

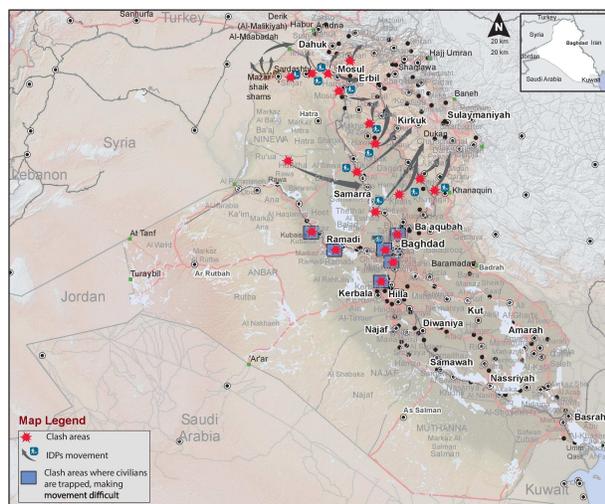


This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 9 August to 15 August. Due to the rapidly changing situation it is possible that the numbers and locations listed in this report may no longer be accurate. The next report will be issued on or around 22 August.

Highlights

- IASC Principals declare a Level 3 emergency
- Over 55,000 IDPs are reported to have crossed into Syria from Sinjar District, including many who were trapped on Sinjar Mountain. Most made their way back into Iraq through the Pesh Khabour checkpoint (KRG)
- Schools used as shelter by either IDPs or military may not reopen on 10 September as scheduled, affecting over 850,000 children
- A polio immunization campaign concludes with nearly 4 million children vaccinated throughout 13 Governorates.

Iraq: IDPs movement and clash areas map (15 August 2014)  OCHA



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
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Sources: JORI Analysis Unit (JAU), UNAMI

1.5million Affected people	1.2million Internally displaced (estimated)	1million Targeted for assistance
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Situation Overview

On 12 August, in the context of the gravity of the humanitarian crisis throughout Iraq, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals declared a “level 3” emergency. This measure is only applied for exceptional circumstances and will support a more effective response to the humanitarian needs of affected populations. The declaration sets up adequate capacity and tools for enhanced leadership and coordination of the humanitarian system.

While numbers could not be independently verified, thousands of families, many of them women, children and the elderly, remain trapped on Sinjar Mountain from 9 to 12 August, and were for the most part sustained through air drops. It is reported that 55,000 people from Sinjar District (Ninewa) reportedly crossed into Syria, including the majority of displaced people on Sinjar Mountain. Most thereafter made their way back into Iraq at the Pesh Khabour crossing point in the Kurdistan Region. Unconfirmed reports indicate that there are 10,000 Iraqi refugees in Nawroz and Hakamiya in Syria.

Displaced people remain on the move throughout Iraq. The size and pace of the crisis has overwhelmed local communities, particularly in Dahuk Governorate (over 400,000 IDPs reported). The town of Zahko (population of 350,000) is hosting 100,000 displaced people. There are four IDP camp sites under construction in Dahuk: Zakhko, Shariya, Khanke, and the extension of the pre-existing Bajet Kandala reception centre.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

Following clashes between Peshmerga and ISIS forces, there are reports of secondary displacements from the Kurdish Region to southern governorates. Khazir transit centre (Erbil) and Garmawa camp (Ninewa) are now reported empty. There are also indications of concentrations of people at checkpoints to enter the Kurdish region. Displacement to the southern areas of the country is increasing, as thousands of families from Ninewa are moving towards Najaf, Kerbala, Basrah, Wassit and Missan. Thousands of people are displaced in areas described as Disputed Internal Boundary Areas. Services, trade, energy and transportation are disrupted or destroyed.

As a result of the increased influx of IDPs throughout Iraq and particularly in the Kurdistan Region, shelter is of particular concern. According to IOM's recent Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) covering July-July 2014, approximately 35% of IDP families are reported to be hosted by relatives and over 36% are living in rented accommodation or hotel arrangements with little to no access to employment. While these families are currently paying for their accommodation, it is of concern that this may not be sustainable and could lead to secondary displacement. Since the beginning of August, over 200,000 IDPs have entered Dahuk Governorate (Kurdistan Region) and are occupying schools, churches, mosques and unfinished buildings.

Schools used as shelter by either IDPs or military may not reopen on 10 September as scheduled, thus affecting over 850,000 children (Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs, Kurdish host community children). In the Kurdistan region, half of the 5,746 schools are estimated to be occupied. Over half of the country's 95,666 teachers are also affected by the displacement.

Access to clean water has also emerged as a critical, life-threatening problem facing numerous conflict-affected areas or those under armed groups control. Power cuts, coupled with a severe shortage of fuel brought on by clashes over the Baiji refinery and disruptions to normal supply routes, and the seizure of municipal water facilities by armed groups has left numerous communities without clean water. On 14 August, it was reported that a water plant in eastern Mosul was partially destroyed by an airstrike, leaving large parts of the city without access to water. Communities hosting IDPs located behind the frontline could be forced to flee because of lack of water in their areas of origin. Emergency interventions, such as water trucking, have begun, but remain limited and insufficient.

Food security is a rapidly growing concern in central and northern Iraq. Normal supply routes have been interrupted by insecurity, limiting the movement of wheat and other produce already stored in Government silos. Food shortages are reportedly already occurring in Mosul. Millions of Iraqis may become severely food insecure later this year if these challenges are not resolved.

Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Large displacement of families fleeing from Sinjar and Telafar Districts (Ninewa) and other conflict areas resulted in massive influx to Najaf Governorate (up to 80,000 IDPs) and into the Kurdistan Region (up to 250,000 IDPs). Gathering in collective shelters, unfinished building, and schools an, IDPs are in urgent need of water, hygiene supplies and sanitation facilities.
- Authorities in Baghdad have requested support for 5,000 affected IDPs hosted in informal settlements who may be moved to formal settlements.
- Authorities in Dahuk Governorate are requesting urgent assistance for water and sanitation for an estimated 200,000 people concentrated in Zakho, Khanke, Sharya and Bajet Kandala. In Erbil, approximately 20,000 are staying in churches, community centers and unfinished buildings.

Response:

- In Najaf Governorate, 3,000 IDPs were reached through the provision of 60,000 litres of water. Hygiene kits were distributed for 10,000 IDPs.
- In Anbar Governorate, water tanks were installed for 2,340 IDPs who also received water family kits. To improve sanitation and hygiene conditions, 8,754 IDPs received hygiene kits and garbage collection campaigns. Another 1,000 IDPs in Diyala were provided with bottled water.
- In Dahuk Governorate over 40,000 IDPs received bottled water. Sanitation facilities were installed or improved for 16,000 IDPs.

- In the Ainkawa neighbourhood of Erbil city, 10,200 IDPs received hygiene kits (containing bottled water) while 8,000 IDPs were provided with drinking water through tanks. Latrine facilities were improved for 400 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Road security restriction and long delay in getting the legitimate clearances from authorities concerned affects the efficiency of rapid response.
- The vast numbers of IDPs and number of locations across Dahuk makes it difficult for partners to reach populations in need.
- Access to sanitation facilities is inadequate and requires attention from partners in collective centres across the Kurdistan Region.



Food Security

Needs:

- Large numbers of IDPs are in need of food assistance, especially in Dahok and Erbil Governorates. Immediate Rations are a critical need for newly arrived IDPs.
- Host locations are also experiencing food shortages and price increases. The public distribution system while operational, is not functioning optimally, particularly in areas controlled by armed groups.

Response:

- A total of 1,568,000 affected individuals have been provided with food assistance since June. Approximately 110,000 displaced individuals from Sinjar District in Dahuk Governorate have been reached daily with varied level of assistance such as family food rations. Additionally 5,889 Immediate Response Rations (sufficient for three days) were provided to IDPs in transit centers in various locations.
- A total of eight communal kitchens providing hot meals were established in Dahuk and Diyala Governorates.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inaccessibility to conflict areas in order to reach IDPs in need.
- Projected increases in IDP numbers will put pressure on existing capacity of partners, host locations and camps. A scale up of capacity is required to meet current and projected needs.
- Partners are advocating for safe distribution procedures at distribution sites taking into account protection, gender, age, disability and accountability to affected populations.



Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- Most of the 200,000 new arrivals in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq require urgent shelter and non-food items.
- Some 40,000 IDPs living in schools throughout the country urgently need shelter so that schools may reopen in September.

Response:

- Site assessments or camp layouts were completed for 9 shelter sites across Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniah Governorates with projected capacity for some 38,500 people.
- Approximately 700 tents and 7,500 plastic sheets were distributed providing shelter capacity for 49,200 people, mostly in Dahuk and Erbil Governorates.
- Some 39,000 individuals benefitted from core relief item kits (mattresses, jerry cans, blankets) across northern Iraq.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access remains the most significant challenge for shelter interventions. Access to Garmawa and Khazir camps in Ninewa is not possible as a result of insecurity.
- Sufficient safe sites and structures for shelter responses have yet to be identified as well as to support the relocation of IDP families living in schools.
- Broad support for non-camp shelter solutions in urban areas is limited.



Needs:

- Most newly arrived families in Dahuk and Erbil Governorates have an elderly, disabled or child under-5. Illnesses such as hypertension, heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and diabetes are the leading self-reported cases of the elderly already on treatment for chronic diseases.
- The Kurdistan Region's health budget is facing constraints following significant spending due the current influx of IDPs.
- On 11 August 57 wounded people were transferred to Khanaqin (Suleymaniyah) hospital following clashes in Jalala (Diyala).

Response:

- A polio campaign for 4 million children across 13 Governorates concluded on 14 August.
- In Dahuk Governorate, health partners supported 10 mobile clinics spread in areas of influx of IDPs, with an average of 200 to 300 consultations every day.
- In Erbil two mobile clinics started (in Ankaiwa and in Baharka camp) with an average of 150-170 consultations every day.
- Health partners supported the Department of Health with medical supplies to Khanaqin (Suleymaniyah) including surgical kits and medical drugs (supplies for 200 moderate wounded and essential medicines for 20,000 people for 3 months). Partners provided to Dahuk city and Zakho hospitals (Dahuk) surgical supplies for 200 wounded and essential medicines for over 30,000 beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health facilities in Dahuk are overwhelmed with large caseloads.
- There are few local NGOs which have health and nutrition capacities.



Needs:

- Increasing reports are being received of incidents of rape and violence perpetrated against women and children, especially in Mosul (Ninewa). Some individual cases have been verified amongst IDPs in Najaf but cases are reported to be significant in Kerbala as well. Victims as well as their family members are in need of medical and psycho-social assistance.
- There is an urgent need for shelter to ensure the protection of IDPs, particularly women and children, who are living in unfinished buildings and open areas in the Kurdistan region. Many recently displaced families arrived without documentation, personal belongings or financial resources and require extensive assistance as well as psychosocial support.

Response:

- Through on-going protection monitoring since February, assessments have been conducted for 176,234 individuals (33,383 families) with 4,969 cases approved for cash assistance, legal assistance provided to 8,465 cases, with referrals made for 3,000 people with specific needs for services and assistance.
- Protection services (including psychosocial support as well as legal and medical referrals) are being provided in Erbil Governorate.
- Approximately 3,700 dignity kits (containing essential hygiene items) have been distributed to women in Erbil and Dahok Governorates.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The extent of gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection issues affecting IDPs in the central and southern governorates is unknown, as assessments have not been conducted. Systematic psychosocial and medical support is not being provided to survivors of GBV in these locations.
- The protection of IDPs in the Sinjar Mountains, which is inaccessible, remained of serious concern. Reports have been received of hundreds of women kidnapped in Sinjar District by armed groups which require verification and urgent action for their safe return.
- There are a limited number of protection actors present in Suleymaniyah Governorate to implement protection programmes.



Education

Needs:

- Examinations for grade 12 and other grades due to take place on 25 August have been postponed due to insecurity and the increasing number of IDPs, which will affect the 2014-15 academic school year.
- The Ministry of Education has declared an emergency due to the number of schools occupied by displaced families. Over 2,000 schools are currently occupied by IDPs.

Response:

- Over 3,000 children participate in educational activities or catch-up classes throughout the country.
- Children with disability and or injuries are being identified by partners for provision of mobility aids and assistive devices if required.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is still an information gap in terms of disaggregated data according to age and gender, hindering planning activities for children.
- The number of schools occupied by families will continue to affect the education of IDPs as well as the refugee population and Kurdish children.



Logistics

Needs:

- Partners have expressed a continued need for storage in Dahuk to provide for the newly arrived IDPs as well as for prepositioning of humanitarian supplies for a possible distribution near Sinjar Mountain, if security allows.

Response:

- Four humanitarian organizations are supported with storage of over 260 metric tonnes and 1,382m³ of humanitarian supplies consisting of non-food items, water and sanitation supplies as well as food.

Constraints:

- Possible scale up of storage space may be required in the near future in Dahuk and Suleymaniyah as additional IDPs move across the northern areas of Iraq. The Logistics Cluster has a contingency stock of mobile storage units in Erbil which can be erected quickly in field locations to bridge possible immediate gaps.

General Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) discussed scale-up efforts following the declaration of a Level 3 emergency by the IASC. The HCT agreed on the activation of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to enable swift movement of personnel and humanitarian goods throughout the country.

The inter-cluster coordination group met on Thursday, 14 August and discussed the need for better information management given the scale of the crisis.

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 Bathists, 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, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja 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.

For further information, please contact:

Brendan McDonald, Senior Humanitarian Officer, mcdonaldb@un.org,

Mobile Iraq: +964 (0) 750 307 4213

Alexandra Sicotte-Levesque, Reports for OCHA in Iraq, sicotte-levesque@un.org,

Mobile Iraq: +964 (0) 750 354 6170. For more information, please visit <https://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info>