The humanitarian crisis in Iraq has been one of the most rapidly unfolding in the world and is a protracted crisis. An estimated 10 million people in Iraq require immediate humanitarian assistance. Since January 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) have made significant territorial gains with its tactic of brutal killings. Since then, 3.3 million people have fled their homes. Displaced persons are currently living in more than 3,000 locations throughout the country; more than 90% are living outside of camps, putting an enormous strain on the hosting communities.

The first North Iraq Joint Response (NIJR1) implementing period was 9 months, from 1st January 2015 till 30th September 2015. The program conducted humanitarian activities in 5 sectors: Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI), Protection, Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH), Health and Food Security. The activities are implemented in different governorates in North-Iraq: Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Erbil, and Sulaymanya. These governorates hosted most of the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Syrian refugees as of January 2015.

After the initial 9 months of the program, there were still massive needs in North-Iraq. Hence, the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) decided with The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue the North Iraq Joint response (NIJR1) with another 12 months as of 1st October 2015, the North Iraq Joint Response 2 (NIJR2). The second phase of the project has seen an increased effort to create added value through the identification and implementation of key joint activities such as local humanitarian capacity building, technical support across partners and wider learning.

**FACTS & FIGURES NORTH IRAQ JOINT RESPONSE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organizations</td>
<td>CARE, Cordaid, Dorcas, ICCO Kerk in actie, Oxfam, Save the Children, Stichting Vluchteling, Tear, Terre des Hommes, War Child, World Vision and ZOA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes</td>
<td>Food Security, Livelihood and Nutrition, Shelter/NFI, Protection, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas</td>
<td>Diyala, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Sulaymanya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRA Budget</td>
<td>Euro 16 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>January 2015 – October 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people targeted</td>
<td>341,377 (NIJR1) plus 148,610 (NIJR2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached to date</td>
<td>413,194</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The North Iraq joint response main objective is to alleviate human suffering through the effective and efficient implementation of various humanitarian response activities, specifically in the fields of: food security, restoring livelihoods, strengthening protection, and WASH.

**SHELTER/ NON-FOOD ITEMS**

108,337 individuals

Over 75,000 individuals have been reached to date with assistance for emergency shelter and non-food items. Sealing kits have been distributed to enable people to insulate their informal living space to protect them for winter-cold and summer-heat. In addition, unfinished buildings have been upgraded with sustainable doors and windows, whereby the house owners signed an agreement which allows the displaced families to stay in that building for at least 2 years. In total 2407 households have been provided with adequate accommodation with basic facilities. Also non-food items like clothing and kitchen sets, fire extinguishers, kerosene for heathers and stoves, and multi-purpose cash have been provided to enable people to cook and live in the shelters.

**FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD**

103,801 individuals

Basic food rations and food security packages have been distributed to displaced people living in informal settlements, in coordination with WFP. Also, families received cash assistance to meet their food needs and 181 individuals were hired under a ‘cash for work’ program to be able to return something to the host communities and to widen their social circles and chances to find regular employment.
A total number of 66,855 individuals have been reached with Psychosocial First Aid (PFA), protection monitoring and support. National staff and community volunteers are trained to provide PFA to affected people, amongst which women and children. Referral committees have been established and shared amongst NIJR members to ensure timely and quality follow-up for severe cases. Mobile and static Child Protection Units have been established where besides counselling and legal support also recreational activities and informal education activities take place. In 6 Child Friendly Spaces, children attended the activities and were provided with social and educational support.

**Why a Joint Response?**

By working in collaboration with various partners, each bringing to the table a certain expertise and accumulation of past experiences, lessons learned, and best practices, one generates an added value that makes joint response programs greater than the mere sum of their individual partner’s work. North Iraq Joint response aims to maximize this added value explicitly, making sure that partners exchange methodologies on certain issues, develop case studies and meet regularly so as to ensure the cross fertilization and complementarity of individual projects.

**Health**

**194,220 individuals**

Static clinics and mobile health units have been installed or strengthened. Medication has been provided as well as primary health care services to more than 150,000 people in need. In addition, special needs of vulnerable persons were included, like mothers and children. In Women and Youth Child Spaces, women and children were taught on specific health topics. These spaces, which were equipped with toys, also provided a place where children could play, privacy for breastfeeding women and an opportunity for women to discuss issues of reproductive health.

Furthermore, Hygiene and Health Promoters are trained to disseminate health awareness messages to displaced families and host communities. Health messages covered a variety of health topics such as: hand washing, use of water and sanitation, common communicable diseases, prevention of health problems, treatments and where to receive health services.

**Wash**

**217,103 individuals**

People have access to safe drinking water due to construction and rehabilitation of water points and systems. Two boreholes are drilled and operational, the authority in Qara Tapa town have been assisted with repairs and maintenance of a water treatment system, and water points have been installed for safe access to water. Solid waste management has been improved through cleaning campaigns and distribution of materials like garbage bins. Thousands of people benefit now from improved sanitation facilities like latrines and showers, hygiene items and training on improving hygiene practices.

**Protection**

**66,855 individuals**

Our programs mainstream protection in a manner that recognizes the specific and contextual challenges that women and children face in North Iraq.

Improved sanitation facilities.
“We lived happily in Shingal Sinjar”, says Hisham Ibrahim (40), father of five. “I had my own business, selling cars. We had a big house. All my children had a room of their own.”

Then ISIL came to his village, two years ago. “They put a gun to my head in my own house. They let me go, but my children saw it all happen. We had to leave our village. We fled to Harsham IDP camp.” Hisham’s children were deeply affected by the attack and the brutal changes in their lives. Two of them, 7 year old Omar and 10 year old Abdullah are now treated in the Child Protection Unit of Terre des Hommes, where they get psychological assistance. Hisham: “They cry a lot, they are aggressive, scared. They saw people being shot.”

Many of the 80 children who are being assisted by social workers of the Child Protection Unit, suffer from post traumatic stress disorder. With their parents, social workers help them to cope with what they have gone through. One of them is 12 year old Fatima. Much to her discontent her parents didn’t want her to attend school inside the camp, as classes were mixed. Social workers helped her to discuss this with her parents. Today Fatima is back in the classroom. She wants to become a doctor.

1500 IDPs are living Harsham camp. 250 children come daily to Terre des Hommes’ child friendly space, where half of the time is spent on recreational activities, the other half is on education and homework.

**MOSUL AND HAWIJA RESPONSE**

In December 2015 the Dutch Parliament approved one extra million euro for Iraq and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch Relief Alliance agreed to include these funds in the North-Iraq Joint Response 2 (NIJR2). The NIJR2 members agreed to use these funds for the humanitarian operation in support of the Mosul and Hawija liberation. As this humanitarian operation is one of the largest humanitarian responses in 2016.

**COLLABORATIVE IMPACT**

Collaborative impact is achieved through regular monthly and technical meetings of partners both at field level and in the Netherlands. These regular contacts have contributed tremendously to building trust among partners and transforming the consortium into an organic system through which the individual strengths of member organizations are transformed into concrete actions for the maintenance of high quality interventions in the field. This is among the successes achieved through the investment of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also presents a unique opportunity to continue responding to emergency and early recovery needs in North-Iraq in a holistic, professional, and synergistic manner.

**DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE**

The Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) responds to major international crises in a timely and effective manner. The Alliance is a cooperation of 14 Dutch NGO’s, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cordaid leads the joint responses in North Iraq on behalf of the Dutch Relief Alliance. CARE, Cordaid, Dorcas, ICCO Kerk in actie, Oxfam, Tear, Terre des Hommes, Save the Children, Stichting Vluchteling, War Child, World Vision, ZOA.

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