

*Policy on the Establishment and
Management of Camps for IDPs in Iraq*

Since the outbreak of conflict in Anbar in January 2014 and the fall of Mosul in early June, an estimated 1.2 million people have been displaced. The vast majority (87%) of the total IDP population assessed to date are currently either staying with host community families, renting accommodation or are accommodated in hotels and motels. They view being accommodated in camps as an option of last resort. The number of families currently accommodated in camp settings in fact constitutes just 1% of the total IDP population currently displaced.

In this context, priority should be given to supporting displaced families in non-camp settings and also assisting host families. Interventions should include expanding the quality and coverage of established services to accommodate the displaced whilst meeting the needs of the host families, strengthen capacity of local social services providers, providing income generation opportunities to both the displaced and host families and integrating the two communities to avoid stress on the host population.

The UN Humanitarian Country Team believes that camps should not be established and if so, only as a temporary measure and of last resort. Should the authorities decide to establish camps, the following should be observed:

- Camps should be temporary, and established with a clear medium to long term solution-oriented strategy in mind, also to take into consideration the principle of potential return to the places of origin once the conditions allow
- Camps should be established in a safe location where security to the displaced and the humanitarian workers can be provided and thus at a safe distance from conflict zones
- Site planning and shelters should ensure the safety and dignity of all residents taking into account their specific needs
- Camps should be located near urban or semi-urban centers so as to allow for access to existing health care centers, markets, schools and other public services
- Services and infrastructure such as water, sanitation facilities, power, lighting, roads and drainage should be established prior to camps becoming operational
- Shelters and services should be cost effective, culturally appropriate, and safe for men, women and children, including for people with disabilities and special needs
- IDPs should be empowered to participate in decisions regarding their living conditions and the provision of services as this is an important measure to prevent protection issues, mitigate risk of dependency, and support solutions
- IDPs should be actively engaged in camp management e.g. through their participation in camp committees, technical committees whilst ensuring equal representation of men and women;
- Camp management authorities should actively engage with host communities to promote community cohesion and peaceful co-existence
- Camps should make provision for child friendly spaces, community centers, and information points where IDPs can access objective information about assistance, entitlements, national laws, administrative procedures and durable solutions,

UN agencies will not assume responsibility for camp management but in partnership with international and national NGOs, will provide technical support, life-saving relief items and essential services. The technical support will include training and capacity building of personnel in camp management and camp coordination, including protection, as well as in planning, monitoring and evaluating the humanitarian response. The technical support will also ensure that rights-based approach will apply to all activities implemented in the camp.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will establish an Internal Task Force in country to provide coherent support to Government authorities and to ensure the rights of the camp residents are respected, and their needs are met. The HCT will however not call on the formal activation of the Global Camp Coordination Camp Management Cluster at this time, as the UN will not be assuming responsibility for camp management