

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian partners visit Ameriyat Al-Fallujah camp in Al-Anbar Governorate to plan for possible camp closures and consolidation.
- Suspicious fires destroy agricultural land in 11 governorates
- OCHA undertakes a mission to Kirkuk Governorate
- UNAMI mandate extended to 31 May 2020.

FIGURES

# people in need	6.7m
# people targeted for assistance	1.75m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps targeted for assistance	0.5m
# of IDPs outside camps targeted for assistance	0.55m
# of IDP returnees targeted for assistance	0.5m
# highly vulnerable people in host communities targeted for assistance	0.2m

FUNDING

701.1 million
requested (US\$)

11% funded

(as of 31 May 2019)



Credit: OCHA/A. Lazau-Ratz
AAF Camp, Al-Anbar, Iraq (29 May 2019)

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Interagency visit to Ameriyat Al-Fallujah camp

On 29 May 2019, OCHA facilitated an informal inter-cluster field visit to Ameriyat al-Fallujah (AAF) IDP camp to ensure that humanitarian services being provided to residents across 32 sub-camps met minimum standards. Mission members included Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Health, Protection, S/NFI, and WASH Clusters. IDPs who were interviewed requested additional support and assistance in multiple sectors. While the camp is connected to the national electrical grid and accesses electricity for 8 hours/day, generators are also a primary need for residents, particularly at night. Lack of reliable electricity and lighting affects women's safety, with some women reporting that they prefer not to use the public WASH facilities at night when there is no light. Similarly, food prices are higher than the local market, and lack of consistent access to fuel for heating and cooking purposes, as well as cooling were raised as critical gaps. Mission recommendations included the convening of a meeting of key humanitarian organizations, UN Agencies, funding partners, INGOs, NNGOs, donors and protection partners (including PSEA Network) to reinforce messaging around fraud and misuse of funds and to discuss strategies for addressing diversion of aid in Iraq. In parallel, it would be important to strengthen feedback and complaint mechanisms by CCM and camp actors throughout the year.

Crop fires burn across 11 governorates

An outbreak of fires in productive wheat and barley fields has affected 11 governorates, across 250 districts since mid-May, many of which are presumed to be intentionally lit. ISIL has claimed responsibility for some of the attacks. Some observers believe the fires are an intentional tactic targeting returnees or aiming to deter IDPs from returning. There have been reports that the fires have dissuaded some IDPs from returning to their homes. There are also concerns that the arson attacks could be political in nature, noting the patterns in location of the fires along contested areas. In 2019, high rainfall has yielded good crop growth meaning there is a greater than average presence of combustible fuel in the fields.



Credit: OCHA/E. Viehboeck
Kirkuk, Iraq (2 June 2019) – Firefighting efforts to rescue crops burned in suspicious blazes in Kirkuk Governorate.

Humanitarian partners are monitoring the impacts on returnees and planned returns, and assessing any negative impacts on agriculture, food security livelihoods and water supply. The Food and Agriculture Organization has noted that many farmers were coming to the end of their harvests and therefore the impact on staple prices has yet to be determined.

OCHA undertakes a field mission to Kirkuk

More intensive engagement is needed with national, governorate and local authorities—as well as humanitarian and development partner—to prioritize interventions, prioritize geographic areas and unblock areas of return.

On 21 May 2019, OCHA undertook a field mission to Laylan 1 IDP Camp in Kirkuk. Kirkuk presents a particularly complex and strategically important location, an oil-rich province which has experienced ethnic tensions, political instability, and volatile security dynamics. Kirkuk governorate currently hosts an IDP population of over 100,000 who are living in three camps (Laylan 1, Laylan 2, and Yahyawa camp) and in out-of-camp settings. The majority of the IDPs are from surrounding districts of Kirkuk and Salah Al Din, Anbar, Diyala, Baghdad, and Ninewa governorates. The Mission visited a women's support centre where they were preparing for a camp bazaar that would be taking place in the coming days. Many of the women present expressed a desire for further livelihood opportunities, and many noted that they were the primary breadwinners in their households. In the latest intention survey of camp residents in Kirkuk (February 2019), 84 per cent expressed an intent to remain in displacement for the subsequent 12 months due to damaged/destroyed homes, a lack of financial means to return and rebuild lives, or the presence of explosive hazards. More intensive engagement is needed with national, governorate and local authorities, as well as humanitarian and development partners to prioritize interventions, prioritize geographic areas and unblock areas of return.



Credit: OCHA/H. Stauffer Laylan 1 IDP Camp

Oslo Conference on SGBV, Co-Hosted by Government of Iraq

On 23-24 May, OCHA, in collaboration with the Governments of Norway, Iraq, Somalia and the United Arab Emirates, the United Nations Population Fund and the International Committee of the Red Cross co-hosted an international conference in Oslo, entitled “Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises.” The conference brought together SGBV survivors and specialists, members of 167 national and 76 international civil society organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, representatives from 100 nations, global leaders and regional and international organizations. Participants aimed to mobilize stronger political commitment and raise financial resources to prevent and protect people at risk of SGBV in humanitarian crises. States committed to provide a total of over US\$ 363 million to SGBV prevention and response in 2019 and beyond.

Iraq Humanitarian Fund Reserve Allocation



Qayyarah. Credit: OCHA/Sylvia Rognvik

In May, work on the Iraq Humanitarian Fund's First Reserve Allocation continued. The allocation allocated \$8.95 million to support tent replacement in critically-impaired location is Jad'ah and Qayyarah Airstrip camps.

In May it was discovered that an excess of 3000 tents had been procured under the allocation. This was due to a discrepancy in the data provided by camp management agencies and a camp sweep later conducted by the IHF implementing partner. Discussions around options for the reallocation of these tents are ongoing between the relevant clusters and partners, OCHA and the IHF Advisory Board. It is currently envisaged that the tents be used to either a) support gaps in priority locations identified by Shelter/NFI Cluster assessments, or b) support gaps in camps proposed to house Iraqis civilians returning from al-Hol camp in North East Syria.

UNAMI extends its mandate to May 2020

On 21 May 2019, the United Nations Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) for another year, until 31 May 2020. Unanimously adopting resolution 2470 (2019) under Chapter 6 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Council confirmed its continued support for Iraq in addressing the challenges it faces as it continues its post conflict stabilization efforts and increasingly turns to the tasks of recovery, reconstruction and reconciliation. The Council further decided the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq will continue to support the country's Government and



Credit: UN Photo

people in advancing inclusive political dialogue and national and community-level reconciliation, promoting accountability, as well as protecting human rights, judicial reform, the rule of law and women's empowerment. In the resolution, UNAMI was further tasked with promoting, supporting, and facilitating, in partnership with the Government of Iraq, the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance and the safe, orderly, and voluntary return or local integration of refugees and displaced persons.

OCHA Iraq Contributes to Protection of Civilians Debate at Security Council

Prior to the renewal of the UNAMI mandate, the OCHA Iraq Head of Office Aidan O'Leary was invited to give the Security Council expert group on Protection of Civilians a situational overview of Iraq. Briefing from Baghdad over VTC, he emphasized the vulnerabilities faced by families with perceived affiliations to extremist groups, noting that those residing in camps can be subjected to movement restrictions, harassed by fellow camp residents and armed security actors, and denied with civil documentation, which is a critical requirement for numerous administrative processes, including access to healthcare. He also spoke to the complex protection challenges which arise out of protracted displacement and impede progress towards durable solutions. Some representatives of the Government of Iraq continue to push for returns as the primary tactic to ending the displacement crisis, which can result in forced or early evictions from IDP camps and informal settlements. In parallel, some families attempting to return to their areas of origin find their returns obstructed—by local armed groups, mukhtars or tribal sheikhs—due to community tensions, leading to secondary displacement. Moreover, as the duration of displacement lengthens, limited resources and economic hardship is pushing some displaced women and girls into negative coping mechanisms, including early marriage and survival sex.

The Head of Office also emphasized persistent access problems within the Iraq operating context. Compared with the 2014-2017 period, during which ISIL-held territories were almost entirely out of reach for the humanitarian community, humanitarian access in Iraq has improved dramatically. However, a disregard by subnational military and civilian authorities of nationally agreed access procedures has now become the principle barrier to humanitarian access. Persistent ad-hoc checkpoints, erected by numerous security actors along main routes in the north of the country, are increasingly refusing to accept access letters issued by the federal government. As a result, humanitarian assistance has been delayed and even suspended in some areas

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