



IRAQ SITUATION

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

23 May 2017

KEY FIGURES

374,064

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

487,000

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

13,125 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

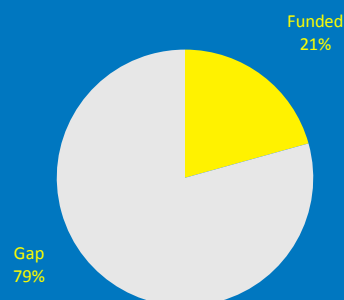
IDPs since January 2014²

253,992 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, and **17,063** 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.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

Over 46,000 persons reportedly fled west Mosul between 19 and 23 May. Most new arrivals come from northwest Mosul where fighting is ongoing between the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and extremist groups. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are transferred to Hammam Al-Alil screening site, 20 kilometres south of Mosul, where they undergo security clearance before moving onwards to camps or urban areas. The majority of IDPs continue to move to east Mosul where they stay with relatives, in rented accommodation, or in unfinished buildings.

SITUATION UPDATE

As the military operations to retake [Mosul](#) progress, the international community should focus on working towards post-conflict security and reconstruction, said the [United Nations Envoy for Iraq, Jan Kubis](#), in a statement to the UN Security Council on 22 May. Mr Kubiš expressed continuing concern at the delay in returning displaced residents to areas liberated long ago and at many hundreds of alleged disappearances that remain unresolved, saying these and other issues can undermine efforts towards national reconciliation and a political settlement in Iraq. He also stressed that the imminent defeat of armed opposition groups must also provide an urgent impetus to address the needs of minorities, especially their ability to return to their homes.

RESPONSE UPDATE

UNHCR and partners open new camp today for up to 11,000 IDPs. Al Salamiyah camp was built by the Iraqi government's Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) and handed over to UNHCR and its partners for upgrading work, including fencing, installation of electricity and the improvement of water and sanitation facilities. Close to 1,700 new arrivals (321 families) were registered today (23 May). Each family received a tent and essential household items such as mattresses, blankets, a kitchen set, a cooking stove, plastic sheeting and water and kerosene jerry cans. Since October 2016, UNHCR has built 10 camps for up to 112,000 IDPs in order to respond to the large-scale displacement from Mosul and surrounding areas.

Camps built by the Government and humanitarian partners around Mosul are ready to immediately shelter up to 63,000 IDPs. Construction is ongoing in Al Salamiyah camp, for an additional 60,000 IDPs, including space for 30,000 new arrivals by early June. Additional land has been prepared nearby in order to expedite construction to shelter another 30,000 IDPs in the camp, in case of influx. According to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster, some 326,230 people (62,811 families) are currently being sheltered in camps and emergency sites, with the remainder in host communities and informal sites.

Close to 600 IDPs from Tel Afar who were stranded northwest of Mosul allowed passage to Hammam Al-Alil today (23 May). Humanitarian partners worked closely with authorities to ensure that 585 IDPs who had been stranded in southern Zummar, north of Mosul, were transferred to Hammam Al-Alil screening site and allowed to move onwards after undergoing security clearance there. Essential assistance such as food and water was provided to the families by partners on the ground. About 175 IDPs remain stranded near the frontline in Tel Afar district, where humanitarian partners do not have access. UNHCR and partners are advocating with all relevant authorities for those families to be able to access safety.

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