UNDP Iraq

Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP)

Iraq faces a large-scale political and security crisis. Since January 2014, more than 3.2 million people have fled their homes as a direct consequence of violence and conflict linked to seizure of large swathes of territory by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Additionally, 250,000 Syrian refugees have fled mostly to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

According to the 2016 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), over 9.3 million people in Iraq require immediate humanitarian support. The situation is turning into a protracted conflict, and the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) is expected to increase in the foreseeable future.

In response to the crisis, UNDP developed the Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP), which builds on existing experience and serves as a basis for the country’s early recovery and resilience agenda. Through a multi-sectoral, integrated strategy to build resilience of the communities most affected by the influx of refugees and IDPs, it complements the primarily life-saving and short-term activities carried out by other partners.

ICRRP Engagement

- **Government Coordination and Strategic Planning:** UNDP supports the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government in strengthening the newly established Joint Crisis Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCCMC) in Baghdad and the Joint Crisis Center (JCC) in Erbil. These institutions operate as coordination hubs of two crisis response networks and jointly constitute the national crisis management system. ICRRP’s institutional and capacity building efforts target the two institutions holistically to incorporate the normative level (policies and legislation), the strategic level (harmonized approach to planning, prioritization and resource mobilization to manage the large-scale crisis), and the operational level (effectiveness and efficiency in the actual response across governorates).

- **Basic Services and Accountability:** UNDP undertakes immediate interventions to rehabilitate/construct local infrastructure both in host communities and refugee/IDP settlement areas, in order to enhance basic service provision amongst the affected population, including health facilities, waste-management, water supply and electricity. This is done through a participatory process involving community-based dialogues and the government’s ownership of implementation.

- **Livelihoods Recovery:** Iraq is one of a few countries in the MENA region that provided residency permits

**MATTERS OF FACT**

- 72,000 persons benefited from enhanced provision of basic services
- 23,520 persons (40% females) have enhanced livelihoods in the Governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Basra and Nineveh
- 5,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs, including victims of SGBV, received legal support through 7 Legal Service Centers and mobile services
- 3,420 persons participated in dialogue processes in communities, in which the local population, IDPs, and Syrian refugees live alongside each other

Yazidi IDP women in front of their newly opened bakery across the Sharia Camp in the Governorate of Dohuk. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015
to Syrian refugees, allowing free access to work opportunities, which renders great potential for the refugees to access the labour market and livelihood opportunities and built their resilience. ICRRP interventions are linked to the local economies to yield sustainable income opportunities to more beneficiaries, while responding to the urgent needs of securing income sources for the most vulnerable crisis-affected groups. This includes identifying niche businesses/industries, conducting local market/value chain assessments, brokering public-private partnerships, conducting vocational trainings linked with market demands, and providing business expansion support for small and medium-sized enterprises with a condition of employing job-seekers from the displaced and local populations.

• **SGBV and Women Protection:** Amongst those hardest hit by the crisis, women and girls require specific support during displacement as they are at serious risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). To address this on and off IDP and refugee camps, ICRRP works on advocacy, prevention and protection measures, violations and exploitation, strengthening the rule of law, improving protection and access to justice, and resilience building through institutional support.

• **Social Cohesion:** ICRRP fosters policy dialogues and advocacy to reduce inequality and tensions amongst ethno-religious groups and to strengthen social capital by involving key community actors, local networks, policy-makers, and government institutions. Activities focus on strengthening mechanisms for channeling needs, opinions and concerns of communities to decision-making circles (e.g. Council of Representatives, Iraqi Human Rights Committee). The project enhances governmental accountability by supporting local networks and increasing responsibilities for all citizens and the government. It further develops monitoring tools to assess social tensions at sub-district levels and to institutionalize data collection mechanisms.

**ICRRP Funding**

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>US$22,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>United Kingdom/DFID</td>
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**About UNDP Iraq**

Present in Iraq since 1976, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to supporting the Government and people of Iraq during their transition towards reconciliation, reform and stability. UNDP’s support ranges from promoting emergency livelihoods and community dialogue in districts impacted by the crisis, to prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) amongst Syrian refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), to helping stabilize newly liberated areas through its Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS). Further support includes inclusive area-based planning, governance reforms, decentralization, rule of law, and environment and climate change.

Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs in an employability skills training in Kaznazan Community, Erbil. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015

UNDP is a major partner contributing to democratic process and good governance in Iraq. UNDP has provided technical assistance in support of the 2010 national Parliamentary elections and 2013 provincial elections. Its support to the Government, at both Federal and Regional levels, has been instrumental in prioritizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and safeguarding development gains achieved. UNDP is further committed to help the country to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Well positioned with a track record in different areas, UNDP stands ready to move towards a cutting-edge resilience agenda with a gender-dimension and a specific focus on economy, social cohesion and national reconciliation, in order to help the people of Iraq recover and build a brighter future.

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