Highlights

- **Cautious returns to Ramadi District continue**
- **More than 35,000 IDPs cross back over Bzbiz Bridge**
- **Government concerned about food shortages in al-Baghdadi; insecurity prevents access for convoy**
- **Only 35 per cent of displaced children now attending formal education**

Situation Overview

Returns to Anbar Governorate are continuing, with protection partners reporting thousands of families now returning to Ramadi District, mostly to their own homes, while restrictions on access to safety and registration for internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf, and Baghdad governorates.

As of 04 May approximately 122,000 people have been displaced from Ramadi District since Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the launch of military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Anbar Governorate on 8 April according to the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC). Humanitarian partners put the number of displaced people currently assessed at 107,000, spread across 15 of Iraq’s 18 governorates, excluding Duhok, Kirkuk and Nineva. This constitutes an increase of 149 families, almost 900 people, since 28 April, primarily in Erbil Government. Partners responding to the newly displaced report that women particularly are in need, citing clothes, sanitary napkins, clean water, food, baby milk as priorities. There are a large number of women with four to six children, as well as elderly women.

The Anbar Provincial Governorate has expressed concern over perceived anti-IDP sentiment toward IDPs in Baghdad. Iraqi security sources reported on 28 April eight IDPs had been killed in the Al Jihad neighbourhood of Baghdad.
western Baghdad. Allegations of ISIL sleeper cells amongst IDPs have given rise to resentment and may have contributed to an increased number of displaced families returning to Anbar Governorate.

JCMC reported that since 21 April over 35,000 IDPs have returned to Anbar Governorate through the Bzbiz Bridge, while the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the International Organization (IOM) tracked a total of 12,810 individuals returning to Markaz Ramadi Sub-district since 01 May.

On 28 April the Iraqi Government sent a request to the United Nations asking for urgent humanitarian assistance to be sent to al-Baghaddi Sub-District. The area faces critical food and drinking water shortages, as well as a lack of baby milk and medications. Local partners report both acute illnesses and an escalation of chronic disease, particularly among children and the elderly. A convoy meant to deliver much needed food and medical supplies to 4,400 families in Haditha District and in al-Baghaddi has not been able to reach the area due to insecurity in the area and along the route.

Partners delivered 3,230 food baskets in April at the Arbat IDP Camp in Sulaymaniyyah Governorate while, as of 5 May, 57 families have been registered at the new opened Quarato IDP Camp in Sulaymaniyyah, with additional families expected to relocate shortly. Water trucking, a health centre, and core-relief items are ready for new arrivals.

Three informal settlements in Dahuk Governorate will close shortly after local authorities began moving IDPs from unfinished buildings to the newly-opened Shikhan Camp. The camp should reach its capacity of 600 families shortly.

Food Security

Needs:

- Food security remains a critical concern in al Baghdadi Sub-district and Haditha District in Anbar Governorate.
- Priority food supply needs for new and existing IDPs, as well as returnees, continue in Anbar Governorate (Falluja, Haditha, Rutba, Ramadi and Ka'im districts), Salah al-Din Governorate (Tikrit, Baiji and Samarra districts), Kirkuk Governorate (Kirkuk City), Diyala Governorate (Aliawa and Al-Wand IDP camps in Khanaqin District and the Saad IDP camp in Ba'quba District), Nineawa Governorate (Telafar and Sinjar districts) and Baghdad Governorate (Baghdad City, Resafa, Abu Ghrabi, and Tarmia districts).
- Food supply needs persist for IDPs in the southern governorates of Qadissiya (Diwaniya District), Muthanna Governorate, as well as Najaf, Kerbala, Thi-Qar and Missan.
- Food assistance is needed in Dahuk and Erbil governorates (Baharka and Harshm IDP camps).

Response:

- Over 3,770 Immediate Response Rations (IRR) were distributed to families in Al Alam Sub-district in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- IRRs were provided to 21,000 families displaced from Anbar Governorate through the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).

Gaps and Constraints:

- Thousands of people have been queueing at checkpoints to gain entry to Baghdad City. Vulnerable people fleeing the partially besieged city of Haditha are trying to reach safer districts within Anbar Governorate, Baghdad City and Abu Ghrabi District in Baghdad Governorate.
- The on-going conflict and blocked supply routes have resulted in both a spike in food prices and a drop in wages in Salah al-Din, Nineawa, Kirkuk and Anbar governorates, adversely affecting food security.
- In Muthanna Governorate IDPs are not yet listed in the Ministry of Trade Public Distribution System (PDS) electronic list, and therefore are not able to receive their food packages.
- An inter-agency shipment of relief supplies to al Baghdadi Sub-district and Haditha District in Anbar Governorate remains on hold due to prevailing insecurity.
Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:
- A recent assessment in Zummar Sub-district, Ninewa Governorate, found the majority of IDP families assessed staying in collective shelters and unfinished buildings deemed unsuitable for living. In addition access to NFIs has been affected by the recent conflict, as many of the local markets are closed.
- In al-Alam Sub-district in Salah al-Din Governorate severe damage to infrastructure and public services is affecting both residents and returnees. Since 12 March 5,000 families have returned. Local authorities have requested assistance in the rehabilitation of 150 houses, along with the provision of basic household items and emergency shelter solutions.

Response:
- Ramadi Response Update:
  - 1,350 tents have been distributed in Baghdad and Salah al-Din governorates.
  - 2,015 NFI kits have been distributed to newly arrived IDPs, mainly in Baghdad. The NFI kits distributed to families contain essential items such as plastic sheeting, water and kerosene jerry cans, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, mattresses and blankets.
  - To date cluster partners have distributed over 5,460 NFI kits and 1,750 tents.
- Regular activity
  - Shelter solution update: over 410 tents have been distributed in Kirkuk Governorate and over 30 prefabs have been set up in Ba‘quba District, Diyala Governorate, to accommodate IDPs who had been sheltering in schools.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Improvised explosive devices, landmines and explosive remnants of war still need to be cleared in Tikrit District in Salah al-Din Governorate. This is hampering the implementation of humanitarian interventions.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- Approximately 8,250 IDP families in Habbaniya Tourist City, as well as those in temporary IDP camps and collective centres in Amiriya Sub-district in Anbar Governorate are in urgent need of WASH assistance, including water tanks, water trucking, chlorination, purification tablets, fuel, spare parts for WASH infrastructure, latrines, sanitation services, and hygiene items.
- A number of IDP collective centres and temporary camps in Baghdad Governorate lack basic WASH services. The Al Takiya IDP Camp requires garbage collection and sewage disposal services. Checkpoint 75 requires some additional water supply. 300 families in mosques and unfinished buildings in Ghazalia Quarter require hygiene items, NFIs, and showers. 2,600 families in Al-Nasir Wassalam require sustainable access to safe drinking water. A new camp being constructed for 500 families requires water trucking, jerry cans, hygiene kits and promotion.
- In Najaf Governorate, over 180 IDP families require water tanks, hygiene items, showers, garbage bags and containers.

Response:
- On 29 April, a WASH needs assessment was conducted as part of UN joint mission in Ninewa Governorate.
- 20,180 returnees to Al Alam Sub-district in Salah al-Din Governorate and Diwaniya District in Qadissiya Governorate were provided with water kits.
- 17 water tanks were installed at the Asia and Al Takiya IDP camps, Al Bo Salih village, and Checkpoint 75 in Baghdad Governorate.
- Over 10,830 IDPs were reached through water trucking in Anbar Governorate.
- 21,200 purification tablets were delivered in Amiriyah Sub District, Anbar Governorate, and in Diwaniya District, Qadissiya Governorate.
- Over 12,930 IDPs were assisted with solid waste disposal solutions, and by the distribution of garbage bags in Al Alam Sub-district in Salah al-Din Governorate.
• In Baghdad more than 680 IDPs in collective centres at the Nidaa Al Islam and Al-Mufty mosques, and in A’adamiya Quarter in Baghdad were provided with seven latrines and three showers, while over 50 latrines and showers were installed at the Asia and Al Takiya IDP camps, and in Al Bo Salih village.
• In Salah al-Din Governorate, over 9,250 people were reached through hygiene promotion in Al Alam Sub-district, while in Baghdad, 5,600 packs of sanitary napkins (Nidaa Al Islam & Al-Mufty Masjid collection centres, Al Takiya Camp), 500 jerry cans (Al Takiya Camp) and 5,000 bars of soap (Al Takiya Camp) were distributed.
• Water was brought in by tanker for IDPs in Zakho, Sumel and Amedi districts in Dahuk Governorate and in Shikhan District in NineWa Governorate.
• Operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in Dahuk Governorate continued for over 40,660 IDPs at the Bersive II, Bajet Kandala and Khanke camps, as well as for 25,000 IDPs in unfinished buildings and host communities in Zakho District and in the Shariya collective centre.

Gaps and Constraints:
• Host families in Ramadi District in Anbar Governorate now accommodating IDP families are unlikely to be able to do so for much longer, which could present another challenge as displaced families would relocate.
• Movement of IDP families between relatives and informal settlements, limited information on numbers, and restricted road access due to insecurity create challenges for delivering critically needed life-saving WASH support.
• There is a continued and critical need to increase capacity and funding to cover emergency WASH needs for people fleeing Ramadi, and to sustain the ongoing IDP response across the country, both of which are constrained by funding shortfalls. Many essential, ongoing operations face imminent closure.

Protection

Needs:
• Restrictions on access to safety and on IDP registration continue in Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf, and Baghdad governorates.
• Civilians in Heet District in Anbar Governorate, where ISIL checkpoints have proliferated, are restricted from movement outside the city. Reports also indicate that the city hospital is no longer accessible for civilians and that medicine is available only for ISIL fighters.
• Civilians are reportedly prevented from fleeing Falluja where seven civilian deaths have been reported; this includes three children.
• Restrictions on return persist in many newly-accessible areas in Ninewa Governorate, including Zummur Sub-district. Approximately 700 families are unable to re-enter Rabia’a Sub-district in NineWa Governorate from Syria.
• Authorities in Sulaymaniyah Governorate have begun the relocation of IDPs living in informal settlements around Kalar District to the Quarato IDP camp. To date, 270 persons have been relocated to the camp. Many, however, are reluctant to relocate as it would disrupt their children’s school and limit employment opportunities.

Response:
• More than 3,130 children (over 1,550 girls and over 1,570 boys) were provided child protection services by partners in April in the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I). Of these, over 1,990 received psychosocial support services (PSS), over 1,100 received specialized services, and some 30 children were documented as unaccompanied.
• 25 workers from the Department of Health, working in camps and non-camp sites, have been trained on caring for survivors, and have supported the training of nine Survivor Centre’s psychologists on PSS. Three women’s Community Centres were established in Rania District in Sulaymaniyah Governorate. 5,000 dignity kits were prepositioned in Kirkuk, while Al-Wand and Ayden camps in Khanaqin District received 1,500 dignity kits for distribution.
• Ramadi influx:
  o In Baghdad a protection partner registered and opened new legal assistance (documentation) cases for IDPs displaced from Ramadi. An estimated 5 per cent of IDPs are in immediate need of assistance with documentation, while all IDPs are in need of registration. The partner has agreed with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) to conduct joint visits to register IDPs.
Elsewhere in Najaf, Karbala and Babylon, IDPs are provided with information on the registration process.
  o In the irregular camp created at Al Nakheeb by families refused entry to Karbala, partners distributed over 830 dignity kits, and two Karbala Women’s Centre staff accompanied the local authorities daily to assess needs. Al Ammal and Al Ataa Women’s Centres in Abu Ghraib launched mobile teams providing service information, dignity kits and psychosocial support.
  o Eight social workers from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs were deployed in three camps to support the ongoing emergency. Joint inter-agency child protection assessments were carried in Khadra and Jame’a, Baghdad.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Restriction of movement and access to safety continues in many governorates and family unity can be compromised. IDPs in Baghdad report threats from unidentified armed group and individuals. NFIs and affordable accommodation are cited by IDPs as their priorities.
- Armed groups remain near IDPs living in the Debagah stadium in Makmur District, Erbil Governorate, which makes it difficult to deliver assistance to these IDPs without compromising respect for humanitarian principles.
- Child protection actors’ capacity to respond to the growing child protection needs in Baghdad, and in hard-to-reach areas remains limited. In the Kurdistan Region there is a need to increase the focus of child protection on non-camps settings.

Health

Needs:

- Essential primary and secondary health care services for IDPs and refugees, as well as host and non-host affected communities, are needed.
- Further support to fixed health facilities, and deployment of mobile teams in areas of emerging conflicts is needed in Anbar, Salah al-Din and Ninewea governorates.
- Early detection and investigation of disease alerts and timely response to outbreaks remains a priority.

Response:

- Partners have assessed health services at different IDP locations in Baghdad, Anbar and Sulaymaniyah governorates.
- Strengthening and sustaining disease surveillance and early warning systems in the camps.
- Close to 14,000 health consultations were provided from 28 April to 5 May.
- Over 260 children were screened for nutrition status, with 18 children receiving treatment or requiring hospitalization.
- More than 1,300 individuals received specialized services including treatment for chronic diseases, and mental health as well as psychosocial support.
- Four caravans were provided to the Habbaniya primary health care centre in Anbar Governorate to expand its capacity to provide health services to IDPs.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Health services in the KR-I remain overburdened by the high number of IDPs.
- Vector and rodent control is already emerging as a major issue ahead of the summer months.
- Partners are withdrawing from some Syrian refugee camps due to lack of funding. The inability of the Directorate of Health to take over services is a major challenge.
- Service provision in certain areas is hampered by the limited medical supplies due to inaccessible roads.

Education

Needs:

- Only 35 percent of displaced children are now attending formal education. Of the estimated 2.65 million IDP children across Iraq over 810,000 are between the ages of 6 - 17, while 180,000 are between the ages of 4 - 5 years.
Response:

- 290 students and 15 teachers at the Rabiy’a Primary School in Amedi District, Dahuk Governorate, received teaching and learning materials.
- Two child support centres at the Shariya IDP collective centre in Dahuk Governorate will be operational from mid-May providing child protection and non-formal education activities to an estimated 650 children.
- Twenty-five schools, including 11 in the north, were constructed in April. The construction of two prefabricated schools in Najaf Governorate, one at the Al-Nehrawan IDP Camp in Baghdad, and one in Arbat IDP Camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate is ongoing.
- The rehabilitation of 162 schools in Anbar (46), Diyala (70) and Missan (46) governorates is ongoing, of these 101 schools have been repaired. Four classroom tents have been installed as temporary learning spaces on the premises of four schools in Baghdad.
- Training of 1,260 teachers and other education personnel on psychosocial support, school governance and pedagogy is ongoing. To date 160 teachers have been trained. Another 476 IDP teachers have been trained in psychosocial support in the six governorates in the south.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Resources, including education materials, are urgently needed to increase access to education especially for boys and girls who are on the verge of dropping out and for those out of school.
- Lack of learning spaces and distance to schools remain barriers to IDP children seeking access to education opportunities. Existing schools are already operating on double and triple shifts, and classes are overcrowded.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Response:

- The Domiz camp tower installation has been completed, providing humanitarians improved communication.
- A fault in the WIDER wireless system in Arbat IDP camp has been detected. A mission will be sent to resolve the issue, to ensure smooth internet connectivity for users.
- The bandwidth in Domiz and Arbat camps has been reduced to 2 Mbps.

Logistics

Response:

- Coordinated Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) response for al-Baghdadi and Haditha is on hold, awaiting security clearance due to insecurity and heavy fighting in the area.
- The Logistics Cluster is addressing the need for regular and updated logistical information on road conditions, bottlenecks and collecting information to provide input into contingency planning.
- The Logistics Cluster will be liaising closely with partners to enhance information sharing, enhance partner’s logistics assets sharing, and common service provision.
- Logistics Cluster is coordinating with the Humanitarian Operation Centre (HOPs) for logistics information and planning.

Gaps and Constraints

- Information sharing still needs to be improved with regard to partners’ asset sharing.

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Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June 2014, armed groups (AGs), including Ba’athists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq’s provinces of Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyara, Suleiman Bek, Heet, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under armed group control. Since January 2014 much of Anbar has been under ISIL control. This has led to massive internal displacement. Iraq is now contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world; around 2.7 million have been displaced since January 2014.