

IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

23 April 2017

KEY FIGURES

334,518

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

45,509

core relief item (CRI) kits distributed to families in camps, assisting some 273,000 IDPs from Mosul and surrounding areas

9,229 family plots

currently occupied out of 17,403 family plots (for some 104,000 people) in UNHCR built camps ready to receive IDPs displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas

3 million

IDPs since January 2014²

247,034 Iraqi refugees

hosted in countries in the region, and **15,196** Iraqis received in Al Hol camp in Syria since 17 October 2016

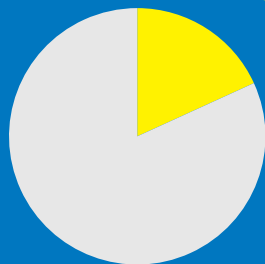
FUNDING

USD 578 million

requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2017

Funded
18%

Gap
82%



POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Departures continue to surpass arrivals at camps east of Mosul. Between 19 and 20 April, 161 families (801 individuals) arrived, mainly from west Mosul, while 281 families (1,452 individuals) departed, primarily to east Mosul. Families fleeing from west Mosul cited continuous insecurity, including in liberated areas, which are frequently targeted by mortar rounds. Lack of food, water and basic services were other reasons contributing to their flight.

Camps south of Mosul approach capacity. During the past three days, more than 600 families have been received at Haj Ali, Qayyarah Jad'ah 5, and Qayyarah Airstrip camps. Haj Ali is now the only camp south of Mosul with plots available, with space for just 380 families. The opening of the second phase of construction at Hammam Al-Alil 2 in the coming days will provide much-needed capacity to receive more than 1,600 families. In the meantime, there are currently more than 4,000 plots available in camps located north and east of Mosul.

SITUATION UPDATE

IDP call centre report for March highlights food, cash assistance, and government services as priority needs. Analysis of the calls received at the Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Information Centre in March 2017 indicates that 33% were requests for assistance, 64% were requests for information, and 3% were complaint and feedback calls. Ninewa accounted for 44% of the total calls, 59% of which came from IDPs living outside of camps. Of particular note was the increase in calls for health assistance, including psychosocial support, from IDPs in Mosul City.

On 23 April, [extremist groups reportedly attacked a police base in Hamam al-Alil, about 30km south of Mosul.](#) This area was retaken by Iraqi Security Forces in November 2016, and hosts the UNHCR-built Hammam al-Alil 2 camp. The camp was opened on 12 April and shelters nearly 10,000 individuals displaced from the conflict in and around Mosul.

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR conducts assessment mission to east Mosul. On 19 April, UNHCR visited the Karama, Zuhour, and Muthana neighbourhoods in east Mosul. The team observed that markets are open and people move freely through all three neighbourhoods during the day, though residents reported continuing concerns about safety in neighbourhoods closer to the river, which continue to be targeted by sniper fire and shelling. The concerns reported by residents included availability of water, livelihood opportunities, issuance or replacement of civil IDs, and assistance shortages. Some of those interviewed are originally from west Mosul neighborhoods of Egadat and Bab-e-Jadid, and are currently staying in vacant houses in east Mosul, though they worry about being evicted if the owners of the homes return.

Camp management and protection partners in Hamam al-Alil 2 camp continue to facilitate family reunification efforts. 202 separated family members were reunited with their relatives in the camp on 20 April. Most separations occurred during flight, as male family members were sent to Scorpion Junction and subsequently to Hammam Al-Alil screening site, while women and children went directly to Hammam Al-Alil transit/reception centre.

UNHCR rehabilitates unfinished houses in Kirkuk to respond to the needs of out-of-camp IDPs. The rehabilitation of 117 unfinished houses, accommodating 261 families from Hawiga district, is in progress, with work expected to be completed in mid-May.

UNHCR needs USD 212 million in 2017 to [continue providing](#) urgent protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management assistance to Iraqis displaced from Mosul

¹IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 17 October 2016.

²IOM-DTM as of 13 April 2017.