



MAY 2004

IOM IRAQ PROGRAMME

EXTERNAL UPDATE



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM in Iraq

IOM is part of the UN Country Team for Iraq and therefore IOM programme activities for Iraq are integrated within the UN Strategic Plan for 2004, coordinating the humanitarian assistance, reconstruction efforts, technical assistance and development needs in Iraq, including coordination with the emerging Iraqi Authorities. IOM participates in the joint approach calling for sharing of resources throughout the programming process through clusters, covering security, operations, support, management and oversight.

IOM Iraq is integrated into the three UN programme clusters; Health, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees, and Poverty Reduction and Human Development, out of the ten clusters in total. IOM has a role of Deputy Task Manager for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees cluster.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)



The Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Project has made a transition to include IDP relief, assessment and monitoring activities as well as addressing the needs of IDPs and the communities within which they reside through Community Assistance Projects (CAPs).

- The IDP program continues to be actively engaged in contingency planning and continues monitoring situations in Najaf, Karbala, Kufa for possible humanitarian intervention
- Intermediate Food (canned food) and Non Food Items (NFIs) distribution are ongoing in response to Fallujah crisis together with monitoring of returns. Items distributed included hygiene kits, tents, cold boxes, cooking stoves, kitchen sets, jerry cans, lamps and mattresses to support over 200 families.
- In cooperation with WHO, Health Kits containing general medical supplies are pre-positioned in Baghdad and Samawa. The kits are sufficient to provide assistance to 120,000 vulnerable for one month's time.
- Funding to Refugees and Displaced Person Advice Bureau is extended for Maysan. This bureau supports the registration of IDPs and returnees with local authorities to issue ID cards, marriage certificates and food ration cards targeting those who have were excluded by the former regime for political reasons. Following the success of this modul the Ministry of Displacement and Migration expressed the intent to emulate the Bureau's registering model to other governorates.
- Maysan monitoring partners (senior Iraqi staff) received supplementary training in Kuwait on methodology of information gathering
- New grants for IDP assistance have been approved and channeled totaling USD 358,368. The grants have included monitoring agreements, support for the continuation

of displaced persons advice bureaus, and setting up emergency contingency stocks of Non Food Items in the Center and South of Iraq

- Non Food Item contingency stocks consisting of tents, blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, hygiene kits etc are pre-positioned in Samawq-Muthanna for contingency purposes in South of Iraq. These contingency stocks are accessible to all NGOs providing assistance to the IDPs in the South
- Evictions of IDPs from public buildings in most of the Center and South governorates continue to threaten the IDPs and vulnerable groups without alternative measures in place. The IDP working group (support/policy group to Cluster 8) is in the process of finalizing an eviction policy paper which is envisaged to provide guidelines to the UN, NGOs and local authorities related to eviction issues
- Security situation throughout the country have placed burden on implementing partner's effectiveness

Medical Evacuation and Health Rehabilitation Program for Iraq (MEHRPI)



MEHRPI employs a two-pronged approach: it aims to provide pro-bono medical assistance that is not available in Iraq to Iraqis requiring specialized treatment in the region and other countries; and simultaneously it seeks to contribute to the reconstruction of the National Health infrastructure which has been significantly weakened by 23 years of conflicts, underinvestment and poor management.

- Up to date 255 patients have been evacuated for treatment to 17 countries and 196 have returned home so far.
- Medical equipment for operating theatre, Intensive Care Unit and beds etc for the ward has been provided to the Burn Ward of the Basrah General Hospital as part of the rehabilitation assistance under the program
- Through the program, the Saudi Committee for Relief for the Iraqi has sponsored oncology training in King Faisal Cancer Centre (KFCC) in Riyadh for one Iraq doctor and three nurses.

Workforce Development and Veteran's Services (WDVS)



The Workforce Development and Veteran's Services Project (WDVS) continues to provide capacity building support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) of the Republic of Iraq by offering technical assistance in the form of training of the MoLSA employees and infrastructure upgrade of the national network of employment centers.

- IOM has deployed 9 international experts to MoLSA in Baghdad to increase operational capacity of the national employment centers and to enhance skills of the staff at the employment centers. The experts are providing day-to-day technical assistance and mentoring to department heads and their staff in number of areas, including management, administration, finance, logistics and the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures.
- IOM has provided training in Amman for 10 MoLSA staff members in the field of employment assistance services. During the period from 6 October 2003 to date, IOM has trained a total of 109 MoLSA staff members.
- IOM installed satellite communication systems in 5 MoLSA Employment Centers in the Governorates of Maysan, Nasiriya, Kirkuk, Dewaniya and Semawa. The systems will help integrating the national network of Employment Centers and to greatly enhance the scope and reach of current services offered to job seekers and potential employers. In addition to procuring and arranging for the installation, the staff from the centers received training in equipment usage and maintenance from the equipment provider. This is part of the support for the MoLSA IT/Database department for the provision of internet systems by IOM. Additional 5 Employment Centers are expected to be linked.
- In order to strengthen the capacity of MoLSA Counseling Department in Baghdad, IOM assisted MoLSA in identifying five counselors and will train them in the field of employment assistance services in Baghdad. The initial five counselors will train additional counselors that will be hired as needs arise.

Assisted Voluntary Returns (AVR)



The current Assisted Voluntary Return program is provided within the framework of IOM's existing general return programs in Europe and elsewhere, including the AVR via Jordan and Syria. IOM is currently assisting small numbers of Iraqis in non-neighboring countries wanting to return home for special and urgent reasons such as relating to family, medical or other humanitarian concerns. IOM is restricting its assistance to those applicants insisting on going back now who have a place to return to and prioritizing these returns as much as possible in accordance with humanitarian considerations.

- 2,078 AVR returnees have come back during the period starting from 12 June 2003 to date, involving 21 countries.
- 355 AVR candidates are at the moment in the pipeline to return.
- 319 persons have returned during this reporting period
- To date no AVR activities have taken place via Turkey, Iran, Kuwait or Saudi-Arabia.

Regional Operations Center (ROC)



IOM assists third country nationals departing Iraq with transport to their homes.

- 35 Third Country Nationals have arrived and departed during this reporting period.
- A cumulative total of 5,425 arrivals and 5,365 departures have been recorded since operations began on 18 March, 2003.

Staff Security Unit (SSU)



The Staff Security Unit (SSU) has been established to provide and advice on all security issues. In consultation with the Chief of the Mission and Heads of Offices, SSU takes all appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of IOM staff and assets. IOM operates under the UNSECOORD rules regulations for security and is part of the UN Security Management Team for Iraq. Therefore, IOM Iraq is coordinating all the operations within the framework of the enhanced Minimum Operational Security Standards (eMOSS) for Iraq, issued by the United Nations Security Management System to ensure the safety of the staff and operations.

- The mandatory joint IOM-UNSECOORD Security Awareness Induction Training (SAIT) for UN and IOM staff entering to Iraq started on 11 May. So far 73 staff members from 12 different agencies have passed and finished the training. Starting from June, personnel from various NGOs will be on the course.
- On May 25, a car bomb exploded outside the Baghdad hotel compound housing the nine international consultants providing technical assistance to MoLSA. None of the consultants were harmed.

Donor Support and Current Funding Requirements



IOM Iraq Programme is currently supported by the Governments of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Kuwait, Portugal, France, United States of America, European Commission and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

- The funding required to MEHRPI program for the next 12 months remains at USD 3.2 million. Existing funding will be exhausted by the end of August 2004.
- After additional donor support during May the funding required for IDP program remains at USD 17 million. The existing funding is still projected to be exhausted by the end of December 2004.

- Additionally, donor support is urgently needed for the IOM Security Upgrades in order to meet the UNSECOORD set enhanced Minimum Operational Security Standards (eMOSS) for Iraq for eventual re-entry. IOM has to, together with UNAMI and UN Agencies, be able to meet the expenditures resulting from the eMOSS requirements in order to be able to operate jointly under the UN Strategic Plan for programmes e.g. armored vehicles and security upgrades for the office compounds. Total funding required for the IOM Iraq Staff Security Unit (SSU) for the next 12 months is USD 4.9 million.



IOM wishes to thank all the donors and partners supporting Iraqis through IOM Iraq programme activities.



IOM International Organization for Migration