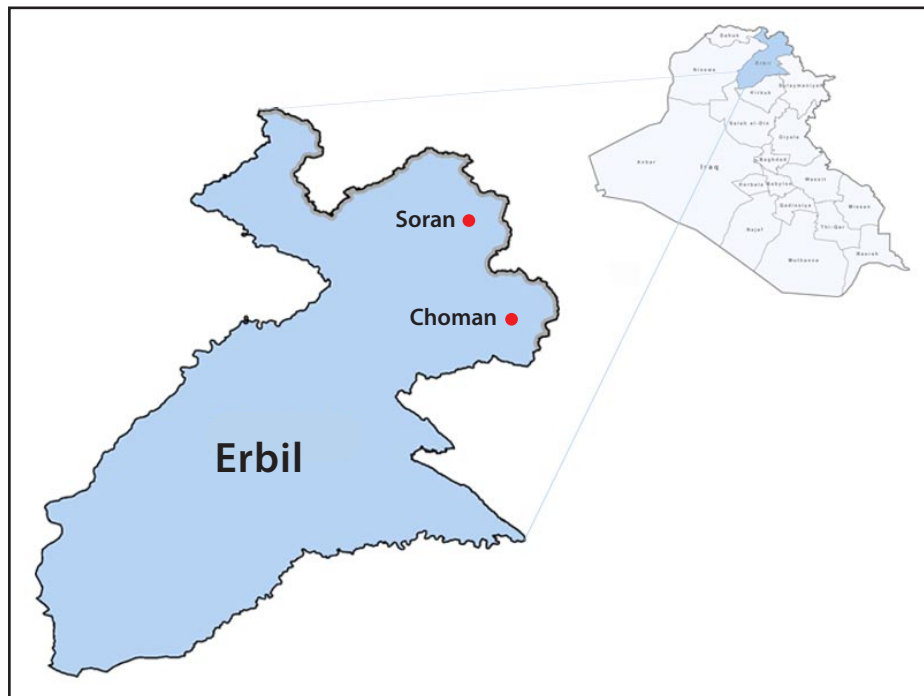


IOM Helps Families Displaced by Cross-Border Fighting in Erbil

June 2, 2010
Issued June 15, 2010


Heavy fighting on May 28 between Iranian troops and Kurdish militants on the Iran-Iraq border destroyed the homes of dozens of families from the district of Soran in Erbil governorate and forced them to flee to the neighboring district of Choman.

IOM staff based in Erbil mobilized immediately in response to this crisis, and on June 1 visited Sedakan sub-district in Soran to assess the damage caused there by the fighting. After meeting with community members and local authorities, it was determined that the families most urgently in need of assistance were those that had been displaced from Soran into Choman.

In coordination with the Mayor of Choman, IOM identified 75 families living in the district that had been affected by the recent fighting and were in need of basic household items to make their living situation more bareable.

Mobilizing relief supplies from its emergency warehouse in Erbil, IOM implemented a direct distribution in Choman on June 2. Each of the 75 families received a tailored kit of supplies, including a water filter, mattresses, a gas cooker, plastic cabinets, an ice chest, pillows, hygiene kits, and a carpet. The distribution took place in partnership with UNHCR and through coordination with the UN Country Team in Iraq.

“With these essential supplies, the families here in Choman will be able to start rebuilding their homes and lives,” said IOM Senior Logistics Coordinator Lado Gvilava.

Having addressed the immediate needs of the families, IOM is scheduling continued assistance with a comprehensive package of community assistance and livelihood development initiatives through its Programme for Human Security and Stabilization (PHSS). This assistance will be available to the families both in Choman and in Soran, should they choose to return.

Erbil displacement at a glance

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs	9,275 families (est. 55,650 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs	32,813 families (est. 196,878 individuals)
Number of post-Feb IDPs assessed by IOM	6,976 families (est. 41,856 individuals)
Returnees	103 families (est. 618 individuals)
Districts	7
Population	1,542,421 individuals

