

# IRAQ

18 January 2018

## Key figures

**795,360** IDPs in Ninewa (including as a result of the Mosul military operation)<sup>1</sup>

**82,548** IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in Hawiga (Kirkuk) and Shirqat (Salah al-Din)<sup>2</sup>

**64,008** IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in west Anbar<sup>2</sup>

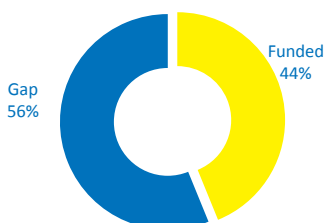
**582,453** Individuals (122,396 households) currently enrolled in **ASSIST**, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool

**2,6 million** IDPs remain displaced since January 2014<sup>1</sup>

**279,512** Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, with 12,531 Iraqis in camps in Hassakeh, Syria

## Funding

**USD 578 million** requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2017



<sup>1</sup>IOM-DTM as of 15 January 2018

<sup>2</sup>IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking

## Situation update

**Security forces announced on 14 January the end of a military operation in Hawiga district of Kirkuk Governorate against extremist sleeper cells.** Some 25 villages have been searched since 4 January, causing the evacuation of some 1,000 persons who fled to nearby camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), or were relocated to Al-Zab sub-district. Extremist groups' sleeper cells, which are also active in Diyala and Ninewa governorates, continue to challenge the overall security situation.

**Economic vulnerability, and limited livelihood options and basic services remain a concern for families returning to their places of origin in Ninewa Governorate.** Since the beginning of 2018, the population of IDP camps in Ninewa and Erbil has increased. New arrivals come from recently liberated areas of Ninewa such as Mosul, Tel Afar, and Sinjar, and, having exhausted their savings, see no other option than to head back to camps. An overwhelming majority of families are experiencing their second or third displacement.

## Population movements

**As returns of IDPs continue to occur from locations in Anbar, Salah al-Din and Baghdad, the main protection concerns in these locations remain evictions and premature returns.** More than 1,500 people have left Anbar camps in early January, and IDPs are departing camps and non-camp locations in Salah al-Din, despite a lack of services and destruction of property in their areas of origin. Moreover, hundreds of returnee families have been re-displaced to camps following reprisal attacks in Riyadh sub-district in Salah al-Din, as well as in Al-Qa'im, Fallujah and Ramadi districts in Anbar, highlighting the fact that premature returns can result in secondary displacement. UNHCR continues to advocate with authorities on the ground to highlight protection concerns related to forced evictions and returns.

**The number of people returning to their areas of origin has surpassed the number of people displaced in the country.** Reportedly, 3.2 million people have returned to their areas of origin since January 2014, while 2.6 million people remain displaced across 97 districts. 38 per cent of returns took place in Anbar, 30 per cent in Ninewa, and 14 per cent in Salah al-Din Governorates. These three governorates were the worst affected by displacement, and account for around 86 per cent of the remaining displaced population: Ninewa, 57 per cent; Anbar, 15 per cent; and Salah al-Din, 14 per cent.

## Response update

**Winter assistance is ongoing across the country.** In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, 96 per cent of a total target of 59,577 refugee and IDP households have been registered to receive winter cash, of whom 80 per cent have already received assistance since last November. Countrywide, 605,885 Iraqis and Syrians are targeted to receive winter assistance. A large part of the assistance is cash-based, allowing families to decide for themselves how to spend the money, prioritizing their most urgent needs during the difficult winter months. UNHCR has disbursed a one-off cash assistance payment, ranging between USD 200 and 400, to vulnerable families living in camps and urban areas. In camps, UNHCR is also distributing core relief items specific to winter (including blankets, heating stoves, plastic sheets, and kerosene jerry cans).