

# Humanitarian overview: Tilkaif town/district

Ninewa Governorate, Iraq, 21 December 2016



## Introduction

Total population in the city:	1,000-1,500 families
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	90%
Date of armed group arrival:	June 2014
Humanitarian access:	None
Date of data collection:	21 December 2016

## Overview

Since 17 October, the escalating conflict in and around Mosul has resulted in a deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Tilkaif, a town 15 Km North East of Mosul which has been under AG control since June 2014.<sup>1</sup> This factsheet provides an overview of the primary needs and concerns of those still residing in Tilkaif and of the displacement from Tilkaif to Hasansham MODM 2 Camp (Hasansham M2 Camp). Findings presented in this factsheet are based on data collected by REACH teams on 21 December, through rapid assessments carried out at Hasansham M2 camp through Community Group Discussions (CGD) with 26 Key Informants (KIs).

The military offensive near Mosul on 17 October initiated displacement from Tilkaif for both local residents and IDP families who had settled in Tilkaif in the previous 2 years, including recent arrivals from Mosul. The known displacement from Tilkaif into non-AG controlled areas includes a total of 320 families<sup>2</sup> that arrived to Hasansham M2 Camp in Hamdaniya Governorate and 147<sup>3</sup> families which reportedly arrived in Zelikan. This factsheet focuses on families in Hasansham M2 only.

Displacement from Tilkaif took place in two phases: Phase 1 occurred on 18 and 19 October through the Red Valley; while Phase 2 began in early December with IDPs travelling Eastwards to locations where transport

to Hasansham M2 camp could be provided. Minimal and uncoordinated displacement took place between these phases.

Despite the growing amount of displacement, many civilians continue to reside in conflict areas as they either cannot leave or wish to protect their assets. The humanitarian situation is reportedly severe within Tilkaif: the majority cannot access markets and are surviving on depleting food stocks and have little to no access to healthcare. Families do, however, report regular access to water and electricity. Across Tilkaif damage to and overcrowding of housing was reported.

## Displacement Overview

Phase 1: On 18 and 19 October up to 100 families walked from Tilkaif to Red Valley where they were hosted alongside an additional 150 displaced families from Mosul. Initially IDPs slept in open areas for a few days. After 20 days, around 50% families returned to Tilkaif because of hunger, while a similar proportion waited in the valley till they were allowed to displace further. Due to restricted movement, IDPs who remained stayed there till 24 November<sup>5,6</sup> before travelling onwards by foot, which increased their vulnerabilities. Between the end of October and early December little displacement occurred and was not well coordinated.

Phase 2: From early December a new wave of displacement from Tilkaif took place.<sup>7</sup> The majority of IDPs walked to specific locations East of Tilkaif where they were then transported to Baybukh village by Iraqi Forces. Other minor displacement routes were reportedly taken towards villages to the North East of Tilkaif. Eventually arriving at Baybukh, IDPs either remained for a couple of weeks or were transported by bus or truck directly to Hasansham M2 Camp by the Iraqi Forces.

## Key findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

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

Tilkaif town/district		
Water	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water is available 24 hours via municipal pipelines (this supply is dependent on electricity supply) however civilians perceive the water not to be safe for drinking purposes.</li><li>Drinking water is treated with chlorine tablets prior to consuming (or in some cases boiled)</li><li>There were no reports of filter usage</li></ul>
Food Security	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Very limited markets available</li><li>No fresh food available</li><li>Main sources of food include personal stockpiles of dry goods which are being rationed</li><li>Coping mechanism: People are skipping meals due to lack of food</li></ul>
Electricity	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Generally a good supply of electricity provided by nearby power station</li><li>Supply can be disrupted by fighting but this is temporary and is restored fairly quickly (generators are not generally used as Kerosene is expensive to buy)</li></ul>
Livelihoods	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Livelihood activities including farming, small businesses/shops are not operational</li><li>The majority of those who were commuting to Mosul for work can no longer do so due to restrictions to movement and security risks</li></ul>
Health	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No access to healthcare facilities as the hospital is not operational. Only limited primary healthcare is reportedly provided by a few remaining doctors</li><li>Shortage of medicines and other medical supplies</li><li>High number of deaths related to lack of access to healthcare (over 100) within the last 1-2 months</li><li>Maternal healthcare was reported to be a priority need</li></ul>
Shelter	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The overall extent of the damage to homes is around 20-50%, but people are still occupying severely damaged housing</li><li>Of this figure 10-15% have reportedly been damaged to the extent that they are unliveable</li><li>Reports of overcrowding</li></ul>

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## Current vulnerabilities in Tilkaif

As the situation in Tilkaif has significantly worsened, supply lines to Mosul or the KRI have become severely limited, and primary needs are reported to be food and healthcare as well as security. With military forces encircling the town and restricting movement, the majority of markets are not operational. With limited food available, especially fresh food, the resulting increase in food prices is negatively contributing to the 40-85% of inhabitants who do not have adequate food intake. To cope with the lack of food, the majority of the population are reportedly rationing dry foods and have reduced meal intakes to 1-2 meals per day.

Table 1: Reported prices Tilkaif town/district December 2016

There are currently no healthcare facilities in Tilkaif as the main hospital is

Product	Prices Tilkaif (Oct-Nov 2016) <sup>9</sup>
Flour (50 kg)	40,000-50,000 IQD (34-42 USD)
Rice (50 Kg)	75,000-85,000 IQD (64-72 USD)
Sugar (50 Kg)	250,000-500,000 IQD (21-42 USD)
Cooking oil (1 L)	3,000 IQD (3 USD) <sup>10</sup>
Tomatoes (1 Kg)	1,500 IQD (1 USD)
Meat (1 Kg)	5,000-12,000 IQD (4-10 USD)
Fuel (1 L)	5,000-10,000 IQD (4-8 USD)
Kerosene (1 L)	1,000-6,000 IQD (1-5) USD

not functioning.<sup>8</sup> While there are a few doctors providing primary healthcare, inhabitants have to travel to Mosul to receive treatment. Since the offensive began in Tilkaif, up to 100 deaths due to lack of access to healthcare have been reported. Maternal health in particular was a key concern.

With 20-50% of the population occupying damaged households (10-15% have been completely destroyed), there are significant shelter needs. Reports of overcrowding are due to families living together for safety, or staying with households who are closer to the periphery (to aid possible escape). Host communities that were assessed reported that water and electricity were generally in steady supply provided by Tilkaif power station. However, during heavy fighting and these supplies are cut and generators are not used in Tilkaif as Kerosene is not readily available.

## Assistance

Since the start of the military offensive, no assistance in Tilkaif was reported.

## Intentions

Due to heavy restrictions on those living in Tilkaif, displacement is very limited and opportunistic. During the assessment several respondents indicated that some residents planned on staying in Tilkaif to take care of livestock and property, while others are optimistic that the town will soon be retaken. However, displacement is expected to continue until heavy fighting resumes. While there were earlier reports that the periphery areas were heavily mined, families are increasingly becoming aware of safe routes to bi-pass them.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>Previous REACH assessments have reported on the humanitarian situation in Mosul, including: REACH Humanitarian Overview: Mosul, October 2016

<sup>2</sup>IOM, DTM Emergency Tracking, 23 December 2016.

<sup>3</sup>IOM, DTM Emergency Tracking, 23 December 2016.

<sup>4</sup>From the CDGs conducted, respondents indicated the number of families displaced during phase 1 to be between 30-100. More specific figures could not be confirmed.

<sup>5</sup>The specific date was provided by a CDG. The group was very clear about this specific date, but REACH has been unable to confirm this date.

<sup>6</sup>Only limited assistance was received including 1 month supply of dry foods from Red Cross and some aid from Iraqi Forces during this time.

<sup>7</sup>CDGs also informed REACH that prior to 3 December, the community was under the impression that all routes leading away from Tilkaif were heavily mined. But as some people took the risk to explore new routes which were safe, this triggered others to displace as well.

<sup>8</sup>Information provided by KIs but the status of the hospital could not be confirmed due to limited information on basic services.

<sup>9</sup>Based on conversion rate of 1USD = 1178 IQD (as of 21/12/2016)

<sup>10</sup>Some respondents reported that instead of buying cooking oil, they were opting for a cheaper option, such as purchasing animal fat at 35,000 IQD for 5.5 kg.



Map 2: Displacement routes from Tilkaif town/district, December 2016

