

UNHCR IRAQ

OPERATIONAL UPDATE: INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

1 – 15 September 2014

KEY FIGURES

1,800,000

IDPs needing assistance:

- 850,000 in KR-I
- 600,000 in Anbar
- 67,300 in Baghdad
- 27,000 in Diyala
- 74,000 in Najaf
- 78,000 in Karbala
- 120,000 in Kirkuk

(IDP figures based on Government, IOM, OCHA and ICRC data)

346,188

Individuals reached through protection monitoring

100,000

Individuals received CRIs

10,223

Cases approved for cash assistance

PRIORITIES

- Improve/maintain registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize services for the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV and improve quality of response
- Provide essential CRIs
- Provide safe and secure shelter
- Support for establishing camps

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 8 September, Iraq formed a new unity government. UN Special Representative for Iraq Nikolai Mladenov underscored the importance of a government that speaks for all Iraqis. "Forming a new and inclusive government that has wide national support is critical to the future of the country," he said. While most Ministerial posts have been filled, the appointment of Ministers for the Interior and for Defence is still outstanding.
- Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, arrived in Baghdad on 12 September for a three day visit to Iraq. The ERC travelled to Erbil and Dohuk, brought international attention to the humanitarian needs of IDPs, and the need for a clear strategy from the newly formed national government. The UNHCR Representative, Neill Wright, met with her to discuss UNHCR's contribution to the overall response to the IDP crisis and coordination amongst agencies.
- As of 10 September, the protection monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached a total of 346,188 individuals across Iraq, to determine their needs, including vulnerabilities, registration status and shelter.
- On 1 September, UNHCR launched a hotline enabling IDPs and refugees to speak with a trained responder 24 hours a day and are provided referral information as needed. Leaflets providing information about the hotline have been distributed both in camps and urban areas.
- The International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) team arrived in Dohuk on 8 September to coordinate and synchronize camp construction with UNHCR.



A young boy whose family fled fighting near Mosul in August carries quilts provided to him by UNHCR in Erbil. UNHCR / Ned Colt

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The current estimated number of displaced Iraqis (IDPs) has now reached 1.8 million people, who have settled in more than 1,500 locations across the country. Roughly 850,000 of them have arrived in the Kurdistan region of Iraq (KR-I)
- On 8 September, the Republic of Iraq inaugurated Haider al-Abadi as the new Prime Minister.
- US President Obama announced an expansion of airstrikes across Iraq and Syria.
- The conflict in Iraq continues amid indications that internal displacement may increase in the east as armed groups vie for control of access to a strategic dam. In the west of Iraq, fighting also continued.
- Some IDPs continue to face difficulties of access to safe territory, particularly those attempting to enter Kirkuk and Khanaqin.
- Some IDPs are reportedly returning to their home communities following the withdrawal of armed groups in areas around northern Iraq. Recent reports indicate that some Turkish Kurd families have returned to the Makhmour area and that Christian families have returned to communities near Mosul.
- A Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) two month humanitarian response plan is under preparation, led by local authorities, Iraq's Central Government, UN agencies, INGOs and national NGOs.

Achievements



Protection

As of 10 September, the protection monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached a total of 346,188 individuals across Iraq, to determine their needs, including vulnerabilities, registration status and shelter.

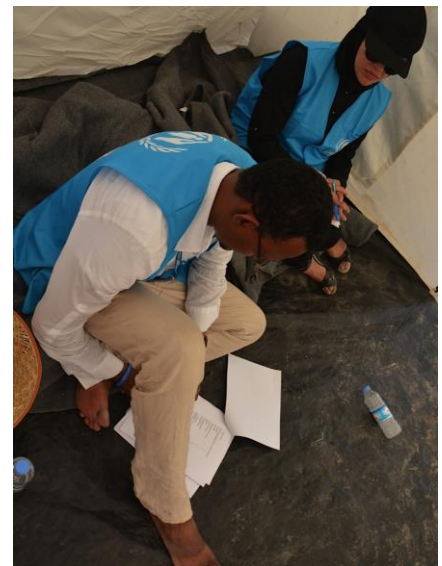
CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- Within **Erbil** governorate, protection monitoring has been enhanced for both urban and camp caseloads, as a result of the protection network that has been instituted through UNHCR's partner, Qandil.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Within the **KR-I**, some IDP families are unable to cross check points into Erbil without sponsorship. IDPs face extreme difficulties replacing civil documents as they must be in their home communities to do so. An estimated 10% of IDPs fled without any form of documentation.
- In **Erbil governorate**, there is limited land capacity to open new camps. The three camps currently open or due to open Baharka, Ainkawa and Ministry of Agriculture), will only host eight per cent of the displaced population currently living in Erbil.
- In **Sulaymaniyah governorate**, operational partners are needed in Arbat IDP camp, as tensions are growing between the IDP communities.



UNHCR Protection Monitors speak with camp-based IDPs about their needs.

UNHCR/N. Colt

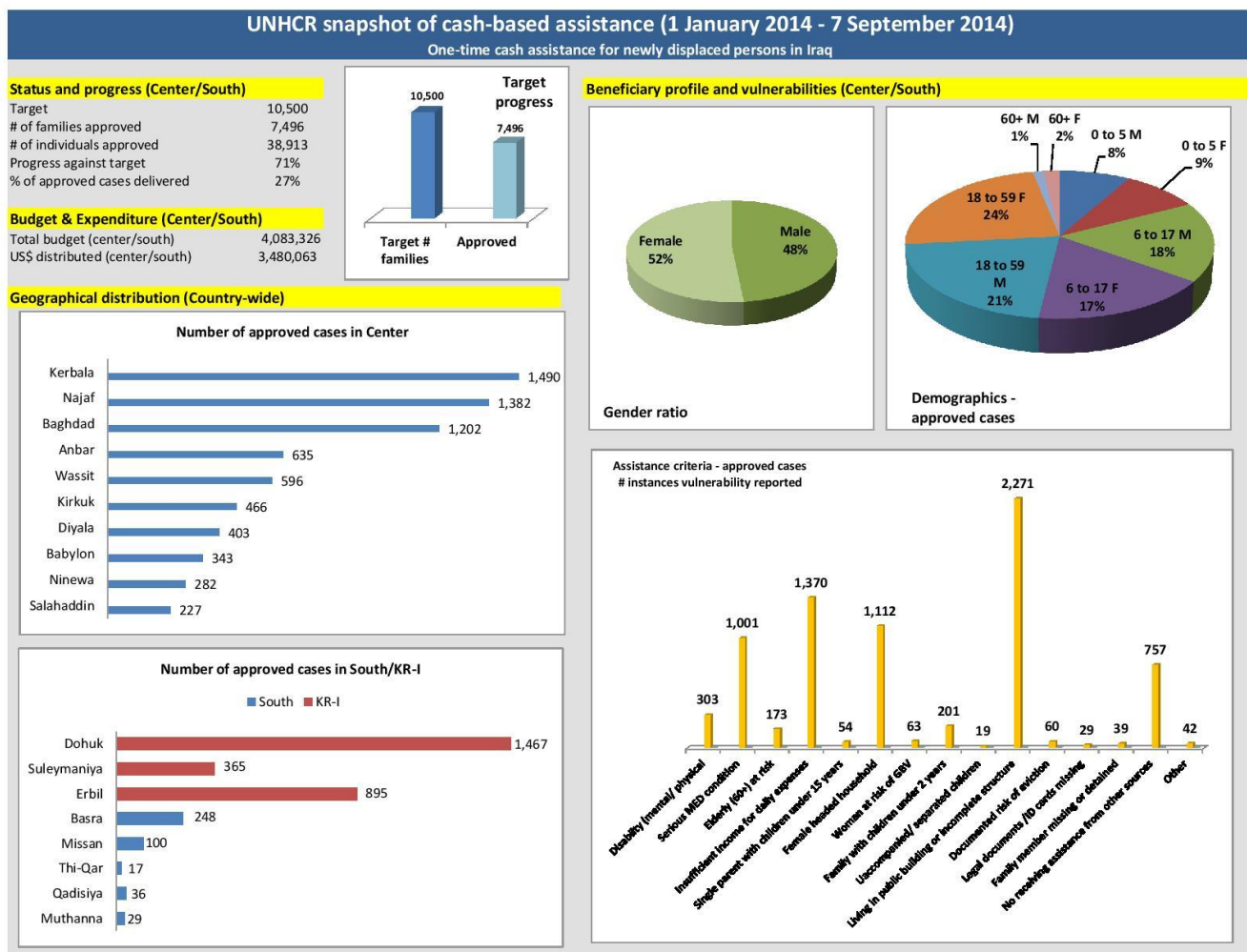
NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Since February 2014, UNHCR and partners have approved 10,223 cases across **Iraq** for cash assistance (7,496 for centre and south), and referred 12,915 cases for legal assistance and 4,742 cases for special needs support.
- On 3 September, UNHCR coordinated the distribution of 231 solar lamps and mobile phone charging kits provided by UNOPS to some 1,400 people living in unfinished buildings outside **Zahko**. Lack of lighting had previously forced women and children to use living spaces as toilets at night due to personal safety concerns.
- In **Dohuk**, 1,817 families have been approved for cash distribution. 80 cases were approved for Emergency Cash Assistance throughout **Erbil**, primarily in Shaqlawa and Khabat. In **Sulaymaniyah**, cheques have been disbursed to 136 IDP families.
- UNHCR met with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM) in **Erbil** to discuss obstacles that IDPs encounter in both the registration process and receipt of cash assistance. It was agreed that IDPs living in hotels will be provided with residency permits issued by local authorities. The cases of those with missing documentation will be reviewed by a committee of representatives from all governorates to verify their area of origin.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In **Erbil**, protection monitors have determined that the priorities amongst IDP families are food assistance and shelter.
- UNHCR met with the vice governor of **Dohuk** to discuss cash distribution and establish better coordination amongst agencies. The need for cash assistance for IDPs living in the open remains a priority.
- Access to safe areas remains a gap with IDPs being prevented from entering **Kirkuk** and **Khannaqin** cities.



Shelter and NFIs

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- The IHP team arrived in **Dohuk** on 8 September to coordinate and synchronize work with UNHCR to support additional camp construction.
- In **Khanke Camp**, 600 concrete slabs (used to raise tents off the ground and provide wind protection) out of 650 are finished and electricity supply distribution is 70 per cent complete.
- An additional camp site in **Shekhan** in Dohuk governorate was found suitable for camp construction. A UNHCR technical team is currently working on the camp layout.
- In the **KR-I**, UNHCR and its partners have reached almost 67,000 families (more than 400,000 IDPs) with emergency aid (CRIs). In **central** and **south Iraq**, 19,000 families (more than 100,000 IDPs) have been reached and assisted with CRIs.
- Distributions are ongoing in **Khanke, Garmawa, Bajed-Kandela**, and **Baharka** camps, as well as in urban settings.



Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The current population at **Baharka** camp is 730 families (3,500+ IDPs). There are currently 180 families without tents who are living in a former warehouse on site, awaiting completion of the camp expansion. An average of three families arrives every day seeking shelter.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many IDPs continue living in schools, unfinished buildings and outdoors. Shelter remains a key humanitarian priority. In much of the country, those in schools are being prioritized for shelter solutions.
- IDPs in **Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah Al-Din**, and **Ninewa** require core relief items (CRI) and shelter, however ongoing conflict prevents humanitarian access in many of these areas.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Achievements and Impact

- On 5 September, the CCCM cluster was officially launched in an effort to consolidate the establishment, monitoring and management of displacement sites (collective centres, informal settlements and camps) locations and designs, as well as to facilitate collaboration amongst all actors engaged in the response. The cluster is led by UNHCR. Key stakeholders include the central Government of Iraq, the KRG and the respective governorates, and members of the Strategic Advisory Group (ACTED, IOM, DRC and REACH). The main purpose of the cluster is to ensure equitable access to services and protection for displaced persons living in collective centres and camps, and to support the achievement of durable solutions.
- Thus far the cluster has met four times. Results include: a household level rapid assessment (REACH); IM products such as camp lists, maps and IOM DTM analytics; contributions, in coordination with OCHA; a final draft of the CCCM

Cluster national strategy; and a CCCM web page (<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq/camp-coordination-management>).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- At this early stage, identified gaps and needs include enhanced monitoring of IDP sites and a 3W for site actors, capacity of camp managers, and leadership/communication/accountability mechanisms for IDPs in sites.

Working in partnership

- The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) met with UNHCR in **Dohuk** to discuss IDP emergency response challenges, particularly those in the shelter sector.
- Canada's foreign minister, John Baird, accompanied by Canadian ambassadors posted in the Middle East, visited **Baharka** camp on 5 September. The delegation was briefed by the UNHCR Coordinator and the KRG Minister of Health.
- The UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Kevin Kennedy, visited **Sulaymaniyah** to assess humanitarian coordination structures and visit IDP sites under construction, as well as schools, churches and collective centres where IDPs live.
- A UKAid team on an assessment trip visited **Baharka** camp and met with UNHCR and IDP representatives to discuss needs at the camp.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the IDP situation amount to some US\$ 111.4 million.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as those who have contributed to this situation: Canada, CERF, Denmark, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA, Arab Gulf Programme for UN Development Organization and a number of private donors from Australia, China, Japan, and Sweden.

Contacts:

Jessica Hyba, External Relations Officer, hyba@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 780 109 9776

Russell Fraser, Reporting/External Relations Officer, fraser@unhcr.org, Cell +964 (0) 771 994 5708

Links:

For more information on the Syrian response please visit the UNHCR portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>.

For more information on the work of UNHCR and our partners in Iraq, please follow us on Twitter at @unhcriraq and on Facebook at "UNHCRinIraq" or write to irapi@unhcr.org