

IRAQ



Deadly protests have erupted in Iraq over economic hardship, poor services, and corruption. Simultaneously, displacement, humanitarian need, and inter-communal tensions all continue to threaten Iraq's recovery and future stability as it emerges from the aftermath of extended conflict and ISIS's brutal reign.

Country Context

While Iraq grappled with decades of conflict and poor governance, the rise of ISIS in 2014 and the military campaign to counter it exacerbated the long-term crisis. The underlying causes of instability remain—economic crisis, high levels of corruption, unreliable basic services like electricity and clean water, and significant humanitarian needs. These will continue to hinder the country's recovery if not addressed.

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S.'s focus on supporting religious minorities in the region is leaving many Iraqis' basic needs unaddressed, furthering the economic inequality and sectarian divisions that have plagued the country for decades.

Key Figures



4.1 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



1.6 million

people remain internally displaced



Estimated \$45 billion

in damage from the anti-ISIS military campaign



Over 40%

poverty rate in areas most affected by the anti-ISIS military campaign



\$520 million

requested for humanitarian response for 2020

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Many families of internally displaced people (IDPs) are stranded in inadequate camps without access to much-needed humanitarian assistance.
- Limited livelihood opportunities and social cohesion are significantly affecting Iraq's stability and recovery, leaving many IDPs unwilling or unable to return.
- IDPs are being forced to return to unsafe and insecure areas, exacerbating communal tensions and undermining prospects for social cohesion and stability.
- Iraq is one of the most landmine-affected countries in the world, which impedes both recovery from conflict and the safe return of those displaced by it.

Responses and Actions

- Humanitarian actors have assisted thousands of people in obtaining the civil documentation they need to receive assistance from the government, but many more remain without official papers, including tens of thousands of children who will not have access to education, health care, and other services without such documentation.
- An estimated 291,000 food-insecure IDPs across nine governorates receive food assistance through cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and regionally-procured food baskets. Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) benefits an estimated 48,500 food-insecure people—including more than 11,800 IDPs—in Anbar, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din.

InterAction has an Iraq working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

