

IRAQ DISPLACEMENT 2006 YEAR IN REVIEW



Contents:	Page:
I. 2006 Displacement Overview	2
II. Emergency Assessments and Needs	10
III. Humanitarian Assistance Received	18
IV. Conclusion	19

EMERGENCY IDP MONITORING AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been assessing internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq since 2003. In 2006, IOM focused on the alarming increase in displacement due to heightened tensions after the bombing of a shrine in Samarra on 22 February. This event brought to light the need not only for comprehensive, thorough monitoring of the recently-displaced populations, but also a necessity to highlight increasing needs for assistance and donor funding.

Methodology: Monitors located in 15 governorates used Rapid Assessment Templates for both IDP groups and individual IDP families. The IDP Rapid Assessment Template inquires about a number of needs, including food, health care, water and sanitation, documentation, property, and IDPs' future intentions. Monitors visited IDP tribal and community leaders, local NGOs, local government bodies, and individual IDP families to gather information and complete the templates. All information was entered into a central database for analysis.

With this information, IOM has developed *Governorate Needs Assessment Profiles* for each of the 15 central and southern governorates in Iraq (posted at www.iom-iraq.net/idp.html). These profiles assist IOM and other agencies to prioritize areas of operation, plan emergency responses, and design long-term, durable solutions programs for the displaced and their host communities.

Displacement is ongoing, and displacement information changes on a daily basis. Despite increasing insecurity and instability throughout Iraq, IOM strives to continuously stay abreast with updated and accurate information.

I. 2006 DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Background

Iraq has a protracted history of displacement. Over the past four decades, human rights abuses, expulsion of citizens from their homes, internal and international conflict and war resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The military operations that led to the fall of the former Government in 2003 and subsequent conflict and violence augmented the number of displaced. Almost 200,000 individuals were displaced from 2003 to 2005.

On 22 February, the bombing of a Shia shrine in Samarra ignited sectarian violence and 2006 saw a spike in people fleeing their homes. Most of those that had the means to leave the country did, but many more were forced to find refuge within the country. Overall, there are over 1.5 million people displaced in Iraq, according to IOM's monitoring and assessments.

The year 2006 was especially violent, contributing to an alarming increase in overall displacement. A rise in sectarian conflict resulted in the forceful removal of people from certain mixed neighborhoods, where armed groups of one religious sect or another wished to gain power. Crime and a lack of security also contributed to displacement, as people fled the violence to communities where they felt safer. In addition, military operations and fighting among the Multi-National Forces in Iraq/Iraqi Forces (MNF-I/IF), militants, and insurgents contributed to displacement. In Anbar, for example, military operations in Ramadi and Falluja resulted in instability, the destruction of homes, and a movement of people out of these areas. Inter-tribal clashes also led to displacement of people in Iraq.

In general, IDPs moved from religiously and ethnically mixed communities to homogeneous communities. Shias tended to move from the center to the south. Sunnis tended to move from the south to the upper-center, especially to Anbar. Both ethnicities fled from mixed communities to homogeneous ones within the same city, especially in volatile Baghdad and Baquba. Christians primarily fled to Ninewa, and Kurds usually were displaced within Diyala or to Tameem/Kirkuk.

These large movements of people will have long-lasting political, social, and economic impacts in Iraq. Gaining understanding of the situation is the first step to addressing the displacement situation in an appropriate manner that respects and responds to all of those involved. It also helps prepare for 2007, a year that is predicted to be as unstable and violent, if not more so, than 2006.

Total number of displaced persons according to 2006 monitoring and assessments:

IOM monitors identified over **41,189** newly displaced families in the central and southern 15 governorates in Iraq in 2006. This was an average of **over 1,000 individuals displaced per day** between 22 February and 31 December.

The volatile governorate of Baghdad hosted the most recently-displaced, and Anbar,

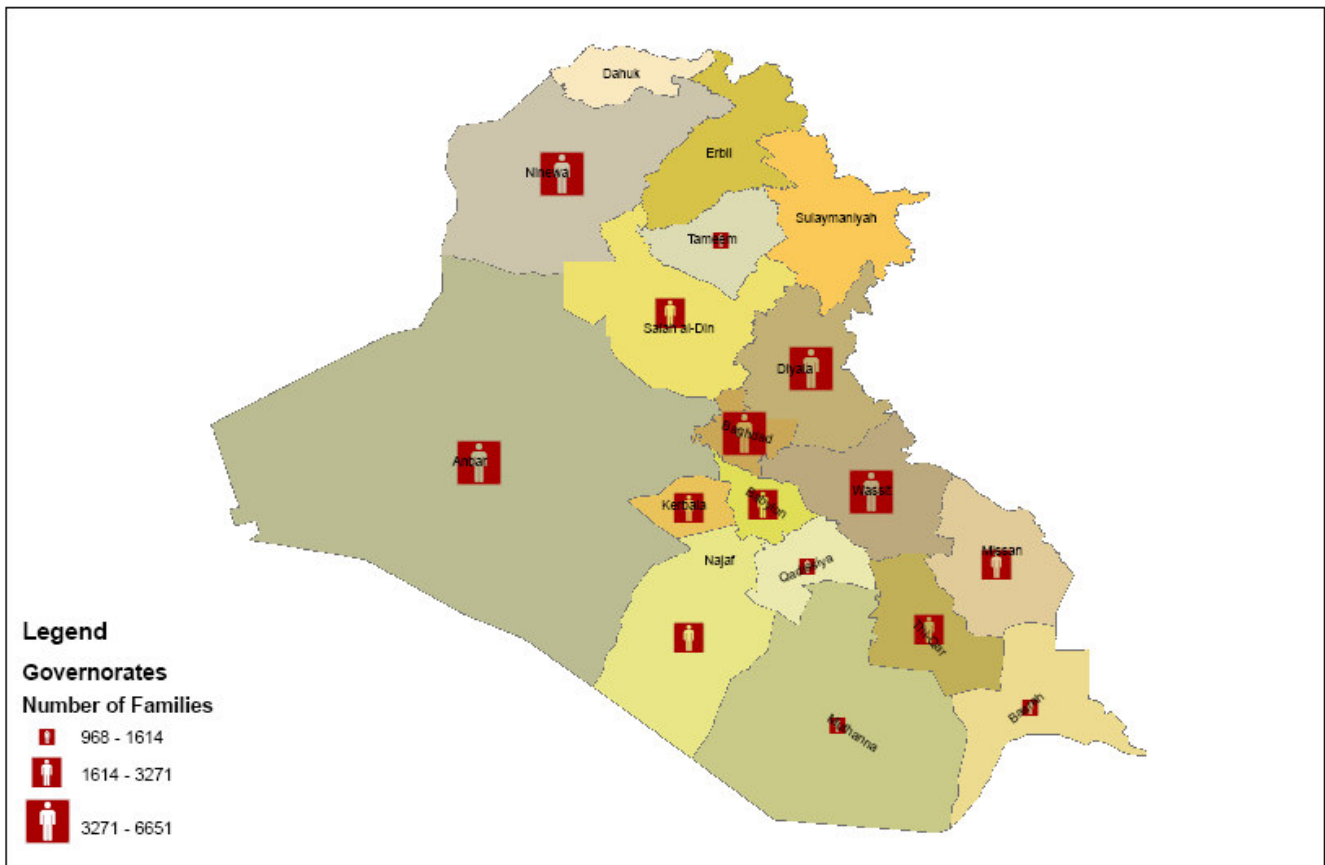
Ninewa, and Diyala in the center also hosted many IDPs. In the south, IDPs are more evenly distributed, with most IDPs having fled to Babylon and Wassit.

This total per current location can be broken down as follows (*please note that for Anbar, actual number of families assessed in 2006 was 6,607 families, but templates were completed for 3,638, so data is based on this number*):

Anbar:	3,638 families	Najaf:	2,069 families
Babylon:	3,271 families	Ninewa:	3,665 families
Baghdad:	6,651 families	Qadissiya:	1,614 families
Basrah:	1,487 families	Salah al-Din:	3,073 families
Diyala:	3,594 families	Tameem/Kirkuk:	1,002 families
Kerbala:	2,060 families	Thi-Qar:	2,072 families
Missan:	2,203 families	Wassit:	3,822 families
Muthanna:	968 families		

The average size of a family in Iraq is at least six members. Therefore, 41,189 families calculate to over 247,134 individuals in the 15 governorates; in addition, there were 84,000 individuals in the three northern governorates, according to the UN Country Team Cluster F for IDPs, Refugees, and Durable Solutions, 31 December update.

Number of IDP Families per Governorate

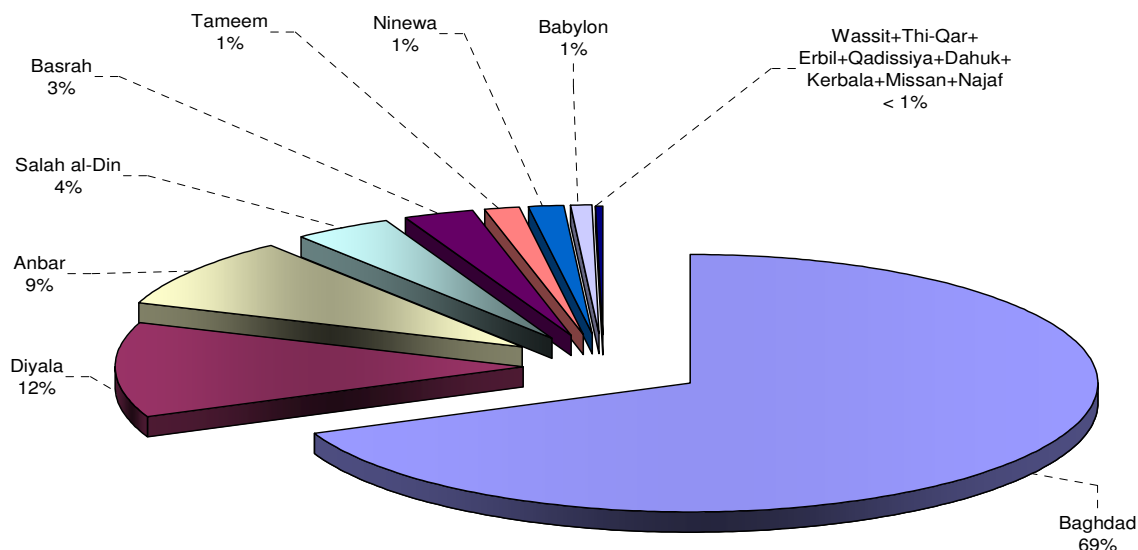


Places of Origin:

In general, Iraqis are fleeing from mixed communities, especially those in cities located in Baghdad and Diyala. By far the majority of the 41,189 IDP families fled Baghdad (almost 70%) to other locations within the governorate or to safer communities in other governorates, especially in the south. The percentages of IDPs who fled from each of the governorates by origin are as follows:

Anbar:	9%	(3,631 families)	Najaf:	.01%	(1 family)
Babylon:	1%	(380 families)	Ninewa:	1%	(567 families)
Baghdad:	69%	(28,254 families)	Qadissiya:	.02%	(6 families)
Basrah:	3%	(1,153 families)	Salah al-Din:	4%	(1,565 families)
Dahuk:	.01%	(3 families)	Tameem/Kirkuk:	1%	(580 families)
Diyala:	12%	(4,925 families)	Thi-Qar:	.06%	(22 families)
Erbil:	.02%	(7 families)	Wassit:	.16%	(66 families)
Kerbala:	.01%	(3 families)			
Missan:	.01%	(2 families)			

IDPs' Place of origin



Ethnicity and Religion:

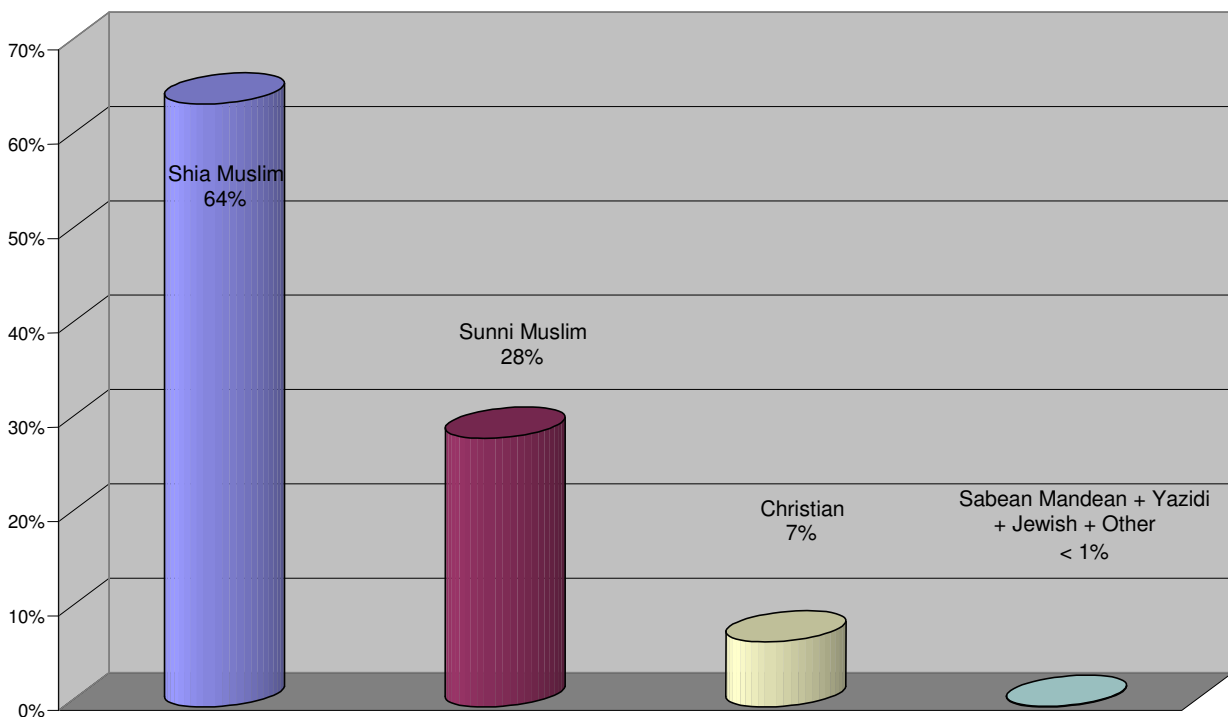
Iraq is made up of numerous ethnicities and religions, and this diversity is what spurred much of the violence and displacement seen in 2006. Iraq is home to Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Assyrians, Chaldeans, and Armenians, among others. These ethnicities host a cornucopia of religions, including Shia Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Christians, Yazidis, Sabean-Mandean, and Jews.

The ethnicity and religion of those fleeing reflects the overall spectrum of ethnicity and religion of the Iraqi population. Almost all who were displaced in 2006 were

Arab, the predominant ethnicity in Iraq. However, Turkmen, Assyrians, Kurds, and Chaldeans were also displaced. By percentage, the breakdown of the IDPs ethnicity is 90% Arab, 7% Assyrians, 2% Kurds, 1% Turkmen, and less than 1% Chaldeans.

Arabs, by far the largest ethnic group, were displaced from and to all regions. The majority of Assyrians were displaced from Baghdad to Ninewa and Tameem/Kirkuk, and a few families were displaced within Ninewa. Turkmen were displaced primarily within Ninewa or within Salah al-Din, or from Ninewa to Kerbala and Tameem/Kirkuk. The majority of the Kurds were displaced within Diyala or from Baghdad to Diyala and Tameem/Kirkuk. Chaldeans fled from Baghdad and Ninewa to Tameem/Kirkuk.

IDPs' Religions



The majority of the displaced people are Shia, who also comprise the majority of the Iraqi population. However, other religions and sects were also displaced. Sixty-four percent of the displaced were Shia Muslims, 28% were Sunni Muslims, 7% were Christians, less than 1% was Yazidis, and less than 1% was Sabean-Mandeans. As mentioned earlier, Shias tended to flee from the center to the south and Sunnis from the south to the center, although both sects were displaced widely within governorates such as Baghdad and Diyala.

Christians were primarily displaced from Baghdad to Ninewa and Tameem/Kirkuk. Sabean-Mandeans were displaced from Baghdad to Missan and Thi-Qar. Yazidis were displaced within Baghdad or from Baghdad to Missan.

Summary of the origin, current location, numbers, and religion/sect of IDPs assessed in 2006:

Origin	Displaced to	No. of Families	No. of Individuals (family number x 6)	Religion/ Sect
Anbar, Basrah, Baghdad, Babylon	Anbar	3,638	21,828	Sunni
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Diyala, Kerbala, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Wassit	Babylon	3,271	19,626	Shia, and small group of Sunni
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa, Salah al-din, Tameem, Wassit	Baghdad	6,651	39,906	Shia and Sunni, some Yazidi
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Wassit	Basrah	1,487	8,922	Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Basrah	Diyala	3,594	21,564	Sunni and Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Ninewa, Dahuk	Kerbala	2,060	12,360	Shia
Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Ninewa	Missan	2,203	13,218	Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Wassit	Muthanna	968	5,808	Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Tameem	Najaf	2,069	12,414	Shia
Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Ninewa	Ninewa	3,665	21,990	Christian, some Sunni and Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Wassit	Qadissiya	1,614	9,684	Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala, Ninewa, Qadissiya, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Thi-Qar, Wassit	Salah al-Din	3,073	18,438	Sunni
Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Erbil, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk	Tameem/ Kirkuk	1,002	6,012	Shia and Sunni, some Christian
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Tameem, Wassit	Thi-Qar	2,072	12,432	Shia
Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Tameem	Wassit	3,822	22,932	Shia
Total IDPs (in 15 of 18 governorates)***		41,189	247,134	

*** According to the UN Country Team Cluster for IDPs, Refugees, and Durable Solutions IDP Update of 31 December 2006, the number of IDP families displaced in the three northern Governorates is as follows: Dohuk – **6,751 families**; Erbil – **2,322 families**, and Sulaymaniyah - **4,939 families**.

Reasons for Displacement:

Almost all Iraqis are fleeing their homes because they fear for their lives, due to direct personal threats, general armed violence or increasing local criminal activity. All the IDPs' motives to flee were based on the fact that Iraqis do not feel safe where they live and believe that they must leave or face dire, or even fatal, consequences.

When asked why they left their place of origin, a majority of respondents reported that they left due to direct threats to their lives. These threats take the form of abductions, assassinations of individuals or their families, or other threats communicated through mobile telephone calls or texts, graffiti on buildings or walls, or leaflets distributed throughout the community.

The second most popular reason for flight was generalized fear. Fear is generated in an environment that lacks security and a sense of law and order, which describes most of Iraq. Sectarian violence, tribal infighting, armed violence between military and militias or insurgents, military offensives, and criminal activity all contribute to a general sense of fear in Iraq that forced many to flee their homes.

A less popular response was flight due to armed conflict. This response was most common in Anbar. Anbar is considered a hotbed of insurgent activity and suffers from frequent clashes between MNF-I/IF and other armed groups. This response was also given by IDPs in Diyala and Missan.

Respondents were asked if they thought IDP group or family members were specifically targeted. The vast majority (86%) responded positively, and stated it was because they belonged to a certain religion or sect. A smaller percentage thought they were a target because of certain political beliefs (6%), belonging to a certain ethnic group (1%), or belonging to a certain social or professional group, such as doctors or professors (less than 1%).

Dates of Displacement

In 2006, IOM focused on IDPs who were displaced after 22 February, when the bombing of the Al-Askari Shia shrine ignited a wave of violence that resulted in a spike in displacement. Violence was not limited to sectarian strife and swelled throughout 2006. Therefore, displacement was ongoing, with most displacement occurring in the month after the Samarra shrine bombing (March), as well as in April, June and July. The breakdown of the percentage of total persons displaced per month is as follows:

February:	2%	July:	14%
March:	23%	August:	7%
April:	13%	September:	6%
May:	10%	October:	6%
June:	15%	November:	4%

IDP Camps

Through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) or local authorities, the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) set up camps throughout Iraq in 2006 to accommodate actual and expected IDP caseloads. However, camps have not

been frequently populated; in fact, even those with enough tents for 100 families only hosted a handful of families, and these families usually left as soon as they found a better option. Many of the camps were set up in remote areas, lacked security, or lacked basic services such as electricity, water, schools or health services. The remote locations and lack of basic services have led to recorded cases of infections and diseases, including dehydration and diarrhea among children.

In addition, residing in camps is looked upon unfavorably in the Iraqi community. Living in tight quarters with strangers, sharing sanitation facilities, and the overall lack of privacy is not acceptable in conservative Muslim culture. Therefore, the displaced tend to use camps only as a temporary stop-over until they find more appropriate living arrangements.

In 2006, 10 of the 15 governorates in the center and south of the country established camps for the recently-displaced. Babylon, Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, and Muthanna did not have camps. Most of these five governorates are highly unstable and violent, so clustering IDPs in camps would have put them at increased risk. Some local authorities did not want a camp in their governorate, lest it cause a pull factor. Muthanna does not have as many IDPs as most other governorates, the governorate is large and characterized by rural desert areas, so the IDP population is more spread out and mass shelter for the displaced was not deemed necessary.

IDP Population's Relationship with the Host Community

Despite instability throughout the country, the majority of the displaced reported that they were well received by their host communities. In general, IDPs moved from religiously and ethnically mixed to more homogenous communities, so the host community often had the same cultural background as the IDPs, and good relations were maintained.

However, at the end of 2006, monitors reported increased tension between host communities and the displaced. Local authorities in Kerbala, for example, decided to close the governorate's borders to all IDPs except those who were originally from Kerbala, and even most of these were restricted from entering. Najaf also reportedly restricted settlement in Najaf city. These restrictions were attributed to a strain on the health sector, overcrowding of schools, and a lack of infrastructure to accommodate the influx of IDPs.

In some governorates, the recently-displaced were blamed for an increase in violence. Local authorities in many governorates required security checks for any Iraqi who arrived and registered with MoDM, IRCS, or other entities.

Intentions of Iraqis Displaced in 2006:

Any massive displacement of people, such as that witnessed in 2006, has many political, social, and economic ramifications. If the displaced decide to stay where they are currently living, some locations will have to adjust to a significant population increase. In addition, since the displaced tend to be moving from mixed communities to homogenous communities, the polarization among regions of Iraq will be reinforced if the displaced do not return.

If the displaced plan to return to their homes, conflict or secondary displacement could increase for those who try to return to areas controlled by militias or insurgents. Some Iraqis report that other citizens have illegally occupied their homes or that their houses have been destroyed during armed conflict, resulting in property issues that need to be resolved.

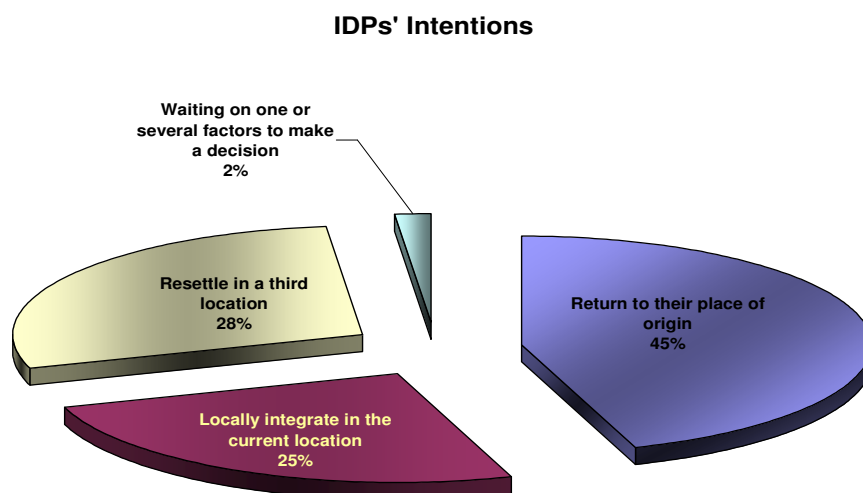
If IDPs implement their intentions to move to a third location, certain communities will experience an additional influx of people, straining already limited resources and further altering the population distribution in Iraq.

According to IOM's monitoring, 45% of IDPs plan on returning to their place of origin. The majority of these people are waiting for security to improve. However, as time passes and the IDPs become more integrated at their location of displacement, this percentage will likely decrease. The highest numbers of people who wish to return were displaced to the central governorates of Ninewa (95%), Diyala (75%), Baghdad (72%), and Anbar (62%). Surprisingly, Najaf in the south also has a high percentage of displaced who wish to return to their former residences (90%).

Twenty-five percent plan on integrating into their current location. This response occurs most often in the more stable governorates of the south, such as Basrah (91%), Kerbala (82%), and Missan (76%). These governorates also tend to have the most intact infrastructure and employment opportunities.

Twenty-eight percent plan to resettle in a third location. This response was most common in Babylon (77%), Qadissiya (63%), and Wassit (64%). IDPs were not asked to specify their location of choice for resettlement, but most likely they will move to places that are more stable, have better economic opportunities, or where they have family or tribal ties.

The breakdown for IDP intentions is as follows:



When asked about their timeframe for implementing their intentions, an overwhelming majority (81%) responded they will as soon as the security situation improves. Violence and instability in both their current location and their place of origin make it too difficult to confirm when they will return, move elsewhere, or permanently settle. Only 6% said they would implement their intentions in less than six months, 1% said within six to twelve months, and less than 1% will wait longer than a year before implementing their intentions (12% did not respond, possibly because the situation in Iraq is too volatile to make any decision).

II. EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND NEEDS

Security:

Instability and insecurity drastically increased throughout 2006. The year saw a rise in attacks by insurgents and militia; increased abductions, assassinations, and criminal activity; and an increase in civilian and military deaths. The most dangerous areas were consistently in the center, most prominently in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, and the cities of Mosul in Ninewa and Kirkuk in Tameem.

This insecurity at times negatively affected IOM's ability to monitor IDPs. When fighting broke out in certain communities, such as in Anbar, Baghdad, and Diyala, IDP monitors had to temporarily halt their assessments. Monitors had to be very cautious when entering volatile areas, and in many communities the monitor had to be of the same ethnicity and religion of the inhabitants or risk personal harm, or even death.

Despite persistent instability and violence in Iraq, the majority of IDPs report that they felt relatively safe in their current location, or at least safer than in their place of origin. Only 1% of families did not feel safe in their current location.

Iraqis are facing a dramatic increase in deaths, detentions, injuries, and disappearances, and the displaced are not exempt. When asked if someone in the group or family had been injured or killed since displacement, 2% had members killed by militants, the Multi-National Forces in Iraq, or Iraqi Forces; 2% had group members killed by another citizen; less than 1% reported injuries due to mine accidents; 4% suffered other types of deaths; and 3% suffered other injuries. When asked if anyone had been detained since they were displaced, 6% responded that someone had. In addition, over 5% reported that family members were still unaccounted for. However, IDP monitors and international officials believe the numbers to be much higher, as interviewees tended to underestimate when responding on behalf of more than one family.

Various military operations have also restricted people's movement, especially in Anbar and Baghdad. However, these restrictions were usually limited in time and only affected a small population. Only a little over 1% required authorization to move from their current location. In addition, 9% reported that they had to pass through checkpoints for daily movement near their home. Three percent reported other restrictions on their freedom of movement due to the security situation, such as the inability to freely leave their home due to fighting, conservative tribal traditions that prevented movement, the inability to move around at night due to violence, or armed groups restricting movement.

Shelter:

Shelter was overwhelmingly listed as the priority need of people displaced in 2006. Lack of income, increased competition for limited homes or apartments, lack of families or friends who could provide shelter, overcrowded conditions in relatives' or friends' homes in places of displacement, and inadequate shelter all contributed to this need.

Families who could move in with family or friends did so, but the majority (57%) rented a place to stay. Many families thought their displacement would be temporary or that they would be able to find employment in their current location. As their displacement became more protracted, renting became increasingly difficult. In addition, in many areas the swell in demand for rental property increased rental prices, so some families who could originally afford to rent were forced to find other shelter. Some even had to move into abandoned buildings or build makeshift shelter on unused land.

Twenty-two percent of those interviewed said that they lived with friends and family. However, this led to overcrowding and put added strain on the host family. Almost 5% of IDPs living with family said that they received pressure from their hosts to find another means of shelter.

Less than 1% was reported to live in tents near the house of a host family or relative. This living arrangement is unsustainable, especially in winter months.

Iraqis who could not afford to rent or did not have family or friends with whom they could live had to find other means of shelter, often in public buildings. Ten percent of IDPs in Iraq reported that they lived in public buildings. These public buildings, often unoccupied or abandoned, frequently lack services such as electricity, running water, sanitation facilities, and proper insulation. In addition, these buildings can be reclaimed by the government or private entities, rendering the IDPs homeless once again.

Seven percent lived in collective settlements or towns. These settlements are marked by provisional housing set up by IDPs. The housing is makeshift, sometimes made of mud bricks or local material. Collective settlements also frequently lack electricity, running water, sanitation facilities, and proper insulation.

Military camps that once belonged to the Ba'ath party were abandoned after its overthrow in 2006, so the displaced sometimes move into these empty facilities. There is concern that these areas will be invaded by militias or insurgents, who would then use them as recruiting grounds. However, no reports have confirmed this yet. Less than 1% of those interviewed moved into former military camps.

Three percent reported other living arrangements.

In addition to pressure to leave from relatives, 1% faces pressure to leave from neighbors, 1% face pressure to leave from militants, 2% have received a court-ordered eviction, and 1% faces "other threats". This pressure to leave or threat of eviction could cause secondary displacement, further exacerbating the lack of adequate shelter.

One of Iraq's biggest challenges will be resolving the many shelter and property issues that have resulted due to mass displacement in 2006.

Property Issues in Place of Origin:

When IDPs flee their place of origin, they sometimes must move quickly and leave behind property such as a house, office, car, furniture or other possessions. It is then often difficult for them to protect or access this property. Sometimes the property is destroyed or illegally occupied.

The majority (67%) of families do not know the status of their property or whether they are able to access it. Lack of communication with neighbors in places of origin, lack of reported information, and instability prevented the displaced from obtaining information about their property. For those who did know, 24% reported that their property was occupied by another citizen, 16% of people said their property had been destroyed, 5% said it was currently in military use, and less than 1% said it was occupied by the government. There have also been reports of individuals looting and stealing possessions from abandoned property. There is little sense that IDPs will have legal recourse as remedy for these actions.

Legal intervention will be required for resolving claims regarding the damage or destruction of property, or repossession or restitution of property in cases where property is illegally occupied by private parties, the government or the army. Since the Commission for Resolution of Real Property Disputes (CRRPD) does not cover property issues incurred after April 9, 2003, the Iraqi Government will need to establish a special purpose commission or body to handle these claims, or else expand the current mandate of the CRRPD.

Sometimes families had to flee their property within minutes or hours, especially those who were issued death threats if they did not leave immediately. Eruptions of fighting between the MNF-I/IF, militias, insurgents or criminals also forced families to flee quickly, and often these families had little time to collect their belongings to take with them. However, some people were able to take some items with them when they fled their homes. These possessions sometimes eased the challenges IDPs faced in their places of displacement.

Following are percentages of families who brought the listed items with them when they fled their place of origin:

Winter clothing:	41%	Car/transportation:	27%
Tools:	34%	Livestock:	3%
Food:	31%	Other:	3% (furniture, electronics, etc.)

Vulnerabilities:

Over 8% of the displaced population assessed suffered from vulnerabilities or risks, such as illness, pregnancy, or advanced age. (However, monitors and international officials believe that this percentage is higher. When interviewees provided information for several families, numbers tended to be underestimated.) IDPs must often leave behind their possessions, their source of income, and their social safety net, placing them at risk. In addition, a lack of food or water has a greater impact on the already vulnerable, such as pregnant women or the elderly. Mental disabilities can be exacerbated by an unfamiliar environment experienced in displacement. Stress due to violence and displacement exacerbates all of these conditions.

Out of over 247,134 individuals, 4,957 women (2% of individuals) were reported female heads-of-households, 8,491 individuals (3%) were considered elderly, 3,633 women (2%) were pregnant, 383 individuals (less than 1%) reported a family member with a mental disability, 648 individuals (less than 1%) have serious illnesses, and 375 individuals (less than 1%) reported "other vulnerabilities". Again, the actual number of vulnerable IDPs is probably higher.

These vulnerable populations have suffered the greatest in their displacement.

Women and Children:

Displacement, violence, and a lack of access to services were especially hard on women and children. As the violence continued in Iraq, more and more women lost husbands and sons and become the only breadwinners and decision makers in the family. Women heads-of-households, of which there were 4,957 reported in 2006, did not have as many income-generating options, and restrictions on movement also hindered their ability to access work.

Conservative traditions among some families prevented women's freedom of movement and access to services. Insurgents closed hairstyling shops, a popular form of employment for women. In certain areas, insurgents or militias issued orders that women must be covered and could not use mobile phones in public. Many women who formerly worked cleaning homes or assisting families could no longer find work, as families who employ these women fled the communities or the country. An increase in cases of prostitution was also reported, due to the economic desperation of some displaced women. Women and girls ventured out less and less frequently due to fear of abductions and rape.

Women and children who required special health care, such as pregnant women or infants, could not always access it in displacement. In fact, it was reported that more and more women were delivering babies at home instead of in a hospital for fear of traveling to or being confined in a hospital, and more deaths during childbirth were being reported by hospitals due to a lack of proper delivery care in homes. In addition, health clinics reported an increase in requests for abortions, supposedly due to socio-economic pressure and an inability to financially support another family member.

Children were probably the most adversely affected by displacement and instability in 2006, as their education was disrupted, lack of family income sometimes forced them to work, and witnessing violence caused psychological issues that have not been addressed. Reports reveal that children increasingly suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, such as sleep disturbances, unrelenting crying, frequent nightmares, and outbreaks of extreme anger and violence. However, there are very little psychosocial health services available for children in Iraq.

It was reported that some children and adolescents have joined the local insurgents or militia, either for money, protection, or for revenge for incidents against family members. Children were the direct victims of appalling violence. Rape against children (especially boys) was also reported to the monitors. There were also reports of an increase of drug use among children who lost their parents.

Education:

Due to the high level of children being displaced with their families, before the beginning of the school year, the Ministry of Education issued a requirement that schools accept these children in their new location. However, displaced children were not always warmly welcomed at schools that were already overcrowded and did not have enough materials, desks, and chairs to support the new pupils. Some families also could not afford the clothing and school materials required.

In more violent areas, families simply did not send their children to school because it was too dangerous. Many schools and colleges in areas such as Anbar, Diyala, and Baghdad temporarily closed due to violence, thwarting this generation's access to education.

Food:

Food was one of the top priority needs identified by many displaced throughout Iraq in 2006. Accessing the Public Distribution System (PDS) was hampered because documents must be transferred or renewed, and PDS rations were not always available. Lack of income prevented families from meeting their nutritional requirements. In addition, humanitarian organizations sometimes could not access highly instable areas, where the displaced needed food most.

For years, people throughout Iraq have relied on the PDS to supplement their daily food intake. It is estimated that between 25% and 40% of Iraqis are highly dependent upon PDS rations. The Ministry of Trade manages transportation and warehousing of food items, but lack of items, insecure transportation routes, and a lack of documentation prevent access to food rations.

Of those interviewed in 2006, 32% reported no access to PDS food rations. Anbar (76%), Najaf (72%), and Thi-Qar (60%) had the highest percentage of displaced without access. Fifty-one percent reported receiving food rations sometimes and only 17% reported that they always received them. Muthanna had the highest percentage (82%) of IDPs who always received PDS food rations. In addition, those who received food rations found that they were incomplete; 34% reported that their last PDS distribution was missing items. Missing items have been attributed in part to corruption, mismanagement, and stealing of food items.

For those IDPs who had no access to PDS rations or had not received them lately, 54% blamed it on food transportation routes being insecure, and 15% blamed it on lack of transportation. Fourteen percent of families blamed it on a delay in transferring their PDS registration card to a new location or a lack of documentation. Twenty families even believed that there simply was no food to distribute.

Various humanitarian organizations, religious entities, and government bodies tried to fill the gap left by a lack of access to PDS distributions. However, in some governorates, the lack of law and order or increasing violence prevented or delayed the provision of food assistance. Forty-six percent reported that they have not received any food assistance since they were displaced.

Of those who did receive food assistance, 32% received it from humanitarian organizations, 25% received it from religious charities, 8% from regional authorities, and 2% received it from national authorities. These entities usually provided dried or canned food, rarely fresh food. In addition, the food distributions usually only lasted for a few weeks at most, so assistance was temporary and barely met the expanding need for food.

Water/Sanitation:

The water and sanitation sectors have deteriorated due to the increase in violence and the movement of people. The Iraqi Government has not been able to improve infrastructures throughout Iraq, and increased populations locally are placing a strain on already unreliable sources.

A significant problem the displaced faced in 2006 was access to clean water. Fourteen percent of the displaced assessed did not have regular access to water. The greatest percentages of IDPs who did not have regular access water were found in Babylon (61%) and Muthanna (54%). Almost all families in Anbar and Qadissiya reported regular access.

Those families who could access water sometimes had to travel great distances to obtain it, or relied on water from streams or lakes, which increased the spread of disease and infection. The displaced reported water access through various sources: municipal underground pipes (90%); water tanks or trucks (40%); rivers, streams, or lakes (16%); public wells (13%); and/or open or broken pipes (8%). Almost 10% of families had to travel over 500 meters to obtain their water.

IDPs fared better with their access to toilets; only 2% reported that they did not have access to toilets. However, considering that this represents over 800 families, this is a concern, especially in preventing disease.

Fuel and Electricity:

Since 2003, the people of Iraq also have seen deterioration in the reliability of electricity and the availability of fuel. Due to frequent blackouts, the majority of Iraqis depend on generators. However, only 3% of IDPs assessed did not have access to electricity in 2006. 45% had access to electricity 1 to 3 hours per day, and 52% could access it four or more hours a day.

Fuel is much scarcer in Iraq, especially kerosene, which is used for cooking and heating. During the winter months, the absence of kerosene especially affects those displaced who live in poorly-insulated homes. 33% reported no access to fuel, usually due to its general unavailability or high cost. For those 67% who could access it, 56% were able to obtain propane, 47% could purchase benzene, and 14% had access to diesel, but only 14% had access to kerosene. Some recently-displaced IDPs were reported as being arrested for selling kerosene illegally, the only form of income generation they could find. Many of the displaced interviewed requested assistance with obtaining kerosene fuel and heaters.

Health Care:

Increased instability and violence is taking a toll on the health sector, possibly more than any other sector in Iraq. In addition to health facilities occasionally suffering collateral damage during military operations or armed conflict, many doctors and other health professionals have fled the country due to threats to their lives, they no longer can travel to work, or they have found work in other professions. Medical equipment and medications are also dwindling. Fewer Iraqis are able to obtain the health care they once received.

Ten percent of the displaced assessed reported that there were no health care services in their area of displacement or if they are available, they could not access them. Of those with no access, 4% blamed inaccessibility on financial constraints, 5% reported that facilities were too distant, less than 1% reported a lack of female staff and less than 1% refusal of service as reasons for not being able to get adequate health care services.

In addition, 37% reported that they did not have access to most of the medications they needed.

IDPs were also asked if they had been visited by a health care worker in the last 45 days (from the date of the assessment). The majority (70%) had not, Ninewa having the highest percentage with 96% who had not been visited. Of those 30% who had been visited in 2006, 25% received vaccinations, 4% received medical examinations, less than 1% received consultations or educational information, and 3% received medications.

As mentioned above, the lack of proper sanitation facilities and clean water, lack of proper nutrition, and inadequate living arrangements often found in IDP communities can contribute to disease and sickness. Of those families assessed, 13% had members who had suffered from infectious diseases or epidemics in the last 45 days (from the date of the interview).

In addition, a high number of the displaced, 55% total, had not been involved in vaccination campaigns, which could further prevent disease and epidemics. The highest percentage of these was found in Ninewa (99%) and Kerbala (81%).

Of those who had been involved in a vaccination campaign, 3% of families were vaccinated within the last week (from the date of the interview), 13% received vaccinations within the last month, 21% received them one to three months prior, 8% received them four to six months prior, and less than 1% received them seven or more months prior to the interview. Qadissiya and Missan had the highest percentages of displaced who had been involved in a vaccination campaign (86% and 77%, respectively).

Proper health care is essential to diagnose, treat, and prevent disease and illness. The displaced have a disproportionate number of families who do not have access to health care services, have not received vaccinations, or do not have access to medications. The Iraqi Government and the international community should make improving this sector a priority for the benefit of all Iraqis.

Documentation:

As mentioned above, often the displaced must flee their home immediately and do not have time to collect their most important possessions as they leave. Sometimes they must leave behind documentation that proves their identity, ownership of property, education level or civil status. Lack of proper documentation has prevented the registration of the displaced in their new location, which they require to obtain services and assistance. Lack of documentation also inhibits the transfer of their PDS ration card and creates problems with movement and proving identity.

Fortunately, the majority of the displaced do have at least one form of identification with them. Ninety-seven percent hold nationality certificates, 97% have identification cards, 74% of families hold marriage documents, 47% have birth certificates, and 18% have death certificates. Fifteen percent also hold Iraqi passports.

The biggest challenge the displaced faced in 2006 regarding documentation was transferring their PDS ration cards to their new locations. Requirements varied throughout the governorates, but many were required to return to their place of origin to de-register, an impossibility for the majority, who fled from highly unstable areas.

Employment:

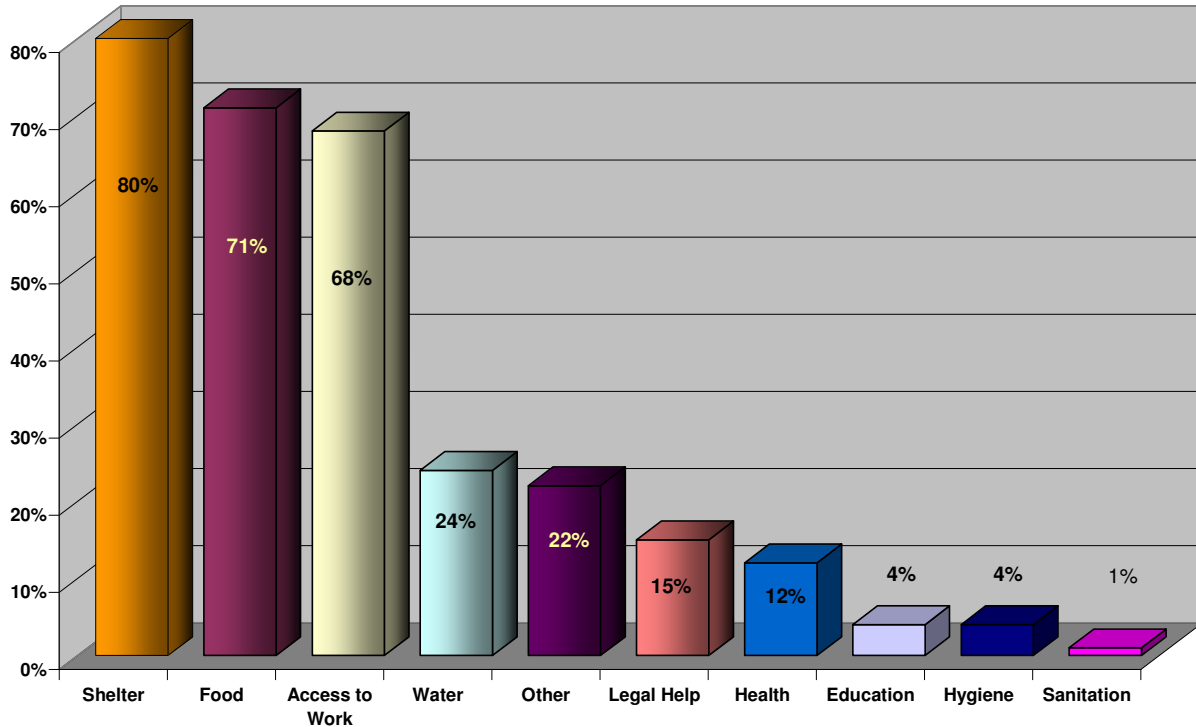
When people flee, they usually leave behind their only source of employment or income. Finding work in their new location of displacement is often challenging. Unemployment was cited at between 40-60% in Iraq in 2006, and in addition to the high competition for very few jobs, the displaced often find themselves in areas where there is no demand for their skills or experience. In addition, the displaced report that employers do not want to hire them because they see them as a security risk. It is not surprising that employment opportunities joined shelter and food as the top priority needs of people displaced in 2006.

The displaced who were assessed provided numerous suggestions to improve employment opportunities. Many suggestions focused on construction projects that would improve infrastructure while simultaneously providing much-needed services. Another suggestion was allocating public land to be used for farming for those IDPs who have experience in agriculture. IDPs also suggested providing them with micro-credit loans to begin their own small business or vocational training programs in order to learn new skills.

Despite the numerous suggestions, many humanitarian organizations have few funds to start income-generating projects, and as Iraq's economy continues to weaken, unemployment will rise, exacerbating the already difficult conditions of all Iraqis.

IOM monitors asked the displaced to list their priority needs, and the following were the most frequently provided:

IDPs' Priority Needs



Based on this information for specific locations and populations, IOM is responding by providing food, water and non-food items and creating community assistance projects in the sectors of health, water/sanitation, education, and employment. However, limited funding means the priority needs for many displaced will remain unmet.

III. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE RECEIVED

Numerous humanitarian entities are working throughout Iraq, despite extremely dangerous and disheartening conditions. Through its implementing partners, the International Organization for Migration provided numerous emergency distributions to the displaced in almost all governorates in Iraq during 2006. In total, IOM reached over 26,000 families with provisions of food, water, and non-food items such as mattresses, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting to cover window and door frames, kerosene and kerosene stoves, blankets, and baby items. However, a lack of funding prevented IOM from assisting many vulnerable individuals.

Many other organizations joined IOM's efforts to assist the displaced in 2006. Despite difficulty accessing IDPs due to security constraints, 71% of the assessed reported receiving some sort of humanitarian assistance since they were displaced. The majority received food and non-food items (such as mattresses, fuel, hygiene products, clothing, etc.), 18% received health assistance, 3% benefited from sanitation projects, and 4%

reported other assistance, such as furniture, cash assistance, or land to build houses.

The displaced attributed the assistance to various entities. Thirty-two percent of IDPs received assistance from the host community, 30% from relatives, 30% from the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, 27% from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, 23% from religious groups, 11% from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 3% from other Iraqi government bodies, and 2% received it from "other sources". Militant groups were cited as providing increasing assistance to IDPs who came to their communities, especially in Sunni Muslim communities.

Although many national and international humanitarian organizations are active in Iraq, assistance was usually provided on a one-time basis and could only address a fraction of vulnerable IDPs' needs. Humanitarian actors who formerly worked in the south without problems are finding operations increasingly difficult due to the rising number of militias, and some working in the center had to stop operations altogether. The security situation is increasingly placing a tremendous challenge on humanitarian agencies for reaching many of the most vulnerable displaced.

The largest challenge IOM and other humanitarian organizations are facing in Iraq is a lack of financial resources. In 2006, IOM received less than 25% of its funding appeal, and little funding has been confirmed for 2007¹, despite needs being even greater than in 2006.

And as 2007 ushers in the fifth year of conflict and violence in Iraq, funding agencies are experiencing donor fatigue. However, IOM remains committed to continuing to meet the needs of the displaced, as long as security and funding allow for the implementation of this vital undertaking.

IV. CONCLUSION

A review of displacement in Iraq in 2006 produces some disheartening trends: upward displacement; increased strains on host communities and heightened competition for limited resources; deterioration in the sectors of health, education, water and sanitation; an increase in vulnerability in women and children; and augmented needs of basic items essential to human survival.

The February 2006 bombing of the Shia shrine in Samarra caused a dramatic increase in displacement, and insurgents and militia used religious affiliation as a justification to force hundreds of thousands of people from their homes. Criminals capitalized on an increased lack of security to abduct, loot, and attack individuals, further contributing to an environment of violence and displacement. Clearly the first priority in preventing further displacement will be to increase stability in Iraq, a challenging task.

The prospects for 2007 are rather bleak. As long as the conditions that promote displacement remain, Iraq will see a continuation, if not increase, in the numbers being

¹ Confirmed funding for IOM to assist IDPs in 2007 comes from USAID/OFDA, the Government of the Netherlands, and the Government of Australia.

displaced internally as well as externally. Those who can leave the country will, creating a regional and, ultimately, international crisis. Only with additional funding can IOM adequately assist the displaced and prevent further migration.

While IOM and others are dedicated to continuing to provide essential life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable among the displaced and their host communities, a precarious lack of funding continues to shut off many thousands of displaced from receiving any assistance at all.

Further Analysis:

Information gathered from the emergency monitoring and needs assessments will continue to provide a suitable base on which to design adequate assistance during 2007, establish locations of intervention, identify the most vulnerable populations, and provide responses that meet the IDPs' identified needs. This report is by no means conclusive, and further analysis must be undertaken to obtain a deeper understanding of the situation of the displaced in Iraq.

For updates on IOM's humanitarian assistance response to recent displacement, please see the IOM reports, *IOM Recent Displacement and Assessments*, distributed several times a month. In addition, IOM's in-depth profiles for each of the 15 central and southern governorates can be accessed at <http://www.iom-iraq.net/idp.html>.

For further information on IDP displacement in Iraq, please contact Martin Ocaga, IOM Iraq IDP Program Manager at mocaga@iom-iraq.net (+962 79 64 00581) or Dana Graber, IDP Monitoring and Reintegration Officer, at dgrab@iom-iraq.net (+962 79 611 1759).