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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 15 November 2022
To: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA)
Subject: Iraq, including regional aspects
- presentation by DRC

Following the COHAFA meeting of 15 November, delegations will find in Annex the presentation by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.

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- ¹ DRC's identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 394469847966-60.
² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.



Displacement and humanitarian needs

- **Nearly 1.2 million Iraqis remain in displacement**, including over 100,000 in informal sites and 179,500 in IDP camps. **90% of these households do not intend to return in the next year.**
- **581,000 returnees in 453 return locations of high severity (12% of the returnee population).** Significant increase following camp closure processes in 2020 and 2021, with limited change since.
- **Hundreds of thousands of IDPs and returnees continue to lack civil documentation.**
- **Increased risk of evictions from informal sites**, including due to growing efforts to rebuild or develop land where IDPs are residing.



Need to ensure these needs are effectively considered and included in broader development and stabilization interventions.

EU and Member State aid needs to include the flexibility to respond to these caseloads.

Economic wellbeing at household level

- Economic vulnerability at household level has increased. **Returnees, and IDPs particularly, are still disproportionately impacted.**
- DRC "graduation" approaches have demonstrated the potential to meet underlying vulnerabilities (consumption assistance) and build longer-term resilience (livelihood support). **Many Iraqis face both immediate and longer-term needs concurrently.**
- **Access to government social protection schemes remains limited.** For example, an informal mapping by DRC showed none of the schemes particularly for female-headed households were functional in districts where we work.



Fund interventions which provide opportunities to address underlying vulnerabilities and longer-term wellbeing, recognizing that many Iraqis continue to face these concurrently.

As part of the EU's work with the Social Protection Sector Coordination Committee (SPSCC), promote strategic discussion on how to address residual needs in transition, alongside pressure for urgent reform and investment.

Special consideration to protection

- Guidance from the Global Protection Cluster on response transitions highlights the **need for special consideration to protection needs and risks.**
- **No clear government counterpart to take over most protection activities.** For example, no government-provided GBV and very limited child protection services in any district where DRC operates.
- A new Protection and Human Rights Platform has been established to engage on issues at a national level, however it has a broad remit, its mandate remains unclear, and engagement on protection issues at sub-national levels a potential gap.

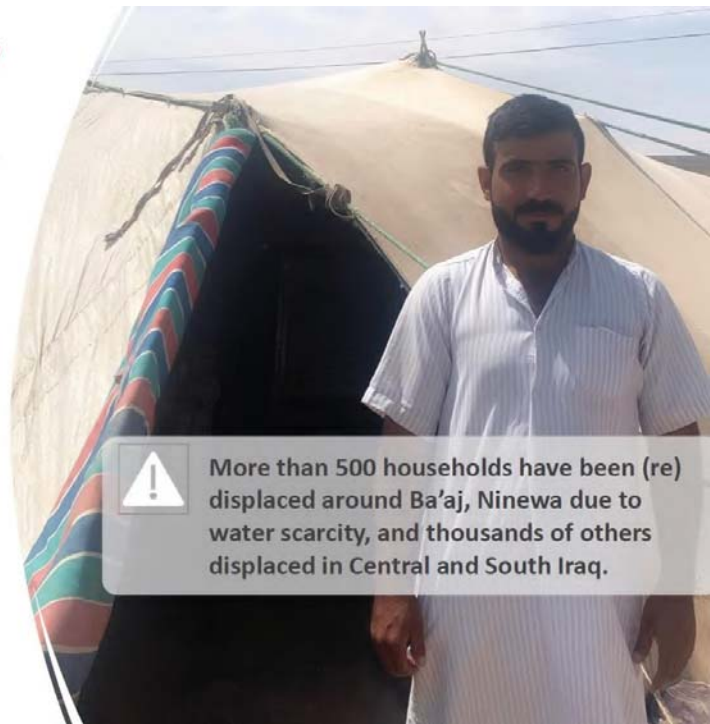


Maintain funding for protection activities and capacity and ensure that protection is effectively integrated in the EU/EU Member States' development and stabilization interventions.

Continue to engage with the UN and the Government of Iraq on strengthening government-led protection systems and capacity, including on civil documentation.

Government capacity and engagement

- **There is a lack of clarity on government commitments to date.** In the context of transition, there is a risk that needs remain unaddressed.
- **Clear systemic and policy blocks on many issues requiring action** – as well as budgetary gaps.
- **Iraq's transition to longer-term stability remains fragile.** Climate change and water scarcity & re-displacement could further drive needs next year.



More than 500 households have been (re) displaced around Ba'aj, Ninewa due to water scarcity, and thousands of others displaced in Central and South Iraq.



Moving forward in a shifting landscape

- **Iraq is at a crossroads.** The coming period brings significant opportunities for progress, but also risks of gaps and increased needs.
- **Need for flexible funding** to address gaps in transition, as well as **increased opportunities to effectively integrate and reflect vulnerabilities in development and stabilization interventions.** This should include particular emphasis on protection and protection mainstreaming.
- **Government engagement and accountability will be critical,** including as part of broader diplomatic, development and stabilization dialogue. Including on:
 - Address barriers to durable solutions, including access to civil documentation and compensation for damaged housing and property.
 - Expanding and strengthening social protection schemes, including vulnerability criteria.
- **Urgent action on water scarcity and climate change.**