

MOSUL WEEKLY PROTECTION UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS: Despite ongoing displacement authorities in some areas continue to deny safe access to fleeing families due to perceived affiliation with armed extremists. In Kirkuk, forced evictions are on the rise with 70 families reportedly evicted out of the city after receiving notices. UNHCR and other protection actors continue to advocate for access to safety for all displaced persons and for returns to be voluntary. Separately, 35 Arab families returned to Alyawa village in Makhmur (Erbil Governorate) where authorities have, until now, prohibited returns.

KEY FIGURES:

Affected Population*

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

837,900 people currently displaced

Governorate of displacement Sulaymaniyah 0.08% Babylon 0.02% Erbil 1.72% Anbar 0.08% Salah al-Din 0.77% Baghdad 1.87% Ninewa 95.32%

Return Population

239,544 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date



43,340 families assessed

203,195 individuals



90% of families with no income

1,114 unaccompanied or separated children

28% of families missing civil documentation

4,688 families referred for cash assistance



For more information contact: Precillar Moyo moyop@unhcr.org

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



Displacement and access to safety

Displacement out of Al Mahlabiya, Megreen, Abo Maria, Old Mosul, Tel Afar and Al Aqtasadiyat towns continue with an average of 5-10 families transiting through Hammam Al-Alil screening site daily. Internally displaced persons from Al Mahlabiya reported walking eight hours to Tel Zalat, from where they were then transported by popular mobilization forces to screening locations. Families arriving from the Old City and Al Aqtsadiyat were seeking food assistance. Those from Tel Afar, Mahlabiya and Al Megareen expressed fear of being used as human shields and reported lack of basic services.

While the majority of families proceed to east Mosul and surrounding areas to rent accommodation or live with relatives, approximately 10-15 families are arriving to camps in the east and north-east of Mosul on a daily basis. The majority have been displaced multiple times and are coming to the camps due to lack of livelihoods, the exorbitant rentals and food prices in east Mosul and by the inability to return to heavily destroyed homes in west Mosul. In total, 2,583 IDPs arrived to Hasansham, Chamakor and Khazer camps while 341 arrived to Nargizlia camps. One hundred and fifty individuals crossed into Kirkuk from Hawiga through Debis and Maktab Khalid checkpoints while 87 families arrived to Al-Alam camp from Hawiga. Two IDPs remain at Maktab Khalid as authorities have denied them access to safety. About 320 individual fled east Shirqat (Salah-al-Din Governorate) towards the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) controlled west Shirqat and are currently hosted in government buildings.

Security officials continue to deny access to safety, especially to families with perceived links to extremist groups. A family comprised of seven individuals was denied access to Nargizlia reception centre and camps. Authorities noted that the denial of access is for security reasons. As reported previously, authorities managing security in Chamakor, Hasansham and Khazer camps have interdicted female headed households from accessing these camps. Following a meeting between Erbil Joint Crisis Coordination Centre and General Asayish, the Kurdish Security Service, authorities explained that the interdict is restricted to female headed households whose spouses are on the list of armed extremists. Advocacy is ongoing and UNHCR is monitoring the situation in east and north-east camps.

Child protection challenges

It is increasingly difficult to obtain birth certificates for children born inside the Hamdaniya camps located east of Mosul. Authorities are refusing to issue birth certificates unless the family is from Hamdaniya. They allege that authorities in the area of origin of the parents are responsible for the issuance of the birth certificates, regardless of the child's birthplace. Due to movement restrictions imposed on IDPs in Khazer, Hasansham and Chamakor camps, families are unable to access Mosul government offices. Without birth certificates, children are unable to obtain identity and nationality documents which in turn blocks them from accessing other government services and exercise of rights as citizens. UNHCR is engaging with authorities to conduct mobile visits to the camps to facilitate the issuance of essential documents. In July, UNHCRs legal partners facilitated the issuance of 375 legal documents including birth certificates, marriage certificate, civil identity documents and public distribution system cards.

Due to challenges faced in transporting children within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Ninewa Governorate, the reunification of separated children with their families has been put on hold by child protection actors. Access to the camps through the numerous checkpoints is quite difficult for many families seeking to reunite with their children. This has resulted in lengthy family reunion processes. UN-HCR has intervened with the authorities and with the child protection working group for solutions. In the interim the children remain in foster care in the camps. Protection and camp management actors in Qaymawa and Nargizlia successfully coordinated and facilitated final exams for students in grades 6, 9 and 12. While the grade 12 students had to obtain transport to a nearby school in Bashiqa, the other grades managed to write the exams in the camp during the months of June, July and up to 3 August.

Detention of lawyers

In addition to the six lawyers arrested last week, this week the Iraqi Counter Terrorism unit arrested the Administrative Manager and two Judicial Investigators of the Ninewa Court. Reportedly, the lawyer appointed to represent the detained lawyers has not been able to meet them. As a result, very few lawyers are now working on representing persons charged under the Terrorism laws.

Unaccompanied adults in need of care

Protection partners have identified a number of unaccompanied adults in need of care due to medical or mental health issues. While a few of these adults have been provided with care and assistance within the community, a majority have no care givers to attend to their daily care needs. The need for such care has been identified as a gap requiring an inter-cluster solution. To date, UNHCR protection and camp management partners are providing protection, shelter and basic care assistance while advocacy with authorities is ongoing for a long-term solution. Other clusters have also been approached for assistance. In Nargizlia, the lack of mobility aids and a partner to provide support for people with impairments remains a longstanding gap.

Returns monitoring

During the reporting period, returns remain stable. The electrification of the Hasansham and Chamakor camps has led to a decline in the number of families registering for departure. Still, those who have departed cited high temperatures, lack of specialized medical services and livelihood opportunities. For those returning to areas of origin, news that their area is now safe for return and the desire to reunite with family rank high as primary motivating factors. Exit interviews conducted by camp management indicate that 82 per cent of departures from Mosul camps were returning to areas of origin, while 18 per cent were moving elsewhere within Ninewa or to other governorates.

This week, Kirkuk authorities issued eviction notices to 235 families in Khalo Bazyani and Altun Kopri villages. As before, families from Salah al-Din, Diyala and Anbar Governorates were instructed to return to areas of origin while those from Hawiga were informed to move to the IDP camps. To further compel returns, the authorities also confiscated identity documents and delivered them to Daquq southern checkpoint. As a result of this, 70 families left Kirkuk for various locations including Erbil and Salah al-Din. Local and high level advocacy efforts are ongoing to halt these forced evictions.

This week, 35 Arab families from Debaga returned to Alyawa village in Makhmur. Similar to other villages in Makhmur such as Jarulla, Judayda, Tel Al rim and Gubayba, IDPs had been requesting return but were prohibited by authorities who explained that the villages were proximate to the frontline. UNHCR interviewed families who reported their desire to return despite relatives informing them about unstable security conditions, the lack of water and medical facilities. UNHCR will conduct monitoring visits to assess the situation in these villages. Authorities in Nargizlia allowed a group of adult males to return to Mosul to resume jobs while their families remain in the camp. Prior to this only very exceptionally individuals were allowed to leave, as authorities insisted that families who arrived together should all depart together.