



IRAQ HUMANITARIAN FUND

# 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

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CANADA



GERMANY



IRELAND



ITALY



JAPAN



LUXEMBOURG



SWEDEN



UNITED KINGDOM

### OTHER DONORS



PRIVATE  
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The latest version of this document is available on the XHF website at [www.unocha.org/iraq/about-ihf](http://www.unocha.org/iraq/about-ihf).

Full project details, financial updates, real-time allocation data and indicator achievements against targets are available at [CBPF DataHub](https://datahub.cbpf.org/).

### About IHF

For additional information, please contact:  
**Iraq Humanitarian Fund**  
ihpf@un.org  
Tel: +964 (0) 751 135 4245

### Front Cover

Zummar, Mosul district, Ninewa governorate. A young girl stands in front of her rehabilitated family house (March 2022). © SI

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## FOREWORD

I am pleased to share with you the 2021 Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) Annual Report. The report demonstrates how the Fund was strategically used to address the priority needs of vulnerable Iraqis who continued to suffer from the impact of the 2014-2017 conflict in 2021. It further highlights the added value of the Fund in strengthening humanitarian coordination and leadership, as well as the continuous work by the IHF Advisory Board and OCHA to enhance the Fund's performance.

While Iraq's humanitarian context remained complex and fragile in 2021, both humanitarian and development actors made considerable progress in addressing the residual displacement needs that had been further compounded by the continued socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, and barriers to successful returns. Under the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the humanitarian community focused on addressing the priority needs of 1.5 million vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, the majority of whom were in out-of-camp locations. I am proud that the IHF was at the forefront of our responses addressing these needs by providing life-saving assistance to prevent further reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

In 2021, the IHF allocated US\$25.4 million through one Standard Allocation and one Reserve Allocation. Both allocations aimed to help address critical unmet humanitarian needs among out-of-camp IDPs and vulnerable returnees in underserved locations of Iraq. Together, these allocations supported priority interventions in protection, improved access to essential health and WASH services, and provided urgent cash assistance as well as agricultural and emergency livelihoods for over 642,000 people across nine governorates of Iraq.

In line with the Fund's continued commitment to localization, IHF allocations reinforced the Fund's investment in local actors by supporting their participation and capacity strengthening through direct funding and NGO consortia. As a result, 33 per cent of the net funding through 2021 allocations was channelled to 19 national NGOs, an increase from 23 per cent in 2020 – representing progressive support to national partners. Support for Protection concerns such as gender-based violence and persons with disabilities were also key thematic principles for IHF.

Thanks to sustained donor support, the Fund remained a key financing mechanism for Iraq's humanitarian response. We are grateful to Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions. I would also like to thank the Fund's Advisory Board and cluster coordinators for their continued strong engagement and support. We are particularly proud of the IHF partners that tirelessly delivered quality frontline assistance to crisis-affected Iraqis, while also investing in national response capacity.

In 2022, the IHF will continue supporting the humanitarian response in Iraq through tightly focused and strategically prioritized allocations, while continually promoting localization and inclusive programming. Even as the humanitarian operational space transitions to durable solutions, I encourage donors to continue relying on the Fund as one of the best-placed mechanisms to provide timely assistance to Iraqis still facing acute needs.

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**IRENA VOJÁČKOVA-SOLLORANO**  
Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq



“

**The IHF is a strategic driver for humanitarian funding and remains one of the best vehicles to support vulnerable Iraqis still facing acute humanitarian needs.**

IRENA VOJÁČKOVA-SOLLORANO  
HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR FOR IRAQ

”



Kabarto 2 IDP camp, Duhok governorate. An IDP man stands in front of his tent (August 2021).

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# 2021 in Review

## HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

*In 2021, humanitarian partners in Iraq aimed to reach 1.5 million vulnerable IDPs and returnees with focused humanitarian and protection assistance.*



4.1M

PEOPLE IN NEED



1.5M

PEOPLE TARGETED



\$607M

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

### Humanitarian needs and response in 2021

The humanitarian situation in Iraq continued to evolve in 2021, four years after the attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and subsequent military operations to defeat them. The vulnerabilities of people hardest hit by the conflict were deepened in 2020 by the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and plummeting oil prices. In 2021, despite an accelerated drive for durable solutions and sustained humanitarian response to mitigate the outcomes of the conflict, 4.1 million Iraqis were still in need of humanitarian assistance, 2.5 million of whom were acutely vulnerable.

While 4.9 million or 80 per cent out of the 6.1 million people displaced during the crisis had returned to their areas of origin, many continued to face significant challenges in reintegrating. Worryingly, the number of IDPs only declined by about 38,000 throughout 2021, underscoring the acute vulnerabilities among this group. Among the most pervasive vulnerabilities that IDPs and returnees faced were protection-related, including lack of civil documentation, as well as inadequate access to shelter and basic services, insecurity, and challenges to social cohesion that prevented their successful return and integration in their areas of origin. The limited livelihood opportunities continued to heighten peoples' dependence on humanitarian assistance.

Recognizing its limitations in comprehensively addressing these needs with available capacity and resources, the humanitarian community targeted 1.5 million Iraqis. This included just over 0.5 million IDPs residing in and out of camps, and 1 million returnees. Specifically, the 2021 HRP focused on (i) support to meeting basic needs through cash and livelihoods assistance to reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms; (ii) increasing access to quality essential services in health, education and

water and sanitation; and (iii) fostering a protective environment through improvements in physical living environments, providing legal support to restore their fundamental rights, and psychosocial support. The IHF was responded to these priorities through its US\$ 25.4 million allocations in 2021.

### Internal displacements and returns

Displacement-related needs continued to be of major concern among the humanitarian community in 2021. By the end of 2021, 204,344 IDP households (1,189,581 individuals) remained displaced across Iraq—amounting to 20 per cent of all those who became displaced during the period of ISIL conflict. The IDPs lived in 2,842 locations across 105 districts and 8 governorates across the country. The highest caseload (79 per cent) was found in 15 districts. The majority of IDPs across the country lived in out-of-camp settings (85 per cent), while the rest were in camps (15 per cent).<sup>1</sup> Both groups rely heavily on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs.

Between December 2020 and December 2021, 120,666 (20,111 households) returned to their areas of origin. This was 50 per cent lower than 235,116 returns recorded in 2020, and a significantly slower rate of return (2.5 per cent) compared with 2020 (5 per cent) and 2019 (10 per cent).<sup>2</sup> Return numbers across districts in 2021 were influenced by the disparate severity of conditions related to indicators in livelihoods, access to basic services and challenges in reintegrating due to safety, security, and social relations. Notably, as of December 2021, almost half of all locations with full returns were medium severity (46 per cent) and half were low severity (50 per cent).<sup>3</sup> In addition, 4 per cent of the total returnee population nationwide still lived in critical shelters, such as unfinished or abandoned buildings; school or religious buildings used as shelter; or in old tents in informal sites.

<sup>1</sup> IOM: Returns in Iraq: 2021 Overview, February 2022.

<sup>2</sup> IOM: Returns in Iraq: 2021 Overview, February 2022.

<sup>3</sup> IOM Iraq Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return.



### 2020 camp closures

Government-initiated camp closures and consolidation between October 2020 and February 2021 resulted in the premature departure of over 46,000 IDPs from the affected camps.<sup>4</sup> Many of these IDPs were neither able to return safely and sustainably to their areas of origin nor find other durable solutions to their displacement. This triggered a surge in secondary displacement, increasing pressure on already scarce services in out-of-camp and return locations and contributing to the precarious condition. The IHF responded to these emerging needs through a \$5.6 million Reserve Allocation launched in December 2020, implemented in 2021.<sup>5</sup>

### COVID-19 and socioeconomic vulnerabilities

Iraq was continually affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, with over 2 million cases and 24,000 fatalities confirmed by the end of the year.<sup>6</sup> While the economic effects of the twin shocks experienced in 2020 from the COVID-19 pandemic and plummeting oil prices have begun to subside, because of the lifting of most COVID-19 preventative measures and the increase in oil prices, unemployment remained disproportionately high among IDPs and returnees. The fluctuation of basic commodity prices stabilized in 2021, but at significantly higher levels compared with early 2020.<sup>7</sup> Even as the pandemic increased protection needs, community-based programmes and legal services to address protection issues have not fully returned to the pre-pandemic levels of implementation. Basic services and infrastructure in many displacement and return locations were already inadequate prior to the pandemic, the consequence of decades of conflict and turmoil. These underlying, unresolved socioeconomic vulnerabilities, particularly the loss of livelihoods and household income (34 per cent of IDP households work in the informal sector which almost entirely requires in-person work)<sup>8</sup> continued to hamper sustainable returns in 2021.

### Security and access

Social, ethnic and sectarian tensions—along with a fractured security sector—exacerbated general insecurity and operational uncertainty in Iraq in 2021. Domestic, regional and international security developments continued to take their toll on the country. Throughout the year, multiple improvised explosive device and rocket attacks were launched by armed groups against bases and convoys of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, and also targeted Baghdad and Erbil international airports. Meanwhile, a resurgent

ISIL increased its activities through isolated incidents in the central and northern part of the country, particularly along the disputed internal boundaries where territorial control shifts between the primary security forces of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and the Kurdish Peshmerga. Hostilities between the Kurdistan Workers' Party and the Turkish armed forces inside Iraq intensified.

The fragmentation of the security territory posed significant challenges for IDPs and returnees, who must negotiate with a range of personnel to cross checkpoints and move throughout the Iraqi territory. The presence of security actors in certain communities prevented the return of displaced families, often due to ethno-sectarian reasons, perceived affiliation with ISIL, or the appropriation of temporarily vacated lands by other individuals or groups for personal gain.

Humanitarian access in Iraq improved significantly in 2021, following the relaxation of the COVID-19 movement restrictions and re-establishment of the national access authorization mechanism in the last quarter of 2020. Despite the general improvement, the post-conflict context is characterized by the presence of multiple armed actors and the lack of a unified command structure, in addition to administrative impediments, continued to affect humanitarian access in some parts of the country. Respect for national authorization letters was not uniform at all checkpoints and movement through checkpoints could be delayed for several reasons, depending on the context of the day. Such access constraints were most notable in Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates (e.g., in Al-Hawiga and Sinjar districts).

OCHA chaired the Humanitarian Access Working Group and facilitated access incident monitoring and reporting, trend analysis, and advocacy for improved humanitarian access throughout the year. In some areas where partners faced additional authorization requirements by the PMF, ISF military commanders, or local civil authorities, engagements with local authorities led by OCHA facilitated agreements towards recognition of nationally issued access authorizations, which alleviated access difficulties and allowed for improvements in humanitarian response.

4 IOM Iraq DTM emergency tracking of camp IDP movements as of 21 February 2021.

5 This allocation and linked projects were reported in the [2020 IHF Annual Report](#)

6 WHO Iraq Covid-19 Dynamic Infographic dashboard (2020-2022).

7 2022 Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

8 IOM Iraq: Access to Durable Solutions among IDPs in Iraq: Six years in displacement, 2022



## VISION STATEMENT

Iraq continues to suffer the extremely damaging consequences of the 2014-2017 conflict with slightly over one million people still displaced and a significant number of returnees facing almost insurmountable challenges in living stable lives. This is despite concerted efforts by the Government of Iraq and the humanitarian and development communities to provide services and restore livelihoods and infrastructure in areas that bore the brunt of the conflict. The humanitarian situation is further compounded by insecurity including the presence of unexploded ordnance, barriers to social cohesion and lack of core civil documentation that hampers full integration in areas of return and access to government services.

Through the generous support of its donors, the IHF remains at the forefront of providing effective and timely humanitarian assistance to acutely vulnerable Iraqis. With its unearmarked funding, the Fund can flexibly respond to contextual needs and emerging crises in a timely manner. Crucially, with its large

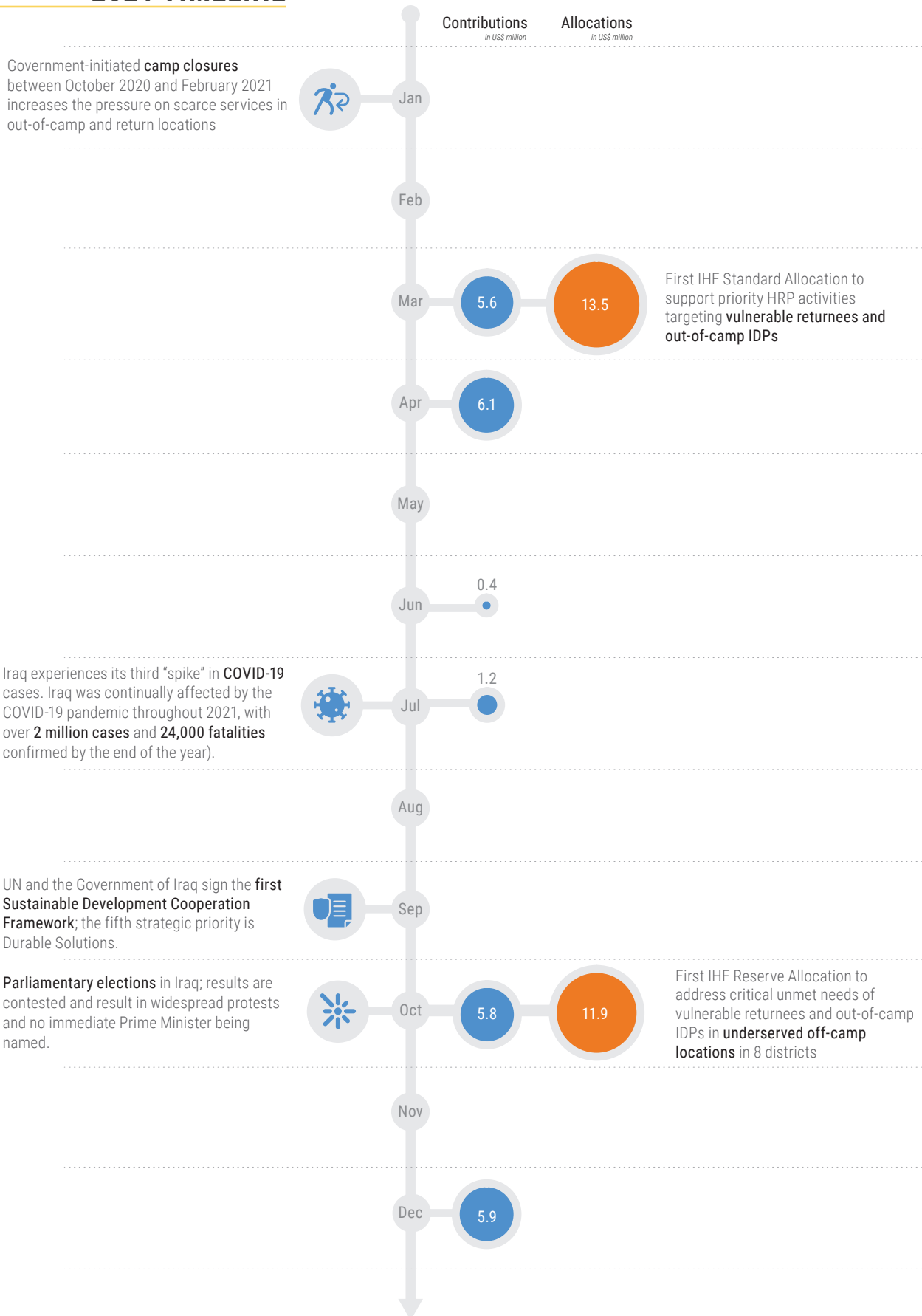
network of partners including 23 national NGOs (NNGOs), its ability to reach underserved, hard-to-reach areas is unmatched and will continue to be harnessed. In 2022, the Fund will continually promote localization aiming for a progressively larger share of its net funding to be directed to national partners with concomitant capacity strengthening including through consortia partnerships, and an enhanced representation and participation of national partners in the Fund's governance. The latter two will prove particularly important as the need arises for reliable local organizations to implement projects in the current transitioning environment, and will provide important lessons learned in strengthening local capacities. Finally, financing responses enhancing the protective environment for vulnerable women, children and persons with disabilities will continue to be a key priority for the Fund, alongside promoting the use of cash and voucher assistance where relevant to meet daily unmet needs.

Mosul city, Ninewa governorate. A consultation with male beneficiaries of an IHF-funded project during HFU's field monitoring mission. The project provided basic household essentials to help people restart their lives after leaving closed IDP camps (April 2021).

© OCHA



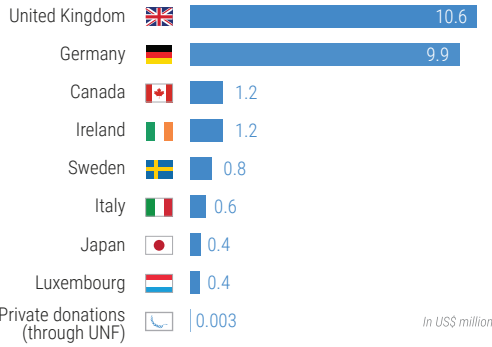
## 2021 TIMELINE



## 2021 IN NUMBERS

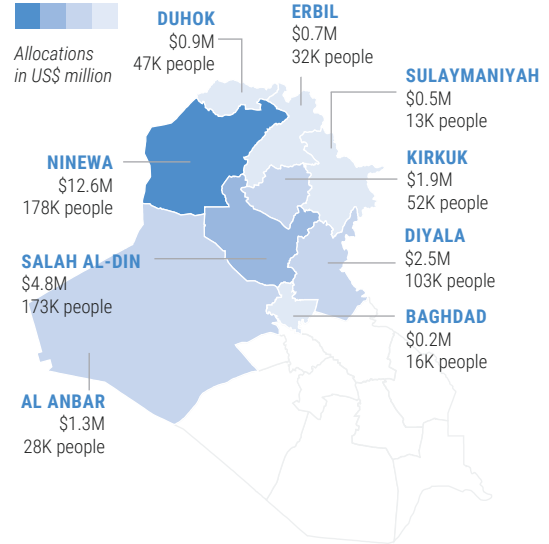


**\$25.0M**  
CONTRIBUTIONS



**\$25.4M**  
ALLOCATIONS

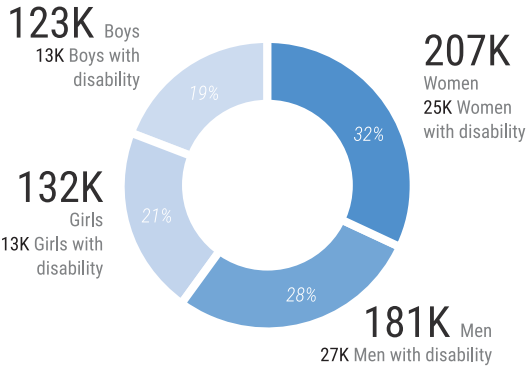
**642K**  
PEOPLE TARGETED



**642K**  
PEOPLE ASSISTED



**77K**  
PEOPLE ASSISTED WITH DISABILITY



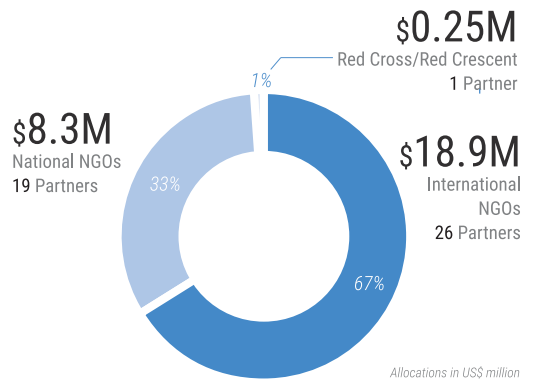
The Annual Report uses the number of people targeted as a proxy for the number of people reached and henceforth the term people assisted will be used. This approach allows for more timely global reporting as the final data on people reached only becomes available over a year after the allocation of CBPF funds. The reported outcomes will be available on the CBPF Data Hub (<https://cbpf.data.unocha.org/>) and the CBPFs will continuously monitor if targets are reached.



**21**  
PARTNERS

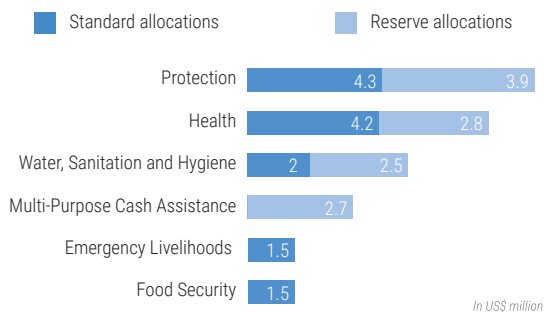
**46**  
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

**24**  
PROJECTS



21 partners refer to organizations that received direct funding from the IHF, while 46 implementing partners include organizations that received IHF funding directly or indirectly as part of consortia to implement IHF-funded projects. The number of partners and funding breakdown by partner type shown in the above pie chart refer to those of implementing partners and the net funding they received.

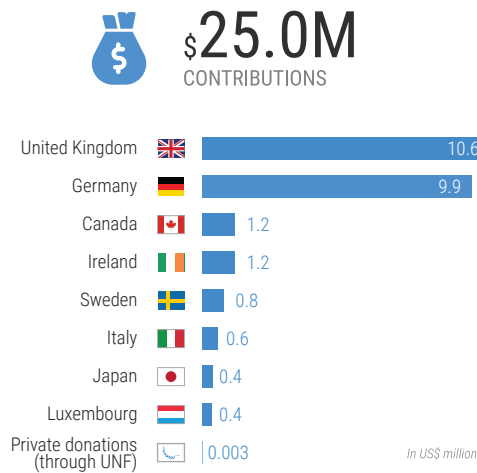
### ALLOCATIONS BY CLUSTER





# Donor contributions

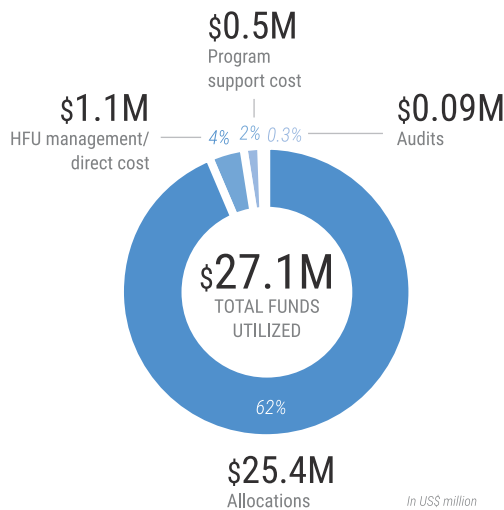
## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS



In 2021, eight Member States including Japan, a new donor, contributed \$25 million to the IHF. The total contributions amounted to 7 per cent of the \$381 million 2021 HRP receipts out of its \$607 million requirements. While still short of the Grand Bargain commitment to channel 15 per cent of the HRP funding through Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs),<sup>9</sup> this represented a 3 per cent increase from 2020 in the IHF's funding share against the total HRP funding received for Iraq.

Nearly half (\$11.7 million or 47 per cent) of the total annual contributions were received in the first third of the year. The IHF received further contributions totalling \$7.4 million (29 per cent of the funding received in the year) between June and October, followed by another \$5.9 million (24 per cent) in December. The timing of the contributions received allowed the Humanitarian Coordinator and Advisory Board to strategically focus IHF allocations on priority needs identified by the 2021 HNO and HRP.

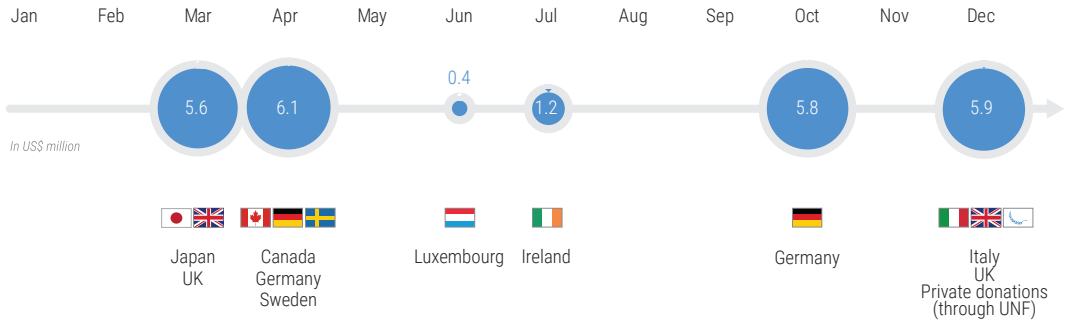
## UTILIZATION OF FUNDS



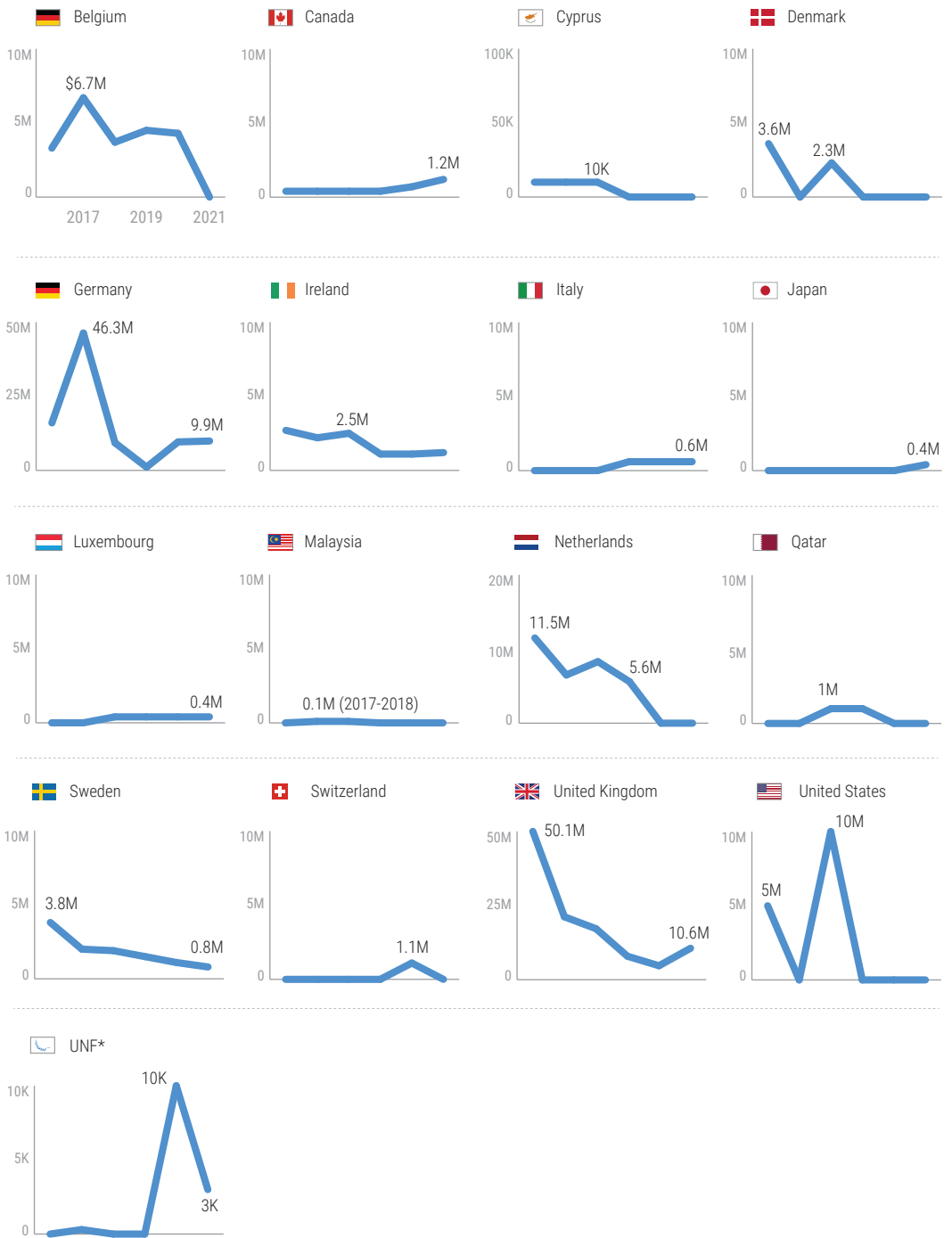
The 2021 IHF allocations totalling \$25.4 million accounted for just 7 per cent of the humanitarian funding that supported the 2021 HRP. Nevertheless, the IHF channelled over 15 per cent of the HRP funding towards 3 out of 10 humanitarian clusters operating in Iraq. It contributed 28 per cent and 26 per cent of funding received by the health cluster and for multi-purpose cash assistance, respectively, illustrating the Fund's significant support to prioritized sectoral responses.

<sup>9</sup> Following the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the UN Secretary-General called on donors to increase HRP funding channelled through CBPFs to 15 per cent by 2018.

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
TIMELINE**



**DONOR TREND**



\*Private donations collected through the UN Foundation

**Donor trend**

Donor contributions to the IHF increased by 6 per cent between 2020 and 2021, from \$23.6 million in 2020 to \$25.0 million in 2021. The sustained contributions to the Fund, against a backdrop of declining overall humanitarian funding for Iraq, demonstrated donors' commitment to the Fund.

In 2021, the IHF benefited from contributions from its traditional donors who have consistently supported the Fund since its earliest years. These included Canada, Germany, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom and Germany remained the Fund's top donors, together contributing \$20.5 million, amounting to 82 per cent of the total contributions of the year. Japan made a first-time contribution.

In spite of emerging and/or deteriorating crises elsewhere in the world that increased competition

for funding, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic that reduced overall donor resources, IHF donors renewed their confidence in the Fund as a premium financing mechanism to support the humanitarian response in Iraq. Canada and the United Kingdom increased their contributions compared with the previous year, while Germany, Ireland, Italy and Luxembourg contributed similar amounts to the Fund in 2020.

Donors continued to be engaged in the IHF in 2021, most notably through the Fund's Advisory Board. Italy joined the Board replacing the Netherlands as a representative of the donor constituency. Early indications of top-up funding from Germany and the United Kingdom, the Fund's long-standing and most prominent donors, were instrumental in strategic planning for the Fund's allocations.

**DONOR WITH  
MULTI-YEAR  
CONTRIBUTION  
AGREEMENTS**



Sweden

**0.8M**

2021 - 2022



Shariya IDP camp, Duhok governorate. An IDP woman stands inside a burnt tent. A fire incident at the camp destroyed over 300 tents and 131 families were affected. An IHF-funded WASH partner working in the camp responded to the urgent WASH needs following the fire incident with the Fund's flexible project revision support (June 2021).

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# Allocations overview

## STRATEGIC STATEMENTS

### First standard allocation: Scaling up protection, essential services and livelihood support for vulnerable returnees and IDPs

An inter-sectoral response gap analysis conducted by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group exposed vulnerabilities and unmet needs among IDPs living out of camps, as well as among returnees. This allocation supported partners to scale up operations providing temporary income to address immediate needs, specialized protection assistance including legal support, essential health care and water and sanitation services. The allocation prioritized projects addressing specific needs of women and girls, as well as persons with disability. It promoted a localized response through multi-NGO consortia involving national NGOs as a preferred modality of funding. The allocation channelled 35 per cent of net funding to national partners.

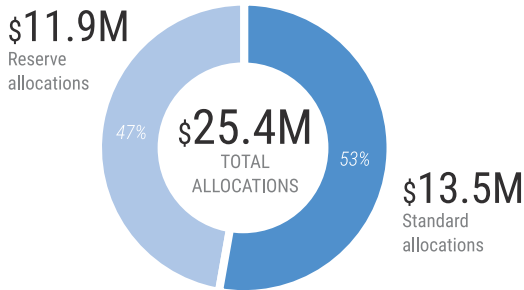
### First reserve allocation: Jumpstarting an integrated response in underserved districts

A mid-year analysis of the 2021 HRP revealed critical response priorities in remote districts with high severity needs where the presence of humanitarian partners had been limited. This allocation provided the Fund with the opportunity to not only provide impetus to wider support but also launch coordinated multi-sectoral assistance to these acutely vulnerable communities. The Fund prioritized partners with proven access to eight priority districts in four governorates and with the capacity to implement priority cluster interventions. The response encompassed comprehensive protection support, multi-purpose cash assistance, and critical health and WASH services. In line with the IHF's strategic objectives for 2021, the allocation prioritized projects highlighting gender and GBV considerations and disability inclusion, while continually promoting the participation and capacity strengthening of national partners.

## 2021 ALLOCATIONS

Amount	Category	Launch month
\$13.5M	Standard Allocation	April 2021
\$11.9M	Reserve Allocation	November 2021

ALLOCATION BY TYPE *in US\$ million*



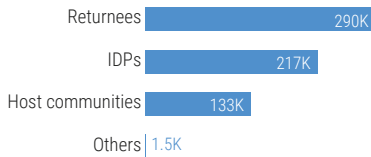
ALLOCATION BY STRATEGIC FOCUS *in US\$ million*

- S01 Support to meet basic needs
- S02 Support to access to essential services
- S03 Support to establish lives in safety and dignity

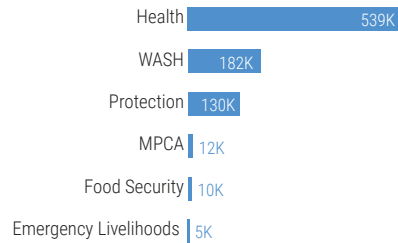
ALLOCATIONS BY STRATEGIC FOCUS



PEOPLE ASSISTED BY TYPE

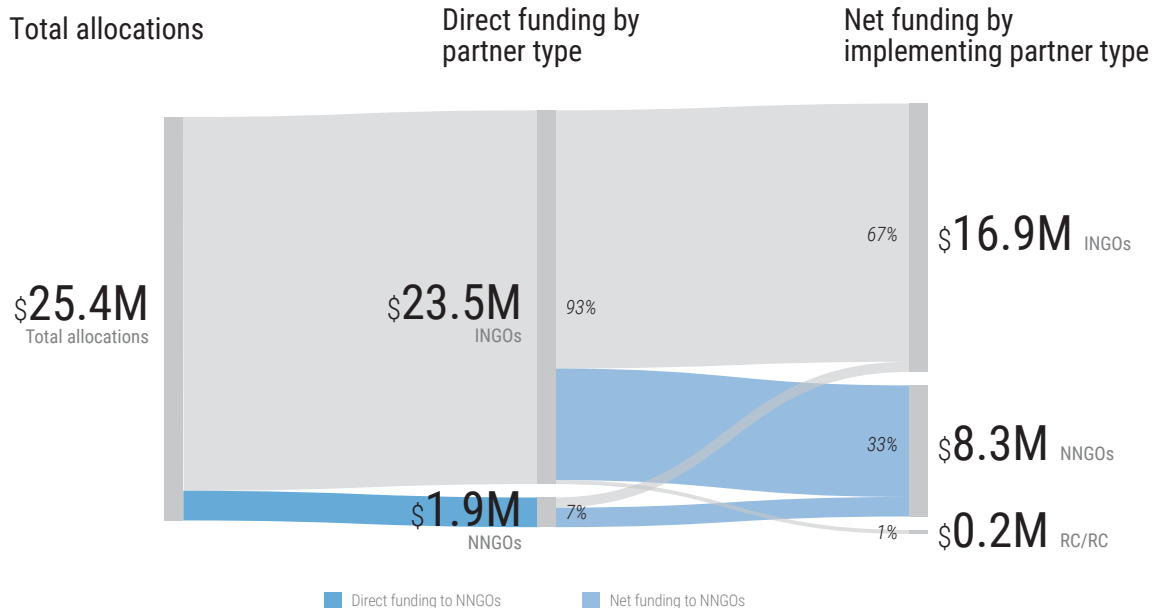


PEOPLE ASSISTED BY CLUSTER



To estimate the total number of people assisted, the largest number of people targeted disaggregated by gender, age group, type and geographic location among the projects funded through the 2021 allocations were used to minimize double counting of individuals. As a result, some of the aggregated figures in the bar chart showing the breakdown of people assisted by type may be underreported. Conversely, people assisted by cluster are estimated by aggregating people targeted by all projects under specific clusters, with the assumption that partners within the same cluster coordinate to avoid double targeting of individuals with the same sectoral assistance.

ALLOCATION FLOW BY PARTNER TYPE *in US\$ million*



## HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

### PROMOTING LOCALIZATION

Both IHF allocations supported the Fund's continued pursuit of the Grand Bargain commitment to localization by promoting the participation and capacity strengthening of national partners through both direct funding and NGO consortia. Through partner training on these allocations and the strategic review of proposals submitted, the Fund encouraged and prioritised quality submissions by NNGOs and consortium submissions that included opportunities for meaningful participation and capacity enhancement for local partners. As a result, the IHF channelled \$8.3 million (33 per cent of overall funding) to 19 national NGOs, an increase from 23 per cent in 2020. This was the highest funding share going to national NGOs in the Fund's history, reflecting a continuous increase in support to national partners since 2016. Further, the Fund allocated \$1.9 million (7 per cent of overall funding) directly to NNGOs.

In 2021, 48 participants from 22 national NGOs participated in OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU)-led training on IHF's allocation strategies, cross-cutting priorities and project development. This was an increase from 30 participants from 13 national NGOs trained in 2020.

age groups. Also through field monitoring, the HFU encouraged the affected communities to use the Iraq Information Centre, a call centre complementing the AAP mechanisms of humanitarian partners across sectors.

#### Promoting the Centrality of Protection

The protection cluster – including child protection and GBV sub-clusters – received 32 per cent of the IHF's allocations in 2021, the highest funding share of all sectors. Partners provided comprehensive case management and specialised protection assistance, including psychosocial care and legal support for civil documentation, the lack of which is considered a major barrier to sustainable returns of displaced Iraqis. These allocations together covered 12 per cent of the total HRP funding received by the sector, reflecting the Fund's strategic value in upholding the centrality of protection in Iraq's humanitarian response. All other funded sectors integrated protection in their responses, for example, through the provision of lockable separate WASH facilities and deploying women staff to engage women being assisted.

#### Addressing Gender Equality and Responding to Sexual- and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

Strategic Review scorecards used to vet partner project proposals submitted under 2021 allocations included specific questions on gender and age considerations, as well as protection (including prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)) and GBV mainstreaming, to ensure those partner proposals which thoroughly incorporated these cross-cutting priorities were more likely to be recommended for funding. Further, all IHF project monitoring assessed and scored how partners implemented the planned response in line with these considerations.

While the IHF acknowledges the need to fund more women-led and women's rights NGOs directly, few have passed the Fund's rigorous capacity assessments. The Fund in 2021 indirectly funded multiple women-led NGOs (including NNGOs) focusing on gender equality and SGBV prevention and response. It is incumbent on the IHF but also the wider humanitarian and development community to promote increased voice, capacity and participation of these organizations in the multi-stakeholder coordination architecture of Iraq.



1,715  
people

targeted with GBV case management services, while 5,088 people targeted with individual or group structured GBV psychosocial support.



\$25.4M

All projects funded by the IHF in 2021 contributed to gender equality, while 20 out of 23 projects also considered age-specific humanitarian needs.



#### Disability inclusion

prioritised under the IHF's strategic objectives for 2021, implemented through Strategic Review scoring and project monitoring.

### EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING

#### KEY PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

##### Strengthening Accountability to Affected People

All IHF-funded projects were required to include a plan to ensure accountability to affected people (AAP) as a project component and report against it; 22 out of 24 projects funded in 2021 were designed with a full set of accessible and functional beneficiary feedback and/or complaint mechanisms while the remaining 2 projects included these mechanisms partially. Further, all IHF project monitoring included consultations with assisted people to assess the extent and effectiveness of community engagement in project implementation; monitoring recommendations informed subsequent partner programming to address communication needs and improve AAP mechanisms, e.g., by diversifying the channels to consult and collect inputs from different gender and



### **Including Persons with Disabilities**

Persons with disabilities face innumerable barriers in Iraq, not least social stigma, isolation and exclusion, limited income-earning opportunities and access to basic services. Yet, organizations supporting persons with disabilities receive very limited funding from government, humanitarian and development agencies, which preclude their empowerment and advocacy for disability inclusion.

In line with the Fund's strategic objectives for 2021, IHF allocations prioritised partner projects that addressed specific needs of persons with disabilities. In addition to funding a project that focused explicitly on physical rehabilitation and mental health and psychosocial support for this group in an area where there were serious service needs, the IHF funded multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), protection and WASH projects which incorporated activities addressing specific needs of persons with disabilities.

### **Improving Humanitarian Access**

The IHF allocations in 2021 targeted 36 districts across 9 governorates of Iraq, which were identified with marked response gaps and high severity needs, largely because of limited funding and/or partner presence. Through these allocations, the Fund boosted partner capacity and operations in underserved out-of-camp locations, linking urgent humanitarian response with longer-term assistance to achieve durable solutions where possible.

## AREAS OF CONTEXTUAL PROGRAMMING

### **Advancing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)**

While cash is a short-term intervention to allow people in need to meet their unmet daily needs, its value in a transitioning humanitarian environment such as Iraq cannot be measured in isolation. Regrettably, results from a Post Distribution Monitoring conducted by the Cash and Livelihoods Consortium for Iraq found that 75 per cent of people who were supported by MPCA remained vulnerable and thus eligible for further MPCA 9 to 12 months after receiving the first instance; this underscored the necessity for linkages to longer-term support and integrated approaches to increase the value of this assistance.

In 2021, the IHF channelled \$3.6 million (14 per cent of the total allocations) to conditional and unconditional cash assistance. In addition to providing immediate income through MPCA and cash for work schemes, the Fund supported cash for protection as a means of specialised protection assistance to the most vulnerable, including GBV survivors. The Cash Working Group coordinated CVA across sectors and partners in Iraq, promoting a harmonised approach to both multi-purpose and sector-specific cash programming, as well as modalities used for CVA needs assessments, assistance, monitoring and reporting.

## SECTOR/CLUSTER ACHIEVEMENTS



**15K**  
reproductive health  
consultations provided and

**17K**  
deliveries including

**5,000**  
C-sections supported



**13K**  
people supported with **legal  
assistance** and counselling

**5,000**  
individuals successfully secured  
**civil documentation**




**1,539**  
individuals assisted with  
**cash for work** activities



**6,800**  
women and girls provided with  
**dignity kits**

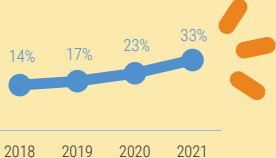
**1,715**  
individuals received **GBV case  
management** services




**33%**  
of IHF allocations  
channelled to **national  
NGOs**

**626**  
**national NGO staff received capacity  
strengthening support** as part of  
multi-NGO consortium projects

Net funding share to national NGOs ▲ **10% increase**  
since 2020



Year	Net funding share to national NGOs
2018	14%
2019	17%
2020	23%
2021	33%



**40K+**  
children in crisis-affected areas  
**vaccinated** against measles and  
screened for and received necessary  
**nutrition** assistance

**1,461**  
**health professionals** trained



**6,000**  
children participating in structured  
and sustained **psychosocial support**  
programme



**1,972**  
vulnerable households provided with  
**multi-purpose cash assistance**



**63K**  
people provided with access to  
**potable water** and

**105K**  
people reached with **hygiene  
promotion** and awareness sessions

# Lessons learned and best practices

## Proactive outreach to new grantees and local partners

In 2021, the IHF endeavoured to re-establish close working relationships with the Fund's partners after the COVID-19 pandemic and linked movement restrictions in 2020 hindered in-person meetings and monitoring activities. Knowing from previous experience that new partner staff including of NNGOs often struggle to understand the IHF allocation process and effectively navigate the Fund's risk management and safeguarding measures, the HFU reached out regularly to all partners to clarify technical questions on their proposal development, address any implementation challenges for their IHF grants, and to ensure their compliance with IHF-mandated monitoring and reporting requirements. Multiple partners noted appreciation for the Fund's bilateral support in ensuring that their project implementation was in line with humanitarian principles.

## Enhancing timeliness and quality of project monitoring and financial spot checks

In 2021, the IHF continued to implement its robust risk management framework, at both the partner and project levels. Key activities included: periodic capacity and performance review of partners; monitoring their operational outputs and financial activities during project implementation; completing external audits; and timely engagement on compliance concerns. In parallel, the HFU developed the Standard Operational Procedures for Third Party Monitoring (TPM), with the Fund's TPM contractor, clarifying the expected timeline and roles and responsibilities in the TPM process.

Throughout 2021, access challenges due to COVID-19, security concerns and election-related movement restrictions hampered HFU-led field missions to monitor project implementation. As a mitigation measure, the

HFU adopted flexible monitoring modalities, combining remote desk reviews and key informant interviews with the on-site observations and focus group discussions. In parallel, the HFU regularly engaged with cluster coordinators to better understand IHF-funded programming, and ensure that the Fund's resources were deployed appropriately. The involvement of cluster coordinators, including in monitoring activities, contributed to better technical assessments of the projects, and ensured that IHF-funded projects were aligned with the overall cluster response.

The IHF has also learned the importance of timely financial spot checks (FSCs) from past experience with rapid and large-scale allocations during the military operations against ISIL, and carried out 30 FSCs in 2021, in full compliance with the Fund's operational modalities. In 2022, the HFU plans to conduct additional partner training focused on risk management including monitoring, FSCs, audits, and performance management to improve overall performance.

## Closure of long-standing compliance cases and regular audit backlog

In 2021, in close consultation with OCHA HQ, the IHF made major strides in advancing the closure of long-standing compliance cases. Seven partner compliance cases with suspected and confirmed fraud, which underwent forensic audits and settlement negotiations, were finally brought to administrative closure, in addition to the two earlier closed cases. The IHF completed 141 regular audits in 2021 alone, representing nearly half of the total 318 audits completed for the Fund so far. This offset not only the historical regular audit backlog stemming from earlier delays to the global audit procurement by OCHA, but also delays in field audits caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The Fund is now on track with the regular audit of its grants.



**Partner capacity re-assessment**

In 2021, the HFU conducted capacity re-assessments (CRA) of IHF partners that had not implemented IHF grants for three years or more, as per the global CBPF guidelines. Nineteen partners were invited to undergo CRA, to which 16 responded and were assessed. Fourteen partners passed CRA, with approvals for two pending completion of due diligence review. The CRA process faced delays due to the lack of partner understanding of the required documentation, resulting in multiple protracted reviews and re-submissions, as well as delays in government registration certificates issued to NGOs. In 2022, the HFU plans to conduct an information session prior to engaging individual partners due for CRA to ensure a collective understanding across all concerned partners for the CRA requirements and timeline.

Al-Falluja district, Anbar governorate. Non-food item distribution to support vulnerable returnees and out-of-camp IDPs (April 2021).

© SZOA



Mosul city, Ninewa governorate. Hamid with HI's physiotherapist (January 2022).

© HI



## INTEGRATED PHYSICAL THERAPY AND MHPSS RESPONSE SUPPORTS DISABLED RETURNEES AND IDPS



My mental health improved after receiving the psychosocial support, I sleep better, eat better, and I'm more motivated to do my physiotherapy sessions by myself because I can see the difference it is making to my life.

“Victim assistance of vulnerable IDPs, Returnees and host communities in Mosul District, Ninewa governorate, Iraq” (IRQ-21/3884/SA1/P-H/INGO/18791) implemented by HI from 1 August 2021 to 31 January 2022”.

Hamid<sup>10</sup> is 30 years old. He used to live with his family in a village outside of Mosul before the conflict began. The family had their own house and tendered sheep, which provided a good income. When airstrikes destroyed their house in 2017, Hamid and his family fled their village. They stayed in Jada'a IDP camp for a year and a half before returning to Mosul.

After losing their house and animals to the conflict, Hamid and his family had to start from zero to rebuild their life. Upon returning to Mosul, they rented a house. Without a stable income, they could not afford to buy furniture and even buying food and other basic items became a struggle. In October 2020, during a moment of frustration, Hamid slammed a door, causing severe damage to his spinal cord, paralyzing him from the neck down.

“I did not attempt to hurt myself, but the accident happened in a second and the result was unexpected,” says Hamid. “After the accident, I faced more difficulties, both physically and psychologically. Even though I was surrounded by family and friends who supported me, I felt alone and incapable due to my disability.”

Handicap International (HI), an international NGO partner of the IHF, received \$343,258.70 through the Fund's 2021 first Standard Allocation to implement a health and protection project to provide integrated physical therapy and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to disabled returnees, IDPs and community members, as well as their caregivers, in Mosul district, Ninewa governorate. The project targeted Mosul because of the reported high concentration of persons with disabilities among recent returnees and the secondarily displaced people arriving from closed camps in the area, as well as HI's established operations in Mosul.

<sup>10</sup> Not his real name.





Mosul city, Ninewa governorate. The IHF team holding a focus group discussion with female beneficiaries of HI's project during a field monitoring mission (December 2021).

© OCHA

When visiting Bab el Baith primary health care centre (PHCC), Hamid's brother noticed a signboard about HI's services provided in the centre and told Hamid. The PHCC then referred Hamid directly to HI, which provided eight physiotherapy and MHPSS sessions at his home. HI also supported Hamid's brother, who is his caregiver, by demonstrating movements he can practice with Hamid to continue his physiotherapy.

Hamid now feels more optimistic and his physical condition continues to improve. Hamid says: 'My mental health improved after receiving the psychosocial support, I sleep better, eat better, and I'm more motivated to do my physiotherapy sessions by myself because I can see the difference it is making to my life. For example, a few months ago, I could not move my hands, but after receiving physiotherapy sessions, I feel much better and able to use my hand for my daily needs. Therefore, I always encourage people to seek psychosocial support'.

Through this project, HI was able to reach 492 conflict-affected returnees, IDPs and host community members, including 230 persons with disabilities who received integrated physical therapy and MHPSS services like Hamid. In addition, HI trained 31 local health professionals on basic rehabilitation skills and management of patients with physical disabilities.

# Fund performance

The IHF measures its performance against a management tool that provides a set of indicators to assess how well a Fund performs in relation to the policy objectives and operational standards set out in the CBPF Global Guidelines. This common methodology enables management and stakeholders involved in the governance of the Funds to identify, analyze and address challenges in reaching and maintaining a well-performing CBPF.

CBPFs embody the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, and function according to a set of specific principles: Inclusiveness, Flexibility, Timeliness, Efficiency, Accountability and Risk Management.





**PRINCIPLE 1**

## INCLUSIVENESS

A broad range of humanitarian partner organizations (UN agencies and NGOs) participates in CBPF processes and receive funding to implement projects addressing identified priority needs.

**1**

### INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

*The Advisory Board has a manageable size and a balanced representation of CBPF stakeholders.*

#### Target

Twelve members excluding the HC (Chair) and OCHA, with equal representation among UN, NGO (including both INGO and NNGO) and donor constituencies.

#### Results

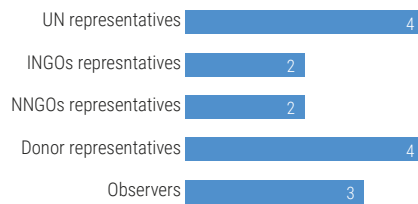
The Advisory Board maintained a balanced representation of four representatives per stakeholder group, including two INGO and two NNGO representatives in the NGO group. Two additional donors with in-country presence and the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq participated as observers.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The Advisory Board membership was reviewed for rotation and all members were either newly appointed or re-appointed following consultations within respective constituencies. The Advisory Board met four times over the year, all constituencies actively engaged in the Advisory Board via technology-aided remote meetings (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) and bilateral communications throughout the year to direct the strategic use of the Fund.

The HC and the Advisory Board to review the Board's membership annually and rotate as appropriate the representatives of donors, NGOs and UN agencies.

#### COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY BOARD



**2**

### INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

*The review committees of the Fund have the appropriate size and a balanced representation of different partner constituencies and cluster representatives*

#### Target

A diverse and balanced representation among UN agencies, INGOs and NNGOs, and HFU participation are maintained in all Strategic/Technical Review Committees (S/TRCs).

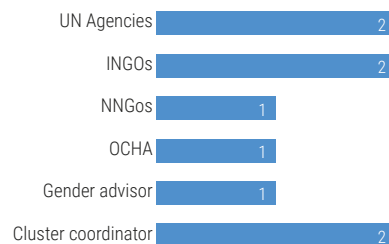
#### Results

The S/TRCs of the first Strategic Allocation had overall an inclusive and balanced representation.

#### Analysis and follow-up

All S/TRCs of the first Standard Allocation were chaired by cluster coordinators (which are co-led by UN agencies and INGOs in Iraq) and attended by representatives of UN agencies, INGOs and OCHA HFU. Despite the HFU guidance to ensure NNGO representation in S/TRCs, of the seven clusters and sub-clusters supported through allocation only five included NNGO representation in their S/TRC. All cluster S/TRCs were supported by at least one gender expert and a GBV focal point, where available. Multi-cluster project proposals were vetted in the respective S/TRCs and clusters coordinated to ensure the quality and complementarity of different cluster components within these projects. For the first Reserve Allocation, full-fledged S/TRCs were not required, and cluster coordinators led the S/TR process with the support of at least one gender focal point per sector and additional technical experts as relevant. The IHF will promote increased participation of NNGOs in all cluster S/TRCs.

#### REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REVIEW COMMITTEES



PRINCIPLE 1

## INCLUSIVENESS

3

### INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION

*CBPF funding is allocated to the best-positioned actors, leveraging the diversity and comparative advantage of eligible organizations.*

#### Target

All funds are allocated according to the priorities specified in the allocation strategies and mainly to consortia partners whose comparative advantages are enhanced through partnerships and collaborations within consortia.

#### Results

All funds were allocated to projects best adhering to respective allocation strategies, which were closely aligned with the HRP. Approximately 92 per cent of the total allocations (up from 81 per cent in 2020) were channelled to 20 NGO-led consortia or multi-partner projects aimed at optimizing the combined programmatic achievements based on established partner access while maintaining appropriate oversight through lead partners.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The consortium approach, rolled out in 2019 and continually promoted in 2020 and 2021, contributed to diversifying the Fund's partner base, making direct and indirect funding available to smaller national organizations and engaging them through complementary partnerships and capacity strengthening support. Many consortia funded by the 2021 IHF allocations were formed through extended partnerships among consortia partners supported by the 2019 and 2020 allocations, indicating their sustained operational value. In 2022, the HC with the support of the Advisory Board, clusters and the HFU will continually ensure strategic allocation of IHF funds to optimize the comparative advantages and collective impact of partner programming. The IHF plans to advance the localisation agenda through further outreach and capacity strengthening of national partners, as well as a systematic review of the consortium approach to enhance its modality.

4

### INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT

*Resources are invested by OCHA HFU in supporting the capacity of local and national NGO partners within the scope of CBPF strategic objectives.*

#### Target

Net funding to NNGOs is increased compared with 2020 and NNGOs are provided with appropriate capacity support to play an enhanced role in Iraq's HPC.

#### Results

In 2021, the IHF channelled \$8.3 million (33 per cent of net funding including \$1.9 million or 7 per cent of direct funding) to NNGOs. The HFU conducted two sets of all partner training following the launch of two allocations, respectively, each with a programme session and a finance session, highlighting key elements of the allocation strategies, cross-cutting priorities, and project development including budget setting in the Grant Management System (GMS).

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the IHF allocated the highest share ever of its net funding to NNGOs – 33 per cent, up from 23 per cent in 2020. The Fund made a further stride in promoting equal participation and capacity strengthening of NNGOs through the consortium approach as well as funding an NNGO partner directly. The HFU engaged a greater number of NNGOs and their staff through training and inter-partner outreach activities compared with 2020.

In 2021, the IHF trained 210 participants from 78 partner organisations, including 48 participants from 22 NNGOs. The latter was an increase from 30 participants from 13 NNGOs trained in 2020.

In 2022, the IHF aims to further increase coordination and capacity strengthening support to NNGOs, including through enhanced training, to strategically invest in the national response capacity.

#### TRAININGS



4

TRAININGS



48

PEOPLE TRAINED FROM NNGOS



22

NNGOS TRAINED



3

WOMEN-LED AND WOMEN-EMPOWERING NNGOS TRAINED

PRINCIPLE 1

# INCLUSIVENESS

## 5

### INCLUSIVE RESPONSE

*CBPF funded projects have a clear strategy to promote the participation of affected people.*

#### Target

All IHF-funded projects ensure accountability to affected populations (AAP) as part of the implementation. All monitoring instances include consultations with beneficiaries to assess community engagement in project implementation.

#### Results

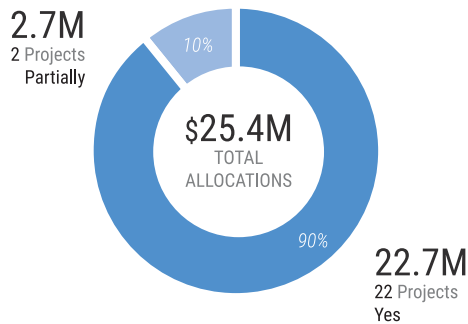
All IHF-funded projects were required to include a plan to ensure AAP as a project component and report against it. Of the 24 projects funded through 2021 allocations, 22 projects - accounting for 90 per cent of the total \$25.4 million disbursed through these grants – were designed with a full set of accessible and functional beneficiary feedback and/or complaint mechanisms, while the remaining 2 projects included these mechanisms partially. All field monitoring visits (including those conducted by third-party monitors) included consultations with assisted people to assess the extent and effectiveness of community engagement in project implementation.

#### Analysis and follow-up

As was the case in 2020, Strategic Review scorecards for all IHF allocations launched in 2021 included a specific question about the provision of accountability mechanisms and PSEA. This ensured that projects with accessible and functioning feedback/complaint mechanisms and PSEA considerations received the most funding. In addition, the HFU training on the allocations included a briefing and discussion on protection mainstreaming, AAP and PSEA to support partners' inclusive response programming.

In 2022, the HFU and clusters will continually support partners in designing and implementing pragmatic and where possible improved AAP and PSEA mechanisms through project reviews, monitoring and report reviews. The HFU will explore partner outreach opportunities to mainstream and enhance AAP and PSEA in all IHF-funded projects.

### ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED PEOPLE



**Yes:** The project **includes** the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or complaint mechanisms for beneficiaries

**Partially:** The project **partially** includes the provision of accessible and functioning feedback and/or complaint mechanisms for beneficiaries

**PRINCIPLE 2**

**FLEXIBILITY**

The programmatic focus and funding priorities of CBPFs are set at the country level and may shift rapidly, especially in volatile humanitarian contexts. CBPFs are able to adapt rapidly to changing priorities and allow humanitarian partners to identify appropriate solutions to address humanitarian needs in the most effective way.

**6**

**FLEXIBLE ASSISTANCE**

CBPF funding for in-kind and in-cash assistance is appropriate.

**Target**

Cash as a response modality is operationally considered and strategically prioritized by clusters and partners, where appropriate.

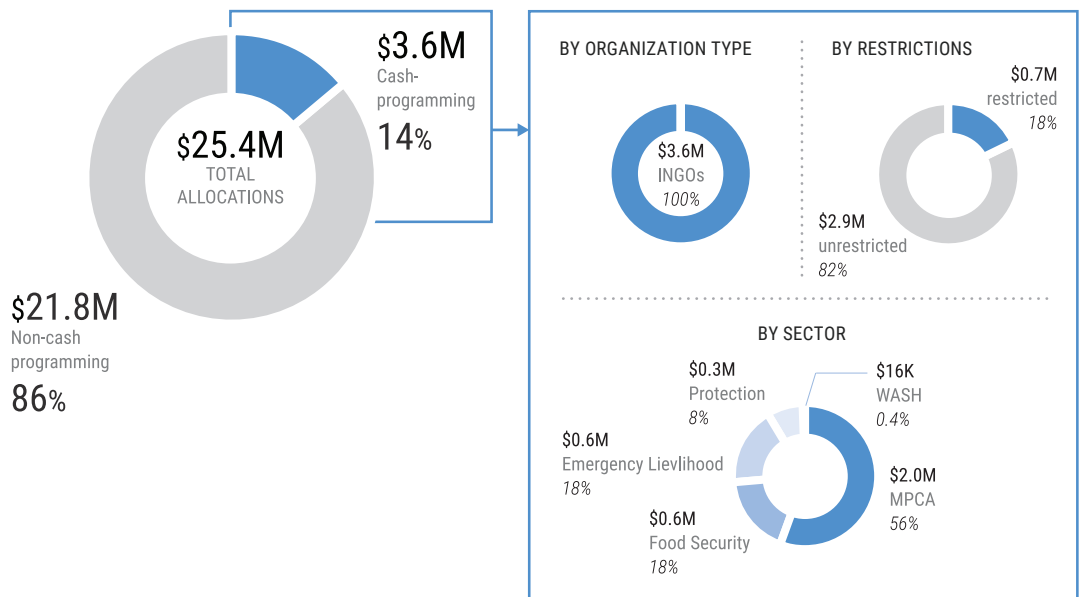
**Results**

\$3.6 million (14 per cent of the total allocations) programmed in direct cash value for cash assistance, including \$2 million in unconditional and unrestricted multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

**Analysis and follow-up**

In addition to providing immediate income through MPCA and cash for work schemes, the Fund supported cash for protection as a means of specialised protection assistance to the most vulnerable, including GBV survivors. The CWG coordinated cash assistance across sectors and partners in Iraq, promoting a harmonised approach to multi-purpose and sector-specific cash programming, as well as modalities used for socioeconomic vulnerability assessments, cash assistance based on needs and context, and monitoring and reporting. The HFU, CWG and clusters will continually promote coherent and effective cash-based programming in Iraq.

**CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING**



**7**

**FLEXIBLE OPERATION**

CBPF Funding supports projects that improve the common ability of actors to deliver a more effective response.

**Target**

CBPF funding supports an enabling operational environment through funding allocated to common services funding allocated to common services.

**Results**

In 2021, to ensure that its allocations with limited funding were strategically and operationally focused, the IHF did not allocate new funds to the coordination and common services (CCS) sector.

**Analysis and follow-up**

While there were no new allocations to the common services sector, three IHF grants funded in previous years were continually implemented into 2021. These projects supported the Iraq IDP Information Centre, a key accountability mechanism for the whole of response, as well as Government-NGO coordination. In 2022, common services partners are encouraged to continually seek alternative funding and development partners' support to sustain or hand over as relevant key services as Iraq's humanitarian response transitions to recovery and stabilization.



PRINCIPLE 2

## FLEXIBILITY

8

### FLEXIBLE ALLOCATION PROCESS

*CBPF funding supports strategic planning and response to needs identified in the HRP and sudden onset emergencies through the most appropriate modalities.*

#### Target

At least 70 per cent of the total funds are allocated through Standard Allocation(s) and between 10 per cent and 30 per cent of the available funds are kept for Reserve Allocation(s) to respond to changes in the humanitarian context.

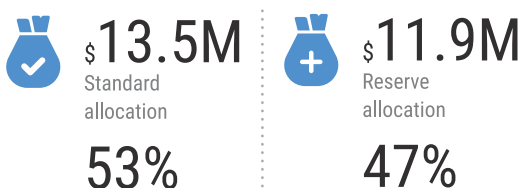
#### Results

In 2021, the IHF launched one Standard Allocation in April and one Reserve Allocation in November. The latter was the largest allocation that utilised the reserve modality since 2017.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The high percentage of funding allocated through the Reserve Allocation resulted from the collective decision of the HC and the Advisory Board, informed by cluster inputs, to address critical unmet needs in underserved locations, which were identified through the 2021 HRP response gap analysis and the 2022 HNO needs analysis, through a focused and accelerated allocation process using available funding. An initially envisaged funding envelope for this allocation was increased considering additional donor contributions pledged to be paid in the last quarter of 2021. The Fund maintained an emergency reserve of at least \$2million in its programmable balance throughout the year to respond to unforeseen, emerging needs. The IHF will continue working flexibly with the two allocation modalities as required by the context.

#### ALLOCATION BY MODALITY



9

### FLEXIBLE IMPLEMENTATION

*CBPF funding is successfully reprogrammed at the right time to address operational and contextual changes.*

#### Target

Project revision requests are processed to respond to shifting/ emerging operational needs.

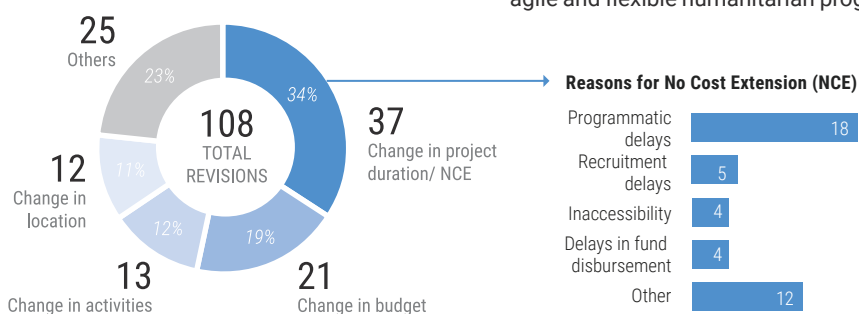
#### Results

In 2021, the HFU processed 48 revision requests for 35 IHF-funded projects (multiple requests were submitted for some projects). These included 108 different types of revisions (multiple types of revisions were included in some revision requests), of which changes to the project duration (no-cost extension) and budget were the most frequent. The HFU processed revision requests submitted in 2021 on average in 26 working days.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The number of project revision requests processed in 2021 decreased by 36 per cent compared to 2020, likely due to the restoration of a more predictable operational environment following the disruptions triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and camp closures in 2020, which necessitated many projects to be extended and/or reprogrammed in 2020, along with cost extensions. The average number of working days required to process revision requests submitted in 2021 was 9 days less than the average of 35 days in 2020, indicating speedier project revision support provided by the Fund. The HFU will continually process all project revisions in a timely manner, while ensuring their strategic and operational relevance, to facilitate agile and flexible humanitarian programming in Iraq.

#### BREAKDOWN OF REVISION TYPES IN 2021



PRINCIPLE 3

## TIMELINESS

CBPFs allocate funds and save lives as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate.

10

### TIMELY ALLOCATION

CBPFs allocation processes have an appropriate duration.

#### Target

Standard Allocation projects are processed (from the submission deadline to the HC signature) within 30 days on average.

Reserve Allocation projects are processed (from the submission deadline to the HC signature) within 20 days on average.

#### Results

In 2021, the IHF allocation processes took longer than in previous years, for Standard and Reserve Allocations.

Milestones	Category	2019	2020	2021
From allocation closing date to HC signature of the grant agreement	Standard Allocation	27	31	44
	Reserve Allocation	26	22	33

#### Analysis and follow-up

For the Standard Allocation, this was attributed to the additional time required for the Strategic Review by multiple cluster STRCs which had to review a large number of proposals, delays to HQ-level budget clearance, as well as a new GMS feature which added a step for the partner to verify the project start date, signatory and bank information for grant agreements. For the Reserve Allocation, budget clearance was expedited through the delegation of authority to the HFU Finance Officer. However, the overall timeline was extended due to the proposal review and approval processes taking place over the year-end holidays, a competitive review process, and one project with outstanding programmatic concerns which took an additional month to be completed. The HFU in 2022 aims to better streamline the IHF allocation process through strong coordination with clusters and partners to establish a shared knowledge base for each allocation, along with enhanced technical guidance on the project development and review processes.

#### AVERAGE WORKING DAYS OF ALLOCATION PROCESSING

11

### TIMELY DISBURSEMENTS

Payments are processed without delay

#### Target

10 days from Executive Officer signature of a proposal to first payment.

#### Results

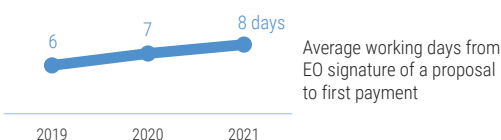
Average number of days for standard allocations: **9.4** days

Average number of days for reserve allocations: **6.3** days

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, payments for Standard and Reserve Allocations were made on average within the targeted 10-day period. Of the 24 grants approved under the 2021 allocations, the first tranche has been disbursed for 23 grants at the time of reporting, including 17 (74 per cent) completed within 10 days of Executive Officer (EO) signatures. For the remaining grants, disbursement was delayed despite the HFU reminders to the HQ; for some partners, late disbursement resulted in project implementation delays. The HFU and the CBPF Section in NY will continuously coordinate and facilitate timely disbursement of funds to all partners within 10 days of the EO signature.

#### AVERAGE WORKING DAYS OF DISBURSEMENT PROCESSING



PRINCIPLE 3

## TIMELINESS

12

### TIMELY CONTRIBUTIONS

*Pledging and payment of contributions to CBPFs are timely and predictable.*

#### Target

Half of the annual donor contributions to the IHF are pledged and paid before the end of the first half of the year. Over 95 per cent of the total annual donor contributions are paid in less than one month from pledges.

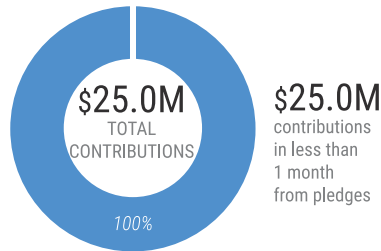
#### Results

In 2021, \$12.9 million (52 per cent of the total contributions) was pledged between January and June, of which \$12.1 million (48 per cent) was paid before the end of June. Further, all donor pledges were materialized within one month of the pledges.

#### Analysis and follow-up

The IHF in 2021 benefitted from sustained donor confidence, demonstrated by a slight increase in the annual contributions despite a significant cut to the HRP envelope. Further, donors provided timely and predictable funding by pledging most of the annual contributions in the first half of the year and paying all pledges within one month. The Fund benefitted from early, repeated and speedy contributions from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The HFU in coordination with other relevant sections of OCHA in Iraq and HQ will continually and actively engage donors to facilitate early (or timely, in response to changes in the humanitarian context) and predictable contributions to the IHF in 2021.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TIMELINESS



PRINCIPLE 4

## EFFICIENCY

Management of all processes related to CBPFs enables timely and strategic responses to identified humanitarian needs.

CBPFs seek to employ effective disbursement mechanisms, minimizing transaction costs while operating in a transparent and accountable manner.

13

### EFFICIENT SCALE

CBPFs have a significant funding level to support the delivery of the HRP.

#### Target

15 per cent of HRP funding is received through the IHF.

#### Results

In 2021, both the donor contributions to the IHF of \$25.0 million and the Fund's allocations of \$25.4 million accounted for 7 per cent of the total humanitarian funding received towards the HRP.

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, in addition to accounting for a greater share of the HRP funding than in 2020, the IHF through strategic allocations channelled over 15 per cent of HRP funding for 3 out of 10 humanitarian sectors operating in Iraq and 10-15 per cent of HRP funding for an additional 2 sectors, illustrating the Fund's meaningful contributions to prioritized sectoral responses.

14

### EFFICIENT PRIORITIZATION

CBPF funding is prioritized in alignment with the HRP.

#### Target

All IHF-funded projects address HRP Strategic Objectives (SOs).

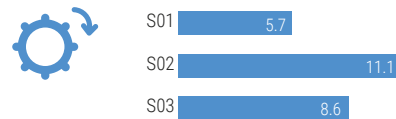
#### Results

All IHF-funded projects contributed to the HRP SOs.

#### Analysis and follow-up

All partner projects which received IHF funding were strategically aligned with one or more of the three HRP SOs, with a dominant focus on SO 2, to which 44 per cent of the total funding was directed. The IHF will continually ensure that all IHF allocations and IHF-funded projects are strategically aligned with the HRP and support well-prioritized and complementary activities.

#### ALLOCATION BY HRP STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



- S01 Support to meet basic needs
- S02 Support to access essential services
- S03 Support to establish lives in safety and dignity

15

### EFFICIENT COVERAGE

CBPF funding effectively assists people in need.

#### Target

The IHF allocations are prioritized to support life-saving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable and at risk.

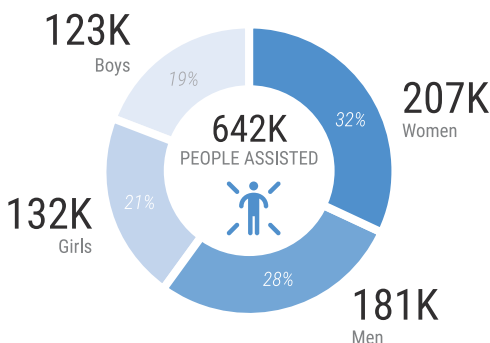
#### Results

IHF-funded projects in 2021 assisted at least 642,000 people in need.

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the IHF allocations and IHF-funded projects strategically targeted the most vulnerable returnees and out-of-camp IDPs in underserved locations. The Fund prioritized projects addressing specific needs of girls, women, persons with disability, and those in need of specialized protection assistance to ensure inclusive programming. In 2022, the IHF will strive to continually assist the worst-affected and most vulnerable of the conflict-affected IDPs and returnees in Iraq.

#### PEOPLE ASSISTED





PRINCIPLE 4

**EFFICIENCY**

16

**EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT**

*CBPF management is cost-efficient and context-appropriate.*

**Target**

HFU operations costs (cost-plan) account for less than 5 per cent of the overall utilization of funds, i.e., allocations plus operations costs.

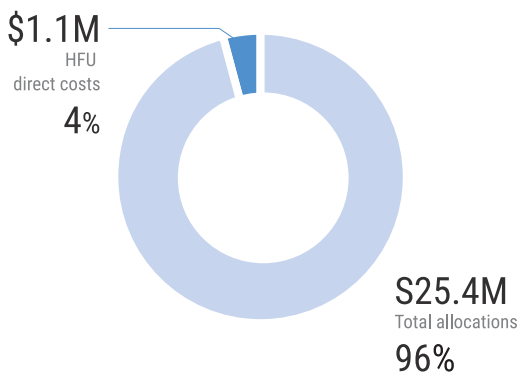
**Results**

OCHA Iraq HFU's management costs in 2021 were \$1.1 million and accounted for 4 per cent of the overall utilization of funds in the year.

**Analysis and follow-up**

While the HFU direct costs remained below the targeted 5 per cent of the annual fund utilization for 2021, percentage of the 2022 HFU cost plan against the fund utilization in 2022 is expected to increase, considering the declining funding in view of the transitioning response in Iraq and the sustained workload required for the HFU to manage the IHF, including through the monitoring, report reviews and auditing of the projects funded by previous years' allocations, in addition to processing new allocations and planning and administering the planned Fund closure.

HFU EXPENDITURE AGAINST TOTAL ALLOCATIONS



17

**EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT**

*CBPF management is compliant with management and operational standards required by the CBPF Global Guidelines.*

**Target**

All 2021 IHF allocation papers are compliant with the updated CBPF Global Guidelines and IHF Operational Manual.

The 2010 IHF Annual Report is compliant with the global CBPF guidance and finalised as per the agreed timeline.

**Results**

Both the Standard and Reserve Allocation strategy papers in 2021 were developed, consulted and launched in accordance with the updated CBPF Global Guidelines and the IHF Operational Manual.

The 2020 IHF Annual Report was published as per the global guidance with enhanced data analysis and visualization, though with delays due to internal capacity challenges and an extensive HQ review process.

**Analysis and follow-up**

Project proposals submitted under the 2021 IHF allocations and met the minimum requirements as stipulated in the allocation strategies were duly vetted through the cluster S/TR processes to ensure those projects that were most strategically relevant and programmatically sound were funded. In close consultation with relevant clusters, the HFU supported partners throughout their project implementation to maximize the operational relevance and achievements of IHF-funded interventions amid the transitioning humanitarian response context. Further, the HFU in 2021 actively engaged in multilateral discussions and technical reviews of draft documents to support the revision of the CBPF Global Guidelines.

In 2022, the IHF will develop allocation strategy papers in line with the revised CBPF Global Guidelines. The Fund will continually ensure that its Annual Report and allocation strategy papers are compliant with the global and in-country guidance and finalized promptly.

PRINCIPLE 5

## RISK MANAGEMENT

CBPFs manage risk and effectively monitor partner capacity and performance. CBPFs utilize a full range of accountability tools and measures.

18

### RISK MANAGEMENT OF PROJECTS

CBPF funding is appropriately monitored, reported and audited.

#### Target

Full compliance with the IHF operational modalities.

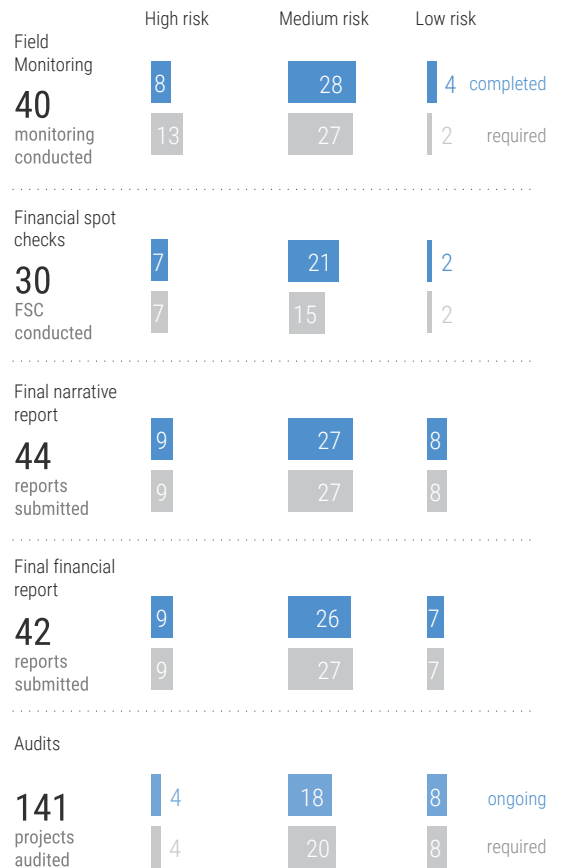
#### Results, analysis and follow up

The HFU conducted 40 field monitoring and 30 FSCs for the projects that ended in 2021. These included 37 out of 42 monitoring instances (88 per cent coverage) and 24 out of 24 FSCs (100 per cent) required as per IHF's operational modalities. For the five outstanding monitoring instances, field missions were cancelled after multiple attempts due to access constraints. Apart from those required, the HFU conducted three additional field monitoring and six additional FSCs that were deemed necessary based on risk management concerns flagged.

Partners submitted 44 final narrative reports and 42 final financial reports which were due in 2021, indicating 100 per cent and 98 per cent compliance rates, respectively.

The IHF in 2021 completed audits for 141 projects, which accounted for 44 per cent of the total 318 projects for which audits were completed since the Fund's inception; with this achievement, the Fund is now fully on track with auditing. Of the 32 projects which were due for audit in 2021, field audits are underway for 30 projects while procurement is underway for the remaining two.

### PROGRESS ON RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



PRINCIPLE 5

## RISK MANAGEMENT

19

### RISK MANAGEMENT OF PARTNERS

*CBPF partner capacity is appropriately assessed and their performance reviewed and reflected in partner risk levels.*

#### Target

The largest shares of 2021 IHF allocations are channelled to low- and medium-risk partners. Partner Performance Index (PI) data is updated for all partners receiving IHF funding. Capacity re-assessment is conducted for partners that have not implemented an IHF-funded project for three years or longer.

#### Results

The vast majority (81 per cent) of IHF funding in 2021 was allocated to low- and medium-risk partners.

A performance evaluation of all eligible partners that implemented IHF-funded projects within the last three years was carried out and the risk level of eight partners was changed in accordance with the PI recommendation. The Fund shared detailed results of these partners' performance reviews and invited each partner for a follow-up meeting to discuss the evaluation and next steps.

Of the 19 partners invited for capacity re-assessment, 16 partners underwent the re-assessment and 14 partners passed, while due diligence review for 2 partners is pending. Three partners' risk rating were adjusted as a result of capacity re-assessment.

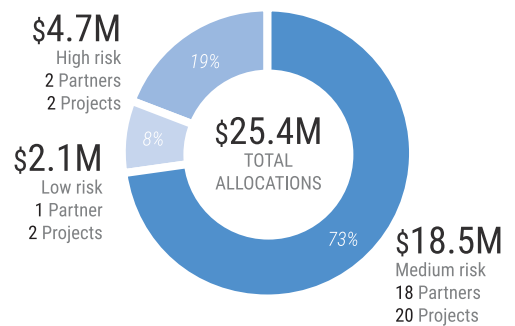
During the reporting period, six partners were suspended due to compliance concerns, bringing the total number of eligible partners to 94 including 57 INGOs, 23 NNGOs, 12 UN agencies and 2 RC/RC organizations.

#### Analysis and follow-up

As in previous years, larger portions of IHF funds were allocated to low- and medium-risk partners, while applying a more robust risk management scheme to high-risk partners as per the IHF operational modalities.

For the partner risk level adjustments based on PI, the Fund maintained the risk level of all partners until they have completed at least two IHF-funded projects or one audit, in order to calibrate the impact of PI recommendations informed by fewer data points.

### IMPLEMENTATION BY PARTNER RISK LEVEL TYPE



### UPDATED RISK LEVEL BASED ON PERFORMANCE INDEX



<sup>1</sup> Includes UN agencies

<sup>2</sup> Excludes one partner which was suspended following risk level adjustment

<sup>3</sup> Excludes partners suspended or with compliance cases

### OVERVIEW 2021



The Fund is following up with the partners whose capacity re-assessment is still pending.

In 2022, the IHF will continually implement the PI tool and conduct the capacity re-assessment of existing partners, informed by the revised CBPF Global Guidelines. The HFU aims to enhance partner performance and compliance through strategic partner engagements including training focused on risk management and accountability, as well as continued bilateral discussions on capacity and performance reviews.

PRINCIPLE 5

## RISK MANAGEMENT

20

### RISK MANAGEMENT OF FUNDING

*Appropriate oversight and assurances of funding is administered through CBPFs.*

**Reported cases:** # of incidents (allegation, suspected fraud, confirmed fraud, theft, diversion, looting, destruction, etc.) in 2021, either open or closed.

**On going cases:** # of incidents for which measures (inquiry, assurance, measures, settlement etc.) were still on going as of 31 December 2021

#### Target

Full compliance with CBPF SOPs on Response to Concerns of Fraud or Misuse of Funds by Partners.

#### Results

In 2021, three new incidents of compliance concerns were reported, based on a whistle-blower allegation of corruption as well as adverse audit opinions highlighting suspected fraudulent activities. As of 31 December 2021, 1 incident and 15 cases remained under review, with 22 partners suspended. The number of open incidents and cases declined significantly from 4 incidents and 17 cases which were under review at the end of 2020.

#### Analysis and follow-up

In 2021, the IHF made a major stride in moving forward pending compliance cases; bringing seven historical cases of confirmed and suspected fraud to administrative closure, in addition to two earlier closed cases. For all partners with open cases of suspected fraud or misappropriation of funds, new payments were put on hold and eligibility suspended in line with the CBPF SOPs, while regular and forensic audits are conducted, and correction measures applied. As per the SOPs, donors were informed at capital and country levels of different stages of the process. The HFU and OCHA NY will continuously follow up on ongoing cases and incidents and ensure that all suspected and confirmed diversion or fraud cases are treated in compliance with the CBPF SOPs.



3

**REPORTED  
INCIDENTS/CASE**  
3 open



16

**ON GOING  
INCIDENTS/CASE**  
1 incident  
15 cases





Sheikh Ibrahim village, Hammam Al-Alil district, Ninewa governorate. Ali standing in front of the newly installed Reverse Osmosis Unit. (August 2021).

© SI

## SUPPORTING WASH ASSISTANCE TO IDP AND RETURNEE FAMILIES

“Provision of integrated water sanitation and hygiene services out of camps aiming at preventing Covid-19 and mitigating negative health outcomes for most vulnerable populations” (IRQ/3884/SA1/WASH/INGO/16290) implemented by SI from 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021”.

Ali is a father of six sons and five daughters from Sheikh Ibrahim village, located west of Mosul city in Ninewa governorate. “We were living peacefully before the [ISIL] occupation, which destroyed our village and caused the displacement of all families within, including mine.”

From June 2014 to June 2015, Ali and his family had to survive in the desert, struggling to find food and drinking water; they used rainwater in winter and water from a well they found during the summer. After a year, the Iraqi Army took Ali and his family to Hamam Al-Alil IDP camp, where they received emergency assistance from humanitarian partners to cover their basic needs through the provision of food, water, health

and sanitation services, and other non-food items. Yet, in Ali’s words, “it was still a camp.” When Hammam Al-Alil camp was closed by the Iraqi Government in October 2020, Ali and his family returned to Sheikh Ibrahim village.

“We were shocked when we saw the destroyed buildings after liberation<sup>11</sup>”, Ali recalls. Luckily, Ali’s house was spared major destruction, enabling his family to resettle. However, due to the damage to a nearby water network, there was no more water in Sheikh Ibrahim, neither for Ali and his family, nor for others who had returned to the village after years of displacement. As a result, village inhabitants were forced to buy water from water trucks, though the quality of the water was questionable. For Ali’s wife, who suffers from chronic kidney disease, potable water was essential. A nearby Iraqi Army checkpoint helped Ali and his wife to get clean drinking water during this time.

Solidarités International (SI), an international NGO partner of the IHF, received \$3 million through the

<sup>11</sup> Liberation here refers to the local authorities’ retaking of ISIL-occupied areas through military operations.

Mosul city, Ninewa governorate. Ahmad was supported by the water network rehabilitated by SI in Al-Jadida neighbourhood of Mosul (August 2021).

© SI



Now, we receive enough water from the reverse osmosis unit (...) and we do not have to pay for water.

Fund's 2020 first Standard Allocation and its cost-extension to implement a large-scale WASH consortium project in partnership with five other partners (Arche Nova, COOPI, French Red Cross, SEDO and SSORD). The project provided WASH services to vulnerable returnees and IDPs in and out of camps in Al-Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah Al-Din and Sulaymaniyah governorates, through integrated WASH interventions in health facilities, provision of potable water supply, emergency rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion including for COVID-19 prevention and response.

In line with the WASH cluster strategy, SI and its partners under the cost extension of the project supported the continued provision of emergency WASH services in return areas while simultaneously working on infrastructure upgrades to harness more sustainable solutions.

Having assessed the dire water needs in Sheikh Ibrahim village, SI through this IHF-funded project started

trucking quality water to all residents in the village, while preparing a more sustainable solution. For the latter, SI rehabilitated a reverse osmosis (RO) unit, which provides safe water supply to all 874 people living in the village and phased out water trucking which was no longer needed. This improvement not only provided stable and sufficient water supply for Ali and his family, but also broke a barrier to sustainable return for the whole community of displaced families. "Now, we receive enough water from the RO unit (...) and we do not have to pay for water." In the meantime, SI coordinated closely with the local authorities and Ninewa Department of Water, which repaired the water network outside of the village.

Through the implementation of this project, SI and partners were able to reach over 278,000 people – including Ali's family – with improved WASH services in hospitals and health centres, water supply and sanitation facilities with increased quality and quantity, and hygiene items and campaigns.

# Annexes

- Annex A Accronyms & abbreviations
- Annex B Reference Map
- Annex C IHF Advisory Board
- Annex D Allocations by recipient organizations

ANNEX A

## ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AAF</b>	Access Aid Foundation	<b>MPCA</b>	Multi-purpose Cash Assistance
<b>AAP</b>	Accountability to affected populations	<b>NCA</b>	Norwegian Church Aid
<b>ACTED</b>	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>AI Ghad</b>	Al-Ghad League for Woman & Child Care	<b>NNGO</b>	National non-governmental organization
<b>AN</b>	Arche Nova	<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>BWA</b>	Baghdad Women Association	<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>CBPF</b>	Country-based pooled fund	<b>PAH</b>	Polish Humanitarian Action
<b>CCR</b>	Caritas Czech Republic	<b>Pekawa</b>	Pekawa for Humanitarian and Environmental Organization
<b>COOPI</b>	Cooperazione Internazionale	<b>PI</b>	Performance Index
<b>CPF</b>	Common Performance Framework	<b>PIN</b>	People in Need
<b>DAA</b>	Dijla Agricultural Association	<b>PSEA</b>	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse
<b>DAI</b>	Dorcas Aid International	<b>PU-AMI</b>	Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale
<b>DAMA</b>	Doctors Aid Medical Activities	<b>PWJ</b>	Peace Winds Japan
<b>DARY</b>	Dary Human Organisation	<b>RC/RC</b>	Red Cross / Red Crescent
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council	<b>REACH</b>	Rehabilitation, Education and Community Health Iraq
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix	<b>Iraq</b>	Health Iraq
<b>EO</b>	Executive Officer	<b>SC</b>	Save the Children
<b>FRC</b>	French Red Cross	<b>SEDO</b>	Sahara Economic Development Organization
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based violence	<b>SI</b>	Solidarités International
<b>GMS</b>	Grant Management System	<b>SSDF</b>	Sorouh for Sustainable Development Foundation
<b>Harikar</b>	Harikar Organization for Protecting and Child Rights	<b>SSORD</b>	Sabe'a Sanabul Organization for Relief and Development
<b>HFU</b>	Humanitarian Financing Unit	<b>S/TRC</b>	Strategic and Technical Review Committee
<b>HI</b>	Handicap International/ Humanity & Inclusion	<b>SZOA</b>	Stichting ZOA
<b>HIO</b>	Human Imprint Organization	<b>TDH-L</b>	Terre des Hommes Lausanne
<b>HRP</b>	Humanitarian Response Plan	<b>TGH</b>	Triangle Génération Humanitaire
<b>ICCG</b>	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>IDP</b>	Internally displaced person	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>IHAO</b>	Iraq Health Access Organization	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>IHF</b>	Iraq Humanitarian Fund	<b>Vera</b>	Vera Humanitarian Institution for Womens Development
<b>IMC</b>	International Medical Corps	<b>WASH</b>	Water, sanitation and hygiene
<b>INGO</b>	International non-governmental organization	<b>WEO</b>	Women Empowerment Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>ISIL</b>	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant	<b>WVI</b>	World Vision International
<b>Justice Center</b>	The Justice Center to Support Marginalized Groups in Iraq	<b>YAO</b>	Youth Activity Organization
<b>KSC</b>	Kurdistan Save the Children		
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation		
<b>MC</b>	Mercy Corps		

ANNEX B

## IHF ADVISORY BOARD

<b>STAKEHOLDER</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
<b>Chairperson</b>	Humanitarian Coordinator
<b>Donor</b>	United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
<b>Donor</b>	Government of Germany
<b>Donor</b>	Government of Belgium
<b>Donor</b>	Government of Italy
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
<b>UN</b>	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
<b>UN</b>	World Food Programme (WFP)
<b>UN</b>	World Health Organization (WHO)
<b>INGO</b>	International Medical Corps (IMC) UK
<b>INGO</b>	World Vision International (WVI)
<b>NNGO</b>	Doctors Aid Medical Activities (DAMA)
<b>NNGO</b>	Sorouh for Sustainable Development Foundation (SSDF)
<b>Observer</b>	USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
<b>Observer</b>	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
<b>Observer</b>	NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)
<b>IHF/OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



ANNEX C

REFERENCE MAP

IRAQ

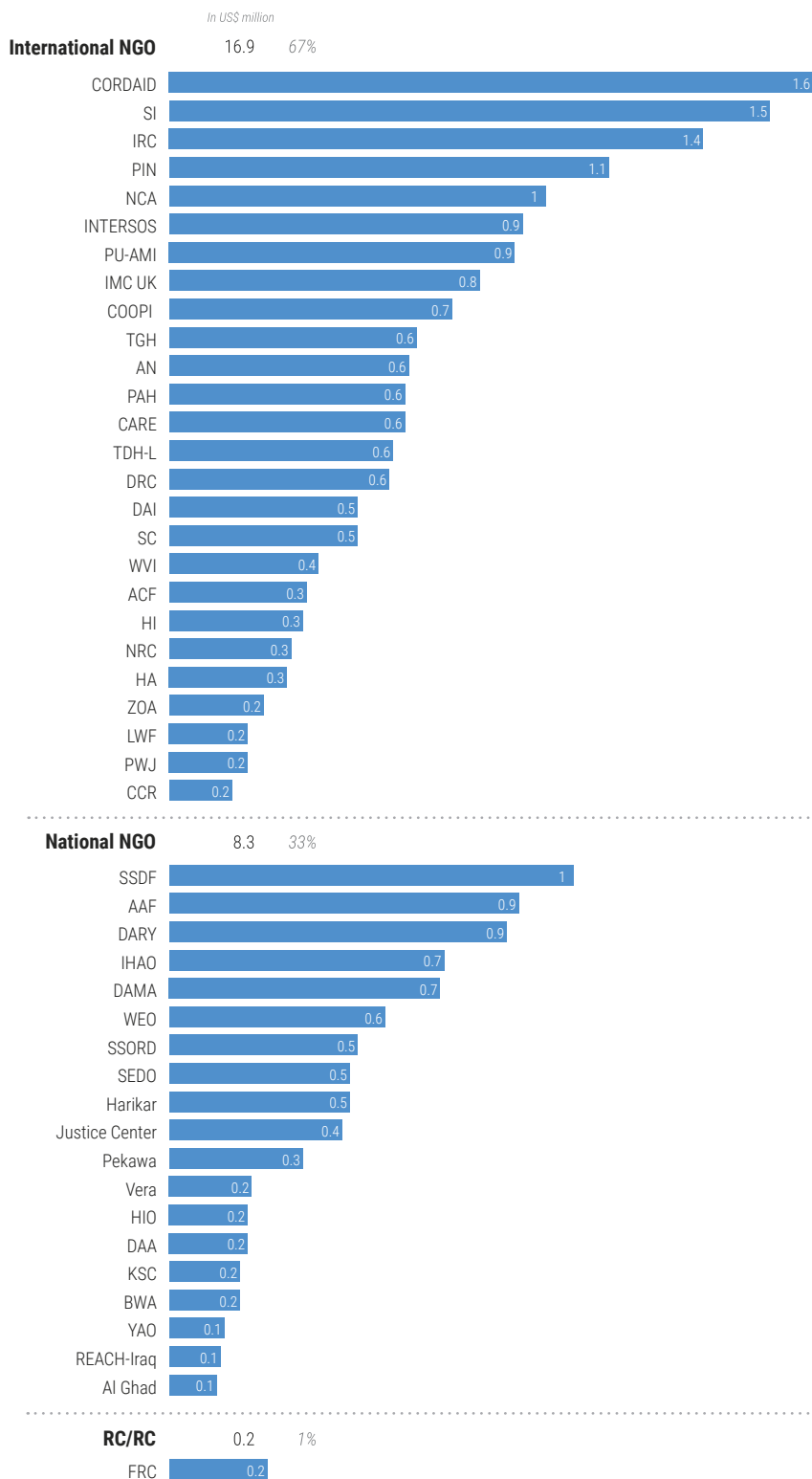


**Disclaimers:** The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. **Map Sources:** Iraq CODs 2019.

-  Primary road
-  Water body
-  Main river
-  International boundary
-  Governorate boundary

ANNEX D

## ALLOCATIONS BY RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION



The above figures represent the net funding (i.e. combined direct and indirect funding received minus known sub-grants) by organization. As the vast majority of 2021 IHF allocations were disbursed to lead organizations of multi-partner consortia, through which funds were sub-granted to consortia partners, the above is a more accurate picture of the funds received for direct implementation. See Annex A for acronyms.

**#InvestInHumanity**

**IHF** Iraq  
Humanitarian  
Fund

[UNOCHA.ORG/IRAQ/ABOUT-IHF](https://UNOCHA.ORG/IRAQ/ABOUT-IHF)

[CBPF.DATA.UNOCHA.ORG](https://CBPF.DATA.UNOCHA.ORG)

[GMS.UNOCHA.ORG](https://GMS.UNOCHA.ORG)

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