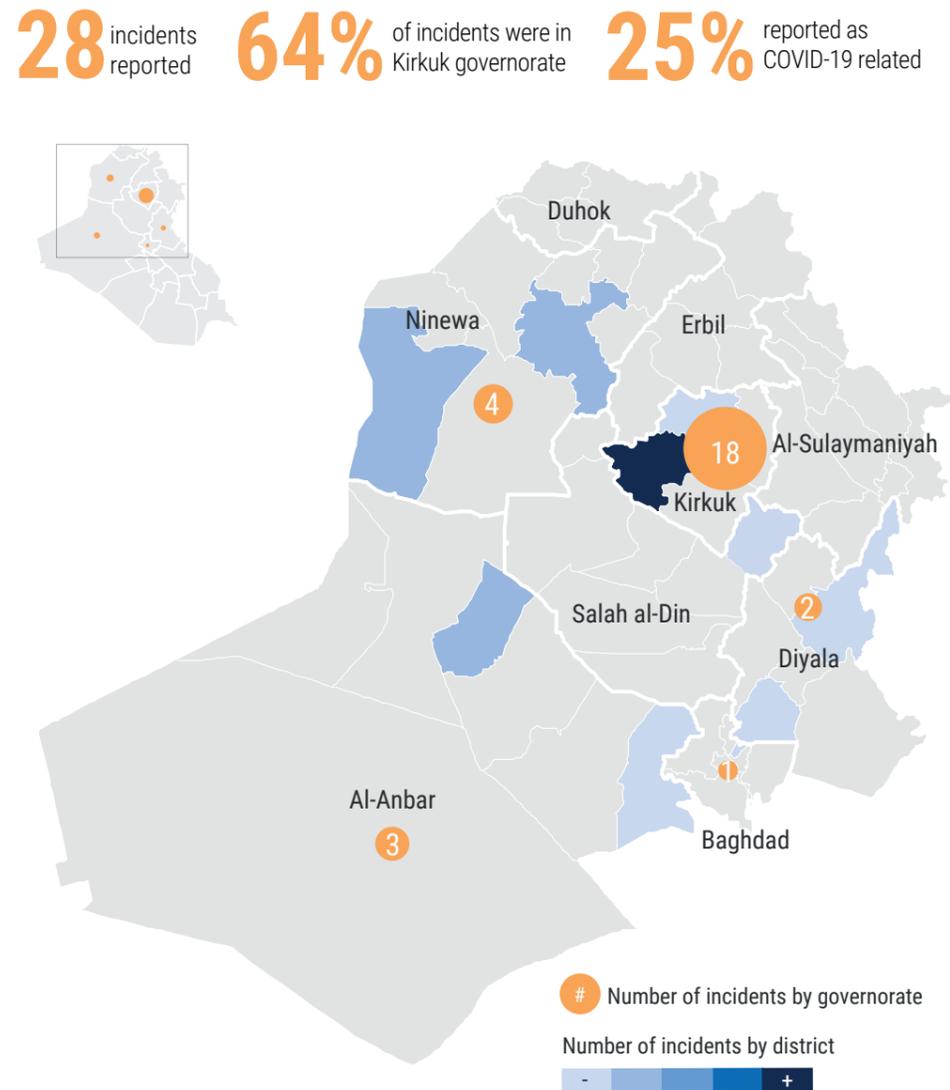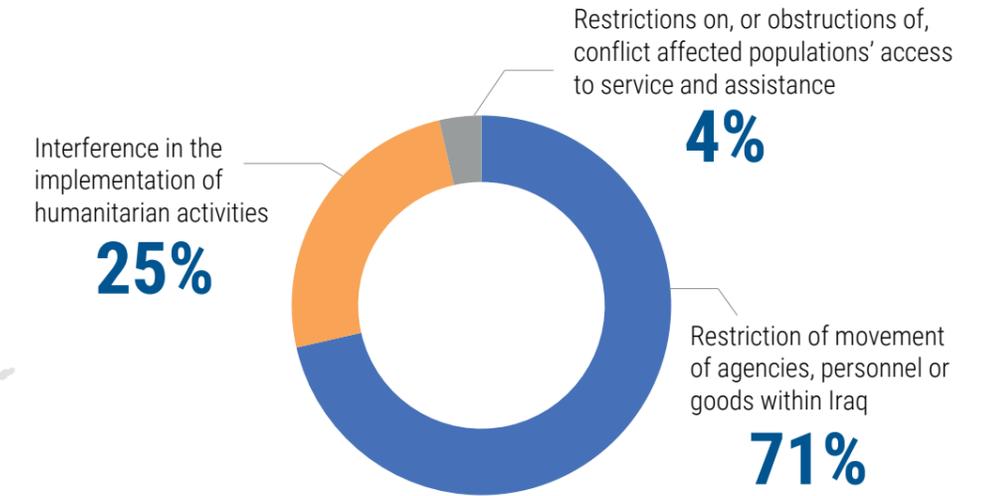## ACCESS REPORT FOR MARCH 2021

In March 2021, humanitarian partners reported 28 access incidents across nine districts. Approximately 64 per cent of the incidents were in Kirkuk Governorate. Approximately 74 per cent of reported access incidents constituted administrative restrictions on humanitarian activities and movements. The number of incidents in March was close to the previous month and approximately 39 per cent fewer than the monthly average from January to December 2020 (avg. 52 incidents per month). Almost 69,000 people in need were affected by the reported incidents.

In Kirkuk governorate, which had the highest number of access-related incidents by Iraqi forces, the 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 districts of Hawiga and Daquq.

Although most incidents consisted of administrative restrictions on movement, there were also four incidents of attempted interferences by local authorities in Ninewa governorate, including instances when the civil authorities requested that NGOs recruit staff from the area of operations.
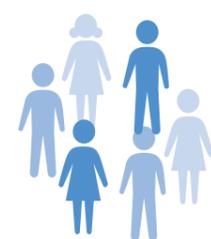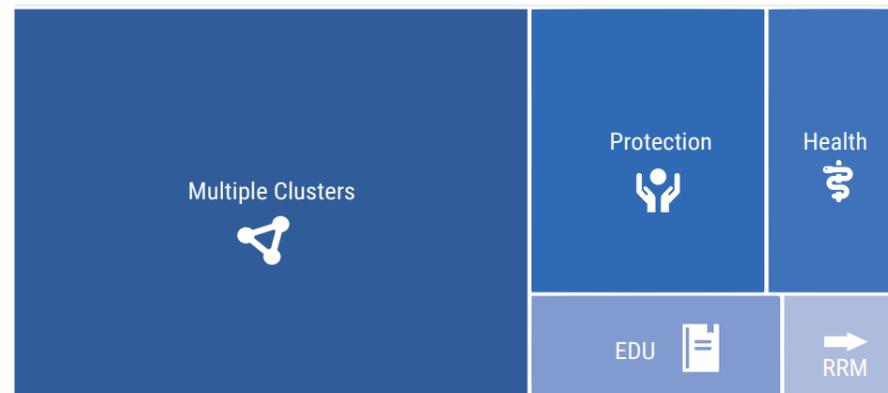
28 incidents reported

64% of incidents were in Kirkuk governorate

25% reported as COVID-19 related

Duhok

Ninewa 4

Erbil

Al-Sulaymaniyah

18 Kirkuk

Salah al-Din

Diyala 2

Al-Anbar 3

Baghdad

Number of incidents by governorate

Number of incidents by district
- +

OVERVIEW OF REPORTED INCIDENTS

Restrictions on, or obstructions of, conflict affected populations' access to service and assistance
4%

Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities
25%

Restriction of movement of agencies, personnel or goods within Iraq
71%

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS BY PARTNER TYPES

Restriction of movement of agencies, personnel or goods within — **20**

Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities — **6** **1**

Restrictions on, or obstructions of, conflict affected populations' access to service and assistance — **1**

INGO   NNGO

69K
Cumulative number of people in need affected*

CLUSTERS AFFECTED

Multiple Clusters

Protection

Health

EDU

RRM

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.

DEFINITIONS

CONSTRAINT	DESCRIPTION
Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods within Iraq	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.).
Restriction of movement of organizations, personnel, or goods into the affected country	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.
Military operations and ongoing hostilities impeding humanitarian operations	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.
Violence against humanitarian personnel, assets and facilities	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.
Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities	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.
Presence of mines and unexploded ordinances	Mines, improvised explosive devices, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordinance inhibiting the movement of equipment, goods and personnel or otherwise impeding humanitarian activities.
Difficult physical environment	Obstacles related to terrain, climate and lack of infrastructure, such as roads, bridges and airstrips.
Restrictions on, or obstruction of, conflict affected people's access to services and assistance	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.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The data for this map has a limited number of sources. The data is not independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberate or otherwise by various sources.

Creation date: 12 April 2021   **Sources**: OCHA, March 2021   **Feedback:** iraqinfo@un.org, iraq@humanitarianresponse.info, www.reliefweb.int