

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian access constraints are preventing or delaying urgent assistance
- 27% of Ninewa's IDP camp population left in Aug/Sept
- OCHA hosts UN internal auditors
- Two humanitarian planning workshops held in September

FIGURES

# people in need	6.7m
# people targeted for assistance	1.75m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps targeted for assistance	0.5m
# of IDPs outside camps targeted for assistance	0.55m
# of IDP returnees targeted for assistance	0.5m
# highly vulnerable people in host communities targeted for assistance	0.2m

FUNDING

701.1 million
requested (US\$)

52% funded
(as of 2 October 2019)



Credit: OCHA/Y. Crafti
Possessions packed on the camp's final day.
Hajj Ali IDP camp, Ninewa, Iraq (16 September 2019)

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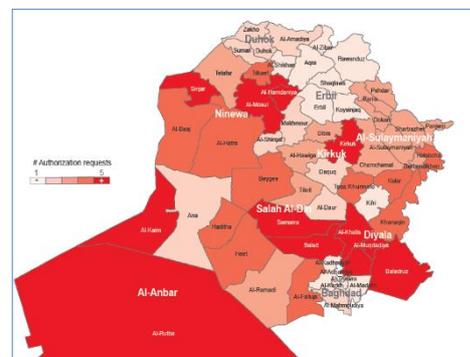
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Humanitarian Access Constraints

Per the findings of an Access Severity Overview conducted by OCHA finalized in September 2019, many Iraqis targeted for humanitarian assistance are in locations that are difficult to reach due to a deteriorating and unpredictable access environment. This has adversely affected more than 336,000 vulnerable Iraqis whose urgent needs have not been met in 2019 due to the interruption of services or delays in delivery of assistance.

In August 2019, humanitarian partners reported 47 access incidents in 17 districts. More than 57 per cent of incidents occurred in Ninewa, with approximately 84 per cent of reported incidents taking place in the Governorates of Al-Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Ninewa. Movement restrictions through checkpoints, harassment, intimidation, and in some cases, extortion continue to delay or block humanitarian staff and aid deliveries.

The multiplicity of state security forces and other armed actors, each with their own command structures and varying geographical presence, continues to impact humanitarian operations. In some places, humanitarian organizations are required to obtain localized and separate access letters or authorizations to meet district-level needs, beyond those required by the national government and agreed upon with partners. As of July 2019, seven additional authorizations are required to access Al-Hamdaniya District in Ninewa, with two thirds of Diyala districts requiring more than five separate authorizations. In Al-Anbar Governorate, an average of four authorizations is required across all districts. Access is relatively straightforward in Baghdad, Duhok and Erbil governorates.



Camp Consolidation and Closures



Credit: OCHA/Y. Crafti
Haj Ali IDP Camp following its closure, Ninewa, Iraq
(16 September 2019)

Over the six-week period from 15 August to 29 September, as consolidation and closure of IDP camps accelerated due to concerted action by authorities in Ninewa governorate (and to a lesser extent Al-Anbar and Salah al-Din), 11,733 IDP households departed IDP camps for non-camp settings, the vast majority departing from Ninewa camps. This represents 27 per cent of the entire Ninewa camp-based IDP population, at a rate of about 261

IOM-DTM reports that 10,000 people are unaccounted for – whether they successfully returned or have become secondarily displaced is unknown.

households per day, far exceeding previous years' rate of return.

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM-DTM) which has been tracking the departures, reports that many of these people who stated that they intended to return to locations including Sinjar and Telafar failed to arrive. IOM-DTM reports that between 30,000 to 35,000 individuals, around 6,000 households, are unaccounted for after departing the camps and failing to successfully arrive in their areas of origin or known intended destinations. It is assumed that many have moved to urban centres, particularly Al-Mosul, where the cost of rent has increased.

Office of Internal Oversight Services Visit

The OCHA Iraq office hosted a team from the Internal Audit Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (IOS) during a several week period in September-October 2019. IOS is the internal oversight body of the United Nations, and works under the direction of the Secretary-General to fulfill his oversight responsibilities in respect of the resources and staff of the Organization. The Internal Audit Division works to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls for the purpose of improving the Organization's risk management, control and governance processes.

A two-person team visited the OCHA Iraq office, reviewing operations of the last several years and meeting with the Humanitarian Coordinator, the Head of Office and other important partners including the Advisory Board of the IHF. The auditors also visited Duhok and met with the Assistant Governor of Duhok, the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs, UN agencies and Cluster Focal points evaluate OCHA's effectiveness.

Humanitarian Planning for 2020

On 19 September 2019, OCHA organized a joint analysis workshop for humanitarian partners in Iraq, including the ICCG, Informational Management Working Group and Assessment Working Group. It provided a platform for discussing and validating key needs assessment findings, and identified the most vulnerable population groups according to the available data.



Credit: OCHA/Y. Crafti, Erbil, Iraq (25 September 2019)

The findings from the joint analysis workshop were discussed at a 25 September 2019 joint ICCG/HCT workshop, where participants reviewed and agreed upon planning assumptions, key messages, and the humanitarian narrative and scenarios for the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan.

Iraq at the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On 11 September 2019, Iraq appeared for the first time before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Committee experts noted that Iraq had one of the largest populations of persons with disabilities in the world, given its recent history of successive armed conflicts. The Committee welcomed relatively recent legislation meant to ensure that persons with disabilities could better access education and employment, but noted gaps in its implementation, and expressed concern that discrimination against persons with disabilities was still prevalent. Disability analysis recently undertaken in advance of drafting the Humanitarian Needs Overview in Iraq found that people reported cost as the biggest factor preventing them from accessing services for disabled persons.

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GRCs have been established in several governorates. Composed of the Government, non-governmental organizations and United Nations representatives, the committees aim to ensure the return of displaced people is voluntary, safe and dignified, and also address the needs of displaced people remaining in camps.

Ninewa Governorate Returns Committee

The second half of 2019 saw a series of unexpected IDP camp closures and consolidations (see previous story) primarily in Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar affecting tens of thousands of people, some of which were carried out with little notice to humanitarian partners or affected communities. Much of the impetus for the closures and consolidations came from the Governor of Ninewa (as Ninewa is the governorate that hosts the most IDPs in federal Iraq). In such an operational environment, sustained engagement with the Governorate Returns Committees (GRCs) becomes ever more important. GRCs have been established in several governorates. Composed of the Government, non-governmental organizations and United Nations representatives, the committees aim to ensure the return of displaced people is voluntary, safe and dignified, and also address the needs of displaced people remaining in camps.

OCHA participated in the initial Ninewa GRC meeting on 18 September 2019, along with UN agencies and INGOs involved in camp management, and the Assistant Governor for Displacement Affairs. The Ninewa authorities outlined their plans to continue camp closures and consolidations in October 2019. The UN representatives suggested that they consult on options and timelines for the most orderly proceedings.

GRC participants agreed that the IDPs who chose to stay in camps rather than return will often be among the most vulnerable and require protection assistance. The issue of how to assist with families perceived affiliations return to their areas of origin was also discussed; Ninewa authorities had been performing outreach to tribal leaders in affected communities, and the UN offered to assist with advocacy and follow-up.

Supporting Education for IDP Students



Credit: OCHA/A. Lazau-Ratz
File Photo: School in Missan Governorate
(May 2019)

Concerns persist about the available of trained, qualified teachers in IDP and refugee schools, particularly in camps, for the 2019/2020 academic year, which commenced on 15 September. There are limited numbers of qualified teachers and in some cases no teachers at all deployed to such schools. Education partners have therefore supported the government through provision of incentives to pay volunteer teachers to meet this gap in the past. During the last school year (2018/2019), education partners paid incentives to over 4,964 volunteer teachers in IDP and refugee schools. However, education

partners are concerned with the quality of education for IDPs and refugees in formal and non-formal learning environments. Learning assessments conducted by partners in IDP and refugee locations, as well as a sample of recently concluded examination results, show that crisis-affected children are not achieving learning goals.

To address this concern, education partners requested the Ministries of Education at both the federal and KRG level deploy qualified teachers in the formal schools and, where not possible, to take over payment of incentives to qualified volunteer teachers to help improve the quality of education for crisis-affected children. Education Cluster members ceased paying teacher incentives in formal schools at the start of the 2019/2020 academic year, with the hope that education authorities in Iraq look towards stabilization and recovery by resuming responsibility for ensuring that schools are staffed with paid, qualified teachers for both for the IDP and Syrian refugee responses.

Education partners continue to support governmental stakeholders to develop a sustainable education system which reflects the improvements and ongoing needs in Iraq's humanitarian context. Where possible, partners will support the Iraqi education authorities to integrate children experiencing protracted displacement into local schools as a durable solution and to promote social cohesion.

Update on Humanitarian Finance

A “scorecard” system was used to ensure submissions were in line with the allocation strategy paper and preferences regarding building consortia, involving national NGOs (NNGO) and programming in under-served locations.

Colleagues working for the Iraq Humanitarian Fund were very busy in September dealing with the Second Standard Allocation for 2019. Most of September was focused on the strategic and technical review of proposed projects. A “scorecard” system was used to ensure submissions were in line with the allocation strategy paper and preferences regarding building consortia, involving national NGOs (NNGO) and programming in under-served locations. Funds disbursed to NNGOs will increase to around 20 per cent of the allocation, an improvement on previous years. All NNGO projects include capacity building budget lines.

September also brought the dissemination of the draft country report of the OCHA evaluation of the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (part of the regular assessment and accountability measures undertaken by headquarters in relation to country-based pooled funds). One of the goals of the evaluation is to identify challenges in order to provide recommendations on how to continue to strengthen the IHF as a funding mechanism in support of timely, coordinated and principled humanitarian response for affected people. The evaluation included a two-week country visit by the evaluation team who undertook interviews with key stakeholders including with communities which had received IHF-funded assistance.

Overview

Projects Recommended by Clusters



51 Projects worth \$52.66 million submitted



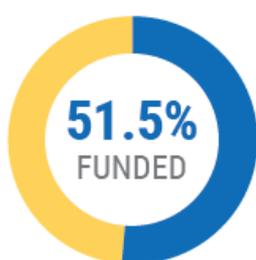
35 Projects worth \$41.5 million recommended by Clusters



29 INGO @ \$34.8 million, 1 NNGO @ \$834K, 5 UN @ \$5.9 million

2 CCCM, 2 CCS, 4 Education, 2 Livelihoods, 5 SNFI, 3 Food Security, 5 Health, 2 MPCA, 8 Protection, 2 WASH and 2 Multi Cluster

Iraq Humanitarian Funding Overview as of 2 October 2019



US\$340.1M

HRP UNMET REQUIREMENTS
as of 2 October 2019

IHF first standard allocation 2019¹



US\$500.1M

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED
as of 2 October 2019



The total funding received represents the overall funding linked to the requirements of the response plans/appeals; the HRP funding is a subset of overall funding to the affected country.

US\$701.1M
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

US\$361.0M¹
FUNDING RECEIVED

48.5%
FUNDING GAP

US\$361.0M
FUNDING THROUGH 2019 HRP

US\$139.1M
FUNDING OUTSIDE 2019 HRP

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