

HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rains and flooding in northern and central governorates during the second half of February affected approximately 33 camps and sites for displaced people and more than 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- According to the UN Migration Agency (IOM), 3.5 million people returned to their places of origin from January 2014 until the end of February 2018.
- The Iraq Humanitarian Fund launched the first Standard Allocation for 2018.

FIGURES

# of people in need	8.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	3.4m
# of IDPs	2.6m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	1.5m
# of affected people within host communities	3.8m
# of returnees	2.1m
# of Syrian refugees	0.24m

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

FUNDING

569 million
requested for 2018 (US\$)



Credit: OCHA/Themba Linden

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Heavy rain and flooding in camps

After experiencing a much drier winter compared to previous years, heavy rain and flooding during the second half of February affected approximately 33 camps and sites and more than 200,000 displaced people, primarily in northern and central governorates.

In Anbar governorate alone, this had an impact on 2,870 residents in 14 camps and 2,040 people were also affected in two camps in Salah al-Din governorate. Up to 300 millimeters of rain fell in some camp locations, damaging tents, spoiling food supplies and ruining many household items. In some instances, people left the camp to live with relatives while the water was subsiding. In most cases, affected families moved in with relatives inside the camp who had not been affected by the rain, which subsequently led to overcrowding in some camps. Clusters and partners were on the ground to assess the humanitarian needs of affected families. This resulted in the provision of quick assistance, particularly food, blankets, household items, tents, and winterization kits, by local communities, government authorities and humanitarian partners. Donors and authorities were closely involved in response activities and showed great flexibility to enable such a rapid response. Major drainage work was also undertaken to remove stagnant water and clean drinking water was trucked to affected camps. The likelihood of any disease outbreak was low as a result of the prompt drainage repair.



Credit: OCHA/Iason Athanasiadis

Returnees remain at risk of secondary displacement

According to the UN Migration Agency (IOM), 3.5 million people returned to their places of origin from January 2014 until the end of February 2018.

Improved access and increased efforts by the Government and humanitarian partners to clear explosive hazards and restore basic services is enabling more people to return.



Credits: OCHA/Kate Pond

Since the beginning of the year, more than 200,000 new returnees were recorded. Improved access and increased efforts by the Government and humanitarian partners to clear explosive hazards and restore basic services is enabling more people to return.

From mid-January 2018 until the end of February, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management cluster has reported the arrival of 23,208 displaced people in camps in Ninewa governorate. The majority of these displaced families are secondary displacements; they decided to return to camps primarily for financial and economic reasons and because their homes were destroyed or damaged. According to the Kurdistan Regional Government, 3,342 of these recently displaced people have arrived in camps in the Kurdistan Region in February and there is an upward trend. Reasons for the secondary displacement of families are limitations in shelter, basic services and livelihood opportunities as well as security concerns and explosive hazard contamination.

In Brief: OCHA's Assistant Secretary-General attends Iraq Reconstruction Conference

From 12 to 14 February 2018, the representatives of the international community gathered at the Kuwait Conference for the Reconstruction of Iraq.

This high-level event was aimed at mobilizing support to rebuild the country following years of conflict. Donors pledged more than US\$30 billion for reconstruction efforts at this event.

Mr. Rashid Khalikov, OCHA's Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Humanitarian Partnerships with the Middle East and Central Asia, participated in the NGO Conference to Support the Humanitarian Situation in Iraq. In his presentation at this conference side event that was attended by 107 local, regional and international humanization organizations, ASG Khalikov commented on the country's humanitarian needs and challenges in 2018. Several organizations announced pledges towards humanitarian and resilience programmes. In 2018, humanitarian partners are seeking US\$569 million to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to 3.4 million of Iraq's most vulnerable people.

The Iraq: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan – Advance Executive Summary is available at: <http://bit.ly/2CgFlhv>

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Iraq Humanitarian Fund launches first allocations of 2018

On 15 February, the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) launched the first Standard Allocation for 2018.



Under this allocation, up to US\$34.5 million will be available for humanitarian organizations to jumpstart priority activities in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan. The allocation aims to reach vulnerable families in displacement camps and return sites with critical humanitarian and protection assistance.

OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit recently completed a capacity assessment, through which eight NGO partners (five national NGOs and three international NGOs) became eligible to request IHF funding. This increased the total number of IHF-eligible NGO partners in Iraq to 150.

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