

(EXCERPTS)

Overview – Middle East and North Africa

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

7 March 2012
English
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Standing Committee
53rd meeting

Overview of UNHCR's operational strategies in the Middle East and North Africa

A. Situational analysis including new developments

In Iraq, just over 67,000 refugees had repatriated by the end of 2011 according to Government records. Meanwhile, around 1.2 million people remain internally displaced throughout the country. UNHCR and its partners are providing internally displaced persons (IDPs) with basic services and assistance in both areas of displacement and of return. Some 38,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq are currently living in camps, settlements or urban centres, including around 10,000 Palestinians who reside in Baghdad.

With regard to Camp New Iraq (formerly Ashraf), UNHCR is part of the overall United Nations efforts to find a peaceful solution to the situation under the leadership of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between the Government of Iraq and UNAMI for the relocation of the camp residents to a Temporary Transit Location in Baghdad – Camp Hurriya. Under the MOU, UNHCR is responsible for the verification and refugee status determination of residents who have filed applications. Some 400 persons have already moved to Camp Hurriya.

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opendocPDFViewer.html?docid=4f62175b9&query=camp%20hurriya>