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Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
occupied Palestinian territory

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND

FOR THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



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I. Note from the HC (Foreword)

Dear Colleagues,

The OCHA team and I are happy to share with you the 2010 HRF Annual Report.

Over the past four years, the HRF has established itself as a critical tool for the humanitarian community in the occupied Palestinian territory. It has shown its effectiveness in providing rapid and flexible funding to organisations in order to address sudden emergencies and fill critical humanitarian gaps. It has also proved to be a critical tool for improving inter-agency coordination and strengthening partnerships among UN agencies, international and local NGOs and the donor community.

In 2010, the HRF funded 15 projects (seven in Gaza and eight in the West Bank) for a total of US\$ 2,115,893.43. It helped 13 organisations, particularly local NGOs, provide assistance and protection to more than 123,000 people. It promoted the participation of international and local NGOs in existing coordination mechanisms, clusters in particular. As such, the HRF – once again this year - was instrumental in defining common UN and NGO humanitarian strategies and objectives; and in responding in a timely manner to the needs of vulnerable people and communities across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

Of course challenges remain: We must further strengthen the management of the HRF, to make it an even more efficient, responsive, transparent and accountable tool. We need to further integrate the HRF within cluster and inter-cluster coordination, to ensure that funds are even better focused on addressing priority needs. We also need to do more to empower local NGOs and strengthen our partnerships with them.

The HRF team and I look forward to tackling these challenges in 2011. We are confident that, with the support of our donors and our UN and NGO colleagues, the HRF will continue to play an essential part in providing timely relief and protection to people in need in the oPt.

Yours sincerely,



Maxwell Gaylard

Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory

2. 2010 Humanitarian and operational context in the occupied Palestinian territory

There was no major improvement in the humanitarian conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2010. The vast efforts accomplished over the last few years by humanitarian actors, recent economic progress in the West Bank and in Gaza and a reduction in direct conflict-related casualties since January 2010 have provided some measure of relief for Palestinians living in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). However, in the absence of significant structural changes to the environment, and first and foremost a just and lasting peace and the end of the Israeli occupation, entrenched vulnerability remains a reality throughout the oPt. The situation by the end of 2010 is characterized by an ongoing political stalemate, regular exposure to violence, continuing restrictions on access and movement, and persistent human rights violations, all factors leading to a protracted humanitarian situation. Macro-economic improvements conceal vast disparities on the ground, with increasing exposure to chronic poverty for many, and great concerns over longer-term prospects. They also fail to alleviate the protection crisis faced by most Palestinians, for whom few rights are ever secure.

In the West Bank, a reduction in the number of obstacles between select urban areas has yielded tangible commercial benefits, as has an improvement in law and order within Area A. Restrictions on movement remain pervasive, however, notably in East Jerusalem, Area C and the seam zones, where access to social services and economic resources continues to be severely constrained. Unaltered restrictions on planning and development and unabated settler violence in particular constitute constant hardships for Palestinians. In Gaza, despite a partial easing of closure, many of the fundamental parameters of the blockade remain in place. While the June 2010 policy decision of the Government of Israel has resulted in a greater supply of consumer goods and the approval of some international construction projects, ongoing restrictions on reconstruction material, exports and movement of people continue to hamper any meaningful economic revitalization, thereby maintaining large swathes of the population dependent on external aid.

3. 2010 Contributions to the HRF

In 2010, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom contributed US\$ 3,982,584 to the HRF, bringing the total of funds received for the HRF since its creation to US\$ 15,430,171. As of 1 January 2011, the HRF had an opening balance of US\$ 7,305,500.¹³

An analysis of donor contributions over time shows the stability of the oPt HRF funding basis. The three donors (Norway, Spain, and the United Kingdom) who contributed to the HRF in 2010 had already contributed to the HRF in the previous years. Sweden is the

largest contributor to the HRF and has been contributing to the HRF every year since 2007; closely followed by Spain as the second largest donor to the HRF which has also been contributing to the HRF since its creation. The United Kingdom is the third largest donor. Norway has been a regular donor to the HRF since 2008 with US\$ 2,252,284¹

The relative stability of contributions to the HRF underlines the long-term commitment of donors to the HRF, which is key to ensuring the predictability and ultimately the success of the

¹ See Annex II form a detailed table of contributions

Fig 1 Table below showing number and total amount approved for projects by year since inception of the HRF in oPt

Donor	Year	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	United Kingdom	Total
Received amount in USD	2007				1,000,000	1,469,496			2,469,496
	2008			713,840	918,635	893,735			2,526,210
	2009	661,376	1,102,941	778,259		3,072,520	869,501	1,436,782	7,921,379
	2010			760,185	1,622,399			1,600,000	3,982,584
Total		661,376	1,102,941	2,252,284	3,541,034	5,435,751	869,501	3,036,780	16,899,667

HRF as a rapid response funding mechanism.

Similarly, the broad de-facto consensus amongst donors to the HRF and the other members of the HRF Advisory Board, particularly the HC, to keep the HRF's balance at over several

millions at all times is key. It is also essential in order to make the HRF a predictable tool and ensure that it can respond to a sudden and rapid deterioration in the situation at any time if needed (as during "operation Cast Lead in 2009").

4. Overview of HRF funding in the oPt in 2010

Out of 46 projects and concept notes submitted to the HRF Secretariat in 2010, 15 proposals were approved² for a total amount of US\$ 2,115,893.43. This brings the total of projects funded by the HRF since its creation to 68, for a total of US \$8,762,726.

The 15 projects funded in 2010 helped provide assistance to 51,546 people, of whom 40 percent were women, 24 percent children and 36 percent men. With an average ratio of US\$ 41 / beneficiary, the HRF has proved to be a very cost-effective mechanism.

The funding of "only" 15 projects in 2010 marks a significant decrease compared to 2009, year during which the HRF provided funding to 37

projects (29 in Gaza and 8 in the West Bank), for a total amount of US\$ 5,424,720. The discrepancy between 2009 and 2010 figures can be explained by the large amount of HRF funding disbursed following "operation Cast Lead" in Gaza, at the beginning of 2009. Indeed, if compared to 2008, when 14 projects were approved for a total of US \$1,563,056.45, the number of projects approved during "a normal year" has remained fairly stable, while the amount of funds disbursed has increased by thirty-five percent. It suggests that the HRF remains an attractive source of funding for Humanitarian Organizations in the oPt, and that the actual size of projects submitted to the HRF has increased over time.

² Proposals and concept notes were rejected on the basis that they did not fit into the two priorities for HRF funding as laid out in the HRF Guidelines and are/or were not in line with the priorities as identified by the clusters

Sudden onset emergency vs. critical gap

Seven of the fifteen HRF projects approved in 2010 aimed at supporting the humanitarian response to “sudden onset” emergencies, i.e. under the first window of the HRF. These included: one Palestinian project by the Community Bridge Initiative to respond to the humanitarian (WASH) consequences of floods for 140 families living in the Wadi in Gaza; three proposals to address the Tuta Absoluta crop pest in Gaza; two projects in response to the devastation caused fire in the West Bank; and one protection project to prevent the imminent implementation of demolition orders against communities in the southern Hebron Hills which are home to some of the most vulnerable families in the oPt.

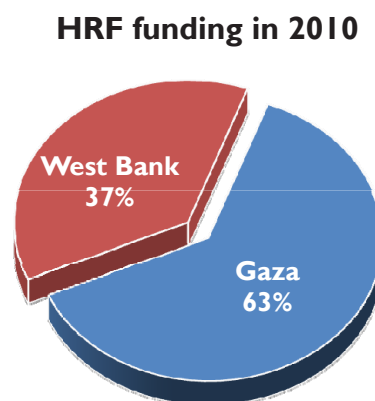
Eight projects helped fill critical gaps, i.e. under the second window of the HRF. These included: two projects for three schools in need of emergency rehabilitation as part of the Humanitarian Country Team’s Area C Response Plan; two projects addressing water scarcity needs in the southern West Bank; one project aimed at ensuring sufficient water pressure throughout the water system to mitigate water shortages in the West Bank; and, two projects in Gaza in response to the lack of access to water and sanitation services.

The very nature of the crisis in the oPt – a protracted humanitarian and human rights crisis, with few unforeseen changes in the humanitarian environment – helps explain why more projects were funded under the second window of the HRF. Indeed, most of the project proposals submitted to the HRF aim at addressing critical gaps within an existing response plan and based on cluster assessments. On the contrary, there have been few new needs caused by unforeseen emergencies (response to the Wadi flooding and crop pest in Gaza and response in the West Bank to the Jordan Valley fires).

Projects by location and sector

Of the fifteen projects approved in 2010, seven were implemented in Gaza and eight in the West Bank. However, the largest portion of funding – went to projects in Gaza, i.e. 63 percent (USD\$ 1,531,713).

Fig 2 Chart below showing area of distribution of HRF funding in 2010



The fifteen projects approved in 2010 were implemented in the following four humanitarian sectors: Agriculture (5), Education (2), Protection (1) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (7). To compare, in 2008, the fourteen projects implemented with HRF funding were divided as follows: four in Health, six in Shelter and four in WASH.

Agriculture and WASH alone represent eighty percent of the projects approved in 2010. This is due to the fact that both these sectors were the most affected by sudden onset emergencies during that year (e.g. Wadi floods, crop pest, Jordan Valley fires), and the ones in which critical gaps arose. Agriculture and WASH were indeed two of the least funded sectors in the CAP in 2010, with only 24 percent and 38 percent of requirements met.

In Gaza there were four Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects, and three in the Agriculture sector for a total of US\$ 1,531,713.

Fig 3 Table below shows the percentage split per sector of the HRF funding in 2010

Sector	No. of HRF projects funded	\$ Funding Received
Agriculture	5	\$750,478
Education	2	\$330,868
Food	0	0
Protection	1	\$34,436
Shelter	0	0
Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH)	7	\$ 1,000,110
Totals	15	\$2,115,893.43

In the West Bank, two projects were in the Agriculture sector, two in the education sector, one in the protection sector, and three in the WASH sector, for a total of US\$ 784,173.43.

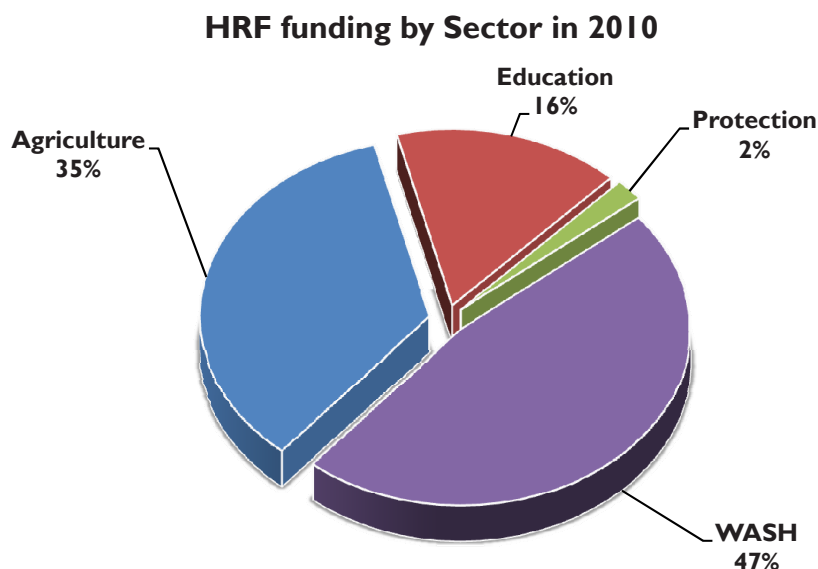
The HRF remains a tool for NGOs

Distribution by agency shows that 88 percent of the total HRF funding for 2010 went to NGOs, with a split of 22 percent going to national NGOs for a total of US\$ 469,844.43, (a decrease of 20% compared to 2009) and 66 percent going to International NGOs for a total of US\$ 1,396,049.00 (an increase of 18 percent compared to 2009). In total, 14 international and national NGO projects were funded for a total

of US\$1,865,893, while only one UN project by FAO was funded for a total amount of US\$ 250,000.

This is in line with 2009 (90 percent went to NGOs with a split of 48 percent going to international NGOs (INGOs) and 42 percent going to national NGOs) and with 2008 (100 percent went to NGOs with a split of 71 percent going to International NGOs and the remainder to the Palestinian NGO). It shows that the HRF continues to fulfil its objective of providing international and national NGOs with a flexible rapid funding mechanism. Several issues with applications of Palestinian NGOs were noted in 2010. In particular a high number of proposals did not fit the HRF criteria. This underlines the

Fig 4 Chart below showing the percentage split per sector of the HRF funding in 2010



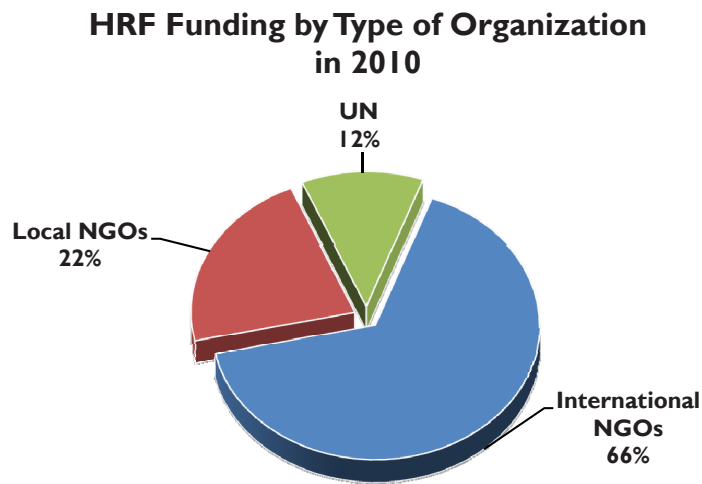
need for OCHA to further sensitize national NGOs on HRF criteria and conditions, and to provide support with drafting proposals so as to increase the share of HRF funding disbursed in favour of national NGO projects.

Only one UN agency – FAO - benefited from HRF funds in 2010. Restrictions on the size of HRF grants, as well as on administrative and staff costs, continue to make the HRF a tool

better suited for funding NGO projects than UN projects. However, contrary to NGOs, UN agencies in need of rapid and flexible funding are able to access the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). As such, by focusing on the provision of direct, flexible and rapid funding to NGOs, the HRF in oPt has found its niche as the necessary complement to the CERF, which is only directly accessible to UN agencies.

5. Process and monitoring of

Fig 5 Charts below showing funding split by agency type and funding split by NGO type



projects

Timeframe for funds being disbursed

The timeframe for a completed application being submitted and the Humanitarian Coordinator providing a decision is usually four to five working days. The average processing time over the year for projects by OCHA's Finance Section was 5 to 7 working days for clearance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and 12.5 to 21 working days between the submission of the signed MoU and the release of the first instalment of funding. The sometimes long process between the time an application is received and the disbursement of funds was partly due to the slow administrative process within the UN Secretariat that at times could mean a delay of up to 4 weeks in the release of the first instalment of funding. The optimum

target to achieve this year will be not more than 3 weeks between the receipt of a proposal and the disbursement of funds, and not more than 2 weeks in the case of an emergency.

Monitoring of projects

HRF implementing partners have a responsibility to undertake the monitoring and evaluation of projects and the standard final report format includes a section on monitoring and evaluation which must be completed. OCHA monitors and evaluates the HRF as a whole. In addition, the HRF Secretariat, together with the relevant OCHA field offices and in consultation with the Cluster Leads, undertakes independent monitoring and evaluation of HRF projects in the field.

In 2010, project monitoring activities were included in all projects approved by the HRF. In addition, financial audits of all projects certified the correct use of the funds. In addition, the HRF Secretariat carried out field visits to all projects

approved. Regular discussions during cluster meetings also enabled the collection of valuable information on project implementation and lessons learned.

6. Achievements

Alignment with HCT priorities

The HRF Secretariat paid particular emphasis on ensuring that projects supported by HRF in 2010 were in line with the HCT and clusters' priorities. This was achieved mainly through a greater engagement of cluster leads; and strengthened link between the HRF and coordination activities of the HCT. The HRF targeted the most vulnerable groups and provided a rapid and coherent response coherent with the needs and priorities identified by clusters. As a result, projects supported by the HRF, besides addressing immediate needs of beneficiaries, also helped promote better coordination. The HRF contributed to make the humanitarian response more strategic, systematic and inclusive of partners.

Addressing gender equality in HRF projects

Advancing gender equality was better addressed in HRF projects in 2010. The HRF paid particular attention to ensuring that projects approved were designed to meet the specific needs of women, girls, boys, and men. The introduction in the oPt of the IASC gender marker tool, which encourages agencies to include gender analysis in their needs assessments and integrate the advancement of gender equality into activities and outcomes, was of great support in that endeavour.

7. Conclusion and way forward

Four years after its establishment, the HRF has managed to establish itself as an essential tool for the humanitarian community in oPt. It has shown its effectiveness in providing rapid and flexible funding to organizations involved in humanitarian response at the onset of a new emergency and/or when critical gaps in response plans emerge. The HRF has also proved to be a critical tool for supporting coordination and improving partnerships between UN and international and local NGOs. The HRF has helped promote the participation of organizations, particularly local NGOs, in existing coordination mechanisms and inter-agency response plans. As such, the HRF helps to implement a timelier and more focused humanitarian response in oPt.

Numerous challenges remain though. Striking a balance between timely decision-making to provide a rapid response to needs and ensuring the quality and appropriateness of the project itself, is always difficult. Poor quality of project proposals submitted to the HRF, coupled with sometimes difficult coordination between applying organizations and humanitarian clusters, has often resulted in significant delays in the processing of applications. The continued efforts of the HRF Secretariat to help humanitarian partners improve the quality of project proposals, together with the increasingly active role of cluster leads in the HRF process and the increasing alignment of HRF funding priorities with coordination priorities, should help address some of these concerns in

2011. Moreover, OCHA's newly dedicated resources to establishing a strong Inter-Cluster mechanism with a strategy designed to support partnerships, cross-cutting issues as well as effective inter-cluster support, will contribute to addressing the above gaps.

Distinguishing between core humanitarian needs and chronic social and/or environmental issues remains a constant challenge for all organizations working in oPt, due to the very nature of this protracted crisis. This also impacts on the HRF decision-making process and sometimes results in significant delays, particularly when projects are submitted under the HRF "critical gap" window. While a consensus on the borders between emergency relief and development is unlikely to be found soon, it is important for the HRF to tackle this issue in a more systematic way. Thus, in 2011 the HRF Secretariat will work with cluster leads on the development of further standards and guidance for organizations applying to the HRF, in the hope that this will help clarify further which projects the HRF can fund and which projects fall outside the scope of the HRF.

In line with the above, the HRF Secretariat will continue to strengthen the links between the HRF and coordination mechanisms, particularly clusters and the inter-cluster forum. This will help to maximize the impact of the HRF by ensuring that HRF projects focus on the most important priorities, complement other cluster projects and are part of clearly defined inter-agency strategies. In turn, such a use of the

HRF is also expected to help promote better coordination and empower the HC and cluster leads.

Increasing the proportion of funds disbursed in favour of Palestinian NGOs will also be crucial in 2011. This is essential in order to ensure that HRF contributes to implementing more sustainable solutions to humanitarian challenges, as well as helping to build local response capacities to humanitarian disasters and promoting strengthened partnerships with the local civil society.

To address these challenges, OCHA will continue to improve its Secretarial support and management of the HRF in 2011. In addition to creating an additional national post to support the HRF team, OCHA will review and consolidate its internal procedures for the processing of projects, with the aim of reducing the timeframe for the processing of projects. A new and more comprehensive database to monitor the status of projects and their implementation will also be put in place. In line with its achievements in 2010, OCHA will also continue to improve the flow of information with Members of the Advisory Board and humanitarian partners so as to ensure the transparency and accountability of the HRF.

Annex I

Overview of the Fund in 2010 Results of HRF Projects per Cluster

Overview of Agriculture				
No. of projects	Total budget US\$	Implementing agencies	Regions	Major Outcomes
5	750,478.4	ACTED, Near East Foundation, FAO, Economic and Social Development Center of Palestine (ESDC), UWAC (Union of Agricultural Work Committees)	Gaza Strip: Western Rafah, middle and south area of Gaza Strip. West Bank: Jordan Valley	<p>Number of beneficiaries: 24,368 Children 14,380 Women 14,766 Men 62,519 in Total</p> <p>Project results: Distributing 10,100 Water traps 30,000 Pheromone doses 5,000 printed information leaflets Protection nets for 300 and double door for 300 dunums, and greenhouse roof plastic for 100 dunums of tomatoes greenhouses. rehabilitate greenhouses for 200 farms Distributing 180 tons of fodder Distributing 16 tons of seeds</p> <p>ERF's added value to the project: - rapid and flexible ERF funding helped mitigate potential spread of disease tomato leaf miner (tuta absoluta) crop pest which has attacked crops in Gaza that was threatening loosing the harvest in the entire strip. In addition, responds to damages caused by a fire in the northern Jordan valley.</p>

Overview of Education				
No. of projects	Total budget US\$	Implementing agencies	Regions	Major Outcomes
2	330,868.63	Islamic Relief, MANN Development	West Bank: South Hebron	<p>Number of beneficiaries 225 Children - Women - Men 225 in Total</p> <p>Project results: Construction of eight Classrooms and five containers Rehabilitation & Maintenance of two classroom & ten containers 1800 meters of external Work (school yard, boundary wall, side walks)</p> <p>Construction of three Sanitation Units with three Openings each Rehabilitation of two Sanitation Units</p> <p>ERF's added value to the project: - To enhance access to safe, healthy and sustainable educational facilities for marginalized communities in south West Bank (Hathaleenn , Rawain and Kisan Communities)</p>

Overview of Protection				
No. of projects	Total budget US\$	Implementing agencies	Regions	Major Outcomes
1	34,436	Rabbais for Human Rights	West Bank: South Hebron	<p>Number of beneficiaries 162 Children 80 Women 76 Men 318 in Total</p> <p>Project results: Two Survey maps One Zoning Plan One Parcel Plan Two Ariel photos</p> <p>ERF's added value to the project: - rapid and flexible ERF funding helped protect the well-being of Palestinian residents facing demolition of their homes and shelters, denied access to their lands and uprooting of trees, and de facto expulsion from two villages and an essential plot of agricultural land in the South Hebron Hills. To try to prevent the likely permanent displacement of Palestinian residents from the two villages, their loss of livelihood, interruption of the agricultural infrastructure, and loss of these unique cultural communities.</p>

Overview of WASH

No. of projects	Total budget US\$	Implementing agencies	Regions	Major Outcomes
7	1,000,110.8	ACF, Community Bridge Initiative, GVC (Gruppo di volontariato civile), Palestinian Hydraulical Group, Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH),	Gaza Strip: Beit Lahya + Beit Hanoun, Jabalia City, Wadi Gaza, West Bank: West Hebron, Tulkarm,	<p>Number of beneficiaries</p> <p>31,988 (680,000 indirect) Children 17,187 (433,000 indirect) Women 14,371 (437,000 indirect) Men 60,547 (1,550,000 indirect) Total</p> <p>Project results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - procuring six water pumps and getting them into Gaza - Evacuation of 140 cesspits using vacuum tankers. - Health Promotion and Hygienic awareness community through 50 sessions. - Distribution of hygienic materials to 140 families - Constructing 1500 meters of UPCV sewer; - Connecting 116 households to new sewerage system; - Serving 324 families with proper sewerage system; - Supplying clean and safe potable water to 20 000 inhabitants; - Cleaning Streets from sewage - Liquidating 35 septic tanks - construct 8400 meters of sewerage Network Lines (supply, excavation, installation & backfill) - construct 575 Manholes (supply & installation) - Liquidate 55 Cesspits (removal & backfill) - conduct of 300 Water Analysis samples - Distribute and print awareness Materials <p>ERF's added value to the project: Responded to the Wadi Gaza flood addressing the threat to hygiene from flooded latrines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for CMWU flood response capacities as part of the Winter Response Plan for Gaza • -existing improper wastewater collection and discharging system which cause flooding, construction of proper sewage collection and disposal systems. • -provide the construction of sewage gravity line and household connections, water quality monitoring activities, as well as hygiene awareness campaigns.

Summary of HRF Allocations by donor

Donor	Amount Local Currency	Currency	Received amount in USD	Status	Pledge amount US\$	Pledge Date	Received Date
2007							
Spain	1,250,000	EUR	1,000,000	Paid	1,000,000	10/20/2006	4/24/2007
Sweden	10,000,000	SEK	1,469,496	Paid	1,469,496	4/1/2007	5/21/2007
		Total	2,469,496		2,469,496		
2008							
Spain	700,000	EUR	918,635	Paid	925,926	12/15/2008	2/25/2009
Norway	5,000,000	NOK	713,840	Paid	713,840	11/11/2008	12/5/2008
Sweden	7,000,000	SEK	893,735	Paid	893,735	12/3/2008	12/22/2008
		Total	2,526,210		2,533,501		
2009							
Ireland	500,000	EUR	661,376	Paid	661,376	1/15/2009	1/28/2009
Netherlands	1,102,941	USD	1,102,941	Paid	1,102,941	6/16/2009	7/7/2009
Norway	5,000,000	NOK	778,259	Paid	778,259	4/20/2009	5/13/2009
Sweden	10,000,000	SEK	1,416,400	Paid	1,416,400	1/26/2009	9/9/2009
Sweden	12,000,000	SEK	1,656,120	Paid	1,656,120	12/9/2009	12/16/2009
Switzerland	903,698	CHF	869,501	Paid	869,501	12/5/2009	12/17/2009
United Kingdom	1,000,000	GBP	1,436,782	Paid	1,436,782	2/9/2009	3/30/2009
		Total	7,921,379		7,921,379		
2010							
United Kingdom	1,000,000	GBP	1,600,000	Paid	1,600,000	12/30/2009	1/13/2010
Norway	5,000,000	NOK	760,185	Paid	764,059	6/15/2010	7/6/2010
Spain	500,000	EUR	680,272	Paid	680,272	8/20/2010	10/14/2010
Spain	700,000	EUR	942,127	Paid	942,127	3/11/2010	4/12/2010
		Total	3,982,584		3,986,457		
Grand Total							16,899,667

3. Information is based on OCHA tracking system.