Four and a half months into the military operation to retake Mosul city from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), civilians continue to have significant humanitarian needs. These needs are most severe among displaced families, both in and out of camps, and among vulnerable residents of newly accessible areas.

On 19 February, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) resumed military operations to retake western Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The humanitarian impact has been significant. Since the new offensive began, 28,400 people have been displaced from western Mosul, according to IOM. The current daily average of displacement from western Mosul is approximately 4,000 people per day, the highest sustained daily average of displacement since the start of the conflict.

As of 2 March, current displacement has risen to 191,800 people. This is the highest number of people living in displacement since the crisis began. Cumulatively, 255,708 people have been displaced since 17 October 2016, of whom some 63,800 people – some 25 per cent – have returned to their areas of origin.

Approximately 85 per cent of displaced families are in camps and emergency sites, while the remainder is in host communities, sheltering in private settings or public buildings.

Up to 750,000 people in western Mosul city are estimated to remain largely inaccessible to humanitarians, sheltering from the fighting, or waiting for an opportune time to flee. Serious concerns remain for the protection of civilians in the west of the city, where food, water, medicine and fuel are running low. Given the narrow streets and high population density in western Mosul city, civilians are at great risk of being caught in crossfire, and infrastructure is likely to sustain damage.

Significant shortages of drinking water remain a major humanitarian concern in eastern Mosul city. Civilians in 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 reestablishment of a functioning city-wide water network is a key priority.

Initial trauma casualty rates from western Mosul are high, with over 75 civilians treated at trauma stabilization points near front line areas. From 17 October 2016 to 22 February 2017, over 1,776 wounded civilians have been sent to Erbil’s main hospitals to receive treatment for trauma injuries. Between 8 January and 22 February, the field surgical hospital in Bartalah treated 618 civilians for trauma injuries.

IN NUMBERS

- 191,800 People are currently displaced
- 85% of displaced people are in emergency camps
- 10,800 Family plots are available now to shelter displaced people in emergency camps
- 2,300 m³ of water delivered by humanitarian partners every day in eastern Mosul to supplement municipal supplies
- 1,776 People referred between 17 October 2016 and 22 March 2017 from frontline areas to Erbil’s two main hospitals to receive treatment for trauma injuries
- 45,200 Children who have received psychosocial support since 17 October 2016
- 550,600 people have received essential household supplies since 17 October 2016

OVERVIEW

- Four and a half months into the military operation to retake Mosul city from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), civilians continue to have significant humanitarian needs. These needs are most severe among displaced families, both in and out of camps, and among vulnerable residents of newly accessible areas.
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- Approximately 85 per cent of displaced families are in camps and emergency sites, while the remainder is in host communities, sheltering in private settings or public buildings.
- Up to 750,000 people in western Mosul city are estimated to remain largely inaccessible to humanitarians, sheltering from the fighting, or waiting for an opportune time to flee. Serious concerns remain for the protection of civilians in the west of the city, where food, water, medicine and fuel are running low. Given the narrow streets and high population density in western Mosul city, civilians are at great risk of being caught in crossfire, and infrastructure is likely to sustain damage.
- Significant shortages of drinking water remain a major humanitarian concern in eastern Mosul city. Civilians in 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 reestablishment of a functioning city-wide water network is a key priority.
- Initial trauma casualty rates from western Mosul are high, with over 75 civilians treated at trauma stabilization points near front line areas. From 17 October 2016 to 22 February 2017, over 1,776 wounded civilians have been sent to Erbil’s main hospitals to receive trauma care. Between 8 January and 22 February, the field surgical hospital in Bartalah treated 618 civilians for trauma injuries.
More than 164,000 people have found shelter in camps and emergency sites to the south and east of Mosul. Shelter is currently available to accommodate a further 10,800 families (nearly 64,800 people). Construction of new sites and plots sites is urgently underway to ensure adequate capacity is available for newly displaced people.

Wherever possible, efforts are being made to undertake assessment missions in newly accessible areas close to the front lines, rapidly followed by the distribution of emergency response assistance. Partners have reached over 1,000,000 people in need with multi-sectoral emergency response packages of food, water and basic hygiene items.

The high level of civilians receiving trauma injuries remains a significant humanitarian concern. Health partners are working to open four field hospitals close to Mosul, and have established two additional trauma stabilization points in Arbid and Al Arij, south of the city – bringing the total number of stabilization points in the area to five.

Since the beginning of the response, humanitarian partners have distributed a total of 91,769 NFI kits reaching more than 550,614 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.

Humanitarian partners continue water trucking to eastern Mosul city, delivering approximately 2,300 m³ (2.3m litres) of water per day to 28 neighbourhoods to supplement municipal water supplies.

Displacement tracking is conducted on a daily basis to monitor new movements of people.

Family separation, gender-based violence, maintaining the humanitarian and civilian nature of camps, and confiscation of legal documentation are some of the protection concerns being monitored by mobile protection teams. Children, women, the elderly and disabled are particularly vulnerable. Since 17 October, 45,218 children (22,022 girls and 23,196 boys) have received psychosocial support. A further 46,808 children (22,574 girls and 24,234 boys) have received psychological first aid.

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.

Advocating for the protection of civilians is a top priority for the humanitarian community.

As part of the humanitarian concept of operations, security forces have committed to alerting residents to developments 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.

Ensuring that trauma casualties receive the specialized treatment they need in a timely manner remains a high priority.

Residents who remain in recently retaken areas, particularly those in eastern Mosul city, are as vulnerable as those who have been displaced, as there is a severe shortage of basic services in most locations. As humanitarian access becomes possible in retaken urban areas of Mosul city, the delivery of first-line emergency assistance to all people in need, including vulnerable residents, is a priority.

Significant shortages of drinking water remain a priority humanitarian concern in eastern Mosul city. Civilians in 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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The next information sheet on Mosul’s humanitarian response will be issued as more information becomes available.

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