CRISIS BRIEFING UPDATE: 21 January 2015

Humanitarian funding analysis: Iraq

Figures are correct at time of writing but are subject to frequent change. Updates of funding can be found on the OCHA Financial Tracking Service as they become reported to its system.

1. Key points

- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US$1.3 billion of humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Iraq since January 2014.
- The Iraq Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2014–2015 is currently 36% funded, with commitments/contributions of US$788 million against a requested amount of US$2.2 billion.
- Funding for the Iraq SRP 2014–2015 has significantly slowed down since a peak in monthly funding of US$528 million in July 2014. There have been no new contributions to the appeal so far in 2015.
- 84% of funding to the Iraq SRP 2014–2015 has been channelled through UN agencies. NGOs have only directly received 4% of SRP funding.
- The largest donor to Iraq is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) due to a one-off contribution of US$500 million to the Iraq SRP in July 2014.
- Iraq received US$25.7 million (5.6%) of all CERF funding in 2014, ranking it the 4th largest Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) recipient that year.

2. Recent humanitarian funding to Iraq

Donors have committed or contributed US$1.3 billion of humanitarian funding to Iraq since the beginning of January 2014, with additional pledges of US$17.3 million. US$788 million of the total funding received represents contributions to the Iraq Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2014–2015. Other funding is either for assistance to Syrian refugees in Iraq as part of the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2014 or funding contributed outside of the appeals process.

KSA is the top donor to Iraq in 2014 and 2015. Their one-off donation of US$500 million to the Iraq SRP in July 2014 far exceeded the amount requested in the appeal at that time (US$312.1 million). The KSA contribution accounts for 38% of all humanitarian funding to Iraq in 2014 and 2015, and 63% of funding to the Iraq SRP 2014–2015.

The US is the next largest donor to the crisis in 2014 and 2015 (US$190 million), followed by Germany (US$122 million) and the European Commission’s Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civilian Protection (ECHO) (US$113 million).

3. Appeals and response plans

UN-coordinated appeals

The October 2014 revision of the Iraq SRP 2014–2015 requests US$2.2 billion to provide humanitarian assistance to an estimated five million people. US$1.2 billion was for projects in 2014, and the remaining US$1.0 billion is for ongoing initiatives in 2015.

The Iraq SRP 2014 first launched in February 2014 with a total requested amount of US$104 million to provide urgent assistance to a target population of 240,000 up to the end of 2014. In June 2014, the SRP was revised to target 1 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in the same time period at a total cost of US$312 million.
In September 2014, the SRP was 207% funded. It was revised for a second time in October 2014 to the currently requested amount of US$2.2 billion. The appeal for 2014–2015 is now only 36% funded at US$788 million.

Funding for the Iraq SRP spiked to US$528 million in monthly funding in July 2014, thanks mainly to the KSA’s US$500 million contribution that month. New SRP contributions totalled US$53.7 million in December 2014 in comparison. No new funding has been received against the appeal so far in 2015.

Figure 2: SRP Iraq 2014–2015: Funding requirements and cumulative commitments/contributions

The largest proportion of funding to Iraq through the SRP 2014–2015 is allocated to food security (26%), followed by shelter and non-food items (NFIs) (24%), ‘cluster not yet specified’ (21%) and health (12%).

Figure 3: Humanitarian funding to Iraq SRP 2014–2015, by cluster

Source: Development Initiatives based on data from UN OCHA FTS. Data downloaded 19 January 2015.

The UN has received 84% of all funding contributed to the Iraq SRP 2014–2015 (US$661.2 million). The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has received 12% of appeal funding (US$95.7 million) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have directly received just 4% (US$31 million).
Iraq Crisis Briefing Update, 21 January 2015

Figure 4: Humanitarian funding to Iraq SRP 2014–2015, by organisation type

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Appeals

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a revised appeal on 16 January 2015 to respond to the needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees affected by the Iraq and Syrian crises, respectively. The appeal requests US$21.8 million (CHF19.2 million) for emergency response and disaster preparedness/disaster management activities up to the end of December 2015. The current appeal replaces the former IFRC Iraq population movement appeal launched in July 2014, which received 85% (US$6.2 million/CHF5.4 million) of the total amount requested (US$7.3 million/CHF6.4 million) for activities up to the end of 2014.

Other pooled funds

There is no humanitarian country-based pooled fund in Iraq. The Iraq UNDAF Fund, developed to support the first UN Development Assistance Framework for 2011 to 2014, is focused on recovery and transition towards longer-term development.

5. Humanitarian funding trends to Iraq (historic)

Within the last five years, humanitarian funding to Iraq reached a peak of US$1.3 billion in 2014, compared with US$252 million in the previous year. Top donors to Iraq over the 2011–2015 period are the KSA (US$500 million), the US (US$332.1 million) and Germany (US$159.1 million). Prior to this, humanitarian funding reached a peak of US$3.4 billion in 2003 following the Iraq war.

Figure 5: Humanitarian funding to Iraq, 2011–2015

Source: Development Initiatives based on data from UN OCHA FTS. Data downloaded 19 January 2015.

Notes: Funding in 2015 does not include commitments/contributions reported to EDRIS, which would increase the total to US$14.5 million. Data is allocated to calendar years according to the ‘decision date’ of donors. However, the FTS shows a recent reallocation of all funding for the Iraq SRP 2014–2015 from 2014 to 2015.

Author: Charlotte Lattimer
Contact: gh@devinit.org
Web: www.globalhumanitarianassistance.org

4. Pooled funding as part of the response

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Iraq received US$25.7 million (5.6%) of all CERF funding in 2014, ranking it the 4th largest CERF recipient that year (out of 45 countries). Iraq has only received CERF funding in one other year in the last five-year period – 2010, when Iraq received US$1.5 million of CERF funding.