

Situation Report

Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



Report #: 13

27 February 2014

The information presented here is based on data received by JAU from different agencies up to the time of publishing of this SitRep

Highlights

- Number of displaced reached **68,333 families** as per Government numbers on 26 February.
- The freshly announced 72 hour cease-fire ended, with Ramadi and Fallujah reportedly witnessing renewed military activity.

Situation overview

- The crisis in Anbar continues to evolve with no positive developments. After a short lived unilateral cease-fire announcement by the Government, Ramadi and Fallujah continue to be subject to military activity. The conflict continues to spread into other provinces, such as Diyala, Salah-Al-Din, North Babil, and more recently Kirkuk, with further reports of clashes between Daash Armed Groups and Iraqi Security Forces and consequent displacement of families.
- Fallujah Health Department confirmed over 100 civilian dead and 700 wounded in Fallujah.
- The Supreme Committee tasked with following up the implementation of the Council of Ministers peace plan on Anbar (adopted on 18 February) convened its first meeting in Baghdad today (27 February). Anbar PC continues to advocate with the Central Government to extend the ceasefire in Ramadi and Fallujah and to find alternative peaceful/political solutions to end the crisis.

Humanitarian Response

The official number of IDP families has now reached 68,333 as per Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) official numbers. Out of this total, 48,243 families are displaced in Anbar and 20,068 more families are in other Governorates (488 in Karbala, 284 in Babil, 3,627 in Baghdad, 58 in Najaf, 65 in Qadisiya, 11 in Thi-Qar, 56 in Diyala, 8,745 in Salah-Al-Din, 1,304 in Kirkuk, 5,331 in Kurdistan, 93 in Ninewa, and 6 in Basra). The rising number of displaced in regions like Salah-Al-Din reflects the growing instability in these areas. A first official Collective Centre was formed by the local authorities in Beiji, Salah Al-Din.

As the Crisis situation continues to escalate and even spread to other parts of Iraq, not only are the numbers of IDP families increasing dramatically but their needs are also growing rapidly. UN agencies have been receiving increased requests for assistance and support.

In order to improve accountability and coordination, MoDM established the Government Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) and invited the UN to be part of this committee. MoDM reported that IDPs in KR-I requested cash assistance instead of food rations or NFIs as they are residing in hotels and are therefore unable to use any non-cash assistance. MoDM cash assistance (250 USD per family) to IDP families outside of Anbar (Baghdad) has been provided to 1,340 families and a total of 17,000 families are being targeted.

Access to IDP Locations

Despite the accessibility challenges, exacerbated by the prolonged clearance procedures for delivering humanitarian assistance, UN Agencies have been able to continue delivering emergency supplies through safe

routes, and new displaced locations have been reached. UNICEF has been able to deliver supplies to AL-Ankor villages and Ankor Albokhfeej (by boat) in the remote area of AL-Habbaniyah Lake.

NFI and Shelter Sector

IOM successfully distributed 250 NFI kits on 25 February to IDP families displaced from Anbar to Ghan Dhari – Abou Ghraib District. On the same day, IOM also distributed 50 NFI kits to IDP families displaced in Najaf. This brings the total NFI Family kits distributed by IOM to 3,330.

UNHCR delivered 150 CRIs in the Oil Institute Compound in Beiji of Salah-Al-Din where 150 families are staying (the institute’s full capacity is 300 families). In addition, on 24 February, 50 CRI kits were distributed to IDP families located in a warehouse in khanaqeen-Al-Saadiya. Also recently, UNHCR distributed 165 CRI kits in Hadetha, Anbar on 23 and 24 February. Five-hundred more CRIs are planned for distribution in Suleimaniya on 27 February. UNHCR has reached more than 3,260 families with CRI kit distribution.

UNHCR Shelter Cluster is assisting the GoI in developing Collective center policy. As for the response to Government’s request for tents, UNHCR has agreed to distribute 40 more tents in two IDP locations in Heet, and will be overseeing the setting up of the tents to ensure the internationally set standards for shelter accommodation.



Photos 1 and 2: IOM distribution of NFIs in Ghan Dhari – Abou Ghraib District, on 25 February



Photos 3-4: UNHCR distribution of CRI Kits to IDP families in Beiji, 25 February.

WASH

UNICEF WASH sector is planning to reach 750 to 850 IDP families in Sulaiyman Bek. However, accessing the families presents particular logistical challenges as they are scattered around the hills that surround the town. In coordination with their Kurdistan Region teams, UNICEF are planning to distribute 163 pre-fabricated latrines to these locations in the coming days.

In order to improve targeting, UNICEF and its implementing partners (ISHO, Afkar, Relief International and Islamic Relief Worldwide) are finalizing a rapid needs assessment which will enable UNICEF WASH programme to identify the actual needs for the most vulnerable families spread in remote areas inside and outside Anbar.

Food Security

WFP distribution of food supplies to displaced families has reached 5,300 food parcels, distributed in Anbar (Amriat Al-Fallujah, Al-Madina Al Siyahiya Complex, Al-Karma, Al Saqlawiyah, Al-Habaniya, Al-N'emiyeh, Al-Qaim, Hee, Ramadi). Further, WFP is studying the possibility of delivering further supplies to other governorates where displaced families are reportedly in need of food assistance.

Protection

The Protection Cluster has been developing assessment tools, namely the Inter-Agency Rapid Assessment form, in order to improve collection of community level data.

UNHCR protection and field teams have reached more than 3,731 families/19,020 individuals and assessed their needs through 47 Rapid Needs Assessments in Anbar, Baghdad, Kerbala, Najaf and Ninewa governorates. In-depth protection assessments have also been conducted by International Rescue Committee (IRC) for 50 families/259 individuals in Kerbala and 59 families/280 individuals in Baghdad. A key issue is the need to reacquire civil status documentation that was left behind at the time of their flight from areas of conflict. UNHCR is also providing support to MoDM to enhance their registration capacity. IDPs in Baghdad revealed feeling unsafe fearing attacks and/or arrest by the ISF.

UNHCR's cash assistance programme has started through a pilot Cash Assistance project with IRC in Kerbala. 52 cases were assessed in two weeks by IRC and 25 cases have been approved to receive a total of USD 12,500. UNHCR is now planning to roll-out the Cash Assistance project to other locations, informed by lessons-learned through the pilot in Kerbala. A Partner Agreement with Muslim Aid has been signed. UNHCR is planning to assist 500 IDP families in the first phase of this programme, targeting families that have individuals with specific needs and/or others at risk.

Education

Anbar local authorities have been raising concerns over lack of access of displaced Anbar students to schools in host community areas, because of a lack of documentation. A number of college students were reportedly not accepted in schools as they didn't have documentation from their original schools in Anbar. The Ministry of Higher Education responded to this concern stating that the University of Mosul and Universities in Baghdad will be accepting students from Anbar.

Coordination & Funding

The Strategic Response Plan is published on OCHA webpages and the Relief web. Agencies are in the process of uploading projects.

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism has been established to strengthen coordination between the different UN, Governmental and NGO capacity involved in the Humanitarian Assistance

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