



# UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés  
المفوضية السامية للأمم المتحدة لشؤون اللاجئين

Iraq Operations  
عمليات العراق

## Monthly Highlights

April 2009

- UNHCR completed a ten-day garbage disposal/clean up campaign for an IDP/host community settlement in Chikook, Kadhumiya District, Baghdad. The project to improve the living conditions for 24,000 Iraqis (more than half are IDPs since 2006) will further continue through a local NGO.
- UNHCR Shelter Guidelines are now systematically used by implementing partners. Of the 9,500 targeted shelters, an initial phase targeting 2,667 shelters started with 1,134 assessed, 114 under construction and 105 completed since the start of the implementation, mostly in March.
- 23 projects were initially selected for water interventions in shelter rehabilitated areas including Mosul, Kirkuk and Najaf as well as other projects in the south of Iraq. Implementation phase started in April with the assessment of four projects' locations.
- Of the 25,000 planned figures for NFI and hygiene kit distributions, an initial phase assessing the distribution of 17,500 kits Iraq wide was completed. Distribution phase started first week of April.
- UNHCR has identified 18 Baghdad-based national NGOs for its partnership project. This activity will enhance local capacity and strengthen UNHCR's reach out to displaced persons and returnees. Further selection process continues to reach the target of 50 NGOs.
- By beginning of May, UNHCR will open six Return Assistance Centers in Baghdad with the aim of further supporting returnees and assisting them to locally integrate upon return in communities of high return.
- UNHCR revised and published the eligibility guidance for Iraqi asylum claims in 2009. A complete copy is found on the web site.
- A delegation of UNHCR headed by the Representative visited Kirkuk and met with Deputy Head of the Provincial Council. Discussions included how to address the needs of internally displaced and provide support to officials from MoDM and DDM. The delegation also undertook a field visit to see the conditions at Kirkuk Stadium where some 500 Kurdish IDP returnee families have lived since 2003 and Panch Ali area of the city to see rehabilitation work implemented by UNHCR's implementing partner. Since the fall of the regime in 2003, an estimate of 35,000 families returned and some 1,600 Kurdish IDP returnee families still live in 33 public buildings.
- UNHCR reviewed its medical policy for refugees in the north whereby medical evacuations will not be a routine practice, reimbursement of treatment in Private System will be put under strict criteria and limits, will cease to consider importing medicines not available in Iraq and exceptional medical cases of children will be referred to UNICEF.
- Trainings for Programme and Protection Data Bases were completed, thus enhancing UNHCR's Iraq data management.

