

# Humanitarian Update

## Iraq

No.4 February 2009



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Measles a growing threat to children in Najaf, Sulaymaniya, Erbil, Missan and Dahuk

Measles remains a growing threat to the health of Iraqi children. Increased population movement has resulted in higher exposure to the disease. In addition, many children have missed out on vaccination over the last few years because the security situation has prevented them from accessing health centers, and health workers have been unable to reach many of the children in the now affected areas.

#### UN calls for renewed commitment to improve the situation and legal status of women in Iraq

Iraqi women fare worse than men in a number of humanitarian indicators. Female headed households are more vulnerable to food insecurity, poverty and a variety of other adverse outcomes than households headed by men. The difference is particularly acute in rural areas compared to those living in urban areas. The improvement of conditions for women and girls is a major UN priority to ensure they fully benefit from Iraq's recovery.

#### Government of Iraq terminates registration of new IDPs

The Minister of Displacement and Migration issued a Ministerial Order 12 February 2009 terminating the registration of IDPs. The Order seeks to prevent double registrations and forgery. It instructs the Ministry to concentrate on monitoring of returns. The decision to discontinue the registration of IDPs is likely to restrict IDPs' access to benefits and their ability to register as returnees in the future and receive benefits at that stage

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### POPULATION MOVEMENT

#### 4600 Iraqis returned from displacement in January 2009

An estimated 4,600 returnees were registered by Iraq's Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) as of January 31 2009, including 3,590 IDPs and 1,010 refugees.<sup>1</sup> Six hundred and seventy IDP and 230 refugee families returned during the month, according to estimates.

The estimated number of returns is less than half of that recorded in December 2008, when a total of 11 910 returned, including 9, 820 IDPs and 2,090 refugees. According to UNHCR, a total of 221,260 Iraqis returned to their habitual place of residence in 2008, an average of 18 438 every month.

Baghdad accounts for 44% of the returns registered in January (all IDPs). Ninewa and Diyala account for 13% and 11% of the returns respectively, all returnees to the two governorates being IDPs. Najaf, which accounts for 8% of all returns (IDPs and refugees) in January, received 370 refugees mainly from neighbouring Iran. Najaf accounted for 37% of total refugee returns in January. Refugee returnees in January came from among other countries Iran, the United States, Syria and Jordan and Sweden, in declining order of number of returnees.<sup>2</sup>

IOM returnee field monitors have identified 49,432 returning families, an estimated 296 592 individuals, with 31,521 families returning to Baghdad, 8,818 to Diyala and 4,542 to Anbar Governorates.<sup>3</sup> According to IOM, 36% of surveyed returnees cited improved security as the main motivation. Difficult living conditions in the area of displacement together with improved security were cited by 36% of the returnees as the main reason for their return. Of all returns, 69 % occur within the same governorate, 20% from another governorate, while 11 % returned from abroad.

As of January 2009, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration has processed the registration of 12,969 returnee

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR Iraq Monthly Statistical Update on Return – January 2009

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> IOM Emergency Needs Assessments, February 22, 2009: Three Years of post-Samarra Displacement in Iraq

families eligible to receive 1 million Iraqi Dinars – US\$870 in financial assistance. IOM estimates that the MoDM so far has registered 26% of identified returnee families. Food, fuel and non-food items are priority needs among returnees. Shelter remains a key need of an estimated 25 % of returnees.

#### 39 % of post- Samarra IDPs do not wish to return

Of the post-Samarra IDPs, 39 % do not wish to return to their places of origin. Of these 22% would like to remain and integrate into their current places of displacement, while 17% would like to resettle in a third location.<sup>4</sup> 61% would like to return to their places of origin.

Shelter remains a key concern for IDP families, in addition to employment and food. Of IDPs surveyed, 59% are renting housing, amidst rising housing prices while 22% of IDPs live in collective settlements or public buildings, 18% with host families and 1% in tent camps. 19% of post-Samarra IDPs don't have access to their PDS ration, while 44% have only periodic access.

Only 16% of post-Samarra IDPs have access to property left behind, 38% do not know if they have access, while 43% do not have access.

### PROTECTION

The U.S. military reported the number of detainees held by coalition forces in Iraq is reduced to 14,000, from a 26,000 in 2007. The prisoners are being freed or transferred to Iraqi custody to meet the requirements of the bilateral US-Iraq Status of Forces Agreement which came into force January 1 2009.

Since the beginning of January, the U.S forces have released an average of 50 detainees per day. American forces in Iraq can no longer hold suspects without charge as they have done since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. The agreement requires American troops to hand over detainees wanted by the Iraqis, while others will be released.

<sup>4</sup> IOM Emergency Needs Assessments, February 22, 2009: Three Years of post-Samarra Displacement in Iraq

## Government terminates registration of new IDPs

The Minister of Displacement and Migration issued a Ministerial Order 12 February 2009 terminating the registration of IDPs. The Kirkuk Branch of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration had ceased the registration of IDPs 2 February 2009 on the recommendation of the Kirkuk High Committee on Displacement in January. The Ministry Order cites improvements in security and the return of most families to their residence. Unregistered families, the Order says, have had more than one year to register their status. The Order seeks to prevent double registrations and forgery. It instructs the Ministry to concentrate on monitoring of returns. The decision to discontinue the registration of IDPs is likely to restrict IDPs' access to benefits and their ability to register as returnees in the future and receive benefits at that stage (as they have to be registered as IDPs in order to register as returnees).

The KRG DDM stopped the registration of IDPs on 1 January 2009, earlier than the MoDM Order on 12 February 2009. However, the DDM continues to register old IDP case load into a database maintained by the KRG DDM and will continue to register and support any new IDPs. Of the 35,000 IDPs households from outside the region, about 31,000 households have so far been registered. Registration will continue in the five DDM zonal offices (Erbil, Dohuk, Soran, Sulimaniyah and Kirkuk) and by five newly established mobile registration units to complete the remaining unregistered IDP caseload, estimated at 7,000 households. Completion of the registration of IDPs has been hampered by lack of awareness of the exercise by IDPs as well as insufficient mobile registration capacity.

The KRG has discontinued the requirement that a KRG resident must guarantee IDPs for them to be registered with the police for purposes of obtaining resident permits. The dropping of this requirement took effect 1 January 2009. The KRG has been concerned about security in the region and the relaxation of the requirement is as the improvements in the general security situation in the country.

IDP household wishing to return will be issued with a certificate for presentation in areas of return to facilitate support, including the 1 million Iraqi Dinars from the government. So far, 22,000 of the 31,000 (i.e. 63%) IDPs registered have received the financial support due to IDPs in the places of displacement.

KRG DDM is continuing to support of UNHCR efforts to find durable solutions for the 6,000 refugee families from Iran and Turkey who have been in the region for over 20 years. Options being explored include granting those eligible Iraqi citizenship or resettlement in a third country. According to Iraqi law, refugees who have been in the country married to an Iraqi citizen can be granted citizenship status after

5 years; others are eligible for citizenship after 10 years. Many of the refugees in this caseload are eligible for Iraqi citizenship.



*Fifth grader sits in her newly refurbished classroom and receive school kit supplied by UNICEF at Al-Khwarizmi Primary School in Hay Al Ammen neighborhood in Baghdad in 2007*  
UNICEF/IRQ/08/Sabah Arar

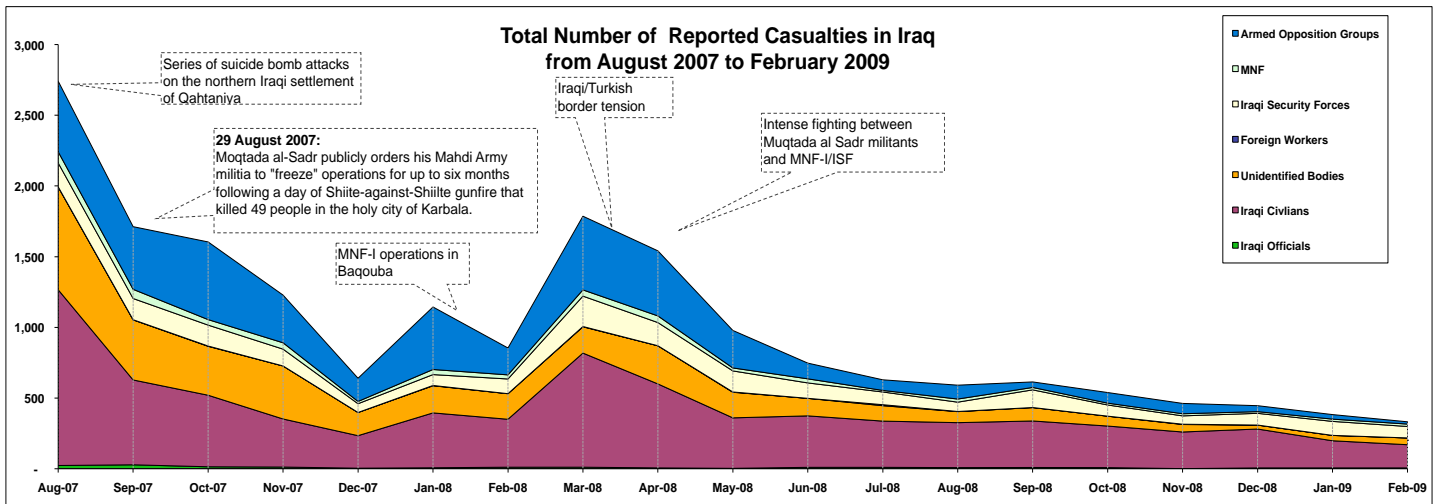
## CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN FEBRUARY

Five civilians per day (on average) were killed in Iraq in February 2009, victims of continuing violence in the country according to statistics from the Security Section in Iraq (SSI). However, the number of civilians killed declined from 192 in January to 164 in February. The total number of fatal casualties also declined from 392 in January and 341 in February. These figures do not include unidentified bodies (48 in February) or Iraqi officials (6 in February).<sup>5</sup> The number of civilians injured during February also declined from 591 in January to 516 in February.

Available consolidated data indicate that in 2008, a total of 11,230 people were killed in Iraq, 4,663 of them Iraqi civilians. This means that an average of 13 civilians were killed in Iraq every day in 2008. Another 18,251 people were wounded throughout the year, 12,660 of these Iraqi civilians.

The majority of civilian deaths in February 2009 occurred during the Arba'een procession (10-16 February) when at least 84 civilians were killed in a series of suicide and other attacks on pilgrims. Security indicators significantly improved in Iraq in 2008. However, attacks on military targets and targeting civilians remain of concern as the renewed attacks in February illustrate. The religious Arba'een procession has been the target of serious attacks in recent years.

<sup>5</sup> Government and figures place the number of civilians killed in February at 211, up from 138 in January. The discrepancy is likely from the amalgamation of all fatal civilians casualties including government officials and unidentified bodies.



Source: Security Section in Iraq

## HEALTH

### Measles a growing threat to children in Najaf, Sulaymaniya, Erbil, Missan and Dahuk

Measles remains a growing threat to the health of Iraqi children. Increased population movement, an outcome of the improved security situation, has resulted in higher exposure to the disease. In addition, many children have over the past few years missed out on vaccination because the security situation has prevented them from going to health centers, and health workers have been unable to reach many of the children in the now affected areas. The great numbers of unvaccinated children are now being exposed to the disease. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has announced an outbreak of measles infections in 13 out of the 19 governorates throughout the country. In 2008, MoH reported 8,134 suspected cases. In the first 7 weeks of 2009 the outbreak appears to be gaining momentum, with 5,238 new suspected cases reported. The MoH noted the possibility of this number increasing and is urging parents to vaccinate their children. The outbreak is beginning to spread to five additional governorates (Najaf, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Missan and Dahuk), placing over 800,000 children in those locations at risk. The MoH is developing a plan to revitalize the Expanded Program of Immunization (EPI) and improve vaccination coverage. In response to the situation, the World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the ministry of Health conduct an emergency vaccination campaign to protect these 800,000 children living in the area where the outbreak is likely to spread.<sup>6</sup>

### Support to Iraq emergency medical services

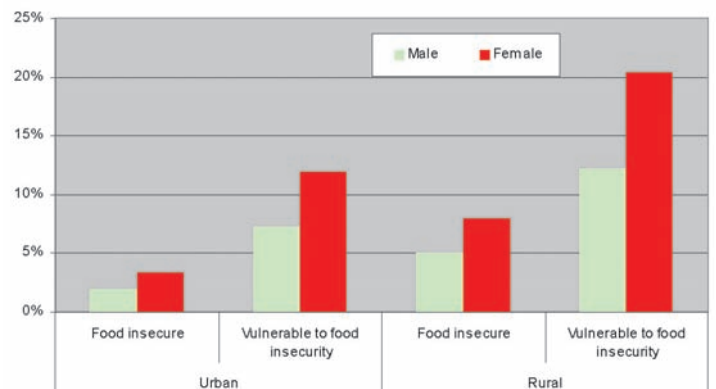
The UN Health and Nutrition Sector continue to support the Ministry of Health to respond to emergency needs in Iraq. In the second half of February, WHO delivered through staged partial shipments essential emergency medicines with a total value of over US\$ 680,000, including anesthetics,

sutures and pain killers for use in intensive care units and operation rooms. Additional deliveries comprising of blood bags needed for blood collections and orthopedic materials are expected.<sup>7</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY – FOCUS ON WOMEN IN IRAQ

### Women in Iraq more food insecure than men

Iraqi women fare worse than men in a number of humanitarian indicators. In Iraq, female headed households are more vulnerable to food insecurity, poverty and a variety of other adverse outcomes than households headed by men.<sup>8</sup> The difference is particularly acute in rural areas compared to those living in urban areas.



One in ten Iraqi households are headed by women — more than 80% of which are headed by a widow, according to the UN. Women comprise only 17% of the Iraqi labour force (compared to 81% of men), excluding them from many economic opportunities. Illiteracy among women and girls above the age of 10 stands at 24%, compared with 11% of boys and men. In recent years, many Iraqi girls were discouraged from attending school due to the

high levels of violence. Women's health indicators are also of particular concern: Maternal mortality rates are 84 per 100,000 live births compared with 41 and 65 in Jordan and Syria respectively.<sup>9</sup>

### **OXFAM Survey: 'Aid agencies largest provider of assistance' to Iraqi women – 76% of widows do not receive pension**

In an Oxfam International survey<sup>10</sup> conducted among 1700 Iraqi women, 60% of the respondents reported that aid agencies were the largest provider of aid, followed by 23% for local leaders while 15% cited the national government as their major provider of assistance. A staggering 76 % of the widows surveyed said they did not receive any pension from the state. The reason for not receiving pension was stated to bureaucratic registration procedures (52%) and lack of awareness of the right to receive pensions (18%). 14% said they were 'not allowed' to register and 9% said it was 'unsafe' to. widows constituted 25% of the respondents in the survey.

45% of the surveyed women stated that their income had worsened from 2006 and 2007 to 2008, while 30 % stated their income was the same as before. 33% said they had not received any humanitarian assistance since 2003.

60 % of the respondents stated security as their main concern. 40% felt their security situation was worsening in 2008 compared with 2007, 38% said it was improving and the remainder said it had not changed. 55% of the surveyed women said they had been displaced or forced to abandon their homes at least once since 2003, while almost half said they were sharing their homes with other families.

### **Access to basic services and food**

One quarter of the surveyed women said they did not have daily access to drinking water. Of these, almost half stated that the water they had access to was not potable. 69% claimed that access to drinking water had worsened since 2007-2006. One-third of the respondents said they had access to electricity less than 3 hours per day, while two-thirds stated to have access 6 hours or less per day. Only 2.3% of the respondents had access more than 12 hours of electricity per day. Half of the women said that access to quality health service was worse in 2008 compared to 2006 and 2007. 79 % said that they received the PDS food ration from the Government, 45% of those reported they receive it irregularly.

9 UN press release 8 March 2009, [www.ochaIraq.org](http://www.ochaIraq.org)  
 10 Oxfam International: *In her own words Iraqi women talk about their greatest concerns and challenges*, 8 March 2009

The Survey was conducted among 1700 women from five governorates. The proportion of women selected in each Governorate was in accordance with the population size. 35% were from different areas of Baghdad province; 19.5% were from Basra province; another 19.5% were from Nineveh; 13% were from Kirkuk; and another 13% were from Najaf province. The women ranged from 21-65 years of age.

### **UN calls for renewed commitment to promote women's rights**

'Iraqi women made much progress towards asserting their political representational rights during the provincial elections held last January, [January 31, 2009] but remain vulnerable to discrimination and violence on the basis of gender,' said the UN SRSG, Mr. Staffan De Mistura in a statement issued by UNAMI on International Women's day, 8 March 2009.<sup>11</sup>

The SRSG expressed concern that years of conflict had set back progress in achieving equality between men and women in the country. Mr. De Mistura highlighted the dire situation of Iraq's widows as an issue requiring urgent attention. He also emphasized the urgent need for progress in Iraqi women's situation, and for a national strategy to protect Iraqi women's rights in all aspects of their life.

'A major UN priority for 2009 is to improve conditions for women and girls who have yet to feel more than the full benefits of Iraq's recovery', stated UN Resident/ Humanitarian Coordinator , Mr. David Shearer in a statement on International women's day.<sup>12</sup>

'Most of children and women mortalities in Iraq can be prevented through simple interventions – from ante-natal and emergency obstetric care to breastfeeding and safe hygiene at home', stated Sikander Khan, UNICEF Representative in Iraq in his statement on International women's day.<sup>13</sup> "We have to work hand in hand with, and in support of, Iraq's health system to prevent further loss of precious lives", he added.

11 UNAMI, press release 8 March 2009, <http://www.uniraq.org/newsroom/getarticle.asp?ArticleID=983>  
 12 UN Inter-Agency press release, 8 March 2009, [www.ochaIraq.org](http://www.ochaIraq.org)  
 13 see above.

## FUNDING

### CAP 2009 Funding Status: 3.4%

Of the US\$192,334,256 requested for humanitarian assistance through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) Iraq, Pillar I, US\$5,528,793, or 3% has so far been funded.<sup>14</sup>

CAP Pillar II, which requests US\$355,008,504 to support Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Gulf Countries, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey, has so far received US\$12,992,344, or 4% in funding, leaving US\$342,016,160 in unmet needs.

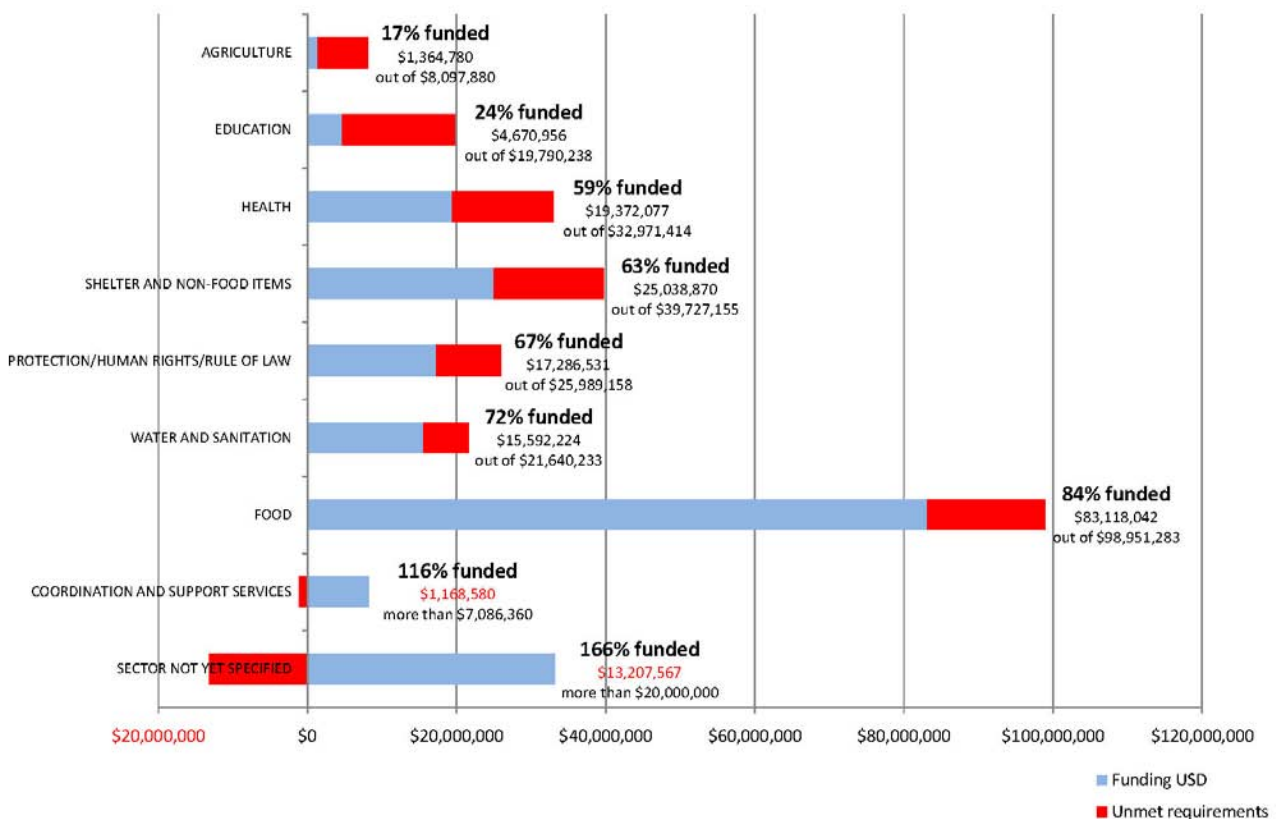
### CAP 2008 Funding Status: 76%

The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Iraq 2008 stood at 76 percent of the requested US\$274,253,721, raising a total of US\$207,905,987.<sup>1</sup> The largest donor to the CAP 2008 is the United States, contributing US\$68 million with Iraq as number two, contributing US\$40 million.

Funding varies largely between the sectors, with Agriculture receiving only 17 percent funding, while the Food sector attained 84 percent funding.

1 OCHA, February 9, 2009

### Funding per Sector CAP 2008



Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations

14 Information Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by donors and appealing organizations, at [http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha\\_R3prov\\_A835\\_0903040205.pdf](http://ocha.unog.ch/fts/reports/daily/ocha_R3prov_A835_0903040205.pdf)

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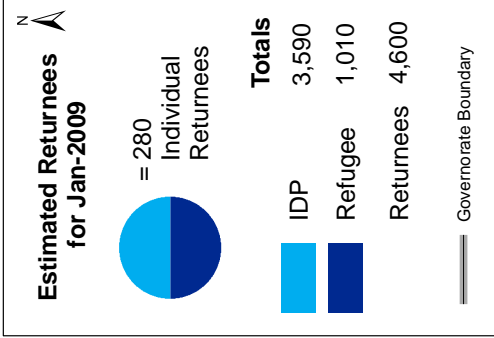
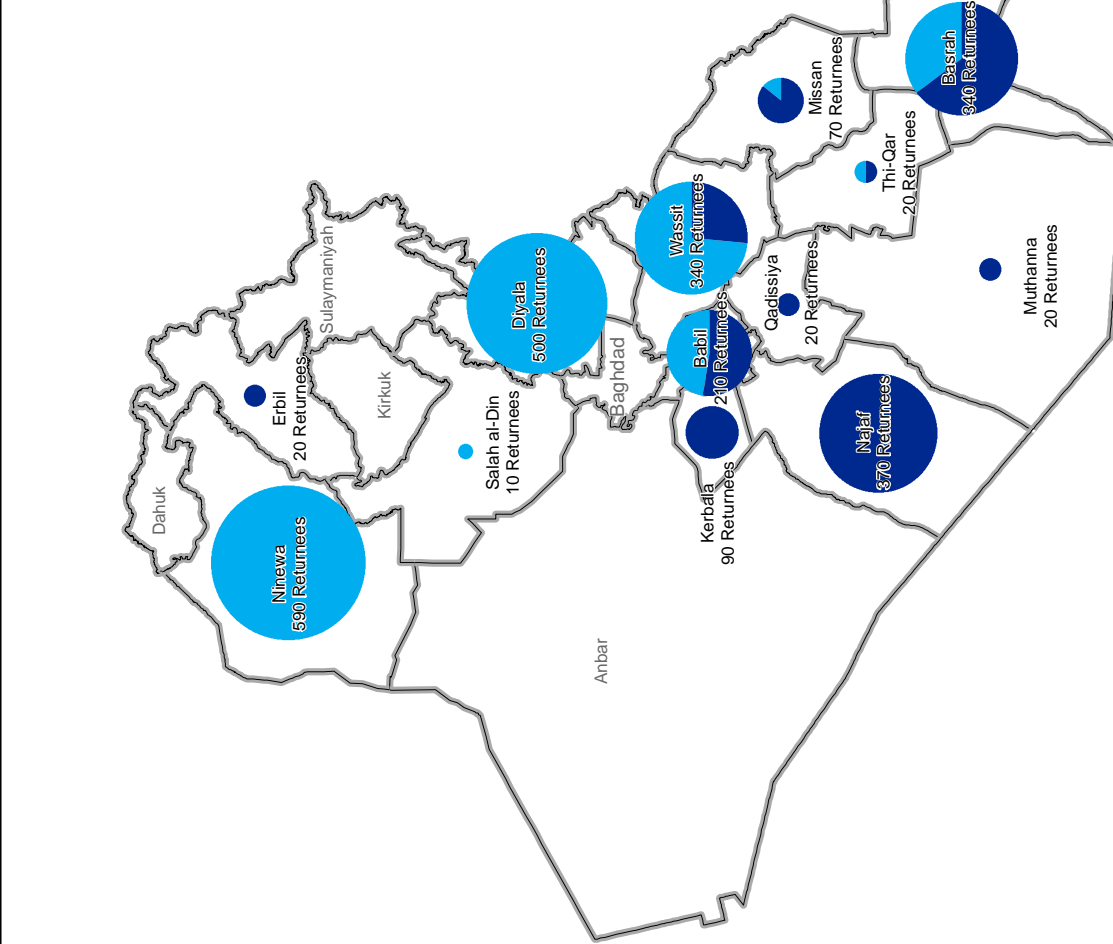
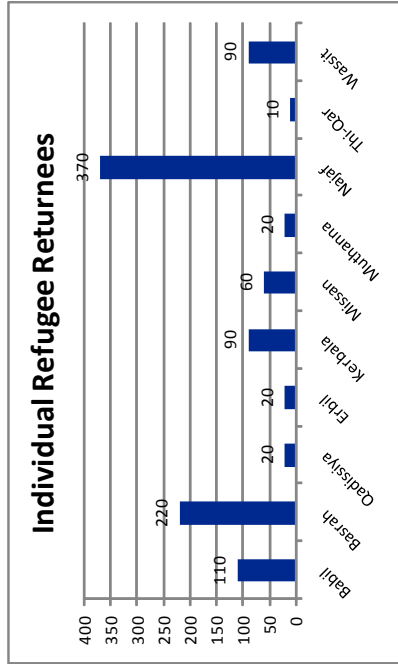
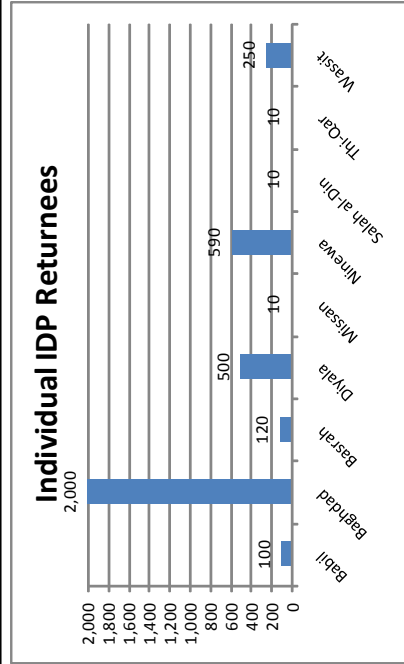
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[www.ochairaq.org](http://www.ochairaq.org)

# IRAQ - Estimated IDP and Refugee returnees January 2009



The size of the circle represents the number of total returnees by governorates.

Map Doc Name: IAU\_IDP\_Refugee\_Jan2009.pdf  
 Creation Date: March 2009  
 Projection Datum: WGS 1984  
 Web Resources: www.ocha.org  
 Nominal scale at A4 paper size: 1:6,500,000  
 0 50 100 200 Kms  
 0 25 50 100 Miles

**Map data sources:** UNHCR  
**Disclaimer:** The classifications employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



Data Source: UNHCR, MoDM, DDM, City Councils Baghdad and Diyala