IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-30 November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 22 November UNHCR opened the new Nazrawa Camp in Kirkuk Governorate. The camp will shelter 8,400 people, raising the camp capacity in Kirkuk Governorate to more than 16,000 people. The Governor of Kirkuk and the UNHCR Representative in Iraq welcomed the first 350 families to the camp.

- During November UNHCR marked the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Events across Iraq were held in collaboration with IDPs, refugees, host communities, local authorities, partners and UN agencies.

- Addressing childrens’ right to play Clowns without Borders entertained IDP and refugee children at camps and schools across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,081,266</td>
<td>IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,535,000</td>
<td>IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>Individuals received winterization support since 1 October 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85,241</td>
<td>People provided with legal assistance since January 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING

USD 466 million requested for the operation in 2015

PRIORITIES

- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential shelter and NFIs
- WASH facilities in camps

More than 3,190,000 people of concern (Source: IOM-DMT Round XXXIII 30 Nov. 2015).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of Iraq</th>
<th>Number of IDPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kurdistan</td>
<td>905,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anbar</td>
<td>567,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>574,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkuk</td>
<td>381,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninewa</td>
<td>216,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salah-al-Din</td>
<td>146,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diyala</td>
<td>105,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Najaf</td>
<td>83,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karbala</td>
<td>66,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babylon</td>
<td>60,042</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children living at Mamillian IDP Camp in Dahuk Governorate enjoy a performance by Clowns without Borders. (UNHCR/S. Abdullah)
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

According to IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 3.19 million, spread across more than 3,500 locations countrywide.

Conflict and violence continue to affect most of Central and North-Central Iraq, including Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Kirkuk governorates with clashes near Ramadi, Baji, Sinjar and Hawija. Airstrikes continued in central Iraq. Due to airstrikes in Syria, the airspace was sporadically closed over the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) affecting commercial flights.

Iraqis celebrated the annual Arba’in pilgrimage walking from Baghdad to Kerbala. Demonstrations continued in Baghdad with civilians demanding government reforms and better public services.

Displacement continued throughout Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates. Access to safety for IDPs continues to be a challenge across Iraq. Access to many of Iraq’s governorates remains contingent upon sponsorship and many families cannot cross checkpoints and remain stuck at governorate borders. The inability of civilians to access safety is a major protection concern, both on account of being prevented from fleeing areas under ISIL control or due to restrictions imposed by authorities.

As of 30 November, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix identified more than 453,000 people who have returned to their areas of origin in Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din governorates. Returnee families remain vulnerable as they face a lack of livelihood opportunities, destruction of property, contamination by explosive remnants of the conflict, limited availability of food and non-food items, documentation problems as well as poor access to services, health, clean water and education. UNHCR and the UN humanitarian country team do not encourage organized voluntary returns of IDPs in view of the continued absence in many locations of protection conditions conducive to return. However, support is provided to spontaneous IDP returnees whenever it is safe to do so.

Temperatures dropped across Iraq as winter set in, with displaced families living in tents and unfinished building struggling to cope with heavy rains and cold. Rains caused flooding in many camps in the KRI. IDPs in central Iraq continued to struggle to repair their shelters flooded during heavy rains in October. More than 84,000 IDPs were affected by floods during October and November.
Protection

The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached more than 1.5 million individuals throughout Iraq since January 2014, in order to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMP
Achievements and Impact
- UNHCR and partners began construction of community centers in 15 IDP camps in Dahok Governorate, as well as a shaded area in Kabarto IDP camp.
- In Erbil Governorate, authorities began registration for IDPs in Baharka and Harsham IDP camps and the exercise will continue throughout 2016. Once issued, residency documents will permit camp residents greater freedom of movement, enhanced access to the labour market and easier access to other rights in displacement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps
- Loss of civil documentation remains a concern for IDPs across Iraq. Without civil documentation IDPs cannot access basic rights, services or employment and may be at risk of arrest or detention.
- Children in Arbat and Ashi IDP camps in Sulaymaniah Governorate face barriers to education due to lack of school supplies, and lack of electricity and heating in the schools.
- Reports of weapons in IDP camps in Dahuk Governorate remain a concern.

NON-CAMP
Achievements and Impact
- UNHCR staff and partners conducted protection monitoring assessments for 9,450 families reaching 49,528 people across Iraq to identify vulnerable families in need of legal assistance, cash assistance, and referral to other services.
- UNHCR supported workshops for IDP registration staff from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration in light of improving registration and recognition of vulnerabilities.
- UNHCR’s partner in Sulaymaniah Governorate continued promoting IDP’s access to online information through the Information Media Support Center, providing the community with access to communication technologies, and services such as on-line job searches and internet resources.
- In Dahuk Governorate, UNHCR began renovations on the Youth Centre in Akre City to promote peaceful co-existence between IDPs and the host community.
- UNHCR launched three awareness-raising campaigns in November; in KR-I a campaign was launched to raise awareness about the risks and challenges of mixed migration out of Iraq, partners in Sulaymaniah Governorate shared information on the risk of fire due to heating and cooking elements in tents, and in Sulaymaniah, Basra and Missan governorates information about cholera was disseminated.
- UNHCR and partners conducted workshops in Dahuk and Sulaymaniah Governorates on parenting strategies for challenges faced by displaced children and youth, and in Basra Governorate, teachers received instruction on child psycho-social support techniques.
- Cash assistance was distributed to 1,968 families in KRI and 184 families in central and southern Iraq.
Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Restriction of movement in some areas of Iraq is a concern for many IDP families preventing them from accessing livelihoods, education and basic services. IDPs in parts of Sulaymaniah have been facing barriers to movement.
- Involuntary relocation continues to be a concern in some governorates.
- Families continue to be at risk of eviction due to requests from landlords or authorities to vacate properties.
- IDP families cannot obtain birth certificates for children born in some areas of Sulaymaniah Governorate.
- Some female IDPs who are separated from their husbands are unable to register as authorities require them to present a divorce certificate.
- Families who have returned to their areas of origin face challenges accessing services and, in some areas, security is poor. Thus, some of the returnee families are re-displaced however face barriers returning to the areas of displacement, particularly in Diyala Governorate.

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

- In Bajad Kandala Camp in Dahuk Governorate and in Garmawa Camps in Ninewa Governorate, UNHCR and partners started to improve camp infrastructure. Projects include construction of retaining walls, drainage channels, concrete tent slabs, road surfacing and the connection of 560 tents and 140 kitchens to the electricity network. In Garmawa Camp, UNHCR also responded to the relocation of more than 400 families from conflict-affected villages in Wanke area by providing 485 tents and sleeping bags to all the new arrivals.
- UNHCR and partners began to install 250 caravans in the newly opened Mam Rashan camp in Dahuk Governorate. The shelters allow voluntary relocation of IDPs at risk of eviction or living in precarious situations.
- UNHCR replaced 130 damaged tents in Khanke Camp and Bajad Kandala camps in response to storm damage.
- UNHCR continued construction of sanitation facilities, drains and roads in Qoratu IDP Camp in Diyala Governorate. The camp expansion will add 500 shelters, increasing the camp capacity to 6,240 individuals by January 2016.
- Also in Diyala Governorate, UNHCR is constructing two culverts and an electrical network at Al Wand Camps 1 and 2.
- UNHCR and partners installed fifteen caravans in Missan Camp in Missan Governorate.

UNHCR Responds to Flooding

- UNHCR distributed 1,500 replacement tents in more than 10 locations, and distributed additional plastic sheeting for displaced families to cover their tents.
- UNHCR rented water pumps and trucks to drain water from the camps across Iraq.
- UNHCR is improving infrastructure to the drainage systems in affected locations, raising tent floors with concrete slabs, laying gravel between tents and raising streets – all to improve camp living conditions during the rainy winter.
NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Installation of 377 Refugee Housing Units began in Baghdad Governorate. The new units will replace tents and provide families with a solid roof, walls and door improving their living conditions during the rainy winter.
- In Kirkuk Governorate, rehabilitation work was completed on 305 unfinished homes providing better shelter for 563 families, and construction work began on another 100 houses for more than 220 families.
- In Ninewa Governorate, UNHCR began rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in four conflict-affected villages of Rabiaa. Through rehabilitating boreholes and installing chlorination systems, these projects will provide clean water to the local community.
- UNHCR and partners upgraded unfinished buildings in Dahuk Governorate. Improving the living conditions for almost 5,000 people by installing doors and windows, sanitation facilities, and electrical fixtures.
- UNHCR and partners rehabilitated 40 unfinished houses benefiting 400 IDP families in Khanaquin District of Diyala Governorate. A further 40 houses were rehabilitated in Basrah Governorate, and minor shelter rehabilitation started in Qadissiya and Thi Qar governorates benefiting 110 families.
- UNHCR and REACH Iraq started construction work on walls and installation of WASH facilities in the 40 classroom school to be constructed for IDP and host community children inside Khanaqin.
- UNHCR started rehabilitation of accommodation facilities in the Collective Centre in Basra Governorate including improvement to the electricity and sewage services and maintaining the perimeter fence.

UNHCR Accelerates Winterization Programme

- With temperatures falling steadily across Iraq, UNHCR continued distributions to help vulnerable IDP families survive the cold. Adding to the harsh weather, heavy rains pounded down on families living in tents, and under plastics sheets in unfinished structures. In these conditions, children, the elderly and those with chronic diseases are especially at risk of exposure.
- To help IDPs cope with winter, UNHCR is distributing supplementary winter household items to 60,000 vulnerable families including blankets, kerosene stoves, kerosene jerry can, water jerry cans and plastic sheets.
- In terms of shelter, some families will also receive an inner tent liner and insulating floor boards specially designed to insulate UNHCR’s tents by providing protection from the cold ground, and a second layer to prevent moisture from entering the ten and to help retain heat inside the living area. Some families will also receive a shelter sealing off kit to insulate unfinished houses. Families living in colder areas are targeting for winter tent shelter support.
- As of 30 November, UNHCR had distributed winterization items or cash for winter items to more than 18,000 IDP families in Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Najaf and Sulaymaniah Governorates, 1,500 families had received tent insulation items, and 500 families received shelter sealing off kits.
- UNHCR will also distribute kerosene for heating to 10,000 of the most vulnerable IDP families. All Iraqis are entitled to kerosene rations; UNHCR aims to complement the government’s distributions.
- UNHCR distributed more than 2,050,500 liters of fuel and more than 1.3 million USD in cash for kerosene to more than 13,000 families in Dahuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniah governorates. Fuel distributions are accompanied with fire safety information.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Families living in unfinished buildings need shelter support to cope with winter weather.
- Shelter continues to be a pressing concern; an increasing number of IDP families are approaching camp managers in Erbil city at the start of winter with requests to be allocated a tent. Whilst some limited space remains in Debaga camp, shelter options remain limited for shelter insecure IDPs in Erbil Governorate.
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact
- In coordination with local authorities, UNHCR facilitated the relocation of 267 families from unfinished buildings across Duhok Governorate to the new Mam-Rashan Camp. More than 400 families now live at the camp.
- UNHCR partners completed mapping profiles of all 16 IDP camps in Dahuk Governorate.
- UNHCR organized a training-of-trainers in Sulaymaniah Governorate for 17 participants on 16 – 19 November. Participants from camp management staff, government departments and NGOs are now qualified to train others in camp coordination and camp management roles and responsibility.
- UNHCR and local authorities agreed on camp management structures for Alwand 1 and Alwand 2 IDP camps in Diyala Governorate. Camp managers and assistants were appointed. The first camp coordination meeting was held for Alwand 2 Camp.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps
- School facilities need expansion in Garmawa Camp, Ninewa Governorate due to recent relocations to the camp.
- Solid waste management at Tadeze Camp continues to be a serious challenge.
- Laylan Camp in Kirkuk Governorate needs more teachers and more than 270 showers are needed at the camp.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
- On 8 November, a delegation from the World Bank visited Harshm IDP Camp and Baharka Camp in Erbil Governorate to learn about the challenges faced by IDPs.
- From 8 to 11 November, representatives from media outlets based in the Gulf Region visited various IDP sites in Erbil Governorate. UNHCR facilitated the media mission to raise awareness of IDP needs and programmes.
- United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms. Kyung-wha Kang, visited Harshm IDP Camp in Erbil Governorate on 30 November. She met with camp managers, the residents’ camp committee and female-headed families.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Improved homes for displaced Iraqis in Baghdad

Baghdad, 2 November 2015 (UNHCR) - Violent clashes in Ramadi, Anbar province’s capital, forced Falah, 32, to flee his hometown with his wife, son and daughter on 15 April, more than eight months ago. He remembers this day as if it was yesterday.

“It took us more than four hours to walk from Ramadi to Ameriyat al-Fallujah, where we stopped on our way to Baghdad. We then crossed into Baghdad province, on the other side of the Euphrates River, through Bzeibiz Bridge. At the bridge, it was chaos, there were people everywhere. My wife was already pregnant with our new born son Ahmed, she was exhausted when we got to the camp,” he recalls.

When Falah and his family arrived in the Al-Jamea’a camp, in Baghdad’s Mansoor district, they moved into tents which were generously provided by the local community. UNHCR replaced all the tents by “Refugee Housing Units” this
autumn. Developed in cooperation with the IKEA Foundation, these new transportable temporary shelters feature hard walls, insulation and a ventilation system, providing improved protection from the elements. Their 3 year lifespan is 6 times longer than the average lifespan of a tent. This is particularly important in Baghdad, where the temperature reached 55 degrees Celsius several times this summer.

“The new shelters are a hundred per cent better than tents; it’s like night and day. Our space is wider and we have more privacy, we can lock the doors,” says Falah. “They just provide better insulation from the heat and the cold. We suffered all summer from the heat wave and were sweating constantly. When rain started pouring at the end of October, the entire city was flooded but no water came into our new shelter.” Falah added.

“But most of all, it provides a safe space for our new baby Ahmed, who was born yesterday,” says Falah. The camp currently hosts 10 infants under one year old.

“I would like to return to my home in Ramadi, but it is simply impossible at the moment. Our future is so full of uncertainty. That’s why it is so important for us to have a place that feels safe,” he concluded.

UNHCR recently installed 800 Refugee Housing Units in six locations across Baghdad province, providing up to 4,800 displaced Iraqis with improved living conditions, protection and safety.

By Natalia Micevic

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some US$ 60 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.

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2015:
United States of America (251 M) | Sweden (80 M) | United Kingdom (53 M) | Netherlands (45 M) | Norway (44 M) | Priv Donors Spain (36 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | Priv Donors Italy (15 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Japan (11 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (11 M) | Finland (10 M)

Contacts:
Natalia Micevic, Associate Reporting Officer, micevic@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 780 919 3947
Kathryn Lo, Associate Field Officer, lok@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 780 921 7336

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at “UNHCRinIraq” or write to irapi@unhcr.org