

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Health services close in KRI.
- Access letters for NGOs not being authorized.
- Gaps in IDP education.
- Clusters review enhanced HPC process.

## FIGURES

# people in need	4.1m
# people targeted for assistance	1.77m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps targeted for assistance	0.19m
# of IDPs outside camps targeted for assistance	0.42m
# of IDP returnees targeted for assistance	1.18m

## FUNDING

**520 million**  
requested (US\$)

**1%** funded  
(as of 29 January 2020)



IDP Families moving from Laylan 2 to Laylan 1 Camp in Kirkuk in late December 2019/early January 2020. [Credit: M. Chalabi]

## In this issue

[Iran-U.S. Tensions](#) P.1

[Health Services in KRI](#) P.1

[Humanitarian Access Constraints](#) P.2

[WASH Transition Strategy](#) P.2

## Iran-U.S. Tensions Deepen the Political Crisis

Widespread demonstrations against the Government of Iraq continued into their fourth month during January. Tensions within the country escalated dramatically on 31 December when thousands of supporters of militia groups reportedly affiliated with Iran (a group considered separate from those protesting the Government of Iraq in Tahrir Square) were able to pass through Iraqi military checkpoints in the Green Zone and establish a base of operations outside the United States Embassy in Baghdad. Between 31 December and 1 January, demonstrators drew graffiti on the outer security perimeter of the embassy, threw Molotov cocktails over the walls, and attempted to storm the compound. The demonstration had largely dissipated by the morning of 2 January. United Nations staff were on lockdown during this period, and all movement in and out of the compound was prohibited.

In the early morning hours of 3 January, the United States military used an airstrike to kill General Qassem Soleimani, a senior figure in the Iranian military, who had just landed at Baghdad International Airport. Also killed was Abu Al-Muhandis, the Deputy Chairman of the body that oversees the Popular Mobilization Forces (largely Shia-militias in Iraq that date from the fight against ISIL), who was in General Soleimani's vehicle. On 8 January, missiles were fired at two air bases in Al-Anbar and Erbil governorates known to host American troops. Iran later claimed responsibility for the attacks. Security measures were imposed by the UN and NGOs to limit the number of international staff entering the country during this period, which impacted the ability of humanitarian agencies to carry out programming. Staffing had returned to normal levels by the end of January.

## Scale-Down of in Health Services in KRI

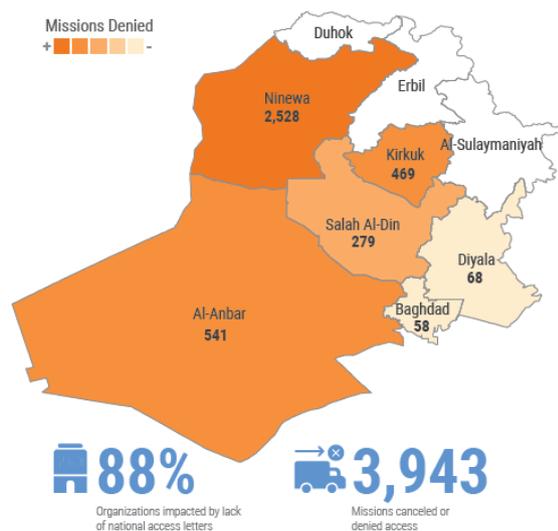
OCHA sub-offices in Duhok and Sulaymaniyah governorates of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) report that significant gaps in health services in camps in the two governorates are expected in 2020 due to funding shortfalls, and a lack of capacity by partners to take over from the World Health Organization. Service mapping conducted by the health cluster indicates that different health partners will be terminating their projects in the coming months; the cluster, in collaboration with Directorate of Health, is working to identify alternative modalities for covering these services.



Primary Health Care Centre in Ashti IDP Camp, Sulaymaniyah. [Credit: Y. Crafti]

## Access Constraints Continue to Impact Aid Delivery

*Since the beginning of December, more than 3,943 humanitarian missions have reportedly been cancelled or have been prevented from reaching their*



Long-standing problems with the authorization of access letters for NGOs operating in Iraq persisted throughout January 2020. Throughout 2019, partners had been reporting that the centrally mandated, national authority tasked with granting access letters to humanitarian organizations was fraying, as governorate authorities in federal Iraq began requiring additional access authorizations. In parallel, NGOs working in Iraq were informed that the granting of authorization letters by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (JCMC) - the government body tasked with processing accessing requests - would be linked to increased reporting on their activities.

These problems were compounded by the ongoing demonstrations against the Government of Iraq, which has resulted in a temporary standstill as different ministries have been reconfigured in the wake of the protests. In December 2019, JCMC informed NGOs that the granting of access letters was suspended until further notice. Throughout January, the Government of Iraq was still in the process of establishing new procedures for NGOs to receive national level authorizations for the movement of personnel and supplies within the country. On 13 and 26 January, OCHA surveyed NGO partners to estimate the impact of the administrative halt in access authorizations. To date, 88 per cent of respondents report that the lack of national access authorization continues to directly impact their operations. Since the beginning of December 2019, more than 3,943 humanitarian missions have reportedly been cancelled or have been prevented from reaching their destinations, with Ninewa and Anbar governorates having the most missions cancelled. The UN, NGOs and donors are actively engaged to find a solution.

## WASH Transition Strategy

*UNICEF is phasing out as the primary WASH provider in a number of IDP camps in Ninewa and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.*

In January 2020, the WASH Cluster informed partners that UNICEF (as cluster lead agency) was seeking to phase out as the primary WASH provider in a number of IDP camps in Ninewa and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, due a shortfall in funding. UNICEF and the WASH Cluster are actively seeking other humanitarian actors to take on the role of WASH service provision, in parallel to conversations with relevant government authorities for potential handover of responsibility. UNICEF has assured partners that it will continue being a provider of last resort until transition is formalized in affected camps. There are already plans in place for the handover of WASH services to NGO partners for certain camps in KRI, but no comprehensive solution has yet been put forward for all the impacted sites. In parallel, some WASH partners have indicated that they have supplies in place to meet any gaps over the next six months, but not for longer-term needs. Government entities in the KRI have indicated their willingness to serve as WASH providers but noted that they will require funding to support this work.



WASH Facilities, Bersive IDP Camp, Duhok. (Credit: H. Stauffer)

## Critical Obstacles to Education for IDP Children



Destroyed school in Sulaiman Baig sub-district, Salah Al-Din Governorate. [Credit: OCHA Kirkuk Sub-Office]

*Broken windows and doors in camp schools and the poor quality of classrooms contributes to the dropout of students.*

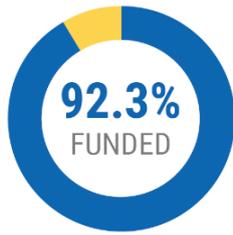
OCHA field offices in several locations reported throughout January on critical obstacles to education that IDP children in Iraq currently face. In the region around Mount Sinjar (far western Ninewa), humanitarian partners noted that due to a lack of transportation services (based on funding shortfalls), children who want to attend school sometimes find alternative mode of transport, including military vehicles. While inadvisable under any circumstances, continued Turkish military operations in the region added an extra layer of risk to such arrangements, and travelling with military vehicles could potentially make the children inadvertent targets, humanitarian actors warned.

There are approximately 2,300 IDP families living in Sinjar mountain region where three schools are operational. In Kirkuk, students who were recently relocated to Laylan 1 IDP camp from camps in Ninewa have not received the documentation needed to allow them to attend school and sit exams. In addition, the sub-national Education Cluster in Kirkuk reports that broken windows and doors in the camp schools and that the poor quality of classrooms contributes to the dropout of students, and is seeking partners to cover necessary repairs. In Salah Al-Din, the only primary school in Al Karama IDP camp is scheduled to close after exams are administered, due to a lack of teachers. Humanitarian partners are following up with relevant authorities to try and find a solution. Children in Al Karama camp are already disadvantaged by the lack of a secondary school on the site. It is difficult for residents to leave the camp to seek education elsewhere due to strict security measures in place. Many schools were destroyed during the conflict against ISIL, and a lack of reconstruction negatively impacts IDP and returnee children.

## HPC Lessons Learned Workshop

On 28 January 2020, OCHA hosted a lessons learned workshop for UN agencies, clusters and other humanitarian partners on the enhanced Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) methodology adopted by Iraq in 2019. Key take-aways included the observations that late dissemination of global guidance from headquarters added significant burdens on country teams; global processes should generally allow for a flexible approach to take into consideration country-specific realities; and the Humanitarian Country Team/Humanitarian Coordinator should communicate early on HPC priorities and boundaries, based on operational recommendations made by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group.

# End of Year 2019 Humanitarian Funding



**US\$53.6M**  
HRP UNMET REQUIREMENTS  
as of 29 January 2020

**US\$888.5M**  
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED  
as of 29 January 2020

IHF first standard allocation 2019<sup>1</sup>

**US\$34 million**



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\$647.5M<sup>1</sup>**  
FUNDING RECEIVED

**7.7%**  
FUNDING GAP

**US\$647.5M**  
FUNDING THROUGH 2020 HRP

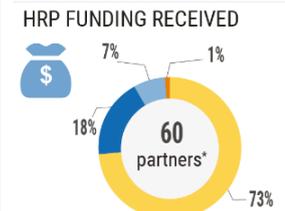
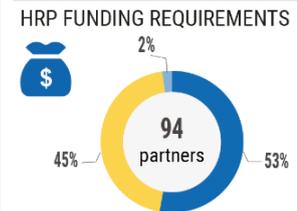
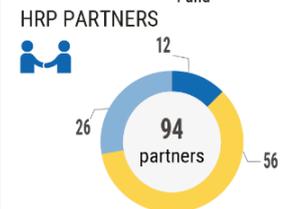
**US\$241.0M**  
FUNDING OUTSIDE 2020 HRP

## BY CLUSTER (US\$)

Cluster	Projects	Funding received \$	Covered within HRP	Requirements \$
			Received (blue) / Gap (yellow)	
CCCM	14	14.9M	Received / Gap	34.5M
CCS	13	11.7M	Received / Gap	14.9M
Education	23	18.7M	Received / Gap	35.5M
EL	7	6.0M	Received / Gap	9.3M
ETC	1	137K	Received / Gap	137K
FSC	20	41.1M	Received / Gap	114.3M
Health	33	66.3M	Received / Gap	60.9M
MPCA	12	46.1M	Received / Gap	114.8M
Protection	47	58.7M	Received / Gap	92.9M
CP	23	31.3M	Received / Gap	39.9M
GBV	18	9.6M	Received / Gap	33.2M
RRM	4	0.9M	Received / Gap	0.8M
Shelter/NFI	28	59.0M	Received / Gap	74.4M
WASH	43	69.8M	Received / Gap	75.5M
Not specified		135.0M		
Multiple clusters		78.4M		

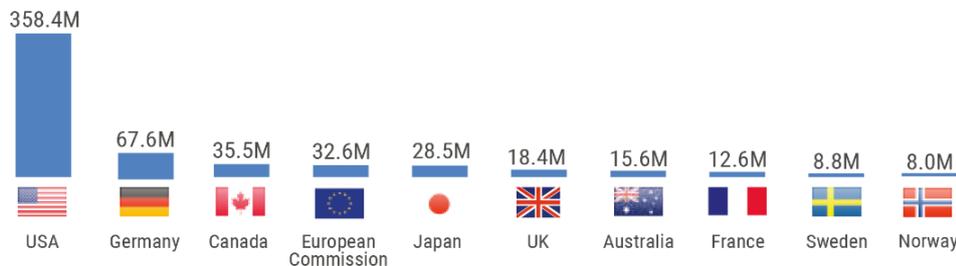
## BY PARTNER TYPE

● United Nations ● International NGOs  
● National NGOs ● Iraq Humanitarian Fund



\*Partners reported on FTS. Numbers are rounded up

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



**US\$647.5 million**  
HRP Funding

## Overview

For further information, please contact:

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

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

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at [www.unocha.org/iraq](http://www.unocha.org/iraq) | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) | [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)