

**Iraq • Khazna Tabtah & Shrekhan Sufla Villages, Mosul, Ninewa
Situation Report 4
12 August 2009**

This report was issued by the OCHA and UNAMI Iraq country offices and covers the period from 7 to 12 August 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS/KEY

Now five days since a devastating truck VBIED exploded outside a mosque in the mainly Turkmen community of Shrekhan Sufla leaving up to 45 dead and 217 injured, and two days since a similar attack in the Shebek community of Khazna Tabtah killed 34 and left another 179 injured, Ninewa Governorate is now beginning to look beyond the initial emergency response and is requesting the UN Country Team's assistance to rebuild the shattered communities where over 50 houses have been completely destroyed and many more damaged. At the same time, the Ninewa authorities, led by the Governor are calling for increased support from Central Government to bolster security in the governorate in an attempt to avoid further attacks.

PRIORITIES

The UNCT has continued to provide assistance throughout 11/12 August and agencies have made several visits to the sites. While the assistance has been gratefully received, the authorities feel now that the immediate needs have been met. The priority is to treat those still in hospital and to rebuild the communities. UNAMI-Development and Humanitarian Support Office (DHS) will continue to liaise with the authorities and the wider UNCT / ICRC and NGO community to ensure any residual needs are met.



II. Situation Overview



Aftermath of explosion on 10 August 2009 in Khazna Tabtah, Bartallah district, Ninewa.
Source: IOM

Khazna Tabtah

As of 1700 of 12 August 2009, the death toll sits at approximately 34, with some 179 injured, several still in a critical condition. The authorities report that 30 houses were completely destroyed and many more damaged in the attack and have appealed directly to the UNCT for assistance. The UNCT will communicate the scope of its possible intervention to the Governor's Emergency Committee following field assessments.

While access of humanitarian workers remains a concern to the UNCT, UNAMI-DHS is working closely with the authorities to ensure any such problems are quickly resolved.

Shrekhan Sufla (update)

With 45 dead and 217 injured, this mainly Turkmen community is reeling from the attack. While the UNCT and authorities continue to provide food and non-food items to the community, like in Khazna Tabtah efforts are now ongoing to assess the damage to housing and plan a response in coordination with the Governor's Emergency Committee.

The authorities have reiterated their appeal to Central Government to reinforce security in Ninewa and redistribute security forces where necessary to protect communities particularly in the run-up to the elections in January 2010.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response to Khazna Tabtah

Health

Following a meeting yesterday with the authorities and intense coordination between humanitarian organisations involved in the health response (including UNICEF and WHO as well as the ICRC, MSF, IMC and other NGOs), it is now agreed there are no further immediate needs for medical supplies from the humanitarian community. This has been confirmed in communications with hospital directors.

Emergency Shelter

While tents have been provided in both sites by a variety of actors including the Red Crescent and Turkish Consulate assessments are now taking place to ascertain what work is required to rebuild or restore the damaged / destroyed houses following an appeal from the authorities to the UNCT and in particular UNHCR to assist. It should be noted that tents remain empty and most families have chosen to stay with host families particularly to avoid the intense summer heat and relentless sandstorms.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

While field assessments indicate that water is readily available in Khazna Tabtah, The Directorate of Water continues to provide water-tanking in Shrekhan Sufla while it repairs water pipelines damaged in the blast affecting about 50 households.

IMC today encountered difficulties in accessing Shrekhan Sufla and has had to postpone to tomorrow a distribution of 100 hygiene kits (including water purification tablets) and 100 water storage tanks (1000 litres each). Similar assistance will be provided to Khazna Tabtah on 15 August 2009.



One of the many damaged houses in Shrekhan Sufla.
Source IOM

UNICEF is liaising with the authorities about the possible provision of family water kits (purification tablets etc.) to 200 families in Shekhan Sufla.

Food and non-food items

UNHCR, IMC and several other agencies and NGOs have provided NFIs to Khazna Tabtah and Shrekhan Sufla to meet the communities' immediate needs. However, the focus has now shifted to longer-term solutions.

The Turkish Consulate yesterday distributed 50 dry ration packs in Khazna Tabtah in addition to the considerable support already provided in both villages. The Provincial Council member representing the Shebek community has requested assistance for 40 families.

Reports from the area indicate that food markets are slowly reopening allowing people have access to fresh produce. However there may be a need for a distribution of stoves, currently being assessed.

IV. Coordination

Following a UNCT and NGO coordination meeting to discuss Ninewa, the humanitarian community, both international and Iraqi, continues to work together to meet the needs as effectively as possible. In addition UNAMI-DHS continues to support the coordination of the UNCT with the local authorities.

In terms of future preparedness, UNAMI and the UNCT have been asked to assist the Governor's Committee for International Organisations / Emergencies to bolster emergency preparedness and response. This will involve long-term capacity building and the creating of an emergency response network throughout Ninewa which already exists to a large degree, and beyond that, linkages to mechanisms in central government.

For more information, please visit www.ochaonline.org/iraq or www.iauiraq.org