



**International Relief and Development  
Humanitarian Assistance to Iraq  
First Annual Performance Report**

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**Name of Agency:** International Relief and Development (IRD)

**Contact in the Field:** John Kilkenny  
Acting Chief of Party, Iraq  
Ainkawa, Erbil  
Office Phone: +873 763 468240  
+3248-445-1506  
[jj\\_kilkenny@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jj_kilkenny@yahoo.co.uk)

**Contact at Headquarters:** Elsie Tama  
Chief Technical Officer  
International Relief and Development  
1621 N. Kent Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Tel: (703) 248-0161  
[Etama@ird-dc.org](mailto:Etama@ird-dc.org)

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## Project Summary

### Project Goal

Provide humanitarian assistance within a community context that will meet the immediate needs of new caseload Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and provide basic services to returnees and host populations in non-contentious areas of return in Kirkuk, Ninewa, Dohuk and Karbala governorates of Iraq.

### Project Objectives

1. Improved access to potable water and sanitation services to 210,000 IDPs, returnees and members of affected communities
2. Increased access to primary healthcare services by 30% for 200,000 IDPs, returnees and members of affected host communities
3. Increased employment opportunities for 40,000 IDPs and 10,000 members of affected host communities
4. Provision of emergency relief commodities for up to 75,000 IDPs and members of affected host communities in need of emergency humanitarian support in IRD area of operation (reallocated)

### Summary of Achievements to Date

Objective / Sector	Projects Completed	Employee Days Generated	Project Beneficiary Data				
			IDP	Returnee	Host	Reached	Targeted
1. Water and Sanitation	28	13,600	37,413	11,472	6,650	55,535	210,000
2. Primary Healthcare	25	2,631	5,127	30,350	52,900	88,377	200,000
3. Income Generation	12	52,829	3,015	3,656	21,655	28,326	50,000
4. Emergency Relief	3	25	1,360	-	75	1,435	75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>69,085</b>	<b>46,915</b>	<b>45,478</b>	<b>81,280</b>	<b>173,673</b>	<b>535,000</b>

\* Employee Days Generated includes ongoing and completed projects. Income generation beneficiary numbers include persons employed and beneficiaries of activities implemented as well as participants of Peace Building Initiatives which does not have an objective / sector.

### Summary of Program Financial Indicators

Objective / Sector	\$US Total Budget	\$US Expended*	\$US Remaining Balance
1. Water and Sanitation	6,056,664	948,645	\$5,108,019
2. Primary Healthcare	1,665,134	232,255	\$1,432,879
3. Income Generation	2,840,645	781,463	\$2,059,182
4. Emergency Relief	403,606	20,701	\$382,905
5. Shared Costs	4,033,951	1,137,421	\$2,896,530
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	<b>3,120,485</b>	<b>\$11,879,515</b>

\*Expenses are based on IRD provisional indirect cost rate for the period.



## Project Overview

### Progress Update

International Relief and Development (IRD) launched the “Humanitarian Assistance to Iraq” project at the beginning of 2005. Since then sixty-eight activities have been completed bringing the total number of beneficiaries reached under the project to 173,673 or approximately 32% of the 535,000 targeted. In addition to proposing new activities, the project assumed responsibility for activities initiated by a different US NGO that withdrew from Iraq in late 2004. These activities were completed in the first quarter of the project, the results of which are included as project outputs and beneficiaries reached.

During the first quarter priority was given to project identification while concomitantly developing the project design, approval and monitoring and evaluation processes. The systems adopted facilitated the timely flow of projects through the project cycle from identification to implementation, as witnessed during the second quarter when projects initiated climbed to 54, up from 17 in the first quarter.

The large percentage of committed funds in the third quarter reflects progress towards rapid identification and approval of project activities and timely implementation and completion. The third quarter witnessed the highest volume of project activity with more than thirty projects completed reaching nearly 110,000 beneficiaries, a significant increase from the fewer than 7,000 reached in the first quarter. Moreover, the project has some fifty activities underway to be completed by the end of 2005 with an expected beneficiary population exceeding 500,000.

By sector, water and sanitation activities have consumed the largest share of the project budget and have reached over 55,000 direct beneficiaries, more than 80% of them IDP and returnees, the highest of any of the four sectors (when the catchment population or indirect beneficiaries for Primary Healthcare Center rehabilitation projects is excluded). Water activities have been diverse, ranging from construction of complete water systems to minor rehabilitation of water supply networks, generators, pumps and storage units. Far fewer sanitation activities have been implemented and have been limited to construction of a nominal number of latrines and waste collection points (not part of the income generation sector) and distribution of hygiene kits.

The health sector experienced the highest number of individual activities implemented, the majority of them training and capacity development, including Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) medical staff, Traditional Birth Attendants and community health volunteers. However, the majority of direct beneficiaries under the health sector are reached through support of Mobile Medical Units (MMU). Support of MMUs has been continuous since February of 2005. Most of MMU beneficiaries are IDPs and returnees. MMUs have also been responsible for promoting hygiene awareness and disseminating basic health education information in the local language.

Income generation activities are limited geographically to Kirkuk governorate. To date activities have focused on community clean-up/cash for work type activities including construction of garbage collection points and, to a lesser extent, cleaning of irrigation channels in rural areas. Completed projects have generated approximately 20,100 employee days for vulnerable populations, including ethnic Kurds, Turkmen and Arabs. Ongoing projects have thus far generated an additional 32,729 employee days (a total of 52,829).

Emergency relief activities have been limited. Much of the displacement/crisis activity has taken place in the Anbar governorate which is out of the IRD area of operation. IRD did contribute to the relief effort targeting people displaced from Tel Afar, the site of a major military operation against insurgent



activities. Approximately 150 Tel Afar IDP families (1,035 persons) displaced to Karbala were provided with non-food and food items, including jerry cans, blankets, mattresses, and hygiene kits as well as rice, wheat, milk formula and cooking oil.

Geographically, Kirkuk continues to be the focal point of the project. With activities underway in three out of four sectors it accounts for the greatest amount of project expenditures and the highest number of beneficiaries reached, including IDP, returnee and host populations. Kirkuk is also the target of distinctive IRD activities: the Peace Building and Rural Villages Revitalization Initiatives. As the report describes, the diverse interventions in Kirkuk are producing notable results, drawing the interest of other INGOs and contributing in part to some important changes in the IRD approach to income generation in Kirkuk.

Karbala is distinct from the three other governorates targeted by the project. First, the IDP population was displaced some years ago (many more than a decade ago) and generally has no intention of returning to their original homeland, largely the southern marshland areas. Second, they have integrated into their settlement communities, primarily urban areas of Karbala center. The focal beneficiary group of the project is new caseload IDPs and returnees with a small percentage comprised of host or affected populations. The beneficiary population of Karbala activities has tended to be old caseload IDPs. The project calls for the completion of all activities (limited to water and sanitation and a smaller amount of health) at the end of 2005.

### **Constraints / Problems Encountered**

Generally there have been no major constraints on project implementation and minimal problems encountered. IRD activities have not been adversely affected by the security environment although in some specific areas in the southern and western parts of Kirkuk travel has been limited and some activities cancelled (see security environment below).

Relations with government officials, including directorates is vital to the success of activities under each sector. There have been instances of project implementation being delayed because approval from the appropriate officials has not been forthcoming in a timely manner, particularly from the departments of water and health, the government agencies IRD coordinates with most frequently. This is unfortunately an inherent part of the environment in which IRD activities are being implemented.

### **Needs Assessment**

As called for in the proposal, to build a baseline of data on the four targeted governorates IRD conducted a basic needs assessment that added to data compiled by other international organizations. During the assessment process government authorities, local NGOs, international NGOs, the United Nations (UNOPS), International Organization for Migration and civil affairs teams within the US military were consulted. The assessment was completed in the first quarter (see the first quarter report for details) and has been utilized, in addition to assessments provided by other international organizations, by IRD as a general guide for selecting intervention sites and a baseline of data for contrasting pre- and post-intervention outcomes.



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## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Since mid 2005 (second quarter) the project has witnessed a significant increase in projects implemented. The increase has, of course, meant more activity in the monitoring and evaluation unit. In the third quarter alone the unit performed more than 60 site visits collecting both quantitative and qualitative data through comprehensive questionnaires and interviews with beneficiaries. Over the course of the project this data has been compiled and input in the IRD developed database system for comparison with the baseline data established through the needs assessment.

As a result of increased monitoring and evaluation activity, the unit has identified weaknesses with and recommended changes to the originally proposed performance indicators, most of which measure primarily project outputs and the number of beneficiaries reached. The water and sanitation indicators describe or discuss Sphere standards when in fact IRD baseline data assessments reveal such standards to be unrealistic or inappropriate since in most cases the Iraqi standard is higher.<sup>1</sup> Health indicators tend to focus on number of persons trained, clinics rehabilitated or persons vaccinated rather than more meaningful data such as improved knowledge of training course topics, increased health services or expanded vaccination coverage area. Income generation indicators are much more appropriate but difficult to measure (such as % increase in family income) in the life of the project.

The IRD monitoring and evaluation unit is developing a system that addresses these weaknesses and seeks to make clearer the relationship between project inputs, outputs and outcomes. Because IRD identifies new projects on an almost weekly basis, development of the system has involved the needs assessment unit, sector coordinators and regional program managers. As projects are developed, the monitoring and evaluation unit assists these groups with the development of project outcome indicators to ensure that implementers strive to achieve or “expect” certain outcomes.

As a result, projects proposals have been better designed and project managers better able to keep projects heading towards specific outcomes. In addition to monitoring outputs, through the new system it is possible to make comparisons, to contrast pre- with post-intervention conditions, be it increased yield of water per capita per hour, increased vaccination coverage for a targeted area or increased knowledge of specific health topics, each as a result of IRD interventions. At the same time the system permits an overview of each sector by combining outputs or averaging outcomes.

Although the system is still being developed initial results are positive. The original output indicators in the proposal remain in place. The adjustments are intended to improve the quantity of information gathered and the quality of the data reported. The system enables a wider perspective of impact while continuing to meet all donor reporting requirements. IRD expects to have the system completed in the coming months. The preliminary results will be reported in the fourth quarterly report.

## **Security Environment**

Within the four governorates IRD operates, the area of most concern remains in and around the city of Kirkuk. This is particularly true in the south and west of the governorate where some activities in Arab Hawija and Turkmen/Arab Basheer have had to be cancelled for security reasons. Although there have been fewer reported incidents of assassinations, bombings and attacks on the police, in general Kirkuk remains one of the most contentious issues in Iraq, politically, geographically and socially.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that under “Developmental Relief” in the proposal it states the project will be designed “in accordance with the Sphere Minimum Standards, which rely on community participation in identifying and addressing priority needs, as well as existing Iraqi standards, *adopting the higher of the two in case of overlap.*”



Important political events may be cause for concern. The decision by the Iraqi government to put off the question of the status of Kirkuk until 2007 may have implications for future relations between the various ethnic groups, not only in Kirkuk but throughout Iraq. The referendum on the constitution and, depending on its outcome, the vote for a new government in December may result in travel restrictions or possibly impact project implementation in the next quarter. The holy month of Ramadan and the Eid ul-Fitr holiday may cause a slow down in activity though unlikely a delay in implementation. Each of the events discussed will be covered in upcoming bi-weekly and quarterly reports.

**Adjustments to Original Project Proposal**

Geographic region of Karbala governorate: In the proposal \$1,000, 000 was allocated to water and sanitation activities. Subsequently \$200,000 of this amount was reallocated to primary healthcare activities in response to identified needs.

Objective 4 – Provision of emergency relief commodities for up to 75,000 IDPs and members of affected host communities in need of emergency humanitarian support: During the project proposal review process, the budget was reduced which resulted in the removal of the relief commodities line item. To enable IRD to remain in a position to respond to potential humanitarian crises \$100,000 was reallocated from the health sector budget with approval from OFDA. Although IRD also has available in-kind donations of medical supplies and equipment which would be sufficient for the targeted beneficiary number, \$100,000 in funding limits the volume of relief items IRD will be able to provide to an emergency relief response.

**Project Outlook**

Program: Objective / Sector	Outputs		Beneficiaries	
	Completed Projects	Ongoing Projects	Completed Projects	Ongoing Projects
1. Water and Sanitation	28	26	55,535	302,591
2. Primary Healthcare Services	25	9	88,377	77,390
3. Income Generation	12	13	28,326	165,331
4. Emergency Relief	3	-	1,435	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>173,673</b>	<b>545,312</b>

- Most of the forty-eight ongoing projects, with a combined expected beneficiary population of more than 545,000, will be completed by the end of 2005 (the total includes PHC catchment populations).
- Nearly 50% of the overall program budget will be expended putting IRD on-track for project completion within the proposed timeframe of the grant.
- IRD expects few projects to be identified and approved during the upcoming winter season. Water and sanitation projects will be most affected by changes in weather conditions.
- Although IRD has a number of activities underway in Karbala, the project calls for the completion of all activities in the governorate at the end of 2005. IRD anticipates some delays, most weather related, and the need for extending the activities into January-February of 2006.
- In Kirkuk, a shift from labor intensive cash for work projects to more sustainable, longer-term activities is expected. IRD is considering vocation training and self-reliance activities. This will not impact the number of persons to be employed according to the proposed objective.
- Monitoring and evaluation activities will continue to increase. Additional indicators designed to evaluate immediate impact or the outcome of projects will be provided in the next quarterly report.
- Although important political and religious events occur in the upcoming months, IRD anticipates nominal disruptions but no major delays or constraints to the project.



## Project Performance Overview by Objective<sup>2</sup>

### **Objective 1: Improved Access to Potable Water and Sanitation Services to 210,000 People (160,000 IDPs and Returnees; 50,000 Host Populations).**

Indicators	Project Outputs			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	Cumulative
<b>Water Projects Completed</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>
Borehole wells drilled/rehabilitated	14	0	1	15
Pumping stations constructed	25	3	1	29
Storage units constructed	5	15	22	42
Water pipe network installed (km)	17	3	9	29
Chlorinator units installed/rehabilitated	0	0	0	0
Compact treatment units installed/rehab.	0	2	0	2
Water tankering conducted (cubic meters)			38,400	63,930
Training sessions conducted	1	0	3	4
<b>Sanitation Projects Completed</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
Latrines constructed	220	0	10	230
Hygiene kits distributed	0	0	70	70
Waste collection points constructed	2	60	8	70
<b>Total Beneficiaries Reached</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>41,822</b>	<b>9,448</b>	<b>55,535</b>

**Achievements:** The majority of project completed thus far were implemented in the second quarter. The third quarter, however witnessed a substantial increase in project identification and approval process. Considerably more projects will be completed in the upcoming fourth quarter. Although the current beneficiary population is low only 55,535 (26% of the total targeted), more than twenty-five activities currently ongoing are expected to be completed by the end of 2005 bringing the number well beyond the 210,000 targeted.

Projects have ranged from construction of complete water systems to rehabilitation of existing systems to construction of latrines and garbage collection points (detailed activity descriptions are available on the IRD database). The majority of projects have stayed within the range of \$25,000 to \$30,000 indicating a focus on small scale, quick impact interventions and a high number of direct beneficiaries.

In most cases the rehabilitation activities were required because existing systems in the targeted intervention area fell into disrepair or were no longer adequate to meet demands imposed by increased populations, mostly the result of IDP returnees. Some projects involved activities not tracked by the project indicators, such as repair of water trucks. MMUs conducted hygiene promotion in most of the water and sanitation project sites where other INGOs had not already done so.

**Constraints / Problems Encountered:** The establishment of \$28 as a base or average cost-per-beneficiary per project has limited the size of the intervention. Generally, water projects target rural areas with a low number of beneficiaries relative to the cost of the project. As result, IRD is allowing the average cost-per-beneficiary to rise in some cases so that projects otherwise not falling within the established criteria can be implemented.

<sup>2</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is January – March, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter April – June and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter July – September according to the implementation time period of the project and not USAID/OFDA reporting periods. The few activities implemented in December 2004 are reported in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.



The project proposal also has indicators that require slight revisions. The indication of successful outcomes includes meeting or exceeding minimum Sphere standards, such as liters per day per capita or number of families per well. Based on the results of the baseline data collected, IRD has found that, contrary to initial expectations, in most cases minimum Sphere standards are already being met or exceeded. This is not surprising given that the Iraqi standard in most cases is higher than Sphere. Moreover, Sphere standards were designed primarily for basic camp-type situations whereas most of the target groups in Iraq (IDPs, returnees) are in long-term settlements, be they urban or rural. IRD has revised some of the indicators and standards for expected outcomes that present meaningful and measurable changes (see the monitoring and evaluation section above).

**Outlook:** IRD will cut back on the number of projects implemented during the upcoming winter months and focus on completing the nearly twenty projects currently underway. The slow down will permit more time for reviewing completed projects, developing lessons learned and making improvements to the existing monitoring and evaluation system. IRD expects water and sanitation activities to resume in earnest in the early part of 2006. As discussed above, some large-scale activities (construction of water systems) may be implemented. Most however are expected to follow the current trend of small-scale interventions, within a \$25,000 to \$30,000 cost range and in rural areas.

**Objective 2: Increased Access to Primary Healthcare Services by 30% for 200,000 IDPs, Returnees and Affected Host Communities**

Indicators	Project Outputs			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	Cumulative
<b>Primary Healthcare Centers</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
Rehabilitated	0	0	0	0
Furbished (medical/office equipment)	0	0	0	0
Other (generator install/vehicle repair)	0	2	2	4
<b>Mobile Medical Units Supported</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Children < 5 vaccinated	407	2,586	4,052	7,045
Females vaccinated	268	3,070	6,462	9,800
Patients screened	1,273	7,708	15,585	24,566
<b>Training Courses Completed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>
Doctors/paramedical staff	0	151	69	220
Traditional Birth Attendants	0	0	263	263
Community health volunteers	0	0	34	34
Psycho-social specialists	0	0	159	159
<b>Total Beneficiaries Reached</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>16,736</b>	<b>70,368</b>	<b>88,377</b>

\* The total beneficiaries reached include the catchment populations of the primary healthcare center rehabilitation/refurbished activities (8,877 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr., 54, 258 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. The "patients screened" numbers include persons vaccinated to avoid double counting.

**Achievements:** Support of Mobile Medical Units (MMU) started in February and has continued throughout the past nine months. The MMUs are operating in Dibis (2) and Daquk (2) districts, Kirkuk governorate and in Dohuk (1) and Dinata (1) districts, Dohuk governorate. All targeted intervention sites are IDP and or returnee areas, primarily rural communities not covered by the primary healthcare system. More than 24,000 patients have been screened by the MMUs, an average of approximately 150 patients per day. IRD expects to achieve a 100% increase in vaccination coverage of the targeted sites within the assigned districts.



MMUs are also conducting hygiene promotion in each of the sites visited. Most MMUs are targeting areas where IRD has implemented water and sanitation activities.<sup>3</sup> Hygiene information booklets and leaflets prepared by IRD are distributed throughout the targeted communities.

Although MMU activities are ongoing, the outputs (beneficiaries reached) are presented each quarter as cumulative achievements in order to show progress. In general, MMUs operate in isolated rural areas. Their average length of operation extends over a considerable length of time, from four to eight months. In this case the MMUs will operate for one year. Unlike other activities where it is not possible to provide a service until the intervention is complete, with MMUs the beneficiary 'benefits' during each site visit.

Over the past five months IRD has also implemented several training and capacity development activities. Much of the first and well into the second quarter the focus of IRD effort was on developing relations with local health officials Directorates of Health (DOH) officials at the governorate level. This explains why most training courses were not implemented until well into the third quarter. Thus far twenty-one training courses have resulted in more than 675 doctors, paramedical staff, traditional birth attendants, psycho-social specialists and community health volunteers receiving training. The monitoring and evaluation unit monitors the effectiveness of the trainings by comparing pre- and post-test results of the course curriculum (see quarterly reports).

**Constraints / Problems Encountered:** Bureaucratic issues delayed health activities in Shekahan district, Ninewa in the second and third quarters. Local health officials requested IRD support MMUs in the district but the intervention required approval from the governorate level DOH in Mosul, not Dohuk, because the area is technically part of Ninewa governorate. The Mosul DOH has informed IRD the intervention now requires approval at the MOH level (Baghdad). The DOH also requested IRD provide its own medicines for outpatient healthcare services. IRD is prepared to move forward with the activity (there are sufficient medicines available through the UNICEF health kits) if MOH approval is received (expected in October).

In Hawija district, Kirkuk governorate, the DOH requested IRD rehabilitate three PHCs. IRD was able to provide the PHCs with generators as a first step towards improving operational capacity. But during the tendering process for civil rehabilitation, a local contractor made threats against IRD contractors (not IRD directly since the contractor was unaware of IRD affiliation with the projects) as well as other contractors stating that either his firm would conduct the work or no one would. The Kirkuk DOH requested IRD temporarily cease health related activities in the area so as not to threaten operations in other parts of the governorate. IRD will continue to monitor the situation and communicate with the Kirkuk DOH about the possibility of resuming the proposed interventions.

**Outlook:** Additional activities, including rehabilitation of six PHCs (three in Kirkuk, two in Dahuk and one in Najaf), continued support of MMUs serving IDP / returnee settlement areas and additional training courses are scheduled for implementation in the next quarter. IRD also has plans to support breast feeding promotion campaigns in Kirkuk, construction of incinerators at the Daquq PHC and publication of hygiene education materials for distribution in Kirkuk. Twenty additional proposals are under review.

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<sup>3</sup> In some IRD water & sanitation project locations other INGOs have already conducted hygiene promotion campaigns.



**Objective 3: Increased Employment Opportunities for 40,000 IDPs and 10,000 Members of Affected Host Communities**

Indicators	Project Outputs			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	Cumulative
<b>Cash for Work Projects Completed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Debris/garbage removed (tons)	0	375	11,100	11,475
Irrigation channel cleared (km)	0	0	17	17
Persons employed	0	22	460	482
Employee days generated	0	280	19,879	20,159
<b>Self Reliance Projects Completed</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
Micro/in-kind grants	0	33	0	33
Agricultural starter kits	0	1,000	0	1,000
Number of participants	0	1,033	0	230
Employee days generated	0	500	0	500
<b>Total Beneficiaries Reached</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,744</b>	<b>11,340</b>	<b>23,084</b>

\* Peace Building Initiative participants (beneficiaries) are not included here as in the summary of achievements described on page one (5,242). The average family size for beneficiaries of cash for work projects is calculated at 7 per household. Irrigation channel projects benefited 1,160 households, 8,120 individuals. The same 1,000 households that participated in the agricultural starter kits project also received micro-grants and cash for work but are not double-counted in the total number of beneficiaries.

**Achievements:** For completed projects, more than 20,000 Employee Days (persons employed multiplied by days employed) have been generated. However, when ongoing projects are included the total number more than doubles to 52,829. Moreover, the true number of beneficiaries for income generation activities goes beyond persons directly hired. Those hired are typically the only breadwinner in the household which on average ranges from six to ten family members. Recipients of micro-grants and agricultural starter kits also benefit entire households.

Over the past nine months IRD has implemented income generation activities in Kirkuk from each of the three categories described in the proposal: community clean-up, clearing of irrigation canals and micro-grants. The first quarter was spent identifying needs and preparing interventions. While a few small-scale activities were implemented in the second quarter, including in-kind animal donations to vulnerable farming communities, much of the employee days generated thus far occurred in the third quarter, almost exclusively from cash for work projects.

As a result of community clean up activities 11,000 tons of garbage and debris have been removed from a three square kilometer area of Kirkuk city, preparing the area for community development and beautification projects. Following the clean-up activities workers constructed 15 garbage collection points and installed 247 dumpsters in areas cleaned. One project implemented in two IDP returnee settlement areas was followed up with the creation of two community parks with trees and flowers planted, benches constructed and lighting systems installed, also through support from IRD.

In the third quarter two irrigation clearing activities generated 5,651 Employee Days resulting in 17 kilometers of channel cleared with an average increase of 70% in yield per hour / km<sup>2</sup>. More than 80% of those employed were farmers who benefited from the activities. The two channels, located in Daquk district, serve more than 1,160 families in fourteen villages. Each village farms on average 3,000 donums of land though considerably more could possibly be brought under cultivation as a result of the



intervention. This may generate more income for farmers. IRD will continue to monitor the impact of the interventions.<sup>4</sup>

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter IRD implemented an agricultural in-kind grant activity (donation of chickens and sheep to vulnerable farmers), a pilot project IRD continues to monitor (see previous quarterly report). The unit is waiting for enough time to elapse for the donated animals to reproduce and generate additional income for the more than 30 families (more than half of them widowed female headed households) who participated in project. The results of the intervention have guided development of similar activities.

**Constraints / Problems Encountered:** The impact of the cash for work, although valuable in generating short term incomes for the poorest families, often lacks a sustainable impact. In the case of garbage collection in Kirkuk city the labor intensive clean-up activities have filled a gap while the municipality has been in the process of developing longer term, more sustainable approaches to the problem of waste management. IRD is looking into more sustainable opportunities for income generation in the future.

**Outlook:** IRD currently has eight cash for work projects (clean-up and irrigation clearing) underway expected to be completed by the end of 2005. It is estimated the activities will generate some 15,000 employee days. In addition to purely cash for work activities IRD will begin implementing vocational training activities. Local NGOs with the capacity to conduct skills training courses have been identified. When possible, as part of each activity the NGOs will work with local businesses and government officials to locate employment opportunities.

It should be noted, the cost per beneficiary for such activities and the number of persons that can be absorbed into them will be much lower than cash for work activities. IRD does anticipate a lower number of Employee Days generated in 2006 relative to 2005. Nevertheless, IRD expects to reach the targeted number of Employee Delays in accordance with the established objective.

**Objective 4: Provision of Emergency Relief Commodities for up to 75,000 IDPs and Members of Affected Communities in Need of Emergency Humanitarian Support in IRD Area of Operation**

Indicators	Project Outputs			
	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr.	Cumulative
<b>Relief Interventions Completed</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
Water tankering supported	0	0	0	0
Jerry cans distributed	50	0	165	215
Tents distributed	0	0	40	40
Blankets distributed	300	0	510	810
Mattresses/cots distributed	142	0	100	242
Plastic sheets distributed	150	0	0	150
Hygiene kits (soap, disinfect, paste) dist.	50	0	87	137
Winterization kits (complete NFI kit) dist.	0	0	0	0
Kerosene heaters distributed	0	0	0	0
Cooking stoves distributed	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Beneficiaries Reached</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,035</b>	<b>1,435</b>

<sup>4</sup> IRD is collecting more exact data on the pre-intervention number of donums cultivated to create a baseline data. The monitoring and evaluation unit will also interview farmers in the spring to determine if more land will be cultivated as a result of the intervention.



**Achievements:** In early 2005 IRD responded to the needs of more than eighty families (approximately 400 persons) displaced from Al Hahimiya village in Hilla governorate as a result of flooding caused by heavy rains and the collapse of river embankments. The floods destroyed over fifty mud homes and flooded some 300 hectares of farm ground. IRD teams in Karbala provided the families with essential Non-Food Items (NFI), including blankets, jerry cans and plastic sheets.

In the third quarter IRD responded to the needs of approximately 150 families (approximately 1,035 persons) in Karbala, most displaced from Tel Afar as a result of anti-insurgency military operations. Many of the displaced families settled in or nearby a local hotel while others stayed with host families. Most were unable to collect their food rations through the Iraqi Public Distribution System (PDS). IRD provided blankets, mattresses, jerry cans and other essential non-food items and supported the establishment of a small, emergency clinic providing basic furniture and equipment. Families were also provided with basic food items, including rice, wheat, milk formula and cooking oil until the PDS system could respond to their needs.

**Constraints / Problems Encountered:** For the relief interventions implemented, IRD did not encounter problems. On the other hand, getting relief supplies to people displaced as a result of military operations has not been an option when the displaced are settled in areas where IRD does not have well established relations with local government officials, community and religious leaders or experience working with local NGOs. Much of the more recent displacement in Iraq has taken place around Tel Afar and in the Al Anbar governorate. IRD can react quickly in its own area of operation but not as effectively outside it.

Although funding is limited, IRD will be developing a more comprehensive emergency response program. As such IRD will develop its role as a facilitator of joint interventions with local NGOs, INGOs and government agencies such as the Ministry of Migration and Displacement or Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation.

**Outlook:** IRD expects the need for emergency humanitarian intervention to arise again based on observed ongoing anti-insurgent military operations, particularly in Anbar governorate, and the likelihood that this, combined with winter weather, may cause displacement or disrupt government services causing humanitarian crises. Although IRD will most likely not intervene inside Anbar governorate, as has happened in the past many of the displaced may settle outside the governorate. Moreover, with winter approaching, IRD anticipates the need for humanitarian intervention for vulnerable populations, IDPs and returnees without proper shelter or insufficient financial means to protect themselves from the effects of harsh winter conditions in northern Iraq.

IRD is prepared to address such needs, most likely in collaboration with OFDA implementing partner International Organization for Migration. IRD also expects the arrival of the first consignment of in-kind donations of relief goods in the next quarter. The consignment is made up of medical supplies and equipment and is destined for the DOH in Kirkuk. The items will significantly strengthen the capacity of the DOH to respond to emergency health needs in the northern governorate.



## **Peace Building Initiatives**

### **Progress Update**

IRD peace building initiatives are an important part of project activities in Kirkuk, one of the most contentious and complex regions of Iraq in terms of displacement and return as well as ethnic makeup. Over 100,000 IDPs are reportedly settled in Kirkuk governorate, the majority Kurds and Turkmen. The objective of peace building initiatives is to increase interaction, stimulate dialogue between and improve understanding among IDPs, returnees and host communities, each of which contains a mix of Turkmen, Kurds, Assyrian and Arab populations. The activities are developed and implemented in close collaboration with local NGOs and civil society organizations. The approach is a two tier strategy that encourages interaction between children through the medium of sports, theater, and recreational activities and between adults through community discussion groups. The activities have successfully utilized local media outlets to raise awareness and stimulate dialogue between the various ethnic groups.

Activities completed thus far include:

- Establishment of two Children's Cultural Centers in Kirkuk in coordination with the Directorates of Health and Education for 500 children ages 6-15
- Development of a children's magazine and animated cartoon show through Kirkuk NGO Darstan Animation Group; 25,000 copies of the children's magazine will be distributed and the cartoon aired on local television stations in the fourth quarter
- Organized courses on conflict resolution for 500 community members, many of whom were IDP returnees, local teachers, community leaders and members of local NGOs; participants were from each of the various ethnic groups living in Kirkuk
- Organized peace promotion event involving 200 youth and local teachers utilizing art, sports and recreational activities to stimulate dialogue; printed informational leaflets and booklets for distribution by participants to schools and public buildings<sup>5</sup>

### **Constraints / Problems Encountered**

The initiative anticipated more government involvement than has been the case. While verbally supportive, the various directorates have limited their role to occasional coordination assistance. The initiative has taken on a much more civil society approach to conflict resolution relying almost exclusively on local community-based and non-government organizations. This has proven very effective as CBOs and NGOs enhance their role as communicators of peace and understanding and strengthen their position as honest brokers in the effort to improve dialogue between the various ethnic groups of Kirkuk.

### **Outlook**

Although several local NGOs have submitted proposals for additional peace building initiatives, fewer will be implemented in the coming year than have been in 2005. The focus will be on completing the initiatives already underway, many of which have not yet implemented. The animated video will begin airing on local television in the fourth quarter. Additional copies of the children's magazine will be distributed to local schools, NGOs and community based organizations. For much of 2006 considerable time will be spent evaluating each of the activities.

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<sup>5</sup> Beneficiaries, or more accurately, "participants" of IRD peace building activities are included under Income Generation beneficiaries. The Employee Days generated (through local NGOs or otherwise), are also included in the Income Generation sector.



## **Kirkuk Rural Village Revitalization Initiative**

### **Progress Update**

The objective of the initiative is to enhance the capacity of rural areas in Kirkuk Governorate to take up some of the thousands of IDP returnees as well as reduce the likelihood that rural residents would resettle to Kirkuk city. The overarching goal is to reduce the pressure of return on Kirkuk city and mitigate tensions between the various ethnic groups in the governorate. The initiative seeks to achieve the objective through an integrated approach to development of rural communities: health, water, sanitation, infrastructure development.

IRD has identified eleven villages as priority intervention sites based on established criteria, including population size and make-up, needs of the community and potential for resettlement. The eleven targeted villages were all affected by the Anfal, militarization and/or Arabization campaigns. Of the total targeted seven are Kurdish, two Arabic and two Turkmen villages, currently with a combined population of 8,525 persons (the combined original population before displacement was approximately 50,000).

Since the launching of the intervention, two additional implementing partners have joined the effort: USAID partner NGO ACDI/VOCA and local NGO REACH. Original partners still include US Military/Civil Affairs, USAID, local NGOs and government officials.

Most recently the following achievements were made:

- Community Based Organizations (CBO) in the eleven targeted villages were formed; CBOs have proposed a number of projects that IRD and implementing partners are reviewing
- IRD will focus efforts on water and income generation projects; one cash for work (irrigation channel clearing) and three water projects were started this period in four of the targeted villages
- Implementing partners identified six villages to implement projects targeting women and youth through income generation activities

### **Constraints / Problems Encountered**

Originally, the initiative anticipated a high return rate as a result of the integrated approach to development or 'revitalization' of targeted villages. That is not to say there will not be increased return as a result of the intervention. Indeed, the preliminary results of the most recent assessments conducted by sub-project partner REACH indicate the number of displaced intending to return is still considerable. IRD still expects a 40-50% increase. It does mean that outcome expectations should be reduced to more realistically reflect the situation on the ground.

Government support has been much less enthusiastic than expected. Local officials lent verbal support during the development of the project but are not, as originally anticipated, taking the lead on project planning and implementation. Rather, government agencies have continued to focus more attention on programs inside Kirkuk city. To be sure, the success of the project does not necessarily require direct government participation, only its support and oversight. Still, IRD hopes to see more participation on the part of the main directorates in the governorate (electricity, water, sewage, health and education). IRD and the US Military/Civil Affairs continue to inform government officials with progress updates.

### **Outlook**

Although the projects currently underway are expected to be completed in the upcoming fourth quarter, IRD and implementing partners expect a slow down in physical work during the winter months. More energy will be focused on project development. This will include IRD leader coordination meetings with implementing partners and the committees of the community based organizations in each of the targeted villages to ensure priority needs are met and to avoid overlapping of interventions. IRD expects to see the bulk of the project completed in the spring and early summer months of 2006.



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## Annexes

1. Communicating a Message of Peace through Kids and Cartoons in Kirkuk
2. IRD Intervention Clears the Way for Revived Activity in Rahimawa Market Area in Kirkuk
3. Revitalized Gumbatler Village Gains Access to Potable Water
4. Income Generation Supports Start Up of Agricultural Activities
5. IDP Camp Brought to Sphere Standards for Safe Living Conditions, Health Clinic Rehabilitated



## Annex 1

### *Communicating a Message of Peace through Kids and Cartoons in Kirkuk*



This summer IRD collaborated with a community based organization to implement week long educational day camps for children from the city of Kirkuk. The project, ‘Promoting Partners in Peace’ was developed in coordination with Darstan Animation Group, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of human rights and promoting dialogue between Iraq’s various ethnic and religious groups. The project brought together more than four hundred children between the ages of eight and twelve from three different city quarters and two Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and returnee settlement areas.

“The project was designed to stimulate dialogue through children on topics sensitive to adults. We believe it is important to emphasize to children that we should listen to what others have to say, that we should think about other people’s feelings and that we are here to help each other, not hurt each other” said Aziz Abdulrahman, Darstan Liason Officer in Kirkuk.

The different city quarters selected for participation were representative of the ethnic diversity of Kirkuk: Kurdish, Turkmen, Assyrian and Arab. Various activities were organized each day, including painting, reading and writing poems, role playing and interactive games. Although the project targeted children, Mr. Abdurahman said parental involvement was an integral component to its success.

“Children were encouraged to share daily themes covered throughout the two week activity. Home tasks were assigned each day and parents were required to contribute by helping children prepare short stories, poems or drawings for group discussion” Mr. Abdurahman said.



Through the project Darstan created a colorful children’s booklet drawing attention to the value of cooperation and communication amid diversity. The main story in the magazine centers on the flight of an imaginary boat that visit various communities in Kirkuk and the magazine forms the second in a series of four 'journeys' that have covered other locations, including Baghdad, than have been supported by other agencies. Selected stories, poems and drawings created by the children participants were included in the booklet. Four thousand copies of the second journey were printed and being distributed to local schools, NGOs and civil society organizations.



The project also supported the creation of an animated cartoon for children. The CD-ROM and video created through the project, “Different Colored Pencils” is a representation of the diversity of people in the world and the contribution each person or “colored pencil” makes to their community. The cartoon is available in Kurdish, Arabic, Turkmen and Assyrian languages. Copies of the animation were distributed to local schools, civil society organizations and cultural centers. It will be aired on local television stations later this year.



“The cartoon is designed to attract the attention of children by using fun and interesting characters. But it is also meant to be educational” said Mr. Abdulrahman.

The cartoon will be aired at various times throughout the day in brief public service announcements in order to reach a broad audience. Mr. Abdulrahman said cartoons are a simple medium through which dialogue on sensitive issues can be stimulated.

“Discussing sensitive topics, including friendship among Christians and Muslims or cooperation between Kurds and Arabs or Turkmen, can be very difficult to initiate” Mr. Abdulrahman said.

Mr. Abdulrahman said the concept for the project approach was based on similar activities sponsored by UNICEF. Darstan has implemented similar programs and aired several animated cartoons as educational public service announcements on local television stations in Sulaymaniya, Dohuk, Mosul and Nassariya.



## Annex 2

### *IRD Intervention Clears the Way for Revived Activity in Rahimawa Market Area in Kirkuk*

Rahimawa, situated near the city center, is one of the largest quarters of Kirkuk. Like the other city quarters, Rahimawa has a central market area where small shops and kiosks line the streets. But meandering about or moving freely from one side of the street to the other was not possible in Rahimawa market area until recently. Backed up sewage and stagnate water was preventing some shops from operating. In other parts it swallowed the street and sidewalks, too deep even for cars to navigate.



In June of 2005 IRD, in close coordination with the Kirkuk Department of Sewage (DOS), developed a plan to overhaul the dilapidated sewage system. For years maintenance of the pipe network and open channel sewage system was neglected. Corroded and broken pipes and drainage channels backed up with debris and garbage lead to sewage and waste flooding streets along nearly three kilometers of streets.



The Kirkuk DOS agreed to make available heavy equipment, including trucks and backhoes and some of the replacement parts for the system, such as cast iron manhole covers and metal grills. Several workers from the DOS were assigned to work with IRD on the project. Together, IRD and the DOS repaired or replaced more than three kilometers of sewage pipe, reinforced and covered the open channel portions of the network and constructed several new inspection and maintenance points (manholes).

“The situation was horrible. The build up of sewage was not only creating an unbearable stench, it was a serious health hazard” said Kasro Dizayee, IRD Water and Sanitation Coordinator. Kasro said stagnate water and garbage was everywhere in the local market area

“We worked closely with the sewage department to solve the problem quickly because the rains in the fall would have created a disaster in the center of the quarter. We had the full support of the community and especially the shop owners in the market area” Kasro said.



The sanitation project could as well be described as an income generation activity. Hiring locals was the most sensible way to get the clean-up effort going so that engineers could move quickly on the network and open channel repairs. More than thirty-five men were hired to help out on the project generating nearly 900 “Employee Days” (people employed multiplied by number of days employed).

Rahimawa is a Kurdish quarter of Kirkuk with some 250,000 residents, steadily increasing as IDPs continue to return. The rehabilitated sewage system serves approximately 40,000 of the Rahimawa quarter, more than 10,000 of which are IDP returnees.





### Annex 3

#### *Revitalized Gumatlar Village Gains Access to Potable Water*



Before 1988 the Turkmen village of Gumatlar owned some 5,000 donums (one donum is 2500 sq. meters) of land. While most men farmed, some worked in nearby Kirkuk city, about twenty-five kilometers east of the village. At that time there were more than 150 families, more than a thousand people living in Gumatlar. Today there are about thirty families.

That's because the Ba'ath regime forced the people of Gumatlar to leave their village, destroyed their homes and confiscated their land. Since 2003, some twenty-five families have returned. But the return has been slow, mostly because the villagers had nothing to return to. Returnees initially settled in nearby abandoned military compounds or constructed makeshift shelters.

Although villagers had managed to tap, illegally, into main line four kilometers away feeding Kirkuk city, the two inch pipe was rigged together with plastic fittings and was full of leaks. Water flowing through the system was irregular, usually once a week, insufficient even for five to ten families. With no alternative, the villagers simply collected untreated water directly from an irrigation channel running near the village fed by the "Big Zab" river that flows past Kirkuk.

In June 2005 IRD intervened by supporting the project developed by Malath Relief Society (MRS), a local NGO and beneficiary of IRD supported capacity development (project design and program and financial management training). Working closely with the Kirkuk Department of Water (DOW), MRS installed a seven kilometer water pipe network system connecting the village to the main water line. A water storage unit was joined to the network to provide secure reserves. The network was extended through the village making it possible for existing homes and new returnees to connect directly to the system.



The project resulted in 50 liters per capita per day availability in the village, based on a population of 200 families, the expected maximum number of returnees in the coming year. IRD also conducted hygiene promotion in Gumatlar, a campaign designed to teach safe water practices and proper hygiene. Coupled with access to potable water, in the long-term the intervention may contribute to improved health through reduced incidence of water-borne diseases, a common occurrence among people drinking untreated water in Iraq. It is also expected to encourage other displaced Turkmen families to return to their village.

In the past year humanitarian agencies have built nearly one hundred homes in Gumatlar. The current number of returnee families is rising and with the recent housing projects and construction of a new water supply system it is expected the number will increase dramatically. According to the community representative, there are more than 125 families (approximately 900 persons) planning to return over the next six months, many only because of the recent revitalization effort.



## Annex 4

### *Income Generation Supports Start Up of Agricultural Activities*



It is difficult enough to farm without developed infrastructure vital to agriculture, including roads and irrigation systems. More so without access to tractors, spare parts or capital for purchasing seeds. In rural Kirkuk hundreds of villages suffered years of repressive government policies, including forced resettlement of populations to urban areas and confiscation of property. Populations forced out of the area are returning, farming communities completely destroyed are slowly being rebuilt. But to resume farming or animal husbandry, the only means of generating income in rural areas of Kikuk, has been a near insurmountable challenge for many.

Past policies have hurt some families more than others. For these vulnerable families, particularly female headed households or families without male breadwinners, IRD developed a program to create start up opportunities. Locally based Pro-Dev Resources, a consultancy firm, was responsible for conducting the comprehensive needs assessment, and Agrozoie, an Iraqi NGO dedicated to rural economic development, to provide technical and agronomy advice during project implementation. The high number of returning IDPs to Kikuk has put pressure on already overwhelmed municipal services in Kirkuk city. Much of the relief activity in the areas was directed towards urban Kirkuk. IRD developed the concept to encourage rural families to stay and or resettle in their site of origin.



The immediate objective was increased production of vegetables that farmers could sell on local markets. Based on the findings of the needs assessment, IRD determined a package of required inputs or “starter kits” of seeds and micro-grants for distribution that would enable farmers to get a crop planted in time for this year’s summer growing season. IRD also hired locals with tractors to prepare plots of land for planting. Spare parts, including tires, batteries and tools, technical assistance and general agronomy advice was also provided.

In all, 1,000 households (11,360 persons) benefited from the intervention. Three donums of land were cultivated for each household. Packets of tomato, cucumber, onion, water melon and squash seeds sufficient to plant the donums cultivated as well as one-time micro-grants for the purchase of additional inputs, including fertilizer, were provided to each household. More than 250 tractors were repaired and made operational, each provided with basic spare parts. Maintenance manuals in Arabic and Kurdish





were distributed to each household. Before selecting intervention sites IRD consulted with the regional directorate of agriculture. Thirty-one villages participated in the project. Preliminary results suggest the harvest (in October-November) will produce high yields leading to increased income for the participants who intend to sell the vegetables on the local market.

The majority of the beneficiaries were Kurdish households, most at different times over the past thirty years forcibly resettled. Fewer than thirty-five percent of the original Kurdish populations of the targeted villages (an estimated 38,500) have returned since 2003, many of them having become accustomed to urban life, others finding the task of restarting rural livelihoods impractical. Thirty percent of the project beneficiary population was Turkmen or Arabic. Female headed households, farmers with disabilities or households with family members with handicaps were given priority for participating in the project. Nearly 30% of the households benefiting from the intervention were headed by females.

## Annex 5



### ***IDP Camp Brought to Sphere Standards for Safe Living Conditions, Health Clinic Rehabilitated***

In March 2004 more than ninety Kurdish families crossed into Dohuk governorate from Syria and settled near the collective village of Muqible. UNOPS provided humanitarian relief assistance, including basic shelter, water and sanitation services to the families, most of them having arrived only with what they could carry. After UNOPS left Iraq, the Iraqi Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation (MOHAC) stepped in to provide basic water and sanitation services. But funding was insufficient and support was discontinued earlier this year.

Nearby Muqible collective village is now also crowded with Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), families that have been unable to return to their original villages. Although most of the more than 400 families in the non-contentious area live in homes, many have settled in an abandoned military compound. Most of the displaced families arrived in the area in 1991 from villages in Turkey where they had been displaced since the mid-1980s.



IRD learned of conditions in the camp near Muqible and organized a rapid intervention with the support of officials from the Directorates of Health, IDPs and Returnees and Water in Dohuk. The families, most of them living in tents, had a sufficient number of water storage units but were forced to collect water from an outlet in the distant Muqible village. Latrines built in 2004 were in backed up and unusable. There was no garbage collection service. Instead, garbage was let to pile up just outside the camp. Families were also dumping it in the latrine pits. Many, especially children, were regularly suffering from waterborne diseases.

IRD set up a water distribution program (45,000 liters per day) and supported garbage collection services for the camp. People were hired (income generation) to clean-up the camp and assist with the repair of latrines and construction of a new septic system (digging pits) to bring the camp sanitation facilities to Sphere standards. In coordination with local health officials, IRD conducted health education sessions, covering such topics as proper hygiene, safe water practices and waste disposal. Support for the families was provided until the end of August when responsibility for the provision of water and garbage collection was taken up by Dohuk governorate.





With the support of the Dohuk Directorate of Health (DOH), this summer IRD also rehabilitated the Primary Healthcare Center (PHC) in nearby Muqibe. The PHC was structurally unsafe to operate from forcing medical staff to operate out of a nearby residence. The foundation was reinforced, new walls and support beams constructed and the entire facility repainted with the help of the IDPs temporarily hired to perform construction work. The PHC serves more than 3,000 IDPs from the sub-district area and is the location from which vaccinations are provided.

