

HIGHLIGHTS

- HCT drafts plan to account for humanitarian needs of 31,000 Iraqi civilians returning from Syria
- UNICEF, WHO and Ministry of Health work together to prevent polio
- UNITAD and Government of Iraq begin exhumations of Kojo Village
- Maintaining humanitarian space in Ninewa

FIGURES

# of people in need	6.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	1.75m
# of in-camp (IDPs)	0.5m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	0.55m
# Highly vulnerable people in host communities	0.2m
# of returnees	0.5m
Source: 2019 HRP	

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2019

\$701m

requested for 2019 (US\$)

\$58.9 million

funding received as of 12-May-2019

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Credit: OCHA/Hilary Stauffer

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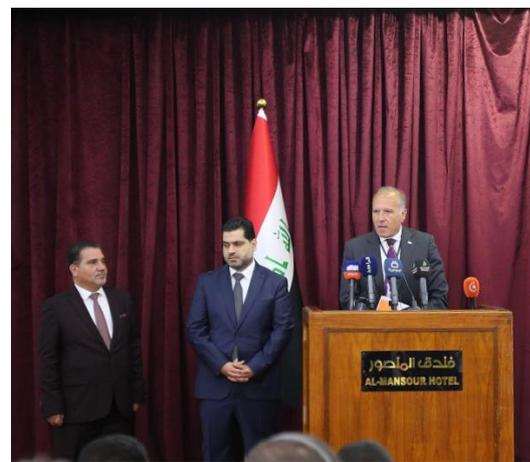
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Joint Launch of 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan and Government of Iraq Humanitarian Plan

On 29 April 2019, the humanitarian community in Iraq and the Government of Iraq held a joint event to officially launch the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, in parallel to the Government of Iraq's 2019 humanitarian plan.

Attendees included ministers, members of parliament, diplomats, United Nations representatives and journalists. Speakers included the Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Hamid Naim al-Ghazi; Karim Sinjari, Interior Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government; and Ayman Gharaibeh, the acting Humanitarian Coordinator.

In his remarks, Mr. Gharaibeh highlighted the reasons for the continued displacement of approximately 1.7 million Iraqis, including damaged or destroyed homes, unexploded ordinance, insecurity, missing identification documents, or a lack of services and jobs in their areas of origin.



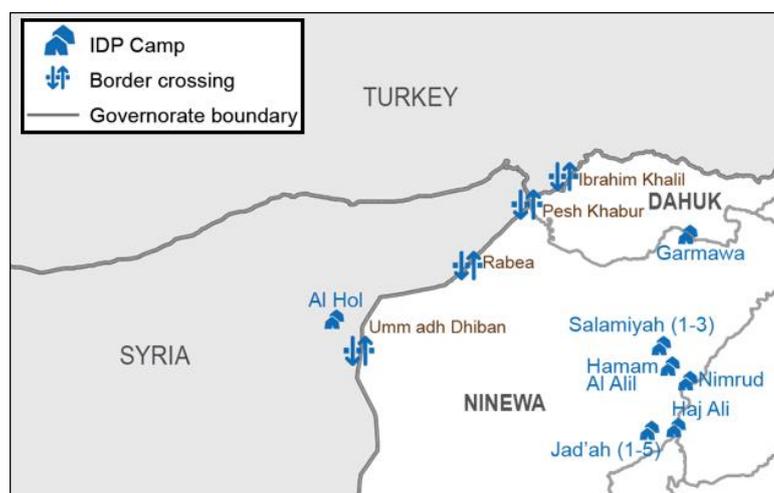
Humanitarian Coordinator a.i., Ayman Gharaibeh
Photo Credit: UNAMI

He noted how the 2019 HRP will help address some of these issues, as the Plan is based on comprehensive data gathered during a rigorous country-wide needs assessment carried out by humanitarian actors over several months in 2018. The Plan aims to deliver targeted assistance to 1.75 million Iraqis in 30 districts where conditions are considered to have the highest severity.

Polio Immunization Campaign Launched

On 7-April-2019, the Iraqi Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF launched a nationwide week-long polio immunization campaign. Health teams went from house to house to ensure that all targeted children were covered, particularly vulnerable children in hard to access and marginalized communities such as internally displaced persons and refugees. During the campaign, more than 5.8 million children under the age of 5 years in all 18 governorates were reached. No case of polio has been recorded in Iraq for many years; periodic vaccination campaigns and awareness-raising operations are part of regular humanitarian programming in the country.

Draft Operations Plan Drawn Up for Return of Iraqis from Al-Hol



Overview Map of Camp Locations

Disclaimer: this map is not to scale; for informational purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map, do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations.

Preparations continue for return of Iraqi civilians from Al-Hol displacement camp in northeastern Syria. The majority of Al-Hol camp residents had fled Baghouz in eastern Syria during the fierce military campaign against ISIL. The current population of the camp is approximately 74,000 people, 68,000 of whom have arrived since December 2018, placing the existing camp infrastructure under significant strain. An estimated 31,000 people in the camp are Iraqi citizens; of these, 84 per cent are women and children. Most of the Iraqis residing in Al-Hol are expected to be repatriated to Iraq. The Government of Iraq has indicated that any returns will be voluntary in nature. However, given security concerns from the Government, potential antagonism from other Iraqis to the returnees, and the returnees' significant humanitarian needs, it is anticipated that a majority of this population will reside in camps upon their return.

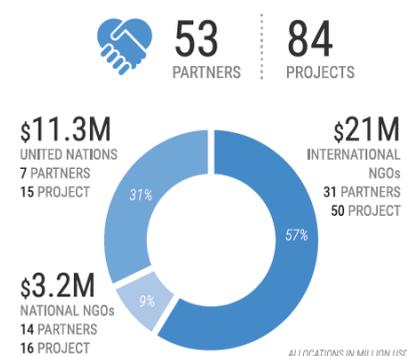
The Humanitarian Country Team has prepared and disseminated an operational plan to host returning Iraqis within a multi-camp approach drawn from existing humanitarian camps in Ninewa governorate. Immediate challenges will concern the availability of infrastructure – plots, tents, and water, sanitation and hygiene; the more demanding and protracted challenges will be around the quality of health, nutrition, education, psychosocial support and protection programming for what will be a complex caseload. Notwithstanding the legitimacy of the short-term security considerations around this population, the prospects for medium- and long-term reintegration in general and for the children in particular will depend on the quality and quantity of support given. The plan has been drafted with the input of key UN agencies and clusters, and will require a lead time of 2-3 months to establish the capacity required to host the full population.

Iraq Humanitarian Fund 2018 Annual Report Published

On 15-April, the 2018 Annual Report for the Iraq Humanitarian Fund was published. In 2018, the fund received \$57 million from 13 donors, and allocated \$36.6 million to support 84 projects through 53 partners. The allocations prioritized partners that were best placed to respond to the most critical needs, ensuring direct funding to frontline responders as much as possible. The majority (66 per cent) of 2018 funding was allocated to non-UN partners: 57 per cent to INGOs, 9 per cent to NNGOs, and 3 per cent to Red Cross/Red Crescent organizations.

Through the Standard Allocation launched on 15 February 2018, \$34 million was allocated to support 82 life-saving projects of 53 partners across 12 humanitarian sectors active in Iraq. Protection, WASH, Health, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs), and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance received the largest allocations. The projects under this allocation aimed to cumulatively reach 3.3 million people including with humanitarian assistance. In line with the geographical distribution of the vulnerable populations targeted by the HRP, and the allocation strategy which prioritized support in hard-to-reach areas, the vast majority of the funds supported activities in Ninewa, Anbar, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk governorates.

Through a reserve allocation launched in October 2018, the IHF allocated \$2.6 million to support the second phase of a nationwide vaccination measles campaign following the outbreaks of measles that affected both IDP and host communities. Funded activities included the training of vaccinators, transportation and distribution of vaccines, post-campaign monitoring, and social mobilization activities, and were implemented by two UN agencies, cumulatively targeting 9.3 million people in eight Iraqi governorates.



Exhumations of Mass Graves Ongoing in Sinjar

Throughout April 2019, UNITAD (the United Nations Investigative Team for the Promotion of Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL) and the Government of Iraq Mass Graves Directorate collaborated on the exhumations of gravesites located in the village of Kojo, Sinjar region, Ninewa. Evidence suggests that hundreds of villagers from Kojo—men, adolescent boys, and women perceived to be past child-bearing age—were murdered by ISIL fighters in August 2014, while more than 700 women and children were abducted. Women and girls over the age of 9 are understood to have been forced into sexual slavery, where they suffered a wide range of violations; boys over the age of 7 are said to have been forcibly recruited and made to fight as part of ISIL. The Mass Graves Directorate and the Medical Legal Directorate under the Iraqi Ministry of Health led on the exhumation and the retrieval of evidence. UNITAD contributed technical, legal and forensic support.



Kojo, Sinjar region, Ninewa
Photo Credit: UNITAD

Authorities in Ninewa Seek More Influence in Humanitarian Activity

In early April 2019, Hamdaniya authorities issued instructions to NGOs operating in the region, requesting that organizations provide a list of all staff working in Hamdaniya (in Ninewa governorate) and to keep them with updated on the hiring of new staff. They also urged the NGOs to ensure 50 per cent of their staff was hired from Hamdaniya. In follow up, OCHA met with the Mayor of Hamdaniya and another local mayor on 23 April. Both authorities expressed concerns about what they perceived to be uncoordinated assessments conducted by multiple organizations and observed that they do not understand what the information is being used for, as well as security-related concerns. In addition, they also expressed concerns about the purported lack of consultations with the authorities on response planning and suggested they will work to realign/streamline NGO programming and beneficiary targeting to ensure that humanitarians are responding to the needs the authorities have identified.

In response, OCHA explained the humanitarian response architecture and response planning processes and clarified that humanitarian response programmes are based on needs which are identified through assessments. OCHA provided explanations on the assessment processes and why they are required and committed to follow up with the clusters and assessment working group to ensure they are better coordinated, and that the authorities are informed about when, why and by whom the assessments are conducted. OCHA also committed to share available public information products including the humanitarian needs overview, humanitarian response plan, 3Ws and assessment registry amongst others with the authorities. OCHA will also participate in the monthly NGO coordination meetings led by the Hamdaniya Mayor as well as well maintain contacts with the authorities on an ongoing basis to ensure any concerns the authorities may have are proactively addressed.

At the Ninewa General Coordination Meeting held on 24 April in Mosul, OCHA reiterated the need to safeguard humanitarian space and ensure the operational independence of humanitarian organizations including through respecting staff recruitment guidelines and regulations.

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