OVERVIEW

- In a worst case scenario, the Mosul humanitarian response is likely to be the single largest and most complex in the world in 2016.
- As many as 1.2-1.5 million people could be affected overall by the military operations.
- In a worst-case scenario, up to 1 million girls, boys, women and men could be displaced and 700,000 may need to be accommodated in emergency shelters.
- As military operations to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) continue, civilians are at extreme risk of being caught up in cross-fire or targeted by snipers.
- Tens of thousands of people may be forcibly expelled, trapped between fighting lines, besieged or held as human shields. Chemical weapons may be used.
- Public facilities, thoroughfares and homes may be booby-trapped or contaminated by improvised mines and explosive hazards. Children, women, the elderly and disabled will be particularly vulnerable. Delays, abuses, and irregularities may occur during screening of displaced families.

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- According to the International Organization for Migration there are currently more than 17,900 people displaced. At least 3,300 additional people who fled during the first week of the military operations have returned to their homes following improved security conditions in the immediate area. The situation is fluid and the numbers and patterns of displacement are fluctuating as the front lines move. Overall displacement is expected to rise rapidly as the military operation moves closer to urban areas.
- Just over 50 per cent of the people displaced so far are in camps: Qayyarah-Jadah, Zelikan and Hasansham camps in Ninewa Governorate; Debaga camp in Erbil Governorate; and Bzeibiz central camp in Fallujah district in Anbar Governorate.
- Just under half of the displaced population are sheltering in private settings or critical shelters in host communities.
- As humanitarian actors gain access to recently retaken areas, it is clear that humanitarian needs in vulnerable front line communities are significant. Further assessments are planned to better understand the needs of these vulnerable communities who have lived under the control of ISIL for more than two years.
- UNHCR reports that 44 Iraqis from Mosul have crossed the border into Syria since 17 October.
MOSUL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
IN NUMBERS

25,000
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN REACHED
BY FIRST-LINE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

55,000
SPACES ARE AVAILABLE TO SHELTER
DISPLACED PEOPLE IN EMERGENCY
SITES AND CAMPS

450,000
ADDITIONAL SPACES ARE UNDER
CONSTRUCTION OR PLANNED

1,400
PEOPLE WERE TREATED FOR
RESPIRATORY COMPLICATIONS CAUSED
BY TOXIC SMOKE

US$284M
REQUESTED TO SCALE-UP
PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS AHEAD
OF THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN
TO RETAKE MOSUL

55%
OF THE REQUIRED AMOUNT
FOR THE MOSUL FLASH APPEAL
HAS BEEN RECEIVED

$861M
REQUESTED FOR THE 2016 IRAQ
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN (HRP)

62%
OF THE REQUESTED FUNDING
FOR THE HRP HAS BEEN RECEIVED

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

• Forward assistance missions close to the front lines have reached more than 25,000
displaced people in need. Access to these areas remains a challenge. 52,000
vulnerable people have been reached with 30-day food rations, and 15,000 people
with emergency household items.

• Shelter is available to accommodate 55,000 displaced people in seven camps.
Construction of further sites is accelerating to create capacity for an additional
450,000 people.

• Emergency stocks have been pre-positioned close to displacement sites and camps,
mobile teams are prepared, and food trucks are on standby to dispatch rations.

• Nineteen oil wells and a sulphur factory near Al Qayyarah have been set alight by
ISIL as they retreated. Medical assistance has been provided to up to 1,400 people
suffering from respiratory complications caused by toxic smoke from the fires.

HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES

• Ensuring that camp capacity keeps pace with the rise in displacement is critical.
Clusters and partners are working around the clock to prepare camp spaces,
services and facilities for vulnerable families in need of safe and dignified shelter.

• Residents who remain in recently retaken areas are as vulnerable as those who have
been displaced. Partners are making significant efforts to keep assistance flexible
and responsive to the evolving situation, and targeted towards all people in need.

• Parties to the conflict are being called upon to do everything possible to uphold
their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and ensure
they have access to the assistance they need and deserve.

• Concrete steps include alerting populations to the evolutions in the military
operation, identifying escape routes when it is deemed safe to do so, arranging
transport for highly vulnerable civilians to safety and putting in place dignified,
transparent screening procedures.

FUNDING

• In July, the humanitarian community launched a flash appeal requesting US$284
million to scale up preparedness efforts ahead of the anticipated military operation
to retake Mosul. As of 29 October, contributions totalling $155 million have been
confirmed, representing around 55 per cent of the required amount; reports
of additional funding have also been recently received and are in the process
of being confirmed. Despite generous contributions, funding has thus far been
insufficient to prepare fully for the worst-case scenario. As partners shift from
preparedness to response, funding requirements are expected to increase, and
winterization will become a priority as temperatures drop over the coming weeks.
Ultimately, the required scale and duration – and thus the cost – of the humanitarian
response will be determined by the degree of destruction to civilian infrastructure,
the contamination by explosive devices, and the resulting degree and length of
displacement.

• Humanitarian partners are also seeking funding for the 2016 Iraq Humanitarian
Response Plan. Launched in January, the Plan requests $861 million to support 7.3
million vulnerable Iraqis. To date, 62 per cent of this requirement has been received.
The impact of under-funding has been enormous. More than 120 emergency
programmes have closed or could not start. Before the end of the year, 60 additional
programmes may have to close. This affects the ability of humanitarian partners to
provide first line life-saving assistance – such as water, food, hygiene supplies and
health services – to all Iraqis in need.

The next information sheet on Mosul’s humanitarian response will be issued as more information becomes available.

For media enquiries: Karim Elkorany, elkorany@un.org, +964 790 193 1292; Other enquiries: Louise Barber, barber@un.org

Disclaimer: This document is subject to availability of data at the time of circulation and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified.