



Providing
Ongoing
Support



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IOM Regional Director Visits Operations in Iraq



“As IOM Iraq begins a new cycle of distributions and expanding operations, we will do our best to provide support to more people in need,”

said Pasquale Lupoli, IOM Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), while attending a distribution in Kalak, a small town in the Erbil Governorate.

On June 22nd, Mr. Lupoli, accompanied by Lado Gvilava, IOM Head of Erbil Hub, Natasha Stojkovska, Emergency Specialist at UNICEF, and Khalid Aziz Karim, Mayor of Kalak, attended IOM Iraq’s distribution of 150 IOM NFI kits and 150 UNICEF hygiene kits to vulnerable IDPs families currently living in Kalak.

During the distribution, Mayor Khalid Aziz Karim informed the IOM delegation headed by Mr. Lupoli about the problems faced by IDPs living in the Kalak community. “The biggest issue these families face is lack of food,” Mayor Khalid Aziz Karim told Mr. Lupoli. “These families are starving. On top of that, they do not have access to basic facilities and are living in terrible conditions because they have no

way to provide for themselves. The suffering of these families reminds many in the Kalak community of their own time when they were displaced themselves. We will try our best to help them because many living here have experienced their pain.”

Mayor Khalid Aziz Karim pleaded for increased help and support from IOM, other organizations, and the international community. “The number of IDPs living in our community is huge and exponentially growing. We do not have the resources to support them on our own.”

Mr. Lupoli also spoke with several people who fled Mosul in order to learn first-hand about their conditions, needs, and experiences.

Mr. Lupoli’s participation in this distribution was one of many activities he attended during his four-day visit to the IOM Erbil Hub. From the 21st to 25th of June, Mr. Lupoli attended IOM distributions in Erbil and Ninewa and met with the UN Country Team and local governmental authorities to coordinate and provide support for IOM’s activities on the ground.

On June 23rd, the IOM delegation led by Mr. Lupoli had several meetings with Jacqueline Badcock, Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator,



Above: Mr. Lupoli examines an IOM NFI kit
Below: A man who received an IOM NFI kit at the Kalak distribution



Emmanuel Gignac, UNHCR coordinator for Northern Iraq, Jane Pearce, Representative and Country Director from WFP, Fadel El-Zubi, FAO representative, and Roberto Marazzani, Global Logistics Coordinator in Iraq, to strengthen and expand joint efforts to provide emergency relief to vulnerable families.

On June 24th, the IOM delegation led by Mr. Lupoli met with both Karim Sinjari, Minister of Interior of the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), and General Nazar Rahmatulla Aziz, Director General of Passports and Residency Department of KRG, to discuss the ongoing humanitarian crisis

and IOM's provision support for vulnerable IDPs families in the KRG.

Mr. Lupoli also visited the IOM Iraq Central Warehouse in Erbil, where IOM staff were loading trucks with items that would be organized into IOM NFI emergency kits and distributed to 200 families in Kalakchi and Khazir Camp the next day. IOM staff were simultaneously loading 1,100 relief kits that would be given to Syrian refugees in Qushtapa camp the next day as well. IOM has continued to provide support to Syrian refugees in parallel to families displaced by violence in Mosul.



Above: IOM NFI distribution in Kalak on June 22nd

Below: Mr. Lupoli tours the IOM Iraq Central Warehouse in Erbil



Mr. Lupoli toured each of the three IOM warehouses and examined the various items stored there that make up the kits that IOM distributes for emergency and livelihood assistance.

In the next few days, IOM will continue serving IDP families by expanding its operations to Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk governorates and is currently waiting for security clearance from the governor's office to distribute in Kirkuk. IOM will continue to work with WFP and UNICEF to distribute food packages and hygiene kits to these locations as well.

"Through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the Mission's IOM teams have assessed hundreds of different locations, giving us critical information about the priority needs of IDP populations," said Mr. Lupoli. "Thanks to that, we know where to go. Thanks to our refined logistics system, we can serve beneficiaries quickly and efficiently. Now we just need further support from the donor community to do it. Working together with the UN Country Team, we will continue to reach more vulnerable families and provide them with life-saving emergency items."



Above: Mr. Lupoli, Mr. Gvilava, and Karim Sinjari, Minister of the Interior
Below, left: IOM staff at the Kalak distribution



As of June 25th, IOM has distributed:

1,610 IOM NFI emergency kits
1,020 WFP food packages
1,170 UNICEF hygiene kits

helping **1,610** families,
an estimated **9,660** people.