

Situation Report

Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



Report #: 9

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The information presented here is based on data received by JAU from different agencies up to the time of publishing of this SitRep

Highlights

- Number of displaced continues to rise with the Government recording **62,679 families** displaced so far with a worrying increase of 13,000 families in the space of four days.
- Anbar remains highly active with continuing fighting between ISF and Daash. The conflict is spreading to the South Central regions with reports of Al Qaeda seizure of ISF tanks.
- The response Plan (formerly known as Flash Appeal) has been finalized and sent to Headquarters.

Situation overview

- Anbar remains highly active with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) operations to dislodge Al Qaeda linked groups, and Al Qaeda reprisal attacks continue targeting ISF patrols and compounds. ISF artillery fire and airstrikes continue to impact Fallujah in particular, where three civilians were confirmed killed and 31 injured, as well as other smaller towns. Fallujah hospital was also damaged by ISF shelling resulting in three killed and 14 injured.. The ISF reported that 12 militants were killed and 14 captured in the Albu Bali area east of Ramadi. Accurate numbers of casualties remain unknown. Al-Qaida has reportedly expanded operations to Shi'ite-dominated southern Iraq with increased level of fighting spreading down south, Al Qaeda allegedly capturing 22 ISF tanks. Large scale arrest operations continue in the South Central and Southern Regions resulting in clashes in Northern Babil Governorate between anti-government forces and the ISF.
- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced a plan involving the federal and local governments, as well as local tribes for rebuilding Anbar and maintaining peace and security in the region after it is cleared of armed groups. PM Maliki has also reportedly agreed to merge fighters who fought alongside the ISF into the Iraqi Security Forces. Meanwhile, the deadline set by Anbar's local government and clans to resolve the Anbar crisis peacefully and politically expired on 12 January.
- In Rawa city (180 km west of Ramadi), a demonstration demanding the entry of displaced families from Ramadi and Fallujah reportedly ended violently (11 years old boy killed and four civilians wounded when ISF forcibly dispersed the crowds).
- Expat workers (Bangladeshi) are stranded in Fallujah and have appealed to the government and the UN to help facilitate their safe passage to place of safety outside Fallujah.

Humanitarian Response

The humanitarian toll of the conflict continues to mount, with 62,679 families displaced to date (11 February),¹ showing a worrying increase of over 13,000 families in the space of four days. Out of these new IDPS figure, 16,123 families are now registered outside Anbar. Further, 85% of Fallujah citizens are reportedly displaced (total Fallujah population is 425,000). There is also a reported increasing number of IDPs arriving in KR-I, mostly to Erbil (over 5,000 families). The constant interruption of communication networks continues to be an obstacle to gather accurate IDP figures and IDP registration remains a challenge, especially in Salah-Al-Din, where more IDPs have fled to.

¹ Figures provided by Ministry of Displacement and Migration, responsible for registering IDPs in Iraq.

Access to IDP locations and safe passage for humanitarian aid remains difficult due to the ongoing fighting. There are urgent humanitarian needs among IDP families residing in schools, mosques and public buildings are: water, basic services. Also reported is increasing prices of essential products required for daily consumptions. Furthermore, educational gaps have been reported as an increasing concern, as well as integration of families outside Anbar in the host communities. In view of the dire humanitarian situation, Parliament Speaker Nujaifi called for an allocation of 50 billion Iraqi dinars outside the national budget (from emergency funds or Ministries' budgets) to relieve Anbar displaced families.

Minister of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) hosted a coordination meeting (with UN and other agencies) on 11 February to review the Anbar IDPs situation. During the meeting MoDM announced the allocation of 10 billion Iraqi dinars for relief of displaced families outside Anbar (including cash assistance of 250,000 IQD / \$200 USD per family as first response). MoDM also announced the formation of an emergency cell to follow up Anbar Crisis in order to strengthen the level of coordination in response to humanitarian needs. The Ministry of Agriculture announced the delivery of 70 tons of dates (from Kerbala) in collaboration with the Red Crescent Society as food aid to the people of Anbar and IDP's spread throughout other provinces.

Access to IDP Locations

Access to UN aid convoys to affected populations remains a major challenge. A suicide attack on an ISF Check-point on the Siddiqiya Bridge (in Habbaniya, 20km west of Fallujah) led to the partial collapse of the bridge adding delays to routes of humanitarian deliveries. Advocacy with the GoI continues in an effort to facilitate movement of humanitarian supplies and personnel. IOM trucks (carrying IOM, WFP and WHO detained in an ISF checkpoint since 30 January) have been released, but one of the WFP trucks has been allegedly looted. On the other hand, UNICEF managed to find a humanitarian corridor through Beiji and is now deliveries humanitarian supplies to locations Anbar through this route.

NFI and Shelter Sector

To date 1,840 NFIs have been delivered by IOM to assist the civilian population displaced and adversely affected by the crisis. IOM is distributing 50 more kits on 13 February in Central Kerbala and 350 in Samarra (Salah-Al-Din). UNHCR has also been able to distribute a total of 2,453 CRIs to date and recently completed the distribution of 100 CRIs in Kirkuk and Daquq (12 February) with 100 CRIs more planned for distribution in the coming weeks, as well as cash assistance for the most vulnerable families in these locations.

WASH

To date UNICEF has been able to assist close to 15,000 beneficiaries (through three convoys of deliveries on 8 and 9 January plus 12 February). The third convoy (thirty-six tons of UNICEF provisions composed of hygiene kits, bottled water, jerry cans, plastic garbage bags, dustbins, buckets, disinfectant, washing powder and purification tablets) arrived to its destination on 12 February and is expected to reach a total of 11,990 vulnerable families (around 60,000 individuals) in Heet (1040 families), Haditha (6900 families), Rawa (550 families), Anna (750 families) and Al Qa'im (750 families). Furthermore, a shipment of prefabricated hygiene latrines (25) together with five water tanks (5000 liters each) from Al Obeidi camp in Al-Qaim was sent to Heet to support IDPs located in schools. The latrines have already been installed, through AFKAR.

UNICEF WASH Programme recruited two additional emergency facilitators to cover areas of displacements in Anbar, Salah-Al-Din and Kirkuk.



Photos: Off-loading of UNICEF WASH deliveries in Anbar, 12 February.

Food Security

To date there have been 5,000 food parcels distributed by WFP in partnership with IOM to Al Saqlawiyah, Heet, Amriyat al Fallujah, Al Madina Al Siyahiya Complex, Karma, Al Habiniya area, Al N’emiyah, Al Qa’em and Ramadi districts of Anbar Governorate. Four trucks en route since 30 January have now been released from an ISF check point (the road between Samara and Ramadi) and have arrived to Ramadi.

Health

Despite difficulties, UNICEF/WHO immunization campaign for polio has been conducted and more than 20,000 children have received the polio vaccine in Anbar.

Protection

Considering that an Education Cluster is yet to be activated, the Protection Cluster is trying to accommodate education issues as direct protection challenges using the data collected through the Rapid Needs Assessments conducted to-date by UNHCR.

Coordination & Funding

The Response Plan (formerly known as Flash Appeal) is currently being reviewed by the Country Representatives, respective HQs, and Global Cluster leads, simultaneously. Clusters will commence discussions with their counterparts on projects to be implemented on the ground in the coming weeks.

Contacts:

<p>Jacqueline Badcock DSRSG/RC/HC UN Assistance Mission in Iraq Cell: + 964 (0) 780 195 8838 (Baghdad) Email: Badcock@un.org</p>	<p>Titon Mitra Head of ICODHA and Senior Strategic Planning Advisor UN Assistance Mission in Iraq Cell: +964 (0) 780 197 6474 (Baghdad) Email: mitra@un.org</p>	<p>Bedreldin Shutta Mahmoud Humanitarian Affairs Officer Joint Analysis Unit (JAU), UN Assistance Mission in Iraq Cell: +964 (0) 7901946265 Email: mahmoud12@un.org</p>
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