IRAQ WASH Cluster Bulletin #2
March 2018
Overview

In the month of February, WASH cluster partners supported around 730,000 IDPs in 160 camps. Since Dec 2017, several of these camps have witnessed a reverse movement where some IDPs have since returned to their original areas in both south central and Northern zones and due to contributing factors of lack of services in some of the areas of return those returnees opted to go back to have their life back in camps.

WASH cluster partners continues to restore basic level of WASH services in these areas of return through provision of emergency water trucking alongside quick fixes at treatment plants to facilitate returning IDPs.

Huge IDP and refugee case loads in camps exacerbated by years of drought has put stress on water resources in Iraq. Consequently, affecting levels of ground and surface water sources and turbidity—went too high to allow for pumping into the pipe network and affecting quality of the water. High level engagement and discussions will be required for integrated water resources management to address and balance the need for domestic and drink water, water for other uses and water for production.

2018 First allocation of humanitarian Fund:

A total amount of up to US$ 34.55 million is available for this allocation to all Clusters. $5,278,000 million of which is allocated to support WASH cluster activities. According to the allocation strategy paper, the allocation priorities focused on the following areas;

1. Activities supporting highly vulnerable populations in return areas
2. Activities supporting principled returns (protection, the CRC, etc.)
3. Activities to maintain the camp services for the remaining IDPs

WASH Cluster will support the return of IDPs through restoration and rehabilitation to damaged water infrastructure and other key WASH assets in areas of return. Further WASH projects will focus on improving the quality of WASH services while reducing the burden of operation and maintenance cost, with a view to handing over systems and facilities to communities or local authorities where appropriate. In addition, there are concerns of a re-current Cholera outbreak in early 2018 as the temperatures rise again. To mitigate any potential outbreak of cholera, the WASH cluster will support cholera preparedness and response actions in IDP camps in close coordination with Health cluster.

WASH Cluster Coordination

A dedicated Ninewa WASH cluster is now operational with the first meeting(s) held in Mosul during the month of February. Due to the change in emergency context will see the cluster in Kirkuk phase out hygiene promotion and water trucking technical working groups, While Technical Working Groups for the Rehabilitation of Water Treatment Plants/Compact Units as well as for WASH in Schools are active across the governorates with high humanitarian needs.
In 2013, Yousif and Hajar with their six children fled from Syria and came to Domiz camp. They faced many challenges, such as not having a place to stay in and not having a job to support them financially. Domiz was a new place for them, and there was little aid available. “Now we have almost everything to survive, and we thank everyone who contributed in providing water for us. Water is essential for life. We can’t live without it.” Yousif said.

UNICEF and partners ensure that the water is safe for drinking and all domestic chores. The continued donations are essential for maintaining the water infrastructure and regular quality testing.

The safe, clean supply of water makes Hajar’s life a lot easier especially doing laundry for a family with six children.

With funds from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, UNICEF provides targeted support focusing on water, sanitation and hygiene for more than 5,000 refugees that live in Domiz camp.
PV Solar Panel System for Borehole

An eco-friendly, innovative and cost-efficient solution to address water shortages in refugee camps in Iraq.

A pilot project is being carried out in two UNHCR refugee camps in the KRI to tackle the problem of water shortages and to introduce new technic as cost effective solution and environmental friendly solution. The scheme is being piloted in Kawergosk and Qushtapa refugee camps, in Erbil Governorate - 2016.

The project uses solar power generated by 102 solar panels/each borehole to operate a large 30 cubic meter per hour submersible water pumps. The project proposed & supervised by UNHCR Erbil – Technical Unit and implemented through UNHCR partner the Erbil Refugee Council (ERC)/DESW. Currently, two boreholes out of a total of ten in the camps have been converted to solar.

Another unusual innovation in the project is the use of a “smart inverter” which channels any electricity power surplus to the public network/grid whenever the solar panel unit/system production surpasses the installed submersible demand for power.

The project solves the problem of a shortage of water in the camps, due to the shortage of electricity in the region. The system is easy to maintain, only requiring the solar panels to be cleaned.

How to fix toilets in three days (video report through below link)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OASP_t4J5qY&feature=youtu.be

Oxfam in Iraq has helped to rehabilitate the water and sanitation systems in several key schools, ensuring children returning to class have a safe and sanitary environment in which to learn.
World Water Day 2018 Celebration in Iraq

Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) in cooperation with GIZ, World Vision and UNICEF have organized and celebrated the Water World Day 2018 under the title (The ANSWER IS IN NATURE), WWD Event held in the Conference Hall at the University of Duhok on 28 March 2018.

The World Water Day in Duhok was attend by the Deputy Governor of Duhok, the Directors and Managers of the governmental departments including (The Water Directorate of Duhok, The Directorate of Water Outskirts, The Directorate of Environment, The Directorate of Ground Water, The Directorate of Irrigation, The General Directorate of Education in Duhok) and the representatives of UNICEF and other different NGOs.

The following activities took place in the event:
1. Opening of a gallery for the Model Water Tower and Posters about the water conservation that designed by the students. The models of the water towers were designed by the students of the middle schools in Duhok & Faida, 18 middle schools have participated in the competition of the Model Water Towers, the purpose of the competition is to motivate students to think about how to store water.

The Art Competition for the posters design about the water conservation was carried out for 12 high schools in Duhok & Faida, the purpose of this competition is to expand students’ thinking about ways to conserve water and not waste it on the level of the households and its impact on nature and all living things.

2. Presentation by WVI for Water Conservation Project which is funded by GIZ and implanted by WVI during 2017 and continue during 2018 in Duhok & Faida, also short film and video show about the water conservation.

3. A theater show about how to preserve water and not waste it on the households’ level in a cynical and comedic way that targeted all age groups. And Kurdish Song on the water conservation that targeted the children who attended the event.

4. Presentation by the Directorate of Environment about the effect of the throwing industrial waste water and sewage water in the rivers and lakes and its effect on clean water and its effect on the environment and how to treat these wastes before dumping them to the rivers and lakes, also presented the details of the Sewage Water Treatment Plant Project that designed by the Directorate.
Presentation by the Directorate of Environment about the effect of the throwing industrial waste water and sewage water in the rivers and lakes.

Opening of the gallery for the Model Water Tower and Posters about the water conservation that designed by the students.

Delivery of speeches by the Deputy Governor, Directorate of Water, GIZ, UNICEF and WVI.

Kurdish Song on the water conservation that targeted the children who attended the event.