

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 March 2016

KEY FIGURES

1,409,320

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

1,618,260

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

90,648

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

FUNDING

USD 403 million

requested for the operation in 2016



PRIORITIES

- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential shelter and NFIs
- WASH facilities in camps

HIGHLIGHTS

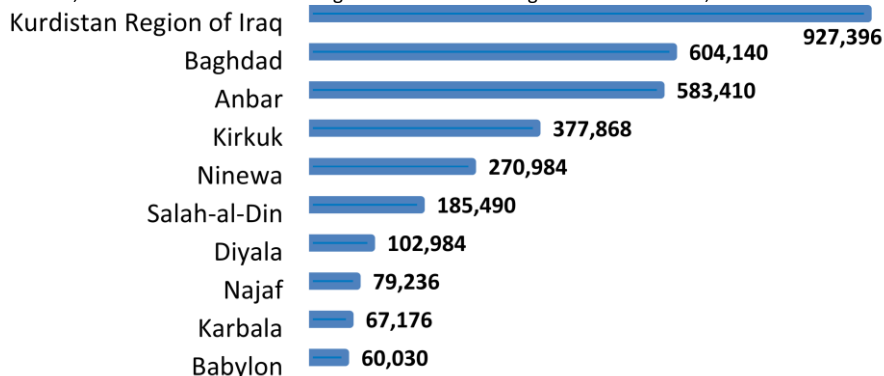
- In Anbar Governorate, approximately 36,000 people have been forced to flee their homes due to military operation in and around Heet. UNHCR provided emergency relief items to displaced families sheltering south of Heet and farther East in direction of Baghdad, in Ameriyat Al Falluja. Up to 4,800 internally displaced Iraqis benefitted from this assistance.
- Displaced families continued to arrive to Makhmour in Erbil Governorate, where UNHCR partners conducted a Rapid Protection Assessment to determine protection risks and other humanitarian concerns.
- Across Iraq, International Women's Day was celebrated in coordination with partners and authorities, including awareness-raising sessions on women's rights, recreational activities and distribution of assistance.



UNHCR distributes emergency relief items to newly displaced families from Heet at the Kilo 18 transit center, established by local authorities in Anbar Governorate. ©UNHCR / Jonathan Hoskins

More than **3,344,334** people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM Round XXXX, Mar. 2016).

There are about 58,000 IDPs in the five southern governorates according to local authorities, not included below.



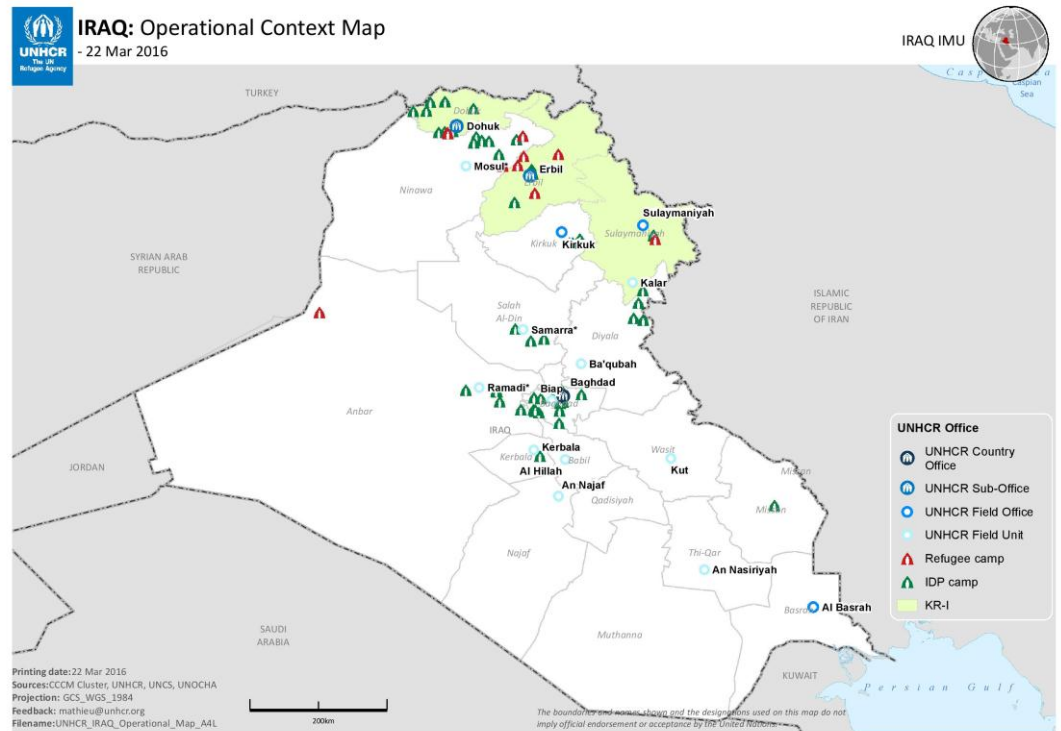
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 3.34 million, spread across more than 3,700 locations countrywide.

Conflict and violence continue to affect most of Central and North-Central Iraq, including Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Kirkuk governorates.

Displacement continued throughout Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates. Access to safety for IDPs continues to be a challenge across Iraq. Access to many of Iraq's governorates remains contingent upon sponsorship and many families cannot cross checkpoints and remain stuck at governorate borders. The inability of civilians to access safety is a major protection concern, both on account of being prevented from fleeing areas under the control of armed groups or due to restrictions imposed by authorities. Newly-displaced Iraqis continue to be forcibly transferred to camps where restrictions on their freedom of movement are imposed in a manner disproportionate to any legitimate concern, including those related to security.



In Anbar Governorate, fighting in and around Heet displaced approximately 36,000 people to various locations south of the city and farther east since 10 March, including Kilo 18 and Kilo 60 in Al-Wafaa, two camps established by the authorities. Falluja remains under siege, with the humanitarian situation further deteriorating and many resulting casualties resulting from shelling and airstrikes. In late March, conflict caused fresh displacement in Makhmour Erbil Governorate, estimated at 2,300 people.

As of early March, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix identified more than 557,000 people who have returned to their areas of origin in Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates. Returnee families remain vulnerable as they face a lack of livelihood opportunities, destruction of property, contamination by explosive remnants of the conflict, limited availability of food and non-food items, documentation problems as well as poor access to services, health, clean water and education. UNHCR and the UN humanitarian country team do not encourage organized returns of IDPs in view of the continued absence in many locations of protection conditions conducive to return. However, support is provided to spontaneous IDP returnees whenever it is safe to do so.

Protection

The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached more than 1.6 million individuals throughout Iraq since January 2014, in order to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Erbil Governorate, IDPs continued to arrive in Makhmour. According to local authorities, around 3,000 individuals arrived in the city since the beginning of 2016. On 26 and 27 March, in Makhmour, UNHCR partners carried out a Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) at a transit center where 361 families/1,891 individuals were staying to determine protection risks, specific vulnerabilities and other humanitarian concerns.
- In Erbil Governorate, preparations are ongoing for the upcoming election of camp committee members in Baharka camp. Furthermore, the roll out of the code of conduct for IDP camps has been completed in Debaga camp and is ongoing in the Baharka and Harshm camps. The code of conduct specifies the responsibilities of camp residents and also prohibited activities for residents, visitors, contract workers in the IDP camps.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Anbar and in Erbil, authorities have progressively imposed movement restrictions on civilians fleeing conflict.
- In Kirkuk, authorities continue to impose movement restrictions on residents of the Nazrawa camp. Since 22 February all residents have been confined to the camp, irrespective of whether or not they have completed security screening procedures.
- Loss of civil documentation remains a concern for IDPs across Iraq. Without civil documentation IDPs cannot access basic rights, services or employment and may be at risk of arrest or detention.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR staff and partners conducted protection monitoring assessments for about 2,690 families reaching some 16,140 people across Iraq to identify vulnerable families in need of legal assistance, cash assistance, and referral to other services.
- Across Iraq, International Women's Day was celebrated in coordination with partners and authorities, including awareness-raising sessions on women's rights, recreational activities and distribution of assistance.
- In the Central governorates, UNHCR partners provided legal assistance for 368 cases and legal counselling for 482 individuals. Additionally, 28 legal guides and 113 information brochures on available legal services were distributed. Legal representation was provided for 392 individuals and legal counselling for 402 individuals. In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, 316 legal consultations were conducted.
- UNHCR partners held 6 community outreach sessions reaching 103 individuals (including 49 women) in Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Najaf and Wassit governorates. The sessions focused on legal needs and services, in addition to hygiene and health awareness.
- UNHCR partners advocated successfully with local authorities in Babylon to continue to provide treatment to IDPs in urban and camp in public hospitals free of charge.
- 17 awareness campaigns were carried out across the southern governorates (11 in Thi-Qar, 3 in Basra, 2 in Muthana and 1 in Diwaniya). The team dedicated special effort for topics such as needs and services, health, education and SGBV including registration and issuing of personal identification documents.



International Women's Day celebrations in Basra. ©UNHCR

- UNHCR partners identified 284 SGBV cases including 54 in Barsa, 88 in Thi-Qar, 71 in Muthana, 58 in Missan and 13 in Diwaniya. Most of the identified cases in Basra were suffering from socio-economic violence, while in Thi-Qar and Diwaniya identified cases were related to child labour and drop out of schools.
- Cash assistance was distributed to 11,827 families in KR-I and 8,079 families in central and southern Iraq since April 2015.



Displaced children play in Al Jamea'a camp in Baghdad. ©UNHCR / Natalia Micevic

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Restriction of movement in some areas of Iraq is a concern for many IDP families preventing them from accessing livelihoods, education and basic services. Involuntary relocation continues to be a concern in some governorates.
- Families who have returned to their areas of origin face challenges accessing services and, in some areas, security is poor. Thus, some of the returnee families are displaced a second time however face barriers returning to the areas of displacement, particularly in Diyala Governorate.

Shelter and NFIs

As the inter-agency Shelter/NFI Cluster lead agency, UNHCR continued to promote the implementation of the national Shelter/NFI Cluster shelter strategy, complementing the work of local authorities and other humanitarian actors in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable IDPs throughout Iraq. Those prioritised for assistance include people living outdoors, in sub-standard structures, or with particular vulnerabilities.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Anbar Governorate, fighting in and around Heet is causing fresh displacement to Wafa district and Kilo 18, locations south of the city, where a camp and transit center have been established by local authorities. In Ameriyat Al Falluja in Anbar, UNHCR made camp Baghdad and camp Iraq available to families displaced from the Heet area. So far, camp Baghdad hosts 190 displaced families. CRIs have been distributed to IDPs in Wafa district, Kilo 18 and camp Baghdad.
- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, UNHCR, through its partner, completed all electrical works in Qurato Camp phase 2: two electric transformers were installed, and the extension can accommodate 512 families. UNHCR will conduct an assessment for the families in urban areas that wish to be relocated to the camp.
- In Kirkuk Governorate, UNHCR replaced 38 and 8 damaged tents in Laylan and Nazrawa camps respectively.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Dohuk, electricity rationing remains a challenge for displaced families relying on heating stoves. Additionally, in Chamiskhu camp, the lack of proper solid waste management and drainage systems remains a gap in sanitation, posing serious health risk to the IDP families. UNHCR is coordinating with humanitarian partners to find solutions in this regard.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In selected areas in Baghdad and Anbar governorates, UNHCR partners continue to rehabilitate various IDP settlements and collective centres. This involves minor rehabilitation of the premises by repairing or rehabilitating minor damages and creating safe space and winter-proof space through partitioning.

- In Basra and Missan Governorates, UNHCR distributed 190 water tanks (125 Basra and 65 Missan) with capacity of 500 liters each. UNHCR in close coordination with local authorities and partners targeted large number of IDP families living in rented houses or collective shelters.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Shelter remains a pressing concern across the country, as countless IDPs live in informal settlements, unfinished and abandoned buildings, public and school buildings and religious sites.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

As the inter-agency CCCM Cluster lead agency, UNHCR continued working with local authorities and humanitarian partners to provide coordinated and equitable access to services and protection to IDPs living in communal settings and training for camp management staff across Iraq.

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, UNHCR, local authorities and partner agencies relocated 1,236 families (approximately 7,400 individuals) from the Arbat transit camp to the Ashti camp. Families now benefit from improved living conditions, including individual showers and latrines along with separate kitchen.
- In Diyala Governorate, UNHCR coordinated with MSF to provide caravans and materials to relocate the primary healthcare facilities in Alwand 2 camp, ensuring improved access for all camp inhabitants.



UNHCR and partner agency verifying families during relocation from Arbat camp to Ashti camp. © YAO.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to distribute wheelchairs for IDPs living with disabilities in Sulaymaniyah. During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners distributed 17 wheelchairs to IDPs in Sulaymaniyah city centre, Arbat, and Barzian sub-district.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- On 19 March 2016, UNHCR Iraq representative, Bruno Geddo, joined oud musician, Naseer Shamma, to inaugurate new housing units for IDPs in Baghdad. Thanks to funding through the Iraqi philanthropic association, Ahalna Campaign, established by Mr Shamma, and with support from Zain and the Iraqi Private Banks League, as well as technical support from UNHCR on site planning and layout, the first group of 104 new housing units were officially opened at Al Salam and Al Um Al Qura camps for displaced families in Iraq.



Naseer Shamma and UNHCR Representative Bruno Geddo inaugurate shelter units for internally displaced Iraqis in Baghdad. © UNHCR / Caroline Gluck

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Defying tradition and supporting a family -

BAGHDAD, 8 March 2016

Today marks International Women's Day. In Iraq, ongoing conflict, which has led to the displacement of more than 3.3 million people, has had a massive impact on families, especially on women. Many have

lost their husbands and sons or have been separated from them, and have had to take on new roles and responsibilities to care for their families.



Lamia and her granddaughter pose in front of their tent in Asia camp. ©UNHCR / Caroline Gluck

Grandmother, 40 year old Lamia Abid, never saw herself as an entrepreneur. She was a housewife back home and never even thought of working. But after the death of her husband two years ago, and the family's forced relocation to Baghdad to escape from extremist forces in her home town of Ramadi, Lamia has used some creative thinking in adapting to the new realities of her situation, living amongst more than 100 other displaced families in Asia Camp, in Al-Dorah neighbourhood in southern Baghdad.

The camp is run by the Baghdad Provincial Council through the non-government organisation, Al-Amal Al-Manshood. UNHCR has assisted families living here, providing new sturdy shelter units to replace tents, which were badly damaged in winter floods, as well as core relief items and winter assistance to the families.

About one year ago, Lamia opened a small stall next to her UNHCR-installed shelter unit, where she sells snacks and biscuits, mostly to young children in the camp. The camp houses a total of 128 displaced families.

"This is the only shop in the camp", she told me proudly. "I started about a year ago. I didn't want to beg or take things from others. They have their own problems.

"I just wanted to be able to rely on myself and look after my family," she said.

Lamia's married son sometimes manages to get odd jobs, but Lamia has the responsibility of looking after her 70 year old mother and sister. In fact, her income helps her to provide for a total of nine family members, including her four grandchildren.

Lamia's shop - a small stand covered with plastic sheeting - has been a big success, netting her sales of \$45-70 a day. On some days, she said has had more than 100 customers. Lamia said children would pass by on their way to school to make their purchases. But this is not all. As the weather is getting warmer, she is thinking ahead and wants to buy ice creams and lollies to sell.

The problem is that she will need to buy a large refrigerator. She doesn't have the money right now, as her income has been spent on stocking the shop, feeding her family and buying a small television and a tiny fridge. Her remaining assets – her wedding ring and other gold jewelry – were sold off long ago.

"Thank goodness I have this job", Lamia said. "Many people have been curious and asked me how I managed to do this. A lot of people have said I am doing a good job in being able to support my family like this. But some people are jealous; they cannot understand how I got my idea and am managing to make some money. They even tell their children not to buy from me!

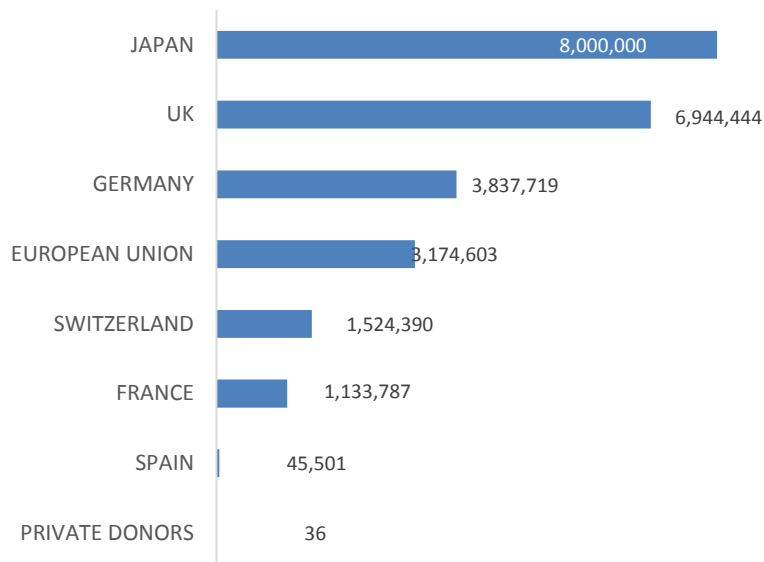
"But I don't care what other people say", she said. "This job helps me to support my family with honour and dignity."

By Caroline Gluck

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 24.6M (24,660,481)**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, especially to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.



Funding received in 2016 (USD)

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13 M)

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