



UNITED NATION
NATIONS UNIES

Iraq Humanitarian

Update

NO. 2 | October 2008

Highlights

- ❖ *The status of the 2008 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq and a glimpse into the 2009 CAP*
- ❖ *Update on the Cholera Outbreak*
- ❖ *Protection of Civilians and Population Movement (Displacement)*
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The Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Iraq.

2008 CAP

In 2008, UN agencies and NGOs assisted Iraqis at home and in the region through a range of different mechanisms. The first consolidated appeal for Iraq, issued in February, was primarily focussed on assisting displaced and vulnerable Iraqis in-country, requesting \$265 million, while across the region the humanitarian community addressed the needs of Iraqi refugees through several different appeals and *ad hoc* funding requests. These served as a vital channel for relief to families in health, shelter, water, sanitation, education, protection and food aid. However, they did not provide a consolidated picture of Iraq's internal and external humanitarian priorities.

Since the 2008 CAP was issued, Iraq has increased support for humanitarian response and also provided assistance to its neighbours most of whom allow Iraqi refugees some but inadequate access to public services. As Iraq looks to the future, the Iraqi Government has clearly stated its intent to move from foreign assistance to self-sufficiency. The 2009 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq and the Region will support this goal, by reaching Iraq's most vulnerable citizens in-country and abroad, and bringing them a step closer to stability and reconstruction.

The current CAP 2008 funding stands at \$164,675,584 out of a [revised mid-year] appeal total of \$271,371,554 (60.7%). Funding is variable across sectors and direct funding to NGO projects remains extremely low. That said some NGOs are funded through contributions to UN agencies.

2009 CAP

Better access and data analysis in recent months has allowed Iraq's humanitarian actors an improved understanding of where vulnerabilities exist and therefore, where to focus resources. Among the recent studies resulting in improved understanding of the humanitarian situation in Iraq are the WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Iraq and the 2008 UNICEF-sponsored IMPACT surveys. According to the WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Iraq, many social indicators have slowly but measurably risen from their lowest levels. Education and infrastructure-related indicators have improved. Unemployment remains stable at 17.5%, while food insecurity appears to have dropped to a quarter of 2005 rates.

These improvements notwithstanding, Iraq's humanitarian needs remain extensive and acute with significant humanitarian gaps. The impact of earlier violence continues to manifest itself nationwide as

This Update is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The aim is to provide an overview of the humanitarian situation; including trends, needs and response in Iraq, as well as focus on key issues of current interest. It is based on available information, and is not an official nor exhaustive record of the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Iraqi families confront significant erosion of livelihoods and destruction of public assets, resulting in dismal levels of basic social services. The full scale of the damage is only now becoming visible. With the conflict grudgingly receding, pockets of severe deprivation are emerging. Some of these are directly linked to recent armed conflicts; others are a product of years of sanctions and war stretching back more than 25 years.

The humanitarian community has developed a more coherent and strategic approach linking response to existing and the emerging humanitarian needs both inside and outside Iraq in 2009. This approach is reflected in the mutually reinforcing design of the 2009 Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, following wide ranging consultations with all partners at all levels including in Baghdad, Amman and Erbil. It presents the totality of needs for Iraq and the region and comprises two pillars; (i) a national CAP for Iraq, to deliver immediate assistance to the most vulnerable communities and the most deprived-following years of decline in basic social services delivery, which have resulted in pockets of acute vulnerability-and assist Iraqi internally displaced and refugees returning to their homes; and (ii) a regional pillar for countries hosting Iraqi refugees focussing on the urgent Iraqi refugees' humanitarian needs in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Iran and the Gulf Cooperation Council States (GCC) and assisting Palestinian, Iranian and Turkish refugees in Iraq until their safe, dignified and voluntary return is possible or other durable solution can be found. The Humanitarian Coordinator supported by OCHA will coordinate Pillar I, while UNHCR with OCHA's support is leading the second Pillar.

The second Consolidated Appeal for Iraq, as such, presents the totality of Iraq's humanitarian needs, both in-country and across the sub-region, representing a major humanitarian coordination effort across 12 countries to support affected Iraqi populations. It targets the most vulnerable families in areas of acute need (Pillar I) and seeks to provide humanitarian, legal and shelter assistance to returnee families (Pillar II). It enhances transparency of the response and provides a framework for enhanced humanitarian coordination on issues affecting Iraqi communities and refugees, as well as a framework for developing stronger humanitarian cooperation between Iraq and neighbouring countries.

The two Pillars are linked by conditions inside Iraq, which is moving from crisis into fragile transition following years of violence. The security and political context is at its most encouraging yet, but remains tenuous. Rates of violence have dropped by 75% since mid-2007. As security improves, some IDPs are returning to their homes. The obtaining fragile stability is allowing for the replacement of a trend of internal displacement with a small movement in IDP returns, and the beginnings of refugee returns.

Date Watch: Global CAP Launch- Geneva- 19 November 2008

Regional CAP Launch-Abu Dhabi- 24 November 2008.

Link: <http://ocha.unog.ch/fts2/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&appealID=808>

Gender

The Gender Advisor met with 14 representatives of Iraqi NGOs in Baghdad to discuss how the UN can help to raise the profile of Iraqi organizations working for gender equality so they have more influence with the UN and the government of Iraq. These meetings were a follow up on previously noted requests for capacity building, to learn more about what kind of technical support women's organizations are looking for from the UN and NGOs, and discuss related activities.

Iraqi partners have expressed the need for improved coordination on gender and gender-related concerns and issues, particularly violence against women. Improved consultation with women's organizations by the UN, and opportunity for women to advise UN agencies; a forum for periodic in-depth exchange and mutual learning between UN Agencies and NGOs is envisioned.

The NGO partners urged for a stronger UN position on equality with the GoI, finding ways to help make women's issues a government priority. NGOs are urging the UN to exert more influences with respect to electoral issues, the role of women in the senior civil service and the judiciary, and a range of legal and constitutional issues. Most pressing however, is great concern about the levels and extent of violence against women, and the need for documentation of violations of women's rights, honour killings and violations against minority women. There is a felt need for joint and collaborative approaches in addressing violence, through, among others, developing and supporting a campaign against violence with high-level advocates and activists.

Gender Capacity support in October focused on mainstreaming gender in the Consolidated Appeal and inputs to reporting by UNAMI's Governorate Liaison Officer (GLO) periodic humanitarian reports. Further capacity building for the GLOs is planned for the end of November/early December in Baghdad.

Event Watch: 16 Days of advocacy on violence against Women November 25-December 10

Activity Watch: GLO Training.

Links: <http://www.unfpa.org/16days/index.htm>

Health

Cholera Update

Cholera broke out in Iraq in August. The first cases were reported in Missan in August and the disease has since spread to 11 other governorates: Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basra, Diwaniya, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Muthana, Najaf and Wasit. The disease is endemic in Iraq with outbreaks common in the summer months of the year, peaking in August, September and October. Thirty nine districts in the 12 of the country's 18 governorates have been affected by the 2008 outbreak. Eight people, 3 of them in Babil have died as a result. As of November 4, the number of confirmed cases stood at 738, above the annual average of 600 cases. Majority of the cases have been confirmed in Babil (267). United Nations agencies and NGO partners, led by WHO and UNICEF are providing technical assistance and supplies to complement government response at the central and local levels to prevent the further spread of the disease. Following the cholera outbreak in 2007, WHO supported the government to establish 950 surveillance sites throughout the country. These sites are playing a critical role in early case detection and prevention activities. The Ministry of Health has also adopted the Cholera Preparedness Plan.

Response to the outbreak by humanitarian partners is being delivered by partners in the Health and Nutrition Sector Outcome Team, (HNSOT) led by WHO. WHO is providing technical support to the government at central and local level with laboratory testing of suspected cholera cases. UNICEF, through NGO partners has and continues to support local health structures by distributing medical and other related supplies to supplement government response and control efforts in the affected governorates. The government's public information campaigns have been supported through the distribution of Information Education and Communication materials in affected governorates.

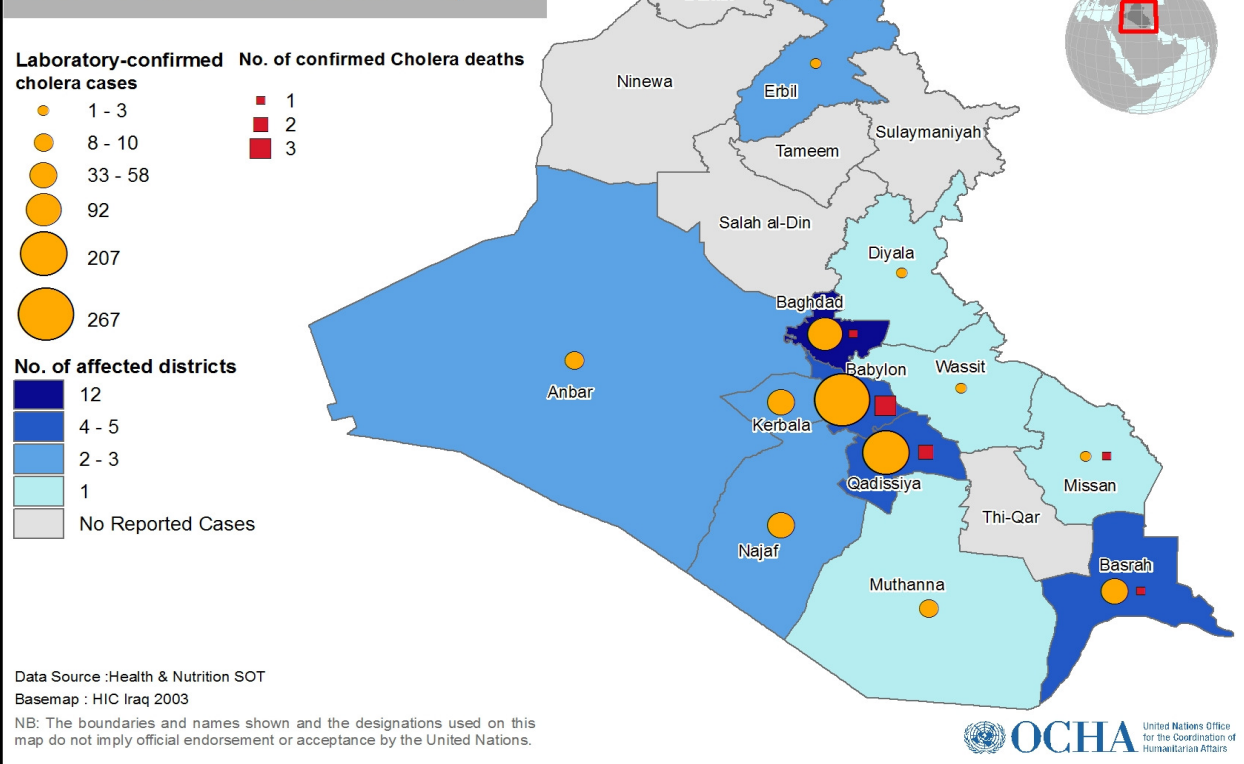
The outbreak is partly attributable to the dilapidated state of water and sanitation infrastructure in many of the outbreak locations. The Water and Sanitation Sector Outcome Team is working with Iraqi authorities to rehabilitate water and sewerage infrastructure in central and southern Iraq (Basra, Kerbala and Muthana).

Diarrhoea and laboratory confirmed Cholera as of 04/11/08: 738¹

Province	No. of districts affected	Date first case reported	Date most recent case reported	No. deaths reported	No. of cases under investigation	No. of laboratory-confirmed cholera cases
Diyala	1	09/09/2008	09/09/2008	0	0	1
Wasit	1	30/09/2008	30/09/2008	0	0	2
Erbil	2	14/10/2008	14/10/2008	0	0	2
Missan	1	07/08/2008	28/08/2008	1	0	3
Anbar	2	07/09/2008	01/10/2008	0	0	8
Muthana	1	14/10/2008	01/11/2008	0	0	10
Najaf	3	17/09/2008	28/10/2008	0	5	33
Kerbala	3	05/09/2008	27/10/2008	0	4	55
Basra	5	18/08/2008	06/10/2008	1	2	58
Baghdad	12	20/09/2008	03/11/2008	1	1	92
Diwaniya	4	28/08/2008	02/11/2008	2	44	207
Babil	4	07/08/2008	03/11/2008	3	0	267
TOTAL	39	07-08-08	03-11-08	8	56	738

¹ WHO <http://www.emro.who.int/Iraq/>

Cholera Outbreak November 3, 2008



Pattern of Outbreak:

The 2008 cholera outbreak started in mid-August, gradually building up to a peak of 79 cases on September 22. Seven out of the eight people killed by the disease so far died between mid-August and during the peak period above and only one death has been confirmed since late September-early October. However, a third wave emerged in Diwaniya in mid October and continues.

Link: <http://www.emro.who.int/Iraq/>

Water and Sanitation: ICRC 'Millions at risk from polluted water':
<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/iraq-news-291008>

PROTECTION AND DISPLACEMENT

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

Casualties October 2008, Indiscriminate attacks on civilians

MNF		IC		ISF		FW		IO		UB	AOG		CDF		Total KIA	Total WIA
KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA			
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
3	0	83	138	29	64	0	0	1	1	30	12	3	0	0	158	206
3	0	73	189	17	40	0	0	3	3	2	31	2	5	3	134	237
3	3	98	338	13	66	0	0	0	1	27	26	0	2	2	169	410
2	0	6	1	7	21	0	0	2	1	0	4	1	1	0	22	24
0	0	25	59	8	3	0	3	2	2	11	1	3	0	0	47	70
2	0	9	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	2
13	3	294	726	79	195	0	3	8	8	70	75	9	8	5	549	950

Source: SSU

Incidents October 2008

Date	SAF	IDF	RPG	HG	IED	VBIE D	foun d	Total
KRG	1	3	0	0	2	0	1	7
North	11 7	4	5	23	16 5	7	73	394
N. cent	79	22	7	12	12 4	4	112	360
Bag	50	21	1	14	15 0	7	120	363
west	28	5	0	1	32	3	23	92
S. cent	28	1	0	0	22	0	17	68
South	14	7	0	1	16	0	16	54
Total	31 6	60	13	51	50 9	21	361	1338

Source: UNAMI SSU (Safety and Security Unit)

MNF-Multi National Forces, Iraq
IC- Iraqi Civilians
ISF-Iraqi Security Forces
FW- Foreign Workers
IO-Iraqi Officials
UB-Un-identified Bodies
AOG-Armed Opposition Groups
CDF-Civil Defense Forces
KIA-Killed in Action
WIA-Wounded in Action
SAF-Small Arms Fire
IDF-Indirect fire
RPG-Rocket Propelled Grenade
HG-Hand Grenades
IED- Improvised Explosive Device
VBIED-Vehicle-borne IED

Indiscriminate attacks against civilians remain common and they constitute between 55-68% of the total casualties in Iraq. Approximately 294 Iraqi civilians were killed and 726 wounded during the reporting period (October), compared to 332 killed and 867 wounded in September (SSU). In addition eight Iraq officials were killed, and 70 unidentified bodies recovered, an indication that the total number of civilian deaths may be as high as 376, with civilians accounting for 68.5 % of all deaths in Iraq. Thirteen MF-I personnel, 79 Iraqi Security Forces and 79 members of armed opposition groups were killed in action.

TARGETED KILLINGS

Twelve members of the Christian communities in and around Mosul in Ninewa Governorate were reportedly killed in a campaign of killings and intimidation of the Christian minority in that area. Iraqi Police forces continue to be targeted. Eight other Iraqi Officials were killed, and 8 wounded in what appears to be targeted attacks.

All information on numbers of casualties in Iraq remains uncertain. Numbers of deaths and injuries are often unconfirmed, and are likely to be underreported.

DISPLACEMENT

New displacements

The most dramatic development during the month of October was the displacement of minority members (mainly Christians) from Mosul into the Ninewa valley and into the neighbouring governorates of Dahuk and Erbil. Minority communities were subjected to a series of attacks in what appears to have been an organized campaign of threats and intimidation since the beginning of October. Twelve Christians were reportedly killed, several after having been abducted. Attacks, threats and the resulting fear prompted and estimated 2,465 families to flee the area.

This was the most serious wave of attacks on Christians in Iraq since 2003. Mosul was previously seen as a safe destination for Christians fleeing targeted violence in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq. However, in February 2008, Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahno of the Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul was abducted and killed.

Some members of minority communities saw the attacks as a continuation of campaigns that have previously targeted other minorities such as Yezidi and Shabak. Mosul is the second largest city in Iraq and the provincial capital of Ninewah, the governorate which is home to most of the 800 000 Christians in Iraq. Mosul's population is of mixed ethnicities, with Sunni Muslims as the majority.

One Iraqi NGO that visited displaced people from the area reported threats against Christians, through orders that they leave or face revenge, spread by leaflets, in letters, via mobile text messages and even by loud speakers in the streets of certain quarters. Intimidating and threatening messages were also painted on the walls of houses and shops.

Several houses belonging to Christians were reportedly burned or destroyed and 19 houses were reportedly looted. With some of the attacks taking place in broad daylight, individuals from the affected

communities openly questioned the will of the authorities to protect them. Displaced families moved mainly north- and eastwards within Ninewah Governorate, and to Dohuk and Erbil Governorates, according to UNHCR. Local NGOs reported IDPs arriving in Kirkuk as well.

According to some reports, an estimated 500 families have since returned home, driven back by the need to keep their jobs and continue with education. The government deployed two additional battalions of the Iraqi Police in Mosul to restore security. According to UNHCR, some families have crossed the border to seek refuge in Syria.

As the dust settled over the incidents in Mosul, it appears that the intimidation was related to the control of the area disputed between the KRG and the Federal Government and control of the minority vote. The omission of the article on minority representation (Article 50) in the Provincial Elections Law triggered demonstrations in Mosul. The intimidation and killings began shortly thereafter.

Governorate of Displacement	Total Displaced Families	Total Displaced Individuals	Percentage of IDPs in Each Governorate
Dahuk ²	18,706 18,734	104,824	7%
Erbil ³	10,304	52,007	4%
Sulaymaniyah ⁴	14,585	80,935	5%
Total North	43,595	237,766	5.3%
Ninewa	19,100	106,623	3.7%
Kirkuk	7,911	43,623	4.8%
Anbar	9,179	55,716	3.6%
Baghdad	90,731	550,099	7.5%
Diyala	22,784	136,891	8.5%
Salah al-Din	7,790	45,614	3.7%
Total Centre	157,495	938,566	6.0 %
Babylon	12,677	77,197	4.5%
Basrah	5,989	35,509	1.8%
Diwaniya	3,858	25,186	2.5%
Kerbala	10,921	70,709	7.7%
Missan	6,792	46,523	5.5%
Muthanna	2,457	18,331	2.9%
Najaf	10,087	57,716	5.2%
Thi-Qar	7,066	47,423	2.8%
Wassit	12,306	75,457	6.9%
Total South	72,153	454,051	4.1%
Grand Total	273,243		
Grand Total individuals		1,630,383	

Sources: Ministry of Displacement and Migration and Kurdistan Regional Government, July 2008.

Note: It is important to note that the IDP figures provided by government authorities do not necessarily reflect the actual number of IDPs in a given governorate at least in part due to restrictive registration policies.

Displacements in the North

The continuing military campaign by the Turkish government targeting PKK targets continued in October, following the Turkish Parliament's extension of the authority for such operations in northern Iraq. The military operations are resulting in the displacement of an unknown number of civilian populations in northern Iraq.

Legal developments

Prime Ministerial Order 101 took effect on the 1st of September, requiring that all squatters vacate IDP and refugee houses in Baghdad or face prosecution under Iraqi anti-terrorism legislation. All IDP squatters are compensated with 300,000 Iraqi Dinars (ID) per month for six months, so that they may rent an alternative housing option. PM Order 101 also established return facilitation centres in Baghdad, with plans to replicate this system throughout the rest of the country. These centres assist returnees to register, receive the returnee grant of 1 million ID, and to resolve property issues they may encounter

upon returning.² The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers issued decree No. 262 (17 July 2008) extending the ICP assistance scheme to the caseload that has not yet received it.

Returns

The Government of Iraq continues to implement varied legal and practical measures, including the allocation of 250 billion Iraqi Dinars (ID) for all return-related expenditures including but not limited to compensation to IDPs for damaged property, legal notices for the eviction of illegal occupants of private houses and public buildings and transport for refugees willing to return from neighbouring countries—all aimed at promoting and encouraging the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the country.

As of 21 September, and based on available information from MoDM's returnee registration, IOM and MoDM monitors' field visits, UNHCR rapid assessments (snapshot), and other sources, IOM has identified 16,782 returnee families (100,692 individuals) to Baghdad. An additional 11,986 returnee families have been identified in the rest of the country, 8,691 of whom are in Anbar and Diyala. The majority of returns countrywide (92%) are by IDPs.³

IDPs unable to return to original homes

While new displacements are decreasing, many IDPs are still unable or unwilling to return home and are in need of basic humanitarian assistance. The number of returns is still low, but the rate is increasing. Some of the displaced are not able to return because their homes were destroyed or occupied. Orders 101 and 262 (see above) from the Prime Minister's Office intend to provide means for property restitution, but may also result in secondary displacement for some IDPs.⁴ Many IDPs thus face the threat of eviction. 512 IDP families in Rusafa district of Baghdad have been informed that they must vacate their residences. Other groups of IDP families are reportedly facing eviction in Babylon, Basrah, Kirkuk, Missan, and Qaddeisyah governorates.⁵ Further potential secondary displacement factors include loss or occupation of their previous homes, the security situation, and/or the ethnic or religious make-up of some areas of return.⁶

Governorate	All Iraq	Anbar	Babylon	Baghdad	Basrah	Diyala	Kerbala	Missan	Kirkuk	Muthanna	Najaf	Ninewa	Salah al-Din
To Original House	86%	97%	91%	91%	40%	96%	100%	0%	43%	65%	66%	86%	40%
Not to Original House But Original Neighbourhood	14%	3%	9%	9%	60%	4%	0%	100%	57%	35%	34%	14%	60%

Source: MoDM/IOM, Returnee Monitoring/Needs Assessments, September 2008

² IOM Iraq Assessment and Statistics Report 1 October 2008

³ IOM Iraq Assessment and Statistics Report 1 October 2008

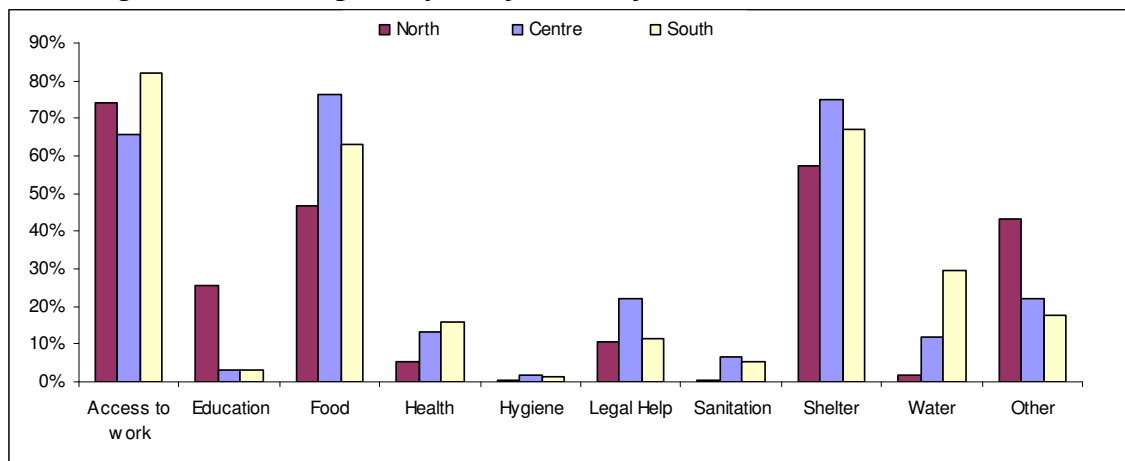
⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ IOM Returnee Needs Assessment September 2008

Priority needs for IDPs

Percentage of IDPs stating their priority needs by North, Centre and South



Source: IOM IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments, September 2008

Link: <http://www.iom-iraq.net/library.html#IDP>

DROUGHT (RECENT RAINS)

Iraq is experiencing one of the most serious droughts in 10 years following low rainfall in the winter 2007/2008, which has resulted in severe water shortages across northern and in parts of central Iraq. The drought is most severe in the northern regions of the country which relies on rain-fed agriculture. A significant number of the population, especially those reliant on springs for drinking water is experiencing water shortages due to absence of alternatives. The severity of the drought has led to localized population displacement from low-lying to mountainous areas to seek out some surface water for livestock (Makhmour, Chamchamal, Kifri and Khanaqin). The 2008/2009 wheat and barley production is expected to decline by as much as 51% compared to 2007. UNICEF, FAO ICRC and other actors are working with the authorities in the affected regions/governorates to limit the impact of the drought on populations and agricultural production. The assistance is based on assessments by UNICEF and ICRC of the most affected governorates of Diyala, Mosul, Dohuk and Erbil. Electricity and fuel shortages are negatively impacting mitigation measures and long term disuse and lack of resources have resulted in the deterioration of irrigation infrastructure, limiting potential alternative responses to the drought's impact on agricultural production. The KRG High-Level Committee on Drought is leading drought response in the region through a drought emergency plan. A sum of 5 billion Iraqi Dinars has been allocated for water tankering, sinking wells for drinking water for people and livestock, improvements in the irrigation infrastructure and provision of seeds to cope with the effects of the drought. ICRC is rehabilitating water treatment plants digging boreholes and repairing water supply pumps affected districts. Severe water shortages in Suleymaniyah may have contributed to the dramatic rise in cases of acute watery diarrhoea; however no cholera cases have yet been reported in the governorate. The General Directorate for Water and Sewage in the governorates is monitoring and testing potable water samples to ensure safety and quality. FAO is supporting the government in rehabilitating/maintaining 120 water projects in Erbil and is exploring support to farmers in the areas with seeds.

The effect of the drought of the recent months appears to be balanced out by the recent rains. The drought, combined with already high food inflation in many governorates of Iraq and the unreliability of the Public Distribution System has potential to reduce recent gains in food security.

COORDINATION

Efforts to strengthen coordination and partnerships continued in October through a number of activities:

- **Coordination Presence:** OCHA established permanent presence of international staff in both Erbil and Baghdad and provided various coordination services to partners in these locations, including on the Consolidated Appeal (see below) during October.

- **Consolidated Appeal:** Several consultative meetings were held with NGOs, donors, UN agencies and the government in Amman, Baghdad and Erbil to flesh out the strategic priorities agreed during the 24 September CAP Workshop in Amman, process projects submitted for inclusion in the CAP in accordance with the agreed selection criteria and finalize the completion of the CAP
- **Strengthening partnerships and coordination with Iraqi NGOs:** OCHA convened four key meetings with Iraqi NGOs inside Iraq in October. Three meetings have taken place in Baghdad. The other meeting with NGOs in northern Iraq took place in Erbil. It has been agreed that a quarterly meeting of all Iraqi NGOs will be held in Baghdad. Regular Iraqi NGO meetings will be convened in Baghdad, Erbil and Basra to discuss local issues of concern in those areas. OCHA is reviewing/updating the NGOs contact database. In these continuing meetings, OCHA is working with NGOs towards strengthening monitoring and evaluation of ERF-funded projects as part of strengthening the impact of ERF-funded projects in Iraq. OCHA will also be working with other members of the country team (e.g., UNOPS, UNDP, IOM,) to develop a complimentary UN strategy for institutional development of Iraqi NGOs and civil society groups.
- **Contingency Planning:** The continuing and anticipated security operations in several governorates in Iraq have and portend continued internal displacement of population and humanitarian needs. Recent developments in Khanaqin and Mosul continue to require preparedness for rapid humanitarian response to immediate needs of affected populations. OCHA commenced contingency planning for selected areas disputed by the Kurdish and Federal authorities and considered potential flashpoints.
- **Capacity Building:**
 - ❖ *Government Disaster Management and Emergency Response Capacity*
Iraq remains prone to a number of natural and man-made disasters. The capacity of the government to prevent, manage and respond to these emergencies is low. OCHA is in consultation with the Iraqi authorities for the establishment of an emergency cell with the office of the Prime Minister, linking relevant Iraqi government institution with UN and other partners to provide an effective coordination framework to disaster prevention, management and response.
 - ❖ *Disaster Management Workshop for NGO and Governorate Emergency Cells*
OCHA and UNICEF organized, funded and facilitated a workshop for Iraqi NGOs and Governorate Emergency Cells in Erbil October 7-9. The objective of the workshop was to enhance the coordination of emergency prevention and response capacity national partners and to strengthen cooperation between the UN, national humanitarian organizations and specialized government emergency response agencies. Twenty participants including 12 representatives from humanitarian organizations together with representatives of GECs from Kerbala, Wassit, Missan, Thi Qar, Erbil, Suleiymanya and Dahouk participated in the workshop. Participants were introduced to the UN humanitarian system, the Humanitarian Reform and the UN cluster approach in the field; International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles basic and contingency planning principles, rapid assessment of humanitarian emergencies, monitoring and evaluation of emergency interventions and the Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers.
- **Iraq Humanitarian Forum (IHF)**
The Iraq Humanitarian Forum (IHF) was established in July 2008 to strengthen coordination and partnership between all humanitarian partners on issues of policy concern and to act as a regular information exchange forum. The IHF is co-chaired by OCHA and NCCI and meets monthly. The IHF held its third meeting October 22. The Forum is consulting on adopting a common position of government reform of the Public Distribution System (PDS) among other issues.



Participants take part in the Disaster Management Workshop

- **Civil Military Relations**

The Humanitarian Coordinator has endorsed revised *Guidelines for UN and other Humanitarian Organizations on Interacting with Military, Non-State Armed Actors and other Security Actors in Iraq*. The guidelines are '... intended to provide a practical and overarching framework to ensure a more coordinated and transparent interaction between humanitarian actors and the military on issues of mutual concern. OCHA, in pursuit of civilian emergency preparedness and crisis management, is in the process of mapping relevant military and civilian actors' activities to establish appropriate civil-military coordination mechanisms.

Link: <http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/iraq>

Issues to Watch:

Budget Cuts: The government of Iraq has announced the cutback of projections for the 2009 Budget by \$16b from \$80 billion to \$67billion as a result of declining oil prices. The lion share of Iraq's budget is allocated to recurrent expenditure outlays. Budget cuts are likely to tighten spending priorities with yet to be determined implications for humanitarian priorities 2009. To be sure, the 2009 budget above the \$48billion for 2008, which totalled \$69billion following a \$21billion supplementary allocation.

- **Public Distribution System Reform:** Government plans for monetizing the Public Distribution System with the view to eventual elimination by January 2012 are ongoing. Humanitarian partners are engaging the government to ensure reforms do render vulnerable beneficiary families without a safety net.

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