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SENIOR EXECUTIVE INTELLIGENCE BRIEF
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Iraq: Neighbors Unprepared To Help Refugees [redacted]

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Iraq's neighbors have only begun to prepare for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees from a war with Iraq, potentially leaving several hundred thousand people without support. The UN is seeking contributions for a \$130 million aid fund--the US has committed about \$58 million--and has urged neighboring countries to prepare aid facilities, but most are waiting for funding and help in building the necessary infrastructure. The UN expects as many as 1.4 million refugees and 900,000 new IDPs from a war with Iraq; the CIA estimates 300,000 of each.

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[redacted] the prolonged bombing of urban areas, Iraqi use of CBW, or a long conflict could significantly increase Iraqi refugee and IDP flows.

-- Because of funding shortfalls, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has supplies in place for only 100,000 refugees. [redacted]

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The UN and Baghdad's neighbors probably have inflated their forecasts of refugees and IDPs to encourage donors, but they are unprepared to cope with even moderate refugee and IDP flows. The UNHCR anticipates most refugees will flee to Iran, Syria, and Jordan, each of which probably is several weeks, perhaps months, away from having adequate aid infrastructure.

-- Tehran plans as many as 19 camps but so far has identified only three sites [redacted]

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Turkish officials last year began planning for refugee contingencies and indicated they wanted to minimize potential refugee flows into southeastern Turkey by building IDP camps

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