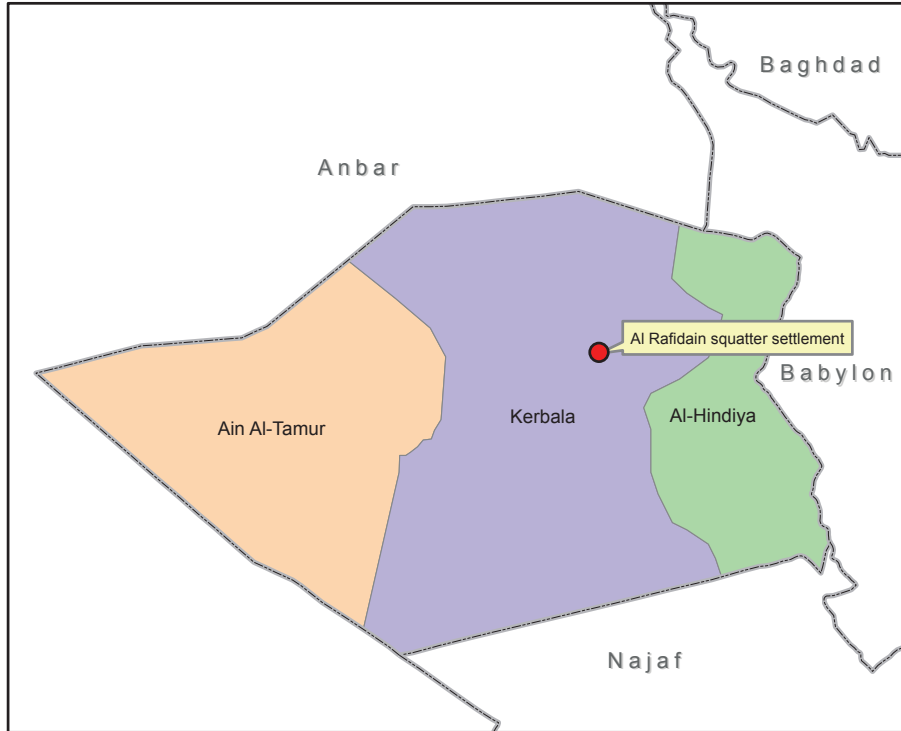


IOM Distributes Relief Items After Flooding in Kerbala Causes Severe Damage to Homes

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In the past week, Northern and Central Iraq have been battered by severe storms, causing massive flooding and damaging the homes of hundreds of families. One area that was particularly affected by this disaster was Al Hur sub-district in Kerbala.

As a leading agency in emergency assistance in Iraq, IOM responded rapidly to this crisis by deploying field staff to the affected villages within 48 hours to assess the situation and determine the needs of the families who suffered from the flooding. IOM found that 50 families living in Al Hur were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance to help them recover from the damage wrought by the storm.

Mobilizing supplies from its emergency warehouse in Erbil, IOM immediately followed up on its assessment by distributing relief items to the 50 vulnerable families on Saturday, April 23. The families received bed frames, mattresses, blankets, pillows, plastic furniture, a gas stove, an ice chest and a water purifier. These supplies will help to replace the basic household items that were damaged in the storm, and will ease the burden on the families as they restore their homes.

The distribution was attended by representatives from the Provincial Council and Municipality Council, as well as the Mayor of Al Hur. A crew from Al Huriya satellite television channel was also on the scene to film the distribution.

As poor weather conditions continue to threaten parts of Iraq, IOM remains prepared to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Funding for IOM's emergency distributions is provided by USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Kerbala: displacement at a glance

Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs	10,337 families (est. 62,022 individuals)
Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs	18,818 families (est. 112,908 individuals)
Number of post-Feb IDPs assessed by IOM	7,367 families (est. 44,202 individuals)
Returnees	321 families (est. 1,074 individuals)
Capital	Kerbala
Districts	Ain Al-Tamur, Al-Hindiya, Kerbala
Population	887,859 individuals

