

This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 24-March to 2-April 2019.

Highlights

- Heavy seasonal rains caused flooding and damage in several governorates over a 10-day period
- Central and northern governorates worst-affected, primarily regions through which the Tigris River runs and those areas adjacent to Iran
- Governmental crisis cells have been activated in both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq where necessary
- Humanitarian response needs are largely being met by Civil Defense teams and NGOs; OCHA is monitoring sectoral needs
- Mosul Dam deemed “safe,” and in no danger of exceeding its capacity; other dams throughout Iraq at or near capacity, but authorities report water levels are within manageable levels
- Limited damage reported in a small number of IDP camps; contingency planning and preparedness measures had been put in place after earlier flooding episodes



Source: ReliefWeb | The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Situation Overview

On 24-March-2019, meteorological authorities alerted the public to the possibility of heavy rains and flooding throughout Iraq. Severe weather is a normal feature of Iraq’s winter season, and this most recent episode follows other periods of torrential rainfall in November/December 2018. However, the Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Regional Government, and humanitarian actors had engaged in contingency planning and preparedness measures to ensure they were better equipped to deploy emergency response activities in reaction to the latest bout of flooding.

Heavy storms continually recurred throughout the country during the period from 24-March to 2-April when severe weather finally eased. The effects of the storms were recorded in multiple governorates, including Anbar, Basra, Dahuk, Diyala, Kirkuk, Missan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaymaniyah, and Wassit; however, the harshest impacts appeared to be in central and northern governorates, primarily regions through which the Tigris River runs, and those areas adjacent to Iran. (The Iranian provinces of Lorestan, Khuzestan and Ilam, which border eastern Iraq, were also profoundly affected by severe weather; the Government of Iran did not formally request international assistance, but OCHA has temporarily surged staff to assist in monitoring the response, which was welcomed by the authorities.)

While flooding in Mosul (Ninewa governorate), caused the closure of five main bridges (Alnasr, Alhurriyya, Qanatir, Suwais and Qayyarah), municipal authorities gave assurances on 2-April that Mosul Dam—Iraq’s largest, which supplies hydroelectric power to Mosul city—was functioning normally. Other dams throughout Iraq, particularly in Diyala governorate, were operating at or near capacity; however, provincial leadership expressed confidence that standard discharge and overflow functions would suffice to meet any surplus.

No fatalities have been recorded due to the recent period of severe weather in Iraq, although approximately 90 casualties have been reported in Iran and Afghanistan due to related heavy rains and flooding.

Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Sulaymaniyah governorates were among those most acutely impacted by the severe weather. Coordination and response efforts in these regions outlined in more detail below.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Kirkuk

- Key government interlocutor: Kirkuk Flood Task Force
- Flood impact: Al Zab River overflow (a tributary of the Tigris River)
- Critical area: Al Zab river valley, Hawiga district
- Displacement: 60 families in Alton Kubri sub-district, Hawiga district
- Ongoing coordination activities: OCHA liaising with Kirkuk Flood Task Force and Hawiga district council
- Cluster support required: SNFI and Protection

Salah al-Din

- Key government interlocutor: Salah al-Din Crisis Cell
- Flood impact: displacement from several villages in multiple districts
- Critical areas: Masahag village and Al Baiji village (Baiji district); Al Qadriya (Samarra district); Hawijat Al Alam and Fendi (Al Alam sub-district); Hawijat Al Alam (Al Alam district); Zallaya (Tikrit district)
- Displacement: A total of 1,173 families displaced as of 2-April: 153 families from Saleh Alhasan village; 500 families from Al-Masahq village, in Baiji district; approximately 320152 families in the Al-Qadriya village; 80 families in Fendi village; 120 families from Albo Salih Alhasan village
- Government planning figure: 12,000 affected families.
- Government assistance request: 2,000 tents, 6,000 food portions, 12,000 health kits, 12,000 sleeping kits (mattresses and blankets), 200 portable toilets, 6,000 chargeable torches, cash distributions, 50,000 water bottle sets, and 12,000 clothing baskets.
- Ongoing coordination activities: OCHA liaising with Salah al-Din Crisis Cell and will inform humanitarian partners about the dates of future meetings
- Cluster support required: SNFI; Food Security; Protection; Health/WASH: cholera contingency planning, rehabilitation of water pumping stations in Shirqat and Baiji

Sulaymaniyah Governorate

- Key government interlocutor: Sulaymaniyah Operations Room
- Flood impact: landslides, damaged bridges and roads; livestock killed
- Critical areas: Rania district; Chamchamal district; Kalar town; and Halabja.
- Displacement: none
- Critical infrastructure damage: In Rapareen (Rania district), a major landslide damaged the road connecting Pshdar with the Sooran district of Erbil governorate. There is currently no road access on this route.
- Ongoing coordination activities: OCHA liaising with Sulaymaniyah Ops Room
- Cluster support required: Emergency livelihoods

General Coordination

On 2-April, the Ministry and Migration and Displacement held an emergency meeting to discuss the flooding and establish best practices to deliver emergency assistance to families that has been displaced. OCHA is monitoring.

For further information, please contact:

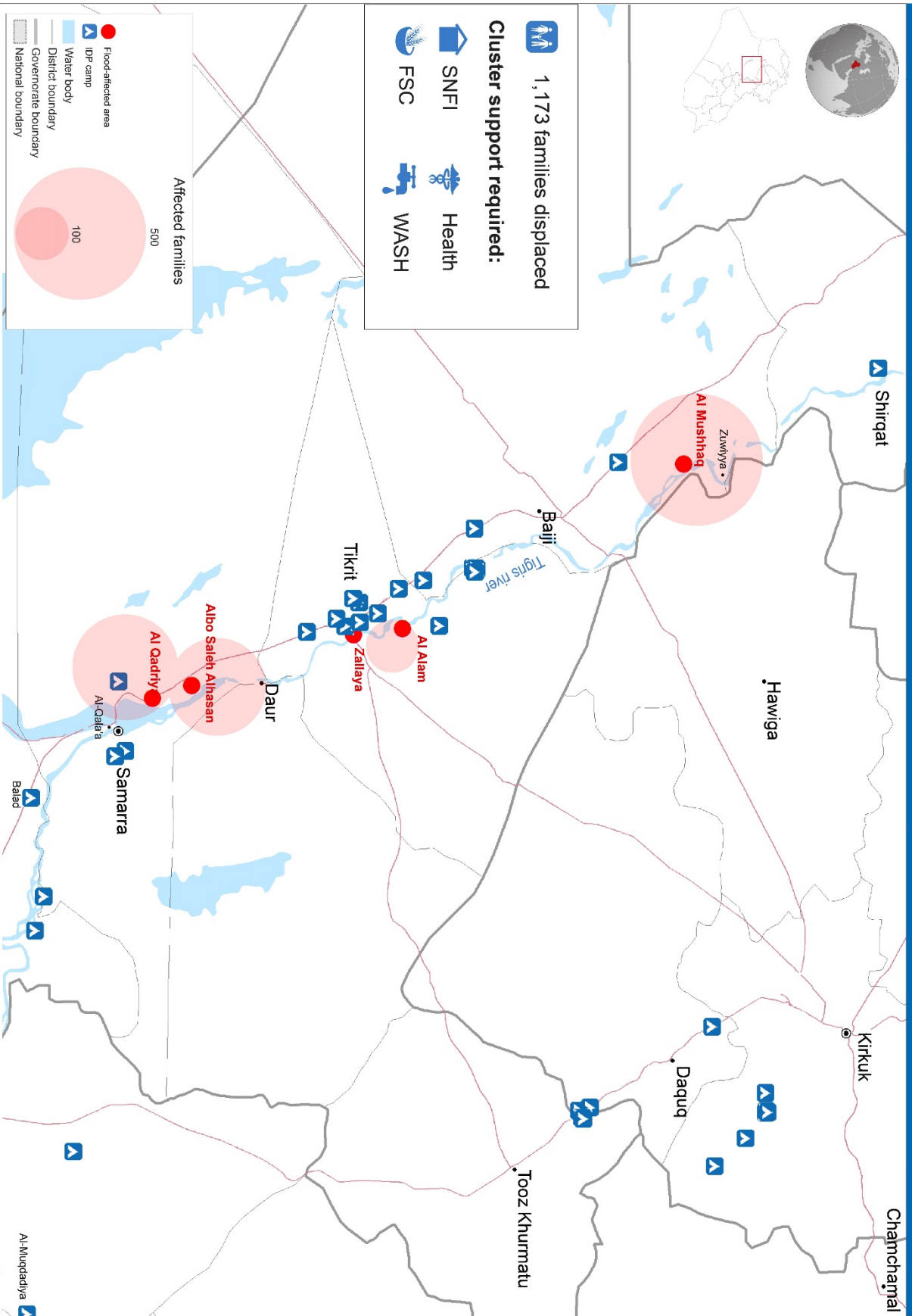
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For more information, please visit <https://www.unocha.org/iraq>

Another update will be issued if new information becomes available or it is warranted by the situation on the ground.

Iraq: Flood-affected areas in Salah al-Din (as of 2 April 2019)



Feedback: Iraq.humanitarianresponse.info/iraq@un.org. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The data for this map has a limited number of sources, including parties to the conflict. The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberate or otherwise by the various sources. Due to the nature of the conflict, current status is likely to change.