IRAQ: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

MOSUL CORRIDOR

Families continue to flee fighting in Shirqat district in Salah al-Din Governorate. Over 500 families have arrived in the Al-Hajaj area, and authorities are now expecting that up to 2,000 families could arrive in the coming days. While the local community and authorities have rallied to assist displaced families, those efforts are neither sufficient nor sustainable. Authorities have appealed to humanitarian organisations to assist families arriving in Al-Hajaj, and UNHCR is currently assessing the needs in order to respond.

There are no facilities to receive the high number of arriving families, and more than 100 families who had arrived into Al-Hajaj on 26 June spent an entire day waiting in the open, without any respite from the high temperatures and humidity until they could finally find sponsors in the community to accommodate them. Hundreds more families near Al-Mojama’at (around 11 Km from Shirqat) waited a day for transportation to Al-Hajaj and are now looking for sponsors.

ANBAR CORRIDOR

Iraqi Security Forces have been advancing to Jazerat Al Khalidiya, the river peninsula between Ramadi and Falluja. Shelling has already led to new displacement towards northern Ramadi and as of 27 June further displacement continued with families fleeing towards Al-Khalidiyah. Authorities have transported over 400 families arriving in Ramadi onward to Kilo 18 camp. It is estimated that there are over 1,000 families in Jazerat Al Khalidiya and many of them are likely to be displaced in the coming days.

- UNHCR erected 160 tents in Al-Khalidiya camp on 27 June to decongest overcrowding and provide space for new arrivals. Overall, UNHCR has provided 2,311 tents and erected 10 Rubb Halls to shelter over 16,000 new arrivals from Falluja. UNHCR has also distributed nearly 8,500 kits of core relief items (CRIs) such as blankets, mattresses and jerry cans to help about 50,000 people who fled Falluja.

KEY FIGURES

- 85,000 individuals* displaced from Falluja and surrounding areas
- 24,000 individuals** displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas
- 3.3 million IDPs* in Iraq since January 2014
- 230,000 Iraqi refugees*** in the region

Funding

UNHCR’s overall appeal of USD 584 million for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region is only 21% funded

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* IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (from 23 May to 20 June)
** Reception in Debaga and Garmawa camps (in Iraq), and border monitoring (in Syria)
*** Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Egypt, GCC, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey as of 31 May 2016
UNHCR led Cluster Updates

**Protection**
- Al Hajaj – Humanitarian actors have been coordinating with authorities to access the Al Hajaj area and assess the needs of the new arrivals. Al-Hajaj reportedly lacks basic services, no resting place for the displaced families, and very limited humanitarian assistance is currently available in the area.
- Kirkuk – Authorities have restricted access for IDPs from Makhmur trying to enter Kirkuk Governorate, regardless of their sponsorship. Reportedly, 20 families have been turned away and had to go back to Debaga.
- Fighting has also been occurring in nearby Hawiga district in Kirkuk, and reportedly 30 IDP families who fled Hawiga for Kirkuk city have been stranded since 26 June near the Maktab Khalid checkpoint to city. UNHCR Kirkuk is following up with authorities to advocate for their access to safety. The majority are women and children in dire need of humanitarian assistance.
- Cross border – Authorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) have cleared 283 Iraqis from Tikrit and its surrounding villages in Salah-Al-Din Governorate sheltered in camps in northern Syria to cross the border into KR-I and return to their areas of origin. 195 of them promptly returned while the other 188 are waiting for final transportation arrangements. An additional 900 Iraqis from Al-Balad district in Salah-Al-Din Governorate remain in Al Hol and Tal Kochar camps in northern Syria and are waiting for security clearance.

**Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFIs)**
- UNHCR pitched 100 tents in the extension of the Debaga Stadium transit site on 27 June, and 100 families who had been in the reception centre relocated to the newly erected tents the next day. The Stadium transit site now has 361 tents pitched and hosts 2,859 IDPs. 5,178 IDPs are still temporarily sheltered at Debaga reception centre. Another 210 tents are scheduled to be pitched next week.

**Food Items (NFIs)**
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**UNHCR led Cluster Updates**

**Protection**
- Local authorities have announced that Albu Hawa and Jameela areas to the south of Falluja have been cleared of explosive hazards and garbage from the main streets. However, the government has not provided any official guidance on returns for IDPs, and this has had to some confusion and potential safety issues for IDPs.
- ISIL is reportedly imposing severe restrictions at the Jazerat Al Khalidiya checkpoints to prevent families from departing in order to use them as human shields. Some families have been detained and punished while attempting to flee. Despite the high risk families are fleeing at night using routes that by pass ISIL checkpoints.

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**
- CCCM has played a central role in strengthening the capacity of camp management to cope with the increasing population and their needs. On 27 June, CCCM conducted a one day CCCM refresher session for 9 camp staff (camp managers, field staff and information management staff) from Amiriyat al Falluja, Habbaniya Tourist City, and Bzebiz.