

# Situation Report

## Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



**Report #: 6**

**4 February 2014**

The information presented here is based on data received by JAU from different agencies up to the time of publishing of this SitRep

### Highlights

- Latest reports confirm increased clashes between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Al Qaeda linked groups in Ramadi, and heightened military operations in Fallujah.
- The total number of displaced families continues to rise, reaching **44,443**. This figure is however likely to be an underestimation and does not account for those trapped in areas of conflict.
- Passage of UN relief convoys through ISF checkpoints is emerging as an area of concern

### Situation overview

The situation in Anbar remained unpredictable over the weekend with reporting from Fallujah and Ramadi restricted by disruption to internet services. The head of Anbar's Provisional Council's home was attacked (with a letter demanding his resignation) while Sheikh Abu Risha allegedly requested military backup from Prime Minister Maliki acknowledging that the Sahwa are not in control of the major cities within the province. Security forces were reported to be fighting alongside armed pro-government tribesmen in southern Ramadi in an effort to retake militant controlled neighborhoods. An ultimatum was issued to the Al Qaeda linked groups ("Daash") in Fallujah, to leave the city by 02 February 2014. In light of this deadline the ISF forces have reportedly intensified their deployment in the vicinity. Daash remains in control of the city centre. Recent reports indicate increased shelling and new civilian casualties.

Parliament Speaker Nujaifi attempted to bring back Motahidoon Members of Parliament (MP) to the Council of Representatives (CoR) for discussions on the Anbar situation. His efforts have not yielded immediate results. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov, continues to hold discussions with senior political figures in an attempt to assist in paving the ground for a political solution to the crisis.

### Humanitarian Response

Heightened military operations, are leading to further multiple displacements, limiting access and causing continuing difficulties with deliveries of aid and the conduct of assessments. Ascertaining numbers and needs of the displaced and stranded families is proving to be a challenge. The Government of Iraq at the central level has committed to facilitating humanitarian access in areas under their control but UN convoys are encountering difficulties at military check points.

IOM has instituted a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) system focusing on displacement patterns, so as to map locations of new displacement and compile detailed needs assessments undertaken in these locations. Standardized assessment forms continue to be distributed to Government and non-government partners of the UN and these are being collated by the thematic clusters. However at this point no comprehensive assessment has taken place owing to the fluctuating security environment.

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The UN has now received a formal request from the MoDM to support the Government in its relief efforts. A request will be submitted to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator to formally activate the cluster system.

During this reporting period, UNHCR and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) have identified approximately 800 families (equivalent to 4,500 individuals) from Fallujah and Ramadi who are currently displaced in Al Qaim district. These IDPs are mainly hosted by relatives and friends; however there are several also residing in abandoned schools and hotels.



Photos 1 and 2: Registration efforts in Al Qaim by IOM

## Access to IDP's Locations

Access to IDP locations for delivery of aid is an ongoing challenge. On January 30 an IOM contracted truck traveling with medical supplies from Erbil to Anbar in possession of a clearance from the National Operations Command was refused passage at a checkpoint in Anbar province. The driver was detained and released several hours later; however, the WHO consignment remains in custody. UNICEF experienced similar difficulties with delivering their consignment, despite also having papers from Central authorities, with the consignment detained at Al Soqur military check point (near Fallujah) awaiting security clearances from the Regional Command to proceed.

## NFI and Shelter Sector

Communications have been reportedly shut down in Anbar province since Saturday 01 February 2014 evening; in line with this Agencies have experienced a blackout period with no contact with their staff. As a result, all of IOM's deliveries have been temporarily suspended (within central Anbar.) A planned shipment of 1,000 NFIs destined to Fallujah and Ramadi is now on hold. Reports indicate a large number of displaced families identified in Abu Ghraib and their need for immediate assistance. IOM has redirected 250 of the 1,000 NFI originally destined for Fallujah and Ramadi to Abu Ghraib.

**UNHCR** delivered 200 NFI kits to displaced families in Samarra and 100 kits to families in Kirkuk. UNHCR has also dispatched 170 tents to Fallujah and Al Habaniya (dismantled from Al Qaim). Their arrival however has been delayed due to closure of roads. UNHCR is establishing accommodation centers in Salah Al Din and Anbar.

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## Health

While reports from the field indicate that hospitals and health centers in Fallujah and Ramadi and in the surrounding areas require re-stocking of medical supplies, no comprehensive assessment of requirements has been made available by the MOH. The UN is trying to obtain a clear picture on requirements from provincial authorities and central authorities.

## WASH

UNICEF has shipped 100,000 liters of potable water to serve the needs of 3,000 families in the 7 kilo and Al Habaniya areas. The shipment is currently at Al Soqur military check point (near Fallujah) awaiting security clearance. UNICEF has also initiated a partnership with a local NGO (Afkhar) with HQ's in Ramadi City, Anbar for a contingency case load agreement targeting 10,000 individuals.

## Food Security

WFP (in cooperation with IOM) shipped 50 food parcels on 28 January 2014 to Heet and Al Qaim. One truck however has been detained at the last check point between Samara and Anbar. The total number of distributed food parcels has now reached 4,650 destined to several locations in Anbar and Kerbala.



**Photos 3 and 4:** Distribution of food parcels in Al Qaim by IOM for WFP

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## Coordination & Funding

A Response Plan (formerly known as Flash Appeal) is being developed. A CERF proposal for \$5,000,000 has been submitted with NFI/Shelter, Food, Health, and WASH sectors being prioritized as the most lifesaving and time critical. The CERF funding will meet only a limited number of the humanitarian needs and only for the first two months.

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