

*This report is produced by OCHA Iraq in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 4-10 April 2019*

## Highlights

- Impacts of heavy seasonal rains in late March/early April now evident in several governorates
- Effects of rising water levels include temporary evacuation of affected persons, damaged infrastructure, and flooded agricultural areas
- Governmental crisis cells continue to meet in both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq where necessary, to manage the humanitarian response
- The humanitarian community continues to assess options for additional support based on identified needs in coordination with local, regional and national governments

## Situation Overview

The severe weather of late March/early April has largely passed, with only isolated storms recorded over the last week. However, the acute impact of drastically increased water levels in the Tigris River and its tributaries is now more evident in several provinces, including in the south of the country. The Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government continue to act as first responders, but certain governorates have requested additional support from humanitarian partners. The preferred solutions for those temporarily displaced by flood waters is accommodation with relatives or neighbors, and/or collective shelter in community buildings. The humanitarian community is coordinating with local, regional and national authorities to identify needs and opportunities for support, where requested.

Provincial authorities in Kirkuk have announced that the threat of floods has eased in the governorate, but its neighboring governorates of Salah al-Din and Sulaymaniyah continue to record damage and displacement caused by increased water levels, as do Diyala, Wassit and Missan.

## Humanitarian Needs and Response

### **Diyala**

Approximately 400 families have been evacuated from their homes near the village of Khurnabat due to rising water levels of the Diyala River. The majority are staying with friends and relatives. The Diyala Crisis Cell has announced that two thousand acres of orchards, near Baquba, the provincial capital, have been flooded. The administrators of Hemrin Dam stated that controlled releases from the dam have functioned as expected, and no problems are currently foreseen. There has been no request for outside assistance from provincial authorities.

### **Kirkuk**

Certain low-lying villages near the Zab river in the Al Zab subdistrict of Hawiga have recorded property damage. An estimated 25 families have been temporarily displaced, and are residing with extended family or within municipal buildings. Reportedly, the local government will ask national counterparts for financial compensation for farmers who have incurred losses due to flooding. There has been no request for outside assistance from provincial authorities.



Source: ReliefWeb | The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Missan**

An estimated 545 families have been displaced by flood waters in Missan province; however, local authorities state that up to 5,000 families living in affected districts could be threatened by displacement. The flood water is covering a wide area, which has led to the evacuation of residents, property damage, the death of livestock and the destruction of agricultural crops in several villages and marshlands. The Government has overseen multi-sectoral relief efforts, established temporary camps for the displaced, and coordinated with Iraqi Army forces and civil defense to evacuate people trapped in flooded areas. However, the Governor of Missan has subsequently requested that humanitarian partners provide additional support to affected persons and carry out technical assessments. The World Health Organization has undertaken water quality assessments, monitored cases of acute diarrhea and supported the Missan Directorate of Health with 30 Basic Interagency Emergency Health Kit and trauma kits to cover a population of 100,000 for one month. Coordination of additional response measures is ongoing.

**Salah al-Din**

An estimated 550 families have been evacuated due to flooding, and five temporary camps have been established for the temporarily displaced in Baiji, Samarra and Tikrit districts, although many people have provisionally settled with friends and relatives. Humanitarian partners including ICRC, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, INGOs and local NGO partners have conducted field visits to affected areas for assessment. UNFPA, UNICEF and local NGO partners delivered dignity kits to flood-affected families in Al-Qadriyah and Fendi villages in Tikrit, sometimes making delivery by boat. The Salah al-Din Crisis Cell, led by the Governor, has directed local authorities to open more temporary camps, although scale-up of existing IDP camps in the province could potentially provide more efficient service delivery. There are WASH gaps within both existing IDP camps and the newly established temporary camps in Salah al-Din, and concerns about the availability of adequate drinking water, as some water treatment plants in the province are non-functional due to flooding or unable to treat water due to lack of adequate stocks. On 10-April, WASH cluster partners were identified to supply chlorine for the Al Zewiya water treatment plant, and to supply purification kits for families in Fendi village. Coordination of additional response measures is ongoing.

**Sulaymaniyah**

Sulaymaniyah Governorate did not witness large scale displacement from flooding, but has experienced severe damage to agriculture and infrastructure, including roads, bridges, schools, and water treatment plants. According to provincial officials, water supply systems in many districts and sub districts are partially or totally damaged. The General Director of the Sulaymaniyah Water Department has stated that even before the flooding, the quantity of water provided in Sulaymaniyah was below acceptable standards, as the population in the province has dramatically increased since 2014 because of a large influx of IDPs and refugees. The Sulaymaniyah Department of Agriculture reported that heavy damage was inflicted to crops, mainly wheat and barley, as well as to orchards and green houses. Additionally, the irrigation networks in many areas were affected, mainly in Rapareen. Several road and bridges were partially damaged in Kalar, Rapareen and Halabja. The Deputy Governor of Sulaymaniyah has requested that humanitarian and development actors consider supporting the repair and rehabilitation of the water supply system as a priority. Coordination of additional response measures is ongoing.

**Wassit**

Wassit Governorate experienced limited displacement (a reported 26 families) due to flooding, but is requesting technical assistance from the federal government and humanitarian partners on diversion of heightened flood waters in Sheikh Saad village in the form of water pumps and pipes. Coordination of additional response measures is ongoing.

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Another update will be issued if new information becomes available or it is warranted by the situation on the ground.