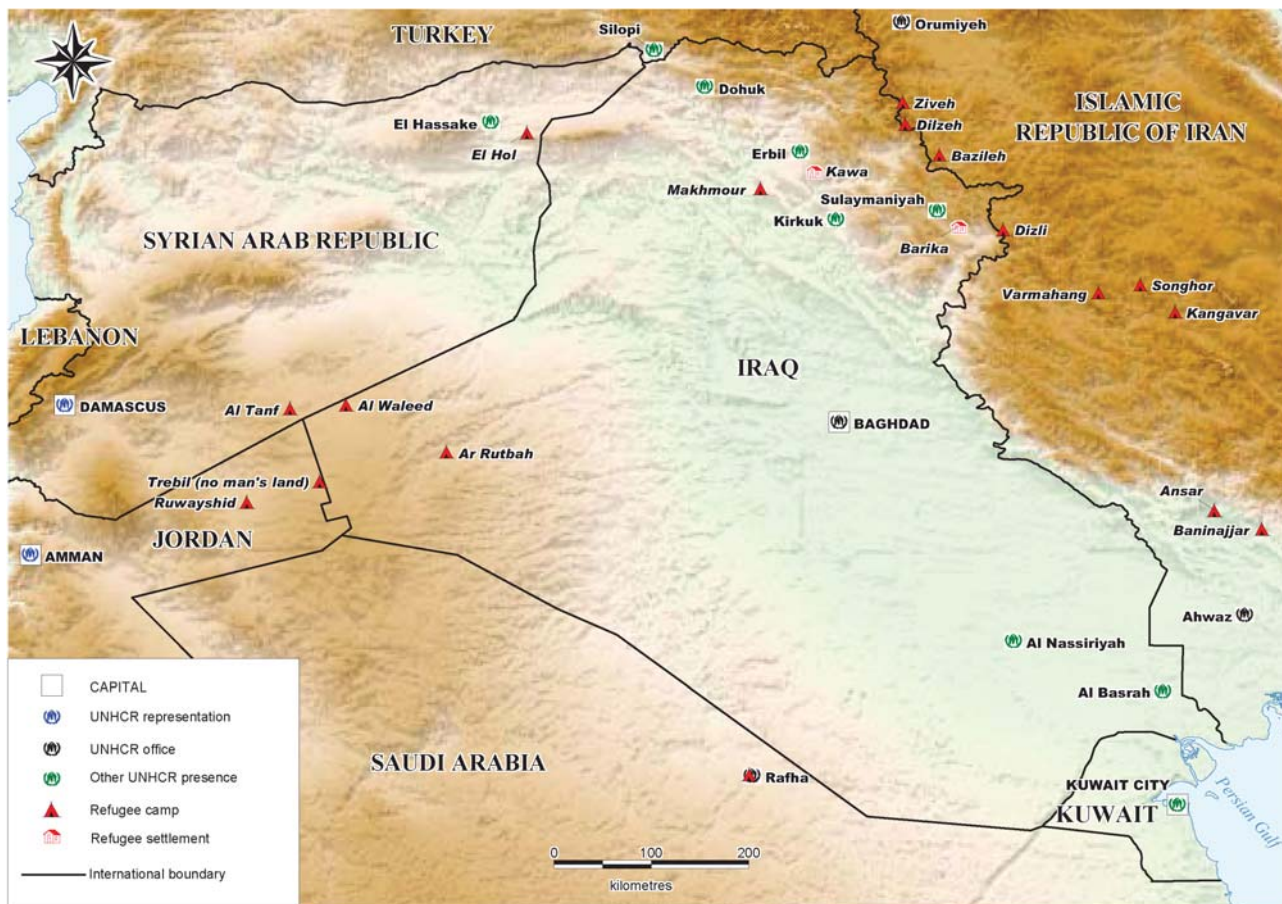


Iraq Situation



Operational highlights

- Instability in Iraq fuelled both internal displacements and population movements into neighbouring countries. Though an improvement in security was noted towards the end of 2007, the situation was generally volatile. Neighbouring countries continued to host millions of Iraqi refugees, despite the severe strains on their economies and social infrastructure.
- Protection space in the region was consolidated, and the principle of *non-refoulement* upheld.
- In addition to the assistance provided by host governments, UNHCR protected and assisted more than 250,000 registered refugees.
- In Iraq, the Office expanded delivery of emergency relief items and legal and social advice to reach more internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- UNHCR forged stronger partnerships with local, regional, and international NGOs, UN agencies and other organizations working with IDPs and Iraqi refugees.

Working environment

Violence plagued Iraq all through 2007. Car bombings, targeted killings, sectarian violence and acts of terror and intimidation fed the climate of fear and instability in the country. Some areas were relatively stable, largely due to a ceasefire by the forces of the Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, the establishment of the Sunni Awakening Councils, the increase in the number of troops in the multi-national forces in the country and the strengthening of Iraqi law enforcement capacity.

Despite the return of a limited number of Iraqis from the Syrian Arab Republic, UNHCR did not consider the situation in Iraq conducive to large-scale organized repatriation. Surveys revealed that the exhaustion of funds and lack of other sources of income in Syria were driving the returns, rather than improved conditions in Iraq. In addition to the poor security situation in the country, basic services were lacking. UNHCR did not promote returns to Iraq, but helped many Iraqis who returned.

In 2007, UNHCR's focus remained on preserving protection space in countries hosting Iraqi refugees, including the Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt. It also supported the local structures, communities and authorities that bore the main load in hosting more than two million Iraqi refugees. With the exception of Egypt, none of these countries are party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. Regardless, they have shown remarkable generosity to the hundreds of thousands of Iraqis on their territory, allowing them to live in safety and avail themselves of public services.

The urban nature of the Iraqi refugee population makes community-based assistance as relevant as individual support for people with specific needs, including victims of torture and trauma, women at risk, the physically handicapped and those with medical problems. Community surveys have been essential in defining protection and assistance gaps.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Inside Iraq

UNHCR has registered some 42,000 refugees in Iraq: Palestinians, Iranians, Sudanese, Turks, Somalis and others. It assisted refugees in urban areas and in seven camps and settlements. The Office tried to ensure the civilian nature of the Makhmour camp.

UNHCR, under the overall coordination of UNAMI, contributed to the international effort to protect and assist IDPs, serving as coordinator of the protection cluster and chair of the IDP working group. The Office supported the Government in drafting a National Policy on Internal Displacement and advised on revision of the basic law establishing the Ministry of Displacement and Migration.

Persons of concern Iraq					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Turkey	15,600	15,600	51	49
	Occupied Palestinian Territory	14,900	14,900	50	24
	Islamic Republic of Iran	11,100	11,100	48	41
	Syrian Arab Republic	600	600	52	37
	Various	100	100	17	20
Asylum-seekers	Islamic Republic of Iran	1,000	1,000	43	-
	Syrian Arab Republic	1,000	1,000	43	-
	Turkey	400	400	43	-
Returnees (refugees)	From Syrian Arab Republic	45,000	-	-	-
	Various	400	400	49	-
IDPs		2,385,900	292,600	49	-
Returnees (IDPs)		36,000	-	49	-
Stateless		130,000	-	49	45
Total		2,642,000	339,700		

Outside Iraq					
Type of population	Country	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries	Syria	1,500,000 ¹	153,700	48 ²	39 ²
	Jordan	500,000 ³	51,000	45 ²	30 ²
	Lebanon	50,000	9,800	-	-
	Islamic Republic of Iran	57,400	57,400	40	43
	Egypt	10,300	10,300	48	40
	Turkey	3,700	3,700	43	34
	Gulf States (Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar)	34,200	4,700	-	-
Total		2,155,600	286,900		

¹ Government Estimate.

² Demographic data refers to the assisted population only.

³ Number of Iraqis estimated by Government.



A Red Crescent volunteer helps a young Iraqi find a school uniform in the right size.

UNHCR/M. Bernard

The number of returns to Iraq remained unclear. UNHCR helped some 100 returnees with transport and emergency assistance. The Office's 16 protection and assistance centres and five mobile teams offered legal and social assistance and dealt with some 36,000 cases. UNHCR also assessed the protection and assistance needs of IDPs, refugees and returnees inside Iraq and monitored their situation.

Outside Iraq

UNHCR registered 159,000 Iraqis in the region in 2007, bringing the total number of registered Iraqis to 228,000. Registration provided detailed information on the needs of the refugees, enabling UNHCR to direct assistance more efficiently.

The Office referred some 21,300 refugees for resettlement to 16 resettlement countries. More than 13 per cent of the cases referred in 2007 were women at risk; another 30 per cent were survivors of severe trauma, including sexual and gender-based violence, detention, abduction or torture.

By December 2007, 4,600 Iraqis had left for resettlement countries. In Jordan, some 110 Palestinians who fled Iraq and had lived in Ruweyshid camp for more than four years were resettled in Brazil; the camp was closed at the end of 2007.

UNHCR offices in the region followed up on detention cases. At the end of 2007, more than 600 Iraqis were in detention in Lebanon. UNHCR continued to negotiate for their release.

UNHCR's outreach programmes in the region included teams to address sexual and gender-based violence. In Syria, outreach efforts are made through six community centres and the Office's mobile registration units in and around Damascus. In Jordan, UNHCR staff made home visits and provided services at two centres, addressing an average of 90 cases per week. More than 13,000 psycho-socio counselling sessions were conducted for urban asylum-seekers and refugees in Jordan.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Refugee children in all five camps in Iraq participated in arts activities to improve their psychological well-being and skills. Some 5,000 IDP, refugee and local children in Iraq received soccer balls, art supplies, uniforms and toys.

In Jordan, more than 40,000 individuals received various forms of assistance, including counselling. In Syria, outreach services were provided through six community centres established in neighbourhoods with many Iraqis. Psychosocial support was provided to 3,000 Iraqis in Lebanon.

Domestic needs and household support: Some 5,200 refugee families and 30,000 IDP families in Iraq received non-food items, including tents, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, sanitary napkins and fuel.

In Jordan and Lebanon, some 25,000 individuals affected by the Iraq conflict received non-food items, while another 4,000 families in Jordan and Syria received cash to help them pay their rents.

Education: In 2007, the Government of Jordan decided to allow Iraqi children to enrol in public and private schools, regardless of their residence status. Approximately 72,000 Iraqi children were enrolled in schools for the 2007-2008 school year in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, compared to an estimated 47,000 in the previous year. UNHCR provided uniforms, textbooks and stationery to approximately 25,000 Iraqi children.

In Syria, 100 local schools were rehabilitated and construction begun on six new schools. In Egypt, UNHCR supported approximately 2,600 Iraqi children (38 percent of the Iraqi children who attend local schools) with uniforms and other educational materials, and helped them with transportation and school registration.

UNHCR also assisted 150 refugee and 250 vulnerable IDP students attending schools and universities with transportation fees. Additionally, some 1,500 IDP, returnee and local women participated in literacy projects.

Food: Within Iraq, 8,000 refugees received food aid, while in Syria and Jordan, another 60,000 Iraqi and 1,400 Palestinian refugees received regular food rations. The food aid helped to maintain acceptable nutritional levels among the needy refugee and IDP populations.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR made sure that refugees in accessible areas inside Iraq had access to primary health and medical services. A health clinic was established at Al-Waleed refugee camp, while mobile medical units visited Dohuk camp. Furthermore, some 10,000 hygiene and sanitary kits were distributed to female refugees. UNHCR assisted 13 health points with equipment and repairs, benefiting some 30,000 IDPs and local residents.

In Syria, over 200,000 individuals received medical care and some 400 women at risk and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were identified and assisted. In Jordan, some 42,000 cases received medical care and some 2,600 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were assisted. In both Jordan

and Syria, UNHCR funded cancer and heart treatment programmes for Iraqi patients.

In Egypt, UNHCR is working with WHO to support the Ministry of Health and Population expand access to the national health care system and ensure that care is affordable for Iraqi refugees. A one-week midwifery course for female refugees, IDPs and returnees was attended by 40 participants

Income generation: In Iraq, 350 refugee families and 1,000 IDP families benefited from income-generating activities.

Legal assistance: Within Iraq, 16 protection and assistance centers and five mobile teams were expanded and their capacity strengthened. Some 36,000 people benefited from their services in a range of areas including social welfare and administrative and legal matters. Needs were assessed and households monitored in 3,000 locations in 18 governorates. Of 36,000 cases related to basic rights, 34,000 were resolved. In Lebanon, the Office gave legal advice to more than 600 Iraqi detainees.

Operational support: UNHCR implementing partners received operational support funds that covered programmes, logistics and security measures.

Sanitation: Garbage collection and camp cleaning were carried out on a daily basis in the Kawa camp in Northern Iraq. Work on septic tanks and latrines was carried out in Hussainiyah camp, Grdachal in Erbil, K70 camp, Al-Waleed camp and Sanyah camp. A similar effort benefited some 2,100 IDPs in the governorates of Najaf, Diwaniyah and Wassit.

Shelter and other infrastructure: In Iraq, camp infrastructure, roads and fences were refurbished in Makhmour camp. Some 4,000 IDPs were assisted to obtain adequate housing. Roads and bridges were repaired in eight areas with a high concentration of IDPs. Two schools were refurbished in Missan Governorate.

Transport and logistics: Throughout the region, UNHCR improved its warehousing, supply and logistics capacities and increased its stocks of emergency non-food items to cater for 300,000 people.

Water: The entire refugee population in Iraq now either lives within 200 meters of a water point or is provided with clean water. In Kawa camp, an average of 40,000 liters of safe and clean water was made available for 75 families. Access to clean water was ensured in 28 schools and 21 communities in 10 governorates through delivery by water tanker, the

drilling of wells and repairs to the water system. These efforts benefited more than 80,000 IDPs, refugees and host-community members.

Constraints

The Iraqi refugee population represents the largest urban caseload ever managed by UNHCR. Due to the urban nature of the population, assessments of needs required a greater investment in outreach, registration, human resources and community-based activities. Significant investment in staffing and in the widening of partnerships with civil society organizations is required, given the magnitude of the situation. The rising cost of living in the region weighed heavily on the host communities, which also host hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate.

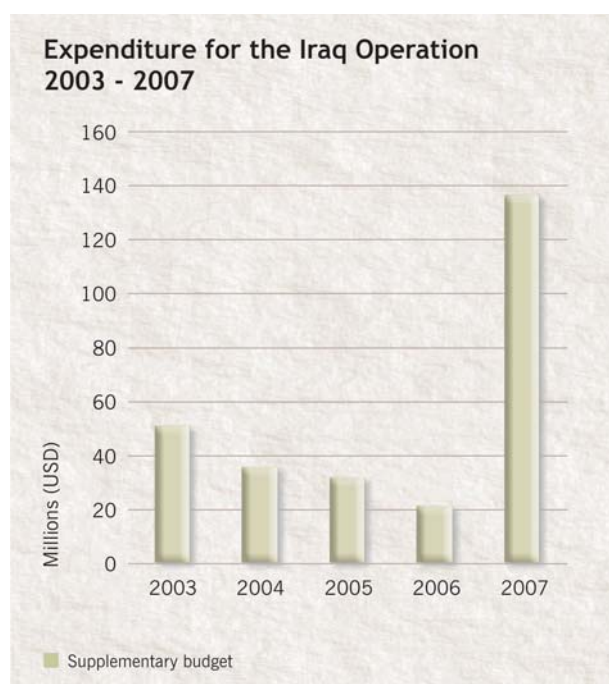
In Iraq, the violence and instability restricted UNHCR's access to many parts of the country, thereby limiting direct assistance to IDPs. Two UNHCR international staff were based in northern Iraq in 2007, while another two were present in the central region on a rotating basis. A small number of staff, with support from the office in Kuwait, managed activities in southern Iraq.

Financial information

Given the worsening security situation and increased needs of those displaced inside and outside of Iraq, UNHCR appealed for some USD 123 million under its supplementary programme for the Iraq situation. Contributions received represented 90 per cent of the appeal budget, compared to only 50 per cent received

between 2004 and 2006. In 2007, the Office implemented over 85 per cent of the activities covered in the appeal.

In response to the growing education needs among displaced Iraqi children and the burdens shared by the host governments, UNHCR and UNICEF launched a separate joint appeal for education for USD 129 million for 2007 and 2008. The appeal received forty per cent funding during 2007. In September 2007, the Office, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), jointly issued a health sector appeal. The implementation of the activities envisaged in this appeal commenced in 2008.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR presence for the Iraq operation	Iraq	Syria	Jordan	Lebanon	Turkey	Egypt	HQ	Total
International staff	15	18	16	13	0	0	5	67
National staff	41	85	51	33	8	3	5	226
JPOs	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Others	10	48	11	15	6	2	0	92

Working with others

UNHCR is currently working with 58 partners on the Iraq operation, including national and international NGOs, governments, UN Agencies, national Red Crescent Societies and others. Due to the poor security inside Iraq, the Office's programmes are carried out mainly by implementing partners, with UNHCR monitoring and evaluating programmes through remote management. In Iraq, UNHCR also works closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and other UN agencies, such as WFP, to expand its assistance to IDPs. In the neighbouring countries, the networks of local and international NGOs were significantly expanded, creating a wider base for the implementation of UNHCR's protection and other programmes.

Overall assessment

UNHCR's objectives for the Iraq operation in 2007 were largely met, and in some instances exceeded the projected targets.

The situation of some 2,700 Palestinian refugees under UNHCR's mandate stranded in camps on the Iraq-Syria border remained unresolved. The refugees were living in extremely harsh conditions and UNHCR provided them with assistance while searching for durable solutions. In 2007, seven individuals with medical cases and their families departed for resettlement. The Government of Sudan has offered to receive 2,000 Palestinians in Khartoum for resettlement.

Despite limited access inside Iraq, UNHCR continued to monitor, protect and assist refugees, including those living with local communities and in the seven camps and settlements. Even though the physical security of most of these refugees is of concern, durable solutions do not seem to be attainable in the near future.

UNHCR assisted vulnerable IDPs and their communities with non-food items, shelter and infrastructure rehabilitation, income-generation and educational support. The volatile situation in Iraq and security

restrictions do not allow the Office to have direct contact with IDP populations, making it difficult to monitor the impact of the assistance provided.

Host Governments and local communities maintained generous reception of displaced Iraqis. However, limited resources and savings of displaced Iraqis were exhausted quickly. UNHCR provided basic assistance of food and non-food items for nearly 100,000 individuals in 2007 in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Iraqi refugees had access to local public facilities for both education and health. The limited durable solution options remain a challenge. While the Office submitted over 21,000 cases for resettlement, the departure rate was only 22 per cent in 2007.

The Office maintains an emergency stock of non-food items for up to 300,000 people and has set up a network of warehouses and supply and logistics chains. UNHCR led the inter-agency process to develop contingency plans for the region.

Partners	
Governments	
Ministry of Education, Syr, Ministry of Health, Syria, Ministry of Planning And International Cooperation, Jordan, Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Iraq, Office of the Governor of El Hassake, Syria, Kurdish Regional Government, Iraq	
NGOs	
Al Bassel Hospital (Heart Institute), Syria, Arc-En-Ciel, Lebanon, Association Chaldeene De Bienfaisance, Lebanon, Beiruni Hospital, Syria, Care, Australia, Caritas Austria, Caritas Egypt, Caritas Migrants Center, Lebanon, Caritas, Jordan, Caritas, Lebanon, Catholic Relief Services Usccb, USA, Common Charity Committee, Syria, Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, Egypt, Couvent Ibrahim Al-Khalil, Syria, Croix Rouge Francaise (Crf), F, Danish Refugee Council, Evangelical Christian Alliance Church, Syria, International Catholic Migration Commission, International Medical Corps, USA, Intersos, Italy, Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Jordanian Alliance Against Hunger and Food Security, Jordanian Red Crescent Society, Jordanian Women's Union, King Hussein Cancer Foundation, Jordan, Lebanese Association for Popular Action, Maison du Bon Pasteur, Syria, Mercy Corps, Middle East Council of Churches, Leb, Mizan, Jordan, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Queen Zein Al-Sharaf Institute for Development (Zenid), Jordan, Questscope, Jordan, Refugee Egypt, Restart Centre for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture, Lebanon, Save the Children Federation, USA, Syrian Red Crescent Society, Terre des Hommes Italia, Terre des Hommes, Syria	
Others	
IOM, UNAMI, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNRWA, WFP, WHO	

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Supplementary budget	153,013,832	141,594,044	3,940,902	145,534,946	136,484,689

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked for the two supplementary programmes. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)	
Expenditure breakdown	Supplementary budget ¹
Protection, monitoring and coordination	8,998,841
Community services	3,237,874
Domestic needs and household support	15,843,503
Education	36,959,535
Food	6,318,490
Health and nutrition	12,355,550
Income generation	716,798
Legal assistance	6,285,098
Operational support (to agencies)	4,725,376
Sanitation	522,553
Shelter and infrastructure	11,141,480
Transport and logistics	7,409,727
Water	582,359
Instalments with implementing partners	16,718,168
Sub-total operational activities	131,815,352
Programme support	4,669,336
Total expenditure	136,484,688
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure	
Instalments with implementing partners	
Payments made	92,305,766
Reporting received	(75,587,599)
Balance	16,718,167

¹ Please see tables 2 D and 2 E in the Funding UNHCR's programmes chapter for a breakdown of expenditure by country.