

IRAQ

6 February 2018

Key figures

2.47 million IDPs remain displaced since January 2014¹

279,512 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, with 12,574 Iraqis in camps in Al-Hassakeh Governorate, Syria

758,784 IDPs in Ninewa (including as a result of the Mosul military operation)¹

80,298 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in Hawiga (Kirkuk) and Shirqat (Salah al-Din)²

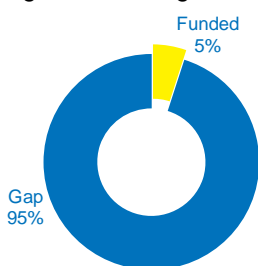
64,008 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in west Anbar²

652,873 Individuals (137,265 households) currently enrolled in

ASSIST, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool

Funding

USD 578 million requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2018



¹IOM-DTM as of 31 January 2018
²IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking

Response update

UNHCR and its partners built a new pedestrian bridge serving some **70,800 people** in Yathrib sub-district of Salah al-Din Governorate, where heavy fighting left widespread destruction last year. The bridge, opened in mid-January, is an essential crossing point for the Tigris River, connecting the east and west of Yathrib city. Since the old bridge was destroyed, local inhabitants have been compelled to make long detours to cross the river. The bridge is one of a series of quick impact projects in Yathrib funded by UNHCR, supporting reintegration and rehabilitation efforts to facilitate the safe and sustainable return of displaced people.

In addition to the pedestrian bridge, a vehicle bridge was restored by UNHCR to ease the transport of goods in the area. Another project served to rehabilitate water purification units serving nine villages, facilitating access to clean drinking water for 40,000 people. Temporary housing units now provide shelter for 350 families in Yathrib town and 250 families in neighbouring Ishaqi village for up to three years, while their homes are rebuilt. UNHCR also provided 12 transformers to help improve electricity distribution in the local villages, making electricity available to homes in the district for up to 12 hours a day.

Population movements

Findings of an intentions survey conducted recently by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster reveal that 52 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps across Iraq are not planning on returning to their areas of origin, while 33 per cent are. Half of respondents shared that their house is heavily damaged or completely destroyed.

Main pull factors for IDPs intending to return are security and availability of livelihood options in their areas of origin. However, 64 per cent of the people intending to return do not know when they will return or expect to wait at least six months before they can return.

Around 93 per cent of persons who are not planning to return to their area of origin plan to stay and integrate in their current area of displacement, most of them citing that their area of origin is not safe.

Returns Monitoring Analysis by the CCCM and Protection Clusters indicate that returnees' main needs, once they have returned, are related to shelter/non-food items (61%), livelihood opportunities (42%), and food (38%). A quarter of returnees have no electricity and no or limited access to clean water.

Situation update

The education sector in Iraq has been particularly hard-hit by years of conflict, preventing millions of children from attending school regularly or at all. Lack of quality education is a main protection concern in camps, where schools suffer from lack of teachers, education material and furniture. In camps around Mosul, 32 per cent of the school-aged children are not going to school. UNHCR recently completed the construction of a primary school building in Hasansham U2 camp in Ninewa Governorate. Some 1,500 students have registered for classes; however, the camp only has four qualified teachers and there is a shortage of textbooks. In Salamiyah 2 camp, south of Mosul, more than 11,500 children are enrolled in the camp's school, resulting in 200 children per classroom.