

Interagency Rapid Assessment of
Internally Displaced Persons in
Al Qaim

Anbar Crisis

IRAQ



March 2014



ACRONYMS

CC	Community Centre
CRI	Core Relief Items
CU	Cusecs
DoH	Department of Health
DoW	Department of Water
FHH	Female Headed Household
gms	Grams
ID Card	Identification Card
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRD	Iraqi Dinar
Kgs	Kilograms
KRG	Kurdish Region Government
m ³ /hr	Cubic meters per hour
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoDM	Ministry of Disaster and Migration
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MoT	Ministry of Trade
PHC	Public Health Centre
PDS	Public Distribution System
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
U5	Under five years of age
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USD/US\$	United States Dollar
WASH	Water and Sanitation
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WTP	Water Treatment Plant

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Anbar crisis escalated into armed conflict by the end of December 2013. At the centre of the armed conflict were the two largest cities of Anbar province, Fallujah and Ramadi. Use of firearms and rockets within the city boundaries forced residents of Fallujah and Ramadi to flee their hometowns. By March 2014, about 65,000 families had been displaced, mostly to other cities of Anbar but also as far north as the KRG and as far south as Basrah. The severity of the conflict resulted in the whole province being classified by the UN with the security severity level of “very high” or code Black. This meant severe restrictions on movement of UN staff. Consequently many areas remain inaccessible to the UN for assessments. Programme interventions are implemented through partners, mostly non-governmental agencies.

In order to better understand needs of the IDPs, a joint UN mission consisting of UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF conducted a rapid needs assessment in Al-Qaim district of the Anbar province. This report is a summation of the mission reports from the three agencies.

Anbar population is predominantly Arab Sunni. The displaced families from Fallujah and Ramadi have taken refuge in Arab Sunni cities within Anbar province and in other provinces such as Baghdad in the east, Salahuddin and KRG in the north and Basrah in the south. This diverse dispersal indicates additional factors beyond ethnicity and religious sects for selection of their destinations. Safety, affordability and presence of family/friends have been identified as major reasons behind their decisions. While KRG is considered to be the safest, it is expensive for accommodation and the KRG government regulations are less than encouraging. Consequently, only the relatively richer IDPs can afford going to KRG. IDPs going to other provinces such as Baghdad do so primarily due to presence of family/friends at these destinations. Private sector donations, initially generous, have dwindled.

While core relief items, food and water have been supplied to IDPs in Al Qaim, there is a need to increase this support. More detailed assessments, followed by continued assistance have been recommended by the mission. Improvements in shelter and supplies of food and water are recommended. Efforts to reinstate children in schools, improved sanitation and supplies of chlorine for water purification are to be provided. UN advocacy with the government in expediting the reinstatement of the Public Distribution System, government salaries, pensions and the delivery of government cash assistance have been recommended.

While it is hoped the Anbar crisis is resolved soon, there is a need for continued monitoring of the situation as well as drawing up of plans for continued assistance should the crisis prolong.

PROTECTION AND SHELTER

MISSION REPORT

Subject: Inter-agency needs assessment mission to Al-Obaidy (Al-Qaim) in Anbar Governorate

Date: 02 – 06 March 2014

Participants: Semih Bulbul, Snr. Emergency Coordinator, UNHCR

Asif Niazi, Programme Advisor, WFP

Ali Auob, National WASH Officer, UNICEF

The purpose of this inter-agency mission was to assess the living conditions and the prevailing needs of the Anbar IDPs living in Al-Obaidy and Al-Qaim towns through visiting the IDP dwellings, collective shelters/centers, meeting with the local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Due to the security restrictions, the mission was not able to visit Al-Qaim as there was one road side explosion the same day that the mission arrived in Al-Obaidy. The local security forces did not recommend traveling on the road to Al-Qaim. Moreover, the mission security clearance was not covering either Al-Qaim or Al-Obaidy towns but only the Al-Obaidy Refugee Camp.

After clarifying this matter both at Baghdad and mission levels with the security colleagues, it was agreed to have a short visit to the two collective centers in Al-Obaidy town.

Day One – Visiting two Collective Centers in Al-Obaidy town

Phosphate Company Hotel (21 families – 90 persons)

This Hotel (Guest House) belongs to the Ministry of Industry's Phosphate Company. When the first IDP families started to arrive in Al-Obaidy, the local council decided to allocate this building for the families that did not have any places to stay. The Hotel has 21 rooms and therefore, 21 IDP families (90 persons) are residing there. The general maintenance of the building is carried out by the Company. There is one CC manager assigned by the Phosphate Company.

The building is in good condition, requiring almost no repair or rehabilitation work. Electricity is not stable same as the town or other parts of Iraq. There is running water but families need to buy drinking water. They spend around 2,000 IQD per day for some 20 liters of bottled water. Each room has separate bathroom and toilet.

IDP families reported that children are allowed to attend formal education in public schools but those who cannot prove their level of grade or have missed the mid-term exams can only attend to the classes as observers.

They have access to local hospital free of charge but often the required medicines are either not available or too expensive to buy.



Phosphate Company Hotel in Al-Obaidy

There has been no food rations (PDS) distribution since their displacement. They have received one-time food parcels from WFP but this was at the end of January. UNHCR provided some Core Relief Items but not the whole CRI kit per family. Also UNICEF provided hygiene kits for adults and babies. The major support has been provided by the host community, mosques and Mayor's office

Their main needs are food, core relief items, and medical care. They cannot buy diapers and milk for the children.

There was one common request as the most important need: CASH ASSISTANCE



Phosphate Company Hotel in Al-Obaidy

Actions Recommended

- UNHCR team to assess the missing core relief items per family and complete them accordingly;
- Inform protection unit about the cash assistance need;
- Look into possibilities of improving the recreational area of the Hotel (swimming pool and sports field) for joint use of host communities and IDPs;
- UNICEF may consider providing water tank for drinking water.

Former Vocational Training School (28 families – 135 persons)

This former vocational training school building has been abandoned some time ago when a new building was opened. Thus, the building is not needed for further education activities.

While only 16 rooms are available, there are 28 families residing in this school building. In one room, for instance, a total of 7 families are living.



Vocational training school in Al-Obaidy

As the classrooms provide relatively larger space families were able to divide them with plastic sheets to create separate male and female spaces.

The toilets are functioning and there is running water. However, there is only one shower for each gender.

There is one common kitchen area built by the IDPs but it is insufficient to serve to the whole residents. Families cook bread in their rooms or in the corridors.

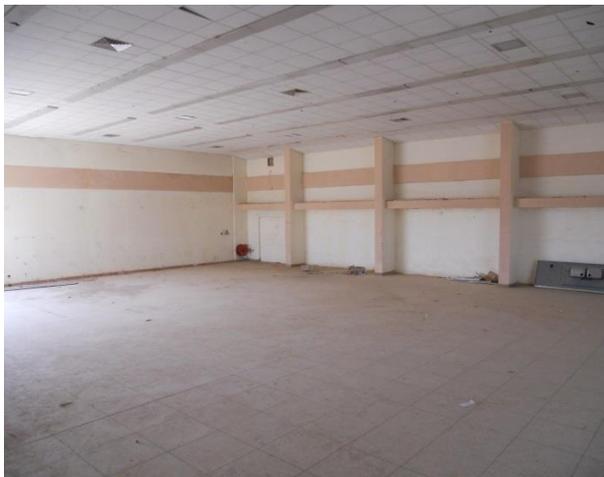


Vocational training school in Al-Obaidy

IDPs reported that they had received one-time food package from WFP and some core relief items from UNHCR and hygiene kits from UNICEF. Most of the assistance has been provided by the host communities and the local authorities.

The major need that was raised by the IDPs is CASH ASSISTANCE

Although several families are sharing one classroom, there is enough space in the school to provide each family with their private rooms with some minor rehabilitaiton work. There is a big empty assembly room that can provide enough space for 5 to 6 additional room if a decent seperation work is conducted.



Vocational training school in Al-Obaidy

The same person that is incharge of the Phosphate Company Hotel is also managing this CC. A committee of IDP residents also supporting the CC manager in his daily activities.

This old school building is very close to the Hotel building that any recreational facility would serve for both of them.

Actions Recommended

- UNHCR team to assess the missing core relief items per family and complete them accordingly;
- Inform protection unit about the cash assistance need;
- Conduct a repair and rehabilitation assessment with an engineer focusing on building separations in the empty assembly hall for additional rooms;
- Look into possibilities of creating a child friendly space;
- Improve the conditions of the current makeshift common kitchen and build another one;
- Provision of additional latrines and showers;
- UNICEF may consider providing water tank for drinking water



Vocational training school in Al-Obaidy

Day Two – Al-Obaidy Camp, meetings with Local Authorities and IDP Families

Meeting with the Mayor of Al-Qaim and other local authorities and partners

Participants:

Mayor of Al-Qaim, MoDM, members of Al-Qaim Provincial Council, members of Al-Qaim Crisis Cell, members of Al-Obaidy Council, local Sheiks, UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, IOM, ISHO, Islamic Relief, Afkar.

The undersigned welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of this inter-agency mission. The Mayor of Al-Qaim, Mr.Farhan Fetekhan, raised the following issues:

- The number of IDP families in Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy is increasing dramatically. While the needs of the displaced families are growing, there has been very little humanitarian assistance provided.
- Re-opening Camp II for IDP families as an alternative shelter and accommodation solution. While IDPs will not be forced to move into the camp, it will provide them an alternative solution. The camp can be managed by UNHCR, MoDM or by another organization.
- There has been no PDS (food rations) distribution for the IDP families since their displacement. The mission should relay this message strongly to the authorities in Baghdad to accelerate the food rations distribution in Anbar.
- Al-Qaim area is in need of additional kerosene assistance from the Government.
- Among all the basic needs, IDPs are also in need of clothing as they had to flee urgently with their winter clothing and now they need summer clothing.
- At the end of the meeting, the Mayor expressed strong frustration and said that if there would be no concrete assistance from the international agencies, he would not meet with the next delegation visiting Al-Qaim.

The representative of the Al-Qaim City Council reported that:

- The City Council is responsible for the registration of IDPs and currently there are 1,562 IDP families are residing in Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy towns (960 in Al-Qaim and 602 in Al-Obaidy).

- Majority of the IDPs are being hosted by their relatives and friends. While some 200 families are living in two collective centers, others are living in unfinished houses in dire conditions.
- The only support that they received was an allocation of 22 million IQD from the Anbar Provincial Council (out of the 20 billion allocated by the Central Government). As the amount was not sufficient to provide cash assistance to each family, they had decided to purchase food items and distributed 25 kg of flour, 4 lit of oil, 5 kg of rice, 5 kg of sugar, 1 kg of tomato paste and 0.5 kg of tea. This package would cover only a week need of family of 5.
- Following an instruction received from the Ministry of Education, all the IDP children at education age are allowed to attend to the public schools. However, there are two major problems; overcrowded classrooms and lack of teachers.
- As the IDP families have started to exhaust their resources, they face covering their rent. They need cash assistance.

The representative of the Al-Obaidy Council informed that:

- According to their records 602 IDP families (3,000 pax) are living in Al-Obaidy town. Majority of the IDPs are staying with their relatives and friends in government owned apartments.
- Some IDPs are renting houses and paying around 150,000 – 200,000 IQD per month.

Sheik Nadir stated that:

- The local communities have been very generous and active in assisting IDPs. They have been donating cash and making in-kind contributions such as food items but lately there has been a change in this situation. Since last week the level of support from the host population has reduced by 80%. They were able to raise some 2 million IQD last week but this figure has gone to 380,000 IQD this week.
- The Government employees as well as the retired IDPs have not been paid their salaries and pension yet.

UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and NGOs reported on their current and planned activities. The undersigned informed the Mayor and other participants on the UNCT Joint Appeal that UN is planning to complement the Government efforts in providing humanitarian assistance to the IDP families.

The undersigned reiterated that opening an IDP camp is not within UNHCR's authority and responsibility and added that UNHCR would not be involved in opening and managing camps for IDPs.

Meetings with IDP Families

As the mission was not able to (actually permitted to) visit other IDP locations and houses, meetings with some IDP families were arranged in UNHCR Office in the Al-Obaidy Camp.

One of the families that UNHCR met was a female-headed-household (FHH) with 5 children. Out of 5 children, three of them are with mental disabilities. She is living in her brother's house. Her children, due to their weak medical conditions, are fragile and easily exposed to sickness, thus they are in need of special diet. However, she cannot purchase extra food items. She received one-time food parcels from WFP and two times from the local communities.

Other family that we met was also FHH with six children. She said that she is staying with another two FHHs in a small house (total of 21 persons) and paying 350,000 IQD as rent. As the other FHHs does not have any money, she had to pay the rent. She has an uncle in Al-Obaidy but he is already hosting another relative (9 persons).

The last family (5 persons) that we met is living in an unfinished house outside of Al-Obaidy. They are in need of core relief items as they were not able to bring any belongings with them.

Interview with TV Baghdad

A National TV Channel, TV Baghdad, covered the meeting with the Mayor and other local authorities. Later the undersigned and WFP representative gave a quick interview underlining the inter-agency nature of this needs assessment mission with the purpose of identifying needs and vulnerabilities among the IDP communities. The interview was broadcasted later that night on 21.00 hrs News.

Recommendations – Actions to be taken

- As the violence and security risks are spreading towards those locations considered to be safe, IDPs have been leaving their first displacement locations and moving towards western parts of Anbar Governorate. Therefore, places like Heet, Anaah and Rawa. Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy are rapidly becoming safe havens for IDPs. The numbers of IDP families are increasing rapidly while the local resources are becoming insufficient to respond to their needs.

It has been noticed by this mission that there has been no organized Government assistance to the IDPs in Anbar Governorate. Majority of the humanitarian assistance was initiated by the local councils and host communities within their limited resources and capabilities. While the IDPs outside of Anbar Governorate have started to receive cash assistance from MoDM there is no sign of such initiative inside Anbar. The allocation of 20 billion IQD to the Anbar Governorate has not been translated into concrete interventions yet. The existence of this money is also questionable.

The undersign recommends that UNHCR identify western Anbar as one of the top priority areas and direct most of its focus to the IDP families in Heet, Anaah, Rawa, Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy.

- UNHCR up to date distributed only 35 CRI kits in Al-Obaidy. These 35 CRI kits were provided to those residing in two collective centers. However, due to the limited number of CRI kits at that time, UNHCR was not able to give one full kit to each family but distributed items separately depending on the needs.

In order to have equal and fair assistance delivery, UNHCR should complete the missing Core Relief Items. Thus, UNHCR team in Al-Obaidy Camp will conduct re-assessment of the missing items per family and provide each family with full CRI kit.

- UNHCR needs to extend its humanitarian assistance to those living in private accommodations in Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy towns in order to show our solidarity with the local authorities and host communities. This area has been generously hosting some 5,000 Syrian refugees (1,700pax in the camp and some 3,000 in urban settings). The Mayor of Al-Qaim openly expressed his disappointment that UN agencies were not responsive enough to IDP needs. **UNHCR team will further conduct needs assessment in cooperation with the local authorities; identify IDP families in specific needs, families living in unfinished houses and other forms of collective accommodation. Based on their findings, they will immediately plan CRI kits distribution in Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy towns and surroundings.**
- The Mission met three families in the camp and identified two of them extremely vulnerable. We were also reported that the number of families with specific needs would be high among the IDP community. **It is recommended that UNHCR's cash assistance project considers including Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidy into their priority areas and start assisting some of the most vulnerable families in this area. UNHCR team will**

start identifying families that would benefit from our cash assistance programme and make a list ready to be shared with Protection Unit.

- UNHCR should monitor the management of the two collective centers in Al-Obaidy regularly in order to ensure that Shelter Cluster's SOPs for Collective Centers are being respected and implemented. **UNHCR will conduct further assessment in these collective centers (particularly in vocational school) and will initiate rehabilitation work as described earlier in this report.**

It should be noted that this inter-agency mission was supposed to be between 2 and 4 March. However, due to bad weather conditions the UN helicopter move was cancelled on Tuesday, 4th of March. Moreover, due to busy schedule of the UN helicopter, pick up was not possible on Wednesday 5th of March. Thus the mission was able to return to Baghdad on Thursday the 6th of March.

The undersigned would like to thank the UNHCR Al-Qaim team for the operational support that they provided to this inter-agency mission.

I would like to express my special gratitude to Mahmoud Awad, Nameer Shafeek, Hikmat Mohammed, Natiq Meteab (great chef by the way), Omar Al-Ani, Raad Mohammed and Haitham Nadhem for their warm hospitality and generosity. They have raised the hospitality bar so high that makes it almost impossible to compete with them.

Semih Bulbul
Senior Emergency Coordinator
UNHCR

FOOD SECURITY

Food Security Assessment IDPs in Al Qaim March 2014

SUMMARY

The IDPs in Al Qaim are from the poorer sections of Fallujah and Ramadi populations. They arrived with little assets and are dependent on assistance. All 1566 families are food insecure with about 630 families most vulnerable.

BACKGROUND

The Anbar crisis escalated into armed conflict by the end of December 2013. At the centre of the armed conflict were the two largest cities of Anbar province, Fallujah and Ramadi with an estimated population of 400,000 and 350,000 respectively. Use of firearms and rockets within the city boundaries forced residents of Fallujah and Ramadi to flee their hometowns. By March 2014, about 65,000 families had been displaced, mostly to other cities of Anbar but also as far north as the KRG and as far south as Basrah. There are 1,566 displaced families in Al Qaim (Table 1). The severity of the conflict resulted in the whole province being classified by the UN with the security severity level of “very high” or code Black. This meant severe restrictions on movement of UN staff. Consequently many areas remain inaccessible to the UN for assessments. Programme interventions are implemented through partners, mostly non-governmental agencies.

In order to better understand needs of the IDPs, a joint UN mission consisting of UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF conducted a rapid needs assessment in Al-Qaim district of the Anbar province. This report is a summation of the food security component of this assessment.

Table 1: IDPs in Al Qaim District

City	Number of Families	City	Number of Families
Hussiaba	615	Obaida	603
Karbal	180	Rumanah	97
Total			1,566

Source: UNHCR, 3 Mar 2014

METHODOLOGY

The rapid assessment was conducted on 2-3 March in Al-Qaim, Anbar province. After an introductory meeting with the military commander, the mission visited two community centers housing IDPs. The first was a government building housing 21 IDP families and the second was an abandoned school accommodating 28 IDP families. After a tour of the sites, key informant interviews, group discussions and household interviews were conducted. Due to security restrictions, access to Obaida city was not possible. Therefore, vulnerable households from Obaida were invited to the UNHCR office at the Al Qaim Refugee Camp for detailed interviews. A large meeting was convened which was attended by the Mayor of Al Qaim, members of the local council, community leaders (Sheikh Nadir and Sheikh Ibrahim), implementing partners, local and international NGOs¹, and the three UN agencies. Discussions were also held amongst the UN agencies to agree upon IDP needs, targeting and most appropriate interventions. The interagency mission greatly benefitted from the UNHCR field office and guest house facilities.

DISPLACEMENT

Destination

Anbar population is predominantly Arab Sunni. The displaced families from Fallujah and Ramadi have taken refuge in Arab Sunni cities within Anbar province and in other provinces such as Baghdad in the east, Salahuddin and KRG in the north and Basrah in the south. This diverse dispersal indicates additional factors beyond ethnicity and religious sects for selection of their destinations. Safety, affordability and presence of family/friends have been identified as major reasons behind their decisions. While KRG is considered to be the safest, it is expensive for accommodation and the KRG government regulations are less than encouraging. For example, people from Anbar have to deposit their ID cards at the check points while entering KRG boundaries. They are awarded only two week residence permits that must be renewed by returning to the check point. They are only allowed to stay at hotels and motels. Renting apartments is not allowed. Consequently, only the relatively richer IDPs can afford going to KRG.

IDPs going to other provinces such as Baghdad do so primarily due to presence of family/friends at these destinations. Ironically, Fallujah IDPs moving to Basrah are often families that fled Basrah to Fallujah during the 2006 conflict in the south. While KRG is about 500 Kms from Fallujah, the distance to Basrah is over 1500 Kms with many check points throughout the route making the journey difficult especially for families with small children and elderly. Some families initially shifted to other neighbourhoods within their home city to avoid the conflict. However, by January, it was clear that all of Fallujah and Ramadi neighbourhoods were unsafe.

¹ Islamic Relief, IOM, AFKAR, Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organization

IDPs interviewed during this mission confirmed these considerations and indicated that the IDPs who fled to cities within Anbar had limited choices because of cost and lack of family/friends outside Anbar. In terms of geographic targeting, the IDPs found in KRG would be least vulnerable while those inside Anbar would be most vulnerable. However, such generalization should not rule out the possibility of food insecure and vulnerable IDPs outside Anbar. IDPs living in community centers such as schools, mosques, abandoned buildings and sites under construction are vulnerable and in need of assistance.

The majority of IDPs in Al Qaim are women and children. However, as safety was the main reason for leaving their cities, all family members, including adult males, elderly and disabled fled leaving no one behind. Most families are together and there are few cases of children without parents or female headed households whose male remained in Fallujah or Ramadi to tend to property or businesses.

Triggers

Threat to life from the conflict has triggered the mass movement of Fallujah and Ramadi populations. In addition to the reasons behind the geographic spread, the temporal shift is also important. Early IDPs were those who could afford to leave as the situation worsened. They had time to plan and prepare their departures. Assets were collected and transported. The IDPs arriving later, by end of February, are those who fled as a direct result of firing and shelling reaching their homes. Many left when their own or neighbours' homes were hit by shrapnel or rockets. Some lost family members and carried their injured out of the conflict zone. It is significant to note that recent arrivals have higher prevalence of families with disabilities. This is indicative of the dire state of security where such families resisted leaving their homes to the last possible moment on account of the difficulties in caring and transporting their most needy family members. Community leaders in Al Qaim have been asked to compile lists of vulnerable families. The consequence of this sudden exit was that the families arriving in late February had no time to liquidate assets or to collect valuables. They had to pay high costs for transport to Al Qaim and arrived with little or no cash, highly dependent on assistance.

"We came only with the clothes we wore,"

Mohammad Amin, Fallujah IDP living in Al Qaim, 2 March

FOOD SECURITY

Availability

Anbar IDPs reside in urban settings with free access to functioning markets that offer food and non-food items. The crisis has resulted in an increase of food prices (Table 2). Beef, rice and

vegetable oil prices increased. The highest price rises were recorded for wheat flour and tomato which doubled in a matter of two months. By the end of February, most residents had fled Fallujah and Ramadi with an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the population remaining in the cities. This leads to the conclusion that, in the short term at least, the price rise in response to a large influx of IDPs has already taken place and further escalation, if any, would be of a small proportion. A prolonged crisis spreading over the next planting season would have larger impacts on local food prices. Therefore, retail price monitoring should be continued on a regular basis.

Table 2: Retail Price of Basic Food Commodities in Al Qaim

ITEM	Retail Price (IRD)*		Unit
	Pre-crisis 1 Dec 2013	During crisis 1 Mar 2014	
Beef	12,000	13,500	Kg
Chicken	3,500	3,500	1200 gms
Rice	500	750	Kg
Wheat flour	450	1000	Kg
Potato	1,000	1,500	Kg
Vegetable oil	1,500	1,750	Litre
Tomato	500	1,000	Kg
Milk	3,500	4,000	450 gms

*1200 IRD = 1 US\$

Source: WFP market survey.

Access

The IDPs in Al Qaim arrived with no assets and little cash. Government employees and pensioners have lost access to their incomes. Private sector employees have no incomes. Those who could, sold jewelry to meet their immediate needs. Most have exhausted their resources and are dependent on assistance. An average apartment rents at US\$200 per month. Only the richer families could afford renting. Some IDPs are living with family or friends. They receive assistance from these support groups. However, as the crisis prolongs, this assistance will dwindle. Poorest families have taken shelter in community centers such as abandoned schools, buildings and incomplete construction sites. These are the families that are most vulnerable. It is estimated they are about 40% of the total IDP population in Al Qaim. The most vulnerable IDPs in Al Qaim are 630 families. Electricity is often a borrowed line from the neighbor. They have lost access to their PDS and the MoDM assistance programme has not yet delivered any cash in Al Qaim. Al Qaim has a small economic base with only the phosphate factory as an employer. None of the IDPs have found any work opportunities. Food prices have increased (Table 2) and families are unable to meet basic needs. Government health centers provide free

consultation but medication costs must be borne by the family. This is a major burden on households having members with disability or chronic diseases.

Utilization

Most families are on a basic diet of cereals and lentils. Breakfast is normally tea with sugar and bread. Meat, fruits and milk are unaffordable. Most children are not getting their milk needs. Anbar province is one of the three provinces with highest malnutrition rates in the country (MICS 2011). If the crisis prolongs, there is a possibility of malnutrition especially amongst children. Some families have received cooking stoves and kerosene oil as part of the UNHCR kits. While tap water is available for washing, drinking water must be bought. Many families have to pay between 2 and 4 USD daily for drinking water. Mothers in the abandoned school complained that diarrhea prevalence has increased among children. In several cases there are two and even three families living in a single room with shared toilets and washing facilities. Although there is a tradition for breastfeeding, the diets for pregnant and lactating mothers remain poor affecting their babies. Trauma from the violence has also affected mothers and caregivers. IDP children are facing difficulties in resuming school due to lack of paperwork, middle of session and registration as “observer” students instead of local students with rights to books and examinations.

SUPPORT

Government

The Public Distribution System in Iraq provides each Iraqi family a monthly ration of basic food items. IDPs claimed they received their rations while in Fallujah and Ramadi. Although the distribution cycle was irregular, the PDS remained a major source of food for the poor and vulnerable families. Ever since they arrived in Al Qaim, the families have lost access to their rations. The Mayor of Al Qaim stressed the importance of re-connecting IDPs with their rations to provide vital food supplies. Requests have been sent to the Ministry of Trade and the UN system was requested to advocate the issue with the Baghdad government.

The Ministry of Displacement and Migration announced a cash transfer scheme of about US\$ 17 million for IDPs whereby each family would receive an equivalent of US\$15. However, the Al Qaim IDPs have not received any such assistance and consider cash as an important source of meeting their food, medicine and rental needs. The MoDM representative in Al Qaim confirmed that the transfer of PDS rations to IDPs would require adjustments in the beneficiary registers. This process has not yet been initiated and it could take three months. Therefore, alternative systems of delivery are essential to meet short term needs. The Mayor of Al Qaim stressed urgency in delivering assistance.

“It is time for action,”
General Farhan Al Farhan, Mayor of Al Qaim, 3 March

The local government is coordinating assistance from various sources such as government, UN, NGOs and the private sector. A main demand from the Mayor of Al Qaim was the opening of Camp 2 for IDPs. This camp has remained unused since the Syrian Refugees were shifted from there to the new camp in Obaida.

Private Sector

The mission was informed by community leaders that weekly donations are collected through mosques and distributed among the IDPs. However, as the crisis prolongs, the private sector support is dwindling. The ad hoc and one-off contributions, though highly commendable, may not be relied upon as a sustainable solution to the IDP needs. More formal channels via the government and UN system should be engaged to ensure food and non-food needs are met on a regular basis, especially for the vulnerable families.

World Food Programme

WFP is distributing food parcels containing monthly rations for a family of five. Two distributions of 300 parcels each have been conducted in January and February for IDPs in Obaida and Hussiaba. The food ration consists of basic items (Table 3).

Table 3: WFP Food Parcel Composition

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Wheat flour	25 Kgs	Lentils	4.8 Kgs
Rice	15 Kgs	Pulses	5 Kgs
Vegetable oil	5 Litres	Pasta	2.5 Kgs
Salt	0.75 Kgs	Sugar	5 Kgs

Source: WFP Sub-office Al Qaim

UNHCR provides core-relief-items and UNICEF delivers water and hygiene kits. Details of UN assistance are available in the respective agency reports.

CONCLUSIONS

- IDPs in Al Qaim left in a rush and arrived without assets
- Government employees and pensioners have lost access to their incomes
- There are little job prospects for IDPs
- Access to PDS rations has been severed
- MoDM cash assistance has not been received
- Food prices have increased
- Local support is dwindling and sustainable solutions are required

- Malnutrition is a potential threat in case of a prolonged crisis

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Food parcels should continue for all IDPs, especially those living in community centers until PDS is restored
- Lists of vulnerable families compiled by community leaders should be considered by UN agencies for targeting purposes
- UN advocacy with government in expediting the reinstating of the PDS, government salaries, pensions and the delivery of MoDM cash assistance
- The rapid assessment should be followed by a more detailed assessment of IDPs, host communities and population remaining in Fallujah and Ramadi

Asif Niazi
Programme Adviser



Photo 1: Temporary storage used by IDP family. WFP/Asif Niazi

Photo 2: WFP beneficiary registration. WFP/Asif Niazi

WATER AND SANITATION

Overview:

AL-Qaim located 400 northwest of Baghdad (300 km from Romadi the Provincial capital of Anbar) and situated along the upstream of Euphrates River at the border with Syria.

AL-Qaim population is 170,000
(Center of AL-Qaim Hussiab
59,000, Karabla 50,000, Romana
37,000 and AL-Obaidi 24,000)

AL-Qaim now hosting in addition
to 3920 Syrian refugees (1775 in
Camp and 2145 in host
community), 7,986 Anbar IDPs
(1566 IDPs families as 963 in
Hussaiba, Romana and Karabla and 603 in AL-Obiadi) .



65% of the IDP's have fled from Fallujah and the remaining came from Ramadi.

Survey was made for a sample of 270 Families; the demographic data were as follows:

IDPs Families	IDPs No.	Female	Male	Children U5	Children 6-15
270	1386	680	706	210	301

Inter-agency needs assessment mission (02 – 06 March 2014):

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Mission Objective:

The purpose of this inter-agency mission was to assess the humanitarian situation and needs of IDPs in Al-Qaim and to coordinate with partners and local government to design the response plans.

Current situation:

55% of IDPs in Al-Qaim are currently with their relatives' and friends' which adds extra burdens on the host community. The other 40% IDP's live in rented places and apartments for which they have to pay between 200\$ to 250\$ each month, others families (5%) live in a school and an old hotel in AL-Obaidi and unfinished houses in Al-Qaim. The majority of the IDPs live far from each other which may add extra burdens when any activities are planned and made. Most of the families have fled the conflict without taking the minimum basic needs including the children clothes and medicines and several families' members have some medical conditions including malnutrition among children.

The team has visited five locations; 3 collective centers, rented house and unfinished house:

AL-Obaidi phosphate co. Hotel;

21 families (90 members) are settled each in a room of 3x5 m with bathroom, domestic water is available, while they constrained to buy 20 liters of drinking water daily (1.5 USD), families received UNICEF share of Hygiene kits for adults and babies, some Core relief items by UNHCR and food parcel on Jan 2014 which cover their need for one week only, they also receiving some food items from Mosques and local community.

IDPs stated that they are familiar with the location as they displaced on 2004 and 2005 (Fallujah first and second Wars) to the same hotel.





AL-Obaidi Vocational Training School;

28 families (135 members) are settled, more than a family in each classroom, families received UNICEF share of Hygiene kits for adults and babies, some Core relief items by UNHCR and food parcel on Jan 2014 and some food items from Mosques and local community, female latrines are not sufficient.



Al-Qaim (Hay AL-Tanak) Rented House:

3 families (21 members) are settled , they came just before 10 days , this is the second displacement for them, first from Fallujah to Habbaniyah tourist city and since the tourist city was under sanction, they have constrained to displaced to AL-Qaim, they have a special case , Head of household said that he has granddaughter Diagnosed with thalassemia and need for blood transfusions every ten days and because of Sanction he could not fulfill her need when they were in Habbaniyah , she used to say “ **Baba I feel pain in my heart**”



AL-Obaidi Delivering hall;

5 families (27members) are settling , they feel so pessimistic , we cannot ask children to attend schools they are psychologically collapsed “ their father stated” , Nab’a Ziad 9 years old at third stage, she hope to be teacher, she told us her story and how the shells and rockets thrown from the near mountain “ as she sated” , Basheer Isa 14 years old, got high scores and he hopes to be a doctor, families received UNICEF share of Hygiene kits for adults and babies and some food items from Mosques and local community, children not reached yet with polio vaccination



AL-Obaidi unfinished House;

Two families (10 members, four children U5) are settling, they came before two weeks, they are hosted by relatives, they have received food parcel from the Mosque and Hygiene kits from UNICEF. Children not reached yet with polio vaccination, Prefab Latrine to be installed.



Needs:

1. Water: the following were reported :

- Five Water treatment plants with total capacity of 3200 m³/hour, 25 compact units each of 200 m³/hours in addition to AL-Phosphate WTP (5,000 m³/hr) are feeding Al-Qaim city, sub districts and villages, the main concerns is the lack of chlorine, although UNICEF support MMPW in delivering bleaching powder, they only have stock for one month for the projects and for two weeks for the compact units, they are now in urgent need for additional 5 tons of chlorine.



- For IDPs in two collective centers in AL-Obiadi, they cannot afford paying for drinking water, accordingly two water tanks of 5000 ltrs to be installed and filled with safe water on daily basis.

2. Sanitation: the following were reported :

- The school collective center in AL-Obaidi has no sufficient latrines and showers, additional female latrines to be installed urgently.
- The high density of IDPs in AL-Qaim city added more load on the Municipality, Garbage collection is now top priority as “Al-Qaim Mayer stated”, however, UNICEF through AFKAR started garbage collection (four small trucks each with four laborers from IDPs) on daily basis.

3. Shelters: the following were reported :

- IDPs rented houses are too crowded “AL-Obiadi Head of Relief center stated” he added that more than three families are settling in a house of 140 sqm (only three bedrooms are available). IDPs are on urgent need for Cash assistance to cover the monthly rent.
- Mayer of AL-Qaim still urge UN to open AL-Qaim camp 2 for IDPs who interested to settle there without forcing them” as he stated”

4. Food: the following were reported :

- IDP's who arrived at the beginning of the crisis have received limited food items funded mainly by local community, Head of AL-Qaim Relief center stated that 22 Million IQD was received from Anbar province council with additional 20 Million as donation from private sector with which they distributed food parcel to 1280 families up to date, the parcel includes (25 kg of flour, 4 lit of oil, 5 kg of rice, 5 kg of sugar, 1 kg of tomato paste and 0.5 kg of tea), which cover one week need for a family of 5 members.
- WFP is distributing food parcels containing monthly rations for a family of five. Two distributions of 300 parcels each have been conducted in January and February for IDPs in Obaida and Hussiaba.
- These distributions are very limited and more support is needed to assist those who have just arrived. Even though, the host community is now the main source of support to these IDPs, however Head of relief center stated that private sector donation rate declined from 2 million IQD per week to 380,000 IQD

5. Education : the followings were reported :

- All the interviewed children are willing to attend the schools, However, since they has no prove for their level , DoE ask them to attend schools as observers “ as Parents stated”.
- Mayer of AL-Qaim and Head of Education committee in Al-Qaim local council stated announced that procedures are being processed to include these children in the schooling.

6. Clothes: the following were reported:

- Children came with no sufficient clothes and they left their books in homes.
- ISHO donated 10 Million IQD for cloth distribution.

7. Health :the following were reported :

- IDPs Children in AL-Obaidi colleactive centers were reached with Polio vaccination, however, others in different areas in Al-Qaim and Al-Obaidi need to be approached.
- Several cases of sick children are reported. Health and psychosocial care is required, Mohammed Nouredine 5 months old Breastfed good health , but Complain of runny purulent right ear, In the hospital he was given drugs have nothing to do disease (Zaditin syrup gentamicin cream), his sister Noor Nouredine two years old Complaining of

diarrhea and tenesmus. Shorook and Noor Mustafa Abdel Aziz twins aged 7 days have birthed in Al- Qaim hospital with good health status, however they need for care in the collective center.



8. Interviews : the following were reported :

- Some of interviewed IDPs stated that they were constrained to displace twice, from Fallujah city to outskirts then to Al-Qaim.
- There are still families inside AL-Fallujah (in the center of the city), some of them have no money to displace, and no exact number was reported.
- Most of IDPs seem pessimistic as they think they will stay for a long time and they need to return to their homes.
- Some children talked about daily shelling in Fallujah which also targeted schools as they left the city.
- The main concerns that Mayer and local community asked UN team to advocate with Central government for are :
 - Food/ MoT to reinstate PDS for IDPs in their new location
 - Oil/ for additional share to IDPs and the hosting communities
 - Paying salaries and pensions
 - MoDM/ for Urgent Cash assistance.



Actions taken:



- UNICEF is keep delivering and distributing lifesaving WASH supplies, Hygiene kits for adults and babies, disinfectant, soap, garbage containers & bags and blankets.



- Delivering of chlorine (Bleaching powder to Al-Qaim water compact units was done & Garbage collection started in side AL-Qaim city
- WASH coordination meeting at camp level was conducted on 4 of March 2013 chaired by UNICEF with the attendance UNHCR, DoW, DoH, AFKAR, ISHO and UNICEF WASH & Health facilitators, the main challenges that affected WASH sector nowadays were discussed and action taken.



RECOMMENDATIONS / FOLLOW UP

- Support MMPW in delivering the second shipment of 5 tons of chlorine (bleaching powder) to 25 Water CUs in AL-Qaim sub districts and villages.
- Advocacy for back to school is on top priority, education section in coordination with DoE to find a solution for both improvements of students level and convincing partners with the benefit of asking their children to attend schools.
- Provide psychosocial support to children of IDP
- Enhance the capacity of PHC to approach IDPs in different and remote locations, AFKAR (UNICEF IP) can support for this. Polio vaccination to be extended to cover all IDPs children.
- Keep on delivering WASH Lifesaving supplies.
- Enhance the capacity of UNICEF facilitators in AL-Qaim by provided them with computers, smart phones and printer.
- Enhance the coordination with Al-Qaim local authorities and Relief centers.



Interagency Rapid Assessment

Internally Displaced Persons in Al Qaim

March 2014

