

HIGHLIGHTS: The military offensive to retake Mosul continues with 327,432 people currently displaced (424,560 verified as cumulatively displaced since 17 October 2016). Despite ongoing displacement from west Mosul, returns to east Mosul and surrounding areas are increasing. Some families, still unable to return to their homes, are reportedly leaving camps northeast and east of Mosul to go to urban areas closer to their areas of origin. UNHCR continues to closely monitor return.

KEY FIGURES:

Affected Population*
 1.5 million people expected to be impacted in Mosul and surrounding areas
 327,432 people currently displaced

Governorate of displacement

Sulaymaniyah	0.02%
Babylon	0.06%
Erbil	0.14%
Anbar	0.17%
Salah al-Din	1.60%
Baghdad	4.25%
Ninewa	93.6%

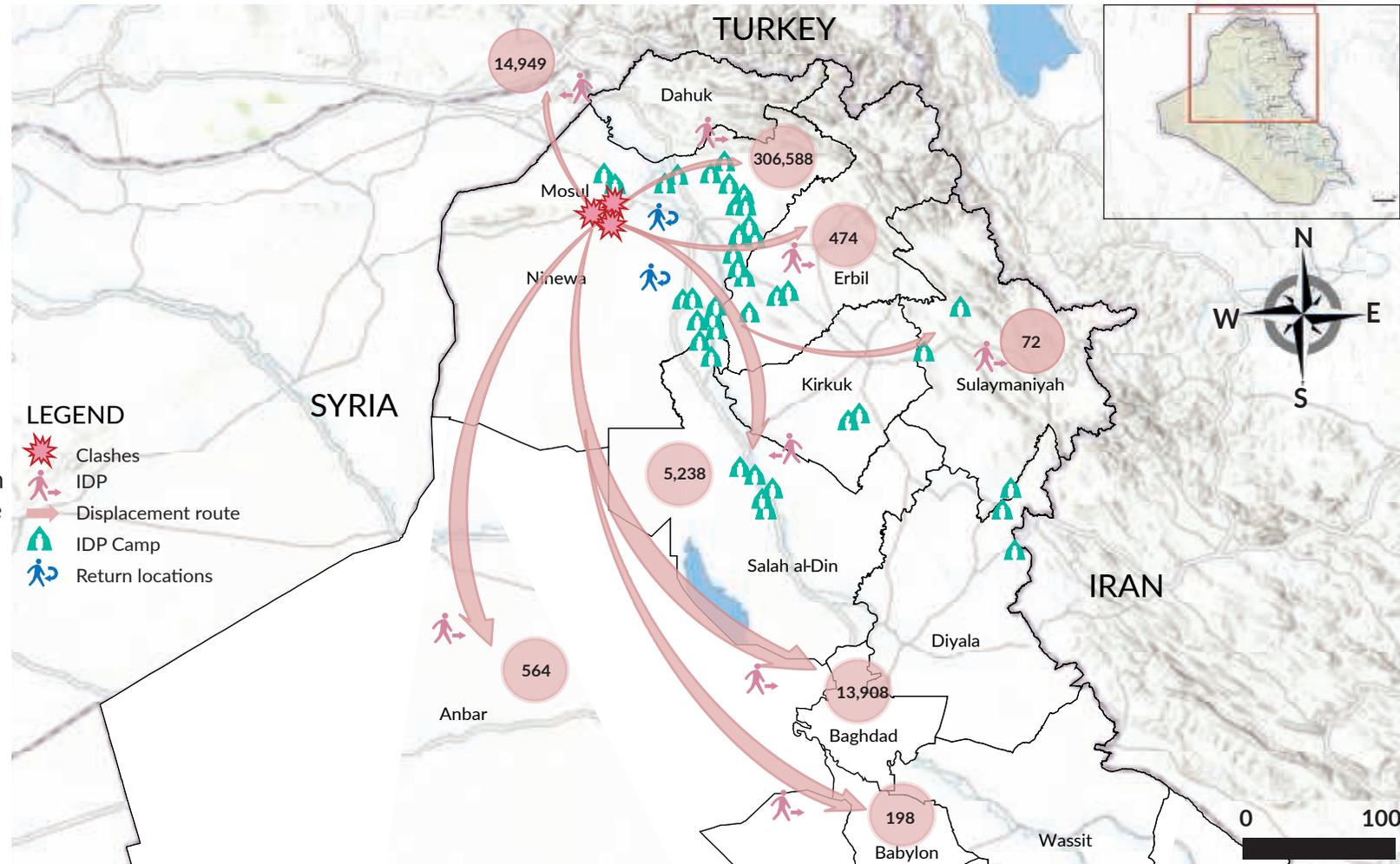
Return Population
 97,298 IDPs have returned to their places of origin from the beginning of the Mosul operation to date

Protection Monitoring**
 21,303 families assessed
 107,626 individuals

24,631 22,223 29,984 30,788

22% of families headed by a female
 656 unaccompanied or separated children
 37% of families missing civil documentation
 1,976 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

Displacement trends

Civilians fleeing west Mosul continued to arrive at Hammam Al-Alil at a steady rate throughout the week, with between 5,000 and 7,500 individuals reaching the site daily. New arrivals reported fleeing from neighbourhoods across the southern part of west Mosul, where they report significant levels of destruction of infrastructure. Many crossed the front line from areas held by extremist armed groups, risking sniper fire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and execution if captured. New arrivals with injuries or serious health problems were referred for medical assistance immediately upon arrival.

In addition, displacement from Shirqat continued, with a reported 574 individuals fleeing the eastern bank of Shirqat towards the western bank held by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) during the reporting period. Displacement from east Shirqat has increased since the beginning of the military operation in west Mosul on 19 February. IDPs have been hosted in governmental buildings in Shirqat following security screening, in the public events hall in the Jameela area.

The number of arrivals from Hawiga to Al-Alam has also increased, with 82 families (or 492 individuals) and 45 individuals fleeing during the reporting period, as compared to 65 families during the past week. IDPs fled Hawiga through the Hamreen Mountains and underwent security screening in Al-Hayakil before being transported to Al-Alam town and Al-Karama camp.

IDPs continue to flee west Anbar despite grave dangers if apprehended by extremist groups. The MoMD-Anbar, has indicated that a total of 2,569 families have been displaced within Anbar since the launch of the military offensive, on 5 December 2016, including 93 families who fled in the past week. IDPs are using risky routes through the desert with smugglers to avoid the increasing number of extremist group's mobile checkpoints. Reportedly in the past week, six smugglers were publicly executed when caught by extremist groups in Al-Nadhira area south of Al-Qaim.

Returns

During the reporting period, nearly 8,000 IDPs departed from camps north and east of Mosul (Nargizilia, Hasansham, Khazer, and Chamakor camps), primarily to return to their areas of origin in east Mosul. Returnees reported that they had received information about the improved security situation in their areas of origin from relatives, and that they hoped to find jobs and reunite with family members upon return. In terms of push factors, returnees cited lack of specialized medical services and medication in camps, insufficient food rations, and unwillingness to stay in tents in hot summer weather. Returnees from Nargizilia camps also mentioned restrictions on freedom of movement and lack of access to their mobile phones as factors in their decision to return prematurely.

The overall figure for departures also includes IDPs from west Mosul who decided to leave camps to go to areas of east Mosul, where they stay with relatives, friends, or in rented accommodation. This trend has reportedly been increasing in recent days, though the exact number of IDPs from west Mosul moving to east Mosul is not known. During return monitoring, some families from west Mosul reported difficulties in finding employment in east Mosul, and indicated that they may go to one of the IDP camps south of Mosul in order to receive assistance.

Despite the presence of armed actors, severe lack of services and assistance, and the high level of destruction, returns to Balad district, Salah al-Din, continue. During the reporting period, 58 families reportedly returned to different areas of the district. IDP returns to Baiji, in contrast, were halted with the recent deterioration of security in Tikrit and surroundings.

Access to safety

Access to safety continues to present challenges in the case of IDPs fleeing Tel Afar and Hawiga. UNHCR continues to urge authorities to ensure that all civilians are provided with safe routes to flee conflict areas and that humanitarian assistance be provided to those who need it.

The group of 60 IDPs from Tel Afar previously reported to have been stranded in Haloom village, south of Zummar, have still not been permitted to access safety or assistance. Humanitarian actors have not been allowed to provide food, and families have survived on one meal per day provided by local residents. During the reporting period, they were forced to leave Haloom by the authorities and are now staying in Fadhilya. A second group, consisting of 173 IDPs from the Tel Afar area, has reportedly been stranded since 12 April in Ibrahim Sinjar village, near Fadhilya.

Two groups of IDPs have also been waiting to cross checkpoints at Maktab Khalid and Daquq for the past ten days. The number of IDPs stranded at Maktab Khalid is gradually increasing, with 140 individuals currently living in destroyed buildings in the buffer zone in Sultan Maree village, approximately five kilometers from Maktab Khalid checkpoint. Their living conditions are reportedly dire, with little access to food, water, or medical assistance, as well as ongoing concerns about security. At Albu Mohommad village, near Daquq checkpoint, approximately 100 individuals have been waiting for six days for approval to enter Kirkuk, receiving only food assistance from host community members in the interim. UNHCR has been repeatedly intervening with authorities and has received assurances of a resolution for extremely vulnerable IDPs. Nonetheless all those stranded require access to safety.

Despite entry restrictions and obstacles at checkpoints, IDPs from Ninewa are arriving in Baghdad. 131 families/786 individuals arrived directly from Ninewa to Baghdad this week bringing their number to 2,622 families/ 15,732 individuals since 17 October 2016. Accessing Baghdad continues requiring a sponsor, where dozens of families are admitted through Al-Abayaji Checkpoint daily. The recently implemented "Status Cleared" permission for eastern Mosul IDPs has successfully facilitated the access of dozens of IDPs with medical cases, through sponsorships by relatives.

Forced Eviction

The forced eviction of families suspected of affiliation with extremist groups continues in Salah al-Din, where four families were evicted from the Albu Tu'ma area in Tikrit and forcibly relocated by the authorities to Al-Shahama camp, where movement is curtailed. In Anbar, more expulsion among IDPs in Tikrit is anticipated following recent security incidents in the area UNHCR continues to intervene to prevent forced evictions, monitoring and intervening daily with local authorities including at the highest levels as required.

Family Separation

An increasing number of family separations have been noted among those fleeing from west Mosul. Some family separations are relatively short in duration and occur as a result of screening procedures for men and boys, who are first screened at Scorpion Junction and subsequently Hammam Al-Alil screening site. Women and children are generally sent directly to the transit site at Hammam Al-Alil. In other cases, family separations have occurred when adults decided to remain in west Mosul, while sending their children to safer areas with relatives or neighbours. UNHCR and protection partners have been working to ensure prompt reunification of families, where possible, and to ensure that unaccompanied and separated children are promptly identified and assisted.