

# Humanitarian Overview: West Shirqat

Iraq, April 2017



## Introduction

<b>Total Population:</b>	At least 11,500 families <sup>1</sup>
<b>Est. Returnee population:</b>	5,049 families
<b>Est IDP population:</b>	6,552 families
<b>Date of AG arrival:</b>	June 2014
<b>Date of AG departure:</b>	September 2016
<b>Humanitarian access:</b>	Limited
<b>Month of data collection:</b>	April 2016

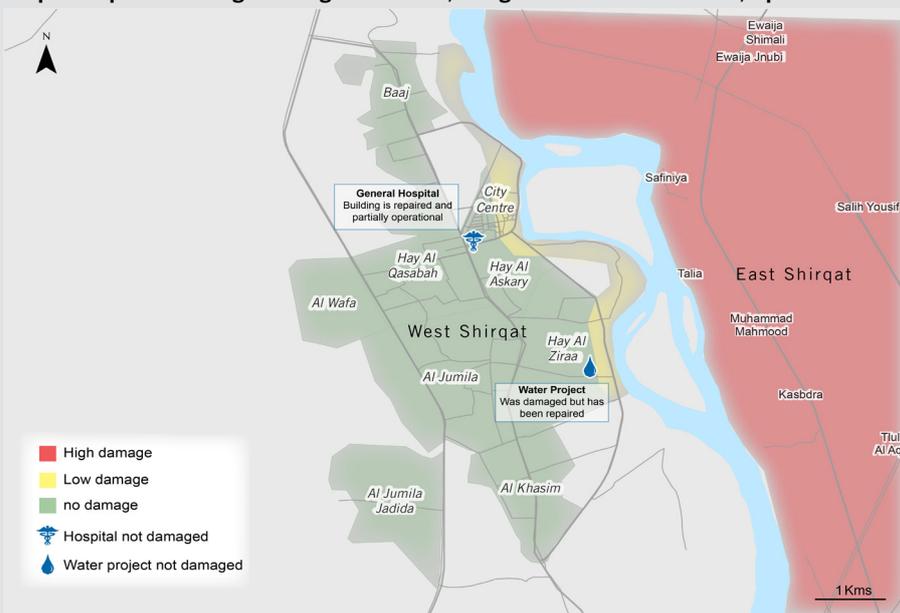
## Overview

West Shirqat was liberated from AG control in September 2016, while East Shirqat remains under AG control. The presence of armed groups in the East means the security situation in West Shirqat remains unstable.<sup>2</sup> According to KIs, around 60-70% of the population prior to the arrival of a AGs had returned to the city at the time of assessment, while 6,395 IDP families also reside in the city,<sup>3</sup> roughly half of whom come from the Eastern side of the city.

In West Shirqat, the primary sectors of concern were livelihoods, shelter and education. Other sectors such as water, electricity, healthcare and food are generally not areas of concern. As the military operation in West Shirqat was brief, it did not cause significant structural damage – though overcrowding was reported to be an issue.

Not enough information was gathered on East Shirqat for it to be included in this factsheet, but heavy damage (up to 60% of structures), a lack electricity and water supplies as well as shortages of basic food and NFIs were reported by KIs.

**Map 4: Reported damage to neighbourhoods, bridges and health facilities, April 2017**



<sup>1</sup> IOM DTM, 30 May 2017

<sup>2</sup> INSO REPORT - IRAQ - SALAH AL-DIN: SAF Impacts Near NGO Staff, 20 April 2017; INSO REPORT - IRAQ - SALAH AL-DIN: Exchange of Fire Near NGO Staff, 20 April 2017.

<sup>3</sup> IOM DTM, 30 May 2017

## Key findings

### Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Key findings
<b>Livelihoods</b>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the working population, 60-70% were employed by the government, including large numbers reported to be working for the security services.</li> <li>Approximately 5-10% of families had no source of livelihoods whatsoever.</li> <li>Daily work wages were said to have declined, making it difficult for unskilled labourers to support themselves.</li> <li>IDPs were reported to be the most vulnerable in terms of shortage of work/lack of livelihoods, primarily because of their lack of networks.</li> </ul>
<b>Shelter and Damage</b>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The areas closest to the river were said to be lightly damaged due to shelling from AG territory in East Shirqat. Those who were living close to the river had moved farther in to the city, to avoid shelling from AGs. Some of these individuals were said to move back and forth from their residences, as most shelling reportedly occurs at night.</li> <li>Between 60-70% were reportedly sharing houses, with 2-4 families per shelter.<sup>4</sup></li> <li>The majority of residents were living in standard housing, but small numbers of IDPs are living in shops and unfinished buildings.</li> </ul>
<b>Wash</b>	<p><b>1.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main water treatment station had been repaired and was reported to be filtering water.</li> <li>Water was reported to be limited to 3-4 hours per day and most are storing water in tanks.</li> <li>As alternatives, individuals were buying trucked water from the river (this also happened before AGs).</li> <li>There were no reported illnesses due to water quality, likely because of the repaired treatment plant.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<p><b>1.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main hospital incurred damage, but it was still reportedly functioning. Other clinics and pharmacies were said to be open and available.<sup>5</sup></li> <li>Doctors were reportedly available in sufficient levels and were being paid by the government. Specialists were still available, though KIs indicated a particular shortage of cardiologists, radiologists, orthopedists and anesthesiologists.</li> <li>There were shortages of medicine in all of the public medical facilities, especially for chronic diseases. Pharmacies were reportedly open, but the available medicine was said to be unaffordable for many families.</li> <li>At the time of assessment IDPs reportedly did not pay for consultations at public medical facilities, while returnees and the host community paid 2,000-3,000 IQD.</li> <li>Surgery was reportedly not available in the public hospital, but was reportedly available in the public hospitals in Tikrit and Baghdad.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<p><b>1.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All schools were reported to be functioning in West Shirqat and the majority of children were said to be attending. However, most schools were functioning on three shifts and some primary schools were reported to be overcrowded.<sup>6</sup></li> <li>There were enough teachers working and receiving their salaries from the government; however, there were shortages of materials, especially books.</li> <li>Most of those not attending school were reportedly IDP children whose families were waiting to return to their area of origin before enrolling their children.</li> </ul>
<b>Food Security</b>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food and NFIs were said to be largely available, with no shortages of particular goods reported. Prices were generally stable and largely the same as before AG arrival.</li> <li>KIs indicated that approximately 90% of markets were open, with goods primarily brought from Erbil via Qayarah, or from Tikrit.</li> <li>The PDS was functioning on a nearly monthly basis, but KIs reported that they were only receiving half rations of flour, rice, sugar and oil.</li> </ul>



### Methodology

REACH Initiative collected in-depth information from 38 Key Informants (KIs) through community group discussions (CGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) between 12-27 April 2017. Participants comprised of returnees living in West Shirqat and IDPs living in the KRI who remain in touch with friends and family in West Shirqat. Where possible, findings have been triangulated with secondary sources. The presented findings should be understood as indicative only.

### Returnees and IDPs

AGs departed from West Shirqat in September of 2016, and returns started soon after. By the end of May 2017, 5,049 families had returned to West Shirqat, primarily from areas of displacement within Salah al-Din governorate (2,958 families), as well as Kirkuk (993 families) and Erbil (838 families) governorates. In addition to these returnee families, West Shirqat hosted 6,552 IDP families. The vast majority of these – 4,972 families – were from Salah al-Din governorate, with KIs reporting that most of these were from AG-controlled East Shirqat. However, West Shirqat also hosted significant populations (1,015 families) from AG-controlled areas of Kirkuk governorate, as well as from Ninewa governorate (555) – with KIs reporting those from Ninewa were largely from West Mosul.<sup>7</sup>

When asked for reasons for return, KIs indicated that all had returned voluntarily, primarily to return to their property and to regain access to livelihood opportunities. Given the low levels of damage in West Shirqat, KIs indicated that many had returned relatively quickly, after communicating with family and friends who had already returned to the city. However, some IDPs had decided to remain displaced due to fear of the proximity of AGs to the city, particularly given continued security incidents in the vicinity of the city and its surrounding villages.

**Table 5: Reported prices, April 2017**

Product	Prices April 2017 <sup>8</sup>
Flour (50 kg)	20,000 IQD (17 USD)
Rice (50 kg)	50,000 IQD (42.6 USD)
Sugar (50 kg)	45,000 IQD (38.3 USD)
Cooking oil (1 L)	1,750 IQD (1.5 USD)
Tomato (1 L)	1,500 IQD (1.3 USD)
Fresh Meat (1 kg)	10,000-14,000 IQD (8.5-11.9 USD)
Fuel (1 L)	500 IQD (0.4 USD)
Kerosene (1 L)	500 IQD (0.4 USD)

#### Footnotes:

<sup>4</sup> Supported by Iraq Protection Cluster, Salah Al Din Returnee Profile (March 2017). It was reported that there was a very high demand for housing due to the influx of IDPs which was affecting prices.

<sup>5</sup> Information provided by a health care specialist KI. Reach Initiative, Shirqat: FGDs (April 2017).

<sup>6</sup> Supported by Iraq Education Cluster, Iraq Update (March 2017). It was reported that many schools in Salah Al Din were damaged or in need of rehabilitation, and that temporary classroom space was being provided in Shirqat by the cluster, which suggests lack of classroom space.

<sup>7</sup> IOM DTM, 30 May 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Based on an exchange rate of 1 USD = 1,175 IQD (as of 30 May 2017) via [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).