

# Iraq – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>2.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – March 2022</i></p>	<p><b>961,000</b></p> <p>Number of People in Acute Need</p> <p><i>UN – March 2022</i></p>	<p><b>1.2</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People Internally Displaced in Iraq</p> <p><i>IOM – December 2022</i></p>	<p><b>178,691</b></p> <p>Number of Internally Displaced People Residing in Camps</p> <p><i>CCCM – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>258,541</b></p> <p>Number of Syrian Refugees in Iraq</p> <p><i>UNHCR – December 2022</i></p>
--	---	--	---	--

- Approximately 98 percent of IDPs sheltering in Iraq’s 26 remaining formal camps do not intend to return to their areas of origin or other locations in the country through July 2023, according to a REACH survey.
- Host community members, IDPs, and returnee households lack access to basic services and civil documentation in Iraq, according to regular monitoring conducted by IRC.



<p><b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b></p> <p>For the Iraq Response in FY 2023</p> <p><i>For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5</i></p>	<p>USAID/BHA<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>\$5,959,200</p>
	<p><b>Total</b></p>	<p><b>\$5,959,200</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Returnee Populations Face Severe Living Conditions in Iraq

Of the nearly 5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) who have returned to areas of origin or other locations in Iraq since March 2014, nearly 600,000—approximately 12 percent of Iraq’s returnee population—reside in locations where they face severe living conditions characterized by limited basic services and livelihood opportunities, ongoing insecurity, and perceived issues of safety and social cohesion, according to an assessment conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) between July and September 2022. The number of returnees reporting poor or severe living conditions during this period increased by nearly 17,500 people compared to the January–March period when IOM last conducted the survey. The assessment identified poor water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and diminishing public water supply, particularly in Anbar Governorate, as the main drivers of the deterioration in living conditions. Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates continued to host the highest number of returnees reporting severe living conditions, with nearly 256,600 returnees and more than 210,800 returnees, respectively, while the three districts reporting the most severe conditions were all found in Salah al-Din Governorate, according to IOM.

The majority of IDPs sheltering in the 26 remaining formal camps across Iraq’s Dohuk, Erbil, Ninewa, and Sulaimaniya governorates—approximately 98%—do not intend to return to their areas of origin between July 2022 and July 2023, according to an intentions survey conducted by REACH in July 2022 and published in November. Despite this, 58 percent of the IDPs surveyed in Erbil and 75 percent of those surveyed in Dohuk and Sulaimaniya reported that they do intend to return to their areas of origin at some point. IDPs cited damaged shelters in areas of origin, lack of livelihood opportunities, limited financial resources, and persistent insecurity as the primary impediments to return.

### Communities in Iraq Lack Access to Basic Services, Civil Documentation

Host community, IDP, and returnee populations lack access to basic services, such as education, health, and shelter support, and face difficulties navigating the legal processes to acquire civil documentation, according to a report released by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in mid-January. Nearly 85 percent of households assessed between July and September 2022 reported difficulties in accessing basic services, with many citing high costs as the main barrier. Moreover, nearly 15 percent of households reported one or more members in need of civil documentation, which is required to access basic services and compensation for losses suffered during the war against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Barriers to acquiring civil documentation include government corruption, harassment—particularly for women and girls—during travel to legal offices, high fees and travel costs to access legal services, lack of awareness of legal procedures, and negative treatment of households with a perceived affiliation to ISIS, according to USAID/BHA sources.

### Iraq’s Ministry of Education Plans Permanent Closure of IDP Schools in IKR

In early December 2022, Iraq’s Minister of Education Ebrahim Namis al-Jibouri announced the planned closure of all schools established for IDPs in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) by June 2023. The school closures will hinder access to education for many of the estimated 170,000 IDP students who mainly reside outside of camps and are originally from the conflict-affected governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din. The decision will likely prompt students to drop out of school or travel to their areas of origin to attend schools, many of which are overcrowded or offer limited services, according to U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) sources.

## KEY FIGURES



**47,600**

Civil documentation issued with support from State/PRM partner UNHCR in 2022



**6**

Number of USG implementing partners providing WASH assistance



**1,117,630**

Number of health consultations provided at WHO-supported facilities from August 2021 to October 2022

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### 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 host communities, IDPs, returnees, and Syrian refugees that range from community-level protection to individualized case management. USAID/BHA supports IOM, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and five NGO partners to provide protection services, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), legal assistance for civil documentation, mine risk education, and activities to prevent and respond to protection risks among children. With funding to IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners, State/PRM promotes durable solutions for displaced populations in Iraq by facilitating sustainable integration programs and helping provide accurate information on security conditions and livelihood opportunities in host communities and areas of origin. In addition, partner activities ensure displaced populations have access to legal assistance, civil documentation, and awareness-raising support to remove legal barriers to durable solutions for displaced individuals.

### WASH

With U.S. Government (USG) support, IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners are providing essential WASH services for vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas of Iraq. USG partners are providing safe drinking water through water trucking services; supporting operations and maintenance for WASH infrastructure in IDP camps; rehabilitating WASH infrastructure outside of camps; and promoting sanitary living conditions that protect communities, enhance dignity, and limit the spread of communicable diseases. USG partners are also responding to ongoing outbreaks of communicable diseases by conducting hygiene awareness campaigns, community-level surveillance, and distributing hygiene kits to vulnerable populations. In addition, USG partners have installed handwashing stations in camps, informal settlements, 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 IOM, UNHCR, and WHO continue to reach conflict-affected populations with primary health care services in Iraq. USG partners are improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care services—including mental health care services—through staff capacity-building, supporting staff salaries, and ensuring the availability of essential medicines, medical supplies, and equipment. In

addition, USG partners are responding to communicable disease outbreaks by implementing risk communication and community engagement activities; strengthening disease surveillance systems; and training medical professionals on screening, identification, triage, and treatment of suspected cases.



3

Number of USG implementing partners providing shelter and settlements services

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, and NGO partners to provide critical shelter services for displaced Iraqis and refugees residing in Iraq. USG partners are distributing shelter kits and other relief commodities, as well as supporting coordination and management services at camps and informal settlements. Partner organizations are also supporting the rehabilitation of conflict-damaged houses, upgrading unfinished or abandoned buildings, and improving camp and informal settlement infrastructure to provide safe and dignified living conditions that align with humanitarian standards.



**\$5.9 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA funding for food assistance activities in FY 2023

## FOOD SECURITY

With USAID/BHA support, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to deliver emergency food assistance in the form of cash transfers to populations in need in Iraq, reaching the most vulnerable IDPs and Syrian refugees living in camp settings while also bolstering local markets.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The USG has been responding to the current humanitarian crisis in Iraq since January 2014, when a surge by ISIS caused mass displacement as civilians fled to areas of relative safety, including the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, to escape violence. Nearly 5 million former IDPs, the majority of people displaced since 2014, had returned to their areas of origin or resettled in other locations as of December 31, 2022.
- Approximately 3 million people required humanitarian assistance in Iraq in 2022, according to UNICEF. Climatic shocks, the COVID-19 outbreak, economic challenges, ongoing insecurity, and protracted displacement continue to adversely affect Iraq's IDP, host community, and returnee populations at a time when the capacity of both the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government to respond to humanitarian needs remains challenged by budgetary constraints.
- On November 6, 2022, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Alina L. Romanowski redeclared a disaster in Iraq for FY 2023 due to the ongoing complex emergency and humanitarian crisis.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
WFP	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers	Countrywide	\$5,900,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$59,200
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,959,200</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE IRAQ RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$5,959,200</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 February 2, 2023.

### 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)