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

Iraq – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

May 5, 2010

The last situation report was dated September 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND

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 to flee their homes and bringing the post-2003 internally displaced population to more than 2.8 million people. Improved security conditions and patterns of community homogenization in 2008 slowed displacement and led to a limited number of returns to places of origin, a trend that continues in 2010. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) currently estimates that approximately 2.76 million people remain displaced inside Iraq. In February 2009, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 229,000 registered Iraqi refugees and an unconfirmed number of unregistered Iraqi refugees remained displaced in other countries.

Improved security in 2009 and 2010 also contributed to increased access to populations requiring humanitarian assistance, including IDPs and other vulnerable groups. U.N. and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report ongoing or new programs 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.

To date in FY 2010, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$6.2 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq, including nearly \$6 million from USAID/OFDA to support internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, persons seeking durable solutions to displacement, host communities, conflict-affected households, and other vulnerable populations in Iraq. To assess humanitarian conditions and monitor ongoing relief programs, USAID/OFDA staff based in Iraq continue to conduct regular field visits. Between September 2009 and April 2010, USAID/OFDA staff visited humanitarian projects in Anbar, Basrah, Dahuk, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Erbil, Maysan, and Muthanna governorates.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | | SOURCE |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Estimated Remaining Post-2006 IDP Population | 1.55 million | IOM, UNHCR – March 2010 |
| Estimated Total IDP Population | 2.76 million | IOM – January 2010 |
| Refugees Registered with UNHCR | 229,000 ¹ | UNHCR – February 2009 |
| Estimated Returnee Population | 462,000 ² | UNHCR, IOM – March 2010 |

TOTAL FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Iraq\$5,786,657
State/PRM³ Humanitarian Assistance⁴ to Displaced Iraqis.....\$433,485
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Iraqis in FY 2010.....\$6,220,142

CURRENT SITUATION

In 2010, populations continue to return to areas of origin due to security improvements. According to UNHCR and IOM, more than 462,000 IDPs returned to places of origin between 2008 and March 2010, primarily to Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, and Ninawa governorates. The international community continues to advocate for durable solutions for displaced populations, including informed and voluntary returns, local integration, or resettlement to new locations. Humanitarian agencies are helping to facilitate these

efforts, as well as providing assistance to remaining displaced populations. In addition to IDPs and returnees, other vulnerable populations throughout Iraq, including host communities, conflict-affected households, widows, women and children, the elderly, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups, remain in need of humanitarian assistance due to inadequate provision of social services, poor infrastructure, and insufficient housing and employment opportunities. Isolated incidents of violence, ongoing effects from

¹ This figure does not include an unverified number of unregistered refugees.

² Primarily post-2006 IDPs.

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴ State/PRM assistance is regional in scope and primarily addresses the needs of Iraqi refugees residing in host countries.

consecutive seasons of drought, and occasional flooding have also resulted in limited population displacement and humanitarian needs in late 2009 and early 2010.

In late 2009, the humanitarian community launched the 2010 Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan (IHAP), requesting more than \$194 million for humanitarian response activities in Iraq. The IHAP is an inter-agency strategy developed by 12 NGOs, nine U.N. agencies, and IOM, in consultation with the Government of Iraq (GoI) and donor partners, which outlines and prioritizes humanitarian response activities in Iraq for 2010. To meet the needs of Iraqi refugees, the humanitarian community also launched the 2010 Regional Response Plan for Iraqi Refugees (RRP), seeking approximately \$364 million. In total, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported nearly \$33.5 million in funding for Iraq as of May 4.

Security and Population Displacement

Insecurity continues to affect USAID/OFDA partners in Iraq. On January 25, coordinated explosions targeting three hotels in Baghdad destroyed the temporary office of USAID/OFDA partner International Rescue Committee (IRC) and damaged the offices of partners ACTED and Mercy Corps. The bombing near the IRC office also killed an IRC security guard and injured several IRC staff. On January 26, a bombing targeting an Iraqi police facility in the Karada neighborhood damaged the compound of USAID/OFDA partner International Medical Corps (IMC) and resulted in minor injuries among IMC staff.

On March 4, OCHA reported that a series of January and February attacks against Christian communities in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, resulted in the displacement of more than 5,000 individuals. According to OCHA, an estimated 4,380 people fled to Hamdaniyah and Tilkaif districts, Ninawa Governorate, and over 800 others fled to Erbil, Dahuk, and Kirkuk governorates. On April 20, IOM reported that 665 individuals from Mosul remained displaced, mainly within Ninawa Governorate. IOM assessments indicated that 50 percent of the displaced families intended to return to Mosul, 44 percent wished to relocate to a third location, and 3 percent wanted to integrate into areas of displacement. USAID/OFDA implementing partner IOM provided emergency relief supplies, including blankets, mattresses, and heaters to 348 families displaced from Mosul and continues to monitor and assess affected populations.

Flooding

On October 31, heavy rainfall resulted in flash floods and landslides in Erbil and Dahuk governorates, affecting approximately 3,000 individuals. Following a request for assistance from local authorities, an inter-agency team, including USAID/OFDA partners IOM and ACTED, conducted a needs assessment in Erbil

Governorate. Additionally, USAID/OFDA partner IRC distributed tents and blankets to 100 flood-affected IDPs in Gardasin Camp, Dahuk Governorate.

Returns

Since 2006, IOM has assessed humanitarian conditions among populations displaced following the bombing of the Al-Askari mosque in Samarra. In February 2010, IOM reported that approximately 49 percent of post-Samarra IDPs intended to return to places of origin, 29 percent wished to integrate into areas of displacement, and 19 percent wished to resettle to third locations. Although intentions vary by region, integration or resettlement remain the preferable options for IDPs displaced in southern Iraq. According to IOM, displaced populations continue to cite insecurity, lack of access to property and employment opportunities, and insufficient provision of basic services in places of origin as factors discouraging return.

According to UNHCR, the majority of IDP returns—approximately 58 percent—have occurred within the same governorate. Approximately 48 percent of returnees cited improved security in areas of origin as the primary reason for return, 12 percent reported difficult conditions in areas of displacement, and 26 percent reported a combination of the two factors. IOM surveys indicate that access to health care, safe drinking water, food, fuel, and increased employment opportunities remain priority humanitarian needs among returnee populations.

To increase access to government benefits and legal aid, the GoI Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM), with support from USAID/OFDA partner IMC, operates returnee assistance centers (RACs) in Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Diyala, and Salah ad Din governorates. In response to backlogs in 2009, IMC began training and mentoring MoDM staff in 16 RAC branch offices in 15 governorates. In addition, USAID/OFDA partner IOM provides technical support to the MoDM to facilitate safe, sustainable returns. MoDM provides eligible returnees with a cash grant of 1,500,000 Iraqi Dinar, or approximately \$1300. According to IOM, 40 percent of returnees interviewed in late 2009 had registered and applied for the cash grant and 30 percent of applicants had received the payment as of March 2010.

To date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$6 million to support humanitarian interventions and facilitate sustainable returns, while also maintaining emergency support for displaced and vulnerable communities. In addition, State/PRM has provided approximately \$433,485 to support Iraqi refugees to date in FY 2010. State/PRM plans to announce additional assistance shortly.

Shelter and Settlements

Recent IOM assessments indicate that shelter remains a priority need among conflict-affected populations in

Iraq. According to IOM estimates, 58 percent of IDPs reside in rented spaces, 12 percent with host families, 9 percent in collective settlements, and 3 percent in public buildings. Many IDPs residing in rented spaces lack access to basic services, including safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, IDPs residing in tents, public buildings, or collective settlements are particularly vulnerable and continue to report evictions or threats of eviction.

According to IOM assessments, an estimated 9 percent of IDPs have access to property in areas of origin, with approximately 31 percent reporting no access to property, primarily due to occupation by others or destruction. Approximately 28 percent of IDPs assessed by IOM reported uncertainty regarding property status in areas of origin.

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$14.5 million for the construction of safe and secure transitional shelter for IDPs, returnees, and other vulnerable groups. With USAID/OFDA support, ACTED is currently rehabilitating shelters in Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Muthanna governorates. As of March 1, ACTED had rehabilitated more than 125 of a planned 256 shelters for vulnerable populations.

With USAID/OFDA support, IMC is implementing shelter rehabilitation projects in seven Baghdad Governorate villages, targeting nearly 4,000 individuals. In addition, USAID/OFDA partner CHF International is targeting 5,000 vulnerable individuals in 56 neighborhoods throughout Anbar Governorate with shelter assistance, including grants for minor or moderate shelter repairs, cash grants for returnees to purchase emergency relief supplies, referral services, and engineering consultations to monitor the rehabilitation process. To help support the formal banking sector, private enterprise, and local currency, CHF International establishes and deposits emergency relief item grants into bank accounts for each beneficiary. As of March 2010, CHF International had established 530 bank accounts.

With State/PRM support, UNHCR and implementing partners rehabilitated or constructed more than 10,000 shelters in FY 2009, benefiting nearly 65,000 vulnerable IDPs and returnees.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Significant water shortages due to drought and damaged or insufficient water infrastructure continue to hinder access to safe drinking water or sanitation facilities in Iraq. According to the 2010 IHAP, Iraq produces 66 percent of the ten million cubic meters of safe drinking water required for human consumption per day. The IHAP also noted that approximately 45 percent of households remain unconnected to the general water network, leaving many families reliant on unsafe or unsustainable water sources.

Since 2007, IOM has identified 4,250 families displaced by drought, including nearly 1,900 families from Ninawa Governorate, 1,700 from Kirkuk Governorate, and 875 from Salah ad Din Governorate. In addition, the Danish Refugee Council has reported water-related population movements in Basrah and Maysan governorates. USAID/OFDA partner ACTED reports that access to safe drinking water remains significantly limited in southern Iraq due to degraded infrastructure and drought.

To address gaps in health and water, sanitation, and hygiene services, USAID/OFDA has contributed nearly \$20 million in humanitarian assistance in FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010. With USAID/OFDA support, ACTED is distributing personal hygiene kits to 18,900 individuals in Dhi Qar, Wasit, and Muthanna governorates. As of March 1, ACTED had completed distribution of more than 1,900 hygiene kits, benefiting more than 12,000 individuals.

In addition, USAID/OFDA partner IOM is improving access to safe drinking water and conducting hygiene awareness activities in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninawa governorates, targeting 7,000 individuals. With USAID/OFDA support, IMC provided 775,000 people in 50 communities across seven governorates with access to safe drinking water in FY 2009.

Agriculture and Food Security

On March 31, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) predicted a normal to above-normal May 2010 crop production following adequate rainfall and an increase in areas planted, particularly in the northern and central regions. According to the report, areas planted with wheat increased by 30 to 35 percent compared to the previous two years, but remains approximately 10 percent below the five-year average. Following several consecutive seasons of failed rainfall and extended drought conditions between 2007 and 2009, FAO estimates a 1.8 metric tons (MT) aggregate wheat and barley output for 2009, representing only a slight increase above the 2008 output—the smallest crop output in recent history.

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has estimated that approximately 930,000 Iraqis are currently food insecure, with 6.4 million people in 41 of 115 districts vulnerable to food insecurity. According to WFP, global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates remain above 15 percent in four districts. In December 2009, UNHCR reported that many individuals eligible to receive food assistance through the GoI Public Distribution System (PDS) reported difficulty accessing the food allocations. Approximately 33 percent of IDPs interviewed by UNHCR lacked a valid PDS card in their governorate of residence and only 15 percent of the individuals in possession of valid PDS cards received the full monthly food ration. WFP is currently supporting a program designed to improve

the PDS supply chain and strengthen GoI capacity to implement the social safety net program.

In response to declining agricultural prospects, as well as challenges resulting from conflict and displacement, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.3 million in FY 2009 to support programs aimed at reducing food insecurity by increasing farm production through the provision of inputs and seeds. USAID/OFDA also contributed \$1 million to WFP to support food delivery logistics and planning.

USG Humanitarian Assistance to Iraq

In FY 2009 and to date in FY 2010, the USG has provided more than \$393 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq, including nearly \$90 million in USAID/OFDA funding for the provision of emergency relief commodities and shelter kits; increased access to water, sanitation, and health services; expanded income generation activities and economic recovery support; strengthened humanitarian coordination and information sharing; and greater protection for women and girls against gender-based violence with capacity building for prevention and response mechanisms.

FY 2010 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQI RETURNEES, IDPS, REFUGEES, AND PERSONS AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

| <i>Implementing Partner</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------|
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| ACTED | Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Emergency Relief Supplies; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Wasit | \$3,000,000 |
| IMC | Protection; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management | Countrywide | \$2,554,396 |
| | Administrative Support | | \$232,261 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$5,786,657 |
| STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE² | | | |
| Danish Refugee Council | Humanitarian Assistance for Extremely Vulnerable Iraqi Refugees | Lebanon | \$433,485 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM | | | \$433,485 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2010 | | | \$6,220,142 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents actual obligated amounts as of May 5, 2010.

² State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 5, 2010.