



FACTS:

- **Operational presence** in Iraq since 2017 with country office in Erbil.
- **Beneficiaries in 2020:** 75,320 people benefitted from DCA's activities.
- **Turnover in 2020:** More than EUR 1,74 million
- **Projects:** 7 projects in 2020
- **Employees:** 17 national employees and 6 internationals.
- **DCA has 5 partners in Iraq:** Judy Organization for Relief and Development (JORD) and Iraqi Health and Social Care Organization (IHSCO), Mercy Hands, Women's Rehabilitation Organisation (WRO) and Dijla Agricultural Association (DAA).

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT:

- Almost six years have passed since the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) took over large parts of Ninewa Governorate and forced hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.
- Approximately 1,38 million people remain displaced across Iraq, a third of which are located in Ninewa. While people are returning, 81 % of IDPs in out-of-camp settings do not intend to return.
- 4.1 million IDPs and returnees continues to have needs related to physical and mental well-being, living standards and coping capacities.
- Factors such as damaged infrastructure, lack of livelihood opportunities and basic services, insecurity and explosive hazard contamination have been identified as reasons for people's hesitance of returning.
- Following the invasion of Syria in October 2019, a further 14,000 Syrian's fled North East Syria to Iraq bringing the total number of Syrian Refugees in Iraq to 248,721.

WHAT WE DO:

Effective response plans are desperately needed to mitigate the primary reasons preventing people from returning. The focus areas of DCA Iraq's response are threefold.



Due to the past years of conflict, **the contamination of landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices is vast and critical in Iraq.** Current capacity does not match the need on the ground, and a recent estimate from UNMAS believes that the clearance of Mosul city only can take as much as 10 years to complete.



Psychosocial Support: Prolonged conflict and multiple displacements have had a significant negative impact on communities, especially children and vulnerable groups. Without Psychosocial support and social cohesion, the recovery of communities in liberated areas will not be sustainable.



Livelihood Opportunities: The conflict has also had a significant impact on people's ability to make a living. Lack of livelihood opportunities has been noted as a key deterrent against returning.

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HOW AND WHERE WE WORK:

In line with DCA's international strategy, the activities of DCA Iraq focuses on two of DCA's global goals: to save lives and to build resilient communities.

Risk Education: DCA is in collaboration with a local partner providing Risk Education to adults and children living in, or planning to travel/return to, contaminated areas. Risk Education is a vital step of equipping people properly to identify explosive hazards, mitigate the dangers towards themselves, and reporting the location of the item to local authorities.

Clearance: Additionally, DCA is building the capacity of a local NGO in order for them to conduct both non-technical surveys and clearance activities in contaminated areas.

Psychosocial Support: Through local partners, DCA is providing psychosocial support to vulnerable groups with the aim of improving the well-being of those affected and encouraging peaceful coexistence and social cohesion. DCA is offering vocational training to vulnerable youth groups at risk of joining armed groups. As a result, they are better equipped to seek out job opportunities.

Capacity Building: DCA in partnership with IHSCO have opened a new mine action training school in Ninewa Governorate. Young local male and female students have attended and graduated from the school and are able to work in clearance teams, helping the rebuilding of Iraq.

Community Led Action: DCA supports inclusive and representative self-help groups that identify and implement initiatives according to the needs of their community. These initiatives are improving access to basic services such as water, health and school facilities while strengthening social cohesion within the community including refugees, IDPs and host-community.

COVID-19 Emergency Response: DCA in partnership with IHSCO, JORD, WRO and DAA have been responding to the need of vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19 and the resulting economic impacts. Through local partners, DCA has carried out cash, food and hygiene-kit distributions for refugees, IDP's and returnees in Mosul, Sinjar, Al-Baaj, Erbil and Dahuk.



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