



# IRAQ SITUATION

A returnee looks out at the Mosul neighbourhood from which his family were forced to flee in 2017.

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### AFFECTED COUNTRIES

### KEY POPULATION DATA (AS OF 30 JUNE 2020)

- 278,554**  
Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers
- 1.4 million\***  
IDPs
- 121,680**  
IDP returnees
- 47,253**  
stateless persons
- 30,613**  
others of concern

\* Source: IOM

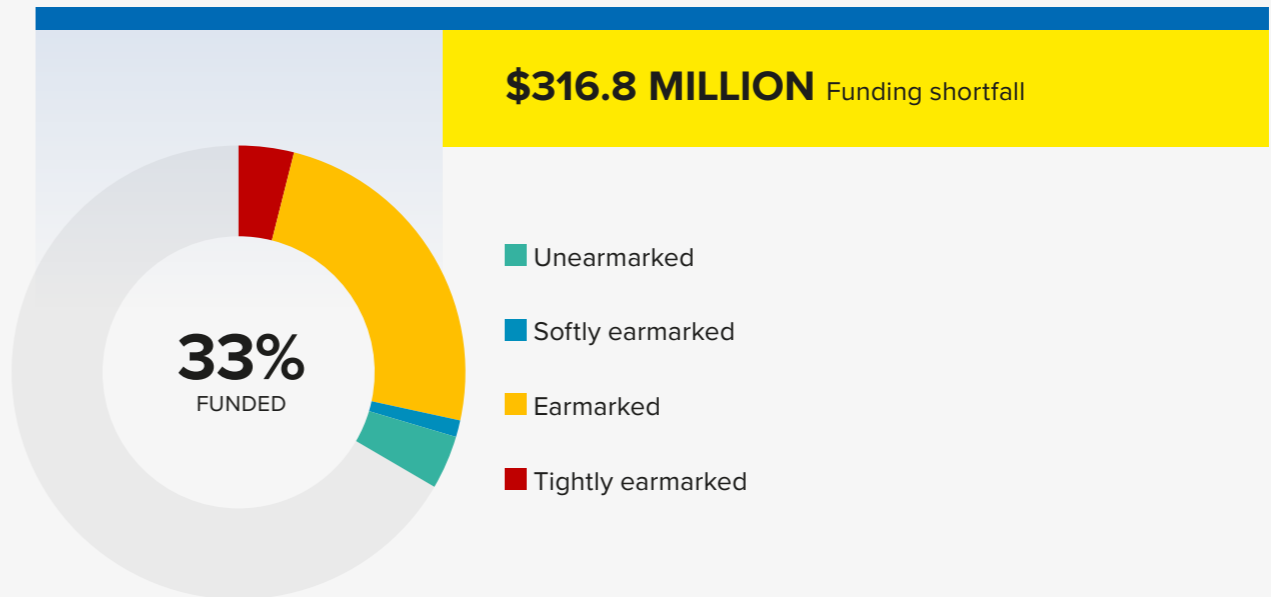
**There are some 1.4 million IDPs in Iraq, more than half of whom have been living in displacement for at least three years.**

Despite efforts to rebuild the country and revitalize local economies, significant challenges are hindering returns. In Iraq, UNHCR works with the Government and development actors to incorporate IDPs' needs in development plans and support their gradual absorption into the Iraqi social welfare system. There are also some 278,600 Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey for whom UNHCR provides protection and basic services in support of neighboring countries' efforts, while also working towards comprehensive solutions.

UNHCR's overall requirements for the Iraq situation in 2020 stand at \$475.7 million. As of 25 August 2020, \$117.6 million has been received. Flexible and country-level funds received by UNHCR have allowed the organization to allocate an additional \$41.3 million to the Iraq situation, raising the current funding level to 33%. These low funding levels have forced UNHCR's operations in Iraq and in neighbouring countries to cut or reduce some critical programmes including health and education. If adequate funding is not received, UNHCR will have to further reduce or cut programmes such as cash assistance and winterization support.

## \$475.7 MILLION

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020, as of 25 August 2020



## Activities that have already been reduced or cut as a consequence of underfunding



*In Bardarash Camp, Iraq, UNHCR has been working with partners to raise awareness among children about the importance of hand washing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.*

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JANUARY

AUGUST

### Access to health care services for Iraqis in Egypt



Since the start of 2020 due to lack of funds, health support for Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers has been scaled back and limited to only emergency cases. From October 2020 onwards, UNHCR will not be able to support any Iraqi refugee and asylum-seeker patients in Egypt with primary, secondary and tertiary health care services, nor will the Office be in a position to support patients with their monthly medication expenses. Referrals to secondary and emergency health services will also stop. This will affect the well-being of refugees with treatable medical conditions, who may also risk developing conditions that are life-threatening. Primary health care is the entry point to all health systems for Iraqi refugees and is essential to maintain, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
100 Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers

**Funding needed:**  
\$150,000

### Education for Iraqi refugee and asylum-seekers in Egypt



In August 2020, lack of funding required UNHCR to reduce the size of education grants provided to Iraqi refugee and asylum-seekers students enrolled in private schools by 20-40%. This will leave Iraqi refugee families no choice other than to cover education expenses on their own. If they are unable to do so, many young refugee children may be forced to drop out of school, ultimately contributing to a greater likelihood of children engaging in labor or other activities exposing them to additional protection risks. UNHCR provides education grants for each student once a year. The payment of the education grant usually takes place during the last trimester of the calendar year.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
800 students

**Funding needed:**  
\$200,000

## Activities that could be reduced or cut from August 2020

### Winterization assistance in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria)



The winterization programme covers the period from September 2020 to March 2021. UNHCR will have to reduce its winterization assistance – provided mainly in the form of cash grants – to vulnerable Iraqi refugees in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, IDPs and returnees in Iraq, as well as refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities in Iraq. People of concern will face increased vulnerabilities and greater protection risks. Household members will be more at risk of worsening health conditions and resorting to negative coping strategies to meet their winter needs, including indebting themselves to cover heating costs or limiting their food expenses.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
544,876 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
\$23.5 million

### Cash assistance for IDPs in Iraq in response to the COVID-19 pandemic



By September 2020, cash assistance related to needs driven by the COVID-19 pandemic will be reduced or suspended due to funding shortfalls. IDPs are at risk of contracting COVID-19 and other communicable illnesses, which can be easily spread among communities in camp-based settings. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, cash assistance has proven invaluable to ensuring that IDPs are able to purchase hygiene products, such as hand sanitizer or core relief items, to reduce the likelihood of transmission.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
63,636 IDP households

**Funding needed:**  
\$14 million

### Legal assistance for IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq



By October 2020, UNHCR will have to reduce the provision of legal assistance, information and representation to IDPs and refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq. Legal assistance is crucial in helping families to obtain civil documentation, which enables them to access education, health care and other government assistance and compensation schemes, such as government grants for returning IDPs.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
22,403 individuals

**Funding needed:**  
\$3.8 million

### Multi-purpose cash assistance for refugees in Egypt and Iraq



Lack of funding will force UNHCR to reduce or stop its multi-purpose cash assistance to Iraqi refugees in Egypt and refugees of other nationalities in Iraq in September 2020. Cash assistance helps families meet their basic needs and mitigates the negative socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on families and communities, many of whom have lost their livelihoods due to COVID-19 restrictions. Without additional funding, people of concern may resort to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs.

**Number of impacted beneficiaries:**  
1,189 households

**Funding needed:**  
\$3.4 million

