Government lockdown measures including restrictions on commercial activity as well as civilian movements remain in place across the country. A curfew between 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. is in place seven days a week within all governorates, including across the KRI. Citizens across Iraq and within KRI are permitted to travel between governorates as well as between KRI and Federal Iraq. However, the approach of local authorities has varied across governorates.

In terms of aviation, international airports in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil remain open for commercial flights following their re-opening in late July, although flight schedules remain unstable and subject to rapid changes in documentation requirements and the airports are running at lower capacity than prior to the pandemic. Flights for emergencies, medical evacuations, carrying cargo, and chartering are operational.³
Coordination and Partnerships

- IOM Iraq is working with WHO to align COVID-19 activities, including through the UN Country Team and as a member in the Humanitarian Operational Cell for COVID-19 IOM alongside UNCT and UNDP colleagues are finalising the Socioeconomic Response Plan (SERP). IOM continues to co-ordinate with the new Durable Solution Taskforce co-led by UNDP and IOM to support voluntary returns of IDPs from camps. IOM is now co-leading the Health Cluster Taskforce for health partners, WHO, Ministry of Health (MoH), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) partners and developing a preparedness and response plans.

- IOM has coordinated closely with officials from the Erbil International Airport, Baghdad International Airport MoH, WHO, and other key partners to assess the Points of Entry (PoEs).

Tracking Mobility Impacts

The following main activities were implemented:

- IOM Iraq’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) assessed 30 locations including airports and PoEs along land borders and maritime boundaries. Seven were reported as closed, seven partially open, and 16 open only for commercial traffic, as well as domestic movement restrictions. DTM produced two Iraq mobility restriction reports covering 11-24 August and 25 August - 11 September presenting an overview of mobility restrictions for the monitored PoEs which are partially open and open for commercial traffic, as well as for Iraq in general.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

Contribute to global, regional, national and community preparedness and response efforts for COVID-19 to reduce associated morbidity and mortality

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

The following main activities were implemented:

• Design and circulating Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on COVID-19 precautions at construction sites; printing and distributing COVID-19 flyers and posters and conducting a COVID-19 bulk messages campaign from 17 August - 14 September.

• Conducting a phone-based assessment covering camps to assess information gaps on COVID-19 and communication channels that can be utilized.

• Awareness/sensitization sessions on COVID-19 held, for individuals in camp and non-camp settings in Najaf, Diyala, Basra, Dohuk, Nineawa, Kirkuk, and Salah Al-Din.

• Two-day online training for the IOM Shelter staff on Communication with Communities (CwC)-Accountability to Affected Population (AAP), COVID-19, in

More than 250 awareness/sensitization sessions, reaching over 2,500 individuals in camp and non-camp settings in 7 governorates.

More than 12,000 COVID-19 flyers and posters printed and distributed.

COVID-19 bulk messages campaign conducted.

Points of Entry (PoE)

The following main activities were implemented:

• Coordinating closely with and providing ongoing technical support for officials from the Erbil International Airport, MoH, WHO, and other key partners for PoE activities as the airport has reopened. IOM has met with MoH officials along with other entities in Baghdad to discuss opportunities for PoE support at the Baghdad Internal Airport and other targeted PoEs.

• The airport guidance is being adapted for land crossing PoEs and IEC materials are being finalized for printing and distribution at all targeted PoEs.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

The following main activities were implemented:

• Distribution of batches of IPC/cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to seven clinics supported within Erbil, Nineawa, Dohuk, and Kirkuk. Material distribution was accompanied by an orientation on screening and triage SOPs.

• Screening and Triage processes continued at health clinics prior to patient consultations (Ninewa – Jadaa camp; Shekhan camp; Erbil – Debaga camp; Kirkuk – Yahyawa camp; Anbar – Al Mateen camp). These processes have been initiated in 20+ selected clinics in communities within Anbar, Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, and Nineawa.

• Supported minor upgrades to the Zanko testing center’s infrastructure to improve flow management and physical distancing at the testing center in Erbil.

• Train the Trainer (ToT) workshop for new IOM staff – ten IOM health unit National Programme Officers from across four governorates (Erbil, Baghdad, Anbar, Nineawa) successfully participated in a virtual ToT covering topics of IPC, screening and triage of COVID-19, preventing transmission of COVID-19, rationale use of PPE, and more.

7 Health clinics received IPC/cleaning supplies and PPE.

More than 7,000 individuals screened or triaged.

IEC materials for PoEs are being finalized.
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

The following main activities were implemented:

- Ongoing remote CCCM management mechanisms for displaced community leaders in 24 camps and 63 informal sites in Anbar, Baghdad, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din.

- Meetings with committee members, supporting construction works as well as scaling up hygiene promotion and health awareness campaigns with IEC material where possible in informal sites and formal camps. The campaigns took place in large places like in the church in Zayona camp to maintain social distance. Conducted raising awareness campaigns about COVID-19 for children while distributing game cards in Ninewa.

Protection

The following main activities were implemented:

- Provided case management to victims of trafficking (VoT), and individual services for critical and urgent cases, including people with known suicide risk, those experiencing psychological consequences of domestic violence, and people with severe or chronic pre-existing mental health disorders. Assistance was delivered through field visits when possible, and otherwise by phone. IOM developed a set of guidelines for delivering Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services remotely, building on an earlier-developed separate set of guidelines concerning responding to persons at risk of suicide and for those who are associated to a person who has committed suicide.

- As a part of efforts to further understand MHPSS needs across the country, IOM has completed an MHPSS survey among target areas and an assessment on livelihoods and MHPSS integration in IDP locations like Dohuk, Hassan Sham, and Wahed Huzeiran and is analysing the results. IOM expects to have a final product in September and October. IOM MHPSS is completing the developing of a leaflet to support bereaving families who lost a loved one to suicide and expects to finalize it in the next reporting period.

- Remote protection monitoring activities in Sardashti informal site and Sharya camp, for the fourth round of the National Protection Cluster (NPC) led Protection Monitoring.

- Provided a second round of cash assistance to vulnerable migrants in Iraq who have lost their incomes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the minimum expenditure basket, each individual receives USD$182 to enable them to meet essential needs such as food, rent, and utilities. IOM completed a post-distribution activity to determine the feasibility and outcomes of this intervention and is analysing results.
Addressing Socio-Economic Impacts of The Crisis

The following main activities were implemented:

• As part of support to the Iraqi private sector, IOM continues to support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) including businesses supporting COVID-19 responses by producing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other supplies, online delivery and other essential activities during lockdown. Milestone verification and monitoring were conducted, and SMEs received financial instalments. IOM conducted 98 investment committee visits to select additional SMEs that will receive an EDF grant. Applications and Expression of Interests (EOI) were accepted online, with the call for EOI closing in August.

• Developed the zero-movement outreach strategy for Individual Livelihood Activities (ILA) individual livelihood assistance (ILA) and Cash-for-Work (CfW). This focused on coordination with local authorities through phone calls, sending out bulk SMS with details on eligibility criteria and links to the registration form, electronic flyers, and sensitization through radio announcements. Individuals can submit registration forms online or call the IOM Call Center for assistance. Profiling and selection of beneficiaries is done through phone calls and door to door modalities, according to the COVID-19 related restrictions imposed in each locality.

• As providing a Business Development Training in a training venue is a limited possibility due to COVID-19, IOM currently recognizes Competency-based Economies through Formation of Enterprises (CEFE) as a standard training curriculum to deliver training to the ILA beneficiaries. They are delivered online.

• Vocational Training and Business Support Packages (BSP) can only be delivered in person. IOM has engaged with authorities and businesses, so venues are compliant with COVID-19 prevention measures.

IOM is mainstreaming gender and disability inclusion. This includes encouraging female participation, tracking disability prevalence, and supporting that programming is responsive and inclusive to the needs of females and persons with disabilities. Social Cohesion and MHPSS projects are collecting disability-disaggregated data and guidance notes on disability inclusion topics have been developed to work so programming is responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities. IOM is refining this data collection processes and will begin reporting on it in donor and internal reports in the last quarter of 2020.

IOM Iraq COVID-19 Response Supported By: