



Regional Programme in Support of Civilians Affected by Iraq's Crisis (RP-SCAIC)

Humanitarian situation in Iraq

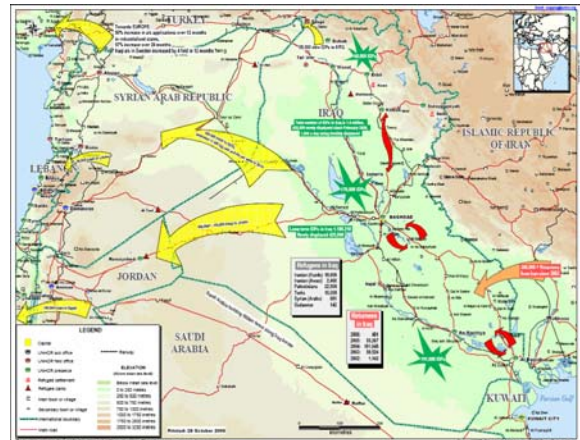
The living conditions of the civilian population in Iraq remain destitute. Daily violence has killed 151,000 civilians between 2003 and 2006. Over half of all Iraqis have to survive on less than a dollar a day. Access to clean drinking water is limited and the health care system is overstretched. Around 4 million of the resident population is food-insecure. About **2.7 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs)**.

Support to civilians in Iraq

SDC works in partnership with international NGOs to provide primary health care and drinking water. It also supports the general co-ordination and strengthening of local humanitarian institutions. Moreover, it funds ICRC to distribute water, to rebuild health care infrastructure and to provide emergency aid to those in need including the displaced. A shelter co-ordination expert is provided to UNHCR Iraq. **SDC's annual budget for Iraq is CHF 4 million.**

Humanitarian situation of Iraq's refugees in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon

Around 2 million refugees from Iraq currently live in three host countries: Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The humanitarian situation of refugees continues to deteriorate. The host countries – some of which have generously hosted the influx of refugees - are reaching a breaking point and entry requirements have become more stringent. Whether return to Iraq is safe, voluntary and sustainable is questionable. The issue of refugee status remains precarious as none of the host countries are signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Refugees live under the threat of forced repatriation. Also, access to health care and education are no longer guaranteed. Many refugees are increasingly **dependent on basic support and protection**. Children and in particular girls, may increasingly drop out of school or be subjected to child labour. Some women face gender-based violence as their families endure daily stress. Some may resort to prostitution in order to provide for their families, resulting in further exploitation at the hands of human traffickers.



Support to Iraq's refugees in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon

Since **2005**, SDC together with the Swiss embassies in the region, continue to advocate for the concerns of Iraq's refugees in order to find solutions to their problems.

In **2006**, SDC provided UNHCR with CHF 1.7 million to assist Iraq's refugees in Syria and Jordan. In **2007**, SDC co-financed UNHCR and WFP programmes with CHF 2.5 million to provide food, medical care, shelter and protection. Furthermore, SHA experts were made available to UNHCR, WFP and WHO. In **2008**, an expert for child protection was provided for UNICEF Syria and a senior management advisor to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society. SDC currently supports UNRWA Syria in assisting more than 1500 Palestine Refugees who have fled Iraq. In partnership with the Federal Office for Migration, SDC is also working on the rehabilitation of nine public schools. In Jordan, SDC actively participates in donor and advocacy meetings. In Lebanon, SDC is funding an initiative to regularise the status of extremely vulnerable Iraqi refugees. **SDC's annual budget to assist refugees in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon is CHF 3 million.**

For additional information:

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