

Iraq – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 22, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>4.1 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p>2.4 MILLION</p> <p>Number of People in Acute Need</p> <p><i>UN – March 2021</i></p>	<p>1.2 MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs</p> <p><i>IOM – September 2021</i></p>	<p>252,591</p> <p>Number of Syrian Refugees Sheltering in Iraq</p> <p><i>UNHCR – November 2021</i></p>	<p>4.9 MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDP Returns Since 2014</p> <p><i>IOM – September 2021</i></p>
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- The majority of Iraq’s remaining IDP population is experiencing protracted displacement, with more than 90 percent displaced for three or more years.
- The GoI reclassified the AAF IDP camp as an informal settlement in early November, leaving just one formal IDP camp, Jed’dah 5, in federal Iraq.
- COVID-19 infections and mortality rates continued to decrease in early December following the launch of a mass vaccination campaign in late November.



<p>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Iraq Response in FYs 2021–2022</p>	USAID/BHA ¹	\$97,658,686
	State/PRM ²	\$197,129,144
Total		\$294,787,830

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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Majority of Iraq's Remaining 1.2 Million IDPs Face Protracted Displacement

As of July 2021, nearly 1.2 million individuals remained displaced across Iraq since January 2014, a decrease compared to the more than 6 million people displaced in Iraq at the height of displacement, according to internally displaced person (IDP) and returnee assessments conducted during May and June by U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The vast majority of Iraq's remaining IDP population faces protracted displacement: nearly 80 percent of IDPs in Iraq report being displaced for more than five years, while more than 90 percent have been displaced for more than three years. Surveyed IDPs cited access to employment opportunities, non-food items, and housing as their main needs, in order of priority. Notably, 14 percent of IDPs surveyed indicated a desire to return to areas of origin, a significant decrease compared with the 60 percent of IDPs who expressed a desire to return during IOM's June 2019-to-August 2020 assessment period. Surveyed IDPs cited the lack of livelihoods opportunities and destruction of shelters in areas of origin as the key reasons for not returning. Additionally, nearly 70 percent of IDPs were undecided regarding their long-term plans, an increase from 25 percent in 2020, indicating a shift towards longer-term settlement in areas of displacement, IOM reports.

Nearly 4.9 million IDPs—more than 80 percent of the population displaced in Iraq since January 2014—had returned to their areas of origin as of July 2021, IOM reports. Survey respondents reported that only 35 percent of returnee locations had adequate services and facilities, while urban and rural returnee conditions varied greatly. Returnees also cited the need for greater employment opportunities to support durable returns. USG partners continue to support IDPs and returnees by providing services in camps and informal settlements and supporting the rehabilitation of damaged housing and infrastructure.

Gol Reclassifies AAF IDP Camp as Informal Settlement

The Government of Iraq (Gol) announced the reclassification of Anbar Governorate's Ameriyat al Fallujah (AAF) camp from a formal IDP camp to an informal settlement on November 10, local media report. More than 470 households, or nearly 2,200 individuals, were sheltering at AAF as of October, according to IOM. The reclassification of AAF follows the Gol's October 2020 announcement of its intention to close all remaining formal IDP camps in federal Iraq. Ninewa's Jed'dah 5 camp is the only remaining IDP camp in federal Iraq as of mid-December. An additional 25 IDP camps, which IOM reports hosted an estimated 180,000 individuals as of November, remain open in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

COVID-19 Outbreak Stabilizes, Mass Vaccination Campaign Commences

Reported coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infections and mortality rates continued to decrease in Iraq in recent months, indicating the end of the third wave of COVID-19 that peaked in Iraq in July. During the week of December 6—the nineteenth consecutive week of declining COVID-19 cases—weekly new reported COVID-19 cases dropped to approximately 3,600 cases, a nearly 25 percent decline from the previous week, while reported new COVID-19-related deaths dropped from 101 to 92, a nearly 10 percent decrease. USG staff continue to monitor COVID-19 infection and mortality rates in Iraq following the emergence of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

Meanwhile, the Gol launched a COVID-19 mass vaccination campaign in early November, aimed at inoculating 12 million individuals, with support from local health authorities, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO). On December 1, the UN and Gol Ministry of Health announced the arrival of 2.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVID-19

Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility. In total, Iraq had procured more than 6 million COVID-19 vaccine doses via COVAX as of early December. An estimated 7.9 million Iraqis—approximately 20 percent of the total population—had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose as of December 9, the Gol reports.

October, December Attacks Result in Civilian Deaths and Displacement

Attacks by ISIS elements in late October and early December resulted in civilian deaths and injuries and prompted the displacement of thousands of civilians to nearby areas. On October 26, ISIS members attacked villages in Diyala Governorate’s Muqdadiah District, resulting in the deaths of 11 individuals and injuries to six others, international media report. The attacks displaced more than 1,960 individuals from the district to other areas of Diyala as of November 7, according to IOM. The majority of displaced households were sheltering in host communities or in rented accommodations in early November. Between July and September, similar attacks displaced more than 560 individuals from Diyala’s Al-Khalis and Ba’quba districts; these individuals remained displaced as of early November.

Separately, a December 3 ISIS attack in northern Iraq resulted in the deaths of at least 13 individuals, while the detonation of an explosive device in Basrah Governorate’s Basrah city in southern Iraq on December 7 resulted in four additional deaths and injuries to 20 others, international media report. The UN Security Council condemned the attacks in Iraq, while the U.S. Department of State issued a statement underscoring the USG’s concern regarding the escalation of ISIS attacks and effects on civilians in Iraq. U.S. combat operations in Iraq are planned to end by December 31, though the U.S. plans to continue providing air and other military support for Iraq to combat ISIS, international media report.

KEY FIGURES



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Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH assistance

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 non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners 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 camps; and promoting sanitary living conditions that protect communities, promote dignity, and limit the spread of communicable diseases. In addition, 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 across conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USG implementing partners are improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services, including mental



\$24 Million

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

health care services, through the provision of staff capacity-building exercises, 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. State/PRM NGO partners also provided quality integrated health, mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services to underserved Syrian refugees, Iraqi IDPs, and vulnerable members of host communities in Dohuk and Erbil governorates



15,200

Individuals secured vital civil documentation through UNHCR in 2021

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. A State/PRM partner also works to mitigate protection risks for Syrian refugee women through activities to prevent and respond to GBV, while other NGO partners support GBV prevention and response programs, including group psychosocial support sessions and support for women and girls safe spaces. In addition, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, WHO and NGO partners to provide protection services including case management support, GBV prevention and response services, increased access to MHPSS services, legal assistance for civil documentation, and mine risk education.



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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.



289,000

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

FOOD SECURITY

Through the UN World Food Program (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 its social safety net programs and capacity building to improve the planning and delivery of food assistance for IDPs and to facilitate the transition

of international emergency food assistance programming to Gol-managed safety net activities.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- USAID has been responding to the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq since January 2014, when a surge by ISIS sparked mass displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, including the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape violence. More than 4.9 million former IDPs, the majority of people displaced since 2014, had returned to their areas of origin or resettled in other locations as of September 2021.
- Approximately 4.1 million people require humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2021, according to the UN. Climatic shocks, the COVID-19 outbreak, economic challenges, ongoing insecurity, and protracted displacement continue to affect Iraq's IDP, host community, and returnee populations at a time when the capacity of both the Gol and the Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints.
- On December 6, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Matthew H. Tueller redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2022 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2022¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din	\$9,025,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$27,813
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$9,052,813

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2021

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Health; 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
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$88,605,873
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	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
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$197,129,144
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$285,735,017

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 22, 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)