

HIGHLIGHTS

247,861 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR	1,170,799 IDPs reached with protection monitoring since January 2014	31,654 IDP families approved for cash assistance since January 2014	70,000 IDP households received winter items in since October 2014
---	--	---	---

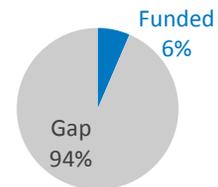
Population of concern

A total of **3.9 million** people of concern

Categories	Total PoC
Non-Syrian refugees	41,701
Syrian refugees	247,861
Stateless	50,000
Iraqi returnees	10,197
Internally displaced people	3,583,668
Total	3,933,427

Funding in 2015

USD 578.9 million requested



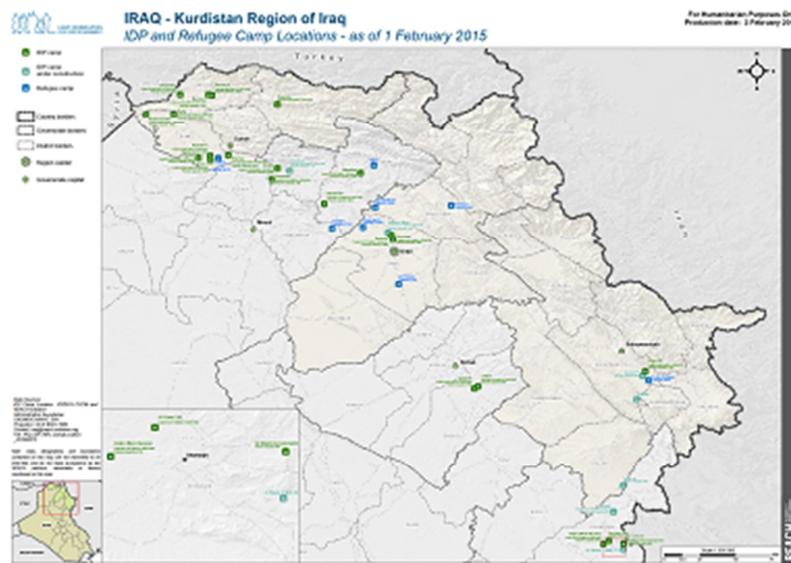
UNHCR Presence

Staff:

292 national staff
121 international staff

Offices:

6 offices located in: Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Basra and field units in all other governorates



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR leads the refugee protection and assistance response in support of the Iraqi authorities. A comprehensive system of coordination with all Regional Response Plan partners was formalized in 2013, including nine sectors, most of which are co-chaired by international NGOs. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), this sector system for the Syrian refugee response formed the basis for the response to the needs of new IDPs in 2014.
- The Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Assistance (ICODHA) coordinated the inter-agency response to the IDP crisis in Iraq until mid-2014. Since then the OCHA-led inter-agency coordination mechanism has been working in close cooperation with the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government, represented by the Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration, and the Department for Displacement and Migration, respectively. UNHCR leads the Protection, Camp Coordination/Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/NFI clusters throughout Iraq.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- Biometric registration through iris scans was launched in 2014, and equipment installed in all nine registration centres in KR-I. As of 31 March 2015, 124,771 Syrian refugees have been registered using iris scans. It is expected that all Syrian refugees will be registered using iris scans by mid-2015.
- UNHCR and its partners provide protection teams that regularly monitor the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) throughout Iraq to determine their needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances. Since 2014, the protection monitoring teams have reached 1,170,799 individuals throughout Iraq.

Health

- UNHCR is ensuring access to primary health care services and referral to secondary health facilities for Syrian refugees living in refugee camps in Dohuk and Sulaymaniyah governorates through its implementing partners. In Al Qaim, Anbar province, UNHCR's implementing partner, the United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), continues to provide primary health care services to the remaining refugee camp population. In addition, access to psychosocial support and mental health care services is supported in all refugee camps. Urban health facilities are supported through Quick Impact Projects.
- The health status of refugees is monitored regularly through UNHCR's Health Information System. More than 438,000 consultations were conducted in refugee camps since January 2014 and no outbreak of communicable diseases has occurred. As a result of the combined interventions of all health partners, access to health care services has improved significantly and mortality currently remains low.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR and WFP conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in 2014 to assess the overall food security and nutrition status, the level of self-reliance of refugees and additional needs. One of the key recommendations of the JAM was to move from blanket food distribution to all refugees living in camps towards targeted food assistance to vulnerable refugees. In March 2015, WFP and UNHCR launched the roll out of a joint targeting mechanism.

Shelter and NFIs

- As the inter-agency Shelter/NFI Cluster lead agency, UNHCR is implementing the national Shelter/NFI Cluster's shelter and winterization strategy, to complement the work of local authorities and other humanitarian actors in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable IDPs throughout Iraq. The assistance gives priority to those people living outdoors, in sub-standard structures, in extreme climatic conditions, or with particular individual vulnerabilities.

- As part of its 2014-2015 winterization campaign, UNHCR completed the distribution of winterization items including blankets/quilts, plastic sheeting, stoves, kerosene jerry cans, and water jerry cans to 70,000 families across Iraq (20,000 families in central and southern Iraq, and 50,000 in the Kurdistan region of Iraq). UNHCR has also carried out special winterized shelter improvements and distributed 8,515,825 litres of kerosene to 64,444 families, across Iraq, complementing the Government's provision.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- UNHCR leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster for the IDP response.
- UNHCR implemented a CCCM Training of Trainers (ToT) in Erbil Iraq, in association with Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and launched a roll-out programme for national level training of 106 Government officials and project officers to continue to build the capacities of local authorities to manage camps.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- Quick Impact Projects aimed at improving the livelihoods and self-reliance of IDPs, refugees and the host community are being implemented across Iraq. UNHCR maintains a job seekers database for Syrian refugees in Dohuk and Erbil, which is shared with interested organizations to facilitate access to the labour market for Syrian refugees.

Durable Solutions

- Between January and March 2015, 170 Syrian refugees were submitted to Sweden (6 cases/75 persons), the United Kingdom (13 cases/43 individuals under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Programme) and the USA (18 cases/52 individuals). 6 cases/29 individuals have been accepted by Sweden. 3 cases /10 individuals have been rejected by the UK. 72 Syrian refugees have departed to Denmark (6 persons) and Sweden (66 persons). For the non-Syrian population 2 cases/2 refugees of Iranian nationality have been submitted and accepted by Sweden, and 1 Ethiopian has been submitted accepted by Finland. 3 Cases/11 individuals of Palestinian origin were rejected by France.

CHALLENGES

- After four years of violence, the conflict in Syria shows no sign of abating and Syrian refugees continue to cross into the KR-I. Across central Iraq, the internal displacement of Iraqi citizens continues, often in areas where aid agencies have limited access. Iraqi Security forces (ISF) and Peshmerga operations in the disputed areas around the KR-I, as well as in Tikrit and Fallujah, are ongoing. Furthermore, a ground offensive to retake Mosul from armed insurgents has been announced by the authorities. Although these operations may eventually allow IDPs to voluntarily return, they also create new displacement in the short term. More funding is urgently needed to respond to the needs of the displaced in the coming months.
- Some IDPs are spontaneously returning to their areas of origin when they are re-taken by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Peshmerga forces. UNHCR and the UN humanitarian country team do not encourage organized voluntary returns of IDPs yet. However, protection and assistance are being provided for spontaneous IDP returnees whenever it is safe to do so. The removal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the reconstruction of homes and infrastructure is necessary before IDPs can make viable returns to their homes in many areas.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR in 2014 and 2015, as well as the following donors who have contributed directly to the operation:

[Austria](#) | [Canada](#) | [CERF](#) | [European Union](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Liechtenstein](#) | [Private Donors](#) | [Switzerland](#)

Contacts:

Vincenzo Lionetti, External Relations Officer, lionetti@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 780 921 7338

Natalia Micevic, Associate Reporting Officer, micevic@unhcr.org, Cell: +964 (0) 780 919 3947