

# Mosul Neighborhood Snapshot: Al Qahira

## March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017



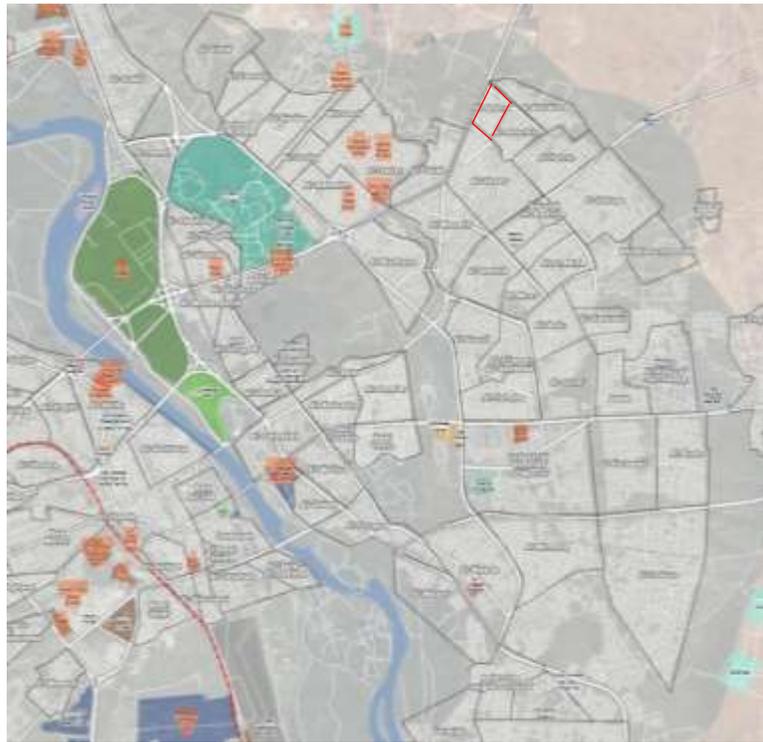
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This report was written by ACTED's AME Unit to provide a snapshot of humanitarian needs and conditions in neighborhoods around Mosul. Data was collected via Key Informant and Observational tools by PIN on Feb 19th

## Highlights

- While markets and shops are functional, due to a lack of cash in households, very high unemployment, and a lack of available jobs, purchasing power is low/poor and **food** is listed as a top priority need of residents.
- **WASH** needs are deemed one of the top priorities by informants, with a lack of access to clean drinking water for the neighborhood's residents.
- Informants note that access to **electricity** is one of the top priorities, with the current electrical network destroyed.
- Informants report that some food, education and drinking water assistance is being provided by a Kuwaiti Organization as well as UNICEF and WFP. However these services are only covering a few of the needs of about a quarter of the residents.



Map of Southeastern Mosul City, Al Qahira Neighborhood  
Courtesy of REACH

## Situation Overview

The city of Mosul in northern Iraq has been under ISIS control since June 2014, this period has been characterized by repression and human rights abuses. As the last remaining ISIS stronghold in Iraq, the battle to retake Mosul began in October 2016 and Iraqi Security Forces and their allies have now successfully regained control of the section of the city east of the Tigris River. While military operations to regain control of the western portion of the city continue, humanitarian space in the eastern part of Mosul city is now opening up and there is access to provide humanitarian relief. With much of the city's inhabitants having remained in the

### Neighborhood Needs Snapshot



city during the battle or now returning, the provision of key services is vital to maintaining living standards, preventing the outbreak of disease and assisting on the path to recovery.

With active conflict continuing only 8km to the west, informants noted that there is still a fear of a resurgence of armed conflict within the neighborhood. The neighborhood has been reported to be decontaminated from UXOs and IEDs.

**Local Leadership:** Most Informants did not identify a local leadership structure at the time of data collection. However, one informant explained that the Iraqi Military was acting as the leadership for the time being in the neighborhood.

### Demographics, Migration and Intentions

The neighborhood of Al Qahira is made up of around 17,000 residents, with the vast majority (88%) being Host Community members who stayed throughout the IS control. The remaining 12% is composed of 11% returnees who began arriving in mid-December, less than 1% of new IDPs who arrived in November 2016 from other neighborhoods throughout Mosul City, and less than 1% of Old IDPs who arrived before East Mosul was retaken. The make-up of the residents of this neighborhood is Sunni Arab, Sunni Kurd, Sunni Turkmen and Sunni Shabaks.

Informants report that those who travel from their area of origin to this neighborhood generally travel via private car, or by foot, travelling through a checkpoint set up by the local police.

Short and long term stay intentions for both the Host Community and Returnees is to stay in the neighborhood, as although they somewhat fear a resurgence of the conflict, they also feel relatively safe in their homes. For new IDPs, the short term intention is to stay in the neighborhood and long term intention is move back to their original area. Old IDPs short term intention is to remain in Al Qahira and to return to their area of origin in the longer term.

## Humanitarian Needs

### Shelter

- Host Community/Stayees and returnees are residing in their own houses or renting houses despite these structures experiencing significant structural damage. They are sharing these spaces with other Host community and returnee families.
- Old IDPs are also residing in their own houses, renting or living in unfinished structures. They are not reported to be sharing their shelter with other families.
- New IDPs are residing in rented houses, unfinished buildings, or being hosted by other community members, with some new IDP families sharing the same shelter.

### Early Recovery

- It was reported by informants that around 10% of houses/buildings in the neighborhood had been destroyed, 6% more sustained heavy damage, with the rest, 84%, having received minor damage or no damage.

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### Neighborhood Needs Snapshot

- Specific damage reported to houses: broken windows (90%), broken doors (50%), plumbing damage (40%), cracked walls/floors (40%), and destroyed roofs (10%).
- It was additionally reported that about 70% of households would require a great amount of outside help to help with repairs and rebuilding.

## NFI Non-Food Items

- There is a lack of available and sufficient NFIs within the neighborhood such as cooking sets, cooking gas/kerosene, stoves, household items, clothes etc. especially among IDPs.
- There is a lack of available winterization NFIs such as heating fuel, blankets, insulation materials etc.
- The majority of households are reported to have access to fuel and/or kerosene.

## Food Security

- Informants reported that all families and households' access to staple foods is very limited due to poor purchasing power.
- Household food stocks were said to be able to last, on average, **2.5 days**.

**2.5 days**  
Household food stocks will last  
in Al Qahira

## Health

- It is reported that a significant portion of neighborhood residents have serious medical conditions or diseases, in addition to those who have been physically injured or wounded during the battle or during displacement/return. Furthermore there is a high prevalence of people suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress).
- Informants report that there is limited access within Al Qahira to healthcare services.

## Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

- There is severely limited access to clean water with the primary water source being **unprotected boreholes** followed by **sealed bottles**.
- There is a semi-functional sewage system as well as some evidence of black water but no evidence of open defecation.
- There is no solid waste management system, but some garbage is evident in the street.
- The majority of residents have access to bathing facilities, which do offer privacy and safety for women, however there is insufficient access to basic hygiene products (soap, toothbrush, washing powder).
- A high prevalence of water borne diseases (e.g. diarrhea) was reported by informants.

## Protection

- The neighborhood is host to particularly vulnerable people including: Female-headed households, Persons with serious medical conditions, Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly.
- Informants reported that there is limited evidence of unaccompanied and separated children within the neighborhood, but one informant reported violence against children within the community in the form of physical abuse and child labor.

- There are no safe spaces for children and youth to learn and play (CFS/YFS).
- Reports stated that there are a large number of children who are suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress), with no access to psychological support and case management services.

## Education

- For the approximately 3,000 reported school aged children (6-13yrs) in the neighborhood, nearly all over them (90-100%) are either attending school or registered to attend the 3 primary schools in the neighborhood, all of which are reported to be functioning.
- There are 2 school shifts in both schools and approximately 110 teachers in each school.
- Stationary and school renovations are the primary need in schools, followed by water for drinking, hygiene related items and furniture.
- There is 1 secondary school in the neighborhood and it is functioning, it works in 1 shift and has about 35 teachers.
- Renovations to the building, books and stationary are the primary needs in secondary schools followed by furniture and drinking water.

## Emergency Telecommunications

- The electricity network within the neighborhood was destroyed.
- Informants noted that all residents have access to mobile phones, as well as TVs, radios and the Internet.

## Livelihoods

- Residents have no cash or savings with them in their homes but they do have limited access to formal Hawala/money agents and access to informal money transfer systems.
- Respondents consider the purchasing power within the neighborhood as being **low/poor**.
- There are a variety of shops and markets open (General grocers, Veg/Fruit stalls, tool shops, Butcher, Tailor, Bakery, fast food, hair dresser, medicine shop, Mobile shop, clothes shops, kerosene shops, household items, Water shop) and they are generally sufficient to meet the basic needs of the community.
- Unemployment is extremely high throughout, around 90%, due to a lack of job opportunities, with only around 10% of the neighborhood employed mainly as daily workers or shopkeepers.
- Average wage for manual labor in the market or in the construction sector was reported as being around 10,000 Dinars per day. The average wage for skilled labor (e.g. plumber or bricklayer) was reported as being around 15,000 dinar per day.
- The current coping strategies by residents, as well as future coping strategies, to garner some source of income for their household includes: the sale of non-productive assets, such as TVs, furniture, personal belongings etc., the sale of productive assets, eating less desirable foods, searching for a job, relying on humanitarian aid, leaving school, reducing health care spending, reducing spending on food, limiting food consumption by adults, having children enter the work force, migrating in an attempt to find work and relying on remittances.

**90%**  
Unemployment rate within  
Al Qahira