

UNAMI - Humanitarian, Reconstruction and Development Unit
Erbil Regional Office

SITUATION REPORT no. 2
- 14 October 2008 -

Displacement of Christians from Mosul, Ninewa Governorate

Overview

The displacement of Christian families from Mosul continues. The Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM) reported on 13 October 2008 that up to 1,286 families have fled the provincial capital of Ninewa since the beginning of October 2008. Displaced families are now reaching Sumel and Akre districts in Dohuk Governorate, while new arrivals are recorded in Hamdaniya and Tilkaif districts, Ninewa Governorate, where the largest proportion of IDPs is concentrated. As overall numbers continue to rise, it remains unclear who is perpetrating the intimidation and violence in Mosul. The humanitarian community continues to assist authorities in responding to the needs in a coordinated way.

Situation

The latest figures from the MoDM, the coordinating body registering displaced families fleeing Mosul, show an increasing trend in new IDP arrivals to Christian villages in Hamdaniya and Tilkaif districts (Ninewa Governorate).

Table 1. Christian families displaced from Mosul city since beginning of October 2008

Town/Village	District	Governorate	11 October 2008	13 October 2008
Alqosh	Tilkaif	Ninewa	102	148
Tel Usquf	Tilkaif	Ninewa	218	245
Batnay	Tilkaif	Ninewa	30	55
Tilkaif	Tilkaif	Ninewa	53	190
Hamdaniya (Karakosh)	Hamdaniya	Ninewa	175	195
Bartalah	Hamdaniya	Ninewa	153	227
Bashiqa (incl. Bahzani)	Hamdaniya	Ninewa	96	120
Krmales	Hamdaniya	Ninewa	45	70
Ainkawa	Ainkawa	Erbil	10	36
TOTAL			882	1286

Information from the Assyrian Aid Committee indicates that smaller numbers are also fleeing in the direction of Akre (Nahala valley) and Dohuk, the UN and partners are currently confirming these reports.

Table 2. Additional Christian families displaced from Mosul city (not confirmed)

Town/Village	District	Governorate	11 October 2008	13 October 2008
Dohuk	Dohuk	Dohuk	n.a.	31
Nahla valley (Kashkawa, Khalilane, Hizane, Zjulle, Belmamd, Meruke)	Akre	Ninewa		22
Bakhloja	Zakho	Dohuk		7
Masooreki	Sumeil	Dohuk		4
Shehan	Shekhan	Ninewa		10
TOTAL				74

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The profile of the displaced has not changed: entire families fleeing the city of Mosul without bringing personal belongings. They are victims of direct violence or intimidation. Additional assessments in the coming days will give more precise details. The overall majority is hosted in families, many themselves displaced in recent years. Some public structures are being used, but it appears that no school facilities are being used except in one case. To date no IDP families are in tents. It is understood that the tented site erected in Bartalah (Hamdaniyah district) in anticipation of new arrivals will be removed soon.

Response

Since the movement of families out of Mosul began, the response of the humanitarian community has been a coordinated one. The MoDM has taken the lead on the coordination of the response from the national side but as a number of local actors are also involved in counting new arrivals there are still discrepancies with overall population figures, and it will remain so while the registration is systematised. In order to capture all needs, the NGOs, UN and ICRC have agreed to use slightly higher population figures for planning purposes.

Following the initial response with food and non-food items by IMC, UNHCR has agreed to complement the NGO's non-food items package with mattresses blankets and kerosene stoves, for which distributions have already started. IMC will continue covering and assessing new needs in the districts of Hamdaniya and Tilkaif, but will hand over to ICRC the emergency food component. The ICRC will use the Iraqi Red Crescent Organisation to deliver dry-food rations for a month to all IDPs. IOM will complement the IMC distributions with further rounds of hygiene kits in these areas.

As for the new areas of displacement in Dohuk, Akre and Shekhan, ICRC and IOM have agreed to cover respectively the needs for food and non-food items. As mentioned in Situation Report 1, IOM, UNHCR and ICRC have sufficient emergency stocks in Erbil for this phase of the response. WFP is monitoring the situation and will provide assistance if the displacement is prolonged.

Moreover, press reports state that the Minister of Finance in KRG has issued a payment of 250,000 Iraqi Dinars to all families newly displaced out of Mosul.

With such large concentration of people in small places, particular attention will have to be placed on the health and watsan sectors. It is likely that the large numbers of new arrivals are stretching the capacity of local health points. ICRC will be discussing on 14 October 2008 with KRG authorities the possibility of supplying extra medical items to local facilities and will look into the need of a mobile clinic to supplement any efforts of the Directorate of Health.

IMC is also completing an assessment of school facilities in the town and villages with IDPs scoping for additional hosting capacity. This exercise will also confirm whether any school facilities are being used and whether there is any disruption to students in the area.

A regular coordination meeting, chaired by UNAMI-HRDU has been established among to clarify coverage, capacity and roles in the response.

Outstanding needs

There continues to be very little information on the situation in Mosul and unclear whether any effort is being put in place to step up the protection of people and property. The recent bombing of three empty houses belonging to Christians who fled in Mosul, is also raising concerns over the need to provide protection for property.

Preliminary feedback from those involved in assessments of the IDPs indicates that they are not likely to return any time soon to Mosul. Protracted issues such as education, protection and access to health will become an issue with time.