



# UN-Iraq Humanitarian Update July 2005

## United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

### Background

As part of the UNAMI mandate to coordinate and deliver essential humanitarian assistance, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in collaboration with Iraqi authorities and NGO partners, has taken a leading role in emergency preparedness and response activities for Iraq. By using the Cluster approach to address areas of common concern, UN agencies combine resources and expertise to

When situations arise which require an emergency response, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator activates the UN

Emergency Working Group (EWG) in Amman, which benefits from the input of the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator in Baghdad as well as the NGO's EWG mechanism there. Members of the EWG focus on the material and protection needs of communities affected by either military conflict or ethno-religious tensions. At the same time, there is intensive liaison by the EWG with relevant Iraqi and MNF-I authorities to ensure optimal coordination, access to those in need and information exchange between concerned actors. Throughout July, the EWG met almost weekly to assess humanitarian needs, to review implementation progress of emergency projects, and to update stock levels and contingency plans.

### Humanitarian Overview

The Governorate of Anbar in the west of the country was the principle focus of emergency humanitarian interventions in July, as a result of fighting shifting first from the city of Al Qa'im to Karabla and then towards the towns of Rawa, Haditha and Heet. Many of the towns and villages in Anbar affected by this recent fighting are recipient locations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) who moved as a result of previous clashes. This current insecurity disrupted the delivery of essential humanitarian assistance to these

IDPs, host families and resident local communities as some locations became inaccessible and a number of access roads became unsafe to travel.

A recent UNCT NGO partner assessment estimated that over 6,200 families were displaced to over 30 locations in Anbar Governorate in July.

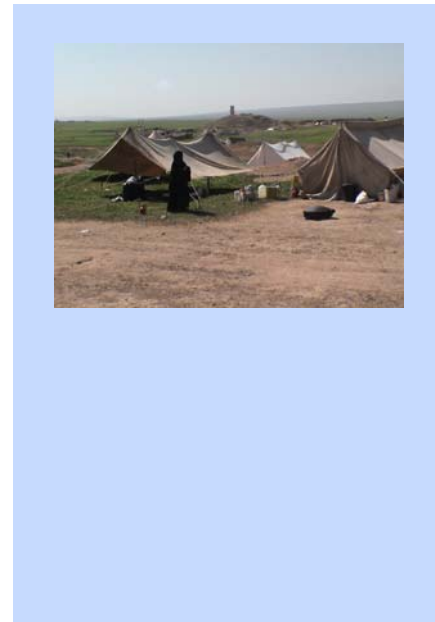
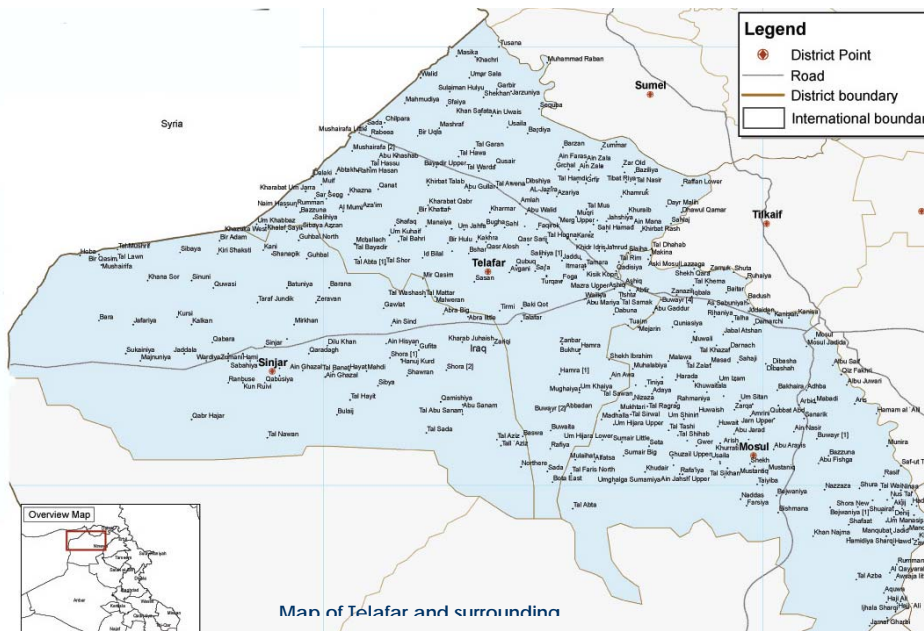
Further north in the Governorate of Ninewa, the city of Tal Afar and its environs recently experienced significant displacement due to operations in the area. The resulting humanitarian situation is being closely monitored by the UNCT and its partners.

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## Targeted Emergency Response Activities

**Anbar Update:** Although most of those displaced moved to stay with relatives or clan members, an estimated 200 families fled to surrounding desert locations. To meet the identified humanitarian needs, a joint UNCT response was mounted in close consultation with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) and the Government's inter-ministerial taskforce chaired by the Minister of Industry and Minerals. IOM took the lead in non-food item (NFI) distributions; UNHCR provided tents and supplemented NFI stocks; UNICEF provided water tanks and water trucking assistance; and WHO provided medical support through the Ministry of Health (MoH). Gaps in the water storage tank capacity were met through an OCHA-funded emergency grant to a NGO partner. By the end of July, agencies were beginning a third distribution cycle to cumulatively

cover the needs of more than 6,200 families. By mid-July, the following assistance was distributed: 825 water tanks; 5,112 jerry cans; 5,296 plastic buckets; 54,473 bottles of mineral water; 2,408 thermos flasks; 9,225 blankets; 8,588 mattresses; 495,600 chlorine tablets; 445 ten-person tents; and 8,532 six people mosquito nets. 5.4 million litres of water were trucked to three separate locations in Anbar benefiting a total of 10,000 affected persons.

**Tal Afar Update:** Initial reports indicated that several hundred IDP families were displaced from the most conflict affected areas of the city and were living in sub-standard conditions in schools, mosques or other public facilities in surrounding villages. Government and NGO assessments of the area were conducted but access to the city centre was extremely limited. EWG members are standing by to provide assistance to the estimated 300 vulnerable families in these areas, which represent a portion of all those affected by the instability of the past few months. In virtually all areas hosting displaced

populations, schools are being used as temporary shelters. This is a point of growing concern, with the start of the school year approaching. The UNCT and its partners are working to identify alternative shelter solutions so schools can start the year on time.



## Meeting Basic Needs Across Iraq



WFP delivered 7,781 metric tonnes of high energy biscuits and 1,105 metric tonnes to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) in implementing distributions to various primary schools in Iraq to the benefit of 806,558 children. WFP also delivered into Iraq a total of 12,000 metric tonnes of wheat flour, vegetable oil and pea-wheat blend to support the MoH in distributing supplementary food to malnourished children under the age of 5, pregnant and nursing mothers, and TB patients. By the end of the month, a total of 8,939 metric tonnes was distributed to a total of 518,182 beneficiaries in various health facilities in the country. Currently WFP are facing the considerable challenge of finding sufficient resources to continue with this essential activity.

The UN Health and Nutrition Cluster provided significant support to the efforts of the MoH to vaccinate 4.7 million Iraqi children of five years and under against polio during two rounds of emergency National Immunisation Days. UNICEF supplied 10.2 million doses of oral polio vaccines to the national vaccine store for distribution to all Governorates, and provided 4,222 cartons of safety boxes (25 boxes per carton) to promote vaccination and environmental safety. WHO provided essential technical advice, training and transportation to the MoH and health directorates in all Governorates. The high rate of coverage of the campaign (over 90%) was largely due to the social mobilisation efforts of the MoH, which mixed traditional outreach techniques

such as TV adverts, loudspeakers, posters and flyers, and an innovative technique of using SMS messages sent free of charge by two mobile phone network providers to all cell phone users.

Throughout the period, Baghdad was particularly affected by critical water shortages caused not only by soaring summer temperatures touching 50 degrees but also by the deliberate targeting of key water supply infrastructure by armed opposition groups. In late June, an explosion at a crossover chamber resulted in the shutdown of a water treatment plant which serves the entire 2.7 million population of the west bank of Baghdad. As well as providing essential spare parts for the necessary repairs, UNICEF expanded its regular water trucking operations to deliver 880 cubic metres of potable water to 16 hospitals, thus ensuring that half of the city's health system was kept functioning until mains water distribution resumed. UNICEF also continued the daily trucking of water to certain parts of Baghdad using private contractors, permitting approximately 180,000 people to have access to clean drinking water in July. 500 tons of essential chemicals were delivered to water treatment plants to assist the Baghdad water authorities with water purification.

## Assessments

WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC), and the Nutrition Research Institute of the MoH with support from UNICEF carried out the data collection exercise in 16 Governorates to be used in a household food security survey in Iraq. The data analysis exercise will commence shortly

in partnership with the MoPDC and MoH with a view to publishing the survey in the 4th quarter of 2005. This survey is a follow up to WFP's baseline food security survey conducted in 2003 and published in 2004. WFP will continue to provide ongoing training to MoPDC and MoH staff working on the survey and producing the report. Using the IDP Integrated Monitoring Framework tool, IOM, UNHCR and UNOPS continued their support to the MoDM by

monitoring IDP population movements throughout May, June and July. During this quarter, reports were received from a network of NGO partners regarding the current locations and key needs of IDPs across the country. The findings of this quarterly monitoring exercise will be finalised in August.

## Advocacy

The UNAMI Human Rights Office (HRO), together with OHCHR and UNOPS, is implementing a country-wide programme aimed at enhancing Iraqi civil society capacity to engage in advocacy work and human rights promotion. Following a series of training courses on monitoring and training of trainers in the first half of 2005, a workshop on Human Rights Defenders took place in Amman in late June. 35 human rights organizations and human rights defenders participated at the workshop chaired by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human

Rights Defenders. The workshop dealt with issues central to the role and work of human rights defenders such as legitimacy, transparency and accountability, and further elaborated on the operational framework for Iraqi NGOs.

In July, the UNAMI HRO in cooperation with UNOPS started a 13-day training course in Erbil on international norms and standards of constitutional issues with a specific focus on human rights especially among vulnerable groups. Similar courses will be conducted in Baghdad and Basrah. Additionally, a UNAMI HRO team visited Basrah to gain a better understanding of the current human rights situation in the region, to reinforce existing contacts and develop new ones with local authorities, the international community and local

NGOs and civil society organisations. UNAMI and UNICEF jointly intervened to express their outrage at the events in Iraq which resulted in numerous child deaths. The UN stressed that the children of Iraq are the future of the country and need to be respected and spared from the consequences of armed conflict.

The UNCT and its partners continued to urge the relevant authorities to respect humanitarian space and the human rights of civilians, and to facilitate safe unimpeded access of humanitarian actors to those in need.

## IDPs, Refugees and Durable Solutions

IOM and UNHCR continued to provide support to the Iraq Property Claims Commission (IPCC) regarding policy issues such as voluntary dispute resolution and the collection of claims by Iraqis living outside Iraq. An IPCC mailbox was set up in Geneva to facilitate the filing of claims by claimants living outside of Iraq. Instructions for the IPCC Claim Form were

prepared in both English and Arabic. The IPCC concluded and is overseeing contracts with vendors for a) the delivery of IT equipment to IPCC offices; b) the provision of a reliable internet connection via VSAT to the Geneva based IPCC database; and c) the hosting of services for the IPCC website and email addresses. The delivery of the services and equipment has begun. The IPCC website went on-line providing detailed information about the claims process and enabling downloads of

IPCC forms and documentation in Arabic and English. Information in Kurdish will be added to the website shortly. (Please click [HERE](#) to visit the website.)

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