



# 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

### March 2010

#### Response to Christian Exodus from Mosul

- UNHCR continued to coordinate the humanitarian response to Christian exodus from Mosul which had begun in February. In March, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 319 families displaced in Ninewa Erbil Kirkuk and Dahuk. Some 590 families are reported to have returned to Mosul.

#### Re-registration in Sulaymaniyah

- The process for the re-registration of refugees and asylum seekers moved to Province of Sulaymaniyah. A temporary registration centre was established in Kalar. Currently some 28 families, mostly Iranian Kurds, are processed each day. An estimated 360 families will have been processed before moving to next and main temporary registration centre in Sulaymaniyah City.

#### First Land Allocation Shelter Program in Missan

- In the framework of the Gol land allocation to pre-2003 refugee returnees, UNHCR in the South had identified in mid 2009 the need to support refugee returnee families who have been granted land plots but have no financial means to construct a house. A project to construct 180 shelter units for the most vulnerable refugee returnee families in Missan governorate was designed and implemented by UNHCR's shelter partner, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), between October 2009 and March 2010. The construction was completed in late March 2010 and the shelter units were handed over to the beneficiaries in the field in the presence of DRC and Al Kahlaa committee representatives. In this context, an official 'hand over' ceremony took place on 06 April 2010 in the presence of Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) Deputy Minister, Missan Governor's Deputy and the Representative of Al Kahlaa District. The Government Officials gave speeches expressing gratitude and appreciation for the support provided by UNHCR and its implementing partner in favour of vulnerable Iraqi refugee returnees.

#### Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant

- On March 18, a signing ceremony took place for the Government of Japan's Grassroots Grant awarding the project to "Rehabilitation of Rangiy Elementary School in Kirkuk". The Grant contract – directly managed by Japan and supporting directly the local NGOs - was signed by the Minister at the Embassy of Japan to Iraq Mr. Katsuhiko Takahashi, and the General Secretary of the United Foundation for Relief and Abiding Development (FUAD) Mr. Abdul-Mun'em Ahmed Hassan. UNHCR has been closely involved in the selection of NGO and the formulation of the project. The choice of Kirkuk (Hawija) is regarded as one of UNHCR's key strategic IDP/returnee locations. Similar projects may be considered in Diyala and Doura (Baghdad) in the future. UNHCR intends to further strengthen strategic partnership such as this with Japan as one of UNHCR Iraq's key supporting countries.

#### UNHCR international presence in Kirkuk

- For the first time since 2003, UNHCR re-established an international presence in Kirkuk. The Kirkuk Office is focusing on shelter, protection and national NGO development interventions for some 15,000 IDP and returnee families coordinating closely with the work of UNAMI's political developmental and Human Rights issues.

