

IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

21 July 2017

KEY FIGURES

846,252

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

571,000

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

259,061

Individuals (53,558 households) impacted by military operations to retake Mosul since October 2016 are currently enrolled in

ASSIST, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool

3.3 million

IDPs since January 2014²

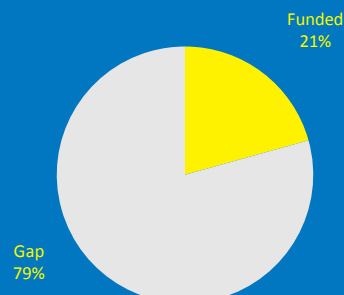
257,476 Iraqi refugees

hosted in countries in the region, and **21,370** 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 30 June 2017.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Fewer than 600 individuals reportedly fled west Mosul between 13 and 20 July. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) however, continue to arrive in camps east and south of Mosul in small numbers. Most new arrivals are from west Mosul, having first moved to east Mosul where they were hosted by relatives, lived in unfinished buildings, or rented accommodation. The lack of livelihood opportunities, combined with rising rents, is pushing a steady number of IDPs to move to nearby camps east of Mosul. Close to 2,000 IDPs arrived to camps east of Mosul between 12 and 18 July, most of them originally from west Mosul and a few families from Tel Afar, west of Mosul, where clashes with extremist armed groups are ongoing. Of the estimated 846,000 IDPs¹ currently displaced by the Mosul military operations which began in October 2016, 319,000 (38%) live in camps around Mosul.

SITUATION UPDATE

After two weeks of clashes, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) retake [Imam Gharbi](#), a village located a few kilometres from a large cluster of IDPs camps, 70 km south of Mosul district. The village had been originally liberated by ISF in late 2016 but then retaken by armed extremist groups on 5 July. It is located five kilometres from Jad'ah town and Jad'ah and Qayyarah Airstrip camps, where some 125,000 IDPs are sheltered. Despite ISF retaking and securing large areas formerly under extremist groups' control, the security situation in and around Mosul remains volatile, which continues to impact humanitarian assistance and access to populations nearby.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi reaffirms the government's determination to restore judiciary functionality across Iraq, and to hold all perpetrators of human rights violations accountable. In his weekly press conference on 18 July the Prime Minister acknowledged human rights violations by some ISF members during the liberation of Mosul, emphasizing that these were "individual acts" for which the perpetrators would be held accountable. He further stated that his government was "against collective punishment", clarifying that families should not be held accountable for their relatives' crimes.

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR cooperates closely with local authorities to address [missing civil identification documents](#) (IDs), one of the key obstacles to IDP return and/or reintegration. Around 22 per cent of families monitored by UNHCR protection partners in the Mosul corridor are missing civil documentation. UNHCR estimates that the average family displaced from Mosul is missing two to three key documents. Some were lost or stolen during the war, never existed, or were issued by armed groups so are not valid. In Iraq, the absence of key documents can prevent IDPs from passing checkpoints and accessing public services, including being able to enrol children in school. In five camps alone – currently home to more than 70,000 IDPs near the town of Khazer, east of Mosul – UNHCR's protection partner has identified as many as 31,481 missing documents. After UNHCR advocacy, a [mobile court](#) now visits those camps every week to issue or reissue legal documents. In addition, UNHCR partners provide legal assistance and, through power of attorney, are able to issue some key documents. Over 17,000 legal consultations have been provided, free of charge, by UNHCR's legal partner in these five camps since November 2016.

Of UNHCR's overall funding requirements of USD 212 million in 2017 to provide protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management assistance to IDPs in Mosul, [USD 126 million are urgently required](#) to meet critical needs of vulnerable children, women and men displaced from and returning to Mosul.