



EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Occupied Palestinian Territory

JUNE 2013

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United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory
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Note from the Humanitarian Coordinator

The Emergency Response Fund completes six years of work in the occupied Palestinian territory

Given that the key drivers of vulnerability, the ongoing conflict and occupation have persisted throughout 2012, Palestinians in the oPt continue to endure a protracted protection crisis. Protection threats and human rights violations persist, with Palestinian communities subject to policies that underline their ability to live normal, self-sustaining lives. As a result, levels of food insecurity are high and vulnerable Palestinian communities have limited access to essential services. While most needs are located in Gaza, Palestinian communities living in east Jerusalem, Area C and the Seam Zone are also affected. Displacement threats are compounded by those of revocation of residency rights, Israeli settler violence, movement restrictions, restrictions on planning and zoning, difficult access to services and resources, and policies and practices enforced by Israeli authorities, particularly in Area C.

While the nature and scope of humanitarian needs tend to change little from year to year, in November 2012, an escalation in hostilities in Gaza increased humanitarian needs on the ground in a significant manner. Following cessation of hostilities, the UN and its partners showed an admirable capacity to mount a timely response, rooted firmly in a joint assessment of needs, paying special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable. The humanitarian community, led by OCHA, was quick to assess needs on the ground and mount a prompt response, including successful mobilization of CERF funding of US\$8.2 million. The ERF played a significant role in the response, providing immediate funding for the most pressing needs complementing the funds received under the CERF. This resulted in the timely delivery of much-needed potable water, basic sanitation, restoration of basic livelihoods, and repair of schools.

Prior to the hostilities in Gaza in November, the ERF funded projects for over \$5 million. This included projects that: provided emergency shelter to families who had lost their homes due to demolitions; supported the improvement of housing conditions to mitigate the effect of extreme weather conditions; protected children from sewage floods in the Gaza Strip; provided emergency support to fishermen in the Gaza Strip; rehabilitated green houses damaged by a storm in the Gaza Strip; and provided assistance to farmers in the closed areas behind the Barrier in the West Bank.

During the year, the ERF was visited by an external evaluation team with positive findings and important recommendations for the way forward for the Fund. The evaluation noted the increased participation by national NGOs in the implementation of ERF

funded projects as an important achievement of the mechanism in 2012. In 2011, only one national NGO received funds directly from ERF compared to seven in 2012. Another success of the ERF was the increased partnerships between national and international NGOs as the level of cooperation between international and national NGOs expanded from four projects in 2011 to nine in 2012, underscoring the importance of the principle of partnership in the working methods of the ERF in the oPt.

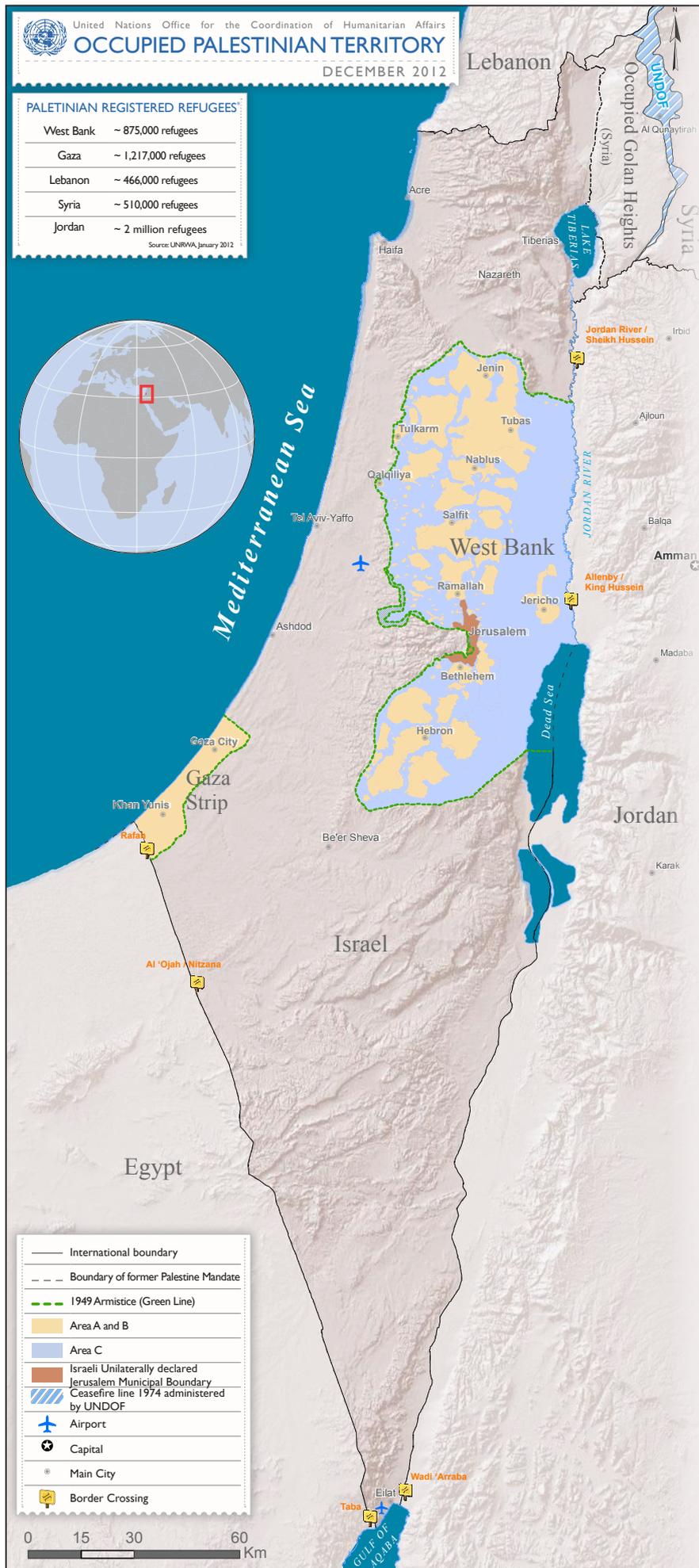
Over the past year, the ERF has played a major role as an emergency funding mechanism for the humanitarian community in the oPt. It has continued to prove its added value to respond to small and medium scale unforeseen emergencies. Improved timeliness in the response has been closely associated with greater participation and involvement of the clusters in the technical assessment and approval of the projects. This together with the ERF's management and Advisory Board has reinforced accountability and maximized the use of coordination mechanisms.

Since its inception in 2007, the ERF has allocated \$20.9 million to national and international NGOs and UN Agencies for 118 projects reaching thousands of vulnerable people. Projects have been implemented in response to the emergency needs across six clusters and sectors, namely Agriculture, Education, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI), Health and Nutrition, WASH and Protection.

The ERF remains a critical tool for effective humanitarian response and coordination in the oPt – be it in situations of natural disaster, further conflict, or the on-going restrictions in movement and access. In line with the recommendations of the Global ERF Evaluation, I am examining the possibility of other country-based pooled funding mechanisms to increase predictability, streamline donor contributions, and foster a coordinated approach around the CAP; while maintaining the emergency response window.

I want to commend the support received from OCHA/ERF management to facilitate the task of leading the ERF. I am grateful to our donors who continued to generously support the Fund in 2012. Both the recipients of humanitarian assistance and our partners benefit greatly from their cooperation and confidence. I also look forward to their continuing support in 2013.

James W. Rawley, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator



Executive Summary

The continued occupation of the Palestinian territory, ongoing conflict, restrictions on Palestinian movement, threats to life, liberty and security and the prolonged stalemate in the Middle East peace process have resulted in a chronic protection crisis. Throughout 2012, Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip have continued to face policies that have undermined their ability to live normal and self-sustaining lives and eroded their access to essential services. Emergency response in oPt is critical to allow provision of life saving interventions, prevent the further erosion of livelihood assets and coping mechanisms, ensure access to basic services and prevent forced displacement among affected communities.

From the beginning of 2012 up until November, the ERF was mainly used to fill temporary gaps in funding to respond to the demolition of structures and assets in Area C of the West Bank, until other sources of funding were made available. ERF funds were also used to distribute water to the most vulnerable people in the Jordan Valley, east Bethlehem and south Hebron areas, and to eliminate health hazards from open sewage pounds in Gaza Strip.

The fragility of the political situation was however, underlined by the escalation of hostilities in Gaza during November 2012. During this round of violence and in its aftermath, the ERF received funding requests for more than 20 separate projects addressing a range of urgent humanitarian needs triggered by the hostilities for a total of over \$2.9 million.

Since 2007, the ERF has received more than \$26.7 million in total contributions from eight donor countries. In 2012, Denmark became a new ERF donor, joining the seven existing ERF donors in oPt: Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Last year more than \$3.4 million was contributed to the ERF from Denmark, Ireland, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

During 2012, 58 project proposals were submitted to ERF for a total amount of nearly \$12.5 and ERF funded 25 projects to address needs in Emergency Shelter and NFI, WASH, Health and Nutrition, Education and Agriculture for a total amount of over \$5.5 million.

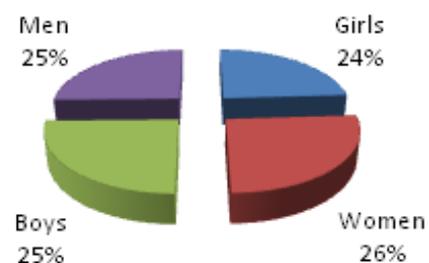
The total number of direct beneficiaries from ERF-funded projects in 2012 was 1,331,073 persons (319,457 girls, 346,079 women, 332,768 boys and 332,769 men).

Participation of national NGOs to the ERF increased in 2012; in 2012 seven projects were directly implemented by national NGOs compared to just one in 2011, while nine projects were implemented in partnership with international NGOs, compared to four in 2011. 64 per cent of all projects funded by ERF in 2012 were implemented by national NGOs (project implemented by national NGO directly or in partnership with international NGO.).

For the second year the WASH cluster received the most funding, followed by the Emergency Shelter and NFIs sector.

Of the 25 projects approved in 2012, ten projects were implemented in the Gaza Strip and 15 projects in the West Bank. Of the 15 projects approved in the West Bank, seven were for the Emergency

Targeted beneficiaries



Shelter and NFIs sector, four for the WASH cluster, two for the Agriculture sector, one for the Education cluster, and one for the Health and Nutrition sector. These projects were implemented in Area C of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the closed areas between the Barrier and the Green line. Of the ten projects implemented in the Gaza Strip, six projects were for the WASH cluster, two for the Agriculture sector, one for the Education cluster, and one for the Health and Nutrition sector.

As per the new Global ERF Guidelines, which came into effect in October, submitted project proposals were closely developed and underwent technical review by the relevant cluster/sector coordinators. Project proposals that were endorsed were referred to the ERF Review Board (made up of UN agencies, international and national NGO representatives) for further review. Recommendations by the Review Board on each project proposal were subsequently submitted to the HC for his final decision.

Information on Contributors

In 2012, ERF donors contributed a total amount of \$ 3.4 million to the Fund, bringing the total amount received from donors since 2007 to nearly \$ 24 million. The annual contributions from donors have varied, ranging from \$2.5 million to \$7.5 million with an average contribution of \$4.3 million. In 2012, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland continued their generous contributions, while Denmark came on board as a new ERF donor with a significant contribution of over \$1 million.

On 1 January 2012, the ERF had a carry-over balance of US\$ 8,320,157 while the closing balance on 31 December 2012 was US\$ 5,924,685.¹

Donor (Funding Source)	Total Received Contribution in US\$
Sweden	1,132,182
Spain	649,351
Ireland	62,735
Denmark	1,045,296
Switzerland	539,957
Total	3,429,521²

The ERF seeks to retain \$5 million in its reserve to respond to sudden crises as recommended by the HC and the Advisory Board.

Fund Overview

Summary of ERF Allocations in 2012

Requested for 2012 in US\$	Carry over from 2011 in US\$	Amount received in 2012 in US\$	Total available in 2012 in US\$
5,000,000	8,320,157	3,429,521	11,770,745

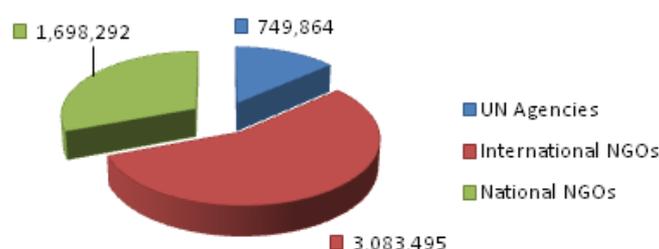
ERF funds allocated in 2012 by partner type in US\$

UN Agencies	749,864
International NGOs	3,082,495
National NGOs	1,699,292
Total	5,531,651

ERF funds allocated in 2012 by project type in US\$

Emergency response	5,531,651
Preparedness	
Innovative (if any)	
Total	5,531,651

Disbursed ERF funds in 2012 by partner type in US\$



1. Outstanding allocations of \$749,865 represents the reserves for advances related to grants to UN Agencies for which final financial statements are not yet due/not yet received.

2. For further information about contributions for all years please see Annex I

Results of ERF Projects per Cluster



Overview of Agriculture

Agricultural livelihoods in the oPt are experiencing a protracted crisis with serious humanitarian consequences. As a result of shrinking access to productive assets, services and markets due to Israeli-imposed restrictions on movement of people, access to land, water, goods, jobs and markets in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Palestinian families dependent on agriculture have increasingly struggled to sustain their way of life during the last ten years. For the most vulnerable, any additional shock to their livelihoods (including those of an environmental, economic, and political) can have devastating immediate and long term impacts.

In 2012, ERF funding mitigated some of these natural shocks, serving as an important resource in funding gaps to assist vulnerable farming and fishing communities. For instance, in 2012, a severe winter storm brought rainfall exceeding the average

for the same period the year before. The resulting damage was extensive; the Ministry of Agriculture reported 461 dunums of damaged greenhouses. An Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC) intervention rehabilitated 40 percent of the damaged structures, preventing additional economic losses for the most vulnerable farmers.

Similarly, ERF funding allowed farmers and fishermen to mitigate the impact of political shocks to their productive systems. In the West Bank farmers living in the Seam Zone were provided with access to water to irrigate their crops, while in the Gaza Strip fishermen with sustained damage or destruction to their fishing assets were able to continue their economic activity. In both cases, the timing of funding played an important role in acting either as a measure to prevent displacement of agricultural communities, or securing an income for productive groups facing severe restrictions.

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
4	783,189	SCC, APY, ESDC	West Bank and Gaza

Outputs

- Total number of beneficiaries: 1095
- Gender consideration: 36 women, 1059 men
- Project results:
 - Emergency support to fishing communities in the Gaza Strip affected by the destruction, damage or confiscation of boats and equipment. A total of 189 affected fishermen received 30 motors, 11 electrical generators, 30 lighters, and 18 new boats, with a total of 164 boats ready to sail and work. The project also included the distribution of 326 nets. 24 fishermen economically benefited from a cash-for-work intervention and 29 were provided with materials and tools for repairing damaged nets. As a result, the economic activity of 189 fishermen and their families (1,134 indirect beneficiaries) were re-established.
 - Emergency support to 506 farmers in the closed areas behind the West Bank barrier communities of Jayyus, An Nabi Elyas, Qalqiliya, Tulkarm, Azzun Atma and Habla, through distribution of diesel for pumping water from the wells for farming activities during the summer months.
 - Rehabilitation of greenhouses of 400 vulnerable farmers in the Gaza Strip which sustained more than 30 per cent damage due to the cold wave at the end of February 2012. The farmers were able to recover some of their losses and increase their sustainability.
- ERF's added value to the projects:
 - Fishermen in Gaza recovered their means of livelihoods through the rehabilitation of boats and equipment.
 - Food security and coping mechanisms of farmers and their families in the West Bank and Gaza strengthened and further erosion of livelihood assets prevented.



SCC - Jayyous - Qalqiliya

SUCCESS STORY

Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) provides relief to stabilize the livelihoods of West Bank farmers in closed areas behind the Barrier through the distribution of 60 per cent of the fuel needed for 13 water wells.

For the last four years, Muntaser had been unable to plant 14 dunums of open field due to the high costs of irrigation water (\$ 25 per hour of operation) and accumulated debts. The high costs of irrigation water meant that Muntaser was only able to irrigate his crops nine hours per week and was forced to supplement this by manually watering his crops using plastic gallons.

After receiving support under this SCC project, Muntaser now pays \$ 5 per hour and is able to irrigate his crops for at least 20 hours per week. As a result, Muntaser has been able to replant 10 dunums with cauliflower. Unlike previous years, this year, his guava fruit trees have also been more stable with fewer fruit falling off the trees as a result of lack of water.



Overview of Education

Access to quality and protective education for children in the oPt is continually compromised by the humanitarian effects of conflict and occupation which often result in a high drop-out rate, psychosocial issues, low learning achievements and, in some cases, displacement. Access restrictions and the Palestinian Authority’s limited control in Area C of the West Bank means that the education system in the West Bank has been characterized by a number of protection risks and a general deterioration in

the school environment, infrastructure and learning outcomes. Approximately 280 vulnerable schools identified by the Education cluster face a range of humanitarian issues, and many schools face multiple problems. Responding to this need, ERF funded an education intervention to rehabilitate three primary schools in Area C of the West Bank.

In Gaza, the major escalation in hostilities in November 2012 affected approximately 275,000 students and almost 300 education institutions. In response, the ERF supported a project to repair the windows and doors of 94 government schools which had been damaged as a result of the hostilities.

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
2	409,273	VDT , UNICEF	West Bank and Gaza

Outputs

- Total number of beneficiaries: 88,183
- Gender disaggregation: women 6, girls 41035, men 17 and boys 47125.
- Project results:
 - The windows and doors of 98 schools in Gaza that had sustained damage during the 2012 November escalation were repaired, enabling 87,945 students (50 per cent girls) to regain normal access to schools.
 - Emergency rehabilitation for three primary schools (Al Khan Al Ahmar, Wadi Abu Hindil and Yanun).
- ERF’s added value to the projects:
 - Rapid ERF funding helped restore normalcy to the lives of the targeted children through ensuring their return to school.
 - An adequate, safe and healthy place for primary education and improved working conditions for school staff were secured.



1 VDT: Wadi Abu Hindi School – Jerusalem – oPt



Overview of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

Due to restrictive and discriminatory planning and zoning policies, Palestinians are prohibited from building in 70 per cent of Area C while further restrictions imposed on building in another 29 per cent. In practice, construction is approved in around one percent of Area C, most of which is already built up. This leaves Palestinians no other choice but to build without a permit. These structures are under constant threat of demolition by Israeli authorities.

Over \$1.5 million (28 per cent of the total ERF funds disbursed in 2012) helped to cover gaps in emergency shelter interventions reaching more than 700 persons displaced as a result of the demolition of houses/ structures in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in addition to two projects providing NFIs to another 10,000 persons in response to extreme weather conditions in the Jordan Valley and southern areas of the West Bank in early 2012.

Assistance in the Shelter sector supported the well-being and livelihoods of targeted beneficiaries through mitigation of the consequences of unforeseen loss of property in communities already deemed vulnerable as a result of natural and man-made disasters. ERF funding to the Shelter sector supported other sources of humanitarian assistance in the West Bank, complementing ongoing assistance provided through the Agriculture and WASH sectors as well as contributing to greater information-sharing across sectors, notably through shared needs assessment forms.

Unfortunately through a number of incidents in 2012, humanitarian assistance provided through three ERF-funded projects were seized (10 incidents), destroyed (9 incidents) or placed at risk of destruction (21 incidents) by the Israeli authorities. The total cost of these materials is \$317,869.

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
7	1,573,244	ACTED, RCSD, PHG, UAWC	West Bank
Outputs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Total number of beneficiaries: 8,183 ■ Gender disaggregation: 2,107 women, 2,048 girls, 1,803 men and 2,225 boys. ■ Project results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Distribution of 4,833 blankets, 4,833 mattresses, and 803 tons of firewood to 1,600 households due to extreme weather conditions. ➤ 92 households in Area C of West Bank (including East Jerusalem) supported through the provision of 69 residential shelters, 54 animal shelters, 13 water tanks, 4 troughs, 9 kitchens, 15 storage rooms and 5 latrines. ■ ERF's added value to the projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ERF funding secured the well-being and livelihood of households by mitigating the unforeseen loss of property. Forced displacement did not occur in the targeted communities. ➤ Improved the living conditions for the most vulnerable communities living below SPHERE standards in shelters, tents and shacks through the provision basic living requirements. 			

ACTED - Susyia, Hebron



Overview of Health and Nutrition

The main humanitarian challenges in the Health and Nutrition sector include sustaining on-going essential health services in Area C of the West Bank, closed areas behind the West Bank Barrier and East Jerusalem Peripheries and the Gaza Strip, providing community mental health and psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and addressing critical shortages in essential drugs and medical disposables, particularly in Gaza Strip.

Funding provided through the ERF strengthened overall humanitarian coordination and response in

health in 2012 and allowed partners to undertake urgent interventions to provide essential health care and drugs. In the southern West Bank, the ERF funded a health project to ensure access to Primary Health Care services for people living in isolated, marginalized or remote areas. In the Gaza Strip, ERF-funded health projects provided social hardship cases with medications and helped mitigate the drug crisis in the public sector by providing lifesaving health services to the populations in need.

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
2	500,000	UHWC, MEDICO	West Bank and Gaza

Outputs

- Total number of beneficiaries: 46,432
- Gender disaggregation: 20,681 women, 9,521 girls, 8,360 men and 7,870 boys.
- Project results:
 - Al 'Awda hospital was provided with essential medications (49 items), medical disposables (114 items), surgical instruments (5 items), laboratory disposables (38 items) and medical gases (3 items).
 - Patients provided with access to medical services, especially the marginalized and needy.
 - Enhanced protection and ensured access primary health care (PHC) services for the most vulnerable 18 locations in the Bethlehem and Hebron districts the West Bank through provision of equitable access preventive and curative health services, via training.
 - Procurement of medical supplies for immediate relief for people suffering from chronic diseases and for patients with uncommon diseases, who otherwise would not have access to these medications and would not be able to afford treatment due to the current economic and supply crises in Gaza.
- ERF's added value to the projects:
 - ERF funding helped support the preparedness of Al 'Awda hospital in Gaza to face emergency situations, and guaranteed continuation of services at the hospital.
 - Provided health services in 18 vulnerable, rural areas in Bethlehem and Hebron districts in the West Bank through mobile clinics.
 - Supported patients with non-communicable diseases (mainly the elderly), acute patients and women suffering from gynaecological problems in Gaza.



OCHA- MoH Ambulance- Gaza city



Overview of WASH:

Palestinians throughout the oPt face severe restrictions in accessing adequate water and sanitation services. According to the WASH Cluster, the lack of adequate water for drinking and personal hygiene is placing over 50,000 people in 151 communities in the West Bank, mostly in Area C, in a critically vulnerable situation (accessing less than 30 litres per capita per day (lpcpd)). Close to one million people in 492 communities are accessing less than 60 lpcpd. Impact on vulnerable communities has been further multiplied by the sharp increase in demolitions. More than 130 water and sanitation facilities (cisterns, tanks, latrines, etc) were demolished in 2011, compared to 57 in 2010 and ten in 2009. These demolitions not only threaten good hygiene and public health but also limit the necessary resources for maintaining livelihoods, ultimately leading to forced displacement.

In Gaza, 90 percent of the aquifer does not meet internationally accepted guidelines, exposing 1.6 million inhabitants in the Gaza Strip to major health risks. The majority of the groundwater has been rendered non-potable due to a high proportion of nitrates (currently reaching up to 500ppm in areas of Khan Younis) and chlorides (currently reaching minimum and maximum averages of between 380ppm and 993ppm). The overall electricity deficiencies cause frequent power cuts (up to 12 hours per day) and shortage of the fuel needed to run back-up generators jeopardizes the provision of most basic services. In addition, the dilapidated state of the sewage infrastructure has had some fatal consequences as three children drowned in

sewage pools in Beit Lahia Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Katawa neighbourhood adjacent to Khan Younis Camp.

Humanitarian partners primarily respond to the consequences of demolitions, displacement, water borne diseases, lack of services, and environmental hazards in communities mainly located in Area C of the West Bank and the access restricted areas (ARAs) in Gaza. However, the low funding level for the WASH cluster (54 per cent of the amount requested in the 2012 CAP was received), together with emergency needs resulting from flooding, demolitions and the escalations in hostilities in Gaza had over-stretched the capacities of organizations to address the needs.

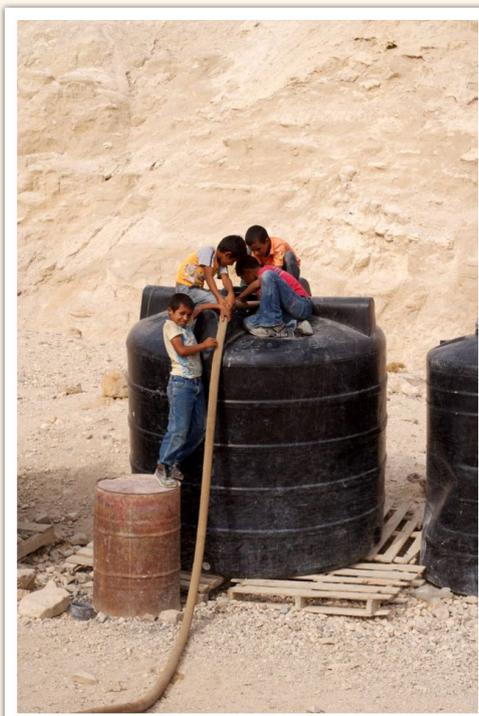
As a consequence, more than 41 percent of ERF funds disbursed in 2012 supported WASH interventions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, totaling US\$ 2,263,945. ERF assisted the WASH cluster to support service delivery and helped WASH partners to provide joint and structured response to issues of concern such as water scarcity. This has strengthened the Cluster by providing the necessary resources and has helped reaffirm accountability of the Cluster to partners and ultimately, to beneficiaries.

In the West Bank, US\$ 750,000 was disbursed to fund three projects to alleviate water scarcity faced by herders in rural areas of Jericho, Ramallah and south Hebron by subsidizing and transporting water for human and livestock consumption during the dry season and to fund emergency response to basic WASH needs for 15 communities affected by demolitions.

Number of projects	Budget in US\$	Implementing agencies	Geographic Area
10	2,265,945	ACF, GVC, SC, CISP, MAAN, UNICEF, UNDP	West Bank and Gaza

Outputs

- Total number of beneficiaries: 1,187,180
- Gender disaggregation: 311,971 women, 272,852 girls, 317,130 men and 284,227 boys.
- Project results:
 - Relieved water scarcity experienced by herders living in rural areas of Jericho, Jordan Valley, Ramallah and south Hebron by purchasing and transporting 130,526 m3 of water for human and livestock consumption during the emergency of the summer season.
 - Reconstruction of demolished WASH infrastructures in Area C of the West Bank to improve beneficiaries' capacity to utilize these facilities again, sustain their presence in the area through protection of their livelihood resources and provision of basic sanitary facilities and water for drinking and hygiene purposes.
 - Emergency repair and replacement of six electro-mechanical generators for sewage pumping stations. This prevented a major health catastrophe triggered by disruption to water and sanitation services in the Gaza Strip as a result of damaged and overused standby diesel generators.
 - Protected the lives of vulnerable people in Qatatwa neighborhood (Block J of Khan Younis Camp) from the immediate risk and health hazards posed by direct contact with the open sewage pond.
 - Installed adequate fences around eight open ponds in the Gaza Strip to prevent direct exposure of children to chemical and microbiological contamination from untreated water and to avert child accidental deaths from drowning.
 - Replaced the damaged pipeline in Beit Hanoun with a new pipeline to reduce the risk of waste-water floods and to protect schools and farms from sewage flooding.
 - Installation of a fence around Al Saftawi lagoon (5000 m2), removing 2000m3 of sand mixed with solid waste from the lagoon embankment as well as 3000 m3 of sludge.
 - More than 800,000 people (at least half of them children and half female) in Rafah, Middle Area and Gaza benefited from the provision of fuel to Costal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) to run generators, wells and pumping stations.
 - A total of 211,211 liters of fuel were purchased and delivered to 48 major water facilities in Gaza.
 - A total of 206,656 liters of fuel were supplied and distributed to solid waste service providers in Gaza.
- ERF's added value to the projects:
 - ERF funds protected targeted communities from potential loss of life and from increased morbidity linked to insufficient access to clean water.
 - Contributed to the protection of livelihoods of targeted populations by preventing these families depleting their livestock as a negative coping mechanism to deal with WASH needs and reduced the risk of displacement as a result of affected families looking for available water in other areas.
 - Wastewater floods have been reduced and the environmental health situation has been improved in the targeted area as a result of replacement of damaged pipelines.
 - A major health catastrophe triggered by the disruption of the water and sanitation services in the Gaza Strip prompted by damaged and overused standby diesel generators was prevented.
 - Immediate security threats to children in Gaza as a result of unfenced and potentially flooded wastewater /storm water ponds have been mitigated and children have been protected from drowning through the installation of fences around ten open lagoons. The removal of a dangerous Qatatwa sewage pond that claimed the lives of three children has eliminated the possibility of further drowning there and reduced the public health risk and potential spread of diseases.
 - Connection of households to the sewer network has reduced contamination of the threatened groundwater aquifer.
 - Rapid ERF funding helped mitigate potential spread of diseases and the deterioration of public health among the most vulnerable communities.
 - Enhanced access to effective social, economic, public service and public utilities through support of a municipal solid waste fleet by supplying it with necessary fuel for its operation.



2 CISP- Area C – Jericho

SUCCESS STORY: SAVE THE CHILDREN

improves safety and environmental health in Al Saftawi lagoon area of Gaza

Four years ago, while playing with one of his friends, Mahmoud came close to drowning in Al Saftawi lagoon. Despite the painful memory and the risk, Mahmoud and his friends continued to play next to the lagoon, due to the lack of alternative spaces.

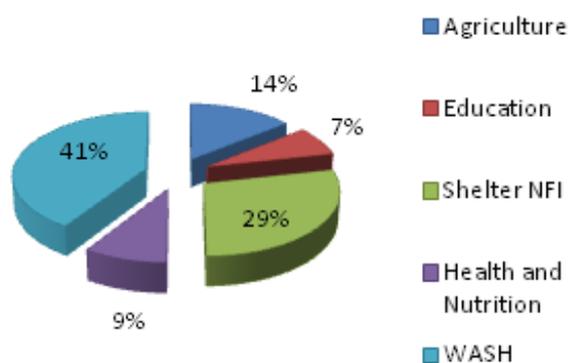
Through funding received from ERF, Save the Children were able to place a fence around the lagoon, remove the garbage and pump the sewage, improving the safety and environmental health of the area. Mahmoud now says that the area is more beautiful than before, is safer for playing and his parents no longer have to worry about Mahmoud and his young brothers when playing outside the house. Mahmoud hopes that the lagoon will one day be replaced by a park with playground.



Summary and analysis of achievements

The prolonged stalemate in the Middle East peace process, occupation, ongoing conflict, continued access restrictions, and internal Palestinian divisions have resulted in a protracted protection crisis. Serious protection threats and human rights violations have continued throughout 2012, with Palestinian communities subject to policies that undermine their ability to live normal and self-sustaining lives. The most salient features of the longstanding Israeli occupation remain largely unchanged and, as a result, the nature and the scope of humanitarian needs have not been reduced. The fragility of the situation in the Gaza Strip was underlined by the escalation in hostilities in November 2012 when a large Israeli military offensive was launched in Gaza Strip. This escalation in hostilities lasted for eight days, during which the impact on civilians was considerable.

Funds disbursed by ERF in 2012 by cluster in US\$



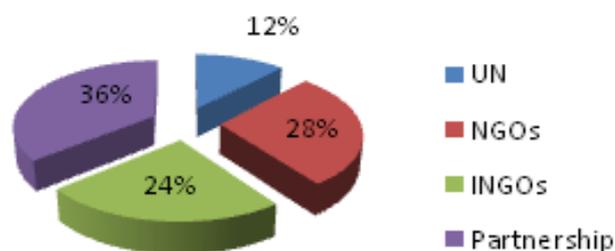
Emergency projects supported by ERF in 2012 responded to displacement (Shelter, NFIs, Agriculture and Wash) for West Bank communities in Area C. In Gaza, the bulk of emergency response prior to the hostilities was to improve basic sanitation. After the hostilities, as a way of alleviating suffering for civilians the emergency work enabled children to return to school and resume normal activities as well as promptly supporting the resumption of the sewage system.

In 2012, ERF disbursed US\$ 5,531,651 for 25 projects - more than double the amount disbursed in 2011 (US\$ 2,667,112 for 14 projects). Funds were used to respond to unforeseen emergencies through life saving interventions and/or preventing the

further erosion of livelihood assets and coping mechanisms of the affected communities. The funds also strategically filled gaps in funding within the humanitarian response plan until main-stream humanitarian funding became available. In the Gaza Strip, a total of US\$ 2,276,073 was used to meet emergency needs in Education, WASH, Health and Nutrition and Agriculture. In the West Bank, US\$ 3,255,578 was used to cover urgent needs in Agriculture, WASH, Emergency Shelter and NFIs, Health and Nutrition and Education.

In 2012 and up until November, the Fund was mainly used to fill a gap in funding responding to demolitions of structures and assets in Area C of the West Bank. The fund was used until more funds were secured from other donors. The other main intervention was to distribute water to the most vulnerable people in Jordan Valley, east Bethlehem and south Hebron areas and eliminate health hazards from open sewage pounds in Gaza Strip.

% ERF funds in 2012 by partner type



As a result of the increase of hostilities in Gaza the ERF received funding requests for more than 20 separate projects addressing a range of urgent humanitarian needs triggered by the hostilities, for a total cost of over US\$ 2.9 million. ERF funding was particularly instrumental in allowing humanitarian partners to mount a timely response.

The ERF proved to be a critical instrument in strengthening the leadership of the HC and cluster/sector leads in improving inter-agency coordination and strengthening partnerships between UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and the donor community. The ERF strengthened the links between cluster coordinators and members of the cluster by ensuring that all projects funded by ERF

were endorsed beforehand by the cluster leads. OCHA put particular emphasis on ensuring that the projects supported by the ERF in 2012 were in line with HCT and cluster priorities, mainly through a greater engagement of cluster leads especially after introduction of the new ERF global guidelines.

The achievements of the ERF were reflected in the findings of the global ERF evaluation in which oPt was a case study. The evaluation report concluded that “the ERF plays a unique role in supporting humanitarian response, [it] has proved to be flexible, adapting to meet evolving needs.” The evaluators found that the Fund was able to effectively respond to small-scale unforeseen emergencies that have developed in-between CAP funding cycles and has successfully increased NGO access to emergency response funding, in particular for national NGOs. The Fund was also seen to have the added value of working through a collective instrument to address sensitive areas of protection, including interventions in Area C of the West Bank. Lastly, the evaluators concluded that the ERF has successfully kept a reserve to buffer immediate response to potential large-scale unforeseen shocks.

A key achievement in 2012 was the increased inclusion of NGOs, particularly national NGOs which was one of the goals set by the ERF Advisory Board at the beginning of the year. Of the 25 projects approved in 2012, seven projects were implemented directly by national NGOs, nine

projects were implemented in partnership between national and international NGOs, six projects were directly implemented by international NGOs and three projects were implemented by UN agencies. This signaled a major shift towards balancing the participation of national NGOs compared to the previous years. In 2011 only one national NGO received funds directly from the ERF and four projects were indirectly implemented by national NGOs. The increase in their participation in 2012 has been as a result of the successful outreach efforts undertaken by OCHA and cluster coordinators on the ground during the past two years.

The ERF Advisory Board (which is made up of the eight donors to the HRF (i.e. Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), national and international NGOs, UNICEF representing the UN, the HC and OCHA) met three times and was involved in several discussions related to the Fund. The advisory board discussed ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Fund; it was also active in mitigating the risks involved in implementing projects in sensitive areas. The Advisory Board was further involved in the evaluation process during the summer and in December and agreed to change the name of the fund to Emergency Response Fund in line with the standard name prescribed by the ERF Global Guidelines and as per other pooled funds managed by OCHA.

Project Monitoring

Monitoring of ERF projects in oPt is a continuous process that involves three means of verification.

The first means of verification is through field monitoring visits usually conducted by the ERF manager and the cluster coordinator when possible, to assess the performance and achievements of each individual project. The field visit aims to assess;

- The performance of the project in relation to its implementation plan;
- The suitability of project activities to the situation;
- Listen first hand to the beneficiaries perspective;
- Assess the adherence of the implementing partner to the international standards;
- Coordination with other stakeholders;
- Gender and cross-cutting issues.

The second means is through reports submitted by implementing partners who are contractually obliged to produce narrative and financial reports. OCHA asks for progress reports when possible in addition to final narrative reports. For projects that require a No Cost Extension, an interim financial report is requested to verify the financial situation of the project.

The third means of verification is by contracting an external audit company for projects implemented by NGOs. The audit report is usually due two months after the end of the project. The company will verify that all financial and managerial activities were correctly recorded and all costs are legible.

During 2012, nearly all of the projects implemented in the oPt were visited at least once. The monitoring visits were carried out mainly by the ERF manager and OCHA field staff. When possible the HC, members of the ERF Advisory Board and OCHA Head of Office also took part in the field visits. Of the 25 projects implemented during 2012, eighteen projects (72 percent) were visited. Two of

the projects were located in the area between the West Bank Barrier and the 'Green Line', to which the Israeli army denied access for OCHA staff. To overcome this obstacle, the implementing NGO asked the beneficiaries to meet with the monitoring team near the Barrier and documentation from the sites was also obtained.

Gender Consideration

Of the 25 projects funded in 2012, ten projects were considered gender mainstreamed and marked 2a, eight of them implemented by INGOs and two by NNGOs (four for WASH, two for emergency shelter & NFI, two for Agriculture and one for Education). Nine projects showed potential to contribute in some limited way to gender equality and were marked 1. Six of these projects were implemented by INGOs and three were implemented by NNGOs (five for Emergency Shelter and NFIs, two for Agriculture, one for WASH and one for Education). The other six projects did not have any direct contact with affected women, men, boys or girls.

As part of the new guidelines that came into effect in October 2012, the Gender Marker was rolled-out. Identification of the Gender Marker as a Response-Based Management (RBM) tool has emphasized the synergy and logic of introducing both the Gender Marker and the RBM approach to all ERF formats/templates with the aim of developing a more robust, accountable and rigorous monitoring and reporting framework. A Gender Marker self-assessment form has been included as part of the screening process for projects in 2012.

Introducing the Gender Marker and assisting implementing partners in improving the design of their projects were priorities for 2012 as well as for 2013. This has included integration of cluster/sector specific minimum standards in individual cluster/sector ERF guidelines to ensure inclusion of basic requirements. Moreover, sex and age disaggregated data are collected, collated and analyzed consistently to inform programming, an aspect that has been strengthened in order to enhance gender sensitive programming by all cluster/sectors. In 2013, monitoring will also need to be further strengthened to ensure that projects are being delivered as per the project design and they correctly reflect the assigned gender code.

In 2013, OCHA will work with the HC to identify and include a gender advisor on the review board as required by the new guidelines.

OCHA has already updated all ERF formats/templates (application format, log frame, budget and progress and final reporting) based on the new global guidelines, all of which are posted on the ERF website.

Conclusion

Six years after its inception, the ERF is fully integrated into the Humanitarian Country Team's response mechanism. It plays a unique role in humanitarian response and has proved to be a flexible tool that can absorb new needs and challenges. Hence, it was available to fill critical gaps in funding cycles. Greater participation and involvement of the clusters in the technical assessment and approval of the projects in cooperation with OCHA and the Advisory Board has further improved timeliness of response, reinforced accountability and enhanced

the ERF's role in strengthening overall coordination and response.

The Fund has also proved itself to be an effective tool to increase participation of national NGOs and partnership among NGOs and with UN agencies as well as the donor community. ERF continued to be instrumental in strengthening the leadership of the HC and cluster/sector leads and improve inter-agency coordination.

In 2012, the ERF was used in areas where other tools could not reach, particularly as a result of the added value provided by working through a collective instrument to address sensitive areas of protection, including interventions in Area C of the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The Fund has also proved to be an important reserve to buffer immediate response to potential large-scale unforeseen shocks and was therefore particularly well-placed to respond to the urgent needs arising from hostilities in Gaza during November. The support of ERF donors had allowed OCHA to keep the balance of the fund at around US\$ 5 million at the end of the year to be able to respond to medium to large scale unforeseen emergencies. Maintaining this level of reserve funding will be a key priority in 2013.

However, challenges remained in 2012. Humanitarian assistance provided through projects funded by ERF was seized, destroyed, or placed at risk of destruction by the Israeli authorities.

Moreover, while OCHA succeeded in increasing inclusion of cluster/sector members, in particular national NGOs, it recognizes that capacity building is still needed to further strengthen its support to national and international NGOs and other partners in order to improve the quality of ERF proposals, ensuring smooth processing and more rapid response.

In 2013, OCHA will explore with the ERF Advisory Board the potential of an enhanced mechanism for the oPt, following the recommendation from the

ERF evaluation. According to recommendation II of The Global Evaluation of Emergency Response Funds, oPt country case study report:

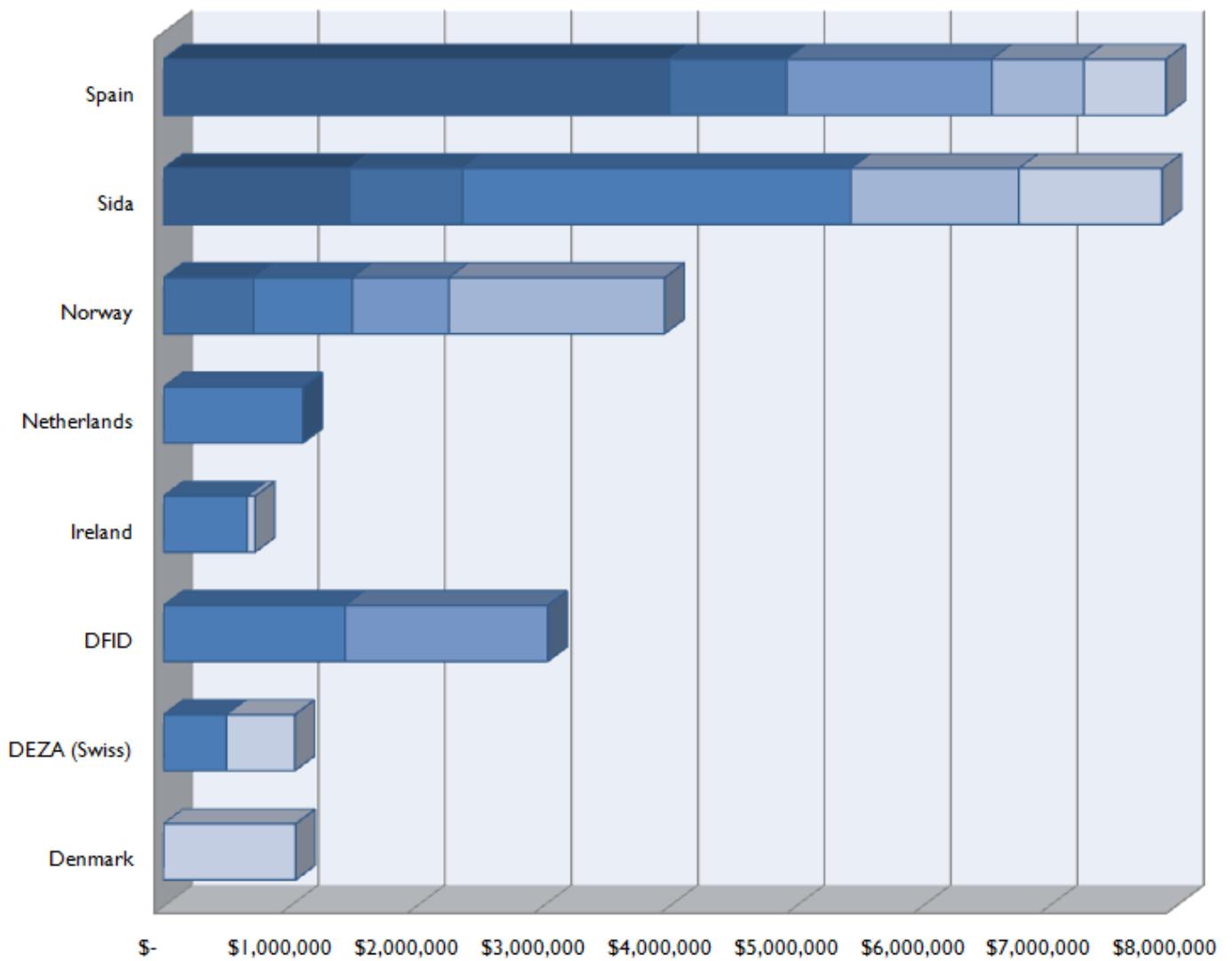
“OCHA should explore with donors the possibility of adapting the current mechanism to support critical gaps in the response to the chronic crisis and preparedness funding. There is a gap in humanitarian funding to meet critical gaps in addressing chronic needs. A second gap is for funding of preparedness measures – many protection issues almost by definition are best addressed through enhanced preparedness. [E]RF funding has been stretched to cover some of the most pressing gaps. In the context of this protracted crisis it is suggested that the relevance of other country based pooled funds should be examined. The most obvious option would be a CHF which is designed to fill gaps in CAP funding (including preparedness actions), reinforce NGO participation and partnership and absorb the scale of donor funds that appear to be available.”

OCHA will also further enhance monitoring and evaluation and increase the participation of cluster/sector coordinators and OCHA field units in the monitoring and evaluation process. OCHA will continue to improve the flow of information with members of the Advisory Board and humanitarian partners to ensure transparency and accountability of the Fund. The ERF’s new webpage will include more information and guidance to the applicants. Updated country guidelines and cluster specific guidelines will be developed and translated into Arabic to further strengthen the accessibility of the ERF to national NGOs.

Glossary

APY	Fundacion Para La Cooperacion APY Solidaridad En Accion	NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
ARA	Access Restricted Area (in Gaza Strip)	oPt:	Occupied Palestinian Territory
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund	PHC	Primary health Care
CMWU	Coastal Municipalities Water Utility	SCC	The Swedish Cooperative Centre (Koopera-tion Utan Gränser)
ESDC	Economic & Social Development Center of Palestine	UHWK	Union of Health Work Committees
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	VDT	Vento Di Terra
MEDICO	Medico International e.V.		

Donors contribution 2007-12



	Denmark	DEZA (Swiss)	DFID	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Sida	Spain
■ 2007							\$1,469,496	\$4,000,000
■ 2008						\$713,840	\$893,735	\$925,926
■ 2009		\$499,501	\$1,436,782	\$661,376	\$1,102,941	\$778,259	\$3,072,520	
■ 2010			\$1,600,000			\$764,059		\$1,622,399
■ 2011						\$1,705,902	\$1,326,920	\$726,744
■ 2012	\$1,045,296	\$539,957		\$62,735			\$1,132,182	\$649,351