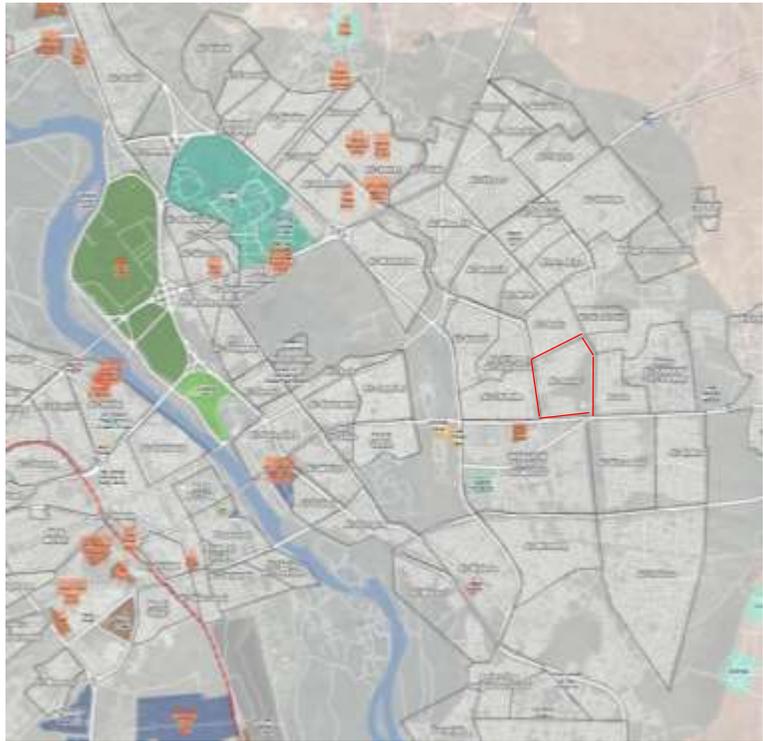


This report was written by ACTED's AME Unit to provide a snapshot of humanitarian needs and conditions in neighborhoods around Mosul. Data was collected via Key Informant and Observational tools on Feb 7th.

Highlights

- Due to a lack of access to **cash**, and **employment**, purchasing power is extremely limited in Al-Akha and as a result access to food, NFIs and medical supplies is restricted.
- **Food** was deemed the top priority by informants. With shops and markets available within the neighborhood offering staple items and other consumables, the lack of available cash is the greatest hindrance to food security.
- Access to medical care and services is nonexistent, with many residents in need of assistance for illnesses, injuries and wounds sustained during the fighting as well as during displacement. In addition psychosocial support is greatly needed for both adults and children throughout the neighborhood due to severe traumas sustained.



Map of Mosul City, Al-Akha' 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 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 only 4km to the west, informants noted that there still is a fear of a resurgence of armed conflict within the neighborhood, however the neighborhood has been reported to be decontaminated from UXOs and IEDs.

Local Leadership: Within Al-Akha', it was reported that the local leadership was set up by the local community, with Mukhtars appointed by the community themselves. In addition to the Mukhtar, Religious leaders within this neighborhood play a role within local leadership. This local leadership structure was noted to be functional, representative and trusted.

Demographics, Migration and Intentions

The neighborhood of Al-Akha is made up of around 7,600 residents, with the vast majority (6000) being Host Community members who stayed throughout the IS control. There are now 1,000 community members who are returnees, having returned at the beginning of January from Hasansham Camp in Erbil Governorate. Around 600 residents were reported to be new IDPs, arriving within the last week from villages to the west of Mosul city. All residents are noted as being Sunni Arab.

New IDPs, who travelled from villages to the west of Mosul city, travelled via bus with their families. The majority carried with them their ID documents, phone and clothes, which they still have with them. Returnees, who travelled from Hasansham, were reported to travel by bus, which on average per family cost 150,000 IQD, with phones, ID documents and clothes which they still have.

The short and long term stay intentions for both the Host Community and Returnees is to stay in the neighborhood, as although they moderately 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 Al-Akha', however long term they hope and plan to return to their neighborhood when they can.

Humanitarian Needs



Shelter

- Host Community members and returnees are residing in their own houses, which are noted to have received damage to them, with the new IDPs renting houses/apartments.
- It was reported by informants that around 5% of houses/buildings in the neighborhood had been destroyed, 10% more sustained large damage, with the rest, 85%, having received minor damage.

100%
Buildings which have either been destroyed or sustained damage (minor or severe)



Early Recovery

- In Al Akha', nearly all houses and buildings have broken windows, with around half having broken doors, and 30% having cracked walls/floors, plumbing damage and destroyed roofs.
- It was additionally reported that around 65% of residents in the neighborhood would be in need of a great deal outside assistance to help with repairs.

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.
- There is a lack of available winterization NFIs such as heating fuel, blankets, insulation materials etc.
- All families are reported to have access to fuel and/or kerosene. However, due to high prices in shops and markets, the purchase of these remains limited or non-existent.



Food Security

- Informants reported that all families and households have very limited access to food due to the high prices of food in shops and markets. There is food available to purchase, with shops and markets being open, but due to a lack of cash, and these high prices, access is little to none.
- Household food stocks were said to be able to last, on average, **7 days**.

Top 3 food needs

- Rice
- Wheat
- Oil/fats



Health

- It is reported that a portion of the neighborhood population have serious medical conditions or diseases, in addition to those who have been physically injured or wounded during the battle or during displacement/return.
- There is a high prevalence of people suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress)
- There is no access within Al-Akha' to health centers, doctors or medicines.



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

- There is no access to clean water with the primary water source being unprotected boreholes.
- There is no functioning sewages system or solid waste management system.
- There is some access to bathing facilities throughout, however there is insufficient access to basic hygiene products (soap, toothbrush, washing powder).
- There is a high prevalence of water borne diseases (e.g. diarrhea) was reported by informants.



Protection

- Informants reported that there was evidence of unaccompanied and separated children within the neighborhood, however there are some 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.



Emergency Telecommunications

- The electricity network within the neighborhood was destroyed, with residents gaining some access to electricity through community, and some household, generators.
- Informants noted that all residents have access to mobile phones, as well as TVs and the Internet.



Livelihoods

- Residents have little or no access to cash or savings, with no access to formal or informal money transfer mechanisms.

- Purchasing power within the neighborhood was reported as being low/poor due to this lack of cash.
- There are a variety of shops and markets open (General grocers, Veg/Fruit stalls, Butcher, Tailor, Mobile shop etc), which are sufficient to meet the basic needs of the community, however due to a lack of cash and high prices, residents are unable to purchase what they need.
- Unemployment is extremely high throughout, around 90%, due to a lack of job opportunities. It was reported that the majority of residents were government employees but have not worked or received a salary in two years.
- The current and future coping strategies by residents to get some source of income for their household was the sale of non-productive assets, such as TVs, furniture, personal belongings etc.

90%
Unemployment rate within Al-Akha'