Supporting Resilience in Iraq

Key Refugee Profile in Iraq

Women and Girls
Around 33% women and girls at reproductive age (18-59 yr.)
Approx. 12 – 15% of refugee Households are Female Headed
⇒ Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is a main protection concern

Vulnerability
• 86% of the refugees struggling with insufficient household income
• Financial difficulty in exacerbating housing and food security
⇒ Sustainable livelihoods becomes the key priority

High Concentration in Host Communities
Approximately 60-65% of refugees in non-camp settings
High percentage of the refugees against the local population (20% in Duhok, 10% in Erbil)
⇒ Greater impact and burden on host communities
Empowering a life can build Resilient Nations

“Now I feel that I am not alone after receiving legal and social assistance provided by your staff, my problem is now being followed up on by you that make me optimistic to start again my live.”

20 year-old woman, who was forced to marry after arrival at Arbat Refugee camp in Sulaymania, suffered from domestic violence. UNDP-supported legal aid lawyer undertook legal procedures to solve her case, in addition to being provided psychosocial assistance by the project social worker.
Challenges and Opportunities

**Challenges**
- Overstretched basic service capacity
- Socio-economic impacts on host community
- Need for sustainable protection of girls and women
- Need for enhanced Government’s response strategies & coordination

**Opportunities**
- Ethnic socialization
- Kurdistan Government’s political will to establish comprehensive response plan and coordination
- Strong economy

Harness socio-economic favorable environment
Support Host Gov’t/Communities to support the refugees
## UNDP Approach to Resilience-based Response in Iraq

### Basic services/Local Governance
- **Coping**: Direct basic service provision, Multi-sector Needs Assessment, Gov’t led coord. mechanism
- **Recovering**: Gov’t Response Plan, Participatory local planning
- **Sustaining**: Local/Gov’t capacity building, Socio-econ data collection/analyses

### Livelihood/Economic Empowerment
- **Coping**: Temporal income generation (e.g., Cash for work)
- **Recovering**: Vocational training, Youth apprenticeship, Job-placement, Micro/SME promotion
- **Sustaining**: Business networking, Skill/knowledge transfer

### Protection/Human Rights
- **Coping**: Awareness-raising & Legal education w/ special focus on women & girls
- **Recovering**: Provision of legal assistance, Community mobilization for social cohesion
- **Sustaining**: Capacity building of CSOs/Gov’t to scale up legal services for refugees with secured resources
Results to date

Basic Service Provision/Local Governance
- A rapid need assessment conducted at onset of the surge influx in August 2013
- A government-led coordination mechanism in place on non-camp refugee support

Livelihood and Economic Empowerment
- Livelihood assessment conducted
- Livelihood Sector Working Group for Iraq RRP-6 established and now functional

Women/Girls Protection & Human Rights
- Support for protection for Women and Girls initiated in Oct 2013
- Total of 15 sensitization and awareness-raising workshops on SGBV and women’s legal rights conducted and over 320 refugees trained
- Two Trainings for legal protection for SGBV cases conducted to DfCVAW (government) staff
- The DfCVAW offices established and functional in the refugee camps in all three Governorates in Kurdistan Region
- 19 SGBV cases reported to Legal Help Desk in the camps and legal services provided