



Background

- UNHCR has been present in Iraq since the 1980s protecting refugees and asylum seekers. While Iraq is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol it has hosted, with UNHCR's assistance, Palestinian, Iranian, Turkish and Syrian refugees. After the fall of the previous regime, UNHCR's program included assisting returning refugees and IDPs. After the Samara Shrine bombing in February 2006, the UNHCR's responsibility was expanded to assisting internally displaced persons. The main government partners are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM), the Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM) and the Ministry of Interior.
- UNHCR facilitates the return of people who have decided to repatriate on an individual basis. UNHCR has recorded 426,090 Iraqi refugee and IDP returnees during 2008 and 2009. Of this total, 15% are refugees, the rest are IDPs and 90% returned to Baghdad and Diyala. UNHCR has registered some 230,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria, Jordan and countries neighboring Iraq.
- An estimated 1.5 million IDPs are in Iraq, including about 500,000 homeless individuals displaced in settlements or camp-like situations in extremely poor conditions and who are priority for protection, emergency assistance and advocacy interventions.
- Prime Minister's Order 101, issued in August 2008, facilitates the return of refugees and IDPs in Baghdad through the restitution of illegally occupied properties. The Council of Ministers' Order 262 provides registered returnee families with a grant of one million ID (US\$ 840). In 2009 Order 101 was extended to Diyala (Order No. 54) calling for close coordination/collaboration with international agencies. UNHCR is coordinating the UN transitional efforts for the "Diyala (return) Initiative" together with the GoI.
- UNHCR has well-established Protection and Assistance Centers (PACs) coupled in mid-2009 with the launching of the Return, Integration and Community Centers (RICCs) network. Both increase the outreach to the communities through provision of legal advice, protection monitoring (PACs), operations coordination, needs assessment, social and information assistance (RICCs).
- Shelter along with livelihoods, continues to be one of the key concerns of returnees; 60% of assessed IDPs reported that their houses are either damaged/destroyed or occupied by others which can impact their decision to return.
- Iraq is in transition; entering a recovery phase where civil society will play an integral part to sustainable returnee communities. UNHCR launched its NGO Empowerment Scheme in mid-2009 to enhance the performance and administrative capacity of selected national NGOs and enabling UNHCR to deliver urgent assistance at a targeted and grassroots level.

Priorities in 2010

REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS

Pending durable solutions through voluntary returns, resettlement to third countries or local integration, protection and material assistance for some **40,000** refugees will continue to be provided in camps, settlements and individual urban refugees. UNHCR has 13 refugee camps and settlements in Iraq, the major ones are in Western Anbar (Al Waleed camp for Palestinians, Iranian Kurds and Ahwazis); in Ninewa (Makhmour for Turkish Kurds); in Erbil (Kawa for Iranian Kurds); and in Sulaymaniyah (Barika settlement for Iranian Kurds). Targeted assistance is provided to scattered urban refugees Iraq-wide including Ahwazis in the South. UNHCR continues to search for durable solutions for refugees who do not have potential for return or local integration inside Iraq. The Palestinian refugees in Al Waleed camp are likely to be resettled in 2010.

Major refugee camps/settlements in North Iraq

| Camp/settlement | FAM. | IND. |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Makhmour camp, Ninewa | 2,563 | 10,924 |
| Barika settlement, Sulaymaniyah | 426 | 2,268 |
| Kawa settlement, Erbil | 239 | 1,333 |
| TOTAL | 3,228 | 14,525 |

Refugee camp in Centre Iraq

| Camp | FAM. | IND. |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Al Waleed Camp (Palestinians) | 174 | 629 |
| Al Waleed Camp (Iranian Kurds) | 37 | 184 |
| Al Waleed Camp (Ahwazis) | 30 | 101 |
| TOTAL | 241 | 914 |

For more information contact:
Maha Sidky, Associate Reporting Officer
e-mail: sidky@unhcr.org

RETURNEES (Refugees, IDPS) & IDPS

SHELTER rehabilitation and reconstruction of **48,810** units for returnees, focus in the Central region where higher number of returns occur (11,862 rehabilitation, 8,937 new construction and 28,011 minor repairs including IDP squatters).

WAT/SAN: 98 minor water and sanitation projects linked to the shelter rehabilitation with direct and communal impacts.

REINTEGRATION support continued through **16** RICCs: 6 in Baghdad, 7 in Salah Al-Din, Diyala, Anbar, Basrah, Missan, Ninewa and Kirkuk (3 to be identified).

LEGAL ASSISTANCE through **15** PACs and **40** mobile teams, possible consolidation in areas where RICCs are functional (two of the PACs have already merged with existing RICCs).

SUPPORT to MODM-managed RACs in Baghdad: registration, access to the GOI return assistance grant and property restitution. At March 2010, the GoI reports that **48,164** returnee families received the returnee cash grant of one million Iraqi Dinars (approx. USD 850) out of the 62,402 registered with MoDM.

DIYALA INITIATIVE strengthened and expanded with GoI leadership by coordinating with other actors in order to reach a comprehensive reintegration package for returnees.

ESSENTIAL ITEM distribution of Non-Food Items and hygiene items to **71,042** vulnerable families: IDPs, returnees, refugees, asylum seekers with focus on IDPs in settlements.

IDP SETTLEMENTS, housing vulnerable displaced will receive essential items, shelter assistance and advocacy with authorities to protect from arbitrary eviction.

CONTINGENCY stock of NFI for 100,000 persons.

COMMUNITY-BASED support to communities via multi-sector micro-projects directly targeting returnee and IDP-hosting communities through the N/NGO Partnership Empowerment Scheme, encompassing **400** national NGOs.

RETURNS MANAGEMENT to ensure refugees/IDPs have sufficient knowledge to make informed choices about return, expanded border monitoring, returnees interviews, information dissemination on conditions in Iraq.



April 2010
Fact Sheet



COORDINATION WITH UN AGENCIES

UNHCR collaborates with other UN agencies on the ground through the Protection and Shelter Outcome Teams where UNHCR leads Protection and co-leads Shelter with UN-Habitat as the lead.

COUNTERPARTS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Government of Iraq: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM)
Ministry of Interior (MoI)
Implementation and Follow-up Committee for National Reconciliation (IFCNR)
Ministry of Human Rights (MoHR)
Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM)

International NGOs: 12

National NGOs Direct Partnership: 17

National NGOs Indirect Partnership: 400 (target)

UNHCR Presence and Outreach

UNHCR Offices with International Presence

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Branch Office Baghdad | 43 staff |
| Sub Office Erbil | 18 staff |
| Field Office Basrah | 8 staff |
| Field Office Mosul | 6 staff |
| Field Office Kirkuk | 7 staff |
| Support Unit Amman | 32 staff |
| Support Unit Kuwait (CBBK) | 2 staff |
| Centre Field Locations (Al Waleed, Ramadi, Baquba/Diyala, Karbala, Kut, Najaf, Samara, Trebil) | 16 staff |
| North Field Locations (Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah) | 11 staff |
| South Field Locations (Missan, Nassiriyah) | 7 staff |
| Total | 150 staff (102 inside Iraq) |

UNHCR Outreach

Protection and Assistance Centres (PACs)

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Centre | 43 staff |
| North | 39 staff |
| South | 43 staff |
| Total PACs | 125 staff |

Return Integration Community Centres (RICCs)

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Centre | 126 staff |
| North | 13 staff |
| South | 20 staff |
| Total RICCs | 159 staff |

GRAND TOTAL

435 staff

UNHCR Staffing as at May 2010

UNHCR Iraq Country Budget

| Year | Total Budget |
|------|----------------|
| 2010 | \$ 264,285,225 |

Iraq country budget is part of the UNHCR's Regional Appeal for the Iraq Situation of USD 508,166,791

Population of Concern

| Internally Displaced Persons * | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Timeframe | Individuals |
| Post Feb. 2006 | 1,552,003 |
| Total | 1,522,003 |

* Post February 2006 only

Registered Refugees in Iraq

| Origin | Individuals |
|--------------|---------------|
| Palestine | 11,544 |
| Syria | 259 |
| Iran | 12,568 |
| Turkey | 10,344 |
| Others | 14 |
| Total | 34,729 |

UNHCR ProGres statistics at April 2010

Asylum-Seekers Hosted in Iraq

| Origin | Individuals |
|--------------|--------------|
| Iran | 2,318 |
| Syria | 439 |
| Turkey | 1,867 |
| Others | 15 |
| Total | 4,639 |

UNHCR ProGres statistics at April 2010

Voluntary Return of Iraqis in 2010

| Period | IDPs | Refugees |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 2008 | 195,890 | 25,370 |
| 2009 | 167,740 | 37,090 |
| Total 2008/2009 | 363,630 | 62,460 |
| January 2010 | 8,780 | 2,820 |
| February 2010 | 7,320 | 2,160 |
| March 2010 | 14,630 | 2,450 |
| April | 6,600 | 2,130 |
| Grand Total for 2010 | | 46,890 |

Resettlement Statistics January 2008 to April 2010

| Country of Resettlement | Iranians submitted | Palestinians submitted | Others ** | Total Individuals submitted | Total Individuals departed |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| DEN | 43 | 62 | | 105 | 55 |
| FIN | 39 | 26 | | 65 | 13 |
| FRA | 16 | 108 | | 124 | 84 |
| ICE | | 59 | | 59 | 37 |
| LUX | 1 | | | 1 | |
| NET | 29 | 41 | | 70 | 43 |
| NOR | 60 | 203 | 1 | 264 | 177 |
| NZL | 11 | 31 | | 42 | 6 |
| POR | | 5 | | 5 | |
| SWE | 56 | 256 | 3 | 315 | 176 |
| SWI | | 5 | | 5 | |
| UK | 12 | | | 12 | 31 |
| USA | 100 | 1,165 | 9 | 1,274 | 882 |
| TOTAL | 367 | 1,961 | 13 | 2,341 | 1,504 |

** Other nationalities submitted include a total of 4 Somali nationals and a total of 8 Syrians.