



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés
المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

Iraq
العراق

Iraq Monthly Highlights February 2010

- Christian displacement from Mosul, an apparent reaction to increased threats, intensified in mid-February. Some 866 Christian families are thought to have fled the city, mostly to safer areas to the north and east with smaller numbers to the governorates of Dahuk Erbil and Kirkuk. Most have been absorbed by Christian communities in Telkeyf and Hamdaniyah Districts in Ninewa. In coordination with IOM, OCHA and UNAMI and liaison with ICRC, UNHCR provided 382 families with NFIs in Telkeyf, Dahuk and Kirkuk; food and NFI distributions have taken place in all locations.
- Following the registration exercise UNHCR conducted in Nov. 2009, the Permanent Committee of the Iraqi MOI finalized the issuance and distribution of ID cards to Syrian refugees in Baghdad and Ramadi on 1 March 2010. The ID card legalized their status in Iraq which had been expired since 2004. The total number of the Syrians in the Central region amounted to 149 individuals. UNHCR registration team also finalized the registration of the Syrian refugees in Mosul and the MOI confirmed that the ID cards are expected to be distributed after the elections.
- Donor briefings were held in Baghdad and Amman to present UNHCR's program for 2010. Representative Daniel Endres, assisted by Head of Iraq Support Unit, Andrew Harper, explained plans and overall strategy for the operation which will continue to focus on and support returns. Addressing the needs of displaced are also priority especially those occupying settlements or public areas. UNHCR's program for Iraq in 2010 is US\$ 264 million.
- UNHCR protection unit conducted in Amman a three-day retreat attended by some 30 protection and field staff. The retreat highlighted 2009 lessons learnt, challenges, way forward and strategy for 2010.
- UNHCR organized end of January, an inter-agency mission to Diyala comprised of UNICEF, WHO, WFP, FAO and IOM. The team participated in a meeting of the Higher Committee chaired by the Provincial Governor and the Chairman of the National Reconciliation Commission, Mr Mohammed Salman. They also visited two returnee villages where UNHCR has recently completed about 50 houses for vulnerable returnee families and IOM has registered the families for micro grant projects. Some gaps still exist in some sectors, particularly water, education and health which will be addressed by UNICEF, WHO and the GOI.
- UNHCR hosted a visit of D/SRSG Christine McNab to its Protection and Assistance Center in Dahuk, last week of January. She was briefed on the PAC's activities and the integrated information sharing and networking systems in Dahuk. She also spoke with displaced persons visiting the center.

