Forced migration: An issue of great concern to the UN in Iraq

The bombing of the Al-Askari Shrine in Samarra in February 2006 led to an escalation in sectarian violence which forced millions of Iraqis out of their homes in the months and years that followed. Many sought refuge abroad, but large numbers of individuals also became internally displaced within Iraq, joining the many others who had left their homes during previous waves of displacement and forced population movements under the Saddam Hussein regime.

In 2013, around 1.1 million persons (IDPs) live either with families, in rented accommodation or in informal settlements, often under harsh conditions, and many are highly vulnerable. UNHCR and other UN agencies undertake humanitarian interventions to improve their living conditions, including shelter renovations and the provision of non-food items, and actively seek durable solutions for IDPs with the Government of Iraq.

At the same time, there are over 143,000 refugees and asylum seekers from various countries in camps, settlements and urban settings across the country, with hundreds of people who are...
fleeing the ongoing conflict in Syria arriving in Iraq every day.

As of March 2013, there were 102,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, with around 800 additional persons arriving every day. More than 75,000 Iraqis who fled to Syria in previous years have also returned to Iraq since mid-2012.

Refugees from Syria, living in the Al Qa‘im camp in Anbar governorate (western Iraq) and in Domiz camp in Dohuk governorate (northern Iraq), receive life-sustaining items and essential services and support from the UN, the Government of Iraq and from the local communities of Al Qa‘im and Domiz. Many refugees have also settled in urban settings in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The following is a collection of “snapshots” illustrating various aspects of the situation of IDPs and refugees in Iraq today and some of the UN family’s activities to address the needs of these vulnerable populations.

**Displaced in Baghdad: Impressions from an IDP settlement**

The moment I stepped into Moammal Al-Sadr compound in the Chikook area in northern Baghdad, I was surrounded by dozens of men, women and children. They thought I might work for an NGO, or that I might be employed by the government - sent to provide them with something to ease the hardships they face in the camp every day.

They asked me to take a look at the window-less shelters they live in, to provide financial assistance, to help get treatment for their sick children. Heavy rains this winter destroyed some of the shelters, which offer little protection from the elements.

Sixty-year-old Umm Ammar approached me with eyes full of tears and told me that she had lost her house in the sectarian violence that affected hundreds of thousands of Iraqi families across the country. She requested my assistance in getting a monthly salary from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for her son, who suffers from both physical and psychological illnesses.

Ali Al-Mshakheel / UNAMI PIO
The quest for durable solutions: Informal settlements and IDPs in Baghdad

The number of informal settlements in Baghdad is increasing, and the Baghdad Provincial Council estimates that there are more than 220 settlements today. Government officials say this problem did not exist in the city before 2003 and that it was aggravated by the sectarian violence of 2006.

Many of the settlements house Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as well as economic migrants who are coming to Baghdad in search for work but cannot find affordable housing. These informal areas have no or little access to water, sanitation, electricity, schools or health centres.

As a follow-up to the preparation of a strategy for durable shelter for IDPs and returning refugees, developed together with the Government of Iraq in 2011, UN-Habitat, with funding by the US Government, implemented the project “Initiating Durable Shelter Solutions for Iraqi IDPs and Returnees in Baghdad.” The project aims to support the Iraqi government in implementing pilot projects that provide IDPs and other vulnerable people living in informal settlements with long-term housing solutions, and continues the development of the legal, financial and institutional framework so that actions can be undertaken at scale. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been an implementing partner during the year, working with informal communities on advocacy and practical steps towards reaching secure land tenure and accessing basic services from the government.

As part of the project, UN-Habitat supported the creation of a technical committee, consisting of the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, Ministry of Housing and Construction, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, Baghdad Municipality and Baghdad Provincial Council. Acknowledging that there is not one single solution to this problem, the committee has developed three different approaches on how to address the settlements: land sharing, upgrading and relocation.

**Land sharing** involves the redevelopment of an informal settlement to allow space for dense social housing, private housing, commercial uses and governmental uses. This allows communities to remain intact, retaining livelihoods and community cohesion, and allows profitable ventures to offset investment costs of social housing for the most vulnerable. This “value-capture” mechanism allows land sharing to be implemented at scale, as initial capital investment on social housing is reimbursed through the sale of commercial land. The project has developed pre-feasibility studies on a number of sites, showing that the approach would be favourable in Baghdad, and a feasibility study on one selected site that is now in a negotiation process.

**Upgrading** can be used where land value is not high and allows informal settlers to stay in their current housing. They are supported by formalizing land ownership through a system of regular, affordable payments; this allows the government to provide infrastructure and improve their settlement in line with Iraqi standards. Two pilot projects have been initiated and information has been collected on livelihood, housing status and income. Settlement improvement plans have been drawn up by inhabitants with the support of the Norwegian Refugee Council and UN-Habitat.

**Relocation** is the least preferable option, where people are moved to a new location and will have to be provided with housing units - which is often a costly and complicated process - and where livelihood in the new location is
often the biggest challenge. In this regard, two of the member entities of the technical committee, the Baghdad Provincial Council and the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works, have initiated projects.

In addition, a district strategy has been developed for 9-Neessan district in the northeast of Baghdad to identify which approach could be used for 37 different settlements in the area. The next step is to suggest a strategy for the whole city.

In order for governmental staff to continue the work, guidelines with step-by-step suggestions on how to implement and choose the different approaches, conduct participatory settlement planning and other important steps in providing durable housing solutions have been developed. The guidelines will be iteratively updated as more experience is being gathered throughout implementation. Capacity development of staff from the entities in the technical committee is also being conducted through continuous trainings and training of trainers, where international experts are invited to Iraq to share international best practices and develop Iraq-specific approaches together with the participants. This is also a step in enabling the government to follow through with the different approaches.

Livelihood is one of the biggest challenges in finding durable solutions for informal settlements. Therefore, UN-Habitat is coordinating with the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to implement their different approaches in the settlements, including skills training and generating employment through neighbourhood improvement projects. UN-Habitat is also working with microfinance institutions and the National Housing Fund to develop modalities for short-term housing improvement loans that can target IDPs and other vulnerable people, particularly in relation to neighbourhood upgrading projects.

Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable

For years many Iraqis have faced the dual challenges of accessing basic services and obtaining employment, none more so than the individuals who were displaced to the South by the sectarian violence that followed the Samarra bombing in 2006. Their situation was made worse by environmental challenges such as severe drought in the Marshlands.

UNDP’s Local Area Development Programme (LADP) was launched to strengthen local authorities to plan and manage reconstruction and development activities. By involving the people who will be affected from the beginning, LADP allowed local communities to take the lead in their own development. The selection process engaged with the same people involved in the planning process and plans were formulated by considering the needs of those most vulnerable, many of whom were internally displaced.

One of the most important priorities for displaced people is gaining employment. The project aimed to encourage economic growth in a few initial areas facing great need, Hillah, Halabja and the Marshlands. Many activities reinforced social connections and rehabilitated physical infrastructure using labour-intensive approaches.

By working alongside local authorities, LADP built the capacity of Iraqis to plan and implement their own infrastructure projects, funded by their own resources. To achieve this, a range of actors from civil society and the private sector were involved to design and implement the local development plans.

The projects resulting from these public consultations are now being implemented under a new phase of
LADP: In the governorates of Missan, Thi-Qar and Basra, projects are specifically targeting the needs of the displaced. LADP is helping small businesses to grow by strengthening their business models. To date, LADP has supported 3,400 enterprises and created 463 businesses.

Apart from employment, internally displaced individuals suffer from a chronic lack of basic services. In response to this, projects related to water and sanitation, electricity and the construction of greenhouses have been successfully implemented to support the on-going work of LADP.

This project ensures that Iraq’s most vulnerable, like the displaced, are being considered, and ensures local authorities address their specific needs.

IDP success story: Idriss the Beekeeper

“Turning your hobby into your work is one of the best things that can happen in life,” said Mr. Idriss Najehl, a beekeeper from Abu Khanazeer village in the province of Diyala.

He carefully removed honey from the beehive and offered us a taste. “Destiny often takes strange turns and life can be unpredictable,” he said. “I never would’ve thought that in just a few years I would go from being a taxi driver to a professional honey producer.”

We listened carefully, while keeping a safe distance from the bees.

“I have to thank my brother for this change in profession,” he continued with a smile on his face. “Or maybe it would be more appropriate to thank his kidnappers. Or should I thank IOM instead?”

Noticing that we were confused with this statement, Idriss added, “It’s a long story. Let me explain.”

Idriss told us that, back in 2006, his family began receiving threats from Al Qaeda. “I don’t know why they targeted us. My family wasn’t involved in politics, and we didn’t have any enemies,” he said. So the family went about their business and tried to ignore the threats.

But over time, the situation in Diyala worsened, and many of Idriss’ friends and family members began to disappear or were killed. Terrorists were frequently demanding bribes for protection, and individuals with decent sources of income, in particular, became targets of intimidation and extortion. Idriss’ older brother, Kussai, was working for an oil company at the time, and frequently received threats and demands for protection money from Al Qaeda. Kussai repeatedly refused to pay the bribes until one Monday in November 2006, when he no longer had a choice. That day, he did not return home from work. Idriss, his younger brother, received a chilling phone call in the evening. “If you don’t bring us 30 million Iraqi Dinars (25,000 USD) by Wednesday,” the voice on the other end of the line threatened, “we will send your big brother back in pieces.”

“I was frightened,” Idriss remembered. “And approaching the police was not an option. At the time they were powerless, and some even corrupt. It was just too risky,” he explained to us. “But I had to do everything I could to save my big brother.”

Idriss and his younger brother Muhaned started collecting the ransom money that night. “We had about 2,000 in cash, and we borrowed another 4,000 from friends and family, but it was nowhere near enough,” he stated. “We were desperate and we knew our kidnappers weren’t joking. So we decided to sell the family gold. We only had two days, there was no time for anything else…”

In Iraq, family gold is often regarded as ‘Zina and Khazina,’ which means that it is there for adornment, but it is also there to save you during difficult times. Embracing ‘Zina and Khazina,’ Idriss and Muhaned called their wives and asked them to gather all of the jewellery, coins, and antiques they had collected for generations. Gathering everything, including the earrings, necklaces, and rings from their wives’ fingers, the brothers sold it all the next morning.
“I think the jewellery trader knew we were in a panic, though, and he didn’t give us more than 50 percent of its real value,” Idriss stated. “So I had no other choice, and I sold my taxi the next day too. Sure, it meant losing my job, my investment, and the only way I had to support my family... But there was nothing else I could do.”

With the sale of the taxi, Idriss finally had enough money to free his brother, and Kussai was let go the following morning. “He was beaten up and had bruises all over his body, but he was alive,” Idriss said, still obviously uncomfortable discussing the situation. “And then the three of us, along with our wives and kids, left our houses the next morning and headed to Salahuddin.” He would not go into any further details on how he dealt with his brother’s kidnappers.

“We did not have a choice because we knew the terrorists would come back again,” Idriss said. “And the next day we found ourselves totally destitute, in a new city, without money or jobs.”

Sadly, it was a story that has been told in Iraq many times before.

For the next two years, Idriss’ family stayed with relatives. “This was the hardest period of my life. My brothers and I lived from charity, and if we were lucky enough, we would get an odd job or two to make a little cash. Every morning we would go to the city market place hoping somebody would hire us for a day. Most of the time we were unsuccessful, though. We didn’t even have enough money to buy food.”

By the end of 2008, the brothers decided to go back to their village. Idriss explained that they were hoping that after two years the terrorists would have forgotten about them. They had also heard that the situation in Diyala had improved, although it was still far from being a safe place.

“We were willing to take the risk because life in exile was extremely difficult for us,” he stated.

Luckily, their friends had looked after their property while the family was away. They also had some land and were able to begin growing enough food for their own needs. “Although life had improved compared to the past two years in Salahuddin, it was still very hard for us. All three of us brothers were out of work,” Idriss told us. “My youngest brother, Muhaned, was unemployed before the move, and was still unable to find a job. As for Kussai, even if he wanted to go back to his old job, he was still too afraid to travel to the city every day. And for me, well, I didn’t have my taxi anymore.”

By mid-2010, the security situation in Iraq improved and Kussai was finally able to find employment again. An accountant by trade, he was hired by a local company to do their books. He was still afraid to move around the city, however, and had to be accompanied by either Idriss or Muhaned on his way to and from work every day.

In early 2011, Idriss was selected to receive an in-kind grant (IKG) by IOM’s Programme for Human Security and Stabilization. Because he had experience with beekeeping and already owned two beehive boxes for personal production, Idriss was given an IKG to start a honey production business. The IKG contained ten beehive boxes, three honey separators, a bee pump, protective clothing, pesticides, and insecticides.

IOM also provided Idriss with a three-day training and general orientation on beekeeping. “It was very useful,” he stated. “Especially the part on how to use pesticides and insecticides to protect bees. I had heard of this but never done it before; IOM’s expert teachers taught me a lot.”

Within a year’s time, Idriss has been able to start and run a profitable honey business. Using eucalyptus, orange, and lemon blossoms, his bees produce enough honey to bring in about 230 USD per month. Each kilo of honey sells for about 28 USD, and he cannot produce enough to meet demand. “I recently purchased three more beehive boxes, and now have twelve colonies, up from nine!”

After years of struggle and destitution, the family is almost back on track. Idriss and Kussai are also currently both saving to help their youngest brother, Muhaned, start a fish farming business.

“To be honest, I am much happier as a bee farmer than as a taxi driver,” Idriss stated. “No offense, but I often prefer the company of bees. They are much less harmful than humans during hard times...”
Learn to change the future: Educational support programme for IDPs and refugees

Around 1.5 million people in Iraq are refugees or internally displaced people, women, men and children who struggle every day to meet their basic needs and access essential services. While finding shelter and ensuring food for these people are obvious immediate priorities, education should be part of the emergency response as well as of long-term plans.

Education is a basic right and it is crucial in restoring confidence to people who lost everything. Furthermore, education plays a major role in ensuring poverty reduction and in the empowerment of individuals who can contribute positively to their communities.

UNESCO, together with UNHCR, developed an Educational Support Programme targeting IDPs and refugee communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, Mosul and Kirkuk.

The programme aims at increasing access to education and employment opportunities for vulnerable illiterates in rural and poor urban areas, specifically youth and women, while supporting national institutions and community-based organizations in delivering quality literacy courses and life skills training to IDPs and refugees.

With the implementation of its first phase, which entailed the establishment of 17 Community Learning Centres, the programme reached out to 1,294 direct beneficiaries and more than 6,000 indirect beneficiaries; numbers which exceeded the planned figures.

Building on the achieved results, the programme has been expanded to target 1,200 new beneficiaries aged 15 and over (60 percent women). The beneficiaries are IDPs and a small group of Syrian refugees (approximately 240) living in host communities in the selected regions of intervention.

Planned activities include the provision of capacity building for literacy facilitators and teachers, a full cycle of literacy courses, developed on the basis of the Iraqi national curriculum and delivered through the Community Learning Centres, and a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration to improve access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Additional interventions will include the provision of basic life skills training, counselling and informal vocational training.

UNESCO will also mainstream peace-building into the educational programmes for youth to foster dialogue and reconciliation. The agency will launch the “Reading for Peace” campaign to support the development of Peace-Libraries in the Community Learning Centres.

All components have been designed with a view to support targeted beneficiaries in their transition to durable solutions, whether this will be repatriation/return to the country/community of origin, integration into the new community or resettlement in a third country.

The Director of UNESCO Office in Iraq, Ms. Louise Haxthausen, described the programme as “providing IDPs and refugees with real and tangible alternatives to take control of their own future, by offering the literacy skills they need to access better employment opportunities and by promoting their full integration into the host communities.”
Photo Gallery

Children in Al Qa'im camp. Photo: Fabienne Vinet / UNAMI PIO

Deputy SRSG Jacqueline Badcock speaking to refugees in Domiz camp in June 2012. Photo: Anne Czichos / UNAMI PIO

A disabled child in Domiz camp. Photo: Fabienne Vinet / UNAMI PIO

Deputy SRSG Jacqueline Badcock speaking to refugees in Domiz camp in June 2012. Photo: Anne Czichos / UNAMI PIO

Tents in Domiz camp. Photo: Anne Czichos / UNAMI PIO

SRSG Martin Kobler in Domiz camp in June 2012. Photo: Anne Czichos / UNAMI PIO
A boy carrying non-food items distributed by the UN to refugees in Erbil. Photo: Fabienne Vinet / UNAMI PIO

Children in the Chikook IDP settlement near Baghdad. Photo: Sarmad Al-Safy / UNAMI PIO

UNICEF Iraq Representative Dr. Marzio Babille with refugee children in Domiz camp. Photo: Salam Abdulmunem / UNICEF

A woman receiving a measles shot during a UNICEF-supported vaccination campaign at Domiz camp. Photo: Salam Abdulmunem / UNICEF
Health in crisis: Providing health care to Syrian refugees

“T he current security situation in Syria, along with the desire to protect my children, forced me to leave my home,” said Samira, a middle-aged Syrian mother who fled home with her four children seven months ago.

“We are living in precarious conditions in a crowded place, but, alhamdulillah, we are safe and healthy, receiving food and health care services free of charge,” Samira said with tears in her eyes.

Samira had her children vaccinated and visited the primary health care centres inside Domiz camp several times. “Although we had to wait long hours to see a doctor and receive medication, I could not stand watching my children being sick. I therefore take every opportunity to visit the primary health care centre when needed,” she added.

The Government of Iraq and humanitarian partners are involved in a major effort to improve the health situation, by providing safe food and drinking water and seeking to create a healthy environment for Syrian refugees. The Ministry of Health, through the Departments of Health in Dohuk and Anbar governorates, with the technical support and assistance of WHO and other humanitarian partners, runs four health clinics in the camps, providing a comprehensive package of essential health services - free of charge. Similar services are also provided to Syrian refugees living outside the camp through the existing health care centres and hospitals.

The four clinics inside the camps and the mental health care centre offer medical consultations, education and psychosocial support to the Syrian refugees. As of the end of March, 49 health workers had provided more than 30,000 consultations in the two camps, of which 15,000 were for female refugees and 14,200 for males.

As part of its humanitarian intervention for Syrian refugees, WHO, along with other humanitarian partners, also supported the Ministry of Health/Departments of Health in both governorates in conducting a joint field assessment aimed at better understanding health conditions, services provided and needs of Syrian refugees in Iraq. The assessment targeted Syrians residing inside the camps and within host communities in the Anbar and Dohuk governorates.

The assessment found that children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities are more at risk in terms of chronic diseases and psychosocial and violence-related illnesses. In addition, it was found that there is a shortage of medical supplies, especially for chronic diseases, with no facilities for people with disabilities. There is a dire need to build the capacity of the health workers in the areas of surveillance, in order to prevent the outbreak of any communicable diseases.

Based on the assessment, WHO has provided medicine to the Directorate of Health to cover the needs for three to five months. One hundred and fifty wheelchairs and other medical supplies, including 33 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), hygiene kits, vaccination services, and health education have been provided to Syrian refugees. WHO also supported the Ministry of Health to implement measures to detect and control disease outbreaks and contributed to the establishment of clinics and to building the capacity of the medical staff in both refugee camps, as well as in local communities.

Despite all the efforts and the existing levels of assistance, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of the local health institutions, as the influx of Syrian refugees into Iraq is predicted to increase further.

The situation in the camps is deteriorating, as the number of new refugees arriving recently increased dramatically, leading to an increased risk of disease outbreaks and also to overburdening the health system in Domiz camp, which is receiving almost 500 Syrian refugees every day.
As part of its mission to support “delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every child birth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled”, UNFPA has aimed at supporting the enhancement of Reproductive Health (RH) services for Syrian refugees since the early days of the crisis in Syria.

In the north of Iraq, the agency employs three main strategies. The first consists of ensuring access to RH services and information, including emergency obstetric care; the second of ensuring access to gender-based violence (GBV) information and psycho-social support and first aid for Syrian women and young girls (both in refugee camps and within host communities), with a particular focus on survivors of GBV; and the third of facilitating sensitization and mobilization of Syrian youth, male and female, in refugee camps and within host communities, on issues related to sexual and reproductive health, violence and GBV.

To this end, UNFPA established a reproductive health clinic within the Primary Health Care Centre inside Domiz Camp in Dohuk in February 2013 in cooperation with the Department of Health (DoH) in Dohuk, and is supporting the provision of this clinic with staff (one gynaecologist and four nurses and midwives), equipment, and medicine. Moreover, in cooperation with UN agencies and NGOs, UNFPA created a special space within this clinic for women and young girls to gather and discuss RH and GBV-related issues they face inside the camp. A committee was formed by the camp management to facilitate gatherings to allow UNFPA and its partners to better address issues faced by the refugees.

UNFPA delivered reproductive health kits to the DoH to serve the reproductive health needs of all refugees residing in the camp (estimated at around 80,000 individuals) and those integrated within local communities, and, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and DoH, conducted Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) training. Twenty-one trainees from the different stakeholders – including DoH staff, NGOs and INGOs in Duhok – benefited from the training, which enabled them to provide the minimum services needed during an emergency, to prevent GBV and assist survivors, to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, and to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity among women. The training also paved the road for plans to integrate comprehensive RH services into primary health care.
A Basra resident gives back

An Iraqi citizen and businessman in Basra met Syrian asylum seekers in the street. He generously offered his help to 11 Syrian families who were standing outside a hotel they could not afford and had nowhere else to go. They had fled the violence in Syria and came to Iraq with nothing other than what they could carry.

The man paid for their hotel fees and offered for them to stay in an empty building that he owns, free of charge, until they found other solutions. He also promised job opportunities for some in one of his hotels or factories. He provided them with cash assistance as well.

“I did not provide any assistance,” the man explained. “I only did my duty as a human being and a Muslim.” Referring to the flow of Iraqi refugees that fled to Syria after the fall of the previous regime, he felt it was his duty to return the support to fleeing Syrians.

The Syrian families moved to their new home and received non-food items, distributed by IOM. UNHCR has intervened on several occasions to ensure that their asylum-seeker status is respected and advocated for the release of some Syrians from prison.

Given the difficulties Iraqis often face to maintain stability, the generosity of host communities in providing basic needs to highly vulnerable families is remarkable. Clearly, those who were forced to leave their homes and lives behind recognize the same plight facing Syrians today.

Portraits of the most vulnerable: Refugee children in Al Qa’im camp

Mohammed Ibrahim

Mohammed Ibrahim, 10, lived with his family in a village in Syria before he fled the country due to escalating conflict. He and his seven-year-old brother and mother have been living in the Al Qa’im refugee camp in the governorate of Al-Anbar in western Iraq.

“I was born in Abukamal, a village 20km from the Al Qa’im border,” he says. “The bombs and shelling from the air were very intense in our neighbourhood. One of my friends got killed due to the shelling.”

“We spent the days in our home covered in a little room. It was very scary. We stayed there for days with water and some food, but there was not enough to eat, and grocery shops and markets were closed with just a few of them open for a limited time.”

“One day there was silence in the neighbourhood without shelling and bombs when we managed to flee home in the early morning. We took only our clothes and took a bus to the border. I left all my things: my toys, my bike, my teddy bear. I miss them all.”

Muna Abdulkareem

“We used to go to school every day, but when the crisis began and clashes happened we could not go every day,” says nine-year-old Muna Abdulkareem. “At last, the school was shelled and we moved to one of the villages where we stayed for 10 days with our relatives. We then returned back home on a day the borders were opened and came to Iraq.”

“I want to study here in Iraq,” she says. “Mathematics is my favourite subject and I want to be a teacher because I like teaching. I always teach my little sister and help her with the daily homework.”
Noor Mahmood

“When the crisis began we suffered a lot because of the unavailability of food. The army surrounded the hospitals and schools and killed even those who walked to funerals,” says 14-year-old Noor Mahmood.

“When the clashes started we hid in our classrooms until someone came to take us home. But later, we did not go to school anymore.”

“This makes me feel so gloomy and exhausted. I keep thinking too much about my educational situation,” she explains. “But, in spite of that, I believe that the future will be better. I wish to be a doctor to help those in need and patients.”

Ibrahim

Ibrahim is one of the younger siblings in a large family of 15. Samira, his mother, says she is worried about him.

“He has Haemolysis and needs special medication which we can’t find in the camp. I am worried about all my family.”

Salim Mohammed

Salim Mohammed, a father of four children under the age of five, says: “We have many needs but we know that we live in a refugee camp and this is an extraordinary situation, but the immediate needs for the children are the milk, diapers and medicine. Food is distributed regularly but it is mostly foods that the children won’t eat.”

List of the United Nations Acronyms
The United Nations Country Team has 20 members, including 16 resident and four non-resident agencies. Members of the Team are: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO). In addition to UN entities, the United Nations Country Team includes the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Bank.