

# IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018

JANUARY 12, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**11**  
**million**

People in Need of  
Humanitarian Assistance  
in Iraq  
UN – January 2017

**3.2**  
**million**

IDP Returns in Iraq  
Since 2014  
UN – December 2017

**2.6**  
**million**

IDPs in Iraq  
UN – December 2017

**807,324**

IDPs in Ninewa  
Governorate  
IOM – December 2017

**262,758**

Iraqi Refugees in  
Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – December 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- IOM reports nearly 460,700 IDP returns in December
- USAID Counselor Thomas Staal visits Iraq to meet with representatives of ethnic and religious minority groups
- Relief organizations distribute more than 487,000 USAID-supported RRM kits in 2017
- Checkpoint closures continue to constrain humanitarian access in northern Iraq

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2017

USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> \$294,238,552

USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> \$68,400,000

State/PRM<sup>3</sup> \$238,748,201

**\$601,386,753**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- More than 460,700 displaced Iraqis returned to areas of origin and other locations in December, according to U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). More than 3.2 million returns have occurred since 2014, while approximately 2.6 million Iraqis remain displaced, IOM reports. Relief actors have expressed concern regarding the accelerated rate of returns, given the lack of a formal returns strategy and assistance package, as well as the likelihood of involuntary returns. State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that forced returns affected more than 1,300 households in Anbar, Baghdad, and Salah al-Din governorates in November and December.
- In early December, USAID Counselor Thomas H. Staal visited Iraq to meet with representatives of ethnic and religious minority groups. During the visit, Counselor Staal highlighted USG development assistance to persecuted Iraqi minorities and humanitarian responsiveness to the needs of conflict-affected populations, particularly in Ninewa Governorate.
- Relief organizations provided nearly 10,700 USAID-supported Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits—including food, hygiene items, and safe drinking water—to populations across Anbar, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates in December. In total, humanitarian organizations provided approximately 487,200 USAID-supported RRM kits to conflict-affected households in Iraq in 2017.

<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)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- From December 5–10, USAID Counselor Thomas H. Staal visited Iraq to meet with representatives of ethnic and religious minority groups, while highlighting USG assistance to vulnerable and persecuted Iraqis, particularly in the Ninewa Plains. With a delegation including U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Joseph Hood, Erbil Consul-General Kenneth Gross, and a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) representative, Counselor Staal attended the rededication of St. Gerwargis Church in Ninewa’s Telesqof town, which was looted and burned when the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) seized control of the town in 2014. Counselor Staal also met with Yezidi spiritual leaders and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ninewa’s Sheikhan town and key community and religious leaders in the city of Erbil, including the archbishops of the Syriac Orthodox, Syriac Catholic, Assyrian, and Chaldean Catholic denominations, as well as 13 USG-supported non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Ethnic and minority group representatives reported needs for education, health care, safe drinking water, and shelter in the Ninewa Plains, noting that insecurity was the primary obstacle for IDP returns to these areas.
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## INSECURITY, HUMANITARIAN ACCESS, AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- Tensions and checkpoint closures following the September 25 Kurdistan independence referendum continue to constrain humanitarian access in northern Iraq, particularly in Kirkuk and Ninewa, the UN reports. Closed checkpoints in Erbil, northern Kirkuk, and northern Ninewa are impeding service delivery to conflict-affected populations in the three governorates, according to the UN. Despite the checkpoint closures, relief actors, including USG partners, continue to provide life-saving assistance in affected areas of northern Iraq and are exploring alternate routes to access vulnerable populations as needed.
  - As of January 9, approximately 147,400 people remained displaced across Baghdad, Basrah, Dohuk, Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Sulaimaniyah governorates as a result of post-referendum military operations that commenced on October 15, according to IOM.
  - On December 18 and 19, protests and ensuing clashes with security forces in Sulaimaniyah resulted in at least six civilian deaths and approximately 200 injuries, according to international media. The protests stemmed from tensions following the referendum, as well as frustration due to delayed salary payments for workers and local authorities’ failure to provide basic services, international media report. On December 20, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) released a statement expressing concern about the clashes and calling for all parties to exercise restraint and avoid acts of violence.
  - More than 460,700 Iraqis returned to areas of origin and other locations in December, the highest number of IDP returns recorded since 2014; however, IOM notes that the significant increase recorded in December is largely due to a joint IOM-GoI mapping exercise in western Mosul conducted in November. Since 2014, more than 3.2 million IDPs have returned to places of origin, while approximately 2.6 million Iraqis remain displaced countrywide. Humanitarian actors have expressed concern regarding the accelerated pace of returns in recent months given the lack of a formal returns strategy and assistance package, as well as reports of forced and involuntary returns; UNHCR reports that forced returns affected more than 1,300 households in Anbar, Baghdad, Salah al-Din in November and December. According to UNHCR, premature returns present security risks, including lack of access to shelter and basic services, death or injury from explosive hazard contamination, and tribal conflicts. UNHCR received reports of at least 12 civilian casualties due to explosive hazards in primary areas of return for IDPs evicted from the Shaqlawa complex in Salah al-Din’s Tikrit District from December 8–24. The USG, in coordination with the humanitarian community, continues to advocate for safe, voluntary, and dignified returns.
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## HEALTH, SHELTER, AND WASH

- From November 19–21, a USAID/OFDA partner conducted a humanitarian needs assessment in western Anbar’s Al-Qaim District, surveying nearly 20 key informants and visiting several sites, including health facilities and water stations.

Government of Iraq (GoI)-led military operations to retake Al-Qaim damaged key buildings and infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, residential structures, roads, and water networks; in addition, many IDPs have been unable to return to Al-Qaim since the conclusion of major military operations due to ongoing mine clearance operations led by Iraqi Security Forces, the NGO reports.

- A USAID/OFDA partner reached an estimated 334,000 people across Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Ninewa with critical water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance—including hygiene promotion campaigns, rehabilitation of sanitation and water supply infrastructure, and hygiene kit distributions—between July and November 2017. The partner organization also provided shelter assistance—including sealing-off kits and shelter upgrades—to approximately 55,900 people in the six governorates during the same period.
- Humanitarian organizations conducted approximately 5.7 million health consultations from January to November 2017, reaching 92 percent of the 6.2 million people targeted for emergency health assistance in the 2017 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan. Health actors—including USAID/OFDA partners—supported nearly 270 health facilities with health supplies, including for reproductive health and trauma care, enabling the treatment of more than 21,700 patients between January and November, according to USAID/OFDA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, mobile medical teams conducted approximately 198,400 health sessions, benefiting nearly 1.2 million people, and immunized more than 1.6 million children against life-threatening diseases in 2017. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$80 million to support emergency health care interventions for conflict-affected and displaced communities across Iraq.

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## PROTECTION

- On December 4, the University of Kurdistan Hewler in Erbil city hosted a panel event with humanitarian organizations as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign. Relief agency representatives shared insights on widespread protection issues in Iraq, including early marriage, incidents of GBV, and gaps in psychosocial and mental health services. An estimated 8.7 million people countrywide required protection assistance in 2017, according to the UN. During the event, partners outlined humanitarian response interventions to address protection challenges, such as USG partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)-supported trainings for service providers to increase GBV survivors’ access to age-appropriate and survivor-centered assistance.
- During the event, a representative from the U.S. Consulate General in Erbil gave remarks on the USG’s ongoing commitment to ensuring the protection of civilians affected by previous ISIS occupation and GoI-led military operations. In FY 2017, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$43.2 million in assistance to support critical protection activities across Iraq. In addition, State/PRM is funding relief agencies to implement programs containing elements of protection for displaced and conflict-affected Iraqis in the region.
- A State/PRM partner successfully enrolled nearly 600 girls in education through the use of 24 trained mediators from September 2016 to September 2017. The program helped increase overall enrollment in formal education by 13 percent in the project sites in Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din and provided psychosocial assistance to nearly 4,900 children and adolescents. The program also supported the formation of local groups comprising host, IDP, and returnee community members, as well as local council representatives, NGO staff, and GoI Ministry of Education supervisors—to identify ways to improve youth access to education. The local groups implemented 16 projects benefiting more than 43,600 people and identified and resolved 24 education challenges, including the rearrangement of school districts, opening of new schools, and improvement of teacher training.

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## RELIEF COMMODITIES AND WINTERIZATION ASSISTANCE

- A USAID/OFDA partner distributed winter kits—including blankets, plastic sheeting, solar lights, and other items—to approximately 5,500 IDP households—an estimated 33,000 people—in Anbar and Ninewa in December, while another USAID/OFDA partner distributed winter assistance—including relief items and cash-based assistance in areas where

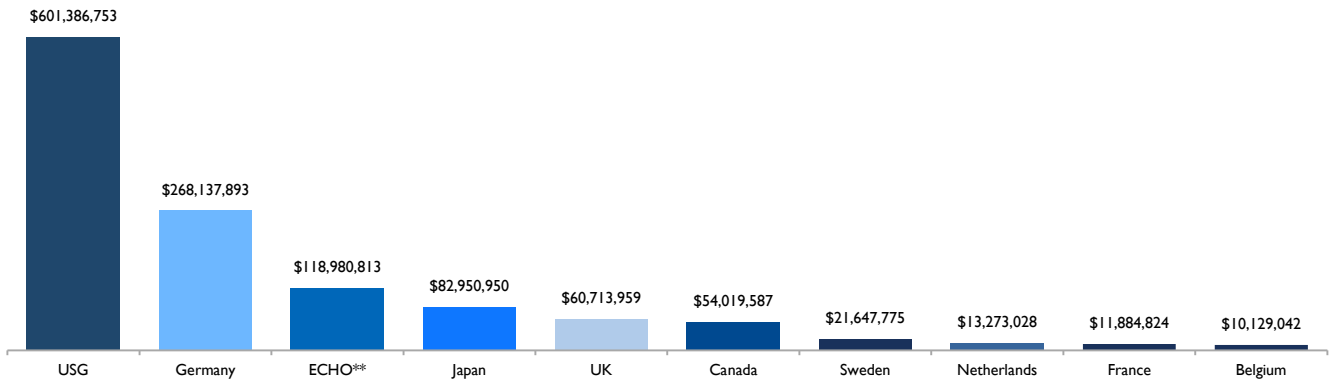
markets are functioning—to approximately 25,000 IDPs and host community members in Anbar, Dohuk, Kirkuk, and Ninewa. Cumulatively, the two partners are targeting more than 90,000 people with winter assistance.

- Relief organizations provided nearly 10,700 USAID-supported RRM kits—including food, hygiene items, and safe drinking water—sufficient to support approximately 44,600 people across Anbar, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din in December. The majority, 57 percent, of the distributions occurred in Ninewa. In total, humanitarian organizations provided approximately 487,200 USAID-supported RRM kits to conflict-affected households in Iraq in 2017.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- From December 19–20, the Government of Germany (GoG) announced €11.4 million—or \$13.5 million—in new contributions to IOM and the UN World Food Program (WFP). The new funding will provide cash-based emergency food assistance, as well as health, protection, shelter, and winterization support, to vulnerable IDPs. In addition, the GoG is increasing its support for winterization activities in Iraq through an additional €38.5 million—approximately \$46 million—contribution to UNHCR, the UN agency announced on December 27. With the new funding, UNHCR aims to reach 673,000 IDPs in Anbar, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Sulaimaniyah with essential winter supplies, including high thermal blankets, heaters, stoves, plastic sheeting, and containers for water and fuel. UNHCR also plans to provide cash assistance and conduct protection interventions with the additional support, which included State/PRM funding. As of November 30, UNHCR had provided 258,800 IDPs and 94,000 Syrian refugees with winter assistance in camps and urban areas through cash assistance and distribution of seasonally appropriate relief items.

## 2017 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of January 12, 2018. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2017 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect USG commitments from FY 2017, which began on October 1, 2016. Non-USG funding figures do not necessarily reflect pledges announced during the Iraq donor conference on July 13, 2017.

\*\*ECHO

## CONTEXT

- The situation within Iraq remained relatively stable until January 2014, when ISIS forces began seizing control of parts of northern and central Iraq. Significant population displacement ensued as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, such as the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape fighting.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a DART to help coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout Iraq. DART and State/PRM staff in Iraq work closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations. To support the DART, USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C.
- The UN estimates that 11 million people in Iraq required humanitarian assistance in 2017. Prolonged displacement is exhausting the resources of IDPs and host community members alike at a time when serious budgetary shortfalls due to low global oil prices are limiting the capacity of both the GoI and Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief actors face funding shortages, logistical challenges, and security constraints that complicate efforts to meet critical needs.
- In August 2014, the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) activated a system-wide Level 3 (L3) response for Iraq due to the pace and volatility of the humanitarian crisis. L3 responses are activated in the most complex humanitarian emergencies, where the highest level of mobilization across the humanitarian system is required to scale up and meet needs. In late December 2017, the IASC deactivated the L3 response, signaling the beginning of a scale-down process for humanitarian operations.
- On October 7, 2017, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Douglas A. Silliman re-declared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2018 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2017<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
NGO Partners	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$166,592,682
IOM	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$29,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Natural and Technological Risks	Countrywide	\$2,975,185
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniyah	\$36,002,000
UNICEF	Logistic Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,934,400
WHO	Health	Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$50,070,508
	Program Support Costs		\$2,663,777
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$294,238,552</b>

USAID/FFP <sup>3</sup>			
Implementing Partner	Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$3,400,000
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$65,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$68,400,000</b>

STATE/PRM <sup>4</sup>			
NGO Partners	Education, Livelihoods, Protection	Iraq, Jordan, Syria	\$35,398,201
Implementing Partner	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$36,300,000
International Labor Organization (ILO)	Livelihoods	Turkey	\$1,000,000
IOM	Displacement Tracking Matrix, Livelihoods and Social Cohesion	Countrywide	\$20,750,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector	Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$137,900,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$6,400,000
UN Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)	Shelter	Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$238,748,201</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2017</b>			<b>\$601,386,753</b>

#### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2017

<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$544,182,255</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>	<b>\$182,043,516</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$915,051,283</b>
<b>TOTAL DOD FUNDING</b>	<b>\$77,357,233</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2014–2017</b>	<b>\$1,718,634,287</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/FFP funding supports humanitarian programming benefiting IDPs and other conflict-affected Iraqis; figures do not include USAID/FFP funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

<sup>4</sup> State/PRM funding supports humanitarian programming inside Iraq and for refugee populations who fled Iraq for neighboring countries; figures do not include funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

## 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:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - 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>