

HIGHLIGHTS

- Displacement from Telafar doubled in the week before hostilities began.
- Despite uncertainties, preparations in Hawiga and western Anbar go ahead.
- Tens of thousands return to West Mosul, despite questions over sustainability.
- HRP funding stalls, while IHF supports preparations in Hawiga and Anbar.

FIGURES

# of people in need	11m
# of people targeted for assistance	6.2m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	3.3m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	2.5m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.2m
# of returnees	2.1m
# of Syrian refugees	0.23m

Source: 2017 Iraq HRP/HNO/IOM DTM

Humanitarian Response Plan

FUNDING

985 million

requested for 2017 (US\$)

48% (\$476 million)

(reflects funding on FTS as of 1 September 2017)

Source: <http://fts.unocha.org>



Credit: OCHA/Kate Pond

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Military operations displace 20,000 from Telafar

Military operations to retake Telafar from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began on 20 August. Mustering points were activated on 14 August and in the week prior to the onset of hostilities almost 19,000 people fled, doubling the total number that fled in the previous three months. Numbers fleeing decreased dramatically in the following days, and by the end of August only one mustering point remained open. At the end of August approximately 43,000 people are displaced from the district.



IDPs from Telafar leaving a screening site east of Mosul, April 2017. Credit: OCHA/Kate Pond

Local authorities reported about 75,000 people remained in Telafar and surrounding villages in April 2017, but since then civilians began to flee. Under the control of ISIL since June 2014, there was little access to the area. Authorities and humanitarian partners documented 22,000 people fleeing for safety between the end of April and 13 August, although it is believed many more may have fled undocumented during this time.

Dire Conditions in Telafar city

People who fled reported dire conditions inside the city where food and water shortages were critical and they lacked the basic conditions to survive. Many arrived at mustering points exhausted and dehydrated; some had walked for 20 hours in extreme heat to reach safety. Health partners provided treatment for the injured, some of whom were transported to the field hospital in Buweyr. Humanitarian partners provided food and water, kits, health and protection services at the mustering points.

Explosion in Bshar mustering point

Even after leaving ISIL-held territory, displaced people are not always safe. They face a range of hazards as they flee to safety. A suicide bomber killed two women and a child in an explosion at Bshar mustering point on 29 August. A further 11 people were injured, six of whom were civilians. All were transported by the authorities to Dahuk emergency

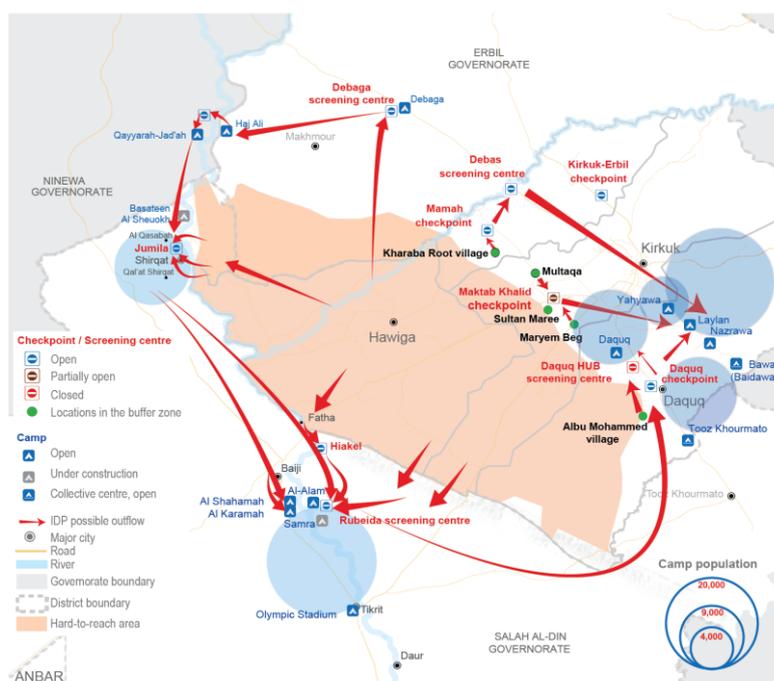
hospital for treatment. Following the explosion, humanitarian services were temporarily suspended but the mustering point remained open.

The battle for Telafar never reached the intensity of Mosul. A mission by health partners to the city reported it was empty and many of the buildings remained intact, including the hospital. Further assessment missions depend on permission from the authorities but will not take place until after the Eid holiday. Unconfirmed reports indicate that authorities will aim to accelerate the return of civilians to Telafar.

Preparations go ahead in Hawiga and western Anbar

Despite uncertainties, partners are confident of their capacity to respond

As military operations to retake Telafar draw to a close, attention turns to forthcoming operations in Hawiga and western Anbar. Partners have been preparing for the humanitarian response for months, but some uncertainties remain. Despite these uncertainties, partners are confident they have the capacity to respond.



Contingencies necessitate a 'plan B' for Hawiga

When military operations in Hawiga begin, an estimated 60,000 people will be affected, roughly half to three-quarters of whom are expected to flee to camps. In support of national efforts, partners are well prepared for the anticipated scenarios, but uncertainties around the direction of the assault on Hawiga remain.

The planned Hawiga response assumes access routes will remain open, allowing the transit of essential items like food, bottled water and shelter items, and allow people fleeing the fighting to access all of the nearby camps. Contingency planning is underway to devise a 'plan B'.

Displacement from Hawiga could happen in a number of directions, depending on where the initial operation begins. If the direction of the operation pushes IDPs towards designated camps, 45,000 people can immediately be given shelter, and a further 4,700 family-sized plots can be activated at short notice. If IDPs are pushed into out-of-camp settings then gaps will open up: the out-of-camp response is limited, as is access to areas close to Hawiga.

Partners are well prepared, but uncertainties around the direction of military operations in Hawiga and the direction in which displaced people will move could pose serious problems.

High transportation costs leave vulnerable families stranded in ISIL-held Qa'im

In Anbar governorate, there is an increased humanitarian presence west of Kilo 18 camp, and partners are providing emergency assistance packages of food and water, rudimentary healthcare and shaded areas at mustering sites in Heet, Nathira and Rutba. The response in Kilo 18 is scaling up, and services in the camp are expanding.

For people fleeing western Anbar, transport is a significant obstacle, and one that hits the most vulnerable families hardest. To exit Qa'im, people pay smugglers to transport them through ISIL-held territory to Nathira checkpoint at a rate of US\$300 per person. At Nathira they then hire a car for \$100-200, and drive to Kilo 18 camp. The cost for an average family is close to \$2,000, which is prohibitively expensive for many. As a result, it is likely that when military operations begin in Qa'im highly-vulnerable groups like female-headed households, the sick and disabled, and the elderly will be disproportionately represented among those remaining in the city. The local authorities aim to provide buses to transport people from Nathira to Kilo 18, but until military operations begin there is little that can be done to move people through ISIL-held territory in a safe, organized and affordable manner.

Tens of thousands return to west Mosul

By the end of August, almost 100,000 people from West Mosul and villages on the western bank of the Tigris returned to their homes, according to Iraqi government figures. Movements of return to western neighbourhoods of Mosul are happening in the same pattern as returns to eastern neighbourhoods earlier in the year, moving from the outskirts in towards the centre and settling in a semi-circle around the Old City, which remains deserted. All other western neighbourhoods have seen movements of return to some extent. Destruction in the Old City is too extreme for returns to be possible for some time to come.

Almost 11 million tonnes of debris remain to be cleared from Mosul city, according to preliminary estimates from UN Habitat. The vast majority is concentrated in and around the Old City. Clearance operations by Iraqi authorities and stabilization partners are underway, facilitating returns to less damaged areas of Mosul. Residents report that clearing rubble is a major source of employment for young men in the city, although due to the high level of explosive hazard contamination, this is a risky job.

Explosive hazards raise questions over sustainability of returns

Trauma casualties continue to come out of Mosul. Civilian casualties including fatalities as a result of explosive hazards are reported every day by NGOs in west Mosul. Between 7 and 17 August casualties through referral pathways established by health partners spiked, with over 1,100 people transferred to hospitals in Ninewa and Erbil for trauma care. Since the end of large-scale fighting, the rate of referral through these pathways has increased, peaking in mid-July and again in mid-August. Residents report a need for increased mine risk education (MRE) to help mitigate people's vulnerability to improvised explosive devices and other explosive remnants. Given the rapid rate of return to areas not yet fully cleared and the employment



The ruins of Mosul Old City. Credit: OCHA/Themba Linden

With the rapid rate of return to areas not yet fully cleared of explosive hazards, there is a question over how sustainable returns to western Mosul can be at present.

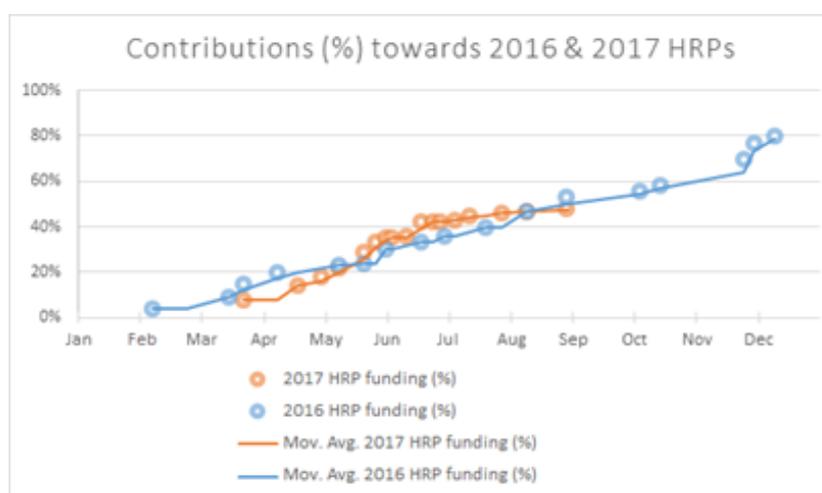
of local youth in clearance programmes, a boost in investment in MRE outreach is urgently needed in the city.

Exit surveys undertaken in camps indicate that by far the most common reason for people returning home is the summer heat, which makes living in a tent extremely unpleasant and uncomfortable. With the extent of explosive hazard contamination, there is a question of the sustainability of returns to certain western neighbourhoods.

Post-Mosul, funding stalls

While the crisis in Iraq remains volatile, humanitarian funding for the country has stalled in the past month. The US\$985 million Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017 is only 48 per cent funded as of 31 August, which is lower than this time last year. While an additional \$125 million has been mobilized outside of the HRP and the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan in Iraq, over half of the 334 most highly-prioritized projects under the HRP have

been forced to close or have yet to start due to underfunding. In order to adequately maintain ongoing operations, including providing for the over 700,000 people displaced from Mosul and Telafar, and to prepare for military operations in western Anbar and Hawiga, increased funding is urgently needed.



In order to maintain the current response and adequately prepare for Anbar and Hawiga, a boost in funding is essential.

IHF supports preparations for new displacement

Ahead of the shift in military operations from Telafar to Hawiga and western Anbar, the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) is coordinating with clusters ahead of the next allocations in order to respond to new displacement in a timely and efficient manner. In preparation for the forthcoming allocations, 9 new NGO partners were identified in the recent capacity assessment process, bringing the total number of eligible partners to 142, including 78 international NGOs, 62 national NGOs and 2 organizations of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, in addition to UN agencies.

This year, the IHF has already released \$55.6 million to 62 partners to implement 99 projects, including a \$3.1 million grant for the electrification of Chamakor and Hasansham U3 IDP camps to protect people from extreme summer heat and improve living conditions. IHF-funded projects are targeted for field visits and financial spot checks.

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