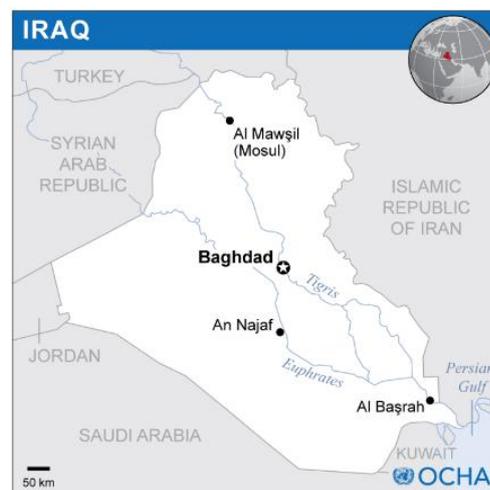


*This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 10-17 April 2019.*

## Highlights

- Elevated water levels in the Tigris River and its tributaries from heavy seasonal rains in late March/early April continue to cause displacement and damage in certain provinces
- The Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government continue to lead the response, but requests for additional humanitarian assistance in some governorates have been received
- Relevant UN agencies undertook an assessment mission to Basra after emerging reports of intensifying flooding in the south of the country
- Multiple water treatment plants are offline throughout the country, leading to a shortage of clean water for drinking, bathing and household use in some regions
- WASH and Health partners engaged to assess threat of cholera



## Situation Overview

Elevated water levels in the Tigris River and its tributaries continue to cause flooding and displacement in several governorates. Salah al-Din in central Iraq and Misan in the south are currently those reporting the heaviest impact, with more limited effects reported in Basra, Diyala, Thi-Qar and Wassit. The Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government continue to act as first responders; however official requests for additional assistance have been received from Misan and Salah al-Din provinces. Due to flooding, multiple water treatment plants are offline throughout the country; a lack of access to clean water for drinking, bathing and other household use is an evolving problem in some governorates. Relevant UN agencies undertook an assessment mission to Basra after emerging reports of intensifying flooding in the south of the country. Response efforts in the south are constrained by a small UN presence, lack of humanitarian partners, and shortage of pre-positioned relief supplies. Flooding and displacement in some southern governorates can be linked in some measure to the relatively recent habitation of what were previously low-lying marshlands. The marshes dried out in the 1990s, and tribes moved in to cultivate agriculture on the fertile soil, but it is expected that these lowlands will always be prone to flooding.

## Humanitarian Needs and Response

### **Basra**

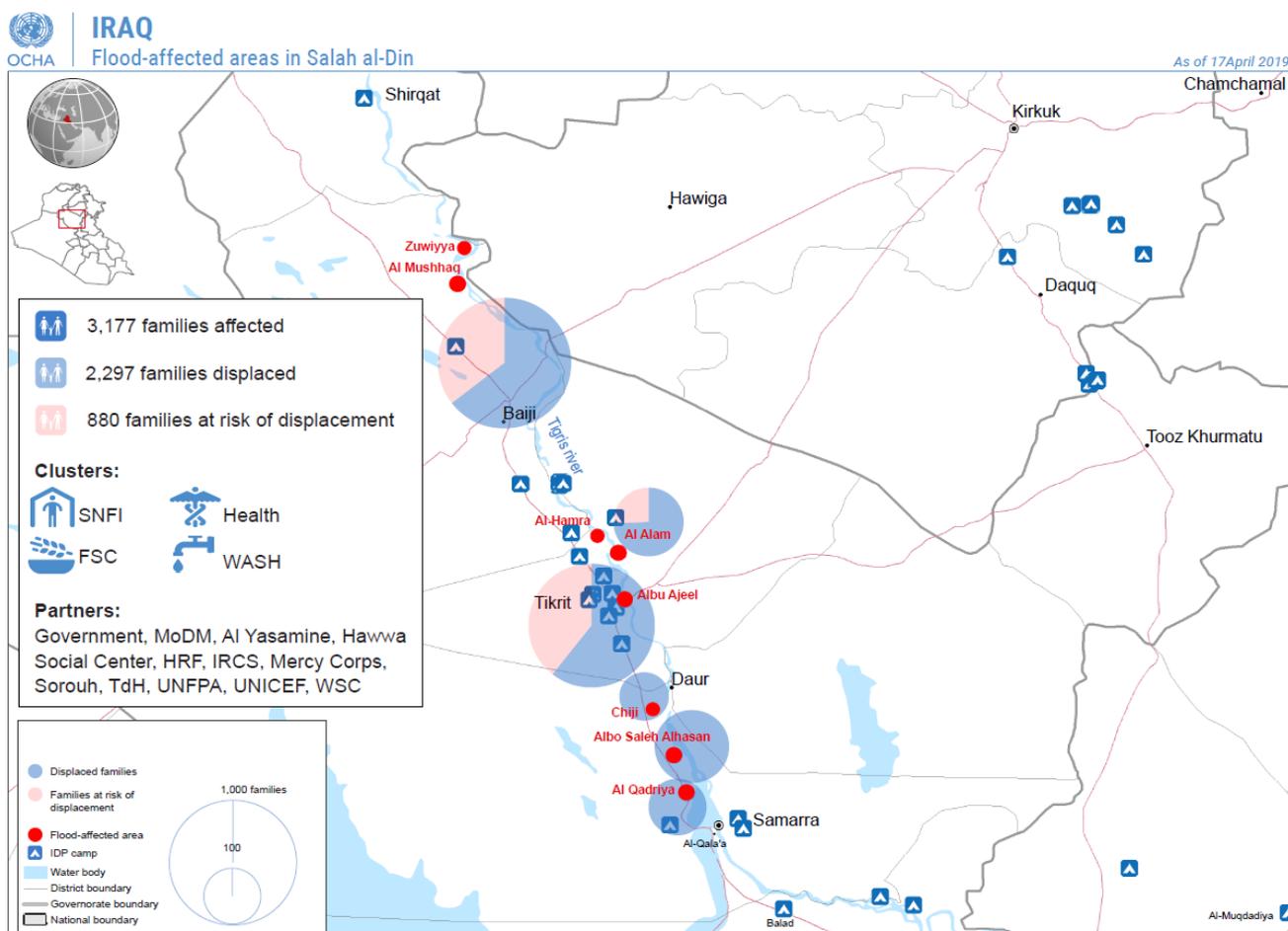
Approximately 480 families were displaced in the Basra because of heavy rains and the increase in river levels in the area. Al Qurna, Al Faw, and Al Khaseeb are the districts most heavily impacted. Authorities report that Al Suwaib Dam, located in Al Nashwa sub-district, is at risk of collapse; around 110 families could be affected. The Mayor's office has informed the families and has prepared temporary shelters in the area for possible evacuation. No new displacement occurred in the last three days. The first shipment of NFIs kits for distribution in Basra and the surrounding region has reached Basra, and the procurement of bottled water, communal water tanks and the contracting of water trucking is expected to be finalized in the coming days. Other WASH items will be transported by WASH partners from Baghdad at beginning of the next week.

## Missan

Approximately 2,500 families have been displaced as a result of the heavy rains and flooding in the rivers in the area. Around 200 villages have been affected, mainly in Maimouna and al Amara districts. Because of the continuing rise of the river levels, around 7600 families living in lowland areas are at risk of being displaced in the coming days. The Governor of Missan has requested additional support to affected persons. Various humanitarian partners have started needs assessments in the affected areas in coordination with the local authorities. Health and WASH partners are engaged to assess the threat of cholera; there are currently adequate supplies to address to any cholera response needs. According to a WASH assessment conducted by the UN in collaboration with the Water Directorate, 46 water treatment units in Missan are out of service due to the failure of water pumps and filtration systems in relation to high water turbidity. As a result, an estimated 200,000 people are affected by shortage of drinking water. Priority needs are hygiene kits, food items, jerry cans, latrines and mobile health clinics.

## Salah al-Din

An estimated 2,300 families have been displaced in Salah al-Din governorate, primarily in Baiji, Tikrit and Samarra. To date, approximately 1,100 families have received some form of assistance; however, government actors and local organizations managing the response are running low on relief stocks, and the Governor of Salah al-Din has requested additional support to affected persons. The Shelter/NFI Cluster is conducting an assessment. The Directorate of Water has reported that 37 water treatment units are no longer functioning due to high water turbidity. The WASH Cluster is supporting the Directorate of Water on provision of safe drinking water, which will be addressed initially through mobile water treatment units and the distribution of purification kits. Priority needs are provision of safe drinking water, food, non-food items, emergency cash assistance, and health (prevention of waterborne diseases and cholera).



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Another update will be issued if new information becomes available or it is warranted by the situation on the ground.