



UNHCR IRAQ

March 2010



Background

- UNHCR has been present in Iraq since the 1980s protecting refugees and asylum seekers. While Iraq is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol it has hosted, with UNHCR's assistance, Palestinian, Iranian, Turkish and Syrian refugees. After the fall of the previous regime, UNHCR's program included assisting returning refugees and IDPs. After the Samara Shrine bombing in February 2006, the UNHCR's responsibility was expanded to assisting internally displaced persons. The main government partners are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM), the Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM) and the Ministry of Interior.
- UNHCR facilitates the return of people who have decided to repatriate on an individual basis. UNHCR has recorded 426,090 Iraqi refugee and IDP returnees during 2008 and 2009. Of this total, 15% are refugees, the rest are IDPs and 90% returned to Baghdad and Diyala. UNHCR has registered some 230,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria, Jordan and countries neighboring Iraq.
- An estimated 1.5 million IDPs are in Iraq, including about 500,000 homeless individuals displaced in settlements or camp-like situations in extremely poor conditions and who are priority for protection, emergency assistance and advocacy interventions.
- Prime Minister's Order 101, issued in August 2008, facilitates the return of refugees and IDPs in Baghdad through the restitution of illegally occupied properties. The Council of Ministers' Order 262 provides registered returnee families with a grant of one million ID (US\$ 840). In 2009 Order 101 was extended to Diyala (Order No. 54) calling for close coordination/collaboration with international agencies. UNHCR is coordinating the UN transitional efforts for the "Diyala (return) Initiative" together with the GoI.
- UNHCR has well-established Protection and Assistance Centers (PACs) coupled in mid-2009 with the launching of the Return, Integration and Community Centers (RICCs) network. Both increase the outreach to the communities through provision of legal advice, protection monitoring (PACs), operations coordination, needs assessment, social and information assistance (RICCs).
- Shelter along with livelihoods, continues to be one of the key concerns of returnees; 60% of assessed IDPs reported that their houses are either damaged/destroyed or occupied by others which can impact their decision to return.
- Iraq is in transition; entering a recovery phase where civil society will play an integral part to sustainable returnee communities. UNHCR launched its NGO Empowerment Scheme in mid-2009 to enhance the performance and administrative capacity of selected national NGOs and enabling UNHCR to deliver urgent assistance at a targeted and grassroots level.

Priorities in 2010

REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

Pending durable solutions through voluntary returns, resettlement to third countries or local integration, protection and material assistance for some **40,000** refugees will continue to be provided in camps, settlements and individual urban refugees. UNHCR has 13 refugee camps and settlements in Iraq, the major ones are in Western Anbar (Al Waleed camp for Palestinians, Iranian Kurds and Ahwazis); in Ninewa (Makhmour for Turkish Kurds); in Erbil (Kawa for Iranian Kurds); and in Sulaymaniyah (Barika settlement for Iranian Kurds). Targeted assistance is provided to scattered urban refugees Iraq-wide including Ahwazis in the South. UNHCR continues to search for durable solutions for refugees who do not have potential for return or local integration inside Iraq. The Palestinian refugees in Al Waleed camp are likely to be resettled in 2010.

Major refugee camps/settlements in North Iraq

Camp/settlement	FAM.	IND.
Makhmour camp, Ninewa	2,563	10,924
Barika settlement, Sulaymaniyah	426	2,268
Kawa settlement, Erbil	239	1,328
TOTAL	3,228	14,520

Refugee camp in Centre Iraq

Camp	FAM.	IND.
Al Waleed Camp (Palestinians)	106	635
Al Waleed Camp (Iranian Kurds)	39	184
Al Waleed Camp (Ahwazis)	18	101
TOTAL	163	920

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RETURNEES (Refugees, IDPS) & IDPS

SHELTER rehabilitation and reconstruction of **48,810** units for returnees, focus in the Central region where higher number of returns occur (11,862 rehabilitation, 8,937 new construction and 28,011 minor repairs including IDP squatters).

WAT/SAN: 98 minor water and sanitation projects linked to the shelter rehabilitation with direct and communal impacts.

REINTEGRATION support continued through **16** RICCs: 6 in Baghdad, 7 in Salah Al-Din, Diyala, Anbar, Basrah, Missan, Ninewa and Kirkuk (3 to be identified).

LEGAL ASSISTANCE through **15** PACs and **40** mobile teams, possible consolidation in areas where RICCs are functional (two of the PACs have already merged with existing RICCs).

SUPPORT to MODM-managed RACs in Baghdad: registration, access to the GOI return assistance grant and property restitution. At March 2010, the GoI reports that **48,164** returnee families received the returnee cash grant of one million Iraqi Dinars (approx. USD 850) out of the 62,402 registered with MoDM.

DIYALA INITIATIVE strengthened and expanded with GoI leadership by coordinating with other actors in order to reach a comprehensive reintegration package for returnees.

ESSENTIAL ITEM distribution of Non-Food Items and hygiene items to **71,042** vulnerable families: IDPs, returnees, refugees, asylum seekers with focus on IDPs in settlements.

IDP SETTLEMENTS, housing vulnerable displaced will receive essential items, shelter assistance and advocacy with authorities to protect from arbitrary eviction.

CONTINGENCY stock of NFI for 100,000 persons.

COMMUNITY-BASED support to communities via multi-sector micro-projects directly targeting returnee and IDP-hosting communities through the N/NGO Partnership Empowerment Scheme, encompassing **400** national NGOs.

RETURNS MANAGEMENT to ensure refugees/IDPs have sufficient knowledge to make informed choices about return, expanded border monitoring, returnees interviews, information dissemination on conditions in Iraq.



COORDINATION WITH UN AGENCIES

UNHCR collaborates with other UN agencies on the ground through the Protection and Shelter Outcome Teams where UNHCR leads Protection and co-leads Shelter with UN-Habitat as the lead.

COUNTERPARTS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Government of Iraq: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
 Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM)
 Ministry of Interior (MoI)
 Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation (IFCNR)
 Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)
 Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM)

International NGOs: 12

National NGOs Direct Partnership: 17

National NGOs Indirect Partnership: 400 (target)

UNHCR Presence and Outreach

UNHCR Offices with International Presence

Branch Office Baghdad	40 staff
Sub Office Erbil	15 staff
Field Office Basrah	8 staff
Field Office Mosul	6 staff
Field Office Kirkuk	7 staff
Support Unit Amman	38 staff
Support Unit Kuwait (CBBK)	3 staff
Centre Field Locations (Al Waleed, Ramadi, Baquba/Diyala, Karbala, Kut, Najaf, Samara, Trebil)	16 staff
North Field Locations (Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah)	11 staff
South Field Locations (Missan, Nassiriyah)	7 staff
Total	151 staff (110 inside Iraq)

UNHCR Outreach

Protection and Assistance Centres (PACs)

Centre	43 staff
North	39 staff
South	43 staff
Total PACs	125 staff

Return Integration Community Centres (RICCs)

Centre	126 staff
North	13 staff
South	20 staff
Total RICCs	159 staff

GRAND TOTAL

435 staff

UNHCR Staffing as at April 2010

UNHCR Iraq Country Budget

Year	Total Budget
2010	\$ 264,285,225

Iraq country budget is part of the UNHCR's Regional Appeal for the Iraq Situation of USD 508,166,791

Population of Concern

Internally Displaced Persons*

Timeframe	Individuals
Post Feb. 2006	1,552,003
Total	1,522,003

* Post February 2006 only

Registered Refugees in Iraq

Origin	Individuals
Palestine	11,544
Syria	71
Iran	12,535
Turkey	10,343
Others	13
Total	34,506

UNHCR Progress statistics at March 2010

Asylum-Seekers Hosted in Iraq

Origin	Individuals
Iran	2,262
Syria	614
Turkey	1,867
Others	14
Total	4,757

UNHCR Progress statistics at March 2010

Voluntary Return of Iraqis in 2010

Period	IDPs	Refugees
2008	195,890	25,370
2009	167,740	37,090
Total 2008/2009	363,630	62,460
January 2010	8,780	2,820
February 2010	7,320	2,160
March 2010	14,630	40
Grand Total for 2010		35,570

Resettlement Statistics January 2008 to March 2010

Country of Resettlement	Iranians submitted	Palestinians submitted	Others**	Total Individuals submitted	Total Individuals departed
DEN	43	62		105	55
FIN	39	26		65	13
FRA	16	108		124	43
ICE		59		59	37
LUX	1			1	
NET	29	41		70	43
NOR	60	199	1	260	177
NZL	11	31		42	6
POR		5		5	
SWE	56	256	3	315	176
SWI		1		1	
UK	12			12	31
USA	100	1,161	8	1,269	858
TOTAL	367	1,949	12	2,328	1,439

** Other nationalities submitted include a total of 4 Somali nationals and a total of 8 Syrians.