

WHY IRAQ?

More than three million people in Iraq have been forced from their homes due to conflict and violence. In total, 11 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. Large areas of northern Iraq were under control of armed groups since 2014, and while much of the territory has been retaken, people in those areas have experienced extreme hardship. Towns and villages remain insecure; many have yet to be cleared of landmines and explosives; and important infrastructure has been destroyed during fighting.

Every facet of society in Iraq has been impacted by years of continuous conflict, economic downturn, and destruction of communities. Decline in agriculture production has led to food insecurity, and the number of people seeking health consultations has dramatically increased while many hospitals and health facilities have been damaged or destroyed¹. Children living in areas controlled by armed groups have often gone without schooling, and people who have fled their homes face the difficulty of re-establishing livelihoods. Areas that host displaced populations find their basic services, most of which are already compromised, become overwhelmed.

This is a time of extreme vulnerability for the people of Iraq. Even if they are able to escape violence, their needs remain critical.

WHERE WE HELP

Medair is implementing projects in Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates, with cash distribution projects reaching into Salah al Din governorate. Medair is known as a provider of high-quality relief services in Iraq, and for building trust with communities and officials. Medair has been active in the Middle East since 2012, working with Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan, and began an emergency response in Iraq in August 2014. Medair had previously worked in Iraq in 1991, in 1992, and again in 2003.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Mobile Medical Teams

As the population continues to seek safety and essential services, Medair is providing access to health care in host communities, informal settlements, and in areas of return. In areas like Sinjar town, Medair has opened the first primary health care clinic operational since the 2014 crisis. In villages surrounding Mosul, mobile health teams treat people who have gone without essential services for many months.

Providing primary health care in a camp

In December 2016, 4,800 people arrived in Laylan 2 Camp near Kirkuk. They came from Hawija, an area that remains under control of armed groups. Medair provides basic health services in Laylan 2 Camp, treating illnesses and referring serious or complicated cases for secondary care. Community health volunteers visit families in their tents to share health and hygiene education messages.

Supporting health clinics in returnee areas

In some cases, people who have fled violence are able to return to areas that have been recaptured. These communities often must reconstruct buildings that have been destroyed and re-establish basic services. Medair supports health clinics in these areas by providing qualified medical staff and medicines until they are able to once again operate independently.

Water, Sanitation and Health

Recently retaken areas often lack functioning water systems, and clean water for drinking and cooking is in short supply. Families living in unfinished buildings, makeshift tents, and warehouse spaces lack suitable sanitation facilities. Medair's Water and Sanitation team provides water trucking and storage tanks, and distributes water purification tablets, storage containers, and hygiene items. Latrines are rehabilitated or newly constructed, and house-to-house hygiene promotion helps people learn how to prevent the spread of disease.

Cash assistance

With limited livelihood opportunities for the millions of displaced people, along with the increasing strain on public

¹ [UNOCHA 2017 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan](#)

social services, the economic burden of the conflict has had a widespread impact on both the displaced and host-community populations. Medair provides emergency cash assistance to conflict-affected people, enabling households to meet their critical and varied needs.

THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

"I keep helping because you have been saying the truth about what you would do for people, and I trust you. If you didn't do as you promised, I wouldn't have done this work. I am one of these people. People needed everything and you covered their needs."

- Hamoudi is a community volunteer who liaises with Medair in suburb of Mosul

"This is a big thing for us. You have given us dignity. Only Medair has been here to help us and we thank you."

- Amal and her family live in a tent outside of Mosul and received a latrine, shower, and water storage tank

"When Medair came I was so happy. They brought us supplies we desperately needed like lab equipment, fuel for the ambulance, and kerosene for the generator. Without Medair we would have had to close our doors."

- Dr. Abdullah, manager of the primary health care clinic in Wana

Impact Report 2016: 83,339 direct beneficiaries, among which:

- 72,005 patient consultations at Medair-supported health clinics
- 33,738 people reached with health or nutrition promotion
- 166 people treated for acute malnutrition
- 617 people benefited from psychosocial support
- 11,334 people benefited from cash assistance

DONORS AND FUNDING PARTNERS

Medair's Iraq programme is supported by Swiss Solidarity, the European Union, US Agency for International Development, Medicor Foundation (LI), Transform Aid International (AU), and generous private donors.

For Media

Interviews, photos, and stories are available in English.

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In the Sinjar region, Medair provides psychosocial support for people affected by conflict. With the assistance of Medair's psychologist, Baseema (right) is recovering from symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder.

@Medair/Andy Davidhazy



In Laylan 2 Camp outside of Kirkuk, Medair operates a primary health care clinic for 4,000 people who have fled the controlled area of Hawiga.

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In Mosul District, families living in makeshift structures and unfinished buildings receive water storage tanks, latrines, and showers.

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