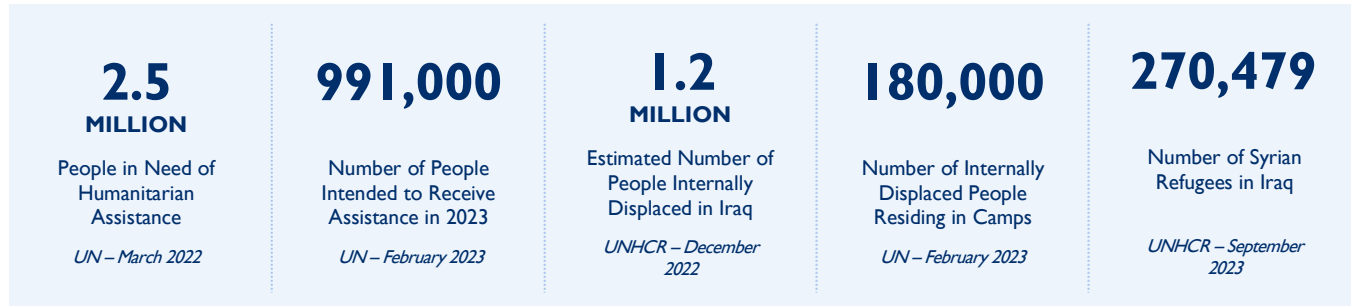


Iraq – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Approximately 4,200 people—including nearly 3,200 returnees and 1,000 IDPs—arrived in Ninewa Governorate’s Al-Ba’aj and Sinjar districts between April 1 and August 7, according to IOM. These population movements were largely driven by calls for violence against Yezidi community members residing in IDP camps.
- The GoI and the UN are jointly developing a Road Map to guide ongoing reintegration and return efforts, though many IDPs have been reluctant to leave camp settings due to insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities, and limited services in their areas of origin.
- More than 83,500 people across southern Iraq remain displaced due to climatic shocks, including drought, increased water salinity, and land degradation.



| | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Iraq Response in FY 2023 | USAID/BHA ¹ | \$22,858,226 |
| | State/PRM ² | \$91,418,801 |
| Total | | \$114,277,027 |

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Hate Speech Targeting Yezidis Drives Secondary Displacement and Returns to Ninewa; IDPs Face Low Standard of Living

Approximately 4,200 people—including nearly 3,200 returnees and 1,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)—arrived in Ninewa Governorate’s Al-Ba’aj and Sinjar districts between April 1 and August 7, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These population movements took place amid heightened social tensions, including videos on social media calling for attacks against Yezidi community members residing in IDP camps. An estimated 90 percent of the IDPs and returnees who arrived in Ninewa during this period were Yezidi, IOM reports. When asked what prompted the population movements, IDPs and returnees cited the impact of hate speech targeting the Yezidi community, challenges associated with protracted displacement, and a desire to reunite with friends and relatives.

Returnees made up 77 percent of the arrivals to Ninewa, while IDPs represented 23 percent. Eighty-five percent of the IDPs and returnees departed from camp settings, with most people departing from Dohuk Governorate’s Sumel and Zakho districts, according to IOM.

Ninewa hosted the largest returnee and IDP populations in Iraq as of August 31, IOM reports. Returnee households in Ninewa have a comparable standard of living to households who were not displaced, while IDPs have a significantly lower standard of living, according to an August report by the UN agency. Only 40 percent of IDP households in Ninewa are not experiencing severe food insecurity, can access health services as needed, and live in a house or apartment with improved sanitation facilities, compared to 70 percent of returnee households. While an estimated 23 percent of IDP households have a stable source of income, only 14 percent report that they would be able to afford an unexpected expense of 440,000 Iraqi dinar, or approximately \$336. Priority response sectors in Ninewa continue to include food assistance, livelihoods, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).

UN and GoI Cooperating on Durable Solutions Road Map for IDP Returns

The Government of Iraq (GoI) and the UN are developing a Road Map to address durable solutions for IDPs, building on the GoI’s National Plan for Returning IDPs. As of September, IOM had reported approximately 166,300 IDPs residing in 25 IDP camps in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR). Overall, the IKR hosts more than 650,000 displaced people, according to the Kurdistan Regional Government Joint Crisis Coordination Center. Many IDPs have been reluctant to leave camp settings due to few livelihood opportunities, limited services, and ongoing violence in their areas of origin, national media report.

Despite the reticence of IDPs to return to areas of origin, the GoI has strongly encouraged returns in the past. However, the closure of IDP camps in the IKR could lead to the forcible secondary displacement of the camp residents. Furthermore, without a significant expansion of humanitarian assistance provided to displaced populations upon their departure from camp settings, the closure of IDP camps in the IKR could lead to significantly increased humanitarian needs and further strain already limited services. The Road Map is intended to address some of the obstacles hindering people from returning to their areas of origin or other locations, encompassing a broader scope for both IDPs inside and outside camps.

Humanitarian Actors Respond to Fire in Ninewa’s Hamdaniya District

A fire that erupted in Al-Haitham Hall in Ninewa’s Hamdaniya District resulted in the deaths of more than 100 people and injury to nearly 100 others on September 26, according to international media. In response to the fire, a State/PRM nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner organized a blood drive in nearby cities, procured emergency relief items and medical supplies, and offered mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services immediately following the fire.

Climatic Shocks Continue to Drive Displacement in Southern Iraq

Drought, increased salinity in rivers and tributaries, and land degradation continue to negatively impact the agricultural and fishing industries in southern Iraq, limiting sufficient livelihood opportunities and causing displacement, according to IOM. As of mid-June, nearly 14,000 households—more than 83,500 people—remained displaced by climatic shocks across ten governorates in southern Iraq. This represents a more than 10,000 person increase in climate-induced displacement compared with IOM’s mid-March reporting. In total, more than 3,800 households were displaced from Maysan Governorate, with more than 2,700 households and more than 2,300 households displaced from Najaf and Dhi Qar governorates, respectively.

Of the total displaced population, approximately 77 percent had traveled to urban areas, where many people were sheltering in informal settlements without access to services, IOM reports. Additionally, continual increases in the number of households facing climate-induced displacement in southern Iraq suggest that many displaced households likely do not intend to return to their areas of origin, according to the UN agency.

KEY FIGURES



47,600

People who received civil documentation with support from State/PRM partner UNHCR in 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

PROTECTION

Addressing protection concerns remains a top priority for the humanitarian response in Iraq, with U.S. Government (USG) partners supporting a range of critical protection initiatives for host communities, IDPs, returnees, and Syrian refugees that range from community-level prevention and referral to individualized case management. USAID/BHA supports IOM, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and three NGO partners to provide protection services, including activities to prevent and respond to protection risks among children, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, legal assistance for civil documentation, MHPSS support, and mine risk education. With funding to IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WHO, and NGO partners, State/PRM also provides protection assistance, including legal assistance, GBV prevention and response services, and MHPSS support. State/PRM also promotes durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq by facilitating sustainable integration programs, providing social cohesion support, and helping to provide accurate information on security conditions and livelihood opportunities in host communities and areas of origin.



6

Number of
USG implementing
partners providing
WASH assistance

WASH

With USG support, IOM, UNHCR, WHO, and NGO partners are providing essential WASH services for vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USG partners are providing safe drinking water through water trucking services; supporting operations and maintenance for WASH infrastructure in IDP camps; rehabilitating WASH infrastructure outside of camps; and promoting sanitary living conditions that enhance dignity, limit the spread of communicable diseases, and protect communities. USG partners are also responding to ongoing outbreaks of communicable diseases by enhancing community-level surveillance, conducting hygiene awareness campaigns, and distributing hygiene kits to vulnerable populations. In addition, USG partners have installed handwashing stations in camps, informal settlements, and public areas in out-of-camp locations and rehabilitated WASH facilities in primary health care centers across eight Iraqi governorates.



More than
140,000

Number of health
consultations provided
to Syrian refugees in Iraq
by UNHCR between
January and August 2023

HEALTH

With USG support, NGOs and UN partners IOM, UNHCR, and WHO continue to reach conflict-affected populations with primary health care services in Iraq. USG partners are improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services—including mental health care services—through staff capacity-building, supporting staff salaries, and ensuring the availability of essential equipment and medicines. In addition, USG partners are responding to communicable disease outbreaks by implementing risk communication and community engagement activities; strengthening disease surveillance systems; and training medical professionals on screening, identification, triage, and treatment of suspected cases.



3

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing shelter and
settlements services

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, and one NGO partner to provide critical shelter services for displaced Iraqis and refugees residing in Iraq. USG partners are distributing shelter kits and other relief commodities, as well as supporting coordination and management services at camps and informal settlements. Partner organizations are also supporting the rehabilitation of conflict-damaged houses, upgrading unfinished or abandoned buildings, and improving camp and informal settlement infrastructure to provide safe and dignified living conditions that align with humanitarian standards.

FOOD SECURITY

In FY 2023, with USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) has delivered emergency food assistance in the form of cash transfers for food to populations in need in Iraq, reaching the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees living in camp settings, while also bolstering local markets.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The USG has been responding to the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq since January 2014, when a surge by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) caused mass displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, including the IKR, to escape violence. Nearly 5 million former IDPs, the majority of people displaced since 2014, had returned to their areas of origin or resettled in other locations as of August 2023.
- Approximately 2.5 million people required humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2022, according to the UN. Climatic shocks, economic challenges, ongoing insecurity, and protracted displacement continue to adversely affect Iraq's IDP, host community, and returnee populations at a time when the capacity of both the GoI and Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary gridlock.
- On November 6, 2022, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski reissued a declaration of humanitarian need in Iraq for FY 2023 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| USAID/BHA | | | |
| IOM | Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Anbar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah Al Din, Sulaimaniya | \$4,750,000 |
| UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) | Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA) | Countrywide | \$200,000 |
| UNICEF | Protection | Countrywide | \$1,950,000 |
| WFP | Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food | Countrywide | \$5,900,000 |
| WHO | Health | Countrywide | \$4,500,000 |
| Implementing Partner | HCIMA, Protection | Countrywide | \$1,450,000 |
| Implementing Partner | HCIMA | Countrywide | \$250,000 |
| Implementing Partner | Protection, WASH | Countrywide | \$3,200,000 |
| Implementing Partner | HCIMA, WASH | Anbar, Dohuk, Erbil, Ninewa, Salah Al Din, Sulaimaniya | \$500,000 |
| | Program Support | | \$158,226 |
| TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING | | | \$22,858,226 |
| STATE PRM | | | |
| IOM | Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Durable Solutions, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$37,497,946 |
| UNHCR | CCCM, Durable Solutions, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements | Countrywide | \$11,700,000 |
| UNICEF | Education, Protection | Countrywide | \$3,700,000 |
| UN Population Fund (UNFPA) | Health, Protection | Countrywide | \$939,000 |
| WHO | Health | Countrywide | \$1,000,000 |
| Implementing Partners | Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection | Countrywide | \$19,491,855 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| UNHCR | Multi-Sector Assistance | Jordan | \$3,800,000 |
| Implementing Partners | Health, MHPSS, Protection | Jordan | \$1,690,000 |
| UNHCR | Multi-Sector Assistance | Lebanon | \$900,000 |
| Implementing Partners | Health, MHPSS | Lebanon | \$600,000 |
| UNHCR | Multi-Sector Assistance | Syria | \$3,100,000 |
| Implementing Partners | Protection, CCCM, Education, WASH | Syria | \$7,000,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING | | | \$91,418,801 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2023 | | | \$114,277,027 |

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2023.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region; reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space; can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)