

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-29 February 2016

KEY FIGURES

1,402,300

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

1,602,100

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

505,700

Individuals received winterization support since 1 October 2015

88,270

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

FUNDING

USD 450.8 million

requested for the operation in 2016



PRIORITIES

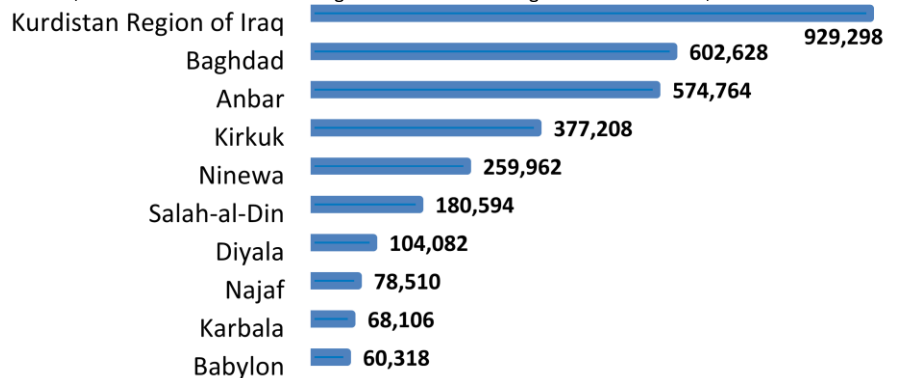
- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential shelter and NFIs
- WASH facilities in camps

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR completed its winter assistance activities to help displaced Iraqi families cope with harsh winter temperatures. UNHCR surpassed the initial winter assistance target of 60,000 families, and reached 84,290 families across Iraq with core relief items or shelter support.
- Across Iraq, deteriorating weather conditions and rainstorms resulted in significant tent destruction. UNHCR replaced hundreds of damaged tents to meet the urgent shelter needs of displaced Iraqis living in camps.

More than 3,320,844 people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM Round XXXVIII, Feb. 2016).

There are about 57,000 IDPs in the five southern governorates according to local authorities, not included below.



UNHCR distributed kerosene to IDP and host communities in Barzinja town in February 2016.
UNHCR / T. Raouf

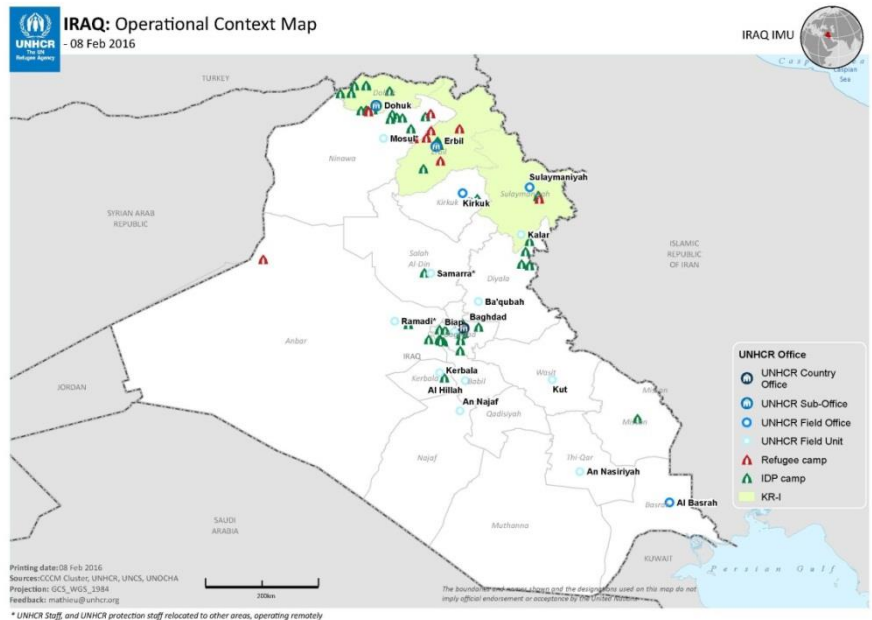
UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 3.32 million, spread across more than 3,600 locations countrywide.

Conflict and violence continue to affect most of Central and North-Central Iraq, including Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al Din and Kirkuk governorates.

Displacement continued throughout Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al Din 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 cannot cross checkpoints and remain stuck at governorate borders. The inability of civilians to access safety is a major protection concern, both on account of being prevented from fleeing areas under the control of armed groups or due to restrictions imposed by authorities. Additionally, a trend has been observed whereby newly-displaced Iraqis are being forcibly transferred to camps where restrictions on their freedom of movement are imposed in a manner disproportionate to any legitimate concern, including those related to security. This was noted in Nazrawa and Garmawa camps in central and northern Iraq, respectively.



The siege of Falluja is ongoing, as supply lines have been cut off. Civilians in the city continue to be subjected to shelling and airstrikes, with many resulting casualties. They are reportedly facing shortages in basic necessities, fuel, clean water and medicine.

As of end February, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix identified more than 553,000 people who have returned to their areas of origin in Anbar, Diyala, Erbil, 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 services, health, clean water and education. UNHCR and the UN humanitarian country team do not encourage organized 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.

Temperatures continued to drop across Iraq, with displaced families living in tents and unfinished buildings struggling to cope with heavy rains and cold. This is particularly challenging in the mountainous areas of Duhok and Sulaymaniyah in the KR-I, where the conditions remained challenging for the displaced, despite the assistance given by the international community.



The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached more than 1.5 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 partners successfully advocated with local health authorities in order to provide medication required by IDPs in the 7 Sanabel Camp in Ameriyat Al-Falluja.
- 20 focus group discussions were held in camp and non-camp locations to assess IDPs' intention to return to Sunoni, Ninewa Governorate.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Kirkuk, authorities have progressively imposed movement restrictions on residents of the Nazrawa camp. Since 22 February all residents have been confined to the camp, irrespective of whether or not they have completed security screening procedures. In Garmawa camp in northern Iraq, Iraqis who were forcibly relocated to the camp from villages in Tilkaif District in 2015 continue to face restrictions on their freedom of movement. Similar concerns are also emerging in Salah Al Din and Anbar Governorates.
- Loss of civil documentation remains a concern for IDPs across Iraq. Without civil documentation IDPs cannot access basic rights, services or employment and may be at risk of arrest or detention.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR staff and partners conducted protection monitoring assessments for about 3,350 families reaching some 20,000 people across Iraq to identify vulnerable families in need of legal assistance, cash assistance, and referral to other services.
- In the Central governorates, legal assistance was provided for 1,045 cases and legal counselling for 728 individuals. Additionally, 102 legal guides were distributed and 404 information brochures on available legal services.
- 25 focus group discussions were held reaching 358 individuals (including 125 women) in Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Najaf, Babylon and Wassit. The topics included hygiene and health awareness, in addition to legal needs and services, and violence against women.
- A Rapid Protection Assessment was conducted on 2 February by UNHCR partners in Falluja that shed some light on the humanitarian situation resulting from the blockade on the city for evidence-based advocacy by the humanitarian community. Civilians in the city reportedly continue to be subjected to shelling and airstrikes and continue facing shortages in basic necessities, fuel, clean water and medicine.
- Across the southern governorates, 78 cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were reached and assisted.
- In Erbil Governorate, a campaign was launched to raise awareness on the importance of child birth registration and of the procedures to register new births in Erbil Governorate. Three awareness sessions were held so far in Shaqlawa, Soran and Koisanjaq, attended by more than 100 IDPs.
- UNHCR continues to distribute wheelchairs for IDPs living with disabilities in Sulaymaniyah Governorate. UNHCR and partners distributed 65 wheelchairs to IDPs across the Governorate. Additionally, participatory assessments were held with IDPs in areas with a high concentration of residents in Sulaymaniyah city centre, Chamchamal, and Ashti IDP camp, to ensure the involvement of in decision-making.
- Cash assistance was distributed to 11,637 families in KR-I and 4,582 families in central and southern Iraq since April 2015.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Restriction of movement in some areas of Iraq is a concern for many IDP families preventing them from accessing livelihoods, education and basic services. Involuntary relocation continues to be a concern in some governorates.

- Families who have returned to their areas of origin face challenges accessing services and, in some areas, security is poor. Thus, some of the returnee families are displaced a second time however face barriers returning to the areas of displacement, particularly in Diyala 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

- In Ameriyat Al-Falluja in Anbar Governorate, UNHCR completed the replacement of tents, elevated the floor of the tents, to prevent water seepage, and the roads in the Al Ahal and the Al Amal Al Manshood camps, to prevent further damage in case of heavy rains, benefitting up to 939 families. A similar intervention was carried out in the Khaldiya Center Camp to prevent further rain-induced damage, benefitting 150 families.
- In Habbaniyah Tourist City in Anbar Governorate, where thousands of people who fled conflict in Fallujah and Ramadi were sheltering in a derelict six-storey lakeside resort, UNHCR has upgraded 700 tents, installed 400 refugee housing units, and provided winter kits, kerosene and relief items for thousands more families.
- In Ninewa Governorate, in Mam-Rashan camp, 704 shelter cabins are now operational, hosting 651 of displaced families who were relocated from Delal in Dohuk Governorate last month and who, for the most part, had been living in unfinished buildings.
- Across Iraq, deteriorating weather conditions and rainstorms resulted in significant tent destruction. In Kirkuk Governorate, UNHCR replaced 472 tents in Laylan, Nazrawa and Yahyawa camps, while 578 tents were reinstalled in the three camps.
- In Erbil Governorate, UNHCR distributed 80 plastic sheets and replaced 7 tents that had been damaged in Baharka camp. After a violent rainstorm in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, UNHCR replaced 10 and 52 damaged tents in Arbat and Ashti camps respectively. A heavy storm damaged 128 family tents in Qurato camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate and 80 tents in Al Wand 2 camp in Diyala Governorate, which were also replaced. In Dohuk Governorate, 78 damaged tents were replaced in Khanke and Besrive 2 camps.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In selected areas in Baghdad and Anbar governorates, UNHCR partners continue to rehabilitate various IDP settlements and collective centres. This involves minor rehabilitation of the premises by repairing or rehabilitating minor damages and creating safe space and winter-proof space through partitioning.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Families living in unfinished buildings continue to need shelter support to cope with winter weather.
- Shelter remains a pressing concern across the country, as countless IDPs live in informal settlements, unfinished and abandoned buildings, public and school buildings and religious sites.



Distribution of winter kits in the Deraboun informal settlement in Dohuk Governorate. UNHCR / A. Gure

UNHCR Accelerates Winterization Programme

- UNHCR reached more than 505,700 internally displaced Iraqis with winterization support including winter domestic items and tent insulation materials, out of which, about 457,700 individuals benefitted from kerosene or cash for kerosene distributions.
- UNHCR surpassed the initial winterization target of 60,000 families, and reached 84,290 families across Iraq with core relief items or shelter support.
- As of end February, UNHCR had reached more than 505,700 people with winter core relief items. Distributions including plastic sheets, heating stoves, kerosene jerry cans, and blankets to a total of 84,290 families in Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Basrah, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Missan, Najaf, Ninewa, Qadissiya, Sulaymaniah, Thiqr and Wassit governorates, including 4,000 families in Erbil Governorate who received cash for winter items. UNHCR surpassed the initial distribution target by 2,560 families.
- More than 10,610 IDP families living in UNHCR-provided tents also received tent insulation materials such as tent liners and insulated floor boards. UNHCR also provided 500 IDP families in Erbil Governorate with shelter sealing-off materials to improve living conditions in unfinished buildings.
- UNHCR complemented the Government of Iraq's kerosene ration distributions. UNHCR distributed 15,493,210 litres of kerosene to 58,337 IDP families (about 350,000 people) throughout Anbar, Baghdad, Dahuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniah governorates. Due to varying winter conditions, 39,209 families in central Iraq and Sulaymaniah each received 200 litres of fuel, while 19,128 families in the KR-I each 400 litres of fuel. So far UNHCR has distributed 3,590,600 USD in cash to 17,953 IDP families, benefitting more than 107,700 people, in Dahuk, Erbil, and Sulaymaniah governorates to purchase kerosene.
- With the economic downturn severely affecting most of the KR-I, many host community families who previously supported refugees and IDPs are no longer able to fully provide for themselves or their families. To encourage peaceful co-existence in a highly mixed refugee/IDP/host community neighborhood, 40,000 liters of kerosene were also provided to 200 vulnerable families from the host community in Sulaymaniyah Governorate.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)



CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- In Diyala Governorate, the authorities decided to de-commission Alwaya IDP camp due to concerns raised by humanitarian agencies of sub-standard living conditions. In total, 433 IDP families were relocated from Alyawa to Al-Wand 1 and 2 camps (267 IDPs to Al-Wand 2 and 166 families to Al-Wand 1). All families were provided with core relief items to meet their household needs, including winter-specific items (blankets, kerosene heaters and tent insulation kits). To accommodate relocated families from Al Yawa camp, UNHCR partners repaired all electrical works in tents in Al-Wand 2 camp.
- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, as a result of advocacy by UNHCR, relocation of families from the transit area of Arbat IDP camp to Ashti camp will start during the first week of March. In total, 1,225 families will be relocated to a planned camp that provides better shelter with individual kitchen, latrines and showers.
- In IDP camps in Erbil Governorate, UNHCR is supporting partners on the roll out a code of conduct covering the responsibilities of camp residents and prohibited activities for residents, visitors, contract workers in the camps. Additionally, a water project was completed in Baharka camp in Erbil, enabling all camp residents to have access to water.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Diyala Governorate, there is limited capacity inside the current health clinic of Al-Wand 2 camp after the arrival of 260 relocated families. UNHCR has referred the issue to the Health Cluster for their assessment and action. The water and waste management in Tazede camp, Sulaymaniyah Governorate, still remains a challenge, as the implementation of the new water scheme has yet to start.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Basra, UNHCR and UNICEF repaired the reverse osmosis (“RO” - a water purification system) unit which had stopped working, depriving displaced families residing in the 5 mile collective center of drinkable water. In total, 110 displaced families are currently residing in this collective center.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- On 12 February, H.E. Ms. Sheikha Hissa Al Thani, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States for Humanitarian Assistance visited the Baharka IDP camp and Qushtapa refugee camp to learn about the general situation of displaced persons in the KR-I and their needs. Similar visits were carried out to the Baharka and Harshm camps by delegations of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the Japanese Embassy in Iraq.



UNHCR implements creative, effective, and sustainable local projects that benefit IDPs and host communities in various displacement sites and return areas in the Center of Iraq. For example, garbage collection campaigns have been implemented by UNHCR partners in Diyala, Salah Al Din, Baghdad, Najaf and Anbar governorates. Other similar projects include the creation of local shops and greenhouses to improve the living conditions of displaced persons, including those returning to areas of origin. UNHCR is grateful to its donor, the Government of Japan for funding such “quick impact projects”. UNHCR / ISHO

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

A Glimmer of Hope - BAGHDAD, 28 February 2016

20 year old Myriam arrived in Baghdad over a year and half ago, around the time she gave birth to her daughter Leila. She lives in Al Salam camp in south Baghdad, the capital's largest camp for internally displaced Iraqis.

After her husband disappeared, pregnant Myriam was forced to flee her district in Salah Al Din province, only managing to salvage a few prized possessions, including a photo of Mohammed, her beloved husband. She does not know what happened to him, and although she has not heard from him since he disappeared, she maintains a degree of hope.

"I know it's been a long time, but I cannot help it. I still hope to find him", said Myriam.

While her daughter Leila is too young to comprehend what might have happened to her father, she seems to have the same hope as her mother, as she constantly clutches the only photo of her father that Myriam managed to salvage leaving her home.

Like Myriam, most of the camp's inhabitants fled conflict in Salah Al Din and Anbar provinces, often leaving everything behind as they were eager to reach safety.

Three weeks ago, Myriam was joined by her cousin Raghad, 16. Raghad also fled Salah Al Din with her one year old baby boy, Anas, who suffers from a heart

condition. After her husband was killed by armed militants in Salah Al Din three months ago, she was displaced multiple times within her province before she decided to join Myriam in Baghdad.

"I couldn't stay alone in Salah Al Din. Everything there reminded me of him. I was alone", she said.

Mariyam, Leila, Raghad and Anas have moved into a new innovative shelter UNHCR recently installed. UNHCR carried various interventions in Al Salam camp. Last autumn, UNHCR replaced 104 tents by sturdy new refugee housing units (RHU's), to improve the living conditions of approximately 620 inhabitants in the camp. In October 2015, after the camp was flooded, UNHCR completed leveling works to prevent further damage in case of heavy rain. UNHCR also recently launched a garbage collection project, providing garbage containers and cleaning services to clean up the camp area, reducing health risks and improving the overall living environment for the camp's inhabitants.

UNHCR is grateful to its donors, ECHO and the Swedish Postcode Lottery, who contributed to these projects.

By Natalia Micevic

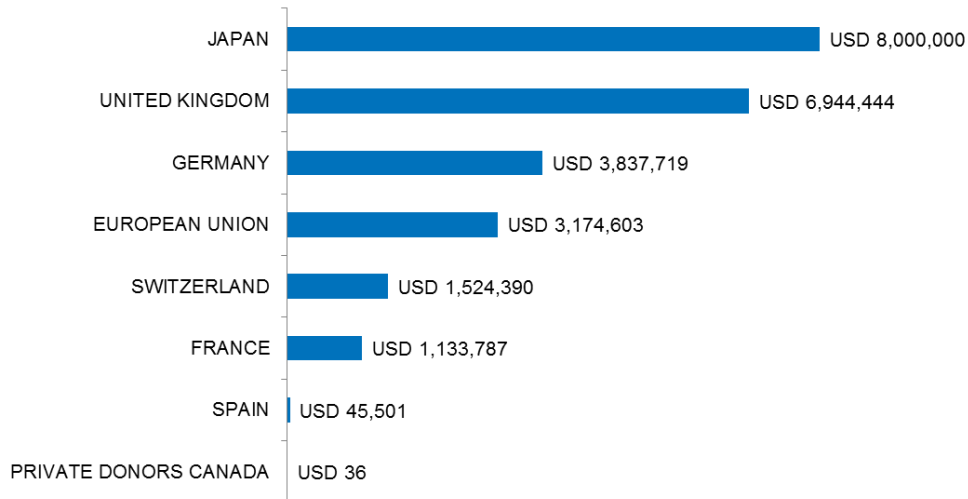


Leila, one and a half years old, holds a picture of her father Mohammed who disappeared in Salah Al Din province before she was born. UNHCR / N. Micevic

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 24.6M (24,660,481)**.

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.



Funding received in 2016 (USD)

Major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: Sweden (78 M) | Netherlands (46 M) | Norway (40 M) | Australia (31 M) | Denmark (24 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | Germany (13 M)