

IRAQ

2 November 2017

Key figures

1,021,212 IDPs in Ninewa (including as a result of the Mosul military operation)¹

113,616 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in Hawiga (Kirkuk) and Shirqat (Salah al-Din)²

64,968 IDPs currently displaced due to military operations in west Anbar²

709,000 people affected by Mosul operation including IDPs, returnees and members of the host community assisted by UNHCR since 17 October 2016.

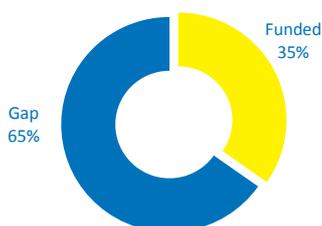
561,013 Individuals (117,990 households) currently enrolled in **ASSIST**, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool.

3.2 million IDPs since January 2014¹

262,758 Iraqi refugees hosted in neighbouring countries.

Funding

USD 578 million requested for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region in 2017



Situation update

Military operations aiming at retaking the last districts under armed opposition groups resumed in west Anbar, on 26 October, amid continued violence in disputed territories.

UNHCR is concerned with premature returns. In camps east of Mosul, the population has decreased by 14 per cent (6,000 people) this week alone. About 25 per cent of the returning families interviewed by UNHCR and its protection partner reported returning to disputed territories now under the Federal Government's control. Many families indicated that they hastened their return, fearing that they could be barred from returning to their villages later on. In Zummar (Ninewa Governorate), where 21,600 people (3,600 families) have reportedly returned last week, some families have not been to their villages for over three years, and had no information on the condition of their property, basic services available in the area, or livelihood opportunities, prior to returning.

Population movements

Displacement continues from areas which recently came under the Federal Government's control, in Kirkuk and Ninewa. An estimated 183,000 individuals have been displaced², mostly to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates, after Iraqi forces began moving into the disputed areas on 15 October 2017.

Close to 65,000 people² have been displaced following military operations in west Anbar since January, of which almost 19,000 individuals were displaced after 20 September. UNHCR and partners are providing essential assistance to newly displaced people. This week, 464 newly displaced families from west Anbar received essential household items in Khalidiya and Habania Tourist City camps near Falluja.

Response update

UNHCR started its winter assistance programme this week across Iraq. The programme will support vulnerable families, including refugees, IDPs, returnees and vulnerable families of the host community. The seasonal needs of about 600,000 people (around 100,000 families) will be addressed through cash assistance and/or the distribution of essential winter items, in camps and out of camps.

UNHCR is rolling out information dissemination points for returnees in Mosul. In partnership with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), UNHCR's protection monitoring partner started this week, informing IDPs and returnees visiting the MoMD offices in east and west Mosul on the rules and procedures for registration with MoMD. IDPs and returnees have to register their status/residence with MoMD in order to be able to claim the assistance provided by the Government. UNHCR's partner will also provide legal assistance to support IDPs and returnees, and work is ongoing to establish a referral system including wider protection services available through protection actors in Mosul.

The Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Information Centre (Iraq IIC) has handled over 118,000 calls since its creation in July 2015. With just over 10,000 calls handled in October, the call centre registers a 50 per cent increase in the number of calls received compared to September. Over 50 per cent of the calls originated from Ninewa in the past month, and cash and legal assistance were among the top concerns of callers. The Iraq IIC provides information on available humanitarian assistance and receives complaints and feedback from displaced families on the humanitarian response provided by aid agencies.