

IRAQ | IDPs - CIVIL & IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION (APRIL 2021)

IN BRIEF

Civil documentation is vital to one's enjoyment of fundamental rights. Missing civil documentation impedes one's ability to access basic services, education, healthcare, and social security benefits and can lead to restricted freedom of movement, increased risk of arrest and detention, exclusion from restitution and/or reconstruction programmes and the inability to participate in the public affairs of the country. Despite this, [lack of civil documentation](#) is one of the [main protection issues](#) facing internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹ and returnees many of whom face numerous barriers seeking to obtain and/or renew civil documentation.

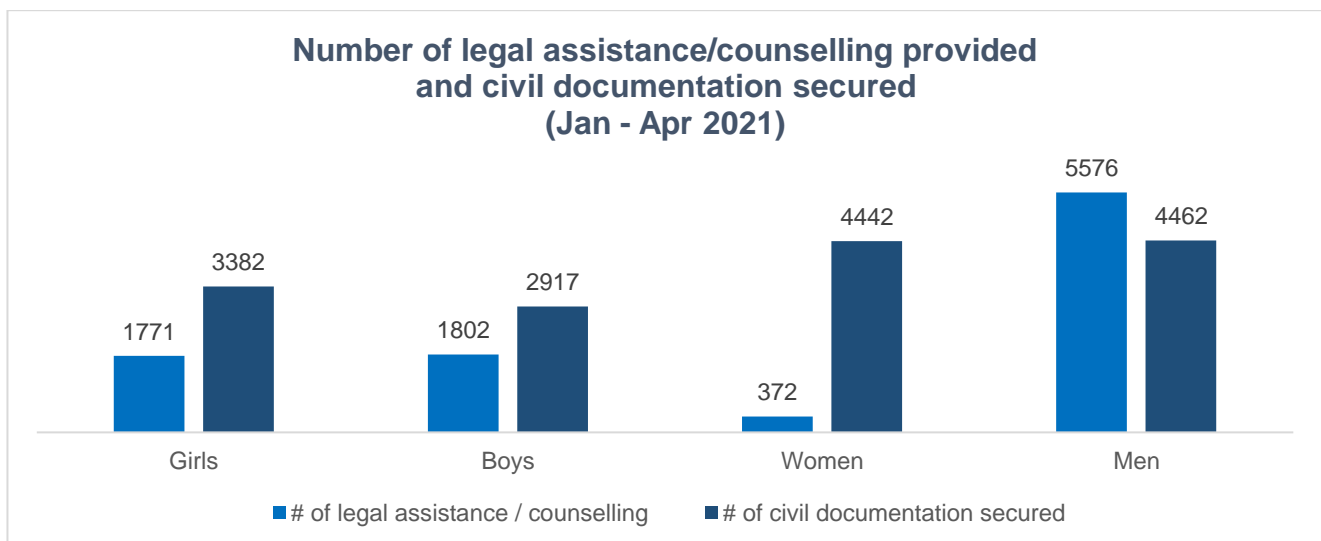
In response, in 2021 UNHCR, in cooperation with government and civil society partners, continues to implement and supports [projects and initiatives to enable IDPs and returnees to access civil documentation](#).



Processing applications for civil documents during Dohuk mobile missions 2021 © UNHCR

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

As a core activity, in 2021, UNHCR continues to mobilize legal assistance partners so that IDPs and returnees have access to accurate information and quality [legal advice and representation](#) on obtaining civil documentation. Lack of awareness and the complexity of procedures remain key barriers faced by IDPs in accessing civil documentation, making such assistance critical. In [April 2021](#), UNHCR and partners provided legal assistance and/or counselling to [4,104 individuals](#) resulting in the issuance of [11,276 civil documents](#). This means that between [January to April 2021](#), [12,871 individuals](#) were provided with legal assistance and [15,203 civil documents](#) have been issued. Wherever possible, partner legal assistance was provided face-to-face while observing [COVID-19](#) related precautionary measures. At the end of March, renewed limits on accessing civil affairs offices were put in place owing to the COVID-19 situation, affecting the processing of applications.



¹ According to the Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment VIII (2020), more than 2.1m individuals are in households reporting that they miss one or more core documents, while more than 800,000 persons are in households reporting that they miss 3 or more core documents. Core documents as defined by the National Protection Cluster include ID card, Nationality Certificate, birth certificates and PDS cards.

MOBILE APPROACHES



Ceremony marking handover of civil documents through mobile missions in Dohuk 2021 © UNHCR

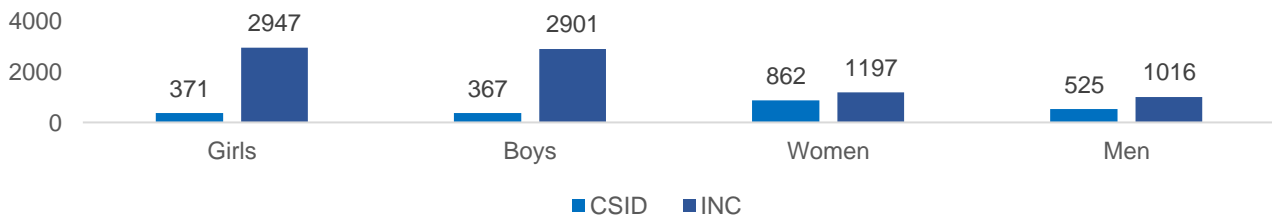
UNHCR continues to support [mobile missions](#) by government officials to IDP camps to receive and process applications for civil documents and to issue civil documentation.

In collaboration with the [Ministry of Interior \(MoI\)](#) of the Federal Government of Iraq as well as the Kurdistan Regional Government, mobile missions covering [Rawanga](#), [Darkar](#) and [Al-Sheikhan](#), [Khanaka](#), [Bajidkandala 1](#) and [Bajidkandala 2](#) IDP camps under the administration of [Dohuk Governorate](#) were undertaken in April. The mission resulted in the issuance of a total of [2,125 Civil Status IDs \(CSIDs\)](#) and [8,061 Iraqi Nationality Certificates \(INCs\)](#) to IDPs (see table below).

UNHCR and partners also supported mobile missions undertaken by [local CAD offices](#). In coordination with Civil Status Department of [Fallujah \(Anbar\)](#), a mobile team accompanied by IRC's legal team paid a visit to [Bezibiz](#)

informal site to address challenges related to issuance of nationality certificates with [102 cases](#) identified for assistance (issuance of [INCs](#) started in May). In [Ninewa](#), the local CAD conducted two mobile missions on 15 and 18 April to [Jedaa 5 camp](#) in coordination with UNHCR and its partner. During the missions, [71 CSIDs](#) and [38 INCs](#) were distributed.

Number of civil documents issued through UNHCR/MoI mobile missions (April 2021)



INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

UNHCR has continued to support the [rehabilitation of the offices of the Civil Affairs Directorates \(CAD\)](#). On 11 April the CAD/UID office in [Qahtaniyah \(Ninewa\)](#) was handed over to the authorities, with a formal opening ceremony yet to take place. Similar projects are ongoing in [Hawija \(Kirkuk\)](#) and planned for [Shirqat \(Salah Al Din\)](#).

ADVOCACY AND OTHER INITIATIVES

In April, UNHCR and legal partners successfully advocated with the CAD in [Ninewa](#) to exercise greater flexibility in meeting certain requirements for a number of beneficiaries in [Jedaa 5 camp](#). In [Erbil](#), UNHCR and partners arranged a mobile visit of the [Khabat Court](#) to IDP camps in [East Mosul](#) resulting in the issuance of various documents (Marriage Certificate, Court Birth Certificate and Curatorship Documents) to 81 individual IDPs. In [Kirkuk](#), UNHCR and partners have continued to follow-up on the issuance of civil documents to ex-residents of [Laylan camp](#), which was closed before all applications for civil documents through UNHCR-supported mobile missions were processed.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR DONORS

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