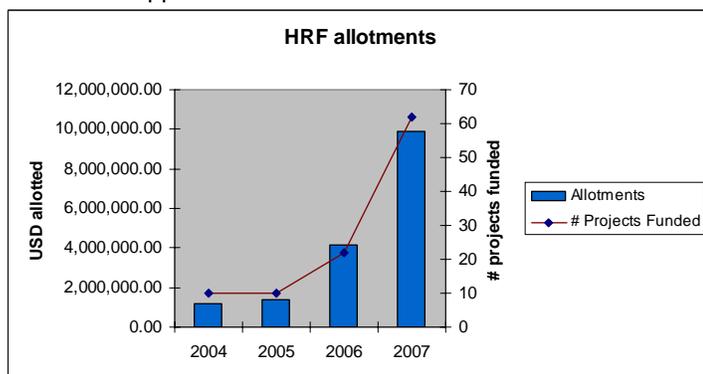
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SOMALIA

OVERVIEW

The United Nations (UN) Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Somalia established the Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF) pooled fund, in 2004, to meet funding needs for emergency responses at the sudden onset of humanitarian situations. Initially set up with US\$ 3.26 million¹ for the emergency responses to the drought in northern Somalia, the HRF has developed into one of the key humanitarian financing mechanisms for emergency relief activities in Somalia.

As a pooled fund of un-earmarked contributions from various donors, the HRF operates with greater flexibility and speedier approval processes than traditional humanitarian funding mechanisms. The guiding principles of the fund is to provide timely emergency responses and/or gap filling through a collaborative approval process among the representatives of key stakeholders from UN agencies and local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) represented in the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is chaired by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. OCHA Somalia provides the secretariat support to the management of the fund.

For instance, the HRF funds emergency water trucking activities to meet the immediate needs of newly displaced populations while Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners plan and implement more durable medium-term solutions. As such, the duration of projects is limited to six months and the funding is capped at US\$ 250,000 per project. An implementing agency can have up to three active projects at a time. The applicant agencies are encouraged to consult relevant partners in the cluster, geographical areas and local communities. For the final round of consultation, the Advisory Board is normally given 48 hours to vote on the application.



With the continuing humanitarian needs in Somalia, the HRF has received generous support by donors totalling over US\$ 21 million since 2004 to date. HRF donors include Sweden, Norway, the UK, the Netherlands and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The number of projects funded by the HRF continues to increase, from 10 in 2004 to 22 in 2006 (excluding Tsunami HRF funding). For 2007, with the floods at the beginning of the year and the ongoing displacement of population from Mogadishu, the HRF has funded over 60 projects with allocations totalling almost US\$ 10 million.

In 2007, the HRF has taken an important step to make the funds available to a wider range of implementing agencies by setting up a mechanism in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The mechanism has made the HRF more accessible to qualified and competent local NGOs. This is part of efforts to strengthen the capacity of local implementing agencies which often have the in-depth knowledge of the situation on the ground and are able to access the affected populations even under the evolving security situations. Consequently, the HRF funding to local NGOs either directly or for their partnership with international agencies has increased from seven in 2006 to 32 in 2007 (year-to-date).

IMPACT OF HRF FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2007

Bridging the gap from relief to early recovery – Puntland, Gedo, Bakool & Middle Shabelle

In line with the mandate of filling response gaps, the HRF also considers funding for early recovery and prevention activities. Some 6,180 small animals were distributed by VetAid to agro-pastoral families in 15 villages in Gedo region who lost their livestock in the recent drought and were later affected by heavy flooding. VSF-Germany is undertaking the investigation into sudden deaths of camels in Puntland. The HRF also supported distribution of farming tools and seeds in Bakool region through local NGO ARAO. UNDP supported local organizations and communities in the provision of reconstruction and rehabilitation of drainage and irrigation canals in Middle Shabelle in order to mitigate the effects of future floods.

¹ All dollar figures in this document are United States dollars.

Enabling immediate response to the flooding - South/Central Somalia

Flooding at the end of 2006 occurred at a time when communities in South/Central Somalia were starting to recover from the impact of multiple years of drought. As part of the humanitarian response, Horn Relief distributed non-food items to 6,200 flood-affected households in Lower Juba. World Vision also responded to floods by distributing non-food items to 15,000 households in Middle Juba. UNICEF was supported through the HRF to carry out three similar projects benefiting 76,600 people displaced by floods and conflict in other parts of Lower Juba and Mogadishu. In addition, a Norwegian Church Aid project provided 30,780 flood-affected people in Gedo with non-food items such as blankets, water jerry cans and cooking utensils. The Hiran Woman Action carried out a project to fill in response gaps by distributing jerry cans and kitchen sets to 1,200 flood affected people in parts of Hiran.



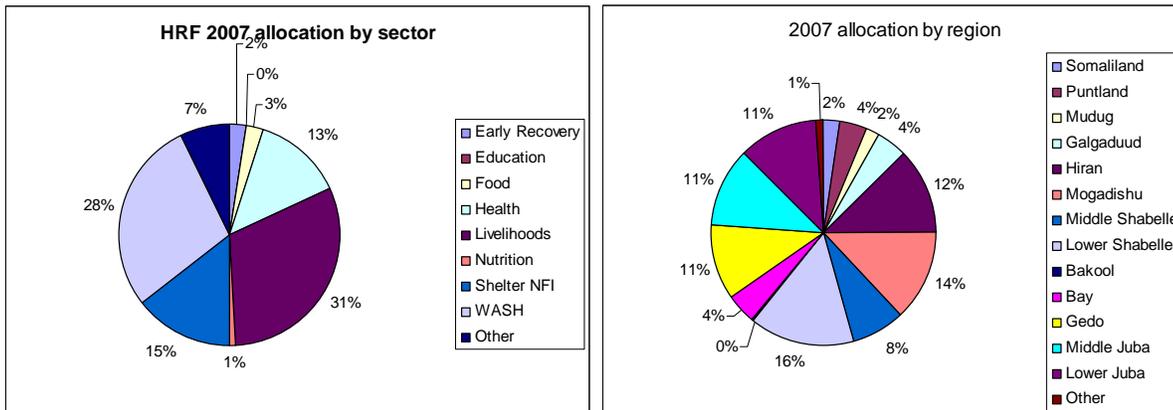
CED water trucking for IDP settlements on the Mogadishu-Agooye route

Improving access to safe clean water and sanitation facilities for IDPs fleeing Mogadishu – South/Central Somalia

Since the onset of the conflict in Mogadishu (February 2007) and the massive movements of IDPs fleeing Mogadishu, the HRF has been supporting essential life-saving activities in and around Mogadishu. Particularly important and immediate needs are access to safe clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent deterioration of health conditions in IDP settlements. Norwegian Refugee Council through the HRF is implementing emergency hygiene and sanitation promotion in 14 IDP settlements within Mogadishu. SAACID is providing hygiene promotion in IDP settlements in Mogadishu while also supporting the livelihoods of female heads of household by engaging them for cash-for-work. Another allocation for SAACID has been recently approved for their wet food feeding programme in Mogadishu.

Under the prevailing security conditions in and around Mogadishu, local NGO partners are playing a particularly important role in reaching the vulnerable population. Through HRF support, Oxfam GB, together with its local partner, Hirja, provided clean water and latrines in IDP settlements in Afgooye, targeting 70,000 beneficiaries. Centre for Education and Development undertook water trucking and FERRO is building latrines on the Mogadishu-Afgooye road for one month. Oxfam Novib partnered with a local NGO, WOCCA, to support the IDPs in Middle Shabelle through cash-for-work and the construction of latrines.

The HRF funding to date in 2007 per sector and region are as below - 59% of the funding has been allocated to livelihoods support and WASH. The majority of the HRF funded projects target South/Central Somalia, mostly for emergency interventions for conflict IDPs, nutrition crisis and flood response.



HRF Advisory Board: NGO Consortium (Danish Refugee Council), Horn Relief, African Rescue Committee, FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR & UNDP; Advisors to the Board: Cluster leads, FSAU/FAO & OCHA

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