The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 4 – 10 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 24 April.

Highlights

- Close to 3,000 families flee fighting in Ramadi
- 4,500 families return to Al Alam Sub-District
- UNESCO opens second KSA-funded secondary school
- Shelter a priority concern in Kirkuk and Haditha districts
- Washington pledges US$200 million in humanitarian aid to Iraq

Situation Overview

At least 2,955 families have fled parts of central Ramadi District, including the towns of Albu Farraj and Albu Thiyyab, as well as the Albu Sawdah, Albu Ghanim, Albu Mahal and Sofiya areas after 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 9 April. The operation has centred on Ramadi District – with the provincial capital Ramadi – a city of over 200,000, which straddles the Euphrates River and Highway No 1.

Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and allied armed groups were in the process of scaling up their presence when ISIL launched a two-pronged attack on Ramadi – from the north and southwest.

As of 14 April, an estimated 9,000 people were believed to have fled Albu Farraj, originally home to some 15,000 residents, to Ramadi City, where they have taken up refuge in schools and mosques, or have moved onto Baghdad.

Some 1,235 families have thus far reached the Iraqi capital and are now sheltering in public buildings, rented accommodation, unfinished buildings or with host families.

NGOs cite food, shelter and non-food items as a priority while the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement has reportedly deployed more than 25,000 items of humanitarian aid to Anbar Governorate.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report
ISIL now has control over areas north of the Euphrates, following their seizure of the surrounding areas of Bu-Aytha and Albu Thiyab – which includes the Ramadi-Fallujah highway, as well as access to Samarra District (Salah al-Din Governorate) from both Ramadi and Fallujah.

An estimated 4,500 displaced families have returned to Al-Alam Sub-district (Salah al-Din Governorate), local authorities report. Many of the families have found their homes damaged, looted or in some cases looted by ISIL before they fled the area in March. The sub-district of Tikrit, with an estimated 30,000 mostly Sunni Arab residents, was attacked by ISIL in June 2014 forcing scores of families to flee their homes. The Government of Iraq has dispatched aid, although additional quantities are required to cover the priority essentials of food and non-food items now required by the displaced population.

On 8 April, UNESCO opened the second of four secondary schools it plans to establish in the country for IDPs in Dawodiyyah IDP camp in Dahuk Governorate. Funded by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the school will accommodate 400 students. UNESCO opened the first KSA-funded school at the Barhaka IDP in Erbil Governorate on 17 March.

On 14 April, the Government of the United States pledged more than $200 million in humanitarian aid to Iraq to help mitigate the consequences of the battle against ISIL. The pledge was made during the visit of the Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, to Washington. US President Barack Obama reported that the funding envelope was intended to stabilize communities and to assist those who had been displaced from their homes and who had lost their livelihoods.

Humanitarian Response

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- A reported 60,000 homes sustained various levels of damage in Zummar Sub-District (Ninewa Governorate).
- Shelter interventions within collective settings are required in Kirkuk District, where a lack of privacy and safety is a source of concern. In a recent survey, 99 per cent of respondents reported shelter as insufficient (70 per cent) or non-existent (29 per cent).
- 3,400 IDP families who fled to Haditha District (Anbar Governorate) from Al Qaim and Anah towns remain in need of shelter. They are currently residing in mosques.

Response:

- Cash for shelter is being distributed to 500 families in Baghdad and 350 families in Najaf Governorate.
- 195 non-food item (NFI) kits were distributed in Baghdad.
- 100 tents were distributed in Ramadi District (Anbar Governorate) to respond to recent displacement.

Gaps and Constraints:

- A technical working group is being established to define standard non-food item (NFI) packages and shelter interventions.
- A lack of resources and implementing capacity is preventing the construction of a much needed additional IDP camp in Kirkuk Governorate. The Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) submitted a request for the delivery of 1,000 tents which is currently being processed.
- Ongoing fighting in Anbar Governorate is blocking access to people who are displaced in the town of Ramadi, and other nearby areas.
- Concerns over camp management and service delivery capacity have been raised regarding a newly established camp in Kerbala Governorate.
Food Security

Needs:
- Food supply is a priority need in Baghdad and Haditha, Anbar Governorate, as well as in Rutba, Al Qaim and Heet districts, where the situation is particularly critical. In Salah al-Din Governorate (Tikrit al-Alam area, and Samarra); Diyala Governorate (villages and Al-Wand camp in Khanaqin District, villages and camps in Aliwaya area, and Saad camp in Ba’quba), and in Baghdad Governorate (Resafa and Tarmia districts) similar urgent food supplies are required.
- Food aid is also needed in the southern districts of Diwaniya and Najaf (Diwaniya’s Nfir Sub-district, Shamiya District, as well as Afak District), as well as Missan Governorate.
- Food assistance will continue in both Dahuk Governorate and Erbil Governorate (Baharka and Harshm IDP camps).
- Agricultural inputs seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, and livestock are needed in Anbar Governorate.

Response:
- Cluster partners distributed immediate response rations (IRRs) to 8,500 displaced persons in the besieged city of Haditha (Anbar Governorate). Limited supplies are resulting in food scarcity, driving up food prices and impacting the poorest worst of all, with the World Food Programme (WFP) now assessing options for the delivery of family food packages to the affected population.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Fighting has resulted in food scarcity and high prices in Ninewa Governorate. A lack of job opportunities and low wages is severely compromising the purchasing power of local residents.
- The conflict in Anbar has dramatically affected agricultural livelihoods and increased agricultural prices in the region. A recent assessment revealed that negative coping strategies are extensive in conflict-affected Heet, followed by Ramadi and Haditha districts.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- Anbar Governorate:
  - 300 IDP families arrived in the UNHCR camp in Al Amiriyah. The Water Compact Unit requires urgent rehabilitation. 41 schools require waste containers. Al Amal al Mashood and other informal camps and settlements require bathing facilities. 750 IDP families from Ramadi require urgent WASH supplies in al Khaldeya.
- Rapid WASH interventions are need for IDPs in Samarra, Salah al-Din Governorate.
- A WASH needs assessment is ongoing for 1,703 returnee families in the Aladim area of Diyala Governorate. 273 IDP families at the Saad Camp, Ba’quba District, require water and sanitation facilities.
- In the al-Radiniyawah area of Baghdad Governorate, 800 IDP families require WASH supplies.
- In Diwaniya District Qadissiya Governorate, 19,380 people remain in need of health and hygiene and items.

Response:
- 70 latrines and showers being installed at UNHCR camp in Al Amiriyah, Anbar Governorate. 85,074 people have been reached through water trucking.
- 1,810 IDPs families in Al Hardaniya-Dholuiya, Jillam, Daur, Salah al –Din Governorate, were provided with bottled water, water tanks, garbage bags and toilet jars. Hygiene awareness activities were conducted for 60 IDP women in Hardaniya. 210 IDP families benefitted from water trucking services in Jillam-Daur.
- Six water tanks with a capacity of 5,000 litres each were dispatched to Saad Camp in Diyala Governorate.
- Hygiene promotion training targeting 46 trainers is planned for Baghdad, Najaf, Basrah governorates.
- 7,366 IDPs in Anbar, Wasit, Babylon and Kerbala governorates have benefitted from garbage and sewage collection services in their local environment.
- Cluster partners are collaborating and coordinating response activities to mitigate scabies in IDP and refugee camps in Dahuk Governorate. Planned activities will address specific needs in areas of return. There are insufficient financial resources to sustain a majority of the continuing need assessments in border zones. Additional resources to address this challenge remains a priority.
Gaps and Constraints:
- Dynamic numbers and movement, as well as a lack of information and access due to insecurity, continues to challenge the delivery of urgently needed life-saving WASH support to IDPs in hot spots.
- The continued provision of an effective, critically required WASH response over the long term remains constrained by funding. Many ongoing essential operations face imminent closure unless the funding situation improves in the immediate term.
- With summer conditions fast approaching, anticipated levels of water consumption and waste collection needs will increase, as will the potential for disease.

Health

Needs:
- Essential primary and secondary health care services for IDPs and refugees, as well as host and non-host affected communities.
- Supporting fixed health facilities and deployment of mobile teams in areas of emerging conflicts, including Samarra and elsewhere in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Early detection and investigation of disease alerts and timely response to outbreaks.

Response:
- Ongoing strengthening of disease surveillance systems in camps.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Health services in the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq (KRI) remain overburdened by the high number of IDPs in the region.
- Hard-to-reach areas remain a particular concern due to few health partners present on the ground.
- Challenges in recruiting qualified local staff continue. Solutions to this situation are actively been addressed.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:
- Camp management structures are urgently required for IDP camps currently under construction, or in planning phase, in central and south Iraq, where more than 70 per cent of IDPs are now living.

Response:
- A new IDP camp with a capacity of 1,000 households is being developed in Zakho, Dahuk Governorate.
- In Erbil, Ankawa Mall’s management is being handed over to the Erbil Refugee Council until relocation takes place to Ankawa II IDP Camp. Discussions continue regarding relocation from one site to another with a focus on the number of people being able to occupy a shelter in the camp to be opened.
- The GEC in Sulaymaniyah announced the opening of two IDP camps and requested camp management support for these locations.
- As piloted in Dahuk, the cluster is currently developing and delivering targeted training packages for hot-spot governorates across Iraq. In parallel, cluster members are in the process of obtaining resources for a country wide capacity building and mentorship program to ensure functional camp management systems led by the respective government focal points. To this end, REACH and IOM will commence camp profiling and informal site mapping in the South/Central region in April.
- Further coordination is planned for the general establishment of camps with a focus on cluster led inter-agency camp response in Kirkuk.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Due to a lack of funding, cluster members involved in the camp management capacity building of local authorities program have not been able to be operational in the South and Center region.
Education

Needs:
- Of the estimated 2.65 million IDP children across Iraq, over 760,000 are of school age between 6 - 17, and a further 125,000 are pre-primary children 4 - 5 years old.
- Just over 31 percent of these children are estimated to be currently attending formal education. Furthermore, over 76 percent of IDP children have missed over a year of formal education.
- Over 1.2 million host community children have been affected by the crisis across Iraq, putting additional strain on an already overburdened education system.

Response:
- Education partners facilitated access to education for over 120,000 children through the provision of tented schools and establishment of pre-fabricated classrooms.
- Psychosocial support through recreational and other supporting activities was provided to over 36,000 children. Cluster partners continue to train educational personnel to enable much needed support to children.
- Over 510 schools were rehabilitated to provide access to 239,000 host community children affected by the current crisis.
- A new high school, with a capacity of 400 students, opened at the Dawadia IDP camp in Dahuk Governorate.
- An education sector partner commenced activities in Kirkuk with 3 centres for non-formal education to IDP children. Curriculum, learning and teaching materials were also distributed.
- The newly established Education Working Group in Kirkuk held its first meeting in coordination with relevant government ministries. New partners are now responding to the Kirkuk call to action.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Additional resources are required to increase access to education opportunities that target children who are at risk of dropping out of the system.
- IDP students need transportation to attend functioning schools in towns and cities. The distance to schools remains a barrier to education for many IDPs who have relocated to areas far from schools or learning centres.
- Additional education supplies such as text books, stationery, desks and other equipment is required to provide quality education to children.

Logistics

Needs:
- The Logistics Cluster is addressing the need for regular and updated logistical information on road conditions and the availability of assets.
- Information is also being collected for contingency planning purposes and the Humanitarian Response Plan.
- The Cluster is coordinating with the Humanitarian Operations Centre (HOPs) for logistics information and planning.

Response:
- Items have been prepositioned in Baghdad from IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA and WHO for a second response to Haditha and Al Baghdadi. The Logistics Cluster was requested by UNICEF to coordinate a Rapid Respond Mechanism with WFP and other interested agencies. Planning has commenced.
- The Cluster is reinforcing information sharing between partners to optimize the use of available resources and the provision of logistics coordination platforms. This includes the website mentioned below along with maps, and other information products. Please visit: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Response:
- A technical mission was carried out in Sulaymaniyah in order to reconnect Arbat IDP camp to the internet. The site is now operational.
- The ETC has continued to programme radios for UNICEF ensuring that all the radios in the country are
configured with the new country-wide code-plugs for enhanced security of humanitarian staff.

- The installation of the 100Ft tower in Domiz, Dahuk Governorate, in order to improve radio coverage has commenced.
- A country-wide COMCEN contact list has been created and distributed for quicker and more effective location of staff.
- The cluster received further funds through a grant from the Canadian Government. These funds are already programmed and are available for use.
- The ETC has provided radio training to four NGO staff to ensure staff members are fully capable of using their radios.
- The distribution of the final version of the country-wide VHF code plug has commenced.
- The repeaters from Dahuk are currently being monitored from the UNAMI inter-agency COMCEN in Erbil, hence providing humanitarian in camps with additional security. With this additional support, organizations from camps are being monitored from the UNAMI inter-agency COMCEN in Erbil.

General Coordination

- Lise Grande, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, returned from her trip to Brussels on 14 April where she met with key donors and partners and advocated for major humanitarian priorities in Iraq for 2015.

- The Swedish and Norwegian ambassadors to Iraq visited Kirkuk on 13 April and held meetings with government officials, politicians and UNAMI colleagues. A wide range of issues were discussed.

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For more information, please visit [https://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info](https://iraq.humanitarianresponse.info)

**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 Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Diyala. The cities of Mosul, Tikrit, Telafar, Beiji, Quayyara, 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.