THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Following the total lockdown of the country in mid-March 2020 (closure of airports, imposition of curfews, prohibition of inter-governorate and inter-regional travel), the humanitarian community in Iraq had to quickly move to recalibrate to the new operating context. While humanitarians were nominally excluded from movement restrictions, in practice, they faced ever-increasing access constraints throughout April as various governorate-level authorities interpreted directives in different ways. In approximately 77 per cent of districts, both UN agencies and NGOs reported that their activities had been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 containment measures. OCHA engaged in constant advocacy with government counterparts to enable fast-track clearance for partners where possible.

Clusters have identified activities throughout the country that were interrupted due to the COVID-19 lockdown, including difficulties in delivering essential services in IDP camps; increased food insecurity; disruptions to critical shelter upgrades; interrupted psychosocial service for children and suspension of mine awareness activities. In parallel, the Iraq Information Centre—a call centre that provides information on humanitarian assistance in Iraq to IDPs, returnees, asylum seekers, refugees, and vulnerable host community members—surveyed beneficiaries on the challenges related to the virus. Ninety-two per cent of respondents said that COVID-19 had impacted their basic needs; 70 per cent reported loss of livelihoods; 11 per cent report loss of freedom of movement; and five per cent reported an increase in gender-based violence, including domestic violence.

APRIL IIC CALL CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Total calls: 5,618
2. Related to COVID-19: 1,994
3. Increase in female calls since last month: 4%
4. Top needs related to COVID-19:
   - Livelihood & employment
   - Food
   - Market access & cash

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

- Total funding required: US$519.8M
- Total funding to Iraq as of 4 May 2020: US$161.6M
- Funding received as of 4 May 2020: US$90.1M
- 82.7% funding received
- 17.3% funding required

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The data for this map has a limited number of sources. The data is not independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberate or otherwise by various sources.

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Sources:
1. UNOPS IRAQ INFORMATION CENTER Newsletter - April 2020
2. HNO 2020 figures for “Critical problems related to physical and mental well-being” 3. IOM DTM round 115
4. Overall funding linked to the requirements of the response plans/appeals; the HRP funding is a subset of overall funding to the affected country. Source: FTS as of 4 May 2020.