

# Situation Report

## Anbar Humanitarian Crisis



**Report #: 23**

**8 May 2014**

The information presented in the Situation Report is based on data received from UN agencies and JAU up to the time of publishing.

### Highlights

- **Number of displaced stands at 72,325 families as per Government figures of 7 May 2014.**
- **UN Assistance reached those affected by floods in Abu Ghraib.**
- **A UN Hydrological task force has been formed to look at impact and risk of flooding.**

### Situation overview

The Anbar crisis is now in its sixth month as fighting between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) continues. AOG positions in urban and desert areas have been targeted in both ground and air attacks. Former Anbar Governor and recent member of the Provincial Council (PC), Al-Fahdawi, urged Sheikhs and Fallujah residents to work with local authorities to end the conflict and avoid further ISF military intervention. Meanwhile, local media reported that the head of the Anbar PC, Al-Karhout, said that talks held in Baghdad and Amman between the GoI and AOG representatives have led to pledges by some groups that they would cut links with ISIS and help drive them out of the province.

The conflict in Anbar has in the past month taken on a new form as water is being used as both a target and a weapon. ISIL reportedly took control of the Fallujah barrage on the Euphrates River to flood areas on the periphery of the besieged city of Fallujah and in the Baghdad belt area. The ensuing floods in these areas have reached Abu Ghraib and threatened to reach Baghdad. Humanitarian organizations are therefore faced with a new action front to respond to the needs of families displaced from the floods. Latest reports indicate the floodwaters are abating.

### Humanitarian Response

The number of IDP families stands at 72,325 as per Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) latest registration report, with 50,922 families inside Anbar and 21,403 in other Governorates.

The massive floodwaters in Abu Ghraib District have been dissipating and have dropped half a meter since 6 May, enabling some IDPs to return to their homes in higher areas. The Mayor of Abu Ghraib confirmed on 6<sup>th</sup> May that flood levels have decreased and they are expecting the land to dry up within two days. They have requested the UN assistance to assist in relieving the suffering of the vulnerable families whose houses have been significantly damaged by the floods and to support the rehabilitation of the affected schools and PHCs.

In support to the affected population; UNICEF & WFP are in the process of delivering a second shipment of emergency supplies (1,250 Hygiene and family water kits, and 1,000 food parcels). WHO confirmed that medical supplies have reached Abu Ghraib.

The planned meeting at the COR that was scheduled to take place on May 04, 2104 and discuss the situation in Abu Ghraib has been postponed. Also the Cabinet meeting scheduled for May 06, 2014 was as well postponed.

MoDM held a meeting of the emergency cell on Thursday May 8, 2014. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister of MoDM and focused on the floods in Abu Ghraib. The UN, International and National Organizations participated in the meeting and briefed on their Aid assistance and future plans. The Deputy Minister noted that

the floodwaters have dropped and IDPs are expected to return to their homes in the coming days. To date MoDM have registered 1,035 displaced family, and the distribution of cash assistance to the most vulnerable (300,000IQD= 250USD) is ongoing at Al Karkh area near Abu Ghraib. The Deputy Minister highlighted the need for coordination to ensure no duplication in aid distribution. Discussions focused only on relief and recovery issues were not addressed.

## NFI and Shelter Sector

In total since the beginning of the Anbar crisis, UNHCR distributed 6,519 CRI kits and 255 Tents.

UNHCR is planning cash assistance to approximately 420 families affected by flooding in Abu Ghraib district of Baghdad and who have been identified as being vulnerable. This is being done in coordination with the NFI/Shelter Cluster. Currently the list of beneficiaries is being verified with distribution expected to take place through UNHCR's partner, Muslim Aid in due course.

## WASH

UNICEF has reached 220 families with the distribution of Hygiene and family kits, in Al-Habbaniyah. Daily water trucking of 304,000 liters is still ongoing benefiting 15,326 IDPs in Heet, Rutba and Al-Qaim. Garbage collection services on daily basis benefiting 12,000 IDPs in AL-Qaim/Al-Obaidi, Anah, Al-Rutba and Heet is ongoing (During garbage collection UNICEF's Iraq Partner staff found an unexploded IED near IDPs collective center in AL-Obaidi). 130 IDPs benefited from the installation of 5 toilets and 5 showers in Al-Obaidi and one shower in Heet. Also, 250 families benefited from the installation of three water tanks of 5000 liters in three schools in AL-Habbaniyah and 8 water tanks of 1,000 liters in Ammriatte AL-Fallujah. UNICEF reached 15,000 IDPs with Hygiene promotion campaigns in Heet and AL-Qaim. 5,000 IDPs families were reached with the distribution of Hygiene kits, in Samarra - Salah Al Deen.



UNICEF: Installing of mobile toilets and showers in Al-Obaidi



UNICEF: Water Trucking in Heet

## Health

Al Nasr wa Al Salam Primary Health Care Center (PHCC) which is the main PHCC in Al Nasr wa Al Salam district that provides health care was at high risk of being affected by the flood. This PHCC provided medical care to about 350 families in Abu Ghraib per day. In the last few weeks, the number of families who were seeking medical care from this facility rose to around 750 families per day. Action is being taken to reduce the risk of flooding through sand bags protection. In case the flooding was inevitable, Al Nasr wa Al Salam PHCC staff will be moved to other PHCCs.

The population of Abu Ghraib district is currently exposed to high risk of water-borne illnesses and infectious diseases due to overcrowding, poor conditions of the health facilities and poor hygiene and sanitation.

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## **Initiatives being taken by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and supported by WHO to protect facilities at risk of being flooded.**

- The Ministry of Health has established an emergency cell to respond to the Abu Ghraib crisis and undertaken a survey to assess the risk of infectious diseases and water borne illnesses.
- Water samples from water factories and stores are being taken for laboratory tests in order to ensure that Abu Ghraib population has access to safe drinking water.
- Health facilities are investigating cases of diarrhea and other water borne diseases.
- Vaccination campaign against measles is being carried for children under 10 years of age.
- WHO has delivered two Inter-agency Emergency Health kits (IEHK) and one trauma kit.
- Stagnant water in the flooded areas is being treated with pesticides.
- Mobile clinics have been provided to Abu Ghraib Health Office to serve families affected by the flood.

In ongoing efforts to prevent an outbreak of waterborne disease, UNICEF has prepared an action plan to be carried out in coordination with local authorities that will include the distribution of hygiene kits and awareness messages.

## **Food Security**

Since the onset of the crisis in January 2014, WFP has distributed 14,256 food parcels, assisting 85,536 IDPs. In the last week WFP's partner IOM distributed 930 parcels-food for a family for one month-in Heet.

In responding to IDPs affected by flooding, WFP's partner ISHO, distributed 1,500 parcels in Abu Ghraib city and outskirts. This included in Al-Hitaween, Hameed Al-Hassan, Haswa, and Al Nasr wa Al Salam. A family ration for only two weeks was distributed instead of the usual monthly ration, because of the uncertainty of the flood situation and the possibility of multiple displacements.

WFP staff visited the area on 1 May. The Mayor, underlined desperate measures taken by some people to escape the floodwaters, including using upturned fridges as boats. Front-end-loaders have been used to move some families to higher ground.

### **Future food distributions**

WFP is transporting 807MT of food stocks from Turkey to Erbil. Distributions of one-month family rations will continue in May. Islamic Relief Worldwide will distribute 500 food parcels in the Al Qaim area in Anbar Province and IOM will distribute approximately 1,450 food parcels in the Salah El Din Province. Another 1,000 parcels, shared between 2,000 families, will be distributed in Abu Ghraib through ISHO.

## **Protection**

The provision of the MoDM cash-grant remains on hold at least in the central region, while in KR-I, MoDM is continuing to provide cash (300,000 IQD), food parcels and blankets to IDPs. Civil Defense in Shaqlawa is playing a key role in coordinating and facilitating the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

The newly displaced continue to arrive in the KR-I. MoDM is continuing to register IDPs and distribute the cash grant but there is a waiting period for new arrivals to be registered.

Following initial support to MoDM by UNHCR to augment MoDM's registration capacity, UNHCR has appealed for additional funding to ramp-up registration activities, funding is yet to materialize.

In the last two weeks, around 400 families arrived in Shaqlawa mostly from Fallujah as well as approximately 30 families from Abu Ghraib. IDPs who previously came from Salah El Din and Diyala to Erbil have reportedly left for Samara.

Movement out of Shaqlawa due to high cost of accommodation continues. Around 400 families living in Sefeen compound were requested to vacate their apartments. Many families have moved to the neighboring villages where accommodation is cheaper than Shaqlawa town.

Kurdistan authorities continue renewing the temporary tourist pass for one month period. IDPs with valid tourist pass are allowed to move freely within KRI. Some IDP reported difficulty to access Dohuk checkpoint.

## Coordination & Funding

HCT reached an agreement to form a Hydrogeological task force at the request of the Humanitarian Coordinator. The Task force would be formed to primarily examine the best approach to model the potential impact of flooding in areas of population concentrations. The Task Force would look at a range of issues including but not limited to: scenarios; potential downstream impacts; potential mitigation measures; and contingency plans for the UN.

### Financial Contributions-Strategic Response Plan (SRP)

To date, the financial contributions received for the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) total **\$10.6 Million USD**; \$5 Million USD from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), \$1.8 million USD from Japan, \$1.7 million USD from Canada, \$500,000 USD from Turkey, and \$1.6 M from WFP Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) towards their EMOP 200677, which is part of the Strategic Response Plan. The SRAC is WFP-internal committee allocating multilateral funding to different projects globally. *Note, not all contributions have been reflected on the Financial Tracking System (FTS) yet.*

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