



Beneficiaries receiving family non-food item kits in Amriyat Al Falluja as part of an IOM distribution of 600 kits | 15 August

Ongoing fighting in central Iraq continues to see large-scale displacement with Anbar and Kirkuk as major regions of origin.

According to the IOM Iraq Displacement Tracking Matrix, from the onset of the crisis in January 2014 to 30 July 2015, a total of 3,171,606 individuals have been identified as displaced across Iraq.

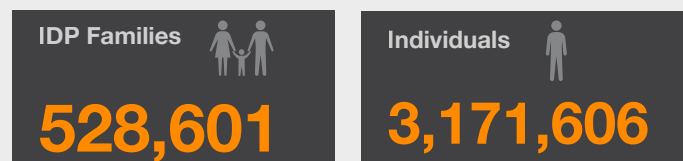
Access to safety continues to be an issue for people fleeing violence, as regions tighten their borders with increasingly stringent entrance criteria.

As IOM addresses the growing needs of IDPs and refugees across Iraq, RART teams are piloting a gender analysis of NFIs to assess how effectively IOM kits are meeting the needs of girls, boys, women and men. During the reporting period, IOM distributed 1,200 NFI kits in hard-to-reach areas of Anbar governorate.

Part of IOM's response continues to be ECHO-funded cash assistance to the displaced. Abdul Latif Mansour, recently displaced from Anbar, told IOM staff: "My biggest concern each month is how to pay the rent. This money will help me pay it for the next month. Once the rent is paid and we are safe from being in the street for a month everything else is considered easy."

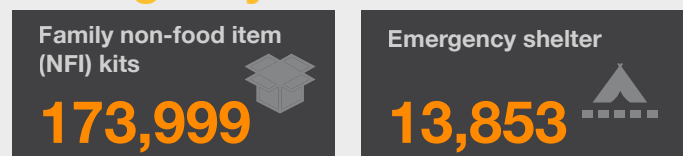
### Displacement

According to Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) data collected by IOM Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) from January 2014 to 30 July 2015



To access the IOM Iraq DTM, please visit:  
<http://iomiraq.net/dtm-page>

### Emergency Relief Distribution



# Abu Kareem's Story

“ I am an old man. The only thing I pray for is the dignity of dying in my own house.”



Haj Abu Kareem with his family in a religious building in Kut, the capital city of Wassit Governorate

For Haj Abu Kareem, living for years in a Mosul neighborhood among people from other religious backgrounds was comfortable. Being a minority in the area was never a threat, until ISIL came to the city.

When ISIL came close, the family decided to leave immediately, knowing that they would face persecution. Abu Kareem told his sons to leave with the family, but only 10 family members could fit in the car. Abu Kareem and one of his sons remained. “I’m 74 years old. I have problems in my back, so I stayed in the house. My son refused to leave me alone, and so stayed with me.”

In the early morning hours militants broke into the house. “They wanted to behead my son and started beating him. I cried and begged them to let him live. One of my neighbors heard the fighting and came to beg for my son’s life as well, and told the militants that we were good people. We were all on our knees. After the begging and crying, they released my son but demanded that we leave the city.

“I could never forget what my neighbor did after this. He saved our lives. He took us to the center of Mosul and hid us. The city was under the control of ISIL, but they did not check every house and didn’t know we were hiding there.”

After a month of recovery, the neighbor helped Abu Kareem to rent a car and make their way to Erbil.

Abu Kareem’s family had been staying in Erbil in their cousin’s house. The family reunited, and soon after they decided to move to Kut. They chose Kut in order to live somewhere they could feel more safe, and because the city has many religious sites where displaced people can find shelter.

The road to Kut was long and difficult. To save their limited resources they slept in the streets and bought only a little food. After arriving to Kut strangers welcomed them into their home, and a few days later the family moved to a religious building where they settled.

Abu Kareem and his three sons wanted to stay together but could not. One son found a job in Erbil and moved his family there. Another son moved to the edge of Kut to another religious site looking for better conditions.

Only Abu Kareem and one son stayed together. That son works as a day laborer in order to support the family.

“We lost everything. ISIL took our house. My sons are separated and our situation is miserable, but since I came to this city I do feel better. People are kind to us and we are grateful for the assistance. The items we received from IOM help us to survive and manage living as displaced people. Still, I am an old man. The only thing I pray for is the dignity of dying in my own house.”

IOM is responding to life-threatening needs in a rapidly changing environment, in addition to monitoring movements on the ground.

