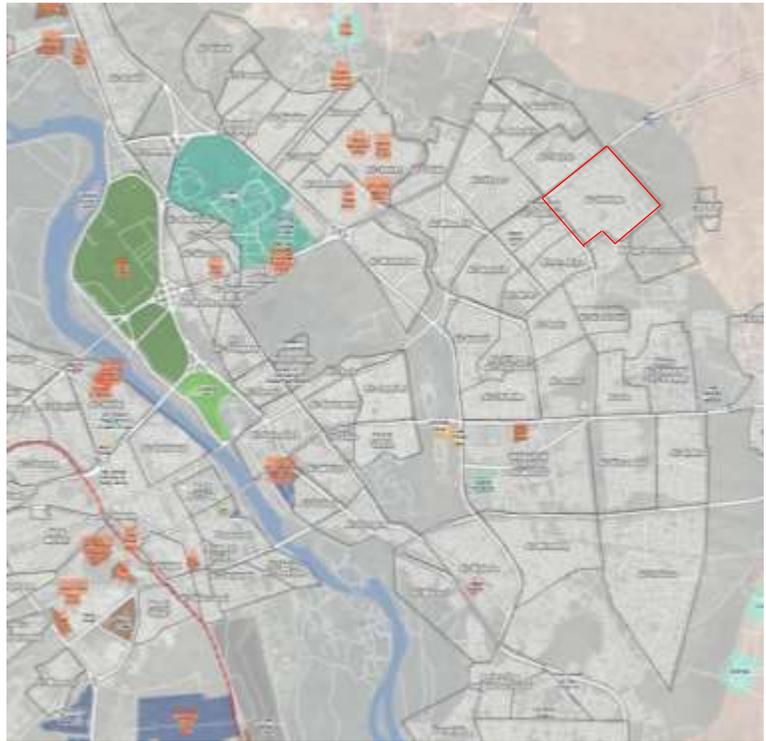


This report was written by ACTED's AME Unit to provide a snapshot of humanitarian needs and conditions in neighborhoods around Mosul. Data was collected via Key Informant and Observational tools on Feb 8th.

Highlights

- **Food** was deemed the top priority by informants. With shops and markets available within the neighborhood offering staple items and other consumables, the high prices are hindering resident's food security.
- **WASH** needs in Al-Zahraa are critical. There is no access to clean water due to a lack of a functioning water system and residents are drinking from unprotected boreholes.
- There is no functioning sewage network or solid waste system. Informants reported that there is no access to much needed hygiene items.
- Informants note that Al-Zahraa is receiving limited assistance and aid from National and International NGOs in the form of in-kind food distribution, and basic NFIs, which are covering some of the needs of the neighborhood.



Map of Mosul City, Al-Zahraa 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, in addition to the neighborhood not yet being decontaminated from UXOs and IEDs.

Local Leadership: Within Al-Zahraa, it was reported that the local leadership was set up by the local community, with Mukhtars appointed by the community themselves. This local leadership structure was noted to be functional, representative and trusted.

Demographics, Migration and Intentions

The neighborhood of Al-Zahraa is made up of around 15,000 residents, with around 6000 Host Community members who have stayed throughout the IS control and conflict. Around 8,500 are returnees, who returned in the beginning of January from Hasansham and Khazir camps in Erbil governorate. Around 500 residents were reported by the informant to be new IDPs, arriving throughout December 2016 from other neighborhoods of Mosul City. All returnees and IDPs were reported to be Sunni Arab. 90% of Host Community members are also Sunni Arab with the remaining 10% identified as Sunni Kurd.

New IDPs, who travelled from other areas of Mosul City, travelled on foot with groups of families, travelling through an ISF checkpoint on their way. The average cost of travel was reported by informants to be around 300,000 IQD, with the majority carrying with them their ID documents, phone and clothes, of which they still have with them. Returnees, who travelled from Hasansham, were reported to travel on foot with groups of families. On average this journey cost a family around 300,000 IQD, with the majority of families taking with them Phones, ID documents and clothes which they still have.

Short and long term stay intentions for both the Host Community and Returnees is to stay in the neighborhood, as although they somewhat fear a resurgence of the conflict, they also feel somewhat safe in their homes. For new IDPs, the short term intention is to stay in Al-Zahraa, however longer term they 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 relatively light damage to them, with the new IDPs being hosted by Host Community and Returnee families in their own houses or hosted in separate accommodation. IDP families are sharing living spaces together.
- It was reported by informants that around 10% of houses/buildings in the neighborhood had been destroyed, 30% more sustained large amounts of damage, with around 40% sustaining minor damage and 20%, having received no damage at all

Early Recovery

- In Al-Zahraa nearly all houses and buildings have broken windows, with around 40% having broken doors, 30% sustaining plumbing damage, 40% with cracked walls or floors and around 30% with destroyed roofs.

- It was reported by informants that residents are keen to repair and restore their homes and building themselves, within their community, without the need or desire for outside help.

NFI Non-Food Items

- There is a lack of available and sufficient NFIs within the neighborhood for all members 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 extremely limited.
- Household food stocks were said to be able to last, on average, **5 days**.

Top 3 food needs

- Legumes
- Meat
- Veg/Fruit

Health

- It is reported that a significant portion of neighborhood have been physically injured or wounded during the battle or during displacement/return. Furthermore there is a high prevalence of people suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress)
- Informants reported that health services, medical staff and supplies were largely accessible for all populations, with the hospital receiving only minor damage.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

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

Protection

- Informants reported that there was little evidence of unaccompanied and separated children within the neighborhood, however there are a large number of children who are suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress), with no access to psychological support or case management.
- Informants noted that there was no evidence of violence against children.
- There is no space for youth or children to learn or play within the neighborhood (CFS/YFS).

Emergency Telecommunications

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



Livelihoods

- Residents have no access to savings, however they do have access to an informal money transfer system.
- Purchasing power within the neighborhood was reported as being fairly normal.
- 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 informants report that prices are high which means many residents are unable to purchase the products that they need.
- Unemployment is around 50%, due to a lack of job opportunities within the neighborhood.
- Current coping strategies by residents involve the selling of productive (tools, machines, livestock) and non-productive (radio, TV, personal belongings) assets, in addition to reducing food consumption, with these strategies being planned to continue for residents, as well as loans from banks, and the borrowing of money and food from friends and family.

50%

Unemployment rate within Al-Akha'