

HIGHLIGHTS: The military offensive to retake Mosul, Hawija and Shirqat continues to result in hundreds of individuals and families fleeing their homes. To date 161,634 people have been displaced to different governorates within the country and beyond. UNHCR protection teams have identified increased incidents of collective punishment, unstable conditions in return areas, and the presence of armed actors in Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps as some of the key protection concerns faced by IDPs. UNHCR and protection partners continue to respond to protection needs of IDPs inside and outside camps.

KEY FIGURES:



Affected Population*

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

161,634 people currently displaced



Governorate of displacement

Sulaymaniyah	0.02%
Babylon	0.09%
Erbil	0.29%
Anbar	0.35%
Salah al-Din	0.67%
Baghdad	2.79%
Ninewa	95.78%



Return Population

35,610 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date



Protection Monitoring**

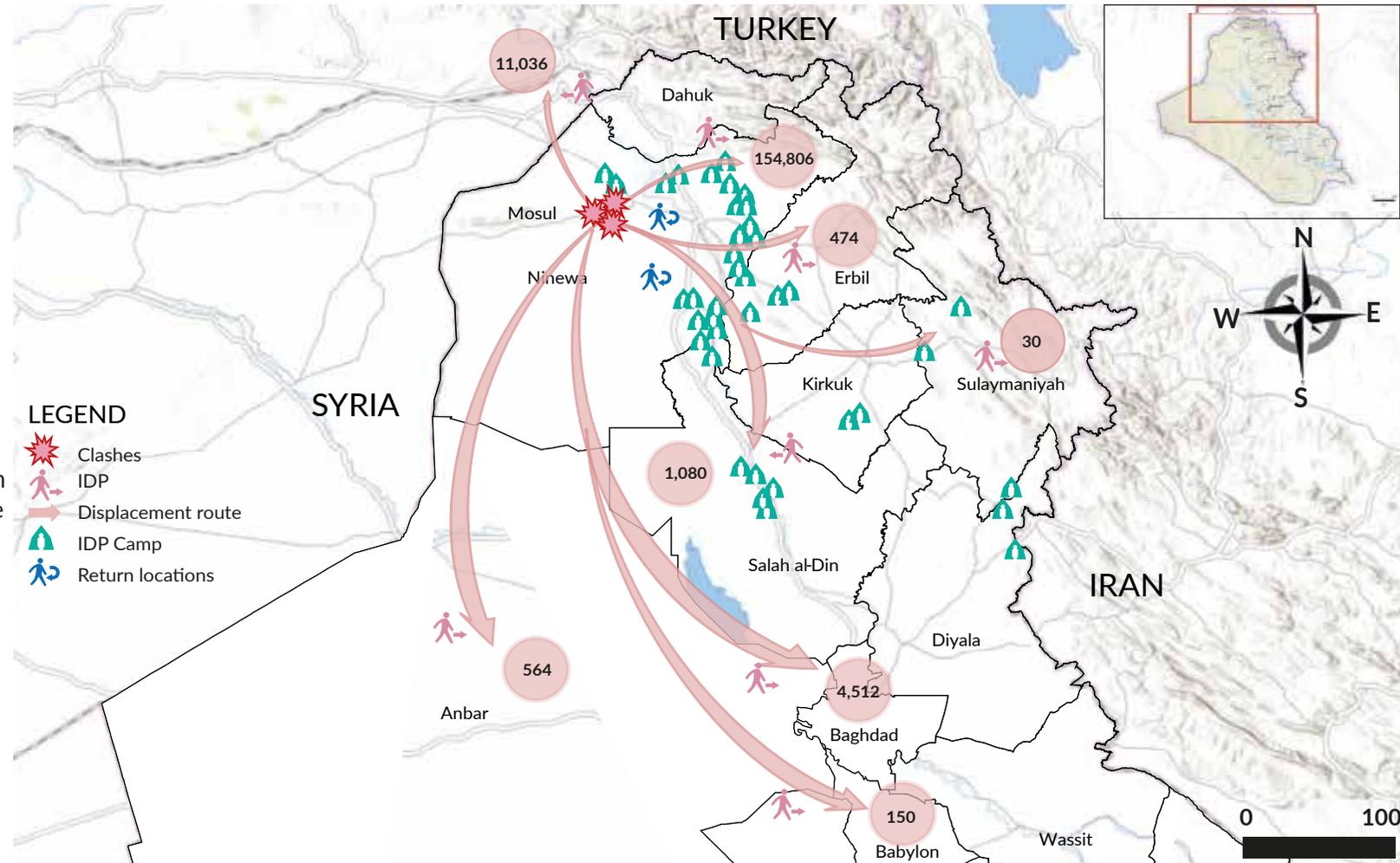
11,332 families assessed

59,530 individuals



- 21% of families headed by a female
- 399 unaccompanied or separated children
- 49% of families missing civil documentation
- 1,541 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



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Source: UNHCR Partners, *IOM/DTM and Open Street Map

Geographic Coordinate System: GCS_WFS_1984

Eviction as collective punishment

UNHCR and partners have received increasing reports of IDP families who are being expelled or evicted from areas of displacement to IDP camps. IDPs report that Asseyesh (security officials in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq), Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) are issuing eviction notices to IDP and resident families on allegations of perceived links with armed groups and as a result of recent security incidents. This week seven families from Shirqat who were cleared to move on to Jameela village were evicted from the village and were transferred to Al-Shahama camp by ISF. In a similar incident, 30 IDP families originally from Baijibut residing in unfinished buildings in Shirqat were evicted by ISF and also taken to Al-Shahama camp. Another 98 IDP families in Tikrit and Shirqat were evicted from a building by ISF and PMF. The families were reportedly forced into Al-Shahama and Al-Karama camps as returns to their areas of origin are not yet allowed. There has been a rise in tensions between communities from Hawija and Shirqat. This collective punishment of families by authorities and communities is a serious protection concern that UNHCR and other protection actors continue to engage with authorities to ensure individual acts are not imputed on families or groups. UNHCR and other protection actors are advocating with camp authorities, local and provincial leaders to address the escalating community tensions.

Return movements and concerns

Some families are leaving Mosul camps and host communities, purportedly, to areas of origin. UNHCR notes that between 28 January and 2 February 1,018 families (4,873 individuals) departed Hasansham and Khazer camps to areas such as Aula, Quds, Arpachia, Khadahra, Karamah, Qausyat, Shuquq, and to other retaken areas while some have moved to other governorates. Individuals and families in these camps are required to register their intention to return through a form that is then submitted to camp management who in turn submits a compiled list to authorities who are responsible for final departure clearance. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD) transports the majority of departing families. Those with personal vehicles transport themselves but families also hire vehicles to transport core relief items they receive in the camps, which they take with them. UNHCR's protection monitors conduct pre-departure and post-departure interviews with families to monitor the voluntariness of the returns. The interviews reveal that the impact of the extremely cold weather in the camps, the desire to reunite with family, resumption of work or school and the fear of their property being occupied or looted are some of the motivations for return. Around 120 families from Jeddah and Qayyarah Airstrip camps have also returned. UNHCR and other protection actors have noted security incidents in some of the re-taken quarters of Mosul district and some families have returned back to the camps.

As some IDPs return to newly liberated areas, women, girls, boys and men from parts of east and west Mosul continue to arrive at the camps citing insecurity and fear of targeting by armed groups, as well as the deprivation of water and services, including continued shelling in areas near the Tigris River. UNHCR is monitoring the return conditions in east Mosul and continues to urge authorities to ensure that returns are safe, voluntary and dignified and that IDPs are provided with information to enable informed decisions on options to return or to remain.

In Qaymawa and Nargizlia camps, some IDPs are making enquiries for return movements to resume. The last return movement occurred on 24 December 2016 with some families expressing frustration at the slow pace and bureaucracy involved in obtaining clearance. UNHCR met with authorities who confirmed that they have received over 200 names for return, that clearance had been received from Ninewa authorities and that returns should resume in a few days. Authorities indicated returns are voluntary and that some families who had earlier registered their names later approached to cancel after receiving information that PMF are in control of their towns in Al Qawseyat and Tilkaif. Many families have also reported that while their areas of origin may be liberated, their properties have been destroyed and they wish to remain in the camps at the moment.

Presence of armed actors within IDP camps

The presence of armed actors remains a cause of concern. During protection assessments a significant number of women and girls in the Jeddah, Haj Ali and Qayyarah Airstrip camps report that armed actors walk freely among residential tents. Families report that tent-to-tent searches are conducted and incidents of harassment of female-headed households occur. The non-adherence to maintaining the civil character of these camps is exacerbated by security screening that occurs in the camps.

UNHCR and other protection actors have raised these concerns to camp management and to the security forces, urging that security related activities be conducted outside the camps and that anyone entering the camp must be unarmed. While camp management has shown willingness to adhere to restoring the humanitarian nature of these IDP camps, protection actors have witnessed little change. High-level advocacy continues to be pursued.

Civil documentation concerns

In the month of January, household-level protection assessments indicated that 49% of assessed IDP families reported missing documentation, with the highest number (84%), among families from Ninewa. UNHCR and partner teams are responding to the identified concerns by providing much needed legal support to these families to obtain birth certification, identity documentation (ID) and for marriage registration. In the Hasansham and Khazer camps 19 birth certificates and 21 marriage certificates were issued to IDPs this week by the relevant government officials. In Kirkuk, UNHCR legal partners represented 54 cases in court and government departments.

Displaced persons entering Kirkuk report that authorities at Debis checkpoint are seizing the identity documents of IDPs leaving people vulnerable to arbitrary arrest, restricting movement, employment opportunities and access to public services. The seizure of IDs persists despite recent commitments by Kirkuk authorities to return confiscated IDs and to desist from the practice. IDPs in Daquq camp are continuing to receive previously confiscated IDs and personal property.