

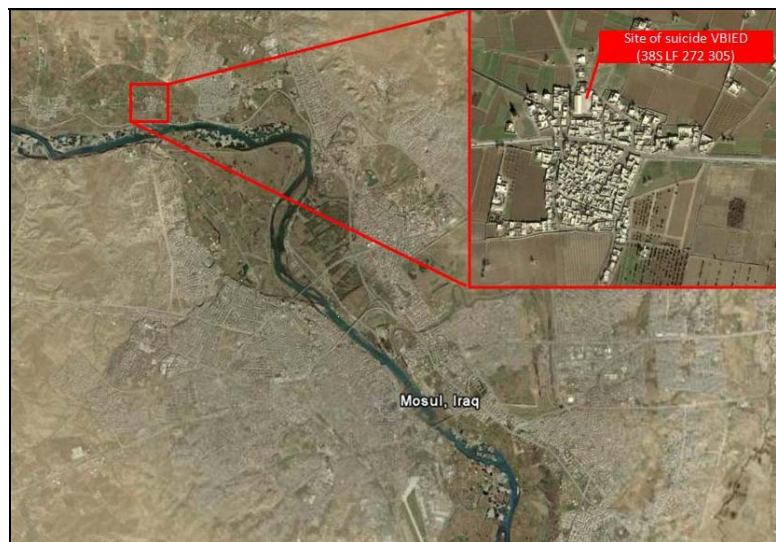
Iraq • Shrekhan Sufla Village, Mosul, Ninewa Situation Report 2 9 August 2009

This report was issued by the OCHA and UNAMI Iraq country offices and covers the period from 07 to 09 August 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

As of 1700 on 9 August, the call for emergency assistance has abated considerably. The official death-toll is currently 40, but that number is likely to rise as several of the hundreds injured remain in a critical condition. 41 of the worst injured were today air-lifted in a well organized evacuation to Ankara, coordinated by the Turkish Consulate. Contrary to earlier reports, a significant number of those killed and injured were women and children. Amongst the evacuees to Turkey there were ten children under the age of ten.

The UNCT, the Iraqi Red Crescent, ICRC, and local NGOs are continuing to provide emergency assistance, in close coordination with the Governorate authorities. However, it is becoming apparent that the immediate emergency phase is nearing an end. The longer-term rehabilitation of houses and restoration of basic services is now the focus of the authorities' attention.



II. Situation Overview

On 7 August 2009, a large VBIED exploded outside the main mosque in the village Shrekhan Sufla. As of 1700 on 9 August 2009 the Office of the Governor reports 40 dead and up to 300 injured, but the death toll could rise as some of the injured are in serious condition and it is thought people may still be trapped under the rubble although the possibility of finding people alive is increasingly unlikely.

With the medical response now entering its third day, an evacuation of 41 patients to Turkey and the provision on significant and ample NFIs and food assistance, attention is now turning to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected community, as well as intense political efforts to prevent further attacks.

Local authorities are in control of the response and a local committee has been established by the Governor to coordinate the emergency response. UNAMI-DHS and the UNCT are in regular contact with the Governor's Office and the Provincial Council although it is difficult to meet face-to-face because of security constraints.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health

In addition to the assistance provided by ICRC which dispatched two War Wounded Kits within hours of the attack several NGOs and UN agencies have also assisted in this area, all in coordination with the hospitals concerned and with each other. Agencies have worked together to ensure needs are met as voiced by local health officials. Additional needs have arisen today and the relevant agencies are coordinating to meet these needs. In more detail:

- MSF distributed two emergency medical kits
- In addition to sanitary supplies (soap etc.) UNICEF has also distributed a large consignment of medical supplies to Mosul's hospitals.



Ambulances carrying 41 badly injured victims of the attack at Mosul Airport in preparation for their evacuation to Turkey.

The Turkish Consulate today evacuated 41 of the worst injured to Ankara, the entire operation taking just four hours from the moment the Turkish Air Force arrived in Mosul to its departure. The injured were accompanied by specialist medical care and family members, and seen off by high-level local officials. The PRT assisted with the logistics.

WHO reports that while efforts were made to divert nursing and other staff to medical wards, the large number of cases flooding the wards put pressure on the hospitals. The Governor accepted the Turkish Consulate's offer to evacuate some of the worst cases, to assist better those remaining on its wards.

WHO also reports that there are no longer any severe shortages of blood and medical supplies; the shortage of beds was solved by transferring patients elsewhere. In terms of lessons learned, WHO now notes a need for a highly equipped emergency centre in Mosul, something which will need the support of the UNCT and wider international community.

Emergency Shelter:

The Governor's Office (through the Committee for International Organisations) has made an official request to the UNCT for assistance in restoring / rehabilitating the houses damaged in the attack (perhaps as many as 20). They have offered to provide engineering reports through their technical department. UNHCR will send one of its local implementing partners to the area to assess the damage and whether the houses match their criteria for such assistance.

In terms of emergency shelter, and while most families are either staying with host families or in local school, some NGOs have provided tents, such as the Iraqi Red Crescent which today distributed 12 tents.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

While the Turkish Consulate has today provided potable water to the area, it is still unclear whether or not work to repair the water main servicing the community has started. The Governor has so far not sought assistance in this regard and has indicated the authorities will ensure water supply is resumed. UNICEF will

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tomorrow send staff to the area to liaise with the local committee managing the situation to see whether or not UNCT support is required.



UNHCR NFIs en route to Shrekhan Sulfa

Food and non-food items

Following yesterday's cash distribution to cover food requirements, the Turkish Red Crescent today delivered 200 family food kits to the area and there are reports the local mosques and host communities have also been providing food assistance. UNHCR has completed now its distribution of NFIs to 48 families, and there are reports of other local NGOs providing addition NFI assistance such as the Iraqi Red Crescent which today distributed 100 NFI kits.



Turkish Red Crescent Food Kits arriving in Mosul Airport

IV. Coordination

Following initial difficulties in gaining access to the site on 7/8 August, some agencies have reported an improved situation today with humanitarian deliveries and staff enjoying better access to beneficiaries although security in the village remains understandably tight. It should be noted that some agencies are still reporting difficulties in access.

UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNAMI and OCHA are coordinating closely and also working with the Turkish Consulate, the Iraqi Red Crescent, ICRC, MSF and local NGOs to ensure needs are met and where possible duplication avoided. The Ninewa authorities, including the Governor, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Provincial Council have voiced their gratitude to all concerned for their speedy response to the crisis both privately and

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through the media. The small international community (US, Turkey and UN) is also meeting regularly to keep abreast of developments.

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