



## Iraq crisis

Situation report no. 3  
1–5 July 2014



**1.1** million TOTAL IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

**360,000** TARGETED POPULATION

**170,000** BENEFICIARIES OF MEDICINES PROVIDED BY WHO

**18.5** million CHILDREN VACCINATED AGAINST POLIO MARCH-JUNE 2014

**11** HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

**65** WHO STAFF IN COUNTRY

**6** WHO OFFICES AND SUB-OFFICES

### HIGHLIGHTS

According to a report by the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) published on 4 July, internally displaced persons have now been identified in 17 of 18 governorates in Iraq.

To reduce the risk of diarrheal disease outbreaks, water quality testing is ongoing by WHO and the Ministry of Health to monitor drinking water in six districts of Ninewah governorate. There are challenges in the transportation of samples due to fuel shortages.

Delivery of medicines and referral services in parts of Ninewah governorate and the Kurdistan Region are being impeded as a result of fuel shortages.

Disease surveillance reporting, stool sample collection and transportation in Sinjar and Zumar has stopped as a result of the insecurity and fuel shortages.

### CONTEXT

Iraq risks descending into "Syria-like chaos" if its political class fails to unite and agree on a government, said United Nations envoy to Baghdad Nickolay Mladenov on 3 July.

The National Iraqi News Agency reported one of the strategic bridges linking Fallujah with the northern areas of the city has been destroyed.

### HEALTH SITUATION

#### Ninewah Governorate

According to a new report by the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), internally displaced persons have now been identified in 17 of 18 governorates in Iraq.

The security situation in Mosul city is volatile. There is a slight increase in food item prices. Health facilities, hospitals and PHCCs are functioning and drugs and medical supplies are available for the current time.

2,323 internally displaced families in Zumar live in schools, houses under construction and rented accommodation. The main health center is open 24 hours / day but is depending on generators for electricity.

The health center in Zumar provides medicines for chronic disease such as diabetes and hypertension. There are 3 ambulances but due of fuel shortages they are facing difficulties in referring patients to Zakho hospital. The main needs of the health centre are antibiotics, intravenous fluids and fuel.

1,958 families in Sinjar district of Nineawh governorate live in schools, houses under construction and rented accommodation. The majority of the IDPs are from Telafer. Sinjar has 2 hospitals, 26 primary health care centers and 2 health visitor cells. Urgent needs are medicines, medical supplies and fuel. There are also shortages in food, water, electricity generators, mattresses and blankets.

1,920 families in Bashiqa and Bahazani live in schools, houses under construction, mosques and rented accommodation. Bashiqa has a main health centre, 2 sub-health centers and 6 health visitor cells, all functioning. The main health centre generator works from 8 am to 2 pm and after that they depend on subscription with a commercial generator of the neighborhood till morning. There are 2 ambulances but due to shortage of fuel their mobility remains a challenge.

The main health center in Bashiqa has no water supply and is depending on a water tanker. In the early days of the crisis the center received 700-800 patients daily, now it receives 400-500 patients. There are severe shortage of medicine and intravenous fluid. WHO is in discussion with the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide the needed medical supplies.

### **Al-Anbar**

There are shortages in water and electricity due to

damages to service infrastructure, forcing many internally displaced families to again relocate to safer areas such as Al-Thialla.

Many families from Al-Qaim have relocated to Heet which now hosts more than 50,000 people, placing a huge burden on local health facilities. Many IDPs live in houses under construction with no access to clean water. There is an urgent need for new primary health care clinics or mobile clinics to accommodate the additional population.

There are reports of unconfirmed attacks on ambulances, with the latest attack occurring on an ambulance transporting a pregnant woman to hospital and resulting in injury to the women and her husband, as well as damages to the ambulance.

### **Kirkuk**

In Kirkuk city health facilities report that they have been instructed by the Kirkuk Directorate of Health to limit the use of available medicines and reduce laboratory testing to a minimum. Local procurements for medicines and medical supplies are restricted to only very urgent needs. WHO's Representative to Iraq will be visiting Kirkuk this week to discuss how WHO can support health needs. Kirkuk Directorate of Health is currently in debt to the local markets by tens of thousands of US dollars for recent procurements.

### **Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

The primary health care centre in Al Khazer camp in Erbil is now open and consists of 2 consultation rooms, one dressing / inpatient room with 4 beds, and a pharmacy and vaccination unit. WHO is also providing 2 additional prefabs for the clinic.

There are 189 families living in Garmawa camp for internally displaced persons in Dohuk. During the reporting period, 111 patients were treated by the mobile medical team; 24 children were vaccinated with oral polio vaccine and 17 children with MMR vaccine. Internally displaced persons in Suleimaniyah live among the host communities in homes and hotels.

**HEALTH RESPONSE**

To reduce the risk of diarrheal disease outbreaks, water quality testing is ongoing by WHO and the Ministry of Health to monitor the quality of drinking water in six districts of Ninawa governorate. Chlorine levels in drinking water will be tested and water samples will be sent to the public health laboratory in Mosul for bacteriological examination. There are some challenges in the transportation of samples due to fuel shortages.

Sinjar hospital has received 2 interagency emergency health kits for 20,000 beneficiaries for 3 months provided by WHO to the Dohuk directorate of health.

With the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), WHO has provided one interagency emergency health kit for 10,000 beneficiaries for 3 months to the Directorate of Health in Mosul.

Medicins Sans Frontiers France has established mobile clinics in villages around Bashiqaq – serving families in mosques and schools. Health needs remain focused on

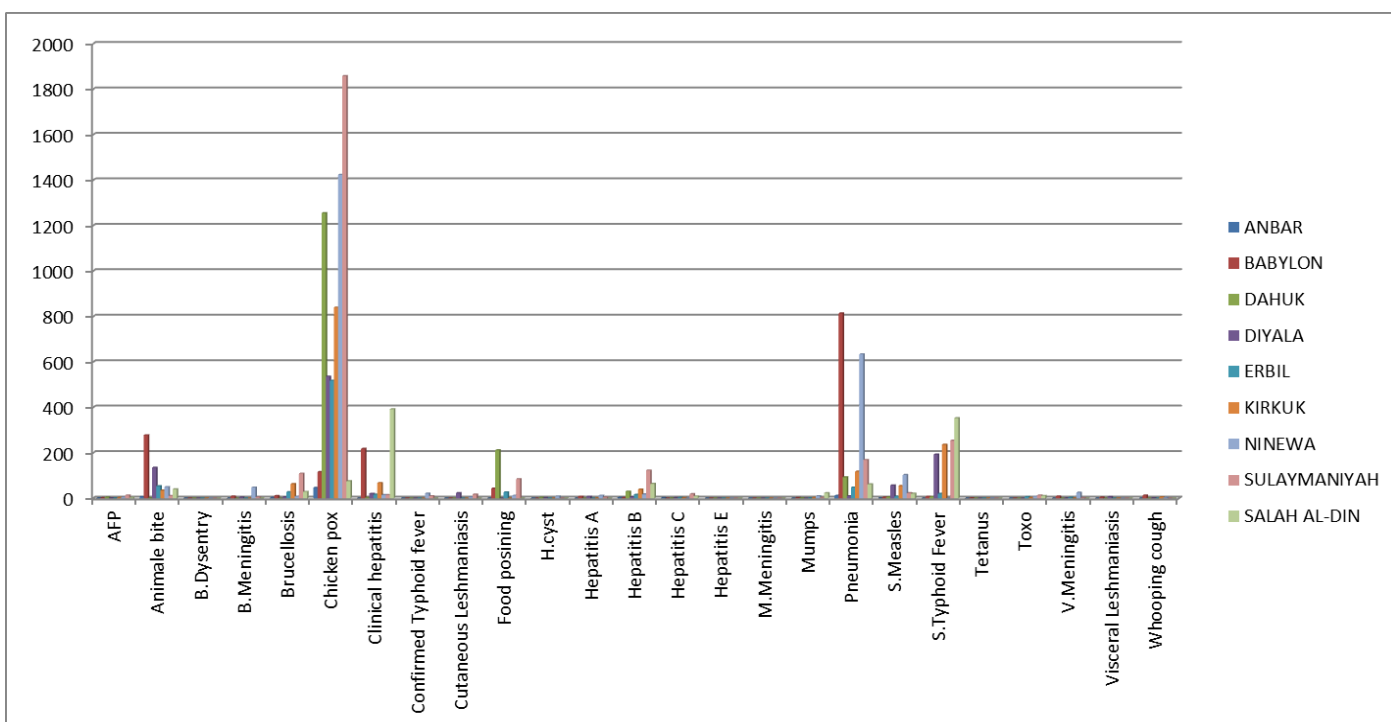
primary health needs and some requests for support to patients with chronic health conditions. Affected populations are mainly from Telafar and Mosul, many of whom have moved multiple times.

**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

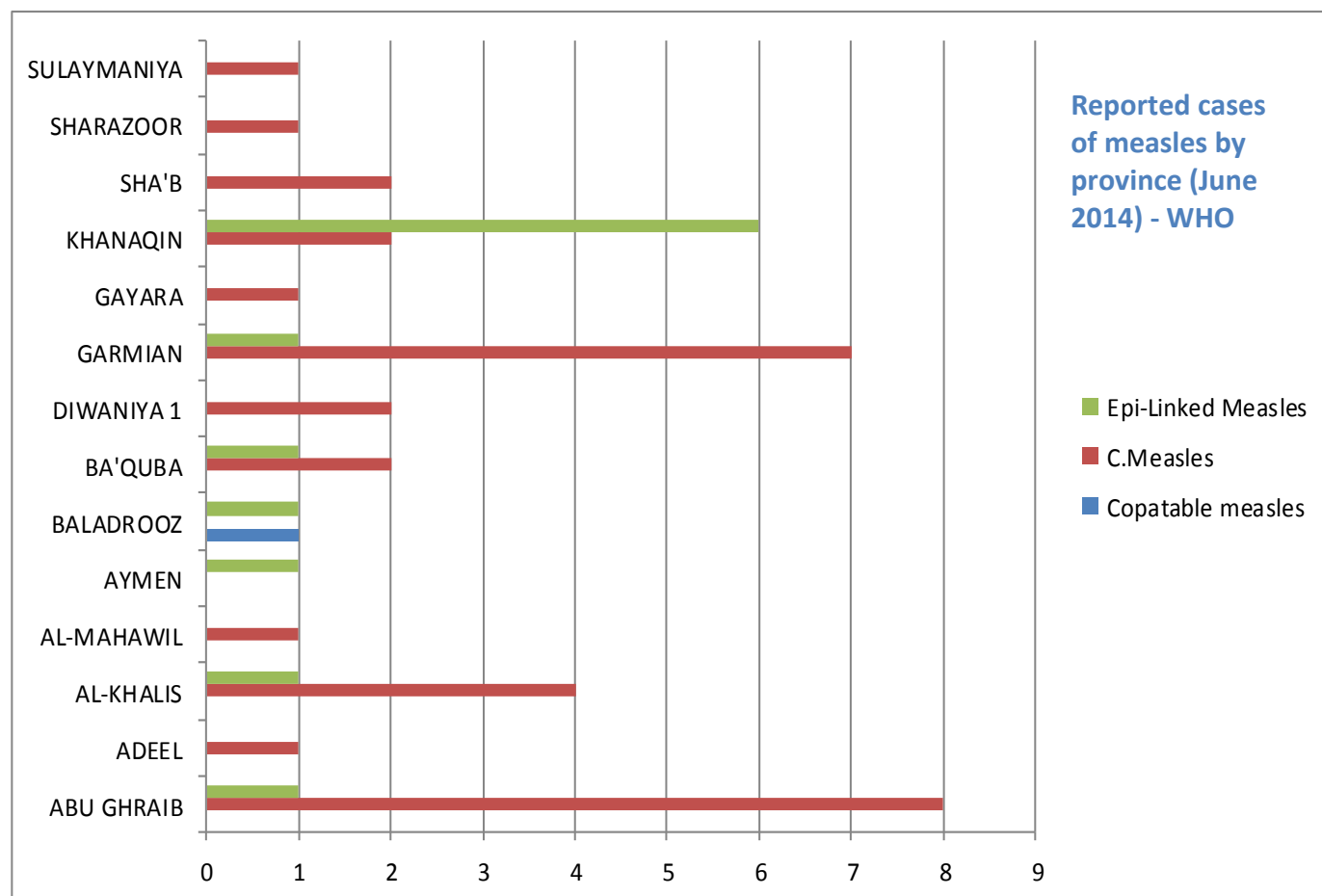
According to Week 24 epidemiological reports (9-15 June) the total number of reported cases of acute diarrhea in Iraq was 14,950 which is lower than the alert threshold. About 55% of the cases were among children below five years of age. All stool samples tested negative for vibrio cholera.

In Sinjar, stool sample collection and transporting to the main health district from health centers has been suspended due to insecurity, fuel shortages affecting transportation and shortages in health personnel. Testing on the samples is done in the public health lab in Sinjar which has the capacity to test for vibrio cholera. However, this situation will create challenges if

there is a need to transport stool samples for Acute Flacid Paralysis or suspected measles cases. The trans-



Number of communicable diseases in the affected governorates due to recent crisis, Week 24 - WHO



portation of suspected malaria vector is another obstacle which is of concern, as those samples need to be sent to the national laboratory in Baghdad

Weekly surveillance reporting and sample transportation from Zumar primary health care center to Telafer health district has been suspended due to the insecurity and fuel shortages. Stool sample collection from diarrhea cases has stopped. Shortages in vaccines in Zumar is expected in the very near future.

The surveillance system in Bashiqa is ongoing, with data reported by phone. Stool sample collection and transporting has been suspended due to insecurity and lack of access. Due to shortages in fuel needed to run the electrical generators, the centre only has enough fuel reserve for 4 days to supply the generators storing the vaccine reserve.

#### COORDINATION

Iraq's Deputy Minister of Displacement and Migration hosted a meeting in Erbil for UN agencies to discuss additional support from the Government of Iraq to the Kurdistan Regional Government and international organizations responding to needs of IDPs. The Deputy Minister stated that the central government will play a bigger role in the establishment of camps for IDPs in Kurdistan, and is also offering financial support to registered IDPs, as well as food and other supplies.

#### DONORS AND FUNDING

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has donated US\$ 50 million to WHO to respond to health needs. This is part of the \$ 500 million KSA contribution channeled through UN to support humanitarian assistance in Iraq. These funds will ensure that WHO can support the Ministry of Health with essential health services and supplies for 5 million beneficiaries for a period of 10 months.

WHO estimates that additionally, almost US\$ 6 million is required to respond to the health needs of each governorate per month.

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