

IRAQ

UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-15 November 2014

KEY FIGURES

563,000+

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January

678,445

IDPs reached through protection monitoring

18,986

Families identified for cash assistance

7,111

Individuals received special needs support

20,010

People provided with legal assistance

FUNDING

USD 337 million

requested for the operation

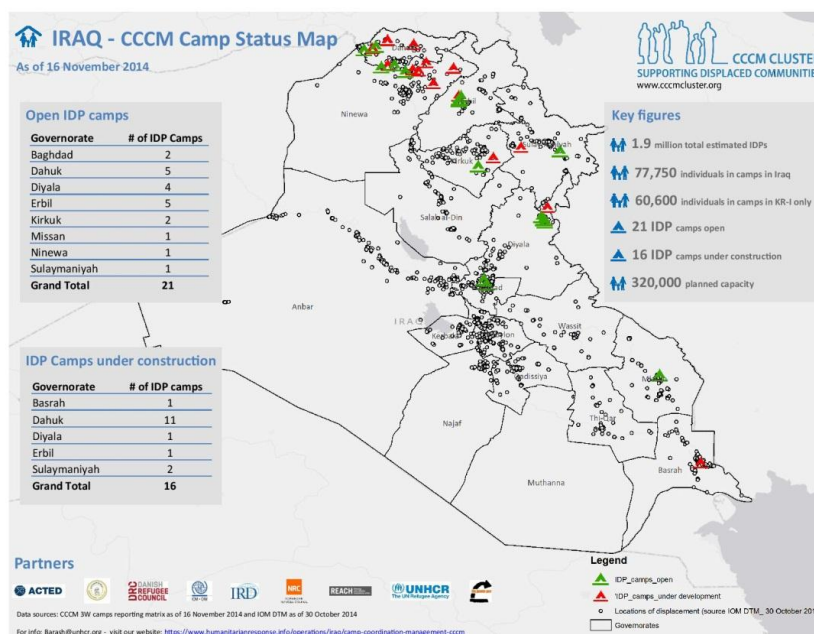


PRIORITIES

- Registration and needs profiling
- Increase access to legal assistance
- Prioritize the most vulnerable
- Reduce risk of SGBV
- Provide essential CRIs
- Winterization support
- Service providers in camps
- WASH facilities in camps

HIGHLIGHTS

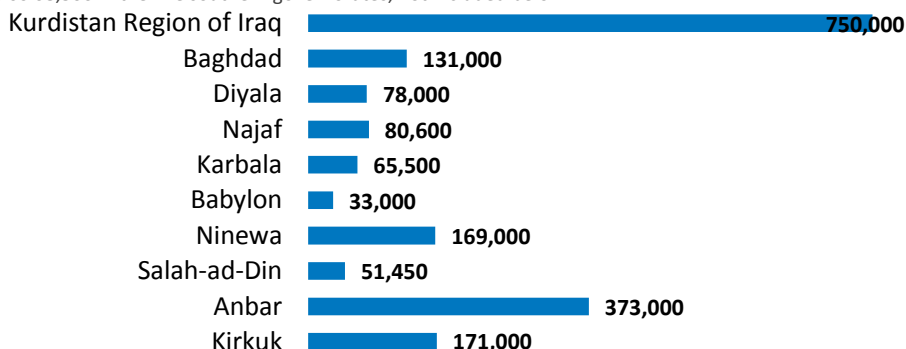
- Phase 1 of UNHCR's winterization programme is under way in the centre and south of Iraq, while the Office began phase two in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I); distributed items include jerry cans and stoves.
- Officials began distributing kerosene for IDPs this winter primarily in Dohuk.
- Relocation of IDPs from schools in Zakho, Semmel, Sharia and Dohuk to the Chamishku and Shariya camps (Dohuk Governorate) was completed on 15 November. A total of 3,324 families/19,100 individuals were relocated to Shariya and some 4,489 families/23,541 individuals were relocated to Chamishku.
- The international NGO "Clowns without Borders" made many children laugh at the Bajet Kandala 1&2, Khanke), and Garmawa IDP camps from 2-7 November.



Population of concern

Over **1,900,000** people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM 9 Nov, 2014).

There are also 68,500 in the five southern governorates, not included below.



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The estimated number of Iraqis displaced since January 2014 increased in November to 1.9 million according to the IOM DTM (database). IDPs have settled in more than 1,500 locations across the country. Approximately 750,000 of them are in the KR-I, marking a decrease in comparison to previous estimates.

- According to the decision of the President of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, sponsorship requirements no longer exist for IDPs in the **KR-I**. From now on, all IDPs will be able to apply for a residency card from their local Asayesh office, which permits them to move freely within the governorates and rent private houses. In order to work, IDPs will have to present a letter from the company wishing to hire them.
- Internal displacement continues in areas where international agencies have limited access. Conflict in **Anbar** has seen an increased number of families fleeing from villages around Fallujah.
- Increased numbers of new arrivals were reported at entry points to the **KR-I**, with hundreds of IDP families saw their entry refused. They have previously been requested to present themselves to the Asayesh office for screening.
- According to community leaders in **Mosul**, families continue to be displaced inside the district, as conflict lines evolve.
- The overall security situation in **Kirkuk** city and its surrounding areas continues to be volatile, with reports of multiple clashes between pro-government forces and armed groups in the villages of the Daquq, Hawija and Debis districts.

Protection

In line with the Protection Cluster strategy and needs, the monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached a total of 678, 445 individuals throughout Iraq, to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- Protection Network meetings were held in **Harsham**, **Baharka** and **Ainkawa Mall** (Erbil Governorate) during the reporting period to coordinate the work of the various protection actors.
- UNCHR worked with the IDP community in camps to support their internal organization and establish committees. Consultation meetings with the community took place in the **Garmawa**, **Khanke** and **Bajet Kandala** camps, with representatives from both male and female groups.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In **Sharyia** camp (Duhok Governorate), IDPs have advised that services such as latrines and water are too distant from their tents, making it difficult, in particular for elderly and disabled people to access such services.
- Inadequate Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in the **Bajet Kandala**, **Khanke**, **Chamishku** (Duhok Governorate) and **Garmawa (Nineva Governorate)** camps remain of concern, as winterization programmes take place in these locations.
- A capacity-building programme for IDP sector leaders in community-based protection and sector management is required in all the camps.



IDPs prepare for dinner next to UNHCR tents lit from within after the sun has set in Zozan City IDP camp in Dohuk. Nights are already cold where temperatures can easily drop below 5 degrees celsius. In the coming weeks temperatures are expected to drop below zero. ©UNHCR/D.NAHR

- Greater awareness should be raised through coordinated messaging about hygiene promotion, fire safety, women's and children's rights, and access to the formal justice system, both at the community and family levels.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- To date, a total of 8,714 IDP families have received cash assistance from UNHCR across Iraq: 1,198 families in **Erbil**, 400 in **Sulaymaniyah**, 2,662 in **Dohuk** and 4,454 families in the **central** and **southern** governorates of Iraq. For all cash distributions in the KR-I, UNHCR monitors the disbursement of cash provided by its partners. Displacement across Iraq continues, and families are registering daily with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM), including in **Khannaqeen**. On a daily basis 40-50 IDP families register with the MoDM in the southern governorates.
- Protection, Reintegration and Assistance Centres (PARC) mobile teams conducted protection monitoring to assess 77 IDP families displaced from Hawija district and the Salah Al Din and Ninewa governorates to **Kirkuk** city.
- Partner ASUDA organized seminars, focus groups, and individual meetings on legal rights with approximately 100 IDP women and girls in **Suleimaniyah city** and **Kalaar**.
- As a result of the Child Protection Sub-Working Group's presence at the **Ibrahim Khalil border**, 2 unaccompanied IDP children have been identified. A total of 10 IDP children have been identified since 14 October.
- UNHCR's implementing partner STEP carried out recreational activities for children through its mobile teams, including drawing, games, music, and singing in **Peramagrun**, **Tasloja**, **Qaladizi**, **ChamChamal** and **Rezgy** church in Suleimaniyah. Over 150 IDP children participated in these activities, which allowed to identify nine IDP children with trauma who are currently being supported by psychosocial services.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR Protection staff joined a legal aid partner in a field visit, targeting 85 IDPs families who had reported concerns related to movement restrictions in **Suleimaniyah** city. The team is following up with the relevant authorities on identified needs.
- UNHCR Protection was able to conduct a house to house visit in **Salih Agha** in **Suleimaniyah**, where there are many cases of families renting unfinished buildings. The need for shelter improvement was amongst the priority needs identified to date in the area.
- A total of 1,302 families in 18 locations in the **Zahko**, **Semmel** and **Duhok** districts (Duhok Governorate) were identified as at risk of eviction. These figures were shared with the government.
- Gaps in child protection (CP) programming have been identified in **Amedia** and **Semmel** (Dohuk governorate), as no CP actors are operational in these non-camp areas at this time. UNHCR is awaiting a response from the CP sub-working group, on whether coverage of these areas will start to fill these gaps; over 19 children have been identified as in need of CP support in these areas thus far.
- There is a need to continue cash assistance through a coordinated response. The overall economic vulnerabilities remain high, with few livelihood opportunities anticipated in the upcoming winter.



Shelter and NFIs

As the inter-agency Shelter and NFI Cluster lead agency, UNHCR is implementing the national Shelter/NFI Cluster's shelter and winterization strategy, to complement the work of local authorities and other humanitarian actors in meeting the needs of the most vulnerable IDPs throughout Iraq. Assistance targets those people living outdoors, in sub-standard structures, in colder climatic conditions or with particular individual vulnerabilities.

CAMPS

Achievements and Impact

- Phase two of the winterization strategy started in KR-I, providing winter items to IDPs in camps and urban areas.

- Earlier this month, rains destroyed several tents in **Baharka camps (Erbil Governorate)**. UNHCR implementing partner KURDS has pitched 55 new tents and moved all the affected families from covered areas into new tents.
- The construction of **Shariya, Berseve 1, and Chamishku** camps (Duhok Governorate) is now complete.
- UNHCR and KURDS completed all works on the construction of slabs (slabs (use to raise tents off the ground and provide some wind protection) and kitchens in **Khanke** camp, allowing the tents of some 3,120 IDP families to be erected on concrete slabs with individual family kitchens.
- UNHCR and its partner Peace Winds Japan (PWJ) completed all shelter construction in **Berseve 2** camp; PWJ is progressing with the completion of electricity works, and the setting up of an administrative office.
- UNHCR and its partner KURDS are progressing with site preparation for the extension of the **Garmawa** camp; DMC completed 350 concrete slabs and PU-AMI completed 100 slabs.
- DMC completed 476 concrete slabs in the **Bajet Kandala 2** camp.
- 1,000 containers are ready to receive families in **Qadia** camp, thus the initial plan of the camp has been fully implemented. The Government is working on getting additional funds to install 2,000 containers donated by the Rwanda Foundation.
- Save the Children has secured 1,000 non-food item kits for the inhabitants of the **Sharia** camp; Harikar will cover the families that will be relocating to **Berseve 1 and 2**.
- It is expected that 150 families will be relocated to **Garmawa** camp to vacant tents, as more than 200 families reportedly returned to Zummar after the airstrikes.
- UNHCR, through its partner INGO NCCI, distributed 400 CRIs at the **New Al Yawa/Aidin camp** and 200 CRIs at the **Bahari Taza** camp (Diyala Governorate).



Distribution of winter CRIs for IDPs in Bajid Kandala © UNHCR/R. Rasheed

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The delay in WASH activities in the **Berseve 2** camp is affecting the completion of shelter works on the site, which has also been delayed. However, the Government has insisted on the start of the relocation as of 16 November 2014. Some 35 schools/600 families were identified for the first stage of relocation.
- Little progress was reported in the **Sheikhan** camp, constructed by IOM-IHP, due to slowness in the administrative processes.
- In the **Shariya** camp, IDPs have raised many concerns with the layout and shelter options; latrines, kitchens and other facilities are deemed too far from the tents. While tents provided in Shariya are winterized, there is a lack of floor casting. In the absence of any proper drainage system, the probability of the tents being affected by rain is high.
- In the **Chamishku** camp, UNHCR field staff have reported a lack of electrical connection and insufficient water supply.
- Both the **Shariya** and **Chamishku** camps are in urgent need of core relief items (CRIs). Most of the families relocated have received little or no assistance since they fled their homes in early August, as many share homes with other families and stay in schools. Their situation is of growing concern, especially in the coming months, when temperatures will drop in the northern districts. UNHCR has identified an additional need for CRIs such as blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, stoves, heaters, kerosene. Furthermore, there are no hospitals, schools or social spaces in these camps. Following discussions with the camp management teams, the assignment of spots for social activities has been agreed upon, but unfortunately, there are no funds to implement construction.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Phase two of the winterization strategy across Iraq started across the country, providing winter items to IDPs in camps and urban areas. During the reporting period, a total of 16,798 kerosene jerry cans, 11,698 stoves and 9,009 polystyrene boards have been released for distribution.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Despite the joint efforts to provide winterization assistance to the most vulnerable families, there are gaps in many locations, with a high concentration of displaced families, namely in the Duhok, Semmel and Zakho districts, as well as in locations inaccessible to UNHCR in central Iraq.

Winterization Plan

A total of 50,000 families are targeted in UNHCR's winterization strategy across Iraq – 30,000 in KR-I and 20,000 in the south and centre.

Phase one: As of 30 October, phase one of UNHCR's winterization strategy is complete in all UN-funded camps. Additionally, urban areas across the KR-I have also been targeted in this programme. Families received quilts, plastic sheeting and water jerry cans.

Phase two: On 1 November, phase two of UNHCR's winterization strategy also started. Items for tents include insulate and shelter from the elements, as well as a winter shelter kit that contains items adapted to the shelter environment, an inner liner or partitions for tents, stoves and kerosene jerry cans.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Achievements and Impact

CAMPS

- Laylan** IDP camp in Kirkuk Governorate is open and hosting some 181 families. The camp is at 64 per cent completion with construction ongoing. 80 families moved in from schools in Kirkuk during the reporting period.
- The Missan IDP camp (Missan Governorate) is currently hosting 109 families. It is managed by the governor's office, in coordination with MoDM. UNHCR has established a functioning coordination mechanism at the governorate level where CCCM issues are identified, reported, addressed and monitored. There are daily visits by PARC to the camp.
- UNHCR completed a one-week training on CCCM and project management for the first cohort of 24 potential staff and managers for the newly established camps in **Duhok**.
- Bajet Kandala, Garmawa and Khanke** camps now conduct regular camp management meetings with actors on the ground. UNHCR continues to provide support to camp managers in the facilitation and exchange of information, and in providing updates on the activities and mandates of various agencies.



Laylan IDP camp in Kirkuk. November 2014 @UNHCR

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- During camp management meetings in the IDP camps, a lack of clear referral systems and information awareness among the population on various programmes and activities was reported.
- The lack of camp managers for the camps that are about to open remains a challenge. While the authorities have taken measures to identify camp managers through training, it may take time to form camp management team.

NON-CAMP

Achievements and Impact

- Assessments of IDP informal settlements in the **KR-I** are complete. A total of 880 sites (unfinished and abandoned buildings) have been assessed as having hazardous conditions. Information collected for each site includes the following: sex and age disaggregated data, safety of the site, exposure to elements, access to water and its quality, access to electricity, type of shelter, and proximity to conflict. The greatest risk for families living in the open is exposure to the elements. Statistics and information breakdowns can be found at the following link: <http://unhcr-iraq.github.io/Site-Assessment/>

Working in partnership

- The Governor of Kirkuk met with UNHCR and relevant government departments to discuss the progress achieved in construction of the **Laylan** camp and movement of the school-based IDP families to the camp. The camp is already hosting families and construction is ongoing.
- UNHCR met with the Netherlands' embassy liaison officer at **Arbat** IDP camp to discuss protection risks and issues faced by the IDPs in the camp. UNHCR held a workshop with MoMD, Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM) and UNHCR to discuss the harmonization of registration procedures in the KR-I, and on how to best address challenges in registration practices.
- Representatives from DFID and the Canadian government visited **Khanke** camp as part of an SGBV scoping mission in Duhok, and were briefed on issues concerning IDPs and the Khanke camp, as well as on the gaps and challenges faced in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) matters.

The Evolution of Baharka Camp

In its first year, the Baharka IDP camp has already provided shelter for many different groups of people. Located on the outskirts of Erbil, only a year ago, the camp served a different population as it was a transit camp for Syrian refugees. In November 2013, with a decline in the number of refugee arrivals, officials closed the camp. When it reopened to a burgeoning IDP population in June, the dust of the desert had already started to cover the massive open warehouse at



UNHCR Protection officer Kristi Arthur walks through Baharka Camp. UNHCR works in providing shelter, protection, and emergency items to those living in the camp. November 2014 ©UNHCR/T.Tool

the center of the sprawling camp. Today, Baharka houses more than 3,000 people, and is bustling with the activity of a real community. More than thirty small shops sell everything from food to clothing. Residents sweep around their tents, and dig trenches for water runoff. Tandoor ovens made of clay and straw send spirals of smoke into the air as families bake their own bread.

It has been a major transformation during the past few months. In June 2014, a wave of IDPs from Mosul fled their homes after armed groups seized control of the city and its surrounding villages. Tens of thousands poured into Iraq's northern Kurdistan region (KR-I). Those initial days were chaotic as UN agencies, the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worked together to respond to the mass displacement crisis. The KRG decided to reopen Baharka, to provide temporary shelter to the IDP population.

Another wave of IDPs arrived in the KRG in August, as fighting spread across the Ninewa governorate. Currently, Baharka is at full capacity, and support services continue to be developed to meet the needs of the growing population. UNICEF and its partners are providing child-friendly spaces and tented classrooms for children; UNHCR is working with its Italian partner INTERSOS to open drop-in and referral centres this month, and the American NGO International Medical Corps is running a primary care clinic. The Barzani Charitable Foundation (BCF) manages the camp and oversees the more than 20 organizations that operate within it. Given the growing shelter needs for IDPs, UNHCR and the KRG are adding space for an additional 6,000 people, with a camp expansion that will soon be completed.

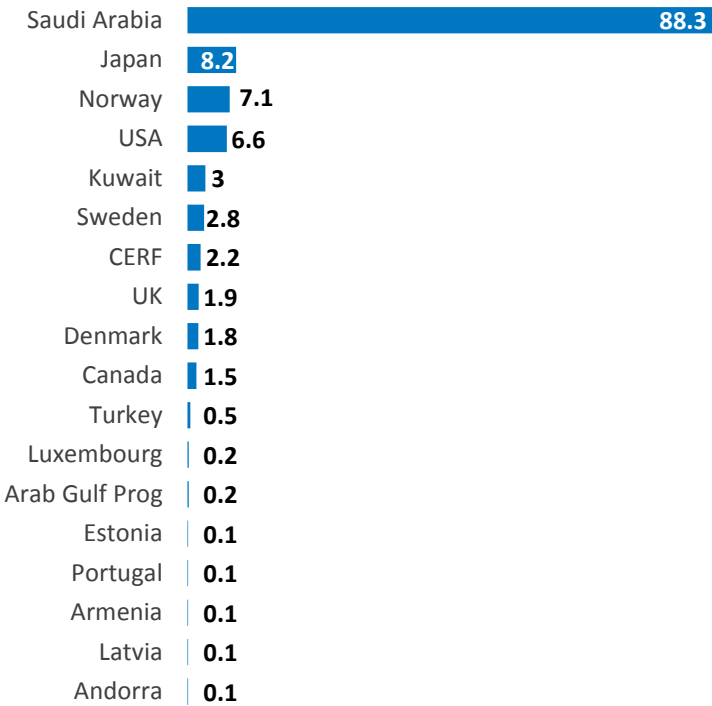
UNHCR Protection Officer Kristi Arthur spends at least one day weekly at Baharka, and has witnessed the camp’s transformation. “Only a few months ago we faced major challenges here, with a mix of different types of shelter, and sanitation conditions that were below global health standards. People now have more secure shelter, the camp is a lot cleaner, and there’s a growing sense of community and dignity.”

More than a dozen donors, including Saudi Arabia, the United States, and Japan have driven the positive change at Baharka, though much more remains to be done. – *Story by Tiffany Tool*

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 124.8 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.

Funding received (millions of USD)



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