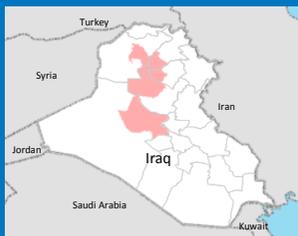




FUNDING

UNHCR's appeal of
USD 584 million
for IDPs and Iraqi
refugees in the region
is **41% funded**

Of this, UNHCR
requires
USD 196.2 million
for the Mosul
emergency response,
with these needs
48% committed



IRAQ SITUATION FLASH UPDATE

18 October 2016

SITUATION UPDATE

- **Joint offensive on-going to retake Mosul city:** The offensive is reportedly moving quickly and apparently ahead of schedule. Some twenty villages were reportedly retaken by military forces during the first 24 hours of the offensive, most of them uninhabited, some since 2014.
- **Siege tightens in Hawiga:** The district of Hawiga, one of the largest in Kirkuk Governorate still under extremist groups' control, has been under siege since June 2016. Starting in September, troops have been gathering on all fronts in preparation to retake it. Heavy shelling has reportedly intensified on extremist groups' positions over the past week and all federal police elements have been asked by the Prime Minister to discontinue their leave and immediately deploy to Hawiga.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- **First displacement of civilians has been reported due to fighting in the Mosul offensive:** Following clashes between Iraqi Security Forces and extremist groups in Hawd some 500 persons fled the recently retaken village of Hawd, just south of Mosul district. They are now sheltered in Qayyarah, in a public building.
- **IDPs continue to flee extremist-controlled area in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din Governorates:** 17,108 families (over 102,000 persons) have fled Salah al-Din and Kirkuk governorate since June. The vast majority of recent IDPs are from Hawiga. Over 31,000 of these people have already been displaced since August. Most of the families stay in Kirkuk Governorate in the three UNHCR camps: Daquq, Laylan and Nazrawa, while others are sheltered in Debaga camp and in urban areas in Salah al-Din.
- **Iraqis arrive to Syria:** over 900 Iraqis have reportedly arrived in Al Hol camp in Syria's north-eastern Hassakeh province over the last 24 hours.

UNHCR RESPONSE

- **UNHCR High Commissioner stresses need of increased funding for Mosul:** Speaking to the media during his four-day visit to Baghdad and Erbil, the High Commissioner emphasized that the protection of civilians is the most important element of Mosul operation. He urged states to increase funding for the emergency. Out of UNHCR's response budget of USD 196.2 million, 48 per cent, or USD 95 million, has been funded so far.
- **As part of UNHCR's response to the Mosul emergency,** UNHCR has three camps open and 21,800 tents in place, sufficient to cover the needs of 130,800 people in UNHCR and partners sites. UNHCR also has 64 collective tents (rubb-halls) ready to be deployed to provide immediate shelter to some 13,000 IDPs in case of massive influx. Ten mobile protection teams have been hired and are trained to be deployed in Ninewa, when and where there is a need.
- **Anticipating displacement from Hawiga, UNHCR is also prepositioning assistance:** 6,750 tents and 7,000 first assistance kits are already in place in Kirkuk and Salah al-Din to cover the needs of some 42,000 persons. Tents can be pitched in 24 hours. Protection capacity has been expanded with additional staff and lawyers on stand-by if required.
- **UNHCR preparedness in Hassakeh, Syria:** UNHCR has contingency plans in place in Syria to receive up to 90,000 Iraqi refugees. Reception and screening capacity is being reinforced and a location which previously hosted Iraqis during the 2007 Iraqi conflict is being readied to accommodate another wave of Iraqi refugees. UNHCR is coordinating the Iraqi refugee response in Syria since 2007; there are currently some 26,000 Iraqi refugees in Syria, many of whom have been in exile for more than ten years.