Highlights

- Humanitarian partners have mobilised to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from new military operations in western Mosul city launched by Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) on 19 February. The initial humanitarian impact of these advances during the first few days of the offensive was not high, as security forces moved through sparsely populated hinterland areas where most civilians had already fled and due to the Iraqi Security Force’s (ISF) continued adherence to the humanitarian concept of operations.

- Efforts are being made by humanitarian partners to accelerate and expand site capacity in Hammam al Alil, Qayyarah and Haj Ali, and to support government efforts to expand displacement sites in Ja’dah and Al Salamiyah through the provision of water and sanitation services.

- Although UN missions to neighbourhoods in eastern Mosul were temporarily postponed during the week due to security considerations, front-line partners were able to continue delivering assistance. Following a new security risk assessment, UN humanitarian agencies resumed their missions in eastern Mosul on 19 February.

- Although civilian trauma rates on the first day of the new offensive in western Mosul were limited, trauma rates remain generally high, with many trauma cases requiring referral from eastern Mosul city to Erbil city, largely as a result of indirect fire, drone-borne grenade attacks and suicide attacks.

- Significant shortages of drinking water remain a primary humanitarian concern in eastern Mosul city.

945,000 People in and out of camps received emergency response packages of food, water and hygiene items (since 17 October)
1,124,000 People in and out of camps receiving WASH services (since 17 October)
486,000 Medical consultations have been provided (since 17 October)
160,000 People currently displaced by the Mosul crisis
134,000 People currently displaced to camps and emergency sites
10,000 plots are available now for new arrivals in camps and emergency sites
Situation Overview

Humanitarian partners have mobilised to respond to humanitarian needs resulting from new military operations in western Mosul launched by Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) on 19 February. The initial humanitarian impact of these advances was not high during the first few days of the offensive, as security forces moved through sparsely populated hinterland areas where most civilians had already fled and continued adherence to the humanitarian concept of operations by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).

Emergency relief, consisting of food rations, water supplies and essential supplies will be provided to people in newly accessible villages as soon as security allows. As the fighting reaches more heavily populated urban areas a variety of possible scenarios could unfold, including providing assistance to people displaced by the fighting and to people sheltering in place. As many as 250,000 people could flee the battlefront itself with a large number remaining in place pending the situation clearing. Given the narrow streets and high population density in western Mosul city, particularly in the Old Town area, civilians are at great risk of being caught in crossfire, and infrastructure is likely to sustain significant damage. Efforts are being made by humanitarian partners to accelerate and expand site capacity in Hammam al Ali, Qayyarah and Haj Ali, and to support government efforts to expand displacement sites in Ja’dah and Al Salamiyah through the provision of water and sanitation services.

Although civilian trauma rates on the first day of the new offensive in western Mosul were limited, trauma rates remain generally high, with many trauma cases requiring referral from eastern Mosul city to Erbil city, largely as a result of indirect fire, drone-borne grenade attacks and suicide attacks. From 17 October 2016 to 16 February 2017, over 1,754 wounded civilians have been sent to Erbil’s main hospitals to receive trauma care. Between 8 January and 16 February, the 50-bed type II field surgical hospital in Bartalah treated 572 civilians for trauma injuries. Humanitarian partners have established two new Trauma Stabilization Points (TSPs) south of Mosul city. The need for trauma care in relation to West Mosul is likely to increase as efforts to retake West Mosul will intensify.

Although UN missions to neighbourhoods in eastern Mosul were temporarily postponed during the week due to security considerations, front-line partners were able to continue delivering assistance. Following a new security risk assessment, UN humanitarian agencies resumed their missions to eastern Mosul on 19 February, including explosive hazard assessment and clearance activities. A humanitarian partner began preparation activities for the distribution of emergency multi-sectoral assistance packages in eastern Mosul city on 19 February, but these activities were paused following a security incident in another part of the city.

Since fighting began on 17 October 2016, more than 217,000 people have been displaced from the eastern sections of Mosul and surrounding areas, with 57,000 people having returned to their areas of origin, primarily to eastern Mosul city. At least 550,000 civilians remained in their homes during the fighting in eastern Mosul. On 19 February, 159,936 people were living in displacement. A net increase of approximately 8,000 people living in displacement occurred in the last week, largely due to a decrease in the number of returns taking place, particularly returns from Hasansham and Khazer camps. For the first time since mid-January, the number of new arrivals at camps has been higher than people returning to their area of origin. This has been largely attributed to increased insecurity in eastern Mosul city.

The extensive development of markets in close proximity to newly accessible areas of eastern Mosul city has reportedly meant that food insecurity is primarily a result of low income levels, which are exacerbated by limited employment opportunities. Food is also reportedly available in western Mosul city markets, but the availability of commercial supplies is growing smaller, as supply routes to this part of the city have been cut since the beginning of November. The availability of fresh food stuffs such as vegetables, meat and fish is most greatly impacted. Prices of some food stuffs, such as sugar and potatoes, have reportedly more than doubled likely causing significant strain particularly on vulnerable families.

Significant shortages of drinking water remain a primary humanitarian concern in eastern Mosul city. Humanitarian partners are currently trucking an average of 2,300m³ of water per day to 28 neighbourhoods in eastern Mosul city. The Al Sahroon water treatment plant (WTP) had recently begun supplying 70,000 residents in four surrounding neighbourhoods with piped water at a rate of 2,000 m³ per hour, and was providing an additional 1,000 m³ per day of trucked water to 12 other eastern Mosul city neighbourhoods. The generator of this treatment plant was struck by indirect fire on 19 February, rendering the plant inoperable. Many neighbourhoods in the southern and western parts of western Mosul city also have no access to the public network and are potentially accessing untreated drinking water. The re-establishment of a functioning city-wide water network is a key priority.
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Funding

Humanitarian partners continue to mobilize funding for the operation. Ninety-seven percent of the Mosul Flash Appeal, launched in July 2016 to prepare for the operation, has been received. This has allowed partners to reach hundreds of thousands of people during the first stages of the campaign. In mid-December, partners presented an Advance Executive Summary of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq estimating that US$ 930 million is needed to reach 5.8 million Iraqis. Of this, approximately $ 570 million is being sought for the Mosul operation. The full-fledged HRP for 2017 is expected to be presented in the coming weeks.

Humanitarian Response

Rapid Response Mechanism

Needs:

- People in newly accessible areas, or on their way to displacement camps and emergency sites, require immediate access to basic assistance and services.

Response:

- During the reporting period, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners distributed 1,912 emergency kits to 1,609 families, benefitting 8,026 displaced people, including 4,414 children. The majority of kits were distributed to displaced families arriving at the Qayyarah Airstrip and Hajj Ali emergency sites and Jad’ah camp (4,917 people), followed by Hamdaniyah (1,177 people), Hasansham and Khazer camps (1,031 people), Al Shikhan (484 people) and Debaga camp (124 people).
- Since the beginning of the Mosul operation on 17 October, RRM partners have distributed emergency kits to 301,863 people (including 166,024 children), of whom 30,199 were reached in newly accessible areas of eastern Mosul city. As people may have been displaced multiple times, it is possible that some people have received RRM assistance more than once.
- An RRM kit consists of 12 kilograms of immediate response food rations, a hygiene kit to last a family a week, 12 litres of bottled drinking water and a water container. Where possible, the kits also include a dignity kit.

Gaps and constraints:

- There is currently limited humanitarian access to families displaced to areas south of Tel Afar due to security guidelines of several organizations. A UN mission will visit this area in the near future to undertake a security risk assessment.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- Some 133,990 people are currently being sheltered in camps and emergency sites, with the remainder in host communities and informal sites. The increase in returns to eastern Mosul city had, until last week, significantly reduced the number of people living in some camps, particularly in Hasansham, Khazer and Qaymawa camps. The number of people entering these camps is now increasing again and, as of 19 February, there were only 1,640 plots available.

Response:

- According to partners and local authorities, the current construction projections anticipate that by the end of February 39,622 plots may be ready, which could accommodate 237,732 displaced persons. This is in addition to plots vacated by returns.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In Jad’ah camp and Hajj Ali emergency site more WASH facilities are required before greater numbers of people can be adequately accommodated with full access to services.
Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:
- Winter support in the form of tent winterisation, heating and cooking fuel, warm clothing and blankets are still a priority need.

Response
- During the reporting period, 1,068 basic NFI kits and 3,910 clothing kits were distributed in camps, while in out-of-camp settings 583 basic NFI kits were distributed to vulnerable families.
- Since the beginning of the response, a total of 90,427 NFI kits (including 30,219 mobile NFI kits and 60,208 basic NFI kits) have been distributed, reaching more than 542,562 people. In addition, a total of 23,903 winter top-up kits including heaters, thermal mats and kerosene jerry cans have been distributed, reaching more than 143,418 people. More than 106,243 clothing kits have also been distributed.
- During the last week, complementary seasonal items - supplementary blankets, quilts, stoves and heaters - were provided to more than 1,353 families. In total, 72,716 families have been reached with complementary seasonal items since 17 October 2016.
- Approximately 178 basic emergency shelter kits were installed or distributed in out-of-camp settings, in neighbourhoods in Mosul, Tikrit and Hamdaniya districts. 310 tents were installed in Hajj Ali and Qayyarah Airstrip emergency sites and 865 sealing-off kits were distributed in out-of-camp settings in Tikrit district.
- A total of 34,117 family tents have been pitched in camps and emergency sites for approximately 204,702 people, and 7,102 emergency shelter kits and 4,573 emergency sealing-off kits have been distributed since 17 October, benefitting almost 70,050 people.

Gaps & Constraints:
- The main reported gap is cooking and heating fuels in some camps and newly accessible areas.

Food Security

Needs:
- Displaced families and vulnerable people in newly accessible areas require ready-to-eat food, followed by dry food rations. For displaced people this assistance is provided upon arrival at screening sites and camps.
- In newly accessible areas, families report limited livelihood opportunities, and some people lack access to the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Response:
- During the week, partners distributed dry food rations to 4,896 families (24,480 individuals). The distributions were given to 1,000 families (5,000 individuals) in the Qayyarah Airstrip emergency site, 593 families (2,965 individuals) in the Hajj Ali emergency site, 1,452 families (7,260 individuals) in Hasansham M2 camp, 252 families (1,260 individuals) in Hasansham U3 camp, 519 families (2,595 individuals) in Jad’ah IV camp extension, 292 families (2,595 individuals) in Jad’ah camp and 792 families (3,960 individuals) in Khazer camp.
- During the week, partners reported distributing ready to eat emergency food rations to 3,784 families (18,920 individuals). The distributions were given to 26 families (130 individuals) in Tulul Al-Kham village, 36 families (180 individuals) in Ejba village, 308 families (1,540 individuals).
- Emergency food distributions in eastern Mosul city were as follows: Bareed 2,493 families (12,465 individuals) in Refaq and Muthana, 761 families (3,805 individuals) in Qawsiyat, and 160 families (800 individuals) in Kafaat.
- MOMD distributed 34,900 ready to eat rations and 600 dry food rations in the last week, including 22,900 ready to rations in eastern Mosul city, and 600 dry food rations and 12,000 ready to eat rations in Jad’ah camp.

Gaps and constraints:
- Restrictions on the movement of livestock between Erbil and Ninewa governorates, and the lack of space in camps for livestock, have meant some people are unwilling or unable to relocate to camps.
Health

Needs:
- As leishmaniasis is endemic to the Mosul area, treatment of this condition is a priority in the coming months (March-April).
- As fighting in western Mosul enters densely populated areas, trauma care services will be in high demand.
- There is an urgent need for blood services in trauma care facilities.

Response:
- Health partners have reported a total of 20,769 consultations during the reporting period. Of these, 3,964 consultations were for children under 5 years.
- This week, 2,115 reproductive health care consultations were reported. 427 emergency referrals were made, of which 68 cases were referred due to complications during pregnancy or delivery. Some 72 consultations for mental health or psychosocial support were conducted.
- A total of 114 polio and measles vaccinations were given to children under the age of 15 years this week.
- Qayyarah Hospital received medical equipment and furniture to manage post-operative cases, which are expected due to the new military offensive in western Mosul.
- Eight mobile medical clinics in the Hamdaniya and Qayyarah districts continued to deliver essential primary health care services to IDPs and host communities.

Gaps and constraints:
- There is inadequate capacity for post-operative care.
- Trauma stabilization points (TSPs) and field hospitals require more trauma specialists.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- Eastern Mosul city does not have sufficient access to safe drinking water.
- Adequate WASH facilities are needed in schools in newly accessible areas.
- Solid waste management is needed in eastern Mosul city and other newly-retaken areas.

Response:
- 129,548 displaced people (21,591 families) are receiving WASH services in existing camps and transit sites.
- The Al Sahroon water treatment plant (WTP) had recently begun supplying 70,000 residents in four surrounding neighbourhoods with piped water at a rate of 2,000 m³ per hour, and was providing an additional 1,000 m³ per day of trucked water to 12 other eastern Mosul city neighbourhoods. The generator of this treatment plant was struck by indirect fire on 19 February, rendering the plant inoperable.
- Drinking water is being trucked by humanitarian partners to 28 neighbourhoods at a rate of approximately 2,300 m³ per day. Drinking water is also being trucked to Tilkeif, Talusquf and Qawsiat villages from a well in Shalalat, eastern Mosul. Some 837 m³ of water has been trucked to these villages since 27 January.
- Purification tablets have also been distributed to the local primary health care centres to treat water from shallow wells.
- Emergency WASH NFI distributions to 91,200 people (15,200 families) in eastern Mosul were conducted during the reporting period.
- WASH-ready plots have been prepared across camps and emergency sites and 41,961 plots in transit sites, to serve a potential 255,150 displaced people.
- Installation of a piped water network for the first 2,100 plots in Hajj Ali is now operational, covering the drinking water requirement of 2,100 plots.

Gaps and constraints:
- There is a significant gap WASH coverage to the remaining 3,000 plots in Hajj Ali.
- Funding for the rehabilitation of water treatment plants is urgently required to deliver sustainable potable water access.
Protection

Needs:

- Protection response activities need to be scaled up in eastern Mosul city.
- Maintaining the civilian character of displacement sites is a major need in some camps south of Mosul city.
- An analysis on the scale of explosive hazards requiring mechanical clearance is required, given large areas of contamination.

Response:

- Since 17 October, 254,900 people have been reached by protection partners.
- 28 rapid protection assessments (RPAs) have been conducted since 17 October in and out of camps.
- Since 17 October, 9,360 families (46,865 people) were reached by protection monitoring teams. An additional 18,893 people have been reached with general psychosocial support and 10,269 cases have been referred by mobile protection teams for specialized assistance.
- During the reporting period, 8,179 children (4,122 girls and 4,057 boys) received psychosocial support, and 5,675 children (2,703 girls and 2,972 boys) received psychological first aid. Since 17 October, 36,633 children (18,646 girls and 20,388 boys) have received psychological first aid.
- 25 unaccompanied and separated children (8 girls, 17 boys) were documented during the reporting period, bringing the total to 820 children (274 girls, 546 boys) since 17 October. A further 39,034 children (18,646 girls and 20,388 boys) have been reunified with their families this week, bringing the total of children reunited with their families to 391 children (135 girls and 256 boys) since 17 October. A total of 2,471 children (1,094 girls and 1,377 boys) with protection concerns have been referred to specialized services since 17 October.
- Mine action sub-cluster partners continue clearance operations. During the reporting period, three schools were assessed and cleared in eastern Mosul and five in the Qayyarah area. Mine risk education has been provided to 60,067 people since 17 October.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A lack of legal assistance for adults detained in north-west Ninewa is a significant gap.

Education

Needs:

- Some 53,522 school-aged children are displaced, of whom 26,813 are not currently accessing any form of education.

Response:

- In the past week, 2,910 displaced children (1,239 boys and 1,671 girls) received support for non-formal education programmes for the first time in Khazer, Hasansham and Jad’ah camps, Hajj Ali and Qayyarah Airstrip emergency sites, and Daquq and Tikrit towns.
- Cumulatively, 26,700 displaced children (13,423 boys and 13,286 girls) are participating in education programmes in temporary learning spaces (TLSs) in Khazer, Hasansham, Jad’ah, Zelikan and Qaymawa camps, Hajj Ali and Qayyarah Airstrip emergency sites, in rehabilitated classrooms in Tikrit and Alam towns, and in the Qadisiyah neighbourhood of eastern Mosul city.
- Some 3,915 children (55 per cent girls) have been enrolled in formal education programmes in Hasansham camp.
- 1,670 children (57 per cent girls) were provided with student kits in Hasansham and Khazer camps.

Gaps & Constraints:

- More teachers are required. Only six volunteer teachers are available in Hasansham camp’s formal learning centre to support 1,875 children.
- Not all schools reopened by the Ninewa Directorate of Education (DoE) in eastern Mosul city have been properly cleared of explosive hazards.
- School textbooks are needed in camps and newly-retaken areas.
Logistics

Common Storage Space Available:
- 23,111 m³ available (49 per cent currently occupied).

Response:
- Between 17 October and 19 February, a total of 30,376 m³ of NFIs, equivalent to 6,449 mt, has been handled on behalf of 30 humanitarian organizations.
- This week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of an additional 1,500 MoDM family tents to Qayyarah Airstrip emergency site, in collaboration with IOM, to expand current camp capacity in the area. This brings the total number of tents transported since the beginning of the Mosul operation to 6,400, enough to host over 38,000 IDPs.
- Last week, the Logistics Cluster conducted field visits to the Qayarrah Airstrip, Jad’ah and Hajj Ali common storage facilities to liaise with partners and assess any gaps or duplications of effort.
- The One-Stop-Shop (OSS) for customs clearance continues to process requests, and has established direct liaison functions with the Kurdistan Medical Control Authority (KMCA) in order to better facilitate the clearance of health items.

Gaps and Constraints:
- NSTR.

Emergency Telecommunications

Response:
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) continues to provide security telecommunications and internet connectivity services to humanitarian partners at the Mercy Hands office in Qayyarah town and in the IOM and DRC offices in Qayyarah Airstrip emergency site.

Gaps and Constraints:
- Nothing significant to report.

Coordination and Common Services

Response:
- The Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Information Centre has handled 329 Mosul-related calls in the last week. Approximately 80 per cent of the calls were made by men, with the majority of calls related food assistance, and a significant number of calls from Mosul city were related to water insecurity. Cash assistance was requested by 12 per cent of callers. People who have recently returned to Mosul city continue to enquire as to how their identification documents could be returned to them.
- As of 19 February, IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reports that 159,936 people (26,656 families) are living in displacement as a result of hostilities in and around Mosul city that began on 17 October 2016.

Gaps and constraints:
- Nothing significant to report.
General Coordination

A High Advisory Team (HAT) that includes the Government of Iraq, Kurdistan Regional Government, militaries and the Humanitarian Coordinator meets regularly to manage strategic humanitarian issues. The HAT ensures overall coordination among all actors in the Mosul humanitarian response. An Emergency Cell comprised of the main cluster lead agencies involved in the Mosul response and chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator meets two times a week and as needed. The Humanitarian Country Team remains the strategic coordination structure among UN and NGO partners to oversee the humanitarian response in Iraq. The Joint Working Group, composed of the JCCC, MoMD and OCHA, meets fortnightly to ensure operational coordination for the Mosul humanitarian response. OCHA has set up the Humanitarian Operations Centre (HOC) in Erbil. A HOC meeting with MoMD, JCMC, JCCC, cluster partners and zone coordinators is held weekly. A UN civil-military humanitarian coordination framework facilitates humanitarian access, the protection of civilians, and the security of humanitarian aid workers.

For further information, please contact:
Damian Rance, rance@un.org

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Background on the crisis

Wide-scale violence and armed conflict erupted in Iraq in January 2014. Initially concentrated in Anbar Governorate, with the cities of Ramadi and Falluja particularly affected, the violence and its impact quickly grew, displacing over 500,000 people by May. In June 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), together with other armed groups, attacked and seized control of the country’s second largest city, Mosul, and large portions of northern Iraq, including areas of Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din governorates. This has led to ongoing armed conflict, massive internal displacement, serious and systematic violations of civilian protection and basic human rights, interrupted access to basic services, and severe strain on host communities. As a result, Iraq is now contending with one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with over 10 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Over 4 million Iraqis have been internally displaced by violence since January 2014. Of these, 3 million people are currently displaced.