

# IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #10, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**8.7**  
**million**

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq  
UN – March 2018

**4.08**  
**million**

IDP Returns in Iraq Since 2014  
IOM – September 2018

**1.89**  
**million**

IDPs in Iraq  
IOM – September 2018

**591,354**

IDPs in Ninewa Governorate  
IOM – September 2018

**269,289**

Iraqi Refugees in Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – June 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 1.89 million IDPs remain displaced in Iraq, as 4.08 million people return to areas of origin
- USG declares disaster due to a waterborne health emergency in Basrah
- USG announces additional support for vulnerable populations, including members of ethnic and religious minorities

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$252,766,960
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$17,192,210
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$229,038,000

**\$498,997,170**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- More than 1.89 million people remained displaced across Iraq, while approximately 4.08 million people had returned to areas of origin as of September 30, according to U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The rate of returns has slowed, resulting in displacement that is increasingly protracted and leaving those who remain displaced in need of sustained humanitarian assistance in both camp and non-camp settings.
- Critical protection concerns remain for both internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. The Government of Iraq (GoI) continues efforts to close IDP sites, raising concerns among humanitarian actors regarding unsafe returns and the potential for secondary displacement among households unable to return to areas of origin.
- On September 10, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas A. Silliman declared a disaster due to the health emergency in Iraq's Basrah Governorate resulting from waterborne illness that affected at least 80,000 people between mid-August and late September. A USAID partner is addressing urgent water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs in Basrah, including water trucking and rehabilitating a water treatment plant.
- The USG recently announced \$178 million in additional funding in Iraq to support the Genocide Recovery and Persecution Response (GRPR) Program and U.S. Department of State demining activities and social, economic, and political empowerment grants. The funding includes \$51 million in humanitarian assistance from USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA for vulnerable populations, including ethnic and religious minorities.
- In FY 2018, State/PRM, USAID/FFP, and USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$499 million in humanitarian assistance, bringing total USG assistance to Iraq since FY 2014 to nearly \$2.5 billion.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- On September 10, Ambassador Silliman declared a disaster due to a waterborne health emergency in Basrah. Between August 12 and September 23, health actors in Basrah recorded approximately 80,000 cases of gastrointestinal illness—including 30,000 cases recorded since September 4—resulting from the consumption of water contaminated by biological and chemical agents and high salinity, the UN reports. Current water conditions in Basrah stem from numerous factors, including poorly maintained water treatment plants, severe pollution, and a low volume of fresh water being introduced into the filtration system. The resulting high number of gastrointestinal illness has compounded longstanding discontent regarding dysfunctional public services in the governorate.
- In response, USAID provided \$750,000 in FY 2018 to address immediate WASH needs. USAID is supporting an implementing partner to make repairs to the water intake system for Basrah city, including several water pumps along the Shat al-Arab River, as well as delivering safe drinking water, installing water tanks, and conducting hygiene promotion sessions at 50 schools. The UN and other humanitarian actors continue to support GoI response efforts, including bolstering the capacity of federal- and governorate-level health and water authorities.

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## INSECURITY AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- Since the number of IDPs countrywide peaked in June 2017, nearly 1.5 million IDPs have returned to areas of origin, including in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates, as of September 30, according to IOM. Despite returns, more than 1.89 million people remained displaced across Iraq as of late September, IOM reports. The organization continues to record the largest number of IDPs in Ninewa, reporting more than 591,000 IDPs—or approximately 31 percent of IDPs countrywide—as of September 30.
- While the number of IDPs continues to decline, displacement is increasingly protracted, with more than 50 percent of remaining IDPs having been displaced for more than three years, IOM reports. Additionally, more than 80 percent of out-of-camp IDPs do not intend to return to areas of origin during the next 12 months, according to a July and August assessment of IDP movement intentions. Destroyed homes, insecurity, and lack of livelihoods in areas of origin remain the primary barriers to return, the assessment reports.
- Many of the nearly 467,000 IDPs residing in IDP camps face movement restrictions that impede travel in and out of the camps, increasing the populations' vulnerability, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster—the coordinating body for CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Restrictions prevent IDP access to livelihoods outside of displacement sites, resulting in many IDPs continuing to rely on emergency food aid to meet basic food needs.
- Efforts by the GoI to close IDP sites and evict camp residents persist, raising concerns among humanitarian actors regarding unsafe returns and secondary displacement among households unable to return to areas of origin. Between October 2017 and August 2018, GoI authorities evicted more than 6,300 households—approximately 37,800 people—from formal IDP camps and informal settlements in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al-Din, according to State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In mid-August, Baghdad security forces closed Al Jamea'a IDP camp, instructing the remaining 45 households—approximately 240 people—to vacate the camp within 14 hours, UNHCR reports. In addition to evictions, relief agencies continue to report instances of confiscation of IDPs' identification documents by authorities, limiting evicted IDPs' freedom of movement and access to government services.
- In September, IOM released a Quality of Returns Index, which assesses the severity of conditions in areas of return—categorized as low, medium, high, or very high severity—based on access to livelihoods and basic services, shelter conditions, social cohesion, and perceptions of safety. Of the more than 1,400 locations assessed in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din, IOM determined that 290 locations—more than 20 percent—had very high or high severity conditions. Ninewa's Ba'aj, Hatra, and Sinjar districts; Salah al-Din's Bayji District; areas of western Kirkuk, including Hawija District; and central areas of Diyala were among the areas with the highest concentration of locations with the most severe conditions. Conditions in these locations could prevent returns,

generate secondary displacement, or leave the community in need of prolonged support to meet basic needs, IOM reports.

- Between August 19 and 30, more than 1,900 refugees returned to Iraq in three convoys from northeastern Syria's Al Hol camp and relocated to Ninewa's Jed'dah 5 camp. Austere living conditions, insufficient services, and movement restrictions in Al Hol may have contributed to the refugees' decision to return to Iraq, according to UNHCR. However, most returnees indicated no plans to return to areas of origin due to security concerns and lack of access to basic services. As of mid-September, more than 8,600 Iraqis remained in Al Hol camp, UNHCR reports.

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## **PROTECTION AND SHELTER**

- Camp-based populations continue to face significant protection risks, including the presence of armed actors, movement restrictions, confiscation of identification documents, and discrimination based on perceived Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) affiliation, relief agencies report. In FY 2018, both State/PRM and USAID/OFDA supported humanitarian organizations to mitigate protection risks and provide support to survivors of violence, including individuals in camps, out of camps, and in areas of return. USAID/OFDA-supported protection activities include building the capacity of community leaders and health workers to better identify and refer individuals with protection needs; providing psychosocial support and case management services; conducting awareness-raising sessions on child protection, child rights, and gender-based violence; implementing mine risk education; providing civil documentation legal assistance; and supporting countrywide coordination efforts to ensure integration of policies and frameworks for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- As IDP returns continue, explosive hazard contamination remains a critical threat to returnees, as well as humanitarian actors working to access vulnerable populations. In response to the continued threat of explosive hazards, State/PRM supported the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to initiate a mine risk education program in Kirkuk and Ninewa's Mosul District in August; more than 21,000 children participated in mine risk awareness-raising activities during the month. These activities complement existing USAID/OFDA-funded mine risk awareness-raising activities in additional districts.
- Destruction of houses remains a primary barrier to IDPs returning to areas of origin. As of August, nearly 168,000 IDPs—representing 9 percent of IDPs countrywide—resided in critical shelters, including informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, and unfinished or abandoned buildings, according to IOM. USAID/OFDA continues to support critical shelter response activities. With \$1.4 million in FY 2018 funding, a NGO partner is rehabilitating 500 damaged or destroyed houses in Ninewa's Ba'aj, Mosul, and Sinjar. Through prior year funding, the NGO rehabilitated nearly 650 damaged structures—sheltering more than 870 households—in northern Mosul between June 2017 and July 2018. USAID/OFDA shelter partners work with the Shelter Cluster to establish procedures for collecting, recording, and verifying housing, land, and property rights among households who lack official property documentation.
- Through State/PRM support, a humanitarian partner provided legal counseling services on civil documentation and housing and property rights to nearly 1,000 individuals in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Ninewa from March to June; the partner reached more than 2,500 people with counseling services since September 2017. The partner also provided tailored legal assistance to more than 100 people from March to June, with all of the supported individuals successfully obtaining the required documentation or securing housing and property rights.

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## **AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND LIVELIHOODS**

- Although the population requiring emergency food assistance in Iraq declined in late 2018, many IDPs and vulnerable households continue to rely on life-saving emergency food assistance, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Overall, destruction of infrastructure, economic decline, and population displacement remain the primary drivers of food insecurity in Iraq, the UN agency reports.

- Displaced Iraqis returning to areas of origin are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, due to limited financial resources and a lack of access to nutritious food, FAO reports. Additionally, households in newly liberated and hard-to-reach areas have limited livelihood opportunities, reducing their ability to purchase food and other commodities. While FAO reported that food was generally available across the country as of August, the purchasing power of conflict-affected and displaced households remains significantly lower than other households in the country, rendering populations dependent on life-saving emergency food assistance to meet needs.
- Conflict has negatively impacted the agricultural sector in Iraq, especially in cereal-producing areas of Ninewa and Salah al-Din and northwestern areas of Dahuk, FAO reports. Additionally, large areas of land remain inaccessible due to conflict-related destruction or unexploded ordnance contamination. As a result, Iraq experienced a low national cereal harvest in mid-2018, with projected 2018 wheat production 14 percent below 2017 levels and nearly 20 percent below the five-year average. Decreased crop production could further worsen food insecurity among vulnerable populations, relief actors report.
- Each month, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reaches more than 500,000 vulnerable displaced individuals with emergency food assistance, including family food rations and cash transfers. As of late July, WFP transitioned from providing in-kind food assistance to cash transfers in six camps in Dahuk, Diyala, and Sulaimaniya governorates, where populations are able to secure food commodities through local markets. Activity monitoring has indicated that populations prefer cash transfers to in-kind food assistance and WFP is endeavoring to expand cash assistance where markets permit.
- Between March and June, a State/PRM partner employed 80 individuals in Sinjar through livelihood support programming. Program participants received payment for repairing irrigation channels and cleaning and restoring roadways in the area. The partner also provided vocational training to 50 shopkeepers; nearly 260 shopkeepers in Sinjar have received training since September 2017.
- A State/PRM partner supports trainings in Dahuk, Erbil, and Ninewa to strengthen women and adolescent girls' economic empowerment through livelihoods and life skills programs. Between April and June, the partner reached nearly 350 women through sewing, hairdressing, and language trainings.

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## EDUCATION

- During the 2017–2018 school year, a State/PRM partner assisted in the enrollment of nearly 3,800 students in schools in Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din, including more than 420 girls who participated in a program to encourage female enrollment. In addition, the partner operates alternative learning centers, enrolling more than 2,400 students in the centers during the school year. The partner also supports more than 1,500 students at 24 centers providing exam preparatory classes for secondary-level students.

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## HEALTH

- Communicable diseases remain a major public health concern and a primary cause of mortality in conflict-affected and remote areas of Iraq. In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA partners provided health interventions throughout central and northern Iraq, with a focus on vulnerable communities and areas where health facilities were destroyed by conflict. In August, a USAID/OFDA NGO partner provided medical consultations in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al-Din to more than 19,000 people, more than 30 percent of whom required medical care for communicable diseases.
- Between January and mid-July, health actors in Iraq recorded 648 cases of measles, including 323 laboratory-confirmed cases, UNICEF reports. The majority of cases originated in Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Ninewa, with cases from the governorates accounting for nearly 80 percent of confirmed cases. From January–August, UNICEF and health partners provided measles vaccinations to nearly 27,100 children ages 0–12 months through routine immunization services. USG partners UNICEF and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) are supporting the GoI Ministry of

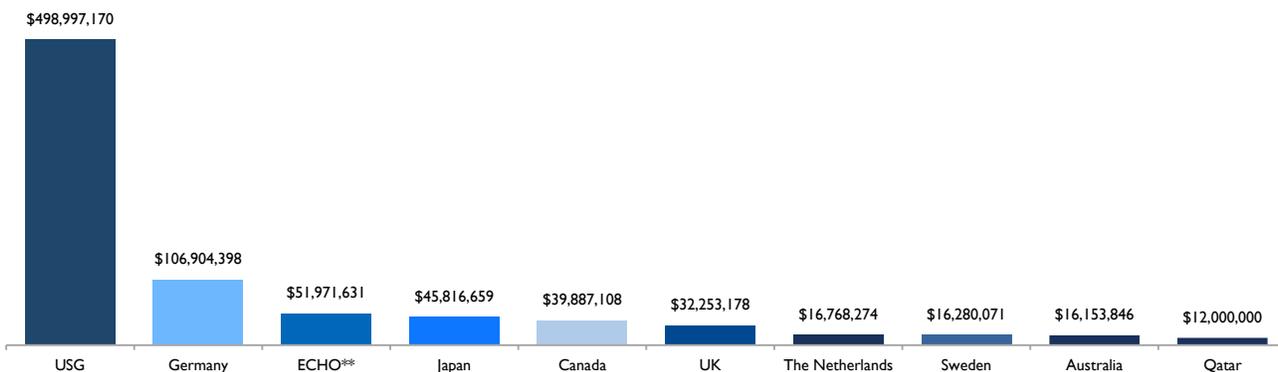
Health to complete a two-part measles vaccination campaign targeting 5 million children ages 9–59 months in the coming months.

- With FY 2018 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting WHO’s efforts to improve disease outbreak detection and response in conflict-affected areas. Through USAID/OFDA support, WHO established an early warning system, enhanced disease surveillance, supported immunization campaigns, conducted aware-raising activities, and monitored water quality in IDP camps and high-risk return locations.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- USAID recently announced additional FY 2018 funding—including \$51 million from USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA—for initiatives implemented through USAID’s GRPR, which aims to help ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq recover from conflict and restore their communities. Through the GRPR, USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA have contributed a total of nearly \$58 million in FY 2018 to provide life-saving assistance to vulnerable communities in the Ninewa Plain and western Ninewa, which host the majority of displaced ethnic and religious minorities. USAID/FFP- and USAID/OFDA-supported programs include delivering emergency food aid and shelter assistance, increasing access to safe drinking water, and providing critical health care services to displaced, returnee, and vulnerable host communities.

## 2018 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2018. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG commitments for FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017. Non-USG funding figures do not necessarily reflect pledges announced during the Iraq donor conference on July 13, 2017.

\*\*European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)

## CONTEXT

- The situation within Iraq remained relatively stable until January 2014, when ISIS forces began seizing control of parts of northern and central Iraq. Significant population displacement ensued as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, such as the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape fighting.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to help coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout Iraq. DART and State/PRM staff in Iraq work closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations. To support the DART, USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C.
- Approximately 8.7 million people in Iraq required humanitarian assistance in 2018, according to the UN. Prolonged displacement is exhausting the resources of IDPs and host community members alike at a time when serious budgetary shortfalls due to low global oil prices are limiting the capacity of both the GoI and Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief actors face funding shortages, logistical challenges, and security constraints that complicate efforts to meet critical needs.
- In August 2014, the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) activated a system-wide Level 3 (L3) response for Iraq due to the pace and volatility of the humanitarian crisis. L3 responses are activated in the most complex humanitarian emergencies, where the highest level of mobilization across the humanitarian system is required to scale up and meet needs. In late December 2017, the IASC downgraded the Iraq emergency to an L2 designation, signaling the beginning of a scale-down process for humanitarian operations.
- On October 7, 2017, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas A. Silliman re-declared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2018 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,914,679
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$142,526,060
IOM	Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$21,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$150,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$36,800,000
UNICEF	WASH	Basrah	\$750,000 <sup>3</sup>
UNOPS	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,506,830
WHO	Health	Anbar, Dahuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$30,300,000
	Program Support		\$2,819,391
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$252,766,960</b>

<b>USAID/FFP<sup>4</sup></b>			
Implementing Partner	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$192,210
Implementing Partner	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$4,000,000
WFP	Cash-Based Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$13,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$17,192,210</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>5</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Advocacy and Reconciliation, Capacity Building for Government, CCCM, Durable Solutions, Education, Emergency Response, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$65,864,456
Implementing Partners	Capacity Building for Government, CCCM, Education, Livelihoods, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$7,483,544
IOM	Advocacy and Reconciliation, Durable Solutions, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
IOM	Durable Solutions, Livelihoods	Turkey	\$300,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$102,800,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$24,900,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$3,190,000
UN-Habitat	Capacity Building for Government, Durable Solutions, Shelter and Settlements	Anbar, Basrah, Ninewa	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$229,038,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$498,997,170</b>

#### **USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2018**

<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$1,015,835,443</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>	<b>\$216,235,726</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$1,144,089,283</b>
<b>TOTAL DOD FUNDING</b>	<b>\$77,357,233</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2018</b>	<b>\$2,453,517,685</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/FFP funding supports humanitarian programming benefiting IDPs and other conflict-affected Iraqis; figures do not include USAID/FFP funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

<sup>3</sup> Funding represents the FY 2018 USAID/OFDA contribution provided in response to the September 10, 2018, disaster declaration for a health emergency in Basrah.

<sup>4</sup> State/PRM funding supports humanitarian programming inside Iraq and for refugee populations who fled Iraq for neighboring countries; figures do not include funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).

USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

More information can be found at:

- USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)