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# Information bulletin

## Iraq: population movement

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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**Host National Society:** Iraqi Red Crescent Society

**This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.**

## The situation

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq is escalating; hundreds of thousands of people are being displaced from their homes, with little hope for a decent life, future and protection. Since fighting between Iraqi security forces and armed groups began, around **3.4 million people** have become internally displaced and **10 million people** require some form of humanitarian assistance and protection.

The humanitarian situation in Al-Anbar governorate, particularly in and around Fallujah, is acute following the displacement of more than **85,000 people** in recent weeks. Further north, an additional **24,000 people** are estimated to have been recently displaced from Nineveh, Saladin and Kirkuk.

In and around **Nineveh** governorate, Iraqi security forces have continued an offensive to retake territory which in recent days has resulted in the **displacement of thousands of people both within and into Saladin and Kirkuk governorates**. More than **8,400 people** have been displaced from the town of Shirqat and surrounding areas alone. Due to the rapid movement of people, the total number who have been displaced may in fact be much higher. It is currently estimated that around **200,000 civilians** remain in the Shirqat city, which is under the control of non-state armed groups. Displaced families and individuals are in dire need of safety, shelter, water, food and health care.



*Red Crescent volunteers distribute bread to families displaced from Fallujah. Photo: Iraqi Red Crescent Society*

In **Al-Anbar**, the military operations which began on 23 May has now largely come to an end, though fighting is continuing into the north and western parts of the province. Most of those who have been displaced by the fighting are now staying camps (formal and informal) and temporary sites, particularly at towns of Ameriyat al Fallujah, Khalidiyah and Habbaniyah. The camps are already overcrowded resulting in many families having no choice but to stay on the fringes these sites without adequate shelter from the harsh Iraqi summer weather. Authorities expect returns to begin by August, however damage to infrastructure has been severe. There are also serious concerns that unexploded ordinance and explosives (UXO) left in Fallujah during the fighting will pose an ongoing threat to people's lives and livelihoods for many months to come. Due to these factors, it is sustainable return of the displaced population to the city will likely take a long time. As such, essential support will likely

be required on a continuous basis for months, and as basic facilities and livelihood opportunities in and outside the camps will remain limited.

As Iraqi security forces continue to advance against armed groups both in Al-Anbar as well as Nineveh governorates, **additional, large-scale population displacement is anticipated over the coming months in and around both Al-Anbar and Nineveh provinces.**

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Iraqi Red Crescent Society has been responding to the needs of families and individuals displaced in both Al-Anbar and Nineveh and surrounding affected areas. In Al-Anbar, the Red Crescent has deployed its volunteer network from its branches in Al-Anbar, Babel and Najaf governorates, and has provided support with non-food items from its pre-positioned stock, emergency food, and drinking water, health care services and psychosocial support. Between late May and late June, **Iraqi Red Crescent Society teams provided emergency assistance to over 12,000 families displaced from the offensive in Fallujah.**

This assistance has included:

- More than **92,000 loaves of bread** provided, prepared in Red Crescent bakeries and distributed daily,
- More than **7,000 hot meals**, prepared in Red Crescent field kitchens,
- **4,400 family food parcels**,
- **57,000 bottles of water** distributed,
- Provision of **emergency health and psychosocial support services to over 20,000 people.**

For those affected by the fighting in and around Nineveh, the IRCS has continuously responded to the needs of those displaced. In late June more than **8,000 people** fleeing from Nineveh to Debaga camp near Makhmour, Erbil governorate, were supported with hot meals and family food parcels.

Iraqi Red Crescent Society has used much of its stock in meeting the needs of people affected by this latest phase of the crisis, and is seeking support from its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners in order to be able to continue its response. Several partner National Societies are already providing or planning to provide emergency relief for the response in central Iraq in support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, including British Red Cross (food), Emirates Red Crescent (food, NFIs), French Red Cross (NFIs, hygiene kits), German Red Cross (clothing), Japanese Red Cross Society (food, NFIs), Norwegian Red Cross (hygiene kits, first aid kits), Swedish Red Cross (food, NFI, CTP), Turkish Red Crescent (food, hygiene kits, clothing), Qatar Red Crescent Society (food, water, health care).

Given the scale and scope of the needs and over-stretched capacity of other humanitarian actors on the ground, additional support is needed. The **IFRC is working to mobilize additional resources** to support Iraqi Red Crescent Society in providing aid and relief to those in the most vulnerable humanitarian situations in central and northern Iraq, and in meeting its auxiliary role and mandate. The IFRC-supported emergency operation compliments the IFRC operational plan for Iraq which focuses on enhancing Iraqi Red Crescent Society response capacity, including contingency and preparedness measures for projected future population displacement and other hazards, as well as capacity building and support in coordination.

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## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.