

IRAQ IDP CRISIS

Situation Report No. 4 (19-26 July 2014)



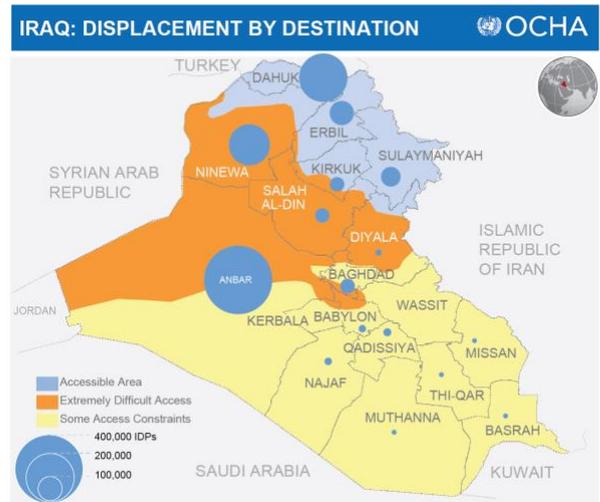
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This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 19 and 26 July 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 1 August.

Highlights

- Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and water networks, continue.
- Hundreds of families fled Mosul after receiving ultimatums.
- Access to populations living in active conflict zones and hard to reach areas remains a grave concern.
- Thousands of IDPs remain on the move, particularly towards Kirkuk, northern Diyala, the Kurdistan Region and southern Iraq.
- Critical shortages in medical supplies and medicines are reported in Mosul, areas of Salah al-Din and Anbar.
- Cargo flights to the Kurdistan Region resume.



Source: GoI Ministry of Migration and Displacement, UN OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, Inter-Agency Assessments.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

1.5million

Affected people

1.2million

Internally displaced
(estimated)

1million

Targeted for
assistance

Situation Overview

Active areas of conflict continue to affect hundreds of thousands of Iraqis throughout the country, particularly in the area stretching from Baghdad to the Kurdistan Region, as well as Anbar. Humanitarian actors are increasingly concerned about the local communities and IDPs that remain in these areas, as well as areas where basic goods and services are increasingly inaccessible or targeted. A rough estimate indicates that up to 5 million people may be residing in these areas. Of particular concern are the Amerli and Al-Dululiyah areas in Salah al-Din governorate, as well as western areas in Anbar governorate. Reports indicate that civilians may be trapped in these areas, unable to move away from conflict or to access humanitarian assistance and basic goods, such as food and water. Humanitarian actors are working to identify options for how to access these hard to reach areas.

New displacement and secondary displacement continue to occur on a daily basis. Some 400 families fled Mosul on Saturday 19 July after receiving an edict from armed groups that they should convert, pay a tax, leave or be killed. A number of families reported that they were stripped of all valuables as they left Mosul, including identification documents and vehicles, and were forced to walk out of the city. The families went to nearby villages in the Ninewa Plains and are being assisted by local communities, NGOs and the UN. In Kirkuk, the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) reports that up to 23,000 displaced families may now be displaced within Kirkuk city, marking an increase of 16,000 families in two weeks. Further verification of these figures is ongoing.

New displacement continues to be reported in Khanaqin, in northern Diyala, where some 6,000 families are currently residing in three settlement areas and within the local community. Chamchamal, in western Sulaymaniyah, also remains an area of high concern, due to the possibility of tensions between IDPs and the local community. The Garmawa IDP camp in the Shekhan district of Ninewa governorate has doubled in population in the last weeks, with the total population now at 349 families (estimated 2,094 individuals). Meanwhile, the Barharka IDP transit site located north of Erbil city is nearly empty, as at the time of reporting, with families having moved on to Baghdad and areas in southern

Iraq. The number of IDPs in Sinjar has also decreased significantly in recent weeks, from up to 10,000 families to now 2,500 families.

Authorities in Baghdad have requested assistance from the UN to build an IDP camp in the city environs in order to host IDPs arriving from northern Iraq. Displacement to other areas in southern Iraq continues to grow. Humanitarian actors planned for aid distributions to 3,000 families in Najaf and found the number had increased to 6,000 families by the time of the distribution. Rapid assessments are being planned for Najaf, Kerbala and Wassit, in order to identify the needs of a growing IDP population.

Discussions on emergency shelter options, including camps, were held with various local authorities during the week, particularly with the Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk and Baghdad authorities. During the Humanitarian Coordinator's visit to Sulaymaniyah, she emphasized that camps remain a last resort and that support to families living within the host community must be provided in equal measure as to camps. She elaborated that for international humanitarian assistance to be provided, camps should be located near to towns or cities in order to facilitate access to market and services; that residence within camps must be voluntary; and that IDPs residing in camps must be allowed to move freely.

The ban on cargo flights to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah imposed by the Government of Iraq was lifted on 21 July. New procedures have been put into place and communicated to humanitarian partners by the Logistics Cluster. A joint UN cargo flight successfully arrived in Erbil on 24 July.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Local authorities in Kerbala and Najaf are working to establish camps for IDP families. They have requested the WASH sector to support the provision of water and sanitation.
- Ongoing shelling on the city of Fallujah and Al-Saqlawiyah (Anbar governorate) has led to further displacement toward Ammriate, Al-Fallujah and Al-Habbaniyah. The displaced are settling in schools and in unfinished houses; cluster partners are working to increase the rate of water trucking and monitoring.
- In Diyala governorate, a new wave of IDPs (more than 500 families) fleeing from Al-Haruniyah have reached Khanaqin. Work on a new IDP site with some 1,000 tents has been started in the village of Aliy Awah.
- Water networks in Tilkaif, Al Hamdaniyah and Makhmoor districts have been cut off, resulting in critical water shortages for affected communities in the areas.

Response

- A joint WASH and health shipment of 2,000 adult hygiene kits, 4,000 jerry cans, 40 water storage tanks, and 5,000 bed sheets will be delivered to Najaf targeting 10,000 IDPs (pending clearance).
- Water trucking continues in Tilkaif, Hamdaniyah and Makhmoor districts (Ninewa and Erbil governorates) for an estimated 75,000 people cut off from water due to armed group seizure of water facilities. Water trucking is also ongoing for Heet and Al-Habbaniyah (Anbar governorate) and Telafar (Ninewa governorate).
- Services are ongoing for IDP camps of Garmawa (Ninewa governorate), Khazir (Ninewa governorate) and the Baharka IDP transit site (Erbil governorate).
- Longer term water projects are moving forward for Al-Hamdaniyah, Tilkaif and Khanaqin.

Gaps and constraints

- Road security restrictions and delays in security clearances are undermining rapid response efforts.
- Responding to people on the move - particularly those delayed while crossing checkpoints - remains a critical gap.



Food Security

Needs

- The conflict has resulted in the disruption of the public distribution system upon which large numbers of people in Iraq depend.
- The crisis has impacted the May/June cereal harvest and post-harvest activities in key production areas such as Ninewa and Salah Al-Din governorates, which account for nearly a third of Iraq's wheat production and about 38 per cent of its barley.

- Large buildups of displaced people continue at check points (especially the Khazir check point between Mosul and Erbil); many have to wait in the sun for between 1-3 days and are in need of food.
- IDPs in transit are in need of ready to eat meals, while those in more stable environments are in need of dry family rations. However, the lack of fuel and cooking equipment remain a challenge in most places where IDPs are present.
- Host communities receiving IDPs are in need of food assistance support as their coping mechanisms are being depleted.

Response

- The Food Security Cluster (FSC) has reached 219,853 affected individuals since June, according to 4Ws data updated on 21 July. Beneficiaries were reached with various forms of food assistance such as monthly food rations (65.1kg parcels), small food parcels, meals, etc.
- FSC partners provided 1,300 immediate response rations to IDPs at transit centres in various locations.
- The FSC response in the last one week includes addressing the key food needs of the minority displaced from Mosul who mostly went to Al Hamadaniyah, Tilkaif and Ankawa in Erbil. FSC partners responded to the rapidly emerging needs. Response also took place critical areas such as Sinjar and Wassit. These figures will be updated in the next round of 4Ws due on 28 July.
- Partners are now present Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Ninewa, Najaf, Salah al Din, Sulimaniyah, Kerbala, Thiu-Qar and Wassit. However, due to access problems partners are not operational currently in some of these governorates especially Anbar. The presence map will assist in determining further the response coverage and gaps.

Gaps and Constraints

- Inaccessibility to conflict areas in order to reach IDPs and the transient nature of IDPs who are on the move.
- Resumption of food distribution in Anbar remains a challenge and efforts are ongoing.
- Small groups of IDPs who have not received aid are being identified and so food items (IRR and food parcels) will be pre-positioned in various hot spots to address the food needs of such populations.



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs

- Families are settling in Najaf, including 3,070 IDP families from Ninewa and 116 from Anbar. Some 2,000 families are living in collective centers, with a further 220 families in schools, kindergartens, mosques, informal settlements and rented houses. There are an additional 258 families from other locations in Najaf, including Kirkuk, Baghdad and Tikrit; these families require shelter assistance.
- Some 300 IDP families are living in hotels in Basra; a shelter and NFI assessment is needed.
- The Shelter Cluster is working with authorities to identify shelter solutions for IDPs living in schools across Iraq. In Dahuk alone, some 5,410 families are living in 117 schools. In Heet (Anbar), families from Falluja and Ramadi are living in schools and unfinished buildings.
- 1,000 NFIs are required for Khanaqin to be distributed after a rapid needs assessment is completed. Similarly, 1,000 NFIs kits have been requested for Najaf, with another 500 NFIs for Kerbala.

Response

- Cluster partners and authorities continue to assess identified sites for camps (Telsin, Zummar and Qadir Qarim, Chamchamal) in northern areas. Authorities have also requested support at a newly established IDP site near Baghdad, where an unknown number of families will be living in prefabricated caravans there.
- Cluster field teams conducted a joint rapid assessment in the Jameela area of eastern Baghdad, where they visited three schools in which 92 IDP families from Telafar (Ninewah) have been accommodated. 92 NFI kits were provided to the families.
- Another 31 tents have been set up at the Garmawa IDP camp (Dahuk governorate) and NFI kits have been provided to arrivals.
- Cluster partners provided assistance to 248 IDP families in four villages in the Alqosh area (Tilkaif district/Ninewa governorate). Assistance was also provided to IDPs living in Kani Shreen village (110 families), Bozan village (40 families), Bandawa village (50 families), and Trba Spi village (48 families)
- NFI Kits were provided to new IDPs as follows: 500 kits in Babylon; 2,000 kits in Kirkuk governorate; 433 kits in Kerbala; and 600 kits in Najaf.
- 100 NFI kits were requested for Wassit. The kits will be distributed pending an assessment if families plan to stay

long term.

Gaps and constraints

- Rapid need assessments are now needed in Najaf, Kerbala, Diyala and Wassit. Agencies are planning assessments for the coming week.
- Access remains the greatest challenge in responding to the IDP crisis, with access to Anbar proving particularly limited. Cluster members are exploring options for moving items in via Karbala to Heet. Similarly, access to Khanaqin, as well as Telsin and Zummar, remains limited.
- Development of a camp layout for the new Khazir IDP camp and the forthcoming Telsin IDP camp in northern Ninewa is needed. Security clearance issues continue to prevent field missions. Proposed assessments for the layout of the Telsin IDP camp layout in Dahuk have been cancelled several times.



Health

Needs

- Medicine and medical supplies for the treatment of chronic, communicable and non-communicable diseases are insufficient in Anbar, Dahuk and Salah al-Din governorates.
- Training of health staff on managing cholera, measles and polio outbreaks is needed in Anbar; in Ninewa, training on stool analysis, food and water testing is needed.
- There is an urgent need for medical staff – particularly surgeons and anesthetists - in Salah al-Din governorate.
- Rehabilitation of hospitals and PHCCs within conflict areas of Salah al-Din is required. Most have been damaged.
- More DoH health staff are needed in Dahuk governorate as caseloads increase at health facilities.
- Lack of medical equipment at the Al Ramadi pediatric teaching hospital (Anbar governorate).

Response

- Health authorities have established three health clinics inside three IDP camps in Khanaqin: Aliawa, Bahar Taza, and the Khanaqin football stadium.
- Medicine and medical supplies delivered to PHCC in Garmawa IDP camp (Dahuk governorate).
- The Ministry of Health supplied Sinjar DoH with 80 tons of medicine. The delegation also met with UN agencies and international organizations to coordinate the distribution of medical supplies.
- Monitoring and evaluation visits to Al Khalidia and Al Ramadi (Anbar governorate) and Garmawa IDP transit site (Dahuk governorate) were conducted to assess respective health situations
- Identification and referral of people with disabilities, injuries, and special needs is taking place in Dahuk (urban areas and Garmawa IDP camp), as well as the Khazir IDP camp in Ninewa governorate.
- Three PHCs were activated in Shirqat district (Salah al-Din governorate) to improve the primary health services and provide some minor surgeries
- Routine immunizations continue to be conducted at PHCCs in Anbar governorate.
- Eight cartons of oral rehydration salts have been provided to the Sheikhan IDP camp
- One diarrhoeal diseases kit has been provided to Hamdaniya district (Ninewa governorate).
- Three diarrhoeal diseases kits and three cartons of oral rehydration salts have been provided to Khanaqin district.

Gaps and challenges

- The general shortage of essential medicines and supplies, coupled with the lack of medical staff at health facilities, is a major challenge.
- Fuel shortages and insecurity is affecting the availability and ability of health personnel to access health facilities.
- The absence of leadership for the health system in Salah al-Din is complicating the coordination of response activities.
- Hospitals in Salah al-Din remain inaccessible for residents within conflict areas such as Tikrit, Beiji and Shirqat. Patients are mostly referred to Mosul hospital (Ninewa governorate) or to Al-Haweega hospital (Kirkuk governorate).



Needs

- IDPs continue to approach Khazir checkpoint to access Erbil Airport to fly to southern Iraq.
- There is a continuing need to monitor the provision of immediate humanitarian relief (shelter, food, water, etc.) to populations stranded at key KRI entry points.
- Across the board, local authorities are accommodating IDPs in designated locations that are not suitable for long-term habitation and are restricting the movement of IDPs, but increasingly in Najaf and Kerbala. Coordination is reportedly also taking place between local authorities on distributing IDPs amongst governorates to share the burden. This raises concerns over what choice the IDPs have and that family separation may occur.
- Mass information campaigns for IDP and host communities are needed to raise awareness on issues including registration, legal rights and key service providers.

Response

- Since February, protection monitoring assessments at rapid/community and household level have been conducted for 166,165 individuals (31,422 families) by protection actors across the country.
- 2,158 cases have been approved for cash assistance by protection actors country-wide. An additional 60 cases have been identified. The process is ongoing as more cases for cash assistance are identified on a daily basis.
- To-date legal assistance (direct and through advocacy) has been provided to 6,595 cases, with referrals made for 2,162 persons with specific needs and 57 advocacy initiatives undertaken with local authorities and service providers country-wide.
- 12 community liaison teams have been deployed to deliver mine-risk education to IDPs in Sulaymaniya, Erbil and Dahuk governorates. Surveys and clearance of mines in areas identified for IDP camps in Zummar and Minara are being conducted.

Gaps and constraints

- Better understanding is needed on how IDPs see solutions to their shelter problems. While information has been collected through protection monitoring on intentions, not much emphasis has been placed on getting the perspectives of IDPs with regard to shelter solutions.
- The KRI is highly contaminated by landmines and explosive remnants of war. Landmine awareness is needed for IDPs transiting through and settling to keep people safe.
- Medical and cash assistance for persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions needs to be scaled up.
- The capacity of government and implementing partners responsible for registration and documentation of IDPs remains limited.



Education

Needs

- There are continuous reports of IDPs sheltering in schools in Kirkuk, Dahuk, Ninewa and Anbar governorates. 2,416 IDPs are living in schools in Diyala.
- Alternative spaces for IDPs are urgently needed to ensure schools can open in September.
- There is still a need for clarification and decisions on key strategic issues such as curriculum, term start dates, teacher registration, availability of classroom, and salaries.

Response

- The federal Ministry of Education and the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Education met to organize exams for IDP students in Grades 9 and 12.
- Since 22 July, there has been a nation-wide dissemination of information to inform displaced students about the upcoming school examinations. IDP students will have the opportunity to sit the exams from 17 August. Messaging is being broadcast through the media, using television, Facebook, the MoE website, radio channels as well as flyers. In addition, SMS messaging is also planned in the near future.
- The Education Cluster is compiling a list of occupied schools through ongoing assessments with the DoEs, as well as inputs from the Shelter Cluster. The Education Cluster aims to have a complete list of schools by August.

- A Back to School Campaign, advocacy team and urban education task teams has been established.
- Second Phase Catch-up Classes for Grades 1-12 in the four sub-districts of Haditha (Anbar governorate) continue, with 1,200 students' participating. Student kits, recreational kits and 48 teacher bags were distributed to the catch up classes this week.
- 1,400 children are participating in on-going activities across 11 locations in Sinjar and Tilkaif (Ninewa governorate).
- Recreational activities have been initiated in Zummar (Ninewa governorate) reaching 2,422 children.
- On-going EiE activities in Erbil are underway for 600 IDP and refugee children from grades 1 to 9. These children and adolescents are enrolled in catchup classes and summer recreational activities.
- In Khazir and Garmawa IDP camps, 500 children are participating in extension of formal classes and recreational activities. Some 150 children are enrolled in early childhood and development classes.

Gaps and constraints

- The current method of registration by household does not allow enable the education cluster to identify the number of displaced school-aged children. Data, disaggregated by age and sex, would provide detailed information on the exact number of children displaced.
- There is still a need for clarification and decisions on key strategic issues such as curriculum, term start dates, teacher registration and salaries.
- Continuous displacement and on-going insecurity in certain areas presents challenges in accessing information.



Logistics

Needs

- Inter-agency storage has been requested by partners.

Response

- Following the suspension of cargo flights to the cities of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah on 10 July, specialist staff arrived in Erbil to review the ban and consider alternative options.
- Since the restrictions on cargo flights to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah airports were lifted, new procedures regarding commercial flights and humanitarian cargo have been shared with partners.
- Weekly coordination meetings are being held with partners. On 22 July, the meeting was attended by 12 different organisations including UN agencies and INGOs.
- During the weekly coordination meeting partners were requested to share their needs with the Logistics Cluster via a Service Request Form (SRF) which was presented to them.

Gaps and constraints

- Timely information sharing is needed to allow the humanitarian community to reach beneficiaries in a complex and rapidly evolving security situation.

General Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is being further strengthened in order to meet the increased challenges present in Iraq. A revised Terms of Reference has been developed and was submitted to the HCT for review during its meeting on Thursday, 24 July. Other key agenda items at the meeting included a proposed timeframe for the revision of the Strategic Response Plan, reporting requirements for joint grants to the UN agencies, and increasing support for emergency telecommunications and early recovery issues.

The inter-cluster coordination group also met on Thursday 24 July and discussed a number of operational issues that need additional focus over the coming weeks. Among other items, these include further operationalization of the camp policy and the creation of common vulnerability criteria and assessment mechanisms, including for IDPs in urban areas and for use in cash assistance programs.

The coordination meeting schedule can be found at <http://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info>.

Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Baathists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq's provinces of Ninewa, Salah Al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawijah, Riyadh, Fallujah and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG control. Since January much of Anbar has been under ISIL control. This has led to massive internal displacement. Iraq is now contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world; over 1.2 million have been displaced since January this year and approximately 560,000 of these have been displaced from Anbar. Following the fall of Mosul, an additional 650,000 persons are estimated to have been displaced.

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