

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian partners prepare summer response plans to distribute seasonal assistance packages.
- Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse is a joint responsibility of all humanitarian partners.
- First Governorate Returns Committees established to facilitate a consultative and principled returns process.
- The Iraq Humanitarian Fund launched its 2017 Annual Report.

FIGURES

# of people in need	8.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	3.4m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	2.1m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	1.5m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.8m
# of returnees	3.7m
# of Syrian refugees	0.24m

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

568 million
requested for 2018 (US\$)

18% (\$101 million)
(FTS as of 13 May 2018)

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Credit: IOM/Rabar Aziz



Ms. Marta Ruedas, the new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General, arrived in Iraq

Ms. Ruedas brings to this position more than 27 years of experience coordinating United Nations development and humanitarian work in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as extensive experience supporting peacebuilding transitions. Since 2015, she has served as the Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan.

Ms. Ruedas will also serve as the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator, and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Iraq.

Humanitarian partners prepare summer response plans to distribute seasonal assistance packages

Humanitarian partners started with summer programming that will address season-specific needs of highly vulnerable people who are at present inadequately covered by government's support systems.

During summer, temperatures throughout Iraq reach over 50° C which makes displaced people living in tents and in makeshift shelter even more vulnerable. To support government response efforts, the humanitarian community is preparing seasonal assistance measures, including the distribution of extra water storage capacity, cool boxes, additional water, protection from sun, mechanical cooling as well assistance in the form of cash distribution allowing families to prioritize their needs in the most flexible way.

At an Inter-Cluster Coordination Group meeting in April, the Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster, together with other humanitarian partners, presented the summarization plans underway to distribute seasonal assistance packages and services as the summer approaches. These plans are complementary to

In this issue

Arrival of the new Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General	P.1
Summer response planning underway	P.2
Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in Iraq	P.2
Establishment of Governorate Returns Committees	P.3
Update on the Iraq Humanitarian Fund	P.4

Seasonal assistance will prioritize the most vulnerable families that were not covered in the previous year, as well as extremely vulnerable people for which summer support may be life-saving.

authorities' efforts already underway but which inadequately cover some people under the social protection floors.

Under the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, humanitarian partners will require some



Credit: OCHA/Themba Linden

US\$6 million this summer for the distribution of seasonal kits and cash transfers top-up. Seasonal support intends to reach displaced people across all governorates and will target secondary displaced and those living out of camps. Partners will prioritize the most vulnerable families that were not covered in the previous year, as well as extremely vulnerable people for which summer support may be life-saving.

Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse is a joint responsibility of all humanitarian partners

The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network in Iraq is a key mechanism in country for the implementation of the UN zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse.

Prevention lies at the core of the strategy to combat sexual exploitation and abuse. It is being undertaken in a proactive and comprehensive manner with key elements of the approach, including screening and training of staff, raising public awareness and conducting risk assessments.

Gender-based violence in Iraq is widespread and is exacerbated by vulnerabilities of girls, boys, women and men many of whom are still displaced.

The humanitarian community condemns in the strongest terms any form of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of persons of concern, including IDPs and refugees. Combating this scourge continues to be a key priority for the UN Secretary-General and the UN has committed to zero tolerance policy for SEA. The policy applies to all UN staff as well as its partners and contractors, all of whom are required to promptly report allegations of SEA as part of their reporting obligations.

The Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network in Iraq, co-chaired by UNFPA and WFP, is the primary mechanism for awareness raising, capacity building, reporting, referral, follow up and victim support based on individual agency accountability for its staff. Established in July 2016, the Network has since trained over 600 UN and NGOs staff members and manages a community-based complaints mechanism for handling SEA cases. Preventing SEA is a joint responsibility of all humanitarian actors and effective coordination with partners remains critical for the successful implementation of the Network's mandate.



Credit: OCHA/Sylvia Rognvik

PSEA Network in Iraq contact details

To make an anonymous, confidential referral to the PSEA Network, please call the IDP Call Centre at 8006999 or contact the PSEA Network Coordinator Douglas Jennings, Protection/Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Officer, World Food Programme Iraq, Email: douglas.jennings@wfp.org.

First Governorate Returns Committees established to facilitate a consultative and principled returns process

To oversee camp closures and consolidation and to facilitate a principled returns process, Governorate Returns Committees (GRCs) composed of the authorities, UN and NGO representatives, are being established in five governorates.

As of April, 3.7 million previously displaced people have returned to their areas of origin, while 2.1 million remain displaced. With the majority of displaced people expected to return to their communities before the end of the year, offering assistance to highly vulnerable families living in camps and to those willing to return are key objectives of the humanitarian response in 2018.

Considering the pace and scale of returns of displaced population, GRCs for Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din have already been established in April with committees for Baghdad and Ninewa expected to be established soon. At their initial meetings, GRCs discussed governorate's vision of camp closures and consolidation and reviewed IDPs intention survey data.

The objective of the GRCs is to put in place a consultative mechanism that will ensure the returns of displaced people are voluntary, safe and dignified. In addition to the authorities, the return committees are composed of at least four

The objective of the Governorate Returns Committees is to put in place a consultative mechanism that will ensure the returns of displaced people are voluntary, safe and dignified.

representatives from the humanitarian community, equally including UN agencies and NGOs.

GRCs are expected to better address the needs of displaced people who continue living in camps by relocating them to camps with better services, with less protection violations and to which humanitarian actors have better access. GRCs will prioritize and consolidate camp lists while transition camps will remain open for families who are unable or do not wish to return to their areas of origin.



Credit: UNFPA/Turchenkova

The Iraq Humanitarian Fund launches its 2017 Annual Report

The 2017 Annual Report of the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) is available at <https://www.unocha.org/iraq/about-ihf>.

The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan is now available in the Arabic version.

See *HumanitarianResponse.info* at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/>.

IHF funding status

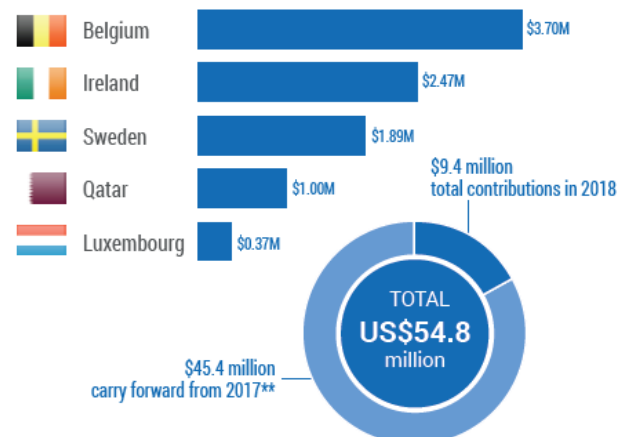
As of 30 April, IHF received \$9.4 million contributions from donors for 2018.

In addition, IHF operates with \$45.4 million carryover from 2017, which brings total cumulative contributions by donors to \$54.8 million.

IHF allocation status

Progress in the Standard Allocation process as of 30 April, \$21.7 million disbursed to 42 partners to implement 57 projects. Additional 27 projects are at the final stages of grant processing.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS (US\$ million)



For further information, please contact:

Aidan O'Leary, Head of Office: oleary@un.org

Manja Vidic, Chief, Communications and Reporting: vidic@un.org

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/iraq | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int