IRAQ SITUATION
UNHCR FLASH UPDATE
13 June 2017

KEY FIGURES

411,600 Internally displaced Iraqis verified as being currently displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas since military operations to retake the city began on 17 October 2016.

529,000 IDPs, returnees and members of the host community from Mosul and surrounding areas assisted by UNHCR since 17 October 2016.

176,160 Individuals (36,640 households) impacted by military operations to retake Mosul since October 2016 are currently enrolled in ASSIST, UNHCR’s assistance tracking tool.

3 million IDPs since January 2014.

253,992 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, and 19,968 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

USD 126 million are urgently required to meet critical needs of vulnerable children, women and men displaced from, and returning to, Mosul, until the end of the year.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Displacement from west Mosul and surrounding districts has significantly slowed in the past days, with 2,000-4,000 persons fleeing daily, between 11 and 13 June. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) transit through either Hammam Al-Alil screening site, 20 kilometres south of Mosul, or Mosul Woods screening site, in east Mosul. Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have reportedly also transported some IDPs from retaken areas in west Mosul directly to east Mosul using a floating bridge recently installed on the Tigris river.

About 14,000 IDPs have fled Ba’aj district, near the Syrian border since 5 June, according to the Government. The majority of the displaced families have relocated to camps south of Mosul with some 8,000 IDPs registered at Al-Salamiyah 2 camp while 5,500 have been registered at the Jad’ah camps, mostly at the newly opened Jad’ah 6 camp, built by the Government.

SITUATION UPDATE

ISF continue to progress towards the Old City in Mosul. After retaking Zanjili neighbourhood, ISF has reportedly retaken parts of Al Shifa, one of the last neighbourhoods still under extremist groups’ control, beside the Old City. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced on 10 June that operations to retake Hawiga and Tel Afar districts would start soon after Mosul is retaken. The town of Tel Afar, which lies between Mount Sinjar and Mosul, is considered as one the last extremist group strongholds, together with Hawiga in Kirkuk Governorate. Close to 98,000 IDPs have fled Hawiga since August 2016, while 44,000 persons are estimated to remain in the district. Displacement from Tel Afar continues with over 400 IDPs reportedly fleeing to south Zummar, in government-controlled areas north of Mosul, between 9 and 11 June.

Improvised explosives and mines remain a persistent danger in all areas vacated by extremist groups. The situation is reportedly particularly dire in Ba’aj, which was recently retaken by a government-affiliated armed force. The district of Ba’aj, which was long under extremist groups’ control, reportedly remains one of the most contaminated parts of Iraq. More than 900 booby traps and mines were reportedly defused in the past few days in Ba’aj.

RESPONSE UPDATE

Families stranded in Tel Afar for over three months were allowed to cross in government-controlled areas. Following persistent advocacy by humanitarian partners, IDP families who had been stranded in Fadhilya, west of Tel Afar town, for the past three months, have been able to leave and move into safer areas. About 20 families were transferred to Hammam Al-Alil screening site, then moved onwards to urban areas, mostly in east Mosul. A few families opted to remain in Fadhilya to look after their livestock.

As temperatures rise, UNHCR is providing 35,000 plastic sheets to displaced families sheltered in camps around Mosul. The sheeting will provide a shaded area just outside the tent, as part of the Shelter/NFI cluster’s planning for summer. The distribution is almost complete in camps east of Mosul, which currently accommodate close to 72,000 IDPs. Camps managed by UNHCR south of Mosul, where close to 44,000 IDPs are currently sheltered, will be covered next week.

Of UNHCR’s overall funding requirements to continue providing protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management assistance to IDPs, USD 126 million are urgently required to meet critical needs of vulnerable children, women and men displaced from, and returning to, Mosul, until the end of the year.