



## IRAQ SITUATION

### UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

22 June 2017

#### KEY FIGURES

**432,726**

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<sup>1</sup>

**520,000**

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

**234,488**

Individuals (47,859 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<sup>2</sup>

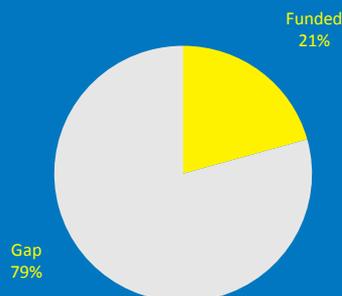
**253,992** Iraqi refugees

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



<sup>1</sup>IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 17 October 2016.

<sup>2</sup>IOM-DTM as of 13 April 2017.

<sup>3</sup>IOM-DTM Emergency Tracking since 25 February 2017.

#### POPULATION MOVEMENTS

**Families continue to flee west Mosul amidst violence.** About 20,000 persons reportedly fled Mosul and surrounding areas between 14 and 21 June. Most come from the Old City, where fighting is reportedly ongoing. On 21 June, UNHCR's protection partner reports witnessing a large number of new arrivals with visible injuries at the main screening site near Mosul Woods in east Mosul where most of the new arrivals (12,000) are transferred. Two ambulances offered by the Government are pre-positioned on-site to support the referral of patients who require specialized care. On 21 June, these two ambulances' were not sufficient to respond to the sudden increase in the number of urgent referrals for transfer to nearby hospitals.

**The Government estimates that over 875,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled Mosul since October 2016.** Close to 194,000<sup>1</sup> have returned to their places of origin in and around Mosul. Efforts are ongoing to ascertain the location of all IDPs who remain in displacement: 432,000 have been verified as still displaced<sup>1</sup>, with 84 per cent in camps around Mosul.

#### SITUATION UPDATE

**Extremists destroy the Al Nuri Mosque.** With fighting intensifying around the Old City, extremist armed groups reportedly used explosives to [destroy the Al Nuri Grand Mosque](#) and its leaning minaret. The mosque, has long been associated with the city of Mosul and its recapture was awaited by many.

**Eligibility for return or relocation to Mosul reportedly limited.** The Mosul City Council announced in a statement reported by media on 20 June that families who relocated to Mosul after June 2014, when the city came under extremist groups' control, will be expected to return to their places of origin unless their homes have been destroyed. The Council also stated that displaced families of suspected members of extremist groups wishing to relocate to Mosul will not be allowed to enter the city.

#### RESPONSE UPDATE

**Humanitarian partners concerned about the deteriorating protection environment for families of suspected members of extremist groups.** The announcement by Mosul City Council echoes recent evictions and eviction threats reported in Shirqat, 100 kilometres south of Mosul, where between 19 and 20 June, fifteen displaced families have reportedly been evicted and forcibly relocated to Al Shahama camp in Salah al-Din. Similarly, around 500 families received eviction notifications in Qayyarah, 60 kilometres south of Mosul, with 100 families reportedly leaving the area. Some of the eviction notifications were later withdrawn. Humanitarian partners are monitoring the situation closely and advocating with authorities at the highest level for displaced families to be allowed access to safety and due process of law.

**The camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) cluster is rolling out a camp exit questionnaire to better inform humanitarian partners' response in areas of return.** Interviews are to be undertaken with every family leaving the camps around Mosul, where over 320,000 IDPs are currently sheltered. Weekly trends will be shared by the cluster with all humanitarian partners in order to ensure that main areas of return are identified and assistance planned accordingly.

**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.**