

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-15 October 2014

KEY FIGURES

559,000+

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January

681,220

IDPs reached through protection monitoring

14,133

Families identified for cash assistance

8,173

Children received psychosocial support

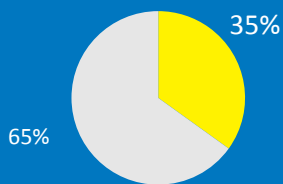
18,629

People provided with legal assistance

FUNDING

USD 337.2 million

requested for the operation

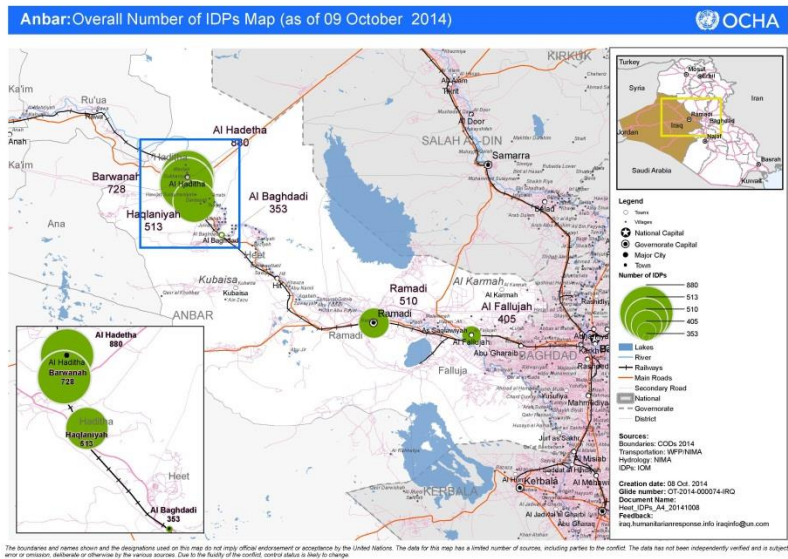


PRIORITIES

- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential CRIs
- Winterization support
- Service providers in camps
- WASH facilities in camps

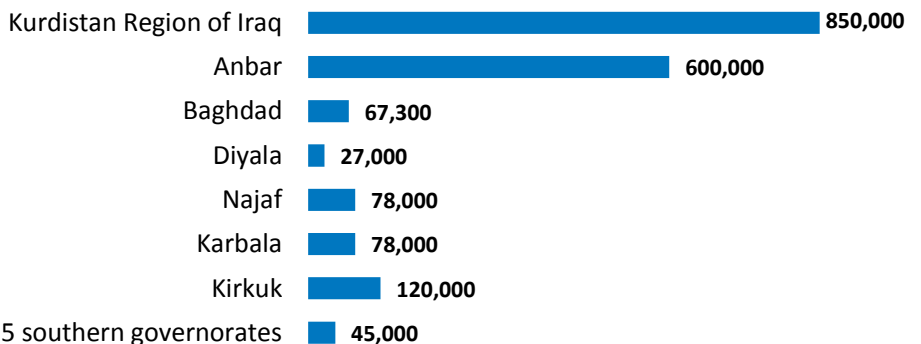
HIGHLIGHTS

- A fourth major wave of displacement in 2014 occurred in Anbar with an estimated 20,000 families displaced from the city of Heet due to conflict. UNHCR is sending core relief items to IDPs arriving in Baghdad and Karbala.
- UNHCR launched its winterization activities with distributions reaching 6,800 people in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). Insulation of tents and shelters is ongoing, with supplies being procured from local and international markets.
- As of 15 October, UNHCR and its partners had reached 681,220 individuals across Iraq to assess their protection needs and provide protection services.
- Conflict in northeastern Syria has led to the arrival of nearly 10,000 new Syrian asylum-seekers to the KR-I, adding further pressure on host communities and public service systems.



Population of concern

Over **1,800,000** people of concern



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The estimated number of Iraqis displaced since January 2014 remains at 1.8 million. IDPs have settled in more than 1,500 locations across the country. Approximately 850,000 of them are in the KR-I.

- Conflict in Anbar has caused the fourth major wave of internal displacement this year with as estimated 20,000 families fleeing fighting near Heet and Ramadi. Displacement continues in Kirkuk, Ninewa, Diyala, and Salah al Din. Some IDPs have returned home despite insecurity, having struggled to survive in difficult conditions while displaced.
- Winterization efforts were launched on 1 October in the KR-I. Based on resource availability, some 40,000 internally displaced families (or some 240,000 individuals) and 4,700 Syrian refugee families (or some 23,500 individuals) in Iraq's Kurdistan Region are targeted by UNHCR's winterization programme.
- According to Turkish authorities, as of 15 October, more than 200,000 Syrians have crossed into Turkey fleeing conflict near Kobane, of whom nearly 10,000 people have since entered the KR-I (15 October). New Syrian arrivals from Kobane were transferred by IOM to various refugee camps in the KR-I. UNHCR expects the new arrivals to reach 15,000 in the coming days.
- IDPs report that they have limited access to safe areas; entry to Erbil, Khanaqin, Kerbala, Haditha, Kirkuk and Baghdad remains difficult without a local sponsor.
- On 13 October, the Prime Minister of Iraq, Mr Haider Al Abadi, chaired a meeting with the UN Country Team to address the humanitarian response to the IDP crisis. The Government identified shelter, health, sanitation, and food as priority areas.
- Air strikes continue across Iraq and Syria with more countries joining the coalition against AOG-led armed groups.
- The Ministry of the Interior approved General Kadhem Mohammed Al Fahdawi as a Chief of Police for Anbar after the death of General Ahmed Sadak.
- After the reporting period, the process of forming the new Iraqi Government was concluded (18 October), with all nine remaining ministerial appointees sworn into office, including the new Minister of Interior, Mouhamed Salim Al Ghabban, Minister of Defense, Khalid Mutaib Al Obaidi, and Minister of Migration and Displacement, Jasim Mohammed Al-Jaf.

Protection

- Protection monitoring teams, comprising UNHCR and its partners, have reached 681,220 individuals throughout Iraq, to determine their needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, basic demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- In **Dohuk**, the registration of IDPs is ongoing, led by the authorities, with support from UNHCR. UNHCR is supporting the establishment of Women's and Community Services Committees in the camps, based on its refugee response experience. The terms of reference (TORs) are being reviewed and shared with camp managers and community members for possible replication.
- In **Erbil**, UNHCR has requested a meeting with authorities to ascertain how to move forward on the issuance of civil documentation for IDPs that have lost or left their documents in their areas of origin. Protection monitors continue to identify vulnerable cases in camps, as well as in urban locations for follow up and referral.
- In **Sulaymaniah**, registration is ongoing in the camp, and preliminary data will be available in the coming week.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- As of 15 October, UNHCR and its partners had approved some 14,133 cases across **Iraq** for cash assistance, and had referred 18,629 cases for legal assistance, as well as 6,676 cases for special needs support. Psychosocial support has been provided to some 8,173 children and 124 victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- In **Sulaymaniyah**, community mobilization assessments have taken place throughout the governorate, wherever IDPs are located, mainly in Arbat, Chamchamal, and Kalar. Registration offices have been established in Kalar and Chamchamal and UNHCR continues to support the authorities in this key protection intervention. These offices, as well as four mobile teams, are reaching all areas where IDPs are located. Preliminary registration data will be provided to UNHCR by the authorities within a week.
- Rapid assessments are being undertaken in **Baghdad** to determine the needs of IDPs recently fleeing conflict in **Anbar**. Early reports indicate that many families arriving to Baghdad have been displaced multiple times this year.
- On 14 and 15 October, UNHCR staff visited IDPs, local and religious authorities in **Kerbala** and **Najaf** to assess the needs and discuss the response for IDPs fleeing **Anbar**, including IDPs living in mosques and public buildings in anticipation of the upcoming pilgrimages. Local authorities requested support from UNHCR to establish camps.
- UNHCR, in cooperation with IOM, initiated income generating activities for IDPs residing at the **Basra** Collective Centre.



A family receives cash assistance at Aiden Camp in Diyala. UNHCR/S. Jumah

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to safe areas remains a challenge, as some IDPs are prevented from entering **Erbil**, **Kirkuk**, and Khanaqeen city in **Diyala Governorate**. Recently, IDPs fleeing conflict in Anbar have been prevented from entering **Kerbala** and **Haditha** without a local sponsor. Access controls for IDPs, such as those currently being imposed by the **Kerbala** authorities, are also hampering the humanitarian response. There are urgent needs for shelter, water, food and sanitation facilities. Effective inter-agency coordination with the authorities, particularly those in **Kerbala**, is urgently required.
- Certain IDPs from **Anbar** are not registering with local authorities as they fear discrimination. There is concern over the safety and well-being of these IDPs owing to their place of origin and ethnicity.
- As transportation and basic commodity costs have climbed sharply in **Anbar** during the recent wave of displacement, IDPs report needing cash assistance.
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities continue to be a key concern in Sulaymaniyah, particularly in collective centres.

Shelter and NFIs

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR continues to support the authorities with 6 newly constructed camps. This is in addition to the rehabilitation of hundreds of collective centres and repairs on unfinished buildings and houses. A further seven camps are under

construction and are expected to be completed by end-November. UNHCR is working with other agencies to ensure that all services are available prior to the opening of camps.

- In **Sulaymaniyah**, construction of Chamchamal camp, designed for 6,000 people, will start next week in a phased manner to ensure that IDPs can move in as soon as possible. Construction is ongoing for Kalar camp (total capacity 6,000), and the first families will be moved there at the end of October. UNHCR is considering minor rehabilitation of the two collective centres in Chamchamal. Work on two collective centres in Qaladze includes the provision of 30 pre-fab containers by the authorities and transportation by UNHCR. IDPs continue to arrive at the Arbat IDP camp, which currently hosts some 1,000 individuals.
- In **Erbil**, land has been compressed and is being gravelled in the Baharka camp extension. Tents will be erected in the coming days to solve the overcrowding issue, as families have been living under shaded areas due to heavy rains. Ankawa Mall and Harsham Camp were opened during the reporting period. Harsham has already reached its capacity, sheltering over 1,000 people. Ankawa mall is sheltering over 1,000 people and an additional 160 families are expected to arrive. Distribution lists for winterization items have been completed and distribution has begun. UNHCR continues to renovate two collective centres in **Shaqlaw** that host 950 families.
- In **Dohuk**, Berseve II camp construction is progressing with tents and concrete slabs (used to raise tents off the ground and provide wind protection) almost finalized. Families are expected to move in around the end of October. The camp will provide shelter for some 11,000 people. UNHCR is extending the capacity in the **Garmawa** and **Khanke** camps to shelter an additional 14,000 people.
- In **Kirkuk**, Laylan Camp is under construction, with cesspools and wells being dug and concrete slabs being laid for WASH facilities and tents. Laylan Camp will house some 6,000 people.
- In the **KR-I**, UNHCR and its partners have reached more than 73,000 families (over 438,000 IDPs) with CRIs. In **Central** and **Southern Iraq**, 20,330 families (some 121,980 IDPs) have been reached and assisted with CRIs. The CRI kits include mattresses, jerry cans, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, blankets, plastic sheeting and stoves.
- In total, 16,695 tents have been distributed across Iraq, providing shelter for some 100,170 people.
- 13,713 dignity kits have been distributed to women across Iraq.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IDP families need accessible shelter options for family members with disabilities.
- Health services are lacking in Harsham camp.
- WASH facilities continue to be problematic in Baharka, particularly in light of the overcrowding.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- In **Erbil**, the identification and distribution of winterization kits has started for vulnerable urban based families, particularly those in need of shelter and CRIs.



Ongoing construction at Khanke IDP camp, Dohuk governorate. UNHCR/G. Gubaeva.

- On 6 October, UNHCR and partners assisted some 1,500 people in **Kirkuk**, with 200 tents and 250 CRI kits. These families were displaced from the Daquq area.
- On 13 October, UNHCR’s Senior Field Coordinator visited Khanaquin, **Diyala** to discuss the Bahari Taza camp development with local authorities, resulting in the decision to seek a safer location as conflict lines have shifted.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As the annual pilgrimage to Najaf and Kerbala approaches, there are concerns that IDPs will be evicted from mosques and public buildings to accommodate the arriving pilgrims.
- IDPs in **Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din, Ninewa, and Baghdad** are in need of CRIs and shelter. However, ongoing conflict prevents humanitarian access to many of these areas. In particular, IDPs fleeing **Anbar** to the Al-Nakheed area outside the Kerbala checkpoint require shelter urgently.
- IDPs in **Dohuk** report having been asked to relocate from privately-owned unfinished buildings.
- Across Iraq, it remains a challenge to implement shelter activities in privately-owned unfinished buildings due to the legal framework of property rights.
- As some schools in Erbil governorate continue to be occupied by IDP families, UNHCR is working with community leaders to offer alternative shelter options to these IDPs.

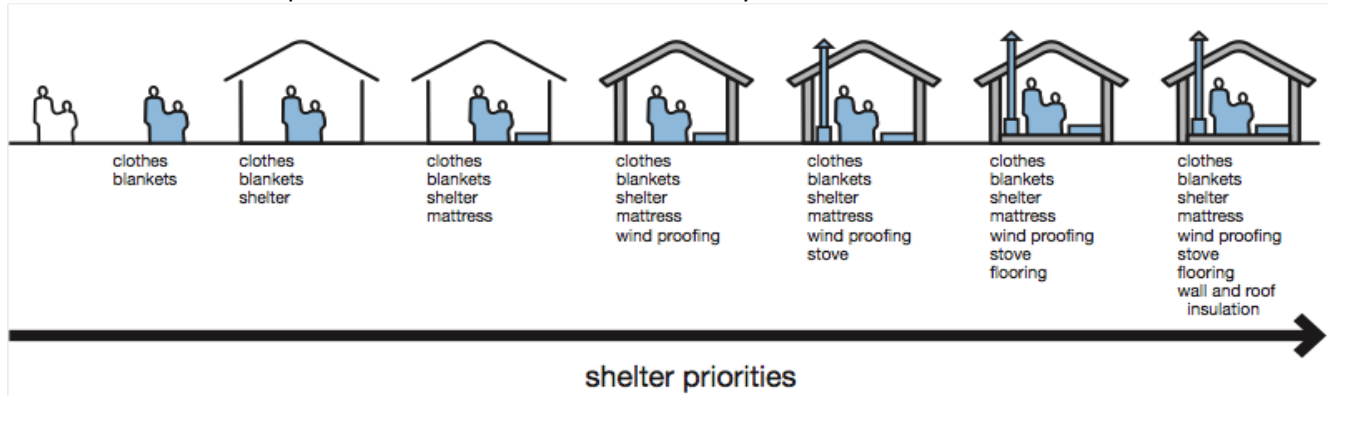
WINTERIZATION RESPONSE

On 30 September, UNHCR began distribution of winterization kits to IDPs living in the Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk Governorates - reaching some 6,800 people. Winterization activities will occur in two phases:

Phase One: protect individuals against the cold by distributing supplementary personal items such as thermal blankets, plastic sheeting, stoves and jerry cans for water and fuel.

Phase Two: insulate and shelter from the elements with distribution of polystyrene boards for tent floors, and a winter shelter kit that contains items adapted to their environment (camp or urban), such as rope, an inner liner or partitions for tents, and fuel.

Overall, displaced communities will receive blankets, plastic sheets and jerry cans for water throughout October. Later, starting in November, UNHCR will also provide kerosene stoves for heating, four hundred liters of kerosene per family for November-December and jerry cans for kerosene. Meanwhile, UNHCR and fire departments across the region are also conducting a fire awareness programme to avoid fire accidents in camps, which regularly happen during winter. Another important element of this programme is the provision of insulation, including thermal floor mats and polystyrene boards, to make tents warmer and more resistant to winter conditions. The winter aid programme which started in the KR-I, will be further expanded to cover the most vulnerable displaced communities across the country.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Achievements and Impact

- On 12 October, the CCCM Cluster led by UNHCR, in coordination with IOM and REACH, launched a rapid assessment of IDP sites in the KR-I to provide information on site quality and accessibility of services, with a view to determining future shelter activities, improve communication with the IDP community, and improve site monitoring. The assessment will be implemented in other Governorates in the near future.
- Discussions have been initiated with the authorities at the Governorate level on the kind of support required. Most authorities will likely take charge of the camp management function, but have requested financial support to meet the costs, as well as training and capacity building for their personnel.
- The CCCM cluster was activated at the Governorate level in **Dohuk**, and two meetings were held to discuss project implementation in the Bajet Kandela and Garmawa camps.
- In Sulaymaniyah, UNHCR is in the process of finalizing the agreement for support to the government on CCCM, including capacity building and provision of resources (human, material and funding).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a need to identify management and service providers for many camps under construction, particularly in **Dohuk**.

Working in partnership

- On 2 October, the German Minister for Development and Cooperation, Gerd Muller, visited Baharka IDP camp in Erbil governorate with a multi-agency team that included UNHCR field and protection colleagues.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 117.74 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.

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Funding received (in million USD)

Saudi Arabia	88.3
Japan	8.2
USA	6.6
Norway	3.4
Kuwait	3
CERF	2.2
Denmark	1.8
UK	1.7
Canada	1.5
Turkey	0.5
Luxembourg	0.2
Arab Gulf Prog	0.2
Armenia	0.1
Estonia	0.1