

## Iraq • Shrekhan Sufla Village, Mosul, Ninewa Situation Report 1 8 August 2009

*This report was issued by the OCHA and UNAMI Iraq country offices and covers the period from 07 to 08 August 2009.*

### HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

On 7 August at approximately 1300 the mixed Turkman village of Shrekhan Sufla was hit by a large VBIED as worshippers were leaving the main mosque. As of 1130 on 8 August, there are 40 reported fatalities, and perhaps as many as 270 wounded, many seriously. Fifty families are shelter-less and are being housed in temporary accommodation (host families etc.). The main need is for medical assistance and NFIs. The UNCT, the Iraqi Red Crescent Organisation, ICRC, and local NGOs are currently providing emergency assistance, in close coordination with the Governorate authorities.



## II. Situation Overview

On 9 July 2009, a large VBIED exploded outside the main mosque in the village Shrekhan Sufla. As of 1130 on 8 August the Office of the Governor reports 40 dead and 270 injured, but the death toll could rise as some of the injured are in serious condition and it is thought many are still trapped under the rubble. The village is home to a largely shia Turkman population as well as Arab Sunni. Casualties and injuries were sustained by both groups. The attack comes almost a month after the 9 July 2009 attacks against the Turkmen community in Telafar killing 45 and injuring 65 persons.

According to initial reports from the local authorities and UN staff on the ground, the structural damage is extensive: the Mosque and some 25 houses in the vicinity are said to be completely destroyed and up to 20 more partially damaged. According to UNHCR some fifty families are currently being hosted by neighbours or in the nearby school The Iraqi Red Crescent Organisation (IRCO) reports damage to the main water pipe serving the area. As a result the main water pipe has now been closed off by the Municipality. Access to the

site of the explosion is now restricted and humanitarian organizations are reporting challenges to reach the area.

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.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### Health

The main need has been for medical supplies. On 7 August, just hours after the attack, ICRC dispatched two War Wounded (WW) Kit (enough to treat 100 patients) to the Jumhori and General Hospital in Mosul. In addition, MSF has also sent two modules covering the emergency medical needs for 50 persons. Both ICRC and UNICEF are ready to dispatch additional medical supplies if required.

The Turkish Consulate has been asked to facilitate the medical evacuation of some of the most seriously injured and has approval from Ankara to do so. The Provincial Reconstruction Team is ready to offer its support to coordinate the evacuation via FOB Marez. . By this evening they expect to have a list of names and will then dispatch planes and medical teams within twelve hours.

The city has launched an appeal for the public to donate blood and it is reported there has been widespread support.

#### Emergency Shelter:

Although there are no immediate reports of emergency shelter requirements since most victims are either staying in the local school or with host families, UNHCR is in close contact with the governorate authorities on the ground and could look at the opportunity of supporting the rehabilitation for some of the damaged houses. In addition, the Turkish Consulate is sending 30 tents to the site, but it is unclear whether this is a need for this. IRCO has also made 12 available.

#### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

The main pipe bringing water to the neighbourhood has been damaged by the explosion and the flow of water cut off by the Municipal authorities. It is unclear yet whether this could be an area of emergency need and UNAMI-DHS will coordinate with the Committee on possible interventions.

#### Food and non-food items

The authorities have been quick to request NFI assistance from the UNCT. UNHCR is currently distributing NFIs to 50 families made homeless by the attack. The UNHCR is on the site and providing this assistance directly to beneficiaries. The IRCO has also delivered 100 NFI kits. The Turkish Consulate has provided local leaders with cash to provide food to victims of the blast, and will provide further assistance if need be. No requests for food assistance have been made: WFP is on standby for any potential needs.

### IV. Coordination

The Office of the Governor immediately established a local coordination Committee comprised of representatives from his office, the main service providers and civil defense. Security and access to the location are being coordinated through the Operations Room in the Office of the Governor, which includes the Police and the Iraqi Security Forces. Emergency needs are being met and coordination between local and international responders is improving.

However, access has become increasingly difficult in recent hours as the area around the blast site has been restricted by the authorities. UNAMI-DHS will continue monitoring the situation and advocate with the Office of the Governor for improved access of humanitarian operations.

Within two hours of the attack, UNAMI Mosul / Erbil was in contact with the Ninewa Authorities as well as UNCT staff in the city. UNAMI DHS met with the Turkish Consul General at 1600 along with the PRT official assisting with the medical evacuation. In addition, IOM and UNHCR have both conducted assessment missions to the village. In close coordination with the UNCT, UNAMI DHS will stay in touch with the authorities,

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PRT / MNFI and Turkish Consulate. The Ninewa authorities are aware of what the UNCT is doing and will revert should they require further assistance.

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