

Situation Report

Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



Report #: 10

17 February 2014

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 remains at **62,679 families** as per Government numbers, with new reports of outflow (refugees) going to Jordan.
- Anbar remains highly active with continuing fighting between ISF and Daash while insecurity is spreading to the South Central and North regions.
- The Response Plan (formerly known as Flash Appeal) was sent to IASC for review. 17 Feb is the deadline to receive feedback from global IASC members.

Situation overview

- The Anbar crisis is in its seventh week and has grown into more of an open insurgency than sporadic terrorist attacks. Despite PM Maliki's announcement of victory over Daash groups in Ramadi, active heavy fighting continues. Reports indicate that the ISF made gains into the city by day, but loses most of the ground gained by night. Artillery shelling of Ramadi, Fallujah, Khalamiya, Karmah and other smaller towns has inflicted moderate casualties, largely on the civilian population. In Fallujah the main hospital was reportedly hit twice in two days by ISF shelling resulting in significant damage to the hospital and several casualties, including to expat workers (three Indian doctors and two Bangladeshi nurses injured). Anti-government militants in these areas refuse to surrender, and the Gol continues to issue ultimatums for the civilian to evacuate the city of Fallujah in anticipation of impending full-scale military strikes.
- Significant activity by Al Qaeda related AOGs continues in other regions, namely in Ninewa (Mosul) and Diyala (100 families left Al-Muqdadaya district over threats of militias) with concerns over serious spill overs and possible new flows of IDPs into the Kurdistan Region consequently. In Salah-Al-Din, the town of Sulayman Bek (50 km North East of Tikrit) was reportedly under Daash control on 13 February, and has been allegedly retaken by ISF (with 10 terrorists killed and 37 more captured) but new reports indicate that as the military forces withdrew, and the insurgents returned to take control large parts of the city, and over 2,000 inhabitants have fled.
- Details of political initiatives remain unclear. PM Maliki visited Anbar on 15 February as part of continuing efforts to broker a lasting deal. On February 15, PM Noori Al-Malki visited Al-Anbar province and met with the local government, notable tribe leaders, and ISF. It was declared that 10,000 individuals from Anbar tribes, who fought the insurgents, will be enrolled with the ISF. The PM also announced an allocation of 100 billion IQD (USD 83 million) to compensate the IDPs loss.

Humanitarian Response

The official number of IDP families remains registered at 62,679 by Ministry of Displacement and Migration, out of which 46,559 families remained inside Anbar and 16,123 families outside, namely in Erbil (5,000 families registered) Suleymaniah (650 families) and Dohuk (115 families). These numbers are however difficult to verify fully, and their accuracy remained a major challenge due to possibility of double registration resulting from multiple displacements of the same family. UNHCR and IOM's recorded numbers are however lower in contrast. Regardless, the numbers of IDPs are expected to continue to rise given the heavy military activity ongoing in Fallujah, and new numbers of displaced might arise from instability in other regions (like Sulayman

Beq in Salah-Al-Din). Furthermore, an outflow of Iraqi refugees (unknown numbers) is being reported from Anbar to Jordan.

Reports have been received that the ISF has started to prevent displaced families from passing through Samarra to reach Kirkuk and the Kurdistan Region, forcing them to head to Heet and Ana in Anbar instead. Former IDPs have also been forced to flee and new reports indicate that host community members are also being forced to flee along with the IDPs, resulting in a combination of primary and secondary displacements.

Iraqi authorities have been responding to IDP needs through registration (local councils established committees in each district to register IDPs), distribution of food and non-food items, as well as providing shelter alternatives and cash assistance to IDPs. MoDM announced an allocation of 10 Billion IQDs (\$8,3M USD,) to assist up to 15,000 families displaced in Anbar's surrounding governorates, and a second allocation of 20 Billion IQDs (\$16MUSD) to assist some 30,000 displaced families inside Anbar. MoMD has also announced its distributions to date, namely a total of 5,334 food rations (in Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din, Ninewa, Kurdistan Region, Karbala and Babylon); 650 NFI kits in KRG and in Salah Al-Din; 9018 blankets to KRG, Anbar, Babylon and Karbala. MoDM also facilitated the distribution of 846 food baskets, 1,746 mattresses, 1,521 blankets and 250 kerosene stove heaters provided by the Iraqi Council of Representatives to several locations. Rawa local council has distributed 29,000 IQD (22\$USD) to each family. In Anah 630 families have received assistance so far (50,000 IQD). Ministry of Oil has also started provision of subsidized kerosene for Anbar IDPs in Shaqlawa.

In general, IDPs needs remain the same, as for those who are residing in schools, particularly around Fallujah and Ramadi; there are urgent needs for food items, CRIs, and cash assistance. For IDPs in Dohuk, kerosene, cash for medical treatment, rental support and medication for chronic diseases are also reported as predominant needs. IDPs have raised concerns over financial needs (increased rents) requesting cash assistance instead of food items. There have been renewed calls to UN Agencies to setup camps in Anbar for IDPs. The requests were made by NGO networks operating in Anbar, specifically in the Kurdistan Region, there have been calls also from Sulaymaniah governorate to re-opening Baharta Camp. These calls and continued growing number of IDPs in need of shelter provisions, has promote UN to tell the MoDM that UN is available to provide technical assistance on specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Camps established, because the UN position is that Camps for IDPs is not the solution for IDPs shelter given the negative effect of Camps on IDPs families.

Access to IDP Locations

Access remains a challenge for a number of Agencies delivering their humanitarian relief items. The road from Baghdad to Ramadi remains unsafe due to the ongoing military operations while the road linking Salah A-Din province (Beji) with Haditha is reportedly not recommended for trucks as allegedly checkpoints prevent deliver of fuel, food and CRIs to Haditha city. The only road which remains open, accessible and relatively safe is the road linking Karbala with Anbar (A-Nekheb). In general it takes about one day for trucks from Baghdad to reach Haditha, Anah and Rawa.

NFI and Shelter Sector

Shelter needs for IDPs are becoming a pressing issue. While there is no official decision or policy on establishing camps by the Government, UN Agencies continue to receive request to establish camp and collective center demands from various local authorities. UN Agencies continue the provision of assistance of shelter and non-food items to displaced families in need both in Anbar and outside the Governorate. To date UNHCR has been able to distribute a total of 2,497 CRIs and has recently sent 400 CRIs to Kubaisa (Western part of Ramadi) for distribution plus 100 CRIs to Kirkuk (996 families as per latest reports) and in Dohuq (15

February). IOM is also planning to distribute 400 NFIs in Kirkuk, starting with the distribution of 100 NFIs Kits on 17 February. This will bring the total of NFIs delivered by IOM to 2,553.



Photo 1: UNHCR Al-Qaim CRI distribution 14 Feb

WASH

UNICEF continues forging ahead with its WASH humanitarian deliveries through the safe route established last week. The last convoy of six trucks (total loading of 36 tons) for more than 15,500 (8,400 women, 7,100 men) IDPs and hosted community is now being distributed in Al Saklawiya, Amiriyat Al Fallujah, Heet, Haditha, Rawa, Anaah, Al Habaniya and Al Qa'im inside Anbar. Items delivered include safe bottled water, hygiene kits for families and babies, sanitary pads, blankets, jerry cans, and other hygienic emergency supplies. A new convoy of six (6) trucks is now en route to Heet, Haditha and Qaim and a fifth convoy is following on 17 February.

UNICEF WASH programme is also scaling up to cover the most vulnerable children inside Anbar, in partnership with the Afkar NGO in order to facilitate delivering and distribution of UNICEF supplies to the affected population and carry out the needs assessments for the affected population.



Photos 2 and 3: Off-loading of UNICEF WASH deliveries in Anbar and conditions found in IDP locations, 13 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 Habaniya area, Al N'emiyah, Al Qa'em and Ramadi districts of Anbar Governorate.

Health

WHO contracted a medical doctor from Anbar to assist in updating health related needs in the region. In what medical deliveries are concerned, WHO has organized distribution of supplies to Al Qaim in cooperation with UNHCR (first batch already delivered and a second one planned for delivery on 1 March) and has also been able to send medicines to Fallujah through the International Medical corps (IMC).

UNICEF and WHO continue to support the Polio Immunization campaign. To date over 20,000 children (under 5) have received the polio vaccine.

Protection

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) in partnership with UNHCR conducted rapid needs assessment for 70 students (all male) originally from Anbar who are residing in a dormitory at the Agricultural College located in Abu Ghraib in Baghdad. The needs identified include CRIs, clothes, kitchen sets, and cash assistance. As per the request made by the Associate Director of Student Affairs for this college, UNHCR is currently looking into the possibility of providing CRIs. It was further found that the students may be in need of psycho-social support as they are unable to visit their families back home in Anbar. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is currently assessing whether they could also benefit from DRC's emergency protection cash assistance.

IRC in partnership with UNHCR is currently in the process of conducting a series of assessments on potential GBV projects in the governorates affected by Anbar IDPs. The assessments are focusing on the viability of GBV projects, potential partnership with existing Women's Organizations within host areas, as well as the level of acceptance for a GBV programming in the areas by both the host communities and the Anbar IDPs themselves. UNHCR has commenced a pilot project of cash assistance in Kerbala governorate. A total of 14 cases have been already identified for potential cash assistance.

Coordination & Funding

The Response Plan (formerly known as Flash Appeal) is being finalized; the deadline for the global IASC members to provide feedback to ICODHA is 17 Feb.2014. Once finalized, it will be launched in Iraq and elsewhere New York or Geneva. Clusters are to start developing specific projects to be implemented on the ground.

ICODHA has begun to lead the humanitarian agencies in a preliminary exercise to assess emergency response capacities in case of a large-scale IDP influx in Kurdistan Region. UNHCR conducted a rapid assessment in Kalar last week, and according to this assessment 130 IDP families have entered and registered with BDM Kalar. UNHCR has information that there were IDPs in Klfri, New Halabja and Dukan and also in Slemania city but all were scattered (See NTF from the meeting attached).

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