

OCHA Flash Update

Iraq Crisis - Ramadi Displacement

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Situation

1. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) fighters are reported to have seized the town of Husayba Al-Sharqiyah which is located seven kilometres east of Ramadi, in Anbar Governorate. ISIL are reportedly continuing to advance to the east to the Al Madhiq area, towards Al-Khalidiya. Mortar fire also reportedly affected the central districts of Amiriyat al-Fallujah on 22 May.
2. Over the past days Haditha City, western Anbar, witnessed new clashes between ISIL fighters and Iraq Security Forces and allied tribal fighters, as ISIL attempted a new offensive. Haditha has been cut-off from food supplies for several months, with conditions reportedly dire. Access to safety also remains a key concern for civilians remaining there.
3. In Fallujah, the General Hospital reported that 6 residents were killed, and 7 individuals, wounded by exchanges between security forces and ISIL militants.

Displacement

4. The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) has recorded 9,330 displaced families (approximately 55,980 individuals) since 15 May. Of these, some 8,398 families are displaced within Anbar Governorate.
5. As clashes advanced eastwards from Ramadi towards Khalidiyah on 22 May, some 2,500 IDPs and many from the host community fled the area to escape possible fighting.
6. Most of those fleeing Khalidiya travelled southeast to Amiriyat al Fallujah, due to the limited access to the Bzbiz Bridge to Baghdad. An estimated 4,000 families (24,000 individuals) arrived from Khalidiyah in Amiriyat al-Fallujah on 23 May and another 3,000-5,000 families are expected to arrive in the coming hours and days. The local health clinic is overwhelmed. A large sandstorm in Amiriyat Al-Falluja has also destroyed many shelters.
7. Thousands of families also fled Amiriyat al-Falluja on 22 May to an area south of Bzbiz Bridge crossing, in response to the mortar fire incident.
8. The entry to Baghdad Governorate at the Bzbiz Bridge remains restricted. As of 23 May, up to 1,000 families are at the Bridge waiting to cross. The Bzbiz Bridge was closed on the morning of the 22 May, leaving several thousand IDPs queuing at the checkpoint and filling out sponsorship forms.
9. Despite the restrictions, over 2,000 IDP families have entered Baghdad Governorate, according to local partners on 22 May. Some 160 families are reported to be sheltering in Heyy al-Ma'amil, 70 families in Heyy Tariq, 50 families in Heyy al-Kamaliat, and some 860 families in al-Sadiq al-Akbar, Sadr City.

Humanitarian Response

10. UNHCR, UNICEF and MoDM conducted a joint assessment of two proposed transit sites for IDPs in Baghdad Governorate. The land was donated by local authorities.
11. On 20 May, 2,173 dignity kits were distributed to IDPs in Baghdad Governorate by a local partner of UNFPA. Additional dignity kits have been dispatched to other areas and were distributed on 21 and 22 May. 150 dignity kits were also distributed to newly displaced women and girls in Qurato Camp, Sulimaniyah Governorate. An additional 50 dignity kits were distributed in Kalar, Diyala Governorate.
12. On 23 May, 2,000 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits with water and sanitation supplies and Immediate Response Rations (IRR) with food for 10,000 people for three days were prepositioned at the Bzbiz Bridge by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). NRC teams are currently at the bridge assisting the displaced. NRC reports that the local community is also responding, and the People's Committee is now providing water, ice, and cooked meals for new arrivals.
13. Between 21-22 May, NRC successfully completed the delivery of 5,000 kits to IDP families at Habbanyia Tourist City, Anbar Governorate.
14. Some 9,000 RRM kits have reached Amiriyat al Fallujah, sufficient to meet the needs of 45,000 displaced individuals. A convoy with an additional 3,000 RRM/IRR kits is currently en route for Amiriyat al Fallujah from Baghdad, capable of addressing the needs of 15,000 displaced individuals.

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.

Humanitarianresponse.info

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