

HIGHLIGHTS

- Close to 80,000 people have been newly displaced since early March in the Anbar and Mosul corridors and in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Fallujah is effectively under siege, with residents reportedly in dire need of food, medicine, and clean water.
- The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan is less than 25 per cent funded. US\$300 million is needed by the end of June to maintain ongoing first-line emergency interventions.



Humanitarian assistance has been scaled up to meet the needs of displaced people in western Anbar. Credit: UNICEF/Jeff Bates

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FIGURES

# of people in need	10m
# of people targeted for assistance	7.3m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	3.4m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	3m
# of affected people in host communities	3.2m
# of returnees	0.5m
# of Syrian refugees	0.25m

Source: 2016 Iraq HRP/HNO/IOM DTM

Humanitarian Response Plan

FUNDING

861 million requested for 2016 (US\$)

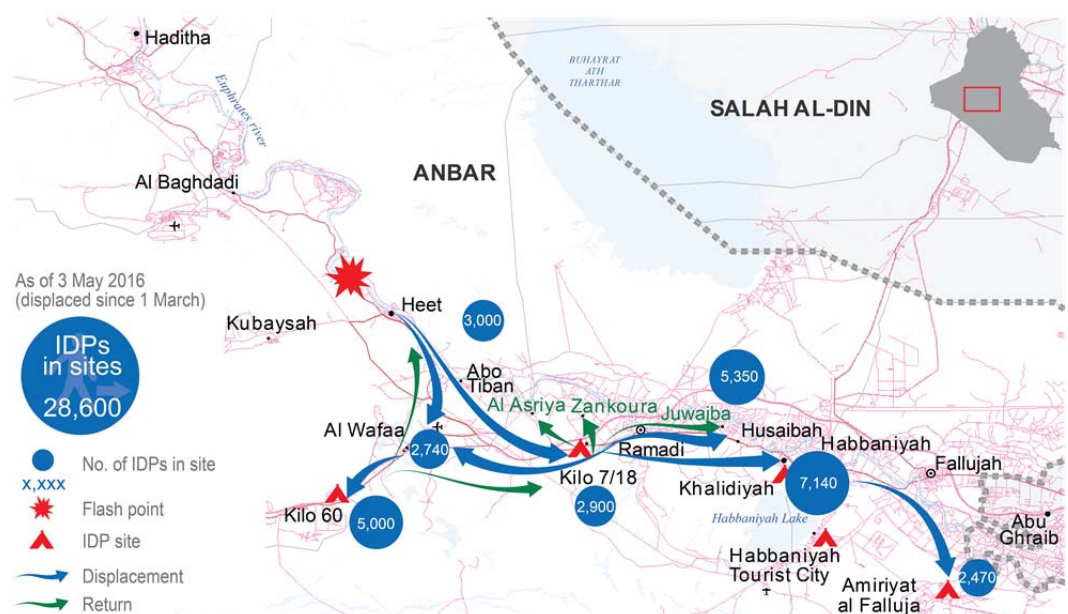
23% (\$197 million) (reflects funding on FTS as of 9 May 2016)

Humanitarian conditions are deteriorating

Tens of thousands of people newly displaced by escalating armed conflict

Military operations by the Iraqi security forces and allied armed groups are ongoing and intensifying to retake areas held by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Since the beginning of March, approximately 80,000 people have been newly displaced in three areas: the Anbar corridor, the Mosul corridor, and in northern Salah al-Din. Of these, some 30,000 remained displaced along the Anbar corridor and around 3,000 remained displaced along the Mosul corridor, with many others having already returned home.

Humanitarian assistance is being provided to affected people in all locations, though insecurity, strict security screening procedures, the remote location of displaced people, serious protection concerns, and overcrowded camps remain critical challenges. Hundreds of thousands of civilians remain trapped in areas effectively under siege – like Fallujah – and lack access to regular humanitarian assistance. In accessible areas, where most displaced people are concentrated, coping capacities of both displaced and host communities are nearing the point of exhaustion as the crisis has entered its third year. The operational context is against a backdrop of a changing political landscape, marked by reform efforts and public demonstrations. Challenged by a 40 per cent drop in oil revenue and forced to mount costly operations to repel the ISIL insurgency, Iraq is also grappling with a fiscal crisis that further compounds the humanitarian situation.



Anbar situation map. Source: Authorities and humanitarian partners.

CLUSTERS

Lead and co-lead organizations

CCCM	UNHCR NRC
Education	UNICEF Save the Children
Emergency livelihoods – social cohesion	UNDP DRC
ETC	WFP
Food security	WFP/FAO ACTED
Health	WHO IMC
Logistics	WFP
Protection	UNHCR DRC
- Child protection	UNICEF Save the Children
- GBV	UNFPA NRC
- Mine Action	UNMAS MAG
- HLP	UNHABITAT NRC
Shelter & NFI	UNHCR NRC
Water, sanitation & hygiene	UNICEF ACF
Coordination and Common Services	OCHA NCCI
Multi-purpose CASH	UNHCR Mercy Corps
Rapid Response Mechanism	UNICEF WFP

Since mid-March, about 13,400 family packages of ready-to-eat food, safe drinking water and hygiene kits had been provided.

Reports of increasingly dire humanitarian conditions in Fallujah

In early May, armed clashes and shelling were reported in Fallujah district, south of the Euphrates River, in Anbar. Conditions in Fallujah city are deeply worrying. For two years, regular clashes and aerial bombardment have caused widespread destruction, injury and death, while humanitarian access has been extremely limited. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated in recent months, as the supply routes of food, medicine and other supplies were cut off, placing the city effectively under siege. The UN does not have access to the area to verify conditions directly. However, remote monitoring of food prices and availability indicates severe shortfalls. According to a World Food Programme report on 11 April, its sources indicate that food prices remain extremely high and stocks in shops and households are depleting. The price of wheat in Fallujah city was six times higher in March 2016 than in December 2015, according to the report. Other humanitarian sources indicate that there are critical shortages in medicines, electricity, and clean water as well.

While it is not clear how many people remain in Fallujah, estimates indicate it could be up to 50,000. Humanitarian actors have received reports that people wanting to leave the city and seek safety have been unable to do so. In late March, the Government of Iraq said it intended to open exit routes to facilitate civilian exit from the city. There are reports that about 14 families have been able to leave the city and been evacuated to safety by Iraqi security forces; additional reports indicate other families have been unable to safely access the identified routes. Authorities have reportedly instructed security forces not to block food and medicine shipments directed to Fallujah. However, to reach Fallujah, aid convoys would need to cross active conflict areas and areas subject to active bombing.

Families stranded between front lines in Ninewa unable to access safety

An estimated 620 people, including 250 children, have been stranded between military front lines east of Mount Sinjar in Ninewa since November 2015. In late April, the families reportedly received some food, but are otherwise unable to access basic services, living in makeshift shelters, and exposed to the cross-fire. Humanitarian organizations have not been able to visit the site of the displaced and only limited interaction is possible with the representative of the families. Almost six months into their ordeal, the situation of these families remains unresolved and deeply concerning. Despite advocacy by the humanitarian community, the families have not been allowed to cross into Government-controlled territory.

Response efforts ongoing to newly displaced

Humanitarian partners have scaled up assistance in hard-to-reach areas

Military operations in central Anbar intensified in March and April, displacing about 60,000 people, according to IOM's emergency tracking. People fleeing fighting have been directed to transit sites Al Wafaa and Kilo 18, two remote areas southeast of Heet in the open desert. Humanitarian partners have provided emergency response to new arrivals, but the remoteness of the location and the fluidity of displacements have challenged the response efforts. In recent weeks, water, sanitation and hygiene services have been improved and two mobile health clinics and two ambulances are deployed. Health partners have provided consultations to over 11,200 people. Since mid-March, about 13,400 family packages of ready-to-eat food, safe drinking water and hygiene kits had been provided to people displaced to these two sites through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The



Medical teams at mobile health clinics providing consultations at the transit sites. Credit: WHO

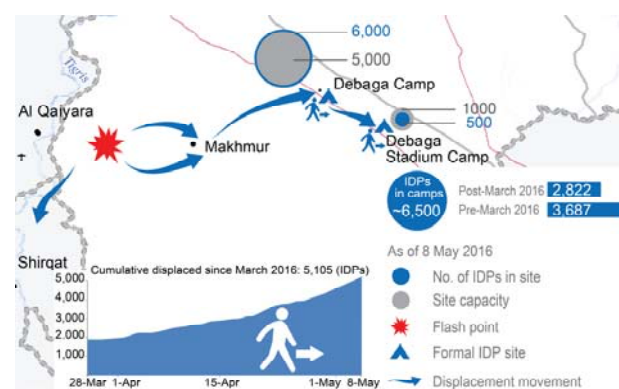
Contrary to the military operations in Ramadi, which destroyed significant levels of civilian infrastructure, the level of destruction in Heet may not be as extensive, possibly reducing the time of displacement.

RRM is managed by UNICEF and the World Food Programme supported by the UN's Population Fund and a consortium of non-governmental organizations. Rations of bottled water and food have been doubled at Al Wafaa. About 9,500 women and girls in Al Wafaa and close to 3,000 women and girls in Kilo 18 have received dignity kits. Camp management and registration are being strengthened to ensure full and timely aid provision in the midst of fluid displacements.

Contrary to the military operations in Ramadi, which destroyed significant levels of civilian infrastructure, the level of destruction in Heet may not be as extensive, possibly reducing the time of displacement. Around 20,000 people had already returned home to Heet by 3 May, according to partners on the ground. Despite this, the Al Wafaa and Kilo 18 sites continue to receive new people daily from various origins throughout Anbar and beyond, many of whom are in transit towards eastern Anbar where conditions are better. Humanitarian partners continue to respond to tens of thousands of displaced people in camps and temporary settlements in and around Ameriyat al Falluja, Khalidiyah, Habbaniyah Tourist City, and Bzeibiz bridge.

Emergency response underway to newly displaced people in Makhmur

Armed clashes in Makhmur in Erbil Governorate have displaced about 5,100 people since the end of March, according to local authorities. The majority of the displaced are women and children. After initially being accommodated in Makhmur town, people were relocated to nearby Debaga IDP camp. The situation remains fluid with some families obtaining sponsorships to relocate with relatives to other locations, mainly in Kirkuk and some to Baghdad. Space for the newly displaced people is a critical



issue as the Debaga camp now hosts about 6,000 people, exceeding its 5,000 person capacity. On 1 May, displaced people began moving into a new temporary tented site in the stadium in Debaga town, which has a capacity of about 1,000 people, to decongest the camp. Additional space will likely be required to accommodate thousands more expected to be displaced by ongoing and future military operations.

Humanitarian actors have distributed ready-to-eat food, clean water and basic household items, as well as clothes to affected people. Health care services are being provided through a mobile clinic in the camp. A women safe space was established in April, aiming to serve 1,500 women and girls.

Conflict affected people get information on aid

Cash and food among top priorities for callers to inter-agency call centre

Over 16,000 people have contacted the inter-agency free national helpline since it was established in July 2015. The Internally Displaced Persons Information Centre provides information on available humanitarian assistance and receives feedback and complaints from displaced families aid provided. In the first quarter of 2016, the majority of calls focused on requests for cash assistance and information on Government cash grants, followed by questions on food assistance and shelter.

Humanitarian partners work closely with the centre to ensure its five operators can effectively handle questions related to different areas such as food, cash, protection, health and shelter. During the first 10 months of operation, most calls (19 per cent) have been related to food. Together with the Food Security Cluster, operators are identifying vulnerable families, including female-headed households, and referring them to food security partners for reassessment. Operators collect feedback on food assistance, which

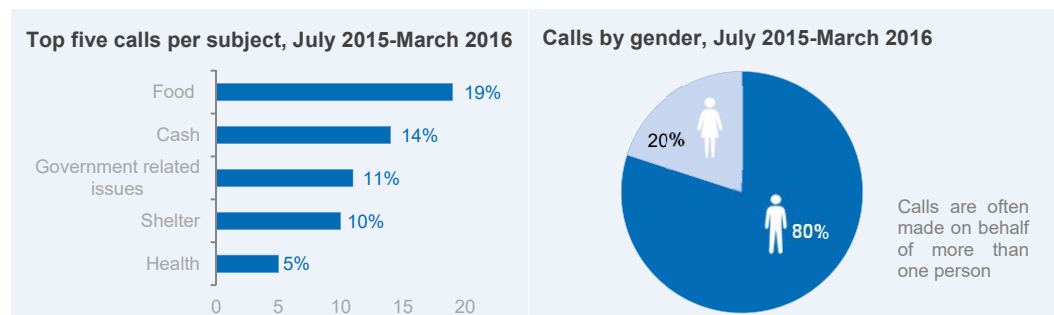
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The centre connects survivors of gender-based violence with specialized support services across the country.

is shared with program managers to enable them to address specific concerns. Individual feedback is also provided to the caller. The centre connects survivors of gender-based violence with specialized support services and identifies key protection concerns in front-line locations, triggering assessment missions and interventions.

The centre's five operators speak Arabic; Sorani and Badini dialects of Kurdish; Turkish; and English, and work five days a week. On average, the centre handles 150 calls per day. The centre serves as a link to appropriate service providers across Iraq.



Source: Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Information Centre

Humanitarian needs outpace current resources

More funding needed to sustain and step up emergency response efforts

Humanitarian actors are providing assistance to around 2 million Iraqis across the country, reinforcing local and Government response. Partners are ready to scale up; however, limited funding is constraining operations. Recognizing the enormous security, access, capacity and funding constraints, humanitarian partners strictly prioritized their requirements for 2016. They identified a package of minimum essential life-saving activities worth \$861 million and presented in the 2016 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). As costs have been cut to the bone, 100 per cent funding is necessary. However, by end of April, only 23 per cent of the HRP had been received, according to the Financial Tracking System. Humanitarian partners are being forced to make difficult choices about where and how to allocate limited resources. Another \$300 million is required by the end of June to ensure ongoing first-line responses are maintained.

Funding level Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2016



Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>, reflecting reported funding on FTS as of 9 May 2016.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

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Pooled humanitarian fund targets people who need aid most

On 7 April, the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund allocated \$32.6 million to 10 clusters to meet urgent and critical needs in the humanitarian response in Iraq. The allocation emphasised support to the health and water, hygiene and sanitation response and these two clusters received \$7.5 million respectively, or 46 per cent of available funding. The allocation also prioritised mobile, flexible programmes in Anbar and Ninewa governorates. The technical review of the projects is ongoing and funds will be disbursed in May.

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