

HIGHLIGHTS

- Military operations to retake the last major territory held by ISIL begin in western Anbar.
- 184,000 people are currently displaced by recent unrest in northern governorates.
- Almost 62,000 people return to Hawiga a month after it is retaken, to a lack of services and explosive hazard contamination.
- Heaters, fuel and sanitation upgrades are urgently needed in camps across Iraq as winter approaches.
- IHF launches \$14 million reserve allocation for Hawiga.

FIGURES

# of people in need	11m
# of people targeted for assistance	6.2m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	3.2m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	2.5m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.2m
# of returnees	2.3m
# of Syrian refugees	0.23m

Source: 2017 Iraq HRP/HNO/IOM DTM

Humanitarian Response Plan

FUNDING

985 million

requested for 2017 (US\$)

62% (\$611 million)

(reflects funding on FTS as of 2 November 2017)

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



Credit: OCHA/Themba Linden

In this issue

- Military operations resume in W. Anbar P.1
- Unrest in disputed areas displaces thousands P.2
- Swift returns to Hawiga, despite hazards P.3
- Winter items in critically short supply P.3
- IHF launches Hawiga reserve allocation P.4

Military operations resume in western Anbar

Initial humanitarian impact light as troops move through sparsely-populated desert

Military operations to retake Ka'im and Ru'ua in western Anbar from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant began on 26 October. This part of western Anbar, on the border with Syria, is the last major territory held by ISIL in Iraq.

The initial days of the operation saw minimal fresh displacements, as troops moved through sparsely-populated desert. Many of the handful of people displaced from the retaken villages and rural areas east of Ka'im returned home after screening, and the Iraqi authorities provided transport.



Many new IDPs are transported to camps in eastern Anbar. Credit: OCHA/Kate Pond

Access to affected people is the major issue facing responders

An estimated 50,000 people were resident in Ka'im and Ru'ua before the onset of military operations. Although it is anticipated the majority of people will remain in their homes if safe to do so – as was the case in Hawiga – humanitarians estimate that 10,000 people will flee east towards Haditha and south towards Rutba in the most likely scenario. A further 5,000 people could flee west into Syria. Partners are ready to respond to an expected spike in displacement when the front lines enter the city in the coming days.

Western Anbar poses significant access problems to humanitarians responding to the needs of the newly-displaced. There are long distances to travel, few shelter options and explosive hazards are present along roads and in settlements. The Iraqi authorities established a screening and reception site in Ana stadium at the end of October along one possible displacement routes. Limited capacity and the presence of explosive hazards made establishing the site a drawn-out process. Humanitarian partners provide emergency food, water and essential items to people passing through the site.

65,000 displaced from western Anbar; over 50,000 are in camps in the east

Since the beginning of the year, almost 65,000 people fled western Anbar as of 2 November according to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). Since military operations began in Ana on 20 September, more than 19,000 fled. The majority pass through Kilo 18 transit site, from where many are transported to established camps in the east of Anbar governorate where broad humanitarian assistance is provided. People are regularly transported from Kilo 18 site to the larger and better-equipped eastern Anbar camps, making room for newly-displaced people arriving at Kilo 18 on a daily basis.

Space is immediately available for over 24,500 people in camps in Anbar, 68 per cent of which is in Fallujah district in the east of the governorate. Kilo 18 is the closest displacement site, but has limited capacity and can only accommodate an additional 74 families. In the event of large-scale displacement people will have to be transported over 300 kilometres before they can access a full package of assistance. According to the DTM, over 50,000 people – 78 per cent of the total number displaced – are in camps and host communities in Fallujah and Ramadi districts.

Unrest in disputed areas displaces thousands

183,000 flee their homes in Diyala, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Erbil and Ninewa

Thousands fled conflict during the military realignment in the disputed areas of northern Iraq in late October. In many cases it was less than 48 hours before people returned to their homes, but as hostilities re-erupted in a number of places, many families fled and returned home multiple times. As of 2 November, over 183,000 people are displaced in the disputed areas, including 79,000 from Kirkuk city, 22,000 from Makhmur in the



IDPs in Shariya camp, Dahuk. Credit: OCHA / Charlotte Cans

south-west of Erbil governorate and 47,000 from Tooz district in north-eastern Salah al-Din. The vast majority fled to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Some 150,000 returned home by 31 October, largely to Kirkuk. No discernable return movements to Tooz are recorded to date.

In northern Ninewa governorate, as many as an estimated 20,000 people fled hostilities springing up around Zummar, Rabea and Sinjar to seek shelter in Dahuk governorate. An estimated 12,000 people (2,000 families) fled hostilities in Zummar and Rabea for safety in Dahuk governorate, as did more than 950 families from Tel Asquf, a Christian Assyrian village. In Sinjar, approximately 1,200 Yazidi returnees went back to their sites of displacement due to a lack of services in Sinjar, and fears over the unstable security situation. Simultaneously to this new displacement, approximately 2,000 Arab families returned to Zummar. The new returnees received assistance after humanitarian partners were able to access them on 30 October.

Despite the fluidity of the situation, the humanitarian response continues

Despite a marked de-escalation in tensions by the end of the month, the security situation remains fluid and movements of displacement and return continue. Humanitarian access is compromised by ongoing pockets of insecurity, but assistance continues uninterrupted in camps. The majority of recently-displaced people are sheltering in private or informal

Over 184,000 people are currently displaced, mostly from Kirkuk, Makhmur and Tooz. Some 150,000 returned to Kirkuk; no returns to Tooz are recorded.

settings: with family and friends or in public or unfinished buildings. Partners are working tirelessly to reach them in their sites of displacement with food and water, blankets and other essential items. Health care is provided by mobile medical teams. As of the end of October, humanitarian and government partners reached more than 130,000 people with food, water and essential household and hygiene items, shelter assistance, sanitation and health care services.

Swift returns to Hawiga, despite hazards

Almost 62,000 return to their homes before the area is fully cleared of ERW

Return movements to Hawiga began quickly after the area was retaken from ISIL in September's military operations. Of the 47,000 people displaced during military operations only 11,000 remain displaced as of the end of October according to IOM's DTM, many of whom are unable or unwilling to return home. By early October, almost 30,000 people returned to Hawiga and areas of east Shirqat, despite the lack of a formal return procedure.



Explosive hazard contamination is a hindrance to returns across Iraq.
Credit: OCHA/Elias Bahaa

By the end of the month, almost 62,000 of the civilians displaced since August 2016 had returned. Reasons for return vary, reportedly including the fear of borders closing following the military realignment.

An assessment undertaken in Hawiga city and the nearby villages of Al Zab and Al Abbassi in early October indicates a shortage of basic services and contamination of the area by explosive hazards, compromising the sustainability of returns. The main needs reported are clean drinking water, health care and education services, household items and winter clothing. Looting of civilian homes that reportedly took place during and after hostilities indicates that as more people return home the need for household and hygiene items will increase. Partners observed that approximately half of the civilian homes in villages close to Hawiga were damaged in some way, and 10 per cent were burned. Up to 70 per cent of homes were looted.

The need to clear Hawiga district of explosive hazards - especially given the fast rate of returns - is paramount. Returns to the district should not be encouraged before clearance operations have finished, and families who have already returned report casualties resulting from improvised explosive devices. Advocacy with the Iraqi authorities to prioritize clearance operations in Hawiga is ongoing. In the meantime, protection actors are deploying mine risk awareness teams to the area to maximize awareness.

Fuel and winter items in critically short supply

Shortage of funds slows preparations for winter

Across Iraq humanitarian partners are gearing up for winter, ensuring that vulnerable people have what they need to survive the coming cold weather. Clusters report major gaps in the winterization process, due at least in part to critical gaps in funding the core humanitarian response.

A recent assessment indicates a shortage of basic services including clean drinking water, health care and education, and the presence of explosive hazards.

The shortage of heaters and fuel stoves, and the lack of kerosene to fuel them are key gaps in preparations for winter. In the camps near Mosul families were without kerosene for heating stoves for the last two months. Essential cold weather items like blankets and winter clothes, repair materials for tents and insulation are also in critically short supply. Camps in central and southern Iraq are the most hard hit by these shortages.



Winter items remain in critically short supply in camps.
Credit: OCHA/Themba Linden

Drainage and sanitation systems in camps are also in dire need of adapting and improving to cope with possible flooding; a common result of winter rains. The WASH Cluster is in urgent need of additional funds to upgrade systems for the winter, while at the same time responding to the increased pressure ongoing new displacements are putting on existing water and sanitation facilities in camps in northern governorates and Anbar.

Planning and advocacy are underway with government ministries, UN agencies and donors in order to speed up the winterization process. Humanitarian partners are advocating with relevant government ministries for a clear kerosene distribution plan so partners can identify where critical gaps are likely to appear, and plan accordingly. An injection of funds for the core response is urgently needed to ensure tents can be repaired, blankets replaced and heaters refuelled, and displaced Iraqis have adequate protection against the coming cold weather.

IHF launches reserve allocation to support Hawiga response

To support the humanitarian response in Hawiga, the Humanitarian Coordinator, in consultation with donors, clusters and operational partners, launched a reserve allocation of US\$14 million from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) in early October. The allocation supports 23 projects run by 18 partners in the Health, WASH, Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance and Education Clusters, including UN agencies and national and international NGOs. These organizations are assisting communities affected by the fighting, based on the priorities identified during the planning process and with checks and balances built in to help partners adapt to the volatile security and humanitarian situation in the disputed areas.

Meanwhile, humanitarian partners continue to struggle with underfunding of critical life-saving activities across Iraq. The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan is only 62 per cent funded as of 1 November, leaving a shortfall of US\$374 million. Additional funding is urgently needed to prevent further cutbacks in emergency programmes reaching those most in need.

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