



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

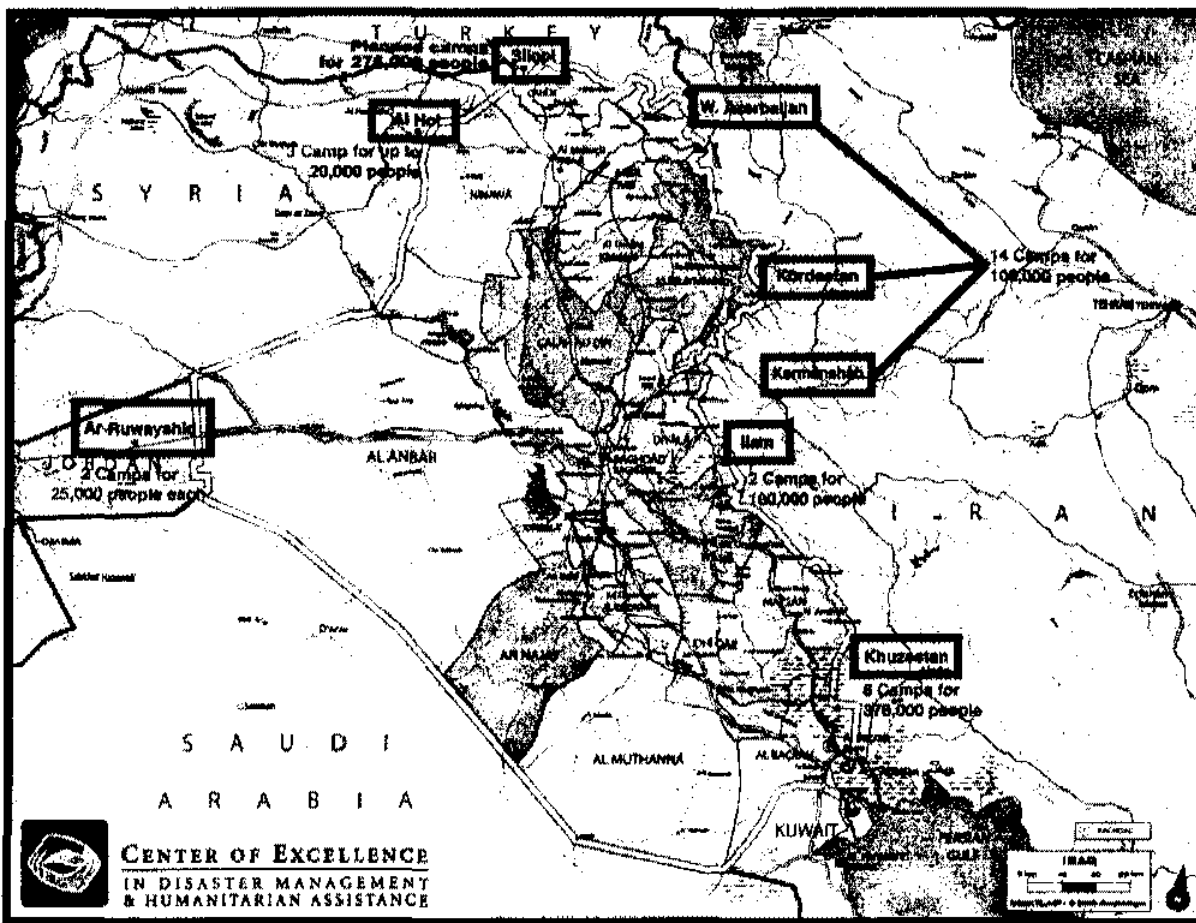
**PACIFIC DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION NETWORK (PDMIN)**

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**IRAQ HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE REPORT**

April 16, 2003

**Iraq Refugee Camp Preparations**



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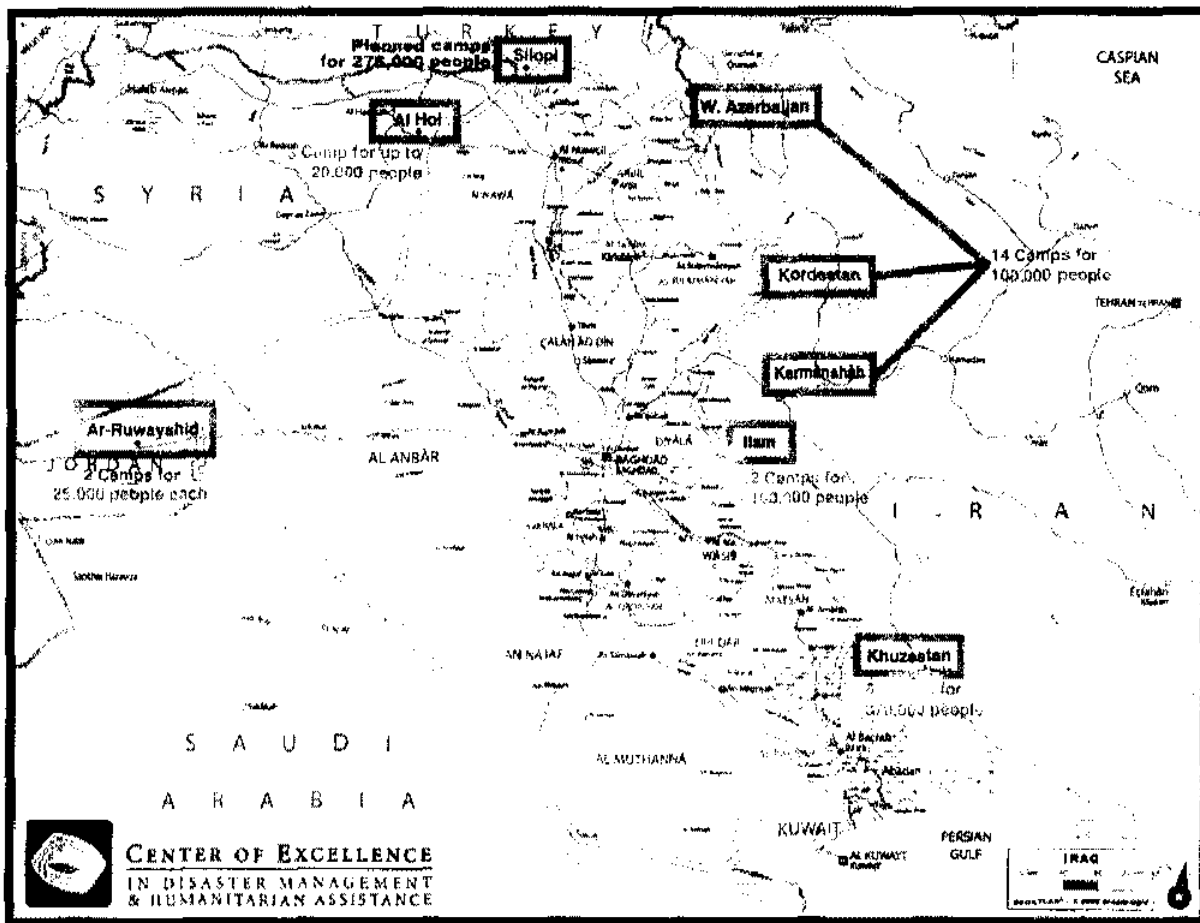
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## Overview

### Today's Highlights

**Humanitarian Situation:** No overall crisis; Situation improving; Northern Iraq returning to normal;

**Political:** Great Britain and Germany agree that UN should have a key role in reconstruction; US pushes for lifting of sanctions;

**UN:** Secretary General Kofi Annan at European Conference in Turkey to discuss Iraq--meets with Sweden and Great Britain;

**Refugees:** Few Iraqis going into Syria or Jordan—some returning from Syria;

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** Few IDPs anywhere in country, continuing to return home in last few days;

**Civil – Military Collaboration:** Continues among US-led Coalition, local authorities, in-place humanitarian organizations, and skilled individuals; Non-governmental organization Refugees International calls for coalition humanitarian aid to go through civilian agencies and for aid organizations to refuse military funds;

**Rule of Law:** Situation improving; Looting and arson abating, stores opening, some looted items being returned; Conflicting accounts of Iraqis killed by coalition at rally in volatile northern city of Mosul;

**Humanitarian Access to Iraq:** Good access from Turkey to northern Iraq; Modest supplies going in from Jordan, Kuwait, and Iran; Significant supplies ready to go in from Jordan, Kuwait, and Iran as security situation allows;

**Water/power:** Continued problem in many parts of the country—International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), coalition, and local authorities starting coordination;

**Food:** Food stocks generally sufficient to last until or through May; Pipeline restarting in northern Iraq; Rebuilding of Iraqi 40,000-person public distribution system underway elsewhere;

**Health and Medical:** Some water-borne disease in southern Iraq, but no significant disease outbreaks; Baghdad and other medical systems at about half capacity—new caseloads decreasing with major battles complete;

**Humanitarian Worker Casualties:** One ICRC staffer killed; One translator working for Malaysian NGO killed in crossfire;

**Prisoners of War:** ICRC in second registration of Iraqi POWs.

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## Routes for Humanitarian Aid

Country	Supply Routes From:	Supply Routes To:	Comments
Turkey	Iskenderun (port) Mersin (port) Sifopi	North	Open for humanitarian supplies
Iran	Ahwaz	South	Open for humanitarian supplies
	Kermanshah	Northeast	Clearances being worked
Iraq	Shipping Umm Qasr (port)	South, Central	Accommodates shallow-draft vessels; 21 2,000 sq. mt. warehouses—half empty
Kuwait	Kuwait City (port)	South, Central	Open for humanitarian supplies; also military use
Jordan	Aqaba (port) Ar Ruwayshid	Central	Low volume to date; planned major WFP supply route of 300,000 MT per month
Syria	Latakia (port) Abu Kamal	Central	
	Beirut, Lebanon (port) At Tanf	Central	

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*Note: New content has been inserted in red, italicized, bold font.*

## Humanitarian Assistance Preparations

### In Country

#### North - Kurdish Autonomous Region

The security situation in Erbil, Dahuk, and Sulaymaniyah is reported as stable.

The border between Iraq and the three provinces that make up the Kurdish Autonomous Zone remains closed.

The United Nations Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq (UNOHCI) announced that about 30 international UN staff were to begin re-establishing a permanent presence to assess humanitarian needs in northern Iraq and will prepare to distribute food, restore water and electricity, clear mines and ensure health care services.

Location	Kurdish Autonomous Region: Erbil, Dahuk, Salaymaniyah
Coordinator	
Affected Population	
IDP Movement	Most IDPs have returned to their homes in Kirkuk as well as in the rest of the three governorates
Food	General status of remaining IDPs stable, with no urgent needs; <b><i>World Food Program (WFP) deliveries via Silope, Turkey are increasing, WFP preparing warehouses in Mosul and Tikrit for incoming supplies</i></b>
Health	Acute respiratory illnesses and diarrhea constitute major health burdens; The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has resumed its school health program in northern Iraq
NFIs –Shelter	In view significant IDP returns, (UN Office for Project Services-IDP (UNOPS-IDP) and local authorities have slowed camp preparations; Of the 21 sites and shelters established for IDPs, only 6 sites remain, currently hosting a total population of 870 IDPs; Agencies scaling back assistance in light of decreasing numbers of IDPs; Tents in Sulaymaniyah are being collected for return to storage
Water & Sanitation	All water projects in urban and semi-urban areas in Erbil are functioning properly
Security	A UN security assessment to all three governorates had positive findings;
Other/Comments	Power in Dahuk has been restored; Schools in all three governorates have reopened, only two schools in Erbil remain closed due to presence of coalition troops

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## Kirkuk, Mosul:

For the first time since the fighting began, an ICRC team was able to enter Kirkuk to assess the humanitarian situation. Armed looters were spotted; most shops and the main market were closed. All government buildings and industrial facilities had been looted.

**Tensions in Mosul continue to be high, where 12 Iraqi protesters were reportedly killed by US Marines in a shooting incident on Tuesday (April 14). There are conflicting reports about the circumstances surrounding the incident and an investigation is underway. An additional 3 people were killed the following day in an incident at an open-air market. Security in Mosul has been elusive as many of the area residents have been critical of US presence.**

Location	Kirkuk, Mosul
Coordinator	
Affected Population	
IDP Movement	
Food	
Health	<b>Kirkuk: Hospitals working at 25% capacity; WHO working to move emergency supplies to meet urgent needs; Mosul: Main hospitals have been partially looted, now operating at about 50% normal capacity; Most health centers have been looted and burned, as have Dept. of Health offices</b>
NFIs – Shelter	
Water & Sanitation	<b>Access to water and electricity is still not in place due to lack of electricity; The Civil-Military Operations Center is arranging delivery of water in Kirkuk; Reports of water shortage in Mosul</b>
Security	Security had been improved such that an ICRC team could conduct an assessment in Kirkuk
Other/Comments	Electricity has not yet been restored; <b>Most shops and govt. buildings in Kirkuk closed or looted</b>

## Central Region:

Location	Central Region – Najaf, Kerbala, Nasiriyah, Hilla, Maymoudiyah
Coordinator	
Affected Population	
IDP Movement	
Food	The Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) in Kuwait, made up of Kuwaiti officials, UN and British military officers, reports that food distribution system in Najaf is functioning; The Kuwait Coordination Committee (KCC) delivered 16 trucks of water, food and clothes to Najaf; Sufficient food and water supplies are available in Hilla
Health	The Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) reports that Najaf Hospital is operational; The former Saddam Hospital in

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	Nasiriyah is also functioning; UNICEF reports a large increase in cases of diarrhea among children under five in Nasiriyah; <b>UNICEF also reported an outbreak of Blackwater Fever, also known as Laeshmaniasis in Nasiriyah; No fatalities have been reported at this time</b>
<b>NFIs –Shelter</b>	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	The Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) reports that water supplies are available in Hilla; Four water plants in Nasiriyah are partly operations, but there is still no power supply; UNICEF delivery of water to Nasiriyah has been postponed due to security concerns
<b>Security</b>	<b>Nasiriyah declared "permissive", UN Security Coordinator to conduct security assessment there today</b>
<b>Other/Comments</b>	Power supplies in Hilla, Kerbala, Nasiriyah and Najaf are inconsistent

## Baghdad

Following several days of widespread looting of public and private buildings in Baghdad, including hospitals and schools, American forces and Iraqi policemen have started joint patrols. Although calm is returning to some parts of Baghdad, looting and gunfire have continued in certain districts.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Baghdad</b>
<b>Coordinator</b>	
<b>Affected Population</b>	Population: 5.8 million
<b>IDP Movement</b>	
<b>Food</b>	
<b>Health</b>	Health situation has reportedly improved during past 48 hours with security improvements; Hospitals operating at about 50% capacity; <b>14 of the 33 Baghdad hospitals are secure and operational; World Health Organization (WHO) continuing visits to hospitals to assess urgent needs;</b>
<b>NFIs –Shelter</b>	CARITAS Iraq has set up emergency shelters in churches in Baghdad
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	Major water treatment plants are working at about 45-50% capacity, which is covering basic needs at the present time; ICRC working on pipes to water station to restore water to Rusafa area; ICRC working to provide water bladder tanks to areas in need and continuing repairs to water treatment plants damaged by bombing or looting
<b>Security</b>	Looting seems to be abating and many looters have been detained; Most stores and govt. offices remain closed; More than 2,000 Baghdad policemen reported back to work on Monday (April 14) to try to restore law and order; <b>US forces plan to boost joint police patrols; Most sectors within the city are secure, but some still considered hostile; 200-300 Iraqis protested outside the Palestine Hotel against the US; Some reports of robberies of NGO staff and journalists en route to Baghdad</b>

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<b>Other/Comments</b>	Telephone system still down, Residents in some neighborhoods seen collecting garbage; Buses running despite fuel shortages; <b>Markets reopening but prices are increasing; About 40% of city getting power part of the day; Coalition engineers working to repair power and water systems</b>
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## South Region

### Basra

<b>Location</b>	<b>Basra (Basrah)</b>
<b>Coordinator</b>	
<b>Affected Population</b>	Population of Basra: 1.5 million
<b>IDP Movement</b>	
<b>Food</b>	No apparent food crisis
<b>Health</b>	Medical supplies are priority; ICRC supplying emergency drinking water supplies to three main hospitals; Hospital still able to provide services despite attempted looting; <b>Most of the 82 public health clinics in Basra area are operational</b>
<b>NFIs – Shelter</b>	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	<b>Water system functioning at about 60% of needed capacity (about the same as pre-war)</b>
<b>Security</b>	Security situation has improved marginally; UK forces providing security for key facilities where possible; Looting has mostly subsided
<b>Other/Comments</b>	Daily activities increasing; More vehicular traffic and shops opening; Fresh fruits and vegetables available on market; Electricity still not reaching most neighborhoods

### Umm Qasr, Safwan, Al Zubair, Umm Kayaal, Faw (Al-Fao) Peninsula

International Organization for Migration (IOM) deployed an assessment team to Umm Qasr to assess the needs of some 1,500 IDPs said to be staying there.

Following three positive security assessments in Safwan, Umm Kayaal, and Al Zubair, daylight UN humanitarian missions have started to each location.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Umm Qasr An Bar, Safwan, Umm Hagid, Faw (Al Fao) Peninsula</b>
<b>Coordinator</b>	
<b>Affected Population</b>	
<b>IDP Movement</b>	64 IDPs currently sheltering in former UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) liaison office, as many as 1,500 may be staying with friends and family
<b>Food</b>	
<b>Health</b>	Vaccine supplies running low (at pre-war levels); Umm Qasr Hospital has 3-month supply of essential drugs, but emergency services on hold due to influx; The local hospital in Safwan has been supplied with a generator and fuel; UNICEF reports a large increase in cases of diarrhea among children under five in Umm Qasr
<b>NFIs – Shelter</b>	
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	Water pipeline to Umm Qasr from Kuwait providing water, but water

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	pressure/capacity very low, slow distribution by truck; Umm Hagid without water/electricity; The Kuwaiti Society for Joint Relief will send 30 trucks of bottled water to Um Qasr, Al Zubair, Faw Peninsula, and Basrah in the coming week; UNICEF sending 31,700 gallons of water to be distributed to Faw Peninsula (31 miles from Umm Qasr)
<b>Security</b>	Stable according to 4/4UN assessment
<b>Other/Comments</b>	The Umm Qasr port is now operational, but has no electricity and demining activities are still ongoing

### Neighboring Countries' Activities/Preparations

WFP has been pre-positioning about 30,000 metric tons of food in neighboring countries, which is enough to provide food aid to 2.1 million people for one month.

#### Jordan

The Government of Jordan has stated that borders with Iraq are open for the flow of goods. The Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Center (HACC-West) has advised that it needs 24-hour advance notice of vehicle movement into Iraq from Jordan. Travel on this route in the short-term may be dangerous due to the threat of hijacking while on the road.

There are two refugee camps, each with a capacity of 25,000 each, located near Ruwayshid (Ruweishid) To date "only a handful" of Iraqi refugees have arrived in Jordan. Over the past two days, 108 third country nationals (TCNs) have arrived for a total of 917 since the start of the war. There are currently 233 residents staying in the camps.

***Approximately 200 Iranian refugees are reportedly stranded in no-man's land on the Iraqi-Jordanian border after being refused entry into a transit camp. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is approaching the government of Jordan to allow the group to enter the country and be sheltered in camps set up in Ruweished.***

#### Iran

No refugees are known to have entered Iran. The border to Iraq is officially closed, but the Government of Iran has said that the policy will be flexible and will be applied to meet the needs of the humanitarian situation. About 3,000 IDPS remain in Badrah, where earlier this week up to 30,000 IDPs were reported to have arrived. All of the remaining IDPs are expected to return to their homes soon. ***The UN High Commissioner for Refugees confirmed that there is no danger of an influx of refugees crossing into Iran from Iraq at this time.***

Iran has prepared 20 camps for 570,000 refugees at border points with Iraq. UNHCR has also stockpiled relief items in the border towns of Ahwaz for the southern sector and Kermanshah for the northern sector. Under the UNHCR plan, supplies will be ready for 260,000 refugees. In addition to offices in Ahwaz and Kermanshah, UNHCR also has an office in Orumieh in the north opposite Iraqi Kordistan (Kurdistan).

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## **Turkey**

The border with Turkey remains open to diplomatic and press missions only. There have been no confirmed reports of any refugee movements toward the border

UNHCR is continuing to build up stocks of relief supplies in the UNHCR regional warehouse in the port city of Iskenderun in southern Turkey. WFP will provide food for an estimated 16-20 refugee camps located in Silopi.

The Gaziantep, Mardin, and Van airports are open to humanitarian flights.

Representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society said they have not set up camps yet because of a lack of refugees. They stated, however, that camps could be set up within a three-day period if needed. The Turkish Red Crescent Society in Diyarbakir has sent 160 out of 280 of its staff back to Ankara.

## **Kuwait**

The Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) in Kuwait requests a maximum of 96 hours to issue a clearance to agencies to carry out cross-border operations. Humanitarian flights are now exempt of all landing and parking fees. The Government of Kuwait has issued a statement that it must be notified 24 hours in advance to issue approved legal passes.

## **Syria**

Small numbers of Iraqis continue to arrive in Syria. Most are not in need of assistance. There are no restrictions on their movements and no registration requirements.

The UNHCR camp at El Hol is ready to accommodate up to 5,000 people and preparations are underway to reach up to 20,000. WFP food stocks are already in place at El Hol. MSF and UNICEF are assisting in implementing the camp. Currently there are 17 refugees in the camp. UNHCR is establishing another two reception centers at Al Yarubiyeh, about 62 miles from El Hol, and at Fish Khabur. These two structures complete the El Hol Camp.

In addition to El Hol, there are transit camps near the main border crossing points at Tall Hamis, Al Shaddadah (north), Abu Kamal, and Batmah/Abu Shamat (south).

There is a TCN camp at Al Bukamal prepared for 500 people initially. The Government of Syria has also established two reception centers at Tanf and Abu Kamal. More than 150 tents have been set up at Al-Tanf camp.

## **Saudi Arabia**

The Government of Saudi Arabia has pre-positioned 10,000 tents and rations for 10,000 people for six days at a facility at Judaidat Arar city, (about 37 miles from Arar, 280 miles from Baghdad).

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