

# Humanitarian overview: Mosul

Iraq, October 2016



## Introduction

<b>Total population in the city:</b>	1.5 to 3 million ind. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):</b>	25%- 50%
<b>Date of armed group arrival:</b>	June 2014
<b>Date of armed group departure:</b>	n/a
<b>Humanitarian access:</b>	Not possible
<b>Month of data collection (2016):</b>	September/October

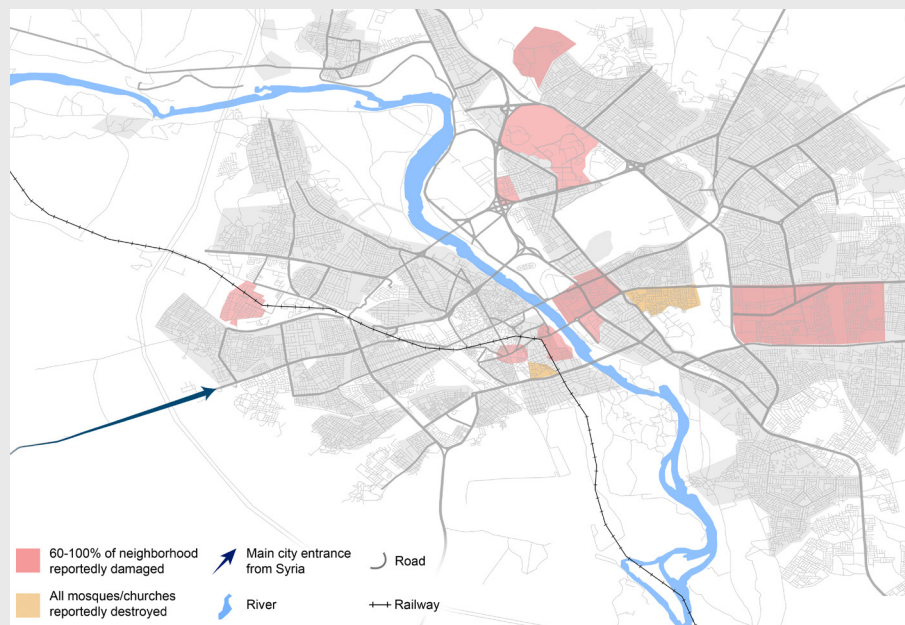
## Overview

Mosul - Iraq's second largest city - is one of the remaining territories in Iraq still under armed group (AG) control. Over the next month a military operation to retake the city is expected, with OCHA estimating that as many as 1.5 million additional individuals could be displaced from Mosul.<sup>2</sup>

Since the last round of REACH data collection in April 2016, there have been significant changes especially in terms of displacement. During the months of July and August displacement from Mosul increased with the availability of new escape routes.<sup>3</sup> Displacement has continued in September and October, albeit to a lesser extent.

The primary concern within the city is a severe lack of livelihoods, which has hindered people's access to food and services. IDPs are especially vulnerable as the majority are unable to pay rent. A lack of livelihoods is a primary push factor for displacement as families find themselves increasingly in vulnerable situations with limited ability to cope.

## Reported damage in Mosul city, October 2016



<sup>1</sup> Based on data collected in September and secondary resources ([DRC report](#), 07 October 2016; [The New York Times](#), 07 October 2016)

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, [Iraq Flash Update](#), 23 August 2016

<sup>3</sup> REACH Initiative, "Current Displacement and Future Intentions, Mosul", August 2016

## 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. In this case the effects of a lack of livelihoods on access to services have also been factored into the severity score

Sector	Severity	Key findings
<b>Livelihoods</b>	<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Access to livelihoods is very low across the city and only traders and pensioners have access to a reliable income</li><li>AGs impose shop tax and demand money for the poor ("poverty tax"), though participants believe AGs keep the money (see table 2)</li><li>Majority reported that only 10-50% of families in Mosul have one working member, making 2,000-3,000 IQD<sup>4</sup> a day</li><li>Overall there is no access to "hawalas",<sup>5</sup> however some neighborhoods reported limited availability of informal "hawalas"</li><li><b>Coping mechanisms:</b> Borrow money, families with money assist those without and sell assets</li></ul>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Up to 5-7 hospitals within the city are reportedly functioning, however civilians are not prioritised for treatment</li><li>Healthcare is very expensive (see table 2) - an eye operation cost one participant 100,000 IQD and blood test 30,000-40,000 IQD</li><li>Basic medication is available in hospitals, but expensive and there is a lack of specialised medication (e.g. for chronic diseases)</li><li>There are reports of people dying due to a lack of healthcare and medication or the use of expired medication</li><li><b>Coping mechanisms:</b> People go without healthcare/medication, beg for money, sell assets and use expired medication</li></ul>
<b>Food security</b>	<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Despite food being available - generally of good quality and not expensive - the majority cannot afford food due to a lack of money</li><li>Depending on the neighborhood, between 50-90% of pre-AG markets still exist in the city</li><li>Participants reported malnourished children, stunted growth, a susceptibility to illness amongst adults and weak nails</li><li><b>Coping mechanisms:</b> People buy only basic foods, rely on aid from family and friends to buy food (reportedly 75-80% of population), people skip meals (reportedly 30%-80%), people sell assets, beg and the poorest live off only water and bread</li></ul>
<b>Water &amp; Sanitation</b>	<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Access to public water supply reportedly varied across Mosul, ranging from a few hours every other day to a steady flow of water</li><li>Public water generally costs 2,000-3,000 IQD, with some neighborhoods reporting free water due to a lack of water meters</li><li>Water is generally considered not to be clean and most residents do not have the means to treat the water</li><li>There are reports of water related diseases, especially diarrhea amongst children</li><li><b>Coping mechanisms:</b> Save water in tanks, drink untreated water, rich civilians buy water and use water filters</li></ul>
<b>Education</b>	<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No to very limited school attendance due to an AG imposed curriculum</li><li>Teachers are forced to attend school, in most cases with no pay (one group reported teachers earn 25,000 IQD a month)</li></ul>
<b>Shelter</b>	<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>People live in either rented accommodation or previously owned houses - majority of IDPs need to rent</li><li>The price of rent has decreased with little available cash in the city</li><li>A minority live in overcrowded or damaged housing. These are primarily people who cannot afford rent or fix damaged houses</li></ul>

<sup>4</sup> Exchange rate: 1 USD = 1182.5 IQD

<sup>5</sup> A money transfer system

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## Communication

Across Mosul communication is severely limited - both televisions and mobile phones are banned - and a sense of fear inhibits open discussion between people. Nevertheless the vast majority of participants reported that either/both TVs or phones were used by families inside Mosul in secret, despite the risk of getting caught. Participants reported that recently AGs have announced that possession of mobile phones is punishable by death.

Phone networks are limited throughout the city; however Korek network reportedly works in elevated areas. Due to limited cash, civilians rely on family and friends outside of Mosul to top-up phone credit. Those with TVs use it for a limited amount of time - roughly half an hour - everyday to rapidly access up to date information.

## Intentions

Currently the vast majority of civilians within Mosul wish to leave the city as soon as possible however were a military operation to begin in Mosul the city would be split between those who prefer to remain in Mosul - for example to look after their assets - or those who wish to flee the city. In either case the majority of IDPs in Mosul would reportedly leave Mosul.

Primary destinations mirror those reported in August 2016 in REACH Intentions assessment on Mosul. The majority of IDPs aim to travel to the KRI either north-east of Mosul - to Dohuk and Sheikhan- or South past Qayarra. Primary needs of IDPs leaving will likely be shelter, food and water.

The majority of IDPs from Mosul city would intend to return once the city is safe, however they would be fearful of return were militias to be in surrounding areas.

## Methodology

REACH collected in-depth information from 20 participants through community group discussions (CGDs) and key informant (KI) interviews from 28 September to 5 October 2016. CGDs consisted of 5-6 members and were separated by gender.

All participants had recently displaced from Mosul - between the end of August and the end of September 2016.

Participatory mapping using high resolution satellite imagery enabled group discussion participants to indicate the location of damaged infrastructure.

Due to the inherent limitations in the data collection process, the presented findings should be understood as indicative only. Findings are restricted the knowledge of recent IDPs who had successfully left Mosul.

**Table 1: Reported price changes between March 2016 and September 2016**

Overall prices have reduced since March 2016, however this is due to a severe lack of cash within the city in parallel to the availability of food as trade routes from Syria are still open.

Product	Prices March 2016	Prices September 2016	Price change
Flour (50 Kilo)	70,000-100,000 IQD	27,000-30,000 IQD	▼
Rice (50 Kilo)	70,000-75,000 IQD	50,000-70,000 IQD	▼
Sugar (50 Kilo)	75,000-250,000 IQD	55,000-65,000 IQD	▼
Cooking oil (1L)	2,000-250,000 IQD	2,000-2,500 IQD	▼
Tomato (1L)	500-4,000 IQD	500-1,000 IQD	▼
Meat (1Kilo)	6,000-7,000 IQD	4,000-5,000 IQD	▼
Fuel (1L)	500-2,250 IQD	700-2,250 IQD	n/a
Kerosene (1L)	800-5,000 IQD	500-2,000 IQD	▼

**Table 2: Cost of basic services and additional taxes on civilians, October 2016**

Cost public electricity (per month)	Free (as very little electricity)	Cost of public water	2,000-3,000 IQD
Cost of generator electricity (1amp)	6,000-7,000 IQD	Cost of rent in AG housing	25,000- 50,000 IQD
Cost of doctor visit (per visit)	2,000-3,000 IQD	Cost of rent in host community	100,000- 200,000 IQD
Cost of blood test	30,000-40,000 IQD	Cost of AG tax of shop <sup>6</sup>	1,000 IQD every month for one square metre of product (e.g. vegetables)
Cost of treatment for flu	10,000 IQD	Taxation for the poor <sup>7</sup>	Generally reported as a % of income or total value of assets

<sup>6</sup> Data collected in August 2016

<sup>7</sup> Data collected in August 2016

## ABOUT THE REACH INITIATIVE:

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. All REACH activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms.

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Map: Displacement routes from Mosul and surrounding villages, July-October 2016

