

# Iraq – Complex Emergency

September 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>4.1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p><b>2.4</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Acute Need</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p><b>1.2</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs</p> <p><i>IOM – July 2021</i></p>	<p><b>248,721</b></p> <p>Number of Syrian Refugees Sheltering in Iraq</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2021</i></p>	<p><b>4.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDP Returns Since 2014</p> <p><i>IOM – July 2021</i></p>
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- The GoI has scaled up COVID-19 vaccination efforts as case positivity remains high countrywide.
- On average, food consumption indicators have improved since 2020; however, an estimated 2.2 million people in Iraq reported insufficient food consumption as of September 3.
- On August 30, an IED exploded at Dohuk’s Qadiya IDP camp, resulting in two deaths, injuring 10 people, and generating additional mental health and psychosocial support needs.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Iraq Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$88,605,873
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$197,129,144
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$285,735,017</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Gol Increases COVID-19 Vaccinations Amid Widespread Popular Skepticism**

While relief actors recorded a seventh consecutive week of declining coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases on September 13, the case positivity rate remained approximately 10 percent—or twice the maximum 5 percent rate at which community transmission is considered contained—as of mid-September, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The UN agency expects spikes in COVID-19 case figures in the coming months, citing increased spread of the more contagious Delta variant. In response, the Government of Iraq (Gol) scaled up immunization efforts in September, launching mass vaccination sites in the capital city of Baghdad and passing new COVID-19 mitigation policies, including mandatory vaccinations for government employees and international travelers. As of September 19, an estimated 4.4 million Iraqis had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, representing approximately 10 percent of the population, with the Gol planning to deploy 200 teams to support dozens of new vaccination sites countrywide, WHO reports.

Despite increased momentum for immunizations, vaccine skepticism driven by misinformation continues to impede progress, particularly among vulnerable populations. A non-governmental organization (NGO) survey of 3,760 internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugees sheltering in Dohuk and Ninewa governorates found that 50 percent of respondents believed COVID-19 vaccines were unsafe. Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed reported an unwillingness to take the vaccine even if it were easily accessible. The organization attributed the hesitancy to misinformation on social media and a general lack of accurate information regarding the safety of the vaccines.

### **Food Consumption Indicators Improve in 2021 but Challenges Remain**

As of September 3, approximately 2.2 million people in Iraq reported insufficient food consumption, a decrease of 500,000 people compared to late February, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Based on WFP data collected since May 2020, the trend of insufficient food consumption has generally improved from December 2020 to September 2021, with some sporadic increases in insufficient food consumption due to seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, WFP reported 430,000 people utilizing crisis or above-crisis food-based coping strategies countrywide in September, a decrease of 210,000 people since February 2021. To address ongoing food needs, WFP—with USAID/BHA and other donor funding—provided emergency food assistance to approximately 186,000 IDPs, 68,900 Syrian refugees, and 33,000 returnees in September.

### **Explosion at Qadiya IDP Camp Results in Casualties, MHPSS Needs**

An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated at Dohuk's Qadiya IDP camp—host to a majority Yezidi population of 12,480 IDPs—on August 30, resulting in the deaths of two children and injuring at least 10 people. Following the explosion, USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported that a majority of surveyed individuals in the camp felt unsafe, a significant increase from surveys before the IED attack. IOM has also observed intent to self-harm among some residents. In response to the increased sense of danger, households are co-sheltering and limiting movement inside the camp, with IOM continuing community-based mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, including the provision of specialized case management.

## KEY FIGURES



6

Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH assistance



**\$24 Million**

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming in FY 2021



**15,200**

Individuals secured vital civil documentation through UNHCR in 2021

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM are supporting IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WHO, and NGO implementing partners (IPs) to provide essential water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USAID/BHA partners are providing safe drinking water, including trucking water where necessary; supporting operations and maintenance for WASH infrastructure in IDP camps; rehabilitating WASH infrastructure outside of camps; and promoting sanitary and hygienic living conditions that protect communities, promote dignity, and limit the spread of communicable diseases. In addition, U.S. Government (USG) partners are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting hygiene awareness campaigns and distributing hygiene kits to vulnerable populations. Partners have also installed handwashing stations in informal settlements, camps, and public areas in out-of-camp locations and rehabilitated WASH facilities in primary health care centers across eight Iraqi governorates.

### HEALTH

With USG support, NGOs and UN partners—including IOM, UNHCR, and WHO—continue to provide primary health care services for IDPs in camps and out-of-camp locations across conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USG implementing partners are improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services, including mental health care services, through the provision of staff capacity-building, staff salaries, and medical supplies and equipment. In addition, USG partners are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by training medical professionals on screening, identification, triage, and treatment of suspected cases; strengthening disease surveillance systems; implementing risk communication and community engagement activities; and providing critical medicines, medical equipment, and other supplies.

### PROTECTION

Addressing protection concerns remains a top priority for the humanitarian response in Iraq, with USG partners supporting a range of critical protection initiatives for IDPs, returnees, Syrian refugees, and host communities. With funding to IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners, State/PRM promotes durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq by facilitating sustainable integration and helping provide accurate information on security conditions and livelihood opportunities in host communities and areas of origin. In addition, USAID/BHA supports IOM and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as NGO partners, to provide protection services, including case management support, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response services, increased access to MHPSS services, legal assistance for civil documentation, and mine risk education. A State/PRM partner also

works to mitigate protection risks for Syrian refugee women through activities to prevent and respond to GBV.



**7**

Number of USG implementing partners providing shelter and settlements services

## **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

USG funding supports IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners to provide critical shelter services for displaced Iraqis, primarily in conflict-affected areas. USG partners distribute shelter kits and other relief commodities; provide coordination and management services at camps and informal settlements; and support the rehabilitation of conflict-damaged houses, upgrades to unfinished or abandoned buildings, and improvements to camp and informal settlement infrastructure to provide safe and dignified living conditions that align with humanitarian standards. A State/PRM NGO partner also provides support to Syrian refugees to upgrade shelters in refugee camps.



**288,000**

Individuals received food assistance from WFP through USAID/BHA and other donor funding in September

## **FOOD SECURITY**

Through WFP, USAID/BHA continues to deliver emergency food assistance in the form of cash transfers to populations in need in Iraq, providing critical assistance to the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees living in camp settings while also supporting local markets. With USAID/BHA funding, WFP also continues to support the Gol's efforts to modernize one of its social safety net programs and capacity building so as to improve the planning and delivery of food assistance for IDPs and to effect the transition of international emergency food assistance programming to Gol-managed safety net activities.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- In January 2014, Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) forces began seizing control of parts of northern and central Iraq, generating significant population displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, such as the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape fighting.
- On August 11, 2014, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Iraq to coordinate USG efforts to address the urgent humanitarian needs of newly displaced populations throughout the country. USAID also established a Response Management Team (RMT) based in Washington, D.C., to support the DART. On August 31, 2019, USAID demobilized the DART and RMT. USAID/BHA staff based in the region and in Washington, D.C., continue to coordinate with USG, UN, and other humanitarian partners to provide life-saving assistance in Iraq.
- Approximately 4.1 million people require humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2021, according to the UN. Prolonged displacement is draining the resources of IDPs and host community members alike at a time when the capacity of both the GoI and the Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints. Meanwhile, UN agencies, NGOs, and other relief actors face funding shortages, logistical challenges, and security constraints that complicate efforts to meet critical needs.
- On December 23, 2020, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Matthew H. Tueller redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2021 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IPs	Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Basrah, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Karbala, Kirkuk, Maysan, Muthanna, Najaf, Ninewa, Qadisiya, Salah al-Din, Sulaimaniya, Wasit	\$34,515,000
IOM	Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$11,950,000
UNICEF	Protection	Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$4,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,050,000
UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,150,000
WFP	Food Assistance; Disaster Risk Reduction, Policy, and Practice	Countrywide	\$19,240,000
WHO	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,500,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$200,873
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$88,605,873</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IPs	Durable Solutions, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Education, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$67,867,149
	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Education, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$12,661,995

IOM	Durable Solutions, ERMS, HCIMA	Countrywide	\$33,000,000
UNHCR	CCCM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$59,900,000
	CCCM, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	\$20,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$197,129,144</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$285,735,017</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)