



IOM Provides Aid For Families Fleeing Mosul

Since June 15th IOM has distributed 820 family emergency packages and served 5,000 people



On June 16th, 2014, families displaced by the recent surge of violence in Mosul gathered outside the local security headquarters in Kalakchi, a small town in Al-Shikan, a northern district of Ninewa, eagerly waiting to receive one of the one hundred emergency packages delivered from IOM Iraq's central warehouse in Erbil.

Preparation for distribution began the night before when IOM staff began loading three trucks at the IOM central warehouse in Erbil with the mattresses, fans, pillows, blankets, and other basic items that would be delivered the next day to IDP families in Kalakchi. In

the early morning of June 16th, these trucks drove three hours to deliver the emergency packages to Kalakchi, where IOM staff began unloading the trucks and organizing the items into packages to distribute.

"We have been working 16 hours a day every day in the past week to try to get those displaced from Mosul emergency aid," said Shevan Ghazi, IOM staff from the Dohuk office. "Yesterday we distributed 250 emergency packages as well as food and hygiene packages from the WFP and UNICEF to other IDP families living in Kalakchi."

Distributions to Kalakchi



Above, Below: IOM staff and local workers organize emergency packages



Since June 15th, IOM staff have distributed a total of 820 emergency packages in addition to 520 food packages and 520 hygiene kits provided by WFP and UNICEF respectively in Kalakchi, Talasquf, and Khazir camps. Upon request from UNHCR, IOM also provided air coolers and cool boxes to the waiting area at the Khazir check point. These distributions provided much needed relief items to approximately 5,000 IDPs. In the coming days, IOM will distribute emergency packages in Bashiqa, Dohuk, and other locations.

These distributions were done in coordination with local authorities and the UN Country Team. According to Kurdish government authorities, currently 300,000 IDPs have fled the violence in Mosul and sought refuge in northern Iraq. IOM, in coordination with partner UN agencies and NGOs, is appealing to donors for immediate support in responding to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation.

followed the Rapid Assessment Response Team (RART) visit to this area last week, when locations with displaced families were identified and their immediate needs were assessed.

Samira Muhammad Khalaf, a 53-year-old mother of four children who fled Mosul with her family eight days ago, stood next to her package, examining the many different items stacked there.

"It seemed like I had blinked my eyes, and in that second, everything was destroyed," said Samira as she described the invasion of Mosul. "When the armed men came into the city, they were shooting people without thought. I remember being out in the street and seeing a young boy laying

facedown in the gutter. I went over to see if he was injured. He had been shot in the forehead. He must have not even been seven years old. We left the city with not even an hour later. I saw my children in that little boy."

Samira and her family now live with her sister, who has a tiny house in Kalakchi. "We left Mosul only with our identification papers and the clothes on our backs," said Samira. "We do not have anything here, and there is no work for anyone. We are so grateful for these packages, because they will help us manage. For the last eight days we have been sleeping without mattresses and blankets and eating so little because my sister barely has enough to support her own family, let



Above: Samira Muhammad Khalaf, IOM beneficiary
Below: IOM staff organize emergency packages



alone mine. We still need more though. I am not sure how long we will have to stay here, and I do not know how my husband and I will support our family."

Mahmoud Ibrahim Atia, an 18-year-old high school student who fled with his family to Kalakchi seven days ago, stood solemnly next to his package. "My uncle was paralyzed eight years ago in a car accident," said Mahmoud. "Ever since then, my family has taken care of him. When we first started to hear the explosions and gunfire, my first thought was of my uncle. There was no way that we could care for him or protect him, while we were living in the middle of a war. That night we took our car and left everything we had in Mosul."

Although his mother, broth-

ers, and sisters fled to Erbil, Mahmoud is currently living with his uncle in a relative's house in Kalakchi, hoping to find a way to provide him proper medical care. "I am still afraid, because I have no idea what will happen tomorrow or the next day. These items will keep us afloat for now and will help me take care of my uncle, but I do not know what will happen tomorrow"

A few rows of packages away, Wadullah Abdullah Taha, a 39-year-old father of four children, sat on the pile of mattresses his family received, waiting for his children to come help him carry them away.

"Ten days ago, I woke up at three in the morning to a group of men pounding at our door. I remember being so afraid. I thought they



Above: Mahmoud Ibrahim Atia, IOM beneficiary
Below, left: Wadullah Abdullah Taha, IOM beneficiary
Below, right: IOM staff organize emergency packages



were going to kill my wife and children," said Wadullah. "They ordered us to get into cars that were waiting on the street and told us that we would be taken to Kurdistan. My family and I had to leave right then and there. They only let us take our IDs with us."

Since they arrived from Mosul, Wadullah and his family have been living with 12 other people in temporary accommodations. "Even though we no longer live in fear of explosions and gunfire, I am still worried for my family," said Wadullah. "The only money I have is the pension the government gave me after my father died several years ago. Besides that, we have nothing."

"I am so thankful that we have these items now. I know that, for at least the next few weeks, I can take

care of my family." The last IDP family left with their package from the distribution site in Kalakchi at 8:30 pm, nearly 12 hours after IOM staff initially arrived at the site. "Over the next several days," Shevan said, "we will be delivering similar packages to hundreds of other families in other parts of Ninewa. The support we are giving these IDPs is good, but we still need much more in order to reach more vulnerable families and continue to support them." Tired from the long day unloading and organizing packages under the hot sun, the IOM staff left soon after to drive the several hours needed to reach home and prepare themselves for the distribution that would take place next morning.



Above: Boy who fled Mosul
Below: IOM staff organize emergency packages





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