

- Citizens are still required to wear a mask in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status.
- Anyone spreading disinformation or encouraging disobedience of COVID guidelines on social media can face legal consequences.
- Teachers and public and private school students over the age of 18 must be vaccinated and all private sector employees must be vaccinated to conduct business in their physical workplace.
- New [Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority guidelines](#) took effect on April 1st across Iraq including Kurdistan Region. Iraqi and foreign travelers aged 12 and above who have received one dose of Johnson & Johnson or two doses of any other vaccine will no longer be required to have a recent negative PCR test when traveling. Otherwise, proof of a negative PCR test conducted in the previous 72 hours will be required.

New measures were also introduced:

- Since January 20th, all KRG government employees are required to be vaccinated.
- Since February 1st, either proof of vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours is required to enter public spaces.

Refugees and Internally Displaced People

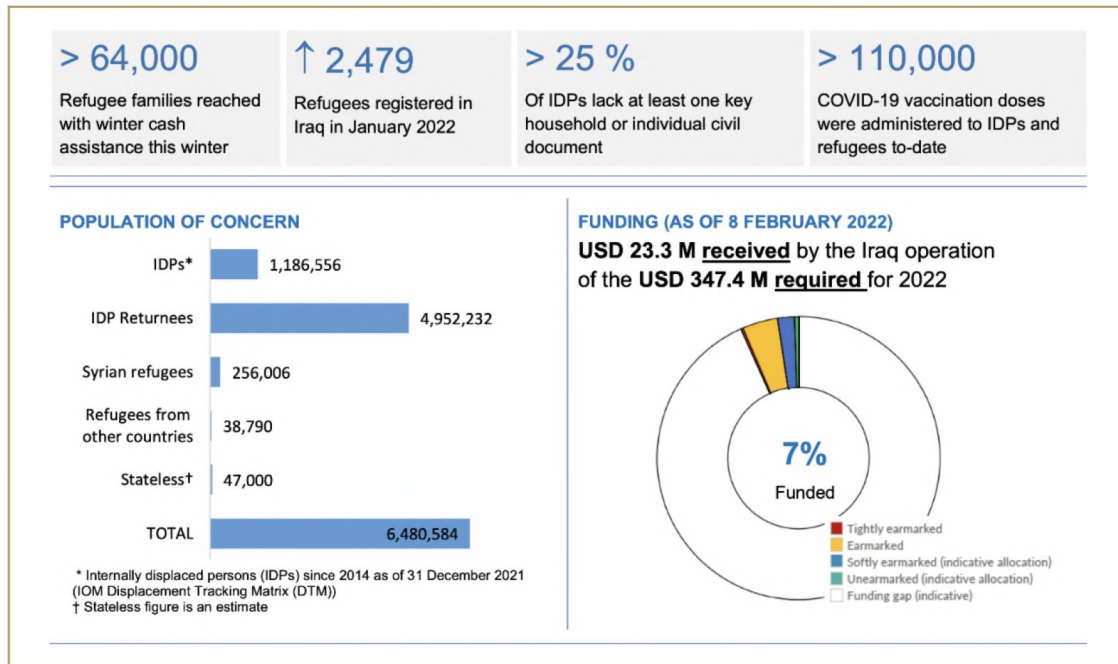
As of [January 2022](#), about 1.2 million people remained internally displaced persons (IDP) within Iraq. The Kurdistan region hosts the largest share of IDPs, about 664,000, especially those from minority religious backgrounds. In addition, about 256,000 Kurdish refugees from Syria, 10,548 from Iran, 8,749 from Turkey, and 818 from the wider region have taken refuge in Kurdistan.

Despite large numbers of returnees, internal displacement remains a long-term problem. The UN estimates that 70% have been displaced for five years or more, and 80% are planning on staying in their current location compared to only 2% who plan on returning to their homes within the next 12 months.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, key [obstacles](#) to ending displacement include vast explosive ordnance contamination, eroded national social cohesion, incomplete restoration of housing, essential services, and opportunities for livelihood in areas affected by ISIS.

About half of the displaced population are from four districts of Nineveh province: Mosul, Sinjar, Al-Baaj, and Telafar. Many from Sinjar and Mosul who tried to return failed and had to re-displace because of limited rehabilitation and recovery or social tensions and insecurity.

Overview of Displaced People in Iraq



Source: UNHCR January 2022 Factsheet

Moreover, Iraq continues to have about 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, IDPs included. About 991,000 acutely vulnerable people are in 14 of the 18 provinces across Iraq, which will be the focused target of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' ([OCHA](#)) Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan 2022. The largest numbers of in-camp IDPs targeted are in Duhok (110,000), Nineveh (45,000), Erbil (14,000), and Slemani (11,000), while provinces hosting the most out-of-camp IDPs are Nineveh (60,000), Duhok (46,000), Erbil (34,000), and Al-Anbar (24,000).

Developments in the Yazidi Community

In the aftermath of the Yazidi genocide, [220,000 Yazidis remain](#) displaced in 15 camps across the Kurdistan Region, and 2,719 Yazidis remains missing. Political, security, and economic concerns have made some families reluctant to return to their homes, especially in Sinjar.

Yazidi community organizations have complained that agreements put in place to assist them have not been sufficiently implemented. The Sinjar Agreement, signed in 2020 by the Kurdistan Regional Government and Federal Government of Iraq, has not yet secured a unified administration or appointed 2,500 security personnel in Sinjar. Meanwhile, the [the Yazidi Survivors](#) lacks an application process and funding, as political concerns in Baghdad following the

October elections have caused the passing of the 2022 Federal Budget to be delayed.

Developments in the Christian Community

The vast majority of Iraq's Christians continue to reside in the Nineveh Plains, an area contested between the KRG, the Federal Government of Iraq, and militia groups. Many continue to be harassed by militias, and fewer than 60% of displaced Christians have returned to their homes. Moreover about [46,480](#) displaced Christians reside in the Kurdistan Region, making up 7% of the total IDPs, in addition to many Christians who already call Kurdistan home.

Humanitarian Funding

The KRG needs at least \$866 million a year, or \$72 million per month, to provide basic services to the displaced persons and Syrian refugees in Kurdistan Region.

To learn more about the humanitarian situation or how you can help support vulnerable communities in Kurdistan, contact Delovan Barwari, Director of Public and Humanitarian Affairs at the KRG Representation in the United States: delovan.barwari@us.gov.krd

[Sign Up for KRG Updates](#)

Share the bulletin



Follow us



NOTIFICATION: The Kurdistan Regional Government Liaison Office – U.S.A. is registered as an agent of the Kurdistan Regional Government under 22 U.S.C. § 611 et seq. | 1532 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

[Unsubscribe farakrg@gmail.com](mailto:unsubscribe.farakrg@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by us@gov.krd powered by



Try email marketing for free today!