

Female, 46, international organization, central Iraq: "Most of my friends and all my neighbors don't know that I'm working in an international humanitarian organization for security reasons... My worst fear is to be threatened or targeted by armed group, who do not recognize the big role of any humanitarian organization toward the Iraqi people... and who confused between the international organization and the USA aids."

Male, 26, Iraqi organization, eastern Iraq: "...I will never forget how we were attacked by militias while we were distributing assistance to families in Diyala and they accused us of being affiliated with the Americans. If it were not for the local beneficiaries we would have been all dead by now!"

Male, 46, international organization, eastern Iraq: "...We were threatened by militias. We had to either leave or work according to their wishes. It took so much diplomacy and statesmanship to overcome the ordeal until we finished the project..."

Male, 42, international organization, all Iraq: "...I was imprisoned for 12 days only because I was trying to help ethnic minorities who were in need..."

Female, 30, Iraqi organization, eastern Iraq: "I felt proud of myself when we managed to help a number of poor women and provide them with clothes for their children and organizing a joint meal for them."

WE ARE HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS



The Humanitarian Principles¹

Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.

Neutrality: Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Impartiality: Humanitarian action must be

carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

Operational independence: Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

A challenging aid environment

Since 2003, Iraq has been a dangerous and volatile operating environment for humanitarian aid workers from the United Nations, other international organisations and local and international NGOs.

Between 2003 and 2007, an estimated 94 aid workers lost their lives and 248 were injured while working in Iraq. This includes the 22 UN staff killed and over-100 injured following a

bombing on 19 August 2003 at the former UN Headquarters in Baghdad at the Canal Hotel.

While security has improved since the height of the violence in 2007, aid workers are still exposed to considerable risks. In January 2010, a bomb devastated a hotel containing the offices of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baghdad, injuring several staff and destroying valuable assets.

Humanitarian aid workers in Iraq live with the daily fear of being targeted by militias.

The majority of national staff keep their work hidden from their neighbours, friends and even their family. Lack of access to beneficiaries, corruption, underfunding and poor information on humanitarian needs are just some of the other problems faced by aid workers on a daily basis.

Key humanitarian issues

Food

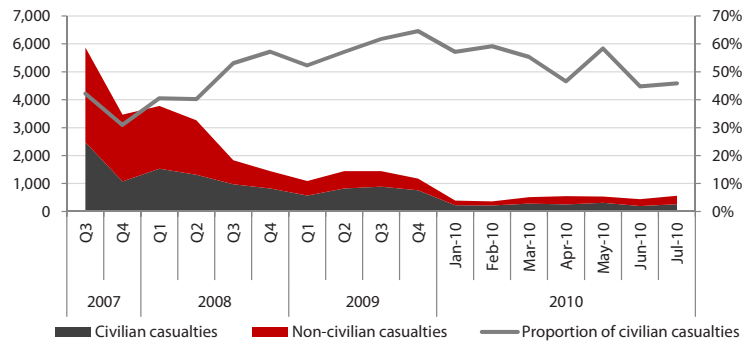
Around 1.5 million children under five years old are undernourished, stunting their

development and – in the 250,000 most severe cases – reducing their chances for survival.² These children are particularly vulnerable to life-threatening diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.³ Overall, some two million Iraqis (7% of the population) are not consuming the recommended daily intake of calories.⁴

Protection

Iraq faces ongoing political uncertainty following the general elections last March. Almost 1,400 civilians were killed in the first six months of 2010.⁵ 166 children were killed and

Total number of security incidents and casualties per quarter (2007-July 2010)



of 866 families from Ninewa to surrounding areas.⁸ Between May and July, cross-border bombings by Iranian and Turkish military forces targeting Kurdish militias led to 941 families fleeing their northern border communities.⁹ Most of those displaced in 2010 have returned home.¹⁰

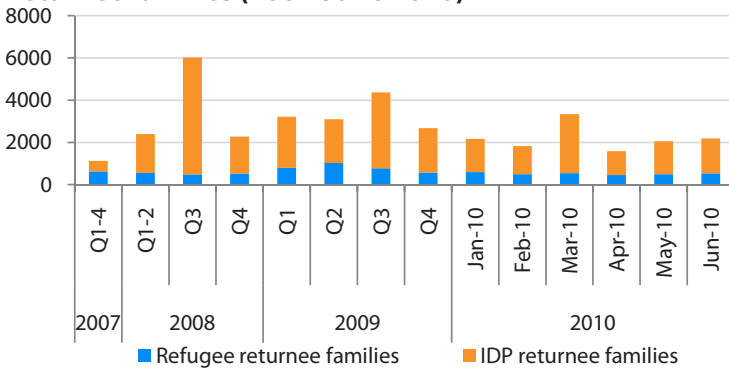
161 injured in violent incidents during the same period.⁶ The number of internally displaced people and refugees returning dropped by 29% in the first half of 2010 compared to the same period in 2009.⁷

Displacement

There has been no mass-displacement in 2010, but instances still occur. In late February and early March, violence caused the displacement

Overall, three quarters of the 1.55 million Iraqis displaced post-2006 have not returned home, and an estimated 1.5 million live in neighbouring countries.¹¹ 73% of remaining IDP families cite access to employment as a priority need. Shelter (62%) and food (61%) are also major issues.¹² Two thirds (67%) of returnee families cite food as a priority need, while other major areas of concern are health (43%), water

Monthly averages for numbers of IDP and refugee returnee families (2007-June 2010)



(36%), fuel (35%) and access to work (34%).¹³ Female-headed IDP and returnee households require particular assistance in meeting their needs.

Water and sanitation

A quarter (23%) of the population does not have regular access

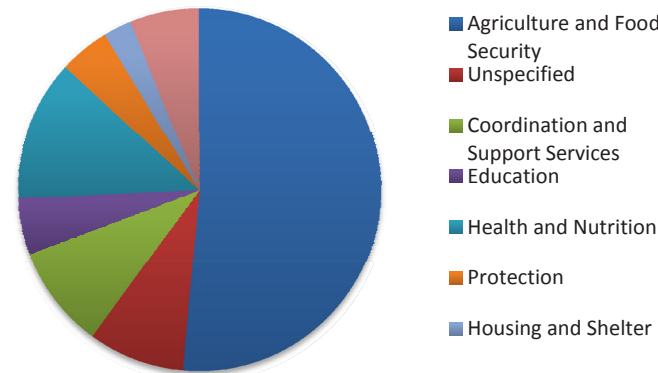
to safe drinking water.¹⁴ Some 26% of the rural population rely on rivers and streams as their main drinking water source.¹⁵ Large areas of northern and central Iraq have seen agriculture and access to water decline during the drought between 2007 and 2009.¹⁶

One in 10 households has no sanitation or just a hole to dispose of waste.¹⁷ The lack of adequate sanitation and safe drinking water renders Iraqis vulnerable to outbreaks of diseases such as cholera

Humanitarian response

Aid agencies have provided food, nutritional supplements, cash-for-work, education support and healthcare to meet Iraqis' short-term needs. Assistance targeted the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant or nursing women, the poor, disabled, internally displaced and returnees.

**IHAP funding by sector
Total funding: US\$59,682,000**



US\$94 million has been committed to humanitarian assistance in 2010, including US\$60 million channelled through the 2010 Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan.¹⁸

Endnotes

- 1 OCHA, OCHA On Message: Humanitarian Principles (2010)
- 2 WFP/COSIT/KRSO Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis 2007
- 3 UN Iraq Country Team, Common Country Assessment: Iraq (2009)
- 4 FAO analysis
- 5 UN
- 6 UN Iraq country team monitoring and reporting
- 7 UNHCR, Monthly statistical update on return (December 2009, June 2010)
- 8 OCHA, Iraq: Displacement in Mosul, Situation Report no.3 (March 2010)
- 9 OCHA, Iraq Kurdish border displacement, Situation Update no. 1 (July 2010)
- 10 IOM site visits; IOM, Emergency Needs Assessments: Displacement from Mosul, Ninewa (20 April 2010)
- 11 UNHCR, Monthly statistical update on return (June 2010)
- 12 IOM, Emergency Needs Assessments: Four Years of Post-Samarra Displacement (2010)
- 13 IOM, Emergency Needs Assessments: Four Years of Post-Samarra Displacement (2010)
- 14 WFP/COSIT/KRSO Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) 2007
- 15 World Bank/COSIT/KRSO Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey 2007
- 16 OCHA, Drought Report (2009)
- 17 WFP/COSIT/KRSO CFSVA 2007
- 18 Financial Tracking Service

