

Iraq IDP CRISIS

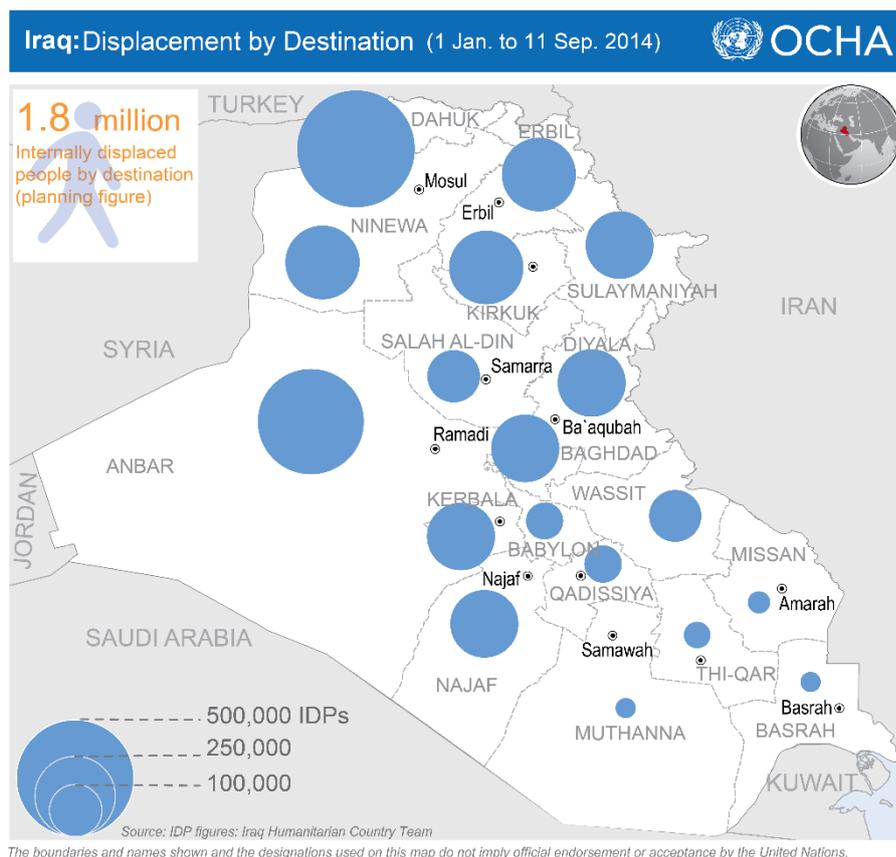
Situation Report No. 11 (6 September – 12 September 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 6 September 12 September. 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 18 September.

Highlights

- Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, arrives for a four-day visit to Iraq.
- One million doses of measles vaccine airlifted to Dohuk for a campaign targeting 169,421 IDPs aged between 9 months and 15 years old.
- Since January 2014 the numbers of IDPs has reached 1.8 million dispersed across over 1,500 locations.



Situation Overview

Since January 2014, approximately 1.8 million people have been displaced by the conflict and are now residing in more than 1,500 locations across Iraq. IDPs are seeking shelter wherever they can, including: schools, unfinished buildings and in the open. In KR-I there are over 860,000 IDPs and the use of schools for shelter has delayed the start of the 2014/2015 academic year for many children, especially in Dahuk, where about 63% of IDPs are concentrated. There are increasing concerns that if a speedy solution for the reopening of schools is not found it could stoke resentment towards IDPs.

Since 2003 the Kurdish region has been a safe haven for people escaping successive waves of Iraq's violence, as well as harboring refugees from neighboring Syria's three year civil war. But there are signs access to the region has become more difficult, especially for newly displace people who want to access the Erbil Governorate from Kirkuk Governorate.

Fierce fighting continues in northern and eastern Iraq, which means that IDP numbers will probably increase in the coming months. Unverified reports from local leaders in Balad, Diyala Governorate, indicate that water restrictions imposed by ISIS on the local population could lead to the displacement of up to 130,000 people in the coming months.

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

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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

Humanitarian Response

On 10 September 2014 a joint planning workshop was held by the Kurdish Regional Government, the United Nations and INGOs. The workshop, led by the by regional government's Minister of Planning, Ali Sindi, met to develop a short-term operational plan to meet the immediate needs of the IDPs and host communities over the next two-months. Keven Kennedy, Iraq's Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, said in his opening remarks at the workshop: "We cannot do everything in two months. We have to be clear what we can do and what we can't do. We need to focus on the basics." The plan aims to provide shelter, food, health and WASH for the most vulnerable IDPs and relocate the displaced from schools to alternate accommodation to allow the school year to start.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The rapid establishment of IDP camps to accommodate the planned relocation of IDPs, especially from schools, requires the acceleration of WASH facilities in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah.
- The unavailability of water treatment chemicals and fuel shortages affecting water project in Anbar province.

Response:

- 10,000 IDPs on the main road linking the towns of Najaf and Kerbala were provided with 200,000 litres of water. This is equivalent to 20 litres per person.
- Maintenance of the sanitation facilities for 242 IDPs was completed.
- 217,325 people were provided with bottled water and 359,954 people have access to safe water through other sources in Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah.
- 12,000 IDPs provided basic water family kits in the Qadissiya district of Shafiya.
- 344,647 people provided hygiene items in Erbil, Dahuk and Sulimaniyah.

The total basic water need under the Sphere Standards is 7.5–15 litres per day per person.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Large displaced populations in the Dahuk Governorate cities of Zahko and Dahuk living in collective centers, schools and informal settlements are in critical need of hygienic sanitation facilities.
- The identification of IDP locations, needs assessments and response are difficult because of the large number of IDP locations and shifting populations.
- Road security restrictions and long delays in obtaining clearances from the relevant authorities is affecting the efficiency and speed of the WASH response.
- The capacity of local NGOs responding to the displacement crisis in areas they were not previously present is limited. This requires an improvement in the level of support provided to local NGOs in the area of administration and management.



Food Security

Needs:

- Large numbers of IDPs are facing competing needs and complete loss of livelihoods, especially in Anbar, Dahuk and Erbil governorates.

Response:

- The Food Security Cluster (FSC) from 24 August to 7 September attended 12 meetings concerning information management, food security, and camp management. The cluster coordinator met Ministry of Agriculture officials from the Kurdish Regional Government to discuss food security responses.
- Cluster partners submitted proposals to WFP for the implementation of a voucher scheme for IDPs. The cash and voucher technical working group is operational, with the current partners: World Vision, UNHCR, FAO, ACTED, Mercy Corps, WFP and FSC).

- The deadline for partners to submit draft proposals for the 2014/2015 Online Project System (OPS) was extended to 21 September, to ensure compliance with the Strategic Response Plan (SRP).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Humanitarian access is constrained. However, distributions are progressively taking place in new areas of Anbar and Al-Muthannā consistent with a whole-of-Iraq response.
- Projected increases in IDP numbers will put pressure on the existing capacity of partners, host populations and camps. A scale up of capacity is required to meet current and projected needs.



Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- On-going displacements in Anbar reported. Priority needs of newly displaced are food and Non-Food Items, shelter, water, cash assistance, healthcare and sanitation.
- Urgent needs for IDPs in Kirkuk are shelter, mattresses, blankets, cooking equipment and detergent.
- Priority needs for displaced in Salah Al-Din are NFIs, food items and tents, while in Ninewa IDPs require shelter, NFIs, food items, medical services and cash assistance.

Response:

- The cluster distributed 2,483 full NFI kits in Erbil, Dahuk, Kirkuk, Qadissiya and Baghdad and 150 tents in Missan.
- 593 cool boxes were provided by the cluster in Dahuk.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Kirkuk's four main access points were reportedly closed by security forces of the Kurdish Regional Government to those without Kirkuk-specific ID cards. At the same time there have been no reports of movement of displaced people from Kirkuk into the Erbil Governorate.
- Humanitarian response in Anbar is severely curtailed, as most villages, cities and districts are under the control of armed groups opposed to the government.
- Anbar authorities are only registering IDPs located in districts under Iraqi government control.



Health

Needs:

- Six inpatient children at Kirkuk's Hawija hospital were reportedly killed by an Iraqi Air Force air strike on 6 September during offensive operations against ISIL forces and its affiliates. 20 of the children's relatives were also injured, as well as two nurses.
- One hospital and four Primary Health Care facilities are providing basic health care in the northwestern Ninewa Governorate town of Sinjar. Immunization services are unavailable and vaccines require transfer from Baaj or Tel Afar hospitals.

Response:

- Planning for a measles campaign in Dahuk governorate targeting 169,421 IDPs, aged between 9 months and 15 years old, began on 8 September 2014. 1 million doses of single measles vaccine were airlifted for the 15 day campaign.
- After the recent ending of the siege of the Turkman town of Amerli, in the Diyala governorate, essential medicines, including oral rehydration and diarrhea kits, nutritional supplements and medical supplies, have been delivered. The supplies are expected to cover the needs of the population for the next two months.
- The construction of a 16 room PHC facility in the Dahuk IDP camp of Bajet Kandala is scheduled to start soon. Currently 3 doctors and 17 auxiliary medical staff are consulting between 500-1000 people daily in a small and cramped building.
- A rapid nutrition assessment was completed in Kerbala, Najaf and Wassit provinces.

- Dahuk's Garmawa IDP camp clinic is undergoing rehabilitation. Services are being provided by Ministry of Health staff.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health personnel salaries, including those working in high risk areas, are either unpaid or paid on an irregular basis. For example, in Sinjar doctors and nurses have not received payments since June 2014.



Protection

Needs:

- Since January 2014 IDP numbers have reached 862,348 dispersed across over 425 locations in KR-I and the 4 disputed districts of Akre and Al-Shikhan in Ninewa Governorate and Kifri and Khanaqin in Diyala Governorate.
- WASH facilities that are accessible for people with special needs remains a priority in Baharka and other IDP camps.
- Displacement continues from the Diyala Governorate cities of Muqdadiah to Khanaqin in response to military operations. In the past week, 250 families arrived at Khanaqin. There are reports restrictions are being imposed on IDPs. Protection actors are monitoring developments and are in contact with the local authorities to protect the rights of IDPs.

Response:

- On-going protection monitoring assessments covering 346,188 individuals (52,835 families) has been conducted since February 2014. Of the total cases reviewed so far 10,223 cases have been approved for cash assistance, 12,915 cases have received legal assistance and referrals have been made for 4,742 persons with specific needs.
- Psychosocial support has been provided to 8,173 children and 124 victims of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV). 13,713 dignity kits have been distributed to people who suffered SGBV. 231 IDP families have each received a solar lantern.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Restrictions on entry by IDPs to Khanaqin are reported due to the unavailability of accommodation and security concerns by the Kurdish Regional Government security forces.



Education

Needs:

- School children, including preschool and girl children, are struggling to access education.
- Integration of psychosocial and health services for children and teachers, as part of the educational response to the conflict, remains a critical need.

Response:

- More than 86,000 children are benefitting from various education projects, from the rehabilitation of schools, extra tuition, and the training of 160 teachers.
- After intense advocacy, the Federal Ministry of Education and Minister of Education reached agreement to conduct Grades 9 and 12 baccalaureate examinations for IDP students in the Kurdish region.
- Aircraft have been chartered for the delivery of examination materials to Erbil from Baghdad, as security considerations advised against transport of materials by road.
- Facilitation of multi-media publicity for the examination schedule, registration and exam center venues to students and parents; and the monitoring of the examination process.
- A two-day advocacy meeting between Federal Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, as well as representatives from five of the most conflict affected governorates, to discuss arrangements for IDPs education within the Kurdish region.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are no reliable statistics of displaced children available, as disaggregated data by age and sex has not yet been collected by the authorities.
- The start of 2014/2015 academic year delayed in many schools, especially in Dahuk, as many education facilities have become shelters for IDPs.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Emergency assistance from bilateral donors through Erbil International Airport is slowing and it is anticipated incoming emergency flights to the hub is beginning to ebb. The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with OCHA and partners to ensure the dispatch and distribution of donor assistance.

Response:

- The cluster is providing assistance to organizations receiving cargo from European donor governments at Erbil airport. The cluster has cleared 21 international humanitarian flights since 14 August. The cluster worked with OCHA to coordinate the arrival of more than 500 metric tonnes of European humanitarian donations.
- The cluster has received 287.65mt/1,523m3 of inter-agency cargo to the Dahuk warehouse since 5 August. The cargo consists of shelter, food, hygiene, and protection materials. The cluster has dispatched 273.35mt/1,097m3 of cargo; stock on hand in Dahuk is 14.13mt/425m3.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster is scaling up operations to support humanitarian partners as their logistics capacities increase during surge operations.
- Additional storage and transport is required to support the surge, as well as the anticipated increase of deliveries for the winterization program.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster****Needs:**

- Iraq's humanitarian community is requesting emergency IT and telecommunications services from the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the safety and security of humanitarian field staff.
- The cluster will provide internet services in IDP camps to allow for the more efficient communication and coordination of humanitarian operations.

Response

- Plans to deploy emergency radio communications in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk to improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff.
- A radio room has been established in Sulaymaniyah and two radio operators have been recruited. It is expected the radio facility will be fully operational within the next few days after operator training completed.
- Emergency internet services will be deployed in Dahuk's Domiz and Sulaymaniyah's Arbat IDP camps. Discussions with local Internet Service Providers (ISPs) are progressing. It is expected internet services will be fully operational within two weeks.

Gaps and constraints

- Lack of commercial flights to KR-I has delayed imports and deployments of vital IT and telecommunications equipment.

Needs Assessments. As per the 2012 IASC endorsed *Operational Guidance for Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises*, early in the response the Humanitarian Coordinator established an Assessment Information Management Working Group to coordinate mechanisms for cross-cluster/sector needs assessment and analysis. The Assessment Information Management Working Group reports to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group. All cluster members are requested to adhere to the agreed approach to harmonized intra-cluster/sector in-depth assessments in Iraq, as well as share assessment data with OCHA for dissemination to the humanitarian community to reduce duplication of effort and minimize beneficiary "assessment fatigue."

Information Management. Consistent with the 2002 IASC endorsed *Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads and OCHA in Information Management*, the Assessment Information Management Working Group has endorsed the minimum Common Operational Datasets (CODs) for use in Iraq. The CODs are critical datasets that are used to support the work of humanitarian actors across multiple clusters/sectors. They are considered the de-facto standard for the humanitarian community in Iraq and represent the best-available datasets for each theme. All cluster members, as well as donors, are requested to use the CODs. Additions or errors to the CODs should be sent to Iraqinfo@un.org

The CODs can be accessed at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/applications/data/datasets/locations/iraq>

Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Batthists, 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 1.8 million have been displaced since January this year.

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