



# UNHCR

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

Iraq  
العراق

## Monthly Highlights May 2009

- UNHCR officially established six Return Centers in Baghdad to support returnees and assist them to locally integrate. The Centers were fully operational in the second half of May and have already finalized the assessment of 110 districts in Baghdad. The identified priority needs by the returnees and communities are basic public services, shelter rehabilitation, electricity, potable water and employment opportunities. A more thorough analysis of collected data will be available in June.
- A donor briefing on Iraq operation took place at UNHCR HQs in Geneva at the end of May and the following key messages were shared with the donors soliciting their further support: a) need to safeguard protection space for uprooted Iraqis; b) help create conditions for sustainable return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees' c) continue to pursue resettlement for Iraqi refugees unable to return and; d) provide support to refugees inside Iraq including the Palestinians, Iranian and Turkish Kurds and others. The regional programme of USD 299 million is funded at only 48% as at end of May.
- Network with national NGOs continued to expand. In Baghdad, 10 new local NGOs entered in partnership with UNHCR. In the South, a new partner NGO will distribute NFIs and HKs to 1,800 returnees and IDPs in Missan, and another one will possibly implement shelter rehabilitation for 55 IDP and returnee families in Diwaniya.
- In the North, a partnership agreement has been established with the Directorate of Displacement Migration (DDM) in order to strengthen their capacity in assessing and responding to the needs of people of concern in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk. DDM will establish mobile teams and enhance its outreach and information gathering capabilities. In June, technical training of data entry personnel and the production of leaflets and newsletters will be completed.
- 917 vulnerable IDP and returnee families received emergency non-food items in Baghdad including widows in Al-Yousifiya and Hay Al-Shuhdaa (south-west of Baghdad). Similarly, hygiene kits (HKs) and plastic sheets were distributed to 3,750 impoverished IDP families in Chikook complexes in Baghdad.
- Protection Assistance Centers (PACs) mobile teams assessed and completed the distribution of NFIs to the 120 widows in Hardan village, Erbil Governorate. The families have been recently displaced due to bombs and shelling at the border areas with Turkey.
- January – May 2009 operational update indicates that a total of 373 shelters, benefiting approximately 2,238 persons, have been rehabilitated mainly in the center (Najaf, Baghdad and Salah al-Din) and the north (Ninewa) of Iraq. Out of the 19 planned WatSan projects, 10 have been assessed and one was completed. NFIs have reached a total of 1,456 families in addition to 200 families that have received single items.

