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IHF Monitoring Visit to Al Garma, Anbar (July 2021)
[Photo Credit: OCHA]

Overview of Displacement and Returns in Iraq



IDP living in Karbato 2 IDP camp (July 2021)
[Photo Credit: OCHA]

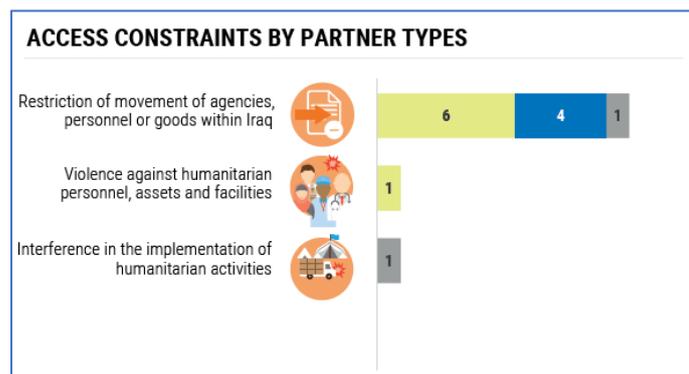
More than 6 million Iraqis were displaced at the height of the military operations to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from 2014-2017. According to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), as of 31 July 2021, there remained 1,191,470 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Iraq.¹ There are IDPs in all 18 governorates, in over 100 districts throughout the country. Over 92 per cent of all remaining IDPs are in protracted displacement, having been displaced for three years or longer, with most displaced for more than 5 years (79 per cent). Only 15 per cent of IDPs live in camps (primarily in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq [KRI]); the majority (76 per cent) are out-of-camp IDPs living in private settings, with the remaining 9 per cent live in sub-standard housing—"critical shelter"—outside of camps (such as makeshift shacks in informal settlements or unfinished,

abandoned or non-residential buildings). The proportion of IDPs in urban centers has been increasing since 2018 as formal camps close. IOM reports this is mainly due to a perception of better security, access to services and livelihoods opportunities.

IOM-DTM has recorded 4,884,612 returnees in Iraq, living in 40 districts across eight governorates. Return rates have largely stagnated, outside of exceptional events such as widespread camp closures, with only 140,562 returns (3 per cent of the total) taking place over the last year. Ninety-five per cent of returnees are living in their habitual residence, with 4 per cent in critical shelters, and 2 per cent in other private settings. Approximately half of returnees (51 per cent) live in conditions of medium or high severity, indicating a lack of livelihoods, services, social cohesion and security. The governorates of Ninewa, Anbar and Salah Al-Din host the largest number of returnees.

The humanitarian response in Iraq is in its seventh year, and humanitarian needs remain, driven by the incomplete status of recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation efforts in conflict-affected governorates in the north and central part of the country. In parallel to the ongoing humanitarian response, the United Nations' (UN) is looking ahead to the transition to stabilization and development actors, as many of the challenges facing IDPs and returnees cannot be addressed by humanitarians alone. To this end, the UN has been working with the Government of Iraq to draft the UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework for Iraq (UNSDCF), which seeks a harmonized and collective response to unmet development challenges, including durable solutions to end displacement. The UNSDCF is expected to be launched in the coming weeks.

¹ All data and figures in this section taken from <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



Nine of the incidents (66 per cent) took place in In Kirkuk governorate, where federal and local police and the Kirkuk Operational Command (KOC) continued to demand that NGOs with valid National Operations Centre movement letters also obtain additional authorizations to operate in the district of Hawiga. In one incident of concern in Sinjar, NGO staff were reportedly assaulted by armed men dressed in military uniforms, who entered the organization's office and briefly apprehended and detained a security guard; the guard was later released.

Maintaining Minimum Standards in IDP Camps

As of July 2021, approximately 184,000 IDPs in Iraq lived in **27 formal camps**, two in federal Iraq (AAF camp in Anbar, and Jad'ah 5 camp in Ninewa), and 25 under the administrative control of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Twice per year, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster and partners carry out an assessment² of all formal camps, to monitor service standards in the camps and highlight needs and gaps. This evaluation is critical as counterparts in the Ministry of Migration and Development have reportedly indicated to partners that government support to camps might reduce due to budget constraints. In parallel, certain clusters have reported that they may also no longer be able to provide some services due to expected shortfalls in funding.

Key Highlights of Needs and Gaps

SAFETY

- 6 camps report less than half of public latrines having lighting at night, incl. AAF (Anb.), Qayyarah-Jad'ah 5 (Nin.), Shariya (Duh.)
- 8 camps report that not all public latrines have functional locks, including AAF, Shariya, and the three East Mosul Camps (Nin.)
- Of the 11 camps with communal & public latrines: 4 report all latrines are gender-separated. 7 report less than half being gender-separated: Hasansham U2, U3, Khazer M1, Berseve 1 & 2, Mamilian, Khanke (Duh.)
- No camps reported security incidents in or around the camp in the 30 days prior to data collection
- A total of 57 fire incidents were reported from January to March 2021

CCCM & ACCOUNTABILITY

- 9 camps report not having block/sector leaders and 3 not having camp committees.
- 2 camps report not having a complaint mechanism in place (Berseve 2, Mamilian)

SHELTER/NFI

- All camps except Qayyarah-Jad'ah 5 reported that replacement NFIs are readily available
- 3 camps reported that some shelters are not connected to the electricity network

WASH

- 4 camps (Tazade & Qoratu (Sul.), Shariya, Baharka (Erb.)) reported presence of open defecation.
- 16 camps have private (household) latrines, and 11 communal (shared between specific HH) or public. Private latrines have an av. of 1:4 latrines to persons, and communal latrines 1:10. Camps with public latrines are: Shariya at 1:17, AAF at 1:19, & Jad'ah 5 at 1:13
- Average number of persons per shower is 15 for public, 13 for communal, and 4 for private. AAF has 26 persons per shower facility.
- All camps reported acceptable colour, taste, and smell of drinking water

HEALTH & COVID-19

- 11 camp managers reported the nearest secondary healthcare facility is more than 5km from the camp
- In 2 camps, Qoratu & Tazade (Sul.), there is no primary healthcare provider in the camp
- 20 camp managers reported not having procedures for COVID-19 quarantine, and 6 not having referral systems for suspected cases.

PROTECTION

- 5 camps - AAF (Fallujah district), Debaga 1 (Makhmour), Khazer M1, Hasansham U2 & Hasansham U3 (Al-Hamdaniyah) - have movement restrictions imposed
- 15 camps report having inadequate facilities or services for individuals with physical and mental disabilities.

In parallel, the CCCM Cluster has published guidance on [Minimum Standards on Fire Prevention and Response](#), in order to address the several dozen fire incidents reported in camps since the beginning of 2021. Often attributed to overloaded electrical sockets or faulty wiring, these fires have resulted in at least five deaths and the destruction of hundreds of shelters, which require replacement, at a time when humanitarian funding to Iraq is declining overall, and reconstruction efforts are still under way and as yet incomplete.

² Most recent assessment available here: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86936>

Challenges in Targeting for Durable Solutions

In early July 2021, the OCHA Diyala field office visited Ba'quba in Diyala to meet with humanitarian actors and out-of-camp IDPs, and to evaluate the particular challenges in implementing durable solutions in the area. As of April 2021, IOM-DTM counted 1,266 IDP households (7,596 individuals) in the area, but this figure includes only those who were displaced after 2014, while there is a larger population of people who have been displaced during earlier conflicts dating back to 2006. Most IDPs are from other parts of Diyala and have been displaced multiple times since 2006, with no real prospect of returning to their areas of origin due to tribal conflicts and security concerns, including ISIL presence. Many settlements are informal, and land plots are sold without land rights. While the local authorities tolerate the settlements, access to water, electricity, and other public services is not provided, and connections are made illicitly. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan only targets those displaced after 2014 for assistance, leading to some tension within the community. In late 2020, the Diyala ICCG identified an urgent need for livelihood, Shelter/NFI, WASH, health and protection interventions for the IDPs living in the area; however, there has not been significant donor interest in supporting programming for Ba'quba. The mission highlighted the particular challenges of finding durable solutions for IDP populations which fall outside of the typical camp-based response, especially for those who may have been displaced in earlier waves. Partners working in the area emphasize that resettlement or integration options would require tribal reconciliation and social cohesion efforts, as well as general overall stabilization and development programming.



OCHA Staff with IDPs in Diyala (July 2021)
[Photo Credit: OCHA]

New PSEA Complaints Flowchart Available

In July 2021, the Iraq Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network developed an interagency flowchart detailing in easy-to-understand graphic format the recently published [SOPs on Recording and Processing of SEA complaints](#). The SOPs and flowcharts are part of the public outreach of the Iraq PSEA Network, and in support the HCT Protection Strategy (2019-2021), which affirms the Centrality of Protection, and IASC commitments on PSEA, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Communication with Communities (CwC).

