



Access to civil documentation by IDPs and IDP returnees in Iraq 2022-2023

The loss or destruction of civil documentation is a major protection issue faced by IDPs. Many - particularly those with real or perceived affiliation to extremist groups - face numerous barriers to obtaining and renewing civil documentation. The 2021 Multi Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) showed that 28% of IDPs in camps, 25% of IDPs in urban situations, and 16% of IDP returnees in Iraq lack at least one core document. **Missing civil documentation impedes one's ability to access basic services such as 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 inability to participate in the public affairs of the country.** Children who lack birth certificates are at risk of statelessness. UNHCR continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to conduct civil documentation missions in camps, including Jeddah 1 regarding Al Hol returnees and the 25 KRG-administrated IDP camps, and areas of displacement.

Lacking at least one core document



28%
IDP in Camps



25%
IDPs in Urban



16%
IDP Returnees

UNHCR has been implementing projects to enable IDPs and IDP returnees across Iraq to access key civil documents, including Civil ID, Iraqi Nationality Certificate, Unified National IDs (UID), Birth Certificates and Public Distribution System Cards

Provision of individual legal assistance including representation in administrative or legal processes

Community awareness on the importance of civil documentation and how to access it

Rehabilitation and establishment of Civil Affairs Directorates (CAD), Unified National ID Directorate and National Identification Document Centers

Provision of support to the MoI and coordination of mobile missions MoI ad-hoc and local CAD mobile mission

Local and national level advocacy efforts to address legal, administrative and other obstacles

UNHCR with its partners- Harikar, Hearland Alliance, InterSOS, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Iraqi Legal Clinic Network (LCN), Swedo, Terre des Hommes (TdH) Italy facilitate three types of mobile missions:

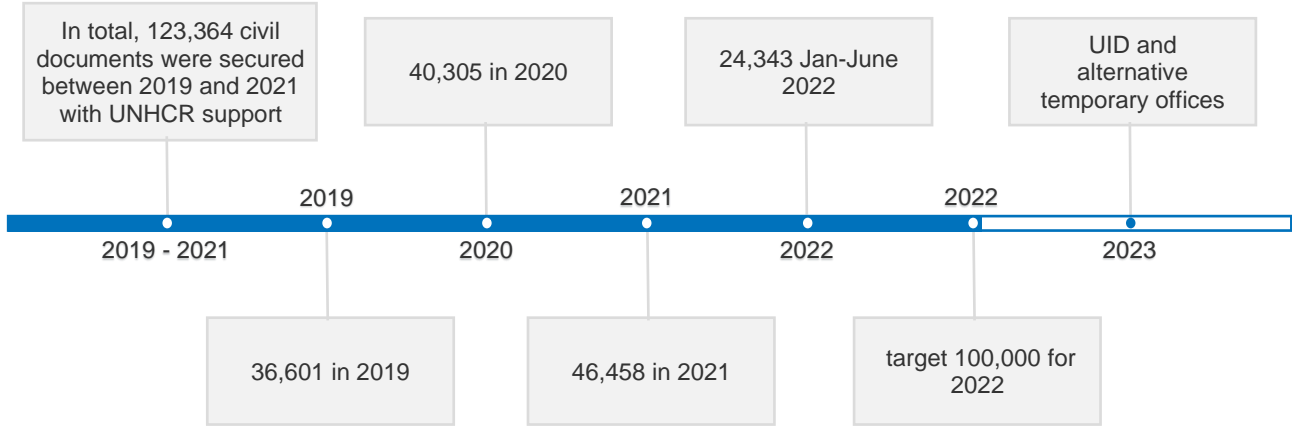
Mobile mission types:

- **CAD, court missions- within the same Governorate:**
Coordinated between UNHCR field offices with the local CADs regarding the issuance of Civil ID and Nationality Certificate to the IDPs and IDP returnees within the governorate(s) itself
- **Ad-hoc Committee- collaboration between authorities from different Governorates:**
Specialized in the issuance of Civil ID and Nationality Certificate to IDPs and IDP returnees
- **Jedda 1 center (J1) and Jedda 5 camp (J5)- specific to J1 and UID:**
New Committee established to conduct mobile missions to J1 and J5 for the issuance of Unified National IDs. The Committee consists of staff from Civil Affairs/UID and Nationality Directorates of Baghdad, Ninewa, Anbar, Salahddin, Kirkuk and Diyala





Achievements



UNHCR’s budget for civil documentation activities (USD)

2019	2020	2021	2022
1,735,355.00	1,266,811.00	1,815,620.00	2,737,645.90

Scale up of mobile missions for the 2nd half of 2022

Governorate	Total Documents
Duhok	16,609
Sulaymaniyah	12,824
Erbil	4,397
Anbar, Baghdad, Najaf & Karbala	3,000
Ninewa	2,400
TOTAL	39,230

2023

Promoting access to civil documentation is of crucial importance, particularly for complex cases, and a priority for UNHCR as the lead protection agency in Iraq. As such, in 2023, UNHCR will continue to build the capacity of relevant institutions and to advocate for removal of barriers to documentation, especially for complex cases with no identify proof or perceived affiliations with extremist groups, including but not limited to Iraqi returnees from Al Hol camp in Syria. UNHCR will continue prioritizing the provision of legal assistance to IDPs and IDP returnees, and especially vulnerable host community members to enable their access to identity and civil documentation necessary for the exercise of fundamental rights. Beneficiary identification will continue to be guided by analysis of the information received through various assessment mechanisms and tools, including individual referrals to protection and other actors, protection assessments, comprehensive household assessments in areas of displacement/ camps and return, legal awareness-raising sessions as well as drop-ins at the UNHCR-supported community service centres, and through community-based structures.

Going forward, UNHCR will focus on supporting issuance of Unified National IDs including through the setting of temporary alternative field offices for Mol to process Unified National IDs in 2023.

