



# HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FUND

Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Somalia

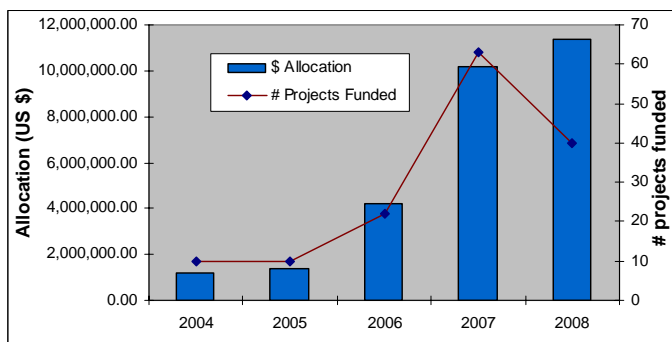
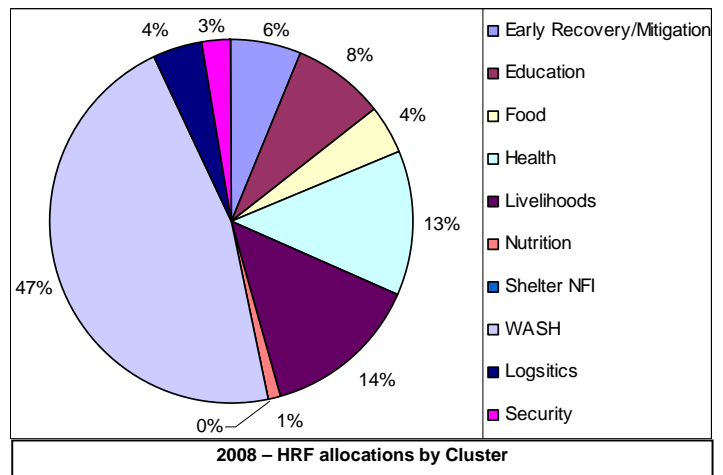
## Overview

The Humanitarian Response Fund (HRF), established in 2004, is a pooled fund of un-earmarked donor contributions, at the disposal of the humanitarian community in Somalia, including UN agencies, local and international NGOs and the Red Cross/Crescent.

The mandate of the HRF is to provide timely, flexible and predictable funding to kick start emergency response, initiate catalytic interventions and address geographical, sectoral and funding gaps. The Fund is managed by the Humanitarian Coordinator with support of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), together with the HRF Advisory Board comprised of UN agencies, the NGO Consortium and two NGOs (local and international). The allocations are decided through consultation with the Clusters, field coordination structures and the Advisory Board members, thereby supporting an enhanced coordinated response. In 2008, HRF Somalia received funding from Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, and United Kingdom.

The HRF supports emergency humanitarian interventions with a duration of up to six months and allocation of up to \$250,000 per project. An implementing agency can have a maximum of three active projects at one time. Commensurate to the continuing humanitarian needs in Somalia, however, exceptions can be made for allocations up to \$500,000 and more than three active projects per agency. In its funding allocation exercises, the HRF maintains allocation balances geographically across the country corresponding to needs with the majority of the funds being for emergency and life-saving purposes.

With the strong and continuing support from donors, the HRF has developed into a key humanitarian financial mechanism for Somalia. As of the end of August 2008, the HRF had received US \$18,916,743.95 in contributions including carry forward of US \$9.14 million from 2007. By the end of September 2008, the HRF had committed a total of \$11,373,693 to 43 humanitarian projects responding to various needs arising from humanitarian emergencies throughout the country and benefiting 2.5 million beneficiaries. Due to the prevailing harsh drought conditions during much of 2008 and as a result of priorities set and agreed by the humanitarian community, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and livelihood interventions received priority allocations to scale up emergency water activities and livelihood strategies to save lives and support the most drought stricken communities in South/Central Somalia, Puntland and some parts of Somaliland.



The interventions aimed to improve water supply and reduce soaring water prices through the maintenance and repair of boreholes, back up generators, fuel subsidies and water trucking.

In view of the deepening drought and ongoing humanitarian emergency needs in South/Central Somalia, the HRF will support projects from the priority regions of Hiraan, Bakool, Galgaduud and Mudug. The HRF will also continue supporting the ongoing life-saving interventions for IDPs in and around Mogadishu. In total, since its inception, the HRF has allocated US \$27,023,551 to 141 projects implemented by over 65 partners.

## 2008 HRF Project Highlights

### Support to live-saving humanitarian assistance for IDPs in and around Mogadishu

Due to the unabated levels of insecurity which are still creating significant levels of civilian displacement, the HRF has been supporting essential life-saving activities in Mogadishu and along the Afgooye corridor. The HRF has thus far allocated over US \$2.8 million to support partners provide critical assistance to IDPs, ensuring access to clean, safe water and sanitation facilities to prevent the deterioration of health conditions in IDP settlements.



(One of "wet feeding centres" in Mogadishu: Photo: SAACID, 2008)



(Water trucking in Afgooye, Lower Shabelle: Photo: CED, 2008)

In 2008, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam GB/Hijra and a local NGO, FERRO, have built emergency latrines and conducted hygiene promotion. The partnership of Oxfam GB, Oxfam NOVIB, SAACID and a local NGO Centre for Education (CED) has been providing IDPs with access to safe clean water by water trucking, rehabilitating boreholes and setting up water kiosks.

SAACID has also been implementing the cleaning up of IDP settlements through cash-for-work and provision of over 75,000 prepared meals a day through 16 kitchens in 16 districts in Mogadishu. The successful implementation of the cooked meals project has been made possible by a consortium of donors including WFP, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Oxfam NOVIB and the HRF.

### Support to saving lives and alleviating suffering of drought-affected people

Between February and June 2008, the HRF supported five water trucking projects and the rehabilitation of water sources for populations in drought affected parts of Puntland and many areas of central Somalia, benefiting an estimated 2.1 million beneficiaries and their livestock. The rehabilitation of more than twelve wells and the improvement of water storage capacities for water harvesting facilities, such as rain water catchments, were also supported by the HRF. Five health and nutrition projects implemented by UNFPA, Merlin, CISP, MDM and AFREC assisted an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries to cope with the health related effects of the drought, conflict and general vulnerability. In addition, the HRF has supported an emergency education project implemented by UNICEF in the Afgooye corridor. The HRF also supported two projects for security support and the UNHAS operations.

### Livelihood support to address nutrition crisis in South Central Somalia

Partners including Agrosphere, Water for Life and DRC have undertaken various livelihood support activities in Lower Shabelle and Hiraan regions with HRF funding to reinforce livelihoods by implementing cash for work projects through the rehabilitation of productive infrastructure including canals, provision of seeds, and rehabilitation of roads, as well as supporting cash relief interventions. The main aim of these projects was to create opportunities for gaining direct access to income for a large number of vulnerable communities in order to improve coping strategies by preventing further erosion and loss of their assets. UNDP and HARDO carried out early recovery interventions in the Middle Shabelle region to assist in the mitigation of recurring disasters and future shocks. These projects strengthened the local coping mechanisms and had both short and long term positive effects on food security.

## HRF Advisory Board

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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