



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
JOINT CRISIS COORDINATION CENTER



# Common Operation Picture

Humanitarian Response In The Kurdistan Region Of Iraq

Report No. 3, July 1, 2015

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***DISCLAIMER: Data and statistics presented in this report are extracted from a number of sources, the primary being IOM's and UNHCR's data sources and Humanitarian Sector and Cluster reports, as well as Crisis Response Offices in the three governorates. Flaws in the original sources' collection, documentation and reporting process and system might have affected the accuracy of the data and information presented in this report.***

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***Joint Crisis Coordination Center***

CRISIS OVERVIEW

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, thousands of people have fled Syrian from violence and unrest, becoming refugees in neighboring countries. A significant number of these refugees have sought safety in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In 2014, Iraq was shaken by a massive humanitarian crisis with the brutal and sudden invasion of IS in June and the subsequent slaughtering, enslavement and displacement of millions of Iraqis, the majority seeking safety in the KR-I. During the third quarter of 2014, another 34,000 Syrian Kurdish refugees arrived from Kobane where, according to local authorities, 80 per cent of the city has been destroyed. Despite the recent liberation of the city and surrounding villages by Kurdish forces, the immediate return of refugees seems unlikely due to the sever destruction of the city and lack of basic services. The internal displacement crisis is likely to develop in a similar direction.

Having received over 1.5 million Iraqi Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within one year, in addition to an estimate of 280,000 Syrian Refugees (241, 732 of which have registered with UNHCR), **the KR-I has by far exceeded its absorption capacity**. Combining the current and older caseloads, nearly 30% of the population of the KR-I are displaced people (refugees and IDPs). These statistics are not inclusive of the IDPs served by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) in neighboring provinces.



## STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Refugees are registered by UNHCR and relatively accurate statistics can be extracted from the organization's database. However, for IDPs no individual registration takes place and statistics are only estimates and produced through monitoring and partial registration from a variety of sources, the main being International Organization for Migration (IOM) and various offices of the government. Beyond registration challenges, other factors prohibit the development of a complete and updated overview of the crisis among which key challenges include the sudden development of the crisis, its scale, the continuing mobility of the displaced population, lack of access to locations under IS control and limited capacity of the Government and its humanitarian partners. Systematic registration of IDPs could allow for a better overview of the crisis, numbers and conditions of those affected and more strategic response planning. However, registration is a sensitive, complicated and costly exercise that the KRG is unable to shoulder under the current financial crisis.

Despite the difficulties in accessing exact data, it is evident that the KR-I is hosting a significant portion of the IDP population. According to a joint statement by the KRG's Ministry of Planning and IOM (issued on 10th December, 2014), 29% of the more than two million displaced were in the KRI, having fled violence and unrest in Anbar, Ninewa, Diyala and Salahadin provinces. Although this percentage has decreased, as the scale of the displacement has exploded over the past few months, the share of the burden carried by the KR-I remains significant. More specifically:

- 96.83 per cent of the 249,266 Syrian refugees in Iraq are living in the KR-I, spread out over nine camps and out-of-camp, urban settings.
- As of 31 May, 2015, there are 3,087,372 IDPs in Iraq, of whom 1,097,814 are hosted in the three provinces of KR-I. Additionally, there are thousands of IDP households in Kirkuk, Mosul and Ninewa, which are being served by the KRG, further increasing pressure on the limited resources of the region.
- Approximately 18,823 individuals entered the KR-I region through Erbil International Airport alone between the period of April 25 through to May 25, 2015. This number contains displaced individuals from varying governorates.
- The Below table illustrates statistics for main IDP shelter arrangements, extracted from IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM).

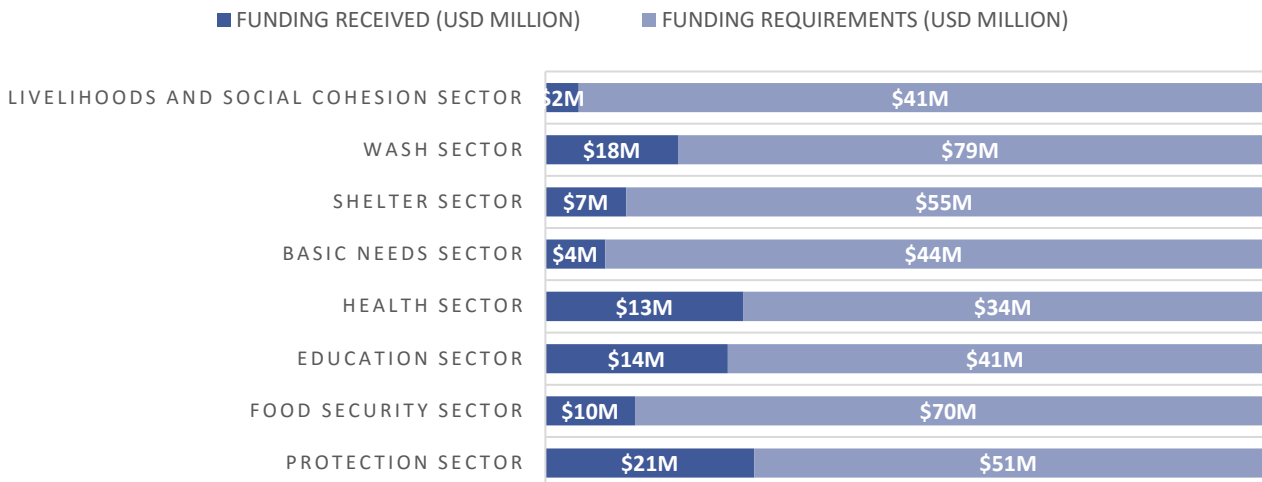
<i>Governorate</i>	<i>Rented Housing</i>	<i>Host Community</i>	<i>Buildings (School, Religious etc.)</i>	<i>Camps</i>	<i>Informal Settlements</i>
<i>Erbil</i>	189,360	21,222	25,314	9,342	4032
<i>Dohuk</i>	104,472	47,046	130,872	142,842	4,830
<i>Suleymaniah</i>	150,300	54	4,236	15,438	642

## COMMON OPERATION PICTURE

### FUNDING OVERVIEW

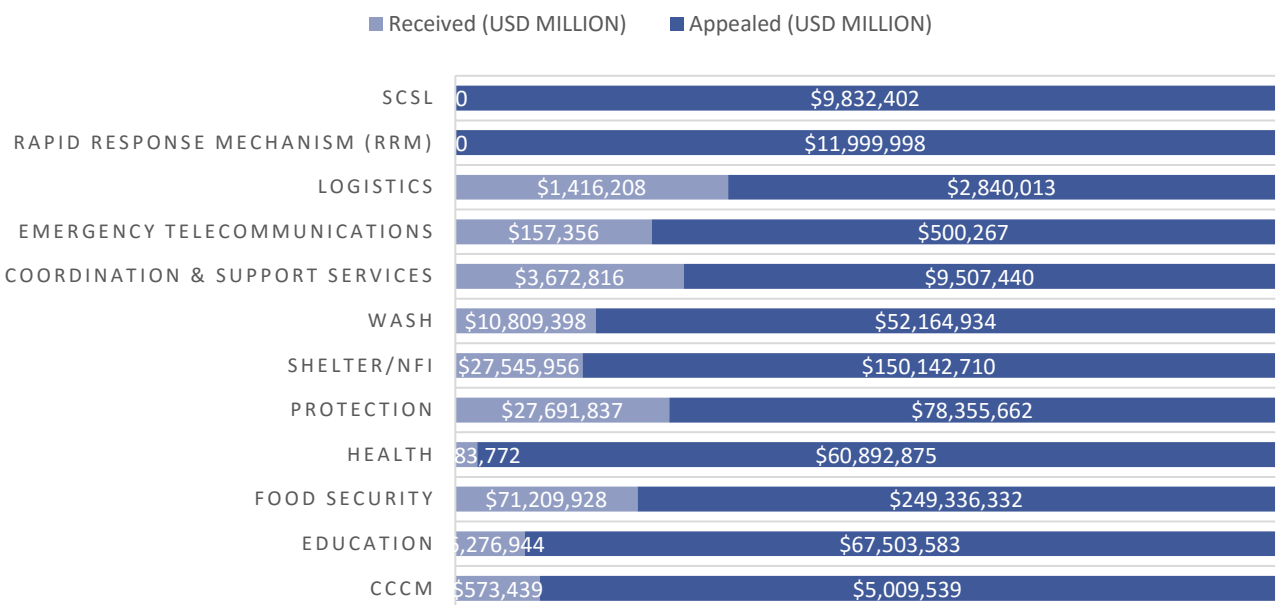
As of June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, only 24% of the appealed amount has been received under the 3RP in Iraq, equating to \$104M received of the required \$426M

#### REFUGEE RESPONSE IRAQ: 3RP FUNDING STATUS



The table below shows funding requirement and received all clusters. Under the Strategic Response Plan (SRP), as of June, 2015 only 26% of the funding was covered. The IDP response will now fall under the recently launched Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

#### IDP RESPONSE IRAQ: SRP FUNDING STATUS



### PRIORITY NEEDS

The humanitarian response to the refugee crisis is planned under the 3RP, it is coordinated and reported on through the sector system. The IDP response is currently transitioning from the Strategic Response Plan (SRP) to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), it is coordinated and reported on through the cluster system. Each response considers the impact on host communities. While the two systems run in parallel, the reality for IDPs, refugees and the impact on the host communities is similar regardless of whether the displaced population has crossed an international border or not. The deteriorating conditions of both the displaced population and the local population is a source of major concern for the KRG, especially seeing that return is not likely within the foreseeable future and the continued war on IS is likely to produce new influxes of IDPs towards the Kurdistan

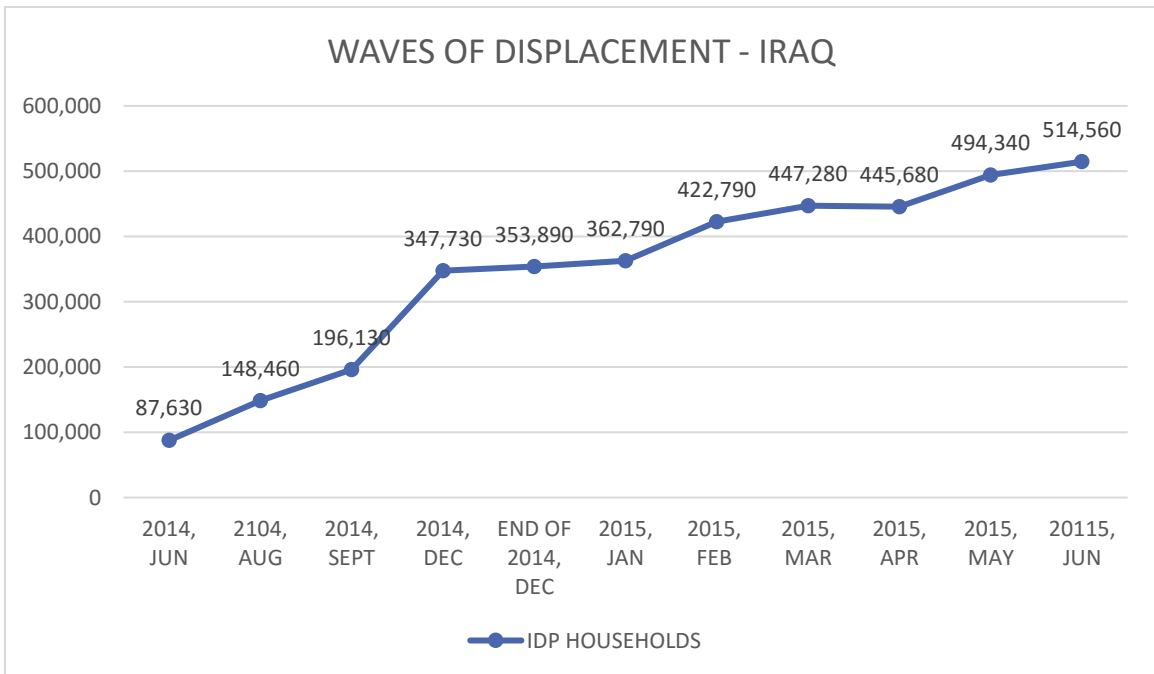


Region. Without increased funding from the international community, transfer of humanitarian funds and the KRI's budget from the central government, KRG will not be able to meet even the most basic needs of displaced populations. Annex 1 illustrates the most critical gaps in the humanitarian response.

WAVES OF DISPLACEMENT AND CHANGING POPULATION NEEDS

The KRI has been hosting Syrian refugees since March 2012 and the recent caseload of Iraqi IDPs since January 2014. As the displacement turns protracted, the on-going conflicts in Syria and Iraq continue to create new shocks and humanitarian emergencies. The differing waves of displacement and continuous influx of IDPs from 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 live-saving assistance to psychosocial rehabilitation, education, social protection, economic security, livelihoods support and more. The displacement waves illustrated in the table below 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.

For a number of reasons, such as 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 materialized 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, derailed learning and development for children as well as social and community tensions and grievance. The below illustrates the waves of the IDP displacement in Iraq.



### IMPACT ON HOST COMMUNITIES

The crisis has produced a significant impact on the economy, social, security and infrastructure of the Kurdistan Region and its population. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis occurred in the context of a financial crisis caused by reduced economic activity due to the threat from IS and reduced oil prices. But the main source is the 90% reduction in fiscal transfers from the central government since early 2014. KRI's economic growth shrunk from 8% in 2013 to 3% in 2014, leading to reduction in the following; household income, corporate profits, consumption and domestic and foreign investment in addition to decreased KRG revenues.

As in other such situations, an additional impact of the mass-influx of refugees and IDPs can be perceived as competition with host populations for limited opportunities and resources such as jobs, housing, water and electricity, food, health care and other public services. As resources are scarce, such competition has created challenges for local authorities to meet the increasing demands of both local residents, refugees and IDPs. This has greatly reduced household resilience and vulnerability and have both deepened (more severe forms of vulnerability) and widened (more vulnerable people). Thus, simultaneous with the needs of the IDPs and refugees, the KRG is confronted with the aggregating impact on its host communities. While the population has demonstrated unprecedented solidarity with the displaced and understanding for the challenges the government is facing, the level of pressure has destroyed the resilience of many host families and we are increasingly seeing open protests against delayed payment of salaries and poor public services.

According to the latest study on the “*Socio-economic Impact of the Syrian Conflict and ISIS on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I)*” jointly produced by the World Bank (WB) and KRG's Ministry of Planning (MoP), the rehabilitation, or so-called stabilization costs of the humanitarian crisis, amounts to US\$1.4 billion to return to a pre-crisis setting and is not inclusive of KRG receiving its share of the national budget.

The current situation has had an adverse impact on the local population and there are increasing concerns and evidence that, as jobs, the availability and prices of housing, health care and other services become even more stretched, the attitudes of local residents towards refugees and IDPs will change. While relations between refugees and host communities have been generally positive and accommodating, the KRG is informed of increasing tensions and small-scale conflicts between locals, IDPs and refugees. Tensions and changing attitudes are also often played out in social media.

Another negative consequence is anti-social behaviour and petty crime, including prostitution and kerb-crawling, begging and robberies, where the KRG's Police Crime



Prevention Departments have documented a sharp increase. These negative behaviours and actions are at least partially being attributed to the IDPs and refugees, resulting from their situation without any life support, in an unfamiliar environment, with strained economic resources and extended displacement. From security point of view, the sudden and only partially controlled influx and presence of more than one million IDPs is a potential security threat. ISIS and other extremist groups can exploit the displaced populations to enter and carry out acts of terrorism in the KRI.

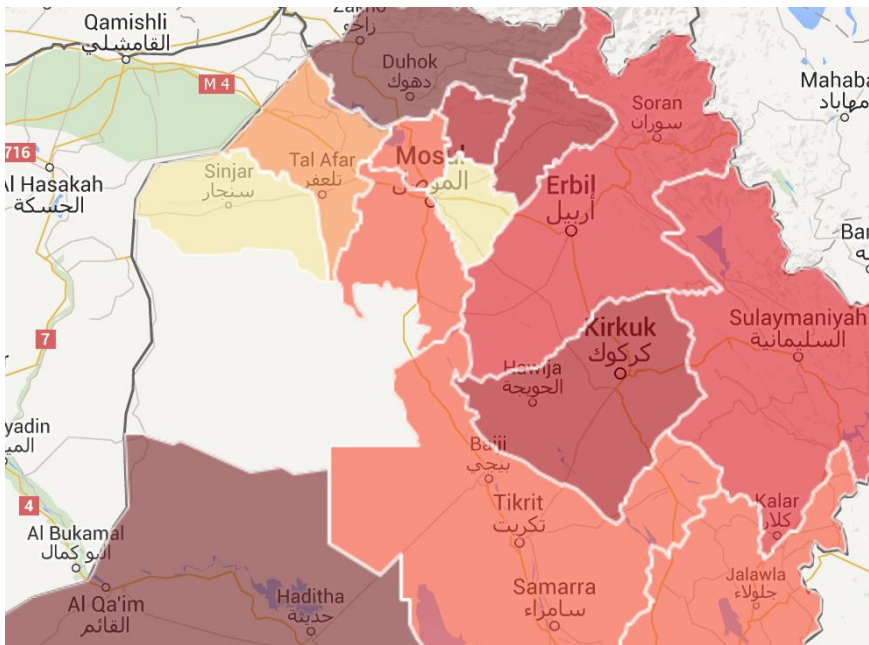
These and other negative consequences have created a legitimate concern that the Kurdistan Region's well-deserved reputation for hospitality might switch to hostility towards its guests. To counter this, the KRG needs increased international cooperation, a changed attitude from the central government and a joint and comprehensive strategy to address the below key challenges.

- Security; an existential threat from IS.
- Short and long-term needs of IDPs, Refugees and returnees; Cater and plan for the predicated influxes for 2015 in addition to the current displaced population.
- Financial challenge; the withholding of the KRG's constitutionally approved budget has created severe financial problems for the KRG, not least of which has been an inability to pay government employee salaries.

Some of the priorities in support of host communities include:

- Upgrading the capacity of the hospitals and adequate stocks of medical supplies.
- Upgrading the clean water supply and distribution infrastructure to a higher standard.
- Upgrading sewage drainage systems including sanitary sewage and treatment.
- Upgrading and improving the capacity of waste management and recycling solutions, including but not limited to garbage collection and disposal
- Improving and upgrading the current energy infrastructure, e.g., electricity production and distribution.
- Improving transportation infrastructure

## KRG'S RESPONSE IN NEIGHBOURING PROVINCES



ISIS invaded a wide area along KRI's borders in August 2014. The majority of these areas have been liberated and are today under the control of Peshmerga. Yet, continued military operations, insecurity, destruction of property and livelihoods and lack

of basic services hinder return of IDPs to these locations. The humanitarian response must incorporate plans to facilitate and enable return under safe and dignified conditions. This will require a comprehensive plan that combines security, humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs upon return, reconstruction, strengthening of local authorities and public sector to ensure service delivery and financial assistance to the returnees to re-establish their lives and livelihoods.

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND KRG'S CAPACITY

Continuous ISIS brutality, hardship in locations under ISIS control and on-going military operations continue to cause new waves of displacements. Despite the large number of IDPs in the region, the KRG has continued to grant access to newly displaced families while most other provinces have either closed their borders or imposed severe restrictions on access. Likely, the Mosul offensive will result in one of the largest displacement waves followed by heavily restricting access policies by Baghdad and the southern provinces. This will induce a greater push towards the Kurdistan Region. KRG is raising the alarm to the Government of Iraq and the international community that the Region has not capacity to host and meet the protection and assistance needs of additional IDPs considering the insufficient international funds, refusal of the central government to shoulder its responsibility towards Iraqi IDPs in the Kurdistan region, the financial crisis and finally the on-going costly military offensive against ISIS.

ANNEX 1: CRITICAL GAPS BY SECTOR

Overview	Priority Gaps
<b>PROTECTION</b>	
<p><b>Protection sectors and clusters continue to struggle coping with the protection needs of both IDP and refugee population. Protection needs and responses are particularly sensitive and challenging and thus the risk of causing harm through inadequate quality assurance of interventions is high. Moreover, many protection needs and concerns are socially stigmatised and in other ways deter individuals and families from approaching service providers. Household and community dialogue and outreach is therefore vital for involving access to assistance and services. Yet, the protection objectives under both the SRP and 3RP have received little funding.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SGBV survivors do not have access to sufficient and comprehensive multi-sectoral services while quality of existing services needs to be improved</li> <li>• IDP’s and returnees in the areas recaptured from ISIS risk harm from IEDs</li> <li>• Access to safety is raised as a concern as many provinces have either blocked access for new IDPs or imposed heavy restriction. This has mainly been the result of lack of capacity of KRG border authorities to rapidly security screen and process access requests from IDP.</li> <li>• Many children born in displacement have not been registered</li> <li>• Many families or family members lack important civil documents</li> <li>• Over 640 unaccompanied or separated children have been identified for further support in reunification with family or finding appropriate alternative care arrangements by child protection partners across Iraq since the beginning of the crisis.</li> <li>• There is a movement of refugee populations from non-camp settings, partially explained by the living costs for refugees outside of camps as well as by the lack of livelihoods opportunities available for low to medium skilled workers. While continued humanitarian relief is needed for the most vulnerable refugees, the need for enhancing beneficiaries’ self-reliance should be sufficiently addressed by providing Syrian refugees and the host community members with income generation activities and training to increase their employability.</li> </ul>

### SHELTER

- **Out of estimate 1,097,814 IDPs, 167,622 (15.26%) live in camps. Even when the camps are filled to their full capacity, nearly 714,632(84.74%) IDPs live outside of camps. 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 over crowdedness is severe in many IDP and refugee camps**
- **Summarisation plans need to be monitored and implemented.**
- Shelter solutions for people living in critical shelters and those with vulnerable household economy that are currently renting must be found
- Improvement of shelters and infrastructure in some IDP and refugee camps should be arranged. 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
- In the camps, funding is required for the progress of the available space in the camp and for the improvement of the existing shelter units. All these requirements/ needs cover about 26% of the shelter units in KR-I. Also, improvement is needed for the sewage disposal system in camps.
- Solid waste management is a gap in majority camps, including the Chamishku IDP camp in Dahuk Governorate

### 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 used to/expect. The conditions have deteriorated over time and lack of funding has resulted in an emergency situation where if more funding is not received x% 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
- Increased funding is necessary for waste management
- Sewage and grey water collection is another problem that is affecting several camps
- Critical need in all camps is the continued operation and maintenance of facilities and

delivery of the basic water and sanitation services on which the resident refugee population depend

- In Qushtapa, Kawergosk, Darashakran and Basirma camps (Erbil Governorate) transition to complete, permanent, safe water supply and sanitation systems, benefitting at least 19,000 Syrian refugees, is ongoing, but remains a challenge due to funding constraints
- There is also need to upgrade older facilities, and in some areas increase facilities to meet standards and needs of the refugee community. Continued funding for this remains a critical challenge and any reduction or interruption of services would have a significant impact and effect, mostly with the beginning of the hot summer season which brings increased need for water and increased risk of disease outbreak during the season

## EDUCATION

- **An estimated 79,965 are refugee children between the ages of 3 – 17 years. Of the 58,327 school age children between ages of 6 to 17 years, 54% (31,196 boys and girls) are enrolled in basic education. (69% in camp, and 54% out of camps)**
- **58,327 refugee children are school aged. 31,196 students are enrolled in formal education (grades 1 – 12); 15,560 in camp settings and 15,636 in non-camp settings.**
- **30,437 children enrolled in basic education (grades 1 – 9), 69% are boys and 71% girls. 5,990 students are benefitting from non-formal**
- Create formal education opportunities for 79,965 refugee children. Priorities include construction, extension and upgrading of schools, employment and training of teachers, provision of learning and teaching supplies, community and family dialogue and outreach and support to school management. Children that have missed years of schooling need accelerated learning opportunities to catch up and re-join their peers.
- Salaries for refugee teachers is a critical threat to continued education. Due to the financial and budget crisis, KRG has not been able to pay the salary of the local as well as Syrian teachers and this problem is likely to continue until the budget crisis is resolved.
- Thousands of IDP children are being deprived of education opportunities and a large-scale investment from the international community

**education activities including alternative education, catch-up classes and recreational activities. Another 1,871 children between the ages of 3 - 5 are attending Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activities.**

- **Although the statistics might vary somewhat in the Kurdistan region, a significant number of IDP children remain out of school. Many IDP children in camps will be able to attend formal education as schools are getting to open.**

and central government is necessary to support the KRG to cover gaps in creating learning spaces, covering teacher salaries and other related costs.

- Of the 3 million IDPs across Iraq, 1.2 million are school-age children between 4 and 17.
- Over 3 million children in host communities have been affected by the crisis across Iraq, putting an additional strain on an already overburdened education system.
- Existing schools are overstretched, operating in double and triple shifts, to meet demand.
- Lack of qualified teachers is undermining the quality of education provided.
- Funding remains low across the education field

## HEALTH

- **According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the health status of IDPs and refugees in the camps is deteriorating with the spread of conditions such as Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI), scabies and other skin conditions and diarrhoea. 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. Per capita public health expenditure decreased from xx to xx in 2014 and the Ministry of Health received**

- Drug shortages remain a key concern in public health facilities. Lack of awareness on available health services and insufficient health knowledge impact health seeking behaviour.
- Access to mental health and psychosocial care services remains an area in need of further support for both camp and urban refugee populations.
- 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
- Currently there is not out-break preparedness plan. It is important that the development of

only x% of its requested budget for the same year, a budget that had not even included the IDP crisis. A combination of reduced budget and rapid population increase has reduced the response capacity of the KRG health sector to alarming levels.

- The health sector's emergency response capacity is a source of concern

such a plan prioritised, particularly given the approaching summer season and associated health hazards.

- With the onset of summer, control of communicable diseases needs to be strengthened further in close cooperation with other sectors
- Access to health care services for non-camp populations needs to be further strengthened and supported
- Emergency stocks/stores are insufficient and inadequate, 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, among children in particular
- Gaps in specific health care including treatment of chronic illnesses and mental health problems

### FOOD SECURITY

- 89% (92,063 individuals) of all refugees registered in camps were assisted with food vouchers while 11% (11,080 individuals) were reached with individual food parcels. Due to continued funding constraints, WFP maintained a reduced voucher value of US\$19 per person in May, injecting US\$1.7 million into the local economy. The voucher value will remain at US\$19 per person in June
- WFP budget requirements to assist Syrian refugees in Iraq in 2015 is US\$56.5 million.

- WFP requires US\$11.4 million for the period May to July 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.

## COMMON OPERATION PICTURE

- **Lack of funding has hampered implementation of planned livelihood projects**

### BASIC NEEDS

- Baby diapers, sanitary napkins as well as hygiene kits still remain a gap in all refugee camps.
- A high number of tents and inner liners in various camps have been seriously damaged and have to be replaced. A plan will be proposed for replacement of tents in the most problematic sectors.
- Refugees request to add more items in summer kits, such as air coolers, refrigerators and cool boxes. Shelter/NFI WG recommends to its partners not to distribute such items due to high consumption of water & electricity.