

Affected Population

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 1,866,594

Number of Returnees: 4,113,624
(as of 31 October 2018)



Protection Monitoring**
53,035 families reached*



*The disaggregated figures indicate the number of households containing individuals from each age and gender group – including enrolment.

28% of families do not have access to a regular source of income

12% of families are missing civil documentation

** The data reflects the number of households assessed from 1 January to 30 November, 2018

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Highlights

- Over 1,100 families entered camps across Iraq while more than 1,300 departed from camps. Security concerns and financial hardship continue to be the main drivers of displacement.
- Families with perceived affiliation to extremists continue to face challenges such as fear of retaliation, difficulties in obtaining documentation, forced eviction, and denial of return.
- UNHCR and protection partners assisted the flood-affected families in Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates.

New and Secondary Displacement

Based on data provided by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, 1,378 families departed camps across Iraq during November, while 1,124 families arrived in camps. Of these, 567 families were in secondary displacement. Many IDPs reported entering camps due to recent security incidents perpetrated by extremists, lack of livelihood and self-reliance opportunities, coupled with lack of assistance and inadequate shelter, communal disputes, and family reunification.

UNHCR continues to receive reports of secondary displacement throughout the country. In early November, it was reported in Kirkuk that 25 individuals (three families) left their area of return in Hawiga district and returned to Laylan 2 camp due to extremist activities in their areas of origin. More than 50 families mostly from Heet and Al-Qa'im moved from areas of displacement in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) to Habaniyah Tourist City (HTC) and Amriyat Al Fallujah (AAF) camps in Anbar due to attacks by extremists, lack of assistance and livelihood opportunities, and camp closure plans.

Protection Concerns in Camps

IDPs are facing numerous challenges inside camps. IDP families in Erbil have cited the lack of income and livelihoods, food shortages, and damaged tents. Protection teams are assessing how IDPs are coping with such difficulties to devise and implement effective protection responses. For instance, families with disabled individuals reported having to sell their core relief items (CRIs) to purchase adult diapers and medicines.

In Khazer and Hasansham camps east of Mosul, protection teams identified 25 individuals who have different health issues such as fever, abdominal disease, flu, and kidney conditions who visited medical centres in camps but received very minimal services. IDPs also reported difficulties in sending their children to school because of insufficient resources to cover school fees and supplies. Such issues are raised at the camp level CCCM and protection networks to mobilize resources and specific material assistance.

Obstacles to Return

Lack of income and inadequate shelter continue to impede sustainable returns. Most of the families who have registered for return or relocation have indicated that they either have a pension, secured jobs, or financial assistance from relatives. IDPs who managed to return to their areas of origin are also facing challenges. In Barzan and Bardiya villages in Zummar District in Ninewa, 90 per cent of houses are completely destroyed due to military operations, and returnees are living in other people's houses, destroyed houses, or even in tents. Basic infrastructure such as water and electricity along with medical services are lacking, and most men remain unemployed. Such severe conditions increase the risk of child labour. UNHCR continues to receive reports of child labour and school drop outs. As many female-headed households are unable to meet their basic food needs, children are often compelled to engage in work such as selling tissues and potable water on the streets in order to provide for their families.

Camp Closure and Forced Eviction

Camp closure and forced eviction continue to be a concern to many IDPs. On 2 November, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) visited Shahama camp in Salah al-Din Governorate and instructed about 100 families (20 per cent originally from Ninewa) to promptly leave. The following day, families rented trucks and departed from the camp to Ninewa. IDPs claimed that their IDs and phone were confiscated by security forces and only heads of households were given their IDs prior to departure.

Collective Punishment

UNHCR continues to receive reports of forced eviction and denial of return of families due to accusations of perceived affiliation with extremists. On 18 November, a local community in Ramadi, Anbar Governorate evicted nine families who had recently returned from Kilo 18 camp. The families installed tents near the community leader's property until they were allowed access to their neighbourhood on 20 November. In Kirkuk Governorate, on 21 November, federal police and government affiliated armed groups forcefully evicted four families composed of women and children with perceived affiliation to extremists from their homes in Daquq district to Laylan 1 camp.

Return movements of families with perceived affiliation to extremists are heavily restricted. For instance, it is reported that 175 families displaced from Al About village in Mosul District, Ninewa, are not allowed to return until they have disowned relatives with perceived links to extremists and have been cleared by the Federal Court in Baghdad and local police. Reportedly, only 5 per cent of the families have begun the clearance process to return.

Returns from Syria and Turkey

On 11 November, 85 families (390 individuals) arrived at Hammam Al Alil (HAA) Transit Site after returning to Iraq from Al Hol camp in north-east Syria. The return was organized by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoMD). Upon arrival, the Transit Site management provided CRIs, hot meals, and medical support to the new arrivals. Protection partners interviewed 42 families (215 individuals of which 62 per cent were children). Most were from Ninewa, followed by Salah al-Din and Anbar. Most reported experiencing restricted freedom of movement, and a lack of humanitarian assistance and services in Al Hol camp.

On 20 November 2018, a convoy of 350 Iraqi refugees returned from Turkey through Ibrahim Khalil Border Crossing Point in Duhok Governorate. Both convoys were organized by the MoMD. Protection partners reported that the arrivals headed to their areas of origin in Anbar and Ninewa governorates.

Responses by UNHCR and Partners

- Between 22 and 23 November, the Ministry of Health reported that 17 persons were killed, and 178 others injured in flash floods triggered by heavy rain across Iraq. Thousands were reportedly displaced because of the floods and many IDPs were affected in camps in Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. UNHCR has been coordinating with authorities and partners on the response to assist the affected population including IDPs in and out of camps. UNHCR contributed to the response where the damage was most severe. In Salah al-Din, UNHCR assisted 616 families with CRIs in Shirqat. In Ninewa, the camp management in Nimrud camp transferred 65 families whose tents were heavily damaged and provided CRIs. In HAA 2 camp, the camp management replaced 92 tents that were damaged. In Salamiya 1 camp, 50 tents were flooded. The affected families temporarily moved into relatives' tents, the school, or other spaces and received CRIs. In Salamiya 2 camp, the camp management distributed recycled tent canvas to reinforce 185 tents that were leaking.
- UNHCR commenced its winter assistance programme in November, targeting 656,100 IDPs and 228,000 Syrian refugees. Financial service providers are currently registering individuals identified to receive cash assistance, for which disbursements are expected to begin in December once SIM card registration has been completed. UNHCR also distributed CRIs to 236,844 persons by the end of the month, including 164,394 IDPs and 72,450 refugees. CRI kits are composed of high thermal blankets, heating stoves, plastic tarps, and kerosene jerry cans.
- UNHCR and partners continue to provide legal counselling and assistance to IDPs and returnees. In Kirkuk, UNHCR and partners provided legal counselling on documentation and compensation to more than 120 IDPs and 160 returnees. UNHCR and partners also provided legal assistance to more than 200 returnees for issuing birth certificates, death certificates, marriage/divorce certificates, and public distribution system (PDS) cards. In Dohuk, UNHCR and partners assisted 320 IDPs in obtaining and/or renewing civil documentation. In Erbil and Ninewa, UNHCR and partners facilitated the issuance of various documents including civil IDs, PDS cards, and Iraqi nationality cards. In Ninewa, partners conducted a legal awareness raising workshop in Al-Zanjeli neighbourhood to explain the legal procedures to obtain documents.
- UNHCR and partners organized activities for persons of concern. In Laylan camps in Kirkuk, UNHCR and partners regularly organize recreational activities for youth and children to enjoy a range of activities including football, volleyball, dominos, and chess to support their physical and psychosocial well-being and to help build their leadership skills. UNHCR and partners also organized skills training activities for women and girls, including activities linked to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. At the end of November in Laylan and Narawa camps in Kirkuk, 1,597 women and girls participated in recreational and vocational activities in the women's centres in the camps.