

SITUATION	
<p>In the evening of Sunday 12 November 2017, the North-east of Iraq experienced an earthquake in the magnitude of approximately 7.2 – 7.5, according to European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). The epicentre of this earthquake is located 32 kilometres from the city of Halabja. According to the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS), approximately 1,840,000 people live within 100km of the epicentre of this earthquake in both Iraq and Iran. Local experts and seismologists in the area see potential occurrence of such shock in the future as the area has entered into a new level of intensity, and therefore it is likely that future earthquakes will be of a same or higher magnitude.</p>	
NEEDS	
<p>The earthquake has put the North-east region in a state of crisis. People affected by this earthquake find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sufficient food <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> safe shelter and basic non-food items <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> basic health services and facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure <p>The situation is dire. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to address the needs of the most vulnerable.</p>	
STAKEHOLDERS	
<p>The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National government <p>Is currently supporting affected families in cleaning roads from debris, providing health service in public hospitals and working to reconnect the main power supply. The national government mobilised ambulances to ferry critically injured people, primarily to Sulaimaniyah hospital. The Ministry of Water Resources has conducted an assessment of the Darbandikhan dam, which has been impacted by the landslides that have partially blocked the dam’s spillway and may have caused structural damages.</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UN Agencies <p>The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is facilitating coordination amongst humanitarian actors. The World Health Organisation (WHO) sent an immediate response-team, and two ambulances, as well as trauma and surgical kits to support Sulaimaniyah hospital. The United Nations Children’s (UNICEF) is planning a separate school-focused assessment. A small United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team that is highly specialized in natural disaster management will support the response efforts of the local authorities.</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INGOs <p>Turkish Disaster Aid Support (AFAD) distributed tents in Darbandikahn and are planning further distributions in Bamo sub district. The "Qandil" an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) started rapid assessment in Darbandikhan city centre and some nearby villages. INGOs coordinate with UNOCHA and each other through various forums.</p> 	

- ☒ Red Cross Red Crescent Movement The Turkish Red Crescent deployed a team from Erbil immediately after the earthquake to assess damage and provide shelter assistance.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by UNOCHA in collaboration with relevant government ministries. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the Iraq ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response that is based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

- ☒ ACT Alliance has been working in Iraq since 2015, now helping/planning to help people affected by the earthquake
- ☒ ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the earthquake, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
- ☒ ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
- ☒ The ACT forum is planning on issuing an appeal to provide non-food items, water, sanitation and hygiene services, and cash assistance to help meet the needs of affected persons'.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org).

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