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# Situation Report

## Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



**Report #: 20**

**17 April 2014**

The information presented in the Situation Report is based on data received from UN agencies and JAU up to the time of publishing

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## Highlights

- Number of displaced stands at **71,184 families** as per Government figures of 16 April 2014.
- The second round of Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) targeting a total of 5,715,936 children under the age of 5 was undertaken from April 6 – 10, 214 throughout all governorates.
- The preliminary findings of the food security survey of Anbar IDPs commissioned by WFP reveals 79% of IDP families in Anbar are food insecure and in need of food assistance.

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## Situation overview

Clashes continue between the ISF and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs,) resulting into each side gaining and losing battles in various locations. Renewed artillery bombardment on several districts in Fallujah continue with reports indicating that shelling targeted most of the central, south and eastern parts of the city. Estimated damage and casualty numbers are not yet available.

Several neighborhoods in Ramadi center have reportedly witnessed a total displacement as families fled areas surrounding the Provincial Governorate Council Building due to heavy deployment of Daash armed members.

Violence continues to spread towards other provinces and edging towards Baghdad. Several areas of Abu Ghraib are allegedly under the control of AOGs, there have been reports of heavy fighting with ISF attempting to retake occupied areas.

The Ministry of Justice announced the closure of the Baghdad Central Prison (Abu Ghraib) with all its 2,400 inmates transferred to other prisons in the northern and central Provinces, due to the prevailing security situation.

The manipulation of water resources by AOGs remains a cause of concern. AOGs took control of the Fallujah dam restricting the flow of water into the Euphrates River, affecting populations in central and southern Iraq. Government officials and advisors warned that ongoing closure of the dam could affect irrigation of farms in many southern provinces that depend on water from the Euphrates, inclusive of Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf and Qadissiyah.

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## Humanitarian Response

The number of IDP families stands at 71,184 as per Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) latest registration report, with 50,922 families in Anbar and 20,262 in other Governorates. The figures of 71,591 IDP families reflected in the map are as of 09 April 2014, the discrepancy can be attributed to gaps and challenges in registration and secondary movement of the displaced population.

As per official Government reports, the first trench of cash assistance continues to IDPs from Anbar displaced to Baghdad. Meanwhile MoDM commenced distribution of the second trench of 300,000 IQDs (\$250 USD) to IDPS in Kerbala, Erbil, Sulimaniyah, and Dohuk.

The report further indicates over 76 IDP families from Anbar have returned to their places of origin from Kerbala. The Government continues to advocate for additional entitlements for those who opt to return to their homes in Anbar voluntarily (further details are not provided in the Government report.)

The Government also highlighted multiple displacements, and the unpredictable security situation within Anbar province as a challenge that is hampering assistance from reaching those in need.

UNHCR indicates a new wave of displacement resulted from the floods originating from the Fallujah dam closure. Several villages have been affected in Fallujah and other areas surrounding Baghdad such as Abu Ghraib and Zuba'a. Meanwhile UNHCR reports a significant increase in IDP families arriving in Al-Qa'im district, during the week where 21 additional families reached Al-Qa'im from Fallujah and Ramadi.

## NFI and Shelter Sector

UNHCR is in the process of completing the third collective center in Heet through the installation of (20) family tents in Al-Awasal village (30 KM south of Heet) to accommodate (20) families displaced from Anbar. The Al-Sanaya school where the IDPs are residing must be completely cleared to allow students to take their examinations.



*UNHCR/Photo third collective center in Heet*

Since the commencement of the conflict in Anbar, UNHCR has distributed 6,169 Core Relief Items to benefit the displaced families.

## WASH



*UNICEF Distribution of Hygiene Kits in Sitak Anbar*

UNICEF has provided 650 adult hygiene kits and 65 water family kits (with each kit serving 10 families.) The kits benefited 650 IDP families in the Sitak region located on the Anbar side of the border between Anbar and Salah El Deen. They also provided 4,500 adult hygiene kits in Heet, 1,500 adult hygiene kits in Rutba, and 1500 adult hygiene kits in Amiriyat Al Fallujah. Additionally through their implementing partners UNICEF has conducted a house to house hygiene promotion through (5) hygiene promoters in Al Qa'im.

UNICEF continues their campaign on garbage collection and disposal through the use of 4 tractors and local laborers. The activities have benefited 3,200 individuals, 1,300 women, 816 men and 1,084 children in Rutba and Al Qa'im districts.

UNICEF also continues to provide 300,000 liters of potable water on a weekly basis through water tankers covering Rutba, Heet and Obaidi districts that benefit 3,000 individuals, 1,050 women, 850 men and 1,100 children (30-40 liters per capita.)

UNICEF has also installed 4 mobile latrines in Heet targeting 160 displaced individuals.



UNICEF/Photo: provision of potable water in Rutba

Subsequent to field visits conducted by WASH facilitators in Al-Dholuaia ,Yathrib and Ishaqi districts, Salah El Din and based on assessment undertaken by implementing partners, the preliminary findings reveal 1,200 IDP families are living in schools, mosques, public buildings and in host communities throughout the villages have limited access to clean water. The families have been consuming water either directly from the River, or from the public network which is quite a long distance to travel. It was further noted that IDP families have no access to latrines. In line with this UNICEF intends to provide emergency supplies to these families in the form of 1,200 adult hygiene kits, 120 family kits (each kit serving 10 families) and 1,200 cleaning brooms.

## Food Security

Since the onset of the crisis WFP has distributed 11,006 food parcels, serving 55,030 IDPs.

During the course of the week WFP transported 4,000 food parcels from their Erbil storage facilities to Ramadi. WFP's partner IOM distributed 1,250 of these food parcels in Rutba. WFP and IOM plan to distribute the remaining food parcels with an average of 1,000 food parcels each week for the remainder of the month of April in the areas of Haditha and Heet.

The preliminary findings of the food security survey of Anbar IDPs commissioned by WFP are now available. The data was collected mid-March 2014 through various methodologies such as household survey, key informant interviews and focus group discussions with men and women. The assessment was limited to six major cities within Anbar province. Based on the WFP standard 7 day recall methodology, the findings reveal approximately 34% of the IDP population in Anbar has poor or borderline food consumption. Of the overall IDP population, 47% have no income and 79% families have a monthly income of less than 360,000 Iraqi Dinars (\$300). This is far less than the national poverty line of 105,000 Iraqi Dinars (\$86) per person. It is concluded that 79% of IDP families in Anbar are food insecure and in need of food assistance until the prevailing circumstances change.

## Health

The second round of Polio National Immunization Days (NIDs) targeting a total of 5,715,936 children under the age of 5 was undertaken from April 6 – 10, 2014 throughout all governorates, inclusive of Anbar. With respect to the residents of Anbar province; there was coverage of 77.4%, the high coverage rate is attributed to a significant portion of the population being displaced to neighbouring governorates.



*UNICEF/ Photo: Polio Vaccination in Rusafa/Shu'ab District/Baghdad*

During the course of the five days, WHO deployed on a daily basis several of their own teams along with the vaccinating teams of MoH to avail of their technical support.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) was identified as an independent monitor for the Polio vaccination campaign. The IRCS completed its work on 15 April 2014, where for the first time they were able to utilize a mobile based advanced technology to undertake the monitoring of the campaign. The results of the independent monitoring are expected to be available by 20 April 2014

As a response to a request from MOH, WHO completed two training session's one in Baghdad and another in the KR-I focusing on raising awareness with respect to the AFP Surveillance System. Additionally WHO has deployed two polio experts to Baghdad who are currently working closely with the MoH/EPI (Expanded Program on Immunization) teams both in Baghdad and in the KR-I.

Approximately 2,000 IDP children under the age of 5 in Ramadi, Heet, Salah El Din, and Kerbala have been included in a rapid nutrition assessment conducted by the MoH/Nutrition Research Institute and supported by UNICEF. The preliminary findings will be available next week.

UNICEF dispatched 130 cartons of High Energy Biscuits to the Sitak area to benefit 650 IDP families (mainly children under the age of 5, and pregnant women as a mitigating measure to reducing malnutrition rates.

## Protection

A mechanism has been agreed between Ministry of Trade (MoT) and MoMD to facilitate distribution of the food rations for IDPs from Anbar, within and outside Anbar governorate and in the KR-I. Under this agreement the MoT will notify designated food ration centers in all governorates to coordinate with the MoMD. In line with this the MoMD will provide information with respect to the registered IDPs to the designated centers.

IDPs approaching the centers will be issued new ration cards under the Public Distribution System indicating the number of beneficiaries as listed on the old ration card. The new cards will be authenticated by a stamp containing a seal indicating the family is newly displaced. Subsequently the old ration card will be cancelled to avoid double dipping.

The mechanism has already been introduced and rolled out to approximately 300 families in Babylon and Kerbala who have already benefited by receiving their food ration. In Salah El Din where challenges exist with registration, therefore slowing down the progress; the MoT has adopted an additional layer to the procedure whereby IDPs are able to access food rations at any food distribution center in the governorate, with or without being registered, provided they are in possession of a support letter from the local authorities confirming they are newly displaced.

Concerns exist with respect to families which are split and members being located in more than one governorate. In the event the old ration card is cancelled under the new procedure some family's members will no longer be

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able to access their entitlement. UNHCR continues to hold discussions with the MoT and the MoMD to find a durable solution.

As of the end of March 2014, 83 families/432 individuals have been identified as new IDPs, with the majority (approximately 60%) displaced from Anbar governorate, the remaining being from Baghdad, Mosul, Basra, Missan, and Thi Qar.

The MoDM has registered the families displaced from Anbar and/or from other 'hot areas' in Iraq. However, there are several families that were not registered their cases remain pending until proof is provided with respect to their displacement from Anbar. UNHCR continues to advocate for registering of all those who are displaced.

As of the end of March, 2104, 7 families in Basra and 15 families in Thi Qar received the cash grant distributed by MoMD. It is worth noting the main concern for new IDPs is shelter, as their resources are limited if not diminished. The second concern is registration and admission of children to schools. UNHCRs continued to discuss with the Department of Education which has resulted in issuance of new instructions allowing all IDP children/students to be registered and permitted to take examinations for this academic year.

## Education

Forty four (44) IDP children between the ages of 6-12 years old have benefitted from the UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces set up in Al Qa'im city/ Obaidy district (14 girls, and 30 boys)

## Coordination & Funding

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Clusters continue to coordinate with IOM to ensure the Data Tracking Matrix (DTM) is reflective of all Cluster requirements; and the assessment results provide an in depth picture of the IDP numbers, locations and needs.

The Food Security Cluster led by WFP convened a meeting on April 15, 2014 with participants from 13 different NGO/Agencies, where information was share on food distribution activities and capacities in Anbar.

UNHCR led the NFI/Shelter Cluster Meeting on April 15, 2014 with attendance from most of the INGO/NGO partners, and UN Agencies specialized in this area; where discussions focused on information sharing and maximizing coordination to benefit the IDPS.

As reported in previous SitReps, the Gol has allocated 10 Billion Iraqi Dinars for lifesaving humanitarian assistance to IDPs families displaced outside Anbar Governorate with MoDM as the caretaker; and 20 Billion Iraqi Dinars for reconstruction and humanitarian efforts inside Anbar with the coordinator being the Sub Committee chaired by the Minister of Defense.

To date the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) has distributed Six Billion Iraqi Dinars out of the allocated 10 Billion Dinars allocated to MoDM to 11,575 IDP families out of 19,177 families registered to receive cash assistance outside Anbar province. The MoDM will continue its cash distribution to reach the targeted IDP families.

It's worth noting that GoI despite providing cash assistance to aid IDP families, it's unlikely it will allocated any cash assistance to UN agencies. As such, humanitarian actors (UN agencies and NGOs) will continue to advocate for more funding to meet the unmet lifesaving needs of vulnerable IDP families inside and outside Anbar.

To-date most UN agencies have run out of cash and supplies required to aid the IDP families. Therefore, the DSRSG/HC/RC is appealing to the international donors to urgently support the humanitarian efforts of the UN agencies and INGOs in providing lifesaving assistance to Anbar IDPs families.

**Financial Contributions-Strategic Response Plan (SRP)**

To date, the financial contributions received for the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) total Nine million USD; Five million USD from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 1.8 million USD from Japan and 1.7 million USD from Canada, and 500,000 USD from Turkey.

*Note, not all contributions have been reflected on the Financial Tracking System (FTS) yet.*

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