

OCHA Flash Update

Iraq Crisis – Anbar Displacement

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1. As of 28 April, the Government estimates over 19,000 families (approximately 114,000 people) have been displaced from Ramadi District in Anbar Governorate. Humanitarian partners put the number at 17,442 families (approximately 104,652 individuals) spread across 15 of Iraq's 18 governorates, excluding Dahuk, Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates. This constitutes an increase of 3,342 families since 26 April, primarily in Baghdad Governorate, which can be attributed to improved assessment coverage by field monitors.
2. The government estimates some 3,000 families have returned to Ramadi, according to the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center, while the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix has tracked 1,119 returning families, including 425 families to Markaz Ramadi in Ramadi District. Returns are largely attributed to unfavorable access conditions at checkpoints and according to the media, an improved security situation in the city.
3. Ramadi District remains a scene of expansive military operations. Security forces have penetrated the residential districts of central Ramadi and announced control of central and eastern areas of the district.
4. Ramadi General Hospital and Ramadi Maternity and Pediatrics Hospital remain closed due to security issues and damage. However, Ramadi General Hospital re-opened its offsite operations in Al Rasheed Private Hospital in Khaldiyyah. Blood transfusion services have been restored by the Ministry of Health (MoH).
5. 747 families have reportedly been displaced within Falluja District from Al Garma Sub-district to Markaz Falluja Sub-district. There are continued reports of casualties in Fallujah City. Insecurity and restricted access are preventing an adequate response to humanitarian needs on the ground.
6. Local media has reported growing resentment towards internally displaced persons (IDPs) amongst host communities in Baghdad due to a new wave of violence in the city. Residents reportedly blame IDPs for the entry of ISIL sleeper cells infiltrating from Anbar Governorate. IDPs sheltering in Baghdad mosques face eviction amid fears of these buildings hosting terrorist elements.
7. Conditions by the European Union (EU) have been set (including energy, investment, human rights, and democracy) to secure reconstruction funding for areas recaptured from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Iraq has suffered from a severe financial crisis as a result of a drop in world oil prices and doubled military expenditure.

Humanitarian Response- Anbar Governorate

8. A humanitarian convoy to Haditha District remains on hold due to insecurity along the Al Baghdadi Road. The Logistics Cluster estimated that the earliest date of departure for the shipment will be 1 May. There are reportedly acute food shortages in Haditha District.

Humanitarian Response- Baghdad Governorate

9. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has commenced the distribution of 1,100 dignity kits in Baghdad. 200 women have already been assisted.
10. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is working at eight locations in Baghdad to establish IDP camps having a capacity to accommodate up to 1,000 families. Scout collective center alone, which is currently empty, has the capacity to accommodate 400 families. Additionally, UNHCR, through direct distribution, provided an estimated 3,204 IDPs in Adhamia, Resafa and Karkh districts with core relief items (CRIs).

11. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with the support of its implementing partner, Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Programme, assisted 686 IDPs hosted at the Nida'a Al Islam and Al Mufti mosques in Baghdad's Adhamiya area. Seven mobile latrines, three mobile showers, and 150 packs of sanitary napkins for women and girls were provided. UNICEF supplied additional water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items to Al Takiya Collective Center, including six 5,000-litre water tanks, 3,000 soap bars, 3,100 packs of sanitary napkins for women and girls, 1,700 baby diapers and 500 10-litre jerry cans.
12. The MoH, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Iraqi Medical Society, UNICEF and other Health Cluster partners continue to respond to the health needs of some 1,038 families displaced at 14 mosques and collective centers in Karkh District and Al Adael, Al Aalam, Doura, Aamal, and Taji areas in Baghdad Governorate.
13. The Directorate of Health (DoH) Baghdad, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and other cluster partners vaccinated 317 children under five years of age against polio, as well as nine months to five years of age against measles at five mosques (Al-Nida'a , Al-Shaheed Sabri , Salih Afandi , Al-Mufti , Al-Anbia'a) located in Resafa, and Adhamia districts. Additionally, DoH Baghdad established one static clinic at the Al-Nida'a mosque, which is run by two medical doctors and two paramedical staff.
14. From 26 to 28 April 2015, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) consortium, through their partner the Norwegian Refugee Council, distributed 1,090 kits, including water, a bucket, hygiene kits and WFP's immediate response rations (IRR) to 898 families residing in mosques and collective centres in Abu Ghraib, Mahmoudiya, Karkh districts, as well as Mansour and Rasheed areas.

Humanitarian Response- Kerbala, Babylon, Sulaymaniyah and Salah al-Din governorates

15. On 28 April, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF, through the RRM, distributed 150 kits to an estimated 1,050 IDPs in Kerbala City, through their partner the Danish Refugee Council, and 37 RRM kits to IDP families in transit in Kalar, Sulaymaniyah Governorate, through the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development.
16. UNFPA, in collaboration with Tajdeed NGO, distributed 800 dignity kits to women and girls at the Nakheeb IDP Camp in Kerbala Governorate.
17. UNICEF is supporting local health authorities to scale up growth monitoring of children (under the age of five) recently displaced from Ramadi. To date, 265 children were screened in Kerbala and 149 in Babylon.
18. Since the beginning of the Ramadi crisis, UNFPA distributed 4,000 dignity kits to displaced women and girls in five areas of Samarra District in Salah al-Din Governorate.

The information in this note was compiled by OCHA Iraq based on a variety of sources, including the Government of Iraq, local authorities, UN agencies, international non-government organizations, media reports, and key informant interviews.

The next Flash Update will be issued as required. For more information, contact David Swanson swanson@un.org or visit the Humanitarian Operations Centre, Erbil.

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