

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 2.6 million, according to IOM's March Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). IDPs are found in 2,949 locations across the country; approximately 800,000 are in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

Conflict continued in Salah al Din Governorate as the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) regained control of Tikrit. As a result, IDPs moved towards Samarra. Some 3,000 families returned to Al-Alam District in central Salah al Din Governorate.

Displacement in Anbar Governorate continued with conflict near Al-Baghdadi and Ramadi. Some returns to the Al-Wafaa and Heet areas were reported.

Reports have been received that some 14,000 IDP families have returned to villages across Raabia and Zummar in northern Ninewa, and 8,500 IDP families have returned to central Diyala Governorate. However, many IDP families are reluctant to return to their homes after the withdrawal of armed groups due to concerns over security, looting, destruction of infrastructure and lack of essential services.

Protection

The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached 1.1 million individuals throughout Iraq since January 2014, in order to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Dohuk Governorate, to enhance community participation and community-based protection, four meetings were organised with community committees in Rawanga Community, and Sharia, Khanke, and Kabarto camps to establish a communication mechanism between them and different humanitarian actors. An IDP community committee was formed in Dawodia Camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reports have been received about a risk of recruitment of children into armed groups from within IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate. UNHCR is investigating these reports.
- Assessments show that returnees to Al-Alam District in Salah al Din Governorate need shelter support, food, CRIs, and medicines; while returnees to al-Muqdadia District in Diyala Governorate need core relief items, livelihood support and shelter support.



UNHCR protection staff assess vulnerabilities at New Al Yawa Aiden camp, Diyala Governorate. UNHCR/S. Jumah

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR finalized the post cash distribution monitoring exercise of the 2014 cash assistance program in the KR-I.
- Overall, the results indicate that cash assistance effectively improved beneficiaries' access to health services and food security, the two sectors where most of the expenditures were recorded.
- In Dohuk Governorate, the majority of cash assistance was targeted to beneficiaries falling into one or more of the following situations: families living in unsuitable dwellings and with unmet basic needs (76%), individuals with serious medical conditions (35%), unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk (29%), persons with disabilities (20%), elderly persons at risk (18%) and female headed households (15%). Cash assistance also enabled 35% of beneficiaries to cope with winter needs through covering winterization items such as kerosene and heaters.
- UNHCR's partners in Basra delivered two legal awareness workshops to IDPs; the first focused on the process and benefits of registration, whilst the second workshop, involving both women and men, addressed child marriage and women's rights.
- UNHCR partners assessed the needs of 67 families in Missan Governorate and 78 families in Basra Governorate.
- In Muthanna Governorate, UNHCR trained partner protection staff on gender-based violence issues.
- From 24 to 26 March, UNHCR conducted a joint mission with UNICEF to Muthanna and Qadisiya Governorates, meeting with local authorities and partners in order to assess the needs and gaps of IDPs.
- The DRC livelihood "cash for work" program supported 480 vulnerable IDPs from Zummar, Bardarash, Dawodia, Dulube and Kabarto, in Dohuk Governorate.
- UNHCR and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement conducted a joint registration mission to Debaga in Erbil Governorate, resulting in 593 families registered.
- In Sulaymaniah Governorate, Child Protection Mobile Teams visited 14 non-camp locations to assist unaccompanied minors.
- In Dukan, Tasluja and Permagroun in Sulaymaniah Governorate, 193 children benefitted from recreational activities.
- In Kirkuk, on 25 and 26 March, UNHCR co-facilitated with NRC a workshop on protection and gender-mainstreaming for some 30 participants from NGOs, government and the UN.



UNHCR protection staff visited IDPs in Missan Camp. IDPs in the camp need core relief items to be prepared for the high summer temperatures.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IDP families throughout Iraq remain at risk of eviction with 300 families facing imminent eviction in Zakho in Dohuk Governorate.
- Returnees to northern Ninewa Governorate face water and electricity shortages.
- IDPs and host communities in the Al-Qaim, Anah and Rawaa Districts of Anbar Governorate are in need of medications.
- The lack of effective harmonized and standardized registration both in urban and camp settings across KR-I remains a gap of concern.

Shelter and NFIs

As the inter-agency Shelter/NFI Cluster lead agency, UNHCR continued to promote the implementation of the national Shelter/NFI Cluster shelter strategy, complementing the work of local authorities and other humanitarian actors in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable IDPs throughout Iraq. Those prioritised for assistance include people living outdoors, in sub-standard structures, or with particular vulnerabilities.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Since January 2014, some 268,000 IDPs have benefitted from non-camp shelter solutions, including minor shelter repairs, partitioning of collective centres into private family units and shelter rehabilitation.
- In Erbil Governorate, 285 IDP families were relocated to UNHCR concrete casted tents in a newly developed phase of the Baharka camp extension, bringing the total number of relocated families to 432. Once construction work on the extension site for an additional 598 tent plots is completed, the remaining group of 200 IDP families will also be moved.
- In Dohuk Governorate, Rawanga Community, the construction of 2,200 shelters, 12 classrooms and 4 tents for education purposes was completed. By relocating 458 IDP families who were living in sub-standard conditions in informal settlements to the Rawanga Community, UNHCR improved their living conditions. Also in Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR finalised the construction of 10 shaded areas and five communal tents in 10 IDP camps.
- The development of the Ashti Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate continued, with 75% of the earthworks completed. The camp is expected to open by the end of June.
- Expansion works for an additional 432 tents are underway at Laylan Camp in Diyala Governorate.



Post distribution monitoring and summer needs assessment in Bersive 2 camp, Dohuk Governorate. (UNHCR/A. Gure)

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IDPs in Missan Camp need summerization support as temperatures increase. Some families have already left the camp due to the heat and dust. There is also a need to better prevent animals from entering the camp.
- In Dohuk Governorate, primary health care services are needed in Mamillian Camp, while water storage tanks are needed in Karbato Camp.
- The WASH and education facilities need improvement in Qoratu Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- On 26 March, the Al-Khadhraa Collective Center in Baghdad was inaugurated with provincial and local authorities from both Baghdad and Anbar Governorates attending the event. The collective centre hosts some 400 IDPs primarily from Anbar Governorate. Families also received core relief items.
- On 17 March, UNHCR conducted a joint mission with WFP to Al-Muqadadiya District in Diyala Governorate to assess the situation of recent returnee families in 14 villages. UNHCR distributed core relief items to 1,000 returnee families.

- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR partners completed shelter improvements on 52 buildings with 156 housing units accommodating 180 IDP families in Banye (Zawita), and 110 buildings with 422 housing units hosting 608 IDP families in Khanke.
- UNHCR partners distributed mattresses and quilts to 200 families in Zakho in Dohuk Governorate.
- UNHCR partners distributed core relief items to 1,650 IDP families in the five southern governorates. The distribution reached 600 families in Diwaniya, 350 families in Basra, 300 families in Thi Qar, 200 families in Missan and 200 families in Muthana. In Arbat IDP Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate, 51 families also received core relief items.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- Some IDPs in Wassit need longer-term shelter solutions as they might need to vacate their current housing.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Achievements and Impact

CAMPS

- Training materials were translated into Arabic for upcoming CCCM training to be held across Iraq.
- In Dohuk Governorate, the Bureau of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) divided the IDP camps into sectors, in order to enhance coordination, and appointed a Field Officer for each sector who will be responsible for the liaison with various actors and the camp manager; as well as serving as a contact point for humanitarian agencies.



An IDP family from Anbar make themselves at home in their new shelter at Al-Khadhraa Collective Center in Baghdad. The collective centre opened on 26 March, and hosts some 400 internally displaced people. UNHCR/M. Al-Jassas

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Training for camp managers and local authorities from Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Diyala and Ninewa is planned for April.

Working in Partnership

- In Erbil Governorate, the EU Ambassador to Iraq and three EU Parliamentarians were received at the Baharka IDP camp. Other visits by DFID, BPRM and USAID, and a French Delegation were received in various locations including at the Baharka, Ashti and Harshm camps, and in the Shaqlawa and Ankawa Mall sites.
- On 18 March, the Iraqi Minister of Displacement and Migration, the Governor of Garmiyah, the Governor of Sulaymaniyah and the Mayor of Kalar visited the Qoratu IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, to witness progress in camp construction.

Authorities visit the Qoratu IDP camp, Sulaymaniyah Governorate, to verify the progress in camp construction. (T.Raof/UNHCR)

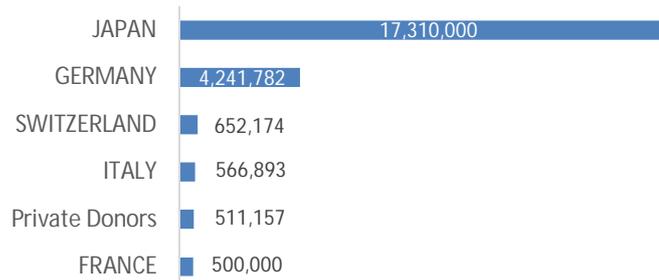


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 23.8 million**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, especially to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received in 2015 (USD)



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