

Iraq – Complex Emergency

MAY 24, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

2.5 MILLION	961,000	1.2 MILLION	180,375	258,965
Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	Number of People in Acute Need	Number of IDPs	Number of IDPs in Camps	Number of Syrian Refugees in Iraq
<i>UN – March 2022</i>	<i>UN – March 2022</i>	<i>IOM – March 2022</i>	<i>CCCM – April 2022</i>	<i>UNHCR – April 2022</i>

- Approximately 2.5 million individuals across Iraq are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the HNO.
- Escalated insecurity in Ninewa’s Sinjar District displaced approximately 1,700 households in May.
- The Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine and related impacts of global markets has exacerbated food insecurity in Iraq, WFP reports.
- USAID/BHA partner WFP provided cash and food assistance to more than 710,000 individuals in March.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Iraq Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$34,046,729
	State/PRM ²	\$23,500,000
	Total	\$57,546,729

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2022 HRP Aims to Reach Nearly 1 Million IDPs, Returnees With Assistance

Approximately 2.5 million people across Iraq are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the UN's Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), released in March. This figure represents a 39 percent decrease from the 4.1 million people in need identified in the 2021 HNO. The 2022 total of individuals requiring humanitarian assistance includes approximately 1.7 million returnees; 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sheltering in camps; and 550,000 IDPs living outside of camps.

In response to continued needs, the UN's 2022 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requests approximately \$400 million to reach nearly 1 million people—including 180,000 IDPs in camps, 234,000 IDPs outside of camps, and 577,000 returnees—with multi-sector assistance during the year. The HRP prioritizes assistance for IDPs and returnees identified to be in extreme and catastrophic levels of acute humanitarian need—the second-highest and highest levels, respectively, on the standardized five-level Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework scale—and who live in critical shelter conditions; lack civil documentation; face acute protection risks; and are unable to meet their basic needs or access essential emergency services. The HRP also outlines the transition of service provision in camps from relief actors to development and Government of Iraq (GoI) authorities during 2022 to facilitate a transition to longer-term, durable interventions, while ensuring that humanitarian services continue to meet urgent needs.

Clashes in Sinjar Displace More Than 1,700 Households in May

Clashes between GoI security forces and the Kurdistan Workers Party-affiliated Sinjar Resistance Unit in Ninewa Governorate's Sinjar District displaced more than 1,700 households—or approximately 10,200 individuals—primarily to neighboring Dohuk Governorate in early May according to local media. Recently displaced IDPs in Dohuk are sheltering in formal camps as well as out-of-camp locations. The GoI and Kurdistan Regional Government are leading the effort to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced households from Sinjar in coordination with relief actors—including U.S. Government (USG) partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN World Food Program (WFP), and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). USG partners are distributing food rations and other emergency relief commodities to meet IDPs' short-term and immediate needs. As of May 10, approximately 300 displaced households had returned to Sinjar, following the implementation of a temporary ceasefire in early May and subsequent stabilization of security conditions, relief actors report. IOM continues to conduct assessments of IDP returns to Sinjar to inform humanitarian response efforts, with indications that returns are ongoing as security conditions continue to stabilize.

War in Ukraine Exacerbates Food Insecurity in Iraq

Supply chain disruptions resulting from the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) invasion of Ukraine are exacerbating food insecurity in Iraq, where an estimated 730,000 IDPs and returnees are in need of humanitarian food assistance, WFP reports. The Russian Federation and Ukraine are key suppliers of agricultural inputs, energy resources, and food commodities: prior to the February 24 GoRF invasion of Ukraine, wheat exports from the two countries accounted for nearly one-third of the global wheat supply, according to the UN agency.

Conflict-related disruptions have generated significant price increases in Iraq, an import-reliant country, reducing household purchasing power and exacerbating food insecurity. During the first two weeks of March, average vegetable oil prices increased by 16 percent, while average wheat prices increased 9 percent. Overall, vegetable oil and wheat flour prices in Iraq were 114 percent and 47 percent higher,

respectively, in March 2022 compared with prices in November 2020. Increasing prices have diminished purchasing power in Iraq. In March 2022, an unskilled daily laborer's wage was able to purchase approximately 40 pounds of wheat flour, down from 68 pounds in 2020, according to WFP.

In response to rising food insecurity in Iraq, WFP provided cash and food assistance to more than 710,000 individuals in March—including more than 182,000 IDPs, approximately 68,400 refugees, more than 8,100 people from vulnerable communities, and nearly 452,000 children reached through the agency's school feeding program—with USAID/BHA and other donor support. WFP also temporarily increased the value of its cash transfer to IDPs sheltering in Ninewa Governorate's Jed'dah 5 IDP camp to mitigate the effects of inflation.

Number of Quarterly Returnees Decreases in 2022, Majority of IDPs in Informal Settlements Intend to Remain

Nearly 5 million Iraqis—the majority of the 6.1 million individuals displaced since 2014—have returned to eight governorates across the country since 2015, including approximately 7,400 new returnees between January 1 and March 31, based on assessments conducted by IOM through its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), supported by State/PRM. The 7,400 returnees identified during the period represent a significant decrease compared to the approximately 13,200 returnees during the previous October–December 2021 period, and the lowest number of returns IOM has recorded since it began tracking population movement in Iraq in April 2015.

The DTM reports nearly 1.2 million IDPs remain displaced across 18 governorates as of March 31, 2022, including an estimated 103,000 IDPs sheltering in informal settlements. Notably, the majority of IDPs in informal settlements—75 percent—intend to remain in informal settlement locations through late 2022 and early 2023, while the minority—14 percent—intend to return to their areas of origin, according to an assessment conducted by international non-governmental organization (NGO) REACH and the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster from December 2021 to February 2022.² IDPs who cited an intent to return to their areas of origin identified the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes as a priority need. Approximately 77 percent of those sheltering in informal sites reported housing in areas of origin as either completely destroyed or heavily damaged. Meanwhile, IDPs who expressed an intent to remain in informal settlement areas cited functioning basic services and livelihoods or income generating opportunities as the key needs for remaining. Overall, 90 percent of IDP respondents reported enjoying freedom of movement, while 7 percent reported being unable to freely move due to insufficient financial resources and safety and security concerns.

State/PRM Partner UNHCR Supports the Issuance of Critical Civil Documentation

Bureaucratic and administrative hurdles, legal and economic barriers, and lack of community awareness have hindered many vulnerable populations in Iraq from obtaining civil identification documentation, according to UNHCR and REACH. A lack of formal identification has impeded IDPs, returnees, and other populations in need from accessing public services, such as education and health care, and hindered individuals' freedom of movement, constituting a major barrier to safe returns to IDPs' areas of origin. As a result, an estimated 1 million IDPs and returnees in Iraq were missing at least one key identity or civil document in October 2021.

In response, State/PRM partner UNHCR is working with IDPs and returnees to facilitate the issuance of

² The coordinating body for humanitarian CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

critical documentation. In coordination with the GoI and civil society partners, UNHCR is coordinating mobile missions to help individuals prepare documents in various locations across Iraq. The UN agency is also disseminating information regarding paths to access civil documentation and providing IDPs and returnees with legal assistance among other efforts. In 2021, UNHCR provided legal assistance to more than 50,600 Iraq individuals and supported the issuance of approximately 46,500 critical civil and identification documents.

KEY FIGURES



6

Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH assistance



132,500

Number of health consultations provided at IOM supported facilities from October 2021 to March 2022



46,500

Critical civil documents issued with support from State/PRM partner UNHCR in 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

WASH

With USAID/BHA and State/PRM support, IOM, UNHCR, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and NGO implementing partners are providing essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USAID/BHA partners are providing safe drinking water, including trucking water where necessary; supporting operations and maintenance for WASH infrastructure in IDP camps; rehabilitating WASH infrastructure outside camps; and promoting sanitary living conditions that protect communities, promote dignity, and limit the spread of communicable diseases. In addition, USG partners are responding to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by conducting hygiene awareness campaigns and distributing hygiene kits to vulnerable populations. Partners have also installed handwashing stations in informal settlements, camps, and public areas in out-of-camp locations and rehabilitated WASH facilities in primary health care centers across eight Iraqi governorates.

HEALTH

With USG support, NGOs and UN partners—including IOM, UNHCR, and WHO—continue to provide primary health care services for IDPs across conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USG implementing partners are improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services, including mental health care services, through the provision of staff capacity-building exercises, staff salaries, and medical supplies and equipment. In addition, USG partners are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by training medical professionals on screening, identification, triage, and treatment of suspected cases; strengthening disease surveillance systems; implementing risk communication and community engagement activities; and providing critical medicines, medical equipment, and other supplies. State/PRM NGO partners also provided quality integrated health, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services to underserved Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs, and vulnerable members of host communities in Dohuk and Erbil governorates.

PROTECTION

Addressing protection concerns remains a top priority for the humanitarian response in Iraq, with USG partners supporting a range of critical protection initiatives for IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and host communities. With funding to IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners, State/PRM promotes durable

solutions for displaced populations in Iraq by facilitating sustainable integration and helping provide accurate information on security conditions and livelihood opportunities in host communities and areas of origin, and providing legal assistance, civil documentation, and awareness-raising support to remove legal barriers to durable solutions for displaced individuals. State/PRM NGO partners also support GBV prevention and response programs, including through group psychosocial support sessions and support for women and girl safe spaces. In addition, USAID/BHA supports IOM, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and five NGO partners to provide protection services including case management support, GBV prevention and response services, increased access to MHPSS services, legal assistance for civil documentation, and mine risk education.



3

Number of USG implementing partners providing shelter and settlements services

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USG funding supports IOM, UNHCR, and an NGO partner to provide critical shelter services for displaced Iraqis, primarily in conflict-affected areas. USG partners are distributing shelter kits and other relief commodities, as well as providing coordination and management services at camps and informal settlements. Partner organizations are also supporting the rehabilitation of conflict-damaged houses, upgrading unfinished or abandoned buildings, and improving camp and informal settlement infrastructure to provide safe and dignified living conditions that align with humanitarian standards. Additionally, State/PRM NGO partners use shelter upgrades and improvement projects to help increase accessibility for displaced persons in displacement camps in northern Iraq.



710,500

Individuals received food assistance from WFP through USAID/BHA and other donor funding in March

FOOD SECURITY

Through WFP, USAID/BHA continues to deliver emergency food assistance in the form of cash transfers to populations in need in Iraq, providing critical assistance to the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees living in camp settings while also supporting local markets. With USAID/BHA funding, WFP also continues to support the Gol’s efforts to modernize its social safety net programs and capacity building to improve the planning and delivery of food assistance for IDPs and to facilitate the transition of international emergency food assistance programming to Gol-managed safety net activities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- USAID has been responding to the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq since January 2014, when a surge by ISIS caused mass displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, including the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape violence. Approximately 5 million former IDPs, the majority of people displaced since 2014, had returned to their areas of origin or resettled in other locations as of March 2022.
- Approximately 2.5 million people require humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2022, according to the UN. Climatic shocks, the COVID-19 outbreak, economic challenges, ongoing insecurity, and protracted displacement continue to adversely affect Iraq's IDP, host community, and returnee populations at a time when the capacity of both the GoI and the Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints.
- On December 6, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Matthew H. Tueller redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2022 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya, Wasit	\$15,475,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Protection	Anbar, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$3,400,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UN World Food Program (WFP)	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,000,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$171,729
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$34,046,729
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Durable Solutions, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,600,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
	CCCM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$3,500,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$23,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$57,546,729

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 24, 2022.

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 [interaction.org](https://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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)