In June 2020, humanitarian partners reported 68 access incidents across 23 districts. For the second consecutive month, Al Anbar Governorate had the highest number of incidents, with approximately 35 per cent reported. Across all governorates, approximately 90 percent of the incidents reported constituted administrative restrictions on humanitarian activities and movements. It is estimated that more than 172,000 people in need were directly affected by access-related incidents reported during the month.

Most reported access incidents continue to be directly the result of COVID-19 containment measures, including curfews and movement restrictions implemented by the Federal Iraqi Government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Despite curfew exemptions for humanitarian partners granted in most governorates, restrictions on inter-governorate movement continues to significantly impede humanitarian operations. Moreover, approximately 88 per cent of reported access incidents directly affected COVID-19 related humanitarian response activities.

Humanitarian organisations also continue to report difficulties due to lack of national level access letter authorizations for NGO partners of UN agencies. The national government is working to establish a new national mechanism for access authorization for NGO implementing partners of the UN, since the previous national access authorization mechanism was discontinued at the end of November 2019.

The extent of bureaucratic impediments faced by humanitarian partners is not fully reflected by the incidents captured in this snapshot. To improve the accuracy of the representation of access challenges in Iraq, humanitarian organizations are encouraged to report all incident details to OCHA sub-offices.

**Overview of reported incidents**

- 68 incidents reported
- 35 per cent reported in Al-Anbar governorate
- 88 per cent reported as COVID-19 related

**Access constraints by partner types**

- Restriction of movement of agencies, personnel or goods within Iraq: 43
- Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations: 5
- Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities: 12
- Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities: 90%

**Clusters affected**

- Health
- Protection
- Multi-cluster
- WASH
- Food Sec.
- Logistics
- CCCM
- SNFI

Methodology: This snapshot is based on humanitarian partners' reports of access-related incidents and issues during a one-month period. Although the access snapshot indicates wider access dynamics encountered in central and northern governorates of Iraq, the snapshot does not present a comprehensive view of all access challenges, as access incidents are under-reported, and the snapshot only covers areas where organisations have been able to maintain a sustained humanitarian presence.

*Estimated number of people affected by the interruption of services or delays in delivery of assistance between 1 - 30 June 2020.
**Constraint**

- Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods within Iraq
- Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods into the affected country
- Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations
- Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities
- Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities
- Presence of mines and unexploded ordinances
- Difficult physical environment
- Restrictions on, or obstruction of, conflict affected people's access to services and assistance

**Description**

Impediments to freedom of movement as experienced by in-country humanitarian partners to reach affected people and transport essential relief. These could include either physical restrictions (such as security checkpoints) or administrative restrictions (e.g. restricted travel or project permits, arbitrary or illegal taxation, etc.).

Bureaucratic and administrative requirements for entry into the country of operation, such as registration for the organisation or visas and work permits for personnel, and/or constraints on import of equipment and relief items into the country.

Implications of military activities by parties to the conflict and other weapon bearers for the movement of people and goods. Absence of arrangements to facilitate the passage of emergency relief supplies during active hostilities.

Politically or economically motivated violence as well as exposure to incidental violence directly affecting humanitarian personnel, equipment and facilities. This may include threats of violence, coercion, theft or looting of aid supplies.

Direct interference (usually by political or military actors) with humanitarian activities during or after their implementation. This may include pressure to work in specific geographic area or insistence to link humanitarian assistance to a specific political or military agenda.

Mines, improvised explosive devices, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordinance inhibiting the movement of equipment, goods and personnel or otherwise impeding humanitarian activities.

Obstacles related to terrain, climate and lack of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and airstrips.

All events and practices which interfere with the ability of conflict-affected populations to access assistance and services. These may include forced population movement as well as physical or administrative restrictions that prevent affected people (or specific individuals or groups) to access services and assistance.