



An IDP family visited during distribution of assistance in Al-Salamiyah Camp, Ninewa Governorate, Iraq. They are among the thousands of vulnerable internally displaced families in the country benefiting from UNHCR's cash assistance. © UNHCR

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ANNEX IV

Multi-purpose cash assistance to meet the needs of vulnerable internally displaced persons in Iraq

UNHCR Iraq

June 2019

Project overview

Project Title:	Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to meet the needs of vulnerable internally displaced persons in Iraq
Total Budget:	EUR 1,000,000 (USD 1,137,656.43)*
Implementation Period:	The project will start after approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months
Number of Beneficiaries:	120,000 vulnerable IDP families (approximately 720,000 individuals) across Iraq
Summary of Project and Expected Outcomes:	The project will contribute to providing MPCA to 120,000 vulnerable IDP families (approximately 720,000 individuals) across Iraq allowing them to address their basic needs in the way they deem best, offering IDPs a degree of dignity and independence. Eligible families will receive either one, two, or three months of multi-purpose cash-assistance based on vulnerability criteria.

* The exchange rate used is 0.879 (UN rate December 2018)

Country background and operational context

With the end of major military operations to gain control of areas from the extremist groups, the humanitarian crisis in Iraq has started moving into a new phase more conducive for population returns and with improved access to locations that had been inaccessible in previous years. However, as of May 2019, nearly 1.6 million Iraqis remain internally displaced, and many of the current 4.2 million returnees continue to face constrained access to basic services while contending with destroyed properties, lack of livelihood opportunities and a hazardous environment.

Overall humanitarian needs across the country remain immense, with millions of displaced and returnee families in dire need of assistance to meet their most urgent needs. Thousands of families keep suffering from unlawful restrictions on access to safety and freedom of movement, confiscation of documents, illegal detention, forced evictions, and increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence. In some instances, people are barred from returning to their areas of origin over alleged affiliation with extremists and collective punishment remains a serious concern.

In addition, countless Iraqi families are still unable to access livelihoods opportunities and face depleted resources and savings, which has forced many to go into debt to make ends meet, with some resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as child labour and reducing nutrients in their diets and expenditure on health. Without timely interventions to stabilize and rehabilitate affected areas, as well as efforts to address underlying disputes and peaceful re-integration, stability for regained areas could be jeopardized, risking another cycle of violence.

Project objective

This project aims at supporting vulnerable displaced families in Iraq through the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance.

Time frame

This project will begin after its approval by the Donor for a duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

Having endured years away from their homes and work, many internally displaced families have depleted their savings and resources and are struggling to pay for very basic life essentials. Thousands of families are accumulating debt to purchase basic items, and a large number of households live on less than the minimum set amount within the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket. In this context, humanitarian assistance remains a crucial lifeline for many of them, especially for the most vulnerable such as women-headed households, elderly, or those with disabilities.

One of the crucial manners in which UNHCR supports and protects these families is through the provision of cash assistance. The MPCA targets the most vulnerable families and aims at alleviating the initial burden of displacement through cash assistance that can be extended up to three months for extremely vulnerable families. These interventions have steadily grown in importance and have become an integral part of the humanitarian response to displaced populations in Iraq. In areas where markets are functioning and accessible to beneficiaries, unconditional cash enables vulnerable displaced families to meet their own needs through the purchase of critical goods and services in accordance with their own priorities, while contributing to the local economy at the same time.

Depending on vulnerability criteria, families will receive up to three months of MPCA, each transfer amounting to IQD 480,000¹ (approximately USD 400). This is based on the value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket as determined by the inter-agency Cash Working Group. All cash assistance will be disbursed directly through mobile money transfers, which provides fast, safe, and flexible transfers to beneficiaries.

The identification of beneficiaries is based on vulnerability assessments conducted with a scoring methodology harmonized through and endorsed by the inter-agency Cash Working Group. In 2019, UNHCR has developed and enhanced its needs-based selection criteria moving from more traditional categories of protection vulnerabilities to a data-driven, evidence-based vulnerability framework and scoring system to improve efficiencies in identifying and targeting beneficiaries. UNHCR has implemented a vulnerability framework based on a combination of socio-economic factors (dependency ratio of economically active household members), and specific protection needs. Vulnerability criteria depends on various indicators including age, gender, disability, type of shelter and coping mechanisms, among others.

¹ This will vary throughout implementation in accordance with exchange rates.

During the distribution stage, UNHCR staff and partners monitor cash distributions in the field to ensure accountability of the process. Spot checks are conducted during visits to distribution sites to confirm that the intended beneficiaries receive the correct amount of cash assistance. UNHCR will also conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM) through mobile field teams, focus group discussions and telephone interviews selected through a random sampling method, alongside household visits. PDM provides evidence-based recommendations on improved modalities of distribution and compliance issues. It also evaluates MPCA targeting procedures and the impact of the assistance on beneficiary households. So far, PDM reports show high satisfaction with cash assistance, reflecting a positive impact in the daily lives of beneficiaries. According to the findings, most families use the cash assistance to cover essential needs such as food, rent, healthcare and education.

The highest average expenditure across IDPs was on food, followed by rent and healthcare. Cash assistance helps prevent thousands of displaced families from facing hardship and resorting to desperate survival strategies. According to recent monitoring exercises, beneficiaries of MPCA showed a lower level of resorting to negative coping strategies, with fewer households sending children to work, or being forced to move to less adequate shelters due to rent or housing costs. Cash assistance beneficiaries were also less likely to resort to extreme coping measures such as limiting the size of their meal portions or child labour.

Beneficiaries

The contribution of the Government of Belgium will go towards providing MPCA to 120,000 vulnerable IDP families (approximately 720,000 individuals) across Iraq.

Logframe

Objectives	Outcomes	Activities
Population has sufficient basic and domestic items	Multi-month multi-purpose cash assistance provided	Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance of IQD 480,000 (approximately USD 400) per family - in average a one-month or multi-month (up to three month depending on vulnerability criteria)

Request for funds

Considering all of the above, the table below recapitulates the contribution requested by the UNHCR Iraq country operation in relation to the response to support internally displaced persons in Iraq to meet their most basic needs.

	Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
	USD	USD*	EUR
Population has sufficient basic and domestic items	78,843,186	1,063,230.31	934,579.44
Activities sub-total	78,843,186	1,063,230.31	934,579.44
Project Support costs - 7%	-	74,426.12	65,420.56
TOTAL	78,843,186	1,137,656.43	1,000,000.00
* The exchange rate used is 0.879 (UN rate December 2018)			