

IRAQ | IDPs - CIVIL & IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION (MAY 2021)

IN BRIEF

Lack of [civil documentation](#) is one of the [main protection issues](#) facing internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹ and returnees, who face numerous barriers seeking to obtain and/or renew civil documentation. Missing civil documentation impedes one's ability to access basic services, education, healthcare, and social security benefits and can lead to restricted freedom of movement, increased risk of arrest and detention, exclusion from restitution and/or reconstruction programmes, and the inability to participate in the public affairs of the country.

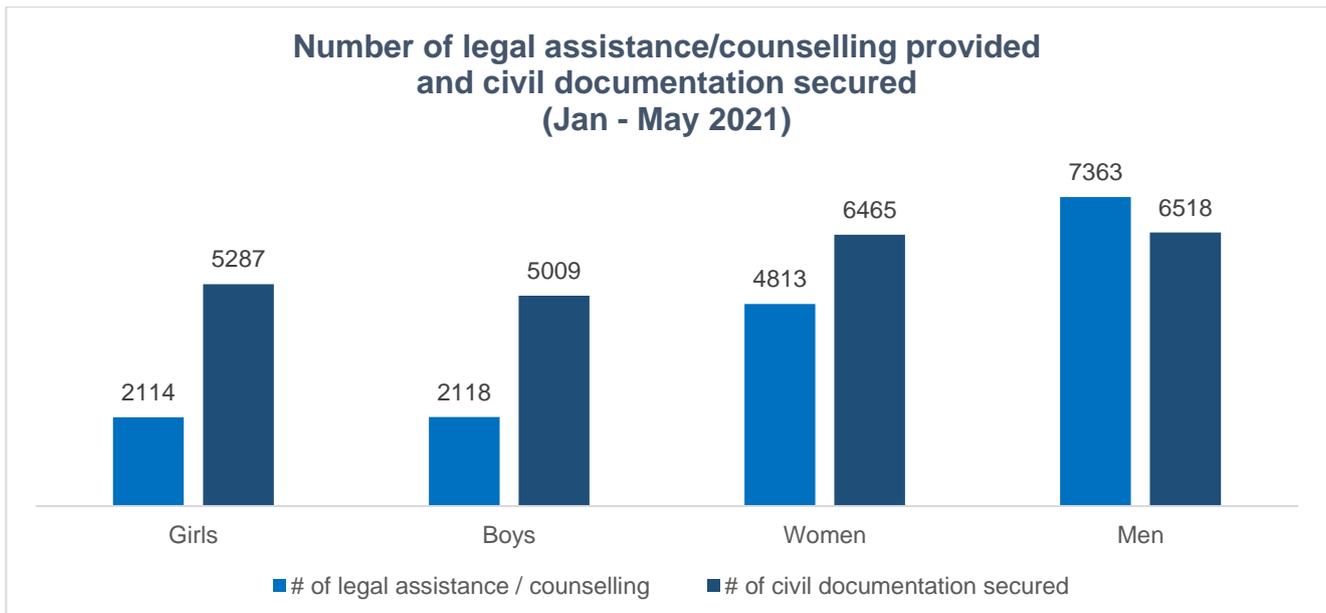
In response, in 2021, UNHCR, in cooperation with the government and civil society partners, continues to implement and support [projects and initiatives to enable IDPs and returnees to access civil documentation](#).



An IDP having his application processed during the mobile missions to Kerberto IDP camps in Dohuk May 2021 © UNHCR

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

In 2021 UNHCR continues to mobilize legal assistance partners so that IDPs and returnees have access to accurate information and quality [legal advice and representation](#) on obtaining civil documentation. Lack of awareness and the complexity of procedures remain key barriers faced by IDPs in accessing civil documentation, making such assistance critical. In [May 2021](#), UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and/or counselling to [3,646 individuals](#) resulting in the issuance of [8,076 civil documents](#). Between [January to May 2021](#), a total of [16,517 individuals](#) were provided with legal assistance, and [23,279 civil documents](#) were issued. The ongoing [COVID-19](#) situation continued to affect processing of applications. For example, authorities were not processing new applications for Unified ID cards during the reporting period. Partners continued to employ a combination of face-to-face (using precautionary measures) and remote approaches in the provision of legal assistance.



¹ According to the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment VIII (2020), more than 2.1m individuals are in households reporting that they miss one or more core documents, while more than 800,000 persons are in households reporting that they miss 3 or more core documents. Core documents as defined by the National Protection Cluster include ID card, Nationality Certificate, birth certificates and PDS cards.

MOBILE APPROACHES

As a key part of addressing IDPs' civil documentation needs, UNHCR continues to support the undertaking of [mobile missions](#) by government officials to IDP camps to receive and process applications for civil documents and to issue civil documentation without the need for IDPs to travel to their area of origin for the same.

In May, UNHCR supported a mission to [Keberto 1](#) and [Keberto 2](#) IDP camps in Dohuk, conducted in collaboration with the [Ministry of Interior \(MoI\)](#) of the [Federal Government of Iraq](#) as well as the [Kurdistan Regional Government](#). The mission resulted in the issuance of a total of [1,461 Civil Status IDs \(CSIDs\)](#) and [5,421 Iraqi Nationality Certificates \(INCs\)](#) to IDPs. This brings the total number of documents issued so far this year through the MoI mobile missions to [16,882](#) out of [17,399](#) applications processed (see table below).



Applicants waiting during MoI mobile missions in Dohuk May 2021 © UNHCR

Missions	Date	Nationality				Civil ID			
		Processed	Issued	Returned	Pending	Processed	Issued	Returned	Pending
1st	4 - 12 Apr	4090	4072	18	0	1214	1096	118	0
2nd	19 - 28 Apr	3971	3971	0	0	911	861	50	0
3rd	23 - 30 May	5521	5421	100	0	1692	1461	118	113
Total		13582	13464	118	0	3817	3418	286	113

UNHCR and partners also continued to support [mobile missions undertaken by local Civil Affairs Directorates \(CADs\)](#). In [Ninewa](#), UNHCR coordinated a CAD mission to [Jeda'a 5 camp](#) to process INC applications that had been rejected during earlier mobile missions. A total of [53 INC](#) applications were submitted and successfully processed during this mission. Plans are in place to process the remaining rejected cases as well. In coordination with the Civil Status Department of [Fallujah \(Anbar\)](#), [85 INCs](#) were issued to IDPs in [Bezibiz](#) informal site following the mission to process applications back in April.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

UNHCR has continued to support the [rehabilitation of the offices of the Civil Affairs Directorates \(CAD\)](#) with projects ongoing in [Hawija \(Kirkuk\)](#) and planned for [Shirqat \(Salah al-Din\)](#). In [Mosul](#), five of the 11 rehabilitated CAD offices are functional while the remaining six CAD/Unified ID offices rehabilitated and furnished between the end of 2020 and 2021 in [Ayadiyah](#), [Haman Al-Ail](#), [Qayarah](#), [Tal Abta](#), [Shimal/Sinuni](#), and [Qahtaniya](#) are yet to be officially opened and also await the recruitment of additional staffing by the authorities in order to become fully functional.

ADVOCACY AND OTHER INITIATIVES

UNHCR and partners engage in regular advocacy at various levels to resolve obstacles faced by IDPs and returnees in accessing civil documentation. In [Erbil](#), UNHCR's partner coordinated with the newly appointed [Khabat court](#) to conduct mobile missions to the [East Mosul IDP camps](#) which resulted in the issuance of [4 marriage certificates](#), [44 court birth certificates](#), and [51 curatorship documents](#) (see Q1 Fact Sheet). Following advocacy, the [Khabat court](#) has also agreed to accept a pledge by the spouses to obtain a marriage certificate instead of requiring a notary pledge. This significantly reduces the cost of a marriage certificate.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR DONORS

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