



IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

7 May 2017

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

The majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from west Mosul continue to move to east Mosul. IDPs from west Mosul are transferred by the government and the military to Hammam Al-Alil screening site, 20 km south of Mosul. They go through a last round of security clearance there, before moving onwards to camps or urban areas. Over 11,000 IDPs were transported by the Ministry of Transportation (MoT) from west Mosul to Hammam Al-Alil between 5 and 6 May. The bridges over the Tigris River have been closed since 3 May, and thus no bus transportation is provided by the government from Hammam Al-Alil to Gogachly, on the outskirts of east Mosul at present. Most IDPs hire private taxis to take them from the screening site to the river, which they cross by boat. They then hire taxis to take them to east Mosul once they reach the other bank. Some 230 IDPs chose to stay in Hammam Al-Alil transit site on 5 May and wait for space to become available in camps south of Mosul.

Returns are ongoing from camps east and northeast of Mosul, with 975 IDPs leaving camps between 3 and 4 May. Departing families were originally from both east and west Mosul. All were leaving for areas in and around east Mosul, where they intended to stay with relatives, in public buildings, or in rented accommodation. UNHCR and humanitarian partners are working closely with all relevant authorities to ensure requests for return submitted by IDPs are considered without undue delays and are voluntary, free and informed.

SITUATION UPDATE

Five years and billions of dollars needed to rebuild Mosul, according to the Iraqi government. On May 3, the Deputy Chairman of the Ninewa Provincial Council (NPC) announced that the Council has started to formulate reconstruction plans, including a two-year reconstruction phase focusing on restoring electricity, running water, and infrastructure; supporting return of IDPs; and a reconciliation process. This phase would be followed by a 30-month period focused on investment and development. NPC representatives reported that efforts to reconstruct Mosul will require several billion dollars over a period of at least five years to complete. Thus far, Ninewa Governorate has been allocated USD \$44.5 million by the Government of Iraq to implement the two-year reconstruction plan, according to government [representatives](#).

RESPONSE UPDATE

In 2017 to date, UNHCR and its protection partner have interviewed over 1,000 displaced families from east and west Mosul departing from camps and 200 returnee families in their place of return, in east Mosul. The lack of livelihood opportunities in the camps, closely related to the lack of freedom of movement, and the hot temperatures experienced inside the tents, with no access to cooling devices and unreliable electricity, were frequently mentioned by IDPs as reasons they applied to leave camps. Families also mentioned that their decision was influenced by their communications with relatives in east Mosul, who report that the general situation in terms of services is slowly improving.

UNHCR and humanitarian partners have successfully reached out to private donors to provide wheelchairs to IDPs with mobility issues in camps northeast of Mosul. While basic health services are available at no cost in camps, IDPs suffering from physical or mental health issues which cannot be treated in the camps are referred to local hospitals. Lack of income opportunities for IDPs confined in camps east and northeast of Mosul prevents families from being able to afford related hospital fees, and thus from accessing a number of medical services.

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

KEY FIGURES

363,228

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

51,663

core relief item (CRI) kits distributed to families in camps, assisting some 304,800 IDPs from Mosul and surrounding areas

11,513 family plots

currently occupied out of 18,736 family plots (for some 106,000 people) in UNHCR built camps ready to receive IDPs displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas

3 million

IDPs since January 2014²

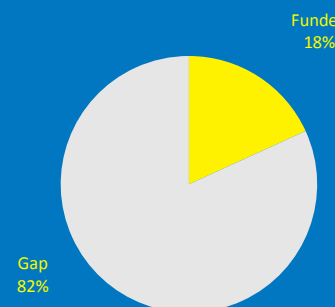
253,992 Iraqi refugees

hosted in countries in the region, and **15,728** 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



¹IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 17 October 2016.

²IOM-DTM as of 13 April 2017.

³IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 1 August 2016.