Six months into the military operation to retake Mosul City from the 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 vulnerable residents in newly accessible areas.

On 19 February, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) resumed military operations to retake western Mosul from ISIL. The humanitarian impact has been significant. Since the new offensive began, approximately 330,000 people from west Mosul have been displaced to camps and emergency sites as of 18 April, according to the Government of Iraq.

As of 18 April 2017, an estimated 400,000 people are currently living in displacement as a result of the military operations to retake Mosul, according to government figures. Cumulative displacement from west and east Mosul and surrounds was estimated at 491,000 people as of 18 April by the authorities, and returns at 91,000.

An estimated 500,000 people in western neighbourhoods of Mosul city remain largely inaccessible to humanitarians, sheltering from the fighting, or waiting for an opportune time to flee. 400,000 of them are in the old city. Serious concerns remain for the protection of civilians in west Mosul, where food, water, medicine and fuel are running low. Given the narrow streets and high population density in western Mosul city, people are at great risk of being caught in crossfire, and infrastructure is sustaining considerable damage.

Trauma casualty rates from Mosul City remain high. From 17 October 2016 to 12 April 2017, close to 6,400 hospital referrals were made from east and west Mosul, including 1,900 cases from west Mosul since 18 February.

Emergency response packages of food and water are being distributed to families arriving at the Hammam al-Alil screening site from west Mosul. Over 2 million people have received emergency response packages since mid-October.
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- Shelter at the camps and emergency sites is currently available to accommodate almost 6,500 families in 19 priority sites. Construction of new 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 million people with rapid response mechanism (RRM) kits. In addition to food and water, the kits also contain basic hygiene and dignity items and are distributed in the camps and emergency sites. Due to multiple displacements, it is possible that some people have been in need of RRM assistance more than once.

- Trauma care capacity for patients from western Mosul has been further strengthened with the establishment of two new field hospitals at Athba and Hammam al-Alil, south of Mosul. Five trauma stabilization points and four field hospitals to the south and east of Mosul are now receiving patients from Mosul, and a total of 15 ambulances have been dispatched to the field hospitals at Athba and Hammam al-Alil, and to al-Shefa hospital in east Mosul. A 20-bed maternity wing with an operating theatre has been opened in Athba hospital to provide comprehensive and emergency reproductive and obstetric healthcare.

- Since the beginning of the response, humanitarian partners have distributed a total of 124,400 NFI kits, reaching around 746,400 people.

- Humanitarian partners continue water trucking to eastern Mosul City. Nearly 28 neighborhoods now have access to safe drinking water, with a daily average of 2,300 m³ to supplement municipal water supplies. Almost 1.2 million people outside of camps have been reached with full WASH support since 17 October.

- 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, 71,200 children (34,900 girls and 36,300 boys) have received psychosocial support. A further 75,900 children (37,000 girls and 39,000 boys) have received psychological first aid.

HUMANITARIAN PRIORITIES

- 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 west and east 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 west and east Mosul city. Civilians in many neighborhoods in the southern and western parts of west Mosul city also lack access to the public network and are using untreated drinking water. The rate of diarrhoea amongst children displaced from west Mosul has risen. The re-establishment of a functioning city-wide water network is a key priority.

FUNDING

- Humanitarian partners continue to mobilize funding for the operation. Ninety-seven per cent, or US$276.5 million, of the $284-million Mosul Flash Appeal that was launched in July 2016 to prepare for the operation was received. This has allowed partners to reach hundreds of thousands of people during the first stages of the campaign. The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq requesting US$985 million is currently 14 per cent funded. Approximately $331 million is being sought for the Mosul operation under the 2017 HRP.

The next information sheet on Mosul’s humanitarian response will be issued as more information becomes available.

For enquiries: Damian Rance, rance@un.org, +964 751 740 3858

Disclaimer: This document is subject to availability of data at the time of circulation and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified.