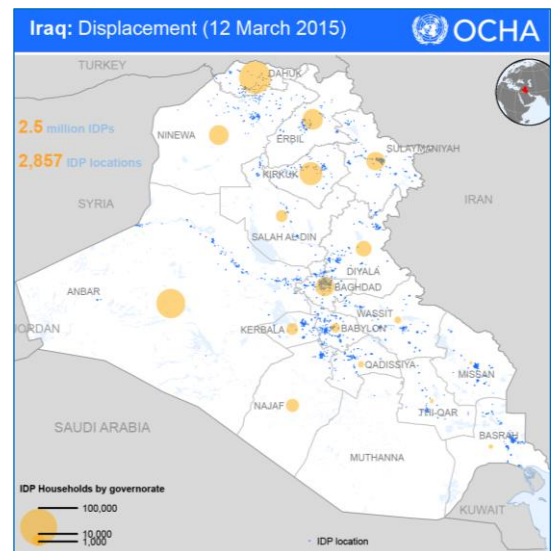




This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 7 – 13 March. Due to the rapidly changing situation it is possible that the numbers and locations listed in this report may no longer be accurate. The next report will be issued on or around 22 March.

Highlights

- More than 2.5 million IDPs identified across Iraq
- Agencies step up relief for Samarra displaced; close to 5,000 families have arrived since January
- At least 20 per cent of all displaced face critical protection needs, including those related to trauma and sexual violence
- Food prices on the rise throughout Iraq; al-Baghdadi residents report severe hardship



Situation Overview

More than 2.5 million people across Iraq are now identified as being displaced, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) revealed this week. Since January 2014, the DTM has identified 2,536,734 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across 2,857 distinct locations, including just over 1 million in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

The governorate hosting the largest number of displaced remains Dahuk Governorate with 440,988 IDPs (17 per cent of total displacement), followed by Anbar Governorate with 392,712 IDPs (16 per cent), and Kirkuk Governorate with 344,892 (16 per cent).

The largest increase observed during this DTM reporting period occurred in Baghdad, where 38,334 displaced individuals were identified; the majority of whom were displaced after 1 September 2014.

Of the more than 2.5 million displaced, 28 per cent (117,000 families) continue to live in critical shelter arrangements, including schools, mosques, and unfinished and abandoned buildings, while 9 per cent (36,428 families) are living in IDP camps.

Aid agencies are stepping up their efforts to deliver life-saving assistance to thousands of newly displaced families in Samarra District due to recent fighting in Salah al-Din Governorate.

As of 7 March, IOM had accessed 4,711 IDP families as having arrived in Samara since January, however, access to accurate data on the number of newly displaced due to fighting in Salah al-Din remains a challenge.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

An unidentified number of IDPs from Tikrit areas had fled to Kirkuk and Diyala governorates, aid workers report, however, due to ongoing security concerns, actual numbers cannot be verified.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), food prices in many parts of Iraq are spiking due to inflation. The conflict has severely disrupted supply lines to Anbar, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk governorates, pushing up the price of a basic food basket and resulting in shortages of fresh fruit, meat, eggs and dairy products. In these governorates, reduced Public Distribution System (PDS) distributions are keeping wheat flour prices high. In early March, food prices in Salah al-Din increased significantly due to the ongoing conflict, while in Anbar Governorate local authorities reported the price of a 50 kg bag of flour had reached US\$200 up from a previous price of US\$40.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Needs:

- Food supply remains a priority need in Anbar Governorate (Falluja, Haditha and Rutba districts), Ninewa Governorate (Telafar District), Salah al-Din Governorate (Tooz District and Samarra City), Diyala Governorate (Khanaqin, Ba'quba and Khalis districts), Baghdad Governorate (Resafa, Karkh, Tarmia and Mahmoudiya districts), Babylon Governorate (Kassim Sub-District), Quadissiya Governorate (Diwaniya District), Missan Governorate (Amara City), Muthanna and Thi-Qar governorates (Shatra, Nassriya, and Suq A-I Shoyokh districts; and al-Dawaya Sub-district). These governorates collectively host an estimated IDP population of over 400,000 families.

Response:

- Since 1 February 2015, WFP and its partners have assisted approximately 1,239,000 people with Family Food Parcels (FFP) throughout the country.
- Recently implemented through its Information Management Tool, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) analysed the response of the food security sector in January. Food assistance, which included Family Food Rations, Immediate Response Rations, general food distribution vouchers, agricultural inputs and cash for work, reached 88 per cent of planned beneficiaries or 1.6 million out of 1.99 million people.
- WFP, and its partner the Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization, reached approximately 60,000 IDPs in southern and western Anbar Governorate in February, despite the challenging security situation there.
- Through its Rapid response Mechanism (RRM), WFP and its partners assisted approximately 3,330 people in Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates in February.
- WFP and its partners are distributing food vouchers (worth US\$26 per family) to displaced people in Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The Emergency Operation in Iraq requires US\$188 million to continue its operations from May to December. Unless additional funding is secured, 1.8 million people are at risk of losing WFP food assistance in May.
- FSC partners require US\$48.7 million until June to reach 2.3 million people across Iraq through food and agricultural assistance.
- WFP remote monitoring mVAM (mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping) has revealed that the conflict has severely disrupted supply lines to Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Kirkuk governorates, pushing up the price of a basic food basket and causing fresh food shortages. In these governorates, reduced Public Distribution System (PDS) distributions are keeping wheat flour prices high.
- In conflict-affected areas, casual labour opportunities are limited and wage rates remain low. This is undermining people's ability to purchase food and other basic goods.
- The prospects for the 2015 winter crop are uncertain in conflict-affected parts of Anbar, Salah al-Din and Diyala governorates.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

Samarra:

- WASH has been flagged as a critical need in Samarra District where an estimated 4,000 IDP families (24,000 people) have been displaced due to fighting in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Approximately 200 IDP families (1,200 people) who fled Al Door (outskirts of Samarra) and settled in an open area (Sheikh Mohammed), on the eastern part of Samarra, are in urgent need of support, including drinking water, hygiene kits and baby diapers.

South Zone:

- IDP families continued to arrive to South Zone (SZ) governorates. The number of IDP families accommodated in SZ governorates are 2,628 (Basrah), 1,276 (Missan), 2,214 (Thi-Qar), 1,240 (Muthanna), 3,667 (Qadisiya), and 13,641 (Najaf).
- 20 IDP families (120 people) in Kahla and Al-Qudis sub-districts in Missan Governorate who fled from Anbar and Ninewa governorates are in need of hygiene supplies, latrines and shower facilities.

Debergah:

- Approximately 516 families (3,096 people) displaced in dispersed locations (mosques, chicken farms, stadium and wedding halls) in Debergah town since early February face deteriorating water, sanitation and hygiene conditions, including scabies and diarrhea.

Dahuk:

- Continued WASH service provision in three camps - Chamishku (4,390 Households), Bardarash (2,186 households) and Dowdia (609 households), is at immediate risk due to funding constraints. Similar constraints affect the upgrading of WASH facilities to meet standards, and to address issues related to camp-level infrastructure where contractor warranty periods have expired.
- Telafar (Ninewa) and Sumel (Dahuk) areas are still facing disrupted water/electricity services due to conflict.

Response:

Samarra:

- A draft preliminary response plan for those newly displaced in Samarra was developed.
- Hygiene and waste collection supplies were distributed to affected families in Samarra, while mobile latrines and showers were installed to provide families in collective centres, unfinished buildings with access to basic water and sanitation services.
- Partners have made plans to support the 200 displaced families who fled Al Door with sets of bottled water, baby diapers and other NFIs, security permitting.

Central and South Zone:

- 40,000 IDPs were provided daily water trucking with an average of 120,000 liters per day in Ammriya, Habaniya, Al-Khalidyah and Nukhyb in Anbar Governorate.
- 270 IDPs were reached through the supply and installation of two showers and eight latrines in 3 primary schools in Missan; another 16 are under installation in Amara primary schools to support IDP needs.
- 3,173 IDPs were reached through ongoing solid waste disposal activities and desludging of sanitation facilities in Wassit, Babylon, Kerbala and Anbar.

Debergah:

- One partner is in a position to provide targeted sanitation support for 50 families in Debergah. This is very specific support, targeting women-headed households. A major gap in WASH services for the displaced families still however remains.

Dahuk

- The ICRC, DRC, and JEN are engaging with critical water infrastructure rehabilitations in areas of return in Ninewa Governorate. UNICEF is providing water trucking services in 8 villages (1,600 families) in the Sumel area.

Gaps and Constraints:**Samarra:**

- It remains difficult to obtain a clear caseload of affected people in Samarra and their needs on the ground.
- Limited financial resources remains a critical challenge to effective WASH response. There is a critical gap in financial resources to provide an effective, immediate emergency water, sanitation and hygiene response.

**Shelter and Non-Food items****Needs:**

- Providing shelter and NFI assistance to the recently displaced populations in Salah al-Din Governorate mainly in and around Samarra has dominated this reporting period.
- A similar urgency for action was required by the threat of eviction facing IDPs residing in the hotels in Kerbala Governorate.

Response:

- Up to 127 collective centres (unfinished or public buildings occupied by IDP families) have been identified in Samarra. Partners are currently conducting an assessment to identify which centres can be targeted for repair. Thus far, 1,500 non-food item kits and 900 tents have been distributed to these IDP families.

Kerosene update

- To date, a total of 23,270,215 litres of kerosene have been distributed by the government and cluster partners, which covered 45 per cent of total planned litres (52 million). 23 per cent has been covered by the Government and 21 per cent been covered by cluster partners.

Shelter update

- Over 1,850 IDP families living in critical shelter arrangements, such as unfinished abandoned buildings, in Dahuk received sealing off kits to improve their living conditions.
- Over 289 tents were distributed to IDP families living in host families in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) (169), Kirkuk (100) and Kerbala (20).

Gaps and Constraints:

- Current funding of the cluster only stands at US\$201 million (27%) of the total US\$753 million requested under the Iraq Strategic Response Plan (SRP).

**Protection****Needs:**

- Of the 2.5 million people displaced by the conflict, at least 20 per cent have critical protection needs, including those related to trauma and sexual violence. With over half the population under the age of 18 and many out of school, children are at particular risk.
- Financial support remains a major need for most vulnerable households, who are at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse.
- Unregistered or undocumented IDPs face restricted movement and risk arrest and detention. Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) do not have sufficient access to comprehensive multi-sectoral services, and the quality of existing services needs to be improved.
- Returns, between 1,000-1,800 IDP households (6,000 to 9,000 people), have been reported in Diyala Governorate, mainly to Muddadiya District. Most of the reported returnees have been displaced in Khanaqin District, other districts in Diyala Governorate, as well as in Kirkuk

Governorate. Returnees report challenges in meeting their basic needs as their properties and the local infrastructure were destroyed or seriously damaged.

- About 500 families have reportedly returned to Rabia Sub-District in Telafar District district (Ninewa Governorate). Local authorities expect the number of returnees to Rabia to be around 1,200 as some families are still waiting at the Syrian border point for clearance to return.
- Spontaneous IDP-returnees are facing safety and security issues due to presence of mines, IEDs, inter-community tensions and threats by sectarian militias.

Response:

- An estimated 1.1 million IDPs and affected individuals have been reached since February 2014 through on-going protection monitoring and assessments. Out of them, around 25,087 have been identified with specific needs. 62,217 individuals have benefited from legal assistance and advocacy interventions in view of IDP registration and issuance of documents.
- Protection actors are currently involved in the distribution of humanitarian assistance to newly displaced families in Samarra, Salah al-Din Governorate. IRC, Muslim Aid and UNHCR are currently conducting a rapid protection assessment.
- Protection agencies have been following the imminent evictions of 1,200 households (approx. 6,000 people) in Kerbala Governorate. Negotiations are ongoing between authorities, international and local organizations, and landlords to find a compromise for the next two months, when the establishment of new camps will be completed.
- During the reporting period, almost 600 internally displaced households from the town of Gwer have been registered in Debagah in Erbil Governorate, by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) following joint UNHCR-MoDM missions to the area. The remaining displaced population will be registered next week. Women displaced in Debagah benefited from UNFPA distribution of 1,000 dignity kits and 500 clothes.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Protection Monitors reported that most IDP families in the city of Samarra in Salah Al Din Governorate are living in collective centers, including mosques, schools and unfinished buildings. This poses serious concerns in terms of privacy, access to water and sanitation facilities.
- Families displaced within Daur District recently arrived in Al Eet and Albudarach villages (Daur District). Humanitarian assistance is required as both communities between them are sharing limited services.
- In Rabia town in Telafar District, Ninewa Governorate, infrastructures are reportedly being destroyed, burnt, seriously damaged or looted by ISIL. Several protection concerns were identified: restriction of movements, unaccompanied and separated children and widows, loss of documentation, need for family tracking support, SGBV and no access to the basic services, such as health, food, water and NFIs.
- In Diyala Governorate, returns appear to be voluntary in nature and have been triggered by the regaining of government control in these areas or an improvement in living conditions in areas of return. However, IDPs are not fully informed about conditions in their places of origin, as they rely mainly on media, local authorities and organizations as well as on family ties.
- A need to improve the inclusion and accessibility to services for persons with disabilities has been observed. Specialized protection actors are addressing this gap through training, field assessments and the provision of technical advice.
- Reports of inter-communal tensions are on the rise and restriction to freedom of movement and documentation continue to be reported across KR-I.

Education

Needs:

- Of the 2.47 million IDPs across Iraq, an estimated 720,000 are school-age children between the ages 6 to 17 years and an estimated 123,000 children between the ages of 4-5 years. Of these children, over 57,000 are currently residing in camps.
- Despite progress, approximately 71 percent of IDP children remain out of school across Iraq. This means 560,000 IDP children between the ages of 6 – 17 are not accessing education services.
- The cluster is currently providing education activities for over 110,000 children, including the provision of non-formal educational and recreational activities and additional learning spaces for formal education.

Response:

- According to the Ministry of Education an estimated 192,000 IDP children are enrolled in formal education. Of these 138,000 are in the KR-I, with the remaining 54,000 children across southern and central Iraq.
- 13 tented schools are operating in six IDP camps in Dahuk Governorate. The schools are providing formal education in both the Central Government and KR-I curricula. 18,761 children (7,853 girls and 10,908 boys) are enrolled in basic education classes and a further 1,649 (596 girls and 1,053 boys) are attending secondary school classes.
- Education supplies including student kits, school in a box, recreation kits, first aid kits, school bags, teacher's kits were distributed for 8,515 students and teachers in Baghdad, Diyala, Baylon, Kerbala and Wassit governorates.
- The provision of psychosocial support, including recreational activities, is being provided to 262 children in Berseve I and II camps. Training to 28 teachers conducting this activity has also been completed.
- The Education Cluster assessment of IDP children in camps has begun. Two camps in Dahuk Governorate have been completed. The roll out for another five camps is ongoing.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Additional resources are needed to increase access to education opportunities that target children who are at risk of dropping out.
- School furniture, textbooks and learning materials are required for IDP schools and in schools yet to be opened. IDP students also need transportation to access functioning schools in towns and cities.
- Funds requested for education against the SRP is still only 10 percent funded.
- Further information is required on the enrolment of IDP children in central and southern Iraq.

**Needs:**

- Essential primary and secondary health care services for IDPs and refugees, as well as host and non-host affected communities.
- Support to renovated health facilities and the deployment of mobile teams in areas of emerging conflicts, including Samarra, as well as elsewhere in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Early detection and investigation of disease alerts and timely response to outbreaks.

Response:

- The provision of a basic package of primary health care interventions, inclusive of non-communicable diseases and mental health and psycho-social support, for 18,229 consultations in week 9 (Feb. 22-28).
- Provision of health equipment for primary and secondary health care facilities in affected areas.
- Ensuring availability of antenatal care services through the PHC in areas of IDPs concentration.
- Strengthening and sustaining disease surveillance/EWARN system in the camps.
- Providing treatment and medication for chronic disease, including mental health and psychosocial support to IDPs and affected populations. (1,326 cases served for Week 9).

Gaps and Constraints:

- There is an acute shortage of health professionals in the north.
- Health services in the KRG are overburdened by the high number of IDPs in the region.
- Inadequate reproductive and antenatal care clinics in most of IDPs camps in Dahok.
- Need is higher than available services for management of chronic diseases.
- Difficulty in importation and clearing medication through customs
- Challenges exist in recruiting local staff.
- Access to hard-to-reach areas: with focus on the KRG, with few national NGOs operating in harder-to-reach areas.



Logistics

Needs:

- The Logistics Cluster is addressing the need for regular and updated logistical information on road conditions and bottlenecks.
- Information is also being collected for contingency planning purposes.

Response:

- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with UN agencies for an inter-agency response in Haditha District.
- The Logistics Cluster is reinforcing information sharing between partners to optimize the use of resources available and provision of logistics coordination platforms such as the website with maps, and other information products see: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a>
- GIS updating warehouse and storage capacities of agencies in Iraq and updating key road supply routes.
- Logistics Cluster Assessment (LCA) is in-progress.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Response:

- An additional VHF base was installed in the Sulaymaniyah COMCEN. Further repairs and configurations were conducted to the system.
- Retraining of all UN agency staff and radio-operators was conducted in Sulaymaniyah.

Gaps and constraints:

- Funding for the cluster is available till the end of March. Further Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) support beyond March is dependent on further donor funding.
- There is still a lack of radio frequencies in Erbil. UNAMI, on behalf of the ETC, has requested additional frequencies from the government and approval is pending.

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Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June 2014, armed groups (AGs), including Ba'athists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq's provinces of Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyara, Suleiman Bek, Heet, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under armed group control. Since January 2014 much of Anbar has been under ISIL control. This has led to massive internal displacement. Iraq is now contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world; over 2.5 million have been displaced since January last year.