Highlights

- Approximately 1.45 million people are estimated to be displaced throughout the country.
- Large populations remain trapped due to conflict, without access to basic services.
- Increasing reports of human trafficking within and outside the country are of grave concern.
- Six countries donated relief items through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Situation Overview

As a result of the displacement triggered primarily by the advancement of armed groups in both northwest and east of Mosul city in and around the districts of Jalawla (Diyala) and Sinjar (Ninewa), since 3 August, the United Nations has increased its planning number of people displaced in Iraq to 1.45 million. This is an increase of 250,000 from the previous planning figure of 1.2 million. The IDP number does not include people displaced in Iraq before 2014, nor does it include the 225,000 Syrian refugees in northern Iraq.¹

Population movement to Erbil and Dahuk Governorates (Kurdistan Region) has been stabilizing. It was reported that at the Pesh Khabour border (Dahuk) crossing over 2,000 individuals arrived from Syria, mostly Yazidis who were in Nawroz camp (Syria) coming to join families who already reached Kurdistan. Some IDPs continued to return from Kurdistan (mainly adult males) to Sinjar District (Ninewa) using the safe route via Syria to reach Sinjar mountain to search for their relatives. Local authorities in Dahuk report that there are now over 400,000 IDPs the Governorate. Displacement from Ninewa and Anbar continues to central and southern Governorates (Kerbala, Najaf, Al Qadisiya, Baghdad, Basra), where local authorities are overstretched and unable to respond to increasing demands in basic services.

¹ The IDP planning number is informed by IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), with the consideration for access and security constraints to reflect geographic gaps and possible under reporting. As of August 18th the IOM DTM had identified 1,310,610 internally displaced people. This figure and the locations of these people are verified and informed by community level key informants, Ministry of Migration and Displacement, local authorities, and additional information from UN partners. The fluid and dynamic displacement faced by Iraq and the complexity to monitor and track mass and multiple displacements which is occurring in such short time frames results in a need to publish the planning estimates of 10% upward of IOM DTM identified figures. This approach also adjusts to the geographic gaps caused by access and the very fluid displacement seen across Iraq today. The IDP planning number provides humanitarian agencies with a common agreed number to facilitate humanitarian planning and needs assessment.

For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report.
For the first time in an emergency response, an inter-agency team comprised of UN agencies, NGOs and a media development organisation has been to Erbil, Duhuk and Sulaymaniyah Governorates to understand the information needs and access to communication channels among internally displaced people. Preliminary findings are concerning. Displaced populations only have access to conflicting and broken information regarding the provision of basic services, creating confusion, isolation and mistrust. To date, IDPs are mostly relying on mobile phones to keep connected to family members left behind and to follow security developments in their areas of origin. Populations affected by crises need more than physical necessities. Information and communication are also forms of aid, as important as water, food and shelter. Humanitarian partners are mobilizing resources to start working with preferred communication channels, such as face to face communication, mobile phones, print materials and local media.

The future of many Iraqis, especially the most vulnerable, is of grave concern. There are increasing reports of abduction of women, particularly those belonging to minority groups, by armed groups and of human trafficking within and outside the country. Trauma, child labour, lack of education, sexual violence and direct or indirect effects of violence are grave threats to the future of children and youths and, by extension, to the future of Iraq. Social-protection systems have all but collapsed, further weakening household resilience. People on the move and other highly vulnerable communities must also prepare for the approaching harsh winter.

The Swedish Minster of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Carl Bildt, and the European Union International Development Commissioner, Ms. Kristalina Georgieva, met with the Humanitarian Country Team on 19 August to discuss progress made in responding to the urgent needs of displaced populations. The newly appointed Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Kevin Kennedy, arrived in Erbil on 20 August.

### Humanitarian Response

The overall humanitarian response is scaling up as partners, the Government and local authorities are mobilizing all resources available. Additionally, following a consolidated request to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, at least 6 countries have donated relief items to help meet the immediate needs of those displaced. Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and France, have brought in between 10 August and 21 August a combination of food and non-food items to support relief efforts in the provision of shelter, food security, and health through 23 cargo flights.

#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**Needs:**

- Water, sanitation and hygiene services for IDP populations in Dahuk Governorate remain critical.
- Rapid influx of IDPs fleeing from Telafar (Ninewa) towards Diwaniyah (Qadisiyah), where 11,520 IDPs are hosted in informal settlements. Authorities have requested from humanitarian partners an urgent supply of hygiene kits as well water and sanitation services.
- Basra Governorate has requested urgent humanitarian action to support 1,000 IDPs families who fled from Telafar and are hosted in informal settlements.
Response:
- Emergency water and sanitation services in Dahuk Governorate has provided an estimated 109,523 people with hygiene supplies, 111,800 with water for drinking and domestic use, and 50,628 with sanitation facilities.
- In Anbar Governorate, 3,840 IDPs received hygiene supplies (soap and other toiletries) and 13,710 IDPs were provided with drinking water.
- In Najaf Governorate, 6,900 IDPs received bottled water; 10,000 people were provided with water family kits.
- In Kerbala Governorate, 10,000 IDPs were provided with adult hygiene kits and jerry cans for safe water storage.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Large populations in Zahko and Dohuk cities in Dohuk Governorate living in schools and informal settlements are critically in need of access to hygienic sanitation facilities. Identification of locations, needs assessments and response are difficult mainly due to the large number of locations and shifting populations.
- Other areas in Ninewa plains (Shekhan and Akre Districts) as well as in Erbil and Suleymaniyah Governorates, are also in need. Partners are being identified for immediate response.
- Rapid response to people on the move, particularly those delayed while crossing checkpoints, remains a critical gap.

Food Security

Needs:
- Large numbers of IDPs are in need of food assistance, especially in Dahuk and Erbil Governorates. Immediate rations are a critical need for newly arrived IDPs.
- Large numbers of IDPs are facing competing needs and complete loss of livelihoods, especially in Anbar, Duhok and Erbil Governorates.
- Host communities are also experiencing food shortages, price increases and a decline in livelihoods.
- In Anbar and Diyala Governorates, a total of 392,700 people are in urgent need of food assistance.

Response:
- Since 3 August, 176,000 people have been assisted with hot meals, 16,240 immediate response rations (sufficient for one person, for three days) have been distributed, and 15,370 households have been assisted through food parcels, in Dahuk and Erbil Governorates.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Inaccessibility to conflict areas in order to reach IDPs in need.
- Projected increases in IDP numbers will put pressure on existing capacity of partners, host locations and camps. A scale up of capacity is required to meet current and projected needs.

Shelter and Non-Food items

Needs:
- Most of the 400,000 IDPs who arrived in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq since June 2014 require urgent shelter and non-food items.
- Reopening of schools will be further delayed as over 52,000 IDPs living in schools urgently need alternative shelter.

Response:
- Approximately 2,161 tents and 5,200 plastic sheets were distributed providing shelter capacity for about 44,000 people, mostly in Dahuk and Erbil Governorates.
- Some 68,000 individuals benefitted from core relief item kits (mattresses, jerry cans, blankets) across northern Iraq.
- Approximately 14 camp sites have been identified in Dahuk Governorate. The extension of Baharka camp in Erbil (currently hosting approximately 430 families) is ongoing and will have a capacity of up to 1,000 families.
Health

Needs:
- Essential and chronic illness drugs are needed especially for primary healthcare clinics receiving large number of IDPs in Dahuk, Suleymaniya and Erbil Governorates.
- Shortages of medicines, supplies and equipment are faced in hard to reach areas such as Salah al-Din, Anbar, Ninewa and Diyala Governorates.
- The displacement of over 80,000 IDPs towards the South of Iraq (Najaf, Kerbala, Babylon and Qadisayah) is placing a huge burden on health care facilities, especially since the new arrivals are suffering from higher rates of communicable diseases (chicken pox, diarrhea and measles) and non-communicable diseases (hypertension and diabetes).

Response:
- In response to the influx of IDPs to Dahuk, health partners supported health authorities by recruiting 150 nurses, 46 mobile teams and 11 surveillance teams for monitoring water quality and communicable diseases.
- Health partners donated to Dahuk Governorate essential medicines and reproductive health kits for approximately 50,000 people. In Suleymaniya Governorate, reproductive health kits were provided for a population of 150,000 and essential medicines for approximately 30,000 people.
- In Najaf, Karbala and Wasit Governorates, 4 metric tonnes of high energy biscuits were delivered. Authorities started distribution through primary healthcare clinics giving 800 gm for every child under the age of 5. Approximately 60,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts were also distributed to health facilities.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Specialized treatment for cancer patients, renal dialysis and thalassemia are not available and humanitarian partners are not widely involved in providing them due the long duration and high cost of such treatments.
- Continued security concerns in Kalar and Khanaqin (Diyala) is affecting service delivery.

Protection

Needs:
- Kerbala authorities have indicated that the Governorate is no longer able to support IDPs. IDPs without sponsors are being diverted to other Governorates. There is increasing concern that central governorates are reaching a saturation point which has implications on access to safety for populations on the move.
- The needs of persons with disabilities, chronic diseases and injuries require specific attention. Identified needs include barriers in accessing humanitarian aid, lack of mobility aids, information on specialized services and limited technical expertise for case identification and follow up.

Response:
- Through on-going protection monitoring since February, assessments have been conducted for 188,079 individuals (35,209 families), with 5,781 cases approved for cash assistance, legal assistance provided to 8,858 cases, and referrals made for 3,163 persons with specific needs for services and assistance.
- Dignity kits are being distributed to IDP women and girls and psychosocial services are being provided in Erbil. Protection actors have mapped 413 persons with disabilities, chronic diseases and injuries in Erbil and Dahuk for assistance and referral to specialized services. Another 550 will be reached in the coming weeks.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The predicament of women, particularly those belonging to minority groups, in armed groups controlled territory is worsening with reports received of women being sold into prostitution and domestic servitude, including outside Iraq. Currently there is no response mechanism to address human trafficking.
- Issuance and replacement of civil documentation for IDPs in displacement is a growing challenge, especially in terms of access to registration and residency and preventing statelessness. Most IDPs are unable to replace key civil identity documents without returning to their area of origin.
- There is a need to strengthen psychosocial services for IDPs suffering from trauma.
Background on the crisis

Since the fall of Mosul on 9 June, armed opposition groups (AOGs), including Batthists, 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 Ninewa, Salah Al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Tal Alar, Beiji, Quayyara, Sinjar, Suleimany Bek, Rashad, Hawija, Riyadh, Falluja and Saqlawiyah, are currently under AOG 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 1.45 million have been displaced since January this year.

Education

Needs:

- With over 2,000 schools still occupied by IDPs throughout the country, the school year will be delayed until at least October.
- Education curriculum, salaries and the availability of teachers are issues that are still under discussion with authorities.

Response:

- Approximately 2,700 IDP students in Suleymaniyah Governorate were able to register for examinations for 9 and 12 grades.
- Approximately 1,800 students in Shaqlawa (Erbil) and 400 students in Baharka (Erbil) are participating in catch-up classes.
- In Baharka camp (Erbil), around 270 students are participating in recreational activities and refresher courses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is no exact number of displaced children available, as disaggregated data by age and sex has not been collected by authorities to date.
- Displacement and on-going insecurity in certain areas present challenges in accessing information and collecting

Logistics

Needs:

- In light of multiple donor flights arriving into Erbil from various donors, humanitarian partners are in need of information on clearance procedures, possible temporary warehousing, as well as transport in Erbil.

Response:

- Custom clearance was cleared for at least 23 flights which arrived in Erbil containing relief goods.
- A large backload of cargo from airport warehouses has been cleared.
- Clearing, transport, and warehousing for organizations with no logistics capacity in Erbil is being managed as an extraordinary measure to ensure flow of pipeline goods to partners for distribution.

General Coordination

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has approved a timeline for the preparation of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Strategic Response Plan (SRP). The SRP launch is provisionally planned for 28 September.

The inter-cluster coordination group met on Thursday, 21 August and discussed the planning for the HNO and SRP.

The coordination meeting schedule can be found at http://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info.