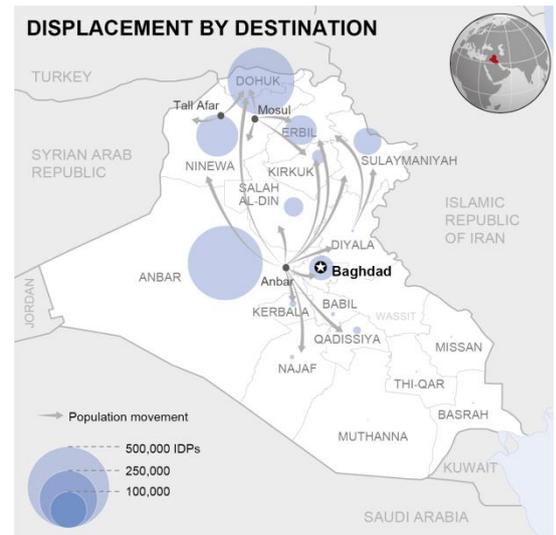




This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period between 4 and 10 July 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 18 July.

Highlights

- Humanitarian actors are scaling-up operations but efforts are hampered by access constraints.
- Negotiations are ongoing to ensure that the Government of Iraq embargo cargo flights into Erbil does not affect humanitarian operations.
- Parts of the only open road between the Kurdistan Region and Baghdad were seized by armed opposition groups.
- Some 70,000 children may not be able to commence schooling in September, as IDPs are sheltering in over 200 schools.
- Approximately 3,000 people from Telafar, western Ninewa fled to Najaf and other southern governorates.
- The Iraq Inter-agency Emergency Humanitarian Operations Center (OpsCell) is now operating to facilitate the rapid delivery of assistance across the country.



1.5million
Affected people

1.2million
Internally displaced
(estimated)

1million
Targeted for
assistance

Situation Overview

Humanitarian actors in Iraq are mobilizing all resources available to scale up emergency operations across Iraq. Priorities are currently Sinjar in Ninewa Governorate, in the Ninewa Plains, in Chamchamal and Dukan in Suleymaniya Governorate and in Khanaqin, in northern Diyala Governorate. Assistance also continues in all accessible areas of Anbar governorate.

However, access is a major constraint for humanitarian interventions. On 10 July, the Iraq Civil Aviation Authority issued a notice cancelling all cargo flights destined for the Erbil and Suleymaniya airports. The United Nations is advocating for all humanitarian cargo flights be exempted from this ban. Passenger flights were unaffected.

Road access between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and Baghdad and southern Iraq is further restricted as on 10 July armed opposition groups (AOGs) seized control of some areas along the Khanaqin (Diyala) – Kut (Wassit) route, interrupting the only north-south road opened for traffic till then. This route is critical to the transport of commercial items, including food, from the southern seaports to the northern governorates. The interruption in this route will have a negative impact on the humanitarian partners' ability to deliver aid to those in need located in the northern part of the country.

Over 200 schools are currently hosting IDPs in the KR-I and in Anbar governorate. Humanitarian agencies are

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

working to quickly develop alternative housing for these IDPs, in order to ensure that 70,000 children can recommence schooling in September.

More than 3,000 people from Telafar, western Ninewa, transited through KR-I on 4 and 8 July, en route to Najaf and other areas in southern Iraq. Families experienced some delays in passing the Khazir checkpoint at the edge of Erbil Governorate, due to the uncertainty about the availability of the plane that was to take them onward to southern Iraq. The situation was resolved by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), who arranged for the families to be transported from the checkpoint to the Barharka IDP transit site north of Erbil city. International and local humanitarian partners provided the families with water, food and mattresses. Both groups left to southern Iraq by the end of the reporting period.

Additional reports were received regarding the difficult humanitarian conditions in Salah Al-Din Governorate, particularly in areas under AOG control. Many residents moved either to other areas within the Governorate or towards Kirkuk and KR-I. Those that remain behind are cannot afford to buy food as they did not receive government salaries are not being paid. Access to fuel, clean water, medical care and electricity is also problematic.

On 8 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) visited the Garmawa IDP camp in Sheikhan District, Ninewa governorate, where some 200 displaced families are seeking refuge. The HC met with the Mayor of Sheikhan, the UN team, NGOs, IDPs, and the media. She also inspected the various facilities and assistance available to the IDPs at the camp. The HC also held a meeting with the Governor of Dohuk and reiterated the UN's continued support to the Government, displaced people (IDPs and refugees) and local communities throughout Iraq. She also stressed that creation of camps remain a last resort for IDPs. .



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Ongoing insecurity in Anbar governorate undermined the provision of WASH services, including water trucking, garbage collection and hygiene promotion, particularly in Al-Qaim, Anah, Rawa and Al-Rutba. Despite ongoing efforts increased support is required. Chlorine and fuel shortages remain a major challenge in water provision. Only 50 per cent of water projects are functioning and at just 25 per cent capacity.
- Water shortages were reported in a number of areas, particularly in the districts of Al-Hamdaniya, Tilkaif and Sinjar (Ninewa governorate) and Khanaqin (Diyala governorate). This is the result of the seizure of water resources by AOGs, as well as ongoing electricity and fuel shortages.
- Access to water remains a critical need for people on the move. With summer temperatures reaching well over 40 degrees and many families fasting during Ramadan, access to clean drinking water remains an urgent challenge.

Response:

- WASH interventions are being expanded in Anbar governorate, in Kubaisa, Al-Baghdadi, Al-Mohamadi, Al-Awasel, Heet centre and Al-Fallujah. In Al-Khalidiah, the Directorate of Water connected the main water project with emergency electricity lines.
- Water trucking and the distribution of water bottles is underway in Al-Hamdaniya and Tilkaif districts in Ninewa Governorate. Ongoing discussions are underway to find more durable solutions to resolve water shortages.
- Four bladder tanks of 30,000 litre capacity were dispatched to Sinjar District, Ninewa Governorate, supporting over 1,100 beneficiaries.
- Across the KR-I and bordering areas, 200,000 bottles of water were delivered to some 60,000 people, including the families from Telafar that transited through the Kurdistan Region on the way to southern Iraq.
- Humanitarian partners and local organizations and individuals continue to provide water to IDP camps and people on the move. Response, however, remains insufficient.
- UNICEF, in coordination with IP (Al-Ofiq/Biladi), delivered essential WASH supplies [hygiene kits, jerry cans, dust bins and buckets] to 1,150 families at collective centers in Khanaqin District (Baher Taza, Aliyawa and AL-Malaab) in Diyala Governorate. Additionally, 12 prefab latrines, eight showers and four water tanks of 5,000 litres were installed.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The coverage of WASH partners needs to be expanded to reach more communities and people in need.
- Durable solutions, particularly for remote or other hard-to-reach areas are needed to address the growing water crisis and stabilize local communities, many of which are hosting newly displaced families.
- Rapid response 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.
- Disruptions to central procurement and distribution systems resulted in fuel shortages, interruption of harvest subsidies and payments and food supply chains. This is further impacting agriculture and food security.
- Food security cluster (FSC) partners reported needs of immediate food assistance to displaced people arriving in transit camps and check points, especially at the Khazir transit camp and the Baharka transit site.

Response:

- FSC partners are preparing supplies to support two types of rations: a larger family food parcel for one month for people with access to cooking facilities, and a smaller parcel of ready-to-eat food (Immediate Response Ration) to accommodate the needs of the transient displaced for 15 days, who have neither the capacity to carry large sacks of food nor the means to cook it.
- In response to an increasing number of IDPs at the Khazir IDP camp, 750 family ration packages were distributed. Iftar meals were also provided to families at Khazir check points.
- FSC actors provided immediate food assistance to approximately 3,000 individuals at Baharka transit site north of Erbil. These families originated from Telafar District in western Ninewa Governorate and transited through the KR-I en route to southern Iraq.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Inaccessibility to conflict areas in order to reach IDPs and the transient nature of IDPs who are on the move.
- Limited information is available from Anbar and the country's southern central states.



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- The conflict has led to the displacement of tens of thousands of families from the central governorates. While some of these families are lodged in unfinished houses, schools and other government buildings, or staying with friends and relatives, the vast majority have no place to stay and lack basic life-saving items.

Response:

- Over the week, 160 core relief items (CRI) were distributed to IDPs in Kerbala Governorate and 200 in Kirkuk.
- On 6 July, 300 CRI kits were distributed to IDPs at the Khazir IDP camp. On 9 July, 500 kits were distributed to IDP families at the Baharka Transit Centre.
- A shelter sector meeting (KR-I) finalised the shelter strategy and the terms of reference for the shelter working group, as well as the shelter sector operational guidelines. The working group for core relief items (CRIs) discussed distribution priorities in camp and non-camp locations.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Of the total IDP families in need of shelter and CRIs, few are in camps and reaching urban-based IDPs remains difficult across KR-I.



Education

Needs:

- An estimated 70,000 children may not be able to commence schooling in the new academic year in September, as approximately 150 schools in Ninewa and Dohuk governorates and 63 schools in Anbar Governorate are currently hosting IDPs.
- An unconfirmed number of schools in the Hamdaniyah District, in Ninewa Governorate are also reportedly being used by armed actors. The situation is being assessed in other affected areas.

Response:

- In order to facilitate the transition to the new academic year, the KR-I education and shelter actors have agreed on the division of responsibility for the provision of alternative shelter for the IDPs currently staying in schools and for the rehabilitation of school buildings.
- An additional 189 children (4 to 17 years) were enrolled in the recently established child friendly space in Sinjar stadium in western Ninewa, which will offer temporary learning, psychosocial support and recreational services.
- In Al-Qosh, recreational activities for more than 300 children in three schools were conducted.
- On 8 July, three “catch up” schools in the Kurdistan Region began classes for IDP and Syrian Refugee children. Registration is ongoing and supported by an awareness-raising campaign to encourage students to attend.
- An education cluster coordination meeting was held at the Ministry of Education (MoE) and was attended by 10 agencies to plan and map the operational response, maximize geographical coverage, monitoring and coordination, and review the draft joint assessment tool.
- The Council of Ministers authorized the MoE to conduct postponed final examinations for students affected by the most recent wave of displacement. Committees were set-up in order to advance preparations. Examinations have been scheduled for 16 August for students from grades 9 and 12 and 5 August for all other students. While the KRG MoE was requested to identify examination centers, the federal MoE will take full responsibility of conducting the examinations.

Gaps and Constraints:

- There are few education partners with the capacity to implement emergency education activities, particularly in areas outside KR-I.



Health

Needs:

- A shortage in medicine is expected in Sulaymaniyah in the coming weeks.
- The flow of IDPs from Al Qaim to Heet in Anbar Governorate is overwhelming the capacity of health facilities in Heet. There is a need for new mobile or primary health care clinics to accommodate the increasing needs for health care.
- The shortage in electricity, food, and fuel in Mosul in Ninewa Governorate continues to impact hospital operations.

Response:

- Health actors dispatched 24 metric tons of medicine and medical supplies to the Ministry of Health (MoH) for distribution to Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, and Kirkuk governorates.
- The Mosul Directorate of Health provided medicines and medical supplies to the public health center in Telafar in western Ninewa Governorate. Different vaccines were also shipped from the Central Vaccine Warehouse in Ninewa to vaccinate the children.
- Health actors provided Al-Jumhuriyah hospital in Mosul with an Interagency Emergency Health Kit.
- The Ninewa Directorate of Health confirmed the receipt of 400 metric tons of medicines and medical supplies

from the central MoH each month. A warehouse is rented in Sulaymaniyah and another in Erbil to facilitate the shipment of medical supplies to Ninewa Governorate.

- One mobile clinic was deployed to Tillkaif District. A rapid health assessment began during the week.
- Blood test results to confirm five suspected cases of measles from families displaced from Baiji in Salah Al-Din Governorate to Anbar Governorate are still awaited.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The surveillance of communicable diseases remains partial in Telafar District due to lack of communication with health facilities.
- The transfer of medicine remains a challenge in the absence of the airlifting option.



Needs:

- Access to safe locations and the ability of IDPs to transit through certain areas of the country remains restricted.
- Local authorities in Najaf are moving IDPs from a warehouse close to the Al Imam Ali shrine and new arrivals from Najaf airport to mosques on the Najaf-Karbala road. Many mosques have refused to accommodate IDPs. Many locations that are already accommodating families lack basic services/items.
- IDPs from Anbar Governorate are reportedly returning to their places of origin in Fallujah District and other nearby areas. This has been driven by the unstable security situation in areas where Anbar IDPs had been forced to flee to and an inability to manage the cost of living.
- Reports have been received that AOGs are recruiting women in Mosul as fighters and that other women are being forced into marriages (Nikah-Al Jihad). Additional monitoring is required in areas controlled by AOGs in order to document alleged protection violations committed against women.

Response:

- To-date, protection monitoring assessments at rapid/community and household level have been conducted for 147,598 individuals (27,467 families) by protection actors across the country.
- Cash assistance has been provided to 1,696 families totaling US\$777,000 in 10 central governorates by protection actors.
- Legal assistance (direct and through advocacy) has been provided to 2,986 cases, with referrals made for 1,054 persons with specific needs and 40 advocacy initiatives undertaken with local authorities and service providers in the 10 central governorates.
- A dialogue meeting was conducted in Baghdad to develop community mechanisms to support IDPs including through information on services, linkages to community based projects and income generation activities and the need to protect IDPs rights.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The majority of IDPs displaced in June have not yet been registered by the authorities. Efforts are ongoing to agree registration modalities and build capacity.
- Protection programming and activities at the Khazir IDP transit camp is complicated by the current limited access to the site, a fluctuating camp population, and lack of camp registration.



Response:

- Weekly coordination meetings are being held with partners. On 8 July, the meeting was attended by 13 different organisations including UN agencies and INGOs. The cluster finalised its concept of operations, including the cluster's main activities. It is accessible on the logistics cluster website: <http://logcluster.org/ops/irq14a>
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- The interagency storage capacity assessment in Dohuk continued.
- The logistics monitored the fuel situation and shared information with partners.
- Two staff members from the Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST) Dubai emergency telecommunications cluster are currently in Erbil to assess the gaps and needs of the humanitarian community on the ground.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Timely information sharing is needed to allow the humanitarian community to reach beneficiaries in a complex and rapidly evolving security situation.
- Storage in strategic locations such as Dohuk has been requested by the humanitarian community.
- The fuel situation is reportedly slowly normalizing although queues continue to be observed in Erbil.

General Coordination

In response to the significant increase in displacement and humanitarian needs in 2014, an Iraqi Emergency Humanitarian Operations Center (OpsCell) has been established at the UN compound in Erbil to facilitate the rapid delivery of assistance across the country. The OpsCell is an inter-agency effort of the humanitarian community and will provide services and support local communities in need, and those that are serving them, throughout Iraq.

The main aim of the OpsCell is to provide comprehensive operational support to the emergency humanitarian response. The OpsCell will collect information on emerging humanitarian needs, mobilize the rapid deployment of emergency interventions, and assist in tracking the humanitarian assistance provided. The OpsCen will provide information to decision makers and the public to ensure all stakeholders have the operational information they need in order to inform humanitarian action.

The OpsCell is now open and ready to receive reports. Please call or email the OpsCell with reports of people in need of life-saving emergency assistance. The OpsCell will mobilize assistance to meet those needs as soon as possible, in accordance with humanitarian standards.

If you are a humanitarian agency that is providing assistance, please call or email the OpsCell each day with your reports of where you have delivered assistance that day.

The contact information for the OpsCell is:

Email: opscell.iraq@gmail.com

Mobile 1: 0750 814 2487

Mobile 2: 0750 967 1268

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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