HIGHLIGHTS: New displacement out of recently retaken areas continued to decline this week while secondary displacement from east Mosul of families originally from west Mosul and Telafar also declined. Conversely, returns from camps located in the east and north east of Mosul increased. Collective punishment and movement restriction on recently displaced families persist despite advocacy efforts by humanitarian actors.

KEY FIGURES:

**Affected Population***

1.5 million people expected to be impacted in Mosul and surrounding areas

823,470 people currently displaced

**Governorate of displacement**

- Sulaymaniyyah: 0.08%
- Babylon: 0.02%
- Erbil: 1.97%
- Anbar: 0.06%
- Salah al-Din: 0.79%
- Baghdad: 1.58%
- Ninewa: 95.4%

**Return Population**

272,010 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date

**Protection Monitoring**

- 47,937 families assessed
- 226,503 individuals
- 62,522
- 64,442
- 53,110
- 46,429
- 30% of families in poor shelter
- 1,264 unaccompanied or separated children
- 29% of families missing civil documentation
- 4,688 families referred for cash assistance

*Protection monitoring information includes data from the broader Mosul Corridor covering Erbil, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk Governorates since March 2016

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Displacement trends

The security situation in parts of west Ninewa Governorate remains precarious as intermittent clashes between Iraqi security forces, popular mobilisation units (PMUs) and armed extremists continue. This week, PMUs reported that clashes occurred in Kairouan area, west of Mosul, where a secret tunnel containing weapons and ammunition belonging to extremists was found. In a separate incident eight people were killed and 16 others, including women and children, were injured after an explosion in Majarini village, 20 kilometres west of Mosul. Further clashes occurred in Salhiya, Al-Tharthar district,_telafar, 90 kilometres south of Mosul and in Abu Yaseen, Thara al-Karah, Wadi al-Tharthar and Al-Khbara villages west of Mosul city. Thirty-three individuals arrived to Hammam Al-Allî, the majority of whom were women and children fleeing from Ayadiya in Telafar district earlier in the week. This is a significant decrease compared with 134 new arrivals from Telafar last week.

Similarly, secondary displacement from Mosul was significantly lower this week, with 84 individuals from east and west Mosul arriving to east Mosul camps compared to 994 individuals last week. This represents the lowest number of new arrivals recorded since the opening of the camps in the fall of 2016. UNHCR received reports from IDPs that they were prevented from crossing Hamdaniya checkpoint, east of Mosul. Follow up with the Eribil Joint Crisis Coordination Committee (EJCCC) confirmed that the Kurdish security authorities have decided to deny access to territories controlled by the Kurdistan Regional Government to IDPs crossing through the Hamdaniya checkpoint, east of Mosul, until after the 25 September referendum on independence for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). The authorities stated that only extremely vulnerable IDPs and family reunification cases will be allowed to cross the checkpoint. Those who managed to cross and arrive to camps in east of Mosul reported the lack of basic services such as drinking water, electricity, and health care, unemployment or lack of income and destroyed homes in their areas of origin or previous displacement as the main reason for them leaving. Sixty per cent of the arrivals also have relatives in the camp.

North east of Mosul, eight families, comprising 36 individuals, arrived to Nargizlia camps. Two of these families were from Abu Maria and Mzra’a in Telafar, in northwest Ninewa. The two families had fled their areas of origin in August. They had been displaced to Mosul where they were renting accommodation until the lack of livelihood opportunities forced them to Nargizlia. Unlike previous weeks, families did not report of being turned away from Nargizlia Reception Centre this week.

Movement restrictions

UNHCR and other protection partners continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the non-Iraqi mainly women and children who fled Telafar on 31 August until the morning of 17 September when military actors transported 1,460 of them to a detention facility in Telkaif, 12 kilometres north east of Mosul city. UNHCR established contact with the authorities in Telkaif who reported that the facility could only accommodate 500 persons and was reportedly very basic with insufficient access to water, hygiene and sanitation facilities. In addition, the families are in need of non-food items. According to one protection actor at Telkaif, many of the women and children are out in the open courtyard without shelter or protection from the elements. Urgent assistance and monitoring is being provided to these families while UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continue to advocate for the individuals to be afforded humanitarian assistance and protection.

In addition, a group of about 300 IDPs from Telafar, who arrived to Hammam Al-Allî Transit site at the same time, remains at the site under strict movement restrictions. UNHCR and other protection actors continue to monitor the situation and provide humanitarian assistance such as food, drinking water, healthcare, blankets, mattresses, hygiene items, and protection services while advocating for freedom of movement and for them to be relocated to camps.

Collective punishment

Camp management and protection actors working in displacement camps located south of Mosul report that National Security officials have requested lists of families who have fled or been forcibly evicted from recently retaken areas. According to the National Security actors, the directive emanates from Baghdad and is being applied in the entire country. These families are already vulnerable and are reportedly at risk of evictions and threatened evictions in parts of west Mosul, resulting in many being pushed towards IDP camps where security actors allegedly conduct frequent random searches and arbitrary detention of family members. In some instances families have reported being extorted. Camp authorities have shared the protection concerns related to such a request and to the targeting of civilians, noting that they have previously been cleared by multiple security actors through security screening. These serious concerns have also been flagged with relevant humanitarian actors for appropriate intervention.

Returns Monitoring

During the reporting period, just over 5,000 individuals departed Hasansham, Chamakor and Khazer camps, east of Mosul, an increase of more than 1,000 people compared to last week and the highest returns since the week of 14 May. Families returned to retaken neighbourhoods in east and west Mosul, to Badoush and Telafar, west of Mosul. A number of families continue to cite the desire to reunite with family members out of camps, improved safety in areas of origin, restoration of services and resumption of employment, or the desire to register their children in school. However, an increasing number of IDPs are adding that negative rumours regarding the treatment of IDPs who did not return to Mosul had precipitated their decision to return. Among the rumours reported by IDPs, are that civil servants who did not resume their jobs would be laid off, and that property owners will have their properties confiscated or destroyed. In addition, they also mention the uncertainty of the consequences of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) referendum. On 19 September, Kurdish authorities suspended returns to Mosul until after the referendum. Seven hundred families who had registered for return in camps east of Mosul were not allowed to leave those camps. This week 304 families who elected to stay in camps east of Mosul were interviewed. Lack of resources is the primary reason listed by those families for staying in camps: 60 percent of them were from disputed areas and do not have resources to relocate elsewhere. The remaining 40 percent had their homes destroyed and they do not have resources to rebuild.

Similar trends were observed in Nargizlia camps, northeast of Mosul, from where 569 families (2,955 individuals) departed this week to Mosul. The average in August ranged between 70-170 families departing per week. Among those departing, there were families from disputed areas like Zummar, Wana and Rabia who expressed frustration at the delay in being allowed to return to their areas of origin. IDPs from Mosul also cited the lack of freedom of movement, denial of access to phones, lack of livelihood opportunities and improved security in areas of origin. However as the week progressed it was apparent that media reports and rumours concerning the KR-I referendum and the uncertainty about whether they will be able to return to Mosul or leave the KR-I had a big influence on their decision to return. Security authorities also shared that IDPs from disputed areas of Wana, Rabea, Zummar, Shikhan and Sinjar would be able to vote in the referendum. However, IDPs raised concerns that if they stay in the camp until after the referendum they might be stigmatised as having supported the referendum, a factor which contributed to some to prematurely leave the camp.

However, in the camps located to the south of Mosul 301 families left Hammam Al-Allî camps 1 and 2 this week to Hay Al Tanak, Islah Alzraee, Mamoun, Auboor and Hameedat subdistrict in west Mosul. In addition a further 84 families (420 individuals) left Nimrud camp to return to Abu Maria and Al Kesek villages in Ninevah. An exit survey was conducted by the Camp Coordination cluster among departing IDPs in 12 camps around Mosul, covering 85 percent of the population sheltered in camps around Mosul. The survey reveals that the main reason for return relates to perceptions of improved safety, the hot weather and the inadequate living conditions in camps, and the desire to reunite with family members.

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