IRAQ SITUATION FLASH UPDATE

19 October 2016

KEY FIGURES

1,900 IDPs1 from Mosul district since the beginning of the offensive on 17 October 2016.

166,285 IDPs2 from Erbil, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk Governorates due to hostilities since April 2016.

3.3 million IDPs3 since January 2014.

238,489 Iraqi refugees4 have fled to neighbouring countries in the region.

POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- No large-scale displacement as yet from Mosul: Thus far, displacement from the Mosul offensive has been reported in small numbers.
- New arrivals from recently retaken villages south of Mosul: Some 1,900 IDPs from Qayyarah and Hamman Al-Haleel subdistricts (south of Mosul) have been displaced by recent fighting and arrived to reception centres and a small informal camp within Qayyarah subdistrict.
- Thousands continue to flee the eastern bank of Shirqat in Salah al-Din Governorate: Families flee Shirqat areas still under armed opposition groups’ control, towards areas under ISF control on the opposite bank of the Tigris river, facing severe risks of being attacked while crossing the river. Up to 800 persons reportedly cross the river daily from different points. Some 9,259 families (over 55,000 persons) have fled Shirqat district since mid-June 2016.

UNHCR RESPONSE UPDATE

- Iraqis take refuge in Syria: 912 new arrivals have so far been registered in Al Hol camp in northern Syria. There are reportedly another 200 Iraqis near the border. Reception capacity is being reinforced at Al Hol in order to be ready to accommodate displaced Iraqis. In the initial phase, arrangements are made for 15,000 people. This capacity will be increased to 30,000 with the final target of 50,000. UNHCR is reinforcing its presence by opening a field office in Hassakeh city.
- Hassansham camp construction well underway: The camp located east of Mosul city, has been planned for 12,000 persons, and will be completed in under two weeks. A second camp across the road is currently prepared for another 12,000 persons. A formal reception centre is planned close by to shelter families waiting to be allocated a tent. Overall, UNHCR has 5 camps ready to receive up to 45,000 new arrivals.

SITUATION UPDATE

- Military offensive continues: Military forces advancing to the east and south of Mosul are reportedly pushing toward larger villages and encountering civilian populations. The front line east of Mosul is reported to now be some 30 kilometres from the city.
- Some resistance against extremist groups by populations inside Mosul has been reported.

1. IOM DTM from 18 October 2016
2. IOM DTM from 16 June to 13 October 2016 and UNHCR Field reports
3. IOM DTM from 1 January 2014 to 28 September 2016
4. Iraqis registered with UNHCR in Egypt, GCC, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey as of 31 August 2016

Note: Only selected camps and transit locations featured.