Stories of Displacement: Abu Bariq

“I used to work as a truck driver, transporting oil and oil products across Iraq’s provinces. Before ISIL entered the city, our financial situation was good, but my business came to a grinding halt when they occupied Mosul.

I bought a small car to work as a taxi driver and earn some money, but shortly afterwards ISIL took it away under the pretext that I was transporting cigarettes. This seriously worsened our situation, and my 15-year-old son, Hamoudi, had to start selling cigarettes to earn some money. He was arrested by ISIL and they tortured him for 10 days.

Because of my anxiety thinking of what was happening to him, I got diabetes and high blood pressure. Then ISIL ordered us to leave our house; one of my sons refused, and he was detained for four days.

We tried to flee from West Mosul, and finally made it to the Iraqi Army checkpoint. We were free of ISIL, at last! My house was shelled but we are safe. We are now here in Qayara Emergency Site and have been provided with assistance.”.

Right: Abu Bariq inside his tent in Qayara Emergency Site (©IOM Iraq, 2017)