

IRAQ

23 August 2017

Key figures

841,290 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

598,000 IDPs, returnees and members of the host community from Mosul and surrounding areas assisted by UNHCR since 17 October 2016.

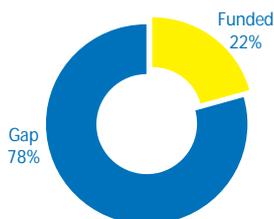
327,337 Individuals (68,280 households) impacted by military operations to retake Mosul since October 2016 are currently enrolled in **ASSIST**, UNHCR's assistance tracking tool

3.3 million IDPs since January 2014²

257,476 Iraqi refugees hosted in countries in the region, and 22,534 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 July 2017.

Situation update

On 20 August, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi **announced** that Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) launched an offensive to take back the city of Telafar, about 65 kilometres north-west of Mosul. Telafar city, which fell under the control of extremist groups in 2014, had an estimated pre-conflict population of around 200,000 people. Waves of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled the district since 2014. Since April this year, more than 30,000 people fled Telafar, many are now living in camps around Mosul, along with displaced families from Ninewa Governorate. The United Nations estimates that up to 40,000 civilians remain in Telafar and surrounding villages.

Population movements

Sharp decrease in new arrivals from Telafar observed at Hammam Al-Ailil screening site, following the ground offensive launched on 20 August. IDPs fleeing Telafar district are redirected by the military to Hammam Al-Ailil, 20 kilometres south of Mosul, where they undergo security clearance before moving onwards to camps or urban areas. According to the Government, around 18,000 IDPs, an average of 1,000 IDPs a day, have fled the district between 1 and 18 August, mostly from villages. Between 19 and 22 August, an average of 400 IDPs have arrived at the screening site daily, according to local authorities. Displacement is expected to increase significantly as ISF moves closer to the capital of the district.

IDPs who manage to flee Telafar have done so at great personal risk. New arrivals report walking at times up to 20 hours, in scorching heat and without food or water, to reach safety. Many have suffered injuries, reportedly from sniper fire or exploding mines. They mention that conditions in Telafar are very difficult, with food and water running out, lack of electricity and diminishing health facilities. IDPs report that some families have been surviving on unclean water and bread for the past three to four months. Humanitarian agencies have been unable to access Telafar since 2014.

Response update

The humanitarian community is working closely with the Government to help provide emergency assistance to IDPs fleeing Telafar. The Government is leading the humanitarian operation, providing transport and aid, while humanitarian partners are providing life-saving assistance at mustering points and in emergency sites and camps around Mosul. UNHCR protection partners are present at the mustering sites, where they have been identifying and referring cases in need of specific assistance, such as unaccompanied and separated children. In the past week alone at Hammam Al-Ailil transit centre, near the screening site, UNHCR partners have provided overnight shelter and assistance to 1,500 families (an estimated 9,000 individuals).

Camp absorption capacity in south of Mosul is shrinking and UNHCR is working at rehabilitating existing camps and building new plots. UNHCR in coordination with humanitarian partners, confirmed its availability to upgrade and rehabilitate Nimrud camp which was built by the Government, and has capacity to shelter up to 21,600 IDPs (3,600 plots). UNHCR is also building an additional 2,500 plots in Al Salamiyah camp, five kilometres from Hammam Al-Ailil screening site.

Camps north and east of Mosul have capacity to immediately receive up to 14,000 IDPs. Although around 150 families from Telafar (approximately 900 people) are currently sheltered in UNHCR camps east of Mosul, UNHCR and humanitarian partners remain concerned about reports that some IDPs from Telafar are denied access to safety in locations that have capacity to absorb them. Humanitarian partners are advocating at all levels for IDPs to be able to access to safety and have freedom of movement. **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.**