



Sanitation matters

Supporting service delivery for refugees in Iraq

Linking humanitarian assistance with development cooperation

What does it mean if hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria and up to 400,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Iraq are fleeing their homes and seek shelter in the Kurdish governorate of Dohuk in North Iraq? What does it mean if more than 300,000 Syrian refugees live outside of camps, 40% of the refugees being children? It means that over 200 women, children and men living in an abandoned building have to share one toilet and it means that the wastewater from a refugee camp pollutes the local neighbourhood and local water bodies. Those are just two examples of lacking sanitation infrastructure in a situation where more and more traumatized refugees arrive at refugee camps and in host communities.

With the conflict in Syria already being in its fourth year and with the unknown future of the region, there is a growing recognition of “permanent” emergencies in contexts of protracted crisis, where refugee camps remain for years or even decades. Therefore, linking humanitarian assistance and development cooperation becomes more and more important and offers the chance to build from the strengths of both fields, serving refugees and IDP's not only immediately after arrival but also thinking about a long-term perspective. Development cooperation organisations like BORDA can play a key role in bringing a long-term perspective to emergency planning.



BORDA is currently active in responding to the refugee crisis in northern Iraq by improving the sanitation and, more specifically, wastewater infrastructure inside and outside the refugee camps. The solutions offered by BORDA range from the very practical approaches like the construction of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) and the import of prefabricated treatment modules from BORDA Afghanistan to activities like practical trainings and strategical cooperation with the local government. To be able to intensify the work in Iraq and to engage more actively with humanitarian organisations like UNHCR, UNICEF and regional NGOs, BORDA opened a project office in Erbil recently.

One step towards a healthier life in a lasting emergency situation are reliable and hygienic sanitation services, including wastewater treatment, to protect people from water borne diseases in- and outside the camps. However, it appears that the notion of “treating wastewater” is still far from “business as usual” in humanitarian assistance. “Business as usual” until today does not seem to go beyond building a holding tank, desludging with a vacuum truck and disposing off almost untreated sewage into the environment. It took the United Nations more than 50 years to allow the term “wastewater” entering into international agreements (hopefully, by the end of this year, with SDG 6). Applying wastewater treatment in situations of humanitarian crises should not take another 50 years, but start now.

BORDA started in July 2015 by completing four DEWATS plants in three camps for internally displaced people and refugees, serving around 4,100 men, women and children. BORDA Iraq 2014/15 in Numbers: 6,000 Refugees were provided with kerosene heaters during the winter, 1,500 refugees gained access to clean water for hand washing, and wastewater of 4,100 refugees is now treated.

Unsere Arbeit wird unterstützt durch:



Events

22. - 28. August

Meet BORDA at the Stockholm World Water Week

Don't cheat on us! Gender dimensions in water corruption

Convenor(s): Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association;
Stockholm International Water Institute and Women for Water Partnership

[More Information](#)

Gender sensitive indicators in sanitation and wastewater planning and implementation

Convenor(s): African Ministers' Council On Water; Bremen Overseas Research & Development Association; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit; Gender and Water Alliance; Sustainable Sanitation Alliance; UN World Water Assessment Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; Women in Europe for a Common Future

[More Information](#)

Understanding Humanitarian and Development WASH Approaches to Improve Service Delivery

Convenor(s): Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Federal Foreign Office, Germany; German WASH Network; Sustainable Sanitation Alliance and United Nations Children's Fund

[More Information](#)

18. - 22. October

Meet BORDA at the IWA Development Congress in Jordan

The high level technical programme will connect you to the latest trends in leading practice, innovative technologies and pioneering science. Engage with the most critical debates and the leading professionals shaping our water future.

[More Information](#)



Art for awareness: To raise awareness for environmental protection and sanitation, BORDA-Nicaragua launched a photo contest around ecological and basic sanitation. Impressive photos show the realities of sanitation in Nicaragua

For more information visit www.borda-la.org



His Excellency Dr. J. Kikwete, the President of Tanzania, visiting the BORDA booth during the COSTECH Conference in Dar es Salaam. He got an introduction to integrated sanitation solutions by the local BORDA team.

For more information visit www.borda-sadc.org



The SHAMSA Children's Village in Kabul aims to care for orphaned or abandoned children and vulnerable women in a permanent family environment. BORDA with PARSA, supported by the German Foreign Office, constructed a DEWATS plant to protect the village from diseases and environmental pollution..

For more information visit www.borda-mca.org



How to protect the environment in everyday life? To celebrate World Environment Day and raise awareness, BORDA Indonesia and its partners organized an interactive learning event with local elementary school children.

For more information visit www.borda-sa.org



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For more information visit www.borda-sea.org