

Since January 2014, and excluding the recent large-scale displacements from Heet, 1.8 million people have been displaced across Iraq. More than 850,000 people, or 49 per cent of Iraq's IDPs, have sought sanctuary in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. In a conflict defined by its fluid frontlines, this week's recent mass displacement from Heet does not guarantee that this will necessarily be the last this year. Renewed offensives in Anbar and other areas could trigger additional displacement. At a macro level this year there have been mass displacements from Anbar in January, and additionally in June, in August and now Heet in October. But on any given day, families are on the move. In one instance in Diyala Governorate this week, approximately 300 displaced families (1,800 individuals) fleeing fighting in Al-Muqdadhiya were reportedly blocked by security forces at a checkpoint near Khanaqin due to apparent shortages of shelter at IDP camps.

The border region between Turkey and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq has opened, leading to a refugee influx from the Syrian town of Kobane estimated at over 1,600 individuals in just two days. In the next few weeks, several thousand more refugees are expected to cross into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Humanitarian agencies can currently cope with the influx, but will be stretched with further arrivals. This will add pressure as well to the IDP response for humanitarians and the Kurdistan Regional Government.

With harsh winter temperatures and wet weather also approaching, and the very low temperatures which can drop to -15 C, affecting high altitude areas - where there are large IDP concentrations such as Dohuk Governorate - as well as the heightened risks of landslides, the demands of the displaced for cooking and heating fuel, warm clothes, weatherproofed shelters and infrastructure is also rising. The IOM estimates there are 1.26 million IDPs throughout Iraq at risk from the upcoming winter weather. In order to stabilize and prepare the camp population and the most vulnerable IDPs in other types of shelters for the oncoming winter, 600,000 people across Iraq are in need of immediate winterization assistance.

Displaced populations living in camps, informal settlements, and sub-optimal shelters are most at risk. There is the also specter of increased evictions as IDP cash reserves for rent dry-up, coupled with the looming reopening of schools that are now serving as collective shelters. The impacts of an inadequate shelter response include an increase in avoidable morbidity and mortality due to respiratory infections from low temperatures as well as protection issues. Generally, high vulnerability levels, low assistance coverage, and increased prices of necessary items such as fuel are expected to cause an increase in negative coping mechanisms including exploitation, debt, and depletion of assets to compensate for the lack of livelihoods and unmet needs.

The absence of uniformity of shelters requires novel solutions to winter-proof dwellings against harsh conditions. A proposed basic and supplementary NFI winterisation kit by the Shelter/NFI cluster for one family includes one carpet, six high thermal blankets, one plastic sheet and rope, and six mattresses. The proposed winterisation kit for tents includes one inner liner for a family tent with one partition and weather-proofing and partitions for substandard shelters, eight polystyrene boards for the floor and five thermal mats for tents and insulation of sub-standard shelter. Additional planned support per family includes a heater, jerry can and fuel through in-kind or cash assistance.

A supplementary proposed personal winterisation kit includes six sets of clothes plus shoes for both adults and children. UNICEF reports there are massive shortages for winterisation and that more than 200,000 children are likely to be without adequate winter clothing and shoes for the winter. 168,000 sets of children's clothing, plus pairs of shoes, began arriving in the first of 200 containers this week for children aged between 3 months and 14 years-old. A further donation of 20,000 pairs of shoes for children aged between 3 and 14 years-old has also been secured. However, these shoes, given the lead time in manufacture and delivery, are only expected to arrive at the end of February 2015. There are also shortages of adult winter clothing, especially for pregnant women. Given strict import regulations against second hand clothing, the best alternative for a timely response is seen as cash assistance.

The humanitarian community admits it is ill prepared for the adverse climatic conditions through a combination of circumstances, including a lack of funding. Among the options being considered by humanitarian actors is direct cash assistance, albeit with the \$500 million donation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia all but exhausted. Advocacy for the Government of Iraq to ensure kerosene subsidies is ongoing. To note, however, that although the country's oil production has not been unduly affected by the conflict, its refining capacity has. The available humanitarian budget will only allow for two months' distribution of kerosene at current prices for less than half of the 80,000 vulnerable families in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and 4,700 Syrian refugee families. In previous years fuel supplies were provided for four winter months to vulnerable families.

Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Insecurity halted all WASH activities in the Anbar Governorate city of Heet and surrounding districts on 7 October.

Response:

- The cluster has provided safe water to 377,706 people in Dohuk Governorate, an increase of 11,170 people from the previous week and 59,163 people in Erbil Governorate, an increase of 1,000 people from the previous week. In Sulaymaniyah Governorate 33,164 people have been provided safe water, which is an increase of 2,130 people from the previous week.
- Sanitation has been provided to 128,576 people in the Dohuk Governorate, an increase of 11,763 from the previous week. In Erbil Governorate 13,355 people have sanitation access, an increase of 4,600 from the past week, while in Sulaymaniyah Governorate 5,360 have been reached with sanitation facilities, an increase of 2,130 from the previous reporting period.
- Hygiene promotion has been provided to 216,813 people in Dohuk Governorate, an increase of 10,447 from the previous week. In Erbil Governorate 34,651 people have been reached with Hygiene Promotion activities, an increase of 1,000 from the previous week. In Sulaymaniyah Governorate 25,385 have been reached with Hygiene Promotion, an increase of 5,110 from the past week.
- 3,250 IDPs were provided 2,700 bars of soap in Ghammas, a sub-district of Diwaniya in Qadisiya Governorate.
- Desludging of sanitation facilities in Najaf and Kerbala has benefitted 2,123 IDPs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- After a change in the focal point for the facilitation of security clearances for conflict-affected areas in the south, including Anbar Governorate, clearance procedures are experiencing delays and are affecting the efficiency of humanitarian response.
- Road security restrictions and ongoing military operations are also affecting the efficiency of humanitarian response.



Food Security

Needs:

- The target for food assistance has remained stable at 1.8 million people during the reporting period. However, the displacement of about 31,000 families from the Anbar Governorate city of Heet and surrounding districts may impact on the cluster response.

Response:

- Between June and September 2014, the cluster has reached approximately 1.4 million people with food assistance and is successfully delivering and distributing food across 13 of Iraq's 18 governorates. Food aid is reaching vulnerable populations and displaced people in the governorates of Dohuk, Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Diyala, Najaf, Ninewa, Kerbala, Babil, Muthanna, Wassit, Anbar and Thi-Qar.
- The cluster is reaching a further 380,000 people with livelihoods and food assistance throughout Iraq.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to areas under the control of armed groups is difficult and the provision of food assistance through local partners is both ad-hoc and opportunistic. In Anbar Governorate alone there are 400,000 IDPs to which humanitarian actors have only very limited access.



Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- There are 390,000 IDPs in need of shelter assistance in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. In the region's three governorates, 63 per cent of the more than 850,000 displaced are in Dohuk, 20 per cent are in Erbil and 17 per cent in Sulaymaniyah. In the south and central governorates there are 260,000 IDPs in need of shelter assistance. 60,000 IDPs are to be hosted in camps and 60,000 IDPs are to be provided with tented shelter outside of formal camp settings. Another 140,000 IDPs require repairs to their temporary shelters.
- About 480,000 IDPs are in need of winterisation assistance in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, while a further 120,000 IDPs require winterisation assistance in the south and central governorates. The response is expected to consist of winterisation kits, winter clothing, tent insulation kits, floor insulation lining and temporary shelter repair kits.

Response:

- A cluster partner is finalising a Bills of Quantities, a document used for tenders in the construction industry in which materials, parts, labour and their associated costs are itemised, for 180 collective centres in Najaf and Kerbala.
- In Baghdad, 33 collective centres are open, hosting 3,418 IDPs. In Basrah Governorate, one collective centre is open and is hosting 800 IDPs. In Dohuk Governorate 4 camps have opened and are hosting 17,022 IDPs. In Diyala Governorate, a camp is open and is hosting 7,942 IDPs. In Erbil Governorate, one collective centre and a camp are open and are hosting 6,306 IDPs. In Ninewa Governorate, one camp is open and is hosting 2,671 IDPs. In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, a camp is open and is hosting 1,161 IDPs.
- In Baghdad two camps are under development. In Basrah one camp is under development with a planned capacity of 6,000 IDPs. In Dohuk, 12 camps are under development, with a planned capacity of 146,550 IDPs. In Diyala Governorate, one camp is under development with a planned capacity of 4,400 IDPs. In Erbil Governorate, four camps are under development with a planned capacity of 13,300 IDPs. In Ninewa Governorate, a camp is under development with a planned capacity of 7,650 IDPs. In Sulaymaniyah, four camps are under development with a planned capacity of 16,800 IDPs.
- In Dohuk, three potential sites for IDP camps, with a combined hosting capacity of more than 40,000 people, are being assessed for suitability.
- With the onset of winter next month, IDP locations in the Displacement Tracking Matrix have included temperature ranges for the coldest months and also include the different types of shelters being used by IDPs to assist in winterisation planning purposes.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is concern about the availability of sufficient information at the site level in terms of population size, needs, support received and intentions. The upcoming Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) rapid site assessment and REACH multi-cluster needs assessment should provide greater clarity in these matters.
- Safety, security and protection considerations need be taken into account with regards to providing assistance to IDPs in unfinished buildings, ranging from personal safety to water and sanitation.
- All partners are urged to coordinate with the Governorate Emergency Cell or at the very least the local authorities in the district that they are working in.
- Information about who is doing what and where in terms of out-of-camp shelter assistance is required at the district level. The cluster will roll out the on-line ActivityInfo later this month to provide easily accessible information. Training on this tool will also be offered.
- The IDP population is highly mobile and in the coming weeks many will be relocated to the camps in the Dohuk Governorate and the necessary precautions are advised to avoid duplication and waste by avoiding the discarding of kits.
- Advocacy with the Government for a temporary moratorium on evictions for maybe six months from public buildings and other similar IDP shelters has been proposed.

- Many building owners will not allow upgrade work to be performed on unfinished buildings hosting IDPs. The cluster is advocating with government for a possible six-month temporary requisition of unfinished buildings to allow for upgrades.
- Although five additional camps have been planned with a capacity to host 120,000 IDPs, additional shelter solutions are still needed for 46,000 IDPs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.



Health

Needs:

- Provision of primary and secondary health care and life saving medicines.
- Comprehensive immunization campaigns for more than 85 per cent coverage of a targeted 5.7 million children under five years old, including vaccinations for both polio and measles.
- Access to reproductive health and antenatal care for IDPs, refugees and host communities.

Response:

- The cluster supported the Ministry of Health in the delivery of six tons of medical supplies in Dohuk and Garmiyan, including medications for diabetes, hypertension, acute respiratory tract infections and skin diseases.
- A partner launched a primary health care facility to serve 7,560 IDPs in Zakho, Dohuk Governorate.
- On 2 October a partner deployed two ambulances to transport IDP referral patients to hospitals in Dohuk.
- In the last week, 838 medical consultations from 1,110 IDP families living in unfinished buildings in Dohuk Governorate's Dabin and Semel, were provided by a partner. Another partner conducted 350 consultations in the Diyala Governorate's Khanaqin's IDP camp and 227 consultations for IDPs in the Arbat IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insecurity is hampering access to conflict-affected governorates, such as Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Diyala.
- For winterisation, the cluster is identifying essential medicines and is planning to increase the number of mobile clinics and strengthen ambulance referral mechanisms.



Protection

Needs:

- IDPs are finding it difficult to replace or retrieve essential documentation, such as passports, Public Distribution System ration cards, nationality certificates and identification cards. Displaced people have few options available to them for the replacement of vital documentation outside of returning to their governorates of origin. Special offices have been established in Baghdad and Najaf to provide document replacement services. However, the geographical locations present particular challenges for IDPs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, many of who are unable to afford the travel costs. Without the required documentation IDPs are barred from enjoying government services and a range of other civil status rights.

Response:

- Ongoing protection monitoring assessments covering 416,220 individuals (64,633 families) have been conducted since February 2014. Of this number 12,445 cases have been approved for cash assistance, 18,629 cases have received legal assistance and referrals have been made for 6,676 people with specific needs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a need for the greater coordination in the central and southern governorates to improve humanitarian assistance and protection responses.

- The urgent need for cash assistance to the displaced and other vulnerable communities is balanced against the limited funding available, especially in lieu of the near exhaustion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's \$500 million donation.

Education

Needs:

- As of 30 September, IDPs were occupying 435 schools in Anbar Governorate, 69 schools in Diyala Governorate, with a further 137 schools occupied by armed groups. In Baghdad 29 schools are occupied or damaged due to military operations. In Dahuk Governorate 501 schools are occupied by IDP families and 125 schools have only recently been vacated. As a result, the start 2014/2015 academic year, normally scheduled for September, has been delayed.

Response:

- 5,958 students (2,807 primary, 1,368 intermediate and 1,783 secondary) were registered for enrolment at 7 tented schools on the road linking Najaf and Kerbala in the al-Haideriya district of Najaf Governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Cluster partners are preparing to provide tented schools as part of winterisation programming.
- Clarifications for the registration of IDP children into existing schools is required from the Government of Iraq. The cluster continues to advocate to the Ministry of Education and Directorate of Education for clear guidelines to be established for refugee and IDP students to be enrolled in Arabic medium schools.

Logistics

Needs:

- Some items from Unsolicited Bilateral Donations received earlier this month remain uncollected at the cluster's emergency warehouse in Erbil. In coordination with OCHA and government officials, medical supplies were released on 9 October to the Ministry of Health and partners.
- Partners are submitting requests for storage at the Dohuk warehouse in preparation for winterisation distributions. Although precise quantities have not been identified by partners the cluster is scaling-up its operations to cater for additional short-term storage requirements.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to slow turnaround of goods by some partners at the cluster's Dohuk warehouse, the available space for other partners gearing up for their winterisation projects is constrained.
- Items in the cluster's Erbil warehouse for a response in Al-Alam are on hold because of access difficulties. The planned humanitarian operation has been delayed by more than one month. The cluster is in discussions with the affected organisations for the return of their cargo.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Needs:

- The humanitarian community in Iraq has requested emergency IT and telecommunications services from the cluster. The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the safety of humanitarian staff, while the provision of internet services will allow for the better coordination of humanitarian operations.

Response:

- Wireless internet connectivity is being distributed to all humanitarian organisations in Domiz camp outside of Dohuk city. Wireless internet connectivity will soon be installed at the Arbat IDP camp outside Sulaymaniyah city.
- A VHF radio network for NGOs has been completed and will soon be rolled out in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah.
- Assessments of humanitarian ICT requirements were completed in Sumel and Sheikhan camps near Dohuk city. No ICT services are required at either camp as the Sumel camp is managed from Domiz camp and Sheikhan camp is not yet completed.

- Radio training is being provided to UN personnel and this training is available to other humanitarian partners on request.

Gaps and constraints:

- Radio services in key operational areas, such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq cities of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah are limited for NGOs. UNAMI radio services are available to UN agencies only in digital mode, while the majority of NGOs use analog systems.
- The cluster currently only has access to four pairs of frequencies which limits the cluster to only being able to deploy four VHF radio channels across the KR-I. This is limiting the number of locations in which radio services can be deployed to two channels. NGO and UN communities are thus only able to have one channel each.

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 governorates of Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG control. Since January much of Anbar Governorate 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 1.8 million have been displaced since January this year.

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