

### SITUATION REPORT #14: UPDATE FOR 26/2 - 26/3

## Displacement

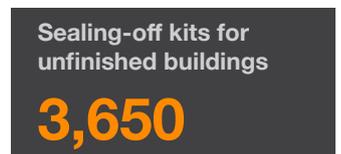
According to Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data collected by IOM Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) from January 2014 - March 12 2015



To access the IOM Iraq DTM, please visit: <http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

## Emergency Relief Distribution

As of 26 March, 2015



\* Number includes sealing-off kits

**SALAHADDIN** - In response to the military campaign aimed at retaking the city of Tikrit, IOM Iraq has increased its presence in the governorate of Salahaddin, where currently 116,718 persons find themselves displaced by violence. Since the 26th of February, IOM Iraq has distributed 3,100 winterized non-food item (NFI) kits to displaced beneficiaries in Salahaddin governorate. These distributions have focused mainly on areas around and south of Tikrit, where displaced people have sought refuge from the fighting and are staying religious and public, as well as unfinished buildings.

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have warned that the operation to retake Tikrit will “not be quick, with areas in and around the city littered with bombs and booby-traps.” Having a presence across all 18 governorates of Iraq, IOM stands ready to provide assistance to those displaced by the conflict.

The most recent Displacement Tracking Matrix round has completed a preliminary identification of IDP’s needs - financial aid and access to income is the highest priority for 21.4% of the respondents, followed by shelter and housing (21%), NFI aid (17%) and food (16%). Lack of funding for emergency priorities, however, has impacted on the humanitarian response, and OCHA has advised that unless more funding is secured, life-saving assistance programmes will be seriously curtailed or terminated in Iraq.

Continued conflict in Iraq is expected to cause further displacement. Securing funding to assist displaced populations is a top priority. IOM Iraq is working together with government authorities to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable displaced persons, as access and security conditions allow.



IOM staff distributing non-food item aid in Samarra, Salahaddin governorate | 26 March



NFI kits ready to be distributed to newly-displaced families in Samarra, Salahaddin governorate | 26 March

## The Nissan Family

One hundred prefabricated caravans accommodate displaced families on the grounds of Mar Eliya Church in Ainkawa, Erbil. Children play between the structures, underneath the laundry lines drying clothes in the sun. “The families were all very relieved to receive the caravans from IOM,” said Father Douglas, who hosted IOM staff on a tour of the site. “They were sad at the same time, though, because they think it means their displacement will be longer than they expected.”

IOM staff met the Nissan family at their caravan and was invited to sit and talk about the family’s experiences. The sparsely furnished structure holds a family of five, including a baby sleeping in a cradle. Dani, the patriarch of a family of 22 members who escaped violence near Mosul, told us about his family’s struggles and experiences. “The community in Karakosh used to live together as one family. It didn’t matter what family you came from, we would all do business and visit together.”

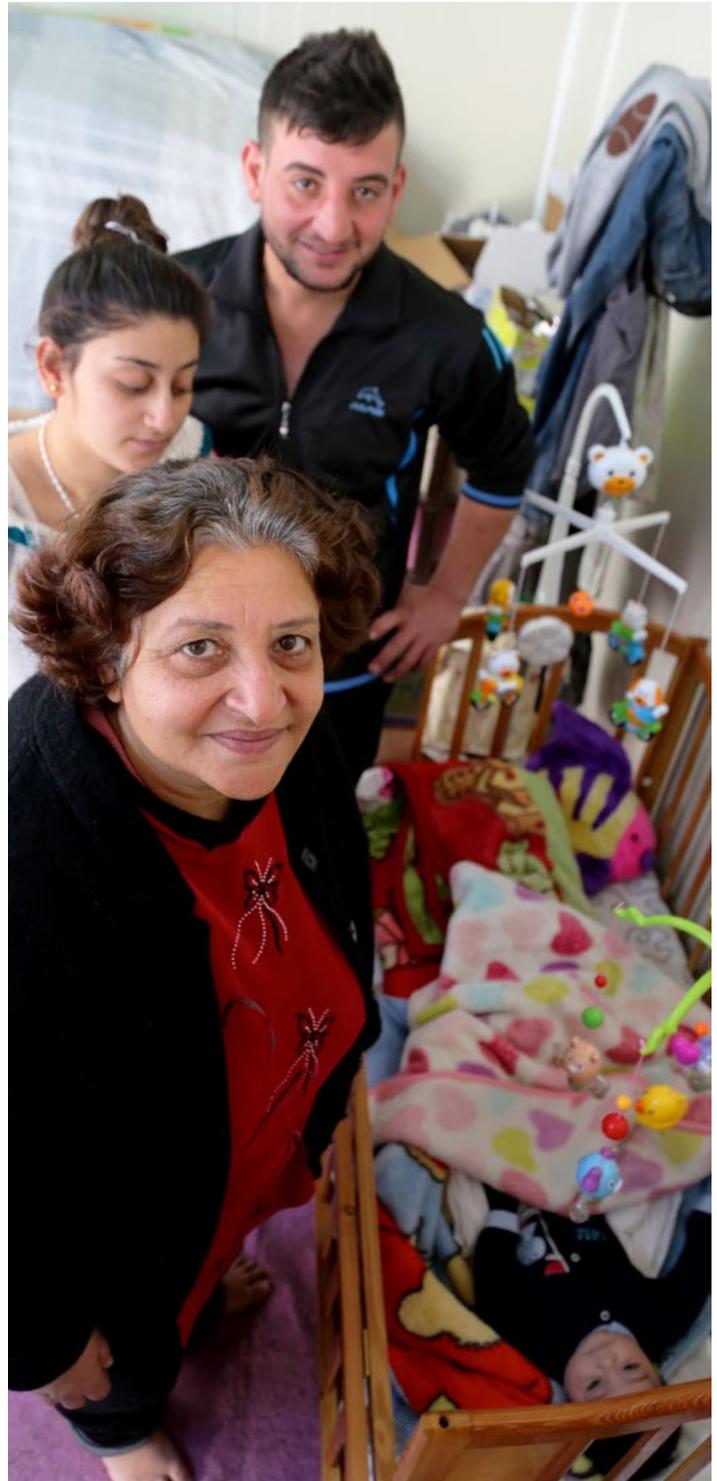
Dani’s Aunt Hanna continued the story. “After ISIL started to attack Karakosh in August, we decided to leave. We just brought what we could carry on our backs, necessary items for the children. We spent 12 hours walking, with our daughter-in-law, Hanin, who was four months pregnant. We walked through the fighting, with shells exploding around us, not knowing if we would make it to safety.”

After spending a long night traversing the only road from Karakosh to Erbil, the family reached safety the next day, thanks to the kindness of a stranger who helped transport them from the governorate’s border in his truck. They came to Mar Eliya not knowing what to expect.

“At first, we lived in a tent that was not very good. Later, we received a tent that was much better, and now we have a caravan. It protects us from the weather and gives us a better sense of privacy as a family, since each family receives their own caravan. Slowly, things are getting better for us. With the non-food item aid we received from IOM, we can cook our own food, recipes even from Karakosh,” said Hanna.

Hanin’s daughter Eliya was born in Erbil and now sleeps peacefully in a cradle donated by the local community. Hanin explains her name to IOM staff. “We named her after the church where we are staying, because this is our whole world now. We are living day by day here, but I hope that my daughter will have a better future.”

“We are living day by day. We hope that our baby will have a better future.”



The Nissan family with young Eliya in their prefabricated caravan in Ainkawa

IOM is responding to life-threatening needs in a rapidly changing environment, in addition to monitoring movements on the ground.

