

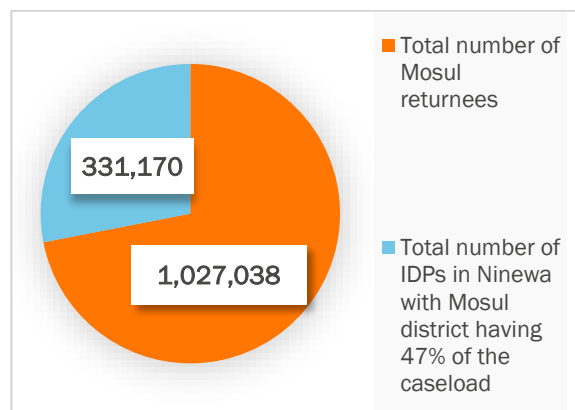
Three years after end of IS in Mosul

COVID-19 brings new economic challenges for its residents

Background

Three years after Mosul was recaptured from the Islamic State, 277,506 people from the city remain displaced, including 10,000 living in the NRC run camp, Hammam al-Alil. While 1 million people have moved back to Mosul, lack of reconstruction and investment mean these returns are not sustainable without continued humanitarian support.

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing further economic losses as the city has ground to a halt since the outbreak of the disease and associated containment measures. This is having a devastating effect on an already fragile economy struggling to recover after years of war. “We are very concerned about the scope and severity of the after-shock effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable Iraqis,” said Rishana Haniffa, the Iraq Country Director for the Norwegian Refugee Council. “In Mosul, residents have already been put through years of war, IS occupation and sluggish rebuilding efforts; their resilience has been stretched to the limits. They now have to cope with the economic consequences of COVID-19 at a time when some were just starting to get their lives back on track.”



Loss of livelihoods has put vulnerable households at risk of eviction, rent increase and unsafe housing arrangements. An NRC assessment in April 2020 in Mosul and Dohuk found that 64 per cent of respondents in rented accommodation predicted they would not be able to pay their rent in the next three months and 42 per cent of those respondents expected to be evicted as a result. In a follow-up assessment in May, 75% of female headed households in Mosul indicated they did not have sufficient funds to pay rent for the next three months.

According to the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (2020), 4.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, with Ninewa province alone making up a third of that number.

ECON FACTSHEET (Source: NRC rapid Market Survey in Ninewa and Dohuk in April 2020)

- **EMPLOYMENT:** 60% of respondents reported to be engaged in some form of employment, but only 14% of those hold permanent jobs. (58% were engaged in temporary employment while 28% reported to be self-employed.)
- **MONTHLY EARNINGS:** The majority (83%) of those employed earn between USD83-USD333/month, less than the survival minimum expenditure basket (estimated by the Cash Working Group to be USD400 for an average family of six). An additional 8% reported to earn between \$334-417.
- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES:** The majority of employers (61%) had not hired any new employee in the past six months. In Mosul, 50% of employers indicated they did not have the capacity to increase the workforce due to limited profits.
- **DEBT:** Only a quarter of respondents reported not owing any debt in Mosul compared to approximately half of the respondents (53%) in Dohuk. Over a quarter (27%) of respondents indicated owing a debt of more than USD4,167.
- **COVID-19 IMPACT:** (100%) of daily labourers in Mosul have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions according to IOM. 83% have lost their jobs and face financial problems.



From Mosul:

"During 2013-2014, I used to have my own grocery shop before I fled Mosul to Hamam sham camp," Ali Sultan says. Ali is now a returnee and the breadwinner of a 12-member family. "When I came back to Mosul in 2018, I started working with a local NGO and I used to receive a good salary (US\$ 600), but now I have lost my source of income again because of COVID-19." Ali says the NGO stopped operating because of COVID-19, so he lost his job. He says he has been looking for a new job but it has been an impossible mission as most businesses have shut down for the time being, or cannot afford to hire new employees. So far Ali has been using the savings from his previous job to cover his family's expenses, and hopes the situation improves soon before he completely runs out of money.

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