

IRAQ - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

MAY 8, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4.1
million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Iraq
UN – January 2020

4.7
million

IDP Returns in Iraq Since 2014
IOM – February 2020

1.4
million

IDPs in Iraq
IOM – February 2020

237,678

Iraqi Refugees in Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – December 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19-related movement restrictions hamper relief operations across Iraq
- Access constraints, including COVID-19 and GoI authorization restrictions, affect more than 1 million people in need during March
- USAID/FFP partner WFP provides emergency food assistance to more than 378,000 people in February

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$231,533,188
USAID/FFP ²	\$40,464,656
State/PRM ³	\$230,613,439
\$502,611,283	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Following the late-November Government of Iraq (GoI) suspension of monthly national non-governmental organization (NGO) access authorizations, many relief actors remain unable to fully implement life-saving programs in Federal Iraq, the UN reports. As of early May, approximately 10 organizations were awaiting national access letter approval from the GoI, according to the UN.
- The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports more than 2,500 confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases and 102 associated deaths in Iraq as of May 8. Cases in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region have spiked since the easing of COVID-19-related movement restrictions, with 52 cases confirmed between April 22 and May 6, according to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Meanwhile, prevention measures—including border closures and movement restrictions—have impeded relief operations. Uneven application of humanitarian exemptions from most movement restrictions has prompted nearly 40 percent of NGOs to suspend activities, according to the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) March assessment. Access restrictions affected more than 1 million people in need during March, the UN reports.
- Despite access constraints, U.S. Government (USG) partners are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in Iraq. With support from State/PRM and other donors, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is distributing dignity kits containing hygiene items to individuals in camps, training health personnel on COVID-19 response protocols, and providing personal protective equipment (PPE) to its staff. Furthermore, USAID partners are adjusting ongoing humanitarian programs to respond to COVID-19, including by conducting hygiene promotion campaigns, delivering medical commodities to health facilities, and distributing hygiene kits to populations in need.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

COVID-19 AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Many relief actors in Iraq remain unable to carry out some life-saving interventions due to the late November GoI suspension of the processes to apply for national access authorization letters and the lack of a new, sustainable, formalized process to do so, the UN reports. NGOs must obtain access letters each month to continue providing assistance in Federal Iraq, and most NGO access letters had expired as of mid-December; as of early May, more than 10 NGOs were awaiting access letter approvals, according to the UN. As a result of access letter issues, the UN reports that relief actors were prevented from conducting more than 3,900 humanitarian operations from December through late January. In coordination with the UN and other relief actors, State/PRM and USAID continue to monitor the situation and advocate for the GoI to develop a reliable system to grant access and allow for continued delivery of emergency assistance across Iraq.
- Following the first reported COVID-19 case in Najaf Governorate in late February, the GoI and KRG implemented preventive measures—including airport and border closures, quarantine requirements, and widespread movement restrictions—to reduce disease transmission in Iraq; however, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the country continues to rise, WHO reports. While humanitarian actors are exempt from most COVID-19-related movement prohibitions, inconsistent application of this exception across governorates have limited humanitarian operations, including COVID-19 response activities, according to the UN. As of late March, nearly 40 percent of NGOs had halted some activities, while 70 percent of NGOs were unable to reach beneficiaries outside of camps due to COVID-19-related restrictions, according to an NCCI survey of nearly 60 relief actors. Further, the movement prohibitions have compounded existing access challenges resulting from the GoI's suspension of national NGO access authorizations; in March, access restrictions affected the delivery of assistance to more than 1 million people in need, the UN reports.
- As health actors continue to identify COVID-19 cases in Iraq, the lack of capacity of the health care system—compounded by protracted conflict and large-scale internal displacement—could hamper efforts to respond to the pandemic, WHO reports. As of May 8, WHO had confirmed more than 2,500 COVID-19 cases and 102 associated deaths in Iraq. Furthermore, approximately 125,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)—nearly 10 percent of IDPs countrywide—are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age or pre-existing health conditions, according to a March REACH assessment. Of this figure, nearly 28,000 highly vulnerable IDPs reside in formal camps, where insufficient infrastructure and crowded conditions could exacerbate transmission risks, the UN reports.
- In response, humanitarian actors have prioritized more than 70 relief activities, including life-saving and COVID-19-specific interventions, focusing on the most vulnerable and conflict-affected populations in Iraq, according to the UN. Through prioritization, relief actors aim to ensure the most vulnerable do not become even more susceptible to the disease, while continuing life-saving interventions not directly associated with COVID-19 response. The UN estimates that relief actors require \$135 million to implement priority activities, in addition to the \$161 million requested within the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq.
- Despite movement restrictions, several USG partners in Iraq are implementing COVID-19 preparedness and response interventions. In March, with State/PRM and other donor support, UNHCR began conducting COVID-19 health personnel trainings, supporting disease awareness and health promotion interventions, and providing PPE to border- and camp-based staff. In addition, the UN agency had distributed more than 12,200 dignity kits—containing hygiene items such as soap, sanitary items, and toothbrushes—to women and girls in IDP and refugee camps from early to mid-April. UNHCR has also integrated COVID-19 risk minimization protocols into ongoing relief programs, while incorporating COVID-19 response activities into the existing Iraqi Regional Refugee Resilience Plan in coordination with the GoI and KRG. Furthermore, UNHCR adjusted livelihood program activities at a Sulaimaniya Governorate factory, which employs IDPs and refugees, to produce approximately 2,000 PPE items per day for communities, health facilities, and medical teams.
- Additionally, USAID partners have adjusted programs to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak, conducting hygiene promotion campaigns, distributing hygiene kits to affected populations, and procuring and delivering medical commodities to support health facilities. Moreover, the Iraq Information Center (IIC)—managed by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) with support from USAID/OFDA—continues to serve as an information focal point

on humanitarian assistance for communities across Iraq, including through managing beneficiaries' COVID-19-related program feedback. From mid-February through April, the IIC had fielded more than 1,600 calls concerning challenges resulting from COVID-19, and from January through March, the center managed more than 7,400 calls to solicit general feedback and provide information on humanitarian assistance in Iraq.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS

- Heavy rain and subsequent flooding in areas of Federal Iraq and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) in mid-March resulted in the deaths of five displaced people in Diyala Governorate and displaced approximately 900 individuals in Ninewa Governorate's Tal Afar District, according to relief actors. In addition, the flooding resulted in minor structural damage to IDP camps in flood-affected areas and more than 300 houses in Dohuk Governorate, local media and relief actors report. With USAID/OFDA support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed relief commodities—including blankets, household items, hygiene kits, and plastic sheeting for emergency shelter—to approximately 200 displaced and returnee households in Ninewa's Mosul city in the days following the storm to address immediate needs.
 - Nearly 1.4 million people remained internally displaced—with the vast majority of IDPs having been displaced for more than three years—and approximately 4.7 million IDPs had returned to areas of origin as of February 29, according to IOM's State/PRM-supported Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The DTM recorded nearly 64,000 new returnees during January and February, with the majority of individuals returning to Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din governorates. Nearly 517,000 returnees, or more than 10 percent of the returnee population, continued to live in severe conditions—defined by a lack of access to basic services and livelihoods, as well as low social cohesion and safety perceptions—across Iraq as of late February, IOM reports. Ninewa and Salah Al-Din governorates hosted the largest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with more than 164,000 and 202,000 returnees, respectively.
 - During the 2019/2020 winter season, State/PRM partner UNHCR provided more than 64,000 camp- and non-camp-based IDPs with cash transfers worth approximately \$12.8 million to help communities across Iraq meet urgent winter needs. More than 70 percent of beneficiaries were residing in UNHCR-managed camps. In addition during December, one USAID/OFDA partner distributed cash for protective winter clothing to 3,800 people residing in Kirkuk IDP camps.
-
-

WASH

- USAID/OFDA NGO partners continue to provide essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support for IDPs living in and outside of camps, as well as returnees and other affected populations, in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates. In February, one partner provided access to safe drinking water through water trucking services for nearly 42,200 people in Ninewa, as well as more than 1,400 people across Anbar and Salah al-Din. The partner also provided solid waste management and desludging services to improve sanitation conditions and maintain WASH infrastructure for at least 20,000 people in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din.
 - In December, a second USAID/OFDA NGO partner provided more than 9,100 hygiene kits—including sanitary pads, shampoo, soap, and other commodities—to conflict-affected individuals in Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din, and distributed vouchers for safe drinking water and hygiene items to nearly 2,200 households in Anbar and Ninewa. The NGO also repaired WASH facilities in six public health centers in Anbar to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and installed two water tanks in a Ninewa IDP camp to improve access to safe drinking water.
-
-

PROTECTION

- A State/PRM NGO partner continues to provide legal assistance to vulnerable populations in Anbar, Diyala, Karbala, Najaf, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates. From October to December, the NGO identified 650 vulnerable people requiring civil documentation—such as official identification cards, birth certificates, and marriage certificates—

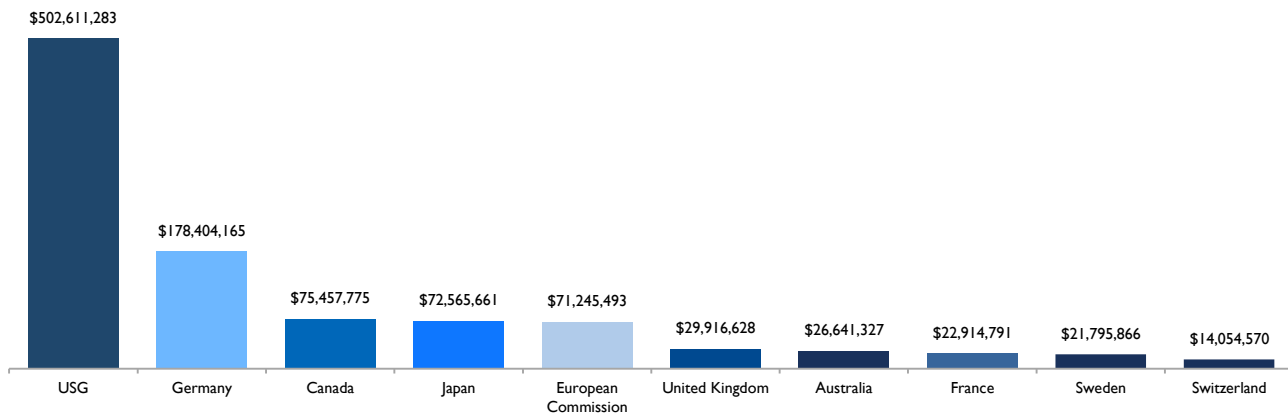
and helped nearly 530 people obtain civil documentation, of which 475 were individual identity documents. The NGO also conducted legal information sessions and individual legal counseling for more than 1,300 people and provided specialized legal assistance concerning housing and property rights, as well as representation related to civil documentation, to nearly 700 individuals.

- In addition to providing direct legal assistance to help IDPs and vulnerable returnees secure civil documentation, UNHCR is partnering with the GoI to build government capacity to address documentation needs. Following UNHCR's advocacy and with UNHCR technical support, the GoI Ministry of Interior established a committee on civil documentation in late 2019 to systematically address issues of IDPs' access to civil documentation. The committee identified Civil Affairs and Nationality Directorates mobile missions—which include national authorities, as well as authorities from IDPs' governorates of origin—as the most effective means of supporting IDPs' access to documentation. In 2019, authorities conducted mobile missions in 15 camps in Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Sulaimaniya governorates, issuing more than 27,000 identity documents, which are critical to helping IDPs and returnees—many of whom lost civil documentation during conflicts and displacement—access GoI-provided services and facilitate freedom of movement.
- In November and December, an additional State/PRM NGO partner trained more than 470 governorate Directorate of Education and school staff in Dohuk, Ninewa, and Kirkuk on child protection interventions—including psychosocial support (PSS) mainstreaming in classrooms—for conflict-affected children. More than 11,800 children, a majority of whom are IDPs and returnees, enrolled in schools supported by the partner from October to December.
- Meanwhile, a third State/PRM NGO partner continued to provide gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and mental health and PSS (MHPSS) services to populations in Dohuk, Erbil, and Ninewa from September to December. During the period, the NGO conducted more than 2,000 home visits to raise awareness about available programming at the partner's three community centers, in addition to providing MHPSS services to more than 300 people, across the three governorates. Further, the NGO raised awareness on GBV issues among more than 2,000 individuals and provided more than 60 governorate officials and security personnel with GBV prevention and response training.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- In February, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached more than 378,000 people across 11 of Iraq's 18 governorates with emergency food assistance. Activities included approximately \$681,000 in cash assistance for IDPs and refugees and efforts to build the capacity of the GoI Ministry of Interior to digitize the Public Distribution System (PDS), part of the GoI's national social safety net program.
- Additionally, WFP continues to provide complementary assistance to GoI Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) food distributions for IDPs in camps. In 2019, WFP reported that supplementing MoMD rations—rather than acting as the sole provider of emergency food assistance—resulted in WFP cost savings of \$6.2 million in cash assistance and 1,900 metric tons of in-kind food assistance, valued at approximately \$1.2 million, which the agency utilized toward its 2020 Country Strategic Plan. WFP also supported the design of a mobile application to enable individuals to easily access and update account information, as well as link their PDS digital identity to their national identification information.
- From October to December, a State/PRM NGO partner provided livelihoods assistance to vulnerable populations in Dohuk and Ninewa. The partner helped secure temporary agricultural jobs for more than 60 people and provided agricultural inputs and training, as well as financial assistance, to 215 farmers. Moreover, approximately 275 farmers and 375 herders participated in partner-supported business development and financial literacy training during the period.

2019–2020 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



* Funding figures are as of May 8, 2020. 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 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG commitments for FY 2019, which began on October 1, 2018, and ended September 30, 2019, and FY 2020, which began on October 1, 2019, and ends September 30, 2020.

CONTEXT

- In January 2014, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria forces began seizing control of parts of northern and central Iraq, generating significant population displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, such as the IKR, to escape fighting.
- In August 2014, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)—a global humanitarian coordination entity comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—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 downgraded the Iraq emergency from an L3 designation.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Iraq to coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout the country. USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C., to support the DART. DART and State/PRM staff worked closely with local officials, the international community, and humanitarian actors to identify critical needs and expedite assistance to affected populations. On August 31, 2019, USAID demobilized the DART and RMT. USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP staff based in the region—including experts who served on the DART—and in Washington, D.C., continue to coordinate with USG, UN, and other humanitarian partners to provide life-saving assistance in Iraq.
- Approximately 4.1 million people require humanitarian assistance in Iraq, according to the UN. Prolonged displacement is exhausting the resources of IDPs and host community members alike at a time when the capacity of both the GoI and KRG to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints. Meanwhile, UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief actors face funding shortages, logistical challenges, and security constraints that complicate efforts to meet critical needs.
- On October 22, 2019, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Matthew H. Tueller re-declared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2020 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health, Protection	Anbar, Erbil, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$8,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$1,300,000
	Program Support		\$334,022
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$9,634,022
USAID/FFP²			
WFP	Cash-Based Transfers for Food, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$7,464,656
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$7,464,656
STATE/PRM³			
IP	Emergency Response, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
International Labor Organization	Livelihoods	Turkey	\$429,914
IOM	Durable Solutions	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$14,929,914
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$32,028,592

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2019

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
IP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,800,000
IPs	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, HCIM, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Muthanna, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya, Wasit	\$136,326,043
IOM	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Karbala, Kirkuk, Najaf, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$19,000,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UN Development Program	Mosul Dam Preparedness/Natural and Technological Risks	Countrywide	\$4,744,440
The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya	\$30,000,000
UNOPS	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,389,102
WHO	Health	Anbar, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$24,000,000
	Program Support		\$3,139,581
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$221,899,166
USAID/FFP			
IP	MPCA	Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$4,240,000

WFP	Cash Transfers for Food; Complementary Services; Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$28,760,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$33,000,000
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Capacity Building, Durable Solutions, Education, Emergency Response, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$55,670,344
IOM	Capacity Building, Durable Solutions, HCIM, Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$23,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$97,900,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
IPs	CCCM, Education, Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey	\$15,713,181
UNHCR	Education, Emergency Response, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$21,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$215,683,525
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$470,582,691

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FYs 2014–2020

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$1,028,482,403
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$239,700,382
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$1,374,702,722
TOTAL DOD FUNDING⁴	\$77,357,233
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FYs 2014–2020	\$2,720,242,740

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 8, 2020.

² USAID/FFP funding supports humanitarian programming for IDPs and other conflict-affected Iraqis; figures do not include USAID/FFP funding for activities assisting Syrian refugees in Iraq.

³ 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. This funding also does not include \$6.5 million in State/PRM FY 2020 funding for UNHCR to support COVID-19 response activities in Iraq.

⁴ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

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.
- 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: www.cidi.org.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>