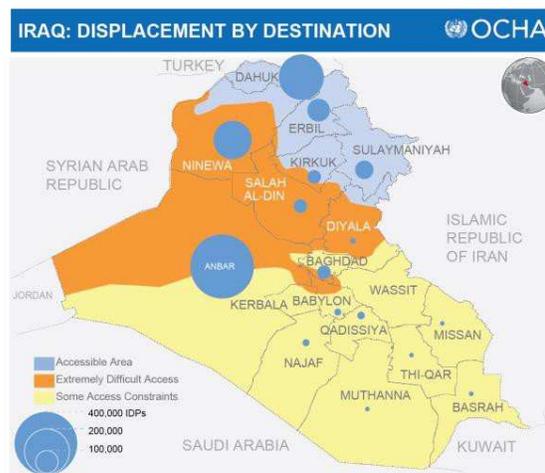




This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 27 July to 1 August. The next report will be issued on or around 7 August.

Highlights

- *The UN calls for immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all Iraqis in need.*
- *Families continue to move in search of safety, shelter and life-saving assistance.*
- *Some IDPs moving to Kurdistan during the Eid holiday encountered delays at checkpoints.*
- *A shortage of medical personnel is reported countrywide, preventing civilians' access to health care.*
- *Over 600 schools continue to be used as IDP shelters, and need to be freed to ensure students can resume learning activities in September.*



Source: GoI Ministry of Migration and Displacement, UNOCHA, UNHCR, IOM, Inter-Agency Assessments.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

1.5million
Affected people

1.2million
Internally displaced
(estimated)

1million
Targeted for
assistance

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation continues to be extremely concerning, countrywide. Although the needs of displaced people remains a priority, host communities and people trapped in conflict-affected areas whose access to basic services, food and other commodities is curtailed are also in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Free and unimpeded access to all in need across Iraq is a serious concern, particularly in the areas north of Baghdad and in the 'central belt' north and west of the capital. While some assistance is trickling in, IDPs and residents trapped in conflict zones are not receiving enough assistance. Access of civilians to basic services, markets and other facilities is curtailed in several areas.

In a press statement on 31 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator called for immediate, safe and unhindered humanitarian access for humanitarian partners to all those in need and for civilians to services and life-saving assistance, countrywide. She stated that the UN and humanitarian partners are ready to assist, but to do so all parties to the conflict must agree to guarantee safe and unhindered access of humanitarian staff and goods to communities in need.

Basic services and utilities continue to be targeted by armed groups in Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. In Tilkef (Ninewa) nearly 70,000 people have been cut off from electricity and water supplies. The hospital in the town of Shirqat (Salah al-Din) was bombed on July 20 and was later hit again several times. Health facilities in Anbar are also being targeted. Unless attacks on facilities cease immediately, humanitarian actors expect additional significant waves of civilians' displacement.

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

Roads north and east of Mosul are still closed by Kurdish armed forces. Checkpoints are reported to be restrictive and access is easily granted only for the movement of minorities who have been persecuted.

The mass movement of minority groups from Sinjar also continues. In Najaf and Kerbala, shrines and mosques are being used to accommodate the displaced, but these lack basic services and sufficient support. Humanitarian actors are stepping up activities in these areas to assist all those in need. It was reported that 7,000 IDPs from Najaf were transferred to Babylon. 500 families (approximately 2,000 individuals) are still without shelter and are waiting for financial aid to rent accommodation.

The current security situation in Baghdad is of concern. Following heavy clashes between Iraqi forces and armed groups at the outskirts of the capital, 687 families were reported to have been displaced to the Al Masafi neighbourhood. Authorities have begun to set up IDP sites in the city, and humanitarian actors are providing assistance.

There have been reports of IDPs from Anbar returning to their governorate as they are unable to manage the high cost of living in Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah.

The total funding available for humanitarian operations to date amount to over \$624 million, and humanitarian actors are stepping up activities throughout the country. The Iraqi government has also allocated \$500 million to provide assistance to IDPs.

Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- An estimated 40,000 IDPs currently living in Najaf along the main road between Kerbala are in urgent need of water and sanitation facilities.
- Ongoing clashes around Ramadi city, Anbar governorate, have led to new displacements to Hamdaniya causing additional loads on the city, which is facing power outages and water shortage.
- In Khanaqin, Diyala governorate, approximately 500 families are settling in the new Aliyawa camp without access to sufficient safe water, latrines and showers.
- A participatory assessment in Khazir transit centre confirmed that segregated latrine facilities is a priority for camp residents.

Response:

- Almost 82,000 people receive water supply in Ninewa, Diyala (Khanaqin) and Erbil (Makhmur) governorates through daily delivery by water trucks.
- Up to 9,000 people have access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in Khazir transit centre (Erbil) and Garmawa camp (Ninewa). Partners are setting up sanitation facilities to meet the needs of new arrivals.
- Some 12,000 people benefitted from hygiene kits for the first time in Akre (Ninewa), Tilkef (Ninewa) and Hamdaniya (Anbar).
- Approximately 1,200 families in Heet (Anbar) received adult hygiene kits.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Long-term solutions are needed to respond to the critical water shortages in Makhmur (Erbil) and Tilkef (Ninewa).
- Rapid response to people on the move, particularly those delayed while crossing checkpoints, remains a critical gap.



Food Security

Needs:

- A second round of food assistance to IDPs who are in stable and known locations is needed.
- The public distribution system, upon which large numbers of people in Iraq depend, continues to be disrupted.

Response:

- Over 316,000 affected individuals received food assistance since June. This includes approximately 180,000 people assisted with family food rations and over 135,000 individuals assisted with other kinds of food items.
- Additionally, 2,130 Immediate Response Rations were provided to IDPs in transit centres in various locations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Food security throughout the country continues to be threatened as the harvest was compromised in key cereal production areas affected by conflict, such as Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates.
- Conflict areas are inaccessible and many IDPs who are constantly on the move are difficult to reach.
- Humanitarian actors require additional staff capacity for distribution in order to meet all needs.

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

- Approximately 3,070 families from Ninewa and 116 from Anbar have been displaced to Najaf. Some 2,000 households are living in collective centres, with a further 220 in schools, kindergartens, mosques, informal settlements and rented houses. There are an additional 258 families who fled from Kirkuk, Baghdad and Tikrit and are now in Najaf who require shelter assistance.
- IDPs are also increasingly settling in mosques or public buildings in Wassit. Some 694 families from Mosul, Anbar, Salah al-Din and Diyala reached the area thus far. Wassit is a transit point for other governorates in the south and central region, and interventions need immediate scaling up.
- There are about 30,000 people now displaced in Kirkuk. The local government has proposed to establish a collective centre and identified land to this effect.
- Some 1,000 tents or prefabricated caravans are needed for a new camp to be established near Khanaqin. About 40 families continue to arrive in Khanaqin on a daily basis. A lull of arrivals was however observed during the Eid holiday.

Response:

- Partners set up 150 tents in Khazir transit centre (Erbil) and 61 tents in Garmawa camp (Ninewa). This brings the total to 1,000 tents in Khazir and 420 tents in Garmawa.
- Some 2,139 core-relief items (CRI) kits were distributed in the central and southern governorates (Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, Missan, Najaf and Wassit).
- A rapid needs assessment was conducted for 100 families of the 649 living in Wassit who are displaced from Salah al-Din, Mosul, Anbar, and Diyala governorates.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access remains the most significant challenge for shelter interventions. Development of the camp layout for Khazir transit centre (Erbil) and Telsin (Ninewa) is required but has been delayed because of internal security-related procedures.
- Shelter solutions for IDPs living in schools across Iraq are urgently needed before the beginning of the school year in September.

**Health****Needs:**

- Shortages of medical personnel have been reported across several governorates. Anesthetists and obstetric gynecologists are especially needed in Anbar.
- Hospitals and primary health care centres (PHCCs) in conflict areas continue to experience shortages of fuel and electricity, impacting the functioning of health facilities. Areas in Anbar are particularly affected. Kerbala hospitals and clinics lack refrigerators.
- Some hospitals and PHCCs are in need of rehabilitation. Ibn Sena hospital in Mosul needs urgent rehabilitation.
- Increases in cases of scabies in Najaf and of acute diarrhea in Khanaqin (Diyala) were reported.

Response:

- Polio vaccines to cover the needs of 1 million people were distributed to health facilities in Anbar. In Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, health facilities received vaccines to immunize 400,000 people against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and 1 million people against polio.
- New generators, fuel, and emergency medical supplies are being provided to hospitals in Anbar.
- Health facilities in Diyala, Kirkuk, Najaf and Ninewa received medicine to treat 10,000 cases of diarrhoea.
- Chlorine and aqua tabs are being provided to IDP and host community populations in Anbar. Water testing for chlorine is ongoing in all governorates. Cases of acute watery diarrhoea and other communicable diseases are being monitored through sentinel sites.
- In Garmawa camp (Ninewa), which shelters approximately 1,945 people, 510 individuals were treated for a variety of illnesses, including skin diseases, respiratory tract infections and watery diarrhoea. Some 200 people with disabilities, injuries and disabling chronic diseases were also identified and referred to specialised centres and hospitals.
- A countrywide polio campaign will take place as of 3 August and will require support from all clusters.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The national disease surveillance system is compromised by the disruption of internet connectivity in many parts of the country. Many health facilities have reported difficulties in sending data.
- The general shortage of essential medicines, vaccines and supplies in addition to the lack of medical staff in health facilities continues to be a major challenge.
- Conflict, fuel shortages and road access difficulties are affecting ambulance services (particularly in Anbar) as well as availability and travel of health personnel to health facilities.

**Protection****Needs:**

- The number of IDPs in Babylon, Baghdad, Najaf, Kerbala and Wassit governorates continues to increase. Many of these IDPs continue to be accommodated in mosques and collective centres and their movement is constricted. This and poor living conditions result in serious protection concerns.
- In the absence of adequate shelter solutions and lack of salaries, IDPs continue to urgently require the distribution of emergency cash assistance across the country to be able to meet their basic needs and not to resort to negative coping mechanisms. In Sinjar (Ninewa) 152 families have been identified as being in severe need of cash assistance.

Response:

- A total of 1,875 individuals (375 families) were provided with psychological first aid. In Ninewa governorate, psychosocial support is ongoing in Tilkaif district and Garmawa camp as well as in host communities.
- Legal assistance was provided to 924 new cases in Babylon, Baghdad, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa (Sinjar) and Wassit governorates this week, bringing the total to 7,519 cases assisted since the beginning of the crisis.
- Approximately 1,000 families were approved for cash assistance during the reporting period, bringing the number of approved requests to 3,364 throughout the country. The process is ongoing as more vulnerable cases needing cash assistance are identified on a daily basis.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a lack of uniformity for IDP registration practices, although some progress has been made.
- The capacity of partners needs to be strengthened in order to monitor the protection situation of minorities.

**Education****Needs:**

- Despite the approaching school year, many families continue to be sheltered in schools. More than 400 schools are hosting families in Anbar—150 of these have recently been opened in Heet to accommodate additional people. In Dohuk, 210 school buildings are being used as IDP shelter.

Response:

- Some 3,303 children participated in educational activities in child friendly spaces in Ninewa, Sinjar, Anbar, and Diyala. This enhanced their physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection. Some 15 recreational kits were delivered to Kirkuk City for 1,350 children.
- A total of 1,486 children benefited from catch up classes and supplementary Mathematics and Arabic classes in Erbil's Khazir transit camp, and four sub-districts within Anbar governorate. Some 440 children participated in early childhood development programs in Khazir camp.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Improvement in data collection and information sharing is urgently needed to gather a better understanding of the number of children and teachers who have been displaced.
- Alternative shelter solutions must be identified for IDPs housed in schools.

**Logistics****Response:**

- Some 35 metric tons of humanitarian supplies were airlifted to Sulaymaniyah. A cargo flight containing equipment for agencies arrived in Erbil – this will enable stepping up of humanitarian assistance.
- The inter-agency storage in Dahuk will be available as of 10 August.

Constraints:

- Clearance is still pending for cargo flights from Baghdad to Erbil, and from Brindisi (Italy) logistics base.

General Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has approved a timeline for the revision of the Strategic Response Plan (SRP), which is now expected to be ready in the second half of September. The SRP will be underpinned by a systematic and comprehensive needs assessment, which will take place in August. The HCT is also currently undertaking an exercise to identify the nature of access impediments and how these can be addressed.

The inter-cluster coordination group met on Thursday, 31 July and discussed the need for a uniform process for the registration of IDPs, including the collection of disaggregated data, and for coordination of all assessments which are taking place.

The coordination meeting schedule can be found at <http://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info>.

Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Batthists, 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, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG control. Since January 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 1.2 million have been displaced since January this year and approximately 560,000 of these have been displaced from Anbar. Following the fall of Mosul, an additional 650,000 persons are estimated to have been displaced.

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