

IRAQ

07 October 2017

Key figures

816,882 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

709,000 IDPs, returnees and members of the host community from Mosul and surrounding areas assisted by UNHCR since 17 October 2016.

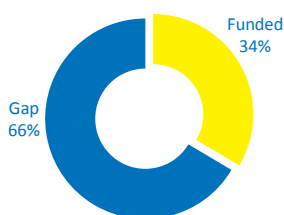
378,829 Individuals (80,482 households) impacted by military operations to retake Mosul since October 2016 are currently enrolled in **ASSIST**, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool,

3.2 million IDPs since January 2014²

262,758 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, and 26,462 Iraqis received in camps in Hassakeh, 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 August 2017.

Situation update

Two weeks into the military operations aiming at retaking Hawiga district, the Iraqi Security Forces have reportedly retaken Hawiga city. Pockets of resistance remain in the city and the district, and clashes are ongoing.

In northwest Anbar, Iraqi security forces are reportedly preparing for operations to retake the remaining extremist-controlled cities and districts of Rawa and Al-Ka'im.

It is expected that an additional 50,000 people will be displaced as a result of military operations in the coming months.

Violence and forms of collective punishment targeted against families are escalating in east Shirqat and Al Zab sub-district, which were recently retaken. At least 58 families were evicted from their houses since 29 September. In addition, over 600 houses were torched by tribal fighters and other elements. Many families have reportedly fled the areas, in particular Al Zab, to Haj Ali IDP camp in Erbil Governorate, 75 kilometres north of Al Zab.

Population movements

Over 33,000 IDPs have fled Hawiga since the beginning of military operations on 21 September. Of them, close to 18,000 have returned to their areas of origin, mainly villages in the district. Displacement is ongoing and 1,300 IDPs were transferred to Hammam Al-Alil transit site on 4 October while several thousand or IDPs are expected to arrive in the coming days. Close to 118,000 IDPs have fled Hawiga since August 2016, with almost 54,000 IDPs displaced to Salah al-Din and 47,000 IDPs displaced to Kirkuk.

Mass returns from camps located in areas managed by the Kurdish Regional Government have resumed across camps between 27 September and 3 October. Between 2 and 3 October, over 3,500 IDPs departed these camps to return to Mosul and surrounding districts. Families continue to register en masse for return, reportedly outpacing the capacity of the authorities in charge of processing their applications. UNHCR interviewed departing families, who mentioned a variety of reasons for returning, including restored services in Mosul, checking and regaining properties, resuming government employment, and enrolling children in schools, as the school year is just starting. Lack of medical services and livelihood opportunities in the camps were also mentioned as push factors. The majority of returning families are of Arab ethnicity and wish to return to neighbourhoods in east and west Mosul, and surrounding villages.

Response update

Humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance to IDPs fleeing Hawiga, at transit sites in Kirkuk and in camps. Over 10,000 plots are currently occupied hosting 60,000 IDPs in camps built by the government and humanitarian partners in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates, with a further 12,000 plots available. UNHCR field team visited Dibis, Topzawa and Maktab Khaled transit sites, and as lead of the Shelter/NFI cluster, mobilized partners' assistance. IDPs were provided baby kits, dignity kits, mattresses, and blankets, while big tents were installed in Topzawa to provide temporary shelter.

More than 70,000 IDPs (11,923 families) are currently sheltered in camps in Anbar Governorate. There is space to immediately accommodate up to an additional 24,000 IDPs. UNHCR continues to distribute essential household items and tents to new arrivals. Significant protection issues prevail in Anbar and Salah al-Din.

Close to 23,000 households (an estimated 138,000 people) in need of shelter assistance were assessed in Mosul in the past two months. Vulnerable families (returnees, IDPs, or families who stayed in Mosul throughout the conflict) received emergency shelter kits or sealing-off kits to be able to immediately proceed to basic repairs in their accommodation.