



Debaga 2 Camp in Makhmur district in Erbil Governorate opened in August to accommodate the increasing number of IDPs fleeing along the Mosul Corridor. © UNHCR

HIGHLIGHTS

230,836

Syrian refugees registered as of 31 December 2016

371,638

IDPs reached with protection monitoring in 2016

158,400

Persons of concerns (108,540 IDPs/49,860 refugees) received Cash assistance in 2016

360,000

IDPs received Shelter and CRI assistance in 2016

Population of concern

A total of **5.7 million** people of concern:

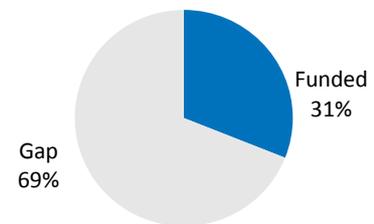
	Total
IDPs (2.9m IDPs since 2014* + 1m IDPs since 2006/2007)	3,996,004
IDP Returnees	1,397,016**
Syrian Refugees	230,836
Non-Syrian Refugees	42,5487
Stateless	48,500

* IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) from 1 January 2014 to 5 January 2017

** DTM from 1 January 2014 to 5 January 2017

Funding in 2016

USD 546.9 million requested:



UNHCR Presence

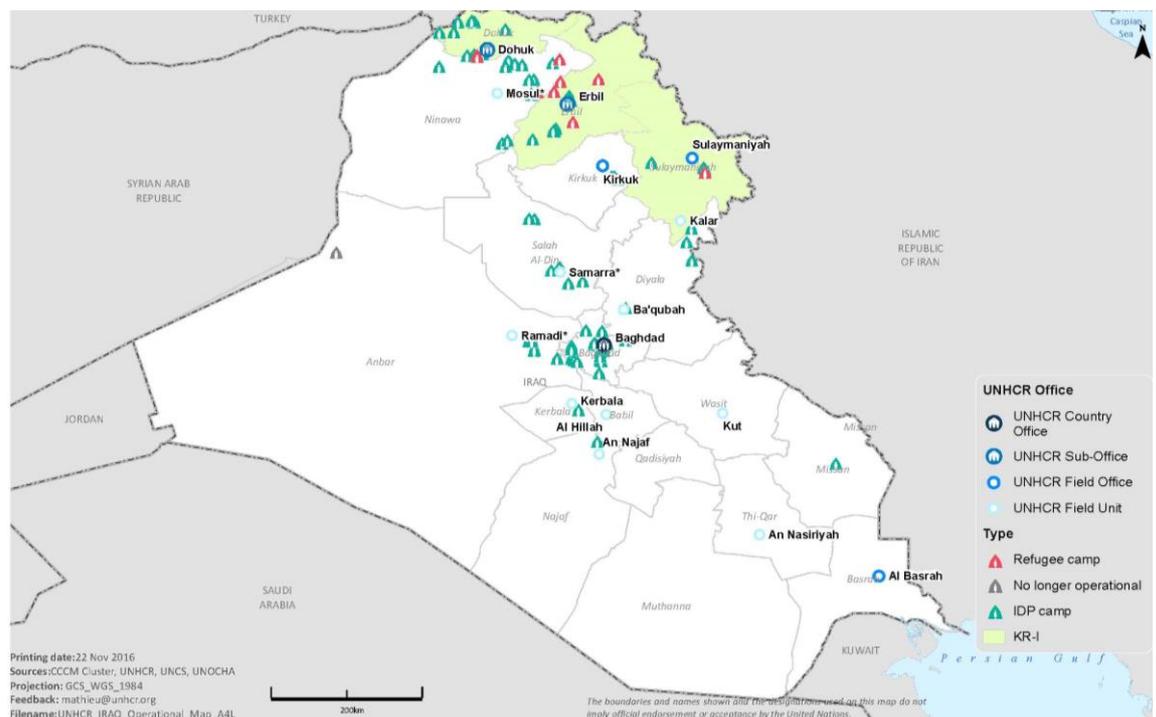
Staff:

281 national staff

145 international staff

Offices

6 offices located in: Baghdad, Erbil, Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, and Basrah



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- Between 1.2 and 1.5 million may be affected by the Government's offensive to retake Mosul, which commenced on 17 October and has currently displaced over 144,000 persons from the district (as of 12 January). UNHCR is directly engaged in the inter-agency emergency response plans for Mosul and surrounding areas.
- As part of the cluster coordination mechanism for IDP response and in support of the Government, UNHCR leads three Clusters - Protection; Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM); and Shelter/non-food items (NFI).
- The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) hosts 96% of the Syrian refugees in Iraq. Through an inclusive approach with NGOs and other UN agencies via the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), UNHCR leads the refugee response in support of the authorities. UNHCR and partners are appealing under the 2017/2018 3RP for USD 228 million (USD 162m for the refugee portion of the plan and USD 65m for the resilience portion). UNHCR requirements: USD 113m.
- UNHCR collaborates with authorities for non-Syrian refugees in Iraq; and on Statelessness prevention and response.

MAIN UNHCR ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Protection

- IDPs** – IDP protection is a significant part of UNHCR's work in Iraq. UNHCR undertakes direct interventions with local, regional and national authorities to ensure that those displaced can access safety in camps/urban areas. UNHCR has deployed mobile and static protection monitoring teams to identify needs and guide effective responses including provision of legal assistance on issues such as missing civil and identity documentation and activities aimed at prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, reuniting separated families, facilitating sponsorships in urban areas and other critical protection support. UNHCR's initiatives include the interagency IDP call centre that promotes greater engagement with affected communities. As a result of protection monitoring, UNHCR as the lead humanitarian agency coordinating IDP protection in Iraq, amongst other responses, engages key stakeholders with evidence-based advocacy.
- IDP Returns** - UNHCR monitors the return of displaced persons to their areas of origin and intervenes with authorities when there is a risk of forced/pressured returns of displaced communities to areas of origin which are still not safe due to ERW/IED contamination, presence of militias, proximity to conflict areas and/or lacking in critical infrastructure and basic services in addition to widespread destruction of properties. Interventions also include monitoring of conditions in areas of return, and advocating for adherence to the right of return for IDPs wishing to go back home but are prevented from doing so for various reasons including allegations of affiliations with armed groups. UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for voluntary returns in conditions of safety and dignity. UNHCR is strengthening its support for returning communities in their areas of origin through community cohesion and assistance projects such as garbage collection and repair of community buildings (e.g. schools or health clinics), shops and/or market places, as well as agricultural projects (e.g. pumps, greenhouses).
- Refugees** – UNHCR is the lead refugee-protection agency and provides protection response and coordination for Syrian refugees with all local and international partners. These activities include registration, protection monitoring and advocacy, psychosocial support, child protection and GBV services through community-based approaches and individual interventions. Resettlement to third countries is underway for a small number of refugees with acute vulnerabilities.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR provides shelter assistance, core relief items, and coordinates with humanitarian actors to complement the work of local authorities to improve the living conditions of vulnerable IDPs in camp and non-camp situations throughout Iraq.
- There are 87 IDP camps in Iraq that host over 565,000 IDPs, with 48 camps in the Centre/South (27 built in 2016) and 39 camps in the KR-I (10 built in 2016). UNHCR has built or rehabilitated 37 out of the 87 camps (20 in the Centre/South and 17 in the KR-I).
- 98% of the Syrian refugees are in the KR-I, and 39% live in 9 camps with the remainder living in urban and peri-urban areas. Shelter priorities for Syrian refugees include the improvement and upgrading of shelters due to wear and tear. Of the 19,000 plots in refugee camps in KR-I, over 95% have been improved with concrete bases for the tents and an individual kitchen, latrine and shower. More than 65% have been upgraded with solid house-like structures.

- UNHCR has been providing winter assistance to refugees and IDPs with the onset of the cold weather. This assistance includes winter kits (6 blankets, 1 stove, 1 plastic sheet, 1 water jerry can, and 1 kerosene jerry can) per family, kerosene covering a period of four months per family (400 liters/family for refugees and 200 liters/family for IDPs), or cash assistance to support the families meet their winter needs. UNHCR provided winter assistance to 204,664 IDPs and 69,145 Syrian refugees from 1 November to 31 December 2016.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

- As the CCCM Cluster lead, UNHCR works with local authorities and humanitarian actors to provide coordinated services to IDPs. In camps, this translates to ensuring adequate shelter, delivery of food and water, and presence of education and health facilities are available in camps. In 2016, UNHCR provided 15 capacity building and training sessions for 320 camp management stakeholders across Iraq as well as worked to ensure that camp residents were represented in camp management structures, such as organizing and encouraging camp-based elections for local camp representatives. In the KR-I, over 70% of camps have elected their camp representatives.
- Mobile teams from partners are providing CCCM services to camps and out-of-camp settlements throughout Iraq. Capacity building of camp managers and CCCM field workers continues with a focus on Anbar Governorate. For the Mosul response, CCCM supports the identification of suitable sites for camps, ensure services are readily available upon first arrival of IDPs and builds capacity among camp management actors and service providers.

CHALLENGES

- Significant challenges prevail as humanitarian needs far outweigh response. Previous displacements are overtaken by new displacements. The cycle of emergency has stretched UNHCR and its partners who nonetheless strive to respond to the protection and assistance needs of Iraqis and refugees.
- The volatile security and the fluid nature of displacement in Iraq, poses programmatic challenges to develop long-term sustainable response. Furthermore, the population affected includes host communities whose resources have also been depleted.
- UNHCR remains flexible and has partnered with local NGOs so that activities can be responsive to change. For example, at the request of the Government, UNHCR supports repair of communal infrastructures, such as hospitals, schools and water treatment facilities, in areas with a concentration of IDPs, returnees and host communities through Quick Impact Projects.
- The protracted situation for Syrian refugees has meant that refugees have depleted the financial resources they brought with them from Syria. The number of vulnerable families has risen in 2016. Livelihood opportunities are scarce and Syrian refugees have been negatively affected alongside Iraqis by the economic downturn in the country. UNHCR has expanded its multi-purpose cash assistance programme as a protection tool to ensure that families do not resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as child labour.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation:

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For the Mosul Emergency, UNHCR is producing regular Flash Updates and Dashboards, which can be found on UNHCR Global Focus: <http://reporting.unhcr.org/>