

OCHA Flash Update

Iraq Crisis – Ramadi Displacement

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1. The Iraqi Government estimates 16,701 families have been displaced from Ramadi District, and surrounding areas in Anbar Governorate, as of 22 April (17:00). Of these, approximately 2,000 families were displaced within Anbar, 13,251 to Baghdad, 1,000 to Babylon, and 450 to Sulaymaniyah governorates. Field reports suggested that fewer numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have also displaced to Najaf (34), Kerbala (600), Qadissiya, Erbil (405), and Wassit (54) governorates. The majority of new arrivals are dispersed across numerous unidentified locations, hampering rapid response efforts by both government and humanitarian agencies.
2. On 22 April, reports suggest that about 400 IDPs from Ramadi District have fled to Erbil Governorate on flights from Baghdad. Flights from the Iraqi capital to Erbil remain fully booked with hundreds of people waitlisted, according to Iraqi Airways, the national carrier.
3. Unconfirmed reports suggest that 130 families from Anbar Governorate fled to Qadissiya Governorate. Of these, 25 families are accommodated in a housing complex in Diwaniyah City Center, 65 families are sheltered in buildings and mosques in Um Tabashi village, and 40 families are in the town of Daghara.
4. Security authorities estimate that 100 families have returned to Anbar Governorate, including to Al-Habbaniyah Tourism City, Khalidiyah, Ramadi and Amiriyat Al-Fallujah.
5. On 20 April, IDPs in Diyala Governorate were prevented from entering Sulaymaniyah Governorate due to the closure of all three checkpoints (Salah Agha, Kashkan, Sheikh Langer), except for urgent medical cases.

Anbar Governorate

6. On 20 April, Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Programme (RIRP), UNHCR's partner, distributed core relief items (CRIs) to 228 IDP families benefitting 1,368 people at the Ameriyat Al Falluja collective centre. As of 20 April, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 1,343 families (8,000 people) in Anbar Governorate.
7. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), together with RIRP, initiated daily water trucking in Amiriya (210 m³), Habbaniya (96 m³), and Khaldiya (156 m³). One thousand hygiene kits were also distributed to families in Habbaniya Tourist City.
8. The Directorate of Health (DoH), with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), deployed one mobile medical team and ambulance, including doctors and paramedics, to the Bzbiz Bridge area in Anbar Governorate to support the Ameriyat Al-Falluja Camp Clinic.

Babylon Governorate

9. The Iraqi Government estimates approximately 1,000 IDP families (6,000 individuals) fled from Ramadi District into Babylon Governorate as of 22 April. Since Babylon authorities have not established any IDP camps or collective centres, families are dispersed among host communities. According to UNHCR, a sponsor, who is resident and identified by the authorities, is required by IDPs to enter Babylon.
10. The Governor of Babylon confirmed that Babylon will continue to welcome IDP families, except for men between 18 and 50 years of age, urging these men to return to Anbar and fight to regain control of their cities. Assessed IDP families across Babylon expressed an urgent need for shelter, WASH services, while about 200 families required CRIs.

Baghdad Governorate

11. Within the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), 500 families received emergency food and hygiene assistance from UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) on 21 April across 12 locations in Mansour and Rasheed sectors of Baghdad Governorate. This was through their implementing partner, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). RRM distributions within Baghdad, targeting an additional 1,000 families, will be completed by the end of the week. There is the possibility of sending additional RRM supplies to Habaniya and Khaldiya in Anbar Governorate, security permitting.

12. WFP distributed immediate response rations (IRRs), sufficient for three days, to over 663 families in Baghdad City. Since the beginning of the response effort to Ramadi, WFP has distributed 13,123 IRRs, benefitting an estimated 65,615 individuals. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) requested WFP to coordinate food assistance in four accessible camps in Baghdad: Ameriyat Al-Falluja, Abu Ghraib, Al-Rasheed Sub-District, and at a camp at the Kerbala Cement Plant checkpoint.
13. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) provided 450 tents for IDPs at Al Salam College and 70 mattresses for IDPs at Al Nidaa Mosque. The host community is distributing food.
14. UNICEF, in coordination with its implementing partner RIRP, finalized the installation of temporary water and sanitation facilities at several checkpoints and collection centres in Baghdad Governorate, including Al Takiya Al-Kasnazaniya Collective Centre, Al-Jamia'a Karkh District, Check Point No.75/Yousifiya, and Asia Collective Centre-Doura/Karkh. In total, UNICEF finalized the installation of 12 water tanks with a capacity of 60,000 liters, 29 mobile latrines, and 13 mobile showers.
15. Between 20 to 21 April, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 3,066 individuals (511 families) in Baghdad. Additionally, UNHCR completed a technical assessment to develop three collective centres (Scout Camp in Kharkh, Al Nidaa Mosque in Al Rasefa, and the Al Rahma Mosque in Abu Ghraib). Four additional locations are also under consideration.
16. In a meeting between UNHCR and MOMD on 21 April, MOMD agreed to establish four mobile teams to accelerate the registration of IDPs from Ramadi.
17. The Ministry of Health (MoH), with support of WHO, deployed mobile teams and ambulances to the Bzbiz Bridge area. These assets are available on site on a daily basis until 3 pm. Mobile medical teams were deployed to Abu Ghraib and Rasheed districts to serve IDPs across the area. Additionally, WHO is discussing the donation and deployment of four mobile clinics to serve IDPs in different areas of Baghdad with staff from the MoH.

Sulaymaniyah Governorate

18. WFP and UNICEF, within the framework of the RRM, are targeting IDPs at checkpoints and in collective centres. On 21 April, through ACTED, 94 RRM kits, including IRRs, were distributed to families displaced from Ramadi District in transit at the Kulujo Checkpoint between Kifri (Diyala Governorate) and Kalar (Sulaymaniyah Governorate) districts.
19. WFP commenced distribution of 440 IRRs at the Alyawa IDP Camp on 21 April in coordination with local authorities in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.
20. On 21 April, a UN assessment team visited Kalar Sub-District to meet with the authorities from Garmian and Qoratu. Both the Qoratu and Tazadeh camps are almost ready to host IDPs, apart from the provision of WASH facilities. The Qoratu IDP camp has a capacity to absorb 528 families, but will be subsequently expanded by 500 families in Phase II. NFI kits were prepositioned at the Qoratu Camp in anticipation of arrivals. Once a solution for access to water is identified at the Tazadeh Camp, IDPs will be moved into the location within a week.

Salah al-Din Governorate

21. The first RRM shipment reached al-Alam Sub-District, east of Tikrit City, in cooperation with NRC, in response to the humanitarian needs of IDPs, who recently returned to al-Alam. UNICEF and WFP distributed 5,000 RRM kits, including IRR kits, on 21 and 22 April.

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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