

UNDP IN IRAQ: TOWARDS RECONCILIATION, REFORM AND STABILITY



50
YEARS

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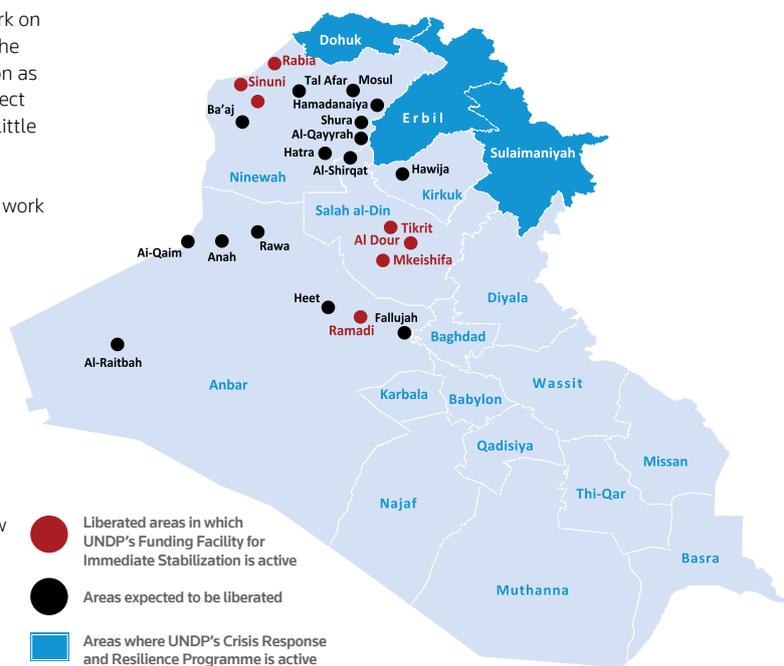
The humanitarian, security and development crisis in Iraq is amongst the most volatile and severe in the region. Since the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011, 244,642 Syrians have fled into Iraq, and since the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in January 2014 nearly 3.2 million Iraqis have been forced to flee their homes. At least ten million Iraqis currently require some form of humanitarian assistance, and by the end of 2016, twelve to thirteen million Iraqis are likely to be in trouble.

As dramatic as the situation is for displaced families, the condition of host communities is also deteriorating rapidly. Families which have generously opened their homes and shared resources with displaced relatives and neighbors are plunging into poverty.

Unable to sustain their families, worried if they can return safely to their homes, and faced with limited employment options, people throughout the country are making

the life-changing decision to embark on dangerous journeys to leave Iraq. The number of Iraqis who see emigration as their best option is increasing in direct proportion to the number who see little hope in their future.

In this context, as part of its overall work across Iraq, UNDP has two major programmes that are helping to promote emergency livelihoods and community dialogue in areas impacted by the humanitarian crisis, and stabilize newly liberated areas through restoration of services and rebooting of local economies and livelihoods. Both programmes will continue as part of UNDP's new country programme for the period 2016-2019, which also includes public institutional reform and effective devolution of administrative and fiscal powers.



IRAQ KEY RESULTS TO DATE



65,000

people now have access to safe drinking water from three rehabilitated water pumping stations and treatment plants in Tikrit



100s

of businesses have been revived in areas newly liberated from ISIL



3,000

SGBV survivors amongst refugee and IDP populations benefited from legal aid services



20,000

Syrian refugees, and Iraqi IDPs and hosts benefited from livelihood opportunities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq



400

returnees, mostly youth, have been given jobs to rebuild destroyed communities and restore their future



12

governorates are receiving support to improve sector-wide planning and coordination with the central level

UNDP remains committed to supporting vulnerable populations in areas of Iraq both directly and indirectly affected by the ongoing conflict. While the scope of the needs is daunting, UNDP aims to reach tens of thousands of beneficiaries throughout Iraq to promote resilience.

UNDP IRAQ: KEY PROGRAMMES FOR RESILIENCE

Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization: since June 2015, FFIS has been helping to restart basic services, reboot local economies, restore civic pride and promote community reconciliation in newly liberated areas from ISIL.

Budget (2015-2016): US\$70,000,000 | Funding received: \$33,500,000 | Budget Gap: \$36,500,000

Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme: applies an integrated strategy to build resilience through immediate and long-term responses to support IDPs, Syrian refugees and host communities. ICRRP aims to strengthen government coordination and planning, basic services, livelihoods, women protection and empowerment, and social cohesion.

Budget (2014-2016): \$44,050,000 | Funding received (2014 & 2015): \$29,369,604 | Budget Gap: \$17,201,228

UNDP IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN ONE OF THE MOST VOLATILE CRISES IN THE WORLD



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Kurani Ainkawa Multi-Purpose Centre (KAMPC): Empowering a diverse local community of IDPs, refugees and the local vulnerable population in Erbil

Erbil - “In August 2014, my life turned upside down when we fled from our home in Sinjar and ISIL captured our town,” says Mohammed, 24.

Mohammed was a high-school student when he escaped with his family from Sinjar last summer together with thousands of other residents. While many of the local population were airlifted off the nearby mountain, thousands of Yazidis and other displaced Iraqis who came later found themselves trapped.

“We walked two days without water and food, not really knowing where to go and whether we would survive. There was shooting and fear all around us.”

Mohammed was lucky. With the help of Syrian Kurdish and Peshmerga Forces, he and his family members made it to Dohuk and later to the Kurani Ainkawa quarter of Erbil. He is now an active member of the UNDP-supported Kurani Ainkawa Multi-Purpose Centre (KAMPC). He enjoys organizing community sports and dialogue events to promote peaceful cohabitation and to deepen the sense of community in the diverse neighbourhood, where a high density of displaced people and refugees live amongst the local vulnerable population.

“Before I got engaged in KAMPC’s activities, I felt lonely and insecure. But when I got involved in KAMPC’s participatory assessment as a representative of the IDPs to recommend which types of vocational trainings and community activities the community needed, I gained confidence in humanity again,” Mohammed remembers. “When I will go back to Sinjar, I will bring KAMPC’s community spirit to my town and organize community activities myself,” Mohammed says.

Through its Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP), UNDP focuses on improving the delivery of public services and providing direct support to Government crisis

and coordination mechanisms and institutions. A specific programme component focuses on providing livelihood opportunities and promoting dialogue amongst the displaced population, host families and refugees. The KAMPC programme falls under this category.

AN APPEAL OF URGENCY

It is the view of UNDP Iraq that supporting Iraq at the Federal and regional levels is a “now or never proposition.” UNDP is committed to do more to help. With its track record in stabilization, crisis response and local area development, UNDP is positioned and stands ready to implement a cutting edge resilience agenda. The outlines of this agenda are clear. A **housing credit union** to help families rebuild destroyed homes is a priority. **Public works programmes** are being planned to employ out-of-work youth to rebuild cities, towns and villages. Projects that help communities introduce **energy-smart grids** as they rebuild make sense, and programmes that help **women play an active role** in the country’s reconstruction and reform are needed. UNDP has been asked to help with all of these and is ready to do so, if it receives funding.