

“A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City”
Fact Sheet: IRAQ

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)	2.5 million (third highest in the world) ¹
Refugees	2.3 million (third highest in the world) ²
Refugees fled to	Syria, Jordan
Conflict began in	2003
Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) began working there in	2003; 2004 left due to insecurity; 2006 returned
MSF staff on the ground	28
MSF activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War surgery in Jordan, Iran, and northern Iraq • Supply of drugs and medical equipment to select Iraqi hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of Iraqi medical providers
MSF concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of humanitarian space to reach the most vulnerable people due to insecurity • Destruction of Iraqi health infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence against civilians • Multiple surgeries and lengthy recovery and rehabilitation for surgical patients due to nature of injuries

- Bombings and lesser reported sectarian violence result in devastating injuries requiring immediate and intensive medical attention, yet skilled medical staff and supplies in many areas are limited. The economy has collapsed and approximately 50 percent of Iraqi doctors have fled the country. The high-level insecurity and ongoing violence reduces direct access to civilian victims.
- At the Red Crescent Hospital in Amman, Jordan, MSF provides surgical care to Iraqi victims of violence. Patients are referred by a network of Iraqi physicians still inside the country. Many suffer from drug-resistant infections, a symptom of the unhygienic conditions in Iraqi hospitals and significant delays in receiving treatment.
- In 2007, MSF began working in northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan), to provide emergency medical and surgical assistance to Iraqi populations reachable from the north. MSF also launched a reconstructive surgery project in Mehran, Iran, with the objective of caring for victims of violence coming from Iraq's eastern provinces and south of Baghdad.
- Security issues make Iraq an exceedingly difficult context for independent humanitarian work. MSF struggles to reassert and gain recognition for its identity as an independent humanitarian organization, separate from the U.S.-led coalition, the UN system, and any political or military interests.

For more information visit www.doctorswithoutborders.org/iraq

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¹ SOURCE: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: “Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments in 2007” (April 2008). For latest data visit <http://www.internal-displacement.org>

² SOURCE: UNHCR: “2007 Global Trends” (June 2008)