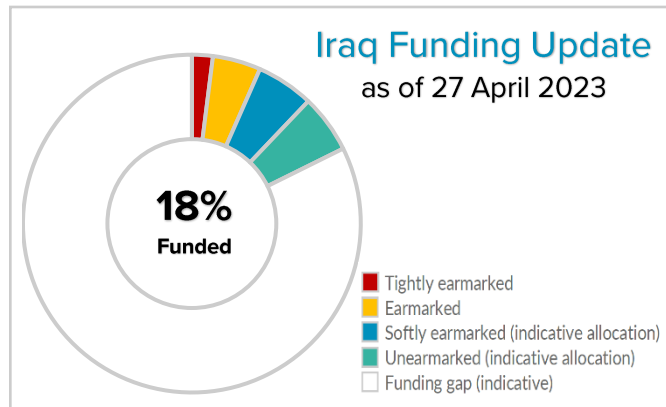


UNHCR Iraq is currently **only 18 per cent funded** with \$42.4M received against total financial requirements of \$239.9M for 2023.

If \$48M is not urgently secured, cuts to critical assistance programmes and protection activities will be inevitable, affecting hundreds of thousands of displaced persons. It will also undermine opportunities for UNHCR to support the relevant authorities, including the Kurdistan Region Government (KRG), to include refugees in their public services and policies and to complete the transition of the IDP response towards more responsibilities to be assumed by public authorities.



Refugees



Under its refugee response, **registration** remains a priority for UNHCR as some 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from North-East Syria, have found refuge in Iraq, primarily in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). It is a necessary step for refugees and asylum-seekers to secure their **legal residency with the authorities** and thus, prevent arrests or deportation that would amount to *refoulement* given the risks they would face in their country of origin. It also allows UNHCR and partners, including relevant public institutions, to **plan programmatic interventions** by having a more granular understanding of the profiles and needs of the most vulnerable refugees that require assistance, such as protection services and *cash assistance*. It informs the groundbreaking *education* policy adopted by the KRG's Ministry of Education to give access to refugee children to public schools, but also to hire qualified refugee teachers in these schools, thus providing them with a decent livelihood opportunity and strengthening social cohesion. Registration is also key to identify cases for *resettlement* in third countries when solutions are not available in Iraq. Currently, **\$4.7M is urgently required to continue registration activities** in Iraq.



Thousands of the most vulnerable refugee families depend on multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to meet their basic needs. In this respect, **\$20.1M** is urgently needed to provide some **21,600 refugee families with cash assistance** to ensure they do not fall into dire poverty and in a spiraling cycle of harmful practices such as reducing food intake, accumulating further debt, early marriage, and child labour.



Access to **health and primary education** are basic human rights. UNHCR supports the Directorates of Health in the KRI to ensure refugees have access to health services and needed medication and equipment. **\$2.5M in additional funding is immediately needed to ensure that 92,000 refugees continue accessing quality health services.**



In primary education, UNHCR is supporting the implementation of the KRG's Refugee Education Integration Policy which requires investment in school construction and rehabilitation to



avoid overcrowding and create positive learning conditions, and provides other support such as transportation assistance, catch-up classes – especially to learn Kurdish as previously the curriculum was taught in Arabic (in Syria and in the parallel school system in refugee camps), engagement of parents, and provision of school materials, among other activities. Many of these activities would have to be cut completely or drastically reduced **if the \$6.2M funding gap regarding education is not filled**, severely hampering UNHCR's efforts to ensure equal and sustainable access to formal and non-formal education **for some 75,330 refugee children** and the hiring of qualified refugee teachers by the Ministry of Education.

Internally Displaced Iraqis



Lack of civil documentation is one of the main protection issues facing families who have been displaced by Da'esh violence and those who have recently returned home. The lack of documentation is also affecting pocket of stateless and at-risk of statelessness populations in Iraq, like Bidoons or Faili Kurds. Ensuring access to civil/identity documentation is a top priority for UNHCR both under its protection responsibility for IDPs but also as the global lead agency to end statelessness. Legal assistance is an integral component in civil documentation efforts as well.



UNHCR must secure close to \$5.2M to continue the provision of critical legal and administrative assistance for IDPs and others in obtaining civil documentation and to support the efforts of the Ministry of Interior's Civil Affairs Department. Without this funding, more than 44,000 IDPs and IDP returnees can face increased risk of arrest and detention, restricted freedom of movement, exclusion from restitution and/or reconstruction programmes and may not be able to access basic services, education, healthcare, and social security benefits.

Refugee and IDP camps in KRI



Infrastructure projects are key components to UNHCR's strategy and work towards finding **dignified solutions for refugees and IDPs, especially those still living in camps**: 35% of refugees in nine camps and some 180,000 IDPs in 25 camps, all in KRI. In close cooperation with the KRG and governorate authorities, UNHCR is advancing an agenda to transform some of these camps into formal settlements serviced by public providers. UNHCR is the lead agency in Iraq for solutions for IDP camps and is also working towards helping IDPs themselves to improve their living conditions in these camps, especially for Ezidis in Duhok and the population residing in the East Mosul Camps. Through UNHCR's support, authorities and displaced communities as well as vulnerable surrounding communities are better equipped to fend for themselves. This involves for example the rehabilitation of health or community centres, schools or civil affairs offices key for the delivery of Iraqi IDs. In this respect, **\$9.1M in funding is urgently needed** to allow UNHCR to **implement infrastructure projects benefitting over 102,000 IDPs and refugees, as well as vulnerable Iraqis.**