

IOM IRAQ ACTIVITIES UPDATE

IDP PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 2008



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Iraq

IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and has helped more than 12 million migrants since its establishment in 1951. The IOM-Iraq Mission was set up in January 2003 in response to the overwhelming humanitarian need following the collapse of the former regime. Working in a wide range of areas across every governorate in Iraq, IOM has maintained a presence and provided significant humanitarian assistance despite a number of challenges including continuous security constraints.

The IOM Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Programme is an active participant in the United Nations humanitarian coordination system for Iraq. IOM co-chairs the biweekly IDP Working Group with UNHCR, which brings together UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to coordinate humanitarian assistance to internally displaced Iraqis.

Population displacement and vulnerability in Iraq pose a number of significant challenges, including the provision of humanitarian assistance, the management of return migration, and the development of durable solutions. The IOM Iraq response to the needs of IDPs involves four pillars: I) IDP Monitoring and Needs Assessments, II) Emergency Assistance, III) Community Assistance Projects, and IV) Durable Solutions. Through these initiatives, IOM assesses and assists vulnerable IDPs and returnees along with the host communities in which they have taken refuge.

I. IDP and Returnee Monitoring and Needs Assessments

IOM monitoring and assessment of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is the first step in identifying the causes of their displacement and achieving a coherent understanding of their needs. Millions of Iraqis have been forced from their homes. Before 2006, 1.2 million Iraqis were internally displaced as a result of war and the policies carried out by the former regime. Since the 22 February 2006 bombing of the Samarra Al-Askari Mosque, sectarian violence has escalated and nearly 1.3 million additional IDPs have fled their homes. Today there are nearly 2.5 million persons displaced within Iraq, many of whom are in urgent need of basic services.

The return of some Iraqis to their places of origin is a phenomenon that requires assessment to facilitate humanitarian assistance. IOM, in cooperation with the Iraqi government's Ministry of Displacement and Migration, is assessing and assisting Iraqi returnees throughout the country.

IOM monitoring and assessments have covered 890,000 post-February 2006 IDPs. IOM has identified this population's most immediate needs as food, non-food items, water, shelter, and employment. IOM regularly disseminates statistics, analyses, and reports on Iraqi displacement to a range of stakeholders.¹ IOM also advocates for increased awareness and assistance to mitigate the Iraqi displacement and humanitarian crises.

II. Emergency Assistance

IOM's Emergency Assistance activities deliver emergency food and non-food item packages to the most vulnerable IDP and host community populations. Distributions are targeted based on Monitoring and Needs Assessments data, or in response to specific alerts or recommendations from implementing partners throughout Iraq.

As one of the lead organizations in emergency distributions, IOM has assisted more than 55,000 IDP families (an est. 312,000 individuals) in more than 50 distribution projects since February 2006. Ongoing distributions are as follows:

¹ For detailed reports on displacement, including the bi-weekly *Iraq Displacement Statistics & Assessments*, please see <http://www.iom-iraq.net/library.html#IDP>

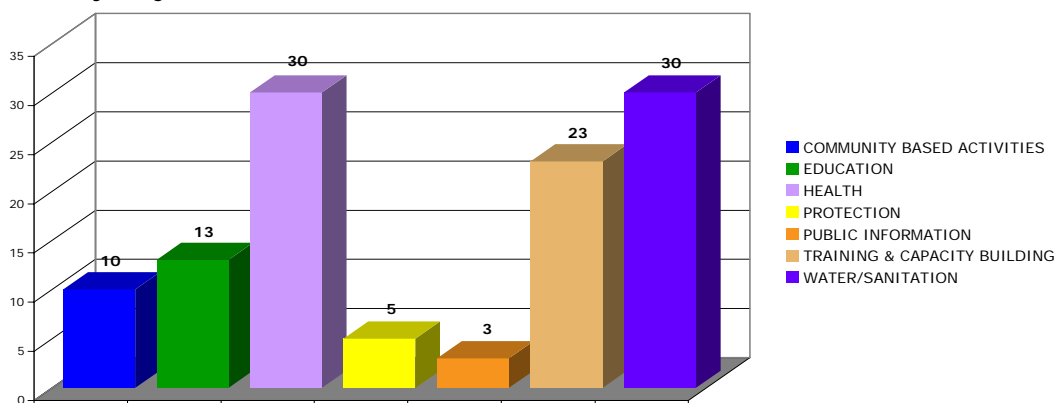
Ongoing IOM Emergency Assistance Distributions:

Governorate	Status	# Families	Description
Qadissiya	Ongoing	2,000	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP and host community families
Erbil	Ongoing	2,210	Food and NFIs for vulnerable IDPs, host community, and to IDPs displaced recently by the Turkish shelling
Suleimanya	Ongoing	2,740	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP, host community families and to IDPs displaced recently by the Turkish shelling
Kirkuk	Ongoing	1,500	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP and host community families
Salah Al Din	Ongoing	1,500	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP and host community families
Baghdad	Ongoing	3,000	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP and host community families
Ninewa	Ongoing	700	Food and non-food items for vulnerable IDP and host community families
Babylon	Ongoing	200	Distribution of plastic sheeting to IDP families living in Al Manathera tent camp
Suleimanya	Ongoing	est. 80000	Daily water trucking in cholera-affected areas, 1 million litres daily over 2 months.
Anbar	Ongoing	6,000	Daily water trucking

III. Community Assistance Projects

IOM Community Assistance Projects (CAPs) stabilize vulnerable communities by restoring or enhancing basic services in the water, sanitation, health, livelihood, and education sectors. Since 2003, IOM has implemented 131 Community Assistance Projects benefiting more than two million people in the following sectors:

IOM CAPs by Project Sector, 2003 - 2007



Of these, 26 CAPs are currently underway in 12 governorates.

IV. Durable Solutions

Although humanitarian needs in Iraq are often basic and immediate, there is also a need for sustainable solutions that will enable people to rebuild their lives. IOM Community Assistance Projects frequently include Durable Solutions components that aim to stabilize vulnerable communities in the long-term by building capacities, providing training, and creating employment opportunities.

Despite security constraints, IOM has maintained a continuous capacity to meet humanitarian needs and implement projects in a variety of sectors throughout Iraq, thus reducing IDP vulnerability in line with the UN *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement*. IOM continues to identify needs and strives to meet them both through its own capacity and coordination with other actors. However, as Iraq faces continuing instability and violence, the immediate and long-term needs of IDPs and other vulnerable populations only continue to increase, while funding remains minimal and inadequate. Significant challenges remain in the assistance of IDPs, returnees, and host communities in Iraq.

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