



Iraq • Flooding

Situation Report #1 10 November 2009

This report was issued by OCHA Iraq country office and UNAMI. It covers the period from 1 to 8 Nov 2009. The next report will be issued on or around Sunday, 15 Nov 2009.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- In the Erbil and Dahuk Governorates over 3,000 persons (500 families) across ten locations in the mountainous districts of Mergasur, Rawanduz, Choman, Zhakho, Sumel, Aqra were affected by flash flooding following heavy rains and winds on 1 Nov 2009. Two persons died in the incident and several others were injured.
- Immediate basic essential needs were NFIs, food, shelter materials, and potable water. In response to an official request from the Dahuk and Erbil authorities UN agencies and NGOs responded promptly to assess and provide the required urgent support to the worst affected areas.
- There still remain significant outstanding needs including NFIs, winter clothing and heaters, shelter materials, paraffin, and renovation of schools and clearing of roads to allow for children to resume classes. There is also the need for major repairs to water networks and infrastructure. Other needs include monitoring of specific protection concerns, food security assessment to establish potential gaps between the PDS food distribution schedule and monitoring of the water and sanitation situation.

II. Situation Overview

As a result of heavy rains and winds that started at 22:00 hours on 30 Oct through to 06:00 hours on the 1 Nov 09, and on 2 Nov 09 in the northern parts of Iraq, flash flooding and landslides have resulted in two deaths, several persons injured and affected over 3,000 persons (500 families) across several locations in the mountainous districts of Mergasur, Choman, Sumeil, Rawanduz, in Erbil and Dahuk governorate in the KRG. In Dahuk, approximately 336 families were affected and 160 families in Erbil governorate. Some remote locations are likely to have been missed in these estimates.

Houses were destroyed or suffered extensive damaged from mud; families lost their household assets including water storage facilities, food, education materials, farms, land and livestock. Some schools, electricity infrastructure, water networks were damaged; and roads and bridges blocked/washed away impacting on access to some remote locations affected by the floods. Authorities have cleared some roads to allow for access and are working to re-establish some of the water networks and electricity infrastructure. Dahuk Governor has promised some financial support to affected families in his governorate.

Following the floods, the Governor of Erbil Governorate visited the affected areas in Merganser. The Governor of Dahuk Governorate has also closely followed up on the floods emergency and undertaken to provide some US\$ 1,000 to each of the families affected by the floods. District Mayors, Directorate of displacement and Migration (DDM) in Dahuk; the Floods Committee and the Governorate Emergency Cell (GEC) in Erbil have all conducted assessments in the affected areas and supported the coordination process.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Needs Assessments

The initial indication on the impact of the floods was provided to the humanitarian community by ACTED on the morning of 1 Nov 2009 through its contact and networks with the local authorities and the Iraqi Red Crescent society (IRCS). This initial information complemented the information that was available with OCHA and other agencies. ICRC also had updated information on the impact of the floods which it readily shared with the rest of the humanitarian community. The ICRC, UNHCR, IOM, OCHA, ACTED, IRC and the IRCS conducted needs assessments in the affected areas a day after the impact of the flood.

Emergency Shelter and NFIs

The most serious impact was on shelter with 180 houses destroyed or suffered extensive damage from excessive mud. In the event, families lost their household assets including water storage facilities that were located on the roofs of the houses. UNHCR, IOM and IRCS have distributed NFIs to 120 families in Garatoo and 40 families in Piran (Erbil Governorate) that include mattresses, blankets, plastic sheets, stoves, kitchen sets, jerry cans, kerosene lamps and soap. This was carried out in a complementary manner to avoid duplication. ICRC has distributed essential household items to 25 families in Misirik collective town, Sumel district in Dahuk Governorate. The IRCS has distributed 40 tents in Dahuk and is currently awaiting additional NFIs supplies and shelter materials from their head office in Baghdad. In Erbil immediate needs for shelter, food and hygiene kits have been met. The authorities in Erbil have stated they will provide kerosene and carpets. In Dahuk there are still needs reported for NFIs and food.

Early Recovery

For the recovery phase the most pressing need will be to support affected families rebuild their homes.



Photo by OCHA (Azad BARWARY, IFC Dahuk)

Food and Nutrition

Household food supplies were lost along with most household belongings. The ICRC has distributed a one-off food parcel (1 per family) for one month to 120 families in Garatoo and 40 families in Piran (Erbil governorate) and 25 families in Misirik collective town, Sumel district in Dahuk Governorate. Apart from Misirik collective town, no food supplies have been provided to affected locations in Dahuk governorate, however the promised financial support from the Governor to affected families should help families in procuring food daily supplies. In Erbil, immediate needs for food supplies have been met. While the authorities should be able to manage any further food security gap given their PDS capacity, and encouragement for prompt distribution, there is still concern that the PDS is not being distributed regularly and key food items in the basket are not included in the distribution. There is therefore need for further assessment and monitoring of the food security situation in the flood affected areas. It is important to note that in flood affected districts WFP are implementing a food assistance programme to vulnerable groups (IDPs, female headed Households, small farmers, pregnant and lactating women, as well as malnourished children and their families) through which 12.5 % of the population in Choman, 28 % in Akre, receive a per capita daily ration of 1,100 kcal on a monthly basis that complements the PDS. This scheme is likely to act as a safety net for the poorest families affected by the floods.

Health

No significant health concerns were reported. Available government health facilities have not been affected by the floods and families could access them. ICRC has distributed hygiene parcels (1 per family) to families affected by flood in Garatoo and Piran (Erbil Governorate) and to 25 families in Misirik collective town, Sumel district in Dahuk Governorate. UNHCR NFIs kit distributed in these locations also contains hygiene parcels. There is need for similar support to affected population in Dahuk Governorate. There is need to monitor family

capacities to access available health facilities as many of them may not be able to afford to pay as a result of the floods.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Many water networks and facilities were affected by the floods. The main water project which supplies water to Mergasur and Garatoo towns (Erbil Governorate) and 42 villages was damaged. According to the district mayor, this may cost some 180 million Iraqi Dinars (about 150,000 US\$) to restore which may exceed local financial capacity. There is need to assess and confirm this report. ICRC has delivered 1 electrical transformer, 2 control panels and 3 motors to the Akra Water Supply Project in Gardasin area in Dahuk which was affected by lightning. Akra Water Board is taking care of the installation of these items. Many household latrines were affected by the floods but no specific assessment has been undertaken or support provided. UNICEF assessment of the flooded intake of Megesor water project, indicated need for 2 submersible pumps (two are already rented by local authority) and generator as the available one is of big capacity which consumes more fuel.

Education

Several schools were affected (exact numbers to be confirmed). Many children lost their school materials along with their families' household belongings and there is immediate need to replace them to enable them to resume schooling as soon as possible. Routes to some schools still remain blocked and so there is need to advocate with the authorities to clear/rebuild them as a priority. There will also be the need to support the renovation including provision of Watsan services and cleaning up of schools from mud to enable students return to school.

Agriculture and livestock

Farms, orchards and vegetable gardens and some irrigation canals were washed away and livestock killed. While FAO is yet to follow up with the authorities to establish the overall impact, preliminary estimates in Dahuk indicate that up to 120 donumes (40 acres) of farm land might have been washed out. No estimates are available on agricultural impact for locations in Erbil but it is estimated that some 170 cattle died in Piran and Doratoo in Choman and Mergasur districts. This may have an impact on food security of these poor communities.

Access and communication

Local authorities have cleared most of the roads but there is still limited access to some remote locations. Telephone services were not affected and community leaders and local authorities have been readily accessible by phone.

Protection

UNHCR PAC and IRC are monitoring the protection situation and will provide an update shortly.



Road and electricity lines are affected in some locations, thus affecting the flow of vital electricity supply.

IV. Coordination

Coordination meetings

- 1- OCHA Erbil office with the support of OCHA Amman and Baghdad offices has provided overall coordination and reporting on the UN and NGO response. The IAU has followed up and maintained matrix of impact and response and fed data into the online emergency information management through the IMOs;
- 2- Department of Displacement and Migration is coordinating response in Dahuk Governorate with close support from OCHA IFC and IMO;
- 3- Government Emergency Cell (GEC) Erbil is currently coordinating response in Erbil Governorate with support from UNHCR's capacity building programme.

V. Funding

USAID has provided blankets, kerosene heaters and carpets upon request from Mayor of Mergasoor Erbil Governorate. They have been monitoring the situation in close contact with OCHA and expressed readiness to provide support to meet immediate humanitarian needs should there be any further gaps.

VI. Content of NFI Kits

UNHCR: Quilts 5 pieces, Mattress: 2, Soap24, stove 1, plastic sheet 1, Kitchen set 1, W. Jerri cans 1, K-U 1, Lantern (Kerosene lamp 1, hygiene kit (soap, powder, S. Napkins, Shaving cream)

IOM Goratu: mattress 4 (to supplement the 2 provided by UNHCR); cool box 1 piece; blankets 2 pieces (to supplement the 5 quilts provided by UNHCR).

VII. Contact List

OCHA Erbil	David Lubari	lubari@un.org ,	+962797202512
OCHA, Amman, Jordan	Mike McDonagh	mcdonaghm@un.org	+962 797202548
OCHA New York, USA	Farhad Movahed	movahed@un.org	+1 9173672658

www.ochaonline.org/iraq or www.iauiraq.org

