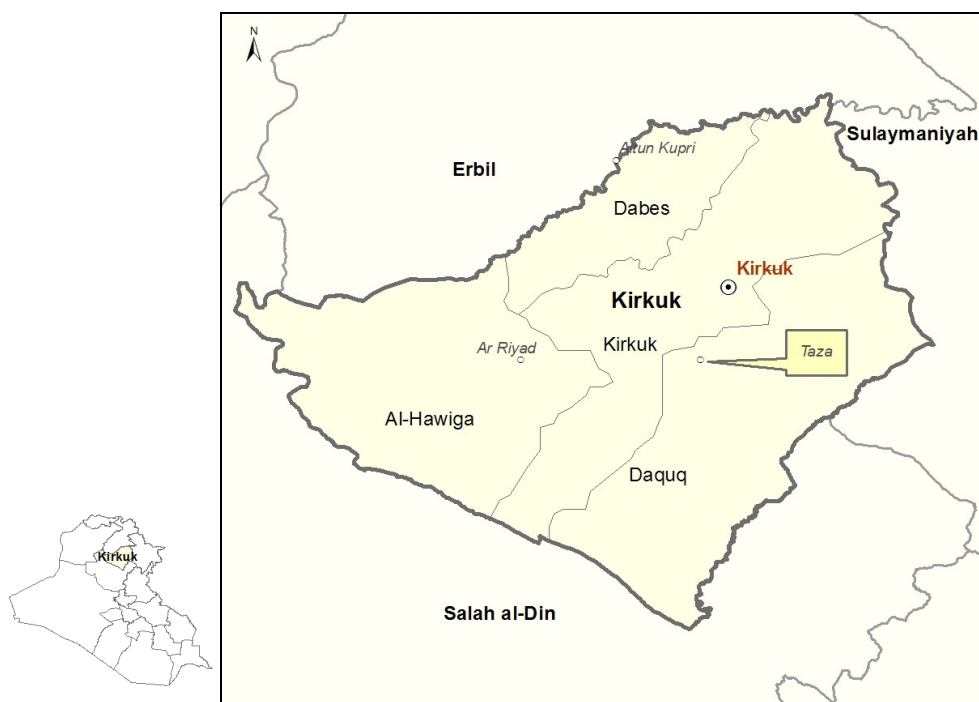


**Iraq Taza Bombing  
Situation Report  
13 July 2009**



**1. Situation Overview**

On 20 June, more than 1000kg of explosives detonated in Taza, a town 20 km south of Kirkuk, killing up to 85 people and wounding over 170.

This was the deadliest attack in Iraq for more than one year and occurred when a suicide truck bomber detonated the explosives close to the Al Rasoul mosque in Taza, a Shia Turkmen town.

95 homes were completely destroyed by the blast with a further 100 homes suffering over 40% damage levels. Registration of the homeless by the Taza sub district authorities remains ongoing; however it is believed that up to 600 people have been affected by this incident.

**II. Humanitarian Needs and Response**

Five local NGOs conducted an interagency needs assessment in Taza on 8 July. Each NGO focused on one particular sector and held interviews with the relevant local officials from that sector in addition to meeting with those affected.

**1. Shelter, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.**

During the course of the day the assessment team visited the camp that now has 45 tents erected by the Turkish Red Crescent Society and managed by the Turkmen Civil Society Network. Families typically gather around the tents during the day and then leave in the evenings to sleep and wash at friends and relatives. Families expressed concerns over safety and security, lack of toilets and showers and staying overnight at the camp. While lights are available for use inside the tents, there are no larger lighting units to illuminate the camp after dark and no perimeter fencing has been erected.



All the tents have air coolers but water and sanitation facilities are deemed inadequate. A basic water pipe distribution network has been installed by the Water Directorate. However, there are currently only three tap units and these have no sinks meaning that water flows over the ground. Three units are inadequate for the numbers affected. The Taza Water Directorate has confirmed that adequate, potable water is available in the camp however this quickly heats up due to exposure to day time temperatures in excess of 40 degrees. The Iraqi Army has stated its intention to install a portable kitchen in the camp.

Two toilets have been built by the Iraqi Army and community members with separate facilities for men and women. However, these are not linked to a sewage system meaning the waste is allowed to congregate. The Kirkuk Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) is seeking to address this problem and will provide eight mobile units split equally between toilets and shower facilities for men and women that are expected to be in place by 14 July. The Taza department of Water and Sanitation will be responsible for the disposal of waste.

A second camp has recently been established outside Taza and was visited by the PRT on 11 July. There are 15 families living in very basic conditions in seven tents and three surrounding buildings. The tents lack ground sheets and the families have been using the buildings for cooking, washing and toilet facilities. Relief supplies are only reaching the families on an intermittent basis and the PRT feels there are gaps that can be filled by the NGOs. The only local official present on the ground was a representative from the Ministry of Interior.

The United Foundation for Relief and Abiding Development (FUAD), an implementing partner for UNHCR is in the process of completing its survey on destroyed and damaged homes. Once completed, UNHCR will start the process of rebuilding and reconstruction

The PRT met with Taza sub district council on 12 July during which compensation details were discussed. According to the council those made homeless by the bombing should apply directly to Baghdad with full details of their losses and they will then be reimbursed directly. A committee has been set up in Baghdad for this purpose and comprises the Directorates of Youth, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Municipalities and Reconstruction.

## **2. Food and Non Food Items (NFI) s**

The assessment team made a visit to the school and youth club in Taza where donated food and non-food items have been stored since shortly after the explosion. The person in charge of the school mentioned the need for 10 tons of flour, two tons of beans, two tons of lentils, vegetable oil and tea. 12 tons of flour, 10 tons of rice and 400 cartons of vegetable oil and other items are currently available in the two holding areas pending distribution. WFP still awaits a list of beneficiaries from the Taza council before commencing any further distribution (eight tons of food comprising two months rations for 500 individuals).

Non food items (NFI)s have come from a number of sources including the Iraqi government, Turkmen Political Parties, UN agencies and NGOs and have included blankets, mattresses, bed sheets, pillows and hygiene kits. UNICEF distributed 50 family water kits through its implementing partners on 9 and 10 July along with an additional 4,300 soap bars and 2,200 packs of water purification tablets. IOM is in the process of identifying vulnerable families and will then distribute NFIs to 170 families, with each family receiving three beds, one stove, one gas bottle, four chairs and table, one air cooler and two plastic closets.

The needs assessment team however identified specific NFI requirements that are currently not being met and these include fans, kitchen utensils, women and children's clothes, diapers, feeding bottles, baby milk, washing powder and towels.

Kurdish media reported on 12 July that cash assistance was distributed through the office of President Talabani to survivors of the Taza attack. The aid was distributed by a special committee during a ceremony attended by a representative of the President during which \$1000 was given to families of the bereaved while \$300 was provided to those who were wounded.

## **3. Health**

The assessment team visited Taza primary health care clinic that receives on average 50 patients per day, and found some instances of patients with skin ailments and also psychosocial cases. There are some shortages of specific antibiotics, painkillers and an electrocardiogram unit. Contact has been made with the Kirkuk health directorate to cover the gaps in medicines while UNICEF, in collaboration with the health directorate, will conduct a health awareness campaign in an attempt to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.



### III. Coordination

Coordination has continued through two forums. Evening meetings take place twice weekly on Forward Operation Base “Warrior” in Kirkuk that are chaired by UNAMI HRD and attended by the MNF-I, PRT and other UNAMI sections.

UN-NGO coordination meetings chaired by UNAMI HRD are held on a weekly basis at the Kirkuk Governor’s Building. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday 19 July.

UNAMI HRD will organize a workshop in Kirkuk in August for local NGOs that will inform them of the Sphere project and its obligations to meet minimum sectoral requirements when working in emergency contexts.

### IV. Contact

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