

(Translated from Arabic)

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Ref: 9/21

Date: 11/01/2021

## **Response of the Republic of Iraq to the joint urgent appeal from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**

1.

No.	Paragraph of the communication	Summary of replies
1	Paragraph 1 (allegations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since the establishment of the camps, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement has been working to provide relief to displaced families and has given them shelter in the camps. It cannot abandon them in displacement or return sites.</li><li>• The government programme provides for the closure of the “displacement file” and for the voluntary participation of the Ministry in closing the camps.</li></ul>
2	Paragraph 2 (measures taken to ensure freedom of choice of internally displaced persons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry conducted a comprehensive survey of the displaced families living in the camps to identify whether they wished to return voluntarily or not.</li><li>• Caravans have been allocated to displaced families whose homes have been destroyed.</li><li>• The Ministry has organized several seminars and negotiations between clans in conflict.</li><li>• Homes are being restored for returning displaced families, in coordination with international organizations.</li></ul>
3	Information on consultation and coordination with the authorities regarding camp closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry has held several meetings with international organizations and informed them on the subject of camp closures.</li><li>• The Ministry coordinates with local governments about closing the camps that are run by them, in accordance with the directives of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.</li><li>• With regard to the camps scheduled to be closed at a later date, the Ministry is coordinating with government agencies in the region, as well as with international organizations working locally.</li></ul>
4	Paragraph 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Ministry is working on the voluntary return of displaced persons and considers return to be the best durable solution.</li></ul>



<i>No.</i>	<i>Paragraph of the communication</i>	<i>Summary of replies</i>
5	Paragraph 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families cannot be forced to return, and a large percentage of displaced families have chosen to settle in their areas of displacement.</li> </ul>
6	Information on measures taken to protect children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and COVID-19 protection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry has organized several seminars and negotiations between clans in conflict.</li> <li>• The Ministry has launched a comprehensive national plan to address the problem of displacement through several pillars, including the restoration of homes, the creation of jobs and national reconciliation.</li> </ul>
7	Paragraph 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four “health baskets” were distributed to all displaced families within one month, following the initial distribution of only one basket per family.</li> <li>• 500 million Iraqi dinars have been allocated to the Ministry of Health and Civil Defence to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to fumigate camps.</li> <li>• 1.5 million face masks have been distributed to displaced families.</li> <li>• Several workshops and seminars have been organized on the risks of COVID-19 for displaced families in the camps and during their return.</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In its next plan, the Ministry relies on several key factors for the closure of the remaining camps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. [REDACTED] the extent to which the atmosphere is conducive to the return of displaced persons [REDACTED].</li> <li>2. [REDACTED] security clearance for the families’ return, as well as their desire to do so. [REDACTED]</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Coordination with the Kurdistan Government on the return of displaced persons and the closure of camps.</li> <li>• The desire of displaced families to return voluntarily to their areas of residence.</li> <li>• Coordination with international and local organizations in closing the camps.</li> <li>• Overcoming the challenges that prevent the return of displaced families.</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of the destroyed homes of displaced families.</li> </ul>

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- Community reconciliation between heads of household or family members affiliated with ISIL and their communities of origin.
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### Comments

1. The Iraqi Government's programme includes closing the displacement file. As the sectoral authority overseeing the displacement and return file, the Ministry must discharge all its responsibilities and duties in this area.

2. [REDACTED]

3. The Ministry is currently coordinating with international organizations to restore destroyed homes [REDACTED] and other governorates.

4. The fact that security has been restored in most areas of the country has made displaced persons think about returning voluntarily to their areas of origin.

5. These camps have been in operation for between four and six years, and displaced families have been living in tents until now. These formerly productive families have been transformed into consumer families.

6. The Ministry has made preparations and put in place procedures for displaced families, which can be summarized as follows:

- The Ministry has shifted a large part of its programmes to focus on returnees.
- The Ministry has accorded importance to displaced families living in the camps.
- The Ministry is working in coordination with international organizations, especially in [REDACTED] on the issue of return and returnee settlement.
- The Ministry has plans and programmes, implemented in coordination with government agencies and international organizations, that address the problems and obstacles that prevent the voluntary return of displaced families.
- The Ministry looks forward to the cooperation of all international and local organizations in the process of displacement and return.

2. The Human Rights Committee of the Iraqi Parliament values the efforts that contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in Iraq. It also calls on donor international organizations to cooperate with the Human Rights Committee in the reconstruction of liberated areas and on the issue of the voluntary return of displaced persons through the provision of adequate alternative housing.

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