

HIGHLIGHTS

- HNO and HRP Published
- Tent replacement underway in Ninewa
- EU Commissioner visits school, hospital and water treatment plant in Mosul
- Update on the implementation of humanitarian activities and the Iraq Humanitarian Fund.

FIGURES

# of people in need	6.7m
# of people targeted for assistance	1.75m
# of in-camp (IDPs)	0.5m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	0.55m
# Highly vulnerable people in host communities	0.2m
# of returnees	0.5m
Source: 2019 HRP	

FUNDING

Humanitarian Response Plan 2019

\$701.2m

requested for 2019 (US\$)

\$30.1 million

funding received as of 25-Mar-2019

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



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HNO and HRP Published



The 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq have been published. The 2019 HNO found that an estimated 6.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, including approximately 1.8 million internally displaced persons. Multiple pressing protection concerns have been identified, including retaliation against people with perceived affiliations to extremist groups; ethno-sectarian violence; forced, premature and obstructed returns; a lack of civil documentation; IDPs and returnees who require specialized psychosocial support; high UXO contamination of land (including private houses); and housing, land and property issues. Challenges to securing livelihood opportunities are among the top needs cited by both people in displacement and people who have returned to their areas of origin.

The 2019 HRP will seek \$701 million to meet the needs of 1.75 million people and carry out operations falling under three Strategic Objectives:

- (1) post-conflict transition towards durable solutions;
- (2) ensuring the centrality of protection; and
- (3) strengthening contingency planning and preparedness



Heavy Rainfall Causes Flooding and Damage



Photo Credit: IRC

Heavy seasonal rainfalls in February and March caused a series of floods which caused severe damage to infrastructure throughout northern Iraq.

In early February, intense storms in Salah al-Din governorate caused the Tigris River to rise above its banks and wash out the floating bridges in and around the town of Shirqat, isolating people on either side of the river with no alternative ways to cross. Humanitarian partners on the ground reported a rise in the prices of food and fuel as deliveries were severely delayed while alternative routes were found. In addition,

access to the local hospital was cut off, necessitating patients to travel to health centres in Hawiga and Kirkuk, over an hour away. The bridges underwent temporary repairs, but a longer-term solution is needed.

Similarly, in mid- and late March, heavy rainfall in and around Mosul led to the closure of five major bridges in Ninewa governorate, giving rise to concerns about delays in delivery of aid from Mosul to IDP camps in Ninewa:

- Alnasr Bridge (pontoon connecting East and West Mosul)
- Alhurriyya Bridge (pontoon connecting East and West Mosul)
- Qanatir Bridge (at Al-Khawsar river)
- Suwais Bridge (at Al-Khawsar river)
- Qayyarah Bridge (pontoon connecting Makhmour Road to Qayyarah Sub District)

The pontoon bridges were able to re-open once water levels receded.

It is thought that the swollen water levels also contributed to the sinking of a ferry in the Tigris near Mosul on 21 March as families celebrated the Nowruz springtime holiday, which killed approximately 100 people. Civil defence forces responded to this disaster. The Secretary-General and SRSG expressed their regrets and offered the UN's support to national recovery efforts as needed.

Strengthening contingency planning and preparedness, including for national disasters, is one of the Strategic Objectives of the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan.



Photo Credit: Iraqi Red Crescent

Humanitarian Coordinator Mission to Sulaymaniyah



Photo Credit: UNFPA

On 26 February, Marta Ruedas, the Humanitarian Coordinator of Iraq, visited Sulaymaniyah. Her delegation met with the Governor of Sulaymaniyah and visited Ashti IDP camp in Arbat sub-district. The discussions focused on normalizing the displacement situation and exploring ways to support reintegration and return. Sulaymaniyah Governorate has approximately 150,000 IDPs, with 90 per cent living outside of formal camp settings. The Governor was supportive of implementing durable solutions in Sulaymaniyah, including integration of IDPs in host communities, while acknowledging that logistical obstacles existed. The Governor also noted that there is a need to build Sulaymaniyah's capacity to address preparedness planning for natural disasters, such as earthquakes, which are frequent in the area.

IHF Reserve Allocation Funds Tent Replacement

After consultation with the Shelter Cluster, it was decided that a reserve allocation from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) would be used to support the replacement of 23,150 tents in the Jeddah and Qayyarah IDP camps in Ninewa province.

Many of the tents used by Iraq's IDP camps have been in use for over three years, far surpassing their normal lifespan. There had been some expectation that the Government of Iraq might engage in tent replacement activities, but discussions with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement in early February 2019 revealed that they had fewer supplies available than initially thought.

After discussion with the Humanitarian Country Team and the IHF advisory board, it was determined that tenders for the procurement and installation of 23,150 tents would be issued, with finalization of the project during the first half of 2019. Installation would include a "cash for work" component for IDP laborers in Jeddah and Qayyarah. The project was estimated to cost \$7 million.



Qayyarah / Photo Credit: OCHA

Joint HC-ECHO Mission to Mosul

On 21-22 February, OCHA helped to organize and facilitate a two-day mission to Mosul by the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management (ECHO), the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, and the Humanitarian Coordinator, to understand current and foreseen humanitarian priorities in Iraq. The Mission visited a UNICEF-sponsored school in Mosul, a WHO hospital—the only functioning health centre of its size in the city—and an ICRC water treatment plant. The HC and the EU Commissioner emphasized the importance of ensuring humanitarian access to people in need and that reconstruction plans needed to be implemented as soon as possible. On the second day, the delegation visited Hamam al Alil IDP camp, to witness first-hand GBV and reproductive healthcare in Iraq, including a UNFPA clinic that is supported by the Iraq Humanitarian Fund.

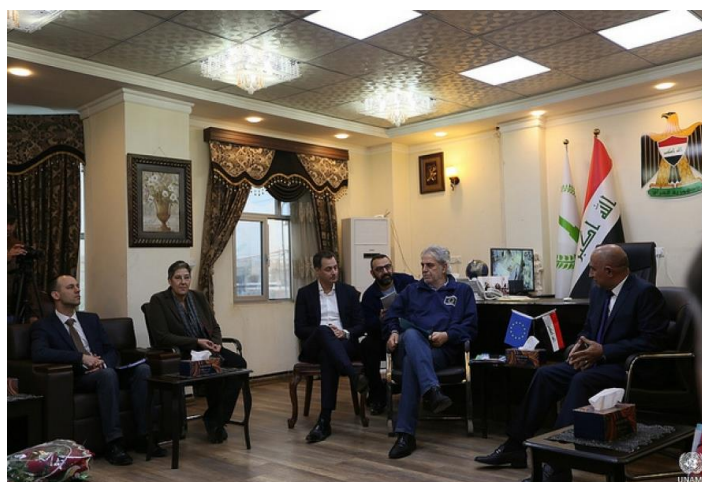


Photo Credit: UNAMI

Customs Checkpoints Abolished; Access Challenges Continue

In September 2018, OCHA field offices began reporting new “Tolls and Customs Offices” had been established at crossing points between KRI and federal Iraq. All goods transiting from KRI into federal Iraq would be expected to pay a tariff. Humanitarian goods could be exempted, but would require additional documentation from the federal Government for tax exemption beyond what was normally required. Incidents of access constraints at checkpoints began to be regularly reported by humanitarian partners, and the impacts were far-reaching. Import procedures subsequently took four times longer than before the new checkpoints had been established, between 4 – 12 weeks depending on the commodities that partners sought to import. No official reasoning was given for the imposition of new tariff regime, but the timing coincided with the one-year anniversary of the KRI independence referendum. OCHA, the Logistics Cluster and the Humanitarian Coordinator undertook high-level advocacy with relevant partners at NOC, JCMC, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance. On 13-February, official notification was received from Customs officials that these customs checkpoints between KRI and federal Iraq were abolished per a decree of the Prime Minister.



Photo Credit: OCHA

Despite this positive outcome, access challenges continue for humanitarians in Iraq, who must contend with multiple, overlapping access constraints, primarily in Ninewa and Kirkuk. In parallel to persistent reports of ad-hoc checkpoints being erected by diverse security actors along main routes in the north of the country, there are continuing problems of various provincial or military authorities refusing to accept access letters issued to humanitarian community by the federal Government. UN and NGO activities have been delayed and even suspended in some areas, as humanitarian actors are unable to comply with numerous requests for secondary authorizations from local or regional actors. A Committee based within the Prime Minister's Office has been formed and tasked with reviewing and rebuilding the nationally agreed system for providing access to humanitarian organisations. OCHA is closely watching developments in this area.

World Food Programme Reduces Distribution Cycle to Six Weeks



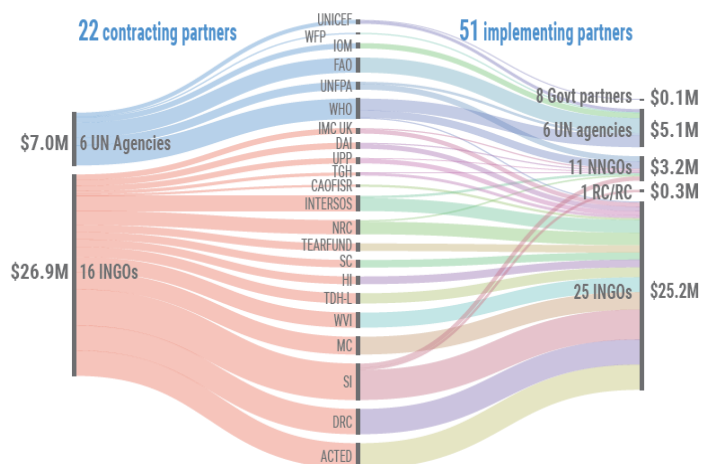
Photo Credit: OCHA

In mid-February, the World Food Programme advised that due to its current funding situation, food distribution in March would commence on a six-week schedule (instead of monthly). Additionally, going forward, cash assistance to IDPs was to be reduced from 20,000 IQD (approximately \$17) per individual to 17,000 IQD (approximately \$14) per individual, including both e-voucher and cash assistance. WFP noted that it was coordinating with MOMD to cover food assistance needs in camps and that it would identify vulnerable cases affected by these measures to mitigate the risk of negative coping mechanisms.

Anecdotal reports from some governorates indicate the reduction in food assistance is having a damaging impact on some IDPs. For example, in mid-March, partners in Kirkuk reported to OCHA that in-camp IDPs are reportedly beginning to skip meals to ensure the rations last longer, and that IDPs are seen leaving the camps to look for casual labour to supplement their ability to buy food. OCHA continues to monitor the situation.

Iraq Humanitarian Fund First Standard Allocation

FUNDING BY PARTNER TYPE (US\$ million)



In support of the 2019 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the Humanitarian Coordinator allocated US\$33.9 million from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) under the year's 1st Standard Allocation. The prioritization and proposal development processes began in late 2018 for partners to ensure that funds were made available for partners to start implementing their projects in early January. The allocation is aligned with 2019 HRP Strategic Objectives, and supports in- and out-of-camp IDPs, returnees and/or host communities in priority locations identified by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix and Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment. Large-scale consortia-based projects with a local capacity building component were prioritized. The allocation funded 30 projects targeting 1.2 million people through 6 UN agencies, 25 INGOs, 11 NNGOs, 1 Red Cross organization and 8 local authorities.

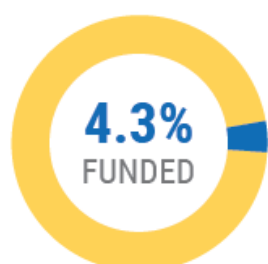
Collaboration with Government Coordination Bodies Continues

On 24-January, the Humanitarian Coordinator chaired the periodic meeting of the Governorate Returns Committee (GRC) for Anbar province to discuss camp consolidation and closure and the issue of alleged forced returns, which had been raised by Protection partners. The Anbar Governor's Advisor on Displacement, along with provincial representatives from the Ministry of Migration and Displacement co-chaired the meeting, and representatives from OCHA, IRC, IOM, UNICEF and local NGOs were also present. GRCs were formed by the Government of Iraq and the humanitarian community to ensure that the IDP returns process is well-informed, voluntary, dignified and sustainable.

On 30-January, representatives from OCHA, the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and other humanitarian partners held the quarterly Humanitarian Coordination Forum in Erbil. The meeting focused on the humanitarian needs and challenges—including winterization need—as well as critical gaps in service provision and IDPs and the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019.

\$112 million in Humanitarian Funding Received; 73% Outside HRP

Analysis undertaken in March 2019 indicates that as of 24-March, Iraq had received \$111.8 million in total humanitarian funding, \$30.1 million (27 per cent) of which was captured within activities linked to the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, and \$87.1 million (73 per cent) of which was outside of the HRP. OCHA continues to closely monitor humanitarian funding in Iraq, and encourages all partners and donors to accurately record humanitarian financing to ensure transparency and accountability.



US\$671.0M
HRP UNMET REQUIREMENTS
as of 24 March 2019

IHF first standard allocation 2019¹

US\$34 million

US\$111.8M
TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED
as of 24 March 2019



The total funding received represents the overall funding linked to the requirements of the response plans/appeals; the HRP funding is a subset of overall funding to the affected country.

US\$701.2M
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

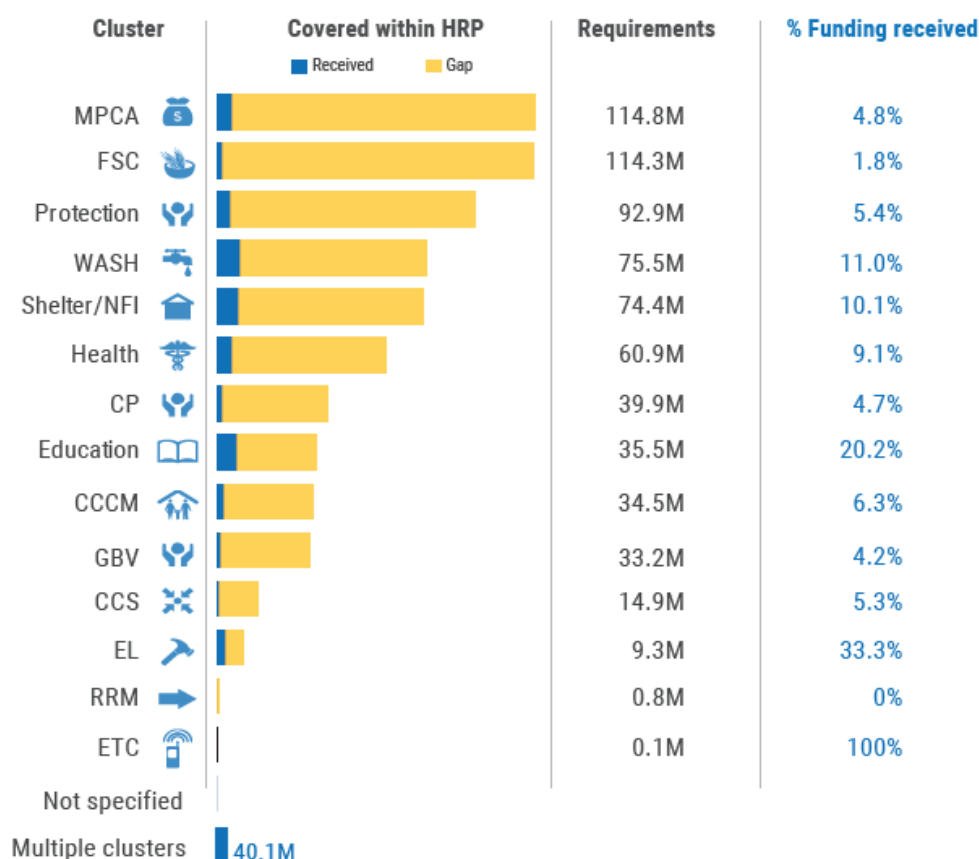
US\$30.1M¹
FUNDING RECEIVED

95.7%
FUNDING GAP

US\$30.1M
FUNDING THROUGH 2019 HRP

US\$81.7M
FUNDING OUTSIDE 2019 HRP

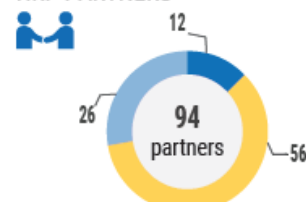
BY CLUSTER (US\$)



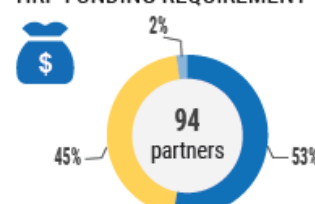
BY PARTNER TYPE

● United Nations ● International NGOs
● National NGOs ● Iraq Humanitarian Fund

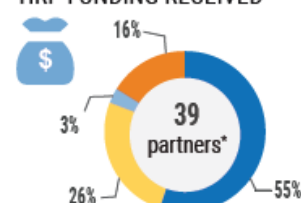
HRP PARTNERS



HRP FUNDING REQUIREMENT



HRP FUNDING RECEIVED



*Partners reported on FTS. Numbers are rounded up