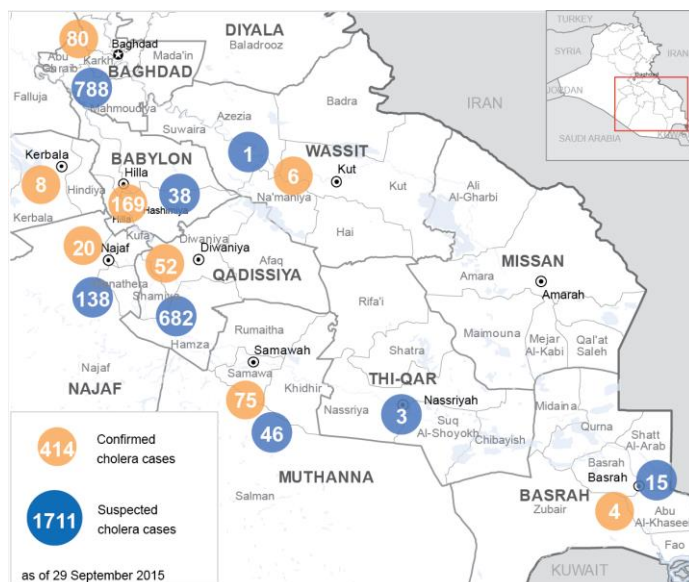




This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. Due to the rapidly changing situation, it is possible that the numbers and locations listed in this report may no longer be accurate. The Situation Report will now transition into a fortnightly Humanitarian Bulletin, which will be issued on or around 17 October.

Highlights

- Emergency response is ongoing to curb the cholera outbreak affecting several governorates in southern and central Iraq.
- Two new camps for internally displaced people have opened in Baghdad providing shelter to nearly 3,500 Iraqis who have fled Anbar in recent months.
- About 375,000 people have returned to home areas that are largely destroyed by armed conflict. About 20,000 people returned to Salah al-Din between 22 and 29 September.
- Humanitarian needs in Iraq are outpacing available resources. The U\$498 million Humanitarian Response Plan for July to December 2015 is funded at 40 per cent.



Cholera outbreak in Iraq. Source: Ministry of Health/World Health Organization.

8.6 m
people in need

5.6 m
targeted for assistance

3.2 m
internally displaced people

2.9 m
displaced people live outside camps

3.2 m
affected people in host communities

0.25 m
Syrian refugees

Situation Overview

The cholera outbreak in Iraq continues to see an increase in cases. By 29 September, the number of laboratory confirmed cholera cases had risen to 414 in eight southern and central governorates (Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Kerbala, Muthanna, Najaf, Qadissiya and Wassit), according to the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). Over 1,700 people with suspected cholera had reported for treatment in hospitals from different locations in affected governorates.

Water supply systems that have broken down and insufficient amounts of chlorine to provide clean water are main accelerators of the outbreak. To stem the cholera outbreak, health and water, sanitation and hygiene partners are assisting the Ministry of Health to respond to the current situation. A Cholera Task Force was set up at the onset of the outbreak. Distributions of hygiene kits, bottled water and basic family water kits and jerry cans are ongoing to hotspot areas and affected governorates. Community outreach continues with messages on cholera prevention (door-to-door campaigns, radio, text messages and community networks), and monitoring of sanitation facilities i.e. greywater disposal, septic tanks and cesspools.

Amid military operations in Daquq district in Kirkuk Governorate, about 1,500 people were stranded at the Daquq checkpoint on 11 September. Following a rapid needs assessment, humanitarian partners provided shelter, food, safe water, and hygiene items to those at the checkpoint. The displaced people were reportedly allowed to enter

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

www.unocha.org

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

Daquq centre and Kirkuk after security screenings. Most families settled with relatives or in rented homes or unfinished buildings in Daquq centre, while some people continued to Kirkuk.

Two new camps for internally displaced people have opened in Baghdad providing shelter to nearly 3,500 Iraqis who have fled Anbar in recent months. The Sadr Yusufiya camp, which will accommodate 2,000 people, is located six kilometres from Bzeibiz bridge; the main access point between Anbar and Baghdad governorates. Scout camp in Baghdad's Ghzaliya neighbourhood will shelter about 1,500 internally displaced people who were staying in unfinished buildings, with the host community, or with relatives in the city.

While nearly 3.2 million people have fled their homes and spread to over 3,000 different locations across Iraq since January 2014, about 375,000 people have returned to their home areas. However, there are concerns of sustainability of returns in some cases as many have found widespread destruction due to armed conflict. On 19 September, about 960 people returned from Khanaqin to Sadia district in Diyala Governorate. After having visited their area of origin, in which almost all houses are reportedly destroyed, they decided to go back to Khanaqin. However, people were first prevented from returning, but were then allowed back after a security screening. In addition to access to safety and freedom of movement, this incident highlights the need for displaced people to receive better information prior to return so they can make informed decisions.

Nearly 20,000 people returned to Salah al-Din between 22 and 29 September according to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) emergency tracking. Since mid-June, 142,400 people have returned to Salah al-Din, about 75 per cent to Tikrit, according to IOM.

The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, launched in June 2015, requests US\$498 million to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 5.6 million people from July to December. To date, 40 per cent has been received against this highly prioritised plan according to the online Financial Tracking Service. Funding is coming in slowly, but humanitarian needs are outpacing available resources, which is taking a toll on response capacity.

Humanitarian Response



Protection

Needs:

- The Bzeibiz bridge linking Anbar and Baghdad governorates remained officially closed during the reporting period. An estimated 240 people were stranded at the checkpoint trying to access safety in Baghdad.
- The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) reported that 720 people returned to Al Kharma in Anbar during the past week, bringing the number of returnees to 3,176 in two sub-districts: 1,976 in Al-Khayrat and 1,200 in Al-Jazeera. Access by humanitarians for further assessment and assistance to the area is restricted due to unsafe roads leading to Al Kharma. Most of the returnees were previously displaced in Baghdad.
- About 1,440 people originating from Telafar and the Ninewa plains and now displaced in Babylon risk eviction from the Qas Suailim apartment complex. No clear deadline to evacuate the apartments has been given.
- About 2,600 people have been relocated to Garmawa IDP camp from the Wana area in Tilkaif in Ninewa since 6 September. The relocation appeared to be involuntary, and there is restriction on movement from Garmawa.

Response:

- Protection teams in southern and central governorates conducted 26 community-level assessments to identify the needs of displaced people and also carried out 1,138 household-level protection assessments. Legal assistance was provided for 159 cases and legal counselling for 321 people. Close to 5,000 people were referred for cash assistance.
- Following advocacy in three governorates (Anbar, Kerbala and Salah al-Din), about 450 people who had been stranded at the Al-Nakheeb checkpoint between Anbar and Kerbala governorates for one month were allowed to proceed to Baghdad and Salah al-Din.
- Gender-based violence training was conducted in Kirkuk for 24 Government and NGO participants. Referral pathways for affected people were agreed by the participants.
- In Sulaymaniyah, 27 awareness sessions on gender-based violence, women's rights under Iraqi law and reproductive health were conducted by four national NGOs in seven locations in Sulaymaniyah.

- Gender-based violence awareness-raising materials were disseminated in Kalar and Kolajo and 259 household visits were done in Kolajo, Kalar, Tasloja, Sulaymaniyah city, Takya and Charmu in Sulaymaniyah, to inform about women's centres and hold sessions on gender-based violence and reproductive awareness. 723 women and girls visited centres in Sulaymaniyah and 17 recreational activities were attended by 319 women and girls.

Gaps and constraints:

- Gender-based violence partners in central Iraq have noted that survivor needs often go beyond psychosocial support services. Many survivors link their experience of, and vulnerability to, gender-based violence with their limited financial resources; they are accustomed to being dependents of their husbands or family members. Economic empowerment is a missing component of the protection cycle in current programming.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The current cholera outbreak has underscored the critical need for water, sanitation and hygiene in affected and at-risk areas. Key priorities include ensuring adequate and safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Over 4,000 displaced students living in the College of Agriculture and College of Veterinary Medicine in Abu Ghraib district in Baghdad are in urgent need of WASH support, including repairs of the water network, garbage collection, desludging of sanitation facilities, and supply of water and hygiene items.
- About 300 displaced people in in Sadr Al-Yusufiya camp in Mahmoudiya district in Baghdad need safe water, while 7,200 people in the Al Takia Kasnazaniya collection centre in Karkh district need support with waste management services.

Response:

- Community water distribution points are being established in areas at high-risk of cholera in Qadissiya and Baghdad governorates, comprising over 250 water tanks (with a capacity of 1,000 to 10,000 litres), and trucking of clean, chlorinated water.
- Community outreach with key messages on cholera prevention has been carried out through various networks including social media, radio broadcasts, text messages, door to door campaigns and partner networks.
- About 25,200 students in the College of Agriculture in Abu Ghraib district in Baghdad were provided with detergents, soap, jerry cans and sanitary napkins (for 1,270 female students). Garbage collection and disposal campaigns and desludging of septic tanks was also undertaken.
- More than 300 displaced people were provided with daily water trucking of 5,700 litres in Sadr Yusufiya camp in Mahmoudiya in Baghdad.
- In Al Takia Kasnazaniya collection centre in Karkh district in Baghdad, 7,200 displaced people were reached through solid waste collection and disposal, desludging and clean-up of 98 latrines and showers.
- Daily water trucking continues in Anbar reaching 19,650 displaced people in formal and informal settlements in Ameriyat al Falluja, Habbaniyah (Alomal and Almadani quarters), Al Madina al Siyahiya in Falluja district and the Nukhayb district centre.
- Emergency response to meet the water supply, sanitation and hygiene needs for about 1,500 displaced people stranded at the Daquq checkpoint in Kirkuk since mid-September was provided following a rapid assessment.

Gaps and constraints:

- There is an urgent need to secure additional funding to support the response to the cholera outbreak in southern and central governorates. Funding is being shifted from other programmes to support the outbreak response.
- Safe drinking water, oral rehydration salt and aqua tablets at household level for high risk communities.
- Production of clean water, which is limited by inadequate quantities of chlorine gas or powder.



Health

Needs:

- Treatment of cholera patients; the outbreak has affected eight southern and central governorates since 15 September.
- Essential primary and secondary health care services for displaced people and refugees, host and other conflicted affected people are needed.
- Supporting fixed health facilities and deployment of mobile teams in areas of emerging conflicts to support displaced people who live outside camps, including in Anbar, Ninewa and Kirkuk governorates.

Response:

- As of 29 September, 414 cholera cases had been confirmed by the Central Public Health Laboratory in Baghdad. Over 1,700 people with suspected cholera had reported for treatment in hospitals from different locations in affected governorates, according to WHO. However, the number of cases changes rapidly.
- Key priorities for the response have been identified by the Cholera Command and Control Centre and the Cholera Taskforce in Baghdad. This includes recommended daily reporting of new cases and that comprehensive case management procedures are put in place. Extensive distribution of safe drinking water, oral rehydration salt and aqua tablets is ongoing, but needs to be coupled with health and hygiene messaging, especially at the community level.
- Health partners have shipped 600,000 aqua tablets to support supply of clean water in cholera-affected areas.
- Two new mobile medical teams are present in three different locations in Abu Munaysir, Al Shuada 1 and Al Shuada 2 in Abu Ghraib district in Baghdad to respond to the current outbreak. During the reporting period, 664 medical consultations were done.
- 8,573 health consultations were conducted between 20 and 29 September.
- Efforts continue to strengthen and sustain the disease surveillance/EWARN system in camps through regular collection of reports on epidemic prone diseases to detect disease alerts, investigate alert within 48 hours and providing response to contain the spread of disease.
- Specialized services continued including treatment and medication for chronic disease and mental health and psychosocial support to displaced and conflict-affected people. In all, 828 cases were served, including 22 hospitalised in week 39.
- Health partners continued support to Al-Nakhaib, Habbaniyah Tourist City and Ameriyat al Falluja including with primary health care centres, laboratory services and dental services. During the reporting period, 930 consultations, including 127 laboratory investigations were conducted.

Gaps and constraints:

- Community outreach on cholera prevention is insufficient and there is a need to scale up health and hygiene promotion, including through the use of multi-media channels.
- Full access and mobility for humanitarians for close monitoring of the situation on the ground.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items****Needs:**

- Most of the about 3.2 million internally displaced people are staying in private settings (68 per cent), with 21 per cent in critical shelters. Only 8 per cent of all displaced stay in camps, while the remainder are in other settings.
- About 375,000 people have returned to their areas of origin in the last months, but many have found their home areas destroyed by armed conflict. The majority of returnees stay in their original residence (86 per cent), 11 per cent are staying in abandoned or unfinished buildings, while the remainder are in other settings. Regardless of their accommodation, returnees are often in need of emergency shelter and basic household items.

Response:

- About 1,200 newly displaced people from Anbar who have settled in Scout and Sadr Yusufiya camps in Baghdad were provided with household items such as mattresses, blankets, plastic sheeting, water, kerosene, jerry cans, kitchen sets, a fan and cool boxes.
- Vulnerable households who were evicted from hotels in Al-Jadwal Al-Gharbi in Hindiya district in Kerbala and currently accommodated in the MoDM camp have been provided with 1,250 household kits.
- About 900 displaced people received household items in Samawa district in Muthanna Governorate.
- About 2,400 people in Kirkuk who were displaced by ongoing military operations received household items.

Gaps and constraints:

- The Shelter Cluster has received 41 per cent of its requirement for July to December 2015, resulting in inadequate shelter support. Only a fraction of displaced people in critical shelter have been possible to support.

**Food Security****Needs:**

- At least 4.4 million people are estimated to need food assistance. Food partners aim to reach up to 2.2 million people under the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, but due to funding shortfalls and access constraints, partners have been forced to scale back assistance and now work to reach 1.5 million people per month.

Response:

- Over 843,000 people have been reached with food assistance so far in September. Of these, 823,000 people received family food parcels and 20,000 people received food vouchers.
- 28,000 displaced people on the move received ready-to-eat food for three days through the Rapid Response Mechanism.
- Before Eid, 300 food parcels were distributed to recently arrived people in Shanader Park in Erbil.
- Food assessments are ongoing among 3,850 displaced people residing in host communities in Erbil Governorate, and among 1,200 displaced people in Baghdad.
- Vegetable seeds were distributed to 1,500 farmer households in Rutba, Falluja, Ramadi, Heet and Haditha districts in Anbar; 1,050 farmer households Al Hawija and Daquq districts in Kirkuk; and 1,500 households in Khanaqin and Salar districts in Sulaymaniyah.

Gaps and constraints:

- Protracted insecurity, particularly in the central governorates, continues to hamper services, and also restricts the ability of affected people to access assistance.
- Under the current resourcing scenario and despite cost cutting measures, monthly food rations would stop for about 1.5 million people in late November.

**Camp Coordination and Camp Management****Needs:**

- Camp managers need to be trained on camp coordination and management.
- There is a need for strengthened registration procedures and verification of vulnerability. A number of newly displaced people have made bilateral and private arrangements for shelter sites in camps in Erbil.

Response:

- Camp coordination and management trainings were organised in Baghdad 21-23 September. The training targeted the camp administration and management.
- Cluster partners are reviewing standard operating procedures for arrivals and departures at formal sites for displaced people in Erbil. This will enable greater control during processing, reception and prioritisation of needs. It will also ensure that the most vulnerable receive appropriate shelter sites and prevent private arrangements, which have occurred previously without verification.
- A fire risk assessment was done in the Harshm Camp in Erbil by the local fire department. The results will inform fire response preparedness and standard operating procedures.
- 17 participants from a local NGOs were trained in camp coordination and camp management in Erbil. Last Mile Mobile Solutions registration, an electronic registration method, has been completed in camps in Dahuk covering 198,000 people.

Gaps and constraints:

- Camp management in Bajet Kandala, Bersive 2, Bersive 1, Shekhan and Khanke camps in Dahuk have been requested to replace about 50 tents before the start of the winter as they have been used for more than one year and been subjected to harsh conditions over summer.

**Education****Needs:**

- Over 4 million school aged children are affected by the current crisis. Over 1 million of these children are displaced school age girls and boys.
- About 70 per cent of the displaced children have lost almost a full year of education. At the end of the school year, only about 30 per cent of displaced children had access to any form of education.
- Where available, most schools are full, overcrowded and cannot accommodate all displaced students. High pupil to teacher ratios, inadequate number of qualified teachers, and a limited number of teachers with training either on psychosocial care and support or special needs categorise these schools.

Response:

- Education partners are assisting relevant authorities to enrol displaced children in schools for the upcoming academic year. Formal schools following the Kurdish curriculum have started in camps across Dahuk. Formal schools following the Arabic curriculum are due to commence on 18 October.
- 2,674 students participated in recreation activities in Bajet Kandala and Qadia camps in Dahuk.

- On 22 September, 158 kits for students in grade 1 to 4 and 120 kits for students in grade 5 to 6 were distributed to 10 schools in Zumar in Ninewa targeting over 3,000 enrolled children and 1,000 children in the returnee communities. Each kit provides education supplies such as pen, paper, and notebooks for 40 students.

Gaps and constraints:

- Transport support for students is a gap. Children enrolled in Dahuk and Erbil lack means to reach the schools.
- In Kurdish governorates, children need more Kurdish curriculum text books for the 2015-2016 academic year.
- Insecurity hampers services to learners in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates. Limited capacity in warehouses prevents pre-positioning of supplies at the governorate level.
- There is an urgent need for more public schools and teachers, and more space to pursue catch up classes during the school year.
- There is a lack of resources and funding within the education sector. Schools lack the necessary desks, books and additional school material to ensure the basic quality of education, and families need support for expenses for learning materials and transportation.



Logistics

Response:

- The cluster continues to support partners with coordination and information sharing, regular updates and maps on access, road conditions, humanitarian community storage capacity and constraints and assets availability.
- Scale up of activities until the end of the year is ongoing, including a continuous and enhanced presence in Baghdad with a coordination hub and securing of storage facilities.
- The cluster is coordinating with a donor to facilitate an incoming shipment of non-food items to respond to the urgent needs identified by several humanitarian agencies. The cluster provides support and information on available storage space, transport, and other key logistics services, and seeks to envisage solutions to any operational bottlenecks, which may arise.

Background on the crisis

Wide-scale violence and armed conflict erupted in Iraq in January 2014. Initially concentrated in Anbar Governorate, with the cities of Ramadi and Falluja particularly affected, the violence and its impact quickly grew, displacing over 500,000 people by May. In June 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), together with other armed groups, attacked and seized control of Mosul and large portions of northern Iraq, including areas of Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates. This has led to ongoing armed conflict, massive internal displacement, serious and systematic violations of civilian protection and basic human rights, interrupted access to basic services, and severe strain on host communities. As a result, Iraq is now contending with one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with over 8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

For further information, please contact:

Cecilia Attefors, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, attefors@un.org, Tel: +964 (0)751 1352880

David Swanson, Public Information Officer, swanson@un.org, Tel: +964 (0)751 1844379

For more information, please visit <http://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info>