

HIGHLIGHTS: With fewer new displacements this week, concerns have been raised over the plight of thousands of civilians who remain trapped in the conflict-ridden neighbourhoods of west Mosul and are unable to escape the ongoing battle to retake Mosul city.

KEY FIGURES:

Affected Population*

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

378,120 people currently displaced

Governorate of displacement

Sulaymaniyah	0.19%
Babylon	0.05%
Erbil	0.13%
Anbar	0.32%
Salah al-Din	1.56%
Baghdad	4.55%
Ninewa	93.14%

Return Population

139,530 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date

Protection Monitoring**

34,715 families assessed

163,835 individuals

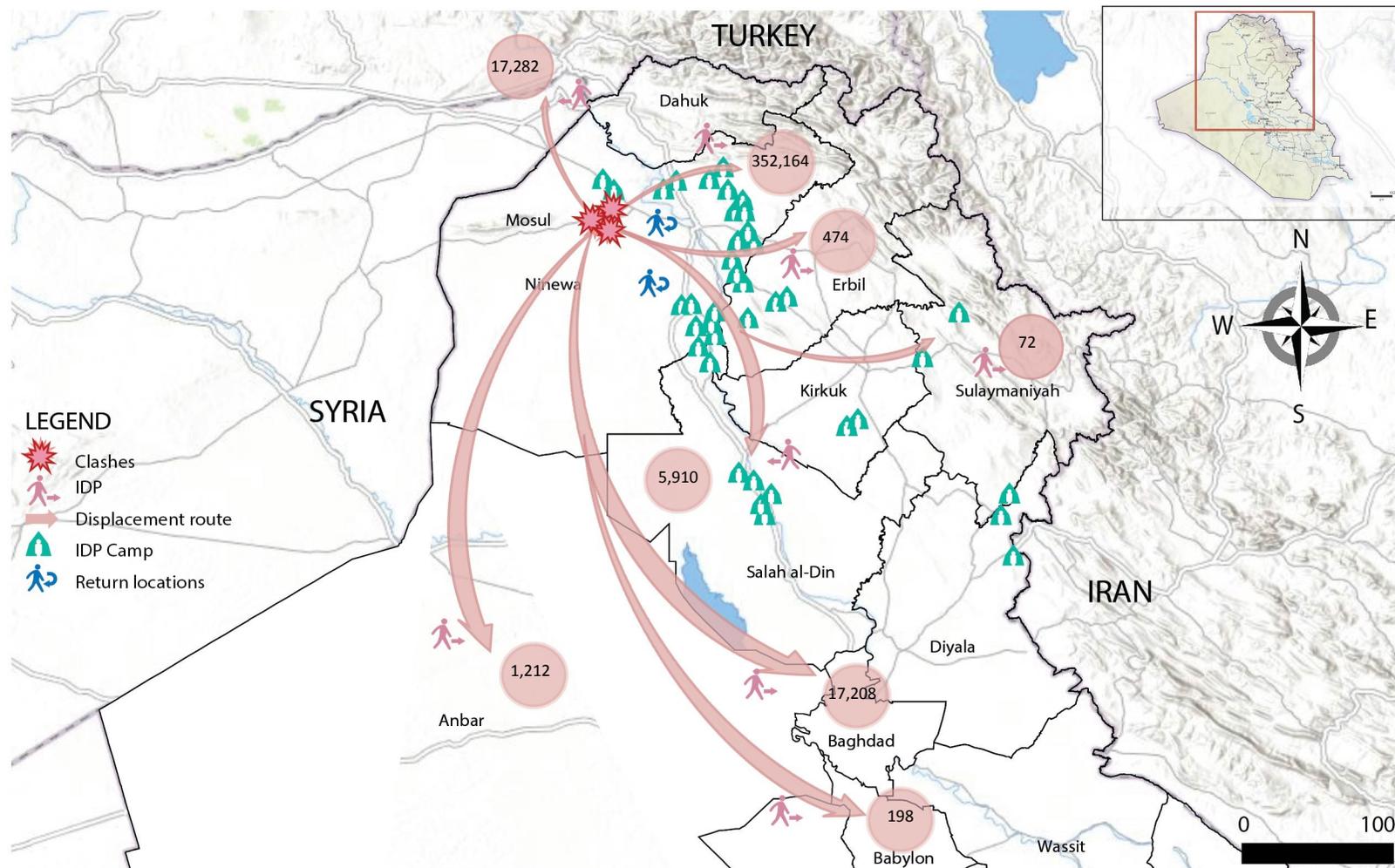


90% of families with no income

904 unaccompanied or separated children

30% of families missing civil documentation

4,688 families referred for cash assistance



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_W_FS_1984

**Protection monitoring information includes data from the broader Mosul Corridor covering Erbil, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk Governorates since March 2016

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Protection monitoring at mustering and screening sites

Protection teams continue to monitor mustering sites to identify protection gaps for appropriate response. This week, teams noted a marked decrease in the number of individuals (2,800 per day, on average) transiting these locations compared with the previous week (5,000 per day). Interviewed families were from Zanjili, Al Najar, Ras Al-Jad and other west Mosul neighbourhoods while others fled Tel Afar and surrounding villages towards Hammam Al-Alil. Most west Mosul families continue to transit through Hammam Al-Alil, although authorities also opened another route that allowed families to move into east Mosul. Families reported injuries and deaths from snipers as they tried to flee, including reports that 33 out of a large group (100 individuals) attempting to flee using the new east Mosul route were shot by snipers. IDPs using the established mustering points within west Mosul reported that hundreds of people were killed by aerial bombing at the Pepsi Factory in Zanjili. Protection teams noted medical activity, including ambulance transfers to hospitals at mustering points. Protection actors are present at west and east mustering and screening points, and are providing new arrivals with much needed assistance including identification and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children and the elderly.

Families residing in retaken neighbourhoods of Iskan Diwajin, near Badoush, continue to approach the mustering point to access food to supplement rations distributed by security forces. As food distributions have not occurred at some sites, advocacy is being undertaken with the food security cluster.

Return movements

This week, the decrease in the number of newly displaced individuals also corresponded with the decline of returns or departures from camps. Authorities report that 177,483 individuals have returned to areas of origin in both east and west Mosul since the initiation of the Mosul offensive in October 2016. The summer heat, harsh conditions in camps and the lack of livelihood opportunities remain prominent push factors for return. While summerization efforts in Nargizlia camp (notably the distribution of air coolers by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MOMD)) are mitigating factors, the lack of electricity, shortage of water and inadequate health services remain push factors for departures from other camps.

Forced return

As previously reported, forced return notifications persist in Kirkuk Governorate, with notices being issued to families residing in Kirkuk city to either return to Salah al-Din, Anbar and Diyala or relocate to IDP camps. While pressure from authorities continues, protection monitors have identified families who have been displaced a second time to Kirkuk from Fallujah due to their inability to sustain their return. Insecurity, the lack of livelihood opportunities and public services including education, healthcare, and the presence of popular mobilization forces (PMF) in retaken areas are some of the reasons that IDPs have reported as factors inhibiting returns to these governorates. UNHCR and other protection actors regularly present these issues to authorities in an effort to ensure that returns are voluntary.

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Denial of return

Authorities in Nargizlia have started registering IDPs originating from Alqush and Sheikhan district. Like Zummar, Tel Kaif and Wana, Sheikhan district is a disputed area to which certain ethnic groups have been prevented from returning. As previously reported, many IDPs from these areas living in Khazer, Hasansham and Chamakor camps have started moving on into secondary displacement after losing hope of ever being allowed to return. However, upon enquiry by UNHCR protection teams on the purpose of registration, authorities indicate that the exercise was to assess the number of families and their exact villages of origin in Sheikhan. This has raised expectations among the 102 Shiekhan families in Nargizlia camps that they may be allowed to return.

Civilian character of camps

The presence of armed actors within IDP camps continues to pose a significant protection challenge despite a directive issued by the Prime Minister on 3 April 2017 directing that armed actors should not enter camps. In addition to creating a general atmosphere of fear among IDPs, the armed actors also interfere with humanitarian activities, including threatening protection actors. UNHCR and its partners have been advocating for restoration of the civilian character of camps.

Collective punishment

UNHCR and its protection partners have identified families who are unable to return to their homes in Al-Shura despite several attempts. Al-Shura was liberated in October 2016 and was one of the first return areas. However, it is also one of many areas where families are reportedly being prevented from returning due to perceived links with extremists. This has resulted in destruction of homes of affected families, security threats and/or demands of compensation. The presence and influence of popular mobilization forces is a serious concern to families who would otherwise intend to return. Three families who returned from Nargizlia camp to Wana district were reported by their neighbours to security authorities for their relatives' links with extremist groups. As a result, the families were evicted and returned to the camp. In Tikrit, UNHCR protection actors continue to monitor the conditions of IDPs in Al-Shahama camp where families are being brought for perceived affiliation of their relatives with extremist groups. The families are further prevented from leaving unless suspected family members are either deceased or detained. UNHCR continues to advocate for tribal and local authorities to uphold the rule of law and ensure that collective punishment is not imposed, while also supporting reconciliation and community cohesion initiatives.

Documentation support and legal assistance

Civil documentation is crucial for accessing public services, social welfare benefits and to enable freedom of movement. This week, UNHCR protection partners facilitated the issuance and reissuance of dozens of birth and marriage certificates, public distribution system cards and civil identity documents. However, the needs remain vast in IDP camps, with less than 10 per cent of the identified needs being met in Khazer, Hasansham and Chamakor camps and significantly less in other camps. UNHCR continues to support and advocate for courts and civil directorate offices to conduct visits to IDP camps with mobile teams, especially in locations where IDPs are unable to access these offices due to movement restrictions.