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Flash

Update

Iraq Crisis - Ramadi Displacement

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Situation

1. Ramadi City remains under the control of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as it has been since 17 May 2015. On 20 May, residents remaining in Ramadi reported that ISIL fighters were using loudspeakers to encourage them to stay in the city, despite acute shortages of food and medicines.
2. Insecurity, armed attacks, and military operations continued across the area, affecting Ramadi as well as areas east of Ramadi, including Husaiba al-Sharqiya, Khaldiyah and Amiriyat Al-Fallujah.
3. Internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to face difficulties exiting Anbar Governorate. Entry into Baghdad, Karbala and Babylon remains restricted and is conditional on IDPs having a local sponsor. The Bzbiz Bridge checkpoint between Anbar and Baghdad was open for a limited period on 19 May, allowing many of the families who had been stranded on open ground for several days to cross. The Karbala entry point remains closed, with only 103 families having been able to cross. The Latifia checkpoint, located at the entry to Baghdad Governorate, is reportedly open for IDP families.
4. On 19 May, the Kalar-Kuluju checkpoint into Sulaymaniyah Governorate from Diyala Governorate was exceptionally opened, allowing approximately 700 IDP families from Anbar to enter. The checkpoint has since been closed again. Other checkpoints between Diyala and Sulaimaniyah governorates also remain closed, with only urgent medical referrals allowed to cross.
5. 9,330 families have been displaced since 15 May, according to the latest figures available from the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Some 8,398 of these IDP families have remained in Anbar Governorate. 615 IDP families have reached Baghdad while another 31 families have moved on to

Babylon Governorate, and 215 have reached Erbil Governorate.

6. Local authorities continue to request assistance from the international community, both directly and through the JCMC.

Humanitarian Response – Anbar Governorate

7. The four Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), previously noted as being on standby, have been handed over to the Anbar Directorate of Health. Two MMUs have arrived at the Baghdad side of the Bzbiz Bridge and are providing medical services to IDP families there. The Anbar DOH has dispatched the other two MMUs to Amiriyat al Fallujah.
8. All serious cases requiring surgery are being transferred by ambulance from Khaldiyah Emergency Hospital to Amiriyat al Fallujah. WHO is monitoring the availability of fuel for the ambulances. The agency is also planning to support the delivery of medical oxygen to the hospitals in the area. A WHO shipment of medical kits to Amiriyat Al Fallujah Primary Health Centre is awaiting a safe route to be defined.
9. Medical staff from the Ramadi General Hospital received notification on 19 May from ISIL that they should return to their duties.
10. 1,832 IDP children have been vaccinated against polio, and 630 IDP children have been vaccinated against measles by twelve Primary Health Centre outreach teams, supported by UNICEF. The vaccinations were carried out between 13- 19 May, mainly for IDP families in the area near the Bzbiz Bridge.
11. At least 8,400 IDPs have been assisted with cold bottled water at Bzbiz Bridge and in Amiriyat al Fallujah, through support from UNICEF and its implementing partner Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme (RIRP).
12. On 20 May, 1,000 families on the Anbar side of the Bzbiz Bridge and 500 families on the Baghdad side received Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits containing water, hygiene supplies and other items, distributed by RRM partner Norwegian Refugee Council. A further 5,000 kits were distributed at Latifia Checkpoint to beneficiaries. The NRC transport of World Food Programme Immediate Response Rations (IRR) – ready to eat food rations

sufficient to cover five people for three days - has reached Habbaniyah. Distribution will begin on 21 May, targeting 5,000 IDP families. IRRs to meet the needs of 3,000 families in Amiriyat al Fallujah are being prepared for transport from Baghdad.

13. Water trucking to Amiriyat al Fallujah, al Nakhaib, Habbaniyah and Khaldiyah is continuing by UNICEF partners, with up to 105 cubic metres being delivered daily across the four locations. Five metric tonnes of water purification powder was delivered on 21 May to the Amiriyat al Fallujah main water project. Waste water desludging is continuing at Habbaniyah Tourist Village.
14. UNICEF support continues to IDPs living in collective centres in Baghdad, through the delivery of water storage tanks. Mobile latrines have been delivered to a school for IDP children in al Takiya, Baghdad. Work has started on the construction of septic tanks for the latrines. A committee has been established to support the school to ensure both accreditation of studies, and to facilitate catch-up classes during the summer.
15. Land is being offered by local authorities as a potential IDP site on the Baghdad side of the Bzebiz Bridge crossing. UNHCR technical experts will assess this option.

The information in this note was compiled by OCHA Iraq based on a variety of sources, including the Government of Iraq, local authorities, UN agencies, international non-government organizations, media reports, and key informant interviews.

The next Flash Update will be issued as required. For more information, contact David Swanson swanson@un.org or visit the Humanitarian Operations Centre, Erbil.

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