

Monthly Highlights

October 2009

- Following the October bombs that detonated in Central Baghdad killing at least 155 and wounding over 500 persons, UNHCR conducted an emergency assessment field mission to the affected areas. A few days later, 590 families received emergency non-food items (NFIs) from UNHCR consisting of: blankets, gas stoves, plastic sheeting, kitchen sets, jerry cans, hygiene kits and lanterns. UNHCR conducted its NFI distribution with the Deputy Governor of Baghdad, members of the Baghdad Provincial Council, Ministry of Displacement and Migration and Baghdad Operations Command.
- The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) started the distribution of USD 500 per family for some 609 Iraqi refugees that returned from Iran while promising to provide them with other entitlements including six months rental costs. UNHCR assisted the MoDM in the transport of the refugees through Shalamcha border in Basrah and Mehran border in Wassit Governorates. UNHCR in Iran and Iraq also complemented the GoI's efforts with a return cash ranging from USD 200 – USD 500 depending on the family's size and the location of return. Most of the returnees have been living in Iran since the 80s and returned mainly to Thi-Qar, Missan, Basrah and Kerbala.
- In Central Iraq, the implementation of projects continued at full gear. The shelter projects, for which new partnership agreements have been concluded in September, completed the assessment phase and started the implementation phase. The partnership with IRW was expanded to include the rehabilitation of 400 shelters in Chikook IDP settlement. Assessment was completed and implementation started.
- The partnership with Intersos was also expanded in order to include a new project of National NGO empowerment in Diyala. 15 National NGOs will receive cash grants to implement small scale projects to mainly support returnees, IDPs and local communities. The aim of the project is not only to bring humanitarian assistance to the people of concern, but also to build the capacity of national NGOs through project implementation.
- Under the leadership of the IFCNR (Implementation and Follow-Up Committee for National Reconciliation), UN and other agencies are working closely to support the return of IDPs/refugees in Diyala Governorate. UNHCR is coordinating the activities among the agencies (UNICEF, WHO, WFP, IOM) with respective expertise. UNHCR is particularly covering the Protection and Shelter sectors.
- UNHCR signed an agreement for the development of national NGOs in Kirkuk and Mosul. Some 15 national NGOs have been selected and are undergoing first stages of capacity building under the new umbrella partner, Mercy Corps.
- Renovation of 48 apartments for 60 Palestinian refugee families living in Mosul was completed in October.
- UNHCR assisted with distribution of NFIs to 27 families displaced by cross border shelling in the Sangastar district of the Kurdistan Region.

