

Iraq IDP CRISIS

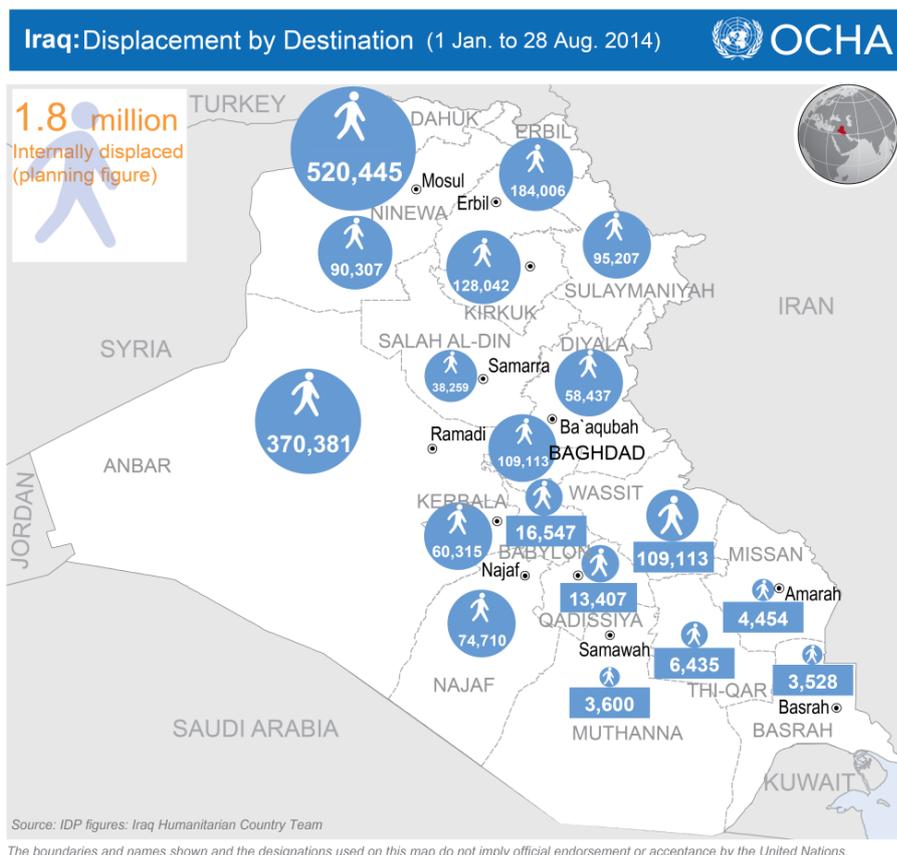
Situation Report No. 10 (30 August - 5 September 2014)



This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 30 August to 5 September. 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 12 September.

Highlights

- The Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, conducted a five-day mass polio immunization campaign that reached 3.75 million children under the age of 5 across the country.
- Food assistance has resumed in al-Anbar Governorate for the first time since May, targeting a total of 76,000 people with urgently needed food.
- 45 cargo flights have arrived recently in Erbil carrying 6,700 metric tons of aid.
- On September 1, in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team, a humanitarian convoy reached Amerli with 45 metric tons of life saving supplies within 24 hours of the siege being lifted. This was followed by an inter-agency assessment mission on 3 September



Situation Overview

The ending of the siege of the Turkman town of Amerli, in the northern governorate of Diyala, dominated media coverage of the crisis in the past week. The Humanitarian Country Team, in coordination with the local and national authorities, succeeded in distributing the first of a planned series of life-saving supply convoys to the children and families of Amerli. A humanitarian convoy reached Amerli with 45 metric tons of life saving supplies within 24 hours of the siege being lifted. Supplies included family food packs, oral rehydration kits for health clinics, emergency food rations, therapeutic food for malnourished children, family hygiene kits and more than a thousand bottles of water. An inter-agency mission to the area was conducted on 3 September to assess future humanitarian needs.

Outside of Amerli, intense fighting was reported in the disputed areas of northern Ninewa, as well as in Kirkuk governorate, northern Diyala and Salah Ad Din. The intensification of the conflict raises protection concerns, in particular possible breaches of international humanitarian law. Parties to the conflict must at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants in order to spare civilian population and property.

+ 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

Central government funding to support the large population of displaced Iraqis now residing in the KR-I remained unresolved in the reporting period.

The Iraqi Council of Ministers sat on 2 September with a key issue tabled being the release of 500 billion IQD (42 billion USD) in aid funding to the Supreme Committee for Relief and IDP Shelter. Due to a disruption to this session, the allocation of the proposed multi-billion IQD – Government of Iraq - funding package to support those affected by the crisis remains unconfirmed. However, the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers announced that in the period 01 January – 31 August 2014 the government had distributed over 42 billion IQD or approx. 36 million USD in aid in 15 governorates (excluding the governorates of the KR-I).

Humanitarian Response

The Ministry of Health, supported by the WHO and UNICEF, conducted a five-day mass polio immunization campaign (10 – 14 August) that reached 3.75 million children under the age of 5, and was part of the national response to the re-emergence of the poliovirus in Iraq earlier this year. Polio immunization activities have also started in Amerli started on Tuesday 2 September morning for up to 6,000 children.

A supply convoy reached Amerli with 45 metric tons of life saving supplies within 24 hours of the siege being lifted. Further humanitarian convoys are now being planned.

45 cargo flights have arrived recently in Erbil carrying 6,700 metric tons of tents, mattresses, hygiene kits, household kits, water bottles, water disaster response kits, and food donations, with a combined value of 29 million USD.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Camps are being established throughout the KR-I. While the WASH partners are responding rapidly, partners are working to accelerate implementation as needs currently exceed the response. At the same time, there remain a large number of IDPs in urban areas (particularly in Zahko and Dohuk city) living in unfinished buildings, of which only a portion are receiving basic WASH services.
- In Dohuk governorate there are approximately 640 schools housing IDPs. Partners are reaching approximately 30 of these schools with WASH activities. There is a need to work with the Education cluster counterparts, to assess and reach additional locations.
- In Diwaniya there are 11,520 IDPs in informal settlements in Shafiya, Hamza, Saniya and Diwaniya city.

Response:

- The WASH cluster continues to support Dohuk Governorate with 67 water trucks daily for Zahko and Sumel to provide an estimated 50,000-60,000 people with water. Eleven sites (schools and unfinished buildings) are being reached with a range of WASH services including the cleaning and/or installation of latrines, distribution of hygiene supplies and provision of drinking water.
- Through the installation and maintenance of latrines facilities, WASH partners have ensured access to sanitation facilities for 9,900 people in Erbil.
- In Khanaqin, 75 latrines have been installed in Aliyawa and Old Bahar Taza camp serving estimated 3,000 people. Additional 60 are in process. Water tankering is ongoing. The water network in Bahar Taza has been completed.
- Decentralized WASH Cluster coordination meetings have been held with government authorities in Kerbala, Diwaniya, Dohuk, Najaf and Sulaimaniyah to map partner activities, identify priority actions and bottlenecks, and accelerate implementation.
- Hygiene awareness campaign in Kerbala and Najaf, through 60 hygiene mobilizers' and 7 doctors' volunteers targeting affected women and children hosted in informal settlements and collective centers.
- The cluster has supported the government provide WASH supplies in the southern governorates as follows:
 - 1,375 sets of bottled water for 4,125 IDPs in Diwaniya.
 - 5,260 basic water family kits and jerry cans in Basrah and Diwaniya for 16,000 IDPs.
 - 10,000 litres of water in Nomaniya- Wasit for 500 IDPs and 8,850 adult hygiene kits and toilet soap for 17,250 IDPs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Large populations in Zahko and Dohuk cities in Dohuk governorate seeking shelter collective centers, schools and informal settlements are critically in need of access to hygienic sanitation facilities. Identification of locations, needs assessments and response are difficult mainly due to the large number of locations and shifting populations.
- Road security restrictions and long delays in getting the legitimate clearances from relevant authorities is affecting the efficiency and speed of the WASH response.
- Low capacity for local government staff responding to the crisis.

**Food Security****Needs:**

- Large numbers of IDPs are facing competing needs and complete loss of livelihoods, especially in Anbar, Duhok and Erbil governorates. Food and particularly Immediate Rations are a critical need for newly arrived IDPs at the sites. Host communities are also experiencing food shortages, price increases and livelihoods decline. As humanitarian access improves in the Anbar, particularly Heet and Ramati, the need to respond to food security will increase. In the coming days, a number of other areas currently under control of armed opposition groups may be accessible in the north of Anbar governorate.

Needs addressed:

- Large scale distributions across multiple geographic areas
- Development of food kitchens in stable locations

Response:

- Around 1,100 MTs of food parcels (72.26 kg per parcel) are have been distributed to 67,000 people in the newly accessible areas in Anbar governorate. All the food that is being distributed is locally procured, in line with the Food Security Cluster policy to foster the local economy to recover.
- Distributions in the Governorate of Al-Muthannā started with 1,100 rations being distributed during the last week.
- Since the on-set of the Sinjar crisis, 230,000 people have been given by hot meals in Dahuk governorate, around 25,000 Immediate Response Rations have been distributed, and approximately 26,000 households have been assisted through food parcels.
- The cluster has investigated different options to commodity based distribution in Iraq, including: vouchers, cash, and market support activities. In the coming weeks and months, these options will be further explored and implemented where feasible and appropriate.
- Extensive coordination with Food Security Cluster Partners in Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil has been ongoing to identify capacity of cluster members to support food distributions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Humanitarian access still is a constraint; however distributions are progressively taking place in new areas of Anbar and Al-Muthannā consistent with a whole-of-Iraq response.
- Projected increases in IDP numbers will put pressure on existing capacity of partners, host locations and camps. A scale up of capacity is required to meet current and projected needs.

**Shelter and Non-Food items****Needs:**

- The priority needs of IDPs are: shelter, non-food items and food items, water and sanitation, financial assistance and healthcare.

- There is growing pressure to find alternative shelter for IDPs living in schools given the pending start of the school term.

Response:

- Last week, the cluster distributed non-food items to 8,680 families.
- Key highlight has been the start of Non-Food Items distributions in Najaf and Karabala regions, with 1,850 NFI kits distributed to date.

Gaps & Constraints:

Gaps

- Fans, stoves and kerosene jerry cans have been identified as a gap in the UNHCR standard NFI kits.
- IDPs entering Babylon have reported waiting for days trying to enter Erbil on route to Babylon, often without shelter or any assistance.
- There is a lack of shelter and NFI response to in Samarra and Salah Al-Din.

Constraints

- IDPs arriving in Qadissiya have reportedly only been allowed through checkpoints once sponsorship of relatives was confirmed.
- Cluster members in Kirkuk have reported no new IDP arrivals due to the recent closure of military checkpoints for people without a Kirkuk-specific ID card.
- The extreme security conditions in Ninewa are causing significant displacement towards the city of Mosul, whilst simultaneously hampering humanitarian response.



Needs:

- The health situation is improving in some locations in Ninewa. In Sinjar, for example, nurses and doctors are gradually returning to their duty station and three health facilities reported to have resumed operations this week.
- Reports new influxes of IDPs to Sulymania and Samarra indicate that the number of daily consultations in health facilities has significantly increased.

Response:

- 46 mobile clinics are operating in Dohuk covering the needs of the scattered displaced population and 10 surveillance teams are conducting daily assessments and verifying alerts of communicable diseases
- In Suleymaniyah an additional 50 nurses are provided with incentives to work to address needs in health facilities that have been overwhelmed due to the arrival of IDPs.
- House to house vaccination was started in Amerli, supported by seven teams to cover estimated 6,000 children under 5 children. The teams have vaccinated 1,750 children in the first two days since the siege ended.
- A mobile health care team is providing services in the newly opened Arbat camp for 100 IDP families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The shortage of medicine for chronic illnesses and insufficient medical staff in health facilities is reported in all KRG Governorates that have received large number of IDPs over the past few months. A critical gap is extending health services to IDPs who are living in unfinished buildings and in open areas.
- The Samarra hospital is in urgent need of surgical equipment



Needs:

- 65 children (15 Yazidi and 50 Turkman Shi'i) have been identified in an orphanage in Mosul City, between 5 months and 17 years. They were left there by ISIS and have reportedly experienced significant trauma. The orphanage is reportedly struggling to meet the basic needs of the children, including: food, baby milk, clothes, underwear, diapers, and feeding bottles. Further information is being sought from the orphanage and coordination is on-going to identify how best to respond. In Erbil governorate, accessible WASH facilities for people with special needs remain a priority need. Also, enhanced safety and security for women and young girls staying in open buildings is required.

Response:

- On-going protection monitoring assessments since February have been conducted for 211,934 individuals (39,636 families): 6,604 cases were approved for cash assistance, legal assistance as provided to 12,354 cases, and referrals made for 4,296 persons with specific needs for services and assistance. In the KR-I, Sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV) training was offered to local partners, while mobile teams continue to identify vulnerable families throughout the region. To-date, a total of 4,000 dignity kits has been distributed to pregnant women and women of reproductive age in Dohuk.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The situation of IDPs in ISIS controlled territory, especially vulnerable persons and children are sharply highlighted by the discovery of several orphaned IDP children in Mosul City. Access restrictions hamper systematic assessment and assistance, and indicate the need for humanitarian access to be granted. In many temporary IDP shelters, toilets and bath rooms are not separated for men and women. There is also limited availability of adequate health and psychosocial services.



Needs:

- Children including preschool age children, girls, and other excluded children, face constraints accessing quality education opportunities.
- Psychosocial and health services for children and teachers need to be integrated into the educational response.
- During the last Education Cluster Meeting the Ministry of Education in KRI identified their priorities, which include: rehabilitation, refurbishment and construction of schools; textbooks; teaching and learning materials; teacher training and psychosocial support
- The start date for the 2014/15 school year may be delayed due to the number of schools that are still occupied.

Response:

- To address the needs the education cluster has been engaged in identifying and prioritizing the key humanitarian needs in the country and defining its response plans. Strategic response plans and proposals have further been developed and submitted for potential partners.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is no exact number of displaced children available, as disaggregated data by age and sex has not yet been collected by the authorities.
- Displacement and on-going insecurity in certain areas present challenges in accessing and collecting information.
- Many schools are still occupied by the displaced population.



Logistics

Needs:

- Bilateral donation flights have continued to arrive at Erbil International Airport with limited notice and documentation, continuing the need for support from the Logistics Cluster for clearance, ground handling, transport, and warehousing in Erbil.
- Partners have noted that additional storage capacity is required in Dohuk to provide for short term storage needs for prepositioning prior to distributions.
- Data collected from a recent online needs-assessment has indicated that additional short term logistics services are needed as organizations scale up their individual capacities.

Response:

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide assistance to organizations receiving incoming cargo and bilateral donations from European donor governments at Erbil International airport. The Logistics Cluster has cleared 20 international humanitarian relief flights at Erbil airport since 14 August. The Logistics Cluster worked with partners to coordinate the arrival of 430 metric tonnes of humanitarian donations from European donor governments.
- The Logistics Cluster has requested feedback from partners regarding current storage capacities for mapping and information sharing purposes. Some organizations have offered spare capacity to partners to assist with the humanitarian response. This information has been shared with partners.
- WFP recently announced that they have opened a new storage facility, including a small climate controlled area, in Dohuk for food prepositioning and any spare capacity can be offered to partners via the Logistics Cluster.
- Customs clearance support, ground handling, storage and transport services are currently being offered to partners receiving bilateral donation in Erbil.
- One additional Logistics Officer has recently joined the Logistics Cluster Iraq operation and will be deployed to Dohuk to support storage operations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Logistics Cluster is continuing to scale up operations to provide initial support to humanitarian partners as their logistics capacities grow during a surge phase in operations.
- Additional storage and transport is needed to support the current surge and is anticipated to increase as the winterization program begins.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Needs:

- The humanitarian community in Iraq has requested emergency IT and telecommunications services from the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the safety and security of humanitarian staff on the ground, while the provision of internet services in IDP camps will allow organizations to communicate and coordinate operations more effectively.

Response

- The ETC plans to deploy emergency radio communications services in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.
- Emergency internet services will be deployed in the Domiz and Arbat camps outside Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah respectively.
- The ETC plans to deploy emergency radio communications services in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.

Gaps and constraints

- The lack of commercial flights into KR-I has delayed the importation and deployment of vital IT and telecommunications equipment.

General Coordination

Needs Assessments. As per the 2012 IASC endorsed *Operational Guidance for Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises*, early in the response the Humanitarian Coordinator established an Assessment Information Management Working Group to coordinate mechanisms for cross-cluster/sector needs assessment and analysis. The Assessment Information Management Working Group reports to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group. All cluster members are requested to adhere to the agreed approach to harmonized intra-cluster/sector in-depth assessments in Iraq, as well as share assessment data with OCHA for dissemination to the humanitarian community to reduce duplication of effort and minimize beneficiary "assessment fatigue."

Information Management. Consistent with the 2002 IASC endorsed *Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads and OCHA in Information Management*, the Assessment Information Management Working Group has endorsed the minimum Common Operational Datasets (CODs) for use in Iraq. The CODs are critical datasets that are used to support the work of humanitarian actors across multiple clusters/sectors. They are considered the de-facto standard for the humanitarian community in Iraq and represent the best-available datasets for each theme. All cluster members, as well as donors, are requested to use the CODs. Additions or errors to the CODs should be sent to Iraqinfo@un.org

The CODs can be accessed at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/applications/data/datasets/locations/iraq>

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, Tal Afar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG 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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