



Beneficiaries receive non-food item kits in Kirkuk | 21 September

While newly displaced persons experience difficulty in accessing safe areas because of ongoing conflict and restrictions on movement, IOM continues to deliver lifesaving aid across Iraq as access allows. Since January 2014, nearly 180,000 families have received non-food item kits from IOM, which include essential materials such as blankets, water, cool boxes and pillows. More than 15,000 families have received shelter support from IOM, including tents, caravans and sealing-off kits for unfinished buildings.

The IOM Livelihoods Programme assists displaced persons and their host communities by improving infrastructure in areas affected by a high influx of displaced persons. This programme aims to contribute to stabilisation efforts in Iraq by improving economic and social conditions in communities that may be burdened because of conflict and displacement. Community Assistance Projects aim to improve public service infrastructure including schools and create livelihood options such as marketplaces. A recent Quick Impact Project improved the electricity supply in two health centres and one school in Erbil by installing a total of 2,160 solar panels that produce enough energy to provide the Iraqi national grid with extra electricity.

The IOM Livelihoods Programme also assists displaced persons by offering vocational training, job placement, small business start-ups and in-kind grants.

Displacement

IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)
January 2014 - October 2015

IDP Families



534,456

Individuals



3,206,736

To access the IOM Iraq DTM, please visit:
<http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

Emergency Relief Distribution

Family non-food item (NFI) kits



179,414

Emergency shelter



15,152

IOM staff spoke with Khadija, a 41-year-old mother of four, in Baghdad. "I was fortunate to receive the grocery store materials. I will use the supplies to start my business. It will be difficult at the beginning but I'm sure later on things will be much better for me and my children."

Amer's Story

“I am grateful that my family is safe, we have shelter, and I have a motorbike to earn a living again.”



Amer with neighborhood children on his motorbike | 14 October 2015

Amer's life is one long story of displacement, a story of building new homes only to lose them again, a story of losing sources of livelihood in the most dire of times. The latest episode occurred in June 2015 when Amer's single room pre-fab at Harsham camp in Erbil, and his only source of income, a motorbike, were destroyed in a fire.

Amer was devastated, but thanked God that his family was safe. He said, "I will build again. I was only worried about my family. Luckily, they were at my brother's home to bathe, because we had no water that day." A few weeks after the incident, IOM distributed 10 brand new motorbikes to 20 beneficiaries in the camp as part of its livelihoods activities, one of which was received by Amer and his brother Thamer.

Amer is a 30-year-old father of four children. His oldest child is six, and the youngest, his only son, is nine months old. When his son was only 20 days old, ISIL forced them to flee their home in Tal Keif, a small town located east of Mosul. Before living there, he had already been displaced from Mosul city due to threats from ISIL.

"In Mosul, I worked in construction—bricks, tiles, and so on. At one point, ISIL kidnapped my father because we were working on the renovation of churches in the city. The police managed to free him and soon we left Mosul."

In order to leave, Amer sold his 120 square meter house in Mosul for 23 million Iraqi dinars (approximately US\$19,000), which was half of its worth before the war. With the money,

Amer bought a plot of farmland in Tal Keif and built a new home. He was looking forward to better days: "I was working in construction again and I was happy. I had just finished my house and I had bought a new TV specifically for playing video games," Amer said with a smile.

But he fled Tal Keif when ISIL attacked the town last year.

In Harsham Camp on the outskirts of Erbil city, Amer started from scratch again. He bought a motorbike for US\$650 to use for transportation and to offer moving services for a small fee. He was happy to have shelter for his family, and a source of income. Things seemed to be improving until the fire. Now, four months after the devastating fire, things are looking up again as Amer owns a brand new bike offered by IOM, and can keep his children's few belongings in the new prefab.

Amer uses the motorbike to generate revenue which benefits his family and neighbors. "It is extremely useful. I just transported one of my relatives, who was ill, from his home in Kalak (about 35 km from Erbil) to the hospital here in Erbil. If it weren't for the motorbike, I don't know what would have happened to my relative."

Despite all he has seen, Amer remains positive. He hopes the security situation will improve in Tal Keif so they can return. "Nothing is like home. I would love to be able to return. But for now, I am grateful that my family is safe, we have shelter, and I have a motorbike to earn a living again."

IOM is responding to life-threatening needs in a rapidly changing environment, in addition to monitoring movements on the ground.

