



**IRAQ**

Amman, 23 November 2020

<b>SITUATION</b>
<p>The protracted humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the largest and most volatile in the world. The COVID-19 outbreak hit a country already facing a humanitarian crisis, further deepening vulnerabilities and disrupting on-going efforts to deliver aid to the most vulnerable people in acute need of humanitarian assistance. The people most in need of such assistance continue to be those directly affected by the conflict against ISIL and recently affected by the pandemic compromising of (Internally displaced people, Syrian Refugees, Returnees and host communities) in and out of camps. Approximately 1.4 million remain in displacement, 70 per cent of whom have been displaced for more than three years.</p> <p>Anticipated camp closures add a level of volatility to the already precarious lives of IDPs, and humanitarians will need to redouble efforts to maintain effective working relationships with government counterparts to ensure that such exercises are carried out with the safety and dignity of IDPs as they return back to their areas of origin at the foremost concern. The mechanism for granting access authorizations to humanitarian partners has been interrupted, a process already made burdensome by the growing fragmentation of access regimes around the country. Re-establishing a unified, predictable access mechanism so that humanitarian actors can efficiently deliver aid to vulnerable people in need is a matter of utmost urgency for 2021.</p> <p>Iraq is host to a total of approximately 253,000 Syrian refugees including 154,000 Syrian children. They are expected to remain in Iraq, as only 2% of the refugees expressed their intention to return to Syria within the next year. The refugees live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and they require continuous humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>Much of what needs to be done in Iraq is beyond the scope of what the humanitarian community can do on its own, and will require additional time, money and attention from the government, donors and development partners. Massive needs remain for the clearance of explosive ordnance, social cohesion programmes, improvements to the legal and security systems, employment and livelihoods opportunities, restoration of utilities and basic services, access to quality health care and education, and the repair and reconstruction of war-damaged homes. Finding solutions to these enormous challenges must take place in tandem with humanitarian programming for Iraq to truly move forward, and outreach to stabilization and development partners is already underway and will continue in the year ahead.</p>
<b>NEEDS</b>
<p>Nearly half of all people in need – more than 1.77 million people – have acute humanitarian and development needs according to the Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO, 2020). The most acute needs continue to be found in governorates that witnessed direct conflict and receive huge number of returnees, such as Al-Anbar and Nineveh and in governorates that received significant numbers of the displaced, such as Duhok.</p> <p>COVID-19 has a differential impact on lives and livelihoods at the community level. The majority of the people show their inability to meet their basic needs and, while nearly 2.4 million people continue to be vulnerable to food insecurity. Curfews, lockdowns, and other measures have reduced economic activity and have particularly impacted vulnerable groups, including casual and low-income workers and fearing of losing their jobs. Challenges to secure livelihood opportunities are among the top three needs cited by IDPs, host community and those who have already returned to their areas of origin. On the other hand, people with disabilities (PWDs) have generally poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty. PwDs are disproportionately impacted due</p>

to attitudinal, physical, environmental and institutional barriers that are reproduced in the COVID-19 response.

A huge number of people across Iraq remain in critical need of sustained, equitable access to safe and appropriate WASH services, of which women and girls account for 49 %, children 38% and the older people 4%.

Based on the recent assessment from the Protection clusters and LWF, the COVID-19 has increased protection risks amongst the affected communities, particularly women, girls and children, including GBV, domestic violence, child labour, exploitation and abuse). They need psychosocial support, vocational and life skills, awareness of protection needs and rights, and initiatives to promote social cohesion.

The main sectors that remain with high needs are: WASH, Protection and Social Cohesion, Sustainable Livelihoods, Food security, Shelter/ NFI and Advocacy for People with Disability.

The dire situation is further compounded for around 1.7 million affected people with vulnerabilities, out of them 147,850 that this Appeal will target . There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and reducing socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Government of Iraq, The government of the Kurdistan region of Iraq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	Iraq Humanitarian Fund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	LWF and CA are included in this APPEAL (in total there are over 150 INGO's working on this response)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Present
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	Kurdish Peshmerga, Iraqi Military
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	Present
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Present
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Present
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Philanthropy groups	Present
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	Kurdish population, Yazidi population, Sunni Population
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Present

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

### **ACT Alliance**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been working in Iraq since 2015, now helping/planning to help people affected by the Syrian conflict and the rise and fall of ISIS and COVID-19 impact.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the crisis, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in Protection, Livelihoods and WASH and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing Capacity building, support to community centres, WASH activities, Protection / Psychosocial support to 147,850 affected persons in the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the crisis mainly PwD's are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Alwynn Javier ([alwynn.javier@actalliance.org](mailto:alwynn.javier@actalliance.org)) and Rachel Luce, ([Rachel.Luce@actalliance.org](mailto:Rachel.Luce@actalliance.org))**

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