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IRAQ CRISIS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME 2014–2015

Iraq at a crossroads of development and crises

Iraq faces a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Alarming development gaps and security risks are directly affecting 8.2 million people, of which three million have fled their homes in central and northern regions, in addition to 245,000 Syrians who seek refuge in Kurdistan.

Between December 2013 and May 2015, three million internally displaced persons have fled their homes in central and northern Iraq, seeking security in Kurdistan, and other governorates such as Karbala, Diyala, Najaf and Basra.

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq itself hosts 970,000 IDPs and 245,000 Syrian refugees (as of April 2015).

The impact of this unprecedented humanitarian crisis extends beyond populations to all institutions, systems and political processes. Waves of instability and violence have directly affected more than

eight million people in Iraq (as of May 2015). These numbers may increase even further as counter-insurgency efforts continue.

With the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNDP is spearheading resilience approaches to help Syrian refugees and Iraqi internally displaced persons rebuild their livelihoods and become more self-reliant in the medium-term.

This incorporates the broader issue of social cohesion, which is at the heart of any form of stabilization, and sits at the centre of the United Nations strategic planning in Iraq.

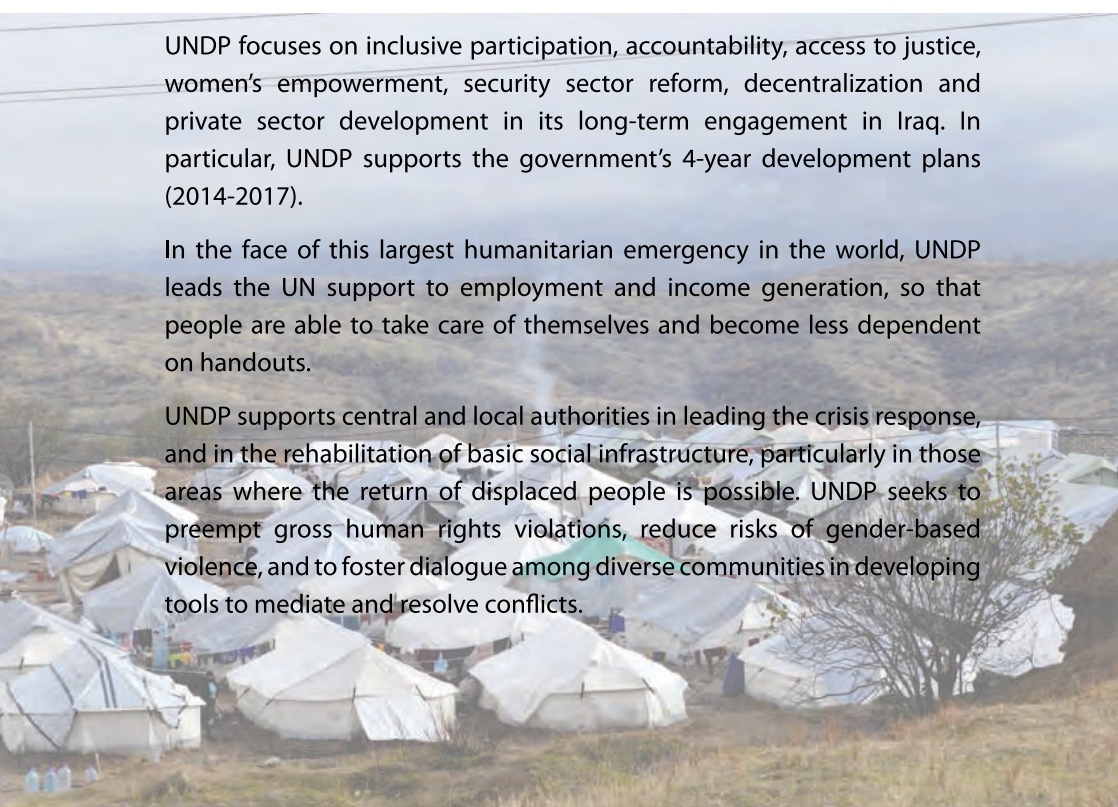
A TRUSTED PARTNER

UNDP has nearly 40 years of experience in Iraq leading the United Nations development work, and providing knowledge and practical expertise. This includes measures to improve struggling local economies and help national partners serve all Iraqi citizens and refugees with responsive basic services.

UNDP focuses on inclusive participation, accountability, access to justice, women's empowerment, security sector reform, decentralization and private sector development in its long-term engagement in Iraq. In particular, UNDP supports the government's 4-year development plans (2014-2017).

In the face of this largest humanitarian emergency in the world, UNDP leads the UN support to employment and income generation, so that people are able to take care of themselves and become less dependent on handouts.

UNDP supports central and local authorities in leading the crisis response, and in the rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure, particularly in those areas where the return of displaced people is possible. UNDP seeks to preempt gross human rights violations, reduce risks of gender-based violence, and to foster dialogue among diverse communities in developing tools to mediate and resolve conflicts.



NGO PARTNERSHIPS

Competition in labour markets cause hostility and tensions between displaced persons, refugees and host communities. To address the stress on the social compact, UNDP has earmarked US\$11.7 for livelihood support through local organizations over two years. In 2014, we granted 18 local NGOs of small funds—in total US\$5.3—to deliver vocational training, and create jobs and small businesses.

PROTECTION

UNDP seeks to pre-empt human rights violations and reduce risks of gender-based violence. We work with the Department for Combating Violence against Women, the Bar Association and the Human Rights Council to provide landmark human rights protections to women and girls. Five legal aid centres in refugee camps and five mobile teams served 5,350 persons, and reached to 10,000 people with legal awareness. Finally, mine risks awareness attained 91,000 people (April 2015).

JOB SKILLS TRAINING AND TEMPORARY INCOME

Job skills training in masonry, plumbing and electricity, followed by cash-for-work activities, provided temporary income to 2,360 displaced persons in camps in Kurdistan. It helped build camp infrastructure such as shelters, bathrooms and sewerage systems, whilst 400 women received cash-for-work for health-related awareness activities in distribution centres. Some 2,950 trainees in non-camp settings also accessed to various short-term opportunities. Photo: Sewerage, Khanke camp © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.



JOB AND BUSINESS CREATION

Vocational training and cash grants have bolstered entrepreneurship and job creation for internally displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host communities, reaching to 14,000 people by March 2015. With the Danish Refugee Council and UNHCR, UNDP conducted an Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis in Kurdistan. A job placement centre enrolled 100 job seekers in Kurdistan. The Erbil Chamber of Commerce and Industry launched business grants for 150 women. In Basra, a new souk and job skills training helped 1,000 displaced persons restart their lives—one third are women. Photo: Graduation of 180 trainees, Sulaymaniya © UNDP/2015.



COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

UNDP has engaged US\$ 3 million over two years, to develop dialogue platforms for mediating and resolving conflicts; group sessions have started in 11 host communities in Kurdistan with 2,000 refugees and displaced persons. Some 70 local volunteers from host communities facilitate dialogue and arrange community activities. We will build upon inclusive dialogue among youth groups, women's organizations, religious and community leaders to lift up social cohesion as part of any form of stabilization for Iraq. Photo: Dialogue platform in Dohuk © UNDP/German Robles Osuna.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments and communities encounter unprecedented challenges in facing the sudden demand for social infrastructure, such as shelter, health, education, electricity, water and sanitation. As government ownership is the key to the provision of responsive basic services, UNDP has earmarked US\$17 million for direct grants to local authorities to build or rehabilitate basic infrastructure.



COMMUNITY BASIC SERVICES

UNDP has supported local governments for the construction of key infrastructure such as water, sewerage and electricity systems, roads, a health centre and camp management office for prefabricated settlements for displaced persons in Dawoodiya (Dohuk), Barznja (Sulaymaniya) and Baharka (Erbil). This basic social infrastructure serves more than 4,000 individuals in Dawoodiya, and 900 in Barznja. UNDP donated three dislodging tankers to improve sanitation services in at least three camps, hosting 20,000 displaced persons, in Dohuk governorate. Photo: Water supply, Dawoodiya camp © UN OCHA/Elias Bahaa.

COORDINATION

As Iraq contends with the largest number of internally displaced persons in the world, the government is responsible for direct relief, but aid is hampered by a budgetary crisis, worsened by the sharp drop in the price of oil. The humanitarian response is a joint effort by governorates, municipalities, NGOs and international agencies. Government's oversight of this aid is critical to provide equitable public services to all affected people.



JOINT CRISIS CENTRE

UNDP Iraq has been instrumental in setting up—for the Kurdistan's Ministry of Interior—a Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) and disaster preparedness centre in Erbil, which now manages the institutional response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. UNDP helps the Kurdistan's Ministry of Planning integrate long-term needs of refugees and displaced persons in the region's development plans. In Baghdad, we also provide expertise to the crisis management centre, coordinating aid from the federal government. Photo: H. E. Karim Sinjari, Minister of Interior of KRG at the launch of the Crisis Coordination centre, Erbil © UNAMI/Fabienne Vinet.

SOCIAL COHESION AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

UNDP leads—together with the Danish Refugee Council—the Social Cohesion and Sustainable Livelihoods cluster. We have identified 800,000 people in urgent need of income based on multi-cluster and sector needs assessments that we sponsored. UNDP also co-leads with the UNHCR the Intersector Refugee Coordination, spearheading resilience approaches. Following a regional agreement in the five countries hosting Syrian refugees, we signed an operational framework with the UNHCR in Iraq, which lays out collaboration for 2015. Priority is given to assist families in extremely vulnerable circumstances.

Cash-for-work, a boost for vulnerable households

While most jobs involve manual labour and thus employ men, their entire families benefit from the short-term income they bring in.



For Murad, 41, a father of seven, the worst part of being internally displaced was to endure being jobless for more than six months. “We are tens of thousands seeking any kind of manual labour in the Governorate of Dohuk.”

“In the Sinjar, I had a house and a job; I was transporting passengers,” he told us. “When I was forced to flee in August 2014, the militants have taken everything we had.”

Then UNDP’s local partner, the non-government organization KURDS, offered short-term opportunities to some displaced workers for building an underground canal for waste water in the camp of Khanke. “This job is like a breath of fresh air,” he told us.

Ali, 45, was belonging to the police forces in Mosul until the town fell in the hands of the insurgents in June 2014. They blew off his house, which threw his family of nine on the roads towards Erbil.

Seven months later, while attending a short masonry course preparing for the construction of an extension of Baharka camp, he was not



Cash-for-work in Khanke camp: “This job is like a breath of fresh air” © UNDP/Denise Jeanmonod.

yet sure how he could restart his life. “There is nothing for us here,” he said sadly. “What did you learn?” we asked. Then, a smile: “To build a house, Inch’ Allah.”

Kasim, 24, was a plumber in Mosul. As the only bread earner of a family of eight, he joined cash-for-work activities in Baharka. “I was struggling to get daily labour on construction sites in Erbil and spending most of my wages in transportation costs,” he said. “Now, I can help improve the camp, and also give more money to my parents.”

To never give up on dreams of a better life

In every forced population displacement, people struggle with their livelihoods from getting emergency cash and employment to finding ways to rebuild their lives on the medium-term.



Survival can be summed up in three words —never give up. This is the saying of thousands of internally displaced people, who fled violence in Mosul, Salah Al-din, Sinjar, Baiji and Diyala towards the south if Iraq.

Some 2,000 persons now live in a camp near the popular 5-Miles market in the suburbs of the city of Basra.

Sajad Fadel, 20, arrived in the southern governorate in September 2014. Originally from Al-Ramadi, Anbar, he had left behind his home and family.

When UNDP's local partner, the Canadian Aid Organization for Iraqi Society and Rehabilitation (CAOFISR), started a livelihoods project early 2015, Sajad trained fellow displaced people in construction works. He also joined a paint training to refresh his skills. "I dream of the day I will open a shop and decently earn my life," Sajad told us.

Around 200 individuals, of which one third are women, attended vocational training in sewing, hairdressing, carpentry, electricity, bakery and



UNDP Resident Representative Lise Grande (right), and Country Director Adam Abdelmoula (centre) inaugurate the IDPs' market in Basra © UNAMI/Ivan Djordjevic.

restaurant. These new income generation activities benefitted to 1,000 family members. Among 500 individuals from both the displaced and host communities, who participated in business courses, many started up small enterprises.

A local market run by the displaced community offers livelihoods opportunities, while it also serves the neighbourhood.

In 2014, UNDP Iraq helped:

CREATE JOBS AND BUSINESSES

14,000 PEOPLE

SPEARHEAD RESILIENCE APPROACHES

245,000 SYRIAN REFUGEES

FOSTER SOCIAL COHESION

2,000 PEOPLE, 11 COMMUNITIES

PROVIDE BASIC SERVICES IN CAMPS

5,000 DISPLACED PERSONS

PREVENT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

10,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS

REACH OUT ON MINE RISKS

91,000 PEOPLE



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UNDP Iraq gratefully acknowledges the following partners, who help us reach to the most vulnerable families among Iraqi displaced persons, Syrian refugees, and their host communities.

These are earmarked funds directed towards helping local governments and NGO partners provide basic services and economic opportunities to the victims of the security and humanitarian crisis in Iraq—the largest in the world. These funds are also used to foster social cohesion and peace-building, and seek to preempt human rights violations, in particular gender-based violence.

Funding Partners	2014-2015 • In US\$
1 Japan (2014)	2,000,000
2 Japan for Syrian Refugees (2015)	1,220,000
3 Japan for IDPs (2015)	12,630,000
4 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2014)	7,960,800
5 UNDP (2014)	2,070,000
6 Kuwait (2014)	250,000
7 CERF (2013)	449,197
8 CERF (2015)	250,000
9 Switzerland (2014)	20,000
TOTAL	26,849,997

Programme Budget • In US\$	Funded	Needed	
Coordination	2,550,000	1,280,320	1,269,680
Basic services	17,000,000	10,992,000	6,008,000
Livelihoods	11,786,200	6,472,220	5,313,980
Protection	4,000,000	3,493,197	506,803
Social cohesion	3,000,000	1,408,710	1,591,290
Programme management	5,713,800	3,203,550	2,510,250
TOTAL	44,050,000	26,849,997	17,200,003