

Update/Alert

Iraq

Returnees and Residents of Mosul (Update for IRQ161)

Amman, 6 August, 2017

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

The first half of 2017 has marked an important period in the Iraq crisis that has been ongoing since 2014. On 17 October 2016, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) engaged in operations to recapture the city of Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). East Mosul has been under ISF control since January 2017, and as of July 2017 the removal of ISIL has been substantially completed. Since the beginning of the operations, the cumulative number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Mosul is close to 850 000. Due to an improved sense of security among affected populations, the number of returnees has grown to over 220 000 individuals by July 2017. Many of them have their houses damaged, limited access to water, food and health assistance, as well as no income opportunities.

2. Why is an ACT response needed

Aid is highly needed all over the city, as it suffered major damage during the fighting. Income generating opportunities are almost non-existent, therefore returnees lack the resources for restoration. According to recent rapid needs assessments conducted by the Assessment Working Group of different NGOs¹, the need for food, water and health assistance remains high, especially in more recently retaken areas of West Mosul, while city-wide access to services and livelihood opportunities need to be revived in order to restore the operational ability of the city. Due to the complexity of the situation, a multi-sector approach to humanitarian assistance is necessary.

ACT members are committed to provide assistance to vulnerable communities in many locations of Iraq and the Kurdistan region as part of their individual responses. The complex nature of Mosul's problems requires a well-coordinated, multi-sector response, and ACT members are dedicated to combine their capacities for a more effective response.

3. National and international response

The Government of Iraq, the UN and several international and local NGOs are present in and around Mosul to support affected populations. Coordination mechanisms are in place, and ACT members will take part in the relevant forums to coordinate their response with other actors.

¹ Led by Oxfam but with the participation of many NGOS.

4. ACT Alliance response

The ACT Iraq Forum has been providing assistance to displaced people through the ACT mechanism since 2014 in various sectors, and also outside of the Appeals. Beneficiaries of the assistance under the ongoing Appeal IRQ161 “*Support to Internally Displaced People and Their Hosts in Iraq including Mosul*”, have been IDPs (often those fleeing from Mosul) and host communities. While continuing this work, an additional component will focus on returnees and residents of Mosul, a target group that has only recently become accessible.

In order to provide a complex and effective response, Requesting Members plan to bring their cooperation to a new level by joint programming, with a Memorandum of Understanding, in which they share responsibilities for all the stages of the project, including assessment, programming, implementation and monitoring.

5. Planned activities

ACT members are planning to provide assistance in four sectors: WASH, Shelter/NFIs, Protection/Psychosocial Support and Livelihoods. The joint program will be introduced as a new component to the existing ACT Appeal IRQ161, with a value around 1.7 million USD.

The Appeal IRQ161 will therefore undergo revision and this new component will be added to the ongoing response. The current activities of IRQ161 targeting IDPs and host communities will be reduced, in part due to the current appeal not being fully funded and also to ensure that there will be no increase to the overall Appeal target with the inclusion of this new component.

6. Constraints

The main constraints are: the quickly changing security situation in Mosul, changing rules and difficult cooperation with authorities.

Forum contact information and Communications contact information:

Forum Coordinator: Stella Martany, +964 750 303 4066, lwf.irq1@gmail.com

Forum Convener: Zita Andrassy, +964 750 839 1394, zita.andrassy@hia.hu

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

ACT MENA Regional Representative, Gorden Simango (Gorden.Simango@actalliance.org)

ACT MENA Regional Program Officer, Felomain Nassar (Felomain.Nassar@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>