



UNHCR

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

Iraq
العراق

Monthly Highlights

September 2009

- UNHCR expanded its shelter rehabilitation in the Center, North and South parts of Iraq. New partnership agreements to rehabilitate 1,619 shelters in Baghdad and Diyala Governorates have been established with IRD (International Relief & Development), ISHO (Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization), ICHR (Iraqi Center for Human Rights Studies), Reach, FUAD (United Foundation For Relief and Abiding Development) and Qandil. Existing projects with DRC in the Center and North, IYL and RIRP have also been expanded. **This makes the total planned shelters to be rehabilitated in 2009 as 6,135 shelters in the Center, 2,000 in the north and 1,730 in the South.**
- Two partnership agreements were recently concluded. The first with IOMP (Maternity and Childhood Iraqi Organization) to conduct a cleaning campaign and awareness sessions on hygiene in Chikook IDP camp/Baghdad, and the second in the South of Iraq, with RORD (Rafha Organization for Relief and Development) to open a new RICC (Return, Integration and Community Center) in Basrah.
- A new capacity building project for national NGOs started in the South with MRDS.
- In Erbil, as an emergency response to attacks, 100 families that survived the bombing of the minority Kakai community in Wardek village in Ninewa, were provided with non-food items. The bombing resulted in 25 deaths and the damage and destruction of scores of houses. UNHCR also started the rehabilitation of 200 houses that were affected in the blast. This is the fifth such emergency response to bombings following emergency renovations in Shrekhan, Khazna in Ninewa and Shorja and Taza in Kirkuk.
- UNHCR Iraq Representative Daniel Endres inspected progress on the renovation of 150 houses in Turcomen town of Taza Kirkuk, following a bombing which had left some 70 inhabitants dead and 200 houses damaged. The project has been described by local authorities as "a very impressive and highly recognized intervention". WHO Representative and Acting Deputy SRSG, Dr. Naema Al Gasser, accompanied Endres in his visit.
- UNHCR staff received the Iraqi Minister for Human Rights during her visit to Shrekhan and Khazna where rehabilitation of 157 houses were completed following the August bombings of Shebak and Turcomen communities. At her request, renovation of two schools, damaged by the blasts, have been included in the project and UNHCR has been invited to participate in the planning committee to implement the \$4.5 m project expected to address the repair of basic services' infrastructure and the re-construction of totally destroyed houses.
- The Governor of Kirkuk and other officials attended the inauguration ceremony for the rehabilitation of 73 shops and two houses that were damaged in July bombing that left 27 dead. The market place was badly damaged. UNHCR's swift intervention allowed the market to be opened for trade and thrive once again.
- UNHCR staff are working closely with KRG and Mol staff on the realignment of responsibility for displacement issues following the cessation of the Department of Displacement and Migration – this is part of KRG reorganisation which has resulted in a reduction of 20 ministries.
- 480 IDPs returnees families, who were occupying the Kirkuk stadium since 2003, were asked to evacuate the site. The families were compensated with a payment of \$10 million Iraqi Dinars (approx. US\$ 8,475 per family). This payment will be extended to the remaining 1,100 families in 32 other public buildings in the governorate. Most families are now renting accommodation.
- The Deputy Representative visited authorities in Mosul. It was the first high level meeting to meet amongst others the Governor of Ninewa. It aimed at strengthening links with the authorities, raising the profile of RICC Mosul and the development of plans for Mosul for 2010. A follow up mission is planned in November.

