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HIGHLIGHTS

- Yazidi activist Nadia Murad named the co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize
- Access constraints impact humanitarian delivery
- Humanitarians and local authorities respond to heavy floods
- Tent replacement and kerosene needed as winter approaches
- Coordination with Government Counterparts ongoing.
- IHF has \$40m available for Second Standard Allocation
- Iraq HRP is 97 per cent funded

FIGURES

# of people in need	8.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	3.4m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	2.0m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	1.3m
# Highly vulnerable people in host communities	3.8m
# of returnees of 2018	1.3m
# of Syrian refugees	0.25m

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP, IOM DTM

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

569 million
requested for 2018 (US\$)

\$551.5 million
(97 per cent)

Yazidi Survivor of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence named co-winner of 2018 Nobel Peace Prize

On 5 October, Iraqi Yazidi activist Nadia Murad was named the co-recipient of the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. She shared the award with Denis Mukwege, a Congolese surgeon.

The prize was granted for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Nadia Murad is a member of the Yazidi minority from Sinjar in northern Iraq, and survived three months of brutal sexual assault perpetrated by ISIL. After three months, she managed to escape, and has since been a tireless advocate for the Yazidis and other victims of such crimes.



Nadia Murad speaking at the 2016 United Nations high-level summit on movements of refugees and migrants.
Credit: UN Photo/Cia Pak.

Humanitarian actors report continuing access constraints

NGOs and UN agencies in northern Iraq continue to report access constraints in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The restrictions are primarily — but not exclusively — being recorded at checkpoints between federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).



Lack of coordinated national policy on access hampers humanitarian activities. Credit: UNICEF/Khuzai

The lack of a coordinated national policy on access, and lack of customs agreements between KR-I and Government of Iraq (GOI), continues to hamper humanitarian activities.

Some humanitarian partners report confusion about tax exemptions for humanitarian shipments being imported into KR-I for onward delivery to IDP camps near Mosul and elsewhere in Ninewa. Others noted that at the Nawaran checkpoint in Dahuk—which has recently been re-opened for civilian use—multiple NGOs were ordered by Iraqi Security Forces to stop using the checkpoint, although no explanation was given for the denial of access. Still others report that various security actors manning checkpoints in Sinjar and Telafar don't recognize the permission letters granted by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) and the Prime Minister's office, and require humanitarians to obtain supplementary access letters from local authorities, although no explanation is given on how such documentation can be procured.

Similar problems have been reported in Hawiga in Kirkuk, where Hawiga authorities have started making additional bureaucratic demands on humanitarian partners separately from the operational standards agreed-upon with the Kirkuk governorate counterparts.

The lack of a coordinated national policy on access, and lack of customs agreements between KR-I and Government of Iraq (GOI), continues to hamper humanitarian activities. OCHA is monitoring the situation, and working with the Logistics Cluster and government counterparts to resolve all outstanding issues.

The need to build Iraq's capacity to more effectively respond to natural disasters is one of the response parameters underpinning "Strategic Objective 3: Contingency Planning and Preparedness" for the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Flooding in Northern and Central Iraq take heavy civilian toll

Heavy rainfall in Iraq during the month of October and early November led to a wave of floods in the north and central governorates, including Diyala, Anbar, Salah al-Din, and KR-I.

In Diyala Governorate, 10 villages were severely affected and cut off from the neighbouring areas; dozens of families were in need of humanitarian assistance, as houses were destroyed, and roads and bridges damaged.

The Iraqi Air Force worked to evacuate trapped people. Local authorities and humanitarian partners provided relief assistance to affected people including food, Non-Food Items (NFIs) and health assistance.

In Ramadi, in Anbar governorate, heavy rains flooded many neighbourhoods, including the city centre, and prevented civilians from accessing work, schools and markets. Municipal authorities were unable to cope with the deluge, due to a lack of machinery and manpower. The heavy rainfall also affected IDP camps in Salah al-Din, where NGOs undertook emergency rainwater drainage operations to the Al-Alam IDP camps, to facilitate the access of students to schools.



Flash floods in Rawandiz, KR-I. Credit: IRC/Erbil

On 28 October, authorities in the KR-I requested humanitarian assistance to respond to heavy rainfall and flooding; teams from IOM and ICRC provided assistance to affected areas. The need to build Iraq's capacity to more effectively respond to natural disasters is one of the response parameters underpinning "Strategic Objective 3: Contingency Planning and Preparedness" for the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.

IDPs in Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah, which have a large number of families sheltering in out-of-camp locations, are in urgent need of kerosene.

Gaps in Winterization Identified in Several Governorates

IDPs and humanitarian partners have identified gaps in preparations for Winterization in several governorates. IDPs in Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah, which have a large number of families sheltering in out-of-camp locations, are in urgent need of kerosene.

In the past, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) has provided 100L of kerosene to both in-camp and out-of-camp IDPs, but as yet, MOMD does not have confirmed plans to do so for 2018

In Ninewa, humanitarian actors have reported to MOMD that nearly 30,000 tents in IDP camps need to be replaced, and nearly 9,000 out-of-camp families are in need of shelter. In Salah al-Din, NGOs report that nearly 500 tents in the Al-Alam camps are in need of maintenance or replacement. However, some progress has been made: in Kirkuk, Shelter/NFI partners started distribution of winterization kits (including warm clothes, blankets, kerosene heaters, carpet, and jerry canes) and have begun the rehabilitation of some shelters.



*WHO provides support to a family in Mount Sinjar.
Credit: OCHA/Manja Vidic*

UNHCR has reported that their goal is to support 109,350 families in Iraq with winterization assistance, most of it cash-based. A one-off cash assistance of US\$200 per family will be provided by UNHCR to IDPs living in camps and in urban areas. OCHA continues to work with cluster partners to itemize needs and advocate with relevant government authorities.

Humanitarian leadership proposed an approach based on the balancing of legitimate security concerns, humanitarian considerations and Iraq's legal obligations.

Coordination with Government Counterparts Ongoing

Representatives from UN Agencies, the ICRC, COMSEC, JCMC and National Operations Center (NOC) met in late September to discuss protection priorities, including the closure of IDP camps and the approach to dealing with families with perceived affiliations to extremist organizations.

Humanitarian leadership in Iraq maintained that there were too many variables at present to establish a single time frame for camp closures, and proposed a

different approach based on a balancing of legitimate security concerns, humanitarian considerations and Iraq's legal obligations under national and international law.

Coordination is also ongoing with Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) counterparts. On 10 October, UN representatives participated in a High-Level coordination meeting with the KRG Joint Crisis Coordination Centre, hosted by the Minister of the Interior, H.E. Mr. Karim Sinjari. Participants discussed displacement patterns and trends, as well as responsible transition planning towards Government and international development planning frameworks.



The Kurdistan Regional Government and the United Nations and its partners discuss the 2018 HRP and 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview as well as Stabilization. Credit: JCC/KRG

IHF Second Standard Allocation to be launched; \$40m to be disbursed by end of the year.

Second Standard Allocation of IHF

At the October Iraq Humanitarian Fund Advisory Board meeting, the Humanitarian Coordinator, in discussion with the Board, agreed to launch the Second Standard Allocation of the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF), with funds to be disbursed by the end of 2018.

The two objectives of the allocation strategy are (1) to increase access to basic services for the most vulnerable people and (2) ensure the centrality of protection through mitigating risks, harmonizing approaches, and advocating for adherence to protection norms and applicable legal standards. A total amount of up to US\$ 40 million is available for this allocation. Projects must prioritize IDPs, returnees or host communities in high or very-high severity locations; large-scale consortium projects and projects lead by or in partnership with I/NGOs are encouraged.

Iraq HRP 2018 funded at 97 per cent

The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq best-funded appeal globally

As of 15 November, the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan was 97 per cent funded, making it the best-funded appeal within the UN's coordinated appeals system.

Funding levels among clusters varied. Protection, health, education, and WASH had attracted the most funding. Food security, emergency livelihoods and logistics still recorded significant gaps.

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