

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 October 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,078,700

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

1,485,000

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

38,000

Individuals received winterization support since 1 October 2015

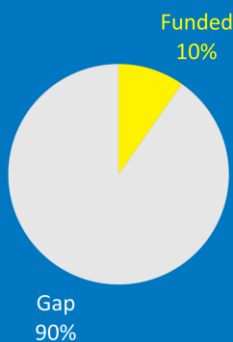
83,121

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

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

HIGHLIGHTS

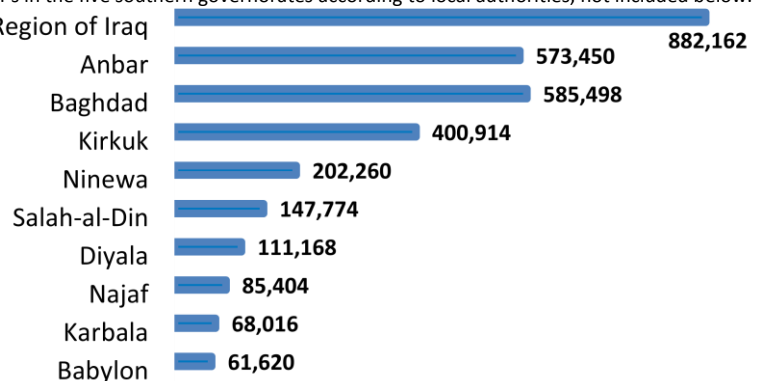
- On 19 October UNHCR relocated 300 families to the new Markazi Camp in Anbar Governorate. The camp will shelter 3,000 people in a location near Ameriyat al-Fallujah at the border to Baghdad Governorate. Camp residents fled conflict in Ramadi in April 2015, and appreciated the new shelters after months of living in difficult conditions. Bruno Geddo, UNHCR Representative in Iraq, welcomed the first families to the camp.
- During the last week of October rains caused floods affecting more than 60,000 IDPs in Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Najaf and Sulaymaniah governorates. UNHCR and partners responded with replacement tents, non-food items, and rented trucks and water pumps to drain water in the camps.



Children enjoy their first day at their new homes in Markazi Camp in Anbar Governorate. UNHCR provided shelter for 3,000 people at the camp. (UNHCR/N. Micevic)

More than 3,202,638 people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM Round XXXI 22 October, 2015).

There are about 80,900 IDPs in the five southern governorates according to local authorities, not included below.



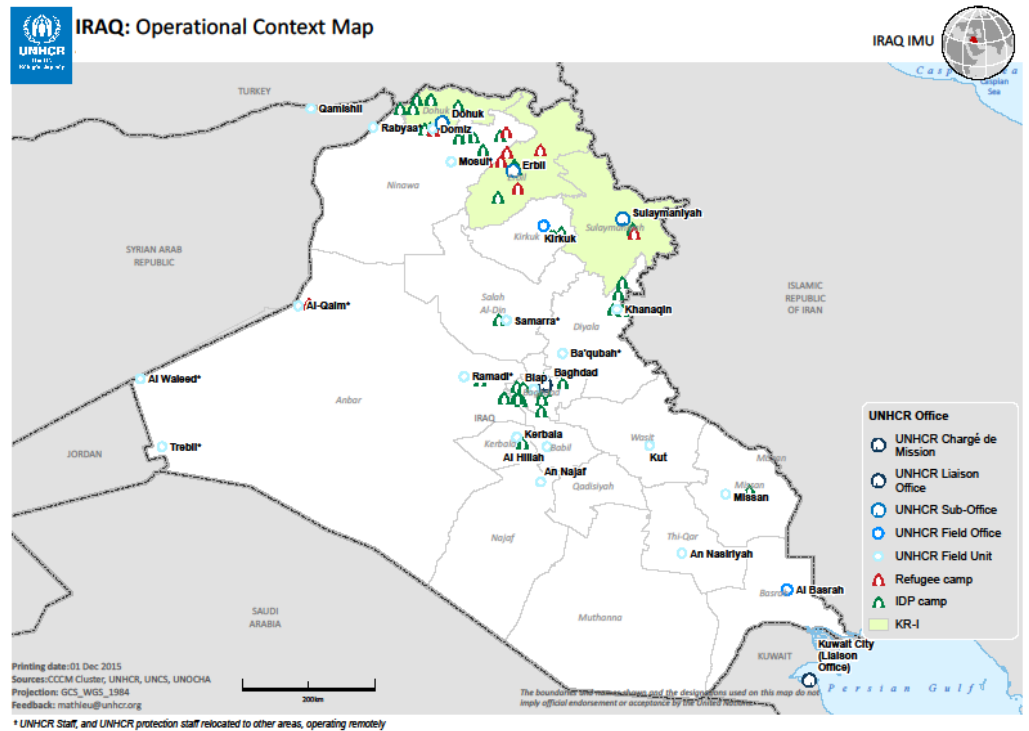
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 3.2 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 and Baji cities, and southern Kirkuk Governorate. Airstrikes continued in central Iraq.

Cholera continued to affect central and southern Iraq with 200 more cases identified in October bringing the total to more than 1,940 people. The UN and authorities conducted a vaccination campaign against cholera. Civil demonstrations affected Sulaymaniah Governorate in mid-October. Later in October there were public demonstrations in five other governorates in opposition to salary cuts and government restructuring. During the last week of October, heavy rains and widespread flooding affected thousands of displaced people in central Iraq.



Displacement continued throughout Anbar, Salah al Din, Ninewa and Kirkuk 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 are unable to afford transportation costs to travel to safe areas, such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). Checkpoints are frequently closed, preventing families from accessing safety across Iraq. 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.

Across Iraq, IDPs continue to be affected by lack of freedom of movement as a result of various restrictions imposed by various local authorities and security forces. UNHCR continues to advocate for freedom of movement for all IDPs.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix identified more than 415,000 people who have returned to their areas of origin in Anbar, Diyala, 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 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.

Protection

The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached more than 1.4 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 is coordinating with camp management, local authorities and UN agencies to prepare and prevent cholera in camps across Iraq; activities include water testing, distribution of hygiene kits, conducting awareness raising campaigns and preparing coordinated emergency plans and treatment centres.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Inter-community tensions among camp residents are a concern in Dahuk Governorate.
- Loss of civil documentation is still a concern for camp and non-camp residents across Iraq. Without civil documentation IDPs cannot access basic rights and services and may be at risk of arrest or detention.
- In some camps child labour is increasing due to shrinking resources and income for families.
- In Sulaymaniah Governorate, Ashti IDP Camp needs water services and children in Sitak need access to school.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR staff and partners conducted protection monitoring assessments for 9,844 families reaching 54,065 people across Iraq to identify vulnerable families in need of legal assistance, cash assistance, and referral to other services.
- On 11 October, the International Day of the Girl Child, UNHCR and partners launched a campaign to address early marriage among IDP, refugee and host communities in Erbil and Dohuk governorates.
- UNHCR and authorities conducted a registration mission to Koya in Erbil Governorate, registering 60 IDP families.
- UNHCR supported a workshop on IDP registration for technical staff from the Ministry of Displacement and Migration in light of improving information gathering and registration.
- Greenhouses and small shops were established for returnee families in Diyala Governorate.
- In southern Iraq, eight workshops were conducted by UNHCR and partners addressing access to education and women's health services and cholera prevention, IDP registration, legal information, and women's rights.
- Renovations were completed at nine schools in Dahuk Governorate providing more than 5,000 students with better learning environments.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Unexploded devices remain a risk for families returning to areas or origin after the withdrawal of armed groups.
- Restriction of movement in some areas of Iraq is a concern for many IDPs families preventing them from accessing livelihoods, education and basic services. Involuntary relocation continues to be a concern in some governorates.
- Some families face risk of eviction due to requests from landlords or authorities to vacate properties.
- IDPs in difficult-to-access areas need humanitarian assistance, in particular in areas experiencing on-going clashes.
- Many children cannot attend school due to lack of funds for transportation and uniforms, or lack of schools nearby.
- Some IDP families are unable to obtain birth certificates for children born in Sulaymaniah 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

- UNHCR replaced storm-damaged tents for more than 500 families in Kirkuk and Dahuk governorates.
- Work continues in Baharka Camp in Erbil Governorate to address low-lying lands that are prone to subsidence. Families were relocated to safer areas and UNHCR's technical and field teams are monitoring the site.
- In coordination with authorities in Sulaymaniah Governorate, UNHCR facilitated the temporary relocation of 364 families from Arbat IDP Camp. The families were relocated while their tents are replaced with more durable and warmer Refugee Housing Units. Also in Sulaymaniah Governorate, UNHCR and partners repaired WASH facilities in Qoratu Camp, and repaired kitchen facilities in Arbat IDP Camp, and provided residents with tools for future repairs.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Kirkuk Governorate, 588 replacement tents are needed in Laylan Camp and Bardarash Camp in Dahuk Governorate needs 100 tents.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In response to extensive flood damage in Baghdad, Anbar and Sulaymaniah governorates, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to 441 families and emergency plastic sheets to more than 1,000 families.
- Installation of 100 Refugee Housing Units began at Abu Ghraib 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.
- Construction began on new houses for 315 families in Diyala and Baghdad Governorates, while shelter repairs began for 431 families in Kirkuk Governorate, and 981 families in Dahuk Governorate.
- In Kirkuk Governorate, rehabilitation work was completed on 212 homes providing better shelter for 520 families. UNHCR and partners finished construction of 200 semi-permanent shelter units in Anbar Governorate, and facilitated the families' relocation to their new homes.
- Shelter repairs were completed for 125 families who returned to their areas of origin in Diyala Governorate, and 50 families who returned to their area of origin in Baghdad Governorate benefitted from new home construction.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Families who cannot afford rent are seeking shelter in camps, however many camps are full and there are waiting lists to move into camps.

UNHCR Launches Winterization Programme

- With temperatures starting to fall throughout Iraq, UNHCR began distributions to help vulnerable IDP families survive the cold. Temperatures in many areas drop to freezing, and snow is common in mountainous areas. IDPs in unfinished buildings or in the open are at risk of exposure to the elements.
- During this year's winter season UNHCR will distribute supplementary household items to vulnerable families: 6 blankets, one kerosene stove, one kerosene jerry can, and one plastic sheet.
- 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 tent and to help retain heat inside the living area. Families living in UNHCR tents in colder areas are targeting for winter tent shelter support.
- 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.
- As of 31 October, UNHCR had distributed winterization items to IDP families in the following governorates:
 - 748 families in Dahuk Governorate received plastic sheets; and,
 - 3,367 families in Erbil Governorate received plastic sheets, stoves, kerosene cans, and blankets.
- UNHCR distributed more than 440,000 liters of fuel to 2,222 families in Sulaymaniah Governorate. Fuel distributions are accompanied with fire safety information.
- Unfortunately, many vulnerable IDP families will not receive winterization support due to funding shortfalls. UNHCR has the capacity to help more families through the difficult winter but lacks funding.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners began a garbage collection in Karbala and Najaf Governorates, deploying 80 labourers in collective centres and 80 garbage containers; another 590 garbage containers will be distributed.
- In Garmawa Camp, Ninewa Governorate, UNHCR established six committees to engage IDPs with leadership skills.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Laylan Camp in Kirkuk Governorate needs improvement to the WASH facilities.
- The water network at Bersive 2 Camp in Dahuk Governorate needs modifications.



UNHCR staff assess water quality in villages in Duhok Governorate. Access to clean water will help prevent cholera. (UNHCR/A. Yonan)

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR WASH staff conducted water assessments in three villages in Dahuk Governorate in order to improve the water quality, boreholes and the water network.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- The Consul General of the United States of America in Basrah visited IDPs at the Basrah Collective Centre on 5 October. While meeting local authorities, camp management staff and UNHCR, the Consul General commended the group on their close coordination between government entities and UN agencies to provide service to IDPs.
- The Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and journalists from Germany visited Baharka IDP Camp to learn about how a reduction in humanitarian funding would impact the IDP response.
- On 30 October, the Mayor of Paris visited Harshm IDP Camp in Erbil Governorate to learn about the conditions faced by IDPs.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Markazi Camp welcomes a new community

Baghdad, 20 October 2015 (UNHCR) - Mihad, Rawa and Shyma, 20, 22 and 23 respectively, moved to Markazi Camp on inauguration day, 19 October 2015. Four months ago, when armed insurgents took over their hometown of Ramadi, Anbar province's capital city, they fled together with their husbands and children. Their husbands are cousins and all fled from Ramadi as one group.

"We had to change buses six or seven times and had to walk too. One night we even slept in the desert. Once we reached Alrahalyia, on the way between Ramadi and



Markazi Camp in Anbar Governorate ready to welcome families displaced from Ramadi. (UNHCR/N. Micevic)

Ameriyat al Fallujah, we settled for a while. We first sheltered under the trees and then moved into tents next to the host community,” recalls Rawa. “It feels good to settle somewhere where services are available, but I would prefer to return home,” she adds.

Markazi Camp is near Bzeibiz Bridge over the Euphrates River, the main access point from Anbar to Baghdad province, and will shelter some 3,000 displaced Iraqis. To aid their move, like other new camp residents, Mihad, Rawa and Shyma all received mattresses, a stove, kitchen utensils, a water tank, an air cooler and other household items.

More than 250,000 civilians are estimated to have fled Ramadi since April, with the majority displaced within Anbar province. In recent months, many of those fleeing Anbar were denied access into Baghdad province due to security-driven restrictions imposed by authorities, requiring Anbar residents to have relatives or a ‘sponsor’ in Baghdad.

As a result, thousands of Iraqis have been stranded on the Anbar side of the Bzeibiz Bridge, often without enough food or proper shelter. The Markazi Camp’s strategic location allows displaced families to temporarily settle and benefit from medical and other services close by in Baghdad.

Lacking a ‘sponsor’, Rawa’s family has not been granted access to Baghdad though her husband Mohammed who suffers from serious eye problems is allowed to cross the bridge to seek medical treatment in the city. “In any event, we wouldn’t be able to afford living there (in Baghdad),” Rawa added.

Markazi Camp is near two other UNHCR camps, already accommodating another 3,000 displaced, bringing camp capacity in Anbar to 6,000 people. The newest camp can be expanded to host another 3,000 people, if required. In September, UNHCR also opened the Sadr Al-Yusufiya camp, sheltering close to 2,000 people on the other side of Bzeibiz Bridge, in Baghdad province.

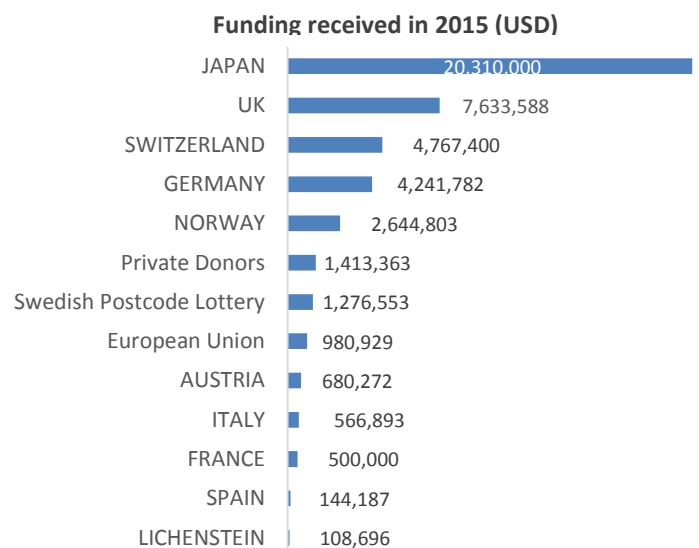
By Natalia Micevic

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 45 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 (29 M) | Denmark (28 M) | Australia (24 M) | Japan (18 M) | Canada (18 M) | Switzerland (16 M) | France (14 M) | Priv Donors Italy (13 M) | Finland (10 M) | Priv Donors Japan (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](https://twitter.com/unhcriraq) and on Facebook at “UNHCRinIraq” or write to irapi@unhcr.org