

HIGHLIGHTS

- Number of returnees reaches 3.9 million across Iraq
- Progress made on Governorate Returns Committees
- Humanitarian partners provide summer response packages to 57,808 most vulnerable households
- More contributions are required to reach all people with critical assistance
- The Iraq Humanitarian Fund completes the 2018 first standard allocation

FIGURES

# of people in need	8.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	3.4m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	2.0m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	1.4m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.8m
# of returnees	3.9m
# of Syrian refugees	0.25m

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP, IOM DTM

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

569 million
requested for 2018 (US\$)

\$313 million
(55 per cent)
funding received

(FTS as of 30 June 2018)
Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Credit: OCHA/Vidic

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The rate of displaced people returning home continues to outnumber the number of displaced people

The pace of displaced people returning to their places of origin is starting to slow down.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix has recorded as of 30 June 2018 just over two million displaced persons, while the number of returnees has increased to 3.9 million. The largest return population was found in Ninewa governorate (almost 1.5 million), followed by Anbar governorate (almost 1.3 million), and Salah al-Din governorate (over 0.5 million).

The Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Call Centre indicates that many displaced people reported a reluctance to return home due to the limited provision of services and livelihood opportunities as well as insecurity in the areas of origin. These factors may have contributed to a slowing down of the pace of returns in recent months.



Street markets reopen in Mosul's east side - the least damaged part. Credit: OCHA/Pond

Update on the Governorate Returns Committees

Four of five Governorate Returns Committees (GRCs) have been operationalised to support returnees.

In April 2018, the Iraqi government established the GRCs to effectively manage the consolidation and closure of camps in line with the increase in families returning to their homes. The GRCs are comprised of representatives of the government, NGOs and the UN, and the committee is administratively supported by OCHA. The UN and NGO partners

are supporting the GRCs to ensure that the return of displaced people is voluntary, safe and dignified, as well as to address the needs of those displaced people who are remaining in camps.

As of late June, the GRCs have been operationalised in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din governorates and partly in Ninewa governorate, where some preparatory work has been initiated by the UN, NGOs and the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center. The GRC in Baghdad remains to be operationalised. The yet-to-be finalised Council of Representatives election has contributed to a delay in the establishment of all GRCs.

The provision of support to the GRCs to ensure that the return of displaced people is voluntary, safe and dignified, as well as to address the needs of displaced people who continue to reside in camps remains a priority for the UN and NGO partners.

Humanitarian partners distribute seasonal assistance equivalent to \$2 million to vulnerable populations

Partners have so far reached 57,808 families with a variety of summer response packages, as the temperature soar to 50 degrees in some regions of Iraq.

Humanitarian partners launched a summer response plan in May to minimise the suffering of vulnerable communities during the hot summer season. The programme is targeting vulnerable people who are living in tents and makeshift shelters and who are especially affected by Iraq's summer temperatures that often reach over 50 degrees Celsius in some regions.

The summer packages include among other things, the distribution of extra water storage capacity, cool boxes, mechanical cooling, protection from the sun, as well as assistance in the form of cash distribution thereby allowing families to address their needs in the most flexible way. The elderly, children and those with chronic medical conditions residing in camps and formal and informal settlements are prioritized. Out of 67,745 families identified as in need of summer assistance, humanitarian actors have reached 85 per cent (57,808 families) with a variety of summer response packages. In IDP camps, a total of 45,955 cool boxes, jerry cans, and air water coolers were distributed to highly vulnerable people, in addition to 4,916 various other summer items. A total of 2,000 out of 4,000 identified families were reached with cash assistance in informal settlements, while 4,897 families were supported with in-kind summer items. The government is also providing vulnerable households with air water coolers and a top-up water ration of 40 litres per person/day.

The summer-assistance programme targets people living in tents and in makeshift shelter whose accommodation arrangements make them more vulnerable to the summer temperatures.

The Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) and OCHA co-host the Humanitarian Coordination Forum

JCC requests more support for HRP and 3RP.

On 4 July 2018, the Kurdistan Regional Government's JCC and OCHA co-hosted the Humanitarian Coordination Forum in Erbil to discuss the progress and gaps in humanitarian response in Iraq's Kurdistan Region. The event was attended by 25 representatives from the government, JCC, UN agencies and cluster coordinators.

JCC's Director-General Mr. Hoshang Mohamed noted in his presentation that while the large-scale displacement of Iraqis has ended, displacements into the Kurdistan Region are continuing, with newly displaced people arriving particularly from Ninewa governorate. He

The forum highlighted the importance of continuing support from the UN and partners to ensure sustainable and durable solutions for returnees.

requested more support for the HRP and the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) to assist displaced people and Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region.

The Head of OCHA's Iraq Office, Mr. Aidan O'Leary, emphasized that the return of displaced people needs to be achieved in a sustainable and durable manner. He also highlighted the importance of an evidence-based approach for the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview and updated participants on three key Grand Bargain commitments for Iraq, namely the localisation of aid, the strengthening of the humanitarian-development nexus, and cash programming.



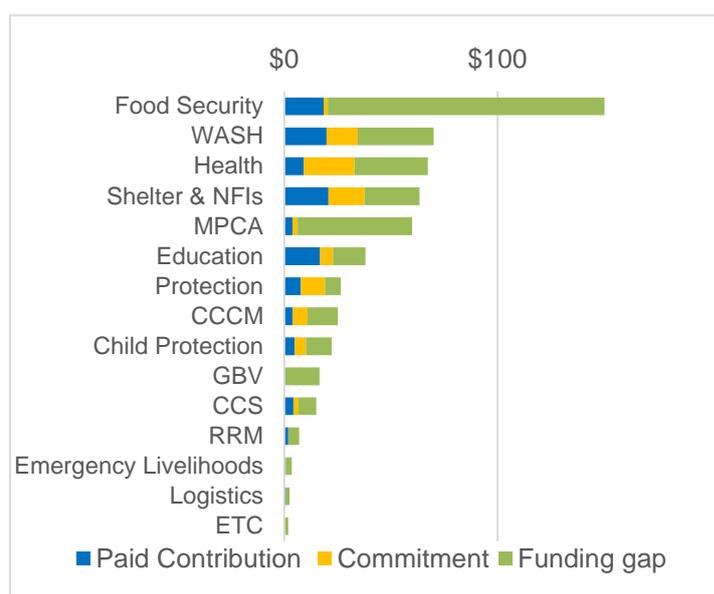
Representatives from the government, JCC, UN agencies and cluster coordinators meet in Erbil to discuss the progress and gaps in humanitarian response in Iraq. Credit: JCC

Ten out of 13 clusters that are currently implementing programmes in the Kurdistan Region also provided updates on their respective response activities. The Health Cluster, in particular, expressed concern about the operational impact of underfunding in the coming months.

At the end of June, the 2018 HRP is funded at 55 per cent

More donor contributions are needed to reach the most vulnerable of the 3.4 million people targeted under the HRP with critical assistance.

Donor contributions towards the 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has reached \$313 million (55 per cent) of the required \$569 million, making this year's response plan one of the best funded HRP's so far in the world. While this figure represents the sum of both paid and committed contributions, only \$191million (34 per cent of the total requirements) have been received to allow humanitarian partners the implementation of life-saving and sustained assistance to affected communities. In order for the humanitarian community to continue to



Financial contributions received per cluster

operate and reach the most vulnerable of the 3.4 million people targeted with assistance, more donor contributions are required to fund the entire HRP.

Funding levels vary across clusters, special attention is however required to avoid gaps in the planned response across clusters and governorates. The Education and Protection Clusters, for example, have received over 60 per cent of the HRP funding so far; whereby the Shelter Cluster 59 per cent. The least-funded clusters are the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (0 per cent) and the Food Security Cluster (13.7 per cent). If

required funds for the Health Cluster are not received by the end of July, for example, then this could lead to the closure of over 40 per cent of Health Cluster partner-supported health facilities in nine conflict-affected governorates, impacting 900,000 displaced persons.

Iraq Humanitarian Fund allocates \$34 million to support NGOs, UN agencies and Red Cross/Crescent partners

The Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) is an important funding mechanism to strengthen coordination and prioritization and to drive direct funding to international and national NGOs; it has become one of the largest country-based pooled funds in the world.

The 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Fund aims to further strengthen national response capacity through direct and indirect funding to national NGOs and fostering partnerships between international and national actors.

The IHF has just completed this year's first standard allocation of \$34 million. This allocation is supporting 83 projects through 53 international and national humanitarian partners to implement priority activities under the HRP. Approximately \$25 million (75 per cent) of this allocation is funding non-UN partners, including \$3.3 million (9 per cent) that are directly allocated to national NGOs. An additional \$800,000 (2 per cent of the total allocation) is sub-granted to national NGO partners of UN agencies and international NGOs. The allocation has a geographical focus with Ninewa, Anbar and Kirkuk governorates receiving the bulk of the funds to respond to the humanitarian needs of Iraq's most severely affected communities.



A joint UN assessment mission, comprising OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO, assessing response gaps following the recent floods in Mount Sinjar, Ninewa. Credit: OCHA/Vidic

In line with the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain commitments on localization, the IHF aims to further strengthen the national response capacity in Iraq in 2018 and to foster partnerships between international and national actors. The IHF is continuing to undertake robust risk management activities including the conduct of field monitoring and financial spot checks of ongoing IHF-funded projects as well as the audit of completed projects.

The latest contribution and allocation information of the Fund can be found at: <https://gms.unocha.org/bi>

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