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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

# Iraq at a crossroads of development and crises

Iraq faces a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Alarming development gaps and security risks affect 5 million people, of which nearly 2.5 million have fled their homes in the central and northern regions, in addition to 245,000 Syrians seeking refuge in Kurdistan.

Between December 2013 and end 2014, nearly 2.5 million of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled their homes in central and northern Iraq, seeking security in Kurdistan, and other governorates such as Karbala, Diyala, Najaf and Basra.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq itself hosts 970,000 IDPs and 245,000 Syrian refugees (as of March 2015).

Waves of instability and violence have directly affected more than 5 million people in Iraq. This number may increase even further as counter-insurgency efforts continue.

The impact of this unprecedented humanitarian crisis extends beyond populations to all institutions, systems and political processes.

With the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNDP is spearheading resilience approaches to help Syrian refugees and IDPs rebuild their livelihoods and become more self-reliant in the medium-term.

This incorporates the broader issue of social cohesion, which is at the heart of any form of stabilization, and sits at the centre of the United Nations strategic planning in Iraq.

## A TRUSTED PARTNER

UNDP has nearly 40 years of experience in Iraq leading the UN's development work, and providing knowledge and practical expertise. This includes measures to improve struggling local economies and help national partners serve all Iraqi citizens and refugees with responsive basic services.

UNDP focuses on inclusive participation, accountability, access to justice, women's empowerment, security sector reform, decentralization and private sector development in its long-term engagement in Iraq. In particular, UNDP supports the government's 4-year development plans (2014-2017).

In the face of this largest humanitarian emergency in the world, UNDP leads the UN support to employment and income generation, so that people are able to take care of themselves and become less dependent on handouts.

UNDP supports central and local authorities in leading the crisis response, and in the rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure, particularly in those areas where the return of displaced people is possible. Finally, UNDP seeks to pre-empt gross human rights violations, reduce risks of gender-based violence, and to foster dialogue among diverse communities in developing tools to mediate and resolve conflicts.

## NGO PARTNERSHIPS

Competition in labour markets cause hostility and tensions between displaced persons, refugees and host communities. To address the stress on the social compact, UNDP has earmarked US\$11.7 for livelihood support through local organizations over two years. In 2014, we granted 18 local NGOs of small funds—in total US\$5.3—to deliver vocational training, and create jobs and small businesses.



## JOB AND BUSINESS CREATION

Vocational training and cash grants have bolstered entrepreneurship and job creation for internally displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host communities, reaching to 14,000 people by March 2015. With the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR, UNDP conducted an Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) for Kurdistan. A job placement centre enrolled some 100 job seekers. The Erbil Chamber of Commerce and Industry launched business grants for at least 150 women. In Basra, the rebuilding of a souk (market) and vocational training helped 1080 displaced persons restart their lives—one third are women. Photo: Vocational training, Suleymaniya, graduation of 180 trainees © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.

## PROTECTION

UNDP seeks to pre-empt human rights violations and reduce risks of gender-based violence. We work with the Department for Combating Violence against Women, the Bar Association and the Human Rights Council to provide landmark human rights protections to women and girls. Five legal aid centres in refugee camps and five mobile teams served 5,350 persons, and reached to 10,000 people with legal awareness. Finally, mine risks awareness attained 91,000 people (March 2015).



## COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

UNDP has engaged US\$ 3 million over two years, to develop dialogue platforms for mediating and resolving conflicts; group sessions have have started in 11 host communities in Kurdistan with 2,000 refugees and displaced persons. Some 70 local volunteers from host communities facilitate dialogue and arrange community activities. We will build upon inclusive dialogue among youth groups, women's organizations, religious and community leaders to lift up social cohesion as part of any form of stabilization for Iraq. Photo: Dialogue platform in Dohuk © UNDP/German Robles Osuna.

## JOB SKILLS TRAINING AND TEMPORARY INCOME

Job skills training in masonry, plumbing and electricity, followed by cash-for-work activities, provided temporary income to 2,360 displaced persons in camps in Kurdistan. It helped build camp infrastructure such as shelters, bathrooms and sewerage systems, whilst 400 women received cash-for-work for health-related awareness activities in distribution centres. Some 2,950 trainees in non-camp settings also accessed to various short-term opportunities. Photo: Sewerage, Khanke camp © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments and communities encounter unprecedented challenges in facing the sudden demand for social infrastructure, such as shelter, health, education, electricity, water and sanitation. As government ownership is the key to the provision of responsive basic services, UNDP has earmarked US\$17 million for direct grants to local authorities to build or rehabilitate basic infrastructure.

## COORDINATION

As Iraq contends with the largest number of internally displaced persons in the world, the government is responsible for direct relief, but aid is hampered by a budgetary crisis, worsened by the sharp drop in the price of oil. The humanitarian response is a joint effort by governorates, municipalities, NGOs and international agencies. Government's oversight of this aid is critical to provide equitable public services to all affected people.

## SOCIAL COHESION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

UNDP leads—together with the Danish Refugee Council—the Social Cohesion and Sustainable Livelihoods cluster. We have identified 800,000 people in urgent need of income based on multi-cluster and sector needs assessments that we sponsored. UNDP also co-leads with the UNHCR the Intersector Refugee Coordination, spearheading resilience approaches. Following a regional agreement in the five countries hosting Syrian refugees, we signed an operational framework with the UNHCR in Iraq, which lays out collaboration for 2015. Priority is given to assist families in extremely vulnerable circumstances.



**COMMUNITY BASIC SERVICES**

UNDP has supported local governments for the construction of key infrastructure such as water, sewerage and electricity systems, roads, a health centre and camp management office for prefabricated settlements in Dawoodiya (Dohuk), Barzinja (Suleymaniya) and Baharka (Erbil). Infrastructure, which was built in 2014, now serves more than 5,000 individuals. We also provided emergency sanitation, notably dislodging trucks, for 100 schools in the Governorate of Dohuk at a critical time when most displaced populations were lodging in public buildings. Photo: Water supply, Dawoodiya camp © UN OCHA/Elias Bahaa.



**JOINT CRISIS CENTRE**

UNDP Iraq has been instrumental in setting up—for the Kurdistan's Ministry of Interior—a Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) centre in Erbil. The centre has now started to provide situational reports on the humanitarian crisis, which will be used for sectoral decision-making and policy-making. UNDP helps the Kurdistan's Ministry of Planning integrate long-term needs of refugees and displaced persons in the region's development plans. In Baghdad, UNDP also provides expertise to the crisis management centre, which coordinates the aid from the federal government to the affected people. Photo: Joint Crisis Coordination, Erbil © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.

# To never give up on dreams of a better life

In every forced population displacement, people struggle with their livelihoods from getting emergency cash and employment to finding ways to rebuild their lives on the medium-term.



Survival can be summed up in three words —never give up. This is the saying of thousands of internally displaced people, who fled violence in Mosul, Salah-Edin, Sinjar, Baiji and Diyala towards the south if Iraq. Some 300 families, 2,400 persons, now live in camps near the popular market of the 5-Miles District and in Tanoma in the suburbs of the city of Basra.

Sajad Fadel, 20, arrived in the southern governorate in September 2014. Originally from Al-Ramadi, Anbar, he had left behind his home and family.

When UNDP's local partner, the Canadian Aid Organization for Iraqi Society and Rehabilitation (CAOFISR), started a livelihoods project early 2015, Sajad trained fellow displaced people in construction works. He also joined a paint training to refresh his skills.

"I dream of the day I will open a shop and decently earn my life," Sajad told us.



A market to increase business prospects © UNDP/CAOFISR.

Around 200 individuals, of which one third are women, attended vocational training in sewing, hairdressing, carpentry, electricity, bakery and restaurant. Some 1,000 family members benefitted from this income generation, and 500 individuals, including the host community, participated in business courses, which will help them start small enterprises or better match job opportunities.

To open soon, a local market will increase prospects to start up new business and serve their neighbourhood.

# Cash-for-work, a boost for vulnerable households

While most jobs involve manual labour and thus employ men, their entire families benefit from the short-term income they bring in.



For Murad, 41, a father of seven, the worst part of being internally displaced was to endure being jobless for more than six months. “We are tens of thousands seeking any kind of manual labour in the Governorate of Dohuk.”

“In the Sinjar, I had a house and a job; I was transporting passengers,” he told us. “When I was forced to flee in August 2014, the militants have taken everything we had.”

Then UNDP’s local partner, the non-government organization KURDS, offered short-term opportunities to some displaced workers for building an underground canal for waste water in the camp of Khanke. “This job is like a breath of fresh air,” he told us.

Ali, 45, was belonging to the police forces in Mosul until the town fell in the hands of the insurgents in June 2014. They blew off his house, which threw his family of nine on the roads towards Erbil.

Seven months later, while attending a short masonry course preparing for the construction of an extension of Baharka camp, he was not yet sure how he could



Cash-for-work in Khanke camp: “This job is like a breath of fresh air” © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.

restart his life. “There is nothing for us here,” he said sadly. “What did you learn?” we asked. Then, a smile: “To build a house, Inch’ Allah.”

Kasim, 24, was a plumber in Mosul. As the only bread earner of a family of eight, he joined cash-for-work activities in Baharka. “I was struggling to get daily labour on construction sites in Erbil and spending most of my wages in transportation costs,” he said. “Now, I can help improve the camp, and also give more money to my parents.”

In 2014, UNDP Iraq helped:

CREATE JOBS AND BUSINESSES

14,000 PEOPLE

SPEARHEAD RESILIENCE APPROACHES

245,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES

FOSTER SOCIAL COHESION

2,000 PEOPLE, 11 COMMUNITIES

PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES IN CAMPS

5,000 DISPLACED PERSONS

PREVENT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

10,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS

REACH OUT ON MINE RISKS

91,000 PEOPLE



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## UNDP Iraq gratefully acknowledges the following partners, who help us reach to the most vulnerable families among Iraqi displaced persons, Syrian refugees, and their host communities

*These are earmarked funds directed towards helping local governments and NGO partners provide basic services and economic opportunities to the victims of the security and humanitarian crisis in Iraq—the largest in the world. These funds are also used to foster social cohesion and peace-building, and seek to preempt human rights violations, in particular gender-based violence.*

Partner	2014-2015 • In US Dollars
1 Japan (2014)	2,000,000
2 Japan for Syrian Refugees (2015)	1,220,000
3 Japan for IDPs (2015)	13,850,000
4 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2014)	7,960,800
5 UNDP (2014)	2,070,000
8 Kuwait (2014)	250,000
9 CERF (2014)	250,000
10 CERF (2015)	250,000
11 Switzerland (2014)	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,650,800</b>

Funding Needs	2015 • In US Dollars
1 Livelihoods	11,786,200
2 Infrastructure	17,000,000
3 Protection	4,000,000
4 Social Cohesion	3,000,000
5 Government Coordination	2,550,000
8 Programme Management	5,713,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,050,000</b>