

IRAQ | UNHCR CIVIL DOCUMENTATION FOR IDPS

IN BRIEF

According to Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment conducted from June to August 2019, nearly 2.9 million individuals, including camp-based and out-of-camp IDPs as well as returnees, are missing at least one form of civil documentation. Due to the lack of civil documentation, many IDPs and returnees are unable to access basic services such as education and health care, experience restrictions on their freedom of movement, are exposed to increased risk of arrest and detention, and may be excluded from recovery and reconstruction efforts. Moreover, without civil documentation, parents are unable to register the birth of their child. IDPs and returnees cite various challenges in obtaining civil documentation, such as the high transportation cost to access government offices in their places of origin, lengthy waits and processing times at the offices, and difficulties in obtaining security clearance to travel and to obtain documentation.

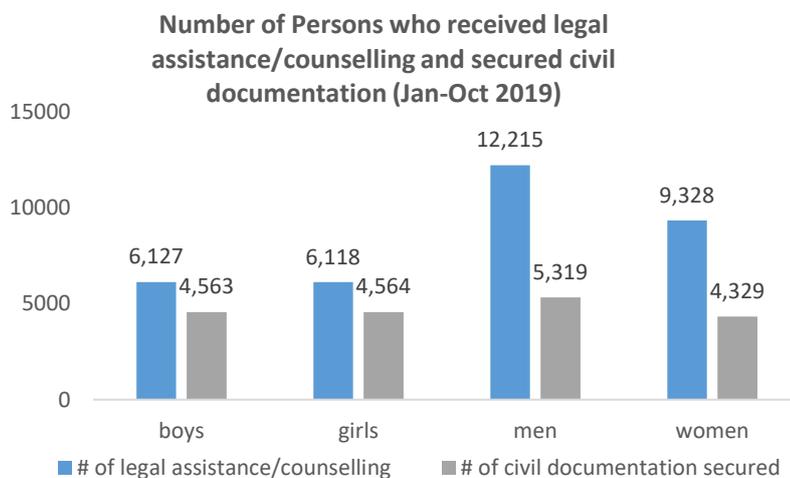


Distribution of civil IDs in Erbil @UNHCR

Given the grave consequences and challenges faced by IDPs and returnees, UNHCR, in cooperation with government and civil society partners, has implemented and supported a number of projects to enable IDPs and returnees to access civil documentation.

ASSISTANCE THROUGH LEGAL PARTNERS

Lack of knowledge of the legal requirements and procedures to obtain/renew civil documentation is often a barrier for IDPs and returnees to access documentation. Moreover, complex court procedures as well as *de facto* requirements such as obtaining security clearance from government authorities are also cited as barriers to documentation. As such, UNHCR has mobilized legal assistance partners so that IDPs and returnees have access to accurate information and quality legal advice and representation. From January to October 2019, UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and/or counselling to 33,788 individuals, of which 18,755 individuals successfully secured civil documentation.



INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

Many IDPs and returnees are still unable to obtain and renew their civil documentation as many Civil Affairs Directorate Offices were damaged or destroyed due to the conflict. As part of its effort to help IDPs obtain documentation, since 2018, UNHCR has rehabilitated 2 offices in Kirkuk Governorate and three offices in Ninewa Governorate and donated five vehicles to the Mosul Civil Affairs Directorate Office. Rehabilitation of 4 more offices in Ninewa is ongoing.

MOBILE CIVIL DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

To increase the number of IDPs able to access documentation, UNHCR has collaborated with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of the Government of Iraq (GoI) to implement mobile missions to dispatch government officials to issue civil documentation to IDPs living in camps. The primary focus of the project is to issue three of the most critical documents for IDPs - Civil Status ID (CSID), Iraqi Nationality Certificate (INC), and, wherever available, the Unified ID Card (UID).

With the collaboration of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the first mission of the project was launched in April 2019 in Baharka and Harsham camps in Erbil Governorate for IDPs from Ninewa Governorate. Given the successful implementation of the mission, the project was expanded to the remaining camps administered by EJCC (Hasansham U2, U3, Al-Khazir and Debaga). As a result, from April to October 2019, more than 4,200 CSIDs and 3,600 INCs were issued in these camps.



Children with their newly issued CSID cards @UNHCR

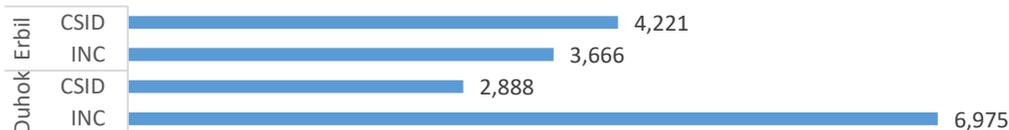


Opening ceremony of the project in Erbil @UNHCR.

In late June, the project was extended to Duhok Governorate where the MoI and the KRG conducted the civil documentation exercise in Bersive-1 and 2, Garmawa and Chamishko camps. As a result, more than 2,800 CSIDs and 6,900 INCs were thus far issued to IDPs. In October, the project was expanded to Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk Governorates, where UNHCR has submitted the relevant files to the MoI for the verification and distribution of civil documentation, including UIDs.

Throughout the implementation of the project, UNHCR and NGO partners provided material and technical support to MoI by preparing applications, establishing registration centres, and providing necessary equipment such as computers, printers and office supplies.

of Civil Documentation Issued through Mobile Project (Apr-Oct 2019)



SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR DONORS

Special thanks to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as donors who have contributed directly to the Iraq operation in 2019 (as of 14 October)

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