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# Situation Report

## Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



**Report #: 16**

**20 March 2014**

The information presented in the Situation Report is based on data received from UN agencies and JAU up to the time of publishing

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## Highlights

- Number of displaced stands at **65,741 families** as per Government figures of 17<sup>th</sup> March.
- An inter-agency mission was conducted by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF to assess current living conditions and needs of displaced people in Al-Obaidy, Al Qa'im district of Anbar.
- An inter-agency mission was conducted by UNHCR, UNICEF and UNAMI to Kirkuk province to discuss with local officials the protection and humanitarian needs of Anbar IDPs.

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## Situation overview

The Anbar conflict continues with clashes between the ISF and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in Karmah, northern Fallujah, and near Ramadi. Media reports indicated military reinforcements are being deployed to the outskirts of Fallujah as part of planned operations to enter Fallujah.

Sporadic fighting is concentrated largely in and around the Ramadi and Fallujah areas. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have reported significant numbers of Armed Opposition Group (AOG) / ISIL casualties. Airstrikes and shelling of suspected AOG positions continue, with credible reports of civilian casualties.

The Head of the Iraq Awakening Council implied there may be heightened military action taken in Fallujah if the local tribes fail to remove ISIL from the city. Meanwhile, Anbar Governor stated that elections are to be held in Ramadi as scheduled.

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## Humanitarian Response

The number of IDP families stands at **65,741** as per Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) latest registration report, with 50,922 families in Anbar and 14,819 more in other Governorates.

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF recently conducted an inter-agency mission to assess living conditions and humanitarian needs of IDPs in **Al-Obaidy**, Al Qa'im district of Anbar, some 450 kilometres northwest of Baghdad. Al-Qa'im district hosts 1,562 IDP families. The inter-agency team visited IDPs staying in two collective shelters in Al-Obaidy town. The team identified many people with specific needs, particularly female-headed-households with large numbers of children, pregnant women and people with chronic diseases. While the local communities are generously assisting, the displaced are still in need of food and healthcare. Families living in unfinished houses lack blankets, mattresses, cooking facilities and clothing.

UNHCR distributed 300 core relief items to 300 families. UNICEF installed two water tanks of 5,000 litres to be filled with clean water daily. Female latrines and expansion of sanitation facilities were also recommended. WFP conducted two preliminary distributions of 300 parcels each in January and February 2014 in Al Obaidy and Hussiaba and will now expand distributions to cover all IDPs in the area. Anbar province is one of the three provinces with highest malnutrition rates. If the crisis is protracted, there is a possibility of increased malnutrition especially amongst children.

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UNHCR, WFP and UNAMI conducted an inter-agency mission to Kirkuk Province, where they met with the Governor, Chairman of the Provincial Council, DODM and other local officials. The Governor of Kirkuk explained that there are 2,200 IDP families from Anbar residing in various parts of Kirkuk. IDP families are in need of food, clothing and cash assistance. School-age children also need school supplies, notebooks and books. Furthermore, the Governor requested UN support in establishing a camp for the IDPs. He considered a camp setting would enable him to better manage security risks of infiltration by ISIL and other AOGs. Also the camp in his view would provide the best grounds for the provision of basic services.

The inter-agency mission reiterated the UN Country Team’s position of identifying alternative options to housing IDPs in camps but indicated technical support and guidance could be provided to a Government managed camp. To date UNHCR has distributed 150 CRI kits and IOM 300 NFIs. The Governor requested WFP to distribute food parcels to IDPs in Kirkuk.

A rapid assessment of IDPs from Al-Anbar staying in Dohuk Governorate was carried out last week, by UNHCR, UNICEF and International Rescue Committee (IRC). The current population identified is 349 families (1,973 individuals). The IDPs are mainly located in Dohuk city (in various motel & hotels, apartments), in Amadia town and Sarsink area. The Main needs primarily identified are: cash assistance for rent, food assistance, protection (SBGV and community services) and Non-food items (CRIs and hygiene kits). The Department of Displacement and Migration, Dohuk office, confirmed that they will provide cash assistance (350,000 IQD/approximately 300 \$US) for each family in the coming few days.

## NFI and Shelter Sector

In the past week, UNHCR distributed 500 CRI kits in Heet city and 100 CRI kits to IDP families in Al-Qa’im along with 204 mattresses and 204 Quilts to 34 IDP families residing in Al Obaidy Collective center. UNHCR also distributed 150 CRI kits to Anbar IDPs in Kirkuk bringing their total distributed kits to date to 5,794 CRIs.

IOM Iraq distributed 500 NFI family kits to displaced families in Heet. This brings the total NFIs distributed by IOM to date to 6,005.



Photo 1: Distribution of NFIs by UNHCR in Heet



Photo 2: Distribution of NFIs by IOM in Heet

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## WASH

UNICEF distributed 5,000 hygiene kits to the most affected families in Fallujah city (1,000), Al-Khalidiya district (1,500) and in Amiriyat Al-Fallujah (2,500).

Distribution of lifesaving WASH supplies, Hygiene kits for adults and babies, garbage containers, family water kits, garbage bags, provision and installation of water tanks, provision and installation of latrines and showers is UNICEF high priority at this stage.



Photos 3: UNICEF distribution of Hygiene kits in Al-Haklaniya, near Fallujah

UNICEF's Rapid Needs Assessment conducted through an implementing partner covering Salah Al-Din, found that most affected families in Suleiman Bek are suffering from severe shortages of safe drinking water, hygiene kits, garbage collection and disposal. UNICEF carried out the distribution of emergency supplies to the most affected families benefiting 280 families with; 280 adult hygiene kits, 280 baby hygiene kits, 28 water family kits (each kit for 10 families), 260 rolls of plastic garbage bags and 23 large garbage containers (240 liters).

UNICEF finalized an agreement with the implementing partner for provision and installation of 70 prefabricated latrines and water tanks in Suleiman Bek.

## Food Security

Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014, WFP, through IOM distributed 2,696 family food parcels, benefiting 13,480 IDP's. The distribution took place throughout Heet, Anaa, Rawa, Al-Karma, Al-Ramadi outskirts, Al-Baghdadi, and other areas in Al-Anbar. Since the commencement of the crisis WFP has distributed a total of 9,765 food parcels.

## Health

On 10 February, Iraq reported its first case of Wild Polio Virus (PV1) in a six months old male child from Baghdad. The recent polio outbreak in Syria with a total of 25 wild poliovirus cases has heightened Iraq's vulnerability to wild poliovirus. Iraq is considered as being the most vulnerable neighboring country given its proximity with Der Al-Zour province in Syria where most of the wild poliovirus cases were identified. The last Iraqi polio case was reported in January 2000.

Ministry of Health in consultation with WHO and UNICEF, will undertake a vaccination programme from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 6<sup>th</sup> April. A total of 10 teams will provide vaccination covering 7,881 children.

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WHO, in collaboration with Muslim Aid, a UK based NGO, conducted a health needs assessment in Anbar Governorate. The assessment covered the functionality of Primary HealthCare Centers (PHCC) and hospitals and also interviewed displaced families and host communities.

**A summary of the main findings are:**

- The PHCCs near Ramadi and Fallujah cities suffer from lack of staff and medications, reducing their functionality to less than 50%.
- The PHCCs and hospitals suffer from huge number of patients per day and 70% of their personnel confirmed that they stop the release of medications to patients at 11:00AM daily due to limited stock of medications.
- Around 67% of the interviewed displaced families (9,000 families) reported having concerns and fears of going to PHCCs and hospitals because of the intensity of battles.
- 87% of the patients with chronic diseases reported that they couldn't get sufficient medications since the start of the crisis and 47% of the interviewed families reported they have to walk for more than half an hour to reach closest health facility.
- The displaced families in Rutba and Al Qa'im have no access to health services.
- Displaced families and host communities confirmed the need for mobile clinics to cover the patients' needs, noting the huge need for medications for chronic diseases' patients and highlighted that pregnant women and persons living with disabilities don't have the required access to health services.

## Protection

UNHCR conducted a participatory assessment with female IDPs newly displaced from Anbar Governorate (age range: 20 – 65) residing in Al-Istiqbal, Al-Sadr, Al-Adhamia and Al-Resafa in Baghdad. The assessment covered shelter, Gender Based Violence (GBV), livelihoods, education and the needs of elderly persons. A theme that emerged consistently was that IDPs from Anbar fear for their safety in Baghdad by the virtue of originating from Anbar. The current living conditions are not conducive to the specific needs of women and girls as several IDP families are living with relatives and host families in cramped and crowded situations. It was reported that women are subjected to a high-level of domestic violence owing to loss/lack of work. This also has a negative impact on children who display aggressive behaviors as a result of being confined indoors and unable to engage in recreational activities.

A solution to many of these problems identified by the women was to receive cash assistance and/or rental subsidies to enable them to make their own living arrangements. In addition to the need for food and NFIs, medical assistance, enrollment of children in local schools and for livelihoods projects targeting men were identified. Specific assistance was requested to assist teachers to receive their salaries in Baghdad and for elderly persons to receive their pensions in Baghdad as well as some legal assistance to re-acquire civil identification documentation.

## Education

UNICEF and partners finished a preliminary assessment in Amyriat Al-Fallujah in Anbar of occupied primary and secondary schools by 600 IDP families including 592 children. An agreement was reached with authorities to supply adequate tents in congested schools in order to provide children safe / protective space for learning inside the school yards. UNICEF is moving to its warehouse in Anbar 1000 students kits, 90 tents, pre-learning material, school bags and recreation kits that will benefit 1000 children. These supplies will be distributed as soon as access allows.

## Coordination & Funding

The DSRSG/RC/HC held a meeting with the Minister of the Council of Representatives to discuss the UN Strategic Response Plan. The DSRSG/RC/HC briefed on the current UN response to those affected by the ongoing conflict in

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Anbar and further emphasized that the UN is working with the Government of Iraq and the Humanitarian partners to ensure the urgent needs of those displaced are addressed.

The DSRSR/RC/HC requested the Government of Iraq to consider earmarking some of the allocated funds for Anbar towards the Strategic response Plan which has a total value of \$103.7 Million to address the needs of 40,000 families for a period of 6 months. The DSRSR underlined that the UN agencies are fast exhausting their internal resources and may soon have to cease humanitarian operations owing to a lack of funding.

The Minister Indicated he would raise the issue of possible funding with the Prime Minister and the Council of Representatives.

During the SRSG fortnightly briefing to the Diplomatic community in Iraq, ICODHA provided a presentation on the current Humanitarian Response and the Strategic Response Plan. The SRSG took the opportunity to highlight the current challenges being faced of access and resource mobilization.

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