

SITUATION REPORT #22: UPDATE FOR 9 July - 4 August



Displaced people in Ninewa gather to receive non-food item kits from IOM

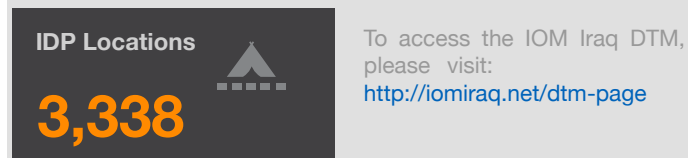
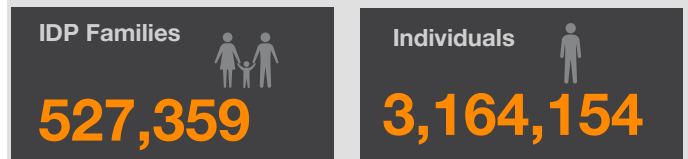
As mass displacement continues in Iraq through the hot summer months, there is continued need for immediate life-saving humanitarian response. The IOM Iraq Displacement Tracking Matrix has identified 3,164,154 displaced Iraqis. Approximately one quarter million of these IDPs, or 15% of the total, have been displaced from and around the areas of Ramadi and Falluja since 1 April. The Turkish airstrikes on positions in northern Iraq have resulted in the displacement of 110 families. Since 16 July, over a quarter of a million IDPs are reported to have returned to their places of origin.

In response to this massive displacement, from mid July through early August IOM distributed 1,800 summer non-food item kits, and IOM health teams conducted over 2,500 primary health care consultations. To assist displaced people to regain their livelihoods, through the US funded Community Revitalisation Programme, IOM has 19 community assistance projects underway across six governorates. Vocational training, business development services and other forms of individual assistance are being carried out in 10 governorates.

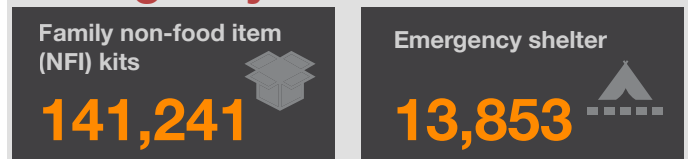
In Baghdad, IOM Iraq is responding to recent displacement from Ramadi through the distribution of cash assistance, funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). Over 500 of 700 families have already received their unconditional cash grants of IQD 435,000 (equivalent to USD \$360). Beneficiaries state that they will spend the money on health care, food, rent, clothing and other family expenses.

Displacement

According to Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data collected by IOM Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) from January 2014 - 13 July 2015



Emergency Relief Distribution



Ameera & Sahira's Story

“ I felt flames on my face and I thought about my three young sons. ”



Ameera and Sahira receiving cash grants for their families in Baghdad

Sisters Ameera and Sahira are from al Ramadi. Sahira's husband was killed by shelling during the 2003 war. Ameera and her husband welcomed Sahira and her two young children into their home. They became one family, who are now three adults and five children.

They spoke to IOM staff at a cash distribution in Baghdad. "My sister is widowed and has a boy and a girl to support. Now they live in our home, they are part of our family," said Ameera.

On March 8 of this year the shelling escalated through the night in al Ramadi. "We couldn't sleep and by seven in the morning we knew our lives were in danger. We ran from the house and kept running. Many cars were passing and one slowed to offer a ride. They helped us all climb in and together we continued to flee," said Ameera.

At the Bzebiz Bridge the cars stopped for the night. All the families were planning to sleep outside on the ground. "A kind man came and invited us to stay in his house nearby. Many families went to his house." Ameera added, "They prepared dinner for us and offered us a place to sleep even though they didn't know us. They were very welcoming."

In the morning, the families drove back to the Bzebiz bridge. "As we were waiting to cross the bridge, the top of the car suddenly crashed over our heads. I felt flames on my face and I thought about my three young sons. I wanted to keep them safe. Then I realized my little baby Omar had a big wound on his face. He is only five years old."



Sahira speaks with IOM staff about her family's situation



Omar's cheek has a scar from his shrapnel wound



Ameera smiling upon receiving her cash grant

The affected families found a hospital in Abu Ghraib for treatment. Both Ameera and little Omar suffered facial injuries from shrapnel. "I think ISIL noticed our cars and decided to hit us."

"I still have a very small piece of shrapnel in my eye, which causes blurry vision. Complicated eye surgery could remove the shrapnel, but I would rather spend the money on food and essentials," said Ameera.

The sisters went to al Ahnaf area to meet another sister and brother who were displaced earlier. They are now one of eight families living in an unfinished building with no furniture and no money. "The bathroom is inside the house. It is not a healthy environment. We all feel itchy. I think we might all have a skin disease," Sahira said.

"We depend on what people give us to survive. People used to give us a lot when we came to the area but now because so many families are displaced, we receive less." said Ameera.

Sahira said: "I send my eleven year old son to work as a day laborer with my sister's husband. I don't have a man to support me so he's the one I depended on. He is young and inexperienced, on the first day of work a nail got into his foot while he was carrying wood."

"It really hurt me and it was difficult to get the nail out of my foot," Sahira's son Mohammed said.

"We are really grateful to receive money from IOM. We will spend it thoughtfully, mainly to buy food. Food is expensive, one-kilo of tomato costs 1,250 Dinars (\$1US) and we are many people living in one place," said Sahira.

IOM is responding to life-threatening needs in a rapidly changing environment, in addition to monitoring movements on the ground.

