

OCHA Flash Update

Iraq Crisis – Anbar Displacement

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1. The Government reports just over 19,000 families (about 114,000 people) have been displaced from Ramadi District since the beginning of the crisis. Humanitarian partners put the figure at about 12,400 families, spread across Anbar, Baghdad, Babylon, Erbil, Diyala, Kerbala, Najaf, Sulaymaniyah and Wassit governorates.
2. ISIL took partial control of the Tharthar dam in Anbar Governorate and the military barracks guarding it, prompting concern over the possibility of deliberate flooding by ISIL as witnessed in Abu Ghraib District in 2014.
3. The maternity hospital and general hospital in Ramadi remains out of service. The latter is currently controlled by ISF and is being used as a military base. Two primary health care centres (PHCC) in Ramadi (Al Tal and Al Malaab) have resumed partial services.
4. The Anbar Provincial Council reported continued returns to Ramadi City over the last few days.
5. According to field reports, 109 families (567 individuals) from Ramadi fled to Darbandikhan Sub-District (Khanaqin District in Diyala Governorate). Most are living in rented houses or with relatives.
6. The Wassit Provincial Council voted to receive IDPs from Anbar with the required sponsorship, with the exception of males aged 18-50. Wassit local authorities are responsible to accommodate the IDPs, according to reports.
7. Heavy fighting occurred over the weekend in northern Fallujah (Al Karma region) between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). The commander of the 1st Division (Hassan Abbas) and a brigade commander were reportedly killed. There are reports a significant number of ISF soldiers were killed. A further escalation of fighting could trigger large-scale displacement out of Falluja.
8. Due to an ISIL attack in the area of Trebil, close to the frontier with Jordan, borders with Jordan and Syria were closed as a precautionary measure. This could have severe food insecurity implications, particularly for west Anbar where supplies originate from Jordan. In al-Baghdadi Sub-district and Haditha District, where there are already food shortages, this could be critical.

Humanitarian Response - Anbar Governorate

9. This week the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in collaboration with partners, are planning to distribute 26,000 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits, including water, hygiene items and buckets across Anbar, Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates.
10. With the support of the Logistics Cluster, the World Health Organization (WHO) will dispatch a shipment of 1,473 metric tons of essential drugs and emergency health kits for Haditha District and Al Baghdadi Sub-district, when security clearance is given. The convoy will also include reproductive health kits from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and WFP immediate response rations (IRR) for almost 6,000 people in the two locations.
11. WHO has supported the vaccination of more than 100 children under five years of age against polio and measles to date at the Bzbiz Bridge crossing. WHO has also supported the construction and equipping of two health facilities in the area of Amriate Al-Fallujah and Al-Nakheebon al-Anbar. The health facilities have now been handed over to WHO partner, United Iraq Medical Service (UIMS). The clinics are supplied with essential medicines, as well as kits for emergency health care.

Humanitarian Response - Baghdad Governorate

12. Approximately 1,092 people (182 families) in Abu Ghraib District, Radhwaniya Sub-district, and the Doura area of Baghdad, received core relief items (CRI), through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on 23 April 2015.
13. On 23 April, a UN humanitarian team met the Sub-Governor of Abu Ghraib District and the Chair of the Abu Ghraib Council. The Sub-Governor stressed the urgent need for international assistance, despite the generous contributions and solidarity amongst host communities. The most urgent needs of the newly displaced include education, health and shelter.
14. UNHCR conducted technical shelter assessments at the Um Al Qura Mosque, Al Jabar Mosque, Al Nidaa Mosque, and Scout Camp, as well as commenced work at three other collective centres. In total, UNHCR is developing six collective centres, with a capacity to shelter 3,474 people (579 families).
15. Between 23 and 25 April, UNICEF through the RRM, distributed 1,584 kits, including water, hygiene items and buckets at IDP locations in Karkh, Abu Ghraib, Mahmoudiya, and Adhamia districts.
16. On 25 April, UNICEF dispatched family hygiene items, jerry cans and other WASH items to more than 700 people currently sheltered at the Asia Collective Center in Doura. Additionally, UNICEF is in the process of installing thirteen 5,000 litre water tanks and 12 mobile latrines at the Takia Kaznazaniya Collective Centre, and two 5,000 litre water tanks, 4 mobile latrines and 4 mobile showers at the Asia Collective Centre.
17. WHO delivered four caravans to the Habaniya Medical Clinic to increase the clinic's capacity to cope with the growing patient caseload.

Humanitarian Response - Diyala and Sulaymaniyah governorates

18. UNICEF, with the support of ACTED, distributed 303 RRM kits at the Kulujo Checkpoint in Diyala to IDPs in transit to Sulaymaniyah.
19. WHO is coordinating with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and the Sulaymaniyah Department of Health to ensure all IDP children are vaccinated on arrival at checkpoints as well as at the Quarato IDP Camp. It is providing essential medicines for a newly established PHCC at the Quarato IDP Camp.

The information in this note was compiled by OCHA Iraq based on a variety of sources, including the Government of Iraq, local authorities, UN agencies, international non-government organizations, media reports, and key informant interviews.

The next Flash Update will be issued as required. For more information, contact David Swanson swanson@un.org or visit the Humanitarian Operations Centre, Erbil.

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