Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Due to the unstable security situation and dire living conditions in many affected areas, displacement and mass movements are continuing and subject to rapid changes.

Due to the hostilities in Talafar, Baherka transit camp in Erbil Governorate has witnessed a continuous influx of IDPs. Many of them transited through Sinjar and then entered through Kalak check point, intending to travel south to Najaf or Karbala. Baherka camp population has fluctuated between 1,000 and 6,000 people, making a coherent humanitarian response more challenging.

Approximately 10,000 IDP families that fled from Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk and Anbar Governorates are currently taking shelter in locations between Najaf and Karbala, which traditionally hosts pilgrims. The number of new arrivals is steadily increasing. Initial assessments confirmed the need for emergency WASH supplies, such as hygiene materials and hygiene promotion.

The Deputy Governor of Dohuk and the Head of Nineveh Provincial Council expressed concern about a potential mass displacement from Telkaif. The area has been cut off from public electricity and water supplies, leaving 70,000 inhabitants (host community and IDPs) with severe shortages of electricity and water.
Hamdaniyah district in Nineveh Governorate is facing similar difficulties. About 80 per cent (50,000 people) of the temporarily displaced population has returned and requires assistance. The assistance needed includes a) clean water supply, since the area is for the most part cut off from the public water network, b) preparations of the postponed examinations, c) training of medical staff on preventable diseases and d) psycho-social assistance for traumatized children.

Despite the opening of a humanitarian corridor into Sinjar, the living conditions and needs of the approximately 7,000 to 8,000 IDPs are alarming. Due to the increasing number of diarrhoea cases, primarily in children under five, health services and medical supplies are of particular importance.

Locations of multi-sectoral IDP needs assessments conducted by UNICEF (total 60; 34 conducted between 6th and 12th July); for more information on the detailed results of the assessment, visit this link

Programme Response per Sector

Child Protection (CP)

A total of 2,000 girls and boys in Shaqlawa, Sinjar, Garmawa and Khazir IDP camps in Erbil and Duhok Governorates received psychosocial services through child friendly spaces set up in the host communities and IDP camps. In Baherka transit centre, a 72 m² tent was installed in collaboration with Save the Children International to offer psychosocial services and temporary learning activities to approximately 400 children, who are taking temporary refuge at the camp.

The MRM Technical Working Group comprised of UNICEF, UNAMI CP, other UN agencies and selected NGOs, met during the course of the week to review MRM cases for the Global Horizontal Note (GHN). The quarterly MRM report was submitted to the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

UNICEF is expanding geographical coverage for the provision of CP services and the monitoring and reporting on violations of children’s rights and other CP issues by deploying 9 facilitators to different locations in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, Kirkuk and Nineveh Governorates and through additional partnership agreements with Save the Children International, International Medical Corps and the extension of ACTED’s refugee programme to include IDPs. Additionally, UNICEF successfully negotiated Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) with four local CBOs in Dohuk strengthening CP services in Nineveh.
The Ministry of Education (MoE) agreed to conduct postponed final examinations for students affected by the most recent wave of displacement. Committees were set up to advance preparations. The examinations are scheduled for 16 August for students from grades 9 and 12, and August 5 for all others. Registration of students (grade 9 and 12) has already started. The MoE/KRG was requested to identify examination centers, and the federal MoE will take full responsibility of conducting the examinations.

To accelerate implementation and creation of additional learning spaces, UNICEF is reprinting and distributing supplementary learning materials developed jointly with MoE and UNICEF. The materials cover the 1st to 6th grade.

In order to facilitate the transition to the new academic year, UNICEF and UNHCR came to an agreement that UNHCR will support the provision of alternative shelter for the IDPs currently staying in an estimated 150 schools in Dohuk. UNICEF will then rehabilitate the schools for the start of school in September.

Based upon the success of the first round of Catch-up Classes (CuC), UNICEF jointly with the Department of Education (DoE) organized a second round of CuCs in Haditha for 1,189 students, who are affected by the most recent wave of displacement. Classes are starting on 13 July.

To adapt to the continuous displacement of people, the four tents are being re-installed in Sit Zainab Shrine to offer educational, recreational and psycho-social activities for approximately 600 children; 125 boys and 82 girls (207 children) are receiving services. Additionally, children are currently being registered.

The MoE shared with UNICEF the most updated statistics on the number of schools and students at the district level in Ninevah, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar and Salah Al-Din Governorates. This will be used to inform the response to the children’s educational needs in these areas. According to DoE/Anbar, a total of 422 schools in Anbar Governorate are currently occupied by IDP families.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

In Anbar Governorate UNICEF’s WASH activities are constrained in the areas controlled by IS (AL-Qaim, Anah, Rawa and AL-Rutta) due to security concerns. However, UNICEF’s response to the humanitarian needs of IDPs displaced inside Anbar is on-going. Water distribution, garbage collection and hygiene awareness campaigns are continuing. 250 hygiene kits were distributed in Heet, benefitting approximately 1,500 IDPs.

In response to the lack of safe water supplies for IDPs and host community in Khanqeen (Diyala Governorate), UNICEF started trucking in water on 5 July, 32,000 liters daily for approximately 1,600 IDPs. UNICEF supplied 1,050 hygiene kits, jerry cans and buckets as well as 20 garbage containers, benefitting approximately 5,250 individuals. Additionally, UNICEF installed 12 water tanks with the total capacity of 60,000 liters, benefitting a total of 3,000 people. UNICEF is liaising with the water directorate on finding more sustainable solution to cover the water shortage.

To attend to the most immediate needs identified during assessments, UNICEF prepositioned 21,000 liters of bottled drinking water for a total of 7,000 IDPs, as well as 1,400 hygiene kits and 1,000 jerry cans for approximately 5,000 beneficiaries in Bahera Transit camp. The relief items are being distributed with the support of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on a needs basis. Additionally, UNICEF initiated garbage collection and cleaning services of the sanitation facilities with the support of NRC.

In response to the extreme water shortage in Al-Hamdaniyah and Talkief districts, UNICEF with Relief International (RI) is providing tankers of water every other day. The tankers provide 160,000 liters of life-saving water to 8,000 vulnerable people in Karamles, Hamdaniyah City and Bartila. Throughout the past week UNICEF additionally installed a total of 20 water tanks in Talkief and two water tanks in Karamles with the capacity of 110,000 liters benefitting a minimum of 4,000 beneficiaries.

Unreliability of public electricity supply, along with shortages of fuel and chlorine are still the main challenges for water supply. In an effort to support the Water Directorate of Basika, Bazani, Talkief, and Ninewa with the maintenance of public water supply, UNICEF initiated the procurement of six generators, two submersible pumps, 40,000 litres fuel (monthly consumption), 1,000 m of polyethylene pipes, 150 1-ton gas cylinders and 50kg of chlorine powder.

Health & Nutrition

A 2-day national immunization meeting was held on 11 and 12 July in Erbil. With the financial and technical support of UNICEF, 45 EPI districts’ managers were reviewing the immunization strategy and developed a joint plan to immunize an estimated 2,250,000 children in all governorates affected by IDP displacement.
In response to increasing cases of diarrhea and other urgent health concerns in Sinjar, UNICEF and the Department of Health (DoH) Dohuk jointly mobilized five health teams. While the DoH committed to the recruitment of qualified health specialists among IDPs and local community members, UNICEF is providing incentives, as well as fuel for transportation. The first team already counseled and treated approximately 400 children and 50 adults and distributed purification tablets to approximately 300 families lasting up to one month.

The first shipment of 100,000 doses of Measles-Rubella vaccines arrived on 7 July. The procurement of more vials is in process. DoH confirmed that during the UNICEF-supported immunization campaign in Sinjar from 22 to 26 June around 6,000 children were immunized against polio and 4,000 were vaccinated against measles. Iraq had 785 confirmed cases of measles so far in 2014. Given the low routine immunization rates for measles and shortages of measles vaccines in the country measles remains a cause of concern.

As response to the rapid influx of IDPs to Baherka transit camp and increasing reports of diarrheal cases, particularly among children under 5, UNICEF delivered high energy food (BP-5) for the most immediate nutrition needs of 500 under 5 years old children for the duration of 2 to 3 days. Additionally, 1,000 sachets Oral Rehydration Solution were supplied, which is sufficient for the management of 500 cases of diarrhoea. To facilitate continuous health services to IDPs in Baherka transit camp, DoH/Erbil with financial support of UNICEF established two permanent mobile health teams.

**Communications for Development (C4D)**

C4D objectives are in close alignment with programmes and all materials are developed in cooperation with thematic experts. UNICEF, jointly with its implementing partner Relief International and facilitators, conducted a social mobilization campaign in order to promote safe behaviours related to hygiene, sanitation and disease prevention (diarrhoea/cholera), by stimulating dialogues with women/mothers and by disseminating IEC material on care and safe practices to cope with displacement. Posters on diarrhoea prevention were disseminated at different sites. C4D facilitators mobilized families to avoid littering and organize waste to keep the environment/area clean and safe for children.

UNICEF in collaboration with the Department of Health developed and printed a flyer ‘Survive and Protect’, which conveys cross-cutting key messages on health, hygiene, sanitation, education and protection to displaced families. 1,000 flyers have been distributed to IDPs in Kalak last week.

**Media and External Communication**

Key messages are updated and shared weekly with NY. This week the focus was on maintaining the faces of children in international discourse and encouraging all bodies participating in the conflict to adhere to human and child rights principles. Additionally, press releases and social media have focused on child protection. The Inter-Agency Communications working group convened on 7 July. They will convene weekly with all agencies participating and co-chaired by OCHA, UNAMI and UNICEF. The group will help ensure coordination of external messages and broaden to include NGOs and other partners.

**Supply and Logistics**

Since the outset of the emergency, the total amount of orders placed for supplies amounts to approximately 4 million USD. UNICEF has started to explore the local market for setting up long term arrangements for water and sanitation supplies and equipment, including high demand items such as soap, shampoo, towels, diapers, and sanitary napkins. These items are packed in kits for easy distribution. Concurrently UNICEF is also exploring regional procurement and putting in place arrangements in Turkey. UNICEF’s primary procurement and warehouse activities have shifted to the northern zone (Erbil). In order to speed up logistical arrangements, UNICEF is exploring warehouse arrangements in Dohuk and other location to better react to rapidly changing population movements and security conditions and to widen the geographical coverage for more efficient and rapid response. The warehouse identified in Dohuk will be operational mid-July and will greatly facilitate prepositioning and distribution.

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