



# IOM Delivers Clean Drinking Water to Southern Basrah



Responding to a water crisis facing the local population, IOM implemented a water trucking operation in the Al Fao district of Southern Basrah.

The high salinity level of the nearby Shatt Al-Arab river has made its water unfit for human or animal consumption, and caused damage to agricultural lands. With no other options for safe drinking water, the residents of Al Fao had to buy water from outside the district at very expensive rates. This economic hardship forced some families to abandon their homes and farms and leave the district.

In September 2009 IOM began trucking water to Al Fao, sending an average of 10 trucks per day. To allow the community to safely store this water, new water tanks were distributed by a partner NGO.

The water distributions in Al Fao benefited some 6,000 households, totaling over 50,000 individuals. Local residents who received water supplies were very pleased with the project, saying that they had not had free access to clean drinking water in a long time.

In preparation for future water crises, IOM has stocked its emergency warehouses with water filtration kits for family and community use. Utilizing IOM's supply chain capacity, vulnerable families can rapidly be provided with potable drinking water in the event of an on-set emergency.

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