Highlights

- The high number of IDPs in Kirkuk, along with ongoing insecurity in the area, make the governorate a humanitarian priority.
- Tents are being used to host some of the millions of Arbaeen pilgrims in Kerbala in order to not re-displace the IDPs that are sheltering in the pilgrimage accommodations; these will be transferred to IDPs after the celebrations.
- Humanitarian airlifts for mobile health clinics and winterisation items have arrived in country, with more planned for the coming weeks.

Situation Overview

Kirkuk remains an area of high priority due to the large internally displaced population in the governorate. Current estimates stand at 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), making it the third most populous governorate for displaced people, on par with Erbil. Humanitarian operations in the governorate remain limited and coordination mechanisms are underdeveloped.

A first General Coordination Meeting in Kirkuk was held 8 December, co-chaired by the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) and OCHA and attended by 40 people, including various international NGOs, UN and government staff. Much of the conversation centred on how to improve coordination. There is an awareness among humanitarian agencies and donors that the needs in the area exceed present capacity. As a result, UN agencies and NGOs are accelerating plans to scale up their activities in Kirkuk.

After three months of construction, Kirkuk’s Laylan Camp (1500 families) has been completed successfully and is already at capacity, unable to host new families. IDPs at the camp, which is located outside the city, have faced difficulties in accessing Kirkuk as authorities required them to leave their ID documents at the checkpoint. In response, humanitarian actors have negotiated an alternative solution with the Governor’s Office and MoDM. ID cards will be issued for those residing in the camp and the names of IDPs residing at the camp will be provided to the checkpoint, eliminating the need to leave behind critical identify documents required to access services in the city.

Limited returns are reportedly also occurring in Kirkuk, with some 80-100 families having returned from Kirkuk city to areas in the southwest of the governorate. Reports indicate that the difficult living conditions in Kirkuk city prompted families to return home. Following an explosion on 4 December at a café in the city, confirmed reports indicate that checkpoints are not allowing new IDPs to enter the city.

Among those displaced to Kirkuk are approximately 12,000 IDPs from the Al Jabouri tribe who were recently...

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report.
expelled by ISIL from the Al Alaam area, near Tikrit in Salah al-Din Governorate. IDP representatives reported that they were given four hours to leave their homes, forcing them to flee with few possessions. They reported many killed or abducted during the expulsion, particularly men. Due to checkpoint closures in Kirkuk, some had to travel south towards Samarra and Baghdad and then loop back north in order to reach Kirkuk. The tribe reports that at least 900 families are without any support at all and are in dire need of assistance. They also report an inability to afford the rental costs being charged to live in unfinished buildings and that so far, they have been unable to access government registration or the Public Distribution System (PDS). Humanitarian actors are liaising with relevant government counterparts to address these issues.

Despite ongoing conflict, small-scale returns are occurring. For example, a recent NGO assessment in the western part of Zummar (Ninewa Governorate) included nearly 3,200 households (over 19,000 individuals) living in 20 villages. Most of the families are returnees from Dahuk Governorate although there are also some IDPs from Tel Afar, Mosul and other parts of Zummar. The main reason cited for returns was the poor living conditions in Dahuk (most had lived in unfinished buildings). The returnees reported that they generally felt safe in Zummar although they feared the departure of the currently heavy Peshmerga presence. Many houses near the Syrian border have been destroyed although other houses remain as they were before ISIL occupied the area in August. Returnees have significant humanitarian needs including mattresses and winterisation items due to looting of their homes. Some health facilities are no longer functional and need supplies to serve the population. The public water system is in service, although it requires rehabilitation. Both primary and secondary schools are functioning. A major problem is the lack of electricity that affects the clinics and the ability for farmers to irrigate their fields. There are indications of possible protection concerns as well, including in terms of Arab populations being able to access basic services. Two international organisations are already providing assistance in the area.

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster is reporting 22 camps open across Iraq as of 6 December and 16 currently under construction. About 104,000 individuals are in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and nearly 24,500 individuals are in camps in the centre and south of Iraq for a total camp population of over 128,000. For Dahuk, 11 of 16 camps have been completed with a total projected camp capacity of 242,000 people. An additional three camps are planned for opening by the end of December. The camp capacity for Dahuk is expected to be sufficient for the current overall displaced population (an estimated 283,000 people currently in camps and unfinished buildings, but some will likely stay in the latter if landlords allow them). Some IDPs, such as those noted above from Zummar, have returned to their homes.

The relocation of IDPs from unfinished buildings to newly established camps in Dahuk Governorate is progressing steadily. However, camp living conditions in some camps remain poor, causing increasing anger among the camp populations. Following violent protests in Shariya Camp, IDPs in other camps have begun to vent their frustration and anger, in particular during the distribution of NFIs. Due to the poor state of camps, some IDP families facing an imminent risk of eviction have stated they would rather move to another unfinished building than to one of the newly established camps.

IOM confirms they have agreed with Kerbala authorities to distribute 1,750 tents that will be used in the short-term by Arbaeen pilgrims, as IDPs are currently occupying the accommodation that is usually used by pilgrims. After Arbaeen which is commemorated on 14 December, the tents will be re-purposed and used by IDPs. Millions of Shi'ite pilgrims have arrived this week to Kerbala mainly from Iran, as well as many more from inside Iraq creating movement challenges and raising security concerns.

The lack of education facilities for IDP children in the KR-I remains a major gap. Many IDP families raise the lack of education for their children, due to language barriers, oversubscribed schools and the distance to available schools, as one of their primary concerns in displacement. In Erbil, 50 per cent of families report that their children are not attending school, with the main barriers being lack of schools providing instruction in Arabic and oversubscription in existing schools.

Recently, some progress has been made in access to education for the estimated 609,000 IDP children between 6 and 17 years. In a positive development in Sulaymaniyah's Arbat Camp, displaced teachers who were employed by the central government prior to their displacement are now providing classes to IDP children. The Arabic curriculum in IDP schools is the same as the one students were using prior to their displacement. In Harshm Camp (Erbil), school construction (grades 1-9) has begun and will take an estimated three months (including garden and playground) to be completed. An NGO has installed several tents for temporary learning spaces for the interim period. However, there are no plans for a secondary school in the camp. Students might be able to travel to nearby Baharka Camp to attend secondary classes there, once the school opens.
Humanitarian Response

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Access to sanitation facilities in unfinished buildings is a significant WASH-related need, particularly in Dahuk. Due to the lack of clarity on relocation from unfinished buildings and informal settlements to the camps, partners are reluctant to respond as the IDPs might move and WASH facilities would then have to be decommissioned and/or installed at another location.
- There is a need for partners to take over the operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure in the newly established camps, which also includes garbage collection, hygiene promotion, and distribution of WASH NFI.

Response:

- Dahuk: An adequate quantity of water (by international standards) is being provided to the IDPs in camps and informal settlements either through water trucking or through installation of temporary water networks. As per the assessment carried out by REACH, 94 per cent of people surveyed are satisfied with the provision of water. An estimated 8,564 IDPs were provided with safe water through water trucking in Bajit Kandala and Garmawa IDP camps. 34,522 people were reached through temporary water networks in Khanke, Bersive II and Bajit Kandala. Partners scaled down their support for water trucking in host communities and schools as people are being shifted to newly constructed camps. In terms of sanitation needs, most of the camps have access to sanitation facilities at one latrine for every 20 people. 460 latrines were recently completed in Bersive II serving 9,089 individuals.
- Kirkuk: 1,300 families (7,800 individuals) were provided with access to safe water through construction of water networks, installation of two elevated tanks of 20,000 litres each; and access to improved sanitation through installation of 391 prefabricated latrines.
- Khanaqin: 1,650 families (9,900 individuals) in Al Yawa and Bahari Taza camps were reached with hygiene promotion campaigns including distribution of hygiene kits, jerry cans, buckets and garbage bags; and access to safe water through daily water trucking of 208,000 litres.
- Sulaymaniyah: 90,000 litres daily water trucking is ongoing benefiting 640 families in Arbat transit camp, with distribution of 100 water tanks of 500 litres each to the 100 families there. About 3,840 IDPs (640 families) in Arbat have access to improved sanitation through the installation and repair of 173 latrines and 176 showers.

Gaps & Constraints:

- For Dahuk, the emergency water network with tap stands should be converted into a more permanent water network with connections to latrines, showers and kitchens to improve the level of service. Some of the camps do not have electricity in latrines and showers, which raises protection concerns. The number of latrines should be doubled (to reach a ratio of 1:10) to achieve gender-segregated latrines.

Food Security

Needs:

- The Food Cluster in Dahuk is working to harmonise its response for the new areas of food assistance coverage: Amedi, Shekhan, Bardarash and Akre. The Government of Dahuk has covered these areas until now.
- Wheat producing families (both IDP and host communities) across Ninewa, Erbil, Dahuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala, Kirkuk, Anbar, and Wasit governorates, who were previously involved in agricultural activities, are in need of wheat seeds and fertilizers for the winter planting season.
- Food and nutrition partners in Dahuk, together with the governorate’s preventive health department, are investigating malnutrition in Amedi.

Response:

- Food distributions for IDPs are ongoing throughout both northern and southern Iraq, with over 42,300 food parcels distributed to just over 39,000 families throughout the month of November.
7,418,500 doses of veterinary vaccines were procured and delivered to the Ministry of Agriculture. These vaccines will be part of the national campaign for vaccination of herds benefiting 7,500 conflict-affected rural households (45,000 people) in Dahuk, Salah al-Din and Nineawa.

FAO has assisted wheat producing families across Ninewa, Dahuk, Erbil, and Diyala with wheat seeds and fertilizers for the winter planting season.

During the month of November, a total of 30,434 IDP families received the Public Distribution System (PDS) government ration. The distribution of commodities in all governorates was not consistent due to a range of obstacles. 4,077 families also received cash assistance to complete the ration.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is an increased need, but limited funding for, assistance to farmers and pastoralists in conflict-affected areas due to recent escalation and displacements (external and within governorates) in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Wasit.
- Very limited access to information about the food security situation in some of the conflict areas, such as Anbar, is constraining humanitarian aid delivery.

Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:

- An estimated 99,500 IDP families in the KR-I, where freezing temperatures have already been recorded at night, and 33,333 IDP families in the centre and south of Iraq require 400 litres of kerosene for the four-month winter period.
- Providing shelter and winterised NFIs for the most vulnerable IDPs remains one of the most critical humanitarian needs, in KR-I particularly as winter worsens. Some 420,000 IDPs continue to be in vulnerable shelter situations, including those living in camps, unfinished and abandoned buildings, collective centres, and other precarious situations. Another 305,000 winterisation kits are needed to support IDPs during the winter season.
- In the KR-I, 109,315 IDPs are currently residing in camps, occupying 47 per cent of the total planned capacity. In the centre and south of Iraq, 24,482 IDPs are residing in camps, occupying 13 per cent of the total planned capacity. In Erbil, 4,580 IDPs are residing in collective centres, occupying 73 per cent of the total planned capacity. In Basrah, 800 IDPs are residing in a collective centre, fully occupying it.

Response:

- Cluster partners and government authorities are working together to cover the kerosene needs of IDPs during the winter period. Concerted distributions are ongoing in the KR-I and in the centre and south. As of 7 December, 179,450 litres of kerosene had been distributed to 13,668 IDP families (2,210 in the southern governorates, 5,991 in the central governorates and 5,467 in the KR-I).
  - 830,600 litres were distributed by the Government of Iraq in Diyala (332,000 litres for 4,120 IDP families) and by local authorities in Dahuk (498,600 litres for 4,986 IDP families)
  - 348,850 litres were distributed by cluster partners in the southern governorates (172,100 litres for 2,210 IDP families), the central governorates (80,550 litres for 1,871 IDP families) and in the KR-I (96,200 litres for 481 IDP families)
  - In addition, 1.5 million litres of kerosene have reached Erbil to assist 3,000 IDP families (not yet distributed).
- 4,350 IDP families received winter relief items in Bagdad, Kirkuk, Najaf, Kerbala and Anbar. 16,828 IDP families received winter relief items in the KR-I, while distribution is still ongoing for another 13,172 IDP families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Kerosene distributions to date have varied in quantity from roughly 40 litres per family to 200 litres per family across government and cluster partners, leaving a gap of around 200 to 360 litres of kerosene per assisted family depending on the governorate.
Health

Needs:
- Health needs include access to both primary and secondary health care in insecure areas with significant number of IDPs such as Anbar. Needs also include care for patients with chronic disease with better access to their medication, immunisation for all children under 5 for measles and polio. Reproductive health and access to delivery service, with focus on complicated deliveries, and other reproductive health services remain among the important needs.

Response:
- Health cluster partners provided medical care for 55,010 patients from IDP and host communities suffering various types of morbidities in Erbil and Shaqlawa districts, Erbil Governorate, all districts in Dahuk Governorate, Al Kaem District in Anbar, Hamdaniya District in Ninewa, Tooz District in Salah al-Din, Daqqq and Kirkuk Districts in Kirkuk Governorate and Sulaymaniyyah District in Sulaymaniyyah Governorate. Treatment was provided to 157 cases of diabetes, 270 cases of hypertension, while 317 patients received psychosocial support/mental health services and 1,690 women delivered with the assistance of a skilled birth attendant. As many as 3,684 IDPs attended sessions for health education covering different topics such as prevention of skin diseases, acute pneumonia in children and proper nutrition.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Insecurity continues to hamper access to areas in Ninewa, Anbar, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Diyala and others. It is difficult to ensure access to health services for all persons of concern, particularly in difficult-to-reach areas.
- The lack of proper shelter, thermal insulation of shelters and non-food items to mitigate against harsh winter weather will all eventually negatively impact the health status of populations during winter.

Protection

Needs:
- In Erbil Governorate in particular, protection monitors report a lack of information sharing with, and general lack of awareness among, IDP populations outside major urban centres. Questions remain with respect to how or where to obtain assistance and on the kind of assistance that is available for IDPs. Partners are being encouraged to expand their operations to these less well-served areas (i.e. outside of urban areas).

Response:
- Through ongoing protection monitoring, protection needs assessments have covered 776,609 individuals since February. Of these, 20,054 cases have been approved for cash assistance, 35,897 cases received legal assistance, and referrals have been made for 11,850 persons with specific needs.
- In addition, psychosocial support has been provided to 8,304 children and 131 victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). 13,713 dignity kits have been distributed to SGBV cases and 231 solar lanterns have been distributed to IDP families (one per family). About 990 families have benefitted from ‘quick impact’ projects and 20 community awareness and sensitisation campaigns have been conducted, targeting 1,000 beneficiaries.
- Quick impact projects to address localised needs of IDPs and host communities, with the aim of providing assistance and fostering community cohesion, are in the process of being launched. Projects are planned in 15 governorates in central and southern Iraq, including distribution of essential items, winter clothes, rehabilitation works, provision of utilities, hygiene and health promotion, activities for children and youth and vocational training.
- Following reports of unexploded ordnance (UXOs) in a number of locations in the immediate vicinity of camps in Dahuk (Deraboun, Bersive), the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) will undertake a survey of areas concerned, which will be complemented by awareness raising sessions with camp populations. Decontamination activities are not currently being prioritised, considering the scope of the problem and the length of time required for clearance.
- Protection monitoring continued in Sulaymaniyyah targeting more than 5,000 families in 10 locations. Medical and educational needs have been identified and referrals made. Advocacy efforts were undertaken with the authorities in Sulaymaniyyah in response to Arab families ordered to leave the area, with 35 families initially ordered to leave permitted to remain.
Five women’s social centres have been established in Sulaymaniyah Governorate. Focus group discussions with women and awareness raising campaigns targeted 80 women, whilst over 50 female volunteers in camps and community centres were identified and coached by SGBV Protection teams. Child-friendly space teams also reached nearly 60 children in Sulaymaniyah.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Cash assistance has been provided to vulnerable IDPs country wide as part of the humanitarian response to the current crisis. The target for the central and southern governorates was 11,500 cases, which has now been exceeded in terms of cases identified and approved, although actual cash distribution is ongoing. However, available funds have been committed while more and more cases in need of cash assistance continue to be identified resulting in a gap until more funds become available.
- In Dahuk, the capacity of protection partners to continue engaging in ad hoc interventions in response to reports of IDPs at imminent risk of eviction is stretched, due to the increasing number of such incidents.
- Growing hostility expressed by local host communities against Arab IDP families continues to be flagged as a concern in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, as reports of forced evictions continue.

Education

Needs:

- Of the total 2.1 million IDPs across Iraq, 609,000 are school-age children between 6 and 17 years; and an estimated 105,000 are children between the ages of 4 and 5 years. Of these, an estimated 33,640 school-age children between 6 and 17 years and 5,800 between the ages of 4 and 5 years are currently in camps.
- Currently over 575,000 school-age children (6 – 17) and 100,000 children (4 – 5) require access to education in non-camp settings.
- Over 660 schools are still being used by IDPs as shelters across Iraq and more than 130 schools are occupied by military forces.

Response:

- Minor repairs and cleaning has been completed in over 100 schools in Dahuk Governorate. This is providing access to education for over 90,000 host community children affected by the crisis.
- Over 43,000 IDP students are benefitting from temporary learning spaces (including tented and pre-fabricated classrooms) in both camp and non-camp settings.
- In Khanaqin, 11 classroom tents were installed in Al Yawa Camp. In Kirkuk, an agreement has been made to install an additional 13 classroom tents in Laylan Camp and 7 classroom tents in Yayawah Camp. In total, these tents will provide additional learning space for over 2,800 students (approximately 90 students per tent).
- 2 tents have been installed to provide alternative education activities in Harshm Camp (Erbil) while the construction of a 12 pre-fabricated classrooms schools is ongoing, providing access to education for over 800 children.
- Registration for the newly established secondary school in Baharka Camp is ongoing. About 480 students will benefit from this school.

Gaps & Constraints:

- For the IDPs who have settled in host communities, access to education will continue to be a significant challenge. A multi-faceted approach that includes tented classrooms, expanding existing schools with additional classrooms, renting halls/building and using double shifts where appropriate will be required to increase educational services for them.
- School spaces for educational activities in camps are often not sufficient and require continuous advocacy toward the relevant authorities. For example, in Dahuk Governorate current estimates indicate only 65 per cent of school-age IDP children will have access to education.
- To appropriately meet needs, Education Cluster partners must scale up alternative education activities while formal schools are being established.
**Logistics**

**Needs:**
- The Logistics Cluster anticipates increased requests for storage and transport (both land and air) for winterisation. The cluster can assist with airlifts.

**Response:**
- A joint WHO/WFP airlift from Amman arrived 11 December with 8 mobile health clinics, while winterisation items for UNHCR arrived on 12 December. Over the reporting period, 6 of 7 flights have arrived in Erbil. Two further airlifts are planned by the end of December. The Logistics Cluster has provided the flight documentation and validation documents, as per airport security requirements.
- The Logistics cluster continues to provide temporary storage in Dahuk and Erbil with some limited transportation to specific areas also possible. Emergency storage space is also available in Basrah, Sulaymaniyah and Baghdad. Mobile storage units are also available for loan to agencies for temporary emergency storage if required. Five additional mobile storage units have been ordered to replenish stocks as recent loans to partners and additional storage at Dahuk has reduced in-country stock to two units.
- Logistics Cluster, as a service provider, provides logistics coordination platforms such as the website and meetings, maps, and other information products see: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
- Regular Logistics Cluster meetings to begin in Dahuk as of January 2015.
- Discussions to take place in the coming week to identify a partner to provide daily information from Ibrahim Khalil border on transport crossing times, delays, bottlenecks, road conditions.
- A GIS officer will be in country by end December to complement activities for mapping of updated and regular logistical constraints, road conditions and storage capacity.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster**

**Needs:**
- The humanitarian community in Iraq has requested emergency information technology and telecommunications services. The provision of radio services in major cities will improve the safety and security of humanitarian personnel. The provision of internet services in camps will allow organisations to coordinate operations more effectively.

**Response**
- UNAMI has provided the ETC with additional radio frequencies allowing for more radio channels to handle an increased number of humanitarian staff. In addition, repeater sites have been provided in Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk, which will provide greater analog radio coverage. To follow up, an ETC mission is currently deployed to Sulaymaniyah adding new channels to the digital radio network.
- Advanced radio training continues to be provided to UNAMI security staff and drivers.
- ETC wireless internet connectivity has been made available to all humanitarian organisations in three key operational areas: Domiz and Arbat camps, as well as a transit camp near Arbat. To date, there are nearly 170 registered users.

**Gaps and constraints**
- Flight options for the importation of large amounts of vital ICT equipment remain limited and can delay deployment of humanitarian ICT services.
- There is still a lack of radio frequencies in Erbil. UNAMI, on behalf of the ETC, has requested more from the government and approval is pending.
General Coordination

The Social Cohesion and Sustainable Livelihoods (SCSL) Cluster was established in Sulaymaniya. At the launch, participants discussed issues related to how the influx of IDPs to the KR-I comes with potential for conflict due to historic tensions between ethnic groups. Social and cultural differences exist between groups that need to be bridged. Thus far, the complaints from hosting communities are uncommon or at least not overtly expressed. But trends are slowly changing, where the hosting communities might view the arrival of IDPs as a burden on existing stretched community resources.

The SCSL Cluster is also working on an Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) for the KR-I. Findings from this assessment are expected at the beginning of January. Finally, the cluster is preparing host communities needs assessment with the same indicators as the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment that was conducted in October in the KR-I by the REACH Initiative with the KRG Ministry of Planning for out-of-camp IDPs. This assessment will look at the impact over time of hosting refugees and IDPs on host communities.

Background on the crisis
Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed groups (AGs), including Ba'athists, tribal militias and members of the former regime/military, along with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have taken control of large swathes of Iraq’s provinces of Nineva, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Talafar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleiman Bek, Heet, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under armed group control. Since January much of Anbar has been under ISIL control. This has led to massive internal displacement. Iraq is now contending with one of the largest internally displaced populations in the world; over 2 million have been displaced since January this year.

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