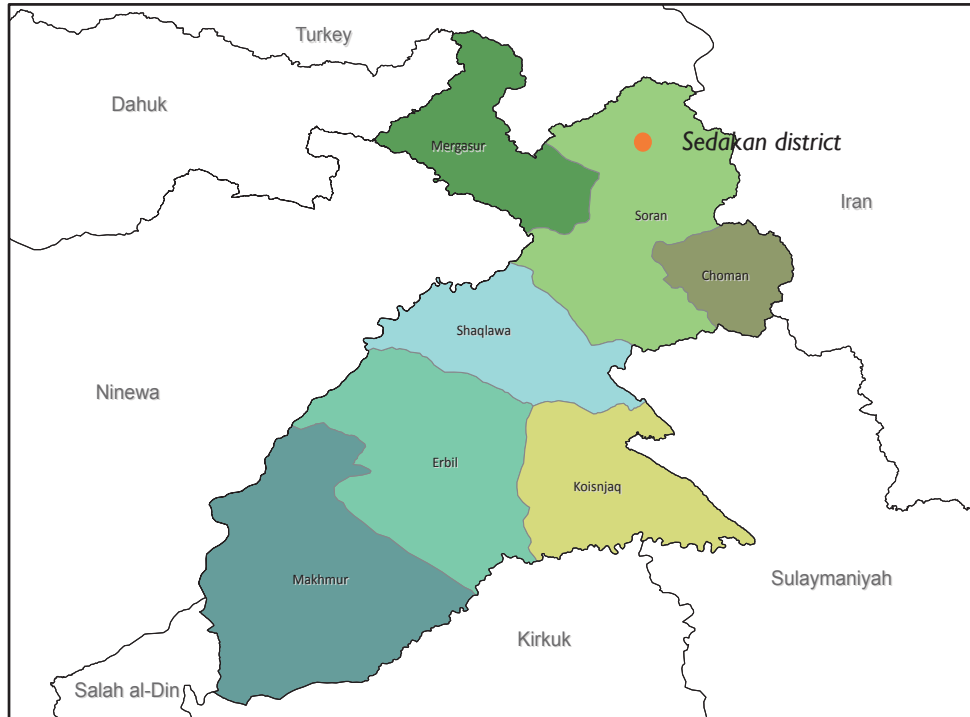


IOM continues its support to families displaced along the border in northern Iraq



October, 2011 - Fighting in northern Iraq has left hundreds of families displaced along the Iraq-Iran border.

IOM now knows of 884 families that have been displaced along the Iraq-Iran border in Erbil governorate since July, in the sub-districts of Sedakan (564 families) and Choman (320 families). These families are currently taking shelter in a number of temporary camps. Between September 27 and 28, IOM staff carried out an emergency needs assessment in Sedakan and identified a total of 100 vulnerable families across seven villages in need of urgent assistance.

These 100 families are living without electricity in the camps and are suffering from a lack of food. There is also a fear that disease will spread due to families using nearby streams, which are highly polluted, as their source of water. There have been numerous reports that children within the camps are suffering from acute diarrhea as a result. Thus, the most pressing need for these families is health checks, medicine and water purification kits.

In accordance with its emergency assessment, relief items were immediately dispatched from IOM's emergency warehouse in Erbil. The vulnerable families in Sedakan were provided with supplies including water purification kits, jerry cans, blankets, gas cookers, kerosene heaters, mattresses, pillows, plastic sheets, carpets and plastic furniture. The distribution was carried out in cooperation with UNHCR as well as local authorities. The relief items distributed to these 100 families in Sedakan brings the total of families assisted by IOM since the fighting began to 395 (or 2,370 individuals).

Many of the displaced families rely on farming as their primary means of subsistence, and were particularly affected by the destruction of their land and livestock by the shelling. In the long-term, these families will need to be assisted with rebuilding their livelihoods.

Erbil: Displacement at a glance

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| Total post-Feb 2006 IDPs | 9,275 families (est. 55,650 individuals) |
| Total pre-Feb 2006 IDPs | 32,813 families (est. 196,878 individuals) |
| Number of post-Feb IDPs assessed by IOM | 6,976 families (est. 41,856 individuals) |
| Capital | Erbil |
| Districts | 7 |
| Population | 1,542,421 Individuals |

