

Clean water reaches a young boy at Al Takiya camp, Baghdad
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February 2016

Iraq

Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Ten million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq, of which approximately 4.7 million are children.
- UNICEF and its partners, including through the clusters developed contingency plans for humanitarian response in the case of escalation of military operations in Anbar and Mosul and possible flooding caused by an eventual burst of the Mosul Dam.
- Since 1 January, UNICEF has supported access to safe water for more than 101,000 IDPs across Iraq; access to improved sanitation for over 4,800 IDPs; and access to hygiene items and improved key hygiene practices for over 157,000 IDPs.
- In February, UNICEF, UNHCR and Save the Children trained 27 NGO staff on managing cases of Gender-Based Violence and early marriage.
- UNICEF's Health and Nutrition; Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM); and Cash Assistance response under the 2016 HRP remain completely unfunded as of the end-February; UNICEF is relying on remaining 2015 carryover funding to ensure continuation of support for children under 5.
- More than 600,000 vulnerable IDP children have received warm winter clothing and shoes since October 2015 across 14 governorates of Iraq.

People in need of humanitarian assistance:

10 million people, of which
4.7 million are children and
3.3 million are internally displaced people (IDPs)

Target population in 2016:

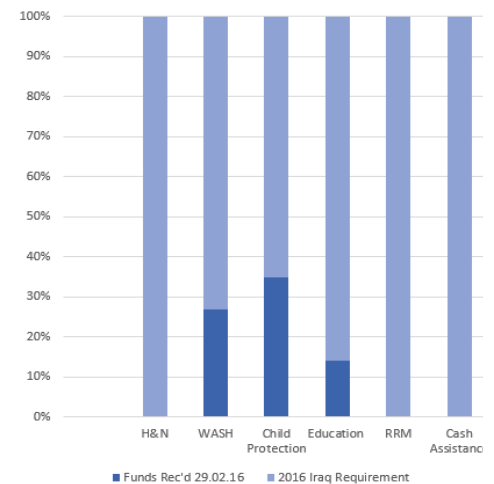
WASH: 832,000
Health: 384,000
Education: 350,000
Child Protection: 131,000
Rapid Response: 2 million

UNICEF Requirements 2016:

US\$ 101 million

Funds received 2016¹:

US\$ 19,028,458

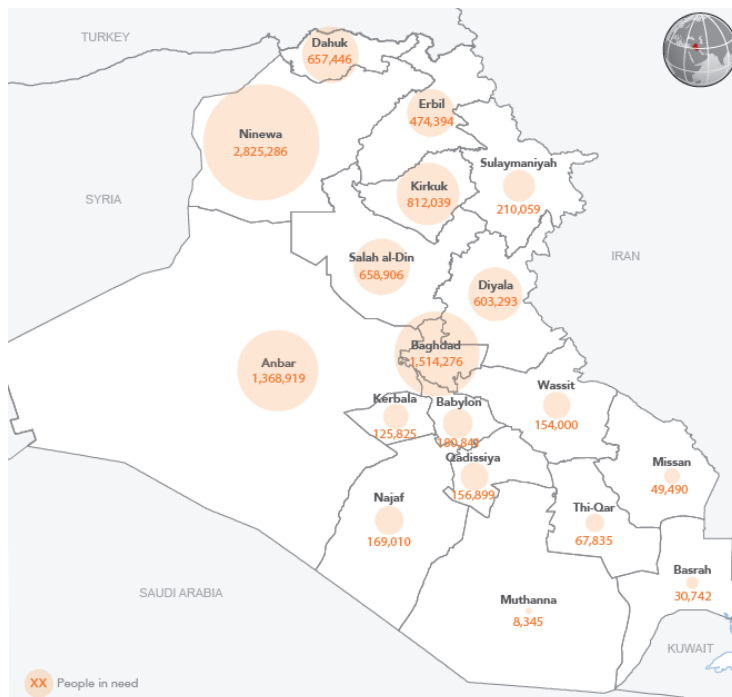


UNICEF's Response with partners

Key Indicators	Cluster		UNICEF	
	Target	Results	Target	Results
Emergency affected populations with access to a sufficient safe water supply	2,372,430	162,990	832,130	101,400
School-aged children reached through temporary learning spaces (pre-fab)	45,000	6,244	22,000	6,244
Children participating in structured, sustained, resilience or psychosocial support programmes	150,000	3,194	131,000	2,626
Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from newborn home services			80,800	93
Vulnerable people newly-displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response			2,000,000	303,009

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Ten million people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in Iraq, of which approximately 4.7 million are children. As of 4 February, an increase was recorded in displaced populations in the governorates of Ninewa (5 percent increase; 12,114 individuals); in Salah al Din (4 percent, 7,578 individuals); and in Anbar (1 percent, 3,364 individuals). The increase is explained by the ongoing military operations affecting those locations². UNICEF and its partners, including through the clusters developed contingency plans for humanitarian response in the case of escalation of military operations in Anbar and Mosul and possible flooding caused by an eventual burst of the Mosul Dam. Of more than 3.3 million individuals displaced in Iraq, only 10 percent currently reside in formal camps or settlements, with the majority living either with relatives or in rented accommodation. With the long-running economic downturn in Iraq affecting access to livelihood opportunities and placing additional pressure on Iraqi displaced and Syrian refugee families to meet the costs of living, an increased interest in relocation to camp environments has been reported in the first two months of 2016.



Map of affected IDP population by Iraq governorate
Source: UNOCHA (2016) Humanitarian Response Plan

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

UNICEF leads the WASH and Education Clusters as well as the Child Protection sub-cluster and is an active member of the Health and Nutrition Clusters. Monthly meetings with Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consortium partners including co-leads World Food Programme (WFP) and UN Population Fund (UNFPA) are facilitated to plan coordinated humanitarian assistance. Regular meetings are convened with the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) in Baghdad and the Joint Crisis Coordination centre (JCC) in Erbil, alongside other UN agencies and line ministry members.

Humanitarian Strategy

Strategic priorities under the 2016 UN Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) are to: reach as many people in need as possible; give options to families to live in Iraq with dignity; support voluntary, safe and dignified returns; bridge critical gaps in social protection; and help people affected by violence to recover from trauma. UNICEF prioritizes the health, protection and education of children and families. Through support to the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF strengthens health and nutrition services for children under 5 years old and mothers; and with the Ministry of Public Works and Municipalities (MPWM) and the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism (MMT) works to support provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services. With the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF improves access to education for children aged 6 to 17 years old. In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), UNICEF works to protect and uphold children's rights at policy level, and on the ground through support to social workers and provision of Child- and Youth-Friendly Spaces and services. In Iraq UNICEF also supports child-focused cash transfer to provide temporary support to vulnerable families in meeting their daily needs, including the hidden costs of schooling. UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) support newly-displaced populations in transit with the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), with life-saving and dignity-raising kits that arrive within 72 hours of the response trigger. Within the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNICEF appeals for USD\$101 million to continue supporting critical services in support of displaced Iraqis and host communities.

Summary Analysis of Programme response

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In 2016 UNICEF has supported improved access to safe water for more than 101,000 IDPs across Iraq; improved access to sanitation for over 4,800 IDPs; and supported improved access to hygiene items and improved key hygiene practices for over 157,000 IDPs. Key coordination with WASH partners through 10 'WASH Service Centres' (WSCs), which opened in December 2015, helped support response in Anbar and Baghdad, addressing needs of displaced families in camps, collective centres, unfinished buildings and informal settlements. Improved access to safe water reached 17,000 IDPs in the Abu Ghraib area of Baghdad through 340,000 litres of safe drinking water, through a partnership with German NGO Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Programme (RIRP). More than 37,000 people were supported for improved access to sanitation in the southern governorates of Basra, Missan, Thi Qar, Diwaniya and Muthanna, through delivery of key hygiene items. In northern Iraq, the Directorate of Surrounding Water in Sulaymaniyah supported improved access to safe water for more than 7,400 IDPs in Ashti camp, where new boreholes were completed, while in Dahuk access for WASH facilities in recreational areas (Child Friendly Spaces) was improved for more than 6,200 school children (3,038 girls; 3,162

¹ As of 29 February 2016, UNICEF had received 16 per cent, or US\$19 million, of the US\$101 million 2016 appeal in addition to US\$52,019,959 carried forward from 2015. See page 6 for more detailed funds information.

² International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round XXXVIII (38th Round), February 2016

boys) across 15 IDP camps. With ongoing economic difficulties affecting government services, UNICEF has been approached to increase its financial support to technical directorates for operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure in IDP camps and out-of-camp locations across the country. In line with the prioritisation that informed the 2016 HRP strategy, UNICEF will assess requests based on a needs-focused approach, selecting underserved areas, or locations with a population identified as particularly vulnerable, and initiating the appropriate first, second, or third line response accordingly.

Education

Demand for increased space for education is high. In response, UNICEF supported improved access to learning for more than 6,200 children in 2016 through installation of pre-fabricated school 'caravans'. In mid-February, a newly-constructed school in Al Butera, Missan, opened its doors to 317 children (139 girls and 173 boys), accepting both IDP and host community children; while in the two Kirkuk IDP camps of Yahyawa and Laylan, new 8-classroom and 14-classroom schools opened to support 622 students (284 girls; 338 boys) and 1,758 students (740 girls and 1,0129 boys) respectively. Appropriate support to children in classrooms is key to ensuring attendance and achievement at school. UNICEF's programme of teacher training includes pedagogical theories and practical methods, including provision of psychosocial support for children who show signs of stress. In February, training reached 224 teachers (105 female and 119 male) in the central governorates of Babylon, Baghdad and Diyala. More than 34,000 children have received teaching and learning materials that support quality learning in the classroom in 2016. The delay in payment of teacher salaries is now ongoing for approximately 6 months and is affecting children's learning. Teachers cannot support their own living costs, including the cost of transport to work. Because of overall shortages in trained teachers, the Ministry of Education is also forced to post available staff to locations far from their homes. Education partners report ongoing challenges to find appropriate local partners to support education work. Infrastructure projects are also delayed in some disputed areas, such as Kirkuk.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF's planned health and nutrition response under the 2016 HRP has received zero funding as of end-February; UNICEF is relying on remaining 2015 carryover funding to ensure continuation of support to basic immunization and nutrition services for children under 5. Routine growth monitoring/nutrition screening reached 2,791 children this month, and routine vaccination services reached 2,420 children. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), the first 2016 Nationwide Polio Immunization Day began on 28 February and will conclude on 3 March. Specifically, UNICEF supports provision of vaccines, social mobilization and communication efforts, and field logistics. Coverage results will be reported in the March Sitrep. In Kirkuk, a nutrition survey which reached 572 key respondents was concluded on 27 February; key findings and recommendations will be circulated through relevant partners to develop response to identified needs.

Child Protection

As of February 2016, UNICEF's response for child protection in Iraq only 53 percent funded. UNICEF supported psychosocial services to 1,875 newly-registered IDP children (girls; 923 and boys; 952) and specialized child protection services to 380 IDP children (girls; 148 and boys; 232). Children are referred to specialised services for cases involving emotional distress, non-attendance of school, child labour, early marriage, issues related to gender-based violence, and disability; services aim to connect children with additional support to improve their situation or provide necessary counselling and guidance. UNICEF is working with the UN to strengthen the 'Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism' (MRM) network that reports on grave violations of children's rights; it currently consists of over 330 trained monitors from UN agencies, international/national NGOs. In February, an additional 47 NGO staff took part in training in Dahuk and Kirkuk. Six reports of grave violations against child rights were verified in February, affecting 9 children (1 girl, 5 boys and 3 sex unknown); 29 further reported cases (6 boys, 3 girls and 20 sex unknown) were unverified.³

Child marriage is reportedly on the increase due to the current crisis. Findings from the 2014 Interagency Child Protection Assessment in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) indicate that child marriage was one of the most common forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable, and have limited support and access to information. In 2015, the Interagency Child Marriage Taskforce developed a technical guidance note to outline good practice. In February, to improve capacity to manage reported cases of child marriage/GBV, UNICEF, UNHCR and Save the Children ran specific sessions for 27 NGO staff to familiarise them with the guidance. Agreements for projects to support girls, boys, women and men affected by gender-based violence are being finalized in February. Bottlenecks have included challenges in identifying partners with suitable capacity to implement in the targeted hard-to-reach locations.

³ Verification of reports follows a specific procedure, as outlined by international guidance; verification may happen later than the actual violation; therefore reports verified in February 2016 may not have occurred in the same month.



A girl enjoys creative play in a Child Friendly Space in Baghdad ©UNICEF/Iraq/2016/Khuzaie

Cash Assistance

UNICEF has provided cash assistance to identified vulnerable populations in Iraq since December 2014 in close cooperation with the regional authorities, with whom accountability and monitoring systems were set up to ensure that distribution and beneficiary selection is according to standard and agreed criteria. No cash assistance activities for IDPs took place in February 2016 while partnership agreements are being prepared with implementing NGOs. Cash Transfers support vulnerable Iraqis to meet their own needs in a dignified manner, and help to provide access to food and shelter. In 2016, UNICEF aims to reach approximately 14,600 households with child-focused cash transfer.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

UNICEF's share of the RRM response is 100 percent unfunded under the HRP 2016 as of end-February 2016. UNICEF is utilizing carry over funding from 2015 to maintain this critical response to populations on the move. In February, the RRM Consortium coordinated by UNICEF and WFP reached an estimated 17,600 individuals on the move through delivery of 2,513 RRM kits at 6 locations across 3 governorates, including hard-to-reach areas in Anbar and Salah al Din. The RRM consists of rapid assessments through hand-held digital data tablets and simultaneous delivery of essential items through a consortium of UN agencies (WFP, UNFPA and UNICEF) and 7 NGO partners covering 16 governorates fully and 2 governorates partially (Ninewa and Anbar).

Winterization

UNICEF's "Warm for Winter" project was launched on 24 October 2015 to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and pregnant women in need of warm clothes and blankets. In February 2016, 212,332 IDPs (100,221 Boys, 109,351 Girls and 2,760 pregnant women) received warm clothes and blankets, for a total of 602,230 children reached since October 2015. These IDPs have been reached in 14 governorates of Iraq and they have received warm winter clothing and shoes for children befitting age groups 0-14 years.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF supported 2016's first National Polio Immunization Days (NPID), which ran 28 February to 3 March. UNICEF partners with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture and the WHO to run large-scale social mobilization activities through door-to-door health mobilizer teams, including in areas identified as particularly vulnerable, public events, and through mass media broadcasts through 10 TV and 16 national and local radio stations.



A mother and daughter receive information about the nationwide polio campaign in a shopping mall in central Iraq
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Supply and Logistics

UNICEF Iraq dispatched IDP relief items to governmental counterparts and non-governmental partners with a total value of nearly US\$ 1.7 million; winter and WASH items accounted for 41 per cent of the aggregated items including winter clothes and hygiene kits.

Media and External Communication

In February, external communications continued to highlight the situation of children, women, and families affected by violence in Iraq, as well as to provide visibility to UNICEF programmes, partners and donors working in the emergency response. Activities included interviews by ICO spokespersons with The Daily Beast, Huffington Post, Deutsche Welle, and Al Sharqiyya News. UNICEF Iraq also welcomed the UNICEF UK National Committee CEO, who visited IDP camps in northern Iraq. On International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM, UNICEF Iraq social media platforms highlighted UNICEF's support for work to end FGM in the Kurdistan Region.

Security

On 9 February Iraqi Security Forces announced that Ramadi city was entirely back under government control. This was followed by news that government forces had encircled Fallujah where civilians were being forced to remain inside the city by ISIS fighters. In the KR-I concerns were raised by what appeared to be a deterioration in the security environment as demonstrations were reported, fuelled by economic hardship and internal political disagreement. At time of reporting, no major offensives have begun despite international media attention on Iraqi Security Force activities and plans. In other places in the country a significant number of IED attacks took place in Baghdad on a weekly basis and the security situation in the Kirkuk, Salah Ad Din and the Diyala governorates remains volatile.

Funding

Sector	2016 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Funds Received* as of 29.02.2016	Funding Gap	
	a	b	c(a-b)	%
Health and Nutrition	17,762,000	0	17,762,000	100%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	19,000,000	7,010,177	11,989,823	63%
Child Protection	12,000,000	6,395,189	5,604,811	47%
Education	34,560,000	5,623,092	28,936,908	84%
Rapid Response Mechanism	10,500,000	0	10,500,000	100%
Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer	7,369,212	0	7,369,212	100%
Total	101,191,212	19,028,458	82,162,754	81%
	Carry Forward**	52,019,959		
	Unallocated	0		
Total Funds Available***	101,191,212	71,048,417	30,142,795	30%

*Note funded amounts includes HQ Cost Recovery & CO Cross Sectoral Costs ** Carry forward figure is programmable balance as of 31 December 2015 for IDP Response. *** Total funding available includes total funds received against current appeal plus carry-forward. As of 31 January 2016, UNICEF had received 18 per cent, or US\$17.9 million, of the US\$101 million 2016 appeal, in addition to US\$52,019,959 carried forward from 2015

Next SitRep: 17 April 2016

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UNICEF Iraq Country Office Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefiraq>

Humanitarian Response for Iraq: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/iraq>

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Annex A

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS (February 2016)

	Cluster Target 2016	Cluster Results 29.02.16	Progress	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results 29.02.16	Progress
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE 2016 Needs: 6.6 million people						
Emergency affected populations with access to a sufficient safe water supply	2,372,430	162,990	▲	832,130	101,400	▲
Emergency affected populations with access to functional latrines	910,937	4,878	▬	495,437	4,878	▲
IDPs receiving hygiene kits or other hygiene supplies	1,480,868	167,991	▲	336,393	157,137	▲
EDUCATION 2016 Needs: 3.3 million school-age children						
School-aged children reached through temporary learning spaces (pre-fab)	45,000	6,244	▲	22,000	6,244	▲
# of teachers and education personnel receiving training on EiE and / or PSS and / or Pedagogy	8,300	460	▲	5,000	306	▬
# of boys and girls receiving educational supplies and / or teaching learning material	615,000	34,087	▲	350,000	34,075	▲
CHILD PROTECTION 2016 Needs: 3.6 million children under 18						
Grave child rights violations verified	250	20	▲	250	20	▲
Children receiving specialized child protection services (reunification, alternative or specialized care and services)	30,000	792	▲	28,559	522	▲
Children participating in structured, sustained, resilience or psychosocial support programmes	150,000	3,194	▲	131,000	2,626	▲
Women and girls receiving GBV services at women centers/mobile teams	12,000	0	▬	12,000	0	▬
HEALTH 2016 Needs: 5.6 million children under 5						
Newborn babies of conflict-affected families benefitting from newborn home services				80,800	93	▲
Under 1 year old children vaccinated against measles through routine immunization				84,000	2,313	▲
Children 0 - 59 months vaccinated against Polio in crises affected areas through campaigns				IDP: 561,000	0	▬
				Host Community: 5,200,000	0	▬
NUTRITION 2016 Needs: 5.6 million children under 5						
Children under 5 provided with access to Nutrition services (growth monitoring, nutrition screening)				IDP: 64,000	4,831	▲
				Host Community: 320,000	352	▲
Targeted mothers of children 0-23 months with access to IYCF counselling for appropriate feeding				32,000	1,011	▲
RAPID RESPONSE 2016 Needs: 2.1 million vulnerable people						
Vulnerable people newly displaced by conflict receiving RRM kits within 72 hours of trigger for response				2,000,000	303,009	▲
SOCIAL PROTECTION 2016 Needs: 2.8 million vulnerable people (466,000 households)						
Most vulnerable households receiving cash assistance				14,655	0	▬