

HIGHLIGHTS

- Member States briefed on humanitarian situation in Iraq by Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- Popular Mobilization Units to Come Under Command of Iraqi Security Forces.
- Protection concerns in Al-Anbar IDP camps.
- UNESCO World Heritage

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\$)
41% funded (as of 31 July 2019)



PMF Outpost Salah Al-Din
Photo Credit: H. Stauffer / OCHA

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Briefing to Member States on the Humanitarian Situation in Iraq

On 10 July 2019, the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ursula Mueller, and the Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Marta Ruedas, briefed Member States on the humanitarian situation in Iraq.



Credit: UN OCHA

Recalling her visit to Mosul in July 2017 when humanitarian needs were at their most acute, ASG Mueller noted the evolution in needs since the conclusion of the conflict in late 2017. She noted that while Iraq is transitioning to a post-conflict environment, ongoing humanitarian needs remain, including for individuals with perceived affiliation to extremist groups. She stressed that international support for humanitarian action in Iraq is imperative to meet both the urgent and longer-term needs of affected Iraqis, and that these needs require humanitarian, development and stabilization partners to create durable solutions.

Iraq's Deputy Permanent Representative, Mr. Mohammed Mazrooq, spoke about the scale of violence and damage to housing and infrastructure, including the presence of explosive remnants of war and the impact of sexual and gender-based violence. Mr. Mazrooq emphasized the need for ongoing support from donors and partners, including on reconstruction. Humanitarian Coordinator, Marta Ruedas, briefed on the barriers to safe, voluntary and dignified return of 1.7 million internally displaced people and Iraqi citizens displaced in Syria.

Popular Mobilization Units to Come Under Command of Iraqi Security Forces

On 1 July 2019, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi issued a Cabinet Decree on the consolidation of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), (also called Popular Mobilization Forces, or PMF), into official military divisions, brigades and battalions under the Prime Minister's command. The PMUs were created in 2014 to fight alongside the Iraqi Security Forces to counter ISIL's expansion. Integration will involve the prohibition on using the previous names of the units, with PMU fighters to be given Iraqi military ranks. In addition, the new forces would be required to end political affiliation with any party or group and close unofficial headquarters and checkpoints. Proliferation of checkpoint commands has been a long-standing access constraint for humanitarians. A date of 31 July was set for implementation of this decree. The deadline passed without action and the head of the Iraqi PMF Committee has requested a two-month extension.

Closure and Consolidations from Al-Anbar IDP Camps

Following intensive advocacy and coordination efforts by the humanitarian community, authorities agreed to camp closure and consolidation plans in line with humanitarian protection principles.

The first phase of the Al-Anbar Government's camp closure and consolidation plans in Habbaniya Tourist City (HTC) and Ameriyat al-Fallujah (AAF) camps has been completed, with the consolidation of seven sub-camps in AAF and three in HTC underway. Sub-camps operating at low occupancy or with inadequate service provision have been prioritized. In parallel, there have been reports of restrictions on movement and coerced returns for some IDP residents, including being prevented from accessing medical care, attending legal appointments or attending work.

Since the conclusion of the major military operations in 2017, IDPs from Al-Qa'im sub-district have returned home at a rate lower than 50 per cent, which they attribute to destruction of homes and lack of livelihoods. Reportedly, IDPs from Al-Qa'im were told during June and July that if they did not return, it would result in security actors perceiving them as ISIL-affiliated, leading to concerns of negative reactions from neighbours in their areas of origin. Some of those who managed to return were displaced again due to lack of adequate shelter in Al-Qa'im. Some of these families have become secondarily displaced in Fallujah in unsuitable accommodation.



AAF Camp
Photo Credit: S. Ritsema-Anderson / OCHA

Following intensive advocacy and coordination efforts by the humanitarian community, the Al-Anbar Government agreed to camp closure and consolidation plans in line with humanitarian protection principles. Movement restriction were rescinded, and humanitarian partners have been able to monitor all related IDP returns to ensure that they are voluntary, dignified and in accordance with the Principled Returns Framework.

Nearly 50,000 people remain displaced within Al-Anbar, mostly within Al-Falluja and Al-Ramadi sub-districts. An additional 130,000 Al-Anbar residents are displaced in other parts of Iraq.

Humanitarian Programme Cycle Workshop



Credit: OCHA/Y. Crafti
HPC Workshop, Erbil (11 July 2019)

Cluster representatives gathered in Erbil on 11 July to review updates to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC), the global framework for humanitarian response programming. OCHA staff facilitated the workshop, which was delivered at the beginning of joint work to design the 2020 humanitarian programme in Iraq.

Following months of extensive technical consultations with humanitarian partners, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) finalized the revision of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) templates. An associated step-by-step guide was also prepared. This enhanced package complements existing IASC HPC Guidance and incorporates good practices and developments achieved over recent years on needs assessments and response planning, as well as commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain.

Babylon awarded World Heritage status

According to UNESCO, between 626 and 539 BCE, the city was the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Its remains, outer and inner-city walls, gates, palaces and temples, are a unique testimony to one of the most influential empires of the ancient world.

On 5 July 2019, UNESCO's World Heritage Committee has recognized the Iraqi city of Babylon as a cultural site of significance. The city was home to great rulers such as Hammurabi, and also to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.



Photo Credit: Pixabay/T. Stringer

According to UNESCO, between 626 and 539 BCE, the city was the capital of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. Its remains, outer and inner-city walls, gates, palaces and temples, are a unique testimony to one of the most influential empires of the ancient world. Seat of successive empires, under rulers such as Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon represents the expression of the creativity of the Neo-Babylonian Empire at its height.

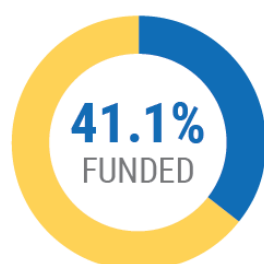
Present-day Babylon has fallen on harder times; it was the site of a major Coalition military base after fall of Saddam in 2003 and has been badly affected by sectarian violence over the past decade and especially after ISIL's occupation. It is hoped that the UNESCO designation may help restore some tourism and reconciliation in the province.



IRAQ

2019 Humanitarian Funding Overview

As of 4 August 2019



US\$412.8M

HRP UNMET REQUIREMENTS

as of 4 August 2019

IHF first standard allocation 2019¹

US\$34 million

US\$392.4M

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED

as of 4 August 2019

■ HRP ■ OUTSIDE HRP²

73.5% 26.5%

The total funding received represents the overall funding linked to the requirements of the response plans/appeals; the HRP funding is a subset of overall funding to the affected country.

US\$701.1M
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

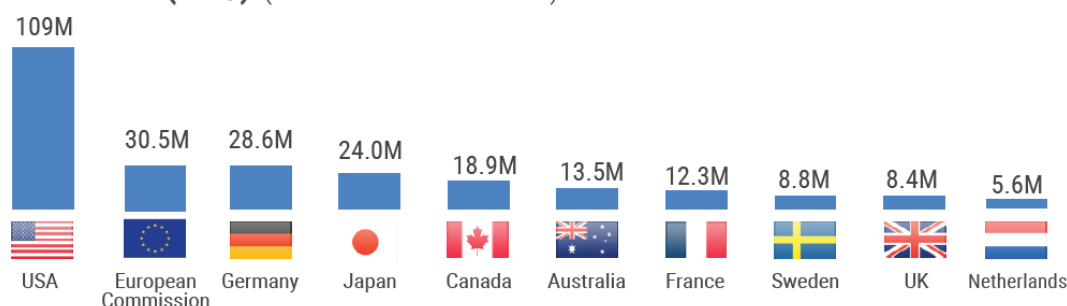
US\$288.3M¹
FUNDING RECEIVED

58.9%
FUNDING GAP

US\$288.3M
FUNDING THROUGH 2019 HRP

US\$104.0M
FUNDING OUTSIDE 2019 HRP

BY DONOR (US\$) (TOP TEN DONORS)



US\$288.3 million
HRP Funding

For further information, please contact:

Hilary Stauffer, Head of Reporting, Policy and Strategy, staufferh@un.org, Tel. (+964) 782 780 4622

Yvette Crafti, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, yvette.crafti@un.org, Tel. (+964) 751 740 3858

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/iraq | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int