

IRAQ | UNHCR CIVIL DOCUMENTATION FOR IDPS

IN BRIEF

According to the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment conducted from June to August 2019, 500,000 households reported missing at least one form of civil documentation, with female headed households particularly affected by missing documentation. Due to the lack of civil documentation, many IDPs and returnees are unable to access basic services such as education and health care, experience restrictions on their freedom of movement, are exposed to increased risk of arrest and detention, and may be excluded from recovery and reconstruction programmes. Furthermore, lack of civil documentation may increase the risk of statelessness for undocumented children. IDPs and returnees cite various challenges in obtaining civil documentation, such as the high transportation cost to access government offices in their places of origin, lengthy processing times, and difficulties in obtaining security clearance to travel and to obtain documentation.

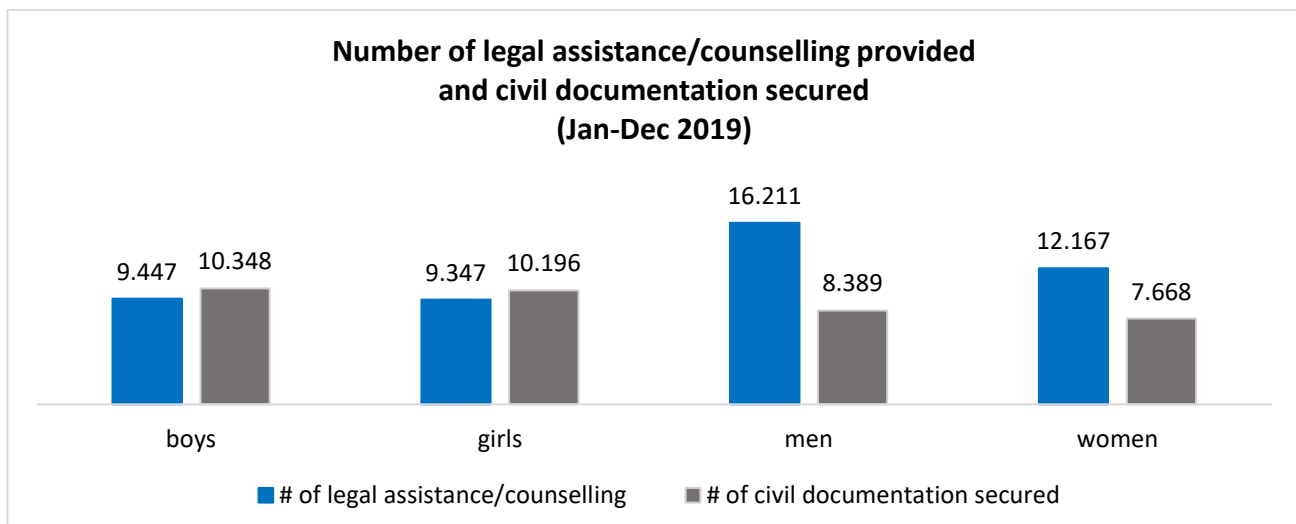


People queuing to apply for civil IDs in Dohuk @ UNHCR

Given the grave consequences and challenges faced by IDPs and returnees, UNHCR, in cooperation with government and civil society partners, has implemented and supported a number of projects to enable IDPs and returnees to access civil documentation.

UPDATES ON LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Lack of knowledge of the legal requirements and procedures to obtain/renew civil documentation is often a barrier for IDPs and returnees to access documentation. Moreover, complex court procedures as well as *de facto* requirements such as obtaining security clearance from government authorities are also cited as barriers to documentation. As such, UNHCR has mobilized legal assistance partners so that IDPs and returnees have access to accurate information and quality legal advice and representation. From January to December 2019, UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and/or counselling to 47,172 individuals, of which 36,601 individuals successfully secured civil documentation.



UPDATES ON THE MOBILE CIVIL DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

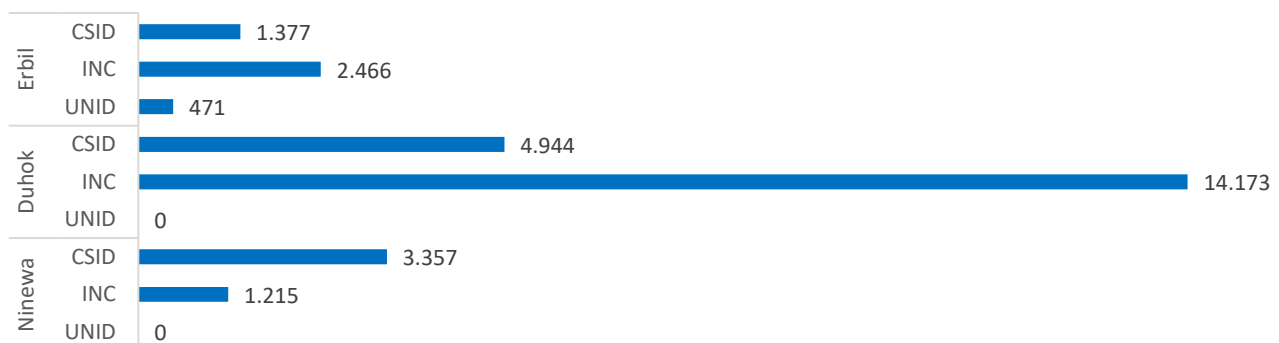
Since April 2019, UNHCR has collaborated with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of the Government of Iraq to implement mobile missions to dispatch government officials to issue civil documentation to IDPs in camps and out-of-camp locations.

By December 2019, with the collaboration of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), MoI has launched missions to issue Civil Status IDs (CSIDs), Iraqi Nationality Certificates (INCs) and Unified National IDs (UNIDs) to IDPs in fifteen camps across Erbil, Duhok, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah and Kirkuk Governorates. On 11 December, Ninewa Civil Affairs Directorate (CAD) dispatched a mobile team to Salamiyah camp to begin issuing documents to camp residents. On the first day, the CAD team collected applications for documents and returned to the camp to issue a total of 101 CSIDs. The CAD team is expected to visit the camp two days a week until all IDPs obtain CSIDs and INCs. In Duhok, MoI issued 1,141 CSIDs and 2,887 INCs to IDPs in Bersive 2 camp in December. As of the end of December, MoI has issued a total of 9,678 CSIDs, 17,854 INCs and 471 UNIDs to IDPs across the three governorates.



Distribution of civil documents in Salamiyah camp in Ninewa Governorate@ UNHCR

Throughout the missions, UNHCR and partners provided material and technical support to MoI by preparing applications, establishing registration centres, and providing necessary equipment such as computers, printers and office supplies. UNHCR and partners will continue to work with MoI to expand the missions to different governorates to facilitate IDPs' access to civil documentation.

**# of Civil Documentation Issued through Mobile Projects
(Apr-Dec 2019)**

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR DONORS

Special thanks to major donors of un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds as well as donors who have contributed directly to the Iraq operation in 2019 (as of 31 December)

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