Iraq Crisis
Flash Update: Anbar Governorate

SITUATION IN NUMBERS: JULY 2016

UNICEF Humanitarian Response in Anbar

UNICEF has been responding to urgent humanitarian needs across Anbar since military operations began in March through daily contact with frontline partners and field missions to affected locations whenever possible to ensure timely and appropriate response across sectors, notwithstanding security restrictions and other movement constraints.

Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

- Within hours of displacement, the Rapid Response Mechanism, co-led by UNICEF and WFP in collaboration with UNFPA and a consortium of 7 INGO and NGO partners, distributed emergency food rations, water and hygiene supplies to newly-displaced families. Since the beginning of the Fallujah displacements RRM partners in Anbar distributed 22,929 RRM kits between 23 May and 10 July, benefitting about 129,700 vulnerable people on the move, approximately half of them children. In cooperation with UNFPA, at least 13,475 dignity kits were distributed as part of RRM kits, benefiting 80,742 people. Of these, 44,442 were in AF, 19,680 were in Khalidiyah, 1,680 in Bzeibiz and 1,200 in Abu Ghraib.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF has supported safe water supply for 69,500 IDPs (approx. 55 percent females; 47 percent children). Vaccination rounds targeted children newly-displaced from Fallujah and surrounding areas including 18,080 children (0 to 15 years) vaccinated against polio and 15,619 children (9 months to 15 years) vaccinated against measles.

Latest Humanitarian Developments

- More than 85,000 people (over 14,200 families) have been displaced in Anbar governorate since 23 May due to escalation of conflict in Fallujah and surrounding areas. An estimated 30,000 people were displaced between 15 and 17 June alone.
- Protection remains a paramount concern, as security screening procedures separate boys and men from their families, and place civilians at risk of maltreatment in inhumane conditions. UNICEF is concerned about children’s exposure to IEDs, grave violations of their rights, and the impact of violence on their mental health and future development.
- UNICEF has supported safe water supply for 69,500 IDPs, and sanitation interventions have reached 25,500 IDPs (approx. 55 percent females; 47 percent children). Vaccination rounds targeted children newly-displaced from Fallujah and surrounding areas including 18,080 children (0 to 15 years) vaccinated against polio and 15,619 children (9 months to 15 years) vaccinated against measles.
- UNICEF and partners will open three new Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in mid-July, providing recreational activities and psychosocial support for children in Bzeibiz, Al Wafaa, and Kilo 18. Despite coordinated efforts across government and humanitarian actors, needs continue to outstrip response. With the Humanitarian Response Plan remaining only 38 percent funded, humanitarian partners are concerned about the negative impact the funding shortfall will have on services for the most vulnerable.

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Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF has supported safe water supply for 69,500 IDPs (approx. 55 percent females; 47 percent children). To date 13 new Reverse Osmosis (RO) units are operational (11 in AF, 1 in Khalidiyah; 1 in HTC) and capable of providing 300m³ of clean water daily, covering needs of 30,000 IDPs. A further two RO units are awaiting connection to generators; 10 more will be installed by end-July. In total, 25 new RO units will be available with capacity to cover needs of 60,000 IDPs. In addition, temporary drinking water supply (900,000 litres of bottled water, 51,200 sets in total) reached new arrivals in AF, HTC, and Khalidiyah. Supply of

US $5 million – Amount needed to cover urgent needs in Anbar governorate

UNICEF hygiene kits ready to distribute to IDPs at Ameriyat al Fallujah camp, Anbar, June 2016 Photo: UNICEF Iraq

Affected Population in Numbers

85,000 - # estimated people displaced recently from Fallujah district and surrounding areas; approximately half are children under 18

30,000 - # estimated people displaced between 15 and 17 June 2016

129,700 - # of IDPs in Anbar governorate supported through RRM distributions between 23 May and 10 July 2016

69,500 - # of newly-displaced Fallujah IDPs with access to safe water
UNICEF contributes actively to humanitarian coordination in Anbar Governorate through leadership of the WASH Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster, co-leadership of the Education Cluster and Rapid Response Mechanism, and membership in the Health and Nutrition Cluster.

**Humanitarian Coordination**

UNICEF contributes actively to humanitarian coordination in Anbar Governorate with Government, UN and NGOs through the 'Zamzam' project for AF, connecting the camp to a pipeline from nearby Ameriyat al Fallujah. Work is ongoing to install a further 204 latrines/showers by end-July to meet the needs of 4,000 IDPs. An additional 550 latrines and 275 showers will be delivered in coming weeks, sufficient for 11,500 IDPs.

**Violations of child rights** in areas affected by recent conflict around Fallujah have been verified in the reporting period. UNICEF is advocating for re-activation of the PSS services. A rapid protection assessment identified provision of psychosocial support services and scaling-up activities for children as key priorities.

**Sanitation interventions** have reached 25,500 IDPs (approx. 55 percent female; 47 percent children). Access to sanitation for 25,200 IDPs is provided through installation of 686 latrines and 310 showers in AF, HTC, Khalidiyah and surrounding areas, of which 158 latrines were installed in the last two weeks. Work is ongoing to install additional latrines/showers by end-July. Provision of vital equipment, including 2,000 student desks, is underway for AF and Al Khalidiyah schools.

**Non-formal education** activities will start in 24 Anbar schools in the last week of July reaching approximately 10,000 children.

**Violations of child rights** in areas affected by recent conflict around Fallujah have been verified in the reporting period including: one attack on a hospital; 5 children killed (3 boys and 2 girls) by improvised explosive devices (IED); 5 children (4 boys and a girl) injured by unexploded ordinance (UXO) while playing; and 3 boys killed and 1 boy injured in airstrikes. UNICEF believes actual numbers of children affected by rights violations may be much higher, but lack of access to affected locations has presented challenges to verification of reports.

**UNICEF supported 24 teams to conduct two rounds of vaccination, targeting children newly-displaced from Fallujah and surrounding areas in Anbar. By 30 June in the AF, HTC, Khalidiyah, Ramadi district, and Abu Ghraib, 18,080 children (0 to 15 years) were vaccinated against polio, and 15,619 children (9 months to 15 years) were vaccinated against measles.**

**Space for healthcare services** was strengthened through provision of prefabricated caravans to the DoH Anbar increasing capacity for general consultations, identification and referral to other medical services, and vaccination. In total so far, 5,000 doses of polio and 5,000 measles vaccines, ice-lined carriers, and cold boxes were delivered to the DoH Anbar.

**Since April 2016 UNICEF and partners have conducted three rounds of rapid nutrition assessment in Anbar locations, gathering data from more than 6,000 children under 5 years. Comparisons between groups displaced from Fallujah and those displaced from other locations show significant discrepancy and indicate the negative effects on children living under control of armed opposition groups since 2014. It was found that 13.6 percent of children from Fallujah were underweight (according to WHO malnutrition categories), compared to 5 percent in Ramadi. Children under 1 showed the highest levels of underweight and wasting according to analysis by age group, reflecting challenges of food security; while children between 2-3 years presented highest rates of stunting, reflecting chronic shortage of micronutrients during their formative growth years. UNICEF has delivered 13.2 tons of high-energy biscuits, 12.5 tons of super cereal and 11.5 tons of supplementary spread sachets to AF, one of the largest IDP camps in Anbar. Distribution to provide nutritious food for children is ongoing to all families. For children with specific malnourishment, hospital admission is sought or higher quantities of supplementation provided, dependent on need.**

**Hygiene promotion activities and kits containing basic hygiene items reached 7,400 families (44,400 individuals) in AF, HTC, Al Karama, and Khalidiyah.**

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Disclaimer: This report is based on information received from various internal and open sources. With the exception of the UNICEF Programme Update, not all information could be independently verified and as such, the report does not reflect the opinion or position of UNICEF. This report is intended for informational purposes and is not an official document.