

Monthly Highlights

August 2009

- Following the serial bombings that took place in Baghdad on 19 August, UNHCR immediately distributed emergency Non-food items (NFIs) to 200 affected families in Al-Salhiya district, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM), the local city councils of Karkh/Salhiya, Baghdad Municipality, Baghdad Provincial Council and Baghdad Operations Command. Each family received six mattresses, six blankets, one water jerry can and one cooking/heating stove.
- Emergency relief was also provided in Ninewa in response to the devastating bomb attacks that caused 200 deaths in the villages of Shrekhan and Shebak on 8 and 10 August, respectively. In addition to the immediate distribution of NFIs to 200 families, UNHCR has responded to the Government's call and is currently working with its partners on the rehabilitation of 157 houses.
- In Kirkuk, the emergency shelter rehabilitation for the victims of the bomb attack in Taza in June is ongoing. Of the 95 houses, 55 have already been completed providing safe roof to the victims of the merciless attack. The remainder 40 units will be completed in the coming months.
- As part of the UN's efforts to respond to the worsening drought situation in Iraq, a water purifying tanker was handed over to the Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health in Basrah, in coordination with the MODM. Reports of new displacements have been received in the different parts of the country, albeit at a limited scale. UNHCR's intervention especially in the supplying of emergency NFIs and other items is part of the UN inter-agency framework on drought.
- A total of **105** Palestinian refugees have been evacuated from Alwaleed Camp to the ETF in Timisoara, Romania, and another **98** were transferred to the newly established ETF in Humenne, Slovakia. In 2009, a total of **375** cases/**1,378** individuals from Al Waleed camp were referred to the USA. From these **280** cases/**1,070** individuals have been provisionally accepted by the US and are waiting security clearance to depart. The rest are pending decisions.
- With the receipt of additional funding, UNHCR will further expand its shelter rehabilitation programme. Subject to final confirmation, current plan of 4,942 houses may be increased to over 9,000 units as a result, benefiting more than half a million IDPs and returnees.
- A joint assessment mission was conducted on 13 August by the *Implementation and Follow Up Committee for National Reconciliation (IFCNAR)*, together with UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and IOM. The mission took place in the context of the recent extension of Order 101/S to Diyala by the Cabinet order 54/S which stipulates that support for return is to be coordinated with international agencies. The mission was planned following several meetings with the Committee and the identification by the Committee of the three villages in Al Khalis district as appropriate locations for a pilot reintegration programme. It could serve as a model for future. Upto some 400 villages in Diyala are under consideration in support of return. UNHCR's expanded shelter programme (see above) will include a significant number of shelter units in the target villages.

