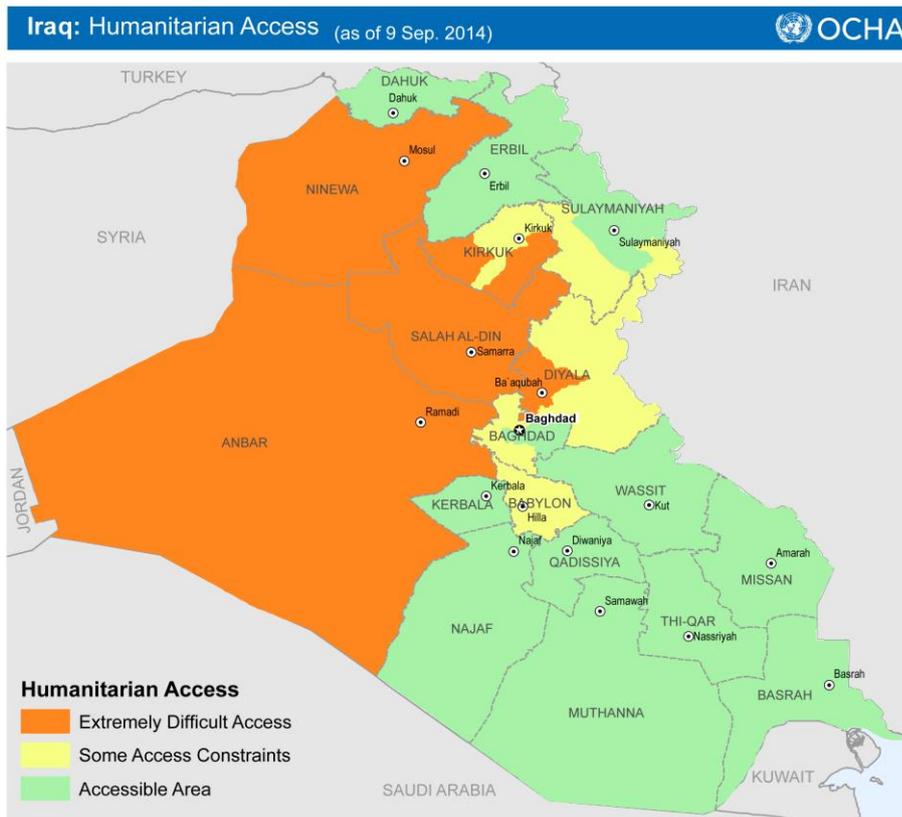




This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 26 September 3 October. Due to the rapidly changing situation it is possible that the numbers and locations listed in this report may no longer be accurate. The next report will be issued on or around 10 October.

Highlights

- *The Government of Iraq releases 50 billion IQD (US\$43 million) to assist with the IDP response in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.*
- *The Immediate Response Plan for the IDPs Crisis in the KR-I was released this week. A similar plan for the whole of Iraq is under discussion with the Government of Iraq.*
- *Humanitarian access in many parts of western and central Iraq is severely constrained, affecting the ability of partners to deliver humanitarian assistance.*
- *Partners have started preparations for winter, but resources available are insufficient to cater for needs. Availability of fuel at subsidized prices for IDPs and refugees is a major concern.*



Situation Overview

Following intense consultation between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the UN, the Immediate Response Plan (IRP) for the IDPs Crisis in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) was released¹. The document, which is a subset of the Strategic Response Plan, identifies the most urgent needs of some 860,000 IDPs in the region until the onset of the winter season, in mid-November. Priority targets for this plan include the most vulnerable IDPs, including those in the open air, schools and in unfinished buildings. Shelter, WASH, health, food and education sectors have been prioritized in the plan, which analyses needs, available resources and financial gaps.

The plan highlights that urgent shelter solutions need to be found for 390,000 IDPs, but resources available are sufficient only for 224,000 people leaving a deficit of about 146,000 without shelter. The relocation of IDPs from schools to alternate shelter remains a priority. Winterisation items are available only for half of the IDPs caseload targeted by the plan, while gaps in health and food-related interventions would substantially decrease should the Public Distribution System and dispatch of drugs from the central pharmacy be resumed. The recent transfer of 50 billion IQD (US\$43 million) by the Government of Iraq this week for assistance to the IDPs in the KR-I will contribute to address the needs. It is understood that additional funding will be transferred shortly.

¹ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq/document/immediate-response-plan-irp-idps-crisis-kr-i-15-sept-15-nov-2014>

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

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The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

The third in a series of meetings between the Deputy Prime Ministers office and the UN in Baghdad discussed urgent interventions to assist vulnerable IDPs across Iraq. Participants agreed on the need to elaborate an operational plan to identify the needs of IDPs across Iraq for shelter, food, health, water and sanitation, and the education sectors by end November, which will be elaborated under the Government's leadership, and will be the result of discussion between technical ministries and specialised agencies/cluster leads. During the meeting the UN stressed that access and insecurity are major obstacles for the provision of humanitarian assistance in some parts of the country and requested Government support to facilitate cross-line operations. In Anbar Governorate alone there are 400,000 IDPs to which humanitarian actors enjoy only very limited access. While the UN and NGO partners are intensifying their efforts to reach those in need, assistance falls far short of what is required.

Partners have started preparations for winter, which is fast approaching. In KR-I - where temperatures during winter can range between +5 C and -16 C - some 80,000 internally displaced families are now in urgent need of winter aid including blankets, kerosene, heating stoves, jerry cans and insulation items, such as thermal floor mats and polystyrene boards to make tents in camps warmer and more resistant to winter conditions. Funds available, however, will cover only half of the identified needs. Advocacy is ongoing to ensure that subsidies for kerosene for cooking and heating are guaranteed for IDPs and refugees, something that will have a very positive impact as currently resources available are sufficient only to cover fuel needs for 4,700 Syrian refugee families and 30,000 vulnerable families in the KR-I for 2 months.

Across Iraq, the situation remains fluid as the IDP population remains widely dispersed, mobile and in great need. According to the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix 28 September update, since the last report additional displacement has been recorded within Kirkuk Governorate (over 4,800 families) following security incidents in Hawiga and because of difficult living conditions in unfinished buildings within Kirkuk city. In addition, restrictive policies at different checkpoints in Kirkuk Governorate are affecting the freedom of movement of those who are not from the governorate. Another 3,717 displaced families from Ninewa fled to Tilkaif, north of Mosul, Zahko, Dohuk Governorate districts and Erbil city, as well as Babylon (623), Baghdad (227), Najaf (146), Missan (89) and Thi Qar (129). In Anbar Governorate reports indicate displacement within Falluja town and al-Amiriyah district (950 families) despite the fact that military operations are restricting movement of civilians.

Displacement in Baghdad continues as families flee from one neighborhood to settle in another. Further displacement from Babylon towards the capital city has been observed as military operations between Iraq Security Forces (ISF) and armed groups continue in the north of the governorate. In addition, in the KR-I, some 4,100 families from Samarra, in Salah al-Din Governorate, left Erbil city because of poor living conditions and high costs of rent, which they cannot afford anymore. Of these, 200 families have returned to their place of origin in the districts of Baiji and Sherqat and another 280 moved to Soran district in Erbil Governorate and others are assumed to be in transit. Humanitarian partners are concerned about a potential fresh wave of displacement, beyond the millions already displaced. Should this happen, the aid community's capacity to respond will be further stretched.

A recent assessment in the governorates of Kerbala and Najaf is raising concerns of evictions of IDPs sheltering in mosques and pilgrim guesthouses ahead of the religious festivals commemorating the death of Imam Hussein. The Ashura pilgrimage begins in late October and attracts between 3 -12 million pilgrims. Najaf religious and civilian authorities have assured partners no evictions of IDPs is contemplated during the pilgrimage.

Humanitarian Response

UNDP is calling for project proposals of between \$50,000 and \$300,000 from NGOs and civil society organisations to address urgent needs of IDPs and host communities in KR-I in the areas of income generation and employment, and basic social and productive infrastructure. For more information visit: <http://www.iq.undp.org/content/iraq/en/home/ourwork/crisispreventionandrecovery/smallgrants/>



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The deteriorating security situation is creating access difficulties to the governorates of Anbar and some districts of Babil. Access is being complicated by the difficulties in securing of clearances from the authorities for the provision of WASH activities.
- Hygiene practices remain poor among IDPs in the central and southern governorates. There is a need to ramp up hygiene training for local NGO staff to create greater penetration among displaced populations for the adoption of better hygiene practices.

Response:**Southern and central governorates:**

- The cluster and local partners have provided WASH interventions to 25,000 IDP families out of a targeted 58,000 families in the Anbar Governorate districts of Heet, Khalidiya, Habaniya and Amiriyat al-Fallujah and some districts of Babil Governorate.
- Local partners have provided bottle water to 46,320 IDPs on the main road linking Najaf and Kerbala, as well as those on the main road between Najaf and Diwaniya.
- Adult hygiene kits were distributed to 11,500 IDPs in Qadissiya Governorate's Diwaniya sub-districts of Baider, Ghammas, Mahanwiya and al-Salahiya.
- A 30,000-litre water storage tank is now serving 1,500 IDPs in Qadissiya Governorate's Diwaniya sub-districts of al-Mahanwiya. Some 3,250 IDPs received 2,700 toilet soap in the Ghammas sub-district.
- A total of 1,100 IDPs families (6,000 people), in the Diwaniya sub-district of al-Shanafiya were provided with 1,600 sanitary napkins, 1,100 blankets, 1,100 buckets, 3,000 toilet soap, 7 water storage tanks (5,000 litres each) and 1,100 bed sheets.
- 3,000 IDPs had 12 water tanks installed in the Shomaly and No'maniya sub-districts, Wassit Governorate.
- In Amara district, Missan Governorate, 2,500 IDPs received adult hygiene kits, 50 basic water family kits, 2,000 toilet soaps, 1,000 jerry cans, 500 buckets, ten 5,000 litres tanks and 500 brooms.
- In Anbar Governorate's Heet district (Heet center, Kubaisa, al-Furat and al-Mammora) tankers are delivering 175,555 litres of water, serving 1,366 IDPs families (8,201 people) with 21 litres per person, on a daily basis. In Heet Center, 5 tons of refuse are collected daily from 434 IDP families (2,602 individuals) and 7 tons of sewerage is collected in the Heet district on a daily basis. In Ammriatte al-Fallujah, 53,104 litres of water (20 litres/per person/per day) is being distributed daily to 448 IDPs families, (2,687 individuals), and 2.25 tons of refuse collected from 212 IDP families. In al-Khalidiyah district, water tankers are delivering 111,049 litres a day to 912 IDPs families, or 5,474 individuals (20 litres/per person/per day). 1.75 tons of refuse and 3 tons of sewerage are collected daily from 193 IDP families there. In al-Habbaniyah, water tankers supplied 66,370 litres daily for 425 IDP families or 2,551 individuals (26 litres/per person/per day). Two tons of refuse was collected daily from 180 IDP families.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq:

- In Zakho, Dohuk Governorate, WASH partners are reaching IDPs in unfinished buildings and collective centres. 9,551 jerry cans have been distributed, 14,000 buckets, 2,000 family water kits, 10,000 bars of soap benefitting an approximate 90,000 people. To date, 577 latrines have been constructed benefitting 29,000 IDPs. In Dohuk city, 5,500 jerry cans, 800 family hygiene kits, and 184 latrines have been constructed, benefitting an estimated 33,000 people.
- In Ainkawa, Erbil city, 2,134 hygiene kits have been distributed, water trucking and desludging is ongoing in 10 schools and collective centres, benefitting about 12,000 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Military operations have closed most roads to Ammriya Al-Falluja and this is preventing daily deliveries of water to beneficiaries.
- Security restrictions on roads from Baghdad to the southern governorates as well as for Baghdad to Anbar Governorate are affecting the efficiency and capacity of the humanitarian response.



Food Security

Needs:

- The cluster provided 3,000 Immediate Response Rations (food packages for 72 hours) to an estimated 3,000 women and children displaced by fighting from three villages in the Daquq sub-district 40 km south of Kirkuk city. The IDPs are scattered throughout the district without shelter, water or food. A cluster partner will distribute the response rations and 3,000 hygiene kits to the newly displaced. Another local partner will be supplied with Family Food Parcels for distributions to coincide with the exhaustion of the emergency rations.
- At the close of September 2014, the number of beneficiaries receiving food assistance was more than one million people. Food assistance has become a priority for 1.8 million people, including IDPs, host communities and vulnerable groups.

Response:

- Food cluster partners are increasing the level of assistance and are expanding their reach into governorates and districts where food security of IDPs and host populations is assessed as being at risk.
- There are mixed levels of access for the provision of assistance to Anbar, Babylon, Diyala and other conflict-affected governorates. Occasional third party access is being achieved through the use of local NGOs in these areas. Regular food assistance is being provided in the governorates of Muthanna, north eastern Anbar, south central Diyala and Thi-Qar.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Many IDPs are staying in insecure areas that are not completely under the control of the Government.
- The cluster is negotiating with the Government of Iraq for the reinstatement of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in areas under its control, to assist in the provision of food to the displaced. If the PDS is reintroduced, additional food assistance would then supplement that provided by the government scheme. The food security of more than 4 million individuals, who are not displaced, but who rely on the PDS for more than 50 per cent of their energy intake, has also been compromised by the conflict.



Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- Assessments in southern and central Iraq have identified 120,000 IDPs in need of urgent shelter and winterisation assistance.

Response:

- All 5,467 IDPs occupying 53 schools in the KR-I's Sulaymaniyah Governorate have been voluntarily relocated. 160 IDP families, or 600 individuals, have been moved to the Arbat IDP camp, while other displaced people were provided shelter in the cities of Chamchamal, Qaladze and Kalaar, according to the regional education ministry. Many IDPs have also found shelter among the host community.
- The Deputy Prime Minister announced that five or six additional camps in the Dohuk Governorate would be funded by the Government of Iraq to accommodate IDPs not yet living in camps or without adequate shelter. These camps will host 120,000 IDPs and reduce the gap of those displaced without appropriate shelter in the KR-I to about 46,000, if all camps are operating at maximum capacity. The Dohuk Governorate already has four camps operating and six others under development.
- A working group tasked with the rehabilitation of unfinished and abandoned buildings has been launched in the Dohuk Governorate.
- More than 6,575 NFI kits were distributed in the governorates of Dohuk, Ninewa, Erbil, Kirkuk, Missan, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Thi-Qar, Sulaymaniyah and Wassit by cluster partners during the reporting period.
- A partner's winterisation assistance is targeting 4,700 refugee families in camps, however this may increase, and 30,000 families in the KR-I. The bulk of assistance will be for Dohuk Governorate (63 per cent) followed

by Erbil (20 per cent) and Sulaymaniyah (17 per cent) governorates. Distributions will be based on needs. The priority will be for families who did not receive winterisation support last year. The partner can only afford to provide displaced families two months supplies of kerosene this winter, comprised of 200 litres per family/per month. Last year kerosene for cooking and heating was provided for four winter months.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster is collecting data from the Dohuk Governorate authorities to provide analysis of sub-districts and the specific locations of displaced families and other IDPs that have not have received NFI kits. This will allow the cluster to identify where no or insufficient assistance has been provided for IDPs.
- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate assessments are being conducted of IDPs staying in collective centres and unfinished buildings to determine their winterisation needs and for the possible rehabilitation of these shelters. So far 2,300 unfinished and abandoned buildings have been targeted for rehabilitation in the Dohuk Governorate. The assessment is ongoing and will determine the settlement types and amount of people living in them to reveal the gaps in assistance.



Needs:

- Improved access to both primary and secondary health care services.
- Increase in medication supplies, including for those suffering from chronic diseases.
- Increasing national immunization activities to reach as many children as possible from among IDPs, refugees and host communities.
- Increased access for the population to reproductive health and antenatal care services.

Response:

- The cluster is providing emergency health care services for 900 IDPs in the Arbat camp, Sulaymaniyah Governorate and the Diyala Governorate's Khanaqin IDP camps. Laboratory services are required for both IDP camps.
- Following advocacy to resolve access issues, cluster partners delivered polio vaccines, anti-tuberculosis medicines and other essential medicines to the Directorate of Health in Mosul, Ninewa Governorate.
- The national polio campaign held between 14-18 September targeting five million children under the age of five years old achieved an 89 per cent coverage.
- An outpatient clinic in Sharya IDP camp in Dohuk Governorate, providing clinical and reproductive health services among other basic services, is scheduled to open soon.
- The cluster is provided primary healthcare services to IDPs located in the Dohuk Governorate using three mobile clinics operating every day in the Sharya and Zakho camps. Kirkuk city has two mobile clinics operating.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insecurity is hampering access to conflict-affected governorates such as Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala and other areas.
- There are fewer health partners operating in Iraq, despite the clusters call for more partners to engage in the sector and assist in closing the gaps of Iraq's increasing health needs.



Needs:

- There are reports of IDP identity documents being confiscated by authorities in order to control their movement. The restriction of IDP movements prevents them from being able to search for alternative livelihoods.
- An absence of psychosocial support and recreational facilities for children, limited opportunities for education, and insufficient access to safe drinking water and winter clothing were also identified as urgent needs for IDP communities.
- Protection monitors in Dohuk Governorate note that many IDPs are requesting cash, winter clothing and bedding. IDPs remaining in schools and other public buildings are expressing fears of eviction.

Response:

- Ongoing protection monitoring assessments covering 411,966 individuals (63,927 families) have been conducted since February 2014. Of this number, 12,109 cases have been approved for cash assistance, 18,203 cases received legal assistance and referrals have been made for 6,426 persons with specific needs. Psychosocial support has been provided to 8,173 children and 124 victims of gender-based violence. 13,713 dignity kits have been distributed for sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV).
- The Kurdistan Regional Government, supported by the UN and other agencies, are developing a comprehensive IDP registration plan for the KR-I.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Recent assessments are highlighting assistance gaps for IDPs in difficult to access areas, including Anbar Governorate.
- There is a limited capacity among partners to provide protection services for planned and existing camps for the displaced in Dohuk Governorate.



Needs:

- As of 30 September, IDPs were occupying 435 schools in Anbar Governorate, 69 schools in Diyala Governorate, with a further 137 schools occupied by armed groups. In Baghdad 29 schools are occupied or damaged due to military operations. In Dohuk Governorate 501 schools are occupied by IDP families and 125 schools have been vacated recently. The occupations are delaying the start of the 2014/2015 academic year.
- There is a need to advocate for dedicated spaces for educational facilities in newly established IDP camps.
- Psychosocial support for both children and teachers require integration into the education response.

Response:

- The KR-I's education ministry is developing guidelines, with cluster support, for the rehabilitation of schools previously occupied by IDPs. Among the proposals are the use of Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) to assist in the renovations.
- The Iraq National Arabic curriculum is being taught to 976 IDP grade one to six children (468 boys and 508 girls) in two classroom tents in Erbil city's Ainkawa district (Mart Shmony Church and nearby Marhaba Hall).
- In Erbil's Baharka IDP camp 841 children (368 boys and 473 girls) are attending educational and recreational activities. Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programming, support and monitoring is also ongoing for 149 children between the ages of three and six years old (85 boys, 64 girls). A further 1,924 (1,038 boys and 886 girls) are attending school in Shaqlawa municipality.

- In Fayda, Dohuk Governorate, Child Friendly Space (CFS) has been provided for 271 children (148 boys and 123 girls) aged between 3 and 17 years old. At Dohuk Governorate's Varcity School there are CFS' for 150 children (93 boys and 57 girls) providing a range of educational and recreational facilities.
- In Khanke and Sharia schools in the Dohuk Governorate 1,520 children have access to recreation activities through the establishment 10 children's recreation centres.
- The construction of three prefabricated Alternative Learning Spaces (ALS) for teaching children in Arabic medium have been completed in Zahawi, Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Clarifications for the registration of IDP children into existing schools is required from the Government of Iraq. The cluster continues to advocate to the Ministry of Education and Directorate of Education for clear guidelines to be established for refugee and IDP students to be enrolled in Arabic medium schools.
- Not all IDP children of school-going age living in host communities will be able to attend schools because of overcrowding and language barriers.
- Displacement and insecurity in certain areas presents difficulties for information collection and analysis.



Logistics

Needs:

- The humanitarian community's winterisation programming is scheduled to begin imminently and requests for additional warehousing and transport capacity is anticipated from partners.

Response:

- The cluster is liaising with OCHA for the collection of the remaining 5,000 tons of Unsolicited Bilateral Donations (UBD) received from European donors in August. Two partners were scheduled to collect the outstanding donations from the Erbil International Airport on 1 October.
- The Dohuk warehouse is operating as normal and the cluster has approved a partner's request for the storage of approximately 35 tons of NFIs at the facility. Emergency warehousing support is also available at the cluster's Erbil facility.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The introduction of new regulations by the Erbil International Airport Security Services for delivery and clearance of humanitarian cargo entered into force on 28 September. The cluster has been appointed as UN focal point for the new cargo clearance regime. All UN agencies will have to appoint a focal point to inform the cluster of cargo movements and submit the relevant documentation prior to the arrival of flights transporting humanitarian cargo to Erbil. Since the new regulations entered into effect, one UNICEF cargo flight has arrived on 28 September and the cargo was cleared the following day.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Needs:

- The humanitarian community requires emergency IT and telecommunications services. The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the security of humanitarian staff, while the provision of internet services in camps will allow humanitarian organisations to communicate and coordinate operations more effectively.

Response:

- The radio room in Domiz camp, 20 km southeast of Dohuk city, is now operational following the training of operators.

- Internet connectivity is available at Domiz camp via a microwave link from Dohuk city. The cluster will distribute this connectivity wirelessly to all humanitarian organisations operating at the camp.

Gaps and constraints:

- Radio services in key operational areas, such as Erbil city, Dohuk city and Sulaymaniyah city, are currently unavailable to NGOs. UNAMI radio services are limited to UN agencies and are available only in digital mode, while the majority of NGOs use analogue modes.
- The cluster currently only has access to four pairs of frequencies which limits the cluster to only being able to deploy four VHF radio channels across the KR-I. This is preventing the number of locations in which radio services can be deployed to two channels. This means NGO and UN communities are only able to have one channel each.
- Internet connectivity is required by humanitarian organisations operating in IDP and refugee camps in areas around Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah cities.

General Coordination

The revised Strategic Response Plan (SRP) covering the period of February 2014 to December 2015 is in the final stages of consultation with the Humanitarian Country Team and Government of Iraq and will be launched in mid-October.

Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Bathists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq's governorates of Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG control. Since January much of Anbar Governorate has been under ISIL control. This has led to massive internal displacement. Iraq is now contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world; over 1.8 million have been displaced since January this year.

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