

# IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

AUGUST 11, 2014

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**Up to 1.4 million**

People Displaced by Violence in Iraq Since January 2014  
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – August 2014

**586,000\***

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Ninewa Governorate  
OCHA – June 2014

*\*Note: this figure does not include the estimated 200,000 people reported displaced in early August*

**558,648**

IDPs from Al Anbar Governorate  
OCHA – June 2014

**40,000**

IDPs from Salah ad-Din Governorate  
OCHA – June 2014

**24,000**

IDPs from Diyala Governorate  
OCHA – June 2014

**93,809**

Iraqi Refugees Registered in the Region  
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – June 2014

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Escalating insecurity in northern Iraq triggers massive population displacement, causing as many as 200,000 people to flee their homes between August 3 and 8.
- The United States conducts airdrops of food and water for conflict-displaced Iraqis stranded on Sinjar Mountain.
- USAID deploys a team of humanitarian response experts to Iraq to expedite additional assistance to IDPs and other conflict-affected populations.

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO IRAQ TO DATE IN FY 2014

USAID/OFDA	\$2,509,470
USAID/FFP	\$143,516
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$130,289,646
<b>\$132,942,632</b>	
TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) ASSISTANCE TO THE IRAQ HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since early June, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and its allied militias have clashed with Government of Iraq (GoI) and Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) security forces throughout northern and central Iraq, particularly in Al Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah ad-Din governorates. On August 2, ISIL forces began seizing control of several areas in Ninewa Governorate, including Sinjar and Tal Afar districts. The insecurity displaced up to 200,000 people—predominantly from the Yezidi and other minority groups—between August 3 and 8, according to the U.N.
- While relief organizations in Iraq are working to scale up emergency response efforts for populations in need countrywide, humanitarian access remains a significant constraint, preventing relief actors from fully assessing needs and from reaching the most conflict-affected areas.
- On August 7, U.S. President Barack H. Obama authorized two operations in Iraq: a humanitarian effort to help thousands of Iraqi civilians surrounded by ISIL forces on Ninewa Governorate's Sinjar Mountain without food or water, and targeted airstrikes to protect U.S. personnel and assist allied forces in Iraq as they attempt to protect civilians.
- To date, the United States has airdropped food rations and safe drinking water for IDPs on Sinjar and supported the provision of additional emergency aid, including food assistance, relief items, health care, and shelter support, to other IDPs in northern Iraq.
- In addition, USAID is deploying a Disaster Assistance Response Team—comprising USAID humanitarian response experts—to Iraq to help coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs throughout the conflict-affected areas of northern and central Iraq. The team will work closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- Active conflict in northern and central Iraq continues to prompt population displacement while simultaneously hindering people's movements. In late July, OCHA estimated that up to five million people across Iraq—including IDPs and host communities—may be residing in areas with active fighting. Civilians in these areas may be unable to move away from conflict or access humanitarian assistance and essential goods, according to OCHA.
- More than 500,000 IDPs in northern and central Iraq may be sheltering in areas difficult to access by humanitarian actors, according to estimates included in an August 7 briefing note on the humanitarian impacts of the Iraq violence produced by the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS). Particularly hard-to-reach locations include areas of Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa, and Salah ad-Din governorates, including ISIL-besieged or ISIL-held areas, such as the city of Mosul in Ninewa Governorate.
- As a result of the early August advance by ISIL, approximately 200,000 IDPs from Sinjar District and other areas of Ninewa Governorate fled their homes, with an estimated 180,000 crossing into Dohuk Governorate in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR), according to the U.N. Between 10,000 and 40,000 people also fled onto the nearby Sinjar mountain ridge—where many IDPs were surrounded by ISIL forces and stranded without access to food and safe drinking water while enduring extreme temperatures. According to recent international media reports, thousands of civilians descended Sinjar Mountain on August 9 and 10 with assistance from Kurdish security forces.
- At the request of the GoI and to help meet the urgent needs of people who cannot be reached by humanitarian organizations, the U.S. military—in close coordination with USAID—on August 7 began airdropping life-saving food rations and safe drinking water to the IDPs on Sinjar Mountain to supplement GoI airdrop efforts. As of August 10, the U.S. military had delivered more than 74,000 meals ready to eat and more than 15,000 gallons of drinking water.
- In response to the growing number of Iraqi IDPs, State/PRM provided an additional \$6.6 million in mid-June to UNHCR for emergency relief items. The new funding increased State/PRM's total FY 2014 contribution to UNHCR to a total of \$96.7 million for displaced Iraqis in the region.
- Also in mid-June, State/PRM allocated an additional \$6.2 million to support the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other international organizations to provide IDPs with food, safe drinking water, health care services and emergency relief supplies. In FY 2014 to date, State/PRM has provided more than \$130 million in humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected and displaced populations in Iraq.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA recently committed \$1 million to an NGO partner to provide new IDPs with emergency relief items and cash assistance for housing costs. Building on an existing emergency cash distribution and relief commodities program in Iraq, the partner plans to work through local organizations to distribute items, including kitchen sets, household kits, and hygiene kits, as well as cash assistance, to vulnerable IDP households.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- The Food Security Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reports that IDPs, particularly IDPs in transit to areas of safety, and host communities are vulnerable and in need of food assistance, according to ACAPS. In early August, OCHA noted that large numbers of newly arrived IDPs in Dohuk Governorate and Sinjar District, Ninewa Governorate, are in need of food assistance.
- Between August 2 and 8, humanitarian actors assisted more than 110,000 IDPs in Dohuk Governorate through the provision of food rations and the operation of field kitchens at IDP collective centers in Sharya, Bajet Kandala, and Khaneke, according to OCHA.
- On August 4, USAID/FFP authorized the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to utilize for its Iraq emergency operation approximately 15 metric tons of USAID-provided meal replacement bars already in country. The bars—sufficient to benefit an estimated 31,000 people—contain a complete daily ration of calories, fat, protein, and carbohydrates and are fortified with 24 vitamins and minerals. On August 5, WFP began distributing the USAID meal replacement bars to newly displaced individuals in and around the city of Dohuk. With separate support, WFP also

provided the new IDPs with hot meals and three-day emergency rations containing canned tuna, beans, vegetables, dates, and halawa, a sweet food made with sesame paste.

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## **WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

- Humanitarian actors have expressed concern that ISIL and allied militias are strategically targeting WASH infrastructure, including sewage treatment plants, water distribution systems, and water treatment facilities. As of early August, armed groups had limited the electricity and safe drinking water for up to 70,000 people in Talkif District, Ninewa Governorate, according to OCHA.
  - In areas with high IDP concentrations, WASH access is a major concern as new arrivals strain already limited water resources for both host communities and IDPs. OCHA reports that WASH services are critical for the thousands of IDPs who fled to the IKR, as well as for IDPs in the southern governorates of An Najar and Karbala.
  - The USG is working through various implementing partners to help address immediate WASH needs. In the aftermath of ISIL's initial advance in Iraq in June, USAID/OFDA provided \$1 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to assist IDPs in the IKR through WASH interventions, such as the provision of safe drinking water and hygiene supplies.
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## **HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

- In July, USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 to OCHA for humanitarian coordination activities across Iraq, including the establishment of the Iraqi Emergency Humanitarian Operations Center at the U.N. compound in Erbil. OCHA and other humanitarian actors opened the center in early July in response to the significant increase in displacement and humanitarian need in 2014. The center aims to provide operational support to emergency response activities, collect information on emerging humanitarian needs, mobilize the rapid deployment of humanitarian interventions, and track the delivery of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas countrywide.
  - USAID/OFDA also recently committed more than \$250,000 to an NGO partner to help strengthen information management capacity within the humanitarian community in Iraq. With USAID/OFDA funding, the partner will assess and map displacement patterns in and near the KRI, provide infrastructure maps and other reference materials on IDP camps and collective sites, and track IDPs in host communities to facilitate the provision of assistance to the most vulnerable.
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## **OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- With more than \$23 million in prior fiscal year funding, U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political and Military Affairs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (State/PM/WRA) is supporting ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) for Iraqis across the country. Multiple partners supported by State/PM/WRA are working to clear ERW from targeted areas, and one partner is also offering mine risk education to IDPs in northern Iraq to raise awareness on how to avoid the ERW hazards.
- On July 1, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced a contribution of \$500 million to support life-saving activities for IDPs and other conflict-affected people in Iraq through U.N. agencies and other international organizations, including WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO). The funds are expected to support efforts to distribute food, safe drinking water, and shelter supplies to IDPs; restore damaged water facilities; and establish camps, mobile health clinics, and schools.
- In an August 8 press statement, the United Kingdom announced a £8 million—\$13.4 million—package of emergency humanitarian assistance for conflict-affected populations in Iraq. As part of the package, the U.K. commenced airdrops of aid for IDPs on Sinjar Mountain on August 9. According to international media reports, on the first night, the U.K. military delivered approximately 1,200 reusable water containers filled with safe drinking water and 240 solar lanterns that can be used to recharge mobile phones.

## CONTEXT

- Over the past decade, incidents of insecurity have frequently contributed to significant internal displacement in Iraq. In February 2006, the bombing of the Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra and subsequent sectarian violence triggered the most sizable population movement in Iraq's history. More than 1.6 million people—or 5.5 percent of the country's population—fled their communities, increasing Iraq's total displaced population to nearly 2.8 million people, according to the U.N.
- Beginning in 2008, improved security conditions led to a decrease in conflict-related displacement and an increase in humanitarian access to vulnerable populations, including IDPs. With improved security, humanitarian agencies' focus began to shift to early recovery activities in areas where conditions stabilized.
- Since FY 2003, the USG has provided continuous humanitarian assistance to Iraq, including support for the distribution of emergency relief commodities, provision of emergency shelter, income-generating opportunities, expanded access to essential WASH facilities and services, and humanitarian coordination and information sharing among relief agencies.
- The situation in Iraq remained relatively stable until mid-June 2014, when the armed group ISIL began seizing control of several cities in northern and central Iraq. Significant population displacement ensued as civilians fled to areas of relative safety to escape fighting between ISIL and its allied militias and Iraqi security forces.

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ PROVIDED IN FY 2014<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics and Relief Commodities	Northern Iraq	\$1,259,470
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$250,000
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities; Protection; WASH	Northern Iraq	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ</b>			<b>\$2,509,470</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	Meal Replacement Bars	Dohuk Governorate	\$143,516
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ</b>			<b>\$143,516</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partners	Health, Livelihoods, Nutrition, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH, Durable Solutions	Countrywide	\$30,589,646
IOM	Emergency Response, Livelihoods, Relief Commodities, IDP Mapping and Registration	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Protection, Shelter, Relief Commodities, Registration	Countrywide	\$96,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ</b>			<b>\$130,289,646</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ IN FY 2014</b>			<b>\$132,942,632</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 11, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## **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 [www.interaction.org](http://www.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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>