

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

16-31 May 2015

KEY FIGURES

807,800

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

1,291,226

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

78,745

Families mapped and profiled in Dohuk Governorate

29,834

Individuals received special needs support since January 2014

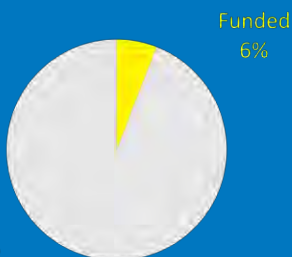
70,204

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

FUNDING

USD 405 million

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

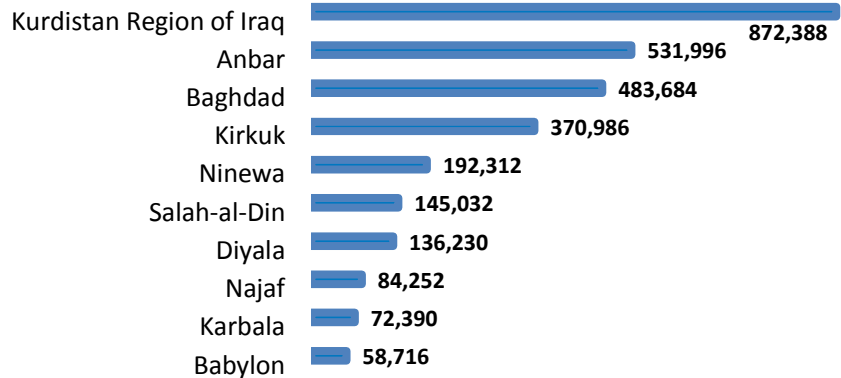
- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential shelter and NFIs
- WASH facilities in camps

HIGHLIGHTS

- The number of IDPs surpassed 3 million. The security situation in the centre and west of Iraq continued to deteriorate. Conflict near Ramadi has displaced an estimated 29,600 families from and within Anbar Governorate since early April.
- UNHCR advocated for access to safety for IDPs from Ramadi with authorities throughout Iraq, as well as continued checkpoint and protection monitoring. IDPs fleeing Ramadi remain delayed at checkpoints throughout Iraq.
- In the reporting period, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRI) to more than 5,772 individuals who fled their homes near Ramadi in search of safety in Anbar, Baghdad and Basra governorates (see section on UNHCR's Ramadi Response below).
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR finalized service mapping and profiling in 375 informal settlements in which 78,745 families (428,057 individuals) were identified, representing nearly 70% of the Governorate's IDP population.

More than 3,035,592 people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM Round XX1 21 May, 2015).

There are about 87,606 IDPs in the five southern governorates according to local authorities, not included below.



Children run in Qoratu IDP Camp (UNHCR/T.Raouf).

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

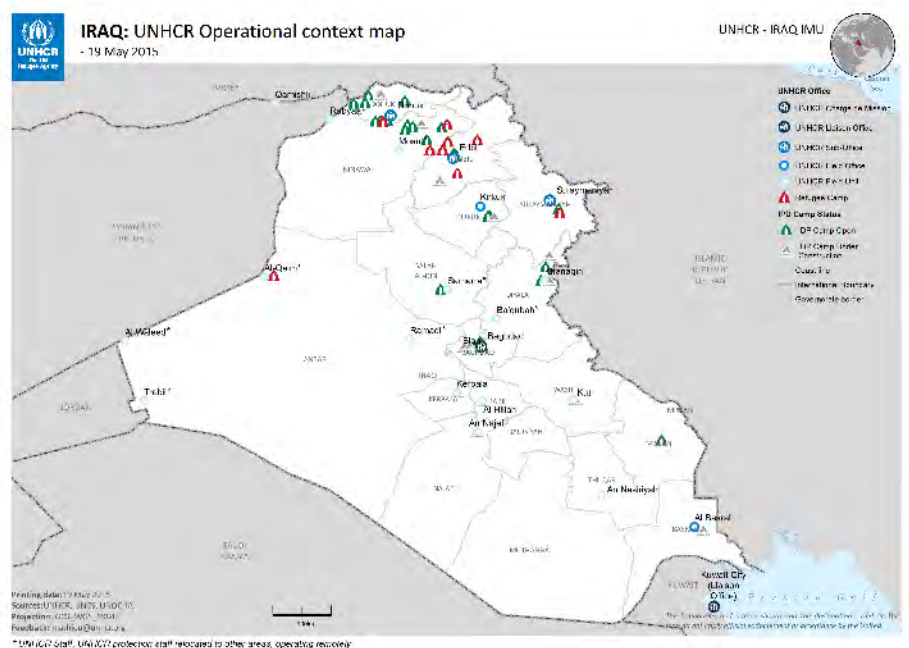
According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 2.96 million, spread across more than 3,225 locations countrywide.

Conflict continued in the central and western governorates of Iraq. In Anbar Governorate, displacement continued due to conflict near Ramadi, Falluja and al-Baghdadi. Families continue to attempt to cross Bzeibiz Bridge to enter Baghdad Governorate. Sponsorship requirements continue to be effect in many governorates of Iraq, contributing to delays at checkpoints resulting in difficult conditions in the summer heat. Sanitation conditions remain a concern at checkpoints and in informal settlements where IDPs from Anbar are forced to seek refuge.

Families fleeing Anbar Governorate continue to enter the Kurdistan Region of Iraq through flights to the Erbil and Sulaymaniah airports, as entry through road is not permitted, except for a few families through the Kalar checkpoint into Sulaymaniah Governorate. Airfares pose a financial barrier to safety which impact the most vulnerable, forcing them to seek safety in other areas of Iraq.

On-going clashes in parts of Kirkuk Governorate continue to affect civilian populations, in particular in south-western Hawija District. The road between Baghdad and Kirkuk re-opened on 26 May allowing limited movement of IDPs from Anbar and Salah al din Governorates to Kirkuk Governorate; UNHCR verified the arrival of 44 families. Reports have been received that a small number of IDPs are being relocated from Erbil Governorate to Kirkuk Governorate by local authorities; UNHCR continues to monitor the situation.

Families in Diyala Governorate are increasingly seeking to move from non-camp settings to IDP camps due to financial constraints. As well, more families who had returned to their homes in Muqdadiya, Diyala Governorate, became re-displaced and returned to Khanaquin city reportedly due to security concerns. Conversely, a few families left Khanaquin city to return to Muqdadiya District; overall, there appears to be some fluidity of movement between Khanaquin city and Muqdadiya



Distribution of non-food items to internally displaced in Baghdad from Ramadi. UNHCR/B. Al-Tameemi

District based on security considerations. Furthermore, about 100 families (some 6,000 people), returned from southern Iraq to their places of origin in Diyala and Salah al Din governorates.

Families returning to areas of origin after the withdrawal of armed groups often 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 1.2 million individuals throughout Iraq since January 2014, in order to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR staff and partners participated in a SGBV and Child Protection training.
- In Arbat IDP Camp, Sulaymaniah Governorate, UNHCR conducted a focus group discussion with women. Improvements in location and accessibility of WASH facilities, improved fire safety, water, electricity, school uniforms, school supplies and livelihood opportunities were discussed, as well as inter-community tensions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Overall, there is a gap in agencies in IDP camps across Iraq to provide services for people with special needs.
- Due to overloaded electrical outlets, fire represents a concrete risk in the Basra Collective Centre. UNHCR partners held a fire awareness session for residents.
- IDPs in Missan Camp have power cuts for 3-4 hours each day, making it difficult to cope with rising temperatures. Water supply, sanitation and waste management systems need improvement. IDPs lack transportation to the nearest bakery. As well, the health clinic has gaps in staffing and medication.
- Basra Collective Centre needs improvements in the supply of drinking water: IDPs must walk far distances to retrieve water and water delivery is irregular.
- In Dohuk Governorate, in Bardarash Camp, WASH continues to be a gap. Furthermore, there is need for an ambulance and improved health services.
- In Dohuk Governorate, Karbato 1 & 2 camps need improved water supply, whilst in Khanke Camp kitchen units need a drainage system.
- In some camps in Dohuk Governorate, there is need to prevent individuals from wearing military uniforms while visiting family members; in addition to concerns about the presence of weapons.



Elderly camp residents identify WASH as a primary concern during a community discussion. UNHCR/S. Mustafa

- There remain concerns over recruitment of youth into armed groups from IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate.
- Teenage girls in IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate suffer the lack of culturally acceptable social spaces or activities. Also in Dohuk Governorate, some parents are unwilling to allow their children to participate in Child Friendly Spaces due to concerns over inter-ethnic and inter-religious socialisation and interactions.
- In Qoratu Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate, five cases of measles were reported in young children from Ramadi. There is a gap in activities for children as the Child Friendly Space only operates for three hours on weekdays. The second phase of Qoratu Camp requires WASH facilities in order to be open and accommodate families hoping to enter Kalar District, Sulaymaniah.
- Al Wand Camp 1 in Diyala Governorate needs water and electricity.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Protection staff and partners throughout Iraq continued to advocate for access to safety for IDPs fleeing Ramadi.
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR finalized service mapping and profiling in 375 informal settlements in which 78,745 families (428,057 individuals) were identified, representing nearly 70% of the IDP population in Dohuk governorate.
- UNHCR conducted a protection mission to Sheikan, in Dohuk Governorate, to assess and make referrals for new arrivals who had escaped from armed groups.
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR and protection partners piloted digital protection monitoring tools, assessing 58 families. The digital system accelerates the process of data collection, analysis and dissemination of information.
- UNHCR, in partnership with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, registered some 300 people in Koya, in Erbil Governorate, since they were unable to travel to Erbil city for registration.
- Focus groups were held in Erbil Governorate, at Baharka and Hershama IDP camps, where IDPs reported that authorities have not provided them residency documents yet, impacting freedom of movement and employability, among other rights.
- UNHCR and partners coordinated with local authorities to identify and counsel 190 families at Arbat IDP Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate on possible relocation to two caravan settlements, to help decongest the camp.
- UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring mission to Chamchamal District in Sulaymaniah Governorate, where protection issues included lack of registration and livelihoods, poor shelter conditions and threat of eviction.
- In Kalar, in Sulaymaniah Governorate, UNHCR trained NGO, security, police, and camp management staff on the protection framework for IDPs, as well as how to identify risks and address protection concerns.
- UNHCR conducted training for some 40 UNHCR and partner staff in Baghdad on digital protection monitoring tools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- A considerable number of IDP families in Dohuk Governorate continue to live in substandard shelters with limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities. Despite this, the majority of them refuse to relocate to shelters in the remaining camps, such as Bardarash and Garmawa, citing safety and distance as their top concerns.
- In Dohuk Governorate, some families facing eviction refuse to relocate citing unwillingness to live with other ethnic groups in IDP camps.
- There is growing tension between ethnic groups in IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate; IDPs report their relationships with different ethnic communities will be impacted upon their return to their homes.
- In Dohuk Governorate, SGBV service mapping was extended to include new areas and focal points.
- Across Iraq, registration remains a gap for those families without original documentation. Procedures for the renewal of documentation are lengthy and costly, in terms of administrative fees and transportation costs. The impact on families is significant as the lack of registration prevents such families from receiving government's financial support.
- In Dohuk Governorate, early marriage of women is increasing as a financial coping strategy for IDP families.
- IDPs in southern Iraq face barriers to replace legal documents as they cannot afford to travel to their Government of origin to complete the administrative procedures.

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 partners installed 400 tents and began electrical installation works at Al Wand Camp 2 in Diyala Governorate. The camp is expected to open by the end of June with a capacity of 2,560 people.
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR provided core relief items to 517 families in Khanke and Esian camps. Also, UNHCR replaced 31 damaged tents in Khanke Camp. Also in Dohuk Governorate, in Mamilian Camp, UNHCR provided 216 people with replacement mattresses and blankets to prevent scabies.
- In Erbil Governorate, UNHCR coordinated with local authorities to conduct regular pest control in IDP camps to prevent snakes and scorpions, thus improving shelter safety and healthcare prevention.
- Construction is nearly completed at Ashti Camp in Sulaymaniah Governorate. Families are expected to move to the new camp by the end of June, pending the finalization of WASH interventions. Also in Sulaymaniah Governorate, Phase 1 of Qoratu Camp is reaching its full capacity with more than 495 tents occupied by some 1,800 people.
- UNHCR's partner began casting concrete tent slab for the expansion of Laylan Camp in Kirkuk Governorate.

UNHCR's Ramadi Response

Between 15 May to 31 May, conflict continued in Ramadi and surrounding areas, displacing about 17,300 families or about 103,800 people. Overall, since the most recent round of fighting began on 8 April, about 29,600 families, or about 177,600 people, have been displaced from Anbar Governorate. IDPs have been forcibly displaced as far away as Erbil, Sulaymaniah and Basra governorates seeking safety. However, the majority of IDPs have not been able to leave Anbar Governorate and remain near the front lines in poor humanitarian conditions in the towns of Khalidiya, Habbaniya and Amriyat al Falluja.

While the Bzeibiz Bridge checkpoint between Anbar and Baghdad governorates was opened in the latter part of May, sponsorship is still required to enter Baghdad Governorate, and access to safety remains a concern for IDPs fleeing Anbar Governorate.

UNHCR and partners continued monitoring checkpoints and reached more than 1,400 IDPs from Ramadi with protection monitoring and community needs assessments across Iraq. UNHCR continued to advocate with authorities for IDPs to access safety throughout Iraq.

UNHCR and partners began the construction of four collective centres to house some 100 families, as well as started land preparation for the installation of 736 tents to house about 4,410 people in Baghdad and Anbar governorates. In Sulaymaniah, UNHCR accommodated 210 families from Ramadi (some 1,260 people), in the newly opened Qoratu Camp. Overall, UNHCR is working towards providing proper shelter for 1,496 families from Ramadi (some 9,000 people). To help IDPs cope with the increasing high temperatures, UNHCR installed communal shade areas at Bzeibiz Bridge checkpoint and at Qoratu Camp.

In addition to its protection and shelter response, UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to 1,268 families from Ramadi to help them satisfy their basic needs, as follows: 70 families in Basra, 230 families in Anbar, 662 families in Baghdad and 306 families at Qoratu Camp in Sulaymaniah. From 8 April to 31 May, UNHCR and its partners distributed core relief items to a total of 5,910 families (35,460 people) fleeing from Ramadi.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and partners started 15 shelter projects in Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad and Diyala governorates benefitting some 9,970 people. The projects include rehabilitation of 21 collective centres, construction of 630 shelter units and installation of 736 tents.
- UNHCR and partners completed 87% of renovation works on 77 unfinished houses to benefit about 1,990 people in Diyala Governorate. Partners also began construction of concrete bases at four collective centres to benefit 240 people.
- UNHCR and partners conducted more than 300 rapid needs assessments for families in Sulaymaniah Governorate to assess their summer and winter household and shelter needs.
- To assist families fleeing from conflict in Anbar Governorate, UNHCR partners installed 102 tents at Al Salam College Collective Centre in Baghdad.
- In addition to the 1,268 families fleeing from Ramadi, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 2,835 families across Iraq benefitting about 17,000 people.



IDPs taking shelter from the sun next to the Bzeibiz bridge. UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- As a matter of priority, families living in tents need summer household items to help them cope with the heat.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- Bi-weekly Camp Management and Protection Working Group meetings are regularly held in all IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate, which greatly improved coordination, gap identification and timely response.
- In Sulaymaniah Governorate, UNHCR organized two workshops for Garmian authorities on camp management, coordination and administration on 21 and 27 May; and facilitated the first Qoratu Camp management meeting focussed on addressing extreme heat and water shortage.
- UNHCR assisted Laylan Camp management to establish an emergency hotline for camp residents and a Code of Conduct for camp management.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- Bersive 1 Camp in Dohuk Governorate needs a permanent office for its staff.

Working in Partnership

- The Director of North Africa and Middle East Region for the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom visited IDP camps in Erbil Governorate on 27 May. DFID acknowledged progress in the camps, and noted the need to draw more attention to the needs of displaced Iraqis.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Taste my culture!

Duhok city, 14 June 2015 (UNHCR)—Nine-year-old Ahmed is joyful, happy and proud as he watches his mother preparing several Syrian dishes during the *Taste my Culture* food festival that UNHCR organized as part of activities to mark the World Refugee Day (WRD). Colorful and tempting ingredients are ably used by groups representing seven different cultures. The event also hosted an exhibition of hand painted portraits and traditional handcrafts made by Syrian refugees.

“This food festival is amazing, thank you very much for a well-organized activity,” says Ismael Ahmed, the Duhok Deputy Governor, as he walks with the

audiences around the mobile kitchens where different groups from the refugee and IDP communities prepared food in a wonderful cultural exchange display. As a testament of his appreciation, he purchased almost all of the traditional handcrafts that were presented by Syrian refugees as part of the show.

The different types of food dishes prepared during the festival revealed the richness of cultures and hospitality customs of refugees and IDPs. Participants from seven different communities offered to taste their culture through a variety of delicious food— Yezidis, Arabs, Christians, Kurds, Turkmen, Turkish and Syrians.

Rasha Abed, 30-year-old from Mosul, displaced along with his wife and son was representing the Christian community. They prepared Dolma and Koba which turned out to be very tasty. “We are very happy to get this opportunity to share our culture with people,” he says.

47-year-old disabled Adnan Ali and his family represented the Sinjar Muslim Kurds community. “I feel very pleased to show my food to others”, he told us. They prepared “Tashreeb”, a dish made of meat with Humus and bread.

Ahmed’s mother, 42-year-old Amina Yousif, from Damascus, Syria, prepared Mazluma, Fatah, Fatoush and Tabola. “This occasion has allowed us to share our food and culture with the whole world,” she says in reference to the audiences and media that were present.

The UNHCR core message, 1 family torn apart by war is too many, is aimed at bringing attention and raising awareness to the devastating impact of war and conflict on displaced families. In his speech, UNHCR Senior Field Coordinator Erdogan Kalkan thanked the people of Duhok for their generous hospitality and support to the refugees and IDPs.

For some of the IDPs and refugees that participated in the festival it was a particularly memorable day as their skills were noticed by local citizens and officials in attendance—they received job offers on the spot!

By Husam Eldin Mustafa



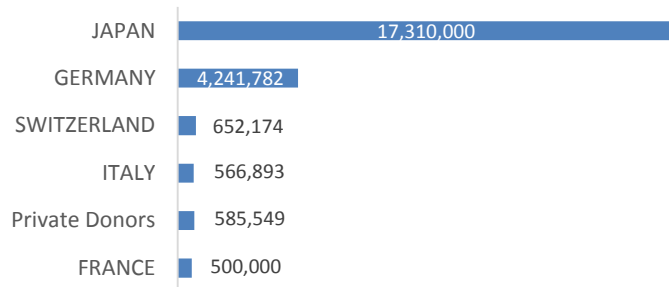
The event attracted high attendance from the authorities, partners, refugees, IDPs and the media.
UNHCR/ V. Ameen

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 23.8 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.

Funding received in 2015 (USD)



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