

Iraq Monthly Highlights

April 2010

Makhmour Camp

As part of the Government of Iraq's (GoI) nationwide programme to comprehensively register all refugees a delegation of the Ministry of Interior visited Makhmour Camp to plan with UNHCR, the Kurdistan Region Government (KRG) and the local authorities the registration of some 11,000 Turkish Kurd refugees. The resultant issuance of an Iraqi Refugee Card will mark a significant step forward in the implementation of the civil rights of this group which first arrived in Makhmour in 1998. UNHCR has supported this programme which has already covered registration of some 12,000 Palestinians with technical advice and provision of registration equipment.



Re-registration in Sulaymaniyah

With the introduction of UNHCR's data management system ProgGres to the Iraq Operation UNHCR is conducting a re-registration/verification of refugee data in the North. The first phase of re-registration in Sulaymaniyah Governorate was completed with the processing in Kalar of some 380 Iranian Kurdish refugee cases. The main registration centre in Sulaymaniyah city was established with an expected 690 cases to be re-registered in May.



NFI distributions to Ahwazi refugees in the South

In April 2010 and following the re-registration of Iranian Ahwazi refugees in the South of Iraq, UNHCR completed the NFI distributions in favour of these refugees. In total, 139 refugee families (607 individuals) scattered in Basrah, Missan and Diwaniyah governorates were outreached by UNHCR field staff together with the national implementing partner, Rafha Organisation for Relief and Development (RORD) that manages the Return, Integration Community Centers (RICCs) in Basrah and Missan.



Capacity Building to the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) in Basrah

UNHCR started the support to the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) registration process in Basrah. In light of the new registration regulations, MoDM is currently updating its returnee database. UNHCR identified and addressed the urgent need for this additional support in order to enhance MoDM's registration capacity and to speed up the returnee database update. The registration update is a prerequisite for persons of concern to UNHCR to access to GOI assistance, namely return grant and land allocations.



Funding Update

UNHCR is grateful for contributions made by Japan, Canada, Australia, Denmark, EC, Finland, Germany, Korea, UK, Sweden and Switzerland. UNHCR's Regional Appeal for the Iraq Situation amounted to 508 million USD and is only funded by 6% at end of April mainly from Funding situation for Iraq and the region (neighboring countries hosting Iraqis) is alarming for this time of the year.



Increase of staff in Mosul – staffing Update

Four new national staff joined the Mosul Field Unit (one international and 5 national staff) marking a major step forward in the implementation of shelter outreach and NNGO development projects in the Ninewa Province which hosts some 28,000 IDP families. UNHCR Iraq ended the month of April with a total of 147 staff on board, 110 are in field offices inside Iraq.