



IFRC | Iraq: Humanitarian situation deteriorates as thousands flee violence in Anbar province

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Iraq is facing enormous humanitarian challenges due to the deterioration of the security situation in the country, particularly in the Anbar province. Following the heavy fighting in Ramadi, thousands of families have fled the city.

Latest estimates indicate that over 32,000 people have arrived in Habaneya and Fallujah, while more than 10,000 entered Baghdad after two days of waiting on the outskirts. Among the displaced are hundreds of women, children and the elderly, who have all been displaced more than once. Each time they move, their situation becomes more precarious.

Abu Jassin, who has been waiting to get into Baghdad, said that he had been walking with his family for two days since the situation at home became unbearable. "We are now looking for shelter as we have lost everything, we don't even have the money to buy medicine," he said. "We are trying now to enter Baghdad, even if we are not sure what awaits us."

The latest rounds of fighting in the Anbar province, which broke out in April, has led to further displacements of a large number of local residents. According to an assessment conducted by the volunteers of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, over 133,000 people have been displaced from the region since mid-April.

According to Dr Yaseen al-Mamouri, President of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society: "The dramatic degradation of the humanitarian situation in Anbar means that even more people are suffering. Some of the displaced people are forced to stay in the desert for days, vulnerable to the harsh elements and extreme temperatures, before they are able to find refuge. Shelter, food and health services are the most urgent needs at the moment."

Most people were forced to flee with very little. "They have nothing with them - no food, no money and are totally relying on the assistance we can provide," said Dr al-Mamouri.

Red Crescent volunteers have provided safe drinking water and food, distributing more than 17,000 bottles of water and some 19,800 ready meals and food parcels. Improved access to healthcare is also an urgent priority with assessments showing that more than 1,400 people are in need of urgent medical treatment for chronic medical conditions, respiratory infections and skin disease.

"Our trained health teams are working in the field throughout the day to provide first aid services, psychosocial support and medical services to the affected population," said Dr al-Mamouri. "More than 34,000 displaced people have benefitted from these services but many more remain in desperate need for support."

While thousands have fled the violence in Ramadi, the Red Crescent continues to provide support to communities in the city despite the dangers that such work involves.

The IFRC's 19.1 million Swiss francs [emergency appeal](#) will allow the Red Crescent to support the needs of 500,000 people affected by the crisis.