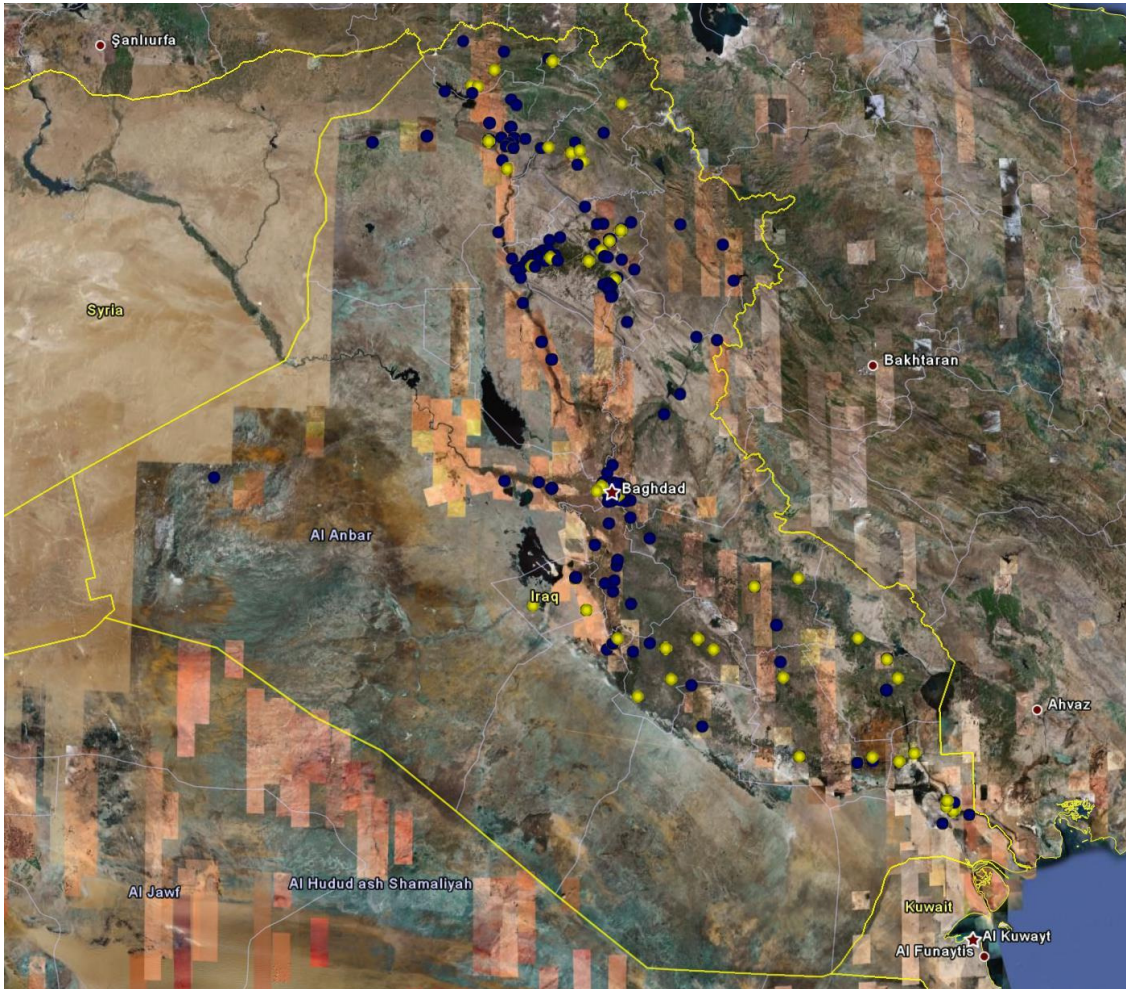




UNHCR IRAQ

Protection Monitoring Assessments Summary

March 2008 to March 2009



Assessed locations: Locations assessed during Phase I are marked with orange dots; Phase 2 in yellow.

Assessed locations:

Anbar		Basrah		Erbil		Muthanna		Sulaymaniya	
Falluja	24	Abu al Khaseeb	3	Erbil	16	Al Rumaitha	18	Darbandihkan	1
Ramadi	1	Al Midaina	2	Shaqlawa	2	Al Samawa	16	Kalar	2
Total:	25	Al Qurna	2	Soran	1	Total:	34	Sulaymaniya	4
		Al Zubair	3	Total:	19			Total:	7
Babylon		Basrah	17	Kerbala		Najaf		Thi-Qar	
Al Mahawil	14	Shatt Al Arab	3	Al Hindiya	16	Kufa	15	Al Chibayish	9
Al Muyasab	6	Total:	30	Ain Al Tamur	5	Total:	40	Al Rifa'i	2
Hashimiya	4	Dahuk		Kerbala	11			Nassriya	4
Hilla	8	Amedi	5	Total:	32	Ninewa		Total:	15
Total:	32	Dahuk	6	Kirkuk		Al Hamdaniya	27		
		Sumel	4	Al Hawiga	49	Al Hatra	2	Wassit	
Baghdad		Zakho	1	Daquq	19	Al-Shikhan	3	Al Hai	5
Abu Ghraib	2	Total:	16	Kirkuk	115	Mosul	82	Al Na'maniya	2
Adhamiya	15	Diwaniya		Total:	183	Sinjar	4	Al Suwaira	10
Al Resafa	58	Al-Shamiya	1	Missan		Telarfar	10	Kut	9
Karkh	69	Afaq	8	Al Mejar Al Kabir	5	Tilkaif	4	Badra	1
Mada'in	5	Diwaniya	25	Amara	10	Total:	132	Total assessments:	872
Mahmoudiya	6	Hamza	6	Al Kahla	1	Salah al-Din			
Taji	4	Total:	40	Al Maimouna	1	Al Daur	4		
Total:	159	Diyala		Qual'at Saleh	1	Al-Shirqat	2		
		Al Muqyadiya	2	Total:	18	Baiji	3		
		Khanaqin	18			Balad	4		
		Total:	20			Tikrit	9		
						Tooz	1		
						Total:	23		

From March 2008 until October 2008 (Phase 1), UNHCR and its Protection and Assistance Centres (PACs) conducted a total of 469 protection assessments at the community level throughout Iraq. The assessments included in-depth interviews with key community leaders which in-turn represented a total of 681,203 persons of concern to UNHCR. From October 2008 until March 2009 a further 404 assessments (Phase 2) were conducted. This second round of assessments were carried out using improved questionnaires and methodology based on lessons learnt during Phase 1.¹ In addition, 213 individual in-depth household interviews were conducted.

During Phase 1 and 2, the assessments identified the protection needs representing a total of **830,082** persons of concern to UNHCR.²

IDPs

In Phase 1, some 89,937 IDP families (461,959 individuals) were identified: of which 33,864 families (168,714 individuals) had fled before February 2006 with the remaining 56,073 families (293,245 individuals) being displaced after February 2006. According to the assessments the majority of IDPs were displaced due to generalised violence (61%), targeted threats or attacks (26%) and specific military operations (11%). 53% of the IDPs expressed the intention of returning home; 25% considered integrating in their current location; and 21% were undecided.

During Phase 2, UNHCR through its PACs identified an additional 37,682 IDP families (104,098 individuals): 381 IDP families fled before April 2003; 3,128 families fled between April 2003 and February 2006, with the vast majority 34,173 families fleeing after the violence which erupted after the bombing in Samarra in February 2006. The bulk of the IDPs continued to report that they were displaced due to the generalised violence (51%), targeted threats or attacks (41%) or economic reasons (3%). Asked to rank their intentions, an increasing number opted to return home (79%). Returning to at least the same neighbourhood and integrate locally in the current location ranked second and third respectively. Some 53% of IDPs stated that they originated from Baghdad, 22% from Ninewa, and 14% from Diyala.

Returnees (Refugees and IDPs)

During Phase I 35,157 returnee families (219,244 individuals) were assessed: this included 22,925 IDP returnee families (151,005 individuals) and 12,232 refugee returnee families (68,239 individuals). Some 9,880 IDP and 3,504 refugee returnee families stated that they had fled their homes prior to February 2006; 13,045 IDP and 8,728 refugee returnee families claimed to have been displaced after this date. IDP returnee families stated that they had initially fled because of the threat from generalized violence (40%), economic reasons (26%), targeted threats or attacks (24%) or specific military operations (10%). The majority of refugee returnees

stated that they initially fled due to generalised violence (51%) or targeted threats or attacks (41%).

During Phase 2, a further 11,730 returnee families (44,781 individuals) were assessed: this was made up of 10,665 IDP returnee families (42,639 individuals) and 1,065 refugee returnee families (2,142 individuals). Some 3,709 IDP and 228 refugee returnee families fled their homes prior to February 2006; 6,956 IDP and 837 refugee returnee families were displaced after this date. IDP returnee families initially fled because of general violence (48%), targeted threats or attacks (17%), and specific military operations or economic reasons (each 3%). Refugee returnees initially fled due to general violence (45%), targeted threats or attacks (15%) or because of economic reasons (11%).

Persons with specific needs

Phase 1 identified the following specific needs: families with no income (24,938) and those with more than 10 family members (10,820), elderly heads of households (7,065), female heads of households, widows, divorced women and women without a male relative (6,059), families with disabled family members (4,161), minor heads of households (3,431) and orphans (2,910). From October 2008 to March 2009 (Phase 2), the number of families with specific needs were identified as follows:

Specific needs (Phase 2):	IDPs		IDP returnees		Refugee returnees	
	Number of FAM	% of FAM	Number of FAM	% of FAM	Number of FAM	% of FAM
Large family (more than 10 members) with no income	5,053	13%	715	7%	140	13%
Elderly head of household	4,682	12%	526	5%	258	24%
FHoH, widows, divorced women, no male relative	3,792	10%	407	4%	96	9%
Children under 18 who lost both parents	2,606	7%	481	4.5%	56	5%
Disabled family member	958	2.5%	406	4%	36	3%

Physical protection

In Phase 1, the main incidents affecting persons of concern during displacement were military operations (30%), generalised violence (25%), detention or imprisonment (20%) and general crime (19%). The majority of IDPs and returnees experienced restrictions of movement due to checkpoints (56%), inaccessible or flooded roads (49%), curfews (28%), fences and barriers (27%), as well as the need to obtain permission on movements (20%).

The majority of persons assessed from October 2008 to March 2009 stated that they were not directly affected by any security incidents during the past three months (87% of IDPs, 86% IDP returnees, 64% refugee returnees). Those who indicated as being affected by security incidents referred to intra-ethnic or intra-religious fighting (9% of IDPs and 2.5% of IDP returnees), large explosions (4.5% IDPs and 1% IDP returnees), forced recruitment by armed elements of children and adults (4.5% IDPs). IDP returnees also mentioned looting, general violence, and mines/UXOs. Some 8% of IDPs and 2% of IDP returnees mentioned that their groups were targeted specifically and mentioned mostly religious reasons (8% IDPs, 2% IDP returnees) or ethnic reasons (2% of IDPs, 1% of IDP returnees) as the primary motive. Many communities reported that community members were missing- 75% of IDPs, 36% of IDP returnees and 45% of refugee returnees mentioned they were missing family members. Some 36% of IDPs, 6% of IDP returnees, and 2.5% of refugee

¹ Methodology: From March to October 2008, monitoring teams conducted interviews in each location with three persons representing the group (one representative of the group of concern, one community leader and one authority / official figure). Locations were selected according to the following criteria: 1) high presence of persons of concern, 2) recent movements of persons of concern, and 3) possible return locations. From October 2008 to March 2009, the monitoring teams conducted interviews with both an authority or administrative official with knowledge about the group as well as with focus groups representing the assessed group in each location (IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees). In each assessed location and throughout the entire period, teams assessed the access to and condition of primary health centres, hospitals, primary and secondary schools, police stations and courts, as well as water, electricity, and sewage networks. Protection Monitoring is ongoing.

² As some locations were assessed more than once, a number of persons of concern may be counted double. However, these are a negligible number of cases.

returnees also reported children to be missing. Many IDPs and returnees experienced restrictions of movement due to checkpoints (40%) and curfews (12%).

Documentation and registration

In Phase 1, some 88% of IDP and returnee families reported lacking documentation; most commonly PDS ration cards (64%), civil IDs (60%), birth certificates (58%), marriage certificates (46%) or passports (43%). About 60% of IDPs and returnees stated they were required to register with the authorities in their current location and 78% were registered. The main consequence of not registering is the exclusion from government assistance.

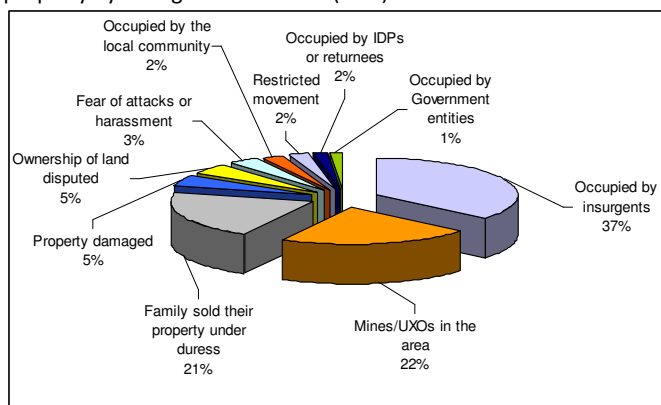
In Phase 2, some 52% of IDP, 18% of IDP returnee and 38% of refugee returnee families reported lacking documentation, most commonly:

Document	IDPs	IDP returnees	Refugee returnees
PDS ration cards	32.5%	11.5%	26%
Civil ID	26.5%	16.5%	23%
Nationality certificate	23.5%	10%	28.5%
Passport	22.5%	8%	18%

About 62% of IDPs stated they needed to register with the authority in their current location; however, only 53% of all IDPs were registered. Of the returnees, 79% of IDP returnees and 55% of refugee returnees approached the authorities to register. The main consequence of not registering has been reported to be exclusion from government assistance (60%), no PDS distributions (32%), no job opportunities (23%), as well as no fuel distribution (18%). For refugee returnees, not registering makes them ineligible for returnee grants (in 47% of the cases) and land allocations (21%). Asked why some families were not registered, the groups answered that these families were either unaware of the process (11%) or they do not fulfill the requirements (9%).

Housing and property

During Phase 1 the majority of the assessed persons of concern lived in mixed settlements among the host community (80%), mainly in rented houses (44%), owned houses (23%) or in houses with relatives (18%). Some 41% of the structures were reported to be badly damaged and 21% were overcrowded. 20,433 families (77%) reported having lost or being unable to access their own property in their place of origin and mentioned as reasons fear for their life (51%), fear of harassment (35%), as well as the occupation of their property by insurgents or militias (32%).



Reasons why families (IDPs and returnees) have lost rights to or cannot access their former property (Phase 2 only, multiple choice).

The majority of IDPs assessed in Phase 2 lived in rented houses or apartments (52%) as well as in occupied public buildings (19%) or settlements (13%). 37% of IDP returnees and 33% of refugee returnees assessed during this timeframe lived in allocated houses or land. Other returnees lived in rented houses (29% IDP returnees, 25% refugee returnees) as well as settlements (27% of IDP returnees, 5% refugee returnees). Some 19% of IDPs and IDP returnees and 2% of refugee returnees reported that their houses are severely damaged, which is a significant improvement compared to findings made in the previous half year. The majority of IDPs reported that families among them have lost rights to or cannot access property in their former neighbourhood. The comparative number among returnees is lower; 56% of refugee returnees and 15% of IDP returnees have lost rights to or cannot access their former property. In the majority of cases the reasons were that property was occupied by insurgents or militia (47% of all cases).

Community relations

The majority of assessed IDP and returnee communities in Phase 2 reported that the situation had improved with their local host communities. During Phase 1, tensions with local communities were reported to be due to a combination of factors (overburdened services, rising prices, problems related to housing or land, the behavior of the IDP or returnee group, or high unemployment);

Income and employment

In Phase 1, only half of the working-age IDP and 51% of working-age returnee men were engaged in paid labor. The main reason for this high unemployment was reportedly the lack of employment opportunities in the respective areas (68% for IDPs and 90% for returnees). 20% of IDPs and 7% of returnees mentioned that their qualifications were not recognized. Female-headed households supported themselves through their own work (46%), or relied on assistance from relatives and friends (39%) or charities or religious organizations (34%). 29% of female-headed households reported that their children worked to support the family. Only 7% of the population of concern receives Government welfare.

In Phase 2, about 62% of all communities interviewed reported that most working-age men were engaged in labour activities which is an improvement compared to the previous half year. Most of these men worked as daily labourers, in transport, agriculture, restaurants or hotels, constructions, or as public servants. Asked what the obstacles were in finding employments, the majority mentioned general high unemployment in their current location. Roughly 30% of IDPs also said that their qualifications were not recognised in the place of displacement, while 30% of refugee returnees mentioned lacking agricultural land/tools, seeds or fertiliser; 12% of refugee returnees also reported that they could not return to their public service job. Most female heads of household supported themselves by working (59% IDPs, 49% IDP returnees, 10% refugee returnees), others were supported by relatives or friends (29% IDPs, 44% IDP returnees, 5% refugee returnees), or their children were working (20% IDPs, 44% IDP returnees, 4% refugee returnees). Some 26% of female heads of households reported that they were not receiving any support.

Food and PDS cards

Iraqis assessed during Phase I reported that 58% of the adults and 60% of the children have enough to eat. For both IDPs and returnees, market purchases and PDS rations represented the main sources of food, whereas PDS distributions were more important for returnees. 62% of IDPs and 74% of returnees are reported to rely on PDS food rations. 53% reported that PDS rations were received monthly, 40% only received rations every 1-3 months. Rations were rarely complete (in only 8% of the cases). 70% of IDPs and 82% of returnees had PDS cards. The main reasons for IDPs not having a PDS card were delays in the transfer of the card to the current

location (37%), problems reactivating the PDS card in their former neighborhood (27%), and that they had to return to their place of origin first to deregister (12%). For returnees, the lack of documents were the main problem in obtaining a PDS card (58%), followed by delays in the transfer of the card (27%) and that they had to deregister in their place of origin first (12%).

During Phase 2, some 20% of IDPs, 10% of IDP returnees and 34% of refugee returnees reported that they did not have a valid PDS card, which shows only a slight improvement for IDPs compared to the first half year. Reasons for not having a valid PDS card were that families could not transfer their PDS record due to Governorate restrictions (28% IDPs, 16% IDP returnees, 9% refugee returnees) and missing documents (22% IDPs, 4% IDP returnees, 11% refugee returnees). The main sources for all persons of concern were PDS food rations (92% of IDPs, 80% of IDP returnees, 64% of refugee returnees) and purchases made in the market (79% of IDPs, 69% of IDP returnees, 49% of refugee returnees) and food relief (26% IDPs, 4% IDP returnees, 38% refugee returnees). PDS rations were only in 35% of the cases 75% or more complete and were distributed every month in most locations.

Children and education

From March to October 2008, about 57% of primary school-age boys and 52% of primary school-age girls attended school during the two weeks prior to each assessment. Less than half of the children had basic school supplies. The main reasons for children not attending school were the need to work (44%, boys only), the lack of supplies (43%), missing documents for school enrolment (36%) and bad conditions of the school (35%). It was reported that, on average, 14% of IDP children and 12% of returnee children were working. Some 21% of the communities assessed reported that there were girls suffering from domestic violence in their community. Also, some 36% of the communities mentioned they have children without both father and mother living among them. Some 10-13% of the communities mentioned children were begging in their location.

Since October 2008, about 59% of the assessed communities reported that only "some" children were attending school. 15% of the communities reported that "most" or "all" boys were attending school, and only 9% reported this to be true for girls. Reasons for not attending school are the need to work (53% boys, 17% girls), expensive school supplies (49% boys, 52% girls), expensive transport (20% boys, 19% girls), overcrowded schools (12% boys, 11% girls) and missing documents for school admission (12% all children). Also, education was deemed unnecessary for 21% of the girls, similarly, 19% of the communities mentioned tribal habits as a reason for girls not attending schools. Communities further reported about children working (66% boys, 15% girls), children without both mother or father (45% boys, 47% girls), and children with mental disabilities (26% boys, 20% girls) as well as children experiencing domestic violence (5% boys, 16% girls).

Basic services

From March to October 2008, approximately 37% of IDPs and returnees had access to electricity, which was available for about 5 hours per day. Fuel was only available irregularly and only 25% of the persons of concern could afford it. Hygiene was reported as a concern by the majority throughout the country; 8% of those assessed stated that they had to share toilet facilities with more than 20 people. During the same timeframe, some 67% of the persons of concern had access to health care, but the majority of primary health centres and hospitals were reported to be overburdened and in need of repair. Almost half of those assessed complained of a lack of potable water for drinking and cooking purposes (46%), although the main water source was a piped water network (76%).

From October 2008 to March 2009, some 55% of those interviewed stated they had access to electricity through a public network; 37% through private generators. Electricity was available for more than 6 hours a day for more than 22% of the families. Piped network was the main water source was for about 80% with water being reported to be potable in 56% of the cases. However, some 31% of the families reported a shortage of water in their households. 94% of IDPs and 90% of IDP returnees, but only 40% of refugee returnees had access to a primary health centre. For 24% of the IDPs (1% IDP returnees, 8% refugee returnees), health costs are not affordable. 1% of IDPs and 3% of IDP returnees say they have been rejected from health institutions when in need of emergency medical help.

Assistance

The following actors provided assistance to the assessed communities:³

Provided assistance Mar 08-Oct 08 (Phase 1)	
Actor	All POCs
NGOs	45%
MoDM	23%
IRCS	34%
Charity / religious organizations	18%
UN	10%
Local resident community	7%
Governorate authorities	3%
ISF	10%
Local authorities	4%
Tribal leaders	3%
Local leaders	3%

Provided assistance Oct 08 – Mar 09 (Phase 2)			
Actor	IDPs	IDP returnees	Refugee returnees
NGOs	61%	64%	58%
MoDM	64%	13%	45%
IRCS	22%	23%	41%
Charity / religious organizations	28%	19%	8%
UN	23%	14%	36%
Local resident community	10%	5%	5%
Governorate authorities	9%	3%	2%
ISF	8%	5%	
Local authorities	7%		2%
Peshmerga		11%	
District authorities	6%		2%
Tribal leaders	8%		4%
Local leaders	5%	1%	4%
KRG authorities	6%	7%	2%

³ The percentages indicate how many groups have received assistance from the respective actors, not how much assistance was provided.