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RÉSUMÉS

Humanitarian aid has been an important economic and political factor in Iraqi Kurdistan, but it has had unforeseeable, and at times even paradoxical, effects; to some extent, it has exacerbated existing negative trends and tendencies. This paper tries to trace some of its main features and implications. After some background, the main stages of this humanitarian involvement will be outlined: from initial relief effort and the establishment of a 'Safe Haven', aid shifted to a focus on long-term development. Such efforts were increasingly hampered by the progressive social and political disintegration of the region, until a measure of stability was regained with the end of the Kurdish infighting and the implementation of the famous 'food-for-oil' resolution no. 986 of the UN.