

Iraq CRISIS

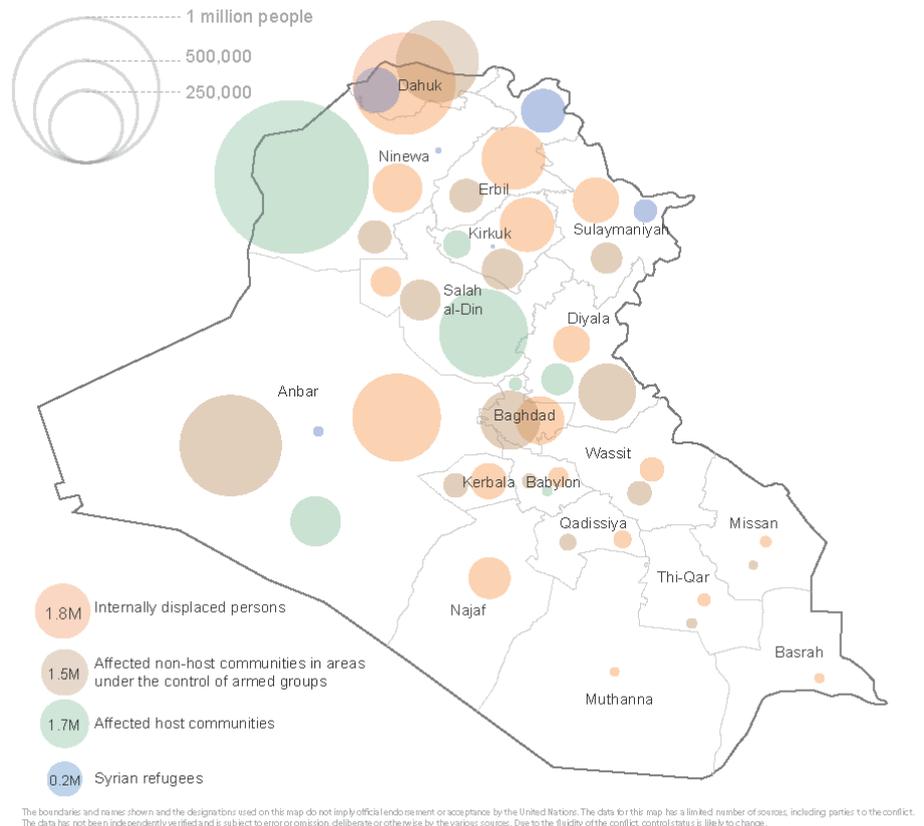
Situation Report No. 17 (18 October – 24 October 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 18 October - 24 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 31 October.

Highlights

- *Winterisation activities are underway; but they are being hampered by limited funding, implementation capacity, the availability of items on the national and international markets, as well as slow procurement and production times for relief items.*
- *The revised Strategic Response Plan for Iraq was launched on 23 October. An additional \$1.6 billion required until 31 December 2015 for 5.2 million vulnerable people.*
- *The delayed 2014/2015 academic year, originally scheduled for September, started on 22 October for many children in Iraq, except for schools in the Dohuk Governorate where it has been postponed to 1 December.*



Situation Overview

The UN launched a US\$2.2 billion appeal in Geneva, Switzerland, to address the protection and humanitarian needs of 5.2 million people in Iraq on 23 October. The humanitarian community's revised Strategic Response Plan (SRP) aims to continue supporting the Government of Iraq in responding to the displacement crisis through December 2015. The multi-sectoral plan was produced by more than 45 humanitarian organisations, including UN agencies, international and national NGOs. To date, over \$600 million has been secured for the 2014-2015 Iraq SRP, including a major contribution by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in July 2014. The remaining \$1.6 billion is required for activities over the next 14 months for 1.8 million people displaced since January 2014, the 1.5 million people from communities hosting them, and 1.7 million people living in conflict areas outside of the Government of Iraq's control.

An estimated 2.8 million people are in need of food assistance and approximately 800,000 people are in urgent need of emergency shelter assistance. The onset of winter in Iraq, where temperatures can drop as low as -16°C in the high altitude regions of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), provides added urgency to the appeal.

+ 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

Preparations by the humanitarian community for the onset of Iraq's harsh winter months began in June 2014. However, a combination of limited funding, difficulties in sourcing the required items for winter climates on the national and international markets, as well as slow procurement and production times, have delayed implementation of the winterisation strategy. An early blast of winter rains is provoking a social media campaign demanding displaced communities to be housed in prefabricated accommodation and caravans, instead of the tents. The unseasonal rain storms have already destroyed some tented accommodation and flooded some IDP camps. In one example in the Diyala Governorate, 467 tents in camps were damaged or destroyed. The KR-I is particularly prone to flooding because of the high clay content of its soil. Many camps have been occupied before completion owing to a heightened demand for shelter; with infrastructure, such as drainage systems, in some cases only being installed after people have moved in.

The winter months are also unlikely to see the pace of displacements slow, as low cloud levels and adverse weather patterns may disrupt air strikes and hand a tactical advantage to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and their armed group affiliates to launch offensives. Recent fighting near the governorate city of Qara Tappa has, according to initial estimates, led to the displacement of between 4,500 and 5,500 families (or 27,000 to 33,000 individuals) to Kifri and other districts in the northeast of the governorate.

The Government of Iraq is considering an airlift of humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of beleaguered residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Anbar Governorate cities of Haditha and al-Baghdadi. The cities are under an effective siege by ISIL and their armed group affiliates and these populations are being denied access to food and other essential commodities. The Iraqi government is offering to fly humanitarian assistance from Baghdad to al-Baghdadi Airport, 30 km from al-Haditha District, where a local NGO will be responsible for its distribution.

In the south and central governorates of Iraq, where up to a million people are displaced – although hundreds of thousands are beyond the reach of humanitarian actors in areas controlled by ISIL and their armed group affiliates – the Government of Iraq is planning to build prefabricated shelter units for 62,000 displaced families, as well as provide 11,000 caravans in various locations.

IDPs in camps, informal settlements and sub-optimal shelters are most at risk from a variety of ailments during the winter. Health partners predict about half of the vulnerable population will require some form of medical treatment, particularly the young, elderly and pregnant women. Among the illnesses anticipated are respiratory tract infections such as influenza, bronchitis, and pneumonia. Additionally, skin infections such as scabies due to poor hygiene and a lack of access to hot water, hypothermia and frostbite, especially in areas where temperatures drop below freezing, burns from heating and cooking appliances and their fuels, as well as the deterioration in the condition of people suffering from chronic illnesses.

There are also heightened concerns from health partners over the latest influx of Syrian refugees from Turkey over the last month to the KR-I. Humanitarian actors predict about 15,000 Syrian refugees will make their way to the region to join the already more than 217,000 Syrian refugees in the area. So far more than 10,000 people have crossed into the KR-I and contingency plans are in place for 35,000 new arrivals. Apart from the added burden to an already-stretched health care infrastructure, there is also the threat of the import of disease, particularly wild polio. The nearly four-year-long civil war in neighbouring Syria has prevented routine and effective vaccination coverage for many Syrians, particularly in the north of the country where the latest wave of refugees originate.

Meanwhile, after a six-week delay for many schools in Iraq, caused by hundreds of thousands of displaced people seeking emergency shelter in schools during the summer holidays, schools re-opened for the 2014/2015 academic year on 22 October. One exception was Dohuk Governorate in the KR-I where 40 per cent of schools, or 494 of the 1,288 schools, remain occupied by nearly 100,000 IDPs. There are also reports that some schools that had been previously vacated were re-occupied after the alternate tented accommodation proved unsuitable to winter weather conditions. The resumption of schooling in the Dohuk Governorate has been postponed until 1 December.

Displacement has also increased Dohuk Governorate's student population by 50 per cent from 400,000 to 600,000. Finding alternate shelter solutions for IDPs living in schools is unlikely to be solved in the short term. The two other KR-I's governorates have all but vacated their schools of IDPs. There are only six schools occupied by IDPs in Sulaymaniyah Governorate and two remain occupied in Erbil Governorate.

After Dohuk, Anbar Governorate remains the second most affected governorate, with 25,000 IDPs occupying 435 of the 1,122 schools. Furthermore, 38 schools have either been destroyed or damaged by shelling and bombardment.

There is little information available about the situation of the 2,000 schools in Nineva Governorate, because of the ongoing conflict there. In Baghdad, 69 of the 16,000 schools are occupied, providing shelter for 5,484 IDPs, while Kirkuk has 16 per cent of its schools hosting 9,000 displaced people. In Diyala Governorate, 21 per cent of the 1,000 schools are in use, but this includes 94 schools occupied by ISIL and their armed group affiliates and one percent, or 10 schools, occupied by Peshmerga forces. Five other schools have sustained damage from the conflict. IDPs housed in the last of 29 schools in central and southern governorates have been relocated. Humanitarian education partners are also highlighting the absence of school infrastructure within IDP camps, with only 1 in-camp school in Baghdad, 10 in Dohuk, 5 in Erbil and 3 in Sulaymaniyah governorates. An education partner has committed to assist in the construction of schools in 15 IDP camps and 3 host communities.

Humanitarian Response



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The local authorities of the Wassit, Missan and Thi-Qar governorates are requesting urgent support from the WASH cluster for the installation of mobile latrines, water tanks, as well as the construction of water and sewerage networks for newly established displacement camps in Wassit's Sport City, Missan's Amara and Chebayesh in Thi-Qar.

Response:

- A joint UNICEF WASH, HCR, IOM and ICRC mission to the border region of Anbar and Kerbala governorates was undertaken to assess the needs of IDPs being hosted temporarily at the border.
- A rapid response WASH programme assisted 80 IDPs fleeing military operations in the Anbar Governorate city of Heet, who are being hosted in the Kerbala Governorate village of al-Zagareet. The response included: 4 portable latrines, 2 shower units, 2 water tanks (5,000L each), 50 blankets and 10 adult hygiene kits.
- Hygiene promotion reached 229,507 people in Dohuk Governorate, 34,651 in Erbil Governorate and 25,385 in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.
 - A 4-day hygiene promotion training session in the Qadissiya Governorate district of Diwaniya and Najaf benefitted 70 people, including staff from local NGOs, five participants from an international NGO (to strengthen their capacity and ability to be hygiene mobilizers) as well as local health staff.
 - Six awareness campaigns in Najaf carried out by a cluster partner targeted 100 displaced women and 50 girls on menstrual hygiene and other related hygiene issues.
- To date 148,362 have been reached with sanitation in Dohuk Governorate, an increase of 19,786 from the last reporting period.
 - 2,123 IDPs were reached through ongoing desludging activities in Najaf and Kerbala governorates.
 - A daily refuse collection of 5 tons benefitted 167 families (1,002 individuals) in Amiriyat Al-Fallujah and Al-Khalidiyah
- To date 397,960 people have been reached with water in Dohuk Governorate, an increase of 20,254 from the previous week. In Erbil Governorate 59,163 people have been reached and there is daily water trucking of 200,000 litres for 3,690 beneficiaries. So far 33,164 have been reached with water in Sulaymaniyah Governorate and there is the daily water trucking of 240,000 litres for 13,673 beneficiaries
 - A new water filling point was constructed in Amiriyat Al-Fallujah for the benefit of 2,400 IDPs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The delays in obtaining security clearances are affecting response times to assist IDPs and other vulnerable people in need of WASH support.
- There are sustained difficulties in the delivery of emergency supplies to affected host populations and IDPs in Anbar Governorate. There is only one route available for cargo shipments to Al-Nikhaib on the border of the Kerbala and Anbar governorates.



Food Security

Needs:

- Excluding the recent displacements from Anbar Governorate city of Heet and its surrounding districts, 1.8 million people have been displaced across Iraq since January 2014. More than 850,000 people are sheltering in the KR-I and the disputed border regions. The cluster is concerned about the food security of hundreds of thousands of people, especially those residing in active conflict zones.

Response:

- The cluster has reached 1.4 million beneficiaries since June 2014 with food assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster and its partners have been able to provide food assistance in all 18 governorates of Iraq. Local partners have distributed food in areas under the control of armed groups on an ad hoc basis. While encouraging, this does not meet the ongoing needs of displaced populations within areas under the control of armed groups, especially in Anbar Governorate. In addition, longer-term assistance in livelihoods cannot be delivered until there is safe access to conflict-affected areas.



Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- In recent days 500 displaced families have arrived at Al-Nikhaib, on the border of Anbar and Kerbala governorates and also require CRIs.
- 73 tents were destroyed in rainstorms on 20 October in Diyala Governorate, bringing the total so far to 467 tents damaged or destroyed by the onset of winter weather. The 200 replacement tents recently set up leaked because they are designed for dry summer conditions.
- The most recent IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) shows from January to 5 October 2014 that 1,814,862 people were displaced. The data does not take into account the majority of an estimated 28,548 families (171,288 individuals) displaced by the fighting in the Anbar Governorate city of Heet.
 - Staying with host families remains the most common arrangement for IDPs across Iraq, however, 35 per cent of the IDP caseload have sought refuge in alternative shelter arrangements such as schools, religious centres and unfinished and abandoned buildings.
 - Of the displaced populations in the south governorates, 62 per cent (10,863 families) are accommodated in religious buildings. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, IDPs are primarily in rented accommodation (29 per cent or 33,895 families), 15 per cent (16,861 families) in unfinished and abandoned buildings and 12 per cent (13,228 families) have taken refuge in schools.

Response:

- Cluster partners will provide 1,800 tents to the Kerbala Governorate to meet the needs of some 10,800 IDPs living in mosques and collective centres. It is anticipated that with the arrival of pilgrims for the Ashura religious festival in the next few weeks, IDPs will be relocated from mosques and other religious buildings.
- Sulaymaniyah Governorate has managed to clear most of the occupied schools, with only six schools still sheltering IDPs. In Erbil Governorate two schools are currently housing IDPs.
- Cluster partners will provide 500 tents to replace tents destroyed in recent rainstorms in the Diyala Governorate's Khanaqin District, and have already distributed 18 lots of plastic sheeting and 25 tents.
- A new site has been identified and assessed for an IDP camp near Khanaqin District in the Diyala Governorate, which may replace the site at Bahari Taza village. The MoDM intends to set up a caravan camp adjacent to the site.
- In Missan Governorate, the local government is planning to install 1,000 caravans in a camp.
- At the Laylan camp in Kirkuk Governorate construction has started with concrete slabs completed for 240 tents and 20 kitchens. Identification and registration of families is underway in cooperation with local authorities. The camp will house a projected 6,000 displaced people.

- More than 2,000 NFI kits were distributed in Kurdistan Region of Iraq, including items such as hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets.
- More than 4,000 winterisation kits have been distributed in Dohuk Governorate, however the population in need of winterisation items is nearly 90,000 families.
- The cluster presented its winterisation strategy on 22 October, pipeline information with regards to winterisation items is available at http://shelter-cluster-iraq.github.io/supply_dashboard/

Gaps & Constraints:

- An estimated 450,000 people are not covered for winter clothing and an estimated 345,000 people are not covered for winterisation kits.
- Shelter solutions are required for an estimated 300,000 displaced people. However, if planned camps built by the Government of Iraq are completed there would be a shelter surplus to accommodate 215,000 people.
- Shelter repairs for an estimated 175,000 people are currently not covered.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- Governorate authorities are identifying suitable candidates to be appointed as camp managers and assistants for the camps currently under construction. The cluster partners have offered to assist in the selection process and support with an orientation course for those recruited.
- The situation of the displaced population living in makeshift accommodation and in unfinished or abandoned buildings remains of critical concern to the humanitarian agencies as winter approaches. With the authorities prioritizing the relocation of displaced persons from schools, and with some camps not expected to be completed before the onset of winter, urgent interventions are required to winterise the shelter currently in use or identify relocation options.

Response:

- Cluster partners are finalizing a proposal to the authorities of the different support options that could be made available to them. This includes staff secondments, training coordination and the establishment of mentorship programmes.
- Cluster partners are undertaking a rapid assessment of the situation of displaced people in unfinished buildings across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Over 20 teams of enumerators drawn from different organisations are involved using mobile data collection. Over 8 days, some 765 unfinished buildings housing around 63,000 IDPs have been visited. The data is uploaded daily and live web mapping provides exact GPS coordinates, details on the building and number of occupants (see CCCM page on humanitarianresponse.info). A contact person is also registered for every site. The outcome of the assessment has been shared with assistance and service providers.
- Cluster partners are engaged in supporting the development of a coordinated response strategy. For winterisation interventions, the strategy is ready to be operational. It will also serve to prioritize the relocation of families into camps or alternative settlement options.

Gaps & Constraints:

- With the ongoing establishment of camps and the focus on the urgent relocation of IDPs from schools, it is a challenge to attract the authorities' attention on the plight and needs of displaced people living in unfinished buildings and the need for urgent interventions ahead of winter weather.
- Given the proliferation of camps, it is a challenge for the authorities to rapidly identify and train a cadre of staff to take on management of camps. Substantial support will be required in the early phases, in particular in the area of coordination of assistance and services, as well as ensuring an active consultation and involvement of the camp population in the camps' running.



Needs:

- Provision of primary and secondary health care and life-saving medicines.
- Access to reproductive health and antenatal care for IDPs, refugees and host communities requires strengthening.

Response:

- Medical supplies were dispatched to the Anbar Governorate city of Heet in response to recent large-scale displacements. Three doctors have also been assigned to the hospital in Heet.
- A cluster partner provided medical services to 2,071 IDP patients in Dohuk Governorate's Bajet Kandala. Another partner treated 286 IDPs in Sulaymaniyah Governorate's Arbat camp. 572 people benefited from medical consultations at the Baharka camp in the Erbil Governorate.
- The cluster is planning to increase the number of mobile clinics and strengthen the ambulance referral system over the winter months.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to the governorates of Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Diyala is constrained.
- There are growing health needs, but there are not sufficient health partners to cover them. The gaps are especially critical with the onset of winter where nearly 50 per cent of the IDP population is expected to be in need of some type of medical assistance.



Needs:

- A protection assessment was conducted at Kerbala Governorate's Al-Taar checkpoint, after about 10 families displaced from Anbar Governorate were denied access to Kerbala City, which prevented them from registering as IDPs. Attempts are being made to secure IDP registration for these families. Officials at the checkpoint are anticipating an increase in IDP traffic, but cautioned they were not prepared to receive large numbers of displaced people, where there is an urgent need for shelter, sanitary facilities and potable water. It was further noted there is a need for rest stations en route from Anbar Governorate, as well as emergency phone and ambulance services. An ambulance transporting a child suffering a heart condition from Ramadi travelled 400 km to reach the checkpoint, as there is an absence of medical facilities for the treatment of serious ailments in Ramadi.
- On 19 October, ISIL launched an attack on Qara Tappa. An estimated 4,500 (27,000 individuals) to 5,500 families (33,000 individuals) were displaced towards Kifri and Kalar districts and as such the humanitarian needs are anticipated to be high. Further assessments are to be conducted.
- Local authorities in the Chamchamal district of Sulaymaniyah Governorate, where 1,100 IDP families are hosted, informed protection monitors they are unable to receive further IDPs.

Response:

- Ongoing protection monitoring assessments covering 681,220 individuals have been conducted since February 2014. Of these assessments 15,220 cases have been approved for cash assistance, 18,629 cases received legal assistance, and referrals have been made for 6,676 persons with specific needs. In addition, psychosocial support has been provided to 8,173 children and 124 victims of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV). 13,713 dignity kits have been distributed for SGBV cases and 231 solar lanterns have been distributed. 990 families (5,940 individuals) have benefitted from quick impact projects and 20 community awareness and sensitization campaigns have been conducted targeting 1,000 beneficiaries.
- Child protection activities through the operation of child friendly spaces in Dohuk, Erbil and Diyala governorates reached 3,471 children.
- A discussion with Ministry of Interior officials from the Federal and KR-I was facilitated by a cluster partner to determine methods to replace IDP personnel documentation, including identification cards. The aim is to

expand the number of directorate offices, which are currently only available in Baghdad and Najaf, for replacement services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- With the pilgrimage season approaching in November, urgent inter-agency action is required in relation to the shelter situation of thousands of IDPs residing in mosques in Kerbala and Najaf. In addition, there are growing reports of fatigue amongst the host community, giving rise to xenophobia toward IDPs.

Education

Needs:

- An estimated 600,000 children aged between 4 and 17 years old require access to education in established and planned IDP camps throughout Iraq.
- Newly established IDP camps are failing to dedicate sufficient space for educational facilities.
- The lack of schools providing education in the Arabic language and following the Arabic curriculum is creating significant barriers for IDP children in accessing education services in the KR-I.

Response:

- The cluster is planning a gap analysis to identify the needs for education in IDP camps and ensure that responses address these gaps. The first round of the assessment of 185 schools in Dohuk Governorate occupied by IDPs has been completed.
- Temporary measures (tents) are being put in place to ensure continued education while prefabricated schools are built in IDP camps. In addition, cluster partners have completed the refurbishment of more than 20 schools, following the relocation of IDPs to alternate accommodation.
- At Aliwah camp in Khanaqin, groundwork as well as fencing surrounding the school location was completed, and the installation of classroom tents is ongoing.
- In Qadisiya Governorate, a cluster partner assisted in the distribution of 350 student kits and 10 whiteboards to a school constructed in collaboration with a local NGO, while the education department provided school furniture and administration supplies.
- In Dohuk Governorate 482 children benefitted from ECCD, Mothers and Toddlers and Non-Formal Education programs in Fayda and War City.
- In Erbil Governorate some 149 children (85 boys and 64 girls) are benefitting from Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programming in Baharka Camp. Another 1,279 children participated in the educational and recreational activities held in Baharka, Ainkawa and Shaqlawa.
- Training is ongoing for more than 100 teachers and 10 psychologists for the provision of psychosocial support in 5 Arabic schools (Al Hekma, Akito, Qasra, Shlma and Nahreen) in Ainkawa.
- Winterisation guidelines for learning spaces are being developed and aligned with the national 2014 Shelter/NFI Cluster Winterisation Strategy and shared with cluster members.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Clarity on the registration of IDP children in host community schools is an outstanding issue.
- The high levels of IDP mobility and insecurity in certain areas continue to challenge information collection and analysis.

Logistics

Needs:

- In response to an increasingly insecure environment, especially in Anbar Governorate, the cluster is monitoring capacity against the demand for logistic routes.
- Additional warehousing and transport is anticipated from humanitarian partners for winterisation assistance.

Response:

- The cluster is providing temporary storage facilities in its Dohuk and Erbil warehouses with some limited transport capacity to specific areas.
- The Dohuk warehouse is operating as normal and has 35.54 tons of cargo in stock on behalf of two NGOs. The dispatch of winterisation items for a partner has begun and is expected to continue over the coming weeks. Emergency warehousing support is also available in the Erbil warehouse.
- Following the recent large-scale displacements from the Anbar Governorate cities of Heet and Ramadi, the cluster transported 14.5 tons of cargo, including dignity and clean delivery kits, from Erbil to Baghdad.
- The cluster has returned cargo that it was unable to deliver in the Al-Alam humanitarian operation in the Salah al-Din Governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Demand for storage and transportation is anticipated to increase as the winterisation distributions begin. Additional storage (MSU 32mx10m) is to be erected in the Dohuk WFP facility to enhance NFI storage capacity.
- Information from partners regarding winterisation plans has been shared through individual program clusters, but possible logistical needs have not yet been identified. Additional partner feedback is needed to ensure resources are available to meet any gaps and shortages.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster****Needs:**

- The humanitarian community in Iraq has requested emergency IT and telecommunications services. The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff while the availability of information communication technology in camps will allow for better coordination of humanitarian operations.

Response

- Analog radio services are available to both NGOs and UN agencies in the Dohuk Governorate's Domiz refugee camp. The availability of radio services to all NGOs will improve security of personnel.
- An installation mission will be deployed to Sulaymaniyah city to establish inter-agency analog radio services at the Arbat camp.
- Wireless internet connectivity is available for all humanitarian organisations in three operational areas: Arbat camp and a transit camp outside Sulaymaniyah city, and Domiz camp outside Dohuk city. This will improve communications and coordination of response activities for the camps.
- The cluster is conducting radio programming for UN agencies on behalf of UNAMI. This will ensure all radios belonging to UN staff are compatible with the UNAMI radio network. The cluster and UNAMI are working to enhance digital radio services provided to UN agencies.

Gaps and constraints

- Flight options for the imports of equipment remain limited. This can delay deployment of information communication technology equipment.
- Radio services in Erbil City and Sulaymaniyah City are currently unavailable to NGOs. UNAMI radio services in those locations are limited to UN agencies and are available only in digital mode, while the majority of NGOs utilize analog systems.
- The cluster currently has access to four pairs of frequencies, which means it can only deploy four VHF radio channels in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This limits the number of locations in which radio services can be deployed to two and in each location one channel each is required for the NGO and UN communities.

General Coordination

- A joint mission by Hesham Youssef, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Rashid Khalikov, Director of OCHA Geneva, concluded on 23 October, following high level meetings in Baghdad and a field visit to Dohuk Governorate.

Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Batthists, 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 provinces 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 armed group control. Since January much of Anbar 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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