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**Iraq CRISIS**  
Situation Report No. 41 (22 – 28 April 2015)

*This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 22 – 28 April. Due to the rapidly changing situation it is possible that the numbers and locations listed in this report may no longer be accurate. The next report will be issued on or around 8 May.*

**Highlights**

- **Ramadi displacement stabilizes; close to 4,000 families in Baghdad currently assessed**
- **Large scale response for thousands of Ramadi displaced**
- **Falluja insecurity remains source of concern**
- **Convoy to Haditha and al-Baghdadi still on hold**
- **Plans afoot for vaccination campaign against polio and measles**

**Situation Overview**

The UN and its partners are stepping up their efforts to address the needs of tens of thousands of newly displaced persons from Iraq’s central Ramadi District. The Government estimated over 19,000 families or about 114,000 people have been displaced since Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the launch of military operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Anbar Governorate on 8 April. Humanitarian partners put the currently assessed displacement figure at 12,377 families or just over 74,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The vast majority of families are displaced within the governorates of Anbar (4,256 families), followed by Baghdad, (3,919), Sulaymaniya (2,199), Babylon (1,296), Erbil (437), Wassis (122), Diyala (65), Kerbala (49) and Najaf (34). Humanitarian partners have moved quickly to respond, particularly in the area of food, water, health and non-food items (NFIs).

The World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Directorate of Health in Baghdad, conducted a rapid assessment in the Al Shuhadaa Quarter of Abu Ghraib District to determine the health needs of an estimated 17,000 IDP families, both newly or previously displaced in the area. The assessment established the need for a mobile health clinic and vaccination services for children under the age of five.

For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report.
age of 15. WHO and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) are planning to support the MoH to conduct a vaccination campaign against polio and measles for displaced children under 15 years of age as many IDPs in Baghdad are displaced from areas with low immunization coverage.

The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium, comprised of UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and partners, have 45,000 RRM kits in stock at warehouses in Baghdad, Dahuk and Erbil, with another 50,000 kits in the pipeline. Each RRM kit is comprised of immediate response rations (IRR) for a family of six for three days, a hygiene kit, water and a bucket.

As of 28 April, the number of displaced from Ramadi stabilized. Local authorities report cautious returns to some areas. The Anbar Police Chief announced that 400 displaced families had returned to Ramadi City, while the Parliamentary Committee on Migration and Displacement suggested that 1,800 families had returned. Most of the returnees have situated themselves in a residential area of Ramadi known as Soccer Field.

Meanwhile, ongoing insecurity elsewhere in Anbar Governorate continues to undermine the ability of aid agencies to respond appropriately. There are continued reports of casualties from shelling in Falluja between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and ISIL who currently hold the city. Due to credible information on planned attacks, southeastern Falluja is currently under curfew while insecurity in the area of al Baghdadi Sub-district has delayed the transportation of food and medical supplies from partners to both al Baghdadi and Haditha District. The convoy is meant to deliver supplies for up to 4,400 families in Haditha and 1,300 families in al-Baghdadi. Control of the roads toward al Baghdadi continues to shift between ISF and ISIL. Shortages in food supplies, particularly for infants, have been reported.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

**Needs:**
- Provision of inter-agency shelter and NFIs to IDPs from Ramadi District should be continued.
- 1,200 IDP families in hotels in Kerbala Governorate face possible eviction.

**Response:**
- **Ramadi update**
  - To date, 3,448 NFI kits and 400 tents have been distributed to the newly displaced, mainly in Anbar and Baghdad governorates.
  - An additional 1,100 NFI kits and 859 tents are planned for distribution in the same governorates.
  - A WASH assessment is planned for Habbaniyah Tourism City in Anbar Governorate to address urgent needs. Shelter needs will also be addressed. To date, 950 NFI kits and 25 tents have been distributed.
  - In Baghdad, the government has established additional camps to shelter IDPs.
- **Regular activity**
  - 500 tents have been distributed to recently returned residents of Al Alam Town in Tikrit District, Salah al-Din Governorate.
  - A collective centre sheltering 92 IDP households in Baghdad Governorate has been renovated.
  - In Samarra District in Salah al-Din Governorate, cluster partners supported the return of IDP families. To date, 730 tents have been installed to accommodate new returnees.

**Gaps and Constraints:**
- Funding options are being explored for an additional camp in Kirkuk Governorate for which an implementing partner needs to be identified. The government is expected to assume responsibility for managing the new camp following the completion of camp management training.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs:**
- In Baghdad Governorate, access to safe water, hygiene items, NFIs, latrines, showers, sewage and waste disposal services is urgently needed for IDP families at the Takia Collection Centre, Asia IDP Camp, and the Bzbiz Transit Centre, along with several mosques.
- WASH support, including safe water and hygiene items are needed for IDP families in Habbaniya Tourism City, Amal Manshood UNHCR Camp, Abyadh Camp, and Albu Ghrabi Camp in Anbar Governorate.
• 250 IDP families at camps in the Al Hardaniya region of Salah al-Din Governorate need water, latrines and showers.
• In Babylon Governorate, IDP families in Hilla District (500 families), Mahawil District (350 families), Msayab District (135 families) and Hashimiya District (275 families) require hygiene items, water, family kits, and WASH facilities.
• A reverse osmosis system is required in Kerbala Governorate.
• In Najaf Governorate, WASH facilities, hygiene items, water tanks, hygiene items, sewage and solid waste disposal services are urgently needed.
• 145 IDP families currently in Qadissiya, Muthanna and Thi-Qar governorates urgently require NFI and hygiene supplies.

Response:
• In Baghdad Governorate, 22 latrines, 13 tanks, 3,200 garbage bags, 5 bins, and water test kits were distributed at Takia Collection Centre. Twenty latrines, 4 showers, 3 tanks, 1,200 packs of diapers, 1,600 packs of sanitary napkins, 12 garbage bins, 300 bags, 200 jerry cans, and 200 toilet jugs were provided to IDPs in the Asia IDP camp. Eight latrines, 4 showers, 2 tanks were provided at the Check Point camp. Two water tanks, 8 latrines, 4 showers, 10 garbage containers and 600 bags, water fountains, and 100 hygiene kits were provided at the Burhandeen Mosque. Seven latrines, 2 showers, 2 tanks were distributed at Bzbiz, and 18 latrines, 12 showers, 3 tanks, and 6 water fountains were provided at Kadhra.
• In Anbar Governorate, 800 displaced persons were provided with 6 water tanks and 8 showers, while 900 IDP families were provided with 11 toilets, 10 tanks, and 900 hygiene kits in Habaniya Sub-district.
• Extension of the water network commenced targeting 34,200 IDPs in Kerbala-Najaf road. In Najaf, 415 hygiene kits, along with bottled water, was distributed to IDP families.
• The extension of a water network to serve Modern Market collection centre in Ma'aqil in Basrah Governorate commenced, targeting 750 IDPs.
• 1,400 IDPs in Saad Camp in Diyala Governorate benefitted from the installation of six water tanks.

Gaps and Constraints:
• Further capacity and funding are urgently needed to cover emergency WASH needs of the Ramadi displaced.
• Further advocacy is required to ensure effective provision of WASH response efforts which remain constrained by a lack of funding. Many essential, ongoing operations face imminent closure.
• Additional reception points for IDPs were identified in Baghdad, including mosques and schools. This requires immediate response.
• The movement of IDP families between relatives and informal settlements, a lack of confirmed numbers, and a lack of road access due to insecurity are undermining the delivery of critically needed WASH support.

Needs:
• IDPs continue to face restrictions on their freedom of movement and access to Baghdad, Kirkuk, Babylon, Kerbala, Najaf, Basra, Wasit and Sulaymaniyah governorates.
• Access restrictions for men aged 18-50 in Wasit and Babylon will result in a separation of families. A strict application of the sponsorship requirement in Baghdad and other governorates has already resulted in the exploitation of some IDPs.
• ISIL in Ninewa Governorate recently authorized the departure of those able to pay IQD 4 million (US$ 3,150) per person, using one of four transportation companies authorized to operate from areas under ISIL control, including Mosul.
• An estimated 1.3 million children are internally displaced in Iraq, while 561,000 children live in areas under the control of ISIL and affiliated armed groups.

Response:
• An estimated 1.1 million IDPs and affected individuals have been reached since February 2014 through protection monitoring and assessments. Of these, approximately 27,000 have been identified with specific needs, while an estimated 63,000 individuals have benefited from legal assistance and advocacy interventions.
• On 23 April, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRI) 1,200 people (200 families) living in unfinished and abandoned buildings in Babylon and 2,964 people (494 families) in nine locations in Baghdad
Governorate. Technical shelter assessments at Um Al Qura Mosque, Al Jabar Mosque, Al Nidaa Mosque and the Scout Camp in Karkh District were also conducted. UNHCR began work on three more collective centres in Baghdad Governorate and is currently developing six collective centres, with a capacity of 3,474 people (579 families).

- Psychosocial support has been provided to 58,393 children (27,088 girls, 31,305 boys) and special protection assistance to 5,642 children (2,538 girls, 3,104 boys) across Iraq. 585 unaccompanied or separated children (274 girls, 311 boys) were identified for reunification with family or for finding appropriate alternative care arrangements.
- Child protection partners have conducted a training of trainers on psychosocial support to improve the quality of services and activities in Dahuk Governorate.
- A birth registration campaign has been launched in Erbil to ensure that families are aware of its importance and the necessary procedures to register their children.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Child protection partners have limited capacity to conduct outreach activities to IDP children living outside camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), hampering child protection monitoring and response. There is an insufficient number of qualified professionals to deliver child protection services.

Food Security

Needs:

- Food security remains a critical concern in al Baghdadi Sub-district and Haditha District in Anbar Governorate.
- Food assistance is a priority for tens of thousands of IDPs who have fled to Baghdad Governorate from Anbar Governorate.
- Priority food supply needs for new and existing IDPs and returnees persist in Anbar Governorate (Falluja, Rutba, Ramadi and Ka’im districts); Salah al-Din Governorate (Tikrit, Baiji and Samarra districts); Kirkuk Governorate (Kirkuk City); Diyala Governorate (Aliawa and Al-Wand camps, Khanaqin District; villages and camps in Alwaya area, Saad Camp – Ba’quba District); Ninewa Governorate (Telafar District) and Baghdad Governorate (Baghdad City, Resafa, Abu Ghraib, and Tarmia districts).
- In the southern governorates, food supply needs persist for IDPs in Qadisiyya Governorate (Shamiya and Afaq districts), as well as Najaf and Missan governorates.
- In the KR-I, food assistance needs persist in Dahuk and Erbil (Baharka and Harshim IDP camps).
- Conflict is negatively affecting food security mainly in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Dahuk governorates, an assessment revealed. Nearly one in ten households consumes an inadequate diet. Chronic food insecurity persists in Wassit and Muthanna governorates.

Response:

- Cluster partners assisted tens of thousands of individuals who recently fled Ramadi District through the RRM. Cluster partners distributed 1,500 IRRs at the Abu Ghraib IDP camp, 57 IRRs at the al-Rasheed Caravans compound, and 106 IRRs at the Asiya Compound in the Doura area in Baghdad Governorate.
- 340 RRM kits were delivered to 318 Ramadi IDP families in Hai, Azezia, Badra, Suwaira, Kut and Na’maniya districts of Wassit Governorate.
- 1,363 RRM kits were distributed to 1,210 IDP families in Babylon Governorate.
- IRRs were provided to 1,000 people waiting at the check-point in Diyala Governorate to enter Sulaymaniyya Governorate.
- IRRs were provided to 1,300 people who recently escaped Mosul in Ninewa Governorate.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Thousands of people continued to queue at checkpoints in an attempt to gain entry into Baghdad City. Vulnerable people have been fleeing from the partially besieged city of Haditha, also in Anbar Governorate, to safe districts in Anbar, Baghdad City and Abu Ghraib District in Baghdad.
- Blocked supply routes have resulted in a spike in food prices and are driving down wages in Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Kirkuk and Anbar governorates. This will likely negatively affect food security for the whole population.
- Fighting has caused food scarcity and high prices in Ninewa Governorate. A lack of job opportunities and low wages is severely compromising purchasing power of local residents.
- The inter-agency convoy to al Baghdadi Sub-District and Haditha District is on hold due to security concerns.
Health

Needs:

- Primary and secondary healthcare services for IDPs and refugees, along with host and non-host affected communities, remain a priority.
- Support is required for fixed health facilities and for the deployment of mobile teams in areas of emerging conflict, including Anbar Governorate, as well as Samarra District in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Early detection and investigation of disease alerts and timely response to outbreaks remain a priority.
- Ramadi General Hospital and the Ramadi Maternity Hospital continue to be closed.

Response:

- A basic package of primary health care interventions, inclusive of non-communicable diseases, as well as mental health and psycho-social support, was provided. 13,787 consultations were completed.
- 216 children were screened for their nutritional status. Seven of these patients received treatment or were hospitalized.
- Disease surveillance and early warning systems in IDP camps were strengthened.
- Specialized services, including treatment and medication for chronic diseases, mental health and psychosocial support to IDPs and affected populations, was provided. 1,542 cases were served, including 14 of which required hospitalization.
- The Amirate al-Falluja Hospital was provided with two diarrhoea kits, four international emergency health kits, three trauma kits and one surgical kit.
- Health partners are expanding the clinic in Habanyah Sub-district with caravans. The clinic now receives 600 patients per day, up from 350 before the crisis.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Hard-to-reach areas remain a concern, particularly for areas with limited capacities left within the local health service delivery system and partners on the ground.

Education

Needs:

- Only 31 percent of displaced children are now attending formal education. Of the estimated 2.65 million IDP children across Iraq, over 810,000 are between the age of 6 - 17, while 180,000 are between the age of 4 and 5 years of age.
- Over 1.2 million host community children have been affected by the crisis across Iraq, putting an additional strain on an already overburdened education system. This is compounded by a lack of adequate resources, distance to school, language barriers and insecurity.

Response:

- 390 children are benefitting from non-formal education activities at the Baharka IDP Camp in Erbil Governorate. An additional 1,299 are receiving support in non-formal activities to enable those children to transition back into the formal education system at the Bajet Khandala IDP Camp in Dahuk Governorate. 458 children are also attending non-formal education activities in Erbil Governorate.
- 1,260 teachers and education personnel were trained in pedagogy and the provision of psychosocial support in Diwina District Muthanna. These trained personnel will provide much needed support to IDP children affected by the crisis.
- Overall, education partners are supporting 121,000 boys and girls to have access to education opportunities. Education partners and the Ministry of Education had a successful one-week workshop on the contextualization of the Inter-Agency Network of Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Additional resources are urgently needed to increase access to education opportunities.
- Lack of learning spaces and distance to schools remain barriers to IDP children seeking access to education opportunities.
- Additional education supplies, including textbooks, school furniture, and teaching materials are required.
Background on the crisis
Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June 2014, 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 Nineawa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyarah, Suleiman Bek, Heet, Rashad, Hawiga, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under armed group control. Since January 2014 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; around 2.7 million have been displaced since January 2014.

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