

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting intensifies in Mosul, causing rapid increase in rates of displacement and civilian casualties.
- Trauma care response is stepped up close to Mosul.
- Shortages of food, water and medicine reported in Hawiga.
- Damage to homes and lack of livelihood opportunities the biggest barrier to returning communities.

FIGURES

# of people in need	10m
# of people targeted for assistance	7.3m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	3.1m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	2.8m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.2m
# of returnees	1.2m
# of Syrian refugees	0.24m

Source: 2016 Iraq HRP/HNO/IOM DTM

Humanitarian Response Plan

FUNDING

861 million requested for 2016 (US\$)

85% (\$727 million) (reflects funding on FTS as of 13 January 2017)

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



A displaced family visits their home in Bashiqa, east of Mosul. Credit: OCHA/Bahaa Elias

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Displacement and casualty rates rise in Mosul

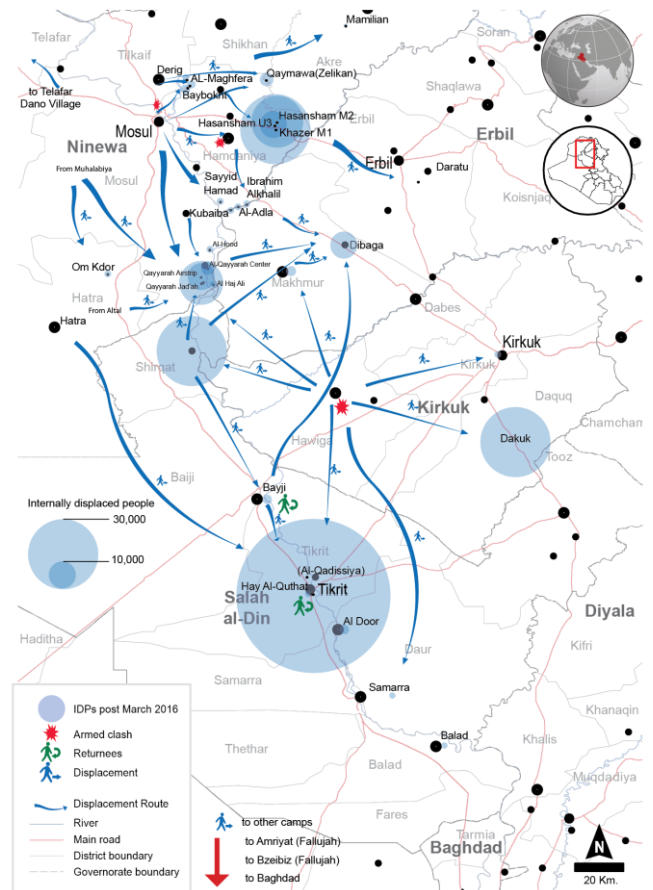
Fighting intensifies causing fresh displacements

More than two months into the military operations to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), over 161,000 people have been displaced from Mosul city and surrounds by the fighting, 148,000 of whom are still in displacement. Fresh displacements continue, with almost 32,000 people having fled the city since military operations intensified on 29 December.

Urgent needs inside Mosul

The humanitarian community is extremely concerned that as many as 1 million people could be trapped inside Mosul, including as many as 750,000 in western Mosul, where conditions are expected to be dire and hunger is likely to be growing as commercial supply lines were cut off in late November. The possibility of siege-like conditions in the west of the city is significant, and options for reaching people trapped inside with life-saving assistance are under discussion between the Government and humanitarian partners. Mitigating the humanitarian impact of siege-like conditions is of the highest priority.

Significant gains have been made by the Iraqi Security Forces since the intensification of military operations, and the majority of eastern Mosul is now under ISF control. Civilians in these areas are now better able to access humanitarian assistance. In eastern Mosul thousands of people have received emergency response packages containing ready-to-eat food, water and hygiene and household items, but distributions are sporadic, and intense fighting may prevent people from reaching distribution sites. Water is urgently



Displacement along Mosul corridor. Source: Authorities and humanitarian partners. Displacement figures International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Around half of reported trauma casualties are civilian. As of 7 January, 3,000 civilians had been referred for trauma injuries in the space of three weeks.

needed in the east of the city as boreholes are drying up and water trucks are finding it increasingly difficult to access the area as road conditions deteriorate following winter rains. In all parts of the city, foodstuffs stockpiled are reportedly dwindling, and commercial routes have been cut since the end of November, causing prices for available foodstuffs to skyrocket.

Civilians still inside Mosul face alarming risks of being caught in the crossfire, and the number of people being treated for gunshot wounds has increased rapidly since the start of December. An alarmingly high number of trauma casualties are civilian, at just under half of all reported casualties. The majority of trauma injuries are a result of indirect fire, and as of 7 January, almost 3,000 people had been referred from Mosul to hospitals in Erbil for the treatment of trauma injuries in the space of three weeks, 47 per cent of whom were civilians.

Civilian casualty rate increases

The number of trauma stabilization points near the front lines is insufficient to deal with the increasing rate of civilian casualties. At present, there are three trauma stabilization points providing triage, trauma care and referral services close to the front lines, and plans are underway to establish new ones. A 50-bed field hospital was opened near Bartella, 21 kilometres east of Mosul, in the first week of January, to help people get the care they need faster, and relieve pressure on the hospitals in Erbil.

Attacks on distribution sites to the east of Mosul in December, killing and injuring civilians and aid workers, highlight the extreme risks faced in these areas. The humanitarian community continues to call on all parties to the conflict to ensure humanitarian access and allow aid deliveries to reach all people in need, wherever they may be located.

In a worst case scenario, 1.2-1.5 million people could be affected by the military operation, including possible casualties on a large scale. Up to 1 million people could try to flee the city to safety and 700,000 require emergency shelter. Knowing that civilians would be at extreme risk, a humanitarian concept of operations has been developed and adhered to that puts civilian protection at the centre of the military strategy.

Assistance is being provided where access allows

87 per cent of people displaced by the fighting are currently sheltering in emergency sites and camps in northern Iraq, where assistance is being provided by government and humanitarian partners. Temporary schools are providing learning opportunities for 12,000 displaced children, and protection services have been provided to 132,000 people, including psychosocial services for 17,000 children. Access missions into newly-retaken areas of eastern Mosul were stalled in mid-January following attacks that killed and injured civilians and aid workers.



People fleeing Mosul are being housed in camps and emergency sites. Credit: OCHA/Sylvia Rognvik

Since the beginning of January, access missions have recommenced, and continue to pave the way for distributions, ensuring people can access the assistance they need. Winter conditions are causing additional hardships, with snow falling in some areas and continual rains causing flooding in others.

87 per cent of the 144,500 people displaced by the fighting are sheltering in emergency sites and camps, where humanitarian assistance is being provided.

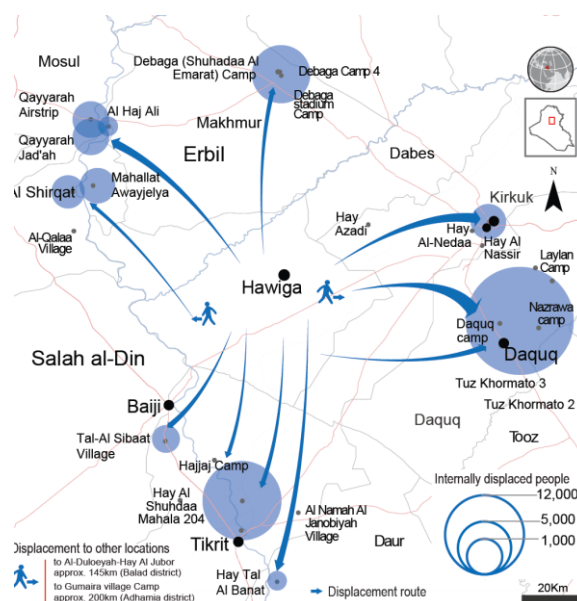
Conditions in Hawiga deteriorate further

About 75,000 people have been displaced since August 2016

The district of Hawiga in Kirkuk, which came under control of ISIL in June 2014, has seen increased military operations since July 2016 when the final trade route linking Hawiga to Mosul was severed. According to IOM, about 75,000 people have escaped Hawiga since August, facing life-threatening risks as they fled. In the last month alone, close to 25,000 people were newly displaced. Reportedly, an estimated 70,000 people are still living inside the district in a steadily deteriorating humanitarian situation.

Civilians are reportedly facing shortages of food, water and medicine

People face multiple, compounded risks from worsening food security, poor water quality, lack of functional basic services and exposure to winter weather conditions, as well as the impact of conflict. According to people who have fled the district, needs are severe in Hawiga, especially the lack of food and health care. According to the World Food Programme's October Iraq Market Monitoring Report, food prices in markets are very high making them unaffordable for the most vulnerable. Medicines are scarce, and few health professionals remain in the area.



Displacement from Hawiga. Source: Authorities and humanitarian partners. Displacement figures IOM

People in Hawiga are facing multiple, compounded risks from a lack of food, water and health care.

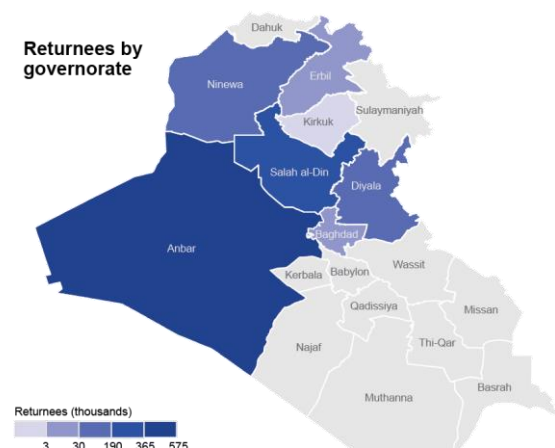
Camp capacity struggles to keep pace

About half of the people displaced from Hawiga since August are sheltering in Kirkuk Governorate. More than 36,000 people are living in Laylan 1 and 2, Daquq, Nazrawa and Yahyawa camps, where camp capacity is struggling to keep pace with the rate of displacement. Newly arriving families are now hosted in emergency tents pitched along corridors and empty spaces in the existing camps. In mid-November, authorities began construction on a new camp with a capacity of 5,000 tents that could potentially house a further 30,000 people.

Returns in Anbar continue

Almost 1.4 million people have returned to their homes

While displacement is ongoing in parts of the country causing continuing hardship, almost 1.4 million displaced people in Iraq have returned to their homes. In recent weeks and months, return movements have been most pronounced in Anbar Governorate, where the number of returnees now exceeds the number of people living in displacement, according to IOM. Over half a million people have returned to their homes in Anbar, 43 per cent of reported returns



Despite high levels of infrastructural damage and the risk of improvised explosive devices, over half a million people have returned to their homes in Anbar.

countrywide. Ramadi district alone now hosts 19 per cent of the returnee population across Iraq. About 268,000 people continue to live in displacement in the governorate, just over a quarter of whom are in camps, and the remainder in host communities, informal settlements, rented houses and public buildings.

Damage to homes and lack of livelihoods hamper returns

Despite a strong preference amongst displaced families to return home at their earliest opportunity, returnee communities continue to have high humanitarian needs, especially in areas that have sustained a high level of infrastructural damage, like Fallujah and Ramadi. Clearing rubble and mines and other unexploded ordnance is proving a slow process, as is the restoration of public services. Amongst people opting to remain in displacement, damage to property and risks from unexploded ordnance are high on the list of reasons for remaining where they are.

A lack of livelihood opportunities is also high on the list of reasons to remain in displacement. Common means of employment like agriculture and local enterprise have both been severely affected by conflict, not least by displacement and the ongoing presence of unexploded ordnance in farming areas, hampering the re-cultivation of the land. According to recent reports, government employees are returning to work and most families in Fallujah, Ramadi and Heet have at least one family member in employment.¹ Vulnerable families like female-headed households are particularly hard-hit by the shortage of employment opportunities. Trade routes have been re-established and the price of staple foodstuffs has stabilized, but the lack of sufficient income has led to some families borrowing money. The first groups of returnees include people who have exhausted their savings while in displacement, who are particularly vulnerable to the shortage of livelihood options. Their financial predicament is further compounded by the cost of repairing property and accessing private healthcare where state services have not yet caught up, causing them to go increasingly into debt, or become reliant on friends and family.

Humanitarian assistance is still needed to displaced and returning families

In return areas humanitarian partners are collaborating with authorities and stabilization actors to meet needs across the spectrum. Efforts are being made to provide vulnerable families with the humanitarian assistance they require while in the early stages of re-establishing their lives.

In the meantime, humanitarian needs among the displaced population remain high with newly arrived people from Ninewa, Kirkuk and people displaced by insecurity in Ana, Ru'ua and Ka'im districts in western Anbar. Humanitarian partners are providing emergency response to new arrivals and service provision continues in camps and settlements. However, partners have reported challenges in mobilizing resources to sustain the response.

Urgent additional funding for Mosul response

CERF funding to support trauma care and provide winter items

Despite generous donations towards the end of 2016 bringing funding for the Mosul Flash Appeal to 96 per cent and the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan to 85 per cent, humanitarian needs continue to grow in Iraq. With winter setting in and the rapidly rising numbers of civilian trauma casualties coming out of Mosul, a new injection of funds was urgently required. The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has released over US\$18 million under the CERF rapid response window for Iraq to provide critical life-saving assistance to people fleeing the fighting in Mosul.

Vulnerable families, like female-headed households, are particularly hard-hit by the lack of employment opportunities, causing them to go increasingly into debt.

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¹ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/irq_humanitarian_overview_hardtoeach_december_2016_1.pdf

The CERF funding is supporting the set-up of three field-based trauma units for the most critical civilian cases displaced from Mosul who are unable to reach existing facilities in time, and providing emergency maternity care for at-risk pregnant women through the provision of comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care. With temperatures dropping below zero, families in camps and emergency sites are exposed to harsh winter conditions. The funds will provide kerosene, heaters, tent sealing off kits and blankets to families to help them survive a winter in displacement.

Advance summary of the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 released

An advance executive summary of the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2017 was presented to the international community at a high-level donor meeting in Brussels in mid-December. In support of Government efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the Plan targets 5.8 million of the most vulnerable Iraqis regardless of their status, whether they are displaced, in host or return communities, or highly-vulnerable people still in their homes in conflict areas. The humanitarian community fully expects the overall humanitarian situation to worsen in the coming months, before people affected by the conflict are able to re-establish their homes, communities and livelihoods.

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