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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Iraq – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

September 30, 2010

Note: The last situation report was dated August 17, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 29, during an eight-day visit to Iraq, Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Walter Kälin urged the Government of Iraq (GoI) and the humanitarian community to address the immediate needs of displaced persons, protect their human rights, and develop durable solutions to displacement. Mr. Kälin also commended current efforts in these regards, including commitments by the GoI to draft a comprehensive strategy for providing assistance and compensation to IDPs.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA supported nine non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, and international organizations in assisting vulnerable populations, including IDPs, returnees, and host communities, among whom humanitarian needs tend to merge. Basic service deficiencies, disaster preparedness gaps, and protection inequities contribute to vulnerabilities countrywide. Grantees respond rapidly to provide relief supplies when emergency needs arise in insecure and natural disaster-prone areas. In areas hosting significant numbers of IDPs or returning families, grantees also distribute shelter materials, support agriculture and food security, provide economic recovery assistance, increase protection of vulnerable groups, and improve humanitarian indicators in health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).
- USAID/OFDA staff in Iraq continue to conduct regular field visits to monitor ongoing activities, identify gaps in humanitarian assistance, link emergency initiatives to early recovery programs, and facilitate durable solutions to displacement, which include returning to areas of origin, resettling in a third location, or integrating into areas of displacement.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Remaining Post-2006 IDP Population	1.55 million	UNHCR ¹ – August 2010
Estimated Total IDP Population	2.4 million ²	International Organizations – August 2010
Refugees Registered with UNHCR	230,000 ³	UNHCR – August 2010
Estimated Returnee Population	515,790 ⁴	UNHCR – August 2010

FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Iraqis.....\$40,950,098
State/PRM⁵ Humanitarian Assistance⁶ to Iraqis\$310,578,842
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Iraqis in FY 2010.....\$351,528,940

CONTEXT

- The February 2006 bombing of the Al-Askari mosque in Samarra and ensuing sectarian violence resulted in the most significant wave of displacement in Iraq’s history, prompting more than 1.6 million people—or 5.5 percent of the population—to flee their homes and increasing the total displaced population to more than 2.8 million people
- Improved security conditions in 2008 slowed displacement and led to a limited number of returns to places of origin, a trend that continues in 2010. As of August 2010, approximately 230,000 families—or 14 percent of IDP families displaced since 2006—had returned to areas of origin. In 2009 and 2010, improved security also contributed to increased humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including IDPs. U.N. agencies and NGOs continue to identify and meet needs in regions of critical vulnerability countrywide. In areas where conditions have stabilized, humanitarian agencies are shifting towards early recovery activities.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² This figure is equivalent to 2.8 million IDPs registered as of 2006 minus approximately 433,000 IDPs who have returned to areas of origin.

³ This figure does not include an unverified number of unregistered refugees.

⁴ Returning IDPs constitute more than 84 percent of the returnee population. The remaining 16 percent returned from abroad. The returnee population includes Iraqis displaced since 2003, but primarily those displaced after the February 2006 bombing of the mosque in Samarra.

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁶ State/PRM assistance is regional in scope, addressing the needs of IDPs and other conflict-affected groups residing in Iraq, as well as Iraqi refugees residing in host countries, including Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

Update on Displacement and Returns

- USAID/OFDA funds the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to monitor displacement and returns and conduct household surveys on evolving humanitarian needs. IOM also tracks IDP preferences for durable solutions to displacement. Understanding the determinants of IDP preferences assists relief agencies in providing appropriate assistance and preventing secondary displacements.
- IOM recently assessed 212,000 IDP households, or nearly 1.3 million individuals displaced since 2006, as well as 9,500 returnee families, or nearly 400,000 individuals. Baghdad, Diyala, Ninawa, and Dahuk governorates host the largest post-2006 IDP populations, according to the GoI Ministry of Displacement and Migration. Baghdad and Diyala also receive the highest number of returning families, often from within the same governorate. (*See attached map for IDP and returnee population figures by governorate.*)
- In August, IOM released findings from its recent assessments, reporting steady monthly decreases in conflict-related displacement rates since October 2009. On average, sudden-onset natural disasters and localized, sporadic violence displace approximately 100 families per month, compared with nearly 11,800 families displaced per month at the height of Iraq's conflict in 2006. Displacement rates increased, however, in March and April 2010 during parliamentary elections and the subsequent period of political uncertainty.
- As with displacement rates, return rates also declined in the first half of 2010. Approximately 30 percent fewer families returned in the first five months of 2010 compared with the same period in 2009, indicating many displaced households remain fearful of the threat of generalized violence in areas of origin. IDPs also cite lack of basic services and employment opportunities in areas of origin as reasons to remain in areas of displacement or resettle elsewhere. As a result, since 2008, the number of IDPs intending to return to areas of origin has declined from 60 percent to 42 percent, while the number of families intending to locally integrate into areas of displacement has increased from 21 percent to 37 percent. Length of displacement also influences IDP intentions, with families in protracted displacement more likely to integrate into host communities. Most IDPs surveyed by IOM have been displaced for at least four years.

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

- Currently, Iraq's combined underemployment and unemployment rate remains at 28 percent. However, the number of IDP families who prioritize access to work over all other humanitarian needs has increased by nearly 12 percent since 2006 to more than 75 percent—or nearly 155,000 individuals. As security stabilized countrywide and personal safety improved in 2008, more IDPs began assessing longer-term economic security prospects. Approximately 95 percent of IDPs in Karbala and Dhi Qar governorates alone remain unemployed or underemployed. Among surveyed returnee families, access to work ranks fourth as a priority need.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA grantee the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) provided temporary employment, apprenticeship opportunities, and skills training to more than 11,000 beneficiaries in three provinces of southern Iraq, including Dhi Qar. In Karbala, USAID/OFDA grantee IOM is helping vulnerable individuals diversify asset bases. In total, four USAID/OFDA NGO grantees currently target economic recovery assistance to at least 24,000 vulnerable IDPs, returnees, and host family members in 12 of Iraq's 18 governorates.

Shelter Assistance and Emergency Relief Supplies

- Among priority needs identified by IOM during recent assessments of IDP families, shelter ranks third after access to work and food assistance. Nearly 55 percent of IDPs require assistance in constructing transitional houses in areas of displacement. Most IDPs rent accommodations at prohibitive costs or live in the houses of host families, straining collective resources and compounding community-wide vulnerabilities. Moreover, approximately 500,000 IDPs reside in poorly serviced makeshift camps or in public buildings. Conversely, only 20 percent of returnee families require shelter assistance, which ranks eighth overall among priority needs of surveyed households.
- Since October 2009, USAID/OFDA has supported the Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) in providing vulnerable IDP and returnee families in Ramadi, Anbar Governorate, with cash grants for rehabilitating shelters and purchasing essential household items, including basic furniture, food, and safe drinking water. CHF recently exceeded its planned beneficiary target by 15 percent, distributing nearly \$1.9 million in grants. As part of the program, CHF also assisted 792 beneficiaries in opening personal bank accounts, into which CHF deposited cash grants of between \$800 and \$900 on average. By supporting personal banking, CHF facilitates reintegration into society for IDPs and returnees, galvanizes the formal banking sector and private enterprise, and strengthens local currency.
- In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA supported five additional NGOs to rehabilitate housing for vulnerable IDP and returnee families in seven other governorates with large IDP and returnee populations.

Water Access and Food Security

- Although the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) categorizes only 3 percent of Iraq’s total population—or 930,000 people— as food insecure, more than 75 percent of returnee families prioritize access to food over all other humanitarian needs. For IDPs, access to food ranks second among priority needs behind access to work. Contributors to food insecurity include increased prices, inconsistent or inadequate support from Iraq’s Public Distribution System, and insufficient crop yields following two years of drought. In addition, access to safe drinking water ranks third among urgent needs for returnees, after food and health care.
- Preliminary aggregate cereal output estimates for the remainder of 2010 indicate an increase of 72 percent compared with combined yields in 2008 and 2009, as a result of above-average rainfall from October to December 2009 in northern Iraq. However, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization predicts average to below-average yields in southern and central Iraq due to low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. Agencies attribute water scarcity and poor water quality to both prolonged drought and poor water-management practices.
- As a result of water scarcity and infrastructure inadequacy in southern Iraq, humanitarian agencies continue to closely monitor health indicators and implement WASH programs. For example, USAID/OFDA grantee ACTED conducts water conservation workshops in Dhi Qar, while grantees IOM and Mercy Corps rehabilitate water networks and distribute water-treatment supplies in Basrah, Diyala, and Wasit governorates to benefit nearly 18,000 vulnerable residents.

FY 2010 USAID/OFDA AND STATE/PRM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE IRAQIS

FY 2010			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
ACTED	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Dhi Qar, Erbil, Muthanna, and Wasit	\$7,994,559
CHF	Shelter and Settlements	Anbar	\$3,883,736
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Countrywide	\$3,587,267
IMC	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Ninawa	\$4,600,000
IOM	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,477,795
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Shelter and Settlements	Baghdad	\$1,130,662
International Relief and Development (IRD)	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Babil, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ninawa, and Salah ad Din	\$5,500,000
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Baghdad and Diyala	\$3,695,807
Save the Children	Protection and WASH	Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Salah ad Din, and Sulaymaniyah	\$3,750,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	Iraq Knowledge Network: Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
QED Limited, LLC	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Administrative Support		\$330,272
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$40,950,098

STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Health	Syria	\$1,000,000
IOM	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (Livelihoods Support), Socio-Economic Reintegration for Returnees	Iraq	\$17,000,000
IOM	Humanitarian Assistance for Iraqi Refugees	Jordan	\$450,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Child Protection, Education, Health, Youth Programs	Syria	\$6,700,000
UNICEF	Education and Psychosocial Support	Jordan	\$1,700,000
UNHCR	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (Cash Assistance for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals), Education, Emergency Relief Supplies, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Iraq and Region	\$204,500,000
WFP	U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Iraq	\$1,500,000
WFP	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (Cash-for-Work)	Iraq	\$5,618,329
WFP	Food Assistance	Syria	\$5,000,000
U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Jordan, Syria, and other neighboring countries	\$3,700,000
International NGOs	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Emergency Relief Supplies, Health, Protection (Psychosocial Support, Legal Aid, Gender-Based Violence Response), Shelter and Settlements	Iraq and Region	\$31,589,735
Other International Organizations	Emergency Relief Supplies, Health, Livelihoods Support, Protection, WASH	Syria	\$31,820,778
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$310,578,842
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2010			\$351,528,940

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2010.

² State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2010.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Iraq may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/