IRAQ: WEEKLY FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

29 May 2016

MOSUL CORRIDOR
HIGHLIGHTS:
- On 21 May, 254 individuals (90 families) arrived in Debaga camp in Makhmur district, Erbil Governorate, after they had undergone security screenings conducted by the authorities. The camp currently hosts some 6,500 persons, including 3,712 individuals displaced mainly from Mosul in 2014.

DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS:
- Since the security forces began their offensive on 24 March to retake villages east of the Tigris River in Makhmur district, some 6,374 persons have fled to Debaga camp and various nearby temporary sites. Of these, some 2,897 individuals found sponsorships and have moved on, primarily to Kirkuk Governorate.
- The Garmawa camp in Ninewa Governorate host internally displaced people (IDPs) who the authorities have been relocating from villages north of Mosul in Tilkef district near the frontline since September 2015. The camp currently hosts 5,791 IDPs.

ANBAR CORRIDOR
HIGHLIGHTS:
- UNHCR has started delivering emergency relief supplies to families who managed to escape Falluja over the last few days. More than 800 people have fled Falluja, mostly from outlying areas, as the Government continues its military offensive to regain control of the city. Tens of thousands of civilians still remain trapped.
- Access to safety is severely compromised as armed groups have blocked exits and civilians attempting to flee are caught in the crossfire.

DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS:
- Since the escalation in the conflict in March in Anbar Governorate there have been simultaneous bouts of displacement and spontaneous returns. As of 24 May, there are some 29,936 individuals displaced in the Governorate, including the recent displacement of 800 individuals from Falluja city, and 4,950 individuals from Rutba district between 17 and 24 May.
- As of 24 May, some 100,152 individuals (16,692 families) have returned to their place of origin, including 386 families to Heet district, and 38 families to Ramadi between 17 and 24 May, with ongoing returns reported.

KEY FIGURES
- 12,138* individuals displaced from conflict areas around Mosul to Debaga and Garmawa camps
- 29,936** individuals displaced from conflict area to camps and transit areas in Anbar Governorate

Funding
- USD 402.9 million required for IDP needs in 2016

* Source: Reception in Debaga and Garmawa camps
** Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix
UNHCR led Cluster Updates

**Protection**

- **Debaga camp** – Around 150 families from villages south of Makhmur who recently passed through Debaga camp found sponsorship and carried on to Erbil Governorate via Kirkuk Governorate where they obtained a 30-day residency permit, which is required for Iraqis who are non-residents of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). In the camp, 59 per cent of the residents are children and most have been unable to attend school for the last two years. Some 250 children in the camp have taken an end-of-year exam in the existing school and plan to join the camp school system should they remain when the next school year begins in September.

- **Garmawa camp** – On 23 May, the authorities allowed a family who had found sponsorship in Sumeil district in Dahuk Governorate to leave the camp - the sixth family allowed to leave the camp to Dahuk through sponsorship in May. UNHCR has been advocating for the systematizing of this practice to alleviate overcrowding in the camp and improve the protection environment.

- The Ministry of Migration and Displacement conducted a mission to Garmawa camp to register new arrivals. The non-government organization Harikar has been following up on the issue of missing documentation so that IDPs can register with the Government for entitlements and to receive Qi cards (a debit card available in Iraq) to access cash assistance.

**Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)**

- **Debaga camp/Debaga Stadium temporary site** – The camp capacity remains overstretched with over 6,500 persons currently in the camp including 200 men staying in the mosque and some 715 IDPs sheltered in the reception area in front of the camp. The temporary site in the nearby Debaga Stadium has also reached full capacity with 689 IDPs, and work is ongoing to accommodate a further 300 families on lands adjacent to the stadium. Finding more buildings or suitable land to accommodate the influx has been a challenge. UNHCR has been advocating with the authorities for appropriate alternatives, and have been conducting assessments of proposed sites jointly with the Erbil Refugee Council.

- **Garmawa camp** – UNHCR distributed plastic sheeting to 65 families who arrived during the last two weeks.

**Operational Context**

- Fighting south-east of Mosul, primarily in Makhmur district, continues to cause fresh displacement to Debaga camp. Local authorities estimate that 30,000 persons could be displaced in the coming months and an eventual assault on Mosul could displace over 600,000 persons. UNHCR is currently working on a contingency plan for an additional IDP population of 10,000 persons in Makhmur district.

- Since September 2015, individuals originating from or displaced to villages in Nineawa Governorate have been relocated to Garmawa camp. UNHCR remains concerned by reports of involuntary movements and continues to monitor the situation and protection environment for those relocated. The recent relocations (April and May) were directed to Garmawa camp although there is no further shelter capacity in the camp and it is now overcrowded. Most new arrivals are either living with relatives, or in communal tents, or received tents pitched on open grounds. UNHCR is working to expand the shelter capacity in the camp.

---

UNHCR led Cluster Updates

**Protection**

- **Falluja** – Authorities are transporting families who have fled from Falluja, including women and children, to Habbaniya (some 20 kilometres from Falluja) for security screening. UNHCR is ready to undertake rapid protection assessments as the newly displaced reach safe areas.

- **Heet** – Military operations are ongoing to clear Heet district. Armed groups shelled Al-Khalidiyah town on 25 May, causing more than 13 civilians casualties.

- **Ramadi** – Though suspension of returns to Ramadi is still in effect, authorities began to admit on 20 May thousands of families returning from Baghdad and other governorates. Safety of returnees due to the presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) remains a concern – three people were killed on 20 May in the city centre due to explosive remnants. Despite the destruction of infrastructure, lack of essential services, and continuing risk of IEDs; many returnees have asserted that they would rather start over in Ramadi than continue to live in displacement. The Sunni Endowment Diwan, a local charity, provided buses to transport a group of displaced families in Kirkuk Governorate to Ramadi.

- **Rutba** – Since the army regained the city and surrounding area a week earlier, specialized teams are working to clear the main streets, buildings and houses from explosive hazards. Water, electricity and health service have resumed and authorities are planning to re-open the Trebil crossing between Iraq and Jordan on 28 May.

**Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)**

- UNHCR and its partner, Muslim Aid, are distributing emergency relief items to families who have escaped Falluja and are sheltering in Amiriyat al-Falluja, in Anbar Governorate. UNHCR will open next week two more camps (Al-Tahreer 1 and 2) within the vicinity of Habbaniyah Tourist City to accommodate 500 families. UNHCR has contingency stocks of 18,000 tents and 20,000 core relief items.

- Government camps and transit locations have capacity for a further 1,250 families, but these locations lack WASH facilities and other basic infrastructure like electricity.