### Mosul Offensive - West Mosul Displacement and Needs Overview

19 February -13 March 2017



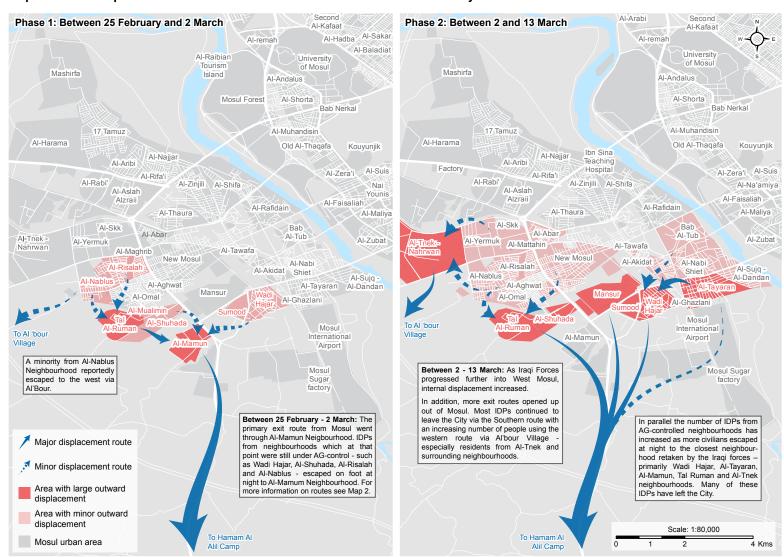
### Introduction

On 19 February 2017, Iraqi forces resumed military operations in order to retake the Western bank of Mosul City,1 with significant population displacement movements starting as of 25 February.<sup>2</sup> Between 19 February and 13 March, between 69,000<sup>3</sup> – 92,035<sup>4</sup> people have reportedly been displaced from West Mosul, primarily to emergency camps and sites. Unlike displacement from East Mosul where IDPs were almost exclusively hosted inside IDP camps - a large number of IDPs from West Mosul have been permitted to displace amongst the host community.5 particularly in East Mosul City where over 4,400 families (26,400 individuals)<sup>6</sup> are reported to have displaced.7 Overall, NGOs estimate that the ongoing conflict could displace up to 250,000 people from West Mosul in total.8 This situation overview outlines the primary displacement routes from West Mosul and surrounding areas since 19 February, and provides an overview of the current humanitarian needs in West Mosul.

## **Displacement Overview**

Displacement from West Mosul city has occurred primarily from recently retaken neighbourhoods in South-West Mosul with minor displacement also occuring from nearby neighbourhoods which are still under Armed Group (AG) control. Overall the primary push

Map 1: Internal Displacement and Exit Routes from West Mosul between 25 February and 13 March 2017.



factors for displacement were an increase in the intensity and proximity of conflict, in addition to a lack of food and water supplies. Displacement from West Mosul has occurred in two distinct phases: a) displacement between 25 February and 2 March towards the Qayarrah and Hamam Al Alil sub districts and b) displacement between 2 and 13 March, which saw displacement expand towards Hamdaniya sub-district and neighbourhoods in East Mosul City.

## Phase I: Displacement between 25 February – 2 March

Little displacement occurred between 19 and 25 February as the conflict entered villages on the outskirts of West Mosul, which were mostly

#### Methodology

This situation overview outlines primarily displacement trends from West Mosul and surrounding areas between 19 February and 13 March 2017 and the needs of conflict-affected individuals living in West Mosul. Between 2 and 13 March, REACH conducted rapid assessments in six IDP Camps - Hamam Al Alil, Qayyarah Airstrip, Qayyarah Jad'ah, Haji Ali, Hasansham MODM2 and Khazer MODM 1 - and four neighbourhoods in East Mosul -Shuqaq Al Khazra, Al Karama, Al Chaima and Al Intisar neighbourhoods. Community Group discussion (CGDs) and Key Informant (KI) interviews were conducted with 180 participants. Where possible data has been triangulated with available secondary sources.

empty, reportedly because their inhabitants had either previously fled or been moved by AGs into the city. On 25 February, two days after the army reached the outer neighbourhoods of West Mosul, significant displacement began. Between 25 February and 2 March, roughly 30,000 people reportedly fled West Mosul.9 The first arrivals came to Qayyarah Jad'ah and Airstrip camps from Al-Mamun neighbourhood and Al 'bour village between 25 and 27 February. As these camps filled, on the 27 March IDPs began to be transferred to Hamam Al Alil and Hajj Ali Camps. In addition to the afore mentioned areas of origin these camps also received IDPs from Tal Al-Ruman neighbourhood between 1 -2 March.

IDPs from the Al-Mamun and Tal Al-Ruman neighbourhoods were reportedly directed by Iragi forces to walk along a dirt track between Al-Mamun neighbourhood and Scorpion Checkpoint in Salam Village. IDPs from Al 'bour village on the other hand walked over the 'Atshan Mountains' to Sheikh Yunis Village where they were screened before being driven by Iraqi Forces to Hamam Al Alil Screening Site (See Map 2 for more information). Until 27 February, IDPs in Hamam Al Alil Screening Site were given the choice of being moved to either Qayyarah Jad'ah Camp or Qayyarah Airstrip Camp. However, by 27 February both camps reached capacity and Iraqi forces began to transfer people to either Haji Ali or Hamam Al Alil Camp. In addition, IDPs reported that some families went to live amongst the host community in Hamam Al Alil or Qayyarah towns, but that this was only possible with

a sponsor. As of 2 March, roughly 100 IDP families were reported to be sheltered in the host community around Hamam Al-Alil Town.<sup>10</sup>

Throughout this phase, limited displacement was also reported from nearby neighbourhoods in West Mosul which, at the time, were still under AG control such as: Wadi Hajar, Al-Shuhada and Al-Omal neighbourhoods (See Map 1). These IDPs reportedly escaped on foot at night to the nearest neighbourhood with an Iraqi force presence. Once at either the retaken Tal Al-Ruman or Al-Mamun neighbourhoods they followed the same route reported above.

## Phase II: Displacement between 2-13 March

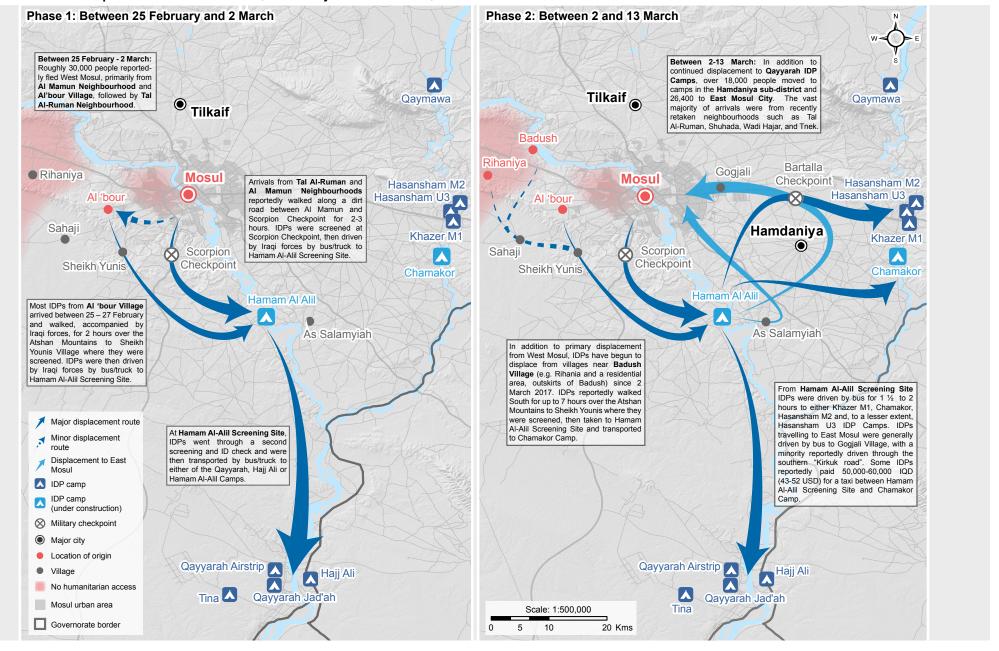
By the beginning of March, as camps South of Mosul were reaching capacity, additional space was needed to host the rising numbers of IDPs from West Mosul. As a result, IDP camps in the Hamdaniya sub district began to receive IDPs from West Mosul in addition to the growing trend of IDP families displacing amongst the host community, especially in East Mosul City. Since 2 March, between 4,000 – 5,000 people have been received in camps on a daily basis and roughly 4,400 families have fled to East Mosul City. Since 2 Mosul City.

#### **Displacement to IDP camps**

Displacement from West Mosul to camps in the Eastern Hamdaniya sub district began on 2 March. According to Camp Management between 2 to 12 March over 18,000 people displaced to IDP camps in this sub district. Between 2 and 6 March, displacement began with large numbers of IDPs primarily from Tal Al-Ruman and Al-Shuhada neighbourhoods to Khazer MODM 1 and Hasansham MODM 2 camps. With these camps also quickly reaching capacity, Chamakor IDP Camp was opened on 6 March. Between 6 and 13 March, Chamakor Camp continued to receive arrivals from Tal Al-Ruman, followed by significant numbers from Wadi Hajar and Al-Tnek neighbourhoods. To a lesser extent throughout camps in the Hamdaniya sub district IDPs were also reported from other retaken areas such as Mansur. Sumood and Al-Tayaran neighbourhoods in addition to the north-western village of Rihaniya and a residential area on the outskirts of Badush village in Chamakor Camp (See map 2).

As in phase I, IDPs continued to escape from neighbourhoods that were still under AG control to the nearest retaken neighbourhood. These IDPs reported significant threats en route including being captured by AGs, and direct and indirect fire. All IDPs walked from their neighbourhood or village of origin to the closest collection point (see box 1 for more information on checkpoints and collection points) where they were screened before being driven by the Iraqi forces to Hamam Al Alil Screening Site for further screening and ID checks. Once in Hamam Al Alil Screening Site, IDPs were driven to Bartalla checkpoint and onto their respective camps. According to recent IDPs in Chamakor Camp, a number of IDPs have begun to pay for their own transport

Map 2: Phase I and II of Displacement from West Mosul (25 February – 13 March 2017)



to camps due to long queues for buses in Hamam Al Alil town. A taxi reportedly cost between 40,000 – 50,000 IQD per family.

Simultaneously, between 2-13 March displacement has reportedly continued to camps and the host community in Qayarrah and Hamam Al Alil sub-districts, though to a lesser extent than seen in Phase I. IDPs have gained access to these areas either through a host community sponsor or as additional camp spaces have become available due to the ongoing construction of new plots in Qayyarah airstrip and Haij Ali camps.

#### **Displacement to Mosul City**

According to local Mukhtars, significant displacement from West to East Mosul began at the beginning of March and is still ongoing. According to the Mayoral Office of Mosul, as of 15 March a total of 4,400 IDP families from West Mosul had been registered in East Mosul with additional families arriving on a daily basis. Mukhtars reported IDPs from across all recently liberated areas in West Mosul with the most reported areas being Wadi Hajar, Mansur, Sumood and Al-Mamun neighbourhoods. Many IDPs reportedly

have family ties accross neighbourhoods in East Mosul.

IDPs who travelled to East Mosul reported a similar route as mentioned above, from their area of origin in West Mosul to Hamam Al Alil Screening Site. According to local Mukhtars most IDPs were given the choice to displace to East Mosul from Hamam Al Alil Screening Site. IDPs were reportedly driven by Iraqi forces through either Hamdaniya sub district through Gogjali Village or via Salamiya village and up via the Kirkuk road to East Mosul (See map 2).

#### **Push and Pull factors**

Overall, the primary reported push factors for displacement out of West Mosul were an increase in intensity and proximity of conflict and a severe lack of water and food. Most IDPs reported that they chose to displace out of their area of origin, and were at times also encouraged to do so by the Iraqi forces due to the risks of nearby conflict. Across community group discussions, IDPs highlighted that a severe lack of food and safe drinking water was a primary reason for displacement - see table 2 below.

The majority of IDPs from West Mosul displaced to IDP camps as they had no financial resources and expected to receive assistance such as food, water and shelter. Most of the assessed IDPs throughout the affected camps reported that potential displacement to East Mosul was not an option due to financial constraints. Further, many IDPs did not wish

to burden their family and friends living in East Mosul who also live off limited resources with few livelihood opportunities.

IDPs who displaced to East Mosul predominantly did so to avoid living in camps and facilitate their return to West Mosul. Mukhtars highlighted that IDPs wished to avoid being "stuck" in an camp, where their IDs would be taken, which they perceived would impact their freedom of movement or capacity to return. Community leaders in East Mosul highlighted that many IDPs who previously displaced from East Mosul to camps had since returned to East Mosul. However many of these have yet to have their IDs returned as they were not returned on departure from the camp and as such face barriers in day to day life including accessing assistance.

## Assistance en route and in final destination

IDPs are highly reliant on assistance, both en route and in their final destination as the vast majority reportedly fled Mosul with few to no belongings and with little to no food or water. Many IDPs reportedly fled quickly with no time to gather items while IDPs fleeing AG control areas reported that civilians are prohibited from travelling the streets with large bags or suitcases. Due to a severe lack of food and drinking water within West Mosul, many IDPs reportedly walked multiple hours (up to 9 hours) with no food or water.

Most IDPs reportedly received water and

#### Collection/ Screening points and Checkpoints

Across all routes IDPs reported going through at least two collection points or checkpoints where they were screened and had their identification papers checked. Initial collection/screening sites:

- Sheikh Yunis collection/screening point: For arrivals from Al 'bour, Al-Tnek neighbourhood, or other village West of Mosul City such as Badush.<sup>15</sup>
- **Tell Kaysumah collection/screening point:** For arrivals from villages West of Mosul City such as Badush. It is located close to Sahaji Village (See map)<sup>16</sup>
- **Scorpion collection/screening point:** The primary screening point for IDPs displacing from South of Mosul (such as Al Mamun and Wadi Hajar neighbourhoods).
- **Mosul Airport:** A number of IDPs who displaced from Tayaran reported that they were screened within the Airport.

The majority of IDPs reported spending between a couple to 24 hours at the first collection or screening sites mentioned above. IDPs were then transferred by bus or truck to Hamam Al Alil Screening Site where they had their identification papers checked a second time. Due to large numbers of IDPs, especially since 6 March many groups have spend between 6 to 24 hours in Hamam Al Alil Screening Site until they were transferred to their next destination (see below for information of assistance en route). Up to 15,000 IDPs are estimated to arrive to Hamam Al Alil Screening Site daily and NGOs are working to increase the current shelter capacity which is sufficient for 4,000 people only (UNHCR flash update, 14 March).



snacks at the first collection point (See box 1) from Iraqi forces and affiliated armed groups. However IDPs reported that due to large numbers, there was not always enough food and water, in which case women and children were prioritized. Once at Hamam Al Alil Screening Site the majority of IDPs received water and food, in many cases a hot meal, from the Iraqi forces and NGOs.

While IDPs in camps had generally received some assistance, local Mukhtars in Al Karama, Al-Intisar, Cheima and Shugag Al Khadra neighbourhoods, in East Mosul, reported that recently displaced populations from West Mosul, as well as the local population, had received no or very limited assistance. As a result, the host community is reportedly assisting incoming IDPs to find shelter and meet their basic needs. Given that the host community in East Mosul has few resources and sources of income, they will not be able to assist incoming IDPs for long - e.g. all Mukhtars reported that few empty shelters remain available to host IDPs, resulting in overcrowding, with 4-5 IDP families often sharing the same house.

# Humanitarian Overview of West Mosul

The humanitarian situation in West Mosul is reportedly severe to extremely severe across all assessed neighbourhoods, especially in areas still under AG control where there is no access to markets and people are surviving on depleting food and water stocks, without

access to electricity, fuel and healthcare. The situation has significantly deteriorated compared to data collected at the end of February 2017.<sup>17</sup> According to IDP KIs. the vast majority of the population of many retaken neighbourhoods (such as Al-Mamun, Tal Al-Ruman, Mansur, Wadi Hajar and Sumood neighbourhoods) have displaced.<sup>18</sup> However IDP KIs reported that significant population remained in Al-Tayaran, Al-Jusq, Al-Danadan and Ghazlani neighbourhoods as they preferred not to displace to IDP camps. In many cases vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and disabled, were amongst those who remained behind as they were not able to physically flee the city. Those that remained in recently retaken neighbourhoods reportedly are able to access some assistance through Al-Mamun neighbourhood, though this was generally considered insufficient.

(See Table 2 on the next page for more

information on sectoral needs in West Mosul.

#### **Intentions**

The vast majority of IDP participants reportedly intend to return to their neighbourhood of origin in West Mosul but only once it is safe and they are guaranteed access to food and safe drinking water. Many reportedly will not return until the entire Western Bank has been retaken from AGs as they fear being caught in the conflict. Most IDPs intend to remain in their current locations, either in camps or in East Mosul, until they can return. Some IDPs reported that if they were able to find employment they would temporarily displace out of camps; however, most did not expect this to be possible. IDPs in East Mosul reportedly only expect to displace to camps if they do not have the resources to survive in East Mosul.

According to KIs, most people living in AG-

controlled West Mosul intend to displace in large numbers once the Iraqi forces reach their neighbourhood. IDPs reported that if conflict did not intensify in their neighbourhood, hunger and a lack of safe drinking water would eventually lead many to leave West Mosul. Those who may remain are either richer civilians with stocks (such as traders and retirees) to look after their property and assets, or the elderly, ill or disabled who may not be able to flee.

Table 1: Reported prices in AG-controlled neighbourhoods in West Mosul, March 2017

AG-controlled areas in January/February 2017 19	AG controlled neighbourhoods in March 2017	Price change
110,100 IQD (93.4 USD) <sup>20</sup>	100,000 - 150,000 IQD (84,8 - 127.3 USD)	_
114,700 IQD (97.3 USD)	160,000 - 300,000 IQD (137.5 - 254.5 USD)	_
403,450 - 500,000 IQD (342.3 -424,2 USD)	1,000,000 - 1,500,000 IQD (848.3 - 1,272.5 USD)	
13,000 - 15,000 IQD (11 - 12.7 USD)	10,000 - 17,000 IQD (8.5 - 14.4 USD)	No change
None remaining	None remaining	n/a
12,000 IQD (10.2 USD)	12,000 - 16,000 IQD (10.2 - 13.6 USD)	
5,000 IQD (4.3 USD)	6,000 - 12,000 IQD (5 - 10.2 USD)	_
5,000 IQD (4.3 USD)	4,000 -7,000 IQD (3.4 – 6 USD)	_
	110,100 IQD (93.4 USD) <sup>20</sup> 114,700 IQD (97.3 USD)  403,450 - 500,000 IQD (342.3 -424,2 USD)  13,000 - 15,000 IQD (11 - 12.7 USD)  None remaining  12,000 IQD (10.2 USD)  5,000 IQD (4.3 USD)	110,100 IQD (93.4 USD) <sup>20</sup> 100,000 - 150,000 IQD (84,8 - 127.3 USD) 114,700 IQD (97.3 USD) 160,000 - 300,000 IQD (137.5 - 254.5 USD) 403,450 - 500,000 IQD (342.3 -424,2 USD) 1,000,000 - 1,500,000 IQD (848.3 - 1,272.5 USD) 13,000 - 15,000 IQD (11 - 12.7 USD) 10,000 - 17,000 IQD (8.5 - 14.4 USD) None remaining 12,000 IQD (10.2 USD) 12,000 - 16,000 IQD (10.2 - 13.6 USD) 5,000 IQD (4.3 USD) 6,000 - 12,000 IQD (5 - 10.2 USD)

Table 2: Summary of key reported sectoral needs across Mosul City and surrounding Villages

Severity ranking below is based on indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity. See map 2 for areas which have limited/no access to Gugjali Village.

Sector		Recently retaken neighbourhoods	Neighbourhoods under AG-control	
WASH	3	<ul> <li>Most families are reportedly surviving on stored water in tanks.<sup>21</sup></li> <li>Due to dwindling water supplies families are collecting water from the tanks of abandoned houses.</li> <li>Some water assistance has been received from the Iraqi forces though it is reportedly not enough.</li> <li>Water was highlighted as a primary concern<sup>22</sup> and the fear of running out of water has been a primary push factor for displacing out of Mosul.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Running out of drinking water - especially in neighbourhoods with no access to wells - is a primary concern and has been a push factor for risking to escape from AG areas.</li> <li>Most families are reportedly surviving on stored water in tanks. Those who have finished their stored water drink water from wells.</li> <li>While stored water is reportedly safe to drink, well water is not.</li> <li>Most neighbourhoods reported cases of diarrhea amongst both adults and children</li> </ul>	
Food Security	3	<ul> <li>Those who have remained are surviving on rapidly dwindling food supplies.</li> <li>Most neighbourhood reported that all shops were closed with the exception of Al-Mamun neighbourhood where one food market has reportedly opened.</li> <li>Some food assistance was reported in Al-Mamun neighbourhood.<sup>23</sup> Surrounding neighbourhoods reportedly travel to this location to access assistance.</li> <li>Coping Mechanisms: With no electricity, and limited to no cash to buy fuel and gas people are burning wood/ cardboard to cook food.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No markets are available and food is extremely limited.</li> <li>People are surviving on stored food supplies. KIs reported that most supplies would last for another five days.</li> <li>Some traders with larger food stocks are reportedly selling some food in secret; however, prices are extremely high.<sup>24</sup> (See above for prices).</li> <li>Some children - especially infants and babies - have reportedly died from malnutrition.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>Coping: Mechanisms: Most people are reportedly eating dry bread<sup>26</sup> or tomato paste in water. The vast majority are eating one meal a day and food is prioritized for children and the eldery. Also with no electricity, and no cash to buy fuel and gas people are burning wood/cardboard to cook food.</li> </ul>	
Healthcare	3.5	<ul> <li>No health facilities are open in the neighbourhoods, but civilians can travel to Iraqi Force health posts where they receive primary care or are transferred to a hospital outside of Mosul.</li> <li>No pharmacies were reported and remaining civilians lack medication</li> <li>Reports of many people suffering from chronic diseases.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>While civilians used to be able to access hospitals at the end of February<sup>27</sup> at the time of this assessment there was no access to healthcare/medication as hospitals can only be accessed by AGs.</li> <li>Some local nurses were reported, however they have no medical supplies or medication left.</li> <li>Across assessed neighbourhoods KIs reported multiple cases of people dying due to a lack of access to healthcare and malnutrition.<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>	
Shelter	2	<ul> <li>There is enough shelter for the remaining civilians as large proportions of the neighbourhoods have displaced.</li> <li>Damage levels range between minimal damage to 70% depending on the neighbourhood.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Many houses are overcrowded, especially in neighbourhoods towards the outskirts of the city.<sup>29</sup></li> <li>Overcrowding is due to internal displacement in addition to AGs confiscating houses for their own use. Reports of people living in unfinished housing.</li> <li>Damage levels vary - neighbourhoods far from the frontline have reportedly suffered limited damage.</li> </ul>	
Electricity	4	<ul> <li>No electricity from the grid is available due to damaged electricity infrastructure and as electricity from the power stations has been cut.<sup>30</sup></li> <li>Most neighbourhoods have some access to small private generators, however these are not used due to a lack of finances to buy fuel.</li> <li>Fuel prices especially in neighbourhoods under AG control are extremely expensive and not available throughout (see prices in Table 1 below)</li> <li>People cope by using lights which run off batteries.</li> </ul>		
Livelihoods	4	<ul> <li>Few to no livelihood opportunities are available and a severe lack of cash was reported throughout the city</li> <li>The only people with cash are retirees and traders.</li> </ul>		



#### **Endnotes**

- <sup>1</sup>OCHA, Mosul Humanitarian Crisis Overview, 2 March 2017
- <sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Flash update, 14 March 2017
- <sup>3</sup> IOM, emergency Tracking, 12 March 2017
- <sup>4</sup> OCHA, Mosul Humanitarian Response, Sitrep # 24, 6 – 12 March 2017
- <sup>5</sup>UNHCR, Flash update, 14 March 2017
- <sup>6</sup> Calculated on the basis of 4,400 families multiplied by six.
- According to registered figures by the Mayoral Office of Mosul City as of 15 March. Daily arrivals are ongoing.
- <sup>8</sup> UNHCR, As new Mosul offensive unfolds, sheltering the displaced comes back into focus, 21 February 2017
- <sup>9</sup> UNHCR, Flash Update, 2 March 2017
- <sup>10</sup> UNHCR, Flash Update, 2 March 2017
- <sup>11</sup> UNHCR, Flash Update, 5 March 2017
- <sup>12</sup> UNHCR, Flash Update, 14 March 2017
- <sup>13</sup> According to registered figures by the Mayoral Office of Mosul City as of 15 March. Daily arrivals are ongoing.
- <sup>14</sup> Due to the ongoing arrival and the dispersed nature of IDPs, this report was not able to collect in depth information of the proportion and number of IDP arrivals in East Mosul.
- <sup>15</sup> Rise Foundation, IDP collection point Sheikh Younis, 5 March

- <sup>16</sup> Rise Foundation,Tell Kaysumah screening site/muster point, 12 March
- <sup>17</sup> UN HABITAT, Rapid Assessment: Living Conditions on the Right Bank of Mosul; 28 February 2017
- This report could not confirm however whether higher proportions have remained in neighbourhoods further to the East such as Al Tayaran, Dawasa and Jusq neighbourhoods.
- <sup>19</sup> Prices from January/February 2017 have been sourced from WFP mVAM and UN HABITAT reports.
- <sup>20</sup> Based on exchange rate as of 15 March 2017
- <sup>21</sup> When military operations were about to begin civilians reportedly began to store water in tanks.
- Reported by KIs, and WHO, Special Situation Report, Mosul Crisis, Issue 9, 1-11 March 2017
- <sup>23</sup> Reported by KIs, and OCHA, Situation Report #24, 6-12 march 2017
- <sup>24</sup> Some neighbourhoods reported that even this was not available
- <sup>25</sup> Reported by KIs and Middle East Monitor (25 children starve to death in Iraq near Mosul, 18 February); The Telegraph (750,000 people trapped in Mosul are 'on brink of starvation' as Iraqi forces advance, 22 February).)
- <sup>26</sup> UN HABITAT, Rapid Assessment: Living Conditions on the right bank of Mosul; 28 February 2017

- <sup>27</sup> UN HABITAT, Rapid Assessment: Living Conditions on the Right Bank of Mosul; 28 February 2017
- <sup>28</sup> Reported by KIs as well as Middle East Monitor (25 children starve to death in Iraq near Mosul, 18 February); The Telegraph (750,000 people trapped in Mosul are 'on brink of starvation' as Iraqi forces advance, 22 February).
- Neighbourhoods on the outskirt such as Al Tnek reported severe overcrowding as civilians displaced there with the aim of leaving West Mosul.
- <sup>30</sup> Also reported by UN HABITAT, Rapid Assessment: Living Conditions on the Right Bank of Mosul; 28 February 2017

#### **About 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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