

IRAQ

12 April 2018

Key figures

2.2 million IDPs remain displaced since January 2014¹

278,742 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, with 12,102 Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, Syria

665,910 IDPs in Ninewa (including as a result of the Mosul military operation)¹

64,038 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in Hawiga (Kirkuk) and Shirqat (Salah al-Din)²

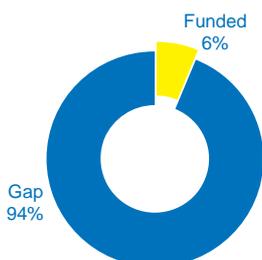
45,150 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in west Anbar²

713,281 individuals (149,523 households) currently enrolled in

ASSIST, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool

Funding

USD 578 million requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2018



¹IOM-DTM as of 30 March 2018

²IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking

Situation Update

In view of the continuing presence of internally displaced people (IDPs), UNHCR is working to maintain 17 camps and urban-related activities in Dahuk Governorate. The top three reasons preventing families from returning are unsafe conditions in the areas of origin, occupied or damaged/destroyed houses, and lack of basic services.

Retaken areas are not fully cleared of explosive hazards, and unstable infrastructures heavily damaged from ground fighting and airstrikes present safety concerns. Furthermore, road and neighbourhood closures, checkpoints, curfews, and military attacks are reportedly creating serious security challenges for displaced, resident and returning populations. Moreover returnees reportedly perceive security screening mechanisms to be harsh and fear arbitrary arrest. In March, returns from Dahuk were minimal, with 919 individuals returning to their place of origin, mainly to Alqosh sub-district of Ninewa Governorate. Dahuk Governorate hosts estimated 354,432 IDPs, over 99 per cent of whom are from the neighbouring Ninewa Governorate.

Population movements

The rate at which IDPs return to their areas of origin from camps remains high. During the last week of March, some 1,400 IDPs departed Ameriyat al-Fallujah and Habbaniya Tourist City camps in Anbar Governorate, returning to Al-Qaim district in the same Governorate. Meanwhile, some 900 IDPs departed from Laylan 2 camp in Kirkuk Governorate, with the majority returning to Hawiga district. More than 800 people have returned from various displacement locations to their areas of origin in Salah al-Din Governorate, mainly to the districts of Balad and Baiji. More than 1,600 people left camps in Ninewa and Erbil governorates to return to areas in and around Mosul.

Response update

A group of approximately 320 IDPs are stranded near Balad train station in Salah al-Din Governorate since 11 February, after being evicted from Al Salam camp in Baghdad. Sixty per cent of them are women, including some 20 female-headed households, and 63 per cent are minors under 18 years of age. They are unable to return their area of origin in Refeat in Balad district due to the presence of explosive hazards and community tensions. As their humanitarian needs are increasing, food baskets and hygiene kits have been distributed following UNHCR advocacy. A needs assessment highlighted the particular needs for transportation to nearby health centres and schools, and improved access to drinking water. A local NGO provided a bus to transport the children to a school located 10 km away from the train station. Following successful advocacy by UNHCR, local authorities have sent a team to clean the station. Evictions continue to present a risk of involuntary and/or unsafe returns for displaced families. UNHCR continues to monitor such situations and advocate to prevent forced relocation of families.