

KRI Humanitarian situation and ACF response update

Monthly update n.3 - October 2014



Context and humanitarian situation

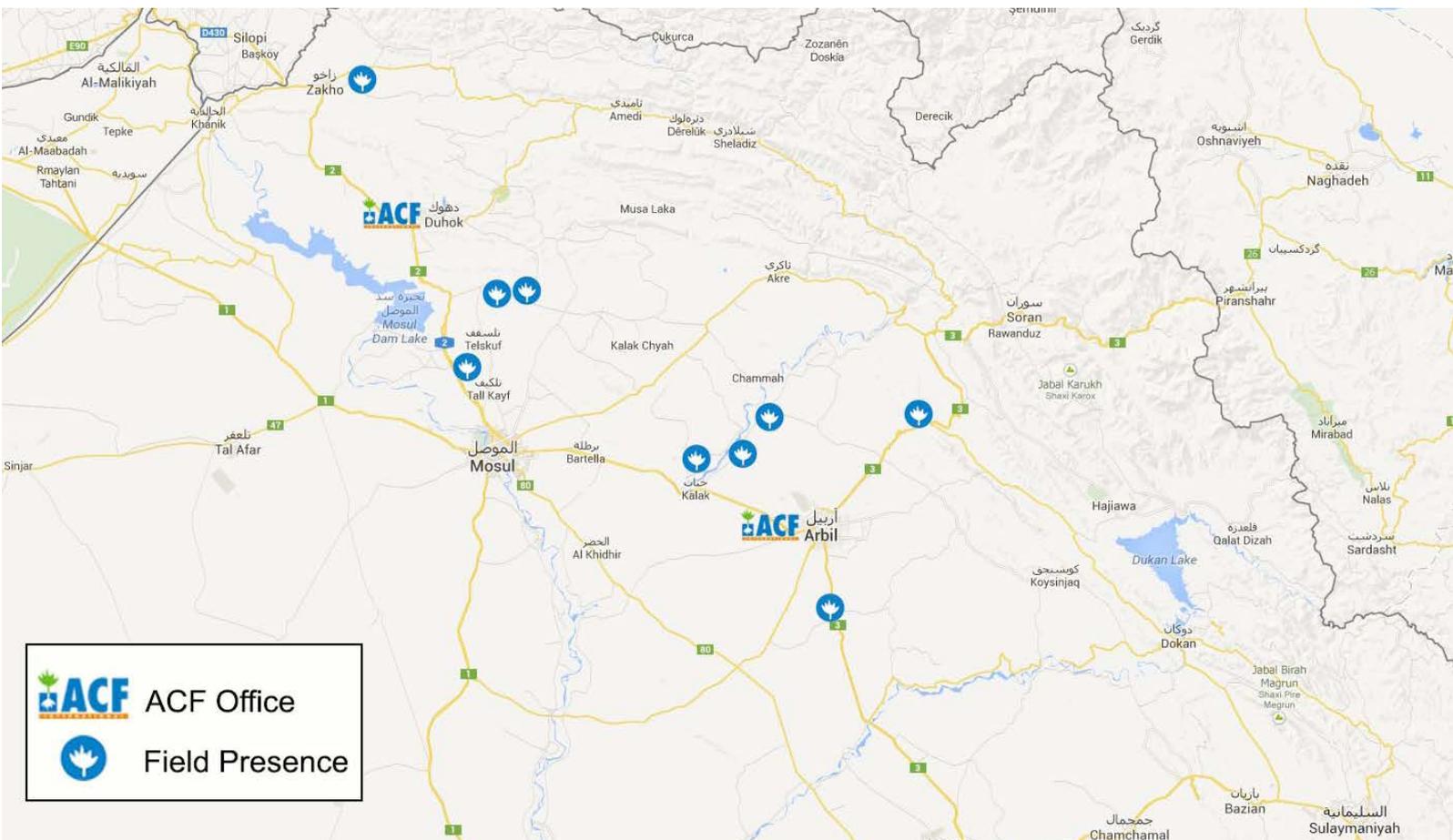
The number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from January to 26 October 2014 has been revised upwards from 1.8 million to 1.9 million people across 1,928 sites.

The Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for 2014-2015 was released in the month of October with a total ask of USD 2.2 Billion. The projected funding requirement for the year 2014 is USD 1.2 Billion (USD 608 Million raised) and for the year 2015 USD 1 Billion.

According to OCHA, throughout Iraq 1.26 million IDPs are in need of shelter and NFI assistance. An estimated 600,000 people are in need of immediate winterisation assistance.

A significant proportion of the overall displaced, 31 per cent (98,071 families), have sought refuge in alternative shelter arrangements such as schools, religious buildings and unfinished and abandoned buildings.

A large number of families are staying in inadequate shelter arrangements that are unsuitable for the upcoming winter weather conditions. This becomes particularly acute in the Governorates hosting the most displaced people, and those in high altitude regions such as Dohuk Governorate, which endures the worst of the winter weather with temperatures dropping to -15 C. Given the current level of funding for the crisis, significant gaps are foreseen.



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Humanitarian priorities for the coming months

1. More than 500,000 people in urgent need of shelter.
2. Winterization activities (with a particular focus in shelter and NFIs) to the most vulnerable populations (clothes, blankets, availability of hot water, shelter modifications and improvements).
3. Improved access to critical lifesaving assistance especially to the most vulnerable in the Governorates of Dohuk, Ninewah, Erbil, Anbar and Diyala.
4. People living in unfinished buildings and other make-shift and precarious non-camp settings need priority attention.
5. Address protection activities through continued psychosocial care and support needs to be extended to all areas with high IDP concentrations.
6. Preparedness and contingency plans need to be put in place to address potential water born disease outbreak (such as cholera and polio).
7. Ensure that all wash infrastructure in IDP camps benefit from a reactive operation and maintenance mechanism.
8. Focus on sustainable and scalable solution to improve waste water and the solid waste management in permanent camps (IDP and refugees).
9. Provide adequate response for refugees arriving from Kobane and potential continuing influx from other areas of Syria.



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WASH

ACF progress DOHUK Governorate

- During the initial months of the emergency, ACF concentrated its WASH activities in high density locations such as unfinished buildings where prioritization was given to the construction of latrines and showers, maintenance and cleaning, safe water distribution, garbage collection and hygiene promotion. Since October, ACF has been focusing on lower density locations with equally high needs and similar programmatic priorities.
- Zakho will likely have significant needs for winterization both for warm water access and shelter, especially in unfinished buildings.
- In Garmawa camp, ACF is covering the needs of 1.200 households providing water network, latrines, showers and hygiene promotion sessions.
- In Shekhan camp, once completed, ACF teams will provide every household a full WASH package including latrine and shower for each household. The previous experiences have shown the importance of privacy and people are not eager to share facilities. This is also in line with government requirements.
- ACF has been documenting activities, gaps and needs through extensive use of GPS mapping. The latest exercise also includes coordination with other WASH partners in the same locations. The map is available [here](#).

ACF progress in ERBIL Governorate

- Since early October, and estimated 10,000 refugees from Kobane have crossed into KRI and were transported to various camps. For Gawilan camp, where up to 6,000 people arrived, ACF teams were able to respond very quickly to sanitation needs through rehabilitation of latrines and showers in the transit area. In addition, immediate drinking water needs were addressed through water trucking.
- For the Kobane refugees, there is a clear pattern of families transiting through camps for 1-3 days and then settling in host communities. In Darashakran camp for example, 60 to 100 families have been arriving on a daily basis but at time of writing, only 15 families have settled in the camp. ACF is supporting the sanitation needs of the new arrivals. In Basirma camp, the focus has been on rehabilitation of the communal latrines. ACF has also initiated construction of drainage to manage the rain water and prevent the flooding of the camp.
- The rapid response for the new arrivals from Kobane has been possible through the deployment of ACF's existing mobile teams.
- ACF continues to operate in five refugee camps in Erbil Governorate (Gawilan, Basirma, Darashakran, Qushtapa, Kawergosk) through various WASH activities: water network, drainage, rehabilitation, hygiene promotion sessions.

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⊕ MHCP (Mental Health and Care Practices)

ACF progress in ZAKHO

- In October, ACF teams delivered psychological first aid (PFA) to 1,448 families (8,828 individuals), carried out 43 psychological assessments, 59 sessions of psychosocial support, 123 followup sessions, 37 relaxation sessions, activities for 1,993 children, 58 sessions on breastfeeding and delivered 85 baby-kits

- Through talks with beneficiaries, ACF discerns that IDPs refuse outright moving out of schools (due to the current reported state of the camps, the rain and general bad weather). As the winter approaches, there has been a noticeable deterioration of the situation in most of the schools which have received more IDPs from unfinished buildings and have become more crowded. This has also had the effect of reducing the availability of food supplies.

- ACF delivered a five-day MHCP Training of Trainers (ToT) to medical doctors and general practitioners at the Department of Health in Dohuk. Another training is planned in November. A report of these trainings will be published within the next month.

- There has been increasing difficulties in organizing outdoor activities for children due to the deteriorating weather. Outdoor activities cannot be replaced by indoor ones as the schools are too crowded and unfinished buildings not safe. ACF teams are now distributing painting material to children to allow them to use it in their own space and time.



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ACF progress in ERBIL Governorate

- During men's groups, the issues that are being raised continue to be the lack of job opportunities in the camp and no access to areas with jobs. Most people report staying in their tents, with nothing to occupy themselves. The new influx of refugees from Kobane is also a source of worry as the competition in the job market will likely increase.

- Unemployment is the leading source of domestic violence in Gawilan. Men are facing frustration for not being able to be the bread winners of their families and this frustration is translated into perpetrating domestic violence on women and children.

- The ACF psychologist continues to build the self-esteem of the women and child survivors through counselling as well as working with the perpetrators of the domestic violence. There are ongoing groups for men which include relaxation, anger management, and peer support to discuss their frustrations.

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FOOD AID

Activities in ZAKHO

- In October ACF organised a second round of distributions of monthly rations. A total of 32,015 rations were distributed (2,313 Metric Tonnes) reaching out to 24,655 families (147,930 persons) in the district of Zakho.
- In close collaboration with WFP, ACF is now planning the transition from in-kind food distribution to voucher assistance in Zakho City for the month of November and in the sub-districts of Tilkaif by December.

The transition would entail/require:

- Strong and continuous awareness campaign geared towards all stakeholders (IDPs, communities, local authorities, retailers).
- Setting up of control system at each step of the roll-out with the option of allowing rapid readjustment of the activities if deemed necessary.



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LIVELIHOODS

Assessment in Tilkaif

- In mid-September 2014, ACF conducted a Rapid Agricultural Livelihood Assessment in the District of Tilkaif – Ninewah Province, in partnership with FAO. The assessment report was validated and published in October and is available on OCHA's dashboard and the NCCI portal.

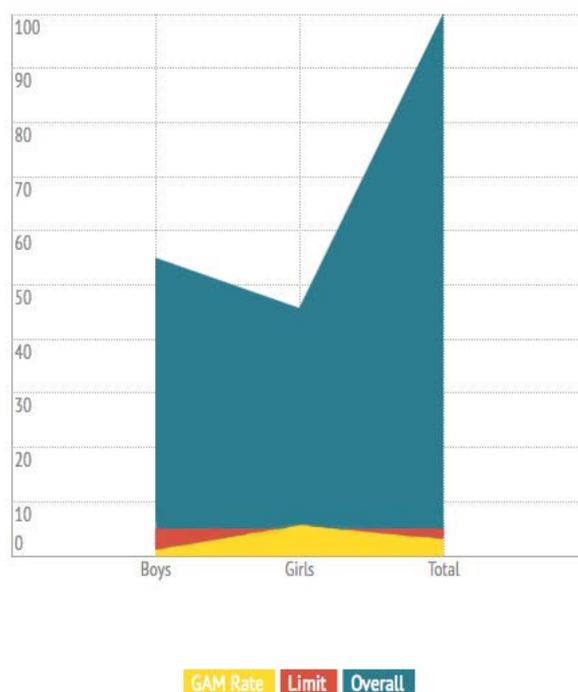
The assessment found that there has been a significant disruption of agricultural services in Ninewah, which has strongly impacted the farmers living in Tilkaif. This has predominantly resulted in an incapacity to access the necessary inputs, a loss of income and future uncertainties in the state of the market.

NUTRITION

Survey in Zakho

- ACF conducted a Rapid SMART (MUAC) Survey within 233 IDPs households in Zakho City (Dohuk Governorate) to estimate the prevalence of acute malnutrition, diarrhoea and respiratory infections among children from 6 to 59 months. Global Acute Malnutrition rates remain acceptable (above 5%). Nevertheless, several risk factors should be carefully observed, monitored and reported to prevent deterioration of nutrition status.

- The survey concluded that the focus of response should be on prevention activities such as support in capacity building of MoH/DoH, strengthening of young child feeding, increased monitoring and surveillance of nutrition status, minimizing inappropriate feeding practices, micronutrient deficiency prevention and support to relevant nutrition-related coordination mechanisms.



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MHCP Case study - Gawilan Camp

Rona (*) is a 35 years old Syrian woman, and as a woman head of household, being jobless and responsible for her children, she is dealing with significant stressors. Rona feels vulnerable and insecure being single. She is also projecting into the future, having anxiety about life in a refugee camp and the loneliness she will experience when her children are mature enough to leave her.

Subsequent to her marriage in Syria, Rona's husband isolated her from her family. He was initially verbally abusive towards her before turning to, in the words of Rona, 'mild' physical abuse. When her mother passed away her husband forbid her to go to the funeral. This situation continued for five years during which she became pregnant with a second child. Soon after the war started, her husband disappeared. Rona moved to her husband's family house in Homs where she was treated badly. War was intensifying, as was Rona's bad treatment by her husband's family so she decided to leave to northern Iraq with her children.

Rona was suffering from a blend of depression and anxiety due to losing her husband and having lost touch with her own family. Due to these symptoms she had isolated herself. She was also emotionally isolating herself from her children, only taking care of their physical needs and neglecting the emotional ones. During the sessions with the ACF psychologist, Rona would break down and cry through the whole session as she felt it was the only time she was able to allow herself to feel supported. She was not connecting with any aspect of the camp constantly claiming that she needed to go back home.

The ACF psychologist offered a weekly intervention, once a week for five weeks. During this time, the psychologist was working on Rona's self-esteem by encouraging her to connect with the immediate community she lived with in Gawilan. The ACF psychologist also worked on instilling hope by helping her to connect with her children. At the last session, the ACF psychologist helped her to work out a plan to find a solution for her worries one by one and to not be overwhelmed by her life situation. Rona showed signs of improvement after a month with the support of the ACF psychologist. Rona applied to work as a teacher in Gawilan. After starting her work at the school, the ACF psychologist also noticed during a follow-up session that she was now also more social as she spent time with her neighbours.

(*) the name has been changed to maintain confidentiality.

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