IRAQ: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

MOSUL CORRIDOR

▪ The Governor of Erbil has granted a 114 dunam (250,000 square metres) piece of land where UNHCR and partners will be able to build a new 940-plot camp, capable of hosting an additional 6,000 IDPs. UNHCR has finalized the lay out of the camp and pending adequate funding, the camp will be completed within two months.

▪ It is a priority to decongest the reception centre in Debaga camp, where there are currently 5,513 IDPs. More arrivals anticipated in the coming days as fighting in and around Makhmur district has intensified since 23 June. To make space for IDPs waiting in the reception centre, UNHCR is currently preparing plots for another 320 tents on the Stadium extension site, which will be completed over the next week. This will bring the total to 777 tents in the Stadium site including the extension and service area, which altogether will have a capacity to accommodate 4,000 persons (nearly doubling the current capacity which is full).

ANBAR CORRIDOR

▪ Conditions in the camps in Anbar Governorate are particularly difficult due to high temperatures and arid conditions. Suffocating heat is particularly an issue for new arrivals as many of the newly established sites are not connected to electricity. Families are not able to use their electric fans and the conditions inside the tents are unbearable, which poses a big risk especially to children and the elderly.

▪ UNHCR has continued to prepare further sites and erect tents in Al Khalidiya and Habbaniya Tourist City to accommodate the new arrivals. Since 23 May, UNHCR has installed 8 Rubb Halls and provided 1,533 tents to provide temporary accommodation for over 9,500 persons displaced from Falluja.

▪ Since 23 May, UNHCR has distributed nearly 8,500 kits of core relief items (CRIs) such as blankets, mattresses and jerry cans to help some 50,000 people who fled Falluja.

KEY FIGURES

85,374 individuals* displaced from Falluja and surrounding areas
23,559 individuals** displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas
3.3 million IDPs* in Iraq since January 2014
229,564 Iraqi refugees*** in the region

Funding
UNHCR’s overall appeal of USD 584 million for IDPs and Iraqi refugees in the region is only 21% funded

* IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix
** Reception in Debaga and Garmawa camps (in Iraq), and border monitoring (in Syria)
*** Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Egypt, GCC, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey as of 31 May 2016
Operational Context

- Fighting south-east of Mosul, primarily in Makhmur district, continues to cause fresh displacement to Debaga, which currently hosts over 10,000 new IDPs. An assault on Mosul could displace over 600,000 people.

- Overcrowding remains a serious concern in Garmawa camp. The camp population is now 6,130 individuals; over 1,000 of them are new arrival since March. and an extension has been proposed by the government although plans have yet to be finalized. UNHCR and partners continue to advocate for other options to be considered as well, such as an expansion of the sponsorship system to allow IDPs in the camp to move to other locations where they have relatives.

- The number of Iraqis crossing into Syria to the west of Mosul in search of safety has been increasing. Since April some 8,077 Iraqi refugees from in and around Mosul have crossed the border; 6,027 of whom have registered in Al Hol camp.

UNHCR led Cluster Updates

Protection

- UNHCR is following up with authorities regarding reports that since 19 June IDPs from Makhmur district have not been allowed to cross checkpoints to enter Kirkuk city. More than 300 IDPs had to return to Debaga camp after being denied passage.

- The government launched a military offensive on 23 May to retake the city of Falluja, which had been under the control of ISIL for two years. As fighting continues in western neighbourhoods, the Iraqi forces have stated they are in control of 90 per cent of the city. The authorities announced on 23 June that the Civil Defence department had reopened in Falluja. This is the first government office in Fallujah that has resumed work and more are scheduled to resume work soon.

- The Iraqi Security Forces have reportedly secured and cleared of explosive hazards the road between Amiriyat al Falluja and Habbaniya (south/north) and from Ramadi to Baghdad (west/east). The Iraqi Security Forces are clearing explosive hazards from the areas they have secured.

- The level of destruction to the city is extensive. The main hospital in Falluja has reportedly been destroyed in the fighting and is no longer providing any services.

- The security situation remains fragile in retaken areas of Anbar Governorate. In Rutba district there have been reports of armed groups attacking civilian returnees.

- UNHCR participated in an interagency mission to Amiriyat al Falluja on 23 June to review reports that men and boys from As Saqlawiyah sub district of Falluja district have been held in detention since 3 June by paramilitary groups. Interviews with families confirmed reports indicating that almost all families are missing multiple family members. The estimated number of those missing is estimated at around 850.

- Displaced families in camps are able to exit the camps to go to the local markets, and some IDPs have begun setting up shops in the camps. Police in Al Khalidiya have been issuing camp badges to men and boys who have been screened.