

# Iraq Resettlement

## UNHCR Operations and Objectives:

UNHCR aims to provide immediate humanitarian assistance, uphold protection space and seek durable solutions for the most vulnerable individuals among Iraqi internally displaced persons (IDPs) and non-Iraqi refugees inside Iraq as well as Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries. UNHCR works with national, regional and local authorities, international organizations and other civil-society groups to meet its objectives.

UNHCR's objectives include:

- Provide humanitarian assistance for the survival of vulnerable populations both inside and outside Iraq.
- Enhance the protection environment for Iraqis in the region by engaging countries hosting large numbers of Iraqis; advocate increased bilateral assistance to host countries to support the refugee population.
- Assist in developing policies and strategies for IDPs throughout Iraq.
- Provide and facilitate access to health services, education, food rations and other social services in coordination with relevant partners.
- Address the major problems of shelter and housing by designing creative assistance packages on a case-by-case basis.

## UNHCR's Role

- A major operation is currently underway to register refugees in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and other states in the region.
- Once refugees are registered, UNHCR's role in the resettlement process is to identify those refugees who are in most need of resettlement, and make submissions to the U.S. and other resettlement countries. This process is implemented through our field offices in the region.
- UNHCR has established certain criteria to determine if a person is in need of resettlement. These criteria are used to prioritize those Iraqi refugees who are particularly vulnerable or who have heightened protection concerns. If the resettlement criteria are met, UNHCR then refers the refugees to an appropriate country for resettlement.
- To date, UNHCR has registered over 300,000 Iraqis in the region, including: over 224,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria; over 54,000 Iraqi refugees in Jordan; and over 10,000 in both Lebanon and Egypt.
- In 2007, UNHCR began to implement a large scale resettlement operation for Iraqi refugees in the region. Since then, UNHCR has submitted more than 58,600 persons to 16 governments for consideration. Of this number, 21,291 were submitted in 2007 and 32,712 in 2008. Since 2007, 43,949 were submitted to the United States. As of the end of 2008, the US government has admitted over 17,476 Iraqi refugees to the U.S.

2007—Present	UNHCR Submissions	Arrivals
United States	43,949 <i>(Jan. 30)</i>	17,476* <i>(Dec. 31)</i>
Other Countries**	14,654 <i>(Jan. 30)</i>	Not available

\*US Dept. of State

\*\* Australia, Canada, Denmark, UK, New Zealand, Finland, Sweden, Netherlands, Brazil, Ireland, Spain, Germany, France, Chile, Norway

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