

## KEY FIGURES

**771,000+**

IDPs provided with shelter and core relief items since January 2014

**1,190,569**

IDPs reached through protection monitoring since January 2014

**31,654**

Families approved for cash assistance since January 2014

**27,165**

Individuals received special needs support since January 2014

**63,774**

People provided with legal assistance since January 2014

## FUNDING

**USD 405 million**

requested for the operation in 2015



Gap  
94%

Funded  
6%

## 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

## IRAQ

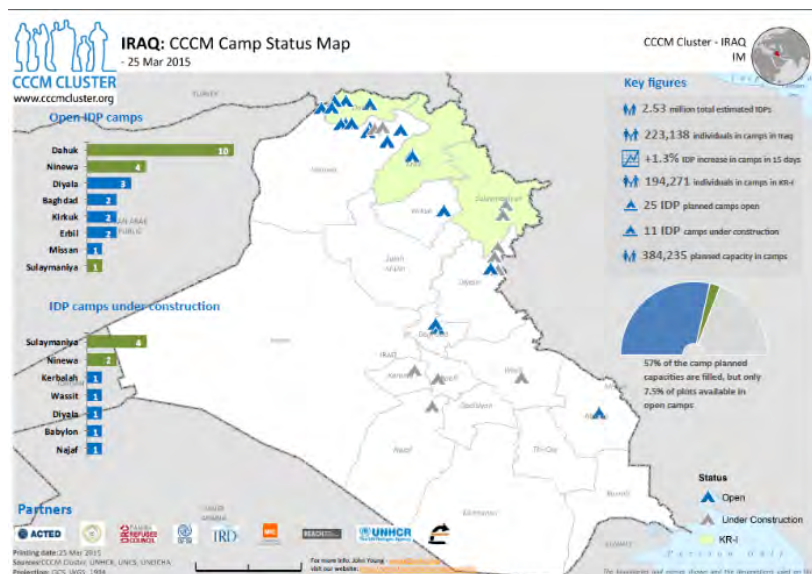
### UNHCR IDP OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1-15 April 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

In this reporting period:

- Ground combat around Ramadi caused large scale internal displacement within and from the Anbar province. As of 15 April, UNHCR had distributed core relief items (CRI) to more than 8,600 individuals who fled their homes in search of safety in Anbar and Baghdad. UNHCR also carried out protection monitoring at checkpoints and assisted the local authorities with tents for some 400-450 families.
- The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), Dr. Volker Türk, visited Iraq from 12-17 April 2015. During his visit, he saw first-hand the situation of refugees and IDPs in camps and urban locations. He met with local authorities, UN senior management, and the diplomatic community in Baghdad.



More than **2,674,080** people of concern (Source: IOM-DTM 9 April, 2015).

There are some 71,400 IDPs in the five southern governorates according to local authorities, not included below.

Kurdistan Region of Iraq	836,244
Baghdad	356,802
Diyala	145,284
Najaf	84,138
Karbala	68,406
Babylon	51,600
Ninawa	186,492
Salah-al-Din	113,856
Anbar	405,228
Kirkuk	341,310

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

According to IOM's April Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), the estimated number of internally displaced Iraqis now exceeds 2.6 million, spread across more than 3,000 locations countrywide.

Armed conflict continued to rage in the North, Center and West of Iraq, with airstrikes and ground fighting reported in various governorates. Following the launch of a ground offensive by armed opposition groups (AOG) on the city of Ramadi on 9 April, intense clashes occurred, displacing an estimated 19,000 families from and within the Anbar province. Some of the displaced fled eastwards toward Khalidiya (25 km east of Ramadi) and Al-Habaniyah (38 km east of Ramadi) within Anbar, while others fled further afield in the direction of Baghdad and Babylon.



Civilians fleeing Anbar were asked to provide a sponsor to vouch for them before being admitted to Baghdad at the Bzabz bridge – a series of pontoons across the Euphrates River, about 65 kilometres west of Baghdad, which marks the boundary between Anbar and the capital. UNHCR/G. Ohara

UNHCR is concerned about the processing arrangements and restrictions on access to safety in Baghdad, including a sponsorship requirement imposed by State security actors. Access limitations were also in evidence in other governorates. People waiting at various checkpoints found themselves without shelter and facing worsening conditions, exhausted and anxious to move on to more secure locations. Some people had walked for miles without food and water and were in urgent need of assistance.

In the Kirkuk Governorate, IDPs travelling through the Hawija and Daquq sub-districts were prevented from accessing safety in Kirkuk city and remained blocked at checkpoints. IDPs were reportedly displaced to the Tuzkhurmato area of the Salah al Din Governorate due to ethno-religious tensions.

In the North, fighting between Peshmerga forces and AOG continued in the vicinity of Makhmour and in Khazir, west and north of Erbil, respectively. In the Ninewa Governorate, attacks by armed groups on the Mosul Dam were repelled by the Peshmerga forces and coalition airstrikes. In Erbil city, a car bomb attack claimed three lives and wounded many, while the pattern of terrorist attacks involving Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), small arms fire (SAF) and indirect fire (IDF) increased in Baghdad.

Some IDPs spontaneously returning to their areas of origin in Ninewa, Diyala and Salah al Din Governorates faced security clearance procedures by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Peshmerga forces. At the same time, some IDPs have been pressured to return to areas of origin due to the lack of absorption capacity in the areas of displacement. UNHCR and the UN humanitarian country team do not encourage organized voluntary returns of IDPs in view of the continued absence in many locations of conditions conducive to return. However, support is being provided to spontaneous IDP returnees whenever it is safe to do so. Key protection concerns affecting IDP returnees across Iraq include the destruction of property, contamination by explosive remnants of the conflict, limited availability of food and non-food items, safety of women and children due to the presence of militias, as well as access to health services, clean water and education.

## Protection

The monitoring teams of UNHCR and its partners have reached 1.1 million individuals throughout Iraq since January 2014, in order to determine needs, vulnerabilities, registration status, demographic information, and accommodation circumstances.

The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), Dr. Volker Türk, visited Iraq from 12-17 April 2015. During his week-long mission, Dr. Türk visited IDPs and Syrian refugee families in camps and in urban locations, some having been displaced multiple times. He also met with the central Government authorities in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Government in Erbil to discuss ways to provide more effective support to refugees and the internally displaced, as well as to host communities. Highlighting the challenges in adequately protecting and assisting those uprooted, Dr. Türk urged greater national ownership and more international solidarity to respond to the critical needs of those displaced.



The UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (Protection), Dr. Volker Türk, speaking to the media at a press conference in Erbil on 16 April 2015. UNHCR/N. Micevic

## CAMP

### Achievements and Impact

- In the Duhok Governorate, UNHCR and partners started a fire prevention campaign in Dawodia camp with a seminar for community representatives and volunteers.
- UNHCR and the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) conducted joint awareness-raising sessions on registration procedures in the Baharka and Harshm camps. More than 150 IDPs were provided with information on registration policies and updates on their registration status.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Missan Camp, Missan Governorate, women have reportedly been lacking transportation options and have thus been unable to travel to markets to buy food and supplies. Families indicated they did not wish to remain in the camp due to the heat. Needs for the camp include a fence, summarization materials, education support and livelihood activities.
- In the Basra Collective Center, students have been unable to attend school due to the lack of electricity and air conditioning.
- Unconfirmed reports have been received alleging the presence of combatants and weapons in IDP camps in Dohuk Governorate. UNHCR has been liaising with the relevant authorities to support steps to preserve the humanitarian character of the camps.
- In the Chamishku Camp, Duhok Governorate, scabies affected some 500 IDPs due to unsanitary conditions related to the absence of a garbage collection system. Furthermore, the need for a referral mechanism and psychosocial support services was identified.

## NON-CAMP

### Achievements and Impact

- In response to the displacement from Ramadi, UNHCR conducted protection monitoring at checkpoints to identify the needs of those displaced in affected governorates.
- In the Wassit and Najaf governorates, UNHCR and its partners assessed the needs of 304 families in 89 collective centres and more than 200 families in 111 centres respectively.

- UNHCR staff visited the Governors of Thi Qar and Missan to improve coordination and ensure the effective implementation of programmes. Furthermore, UNHCR conducted a workshop on protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) for the protection staff of local NGO partners in Thi Qar.
- In the Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR facilitated the relocation of 21 families from unfinished buildings to the Garmawa Camp. Moreover, in the Erbil Governorate, UNHCR has been supporting protection monitors to update the mapping of service providers in Erbil city, thereby improving referral mechanisms and access to assistance.
- In Koya, Erbil Governorate, UNHCR along with local authorities and partners initiated the establishment of a women's centre to provide psychosocial support, livelihood training, protection and SGBV services for women and girls.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- IDPs displaced from Ramadi found themselves stuck at checkpoints due to processing arrangements and a sponsorship requirement imposed by Government security actors. Access limitations were also reported in other governorates.
- In the Diyala Governorate, an approval process has been imposed on returnees who have been requested to obtain prior permission to return to their homes. This has resulted in many families being prevented from returning to their areas of origin. Furthermore, some 10,000 families who have returned to their places of origin in Diyala are in need of legal assistance to replace documentation and additionally need food, shelter, CRI, medical support, clean water and electricity.
- IDP families throughout Iraq remain at risk of eviction, particularly in Zakho and Dohuk cities in the Dohuk Governorate. In Dohuk, the lack of fuel and competition over the purchase of firewood has caused increased tensions between IDPs and host communities.



## 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 the Sulaymaniah Governorate, the first phase of Qoratu camp was ongoing with anticipated capacity for 500 families (3,000 people). More funding is required to complete the construction of latrines and the water network system.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- As of 15 April, there are over 3,100 families/18,000 persons registered in Arbat IDP camp and up to 600 families sharing tents with other extended relatives. The camp is very overcrowded and full capacity was planned for less than 800 families/4,800 persons. While 1,000 families may be relocated to Ashti camp, Arbat IDP camp will continue to host some 2,100 families. Increased tensions between various groups were reported as a result of overcrowding, unsanitary hygiene and poor WASH conditions. UNHCR's request to have the camp's boundaries demarcated is pending a decision by the local authorities.

## NON-CAMP

### Achievements and Impact

- In response to the displacement from Ramadi, UNHCR and its partners distributed essential domestic items to more than 8,600 people who fled to the municipalities of Amriyat Al Fallujah, Habaniyah, and Al-Khaldiya in the Anbar and



Baghdad governorates. Moreover, UNHCR carried out site planning at the Al Latifiya collective centre in Baghdad for 29 families. Ground combat in the area of Ramadi caused large-scale internal displacement within and from the Anbar province. As of 15 April, UNHCR had distributed CRI to more than 8,600 individuals who had to flee their homes in search of safety in Anbar and Baghdad. UNHCR also assisted the local authorities with tents for some 400-450 families.

- In the Kirkuk Governorate, UNHCR and partners distributed emergency relief items to more than 1,900 people.
- In the Dohuk Governorate, 728 families were relocated from Zakho, Sumel and Duhok to the Rwanga Community. Furthermore, UNHCR and NFI/Shelter Cluster members finalised the post distribution monitoring exercise conducting 100 focus group discussions. At the same time, summer needs assessment was done both in camps and non-camps.
- In Erbil, UNHCR monitored the relocation of 410 families from the Ainkawa Mall Collective Centre to the new Ashti Collective Centre.
- In Diyala, UNHCR partners launched the rehabilitation of 65 shelters and 420 collective centers were identified for potential rehabilitation. An additional 45 collective centres were identified for rehabilitation in the Babylon Governorate.



Shelters ready for rehabilitation in central Iraq. UNHCR

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- The authorities in the Salah al Din Governorate requested shelter and CRI to support IDP returnees.
- In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR and local authorities continue to raise awareness regarding the benefits of relocation from informal settlements to camps where more services are available.



## Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

### CAMPS

#### Achievements and Impact

- In Sulaymaniyah Governorate, UNHCR and partners conducted a workshop for government authorities working in the Arbat IDP Camp to discuss roles and responsibilities regarding camp administration, coordination and management. Workshop participants noted that key priorities are developing a coordination mechanism among various government agencies and terms of reference for agencies working in the camps, as well as a code of conduct for IDPs.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gap

- The UNHCR-led CCCM Cluster took the lead in coordinating an interagency response to needs in Kirkuk Governorate, seeking funding to support the IDPs as well as the construction of a camp.

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

### One and a half dollar profit per day business

*Bardarash Camp, Dohuk Governorate, 8 April 2015* - Twelve year-old Ahmed walks around the Bardarash IDP Camp in the Duhok Governorate, carrying a little box made of wood wrapped with cork to keep it cool. He calls loudly: “Motah...Motah (Ice-Cream)”! Ahmed is now in business.

Eight months ago, Ahmed, his parents and his eight siblings along with others from the Shabak ethnic minority group fled their village of Omer Kan in the Ninewa Governorate. They lived in an unfinished house in Bardarash city for five months before moving into the camp.

Although basic education is free in Bardarash, Ahmed cannot afford to go to school as transport is too costly. “He will need a minimum of 30,000 Iraqi Dinars (IQD), equivalent to 25 USD, to commute to school, which is too expensive for us,” says his 30 year-old brother Yousif, who has five children and is currently unemployed.

Like the majority of the camp’s residents, Yousif dreams of finding a job with little prospects of doing so. Their elderly parents are in need of medical attention and 12 year-old Ahmed is the only employed person of his family, which depends mostly on humanitarian aid.

Ahmed’s initial capital for his business was 8,000 IQD, which enabled him to purchase a box full of ice-cream. He walks around the camp to sell it for a profit of 2,000 IQD, equivalent to 1.50 USD. “I want to help my family in any way that I can,” says Ahmed.

According to Yousif, most members of the Shabak minority group have fled and lost communication with their village which is occupied by armed groups. “They detained 27 members of our community,” says Yousif.

Ahmed comes back just before noon with an empty box an income of 2,000 IQD in hands. He has lunch with his family before going to the market to purchase a new box of ice-cream and starting the evening shift.

Ahmed does not plan to go to school in the near future. His only hope remains to go back to his village, where he can go to school without paying for transport, as it is only five minutes away from his home.

*By Husam Eldin Mustafa*



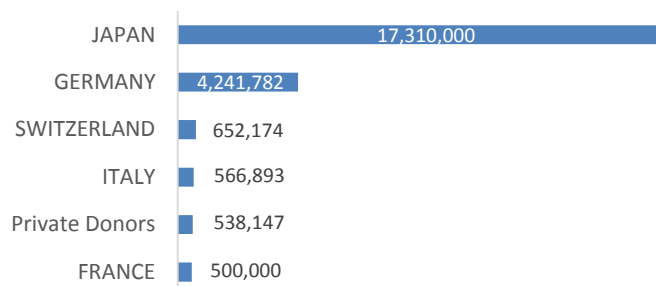
Ahmed sells ice-cream (motah) in the camp to help his father with the living expenses UNHCR/ H. Suliman

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 23.8 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 in 2015 (USD)



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