

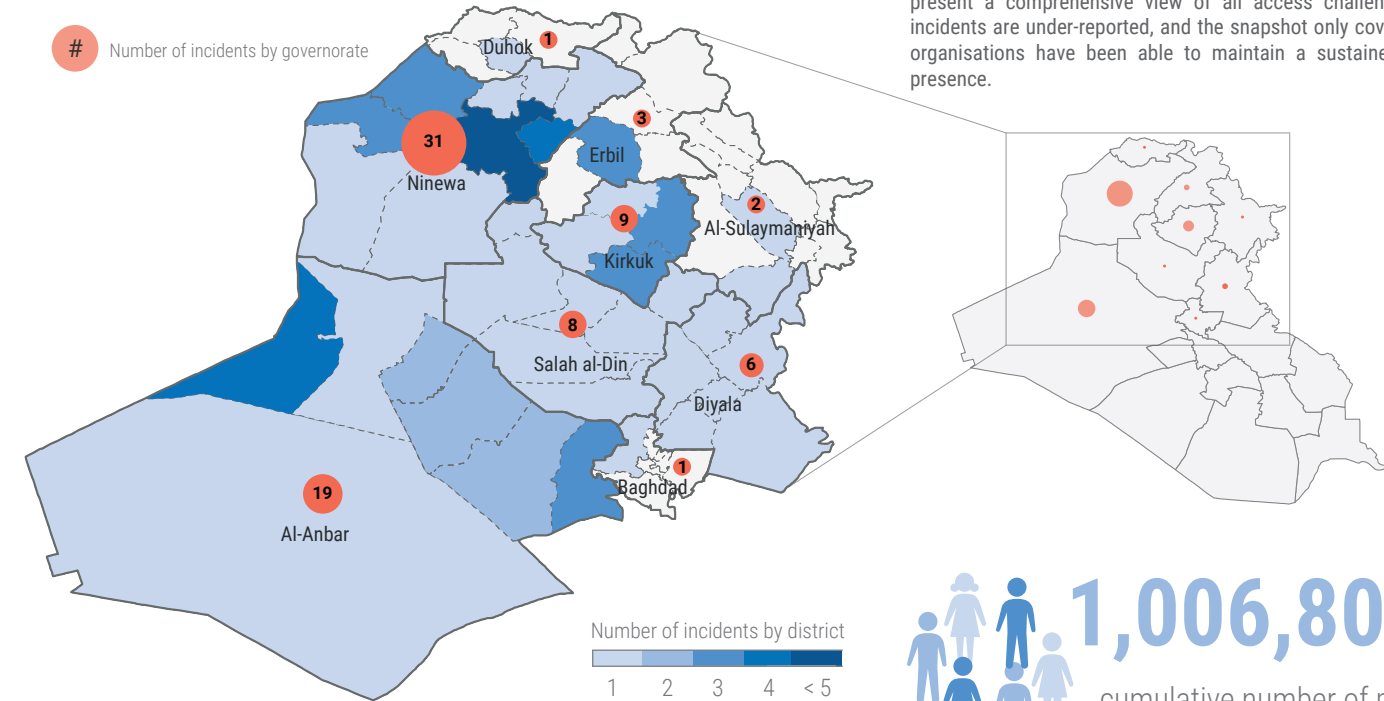
Humanitarian organizations faced significant access challenges during the month, as a result of administrative difficulties, compounded by COVID-19 containment measures implemented by the government. Humanitarian partners reported 80 access incidents across 39 districts, with approximately 39 per cent taking place in the governorate of Ninewa, 24 per cent in Anbar, 11 per cent in Kirkuk, and 10 per cent in Salah Al-Din Governorate.

Most non-government (NGO) implementing partners of the UN were unable to receive national-level access authorization letters for the movement of staff or supplies, which restricted their ability to respond to the health emergency in Iraq. OCHA and NCCI have been working with the national government to establish a new procedure for implementing partners to request and receive national access letters. Through this process, in March, 51 requests for national access letters were submitted on behalf of 31 NGOs. However, as of the end of the month, application requests for 27 NGOs were still in various stages of the NOC approval process, and only four NGOs had been granted national access letters.

The country-wide curfew and government restrictions on movements implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 also had a significant impact on humanitarian activity, including programming related to COVID-19 prevention, preparedness and response. Although humanitarian organizations were able to obtain curfew exemptions in most governorates, the prohibition on inter-governorate movement, including for the movement of medical supplies, significantly impeded response. Approximately 55 per cent of reported incidents were indicated to have affected humanitarian activities related to response or prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

To improve the accuracy of the representation of access challenges in Iraq, humanitarian organizations are encouraged to report all incident details to OCHA sub-offices.

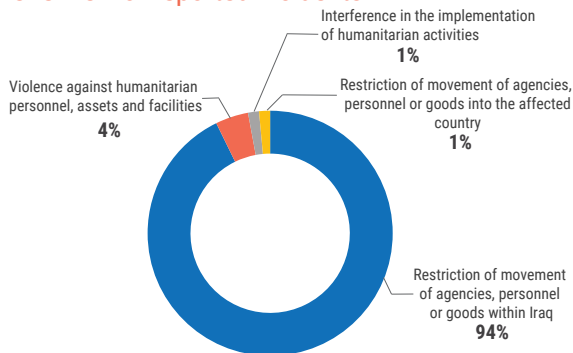
80 incidents were reported
39 per cent of incidents were reported in Ninewa governorate
55 per cent reported as COVID-19 related



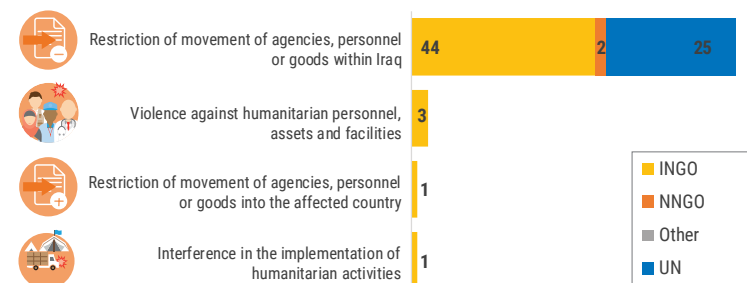
Methodology: This snapshot is based on humanitarian partners' reports of access-related incidents and issues during a one-month period. Although the access snapshot indicates wider access dynamics encountered in central and northern governorates of Iraq, the snapshot does not present a comprehensive view of all access challenges, as access incidents are under-reported, and the snapshot only covers areas where organisations have been able to maintain a sustained humanitarian presence.

1,006,800+
 cumulative number of people in need affected*

Overview of reported incidents



Access constraints by partner types



*Estimated number of people affected by the interruption of services or delays in delivery of assistance between 1 - 31 March 2020.

Clusters affected



DEFINITIONS

Constraint

Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods within Iraq

Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods into the affected country

Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations

Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities

Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities

Presence of mines and unexploded ordinances

Difficult physical environment

Restrictions on, or obstruction of, conflict affected people's access to services and assistance

Description

Impediments to freedom of movement as experienced by in-country humanitarian partners to reach affected people and transport essential relief. These could include either physical restrictions (such as security checkpoints) or administrative restrictions (e.g. restricted travel or project permits, arbitrary or illegal taxation, etc.).

Bureaucratic and administrative requirements for entry into the country of operation, such as registration for the organisation or visas and work permits for personnel, and/or constraints on import of equipment and relief items into the country.

Implications of military activities by parties to the conflict and other weapon bearers for the movement of people and goods. Absence of arrangements to facilitate the passage of emergency relief supplies during active hostilities.

Politically or economically motivated violence as well as exposure to incidental violence directly affecting humanitarian personnel, equipment and facilities. This may include threats of violence, coercion, theft or looting of aid supplies.

Direct interference (usually by political or military actors) with humanitarian activities during or after their implementation. This may include pressure to work in specific geographic area or insistence to link humanitarian assistance to a specific political or military agenda.

Mines, improvised explosive devices, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordinance inhibiting the movement of equipment, goods and personnel or otherwise impeding humanitarian activities.

Obstacles related to terrain, climate and lack of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and airstrips.

All events and practices which interfere with the ability of conflict-affected populations to access assistance and services. These may include forced population movement as well as physical or administrative restrictions that prevent affected people (or specific individuals or groups) to access services and assistance.