

# IRAQ

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

### DISPLACED PEOPLE IN IRAQ

1-10 August 2014

#### KEY FIGURES

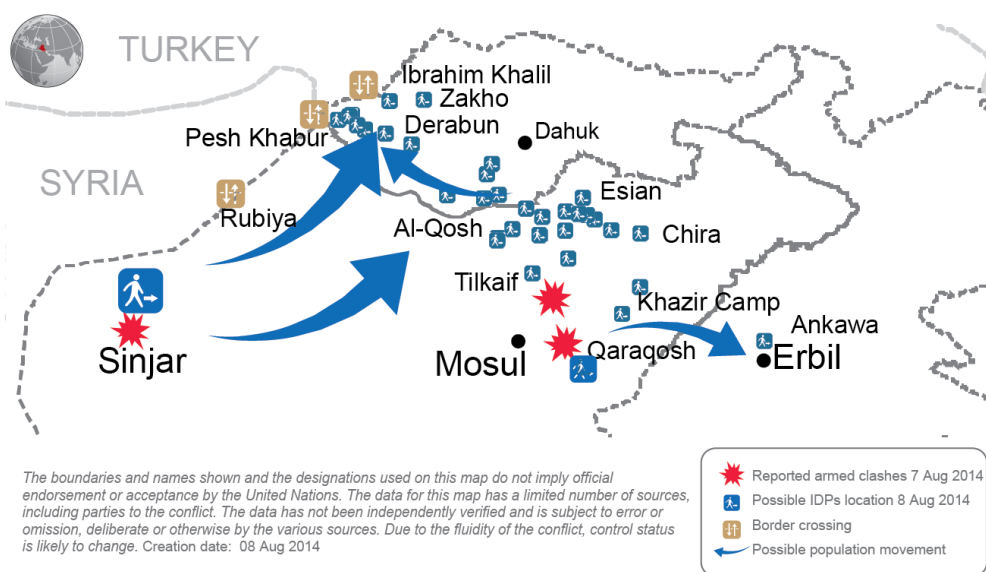
- Over 1,200,000 IDPs in Iraq:
- ✓ 600,000 estimated from Anbar crisis
  - ✓ 100,000 IDPs in Erbil
  - ✓ 200,000 IDPs in Duhok + 190,000 since 03 August
  - ✓ 114,000 IDPs in Ninewa
  - ✓ 14,000 IDPs in Sulaymaniyah;
  - ✓ 40,000 IDPs in Najaf
  - ✓ 54,000 IDPs in Kirkuk
  - ✓ IDPs are increasingly being reported in Baghdad, Diyala and Salah Din
- (figures are estimates based on Government, IOM, OCHA and ICRC data)

#### UNHCR PRIORITIES

- Provide adequate supplies of basic and domestic items
- Provide shelter and support to authorities for camp establishment
- Improve/maintain registration and profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved
- Services for persons with specific needs strengthened
- Reduce risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and improve quality of response

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **SINJAR Mountain:** A massive, sudden displacement of roughly 200,000 individuals from the Sinjar mountain area (Ninewa Governorate) took place into Dohuk and Erbil governorate, composed of various minorities, primarily the Yezidis. UNHCR's partner estimate that 31,000 individuals have moved into Syria and crossed back into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The majority have gone to Zakho or to the Bajet Kandela reception centre. According to local authorities, there are an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people remaining on Sinjar Mountain. Access to these families remains extremely limited.
- According to authorities, over 101,000 families or some 600,000 people have been displaced from Anbar. Humanitarian access to IDPs remains a key priority throughout central Iraq.
- From 1-10 August, UNHCR has provided core relief items and shelter to 5,000 displaced families (30,000 individuals) arriving to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq from the Sinjar mountain area in Ninewa and to families arriving in Erbil from the outskirts of Mosul.
- UNHCR has also reached over 166,000 people through protection monitoring and rapid needs assessments across affected areas in Iraq.



## OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Between 1 and 10 August, the security situation rapidly deteriorated across central and northern Iraq with armed groups making gains in Ninewa Governorate, resulting in a rapid displacement of hundreds of thousands of individuals onto Sinjar Mountain area and into the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Syria.

By 9 August, there were a reported 20,000 to 30,000 individuals of the Yezidi community remaining on Sinjar Mountain without access to water, food or shelter. By 10 August it was reported by Dohuk authorities that as many as 190,000 individuals escaped Sinjar area and fled towards Syria and Dohuk; however many individuals remain trapped on the south side of the mountain.

The US government launched airstrikes beginning 8 August targeting armed groups' positions near Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The US government also conducted three humanitarian airdrops of food and water to the individuals trapped on Sinjar Mountain.

As a result of major clashes and feared insecurity from the airstrikes, four camps hosting both refugees and IDPs were vacated overnight from 06 – 07 August:

**Makhmour refugee camp** (Ninewa), which formerly hosted 1,700 Turkish Kurd refugee families, has been emptied of refugees. Families left in the evening of 6 August, many of which moved to the Rania area of Sulaymaniyah governorate as well as to Erbil city. Most will be accommodated in public buildings such as schools and mosques in Ranya.

**Gawilan refugee camp** (Dohuk) was established in September 2013 for Syrian refugees and accommodated 2,500 refugees. In the evening of 6 August, the Gawilan Syrian refugee population relocated towards Barderash, once they arrived there and saw that the host community were also on the move, the IDPs joined the host community and continued moving onward. Of this group, 400 families and 250 singles arrived to Domiz, and smaller groups are arriving at Akre Castle and Kawergosk Syrian refugee camps.

**Garmawa IDP transit camp** (Dohuk) was opened in late June for IDPs originating from Mosul and surrounding areas. There were 2,500 IDPs staying in Garmawa until 6 August. They were evacuated by the authorities to a school building to Shekhkan district.

**Khazir IDP transit camp** (Erbil) was opened in mid June for IDPs originating from Mosul. There are currently no IDPs in the transit camp as all left on 6 August; many of the families returned to Mosul and fled to neighbouring villages as well as Dohuk Governorate.

Many families are fleeing north and at least 10,000 individuals are waiting to cross the Turkish border. As well, roughly 31,000 individuals left Iraq to Syria and have returned through the Peshkabour border in the KR-I.

In the past 10 days, humanitarian access to IDPs and host communities has been severely compromised. Shelter, water, food, and core relief items are urgently needed to meet the needs of the 200,000 new IDPs as well as Syrian refugees who have become newly displaced.

Essential infrastructure throughout central Iraq and Anbar is increasingly damaged due to conflict, affecting IDPs and host communities. Most commercial airlines suspended flights to Baghdad and Erbil.

In Al Qa'im, the Al Obaidy camp population is estimated to be 1,007 registered individuals as well as an estimated 258 new arrivals since 16 June. UNHCR continues to provide support through partners on the ground such as the provision of bread, ice and medicines.

## ONGOING DISPLACEMENTS

The population of IDPs throughout Iraq consists of various groups, including some minority groups such as Christians, Yazidis, Shabak, Armenian, Turkmen; some of them have endured multiple displacement.



*Three generations of Yazidi women displaced in Shekhan village, Dohuk Governorate. Ned Colt/UNHCR*

Some IDPs continue to face difficulties in crossing checkpoints, with a number being refused permission to travel onwards to Erbil, Dohuk and Khanaqin, particularly those without a sponsor. There is a continuing need to provide immediate humanitarian relief to populations stranded at check points to safe areas.

### Northern Iraq

According to local authorities in Dohuk, as many as 250,000 individuals may have entered from Ninewa (some through Syria) over the last eight days. Many are now located in the towns of Khanke, Shariya, Zahko, Shekhan, and Dohuk town. Some 7,000 to 10,000 people are reportedly staying at Bajet Kandela camp; the camp now has quadrupled the original capacity with urgent needs for expansion. The 2,500 residents of Garmawa camp fled to Shekhan and over 2,600 individuals have arrived at Domiz Camp from Gawilan.

As of 10 August, at the Peshkhabour-Semalka Syrian border crossing 31,000 individuals coming from Ninewa have entered the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The recent arrivals of 15,000 individuals to Erbil city are residing in churches, schools, parks, unfinished buildings and with the host community. Local authorities have begun to establish a camp in the city suburbs and refurbish a transit centre outside the city.

According to UNHCR's partner, Sulaymaniah has received 34,000 individuals since mid June of which 20,000 are said to have departed for other locations, and two camps are being established in Chamchamal and Kalar.

### Central Iraq

Displacement continues in Anbar, with up to 27,000 individuals moving from Haditha to join the 114,000 individuals already in Heet. Some families have moved further west through the desert to Al Qa'im. According to authorities, over 101,000 families or some 600,000 people have been displaced from Anbar. Al Qa'im Border is affected by aerial bombardments and there are irregular crossings at Rabia'a Border.

Central and southern Iraq receives more IDPs moving from both central and northern Iraq. Baghdad currently has over 11,000 IDP families according to local authorities.

Kirkuk Governorate now hosts approximately 54,000 individuals, with one camp in development.

Khanaqeen district in Diyala is receiving large numbers of IDPs from Diyala and other governorates. According to the government over 31,000 families have been displaced in Diyala and require food, sanitation and shelter assistance. 117 families are stuck at the checkpoint into Khanaqeen.

Najaf and Karbala recently received hundreds of IDP families arriving by air from Erbil.

Some 9,000 individuals are now displaced in Wassit governorate.

Overall, there is continuous movement throughout Iraq as IDPs seek security, food, shelter, clean water and health services, resulting in a challenging response context as IDP numbers constantly fluctuate.

## NEEDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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Given the escalation of the conflict, most IDPs are unable to return to their areas of origin. Many are living in makeshift shelters, collective centres, unfinished buildings or schools. A significant proportion also reside in hotels or rented accommodation and require cash assistance for shelter support. The local community provides generous support in terms of accommodation, food and water; however they are increasingly also impacted with the spread of conflict and damaged infrastructure. Urgent needs across central and northern Iraq include food, water, sanitation facilities, shelter and core relief items such as mattresses, blankets, and kitchen items.

UNHCR is looking into supporting up to 10 camps across central and northern Iraq with technical support, tents and core relief items. Key protection, shelter and core relief items response over the past two weeks are

### *Erbil*

**Ankawa** – 1,900 cri kits have been distributed by UNHCR to IDP families settled in Ankawa in the last week. Approximately 50 tents will be erected on 10 August by UNHCR at the Ashtar Music Centre. Erection of tents will continue on 11 August. Generators will also be installed this evening to provide light and electricity.

In the outskirts of Erbil city, another plot of land was identified on 10 August by the authorities, UNHCR will provide support in the development of the site.

**Khazir transit camp** – UNHCR supported the authorities establish Khazir transit camp and erected 892 tents in the camp. UNHCR also provided CRI kits and hygiene kits, as well as rechargeable cooling fans to the population staying there. UNHCR set up shading at the checkpoint for those who were awaiting entry as well as in the camp. The camp is currently empty as IDPs fled on 06 August.

**Baharka warehouse** – There are currently 30 families in Baharka and all families have received CRI kits from UNHCR. Today, partitions were completed for approximately 90 places, by tomorrow partitions for a total of 150 places will be completed, which will provide privacy for 150 families. UNHCR has also cleaned the entire site including garbage collection and the replacement of 170 old tents with new ones.

In addition, UNHCR has responded to displacements in **Sheqlawa** where 500 families arrived and 200 families in **Soran** were all provided with CRI kits. **Khalifan** also received 250 families for which all received CRIs.

### ***Dohuk***

**Bajet Kandela reception centre** – 1,000 tents have been sent to Dohuk and the tents will be pitched tomorrow. This is in addition to the 400 family tents and 160 communal tents that are currently erected in Bajet Kandala. 2,500 kits were sent from Erbil in addition to 700 kits that were prepositioned; 3,200 kits have been distributed in the past week. There are currently 7,000 to 10,000 people staying in the Bajet Kandela reception centre near the Syrian border, which was originally established by UNHCR for Syrian refugees in 2013.

**Garmawa temporary camp** –All 2,500 families were provided with CRI kits as well as shelter (500 tents) by UNHCR. There are currently no IDP families in Garmawa.

**Zakho** – For the IDPs in Zakho near the Turkish border, UNHCR provided 20,000 mattresses and 20,000 blankets. A camp site was identified by the authorities for 15,000 individuals; UNHCR will be support in the establishment of the camp.

300 tents were distributed by UNHCR at **Khanke**, and 3,500 tents have been dispatched to Dohuk, providing shelter capacity for 22,800 individuals. A site has been identified for 9,000 individuals for which UNHCR will support the authorities in establishing the camp.

In the town of Shariya, a site has been identified for 17,000 individuals and UNHCR is supporting the authorities to prepare the site as quickly as possible.

### ***Sulaymaniyah***

The **Arbat transit camp** for Syrian refugees established by UNHCR will be provided to IDP families; the final 150 families in the transit camp will imminently be moved to the permanent camp to make room for the IDP community.

Over 1,000 CRI kits have been distributed to IDP families in the governorate.

### ***Central Iraq***

Over 12,000 CRI kits and 355 tents were distributed in central and southern Iraq since early 2014, including the distribution of 11,000 mattresses and blankets, and 1,909 stoves, kerosene, hygiene kits, and fans.

Rapid needs assessments were completed in **Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala, Diyala, Wassit and Basra**.

UNHCR's technical teams have prepared plans for Bahari Taza camp in **Khanaqeen**, and continue to work with local authorities to identify shelter options.



Protection monitoring partners responded with rapid needs assessments and checkpoint monitoring since 1 August. Human rights violations are documented and vulnerable individuals are referred to support services. UNHCR is providing emergency registration capacity for some 15,000 individuals in Erbil, in addition to ongoing registration support throughout northern and central Iraq. Legal assistance (direct and through advocacy) and one-time cash assistance is ongoing for vulnerable families.

Gaps and constraints include difficulty in accessing IDPs in Ninewa, Dohuk and Khanaqeen due to security issues, and in Sulaymaniyah due the remote location of the camps. Challenges identified include the lack of shelter options and an acute need for basic services.

## UNHCR FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

UNHCR continues to revise its overall response requirements as waves of displacement continue. UNHCR Iraq is thankful to all donors for their generous contributions made to assist the internally displaced people across central and northern Iraq.

### Donor contributions to the IDP Response in Iraq, 2014:



Funding has also been received from PRIVATE DONORS, Emergency Response Fund, OCHA, and in-kind and cash donations from the local population.