Overview

- One month after the beginning of the military operation to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), current displacement has risen to 59,000 people. Three quarters of the displaced families are sheltering in camps while the remainder is in host communities, sheltering in private settings or public buildings.

- The number of people displaced in the first weeks of the operation is lower than initially anticipated. However, since the military operation reached the outskirts of Mosul at the beginning of November, the displacement rate has increased significantly with the total number of displaced people doubling in the last 2 weeks. Fighting in the outskirts and inside Mosul city continues to drive displacement, mainly towards the east and southeast.

- Protection concerns define this crisis. Displaced people fleeing conflict are making dangerous journeys to reach safety. They face risks from direct and indirect fire, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, as well as possible retaliation from ISIL. Civilians face serious risks, including being used as human shields, cross-fire, physical and other forms of violence.

- As humanitarian actors gain access to recently retaken areas, the scope of needs in these communities after more than two years under the control of ISIL is becoming clearer. In some areas, public infrastructure has been damaged, compromising the delivery of basic services, including health care, education, and water provision. Markets have been disrupted affecting the capacity of families to buy food and essential items. Livelihoods have also been severely affected, with a majority of people having little income generating activities.

- Toxic smoke from fires at a sulphur factory and oil wells near Al Qayyarah that were set alight by ISIL as they retreated has affected 14 towns for a period of 25 to 60 days, having immediate health effects on people nearby. More than 1,500 people sought treatment for respiratory complications. So far, the fires at the sulphur factory and one oil well have been extinguished, while efforts continue to cap 19 oil wells that are still burning. The mid- and long-term effects on people’s health, the environment, agriculture and livelihoods could be dire.

Humanitarian Response

- More than 45,000 people, i.e. 75 per cent of the displaced population so far, are in camps east and south of Mosul in Ninewa, Erbil and Anbar governorates. Close to 25 per cent of the displaced population are in host communities. Shelter is readily available to accommodate a further 47,000 displaced people in seven camps. Construction at other sites is accelerating to create capacity for an additional 453,000 people.

- Emergency response missions close to the front lines have reached 69,000 displaced people with emergency food, water and basic hygiene items within 48 hours. Similar emergency response missions took place to newly accessible areas to provide immediate relief to vulnerable resident or host communities, including in Mosul eastern suburbs. Mobile clinics are providing health care to vulnerable people in hard to reach areas.

- Humanitarian partners have reached tens of thousands of vulnerable people in resident and host communities with various forms of aid, such as food rations, essential household items, potable water, sanitation and hygiene kits, medical care, vaccination and psychological support. Displacement tracking and protection monitoring is conducted on a daily basis.
MOSUL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
IN NUMBERS

1.2-1.5M
PEOPLE COULD BE AFFECTED OVERALL
BY THE MILITARY OPERATIONS

1M
COULD BE DISPLACED
IN A WORST CASE SCENARIO

700,000
PEOPLE MAY NEED
TO BE ACCOMMODATED
IN EMERGENCY SHELTERS

US$284M*
REQUESTED FOR THE FLASH APPEAL,
TO PREPARE AHEAD OF THE MILITARY
CAMPAIGN

*Funding requirement under revision to
respond to the crisis

65%
OF THE REQUIRED AMOUNT FOR
THE PREPAREDNESS MOSUL FLASH
APPEAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED

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

69%
OF THE REQUESTED FUNDING
FOR THE HRP HAS BEEN RECEIVED

HUMANITARIAN SCENARIOS

• 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. Up to 1 million girls, boys, women
and men could be displaced and 700,000 may need to be accommodated in camps and
emergency sites.

• As military operations intensify inside of Mosul city, there is great concern of increased
civilian casualties. 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 are
particularly vulnerable. Delays, abuses, and irregularities may occur during screening of
displaced families.

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.

• As humanitarian access becomes possible to retaken urban areas of Mosul, the delivery
of first-line emergency response to vulnerable residents is prioritized by partners.
Protection of civilians remains a top priority for the humanitarian community especially
in parts of Mosul where hostilities take place.

• With winter approaching, and temperatures dramatically dropping at night, displaced
families need winterization assistance. Humanitarian partners have started distributing
winter items and need to ensure that sufficient stocks are available to cover the
anticipated needs.

FUNDING

• As of 17 November, US$183 million had been confirmed for the Mosul Flash Appeal,
representing 65 per cent of the $284 million requested. Reports of additional funding
have been received, and are in the process of being confirmed. Despite generous
contributions, further funding is required to fully prepare for the worst-case scenario.
While partners have continued to ramp-up preparedness efforts to boost camp capacity
and availability of emergency supplies, they have shifted to responding to needs of
people affected by the crisis. With fighting now reaching urban areas of Mosul, more
people will be affected by the crisis and humanitarian partners are revising funding
requirements to respond effectively. Winterization is a priority as temperatures drop
over the coming weeks.

• 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 across the country. To date, 69 per cent of this requirement
has been received. This under-funding has forced more than 120 emergency
programmes to close or prevented their start, affecting the ability of humanitarian
partners to provide first line life-saving assistance – such as water, food, hygiene supplies
and health services – to people in need.