

## IRAQ

### UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-31 January 2016

#### KEY FIGURES

**1,400,960**

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

**1,582,000**

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

**382,900**

Individuals received winterization support since 1 October 2015

**86,903**

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

#### FUNDING

**USD 450.8 million**

requested for the operation in 2016



#### PRIORITIES

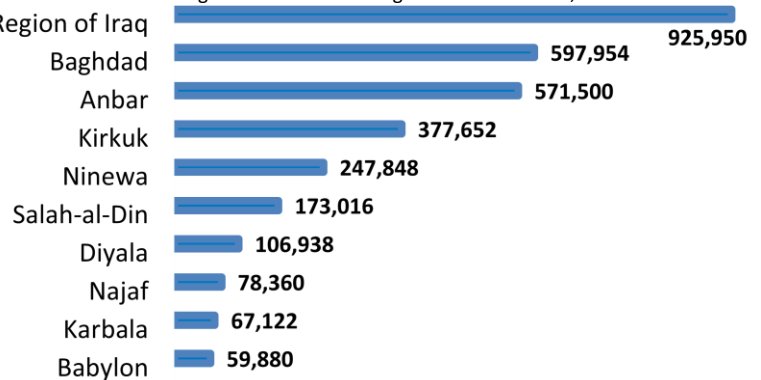
- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential shelter and NFIs
- WASH facilities in camps

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- In response to displacement from Ramadi, UNHCR provided emergency shelter for 1,440 displaced people in Al Qaser camp, in Habbaniyah Tourist City (HTC). Displaced families sheltering in various locations in HTC and Ameriyat al Falluja also received winter assistance kits and kerosene to meet their domestic needs.
- UNHCR continued to deliver essential assistance to help the displaced families cope with harsh winter temperatures. UNHCR is distributing winter household items to 60,000 vulnerable displaced families this winter.

**More than 3,290,310 people of concern** (Source: IOM-DTM Round XXXVI, Jan. 2016).

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



240 tents were installed in the Al Qaser camp, in Habbaniyah Tourist City (HTC), Anbar Governorate, and providing shelter for some 1,440 displaced people. UNHCR/M.Mijbel

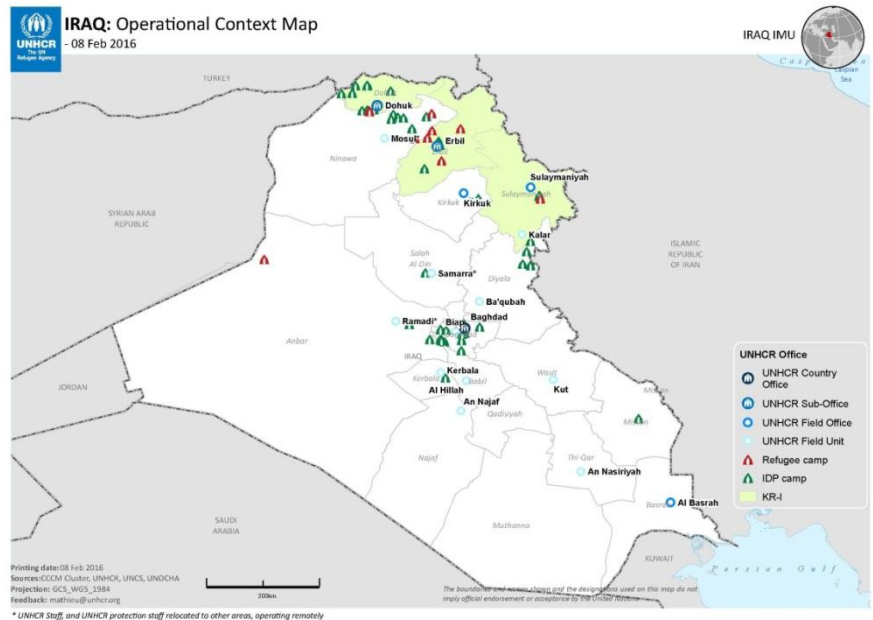
# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

## Operational Context

According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 3.19 million, spread across more than 3,500 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.



An estimated 4,000 people were newly displaced following military operations to regain control of Ramadi, Anbar Governorate's capital, from armed insurgents. Displaced families are living in various camps established by local authorities in Habbaniyah Tourist City and Ameriyat al Falluja, which are now at full capacity. Expansions are planned to accommodate more displaced Iraqis.

The city of Falluja has been under siege due to ongoing military operation and supply lines have been cut off. Residents in the city are reportedly facing an acute lack of fuel, as well as basic necessities, clean water and medicine.

As of end January, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix identified more than 485,000 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 as winter set in, with displaced families living in tents and unfinished building 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.

## Protection

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

- Through advocacy, UNHCR partners successfully delayed the eviction of 78 families, originating from Ramadi, who had been temporarily relocated to seven mosques in Baghdad's Ghazalia neighbourhood until the rehabilitation of Scout Camp is completed. Tents in Scout camp were severely damaged due to the heavy rains last November.
- UNHCR advocated with the authorities for the allocation of some caravans from Tazede IDP camp in order to establish a new school for IDP students.

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 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 1,598 families reaching 9,500 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 1,214 cases and legal counseling for 654 individuals. Additionally, 78 legal guides were distributed. 14 focus group discussions were held in Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Najaf and Wassit, benefitting 198 people, including 90 women. The topics included hygiene and health awareness, in addition to legal needs and services, and violence against women.
- In Baghdad Governorate, a campaign was organized in coordination with the Department of Education to raise awareness on education policies favourable to IDP children, including on the registration of IDP children.
- In Sulaymaniyah's Said Sadiq district, UNHCR distributed 15 wheelchairs to IDPs living with a disability.
- Cash assistance was distributed to 11,637 families in KR-I and 3,137 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 continue to be at risk of eviction due to requests from landlords or authorities to vacate properties.
- 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 Baghdad Governorate, UNHCR completed the replacement of 272 damaged tents by refugee housing units (RHU) in Abu Ghraib, West of Baghdad, providing improved shelter conditions for more than 1,600 people. In the Al Takia camp, UNHCR replaced 176 damaged tents, elevated the floor and covered the tents with plastic sheets to prevent further damage in case of heavy rains. In the Sadr Yusufiya camp, the floor was also elevated to prevent further rain-induced damage.
- In Laylan camp in Kirkuk Governorate, UNHCR replaced 31 tents that had been damaged due to weather condition and normal wear and tear. 106 solar boilers were installed in Nazrawa camp.

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

### UNHCR Responds to IDPs from Ramadi

- As protection and shelter/NFI cluster lead, UNHCR coordinates inter-agency needs assessments and preparedness plans.
- UNHCR carries out constant needs assessment and remains prepared to address emergency shelter and domestic item needs.
- 240 tents were installed to establish Al Qaser camp, in Habbaniyah Tourist City (HTC), Anbar Governorate, providing shelter for some 1,440 displaced people.
- Winter assistance kits and kerosene were distributed to families recently displaced from Ramadi sheltering in HTC and in Ameriyat Al Falluja, in Anbar Governorate.

### UNHCR Accelerates Winterization Programme

- With temperatures falling steadily across Iraq, UNHCR continued distributions to help vulnerable IDP families survive the harsh winter weather. UNHCR is distributing supplementary winter household items to 60,000 vulnerable families including blankets, kerosene stoves, kerosene jerry can, water jerry cans and plastic sheets.
- In terms of shelter, some families will also receive an inner tent liner and insulating floor boards specially designed to insulate UNHCR's tents by providing protection from the cold ground, and a second layer to prevent moisture from entering the tent and to help retain heat inside the living area. Some families will also receive a shelter sealing off kit to insulate unfinished houses. Families living in colder areas are targeted for winter tent shelter support.
- As a result of further needs assessments in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), additional winter needs have been identified for 21,730 IDP families, which is above the original target of providing winter assistance to 60,000 families.
- Thus, the overall target for winter CRI kits has been increased to 81,730 families across Iraq. As of 20 January, UNHCR had distributed winter CRIs including plastic sheets, heating stoves, kerosene jerry cans, and blankets to 63,820 families in Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Duhok, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Missan, Ninewa, Sulaymaniah, Thi-Qar and Wassit governorates, and provided cash for winter items to 4,000 families in Erbil Governorate. More than 6,800 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 living in Erbil Governorate with shelter sealing-off materials to improve living conditions in unfinished buildings. Winter CRI distribution across Iraq is more than 78 per cent complete. UNHCR continues to complement the government's kerosene ration distribution, and as of January, UNHCR has distributed 5,918,600 litres of kerosene to 19,460 IDP families in Anbar, Baghdad, Duhok, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Sulaymaniah governorates. Furthermore, UNHCR has also distributed USD 3,590,600 in cash to 17,950 IDP families, in Duhok, Erbil, and Sulaymaniah governorates to purchase kerosene.

## Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

### CAMPS

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, construction of the extension of Ashti camp is almost complete, only pending the finalization of the water network. The renovation of Arbat camp, which will host 400 families, is ongoing and expected to be completed in March. Both projects were slowed down by heavy rains.
- Further to the installation of 250 caravans in Mam-Rashan camp in Ninewa Governorate last month, UNHCR facilitated the relocation of 226 families who were living in unfinished buildings in Delal City, in Duhok Governorate's Zakho district.
- In Erbil Governorate, a water project was completed in Harshm camp, allowing all camp residents to access water in their caravans through a network system.



Children enjoy playing on a sunny day in Hay Djamiyah camp, Baghdad. UNHCR/ N. Micevic

#### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The lack of solid waste management and a sustainable water system at Tadeze Camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate remains of concern.
- In Ashti camp In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, education continues to be a critical gap as children have only three days of school per week. The construction of a school is ongoing, but is not expected to be finalized sooner than three months.
- In Duhok Governorate, following the relocation of 82 families to Garmawa camp on 6 December 2015, 25 households continue to lack their own shelter and are being hosted by relatives already settled in the camp. The limited access to individual WASH/kitchen facilities continues to present a concern from both a camp management and protection perspective. As such, UNHCR has been exploring the option of constructing a further 50 plots in the camp,
- The capacities of the health centre in Alwand 2 camp in Sulaymaniyah Governorate are overstretched.
- In Muthana Governorate, the stadium where 18 IDP families are living is overcrowded and lacks adequate water, health, sanitation facilities.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

- UNHCR Representative, Bruno Geddo, accompanied by Jozef Merckx, UNHCR's Coordinator in the KR-I, attended the handover ceremony of a quick impact project (QIP), funded by UNHCR, at Awat School in Erbil. The Ministry of Education (MoE), Erbil Refugee Council, local community and IDPs also attended the event. The project helped increase the total enrollment, reduce the class size and upgrade the infrastructure of the school. The school, which is attended by more than 800 students, hosts mostly IDP children from Mosul.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### Helping Displaced Families Get their Daily Bread - BAGHDAD, January 2016

*Life for people displaced by conflict in Iraq can be very difficult. Uprooted from their homes, it can be hard to find work, to support their families and provide basic needs. As part of its support for families, UNHCR has started up more than 240 small livelihood projects, aimed at promoting self-reliance, giving people new skills and injecting cash into the local economy.*

Every day, father of four, Mohammed Ismael, 31, wakes at 4 am and walks past tents and shelters in Al Salam camp for displaced families until he reaches a small bakery. Joining four other colleagues, the men will start preparing dough, kneading and pulling it into shape, and placing it in industrial-sized ovens. Outside a small queue of people has already formed, anxious to take home hot steaming bread, ready for breakfast.

The bakery was started by UNHCR, working with its partner, Multaqa, as a livelihood project, to provide employment opportunities and new skills for displaced families in the camp. Bread is an essential component of every meal in Iraq, but there was no bakery available in Al Salam to serve the 7,000 or more camp inhabitants, who mostly come from Anbar and Salah al Din. “It was a problem for families to get bread, because the nearest bakery was not close by and you needed to get a car to reach it”, said Mohammed. “But that was very expensive for families here, who often have no money.”



**Mohammed enjoys baking bread, and receives more than five hundred customers a day in the Al Salam camp in Baghdad.**  
UNHCR/R. Suwaed

The bakery at Al Salam is very popular. “We had more than five hundred customers a day, when we first opened in January”, said Mohammed “although numbers are going down a bit. That’s because families are finding it hard to get work and running out of savings. Costs are going up and the price of flour has increased.”

This is Mohammed’s first experience working in a bakery. He used to work as a construction worker before he and his family were forced to leave their homes in Fallujah, in Anbar province, in February 2014. When he arrived in Baghdad, it was hard to find regular work.

He and his colleagues all received specialised training before the bakery opened. And Mohammed is proud to show off his skills. “I had no idea how to do this work before”, he said, “but I learnt fast. Now, I’m one of the best bakers in the team”.

Mohammed works hard. He’s at the bakery until eight in the evening. But he’s proud to have a full-time job, especially since he has a new born baby son that he is able to support on his daily salary of 15,000 Iraqi dinars (about \$10).

Mohammed is very grateful for the help he and others have received from UNHCR. His family received a tent, as well as basic relief items. During the winter months, they were also assisted with a kerosene stove and kerosene, blankets, and plastic sheets.

“Life’s better now. I can support my family and I have a new skill”, he said.

*By Reem Suwaed*

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 7 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.

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)

