

January-March 2021

Bilateral Meetings

April 2021

Missions to Turkiye

June 2021

Dialogue & Mediation Process

July 2021

Return Mechanism

August 2021

Voluntary Return of Refugees

October 2021

Security Screening for return Mechanism

November 2021

Second Voluntary Return of Refugees

September 2021

Dialogue & Mediation Process

November 2021-February 2022

Diapraxis Process

February 2022-December 2023
Cordoba Cultural Cafe

TRACK I - FACILITATION OF VOLUNTARY RETURNS & SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION FROM IRAQI REFUGEES IN TURKIYE



336



Families Returned

88%



Positive Integration

42



Socio-Cultural Events

650



Participants in the Events

25



Youth Trained

65



Women

Building Social Cohesion in Iraq

In the aftermath of the conflict with ISIS, Iraq's journey towards recovery is marked by both progress and persistent challenges. The landscape, once scarred by war, now shows signs of rebirth with restored infrastructure, and revived public services. However, the legacy of the conflict and the additional blows dealt by the 2020 pandemic and economic turmoil continue to weigh heavily on the vulnerable.

The humanitarian situation remains critical, with OCHA reporting 2.5 million Iraqis in need of aid. Displacement is a stark reality, with 1.2 million internally displaced and 1.5 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries, often without legal protection or documentation.

Particularly in Turkey, Iraqi refugees face uncertain futures, caught in a limbo of limited rights and temporary status. Within Iraq, around a million displaced and repatriated individuals struggle without essential civil documents, a predicament that excludes them from vital services and exposes them to increased risks. This narrative is further complicated by Iraq's fragile political landscape.

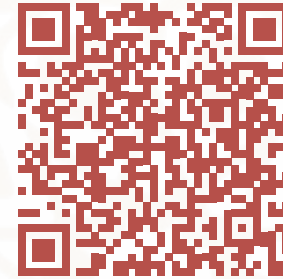
Since October 2020, CPI has been actively involved in aiding the return of Talafari refugees from Turkey. Through a series of workshops, frequent meetings, and exchanges, primarily in Ankara, CPI has effectively facilitated the repatriation of Talafari refugees. This initiative, a collaborative effort based on dialogues with stakeholders in Ankara, Talafar, and Baghdad, successfully repatriated two groups of Talafari refugees, totaling 180 individuals, from Ankara to their native Talafar in the Ninewa governorate. Additionally, it enabled more than 150 families to access vital civil documentation.

The initiative has been a significant confidence-builder, inspiring other families, who were not direct beneficiaries of the program, to independently and voluntarily initiate their return. A unique mechanism was established, incorporating religious and tribal leaders, and coordinating with various governmental bodies, including the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the Iraqi Embassy in Turkey, and the security forces of the Joint Operations Command. This collaboration ensured a secure and reassuring process for refugees returning to Iraq. Further enhancing the social fabric of Talafar, CPI organized diverse socio-cultural activities through the Cordoba Cultural Cafés and sports events, fostering social cohesion between the returnees and their home community.

Despite the success of this operation and its role in prompting further spontaneous returns, challenges persist, particularly regarding access to civil documentation for some refugees. This issue is a common obstacle in achieving sustainable solutions for Iraqi displaced people and refugees lacking legal identity, essential for security clearance and sustainable repatriation. To address this, CPI has initiated a Law Clinic, providing specialized legal assistance to support these individuals in navigating their unique circumstances.

The Cordoba Peace Institute Geneva (CPI)

CPI-Geneva is an independent non-profit organisation, working on violence prevention and peace promotion. CPI aims to enhance theoretical and practical conflict transformation resources and has extensive experience in West Asian and African contexts. CPI promotes a methodology adapted to and accepted by local communities, conflict parties and peace actors. Since 2002, it has developed unique access and networks in the countries where it works. CPI's outlook is inspired by the Andalusian city of Cordoba: a renowned medieval centre of inter-faith dialogue, and by Geneva: a modern centre of international dialogue and exchange between peoples. CPI has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.



Cordoba Peace Institute - Geneva
Chemin des Vignes 2bis
Geneva 1209, Switzerland
+41 (0)22 734 15 03 - info@cp-geneva.org
www.cpi-geneva.org

Reconciliation and Political Dialogue in Iraq Nov. 2020 - Dec. 2023

Track I - Facilitation of Voluntary Returns and Sustainable Reintegration of Iraqi Refugees in Turkiye



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The Talafar Citadel Mural, created in December 2022 by young artists, symbolizes the revival of Talafar's rich 3000-year heritage. Destroyed in 2014, the citadel's reconstruction with support from UNESCO unites communities in preserving and celebrating their cultural identity.



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