Iraq – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

December 17, 2010

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 30, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- During December, a series of attacks targeting Shiite pilgrims traveling for the Ashoura festival occurred throughout Iraq. In addition, sectarian violence in early November displaced dozens of Christian families from Baghdad and Mosul to governorates in northern Iraq, joining others displaced by sectarian violence earlier in the year and bringing the total to nearly 900 displaced families, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). With USAID/OFDA funding, IOM distributed basic relief supplies to as many as 470 families, or more than 2,800 individuals, displaced by recent violence.

- In late October, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $4.3 million to IOM for livelihood activities targeting under- and unemployed vulnerable individuals throughout Iraq, bringing total U.S. Government humanitarian assistance to Iraq in FY 2011 to more than $11.6 million. More than $29 million in ongoing FY 2010 USAID/OFDA programming through seven non-governmental organizations (NGOs), U.N. agencies, and international organizations continues to support more than 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, as well as host communities.

- USAID/OFDA staff in Iraq continue to conduct regular field visits to monitor ongoing activities, identify gaps in humanitarian assistance, and link emergency initiatives to early recovery programs, as well as facilitate durable solutions to displacement, which may include assisting families in returning to areas of origin, resettling in a third location, or integrating into areas of displacement.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Estimated Remaining Post-2006 IDP Population</th>
<th>Estimated Total IDP Population</th>
<th>Refugees Registered with UNHCR¹</th>
<th>Estimated Returnee Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOM – November 2010</td>
<td>1.66 million</td>
<td>2.85 million</td>
<td>209,669</td>
<td>429,084</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

- USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Iraqis: $4,288,616
- State/PRM² Humanitarian Assistance³ to Iraqis: $7,370,999
- Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Iraqis: $11,659,615

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 more than 1.6 million people—or 5.5 percent of the population—to flee their homes and increasing the total displaced population to more than 2.8 million people.

- Improved security conditions in 2008 slowed displacement and led to a limited number of returns to places of origin—a trend that continued in 2010. In 2009 and 2010, improved security also contributed to increased humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including IDPs. U.N. agencies and NGOs continue to identify and meet needs in regions of critical vulnerability countrywide. In areas where conditions have stabilized, humanitarian agencies are shifting to early recovery activities.

Displacement and Returns

- USAID/OFDA funds IOM to monitor displacement, returns, and vulnerability, which includes conducting household surveys on humanitarian needs. IOM also tracks IDP preferences for durable solutions to displacement. This allows relief agencies to provide appropriate assistance and helps prevent secondary displacement.

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
³ State/PRM assistance is regional in scope, addressing the needs of IDPs and other conflict-affected groups residing in Iraq, as well as Iraqi refugees residing in host countries, including Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.
As of November, IOM had interviewed approximately 202,000 IDP households, surveying more than 1.2 million individuals displaced since 2006, as well as nearly 10,400 returnee families, or more than 62,000 individuals. Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, and Ninawa governorates continue to host the largest post-2006 IDP populations, according to IOM. Baghdad and Diyala also continue to receive the highest number of returning families. Among the displaced, one in eight Iraqi households is headed by a woman, according to IOM. (See attached map for IDP and returnee population figures by governorate.)

According to UNHCR, IDP return rates decreased between October 2009 and October 2010. Approximately 50 percent fewer individuals returned from July to October 2010 compared with the same period in 2009. Displaced individuals cite insecurity and a lack of basic services and employment opportunities as the primary reasons for not returning.

Access to Water

Lack of water and sanitation infrastructure remains a concern throughout Iraq. As a result, more than 7.6 million Iraqis lack access to safe drinking water, particularly in the south, according to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In October, UNESCO began a survey of Iraq’s groundwater sources to assess water availability. Humanitarian agencies continue to closely monitor health indicators and implement water, sanitation, and hygiene programs in areas of concern.

More than $1.7 million in FY 2010 funding from USAID/OFDA supports Save the Children’s community-based program to establish water access points and rehabilitate household water treatment systems in Basrah and Diyala governorates, benefitting up to 125,000 individuals. In addition, $1.7 million in USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) supports hygiene promotion workshops in water management, conservation, filtration, and methods of safe storage for as many as 84,300 individuals in Dhi Qar, Erbil, Muthanna, and Wasit governorates.

Agriculture and Food Security

Insufficient crop yields, increased food prices, and inconsistent distribution contribute to food insecurity among vulnerable individuals in Iraq. Food security remains an issue for returning families, with 69 percent of returnees identifying access to food as a top priority, according to IOM. Among female-headed returnee households, 74 percent cite food as a priority need.

Due to favorable weather conditions in the north, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Global Information and Early Warning System estimates an above-average yield of 3.1 million tons for 2010 wheat and barley—compared to 1.8 million tons harvested in recent drought-affected years. However, despite near-record yields in northern Iraq, low water levels in the Euphrates and Tigris rivers resulted in average to below-average production in southern Iraq.

More than $2.8 million of USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding to International Relief and Development (IRD) supports agriculture and food security programs for up to 10,000 individuals in Baghdad, Babil, Kirkuk, and Salah ad Din governorates, including activities to distribute vegetable seeds and agricultural inputs, as well as support animal husbandry.

Economic Recovery and Market Systems

IDPs in Iraq’s 18 governorates identified access to work and shelter as the most urgent needs, followed by food, according to IOM Governorate Profile surveys published in November. In December, the U.N.-led Inter-Agency Information and Analysis Unit reported that the national unemployment rate in Iraq was 15 percent, with Muthanna and Dhi Qar governorates reporting the highest rates. IOM reported that nearly 67 percent of returnees in Iraq had no employed family members.

In late October 2010, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $4.3 million in FY 2011 funding to IOM for an economic recovery program benefitting approximately 7,400 people. The program helps participants establish or expand small businesses and purchase necessary equipment or materials. Participants also receive vocational or business training, allowing beneficiaries to find employment within their communities through the expansion of businesses and the improvement of agriculture and livestock skills.

Shelter and Settlements

Lack of housing remains a challenge in Iraq, most directly impacting IDPs. The Government of Iraq estimates that the housing shortage affects over 300,000 families throughout the country. Most IDPs rent accommodation at progressively rising rates or live in the homes of friends and host families, straining collective resources.

More than $4.1 million of USAID/OFDA funding from FY 2010 continues to support four NGO shelter programs in eight governorates of Iraq. Since October 2009, USAID/OFDA has supported an International Rescue
Committee (IRC) program to provide emergency shelter to approximately 4,200 vulnerable individuals in central Iraq. IRC reported the rehabilitation of 90 houses benefiting nearly 600 individuals during November 2010.

**FY 2011 USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE IRAQS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>Economic Recovery and Market Systems</td>
<td>Basrah, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Maysan, Ninawa, Qadisiyah, and Sulaymaniyah Governorates</td>
<td>$4,272,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administrative Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$4,288,616</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Implementing Partner</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Rescue Committee (IRC)</td>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>$670,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.N. World Food Program (WFP)</td>
<td>Food Assistance</td>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>$6,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL STATE/PRM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$7,370,999</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2011**  
**$11,659,615**

1 USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 17, 2010.  
2 State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of December 17, 2010.

**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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Iraq may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- 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, warehouse space, etc); 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 (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)