



IRAQ OPERATION

2006

SUPPLEMENTARY APPEAL



UNHCR / C. Lynch / March 2006

April 2006

The Appeal

In 2006, UNHCR's main objectives under this supplementary programme for Iraq are to strengthen the protection environment in and around Iraq. The following elements form an integral part of UNHCR's strategy towards this end:

- I. Protection and assistance to refugees in Iraq;**
- II. Protection and assistance to Iraqis in neighbouring countries;**
- III. Protection and assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq;**
- IV. Targeted assistance for the return and reintegration of IDPs and refugees;**
- V. National capacity building in Iraq (for protection and assistance of persons of concern to UNHCR);**
- VI. Emergency preparedness and response capacity.**

Introduction

Three years after the fall of the Saddam Hussein's regime, an estimated three million Iraqis remain displaced in and outside their own country.

Iraq continues to be in a phase of social, political and economic transition and now faces the immense challenge of holding its civil society together, with the unfinished tasks of rebuilding its institutions, infrastructure, and establishing rule of law. The ongoing insecurity, escalating armed conflict, increasing ethnic and sectarian tensions, new patterns of persecution and the acute lack of services and infrastructure, in particular housing and employment, have led to displacement of Iraqis both inside and outside the country. In addition, following the recent Samarra bombing in February 2006, the security situation has further deteriorated. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), UNHCR's main government counterpart, announced that since then another 65,000 Iraqis have been forced to flee their homes, and this trend continued at the time of writing this appeal. Targeted attacks on non-Iraqi refugees in central Iraq are of serious concern to UNHCR - the Palestinian refugees in particular.

The situation in **countries bordering Iraq** is closely linked to the developments in Iraq. Although there was no major refugee outflow in the wake of the March 2003 Gulf Crisis, a discreet but steady flow of Iraqis has developed, moving mainly to Syria and Jordan, thus slowly inflating the number of Iraqis who have been in these countries since the previous Gulf Crisis. Given the host governments' and local populations' diminishing tolerance vis-à-vis the increasing numbers of Iraqis, the latter find themselves in a difficult situation in terms of their legal, security and economic status. Although it is evident that not all Iraqis in neighbouring countries are of concern to UNHCR and in need of assistance, the Office plans to enhance its support to those Iraqis in need of protection and assistance in neighbouring countries by

engaging the governments concerned and developing a multi-faceted approach which would include a package of measures aimed at reinvigorating the institution of asylum in the region.

UNHCR has adopted a situational approach for the implementation of its supplementary programme for Iraq in 2006, in coordination with UNHCR offices in Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The annual strategic planning meeting for 2006, which took place in October 2005, laid the foundation of this supplementary programme. Like other supplementary programmes of UNHCR, it maintains flexibility for reallocation of resources among sectors and countries as well as to revise the entire programme according to the evolving situation in and around Iraq. In the course of 2006, UNHCR plans to conduct a comprehensive review of operations under both annual and supplementary programmes, which will allow for necessary adjustments to be made.



Ex Al Tash Iranian refugees, Kawa Site/UNHCR Partner

UNHCR's operational environment for the Iraq situation

Remote management: Since the 19 August 2003 attack on the UN Headquarters in Baghdad, UNHCR has remotely managed its Iraq operation from Amman and Kuwait City through national staff based in Iraq, international staff on short missions, liaison with government counterparts and an extended network of 24 NGO partners throughout the country. In view of the continued volatile situation inside Iraq, UNHCR plans to pursue its remote management modalities from Amman and Kuwait City and have direct access to beneficiaries through national staff and implementing partners, putting in place innovative mechanisms. Security-permitting, few missions to northern Iraq are planned for 2006.

Field presence: At present, UNHCR has eight duty stations inside Iraq: one in Baghdad; five in the North (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Mosul and Kirkuk); and two in the South (Basrah and Nassiriyah). Forty-seven national staff are based in Iraq, while 15 international and 14 national staff remotely manage operations from Amman and Kuwait City. Following an extensive review of security conditions in the three northern governorates, UNHCR, like other UN agencies, has moved its national staff to the new United Nations compound in Erbil. In

the past three years, UNHCR has maintained its presence at border areas and strengthened its offices in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Turkey.

Constraints: In the prevailing unpredictable environment, field presence is vital for information gathering, protection monitoring, assessments, operational implementation, contingency planning and emergency preparedness. Recently, however, UNHCR had to scale down its presence both in Iraq and surrounding countries partially due to security conditions, but mainly due to insufficient funding for salaries and office running costs. Further scaling down of UNHCR field presence is required in 2006 in light of the current financial situation, which is exacerbated by the rising cost of compliance with the Minimum Operations Security Standards (MOSS), a UN security requirement which is globally applicable.

Coordination and partnerships: UNHCR's main partner inside Iraq is the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, but also works closely with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) and other line ministries. In terms of strategic partnerships with other UN agencies, and under the overall coordination of United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), UNHCR leads and coordinates UN efforts to assist in the return of displaced persons as coordinator for the United Nations Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and Durable Solutions (Cluster F). The main goal of this cluster is to collectively develop and build national capacity to address displacement challenges in Iraq and search for durable solutions. Other members of Cluster F include IOM, UNOPS, UNICEF, UN Habitat, WHO. In neighbouring countries, UNHCR offices work in coordination with the respective UN Country Teams.

Populations of Concern

UNHCR is responsible for the protection of over 50,000 refugees in Iraq since the fall of the previous regime. In 2003, UNHCR registered around 23,000 Palestinian refugees in Baghdad area who had approached the office, while their total number is estimated at around 34,000. UNHCR registered refugees of other nationalities prior to 2003 and continued to update the records. Refugees registered with UNHCR and currently hosted in Iraq are as below:

| Refugees and Asylum-Seekers within Iraq | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Country of origin | Refugees | Asylum-Seekers (pending cases) |
| Israel/Occupied Palestinian territories | 22,700 | |
| Syria | 600 | 800 |
| Iran | 13,400 | 1,000 |
| Turkey | 13,300 | 200 |
| Sudan – Darfur (<i>prima facie</i>) | 138 | |
| Total | 50,138 | 2,000 |

Note: 1,200 Iranian refugees ex-northern Iraq have sought asylum in Turkey.

There are no exact figures for Iraqis displaced internally and abroad. Ongoing new displacement of population inside Iraq hinders stability and voluntary return of Iraqi population. It is, however, estimated that there are over one million Iraqis in neighbouring countries, consisting of those who had fled from the previous regime as well as those who left quietly after the 2003 crisis, currently benefiting from temporary protection or tolerance status in neighbouring countries. The table below provides an overview of displaced and returning Iraqis:

| Population of concern ¹ | Total persons Dec. 2005 | Return ² 2003 -2004 (mainly spontaneous) | Return in 2005 |
|--|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Refugees and asylum-seekers in the region | 137,000 | 253,000 | 62,000 |
| Other Iraqis in the region ³ | 1,000,000 | | |
| Refugees and asylum-seekers further afield | 220,000 | | |
| Other Iraqis afield | 143,000 | | |
| Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) | 1,200,000 | 300,000 | 196,000 |
| Stateless persons in Iraq ⁴ | 230,000 | - | - |
| Total | 2,930,000 | 553,000 | 258,000 |



Returnee girl at Haj Omran, Iraq/Islamic Republic of Iran border/UNHCR/A. Ericksson

¹ Data on refugees and asylum-seekers is up to date as per December 2005. These are the numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers as reported to UNHCR by host governments or as registered by UNHCR. Data on “other” Iraqis are estimations made by UNHCR/host governments at different times. Data on IDPs is as provided by IOM and UNOPS, calculated on the assumption that each family has on average six members.

² The figure of 253,000 includes 19,209 refugees, whose return was facilitated by UNHCR. IDP returnees (estimates) are as reported by IOM in the 15 Governorates (not included the Governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah).

³ The largest numbers of Iraqis are hosted by Syria and Jordan, well over half a million persons, as well as by other neighbouring countries: Iran (90,000), Lebanon (20,000), Kuwait, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

⁴ An estimate by UNHCR. Many others are believed to be effectively stateless.

UNHCR OPERATIONS IN 2006: CHALLENGES, OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

I. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF REFUGEES IN IRAQ

2005 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Al-Tash Camp was closed, with 1,060 refugees relocated to Erbil and 1,400 to Sulaymaniyah; UNHCR and the Kurdish Regional Government provided interim accommodation, identity and food ration cards, multi-sectoral support, including health and education;
- 11,300 Turkish refugees in Makhmour Camp received safe water, access to sanitation facilities, fuel, primary health care and education assistance;
- Emergency assistance was delivered to 138 Sudanese refugees from Darfur who were displaced in Iraq and were stranded near the Iraqi-Jordanian border;
- Palestinian families were relocated to alternative accommodation after closure of tented camp in Baghdad's Haifa Club;
- 470 Palestinian, 70 Syrian and some 300 Iranian refugee families, received rental subsidies and the most vulnerable persons received reimbursement of medical, transportation, education; and
- Out of an estimated 2,500, 863 Iranian Ahwazis were registered by UNHCR in the South after access had been hindered for two years.

Since the fall of the former regime, the protection of over 50,000 refugees of different nationalities has been a unique challenge to UNHCR because their basic needs had been fully met by the former regime. Their protection as well as basic living conditions has deteriorated in the course of the last three years and has reached its lowest point with the recent targeting of violence towards Palestinians in Baghdad. Exploitation, physical threats and targeted killings, as well as withholding of residency permits and identity documents, and discriminatory dismissal from work, have become the reality of life for many refugees, particularly Palestinians, Syrians and Iranian Ahwazis in the Centre and South. With rising insecurity, a dire economic situation and limited access to facilities, UNHCR is extremely concerned about this situation and future developments if the current trend continues.

Lately, UNHCR has been tasked by the UN to design protection mechanisms for Palestinian refugees in Iraq, since they fall outside UNRWA's mandate. At the time of writing this appeal, a total of 181 Palestinian refugees, including 85 children, had fled Baghdad since mid-March towards Jordan and were stranded at an Iraqi border point. UNHCR has learned that the government of Syria is willing to host all 181 refugees. UNHCR is working in close cooperation with UNRWA and UNAMI on this matter.



Iranian refugee children watching a cartoon, Kawa site, Northern Iraq/UNHCR, Partner

Objective: Protection and assistance to refugees in Iraq

Targets:

- Finalize the Memorandum of Understanding between MoDM and UNHCR on refugee registration and issuance of identity documents;
- Provide targeted care and maintenance, with priority to rental subsidies and medical assistance for Iranian Kurdish refugees, Palestinian refugee households (including 120 orphans) and Syrian refugees;
- Provide life-saving assistance, such as food and medicines, to 138 Sudanese refugees stranded near the Jordanian border until they are relocated to a safer place and durable solutions are found;
- Complete registration of 2,500 Iranian Ahwazi refugees in southern Iraq (Basrah, Maysan, Qadissiya and Wassit);
- Carry out assessments and surveys to refine protection and resettlement needs, and develop assistance responses.

Former Al-Tash Camp: A breakthrough was achieved for some 2,000 Iranian Kurdish families on 20 September 2005 when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNHCR and Kurdish Regional Governments authorities in Erbil to relocate refugees from Al-Tash Camp in Anbar Governorate to the Erbil Governorate. Relocation to Sulaymaniyah Governorate had already commenced in May 2005, relocation to Erbil Governorate started in November 2005 and was completed in early 2006.

Targets: Continue to assist 2,000 refugees relocated from Al-Tash to Kawa settlement in 2005 and relocate a further 200 refugees currently stranded at the no man's land to the Kawa settlement in Erbil. The assistance will include completion of construction at the temporary transit site, establishment of a semi-permanent settlement at Kawa by the third trimester of 2006, and will ensure that 190 former Al-Tash refugee families are settled there by October 2006.

Makhmour Camp: A concerted effort by stakeholders is needed to address the concerns surrounding the civilian character of the camp and offer refugees a protection-based durable solution, including negotiations on the draft Voluntary Repatriation Agreement between Iraq, Turkey and UNHCR. UNHCR will closely coordinate with the various stakeholders and will update its plan for Makhmour.

Targets: Plan with stakeholders and concerned Iraqi authorities to restore security and confidence in the camp's humanitarian character in order to: (i) register and validate the previously registered camp population; (ii) carry out an intention survey complemented by an information campaign; (iii) conclude a repatriation programme between the relevant parties; and (iv) engage Turkish refugees in discussions and preparations for repatriation to Turkey or relocation to other Kurdish Regional Government-controlled areas. Once a process towards durable solutions is well underway, UNHCR will proceed with the closure of the camp. Necessary protection and life-saving activities for genuinely vulnerable refugee groups need to continue in the interim period.

Ashraf Facility: Some Iranian detainees at this facility near Baghdad have applied for asylum. UNHCR has been requested to verify their status and pursue solutions for those who qualify as refugees. Due to lack of access to Ashraf by humanitarian agencies, UNHCR has piloted the first Refugee Status Determination interviews using video tele-conferencing facilities.

Targets: Some 180 asylum-seekers from Ashraf are interviewed in the first half of 2006, their status is determined and solutions are identified for those who are recognised as refugees.

II. IRAQIS IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

While neighbouring countries as well as countries outside of the region have been generous and are currently hosting large numbers of Iraqis, Jordan and Syria hosting the largest number of Iraqis under the Temporary Protection Regime (TPR). The TPR consists merely of tolerating the presence of Iraqis and, in theory, preventing their deportation. The 2005 reports from UNHCR offices, NGOs and governmental entities highlighted the substandard conditions that many Iraqis are facing in the region. To meet their protection and assistance needs, UNHCR is devising a joint strategy which will enhance the protection regime while addressing economic and social needs through institutional support to host countries.

2005 ACHIEVEMENTS

- UNHCR Syria, Jordan and Lebanon closely monitored the 'silent exodus' of an increasing number of Iraqis over 2004 and 2005, lobbied with the authorities for the upholding of the Temporary Protection Regime (TPR), intervened in cases of deportation and assisted those who requested to voluntarily return to Iraq;
- The three offices introduced mechanisms to profile Iraqis registered with UNHCR, identify vulnerable cases and, where possible, addressed their needs;
- In coordination with other UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, UNESCO), relevant ministries (Health, Education), NGOs and charity organizations, UNHCR provided targeted support to the vulnerable individuals under TPR in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon;
- UNHCR Iran contributed to the closure and consolidation of remaining Iraqi refugee camps and provided community based assistance for the most vulnerable remaining refugees.

Objective: Enhanced protection environment for Iraqis in the region

Targets:

- Engage host country governments in the articulation of a comprehensive protection regime;

- Develop community-based assistance to ensure Iraqis have access to public services in neighbouring countries and foster greater tolerance towards Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers by the host government and local communities;
- Provide status determination and resettlement opportunities for extremely vulnerable cases;
- Liaise with other UN and bilateral agencies to (1) conduct comprehensive needs assessments and (2) design and implement activities aimed at institutional support;
- Out-of-country structures established to assist Iraqis in the region with filing property claims;
- Continue regular border monitoring activities to prevent deportation and *refoulement*.

SPECIAL SITUATION OF RUWAYSHED CAMP

- In May 2005, mixed groups of mainly Palestinian and Iranian refugees, who resided in no man's land on the Iraqi-Jordanian border were moved to Ruwayshed Camp in Jordan for protection purposes. Significant progress was made toward durable solutions for this population thanks to the resettlement countries (mainly Sweden, Ireland, New Zealand and Denmark). Ruwayshed's population stood at 498 refugees by the end of 2005 from some 880 in 2004. One of the objectives in 2006 is to find durable solutions for the camp's remaining population and to close this tented desert camp no later than September 2006. The fact that resettlement is the only viable solution for refugees in Ruwayshed camp poses a major challenge to UNHCR.

III. INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

2005 ACHIEVEMENTS

- IDP monitoring in the three northern governorates and reports on IDP profiles produced on a regular basis;
- Emergency needs met through the delivery of 1,301 tents to some 4,900 families displaced by continuing insecurity in Anbar; 400 tents and additional non-food items for families affected by military campaign in Tal Afar; and 50 tents provided following the Al-Aimmah bridge stampede in Baghdad;
- Return and reintegration programmes assisted IDPs and host communities throughout Iraq;
- A framework for the development of a *National Policy on Displacement Challenges and Durable Solutions* was finalized, and grassroots consultations with affected communities launched in late 2005.

Four decades of widespread human rights abuses, and internal and international conflicts, have resulted in a current IDP population in Iraq of some 1.2 million, including many cases of protracted displacement. It is therefore vital that national policies are developed which address fresh displacement and assist long-term IDPs to find a durable solution. UNHCR, as Coordinator of United Nations Cluster on Refugees, IDPs and Durable Solutions (Cluster F) and Chair of the Working Group on Internally Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions (IDP WG), has taken the lead in revising the UN's *Strategic Plan on Assistance and Durable Solutions for IDPs in Iraq* to be adapted in 2006 and assisting the Government of Iraq in developing a *National Policy on Displacement Challenges and Durable Solutions*, to be followed by an *Implementation Framework*. Pending a sustainable national solution, UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to displaced persons in the three northern governorates, promote IDP protection responses country-wide and advocate for the full reflection of displacement concerns in national development programmes.

Objective: Assist in developing policies and strategies for IDPs throughout the country

Targets:

- Provide capacity-building support to the Kurdish Regional Government and the Joint Humanitarian Information Centre (JHIC) to enable them to take over the monitoring of displacement situations and the issuance of IDP profile reports;
- An inter-ministerial committee on evictions of IDPs from public buildings is established;
- National consultations with IDPs and affected communities are held throughout Iraq and serve to identify and report issues relevant to the *National Policy on Displacement* to MoDM and UNHCR;
- The IDP intentions survey is developed and conducted in cooperation with IOM and UNOPS;
- An inclusive National Conference Committee is activated and a National Conference on Displacement is held by the end of 2006;
- Structures have been established within the relevant Iraqi authorities to monitor IDPs throughout the country and produce reports on their situation, needs and gaps.

IV. RETURN AND REINTEGRATION – IDPs AND REFUGEES

2005 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Since 2003, over 300,000 Iraqi refugees returned to Iraq spontaneously. UNHCR facilitated 25,000 returns to Iraq since August 2003, of which 5,616 took place in 2005;
- 196,000 IDPs and over 60,000 refugee returnees benefited from return and reintegration projects;
- Returnee monitoring projects covered 6,000 households;
- Governorate Working Groups were set up in Basrah, Thi Qar, Missan, Diyala and Sulaymaniyah to collect data and draft Governorate Assessment Reports;
- Over 31,000 persons received legal assistance through eight independent Legal Aid and Information Centres (LAICs) and four mobile outreach teams;
- 50,000 persons of concern benefited of quick-impact projects (QIPs) under shelter, infrastructure, education, health, skills training and income generation;
- Some 1,200 homes were constructed or rehabilitated;
- Over 520 additional families received income-generation grants and vocational training;
- Over 1,400 vulnerable returnees and refugees received domestic items (blankets, kitchen sets, etc.);
- Four health centers were rehabilitated and used by more than 15,000 returnees, IDPs and host communities;
- Some 360 primary school children attended a newly constructed school in Salah al-Din, which was among 19 UNHCR-reconstructed schools throughout Iraq;
- 20,000 returnees and their host communities benefited from eight water projects.

A *2005 Return Advisory* of UNHCR states that return to the three northern governorates is considered “feasible”; however, only on specific conditions. UNHCR does not encourage the return of Iraqi refugees to the centre and south since conditions are not conducive to repatriation. UNHCR assists voluntary return of individual refugees on a case-by-case basis in

close coordination with IOM and the Iraqi Government partner (MoDM).

During the course of 2004 and 2005, UNHCR's priority under return and reintegration gradually shifted to IDPs, without which return of Iraqi refugees from abroad is not sustainable in the returnee concentration areas. Assistance to returnees includes shelter and infrastructure, income-generation activities, legal aid and information. However, return is complicated by scarce resources and prevailing instability. Returnee monitoring data obtained during 2004 and 2005 showed that about 80% of the returnees in northern Iraq and more than 35% in the lower south of Iraq ended up internally displaced upon return, mainly due to the lack of housing, employment and social services.

Objective: Assist in the return and reintegration of IDPs in a targeted manner and assist the voluntary repatriation of Iraqi on a case-by-case basis.

Targets:

- Provide comprehensive information and guidelines to countries hosting Iraqis to assist refugees in informed decision-making on return;
- Support return and reintegration through multi-sectoral and community-based activities;
- Strengthen the current network of Legal Aid Information Centers (LAICs) with enhanced outreach capacity through mobile teams. At least 75,000 refugees, returnees and IDPs will receive counseling from the established LAIC network and legal representation in select cases;
- Some 100,000 returnees, IDPs and local families will benefit from quick-impact projects (QIPs);
- Some 2,500 vulnerable returnee households will receive income-generation grants and vocational training courses;
- Non-Food Items will be distributed to the most vulnerable returnees;
- Twenty-five schools serving 6,000 displaced and local children will receive proper sanitary facilities and water;
- 80,000 returning IDPs and local community members will be provided with potable water from newly dug wells.
- 152 houses accommodating 760 returnees will be constructed or rehabilitated.



Iraqi returnees from exile in Iran. UNHCR/A. Eriksson.

V. STRENGTHENING NATIONAL CAPACITY

2005 ACHIEVEMENTS

- MoDM's institutional framework, including the Basic Law on the Ministry of Migration and Refugee Affairs, was developed;
- Over 70 MoDM staff members benefited from workshops on registration, emergency situations, IDPs/development of national policy, returnee monitoring and assessment reports, strategic planning and evaluation;
- Supported the running of MoDM's branch offices through training and equipment;
- Supported the drafting of the statute of the Commission for the Resolution of Real Property Disputes (RRPD), instructions and claim forms, and the development of public information tools;
- Continued follow up on property restitution issues, out-of-country property claim system, and Iraqi property laws through surveys, researches and by providing technical support;
- Strengthened the operational capacities of 21 local NGOs.

As part of the UN's integrated efforts towards Iraq's rehabilitation and the full empowerment of its authorities, UNHCR has supported MoDM since the Ministry's establishment in August 2003, and has coordinated assistance programmes with IOM through the Coordination Group on Capacity-Building (CGCB) since 2004. For various reasons, frequent changes in the administration in Iraq being an important one, the ability of the Ministry to take both ownership and leadership and act decisively on important issue related to displacement in Iraq and refugee matters in particular, remains weak. Once a new administration is in place, the planned programme for 2006 will therefore need to be reviewed and adjustments made as required.

MoDM has currently a presence in all governorates, with the exception of the three northern governorates. It has opened main branch offices in Basrah, Amarah, Nassiriyah, Diyala and Kirkuk. In the three northern governorates, UNHCR supported the KRG authorities, NGOs and other local actors in coordination with MoDM.

Legal frameworks are also needed to guide human rights protection of refugees and stateless persons. MoDM has previously indicated Iraq's intention to accede to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, an objective UNHCR will support through measures including the revision of current legislation to enhance refugee protection in Iraq. UNHCR will promote accession to the Statelessness Conventions among Iraqi institutions and support relevant ministries in the implementation of Iraq's Nationality Law, which recently entered into force.

In addition, since property disputes remain one of the main obstacles to the peaceful and sustainable return and reintegration of refugees and IDPs, UNHCR closely coordinates with IOM and the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office (IRMO) to ensure a solid and functional Commission for the Resolution of Real Property Disputes (CRRPD), formally known as the Iraqi Property Claim Commission (IPCC).



Petty trade, Ex Al Tash Iranian refugees,
Kawa Site, /UNHCR



Chicken rearing training for returnee women
in Southern Iraq / UNHCR

Objective: Support national and local bodies and civil society actors in Iraq to enhance the protection and assistance of persons of concern to UNHCR (including on property restitution and statelessness issues)

Targets:

- Under the established framework of Coordination Group on Capacity Building, support MoDM's institutional and operational capacities through revision and enactment of the current draft Basic Law; support newly-opened MoDM branch offices based on their assessed needs;
- In cooperation with IOM, provide guidance to the Commission for the Resolution of Real Property Disputes through technical advice on legislation and regulations, including on matters of compensation, voluntary dispute resolution, enforcement, data protection and out-of-country structures to receive claims, as well as public information and fundraising;
- Continue efforts to promote accession to international refugee and statelessness instruments and to support the revision and implementation of relevant legislation for refugees and stateless persons;
- Improve the effectiveness of selected national NGOs in 2006 through skills training.

VI. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPACITY

Emergency needs are likely to increase given that sectarian tensions and violence have significantly heightened after the Samarra bombing in February 2006. Whilst the political process appears to be stalled, social and economic unrest, high unemployment and a shortage of essential services may set the stage for even further sectarian violence and massive forced population displacements both within and across Iraq's international borders. Security incidents have escalated and are reported daily, affecting the already restricted movements of national staff in Iraq as well as the operationality of UNHCR's implementing partners.

Distribution of non-food items through implementing partners in response to sporadic emergencies in central, northern and southern Iraq have continued throughout 2005 and during the first trimester of 2006. In its humanitarian role, UNHCR, as part of its contingency planning, will maintain a regional emergency preparedness and response capability of non-food item stocks for up to 200,000 beneficiaries. UNHCR will also continue to work within Cluster F, the IDP Working Group as well as the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)-led Emergency Working Group to coordinate responses to internal displacement.

As part of its measures for emergency preparedness, UNHCR has organized emergency training sessions and has built governmental- and non-governmental partner capacity. Training was provided in the areas of conducting needs assessments, preparation and updating of contingency plans, emergency coordination mechanisms and formulation of emergency response.

Objective: Maintain emergency preparedness and response capacity for Iraq and across international borders in countries neighbouring Iraq

Targets:

- Provide basic life-saving assistance to refugees and IDPs in emergency situations inside and outside Iraq;
- Maintain a regional contingency non-food items stock for 200,000 beneficiaries at UNHCR's warehouses in Jordan, Kuwait and Syria. Ensure pre-positioning of non-food items in UNHCR warehouses in central, northern and southern Iraq;
- Continue periodic situational emergency training and refresher courses for UNHCR, partner staff and Iraqi authorities;
- Maintain an IDP emergency response coordination capacity within UNAMI.
- Ensure UNHCR is adequately prepared to respond to emergency needs inside Iraq and in neighbouring countries.



Palestinians including children fled their homes in Baghdad fearing intimidation and harassment, stranded at Iraq/Jordan border/UNHCR/C. Lynch



Returnees helping in the construction of shelters in southern Iraq / UNHCR

Budget Requirements for 2006

This Appeal covers budgeted activities until 31 December 2006 and describes UNHCR's regional operation for Iraq. The overall budget requirements is USD 29,777,953 covering the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR both inside and outside Iraq.

| UNHCR's Requirement 1 January – 31 December 2006 | |
|---|-------------------|
| Sector | (USD) |
| Protection, Monitoring & Coordination | 6,187,379 |
| Community Services | 411,511 |
| Domestic Needs | 1,848,746 |
| Education | 713,610 |
| Food | 372,679 |
| Health | 797,015 |
| Income Generation | 1,761,452 |
| Legal Assistance / Protection | 5,371,319 |
| Operational Support (to Agencies) | 2,931,671 |
| Sanitation | 441,274 |
| Shelter / Other Infrastructure | 2,623,463 |
| Transport / Logistics | 2,235,454 |
| Water (non-agricultural) | 633,918 |
| Total Operations | 26,329,491 |
| Support Costs (7%)* | 1,843,064 |
| Programme Support | 1,605,398 |
| Grand Total | 29,777,953 |

(*) A 7% support cost has been added to the total operational requirements and will be recovered from each contribution to meet indirect support costs in UNHCR (Field and HQs).

Funding Overview for 2005

The overall requirements for UNHCR's operations in Iraq in 2005 were **USD 44,491,617***. The following table lists the donors to UNHCR's Iraq programme:

| Donor | Amount in USD |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Japan | 500,000 |
| Netherlands fur UNO Fluchtlingshilfe | 2,041 |
| Spain** | 1,634 |
| Switzerland | 416,667 |
| United Kingdom | 195,977 |
| United States of America | 19,975,480 |
| UNDG Iraq Trust Fund (Korea) | 990,000 |
| USA for UNHCR | 847,170 |
| Islamic Republic of Iran/ISESCO | 14,975 |
| Total Fresh Contributions*** | 22,943,944 |
| Carry Over from 2004 | 18,854,385 |
| Grand Total | 41,798,328 |

* Of which USD 2, 461,766 is Annual Programme Budget for Iraq

** Contributions from Spanish autonomous communities and other public administrations channelled through España con ACNUR

*** Of which USD 1,226,080 is earmarked for the Annual Programme Budget (Japan USD 500,000 and USA USD 726,080)

Iraq and neighbouring countries

As of November 2005

PGDS in D05
Populations and Disruptive Data System
Division of Operational Support
<http://doss.unhcr.org>

