

KEY FIGURES

- 1,200,000 IDPs in Iraq:
- ✓ 500,000 estimated from Anbar crisis
- ✓ 100,000 IDPs in Erbil
- ✓ 200,000 IDPs in Duhok
- ✓ 97,000 IDPs in Ninewa
- ✓ 25,000 IDPs in Sulaymaniyah;
- ✓ IDPs are increasingly being reported in Kirkuk, Diyala and Salah Din

(figures are estimates based on Government, IOM, OCHA and ICRC data)

UNHCR PRIORITIES

- Provide adequate supplies of basic and domestic items
- Provide shelter and support to authorities for camp establishment
- Improve/maintain registration and profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved
- Services for persons with specific needs strengthened
- Reduce risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and improve quality of response

Photo: UNHCR's partner Qandil provided CRI kits to 71 families (445 persons) living in unfinished houses and factory buildings in Kalakchi village of Shekhan district, Dohuk governorate. UNHCR continues to distribute core relief items across governorates hosting newly displaced IDPs.
@UNHCR/ Ayad Othman

HIGHLIGHTS

- On the 16th of July, the High Commissioner started a visit to Iraq, which constitutes his Ramadan solidarity trip for 2014. The High Commissioner visited the internally displaced person (IDPs) in the north of the country who were affected by the recent crisis, Syrian refugees, as well as government officials in Baghdad and Erbil.
- While the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) revised on 18 June sought funding for USD 312.1 million, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced on 1st of July that it will contribute USD 500 million for the IDPs inside Iraq. This sum will be shared amongst the various UN agencies involved in the IDP response, including UNHCR. The generous contribution will be implemented on protection and assistance projects before the end of the winter.
- Protection needs assessment were carried out across central Iraq and in the northern governorates of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). To date, assessments at community and household level have been conducted for a total of 27,467 families/147,598 individuals by protection actors.
- Over 31,000 individuals have been assisted with core relief items or emergency shelters to date across central and northern Iraq.
- UNHCR and partners have reached 17,000 IDPs with distributions across northern and central Iraq: CRIs to 14,000 families and over 3,000 families have been provided with tents.
- UNHCR is in the process of distributing 1,600 CRI kits for IDPs in Najaf, Karbala, Babylon, Wassit and Baghdad for IDPs from Anbar.



OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Current Context

As the security situation remains tense across central governorates of the country, IDP movements continue across central Iraq and in the KR-I but have reportedly decreased in comparison to previous weeks.

Newly displaced persons in the KR-I find their limited financial resources quickly depleted by the high cost of hotel accommodation as they are at present denied residency permits. As a result a number have decided to return to their places of origin or move onward. However, for many other families that have been displaced multiple times, returning to their place of origin is not an option at this time.

Access to safe locations and the ability of IDPs to transit through certain areas of the country remains restricted. In addition to locations in northern and central Iraq, reports have also been received of persons of particular profiles being prevented from entering some southern governorates, such as Basrah.

The need for a specialized protection assessment covering child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has been identified by the child protection and SGBV sub working groups. There is a major concern over the rights of women in areas controlled by armed opposition groups such as Mosul.

Alternative shelter options for IDPs residing outside of camps remain limited across Iraq. The Protection Cluster/ Working group has identified the need to better understand how IDPs consider shelter solutions through protection monitoring.



Najaf and his extended family sit inside their temporary home, an unfinished building in Chamchamal, Iraq. He, his two wives and 11 children have been displaced multiple times since January 1st when they fled the fighting in their hometown of Fallujah @ UNHCR/Catherine Robinson

Displacements

Displacements continue to be reported in the majority of central governorates, with families arriving in the KR-I that have been displaced multiple times. Figures for the KR-I remain the same as end of June (200,000 in Dohuk and 100,000 in Erbil) as reported by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM).

According to authorities in Sinjar, Ninewa governorate, the total number of people displaced from Mosul and Tal afar is 12,000 IDP families. There is a need for food items, CRIs and clean water in Sinjar and many other locations within Ninewa.

According to UNHCR partners, new Syrian refugee families and some families that previously returned to Syria have returned to Al-Obaidy camp in Anbar governorate to reside there; the total number of refugees in Al-Obaidy camp as of 14 July is 1,047 individuals /210 families; 906 individuals /178 families are registered with UNHCR while 141 individuals\40 families are not registered.

Checkpoints/Borders

IDPs continue to enter the KR-I through a number of key entrypoints, including Aloka, Badrike and Shekahan leading to Duhok governorate, Khazair checkpoint which leads to Erbil governorate and Kalar, Bana maqan and Tasluja checkpoints leading to Sulaymaniyah governorate. Checkpoints between Ninewa, Erbil and Dohuk governorates have witnessed an overall decrease in traffic since June.

IDPs also continue to approach Khazair checkpoint. However, as Baharka transit centre is currently at capacity, it is unclear whether further individuals can be transferred from the checkpoint to this facility. There is a continuing need to provide immediate humanitarian relief (shelter, food, water, etc) to populations stranded at key KR-I entry points.

As earlier noted, IDPs of a certain ethnicity continue to face difficulties in crossing checkpoints, with a number of refused permission to travel onwards to Erbil and Dohuk.

Al Waleed Border: IDPs continue to return to Al Waleed village and the surrounding areas. Some individuals and trucks are being admitted through the border point. Iraqi authorities are rehabilitating the border facilities in preparation for official reopening.

Trebil Border: The border crossing has reduced working hours to six hours per day. Prior to the Mosul crisis, Trebil was open daily for 12 hours.

Al Qa'im Border: Through the reporting period, aerial bombardments continued to be reported at the Al Qa'im border and city.

Rabia'a Border: Passengers and truck were reported to irregularly cross the border line.

Peshkhabour-KR-I and Semalka-Syria: Since 10 June 2014 and to date, Peshkhabour-KR-I and Semalka-Syria, borders crossings remain open for returns to Syria only. As a result, no Syrians crossed into KR-I through Peshkhabour-Semalka border crossing points.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Shelter and CRIs

The vast majority of IDPs continues to choose to reside outside of camps but have limited resources to continue to do so. Cash assistance has been identified as a key need for IDPs living outside of camps in order to support their basic needs. The cost of shelter was identified as a limiting factor for IDPs living in Erbil governorate, whilst IDPs living in Duhok and Ninewa identified the need for support with food and water as they continue to be hosted by the local community. In addition, there is a need for alternative shelter options to be provided outside of camps which can support IDPs who are unable to continue supporting themselves in an urban environment. This could be in the form of collective centres.

Significant differences were observed in the type of accommodation used by IDPs in the KR-I when comparing Erbil governorate to Duhok and Ninewa. In Erbil, the vast majority of IDPs were found to be renting hotel rooms – IDPs reported that they had resorted to this accommodation type as they were unable to rent private houses without residency documents and did not have family or friends to host them in Erbil. In Duhok and Ninewa, the majority of IDPs were hosted by friends and family with significant numbers renting private houses.

Given the continued escalation of the conflict, most IDPs are not considering a return to their areas of origin. Thus far, 58,592 families have been assessed to be in need of assistance across the Inter-Sector/Cluster response since the beginning of the crisis. Most are living in makeshift shelters, collective centres, unfinished buildings and in schools. Shelter and CRI needs have thus been identified across governorates where IDPs are located. Key needs identified this week are the following:

- Assessment and identification of collective centres by the authorities is a key priority for the sector
- Finalization of the design, cost and implementation schedule for mobile kitchens in Baharka camp in the KR-I by UNHCR

Additionally, UNHCR continues to provide support to the authorities for the establishment of camps in the KR-I through the provision of tents and CRIs to the families residing in the camps.

UNHCR distributed 9,603 CRI kits and 355 tents in the center and south of Iraq since the start of the IDP crisis in January 2014. This translates to over 31,000 being assisted with CRI and/or emergency shelters to date in various locations across central and northern Iraq. Assistance this week includes the following:

- UNHCR distributed CRIs in central Iraq as follows: 433 in Karbala, 300 in Najaf, 22 in Baghdad, and 17 in Wassit.
- UNHCR started the distribution of 300 CRI kits to the IDP families from Mosul. In Baharka, 500 CRI kits were distributed to families from Tel afar awaiting their departure to Najaf.
- UNHCR distributed CRIs to 40 families/253 persons in Qarawla and Peshkhbaour villages.
- UNHCR sent 300 CRI kits to Zummar, and 85 CRI kits to Beshryan village near Kalak sub district in Bardarash for the families living in unfinished houses:

As large numbers of IDPs enter Najaf on a daily basis, UNHCR is working on more rapid needs assessments and planning more CRI distributions.

Gaps and constraints include difficulty in accessing the proposed IDP camps in Dohuk due to security reasons and in Sulaymaniyah due the remote location of the camps. Furthermore, identifying shelter solutions for IDPs living in schools is paramount as the buildings will be required for the start of the school year.

Protection

To-date, protection monitoring assessments at rapid/community and household level have been conducted for 155,899 individuals (29,084 families) by protection actors across the country. Protection monitoring continues at key entry points into the KR-I, as well as within IDP camps and urban areas.

Central Iraq

Protection monitoring continues to identify and report upon critical protection risks, violations of human rights law and the situation of vulnerable sections of the IDP community. Monitoring should continue at (i) key entry points into the KR-I to monitor access; (ii) in IDP camps; (iii) in non-camp settings. Additional needs assessments will be conducted for specialized areas (for example, in the area of child protection, GBV prevention and response) to better guide protection activities. Systems for the identification, referral and monitoring of IDPs, with a focus on vulnerability, will be put into place.

To-date legal assistance (direct and through advocacy) has been provided to 5,426 cases, with referrals made for 1,681 persons with specific needs and 50 advocacy initiatives undertaken with local authorities and service providers in the 10 central governorates.

One-time cash assistance has been provided to the most vulnerable 1,696 families corresponding to a sum of USD 776,525 in the 10 central governorates by protection actors. Given the operational fluidity, no cash has been disbursed for the new cases yet.

KR-I

Conditions in the IDP camps in Gamarwa and Khazair are currently not to the standard required for children's safety. In the central and southern governorates local authorities are increasingly establishing shelter options, which has protection implications that require further consideration.

Psychosocial support and child protection services (including case management) are provided via three fixed child friendly spaces (in Khazair and Garmawa transit camps and in Shaqlawa urban area in Erbil Governorate). One safe play area has been set up at Baharka transit camp. In Hareer, a mobile Child Protection in Emergencies unit (including case management) is now in place, reaching two communities per day to be increased, pending assessments. Additional units are planned.

COORDINATION

To ensure an Iraq-wide coordinated response to the unfolding IDP emergency, the cluster approach has been declared in central Iraq and a coordination mechanism was established under the auspices of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, represented by the MoDM and the Department for Displacement and Migration, respectively. UNHCR is leading the Protection and Shelter/CRIs clusters for central Iraq.

In the KR-I, the well-established sector system for the Syrian refugee response will remain unchanged and include both Syrian refugees and IDP issues. This will avoid duplication of meetings, response plans and ensure efficient coordination by all agencies.

UNHCR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

UNHCR is currently revising overall requirements for the IDP crisis along with agencies in Iraq.

Thus far, thanks to kind contributions through the CERF 1 and 2, as well as from Japan, Turkey, Denmark, Australia, DFID-UK, USA, and Norway, the UNHCR IDP crisis has received just over USD 20 million, which has ensured the imminent dispatch of tents and CRIs as well as protection assistance to vulnerable IDP families.

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