The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to coordinate the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

www.unocha.org
During this period, government offices are closed, only essential businesses (bakeries, pharmacies) are permitted to remain open, and security actors are instructed to take measures to prevent large gatherings. In a press release, the WHO urged Iraqis to follow the instructions of the health authorities to contain the spread of COVID-19 and encouraged authorities to strictly apply the lockdown measures in parallel to intense testing of suspected cases through contact tracing and active surveillance. The closure of airports throughout Iraq has been extended until 7-June.

UN agencies have scaled up their support to the GOI and KRG over the past month as the country continues to contend with COVID-19, including increased assessments of the impact of the virus on vulnerable populations. IOM has partnered with a leading Iraqi organization advocating for the rights of disabled persons, to draw increased attention to how the pandemic may be particularly challenging for people with disabilities and other marginalized populations, due to disrupted services and limited transport options. UNICEF has collaborated with the major telecommunication companies in federal Iraq and KRI to distribute information on prevention of COVID-19 to 14 million people via messaging services in both Arabic and Kurdish. WFP is working with UNHCR and other partners to identify an additional 35,000 refugees and 10,000 IDPs who will be included in WFP food assistance programmes to help them cope with the impact of COVID-19. In parallel, UNHCR continued the distribution of hygiene cash assistance for a second month, supporting 550,000 refugee, internally displaced, and returnee members of the community. Refugees and IDPs are among the groups most affected by the pandemic in Iraq because they frequently depend on daily or seasonal employment to earn money. Much of this type of work has stopped amid lockdowns and precautionary measures.

IMPACT ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

All humanitarian clusters have had at least one activity in the 2020 HRP suspended, adjusted or reprogrammed as a result of COVID-19 preventative measures and movement restrictions. Almost all clusters have had to resort to remote mechanisms for coordination, implementation of programmes and response monitoring. Despite considerable efforts to ensure that key activities continue uninterrupted, concerns have been noted around reduced services and quality of the response across all sectors.

The closure of schools, banks, government offices, courts and community centers are creating new challenges for humanitarian actors. School closures have significantly interrupted the education of Iraq’s youth, including those targeted by the HRP. The closure of civil courts and civil affairs directorates has resulted in limitations to legal assistance for the displaced, and returnee members of the community. UNHCR continue to provide cash assistance to 3,100 refugees who will be included in WFP food assistance programmes to help them cope with the impact of COVID-19. Despite con

FUNDING

Iraq is among the countries targeted by the Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHPR) for COVID-19. The humanitarian community (through the clusters) has identified 54 COVID-19 specific activities community to prepare for, prevent, mitigate and respond to the pandemic. The humanitarian COVID-19 response in Iraq will require US$263.3 million to implement these activities. Of this amount, US$122.4 million was already requested through the 2020 Iraq HRP, while US$140.9 million in new requirements has been identified to scale up the COVID-19 response. As of 1-June, Iraq had received $16.9 million towards COVID-19 funding requirements (6.4 per cent) under the GHRP.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON COVID-19

- Overview of funding for the GHRP for COVID-19: [https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary](https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/952/summary)

¹ Full link: [https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjljMDhiYmItZTlhMS00MDlhLTg3MjItMDNmM2FhNzE5NmM4IiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTc5NzE5MjQyNSIsImIiXCI6XCI2MTIzMDE3OS1kNzQ5MTkuanBn:iw7BzK9YjTQDfZk7Ls9dOOG9ZMz60sT6Oo9XJ0450sw:r](https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiNjljMDhiYmItZTlhMS00MDlhLTg3MjItMDNmM2FhNzE5NmM4IiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTc5NzE5MjQyNSIsImIiXCI6XCI2MTIzMDE3OS1kNzQ5MTkuanBn:iw7BzK9YjTQDfZk7Ls9dOOG9ZMz60sT6Oo9XJ0450sw:r)