

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR
ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS**

Country	Syrian Arab Republic
Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator	Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed
Reporting Period	January – December 2008

I. Executive Summary

In 2008, Syria faced a dual humanitarian challenge: it hosted the most Iraqi refugees of any country in the region at the same time it faced its worst drought in forty years.

Official figures for the number of Iraqi refugees in Syria varied from 1.1 million to 1.4 million. Iraqi refugees in Syria have received support and humanitarian assistance from both the host government and the international community, but their economic and social situation steadily worsened due to the depletion of savings and remittances from abroad, and the effects of the drought, especially in the hard-hit North Eastern governorates.

The Syrian Government estimated that up to 200,000 Syrian families---as many as one million people---, predominantly herders and subsistence farmers, had suffered severely from the drought. The impact has been felt so dramatically, in fact, that the Government approached the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), requesting mobilization of emergency funds from UN agencies and the donor community. Also, in late July, the RC's office received a letter from ERC indicating that Syria has been selected to receive allocation from the underfunded emergencies window of the (CERF). According to the letter, Syria could propose up to US \$ 4 million in projects that would enable better coverage of the humanitarian needs of refugees in Syria. In response, UNCT prepared and submit projects that need immediate funds for the 4th quarter of 2008. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) did not indicate immediate funding needs for the 4th quarter, the CERF allocation supported projects in health/nutrition, water and sanitation. The gaps in these sectors had arisen due to insufficient donor support.

The main objectives were to increase support to the most vulnerable Iraqi refugee families, especially those that had not yet registered with UNHCR and could not therefore, be reached through UNHCR's assistance programs. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) identified priorities and aimed to provide balanced and multi-sectoral assistance to the Iraqi Refugee population in Syria.

Even as the HCT was preparing for the submission of the projects to assist the refugees; it received an official letter from the Government of Syria requesting humanitarian assistance. Following up, the HCT in Syria conducted a joint needs assessment mission in August, 2008. The participant agencies were FAO, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, and IOM. The mission verified the impact of the drought on crop production, livestock, vulnerable groups, herders, and household income. The results confirmed that the situation was considerably worse than initially estimated--the lack of water and irregular rains over 2007 and 2008 rain season severely threatened the food security of farmers and the herders in the affected zones and seriously endangered their livelihoods and nutritional status.

The HCT therefore developed a comprehensive proposal, guided by the CERF life-saving criteria, to address priority health, nutrition and agriculture sector through the implementation of FAO, UNICEF, and WFP projects.

The decision regarding the allocation of the CERF Underfunded Emergency Grants was taken by the HCT, in consultation with the members of the Iraqi Refugee Working Group, the primary Inter-Agency coordination body meeting on all issues related to the Iraqi refugees in Syria. Priority was given to the projects included in the previous sectoral appeals and not funded properly. Interventions in Health and Water and Sanitation were related to the under-funded projects included in the sectoral appeals for the Iraqi refugees, launched in 2007; the Agency had to have adequate implementation capacity to implement the project before the end of 2008;

Project vetting was facilitated by the RC's Office and in the forum of the Iraqi Refugee Working Group, chaired by HCR. The latter meeting brings together all of the sectors, as well as three international NGOs operating in Syria. In allocating funds from CERF's rapid response (RR) window to react to the humanitarian impact of the drought, the HCT took the decision based on the results of the assessment. The HCT decided that the minimum immediate response required to restore farming activities in the drought affected areas was the urgent provision of seeds, agricultural inputs, fodders, and food assistance to enable farmers restore their farming activities, and herders to maintain their livestock and survive till the harvest of the next growing season due to start mid September 2008. Health interventions and food for education assistance were also key to restoring stability to an already vulnerable population.

Summary of the CERF money requested and received status

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received during the reporting year	REQUIRED: RECEIVED:	\$ 109,424,289 \$ 16,283,879		
Total amount requested from CERF	FUNDS (IN TOTAL REQUESTED):	\$ 10,298,331		
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	RAPID RESPONSE: UNDERFUNDED: GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 6,966,175 \$ 624,741 \$ 7,590,916		
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency / IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners	UN AGENCIES/IOM: TOTAL(Must equal the total CERF funding allocated):	\$ 7,590,916 \$ 7,590,916		
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding (disaggregated by sex/age if possible)	TOTAL	under 5 years of age	Female (If available)	Male (If available)
	Food (WFP)			
	200,000	13,900 girls/ 13,900 boys/ total (27,800)	86,100	86,100
	177,340		84,591	92,749
	Water and Sanitation (UNICEF)			
	15,000	3,135	4,350	7,515
	Health (UNFPA/WHO)			
	18,000		18,000	

Geographic areas of implementation targeted with CERF funding (please be specific)	Geographic distribution of Iraqi refugees in Syria, with focus on areas with high concentrations and with the most vulnerable, such as Jeremana and Sayeda Zeinab, sub-urban poor areas in Damascus. In addition, Drought affected areas especially the Badia area of the North-Eastern Governorates (Hassake, Raqqa, Deir-Ezzor), Al-Saan area, Al-Salamiya district, and Aleppo.
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II. Background

The Iraqi refugees crisis, spread among Syria and other countries in the Middle East, is one of the most complex in the world. The violence in Iraq has displaced an estimated number of 2.5 million Iraqis within the country and forced another 2 to 2.5 million to flee to neighboring countries. Since 2003, Syria has hosts the largest and increasingly impoverished Iraqi refugee population. The number of fled refugees increased significantly in 2006-2007 because generalized violence in Iraq. The Government of Syria extended its welcome to all Iraqis and allowed unimpeded access to its health and education services. Nevertheless, in a country of 19 million, the presence of 1.5 million more people has had a profound impact on public services. The Iraqi refugee situation in Syria was further aggravated in 2008 due to the global financial crisis, rising food prices and the drought wave in the region. The above-mentioned factors overwhelmed local coping mechanism that were already exhausted by the Lebanon Crisis in 2006, and the presence of the Iraqi refugees since 2003.

Iraqi refugees in Syria were considered urban refugees. Therefore, their priority humanitarian needs were:

1. Refugee protection and legal status;
2. Access to education and increased school attendance rates;
3. Access to healthcare while improving its quality;
4. Improved provision of water and sanitation, and ;
5. Provision of food and a monthly stipend to the most vulnerable refugee families.

The overall objective of the HCT in Syria was to provide adequate, coherent and over-arching assistance and support to the Iraqi refugees, with a special emphasis on a) protection, b) basic needs and access to public services, c) resettlement and return. The proposed CERF grants would cover the essential needs in two primary underfunded sectors: health/nutrition, water and sanitation. In addition the grants enabled the UNCT to expand basic assistance to an additional 2,000 vulnerable Iraqi refugee families. The RC's office obtained assurances from all agencies putting forward the project proposals that they did not have any reserves or donor funds immediately available to finance their activities. In this respect, the CERF was used as a fund of last resort.

Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations

The drought affected all regions of the country, leading to very poor crop growth. However, its impact was most severe in the North-Eastern and Eastern regions, referred to as the Badia (Syrian Steppe). The impact of the drought has been assessed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform and by UN Joint Rapid Drought Impact Assessment mission. The participating agencies were: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WFP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

A Rapid Drought Impact Assessment mission found that the situation as it stood could result in chronic vulnerabilities among the poor communities if emergency assistance was not made available before the 2009 crop season. There was an immediate need to restore farming

activities through the provision of seeds, agricultural inputs, fodders, and to provide food assistance to enable farmers restore their farming activities, and to maintain herders' livestock till the harvest of the next growing season that started in mid-September 2008. Health interventions and food for education assistance were also key to restoring stability to livelihood of an already vulnerable population.

Syria's HCT decided, based on the results of the assessment, to submit projects to enable the minimum immediate response. HCT prioritized the requirements as follows:

1: Food Security and Livelihoods:

FAO would provide emergency/humanitarian assistance of wheat seed to 6,000 destitute small farmers who lost their crops as a result of this year drought, enabling them to restore their farming activities by mid-October 2008. Also, FAO would provide support to 300 poor small livestock herders/raisers, enabling them avoid losing their productive assets due to the drought.

WFP planned to distribute 6 months of food aid worth \$5.8 million to 40,000 herders families for the preservation of livelihoods (reduced sale of livestock and other assets, reduced rates of displacement and migration), a stabilized food consumption pattern (food diversity and frequency) and reduced rates of moderate malnutrition.

UNICEF would provide 15,000 people with sustainable access to safe drinking water before the end of 2008 through supplementing district capacity for water treatment and purification. Water borne diseases were to be averted through enhanced access to safe drinking water in Al-Saan area, Al-Salamiya district, and Hama governorate.

III. Implementation and results

1. Coordination and implementation arrangements

Both underfunded and rapid response projects faced delays during implementation. WFP and FAO both requested for No-Cost Extensions. As for the FAO project, all the activities needed for completing the project as planned were taken appropriately, but the timely procurement of the animal feed was not possible due to a lack of familiarity of Syrian companies with FAO's procurement rules. Therefore, FAO sought a one-month no-cost extension, by the end of which their project was finalized.

WFP also submitted a request for No-Cost Extension, citing unexpected difficulties related to changes in the governmental import policy. The changes drove WFP to start seeking new local providers. In addition, WFP's negotiations with Syrian authorities for the establishment of new import modalities to access assistance without delay has taken time. This unexpected development forced WFP to request a no-cost extension from January 1 to March 31, 2009. Eventually, WFP finalized their project.

Finally, WHO is implementing project that was funded through CERF's underfunded window. Their project will be completed on 30th of June 2009. The total amount of \$425,000 was to be spent on three main activities:

- Provision of emergency drugs totalling \$100,000, (finalized.)
- Provision of safe water testing equipment with a total of US \$ 100,000 (almost finalized.)
- Provision of emergency equipment totalling \$ 225,000.(Procurement is at WHO's HQ, which is still trying to finalize it before being forced to submit non-cost extension request.

2. Project activities and results, including actual beneficiaries

Assistance to Refugees

HEALTH

- WHO's project aimed to expand Iraqi refugees' access to a quality preventive and curative health care services. Most of the Iraqi patients (especially those who are not registered with UNHCR) faced either the scarcity of drugs or the increased cost of treatment at health facilities. Also some emergency departments lacked the supplies and equipment needed to provide quality health care. CERF funding was distributed among main three activities; First, the provision of emergency drugs, which was finalized. The second portion was allocated for the provision of safe water testing equipments, which is finalized. The last portion was allocated for the provision of emergency equipment for health facilities serving Iraqis. This part is still in the bidding process at WHO headquarters.
- A United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) project was designed to secure the necessary psychological support services, reproductive health (RH)-related care and the necessary referrals to the victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). CERF funding was allocated to take the following activities:
 1. Two independent psychosocial specialists were deployed to the Zabadani Shelter for Battered Women. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Caritas, the Association for Women's Role Development, and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd ran shelters. They provided the necessary psychosocial support services, and referrals were made when needed, specifically to Iraqi women on a scheduled basis;
 2. Two independent RH specialists were Deployed to the Zabadani Shelter for Battered women, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Caritas, Association for Women's Role Development, and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd that run shelters; they concentrated on securing the necessary direct RH related care to the victims of SGBV on a scheduled basis;
 3. UNFPA provided eight RH kits # 3 (containing emergency contraception, pregnancy test, and supplies for presumptive treatment for STIs and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent HIV infection), 8 RH kits# 4 (oral & injectable contraceptives), 8 RH kits # 5 (containing supplies for the treatment of STIs) and 8 RH kits # 9 (designed to manage the consequences of sexual violence at the referral level facilities);
 4. 8000 hygiene kits provided to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Zabadani Shelter for Battered Women Caritas, Association for Women's Role Development, and the Sisters of the Good Shepherd that run shelters providing services to Iraqis, to be distributed among Iraqi women.

FOOD

- A joint 2007 Assessment Mission found that Iraqi refugees faced insufficient access to food. The project aims to increase Iraqi Refugee's ability to meet their food needs. WFP used the CERF fund for the provision of basic food items to be distributed by WFP, UNHCR and SARC on a bi-monthly. The food ration was determined to cover the daily energy requirements of all registered targeted Iraqi Refugees. As of Jan 2009 about 177,340 beneficiaries received full basic food basket through bi-monthly distributions.

Assistance to Drought Affected Population

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- The objective of the FAO project was to restore the food security and livelihoods of the most-affected households through the provision of immediate support to 6 000 destitute farmers and 300 small-scale herders in the North-Eastern provinces of Deir-Ezzor, Ar-Raqqah and Al-Hasakah. The project aimed to restore the agricultural activities of the beneficiary farmers by assisting them in planting 2 ha of their land. The beneficiary herders were assisted with the maintenance of the remainder of their herds. Specifically, the project planned to procure and distribute 900 tonnes of improved wheat seed varieties to 6 000 farmers and 90 tonnes of concentrate livestock feed to 300 small herders. The project took place in coordination with the government and other partners working in the area to avoid duplication and to ensure targeting the neediest households.
- The objective of the WFP project was to preserve the livelihoods of the affected population by the drought. A six-month food ration was distributed to reduce sale of livestock and other assets and lower rates of displacement and migration. The project aimed to ensure a better food security status of the targetted population (food diversity and frequency). CERF funds allowed for the provision of food items that were distributed to about 37,500 beneficiaries.

WATER AND SANITATION

- UNICEF's project aimed to provide sustainable access to safe drinking water. CERF funds allowed for the provision of Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit, installation as well as maintenance, including providing the unit with spare parts and chemicals for one year's operation. Finally, as the needs and technical specifications have led to a bigger and more complex RO Unit than the first estimation, UNICEF had to provide USD 80,000 of its own funds in addition to the USD 251,450 received from CERF in order to cover the overall cost including monitoring visits with GoS counterparts. The increased capacity of the RO enabled the treatment unit to provide drinking water (80 l / day / persons) to 25,000 people instead of the planned objective of 15,000 people.

3. Partnerships

The CERF Grant ensured adequate and timely coverage of life-saving needs in the target areas, which could not have been as successful without the collaboration of the UN partners. UN partners comprised a varied spectrum of governmental counterparts: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform State Planning Commission; General Commission of Badia, General Establishment for Storage and Marketing of Agriculture and Animal Products; Ministry of Housing and Construction, Hama Governorate; and General Institution for Water and Sanitation. In addition, SARC was the major implementing partner for WFP concerning distribution of food items to the Iraqi Refugees.

As a response to the dual crisis, the partnerships were based on sectoral, specialized and geographic coverage. The interagency coordination meetings and sectoral group meetings facilitated the effective coordination and participation, sharing of reports, and plans, and achievements by the respective agencies/projects and local authorities. Local governmental authorities and NGOs (SARC) were very active in meetings and were effective in delivering supplies to the affected areas and in collection and sharing of information on the affected population. Sectoral meetings supported deliberations concerning operational thematic issues on the ground, which ultimately improved the performance of the agencies working on the sector and guaranteed complementarity, reduced duplication of efforts, and enhanced an efficient humanitarian response.

4. Gender-mainstreaming

Considering the social and cultural setting in the drought affected area and the social and cultural setting for Iraqi refugee population, the UN system gave special attention to women's needs to encourage gender equity. With the support of the CERF funds, the following interventions were put in place to ensure that women in vulnerable situations

were protected and their needs prioritised:

- UNFPA dedicated its project to provide protection and health, psychological care to women.
- FAO considered the female headed household as the primary criterion for the selection process.
- WFP's projects targeted equally both gender and paid special attention to minors.
- UNICEF's targeted beneficiaries were women in child bearing, pregnant women and children.

5. Monitoring and evaluation

Upon distribution of the CERF grants to the different agencies, project implementation commenced under specific agreed arrangements between the agencies and their respective counterparts. The RC provided support to agencies that faced difficulties and delays during the implementation of the projects. OCHA supported Syria UNCT by assisting agencies in preparing the projects and advocating for the humanitarian situations in Syria.

IV. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector (Add project nr and title)	Amount disbursed (US\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners and funds disbursed	Baseline indicators	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
HEALTH	(08-FPA-037) “Ensuring psychological support services and reproductive health related care for SGBV victims”	200,000	18,000 Iraqi Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minister of Health 21,588 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey on SGBV & Quality of Life among Iraqis residing in Syria: ▪ 80 persons out of 3181 (2,51%) were victims of sexual violence (all the victims of rape were women). 48.7% of sexual violence, followed by rape in 35% of cases. ▪ In 78.5% of cases rape was accompanied by other forms of physical violence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RH kits are available to address the specific needs of the Iraqi women; ▪ Affected Iraqi women approaching the shelters for battered women are provided with RH related care and psychological support services during the life cycle of the project and using these specific project resources; ▪ Ensured availability of 5000 hygiene kits to be used by the affected Iraqi women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement & delivery of RH kits contributed to a better health reproductive health related care for the survivors of SGBV (the project is still ongoing & will end by 30 June bringing about the expected result)

HEALTH	(08-WHO-062) Meeting the health care needs of displaced Iraqis in Syria	500,000	1,200,000				
FOOD	(08-WFP-003) Immediate Response (IR) Emergency Operation (EMOP)	4,999,654	An increasing number of up to 177,340 targeted beneficiaries (as of Jan 2009) 84591 females and 92749 males received bi-monthly distributions of food assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Iraqi refugees with insufficient economic access to food to ensure adequate food consumption levels (JAM 2007) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased ability to meet food needs within the targeted Iraqi refugee households vulnerable to shocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All registered and targeted Iraqi Refugees have received a full basic food basket that covered daily energy requirements. 4661mt of rice, 768mt of lentils and 359mt of vegetable oil were purchased, transported and distributed to the beneficiaries of the project. Targets related to the number of beneficiaries have been revisited to reflect trends in the refugee population movement.
FOOD	(08-WFP-102) Emergency Food Assistance to Victims of Drought	965,001	40,000 targeted households (200,000 beneficiaries), girls under 5: 13,900; girls aged 5-18: 37,300; women: 48,800, boys under 5: 13,900; boys aged 5-18: 37,300; men: 48,800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State Planning Commission, ▪ General Commission of Badia, ▪ General Establishment for Storing and Marketing Agriculture and Animal Products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative food security indicators indicating an alarming situation (UN Joint Rapid Drought Impact Assessment in August 2008) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preservation of livelihoods (reduced sale of livestock and other assets, reduced rates of displacement and migration), a stabilized food consumption pattern (food diversity, number of meals) and reduced rates of moderate malnutrition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CERF funds have been used to assure a six-month ration of food assistance for about 37,500 beneficiaries in the Governorates of Hassake and Aleppo. 1140 mt of wheat flour, 190mt of bulghur, 76mt of lentils, 190mt of sugar were distributed. Overall outcomes of this assistance on the lives of beneficiaries cannot be accurately assessed, since the persistent drought has worsened the food security situation of the affected population.

<p>FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS</p>	<p>(08-FAO-056) Emergency Response to Support Livelihoods and Food Security of the Destitute Farmers and Small Herders in the North-Eastern Governorates in Syria</p>	<p>750,070</p>	<p>3,220 farmers and 950 herders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform of the Syrian Arab Republic at the central level and the ▪ Directorates of Agriculture at the provincial level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mostly from interviews with local committees and beneficiaries ▪ The seeds were delivered on time for the planting season. ▪ Seeds and feed were distributed to the neediest beneficiaries . ▪ Reduction of migration to other areas. ▪ Normalized school attendance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency/humanitarian assistance consisting of 900 tonnes of wheat seed provided to 6 000 destitute small farmers who lost their crops as a result of the drought (based on a ration of 150 kg per farmer), enabling them to restore their farming activities in the season starting in mid-October 2008. ▪ Support 300 poor small herders through the distribution of 90 tonnes of livestock feed to enable them to avoid losing their productive assets due to the drought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emergency/humanitarian assistance consisting of 965 tonnes of wheat seeds distributed to about 3 220 drought-affected farmers, with holdings of less than 5 ha and whose main source of income came from planting their land in rain-fed areas in three provinces (based on a ration of 300 kg per farmer). ▪ The timing of the seed distribution allowed the farmers to plant their land before the end of the planting season (in December 2008 and January 2009). If the climatic conditions during the remaining part of the season are favourable, each farmer will be able to harvest a 2-hectare crop. ▪ Over 950 herders were supported through the distribution of 290 tonnes of concentrate livestock feed (based on a ration of approximately 300 kg per herder). ▪ The beneficiaries were mostly women-headed households. ▪ About two-thirds of the families consist of women and children.
<p>WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>08-CEF-079 Provide sustainable access to clean drinking water to 15,000 people in drought affected Al-Salamiya district, Hama Governorate</p>	<p>251,450</p>	<p>15,000 people living in rural drought affected Al-Salamiya district: Under 5 year old population 2,700 Under 1 year old population 435 Women in child bearing age 3,900 pregnant women 450 Total</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General institution for Water and Sanitation, Hama Governorate, Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction and State Planning Commission (SPC) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ By the end of CERF grand period, RO unit is delivered and operational. ▪ 25,000 people (80 l / day) are given access to improved drinking water. ▪ Incidences of water borne diseases and gastroenterological illnesses reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In November 2008, UNICEF met with the General Director for water of the Governorate of Hama and the engineers associated to the project in Salamiye district in Hama Governorate in order to select the site for the installation of the Reverse Osmosis Unit. The site selected already has a water purification unit which is currently in disuse due to lack of water supply from the river that runs next to it. This site was chosen to profit from the already existing infrastructure that will limit the extent of work necessary to host the RO Unit. The RO will be supplied in raw water from 4 already existing wells near by ▪ 3 field visits were carried out by UNICEF staff to the project site. The first one was to determine the site as mentioned above. The second was to discuss preparations needed on the project site in order to be ready to install the RO Unit with UNICEF counterparts

			population in Al-Salamiya district is 206,485				<p>in the Governorate of Hama. The third field visit was a mission to supervise ongoing work at the project site and a technical assessment of the quality of the water to be processed by the RO Unit. This was done in a laboratory in Hama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The procurement process was launched in December 2008 when UNICEF launched a call for proposals (the proposal was done by a committee from Hama water directorate) for the delivery and installation of the Reverse Osmosis Unit. The proposals were reviewed in December by the UNICEF Contract Review Committee (CRC) who awarded the contract. The purchase order was also accepted by the Hama Committee after a review of the bids ▪ As the needs and technical specifications have led to a bigger and more complex RO Unit than the first estimation, UNICEF had to provide USD 80.000 of its own funds in addition to the USD 251,450 received by the CERF in order to cover the overall cost. ▪ UNICEF has recruited a WASH specialist (under Government of Denmark support) in order to ensure follow up, technical assistance and monitoring of the RO Unit installation. ▪ The RO has been delivered and stored to the site in May 2009. It will be installed when the construction of the site will be finalised (planned for July 2009)
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V. CERF IN ACTION



A barley seed beneficiary farmer and his children in Deir-Ezzor province

Abu-Hassan is the father of six boys, ranging in education levels from kindergarten to the tenth grade. His wife, Amal, is fully occupied as she starts her day by preparing breakfast (bread and tea) for her large family and fetching water and firewood (dry grass) to bake bread for dinner and the following morning's breakfast. She then tends to her small number of sheep and chicken, followed by work on her handicraft income-generating activity, making rugs out of sheep wool and selling them on the market. In addition, she hand-washes her family's clothes. Amal explained that her day was long and hectic. She was distressed about not having a crop this season, and that no income would be available for their essential needs and for paying back their debts. However, she is proud that her children go to school. The eldest son's school is 10 km away. He goes by bicycle. The younger boys' school is 3 km away, and they go on foot, which is difficult considering their insufficient food intake, hence their lack of energy.

Because their crops suffered the effects of the drought, Abu-Hassan has been working long days as a casual labourer on other farmers' lands, planting, watering, guarding and harvesting their crops. He was not able to plant his own land, as the family was unable to obtain any crop or seed from the previous season. The family did not have enough resources to buy anything other than mere wheat flour for bread. In response to the drought situation, the family was intending to travel west to seek work, thus abandoning their agricultural activity and their land. In addition, they would have needed to borrow money to cover the cost of the family's transfer to the new area, as well as the establishment of a new shelter. Their children would have had to leave their schools.

However, with the early announcement of CERF funding and FAO assistance, the family learned about the provision of seeds and the possibility for them to harvest crops by the end of the season. Consequently, they decided not to move to an urban area in the west of the country, but rather to stay and continue practising agriculture. The children were pleased to be able to stay in their community and go to school. The mother said that she was happy to be able to survive during such difficult times, as well as to remain on the land where her ancestors lived.

The family received barley seed assistance on 24 December 2008, and now the seeds have started germinating, with the expectation that the rain would come. The family continues to live in Abu-Khashab centre in Deir-Ezzor province.

Annex: Acronyms and Abbreviations

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CRC	Contract Review Committee
ERC	Emergency Response Coordinator
FAO	Food for Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JAM	Joint Assessment Mission
MT	Metric Ton
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCHA	for Coordination and Humanitarian Affairs
PEP	post-exposure prophylaxis
RC	Resident Coordinator
RH Kit	Reproductive Health Kit
RO Unit	Reverse Osmosis Unit
SARC	Syrian Arab Red Crescent
SGBV	Sexual Gender Based Violence
SPC	State Planning Commission
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nation Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water and Sanitation
WFP	World Food Programme (of the United Nations)
WHO	World Health Organization (of the United Nations)