



## Iraq

### ECHO FACTSHEET

#### Facts & Figures

People in need of  
humanitarian  
assistance:

**11 million**

Internally Displaced  
Persons (IDPs)

3.2 million currently  
displaced

244 235 Syrian  
Refugees

(Source:  
OCHA/UNHCR)

European  
Commission  
Humanitarian Aid  
2015-2017:

**€349.25 million** for  
both Iraqi IDPs and  
Syrian refugees inside  
Iraq

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#### Key message

- The UN estimates that over 150 000 people are to be directly affected by ongoing and prospective military operations in Western Anbar and Hawidja. Limited presence of humanitarian actors and violations against civilians fleeing Islamic State group (ISg) are critical concerns. The EU continues to call on all parties to the conflict to protect affected civilians by fully respecting International Humanitarian **Law (IHL) and Iraqi law**, safeguarding the rights and humane treatment of all displaced, due process and minimum conditions in screening and detention.
- Civilians in Mosul city face sustained threat of asymmetric attacks, unexploded weapons contamination and limited access to livelihoods and basic services. By the end of the Mosul military campaign the worst case contingency humanitarian planning was surpassed, with **over 1 million individuals displaced from the city**. As off today, over **700 000 remain displaced** in IDP camps and out-of-camp locations in East Mosul.
- On 20 September 2017, Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, announced **an additional €10 million in humanitarian aid to Iraq, bringing the total EU humanitarian contribution to the country to €350 million, since 2015**. The announcement was made during the Ministerial-level event on Iraq, co-chaired by the EU in the margins of the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

## Humanitarian situation and needs

**On 31 August, Iraqi Prime Minister, Mr Haider al-Abadi, declared Iraqi Security Forces' (ISF) control of Telafar district.** Sporadic clashes remain in northern villages. By then, approximately 43 000 people had been displaced from the district. People who fled reported dire conditions inside the city, with severe food and water shortages. A mission by humanitarian partners to the city reported it empty, with many of the buildings remained intact, including the hospital. Displaced families arrived exhausted and dehydrated at mustering points. Some had walked for 20 hours in extreme heat to reach safety. A suicide bomber killed two women and a child in an explosion at Bshar mustering point, on 29 August; a further 11 people were injured, six of whom were civilians. All were transported by the authorities to Dahuk emergency hospital for treatment. While unconfirmed reports indicate that authorities will aim to accelerate the return of civilians to Telafar, the fate of over 1400 foreign nationals, predominantly women and children is of growing concern. After three weeks, during which these civilians have been hosted at a transit site in Hamam Al Alil, under extreme restrictions in their freedom of movement, they were relocated to a makeshift facility managed by Iraqi forces. Assurance of basic conditions and protection safeguard for this population is to be granted.

**Military preparations for the East Shirqa and Hawidja** were fast tracked during the first weeks of September. This led to up-paced emergency preparedness efforts of humanitarian partners, in likely areas of displacement, in Salah al Din and Ninewa governorate, as well as in areas to be retaken. ISG took control of the area in June 2014 and since August 2016 some 102 000 people fled. The United Nations (UN) estimates that **85 000 people are at extreme risk and likely to be heavily affected in the coming weeks and months.** Secondary reports have indicated that civilians have experienced, particularly from August 2016 when the district of Hawidja was surrounded, extreme hardship. Food is scarce, as are medicine and healthcare. Fighting is likely to be fierce and abidance by the principles of proportionality and discrimination in the attack will be essential to protect civilians.

Fleeing from Hawidja is expected to be a life-threatening undertaking, with families exposed to explosive hazards as well as direct/indirect fire. Extremely vulnerable individuals, such as elderly, female headed households and people with disabilities, are a significant portion of those civilians still under ISG control. It is estimated that close to 60 000 individuals might be displaced, as result of the military operation. With camp capacity being already strained in Salah al Din, basic up-grades of internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps is urgently needed. On the basis of lessons learnt during the Mosul humanitarian response, basic lifesaving assistance is to be provided at mustering points around the perimeter of active fighting areas, with extended services (water, food, health and sanitation) been readily available at pre-identified security screening sites.

Ana, Ru'ua and Ka'im districts, in **western Anbar** Governorate, have been under ISIL control since early 2014, and are currently estimated to host **100 000 civilians in need of humanitarian assistance.** The current intensification of the military operations in the area has doubled the number of families displaced on daily basis. Almost every day, around 100 displaced families from West Anbar make it to the security screening site established in Kilo 18, West of Ramadi, having had to pay smugglers to flee ISG control and active conflict. Basic services at the transit site have been stretched to the limit, given the constant flow and extended presence of families. Security cleared families are then transported to pre-existing IDP camps in East Anbar, established as part of the Fallujah response, in 2016. The population previously displaced into these camps has faced in the last weeks communication by security forces demanding their return to areas of origin. Forced relocations to security screening sites has also been reported. Such **pattern of forced, but also prevented, returns** replicates the one observed in defined IDP camps in Baghdad governorate.

**Western Mosul faces unprecedented levels of damage to civilian houses and infrastructure,** in newly re-taken areas, and widespread contamination by unexploded devices. There is a **lack of functional basic services (water, health, electricity)** able to cater for the needs of residents, displaced and returnees. Humanitarian needs of the over 350 000 people displaced from West to East Mosul, residing in out of camp shelters, are yet to be comprehensively covered. A sustained, while limited, number of displaced families, previously hosted out-of-camp in Eastern Mosul, have been forced to resort to IDP camps, given their exhaustion of economic resources and the absence of livelihood opportunities. **Revitalising basic public services and the support of mid and longer term aid instruments for income generation/livelihood opportunities in East and West Mosul**



remains a priority, as well as the delivery of coordinated protection and victim assistance support.

## The European Union's Response

**The EU is a leading donor in the Iraq humanitarian response**, supporting all civilians in need, upholding the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Aid has to be delivered to all populations in need, regardless of their religious affiliation, prioritising areas with the highest needs and lowest pre-existing humanitarian response capacity.

### Assisting conflict affected populations inside Iraq

In response to the growing humanitarian needs of those affected by the conflict, including the recently announced additional €10 million, the **European Commission** has committed a **total of €82.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq in 2017**. Its support consists of an integrated, multi-sector life-saving response to the most vulnerable groups, including food, health care, water, sanitation and hygiene as well as protection, shelter and education in emergencies. Since 2015, €350 million have been dedicated by the EU to provide emergency assistance in response to the humanitarian consequences of the current conflict in Iraq.

Through the EU-funded rapid response mechanism (RRM), led by WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA and implemented by seven NGOs, **43 000 displaced individuals from Telafar received food, water and hygiene NFIs, within less than 24 hours of their displacement**. As in response to Mosul emergency, trauma stabilisation points (TSPs) were established on the outskirts of Telafar, along the Eastern and Southern displacement axes, as first points of care for all those injured during the fighting. The EU supported first line protection actors were present at all mustering and screening points throughout the displacement, providing critical information and aid to populations with special needs. Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) support were in place at the main transit and screening site in Haman Al Alil, through EU-supported Norwegian Refugee Council action.

Given the concomitant military operations of **Hawidja and West Anbar, the EU has reinforced its funding to humanitarian partners for the response to ongoing and expected greater scale displacement**. EU-supported partners conduct RRM actions and nutritional screening in Kirkuk, as well as integrated basic assistance at reception sites in Shirqat, in northern Salah Al Din Governorate. Terre des Hommes' (TdH) action supports between 50 to 150 displaced individuals who arrive on daily basis from ISg controlled Hawidja. The EU is also funding the delivery of primary healthcare services and child protection, and, in main locations of displacement in Tikrit and Al Alam, the implementation of water and sanitation (WASH) services, child protection and education activities, as well as health services and CCCM. In Western Anbar, an integrated emergency response is supported by the EU, covering first points of entry into displacement as well as displacement sites. Additional support for the assurance of basic assistance able to reach newly retaken areas has also been considered by the EU, focused on the provision of health services, WASH and basic non-food items (NFI).

Aiming to mitigate the growing protection risks faced by stigmatised populations, and displaced families prevented from returning to their areas of origin, **the EU has strengthened its support to protection partners**. EU-supported actions ensure the provision of integrated child protection and education assistance as well as legal services with a focus on civil documentation, access to social protection schemes, and for families with members who have been detained. Similarly, increased efforts aimed at scaling up the provision of gender based violence (GBV) services have been implemented by UNICEF, UNFPA, IRC, among others, with EU support.

The EU continues to support the **rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure in Western Mosul** through UNICEF and Oxfam, as well as water trucking and supply to residents in West Mosul. The EU also funds the **resumption of primary healthcare, including reproductive and mental health services, as well as the provision of coordinated multi-purpose cash** and cash based food assistance, in both east and west Mosul.

The EU continues to call on all parties to the conflict to ensure that all civilians are protected in accordance with IHL and Iraqi law, and aid is delivered in a principled manner.

