



IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

21 March 2017

KEY FIGURES

270,546

Iraqis currently internally displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas since military operations to retake the city began on 17 October 2016¹

34,337

core relief item kits distributed to families in camps, assisting some 182,000 IDPs from Mosul and surrounding areas

7,990 family plots

currently occupied out of 12,497 family plots (for some 75,000 people) in UNHCR built camps ready to receive IDPs displaced from the Mosul corridor

3 million

IDPs since January 2014²

250,952 Iraqi refugees

hosted in countries in the region, and **14,486** Iraqis received in Al Hol camp in Syria since 17 October 2016

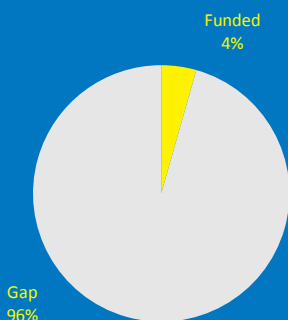
¹IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 17 October 2016.

²IOM-DTM as of 16 March 2017.

FUNDING

USD 578 million

requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2017.



POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Over 270,000 individuals (45,000 families) are currently displaced as a result of the ongoing operations in Mosul which began on 17 October 2016. Since 19 February, 161,346 IDPs from west Mosul arrived at Hammam al-Alil screening site, according to IOM, and over the last week the screening site has received **an average of 9,000 IDPs a day.**

A number of camps reached full capacity with the ongoing arrival of families processed through Hammam al-Alil. Between 11 and 20 March, 1,216 families arrived to Chamakor camp, 1,104 families to Hassansham M2 camp, 704 families to Khazer M1 camp, 363 families to Qayyarah airstrip emergency site, 102 families to Hassansham U3 camp, and 65 families to Haj Ali camp. With camps in the south at maximum capacity, 195 families were transferred to Nargizlia 1 and 2 camps north of Mosul.

Returns to east Mosul have freed up a limited amount of shelter capacity: 378 families departed from Hassansham M2, 339 families from Hassansham U3, 245 families from Khazer M1, and 45 families from Nargizliya 1 and 2 camps.

SITUATION UPDATE

New arrivals to Hammam al-Alil reception centre between 18 and 20 March report high numbers of civilian casualties in west Mosul due to heavy shelling in the area. Many also reported family separation during flight, raising the need for family reunification going forward.

During a visit to Washington, DC, Iraq's Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi underscored the need for additional funding from the international community to support the stabilization and economic recovery of areas liberated from armed groups. Following his meeting with President Trump, al-Abadi stated that he received assurances of the United States' continued commitment to fight terrorism and promises of accelerated support in the fight against armed groups in [Iraq](#).

The Iraqi Defense Ministry reported on 21 March that the army's Counter-Terrorism Forces now control al-Resala and Shuqaq Nablus areas of western Mosul. These gains followed the recapture of the government complex, airport, and largest military base in west Mosul; in total, government forces now control more than 60% of the area. Bad weather during the last few days has reportedly forced the military to shift tactics in order to continue [advancing](#).

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR provides essential assistance to IDPs from west Mosul in urban areas. Following a needs assessment conducted over the past week, and in close cooperation with local authorities, UNHCR's partner began distributing core relief items (CRIs) to vulnerable families in Al Shaima neighbourhood in east Mosul on 19 March. Six hundred families were identified for immediate assistance and distributions are ongoing. On 21 March, 125 families in Al Entesar neighbourhood, east Mosul, received assistance.

1,314 families were hosted or transited through Hammam al-Alil reception centre tented halls as of 21 March. UNHCR provided quilts and mattresses to over 18,000 newly arrived IDPs between 18 and 20 March, and a further 3,942 IDPs on 21 March.

Nearly all camps south and east of Mosul are full. Construction continues at Hammam al-Alil 2. Construction at UNHCR's Hammam al-Alil 2 camp continues, with demarcation of 3,460 plots completed. At the reception centre at Hammam al-Alil, concrete bases for 19 tented halls have been completed, while those for the remaining 7 tented halls are under construction. Simultaneously, construction at Hassansham U2 continues, with pitching of tents to begin in the coming days.