



IRAQ – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As a result of decreasing violence and increasing returns of displaced populations in Iraq, the U.S. Government (USG) and the international community continue to transition from emergency relief activities to development initiatives. Staff from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continue to conduct regular field visits to monitor ongoing activities, link emergency initiatives to early recovery programs, and facilitate durable solutions to displacement.
- Between January and August 2011, more than 140,000 Iraqis—including approximately 101,100 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and approximately 39,010 refugees—returned to their places of origin, bringing the total number of returning refugees and IDPs to more than 936,000 people since 2006, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- In FY 2011, the USG provided more than \$313.6 million in humanitarian assistance to benefit people affected by Iraq’s complex emergency, including more than \$23.8 million from USAID/OFDA and nearly \$290 million from State/PRM for livelihoods, protection, shelter, education, humanitarian assistance, and health activities. USAID/OFDA funding supported and continues to support activities in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, logistics and relief commodities, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), benefitting up to 617,000 people.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	Source	
Estimated Remaining Post-2006 IDP Population	1,258,934	UNHCR – August 2011
Estimated IDP and Refugee Returnee Population since 2006	936,745	UNHCR – August 2011
Estimated Returnee Population in 2011	140,110	UNHCR – August 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Iraq	\$23,800,903
State/PRM Assistance to Iraq and Neighboring Countries ¹	\$289,799,685
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance for the Iraq Complex Emergency	\$313,600,588

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 nearly 1.7 million people—or 5.5 percent of the population—to flee their homes and increasing the total displaced population to nearly 2.9 million people.
- As of August 2011, more than 743,000 IDPs and 193,535 refugees had returned to places of origin since 2006. U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to identify and respond to humanitarian needs in regions of critical vulnerability countrywide. In areas where conditions have stabilized, humanitarian agencies are shifting to early recovery activities.
- In recognition of improved conditions and the associated shift in focus in Iraq from relief to development activities, the U.N. did not release a consolidated appeal for Iraq in 2011, and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) closed its Amman, Jordan office responsible for Iraq in March. Since March, OCHA has worked to create a Humanitarian Support Unit and establish smaller offices in Baghdad and Erbil to monitor humanitarian needs in Iraq and assist NGOs and humanitarian agencies with response coordination. OCHA staff are also providing program support from the U.N. mission in Iraq for the 2011-2014 U.N. Development Assistance Framework for Iraq. UNHCR continues to maintain a large presence providing displaced Iraqis protection and humanitarian assistance while working toward durable solutions.

¹ Funding supports Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Syria, and other countries throughout the region, as well as programming in Iraq.

- The U.S. military continues to draw down troops from Iraq, with plans to depart by December 31, 2011. Fewer than 50,000 U.S. troops currently remain in-country. The Provincial Reconstruction Team program—a USG interagency civil society and reconstruction support initiative—began phasing out in September 2011.
- USAID/OFDA is consulting with USAID/Iraq, State/PRM, and international actors to facilitate appropriate program transitions and ensure that long-term support for early recovery and development activities continues. In January, USAID/OFDA worked with State/PRM to ensure successful transition of a USAID/OFDA-funded returnee assistance program, implemented by International Medical Corps (IMC), to a State/PRM-supported UNHCR program seeking to expand the capacity of the Government of Iraq (GoI) Ministry of Migration and Displaced to efficiently provide needs-based assistance—including registration, legal aid, and protection—to vulnerable returnee populations. Critical service delivery continues through IMC-established Returnee Assistance Centers and Branch Offices and ongoing support from State/PRM.

Displacement and Returns

- Ethnic and religious minorities constituted a significant portion of the estimated 101,000 newly displaced IDPs between January and August 2011, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Violent attacks on religious minorities have prompted many to flee to areas of greater homogeneity within Iraq, particularly to Ninawa Governorate, or abroad.
- The majority of IDPs who have returned to areas of origin since September 2011 returned to Baghdad and Diyala governorates, according to UNHCR. Approximately 23 percent of IDPs displaced following the Samarra bombing in 2006 have returned to places of origin, while approximately 193,500 Iraqi refugees returned over the same period, according to UNHCR. However, insecurity and poor economic prospects continue to deter many IDPs and refugees from returning.
- Since July 2011, fighting between Iranian military forces and Iraqi Kurdish separatists had displaced nearly 900 families, representing approximately 5,400 individuals, residing in villages along the Iran–Iraq border in Erbil Governorate. In July, UNHCR, with State/PRM support, provided tents and plastic sheeting to meet the IDPs’ emergency shelter needs. In August, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) worked with Iraqi authorities to distribute additional relief commodities. At the end of September, IOM, with USAID/OFDA support, completed an emergency needs assessment and identified 100 vulnerable families, representing approximately 600 individuals, in urgent need of assistance. In response, through IOM, USAID/OFDA distributed emergency relief supplies, including water purification kits, water storage containers, blankets, gas cookers, kerosene heaters, mattresses, and plastic sheeting to the vulnerable families. Improving security conditions in October have allowed IDPs to begin returning to areas of origin, according to IOM.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA committed nearly \$1.5 million to IOM to monitor displacement, assess the humanitarian needs of returning and vulnerable populations, and track IDP preferences for durable solutions to displacement to inform appropriate humanitarian responses and prevent secondary displacement. IOM monitoring activities include assessing the humanitarian needs of IDPs, returnees, religious and ethnic minorities affected by sectarian violence, and female-headed households.
- State/PRM provided nearly \$1.5 million to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) for livelihoods assistance, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and community-building services for Iraqi IDPs and returnees, as well as for humanitarian coordination and information management in Baghdad Governorate in FY 2011. State/PRM also contributed nearly \$2 million to IMC to strengthen community-based support for integration and reintegration, and psychosocial and mental health services for IDPs.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Since FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported third-party monitoring of USAID/OFDA-funded programs in Iraq through QED. By objectively measuring and documenting project achievements and beneficiaries’ satisfaction with results, QED’s monitoring activities help ensure that implementing partners utilize USAID funds effectively and in accordance with beneficiaries’ needs.
- In September 2011, USAID/OFDA committed \$250,000 to QED to support monitoring and evaluation in Iraq, bringing total USAID/OFDA support for monitoring and evaluation activities in Iraq since 2010 to \$1.25 million.
- In addition to carrying out monitoring and evaluation of its own projects, State/PRM recently signed a nearly \$1 million contract with Glevum Associates to provide third-party monitoring in selected areas.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Due to late and erratic rainfall in 2011, winter wheat and barley crops harvested in the summer were approximately 12 percent lower countrywide than the five-year average, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO). Shortfalls were particularly evident in Ninawa and Kirkuk governorates, which are primary wheat and barley production areas. Insecurity, displacement, and rising food prices also continue to pose a threat to food security in Iraq, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).

- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.8 million to ACTED and International Relief and Development (IRD) to address food security needs through distribution of seeds and other agricultural inputs, repair of irrigation canals and water pumps, and training for individuals engaged in fisheries and livestock. In total, USAID/OFDA agriculture and food security programs benefitted nearly 31,000 individuals, including 2,000 IDPs.

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

- Assessments conducted by USAID/OFDA partner IOM have repeatedly shown that, along with food and shelter, the lack of sustainable employment is a primary concern of IDPs, returnees, female-headed households, and other vulnerable populations. The lack of durable livelihoods is also a major cause of ongoing internal displacement, according to IOM. In acutely conflict-affected Diyala Governorate, provincial government officials reported that that approximately two-thirds of the working-age adult population was unemployed in July 2011.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided a total of more than \$6.6 million to ACTED, IMC, IOM, and Mercy Corps to improve access to income-generating opportunities for more than 9,500 beneficiaries in Baghdad, Dhi Qar, and Diyala governorates. USAID/OFDA funding provides business training and assistance to establish or expand small businesses, as well as training in agriculture and livestock management to increase sustainability of rural livelihoods.
- State/PRM support in FY 2011 for economic recovery and livelihoods activities included \$10 million to IOM for IDP and returnee livelihoods and reintegration support, as well as nearly \$5 million for a WFP cash-for-work program. State/PRM also supported Mercy Corps to improve vulnerable groups' employability and facilitate participation in paid internships, as well as Save the Children (SC/US) to help prepare Iraqi refugee and IDP youths to compete in local job markets.

Logistics and Relief Commodities

- On August 2, a car bomb detonated near a church in Kirkuk Governorate, seriously injuring 18 people and damaging or destroying many surrounding residences and businesses. With USAID/OFDA support, IOM distributed emergency relief supplies, including mattresses, blankets, gas cookers, plastic sheeting, and electric fans, to more than 100 affected individuals.
- USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.7 million in FY 2011 for the distribution of emergency relief commodities throughout Iraq, benefitting more than 17,500 individuals, including nearly 5,300 IDPs.

Protection

- While insecurity in Iraq has declined, children continue to suffer from the psychosocial trauma of war and conflict. In addition, children remain vulnerable to harassment, exploitation, and abuse due to loss of parents and caregivers during conflict and the destruction of physical, social, and legal protection institutions and systems, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.9 million to SC/US to help meet the physical and psychosocial needs of more than 110,000 individuals, including 50,000 Iraqi children through establishment of child-friendly spaces and provision of psychosocial training for educators.
- State/PRM supports several U.N. agencies and NGOs implementing protection activities in Iraq, including UNHCR, the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). With State/PRM support, IRC conducts community-based programming which promotes women's safety and empowers communities through training on basic civil rights.

WASH

- More than 20 percent of households in Iraq lack consistent access to safe water supplies or sanitation facilities, in part due to the widespread damage to basic municipal infrastructure during protracted conflict, according to U.N. and relief agency assessments.
- In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided a total of more than \$8.2 million to ACTED, IMC, IRD, Mercy Corps, and SC/US to support WASH activities, including hygiene promotion and provision of safe water supplies benefitting more than 440,000 individuals, including approximately 100,000 IDPs.

**FY 2011 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
FOR THE IRAQ COMPLEX EMERGENCY**

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), WASH	Dhi Qar, Al Muthanna, and Wasit Governorates	\$4,000,000
Danish Refugee Council	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
IMC	ERMS, WASH	Baghdad, Al Basrah, and Ninawa Governorates	\$1,350,000
IOM	ERMS	Al Basrah, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Maysan, Ninawa, Al Qadisiyah, and Sulaymaniyah Governorates	\$4,272,205
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,200,000
IRC	Shelter and Settlements	Baghdad Governorate	\$498,911
IRD	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Babil, Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ninawa, and Salah ad Din Governorates	\$3,300,000
Mercy Corps	ERMS, WASH	Baghdad and Diyala Governorates	\$1,250,000
SC/US	Protection, WASH	Baghdad, Al Basrah, Dahuk, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Salah ad Din, and Sulaymaniyah Governorates	\$4,400,000
QED Group, LLC	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$250,000
	Program and Administrative Support Costs		\$279,787
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$23,800,903
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IOM	Livelihoods and Community Revitalization and Reintegration	Iraq	\$10,000,000
NGO Partners	Education, Psychosocial Support, Legal Aid, Humanitarian Assistance, Health, GBV, Livelihoods, Shelter	Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and other neighboring countries	\$39,278,612
International Organizations	Assistance to Vulnerable Iraqis, Health Capacity-Building, WASH, Protection, Program Monitoring	Iraq and Syria	\$36,406,788
UN-HABITAT	Shelter	Iraq	\$2,999,833
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Syria	\$7,700,000

UNHCR	Education, Health, Protection, Shelter, Cash Assistance, Emergency Relief Supplies	Iraq and other neighboring countries	\$182,415,869
WFP	Cash-for-work	Iraq	\$4,998,583
U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)	Health, Capacity Building, WASH, Protection, Program Monitoring	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria	\$5,000,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Health	Syria	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$289,799,685
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2011			\$313,600,588

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated funds as of October 21, 2011.

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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Iraq can be found at www.interaction.org.
- 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, and warehouse space); 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:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
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/