



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
Joint Crisis Coordination Centre

COMMON OPERATIONAL PICTURE

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN THE
KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

Report No. 4, August 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) is currently living through one of the largest displacement crises in the world, of which the escalation of displaced numbers is truly disturbing. The internal unrest and violence in neighboring Syria, beginning in March of 2011, resulted in the creation of thousands of Syrian refugees seeking safety from the horrors subjected upon them. Although this was the inception of the mass displacement crisis, it was further aggravated in January 2014, with Iraq being shaken by the perverse and sudden invasion of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The barbaric slaughtering, enslavement and protracted conflict has resulted in the forced displaced of 3.1 million Iraqis. The relative safety and security of the KR-I, in combination with its open door and welcoming policy, has evidently played as a great allure for displaced populations. In the past eighteen months, the KR-I has



received and is warmly hosting up to 1.5 million IDPs, in addition to the already existing 283,505 Syrian Refugees.

As a result of multiple waves of displacement, the population of the KR-I has dramatically increased by almost 30% within a relatively short time span. On average, approximately 80,000 IDPs entered the KR-I every month in 2014. Whilst displaced populations have continually been provided with safety, protection and services by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), it has come at a hefty price. The dramatic increase in population mixed with the ongoing fiscal crisis has negatively affected and worsened all aspects of KR-I's economy, infrastructure and provision of services. The KR-I has long surpassed its response and absorption capacity. The World Bank and Ministry of Planning report has highlighted this through their calculation of a US \$1.4 billion stabilization cost for a return to the pre-crisis baseline.

The international community and humanitarian partners have arduously rallied and worked to meet the deepening needs of a population in protracted displacement. Understandably, the intricate and complex nature of this level-three emergency has made it difficult to meet all the needs of the displaced population whilst at the same time responding to the new emergencies and influxes. The concerted efforts of the government, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and host communities, whilst they have been relentless, have only been able to contain the current crisis and ease acute suffering.

Irrefutably, the KR-I is hosting one of the largest concentrations of displaced populations at the cost of its regional stability. Without a united bulwark against the terrors of ISIS, additional technical and financial support, and effective contingency planning there will be no light at the end of the tunnel for the millions of individuals suffering on a day-to-day basis.

RESOURCE AND FUNDING OVERVIEW

Resource and Funding Overview

The chronically inadequate funding for the humanitarian response is a vital and recurring concern and is effectively crippling the capacity to meet the enormous needs in KR-I. The humanitarian response to the refugee crisis is planned under the 3RP, and has only been funded at a worrying 19%. The Strategic Response Plan (SRP), at its conclusion was funded at a dire 26%. With the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the humanitarian community has appealed for US \$497.9 million. In the extremely unlikely occurrence that the HRP is fully funded, it will essentially only ease acute suffering but larger impact on affected populations and host communities cannot be addressed or rectified. Due to the lack of funding and short funding cycles, the current refugee and humanitarian response plans fail to appropriately capture this complexity and holistically incorporate immediate, short and long-term priorities. Even when incorporated, medium to long-term projects have not materialised due to funding shortage and the response has increasingly reduced its scope to the most basic population needs. While life-saving remains the natural priority, neglecting other population needs will, and already has, produced severe consequences in terms of physical and mental health, vulnerability and resilience of families and communities, negative coping strategies, derailed learning and development for children as well as social and community tensions and grievances.

The financial capacity of the KRG is near non-existent. Due to the ongoing fiscal crisis, in which the Government of Iraq has unconstitutionally withheld KRG's 17% share of the



annual budget, there has been a loss of 90% of fiscal transfers. The KRG's ability to provide basic needs and maintain public services to the displaced populations, in addition to its local population, is dwindling to the point where regional collapse is a valid and real threat to the region. According to the World Bank/MoP report, the KRG has spent approximately US \$1 billion to meet the basic needs of the IDP population. However, the continued financial capacity of the KRG needs to be addressed, as this level of spending may not be continually viable. To

RESOURCE AND FUNDING OVERVIEW

date, all displaced populations within the KR-I have to all health care services, been provided with residency cards and documentation, been provided with security detail for all camp and access to education. All these services are provided at the expense of the KRG to help accommodate those affected in their time of need. These services are outside of those also provided by the municipalities, such as water, electricity etc. While cash assistance may be something out of KR-I's capacity, these services provide a great help and will be on-going.

The table below represents the HRP funding status as of July, 2015. It has been divided up by cluster and also by KR-I and the rest of Iraq.

<i>Clusters</i>	Total HRP		Kurdistan Region		Rest of Iraq	
	Revised requirements USD	Funding USD	Revised requirement share	Funding share	Revised requirement share	Funding share
<i>CCCM</i>	2,500,000	0	1,250,000	0	1,250,000	0
<i>Coordination and Support</i>	6,500,000	0	1,966,988	0	4,589,639.60	0
<i>Education</i>	26,049,963	232,297	13,274,341	232,297	12,775,622.50	0
<i>Emergency Telecommunications</i>	500,267	157,356	350,187	110,149	150,080	102,873
<i>Food Security</i>	179,789,563	10,400,000	82,894,423	5,200,000	96,895,139.60	5,200,000
<i>Health</i>	59,753,765	3,386,262	26,987,742	2,059,262	32,766,023.50	1,327,000
<i>Logistics</i>	2,423,805	2,423,805	1,211,903	1,211,903	1,211,902.50	1,211,903
<i>Multipurpose Cash Assistance</i>	4,999,999	1,692,243	1,178,299	470,410	3,821,700.40	1,221,833
<i>Protection</i>	53,779,279	6,280,535	24,932,211	2,307,014	28,847,058	3,973,521
<i>Rapid Response Mechanisms</i>	11,999,998	0	3,359,999	0	8,399,998.60	0
<i>SHELTER/NFI</i>	95,041,303	5,888,275	34,101,893	1,865,831	60,939,410	4,022,444
<i>Social Cohesion & Sustainable Livelihoods</i>	9,832,402	0	4,971,583	0	4,860,819	0
<i>WASH</i>	43,898,323	3,902,539	17,720,121	2,477,038	26,178,201.80	1,425,501
Total	497,068,667	34,363,312	214,199,690	15,933,904	282,685,596	18,485,075

SOURCE: UNOCHA

RESPONSE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Response Performance Analysis

The below tables illustrates the IDP and refugee population in the KR-I.

GOVERNORATE	NUMBER OF IDPS				%GOVERNORATE
	#Households	#Individuals	% In-Camp (HH)	%Out of Camp (HH)	
DUHOK	95,531	502,383	34%	66%	38.43%
ERBIL	91,076	430,005	2.5%	97.5%	36.63%
SULAYMANIAH	62,000	260,358	11.5%	88.5%	24.94%
TOTAL	248,607	1,192,746			100%

GOVERNORATE	NUMBER OF REFUGEES				%GOVERNORATE
	#Households	#Individuals	% In-Camp (HH)	%Out of Camp (HH)	
DUHOK	23,917	139,831	45%	55%	55%
ERBIL	43,465	113,672	68%	32%	32%
SULAYMANIAH	12,050	30,452	N/A	N/A	
TOTAL	79,432	283,505			100%

Despite being one of the smallest governorates, Dahuk Governorate is currently hosting one of the largest numbers of displaced populations in the country, equaling to approximately 584,998 individuals. Erbil Governorate hosts a relatively large population of 543,677 individuals and Sulaymaniyah governorate hosts a smaller population of 290,810 individuals. Yet, even with a lower displaced population, Suleimaniya experience lower standards of service provision.

Of course with such large numbers of displaced, the needs required are extensive yet largely unmet. The continuous influx of IDPs from other Iraqi provinces illustrate the complexity of a humanitarian situation where millions of people are in need of different types of protection and assistance services ranging from immediate life-saving assistance to psychosocial rehabilitation, education, social protection, economic security, livelihoods support and more. The displacement waves tell the story of families that, due to the nature and length of their displacement and their conditions in their places of displacement, have different vulnerabilities, needs and priorities. There exists, however, a common recurrence of uniform critical needs as outlined below.

RESPONSE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

FOOD SECURITY

- The food cluster has received 20% of the requested funding only and as a result WFP is compelled to drastically reduce its food assistance program.
- Voucher value reduced to 19 US/Person/month.
- WFP budget requirements to assist Syrian refugees in Iraq in 2015 is US\$56.5 million. The current Food Security sector under the 3RP is funded at 15%.
- WFP requires US\$11.4 million for the period June to August 2015 to keep its assistance even at a reduced level.
- Livelihood and income generating projects are necessary to reduce population dependency on food aid and keep people occupied with constructive occupations to prevent psychosocial health and behavior problems amongst the displaced population, particularly the youth.

SHELTER

- Out of 1.5 million IDPs, 81% live in out-of-camp settlements. Even when the camps are filled to their full capacity, nearly 800,000 IDPs will be outside of camps. Of these, today, 54,000 live in critical shelters. 274,977 have rented house or hotel. Some are already now beginning to be unable to pay their bills and cannot be accommodated in camps.
- In addition to lack of space, the quality of shelter and infrastructure is low and overcrowdedness is severe in many IDP and refugee camps. It is estimated that an additional shelter needs to be provided to over 243,000 vulnerable IDPs.
- Shelter solutions for people living in critical shelters and those with vulnerable household economy that are currently renting must be found.
- Upgrading of shelters and infrastructure in some IDP and refugee camps should be prioritised. There is a direct link between shelter quality and both physical and mental health of the population including increased levels of domestic violence, depression and the spread of skin and communicable diseases.



HEALTH

The rates of morbidity and mortality amongst the displaced populations along with deterioration of the health status of displaced populations, can be curtailed should the following needs be addressed;

RESPONSE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

- Shortage of medicine is a growing problem that has left many patients with chronic illnesses and even easily treatable disease untreated.
- Inadequate water and sanitation facilities and services combine with poor and overcrowded shelter conditions further exacerbated the spread of diseases and health status of the IDPs and refugees.
- Populations (displaced and local) outside of the urban centres and 20% of the IDP populations outside of the camps are facing additional barriers to access health care according to the health cluster.
- Due to lack of information and awareness, many displaced persons are not seeking healthcare in time, leading to deterioration of individual health condition and spread of disease in often overcrowded communities.
- Emergency stocks are insufficient, making a swift and efficient response in case of an emergency impossible.
- Lack of funding and subsequent reduction of food assistance can result in increased prevalence of malnutrition, particularly amongst children.
- Address gaps in specialised health care including treatment of chronic illnesses and mental health problems.

WASH

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis, water and sanitation conditions have been sub-standard compared to humanitarian standards and/or what the population is in need of. The conditions have deteriorated over time and lack of funding has resulted in an emergency situation where if more funding is



not received a significant number of wash facilities and services will be reduced or stopped.

- Maintenance of WASH facilities and continuation of wash services (including water delivery) in all camps, formal and informal settlements.
- Installation of adequate wash facilities in new camps.
- Upgrading of wash facilities where sub-standard.

RESPONSE PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

- Increased funding is necessary for waste management.
- Sewage and grey water collection is another problem that is affecting several camps.
- Efficient, correct use of WASH facilities and conservation of household water remain areas requiring advocacy and enforcement, particularly with the hot summer season bringing increased demand for water.
- For Erbil, Guidance Notes to address unauthorized connections to water and sanitation networks are under development to be disseminated, operationalized and enacted through an ERC directive.
- Provision of safe drinking water in Basirma camp remains challenged as borehole water is brackish. Only 25 of the 127 l/p/d of water being supplied is potable.

Impact on Host Communities

The extensive displacement of Iraqi IDPs and Syrian refugees into KRI - resulting from the ISIL conflict and the Syrian crisis respectively - has profoundly impacted the KRG's economy and placed immense pressure on the social sectors. Whilst the humanitarian response is addressing and working to meet the needs of the displaced populations, it is imperative that impact of this crisis on host communities and families is acknowledged and they are not forgotten in these chaotic times. To date, approximately 81% of IDP households and least 69% of refugee households are residing in non-camp settings, causing overcrowding, increasing demand for services and competition for resources.

The critical areas of concern to be addressed and monitored to prevent the further deterioration of the standard of living lay with the following needs; meeting additional demands for natural resources, labour market saturation, deflation in real incomes, inflation of housing costs, food security, social safety nets, vulnerability to poverty and the delivery of health and education programmes.

Water demand, sanitation and solid waste management are areas of grave concern not only for the host communities, but has proven to be a recurring and significant issue in camps as well. Water demand, due to the increased population, has risen by 11% (17.1 million m³) per year and due to lack of wastewater treatment plants and sewage collection networks, sanitation related issues are on the rise. An increase of 26% (1,690 tons) per day in solid waste has added to the already faltering solid waste system. Outside of the financial and environmental impacts this may have, there will undoubtedly be a direct impact on the entire populations' (both displaced and local populations) health status.

Food security, whilst currently managed adequately, is potentially at great risk. Although a majority of the local population rely on private food purchases as their main source, there is also a high dependency on government assistance through the Public Distribution System (PDS). It should be noted that there exists households that rely solely on the PDS as their primary food source. While the population may be relatively food secure for now, in the event of further shocks, waves of displacement and continued financial constraints, the expenditure on the PDS may very well be decreased, resulting in an increase of food insecurity.

Poverty rates for KRI have doubled from 3.5% to 8.1% in 2014. Although this can be attributed to various factors, a portion of decreased livelihood can be linked to deflation in income and increased labour market competition due to the influx of the population. The two concentrated areas of the labour market are in the public sector and manual/service labour, with the latter being the main area of competition. This decrease in income is challenging the ability to

IMPACT ON HOST COMMUNITIES



maintain the income-expenditure relation, and is resulting in an increased burden of debt as households are relying on loans to bridge the deficit in their incomes. This is further compounded by the increase in housing costs. With such large numbers of IDPS and refugees living in non-camp settings, there is a great challenge in ensuring that the adequate shelter is provided and affordable for the entire population.

The World Bank/MoP report calculates the critical needs for adequate shelter for 243,000 vulnerable IDPs alone.

It must reiterated that the KR-I is challenging three different crises simultaneously. The ISIL conflict and the mass influx of displaced populations is unfolding in the context of an aggravated and ongoing fiscal crisis. The various impacts and the enormity of hardships being faced by the KR-I cannot be solely attributed to the 30% influx of the population. However, it is apparent that this influx does directly and indirectly affect critical societal functions and provision of services.

The host communities and families have proved to be unreservedly hospitable to the IDP and refugee population, and will hopefully continue to do so. Though social cohesion has not proved to be a problem thus far, there are concerns over growing tensions due to the impacts felt by the local population. Unfortunately, due to the protracted armed conflict, there appears to be no end in sight for the displacement crisis, and in the interests of maintaining social cohesion between the populations, the impacts on the host communities should be factored into medium and long term contingency planning.