

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The Humanitarian Coordinator highlights key humanitarian response priorities.
- Reaching displaced families on flood-affected Sinjar Mountain.
- Imminent evictions of 3,000 families from Tikrit's informal settlements prompt new relocations.
- Update on the implementation of humanitarian activities and the Iraq Humanitarian Fund.

### FIGURES

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| # of people in need                       | 8.7m  |
| # of people targeted for assistance       | 3.4m  |
| # of internally displaced persons (IDPs)  | 2.0m  |
| # of IDPs who live outside camps          | 1.4m  |
| # of affected ppl within host communities | 3.8m  |
| # of returnees                            | 3.8m  |
| # of Syrian refugees                      | 0.24m |

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP, IOM DTM

### FUNDING

#### Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

**569 million**  
requested for 2018 (US\$)

**\$160 million**  
**(28 per cent)**  
funding received

(FTS as of 31 May 2018)  
Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Credit: OCHA/Vidic

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## Interview with Ms. Marta Ruedas, Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq



Credit: UNAMI/ Abdullah

**You have been in Iraq for only a few weeks, nevertheless how would you assess the humanitarian situation?**

The humanitarian situation has noticeably improved since 2017, but there are still significant humanitarian needs that require our attention. Even though 3.8 million people have returned to their homes since the start of the crisis, more than 2 million Iraqis remain displaced as of May 2018.

Some needs that require specific attention are protection issues, especially related to the presence of armed actors in camps across Iraq. It is very concerning that humanitarian partners continue to record protection incidents in camps, including sexual harassment of women and girls, shooting incidents, and restrictions on freedom of movement. Whilst mechanisms are in place for victims to report these incidents, we must continue to work with all partners to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps is preserved.

All these developments are taking place as the funding focus is somehow shifting away from the humanitarian assistance to stabilization and recovery phase. We received only 28 per cent of funding for the current Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the funding shortfall is already limiting programmed response activities.

**What do you believe should be key priorities for the humanitarian response going forward?**

The shift in focus has, to some extent, distracted the support needed for the HRP. Yet, it is true that unless we address the root causes for continued displacement, we will not be able to reduce the number of displaced.

It is equally important to continue with the implementation of the 2018 HRP. We will also need to look at some other critical issues, such as rebuilding of houses as well as security concerns and explosive hazard contamination, which are not necessarily in the HRP, but are essential preconditions for displaced families to be able to return home.

One of the priorities is to find durable solutions for displacement and to ensure the returns of displaced Iraqis are voluntary, safe and dignified. The Governorate Returns Committees, comprised of Governorate authorities, UN and NGO representatives, have been put in place in several governorates and by working through these structures we need to ensure the returns process is implemented in line with humanitarian principles.

## Delivering aid to flood-affected Sinjar Mountain

**Unusually cold and rainy weather in early May severely affected living conditions of over 1,400 displaced families living in Dahuk and northern Ninewa governorates.**

Floods caused by heavy rain on 6 and 7 May also affected some 720 displaced Yazidi families, living in makeshift tents on Sinjar Mountain since 2014. Among those, around 220 families had their tents completely damaged and lost all their food supplies and personal belongings. Most families had to relocate to relatives unaffected by floods or to nearby areas.

Compared to flood-affected areas in Ninewa and Dahuk governorates, assistance to Sinjar Mountain was much slower because of limited presence of humanitarian partners and continued access issues. Due to movement restrictions imposed by authorities during the May parliamentary election period, humanitarian partners were unable to access the area for days.

*Despite harsh living conditions and direct exposure to the whims of nature, Yazidi families continue to live on Sinjar Mountain, most likely for years to come.*

As soon as the restrictions were lifted, humanitarian partners started delivering humanitarian assistance, and on 16 May, a local partner reached Sinjar Mountain to distribute food parcels, blankets, beds, kitchen sets, as well as dignity and hygiene kits.



Credit: OCHA/Vidic

A joint UN assessment mission visited the mountain a day later and assessed remaining response gaps. Since then, access to drinking water has been restored and food distribution arrangements have been put in place. The replacement of destroyed tents, however, remains a challenge and humanitarian partners continue to explore viable solutions.

## Imminent evictions from Tikrit's informal settlements prompt new relocations of displaced Iraqis

**While displaced families continue to return home, humanitarian partners increasingly record cases of relocation and secondary displacement.**

Some 72 per cent of displaced Iraqis currently live in out-of-camp locations, including in informal settlements. Among them are over 3,000 displaced families living in Tikrit's six unfinished privately-owned building complexes. Due to a court decision, permitting private owners to regain possession of their property and finalize the construction of building complexes, these 18,000 displaced Iraqis are now at imminent risk of eviction from their temporary homes.

*For many displaced Iraqis the path to sustainable housing solutions is not a short or predictable one and might include several relocations between camps and out-of-camp locations along the way.*



Credit: OCHA/Athanasiadis

The authorities gave families an option to return to their area of origin, to relocate to camps in Salah al-Din governorate, or to stay in Tikrit, provided they can afford renting a property. For the majority, returning home is not feasible due to security concerns and other obstacles; and according to the intention surveys conducted by humanitarian partners, relocation to camps is their least preferred option, leaving limited alternatives for them once evictions, scheduled in June, begin.

Humanitarian partners and the authorities continue to engage and advocate for principled returns process, including through the recently established Salah al-Din Governorate Returns Committee.

The evictions in Tikrit are just one of the examples indicating the complexity of return movements as well as highlighting the need for certain camps to remain open and accommodate potential new arrivals.

## Examining the implementation of programmed humanitarian activities in Iraq

**The 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), a blue print for coordinated and prioritized humanitarian activities in Iraq, has been written as the crisis entered a new phase.**

In December 2017, there were 2.6 million displaced people and, under the HRP assumptions, the majority are expected to return home in 2018. As of May, 2 million Iraqis continue to be displaced, while 3.8 million have returned home.

HRP brings together 102 humanitarian partners, working through ten clusters and sectors, to deliver relief assistance to 3.4 million most vulnerable Iraqis targeted under the response plan, nearly half of whom are children.

Between January and April, humanitarian partners reached up to 1.1 million people with some form of humanitarian assistance, or 34 per cent of those targeted.

*The Humanitarian Response Plan, a blue print for coordinated and prioritized humanitarian activities in Iraq, brings together 102 humanitarian partners, working through ten clusters and sectors.*



Credit: OCHA/Linden

To strengthen evidence-based decision making and better steer humanitarian activities, the reporting system on the HRP implementation has been streamlined. Humanitarian partners also started laying the groundwork for the 2019 HRP, including preparing an overview of humanitarian needs in 2019, expected to be finalized by the end of September.

### Humanitarian Response Plan funding update

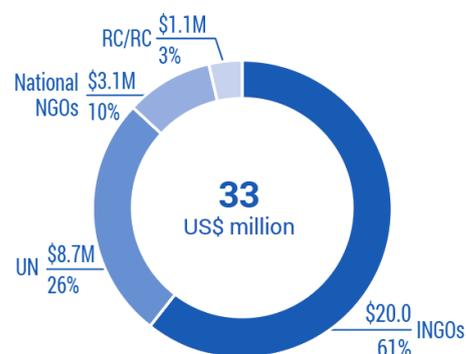
Funding for humanitarian activities, however, is critically low. Out of \$569 million requested in the HRP, only \$160 million (28 per cent) were received to date. The five most generous contributions came from Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, Canada and Qatar. Lack of funding is already restricting humanitarian activities. While in the first few months some humanitarian partners could rely on a carryover from the previous year, this reserve has by now largely dried out.

## Update on the Iraq Humanitarian Fund

As of 31 May, the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) received \$9.4 million contributions from donors for 2018. IHF continues to operate with \$45.4 million carryover from 2017, bringing total cumulative contributions for 2018 to \$54.8 million. Additional \$370,000 from Canada and \$100,000 from Malaysia have been pledged.

Out of up to \$34.5 million being allocated under the first Standard Allocation, IHF has disbursed \$33 million to 80 projects of 52 partners. The remaining two projects are in the final stages of grant processing.

### ALLOCATIONS BY PARTNER TYPE



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