

HIGHLIGHTS: With the continuation of the military offensive to retake Mosul, 144,588 individuals have fled, while 23,292 have returned to newly retaken areas since 17 October 2016. Various protection concerns ranging from lack of documentation, inconsistencies in registration of IDPs, as well as safety and security concerns remain pertinent. UNHCR and partners continue to respond to these needs while noting significant progress that has occurred in Kirkuk with the return of confiscated identity documents.

KEY FIGURES:



Affected Population*

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

144,588 people currently displaced



Governorate of displacement

Sulaymaniyah	0.02%
Babylon	0.05%
Erbil	0.33%
Anbar	0.39%
Salah al-Din	0.48%
Baghdad	1.54%
Ninewa	97.20%



Return Population

23,292 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date



Protection Monitoring**

8,956 families assessed

47,453 individuals



10,947 **10,072** **13,087** **13,347**

21% of families headed by a female

80% of families have no source of income

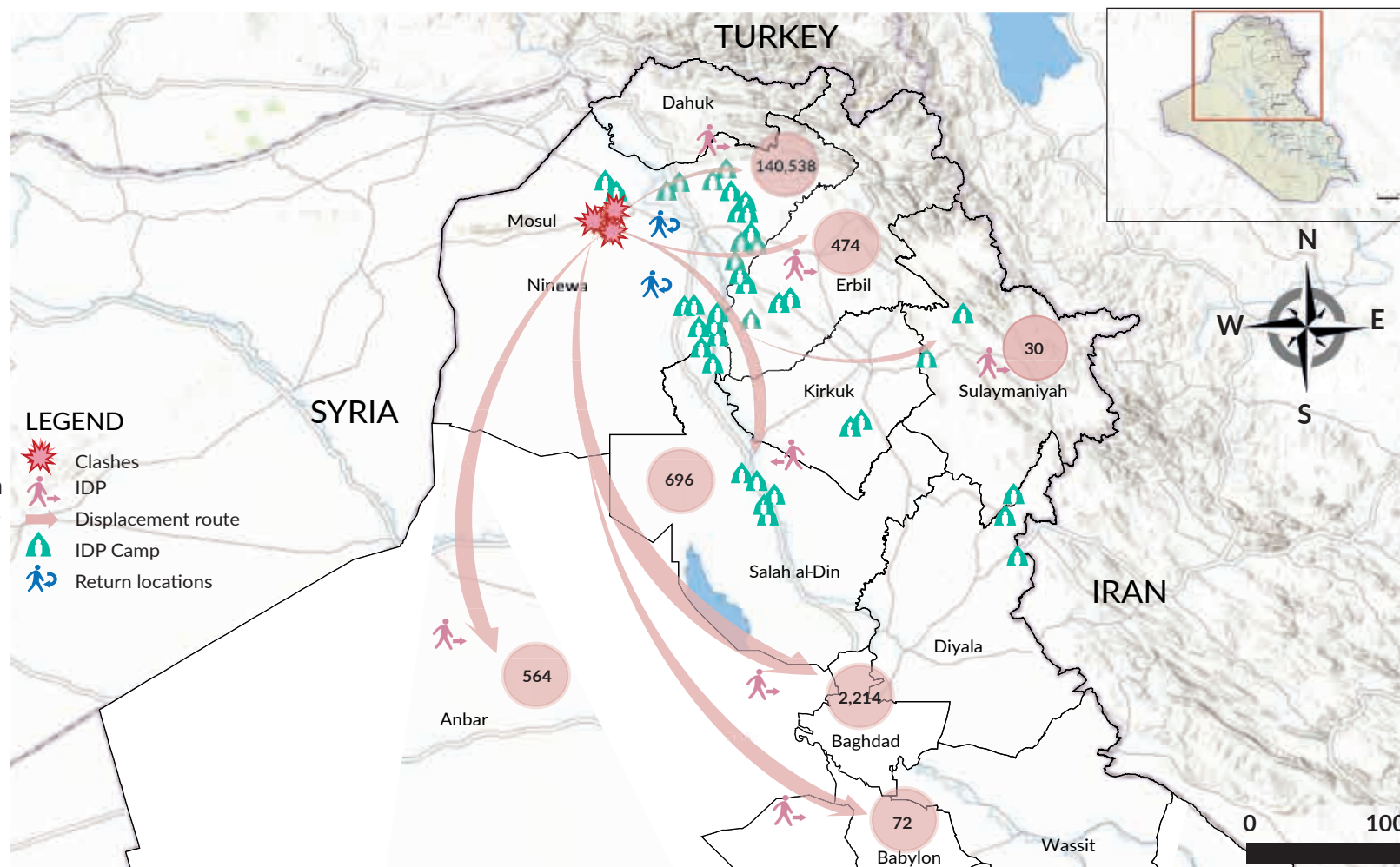
291 unaccompanied or separated children

46% of families missing civil documentation

1,264 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

Lack of civil documentation

IDPs in the Jeddah camps have raised concerns about the seizure and non-return of civil identity documents for families transiting through PMF held areas. It is reported that despite assurances by the PMF that identity documents will be returned, weeks have gone by and IDPs remain without their IDs. In other camps, IDPs require assistance to replace non-existent/ lost civil documentation. UNHCR protection teams in Erbil, Dohuk, Ninewa and Kirkuk continue to document and provide legal assistance support to IDPs requiring court or civil directorate intervention for matrimonial and inheritance cases.

After persistent advocacy by UNHCR on the issue of ID confiscation, authorities in Kirkuk have started returning IDs that were being seized from IDPs entering Kirkuk through Debis checkpoint since March 2016. In addition to IDs, authorities are returning money, phones and memory cards in Nazrawa camp and have stated that return of items in other camps will follow. UNHCR has welcomed this since the return of IDs will ease some of the movement restrictions, facilitate sponsorship arrangements and medical referrals for many.

Impact of non-registration

The non-registration of IDPs raises protection concerns. Protection assessments reveal that over 80% of families assessed have no income and are therefore dependent upon the government for assistance. While the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) is responsible for the registration of IDPs in the central and southern governorates, in the KRI, the responsibility lies with the Bureau of Migration and Displacement (BMD). Registration practices are inconsistent and many IDPs have raised concerns about obstacles due to bureaucratic processes and the lack of documentation. In Kirkuk, MOMD mobile teams have started registering IDPs in Laylan 1 camp. According to the authorities, registration will follow in other camps. With the return of confiscated IDs to IDPs, UNHCR anticipates that more IDPs will be able to register to receive the much needed state assistance. UNHCR continues to support the authorities to improve their registration capacity for IDPs in camp and out of camp locations.

Access to safety and security

IDP camps continue to receive fleeing women, men, girls and boys from Mosul district, Telafar and Hawija. Interviews with displaced families reveal increasingly difficult travel paths with many recounting having to walk for hours, while others used paddle boats to reach safety. It is alleged that 60 IDPs fleeing Hawija and Shirqat were abducted on allegations of affiliation with armed groups. While 30 of the 60 were released, one was found dead and the 29 other remain unaccounted for. Those released were taken to Tikrit hospital for treatment after being assaulted. Escape through the Hamreen mountain remains the most frequently used and yet increasingly most dangerous route use by IDPs fleeing the fighting in Hawija. IDPs report that their access to Al Alam camps is being restricted. As a result, a number of families are resorting to occupying abandoned buildings while others are accommodated in host communities. The involvement of armed groups in ad hoc security screening of civilians and control of access to safe locations is of concern. UNHCR continues to advocate for access to safe passage for all civilians.

Restrictions of movement and family separation

Authorities in IDP camps and emergency sites continue to limit the free movement of IDPs, especially

for those camps administered by the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. UNHCR continues to engage with authorities to ease movement restrictions as IDPs have raised frustrations over encampment practices. In Al-Shahama camp in Tikrit, save for emergencies and final departure from the camp to a sponsor, IDPs are not permitted to leave. In Qaymawa, in addition to restricting movement, authorities seize mobile phones making communication with family outside the camp difficult. Authorities site security concerns as the basis of these restrictions in all the governorates. In Qaymawa, UNHCR has requested that authorities make a phone available to provide a means of communication for IDPs and separated families.

Despite these restrictions, UNHCR and partners have been able to intervene and report some willingness by authorities to facilitate family reunification. This week alone at least 30 families (144 individuals) and 85 individuals were reunited with family members in Laylan 1, Nazrawa and Daquq camps. In Qaymawa, one family's sponsorship application to Sheikan was approved by Asseyesh. Advocacy with authorities to ease restrictions on IDPs to enable access to services and livelihood opportunities outside of camps is ongoing.

Returns

To date, 6,581 IDPs have departed Debaga, Khazer and Hasansham camps reportedly to their areas of origin. Most returns have been to areas in Gogjali, Qayyarah and liberated quarters of Mosul city. From Jeddah camps, returns are ongoing to liberated villages in Shura, Samah and Al-Intisar. In Qaymawa, no returns have occurred since 24 December. While the IDPs have reported the voluntariness of their return, UNHCR has made efforts to ensure that returns are voluntary and that humanitarian needs are met. UNHCR has participated in interagency missions to some of the return areas and note that in some areas, safety concerns and the lack of food and water remain pertinent. Some IDPs continue to rely on NFIs, including kerosene, they received while in camps as government provision to some of these areas is intermittent. UNHCR continues to advocate for safe, voluntary and dignified returns while ready to assist returnee families with protection and NFI assistance when identified.

Returning IDPs have also shared concerns regarding the return of their civil documents. While some IDP documents have been returned prior to their departure from the camps, many report that they have been assured of return of their IDs upon their arrival to places of origin. However, returnees have reported difficulties and delays in receiving their IDs and phones once they are back in their areas of origin. Camp management in Khazer and Hasansham has held discussions with authorities and joint advocacy is planned to resolve the problem while efforts are ongoing for Qaymawa camp.

Forced recruitment

UNHCR and other protection actors note with concern, allegation of forced recruitment, including minors, of male residents in newly retaken areas in Mosul. It is also reported that IDPs fleeing the eastern side of Mosul are forced, also, by tribal militia to join the military offensive through preparing meals, carrying weapons or taking up arms. IDPs are reported to be under the risk of being accused or tainted of affiliation with armed groups should they refuse or show reluctance and that one 'volunteered' male per family reportedly absolves the family from allegations of affiliation with the armed group. UNHCR and protection partners continue to track and intervene on such allegations for high level intervention.