

UNHCR IRAQ FACTSHEET



Quarter 1
2014

UNHCR in Iraq

UNHCR has been present in Iraq since the 1980s. Working with the Government of Iraq (GoI), UNHCR protects and assists people of concern (PoCs) including refugees, asylum seekers, stateless people, returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in all 18 governorates. Iraq is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. However, for decades the country has been hosting and assisting, with UNHCR's support, refugees of Palestinian, Iranian, Turkish, and Syrian origin.

Refugees /Asylum Seekers

The number of registered protracted (non-Syrian) refugees and asylum seekers is now 39,480. UNHCR provides protection and assistance to the refugees while seeking durable solutions for them, through voluntary repatriation, resettlement or local integration. As of the end of March 2014, the total number of registered Syrian refugees in Iraq reached 220,787. More than 98 per cent are hosted in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

For further details please visit: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=103>.

UNHCR continues to process the applications of the residents of ex-New Iraq camp (formerly camp Ashraf) who have been transferred voluntarily to Hurriya Temporary Transit Location. Of these, 2,023 individuals were identified as being with International Protection needs. As of 31 March, 367 individuals have departed to third countries. Out of the 210 that Albania accepted, 208 individuals departed. Out of the 98 individuals accepted by Germany, 91 individuals departed to Germany. In total, 56 individuals departed Iraq between 1 January and 31 March 2014.

Stateless Persons

UNHCR is working with the Government of Iraq to determine the number of stateless persons in Iraq, which is likely to be significantly below the commonly referenced figure of 120,000. A mapping study targeting a wide variety of communities commenced, gathering data through 150 key-informant interviews across 11 governorates and a survey among 1,200 respondents are being considered. Moreover, UNHCR provides direct (financial) assistance and offers legal support to families at risk of statelessness. Advocacy with the GoI for accession to the two Statelessness Conventions is another key initiative.

Returnees

UNHCR supports refugees and IDPs who have voluntarily returned to their places of origin to ensure that sustainability of their return. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) recorded 124,150 Iraqi refugee and IDP returnees in 2013. In Iraq, returnees receive assistance from MoDM in addition to support provided by UNHCR through its Return, Integration and Community Centres (RICCs). Owing to unrest in Syria, 45,840 Iraqi refugees in that country have registered with MoDM as returnees since July 2012. UNHCR has been providing cash grants and other assistance to ex-Syria Iraqi refugees to facilitate their reintegration.

UNHCR Iraq 2014 budget: USD 276,779,168
USD 145,524,049 Regular programme
USD 131,255,119 Syrian response

Populations of Concern	Individuals
Refugees & asylum Seekers, non-Syrian	39,480
Registered Syrians fleeing violence in Syria	220,787
Stateless persons (estimate)	120,000
Iraqi refugee and IDP returnees registered in 2013	124,150
Registered Iraqi refugee returnees from Syria	45,840
IDPs (MoMD)	954,128
IDPs resulting from Anbar armed conflict (MoDM)	427,000

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

According to the MoDM and the Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), there are approximately 954,128 IDPs in Iraq (not including those recently displaced in Anbar). Most IDPs fled their homes owing to fear in connection with sectarian violence in February 2006.

A new wave of displacement occurred in 2013; 1,865 families/9,991 individuals were verified as newly displaced. UNHCR and its partners conducted needs assessments of the newly displaced people, including those displaced as a result from the crisis in Anbar, and is advocating with the GoI for their registration. In coordination with the government, UNHCR and partners ensure that food, core relief items, education and adequate accommodation are provided and that relevant identity and residency cards are also given. In collaboration with the IDPs working group, UNHCR has been working with the government, particularly with the MoDM, on a comprehensive plan to end displacement that incorporates the development of policies on integration as well as livelihood and employment opportunities as well as shelter programmes. Dialogue on the role of development actors in support to IDP assistance will continue in 2014.

UNHCR also responded to the needs of flood victims in central Iraq in the first quarter of 2014 by providing over 3,000 CRI kits to affected families and participating in a multi-agency rapid needs assessment.

The conflict in Anbar Governorate has displaced over 400,000 individuals, of which 80 per cent remain in Anbar, and the remaining 20 per cent relocated to other governorates. Please see the second page for more information on the crisis and the humanitarian response.

UNHCR's PARCs (protection assistance network)

UNHCR, through its partners, manages a network of 18 Protection Assistance and Reintegration Centres (PARCs) across Iraq as well as six Return Integration and Community Centres (RICCs) in Baghdad to ensure that IDPs, refugees, returnees and stateless persons are able to enjoy their fundamental rights. Lawyers in the Centres as well as 45 mobile teams provide legal assistance, interventions and referrals on behalf of the persons of concern.

UNHCR staff and partners continue to follow up closely on protection issues faced by persons of concern, including evictions of IDPs from informal settlements, and issues relating to child protection, and gender based violence.

The Armed Conflict in Anbar Governorate

Overview

The most significant development in the first quarter of 2014 has been the tensions in Anbar Governorate that developed into armed conflict. The armed conflict in Al Anbar Governorate of Iraq was triggered in late December 2013 and quickly spread to Fallujah city and a subsequent withdrawal of security forces from areas of Ramadi city cleared the way for the armed opposition groups to move in.

According to MoDM, as of 10 April, 2014 the number of people displaced within Anbar but also to Baghdad, Babil, Karbala, Salah Al-Din and the country's Kurdistan Region has exceeded **71,184 families, over 427,000 individuals**, (03 April). Out of this 50,922 families are within Anbar and 20,262 families are located in the abovementioned governorates. The actual number of displaced is presumed to be considerably higher.

The situation in Anbar Governorate remains volatile and highly complex. Activities on the ground show that the frontlines are blurred and the fighting involves multiple dimensions and multiple actors. The conflict continues with clashes exacerbating violence, which is expanding to other areas and getting closer to areas near Baghdad. The Government of Iraq acknowledges that there are overwhelming emergency requirements and significant humanitarian needs for Anbar and has welcomed international assistance.



Distribution of CRIs in Anbar and in Shaqlawa, Erbil Governorate, @ UNHCR

Humanitarian Response

Families registered with MoDM receive 300,000 IQD (\$250), thus far a total of 14,448 IDP families benefited from this cash assistance programme. In addition, UNHCR began a cash assistance programme in Karbala and Baghdad (\$400 per family) as a pilot, which will be expanded to other areas. Since the start of this one-time cash assistance, a total of 520 families/2,976 individuals have been assisted with USD 255,250. Due to difficulties in reaching assisted beneficiaries, phone monitoring is conducted with families who receive cash assistance to assess the impact.

Shelter continues to be the most pressing and urgent need for the vast majority of IDPs, UNHCR has distributed 235 tents and in collaboration with local authorities, and has contributed to the establishment of collective centres and assessments to help improve the condition of the IDP families living in public unfinished, inadequate buildings. Also, UNHCR through its partners has delivered 6,169 core relief item kits to IDPs from Anbar.

In January a mechanism for coordination of humanitarian actions, involving UN agencies and key ministries, was established. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG)/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator is leading the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in addressing the Anbar crisis. Regular Humanitarian Coordination Team meetings are held to continuously assess the situation and plan the response accordingly. The MoDM is leading the overall coordination with all actors involved.

UNHCR closely works with the MoDM, the HCT and other international and national humanitarian actors to coordinate the efforts to ensure that the basic needs of the displaced and other conflict-affected populations are met. UNHCR requires USD 26,351,265 to address humanitarian needs of people displaced by the crisis in Anbar in the next six months. The Special Budget Appeal to mobilize the required funding was launched by UNHCR on 13 March. Assessments continue to determine exact needs and locations; nearly 40,000 individuals were assessed by the end of March.

UNHCR coordination and partnerships:

Government of Iraq & Kurdish Regional Government: Bureau of Displacement and Migration (BDM), Department of Displacement and Migration (DDM), Development and Modification Centre (DMC), Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Human Rights, Implementation and Follow up Committee for National Reconciliation (IFCNR), Permanent Committee of refugees/Mol.

UN agencies and other entities: UNAMI, WFP, UNICEF, UNOPS, UN-Habitat, UNWomen, IOM, WHO, OCHA, ICRC, MSB, UNESCO, United Nations Human Settlement Programme.

National and INGOs: Action Contre La Faim, Agence d'Aide a la Cooperation Technique et au Development, Al Arqam, Cultural Charity Association, Al Khair Humanitarian Organization, Association for Cultural Development for Civil Society, Civil Development Organization, Croix Rouge Française, Danish Refugee Council, Harikar, International Rescue Committee, Intersos, Iraqi Humanitarian League for Human Rights, Iraqi Youth League, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society, NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq, Norwegian Refugee Council, Peace Winds Japan, Premiere Urgence-Aide Medical Internationale, Qandil, Reach, Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program, Resurrecting Iraq People Centre, Save the Children, Un Ponte Per.