

RESOURCE AND FUNDING OVERVIEW



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Joint Crisis Coordination Center

COMMON OPERATIONAL PICTURE

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN THE KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ

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Executive Summary

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) continues to exacerbate due to ongoing-armed conflict and constant escalation of the security situation, sweltering temperatures, political instability, civil unrest, and the continuous budgetary issues between the Government of Iraq (GoI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). According to the latest statistics, about 3.2 million people have been internally displaced across the country, of which, over 1.5 million internally displaced persons have desperately sought safety in the KR-I.

In the Kurdistan Region, there is a political tension among the five major parties, which have



formed a coalition government, on the form of the governance; specifically election of the president and parliamentary system, It is hoped that a consensus will be reached through a peaceful dialogue and negotiation among the five main parties in the government as they continue their multilateral meetings and debates to reach an agreement on the method of election and system of governance for the Kurdistan Region. However, despite the rising political disagreement and tension, financial crisis and war with ISIS, the Region is yet safe and stable in terms of security.

In parallel, Government of Iraq has been facing political instability with wide spread civil demonstrations and protests resulting in political reform. Iraqi citizens took to the streets in protest of rising unemployment, lack of adequate social services and infrastructure, alleged corruption and perceived decrease in their quality of life. In response to this, Prime Minister Abadi, introduced a reform package to restructure the federal government that will decrease the number of ministers from 33 to 22, the merging of selected ministries, an attempt to meet the demands of the civil population, and the rectification of possible corruption in the government. Although, majority of the fractions

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at the council of the Representatives have expressed their support to the reform process at the beginning. Conversely, the reform package has also contributed to further uncertainty and tension across the Iraqi political spectrum as they criticize the Prime Minister Abadi for the unilateral decisions and not consulting with the partners in the federal government.

KRG is still in the midst of a fiscal crisis, as no resolution to the ongoing budgetary issue has been offered. Consequently, KRG has been unable to pay government employees, maintain adequate levels of social services, or meet additional needs of both the local and displaced populations. With the average temperatures of 45 degrees Celsius and above in the summer season, the KRG struggled to meet an increased demand of electricity, as is evident with the frequently changing



hours of public electricity provided, and the constant blackout and brownouts. The consequences of the fiscal crisis will only increase in severity if no resolution is planned in the foreseeable future and whilst the sweltering Iraqi summer may be coming to an end, the harsh winter lays ahead of us. Winterization plans must keep in mind the fiscal and technical capacity of the government

and involve relevant authorities and actors to ensure all winterization needs are met effectively and in a timely manner.

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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 34%. With the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the humanitarian community has appealed for US \$497.9 million, of which 40% has been funded thus far. 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.

<i>Clusters</i>	Original Requirements USD	Revised Funding USD	Funding USD	Total Resources Available USD	Unmet Requirements	% Covered
<i>CCCM</i>	20,148,539	5,009,539	573,439	573,439	4,436,100	11.4%
<i>Coordination and Support</i>	13,780,189	9,507,440	4,426,757	4,426,757	8,080,683	46.6%
<i>Education</i>	115,850,926	67,503,583	7,364,774	7,364,774	60,138,809	10.9%
<i>Emergency</i>	501,143	500,267	699,412	699,412	-199,145	139.8%
<i>Telecommunications</i>						
<i>Food Security</i>	348,899,014	249,336,332	95,705,286	122,226,103	127,110,229	49.0%
<i>Health</i>	189,219,062	60,892,875	16,610,690	16,610,690	44,282,185	27.3%
<i>Logistics</i>	362,820	3,840,013	3,644,986	3,644,986	195,027	94.9%
<i>Multipurpose Cash Assistance</i>	0	4,999,999	5,925,862	5,925,862	-925,863	118.5%
<i>Protection</i>	116,930,597	78,355,662	24,079,353	24,079,353	54,276,309	30.7%
<i>Rapid Response Mechanisms</i>	0	11,999,998	6,010,929	6,010,929	5,989,069	50.1%
<i>SHELTER/NFI</i>	183,626,476	150,142,710	62,168,337	62,168,337	87,974,373	41.4%
<i>Social Cohesion & Sustainable Livelihoods</i>	47,613,573	9,832,402	410,124	1,241,724	8,590,678	12%
<i>WASH</i>	85,940,674	52,164,934	22,182,198	26,224,537	25,940,397	50.3%
Total	1,122,873,013	704,285,754	321,955,587	353,350,343	350,935,411	50.2%

SOURCE: UN OCHA

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Response Performance Analysis

The below table illustrates statistical information on displaced populations.

GOVERNORATE	NUMBER OF IDPS				%GOVERNORATE
	#Households	#Individuals	% In-Camp (HH)	%Out of Camp (HH)	
DUHOK	96,080	504,391	37.11%	62.88%	40.42%
ERBIL	99,700	454,077	3%	97%	36.38%
SULAYMANIAH	61,547	289,556	15%	85%	23.20%
TOTAL	257,327	1,248,024			100%

GOVERNORATE	NUMBER OF REFUGEES				%GOVERNORATE
	#Households	#Individuals	% In-Camp (HH)	%Out of Camp (HH)	
DUHOK	30,190	97,099	48.8%	51.92%	
ERBIL	42,965	112,338	68%	32%	
SULAYMANIAH	11,790	29,682	2.72%	97.28%	
TOTAL	84,945	239,119	24.84%	75.16%	

In comparison to the statistics reported in the July Edition of the Common Operation Picture, it is evident that whilst there are small variations, numbers remain relatively stable. The KR-I is still host to large concentration of displaced populations, with the total number sitting at 1,478,143 individuals.

The current situation however has seen a shift in the area of concern from new waves of displacement to the sudden and large numbers of individuals attempting to migrate abroad. Whilst it is undeniable that substantial amounts of people have migrated, there has been no verified account of numbers. The KRG has recently appointed the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with investigating the issue and the subsequent consequences the region could face.

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Initial reports and anecdotal evidence suggests that the issue of people smuggling has occurred amongst the refugee, IDP and local population and is not exclusively linked to any particular geographical region. Amongst the displaced population, the current trend appears to be the departure of the heads of households, leaving behind their families, whilst amongst the local population there seems to be a significant number of youth departures. The smuggling route/s most commonly used, based on anecdotal evidence, from the KR-I through places such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary and Greece as points of transit and Germany as the final point of destination. The mode of transportation varies between people smugglers; they include but are not limited to boats, trains and cars. There are even been reports suggesting that a great deal of travel is done on foot.

Health

The rates of morbidity and mortality, along with deterioration of the health status of displaced populations, can be curtailed should continuous financial, and material support be provided for health programmes.

Regrettably the health sector, as essential as it is, has suffered from the lack of funding, short funding cycles and increasing demands of services. This is evident through the suspension



of over 80% of health programmes provided to IDPs across the country. Adequate primary and health care services for all affected populations need to be provided and maintained, with possible establishment of new health centres to ease the high volumes of patients and overcrowding in facilities; the local health service delivery system is strained and overburdened at present. Staffing issues also remain a prominent issue, with frequent turnover of staff, lack of

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human resources and delayed payments of salaries; centres are not always able to run at their full capacity and potential.

Within this, there remains an issue of access, it needs to be ensured that displaced populations residing in an out-of-camp setting have proper access to health services. , and that displaced populations residing in conflict areas (within the reach and scope of the KRG) are considered by providing mobile medical teams.

Food Security

The funding shortfall is ever-increasingly affecting the Food Security sectors. Under the Humanitarian Response Plan 2015 (HRP), Food Security partners will aim to reach *up to* 2.2 million people of the estimated 4.4 million people in need of food assistance. The severity of the lack of funding is apparent in the aforementioned statement alone, although all partners and agencies work tirelessly to ensure individuals and households are food secure, there will be still a significant population that will not be reached. WFP recently conducted a detailed assessment on food security and vulnerability status of Syrian refugees residing in KR-I, resulting in the decision to refocus the distribution of available resources to those most vulnerable. The amount of the monthly voucher will be determined by the vulnerability status of the household; households considered to be moderately vulnerable will receive a reduced voucher of \$10 per person/per month, while households considered most vulnerable will continue to receive \$19 per person/per month. The funding shortfall has affected more than just the food-voucher system. Should more funding not be provided in the near future, food partners will not only have to further scale back their assistance but it is highly possible that, just like certain health programmes, food assistance to certain groups or geographical areas will cease altogether. This is already showing with WFP possibly having to stop the distribution of food vouchers to 450,000 individuals at the end of September, and the beginning of October will see approximately 1.6 million individuals no longer receiving monthly food rations.

Without an additional \$65.3 million, there will undoubtedly be a soar in numbers regarding food security and vulnerability.

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Protection

The importance of Protection cannot be stressed enough in the context of such a hectic humanitarian crisis. It is essential that all sectors ensure that protection protocols and standards are met and mainstreamed throughout all their respective programmes (this should be done irrespective of who the implementing partner may be i.e. agencies, NGOs, INGOs or government). The critical need for an increase in protection services needs to be catered to, especially when there is an increase in reports of affected populations resorting to negative coping mechanisms. It needs to be noted and considered however, that the dependence on negative coping mechanisms stems from many differing issues. The economic status, living conditions and resilience of affected and displaced individuals need to be kept in mind when dealing with reports of negative coping mechanisms. It is important to identify, recognize and rectify that root cause of the problem, instead of attempting to treat its symptoms. Child marriage, for instance, remains an area of real concern in Duhok, and although it is undeniably imperative to increase the amount and quality of psychosocial services available, it is also equally as important to tackle the crux of the problem that forces families to commit such grave and desperate acts. This being said, in the context of these particular and intricate crises that faces the region, a reality-based approach in handling the situation is key. In mainstreaming strategic protection objectives across all sectors it could be argued that there would be an improvement in monitoring possible protection issues, such as the need for an increase in child protection actors for certain regions. Although all sectors need strong and concrete coordination between relevant actors, the protection sector needs it the most. The KRG has been both generous and caring in their treatment of displaced populations, however its efforts has dwindled due to the lack of required funds, and need to continue strengthen in the area of protection as it directly affects the well-being of millions. Such areas of improvement could be tackling the logistical obstacles facing children in enrolling in schools, delays in obtaining residency cards and child labour; these areas of concern need to be met with durable, not blanket, solutions.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Since the onset of the Syrian crisis and the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, 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

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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. It is estimated that the KRG will need to meet an additional 17.1 million square meters per year to meet the increased water demands. With such sweltering temperatures in the month of August, water demand and supply was

stressed to its limit. More durable solutions need to be implemented to ensure that this is not a recurring theme, yet the KRG, due to its fiscal situation, is unable at the present time to completely reform its water systems and build new water filtration plants to increase water supply to meet the increasing demand of both IDPs, refugees and host communities. The issue however is not solely within the supply of water available, there remains issues with water quality controls in some regions, there is a critical gap in safe drinking water and water for domestic use. Contamination, due to unchlorinated water, could easily occur and lead to an outbreak of water related diseases. Awareness campaigns, although on-going, need to be increased; yet again, due to funding shortfalls, awareness campaigns could truly alleviate the demand of needs. Displaced and local populations need to be informed on water conservation, hygiene promotion and WASH-related disease awareness.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

The majority of displaced persons in the KR-I reside in an out-of-camp setting; across Iraq, it is estimated that 69% of displaced persons live in an out-of-camp setting, the average is higher in KR-I. If perceived from a superficial perspective, this at first may appear to be of benefit, as it could possibly mean a solid socio-economic status in displaced persons, better integration with host communities, and increased access to employment and services. Yet this is hardly the case. The reality is that most displaced persons living in an out-of-camp settings face numerous

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obstacles and hardships; a worrying portion reside in unfinished, unsafe or public buildings, do not have adequate access to humanitarian aid or government services and lack the basic needs required. The individuals or households that live in rented accommodation at times live with multiple families, and are increasingly unable to pay the high rental rates thus resorting to negative coping mechanisms, like that of child labour, child marriage and incurring debts through constant loans. Regrettably, shelter partners do not have the financial capacity to aid all individuals/households living in critical shelter arrangements or provide cash-assistance to those facing difficulty in paying their rent/s. Within camp settings, the funding shortfall has affected the provision of shelter and household items. The continuous maintenance costs of shelter arrangements (albeit not all camp shelter arrangements need to be upgraded), is in need of revision. The ideal situation for all involved, would in fact be the safe return of displaced populations, but the crisis shows no signs of slowing down and durable shelter solutions need to be given greater concern. Relevant agencies and partners need to work alongside government authorities to plan and implement long-term living arrangement for displaced populations, not only for the well-being of the displaced populations but also for cost-cutting and cost-effective purposes.

Education

There are critical gaps in the Education sector; lack of trained human resources, funding shortfalls, logistical obstacles and materials are all constraints that need to be addressed. Firstly, schools are overcrowded and unable to accommodate for further enrolments, and due to a low rate of qualified teachers available there is a high pupil-to-teacher ratio; the lack of human resources is amplified with teachers receiving delayed salaries (there are ongoing solutions being discussed between relevant agencies and government authorities to rectify payment-related issues). In respect to the material needs to ensure basic education



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standards are met, there is a lack of books, desks, stationary and school materials, this is often compounded by overcrowded classrooms and inadequate spaces for learning. There is not apparent or significant decrease in drop-out rates, and whilst education partners have conducted back-to-school campaigns to promote the importance of education in youth, displaced households cannot financially afford the costs related to sending their children to school or in finding appropriate schooling; issues regarding differing curriculum and language used in schools is a prominent obstacle for displaced populations. It is also important to note that although indicators are utilized for measuring the enrolment rates of displaced populations, there also needs to be a measurement of how many school children are completing their educational year and/or schooling.

Additionally, the Region itself lacks schools and space for the children of the host communities, even before the humanitarian crisis, and its ability has been severely impaired to make any investment in the education infrastructure since the financial crisis in 2013. This has further contributed to the already existing overcrowding, double or triple shifts in the schools. Only this year, the KRG Ministry of Education has enrolled 50,000 new children without being able to construct new schools or expand the old ones across the Kurdistan Region. With the current funding status, we will see the number of children without schooling will increase dramatically; in years to come we will see the emergence of a lost generation.

IMPACT ON HOST COMMUNITIES

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 75% of refugee households are residing in non-camp settings, causing overcrowding, increasing demand for services and competition for resources and jobs.

Critical areas of concern that are being closely monitored by relevant authorities are as follows; water demand has risen by 11%, sanitation and solid waste management (there is an increase of solid waste by 26%, or 1,690 tons, per day); food security in the local population remains relatively stable, however there is a correlation between the local populations food security and the provisions of the Public Distribution System (PDS), which may not remain stable should the region fall victim to further shocks; Poverty rates in KR-I have more than doubled from 3.5% to 8.1% deflation in real incomes combined with the increased burden of debt and the challenge to maintain the income-expenditure relation; inflation of housing costs; the delivery of health and education programs; labour market saturation and stable social safety nets.

It must be iterated that the KR-I is challenging three different crises simultaneously. The ISIL conflict and the continuous 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 in some matters directly and in others, 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 tension hotspots 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

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cohesion between the populations, the impacts on the host communities should be factored into medium and long term contingency planning.

It is keeping the above-mentioned in mind that the Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC), with the approval of the Ministry of Interior and JCC Council, has requested from all relevant KRG ministries



and departments their respective critical and strategic objectives, in relation to the crises, to be planned for and hopefully accomplished. This task was undertaken by the JCC, not only to be able to effectively coordinate the humanitarian response between the international community and the government, but also ensure that critical constraints and gaps are being addressed and to avoid duplication in efforts. Although the needs have been identified, it needs to be noted that the relevant ministries and departments cannot fulfil them independently and are seeking the help of UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. Please find below the list of priorities received, by ministry/department, thus far.

Ministry of Education:

1. The maintenance of pre-existing schools, and building/establishing new schools (whether it prefabricated cabinets or school buildings).
2. Acquisition and provision of relevant and adequate school furniture and equipment.
3. The payment of teacher salaries (specifically concentrated on school teachers in refugee camps).
4. Capacity building and training of teachers.
5. Provision of basic school materials.

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Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism:

1. Adequate water supply for camps.
2. Waste management and disposal.
3. Building of proper water pipelines.
4. Building and maintenance of septic tanks.
5. Ensuring all camps have proper roads, which also connect to main roads outside of camps.

Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women:

1. Establishing joint mobile teams, with representatives from the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women, Ministry of Health, Human Rights Directorate and relevant psycho social experts.
2. Providing adequate latrines/restrooms/wash facilities for each household, especially women led households.
3. Vocational training for women and subsequent establishment of weekly markets to sell products.
4. Establishment of monitoring unit to oversee distribution cycles.

In conclusion, without a significant increase in funding from the International Community and financial transactions from Government of Iraq, the Kurdistan Region will not be able to contain the humanitarian crisis. Should the situation deteriorate any further, it will put the entire population, security, societal functions and resilience of the host communities at a real threat of the total collapse. This will have dire consequences for the entire region and international community.