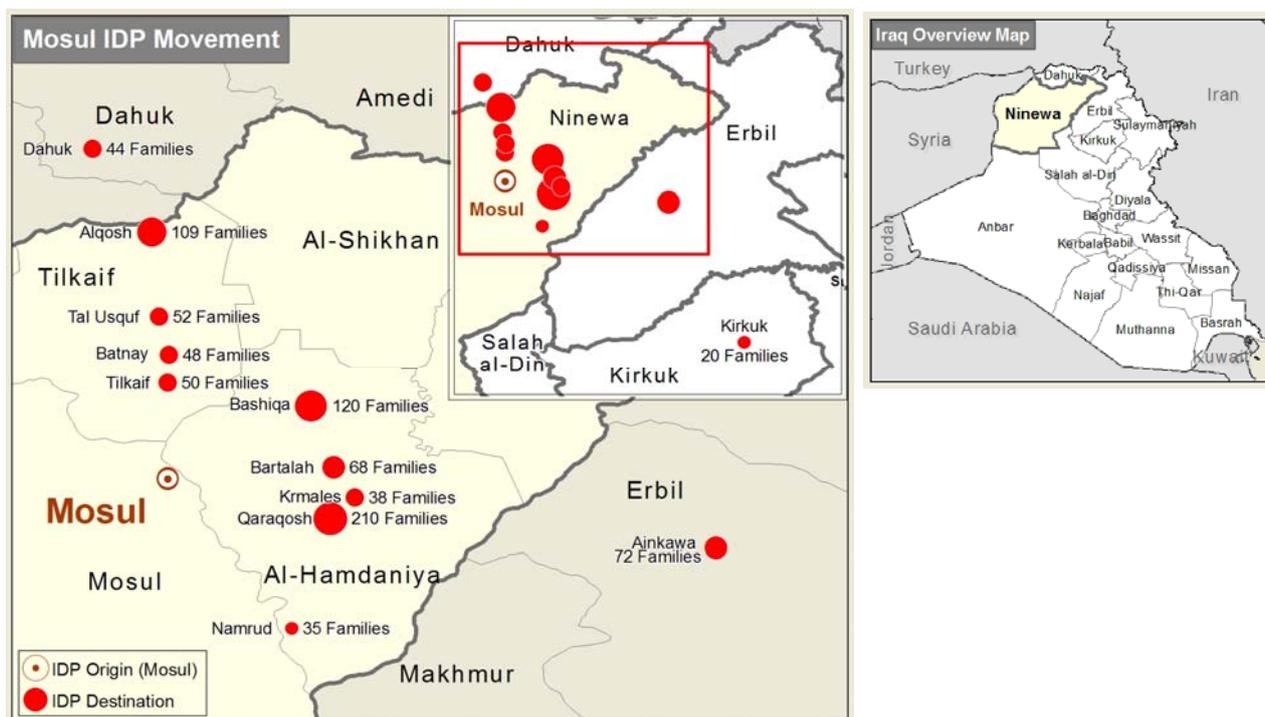


This report was issued by OCHA Iraq. It covers the period from 1 February to 6 March 2010. This is the final situation report to be issued in this series, unless the situation worsens significantly.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- According to figures verified by UNHCR, the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has risen to 866 families (or 5,196 people) as of 4 March 2010, up from 720 families (4,320 people) on 1 March, representing an increase of 146 families (876 people).
- The immediate humanitarian needs of the IDPs in the areas of displacement have been met through a coordinated and timely response by the UN, NGOs and local authorities, including distributions of basic food, non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits.
- Protection remains an ongoing concern for the Christian families remaining in Mosul, where anecdotal reports indicate that some families continue to receive threatening phone calls and written messages.
- The authorities in Ninewa governorate have begun their humanitarian response by distributing up to 200 litres of kerosene per family and food in the areas of displacement.
- Humanitarian agencies will briefly stop their activities in the areas of displacement for a few days around the 7 March national elections when curfews are expected to limit movement.



II. Situation Overview

The figures outlined above reflect UNHCR verification by sampling. In five areas, namely Qaraqosh, Bartalah, Kramles, Tal Usqf and Batnay, they vary from those given by the church and local authorities, which would otherwise total 1,190 families (7,140 people). Unconfirmed reports suggest that six families (or 36 people) may have crossed over the Iraqi border into Syria.

The increase in the number of Christian IDP families is an indication that Christian families still feel unsafe in Mosul. On 3 and 4 March 2010, OCHA interviewed 17 new families who had arrived in Erbil and Dahuk governorates. They indicated that people are leaving Mosul because they felt unsafe due to these threats or having been forced to pay bribes. The women interviewed reported they felt they had to wear the *hijab* (a

veil commonly worn by Muslim women) so as not to be identified as Christians. However, they also said that many Muslim residents in Mosul had shown sympathy to the plight of the Christian community. Interviewees indicated that some of the families remaining in Mosul had been encouraged to stay by their Muslim neighbors with the promise of providing protection to them. Some of the interviewees reported that they felt hopeful that the situation would improve after the elections had taken place on 7 March.

Further unsubstantiated reports received through Christian community leaders and those families interviewed by OCHA highlighted the fact that some Christian families have remained in Mosul because they either lack vehicles or the resources to hire a car to leave. Other families indicate that they are determined to stay on, even if it costs them their lives, citing their attachment to Mosul (to their jobs and assets). Lack of certainty about their livelihoods as well with having no relatives or acquaintances to support them in the areas of displacement are also reasons being reported for not leaving Mosul.

There are also reports from IDPs that they were well treated at check points in Mosul at the time of departure. However, several have reported leaving possessions behind out of fear for their security as bringing them would alert armed groups to their identity / departure plans. Another reason given for not bringing anything along was the hope that the security situation in Mosul might improve after the elections and they wish to return to the city sooner rather than later.

On 4 March 2010, UN and NGOs completed their first round of emergency humanitarian response in the areas of displacement. In preparation for their humanitarian response, the Ninewa authorities undertook a general registration of the IDP families from 1 March to 2 March. This was led by the Governor's Committee for the Coordination of International Organisations. Local authorities have made public announcements over loud speakers in towns and villages hosting the IDPs as well as using TV ads and posters to encourage them to register their names with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM). It is not clear if some of the IDPs have gone to register with the hope of receiving some money as was the case in October 2008 when Christians were last displaced in large numbers. At that time, each IDP family officially registered by MoDM received 300,000 Iraqi dinars (about US\$250); one million Iraqi dinars (about US\$850) was also paid to each family who returned back to their place of origin. This was a policy by the central government to support IDPs and returnee families, regardless of their ethnic or religious background. This policy is no longer applicable.

Governorate	District	Location	Displaced Christian IDP population					
			28 February 2010		2 March 2010		4 March 2010	
			Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals	Families	Individuals
Ninewa	Al Hamdaniyah	Qaraqosh	331	1,986	278	1,668	210	1,260
		Bartalah	60	360	60	360	68	408
		Bashiqa *	66	396	66	396	120	720
		Kramles	22	132	22	132	38	228
		Namrud **	0	0	35	210	35	210
		Total	479	2,874	426	2,556	471	2,826
	Tilkaif	Tal Usquf	60	360	91	546	52	312
		Tilkaif	40	240	16	96	50	300
		Batnay	30	180	63	378	48	288
		Alqosh	74	444	84	378	109	654
Total		204	1,224	254	1,398	259	1,554	
Erbil	Ainkawa	Ainkawa	0	0	23	138	72	432
Dahuk	Dahuk	Dahuk	0	0	17	102	44	264
Kirkuk		Kirkuk	0	0	0	0	20	120
TOTAL ***			683	4,098	720	4,320	866	5,196

Notes:

* The IDP figure indicated for Bashiqa includes families inside Bashiqa town, Bahzani and Mer Mati monastery.

** The 35 families in Namrud were not counted in the total number of IDPs on 28 February.

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*** The figures for Ninewa governorate were provided by UNHCR whereas the figures for Ainkawa in Erbil and for Dahuk were provided by the Bureaus of Displacement and Migration offices in each respective governorate.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

NFIs:

Most of the NFI needs have now been met with the exception of kerosene for heating. The authorities in Ninewa are distributing 200 litres of kerosene to each family and the authorities in Erbil and Dahuk governorates are distributing 100 litres of kerosene to the 72 families in Erbil and 200 liters to each of the 44 families in Dahuk. International Relief and Development is distributing NFIs in Bashiqa to 120 families.

Food and Nutrition:

As of 4 March 2010, the authorities in Ninewa governorate have begun to distribute food although specific details are not available at this time. WFP, through its partner Islamic Relief, has completed the distribution of 50 kg of wheat flour per family to 638 families or 3,828 people (344 families in different locations in Al Hamdaniyah district and 294 families in Tilkaif district). Islamic Relief has further distributed three cans of tinned meat per family to 494 families. The families that have moved to Dahuk and Erbil (44 families in Dahuk and 72 families in Erbil) will be receiving food assistance from WFP through the regular IDP assistance programme on 6 March 2010 in cooperation with the respective Bureaus of Displacement and Migration branches in each governorate.

Protection:

Effective protection remains a pressing concern and is partially constrained by the limited information on the ground regarding the situation of Christian families remaining in Mosul. There will be the need for ongoing monitoring of the protection needs of those remaining in Mosul and also of those displaced. UNICEF, through its cooperating partner, International Medical Corps, is planning to conduct an awareness campaign on child protection for all IDP families in the areas of displacement after the 7 March elections take place.

Education / employment:

Local schools are on vacation from 4 to 26 March 2010 so there is no immediate need to accommodate the influx of IDP children. UNICEF will monitor and update accordingly.

There are reports that the governor of Ninewa Governorate has given directives to government departments that Christian official and workers who have been displaced should not face disciplinary measures for their absentia from work. Instead it should be considered as leave with pay. Christian University students who have been displaced should also not be penalised for being absent from classes. The media in the Kurdistan region has reported that the President of the Kurdistan Regional Government has given directives to absorb Christian university students into the Kurdistan universities in order to continue their studies.

Health:

There are no immediate health concerns for the IDPs and they have still been able to access local facilities. Since the displacement from Mosul began, WHO has remained in close contact with the government health authorities and affected Primary Health Care Centers (PHCC), particularly in Talkaif and Al Hamdaniyah districts as well as the health directorate of Ninewa. The PHCCs in these districts have all the necessary drugs and supplies; currently there is no shortage or need for UN support. The Director-General of the Ninewa health directorate has confirmed to WHO their readiness to support these districts with essential medicines and other supplies, as required.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene:

There are no unmet water and sanitation needs for the IDPs as they are able to access local services. UNICEF will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate support, if required.

IV. Coordination

OCHA is continuing to support field coordination while UNHCR is the lead agency overseeing the humanitarian response in Ninewa governorate over this period.

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The Ninewa Governor has established a committee, headed by the Director of Civil Defense, to address and oversee the humanitarian response to the IDPs. UNHCR and the UNAMI Office for Development and Humanitarian Support have established contacts with the Governor and the committee. Agencies are also working through the Committee for the Coordination of International Organisations, also based in the office of the Governor in Mosul.

UNHCR, OCHA, IOM, UNICEF and WFP have been meeting daily since 26 February 2010 to monitor the situation and provide coordinated updates on figures and humanitarian response.

V. Contact

Erbil: David Lubari, UN OCHA, lubari@un.org
Mobile: +964 770 670 0314, +962 79 720 2512
Office: +39 083 105 2969 or internal ext. 2969

Erbil: Charles Lynch, UNHCR, lynchc@unhcr.org
Mobile: +964 750 453 7820

Erbil: Andrea Recchia, UNAMI ODHS, recchia@un.org
Mobile: +964 770 670 0312
Office: +39 083 105 2818 or internal ext. 2818

Mosul: Samuel Cheung, UNHCR, cheung@unhcr.org
Mobile: +964 770 670 0144

Amman: Kristen Elsby, UN OCHA, elsby@un.org
Mobile: +962 79 720 2511
Office: +962 6 553 4971 ext. 1353

Amman: Safieh Anderson, UNICEF, sanderson@unicef.org
Mobile: +962 79 581 2533

New York: Farhad Movahed, UN OCHA, movahed@un.org
Mobile: +1 917 367 2658