For more information please contact us at iraqpublicinfo@iom.int

For more information on the Displacement Tracking Matrix, please visit iraqdtm.iom.int

Stories of Displacement: Najat

“My name is Najat. My sons and I are from Mosul. Life there had become very difficult. There was not enough food, and we were hungry. We finally decided to flee because of the fighting around our home.

“The first time we tried to leave, ISIL caught us, took away our IDs and sent us back home. We made other attempts to escape; we were caught twice more, but finally on our fourth attempt we got away. We fled at night, at around 11. It was just my sons and I, and we were very afraid.

“We did not bring any bags because we thought that we would be caught, so we do not have any other clothes. We spent seven hours walking and had to cross the river. When we arrived at the Iraqi Army checkpoint, they brought us here to Qayara. Our neighbors are here also.”

“My sons and I stay together in a tent. During the day they play games and soccer with other children. I cook in the tent - rice, tomato paste, hummus and chicken.

“My oldest wants to be a teacher. He is literate, but the younger boys can’t read or write; because of ISIL’s presence, the school system changed and they lost three years of school. I want them to go back to school.”

“Life here is good. We are together, but it is better to be home. When it is safe to go back, we will return.”

Right (©Sandra Black/IOM Iraq 2017): Najat and sons at Qayara Airstrip emergency site.