# Humanitarian Bulletin Iraq

March/April 2017 | Issued on 25 April



#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Displacement from west Mosul continues to surge, reaching 382,000 displaced as of 25 April.
- Over half of destroyed or heavily damaged sites in Mosul are residential.
- Mandatory return orders halted in Anbar.
- Military operations to retake western Anbar from ISIL could displace up to 60,000 people.
- Over half of IHPF partners are now national NGOs.

#### **FIGURES**

# of people in need	11m
# of people targeted for assistance	6.2m
# of internally displaced persons (IDPs)	3.1m
# of IDPs who live outside camps	2.5m
# of affected ppl within host communities	3.2m
# of returnees	1.7m
# of Syrian refugees	0.23m

Source: 2017 Iraq HRP/HNO/IOM DTM

#### Humanitarian Response Plan

#### **FUNDING**

## 985 million

requested for 2017 (US\$)

## 18% (\$173.4 million)

(reflects funding on FTS as of 25 April 2017)

Source: http://fts.unocha.org



Children in a displacement camp in Anbar Governorate. Credit: OCHA/Kate Pond

#### In this issue

Over 500,000 flee Mosul P.1

Return orders halted in Anbar P.3

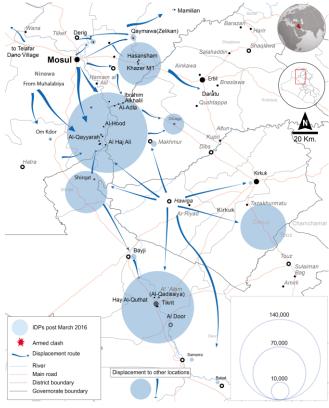
60,000 could flee western Anbar P.4

New partners identified for funding P.4

# People fleeing Mosul hostilities exceed 500,000

#### 382,000 have fled western neighbourhoods

The rate of displacement from west Mosul continues to escalate as fighting to retake the west of the city from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) closes in on the old city. An estimated 382,000 people have fled western neighbourhoods since late February. estimated An 450,000 people are in areas of west Mosul inaccessible to humanitarian partners. As of 25 April, a total of 543,000 people have fled the fighting Mosul and surrounds. 452,000 of whom are still in displacement, according to government figures. majority of displaced people are sheltering in displacement camps and emergency sites to the south, east and north of the city, where government and humanitarian partners are providing assistance. Partners are preparing for a variety of possible scenarios, including a further surge in large-scale displacement.



**Displacement along Mosul corridor.** Source: Authorities and humanitarian partners. Displacement figures International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Camp construction is rapidly accelerating to meet the needs of the newly-displaced, and to accommodate people who may flee in the near future.

#### Infrastructural damage two thirds higher in the west

Intense hostilities including indirect fire are taking their toll on civilian infrastructure across Mosul. According to recent citywide assessments undertaken by UN Habitat, UNDP and the Ninewa Governorate based on satellite imagery, residential sites have suffered the worst infrastructural damage. The assessments indicate that of 1,990 sites that have

Over half the sites destroyed or heavily damaged in Mosul are residential.

been heavily damaged or completely destroyed as a result of the fighting, over 1,140 are residential sites, amounting to 58 per cent of the total number of sites destroyed. Transport infrastructure like roads and bridges has sustained the second highest level of destruction, at 19 per cent of the total.

According to the analysis, destruction as a result of the conflict in western neighbourhoods is up to 2.5 times worse than in eastern neighbourhoods, which goes some way to explaining the greater numbers fleeing from the west in comparison with the east. As satellite imagery only identifies heavy damage and complete destruction, it is likely that the number of buildings sustaining some kind of damage is far higher. Al Jadeda neighbourhood, a residential area to the west of the old city, has suffered the most severe damage, having sustained one third of all housing damage citywide. In the last week of March alone, 125 residential buildings were destroyed or heavily damaged in Al Jadeda.

An estimated half million people are still inside west Mosul, many of whom are subject to extreme deprivation, risks from indirect fire and of being used as human shields or directly targeted by ISIL. Trauma rates continue to be high, with over 8,000 casualties having been referred to hospitals since mid-October, and access to sufficient food and clean water continues to be a significant problem for many west Mosul residents. Humanitarian partners are delivering assistance in accessible areas of the west, but due to logistical and security issues have not been able to provide emergency assistance in the west of Mosul as quickly as they did in the east.



People displaced from Mosul continue to arrive in camps and emergency sites at a rapid rate.

Credit: UNHCR/Ivor Prickett

# The extent of infrastructural damage in west Mosul is likely to make return movements considerably

slower than in the east.

Return movements have not yet been officially recorded in retaken areas of west Mosul, although small numbers of people displaced from west Mosul are reportedly leaving camps for western neighbourhoods of the city. The extent of infrastructural damage in western neighbourhoods in comparison with the east is likely to hamper people's capacity to return home, making return movements considerably slower than in east Mosul.

Returns rise steadily in the east, despite ongoing humanitarian needs

to return home, making return movements considerably slower than in east Mosul. Returns to eastern neighbourhoods continue, with more than 90,000 people having returned to their homes in east Mosul and surrounding areas according to the Iraqi authorities, amounting to over half of the number of people who fled from the east.

Access to clean drinking water and the lack of available employment opportunities continue to be the major humanitarian needs in eastern neighbourhoods. Humanitarian partners continue to truck 2.3 million litres of water into eastern Mosul on a daily basis, to

supplement the municipal supply. As a result of the job shortage in the east income levels are reported to be low, and supplementary food assistance is still required by many

## Return orders halted in Anbar

#### Over 11,000 displaced people affected by instruction to return home

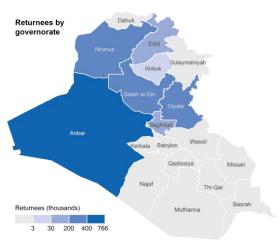
Mandatory returns from Khalidiya camps would affect over 11,000 displaced people.

Displaced people living in camps in Khalidiya district of Anbar Governorate were issued with instructions to return to their homes in retaken areas in late March following a directive issued by the Anbar Provincial Council. According to camp coordination and camp management partners, over 11,000 people would be affected by this directive, including people displaced from Fallujah, Ramadi and Heet.

According to government sources, roughly 120 families (720 people) had left the camps for their homes by the beginning of April. According to the Mayor of Khalidiya these families had chosen to return of their own volition, as their homes had sustained minimal damage, basic services were being provided in their home areas, and they were confident that safety had been restored in these areas.

The Iraq IDP Call Centre received 10 calls from people affected by the directive to return from Anbar Provincial Council, expressing a need for assistance and intervention.

Following advocacy efforts at various levels, the Anbar Governor halted mandatory return procedures in the first week of April. The governorate authorities plan to establish committees to follow up on the situation faced by displaced people in camps, including any movements. No incidences of forced return have been reported since this date, although returns from the Khalidiya camps are ongoing. Threats of forced return have been happening with increasing frequency in Anbar, according to humanitarian partners on the ground.



#### Source: IOM DTM 30 March 2017

#### Insecurity, explosive hazards and social tensions impede return for many

Amongst people living in displacement camps, there are many who cannot return home: some because their homes have been destroyed, others because of ongoing insecurity or the presence of explosive hazards, or due to the belief that their home area is contaminated with improvised explosive devices. Others cannot return home because of the risks they may face as a result of ongoing tribal conflicts in their home area, or because of perceived association with ISIL.

Returning families continue to face risks from explosive hazards and tensions arising from the lack of social cohesion.

Of the 1.6 million Iraqis who have returned to their homes since 2014, almost 766,000 are from Anbar, Returnees continue to face risks from explosive hazard contamination, the ongoing lack of basic services and restrictions to freedom of movement, including search operations for ISIL sleeper cells, and the eviction of families suspected of having links with ISIL, especially in Fallujah and Heet. Tensions arising from the lack of social cohesion have been flagged as high risk by assessments undertaken in return areas of the governorate.

## Up to 60,000 could flee western Anbar

#### Over 100,000 people estimated to be in ISIL-held areas of the Governorate

Outside of west Mosul, ISIL still hold territory in Telafar, Hawiga and western Anbar, where hundreds of thousands of civilians are currently trapped.

An estimated 100,000-120,000 people are living in ISIL-controlled parts of western Anbar, namely Ana, Ru'ua and Ka'im, more than 70 per cent of whom are in Ka'im. Small numbers of people are fleeing ISIL-held areas of the governorate on daily basis. Between January and April 2017 more than 16,000 people passed through Kilo 18 transit site, close to Ramadi, from western parts of the governorate, according to the Ministry of Migration and Displacement.

Although it is currently uncertain when military operations will take place, humanitarian partners are preparing to respond to a number of different scenarios. The worst case scenario is the displacement of 60,000 people towards eastern Anbar, many of whom are likely to be in need of humanitarian assistance. An anticipated 10,000 people are likely to flee west into Syria.

The nature and duration of the military operation will determine the number of people displaced and their needs. Humanitarian partners are preparing a phased response: a first-line emergency response providing food, water, health care and sanitation for displaced people at designated mustering points, followed by a second-line consolidation phase. Some 4,500 family plots are immediately available in camps and emergency sites in eastern Anbar, which could house up to 27,000 people.

# Over half of IHPF NGO partners are now national NGOs

Moving forward with Grand Bargain commitments to greater localisation, IHPF identifies 29 new eligible NGO partners through training sessions

The Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF) held a series of training sessions across Iraq to support existing eligible partners and bring in new ones.

The IHPF conducted eligibility trainings for 82 potential new partner organizations in Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah in Arabic and English in December 2016. Following the trainings, 34 organisations underwent capacity assessment resulting in 29 new partners being identified, 12 of whom were international and 17 national. As a result of this, over half of IHPF's 133 NGO partners are now national NGOs.

A further 150 people from 117 eligible partner organizations - comprising 88 per cent of partners – attended training sessions in Baghdad, Dahuk, Erbil, Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah on IHPF project proposal development and budget setting in March. OCHA's Humanitarian Financing Unit also held 'drop-in' sessions for partners in Baghdad, Dahuk, Erbil and Kirkuk to support proposal submission in the grant management system for the first 2017 standard allocation launched on 29 March in support of programmes prioritised in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan.

The Humanitarian Response plan for 2017 is now available online. Of the US\$ 985 million requested in the Plan, \$173.4 million has already been received, amounting to 18 per cent of the total ask.

Humanitarian partners are preparing to respond with emergency food, water, health care and sanitation for up to 60,000 people.

Visit us online



For further information, please contact: **Ivo Freijsen**, Head of Office, freijsen@un.org **Kate Pond**, Reports Officer, pond@un.org, Tel. (+964) 0782 780 6086

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.unocha.org/iraq | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int