Highlights

- Since 14 May 2015, increasing violence in central Ramadi caused a new wave of displacement from the Anbar Governorate. Ramadi City has been reported as under control of armed opposition group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) since 17 May 2015.
- The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported over 133,000 newly displaced individuals (as of 8 May, 2015) spread across 15 governorates of Iraq.
- The Governorates worst-affected by the Ramadi displacements are Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah.
- UNICEF operationalized a 90 day Response Plan for the recent displacements from Anbar Governorate that sets concrete targets for aid delivery across the period 15 May to 15 August, 2015.
- Since 18 April, UNICEF with the RRM Consortium (UN and NGOs), delivered more than 50,000 RRM kits1, benefitting 356,000 displaced people across 35 locations in Anbar. Many of these people are in hard-to-reach locations.
- Supporting the urgent needs of at least 8,400 IDPs on the move at Bzbiz Bridge and in Amiriyat Al Fallujah, UNICEF distributed 3,500 sets of cold bottled water through its implementing partner Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme (RIRP).
- On 19 May, in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF opened a new tented school for IDP children in Al Takiyah Collective Centre. Originally planned to accommodate 400 IDP children from Salah al Din Governorate, the school will now stretch to accommodate more than 700 children from Grades 1 to 9, including newly-displaced children from Ramadi.
- Through 12 Primary Health Centre (PHC) and with UNICEF support, outreach teams continued polio vaccinations targeting IDPs, including IDP families in Bzbiz Bridge. 1,800 children were vaccinated against polio and 630 children against measles between 13 and 19 May.
- UNICEF estimates at least half of the over 2.8 million people currently displaced in the ongoing crisis across Iraq are children.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the start of April 2015, due to the conflict affecting Ramadi city and neighboring areas, Anbar governorate – already heavily affected by violence in the last year – has witnessed large numbers of newly displaced individuals. The level of threat to civilians varies widely within the governorate. The cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Karmah are severely affected by hostilities, while other areas are moderately affected. Urban areas affected by violence are still inhabited by civilians who have no means to resettle in safer areas.

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1 IMO DTM Ramadi Crisis Dashboard available at http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page
governorates of Iraq. The worst-affected governorates are Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah. The majority of the displaced are fleeing eastwards towards Baghdad. Many are trying to enter through security checkpoints, including Bzbiz Bridge which is the main crossing point. Those who have left Anbar have sought refuge in Khalidiya and Falluja Districts (west of Baghdad), while many more are still waiting to cross into Baghdad. UNOCHA reported on 19 May, that some IDP families have been waiting for up to four days to cross Bzbiz Bridge; reports from 20 May indicate that the bridge and checkpoint may have been opened for families with Baghdad sponsors, but information remains unclear. Humanitarian needs at Bzbiz Bridge, as in other locations, are acute: drinking water, food, sanitation facilities and protection from the searing heat are all required. UN and partners who are responding to the newly displaced report that women and children particularly are in need, citing clothes, sanitary napkins, clean water, food and baby milk as priorities.2

Since the beginning of May 2015 returns to Anbar Governorate have begun, with protection partners reporting thousands of families now returning to the Ramadi District, mostly to their own homes. Restrictions on movement for internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain in Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Karbala, Najaf, and Baghdad governorates as the security situation remains unstable, and humanitarian access is uncertain. Roads previously reported as open can close almost without warning. The shutting of Bzbiz Bridge, a main crossing point for many, has blocked the humanitarian response to vulnerable IDPs on the Anbar side of the bridge, near Amiriyat Al Fallujah. New rules and regulations imposed by the local authorities have restricted humanitarian access even within Baghdad city itself.

**Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination**

Cluster coordination mechanisms are being activated or re-established in Baghdad and partners are meeting on a weekly basis to strengthen coordination. UNICEF is appointed Cluster Coordinator for Education and WASH, and Sub-cluster Coordinator for Child Protection. Within each Cluster, UNICEF developed internal service delivery targets in line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (to be launched in Brussels on June 4, 2015) and the inter-agency Contingency Plan. UNICEF and partners hold Emergency Coordination Team (ECT) meetings twice a week, based in Baghdad. Bi-weekly meetings with RRM Consortium partners including WFP, IOM, and UNFPA are facilitated to validate information, discuss displacements trends and plan coordinated humanitarian response. In response to displacements in the centre and south zones of Iraq, UNICEF and UN partners continue to coordinate with the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Cell (JCMC), the national emergency coordination system of the Government of Iraq.

On 20 May, UNICEF participated in a joint field mission with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) and other UN agencies to assess two proposed transit camp locations near Bzbiz Bridge. The intention is to host up to 3,000 displaced families in this area, and to follow up on the humanitarian needs of the displaced populations in three additional nearby locations. Needs assessments and discussion on the locations are ongoing at time of reporting.

**Humanitarian Strategy**

Since the onset of new displacements from Anbar in early April 2015, UNICEF Iraq has been responding to the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and communities through the provision of immediate humanitarian aid. UNICEF operationalized a 90-day Response Plan that sets concrete targets for aid delivery across the period 15 May to 15 August, 2015, across UNICEF’s programmatic areas of Child Protection, Education, Health and Nutrition, and WASH. The plan is being coordinated by the Chief of Field Operations with the support of the Emergency team, Supply and Logistics, the Chiefs of Field Offices, Cluster Leads for WASH and Education, and core emergency programme staff. Progress benchmarks (numbers of beneficiaries reached) have been created for measurement at 30, 60 and 90 days’ of the response. The benchmarks and overall plan will remain flexible given the potential for rapid changes in IDP numbers.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**

Since 18 April UNICEF, with the RRM Consortium (UN and NGOs), delivered a total of 50,000 RRM kits3, benefitting 356,000 displaced people across 35 locations in Anbar. Many of these people are in hard-to-reach locations. A delivery

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2 OCHA Crisis Situation Report Nr. 42 English
3 Each RRM Kit provides one family (seven people) with sufficient supplies for seven days. Kits includes the following supplies: 12 liters of drinking water, 1 bucket or jerry can, 1 adult hygiene kit (2 toothbrushes, 2 tubes of toothpaste, 2 bars of soap, 1 soap container, shampoo, 2 plastic combs,
of UNICEF RRM kits was prevented from leaving Baghdad for Anbar on 19 May, despite National Operations Centre (NOC) clearance. Two trucks were redirected to deliver 7,000 RRM kits to Kudbalat, Kerbala, with 7,200 RRM kits delivered via Kerbala to Habbaniyah. On 19 and 20 May, UNICEF’s implementing partner Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed 1,200 RRM kits with Immediate Response Rations (IRR) targeting 8,400 IDPs on the move. At Latifiya Checkpoint in Baghdad Governorate, an additional 5,000 kits were provided to approximately 35,000 IDPs at Bzbiz Bridge.

**Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)**
To help meet the water storage and basic hygiene needs of 400 newly-arrived IDP families, WASH emergency supplies, including mobile latrines, basic family water kits, toilet jars, water tanks and baby diapers, were delivered to the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) tented camp Amiriyat Al-Fallujah on 16 May. During the reporting period UNICEF provided 12 mobile latrines to IDP school children in Al Takiya Collective Center, which will support a more child-friendly environment for over 700 students in the school, including newly-displaced children from Ramadi. Improved sanitation facilities in school can help to encourage regular attendance, and create a comfortable learning environment for children.

Supporting the urgent needs of at least 8,400 IDPs on the move at Bzbiz Bridge and Amiriyat Al Fallujah, UNICEF distributed 3,500 sets of cold bottled water (consisting of 6 litres of water per set), through its implementing partner Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Programme (RIRP), and has delivered items, including water tanks, mobile latrines and garbage bins, to implementing partner Muslim Aid (MA). MA will distribute supplies and promote good hygiene practices, in collaboration with 2,200 students displaced from their university in Anbar who are currently being hosted by the College of Agriculture in Baghdad. MA estimates that 9,000 people will benefit from these interventions.

UNICEF-led water trucking services are covering Amiriyat Al-Fallujah, Nikhaib and Habbaniyah sub-districts and Khaldiya. A maximum of 105cm³ is being delivered daily in these locations (dependent on need), for a total of 327cm³ delivered across the four locations. Ongoing wastewater desludging for Al Habbaniyah Tourist City that began on 16 May continues, with up to 10 desludging trips each day to relive the pressure on sanitation systems caused by new arrivals from Ramadi.

**Health & Nutrition**
On 20 May, the UNICEF-supported shipment of scabies solution and lice shampoo targeting IDPs in Al Takiya Collective Center (410 families), Asia Collective Center in Dora (108 families), Hay al-Jameaa (100 families) and Yousfiaa camps has reached its destination. Remaining shampoos and solutions will be kept in the warehouse as prepositioned supplies. In addition, 2,000 leaflets on the prevention of scabies and lice were distributed in the above-mentioned camps. Through 12 Primary Health Centre’s (PHC) with UNICEF support, outreach teams continued polio vaccinations targeting IDPs, including in Bzbiz Bridge. Between 13 and 19 May 1,800 children received the polio vaccination while 630 children were vaccinated against measles.

**Child Protection (CP)**
The protection of children during displacement is a key concern for UNICEF and protection partners. UNICEF and child protection partners have staff monitoring the ongoing displacements from Ramadi carefully for any incidences of suspected grave violations of child rights. If found, information will be shared with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), who record, investigate and verify incidences of these violations. Capacity building training for 30 staff of UNICEF’s local partners in the centre governorates finished on 18 May. The trainings focused on techniques to create Child-Friendly Space’s (CFS) which included child appropriate activities and effective psychosocial support (PSS) for children who have experienced traumatic events. Participating organisations included three national NGO partners, Women Future, Tjdeed (local NGO in Najaf), Human for Human (local NGO in Karbala), as well as representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and international NGO Danish Refugee Council (DRC).

**Education**
On 19 May, in coordination with the Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF opened a new tented school for IDP children in Al Takiyah Collective Centre. Although originally planned to accommodate 400 IDP children from Salah al Din

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2.5kg laundry detergent, 2 cotton towels, pack of 12 safety pins, 10m washing line, 2 x 20 pack of sanitary towels, 2 pack each 2 rolls toilet paper), BPS high energy biscuits or World Food Programme (WFP) 12kg Immediate Response Ration (food parcel)
Governorate, with the new displacements from Ramadi since conflict spread to the city, the school will now stretch to accommodate more than 700 children from Grades 1 to 9. The new space has provided access to quality education for more than 700 IDP students, running classes in 3 shifts. Primary-age boys start school in the early morning, primary-age girls start late morning, and a third shift begins in mid-afternoon. UNICEF has provided text books for students at the school. The official opening, planned for earlier in May, was delayed due to a strong storm in Baghdad, affecting the entire camp, including three tents of the school. Repairs to these tents after the storm caused some delays, but the school is now open with children attending formal education classes. Discussions are underway with the MoE to ensure that this school is accredited in line with other schools in Baghdad. It was also agreed that school will continue during the summer holiday to compensate for time lost during the last academic session. The MoE made a special exception and will offer students in the school two opportunities to undertake final exams, in light of the interruption of classes. The number of students is expected to increase, due to further reported arrivals from Bzbiz to Al Takiya Collective Centre. UNICEF field staff report a need for at least two additional classroom tents to help open up school spaces for as many children as possible.

With the support of UNICEF, on 17 May 2015, two training sessions commenced benefitting 40 teachers (including teachers affected by the recent Ramadi crisis) in Risafa. The training sessions focused on psychosocial support, pedagogy and governance. A second training is planned in Risafa which is scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

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