

HIGHLIGHTS

- OCHA Co-Chairs events on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and international humanitarian law at UN General Assembly.
- Humanitarians seek to plug gaps in emergency food assistance to IDPs
- IOM Index provides insight into return areas most in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Humanitarian community begins preparations for 2019 Humanitarian Programme Cycle.
- Iraq Humanitarian Fund support WHO and UNICEF in nationwide measles vaccination campaign.

FIGURES

# of people in need	8.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	3.4m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	2.0m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	1.3m
# Highly vulnerable people in host communities	3.8m
# of returnees of 2018	0.9m
# of Syrian refugees	0.25m

Source: 2018 Iraq HRP, IOM DTM

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

569 million

requested for 2018 (US\$)

\$341 million

(60 per cent)

funding received

(FTS as of 23 Sep 2018)



Credit: OCHA/Vidic

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OCHA-led High Level Events at UNGA73

The 73rd session of the UN General Assembly opened on 18 September 2018. In its margins, OCHA organized a number of high level side events on issues of priority to the humanitarian community. Two events of particular significance to the Iraq context were “Safe and Respected: Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment in the Humanitarian Sector” and “Civilians Under Fire: Humanitarian Protection and Respect for International Humanitarian Law.”



Civilians under fire: humanitarian protection and respect for International Humanitarian Law Credit: UNOCHA/ Palmero

Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse is critical to the accountable delivery of aid to people in need, but also to the integrity of humanitarian organizations and workers, and the safeguarding of humanitarian principles. The high-level event on PSEA, co-chaired by OCHA and the United Kingdom, provided an overview of the progress across the system on commitments made by IASC Principals, and established areas in which further action is required. The gender-balanced panel highlighted achievements by humanitarian partners around the following priorities:

1. Ensuring a victim-centered approach to addressing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment and abuse (SHA);
2. Promoting positive change in organizational culture through strategic communications and role modeling;
3. Improving referencing systems to stop transgressors from moving through the humanitarian sector;
4. Strengthening sector-wide investigations capacity; and
5. Supporting collective activities of in-country networks to SEA and SHA.

The High-Level event on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), co-chaired by OCHA, the European Union and Belgium, emphasized that “even wars have limits,” and drew attention to the human cost of armed conflicts and the consequences of IHL violations on civilians, with a focus on humanitarian action, medical care, and education. Panellists advocated for all parties engaged in conflict to comply with IHL and the imperative for humanitarian protection. Such messaging followed on from the 2018 World Humanitarian Day theme of

#NotATarget, which urged global leaders to do a better job of protecting civilians and aid workers in armed conflict.

Pipeline Break in Assistance to IDP Camps

In August 2018, the World Food Programme (WFP) and Food Security Cluster informed humanitarian partners that there would be a pipeline break for emergency food assistance to IDP camps in Iraq. Several factors led to the financial and logistical constraints that WFP was experiencing, including:

- Assumptions for 2018 that most IDPs would have returned to their place of origin by December 2018, and budgets predicated on this;
- Returnee process did not follow the projected rate, and WFP had to manage a budget shortfall; and
- Pledged amounts from donors were used in budget construction, but not all pledges resulted in actual contributions.

In order to cover projected shortfalls, WFP has actively sought financial commitments from donors, and assistance from humanitarian partners and the Government of Iraq. Beneficiaries received a distribution in September that was meant to last for two months; alternatives supplies had been secured for November and December, although gaps in some locations remained. The humanitarian community remains focused on working to ensure IDPs needs were met going forward.

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WFP food distributes in Debaga IDP camp. Credit: UNHCR/ Prickett

IOM Publishes its first Return Index

In September 2018, IOM published the findings from its first Return Index, a tool developed to measure the severity of conditions in 1,400+ return locations across Iraq. As the return of IDPs is a significant step toward durable solutions in the aftermath of the conflict, the

index can be used to shape strategies for intervention and resource allocation, measuring how return conditions change over time, and why certain locations have limited returns.



Ali in West Mosul was trapped in rubble under his house when it collapsed during the conflict. He poses for a photo after his return in June 2018. Credit: IOM/Sarah Ali Abed

It correlates all available data on returnee population figures with indicators on 1) livelihoods and basic services, and 2) social cohesion and safety perceptions, to create a score that measures the severity of conditions or quality of return in a certain location.

Of the 651,255 families that have returned, the severity analysis is as follows: 7,833 (very high), 65,906 (high), 301,476 (medium) and 266,040 (low). The geographical clustering of the very high

severity hotspots is concentrated within five northern governorates – Ninewa, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar.

Future iterations of the index will include focusing on temporal analysis in order to monitor living conditions across time, expanding and improving the depth and breadth of current indicators, and mapping partners operating in certain locations. New analysis will focus on the evolution of hotspots of severity and emergence of new geographical areas of concern related to returns.

HNO 2019 Preparations

In preparation for the 2019 Humanitarian Programming Cycle, OCHA organized a series of workshops and presentations for ICCG and HCT members outlining the data and analysis which would underpin the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019.

Despite the overall scale of return (4 million IDPs as of September 2018), return rates appear to be levelling out: nearly half of all returns took place in 2017; just 18 per cent of IDPs have returned in 2018. More than 1.9 million IDPs remain displaced, of which over half have been displaced for more than three years. A significant majority of IDPs (71 per cent) reside outside of camps, mostly within the Kurdistan Region and Ninewa. While humanitarians are able to reach approximately 94 per cent of in-camp IDPs, they are reaching only 10 per cent of people outside of camp settings.



OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit monitoring mission to Qayyarah. Credit: UNOCHA/IHF

Of the approximately 1.9 million who remain displaced from their area of origin, 65 per cent of those based both in IDP camps and in out-of-camp settings state that they have no intention to return to their areas of origin in the next 12 months.

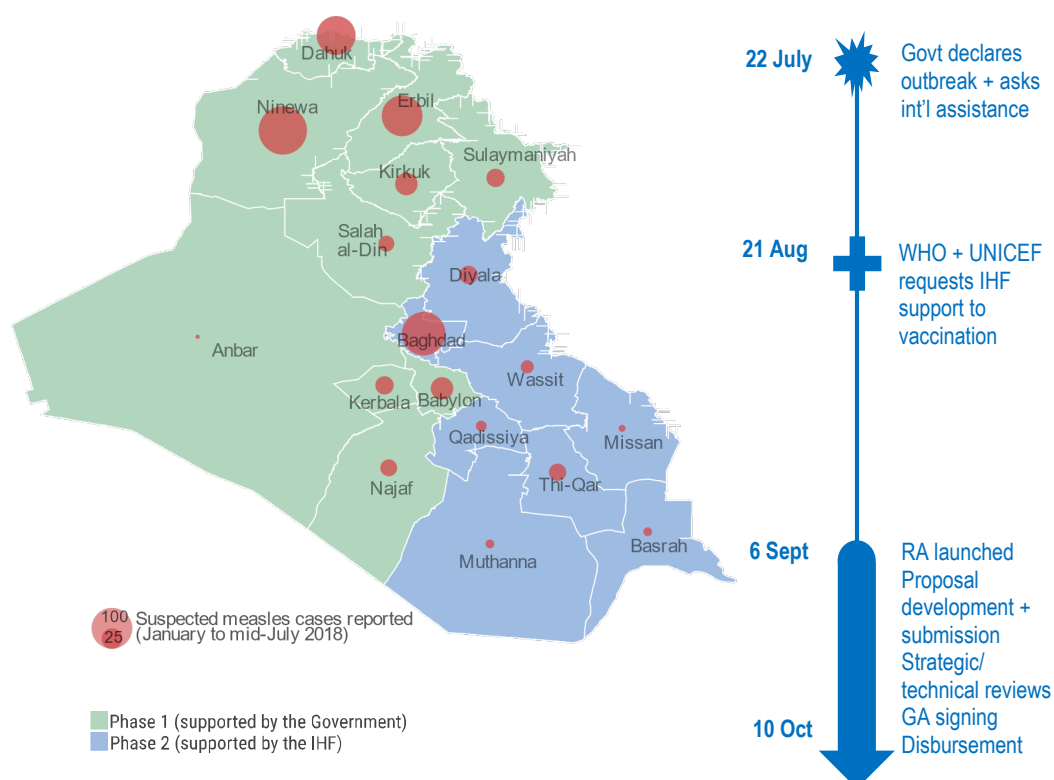
Of the approximately 1.9 million who remain displaced from their area of origin, 65 per cent of those based both in IDP camps and in out-of-camp settings state that they have no intention to return to their areas of origin in the next 12 months. A reported 12 per cent of all IDPs have expressed a desire to locally integrate into their place of displacement, especially if there are family connections or wider availability of jobs and services. Willingness to return appears to depend to some extent on areas of origin. IDPs from Sinjar (home of the Yazidi community) are particularly unwilling to return.

In surveys of affected populations, the humanitarian needs cited most often seem to emerge from lack of livelihoods and revolve around shelter, non-food items, safety and security, health, food and education. Such findings will inform the Humanitarian Programming Cycle going forward.

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IHF First Reserve Allocation

In response to an outbreak of measles declared by the Ministry of Health, the Humanitarian Coordinator launched an emergency reserve allocation to support a nation-wide campaign to vaccinate 5 million children under five years old. The allocation funded two projects of WHO and UNICEF with a total of \$2.6 million (\$2.22 million for WHO and \$350,000 for UNICEF). This allocation is supporting training of vaccinators, transportation and distribution of the vaccines and post-campaign monitoring, as well as social mobilization activities to ensure effective community engagement and accountability to affected population.



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