

## Iraq

## Facts & Figures

### Key figures<sup>1</sup>

Emergency response in Iraq since May 2014 and currently present in 5 governorates:

Diyala - Kirkuk - Ninewa - Baghdad - Anbar

More than 270,000 people have benefited from our assistance in Iraq since 2014<sup>2</sup>

- Physical therapy sessions (beneficiaries): 7,433
- Psychosocial support sessions (beneficiaries): 24,982
- Number of mobility aids and specific equipment (items): 12,113<sup>3</sup>

### In 2017, HI achieved:

- More than 220,000 people benefited from risk education sessions
- More than 286,500m2 of contaminated land were cleared
- More than 1,650 ERW items were removed



As of March 2018, the conflict in Iraq has forced more than 2 million Iraqis, affected by the fighting, to leave their areas of origin<sup>4</sup>. Two-thirds of Iraq's displaced population are hosted in just four governorates. Ninewa hosts 30%, Dahuk 16%, Erbil 11% and Salah al-Din 9%.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, as of February 2018, the number of individuals fleeing Syria to seek refuge in Iraq has reached 248,092.

### Activities

#### Facilitating access to physical and functional rehabilitation services and psychosocial support

Humanity & Inclusion (which operates under the name "Handicap International" in Iraq) aims at assisting the crisis-affected population by improving access to specialized services for war-wounded and persons with

specific needs, including physical and functional rehabilitation services and psychological and psychosocial support, with a particular focus on Internally Displaced People. Psychological and psychosocial support aims to help people cope with the traumatic events they have experienced due to the conflict, as well as rebuild their ability to communicate with others. In addition, HI is working in partnership with local health structures, supporting them with training, equipment and donation of assistive devices (crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, etc.). Trauma casualties rates related to the Mosul offensive have been high and HI is supporting trauma humanitarian actors in delivering comprehensive early recovery rehabilitation services in post-operative care structures and field hospitals.

#### Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) & Clearance activities

HI has conducted Non-Technical Surveys<sup>6</sup> and clearance activities in Diyala and Kirkuk governorates. These areas are highly contaminated but there have been limited clearance activities over the years.

<sup>1</sup> As of April 2018, including caregivers.

<sup>2</sup> Including Syrian refugees, Iraqi displaced persons, returnees and local population – except for specific items.

<sup>3</sup> Such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, foam mattresses, etc.

<sup>4</sup> IOM – Displacement Tracking Matrix – DTM Round 92 (March 2018)

<sup>5</sup> IOM - Displacement Tracking Matrix - DTM Round922 (March 2018).

<sup>6</sup> Identification and marking of areas contaminated with explosive remnants of war

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### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The intense fighting has resulted in widespread devastation, with large areas now inaccessible for the safe return of inhabitants. Booby traps and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) have been laid across streets, houses and buildings. In addition, there is an historical problem of legacy hazards from various conflicts, mainly the Iran/Iraq war of 1980-88, threatening the population on a daily basis and hampering the development process.

Conducting Non-Technical Surveys involves collecting and analysing new and/or existing information about a suspected hazardous area. Its purpose is to confirm evidence – or suspected evidence - of a hazard, to identify the type and extent of suspected or confirmed contamination, to mark hazardous areas and to define, as far as possible, the perimeter of the area to clear. Following these steps, clearance activities can be conducted to eliminate identified hazards.

#### Conducting risk education sessions

Due to decades of war, Iraq is one of the most contaminated countries in the world in terms of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). HI's experience led the organization to begin risk education delivery in Iraq in 2015.



Activities target local populations living in contaminated areas, as well as Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and returnees who are originally from areas of suspected contamination before / when they return to their areas of origin. Sessions are additionally conducted in schools and in community centres. In addition, the organization trains and supports influential persons (e.g. mukhtars, teachers, etc.) to conduct Risk education activities in their own communities. HI uses this participatory approach with at-risk professionals (social workers, civil protection members, etc.), who will then be able to spread safety messages within their communities. HI also delivers sessions to other NGO staff intervening in highly contaminated areas, in order to promote safe behaviour of humanitarian workers.

#### Guaranteeing access to services in the camp and communities

Given the sheer scale of humanitarian needs, the most vulnerable people, in particular persons with disabilities or injuries and the elderly, can easily be "forgotten" in the overall humanitarian response. To ensure this does not happen, HI carries out advocacy alongside awareness-raising sessions on disability, inclusion and vulnerability with humanitarian actors and provides them with technical support.

HI recently published a briefing document that highlights the gap in data collection on the number and needs of IDPs with disabilities in Iraq, and the lack of adapted humanitarian programming to address those needs.

#### Ensuring access to safe education through recovery activities



To help rebuild some of the basic services disrupted due to the recent conflict, HI has launched the repairs of twelve schools in Anbar (Ramadi) and Ninewa governorates (Mosul). Through the rehabilitation, the organization will introduce physical accessibility features to reduce the physical barriers for children with disabilities to access education. Children at selected schools will receive psychosocial support and psychological sessions to address the high levels of trauma associated with recent conflict that is likely to impact on a students' learning ability, and promote social cohesion.

HI is continuing to implement recovery programming within Diyala Governorate, which has experienced high levels of returns. This includes the development of community-based Risk Education sessions and psycho-social activities, as well as continued support to healthcare structures through training and donations of equipment and Assistive Devices.

#### Improving participation of persons with disabilities in Iraq

HI aims to improve the overall inclusion and participation of Persons with Disabilities, to enhance their access to services in Iraq. Through partnerships with Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) in Iraqi Kurdistan, the disputed territories and Baghdad, HI provides rehabilitation services and links the Persons with Disabilities to service providers. The organization strengthens DPOs' capacities to advocate for more inclusive public policies and decision-making within the local administration.



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### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

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**About HI:** Co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, HI is an independent and impartial organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. We work alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights. With local partners, we run programs in health and rehabilitation and social and economic integration. We work with local authorities to clear landmines and other war debris and to prevent mine-related accidents through education. We respond quickly and effectively to natural and civil disasters in order to limit serious and permanent injuries and to assist survivors' recovery and reintegration. We advocate for the universal recognition of the rights of the disabled through national planning and advocacy.

Learn more about our work at [www.hi-us.org](http://www.hi-us.org).