Hawija (Al Zab, Al Abbasi - place of origin)

Al Alam 1 IDP Camp

Crisis Information Report

3 January 2017

Last updated: January 14, 2017

Locations affected: Al Alam 1 IDP Camp, Tikrit district, Salah al-din governorate

Trigger for RPA: An RPA was requested due to ongoing influx from Hawija to Al Alam and alerts of armed actors inside the Camp.

Methodology: 1 Observations; 2 Key Informant Interviews; 2 Focus Group Discussions

Main Finding: The RPA found lack of access to basic services, risks to dignity, child protection concerns, ID confiscation, and lack of adequate shelter for the large influx of IDPs to the area.

SUMMARY OF REPORTED ISSUES

Access to Shelter  Protection of Women and Children  Family Separation  Lack of Access to Basic Services  Risks to Dignity  Legal Protections

Situation Summary & Protection Cluster Recommendations

In Al Alam 1 IDP Camp (also known as Tal Al Sebat Camp) there are approximately 495 families (3,000 individuals) originating from Hawija district of Kirkuk governorate and some families from Shirqat district in Salah al-din. The camp is located in the Tikrit district of Salah al-din governorate near the border with Kirkuk governorate. The governorates are separated by the Makhoul and Hamarin mountain ranges with Hawija district to the east and Salah al-din to the west.

The families from Hawija come from the southwest and central parts of the district including Al Zab, Al Abbasi, Hoor Safen, Al Khan, and Halawa villages. The families took a similar path out using smugglers and walking about 16 hours towards Makhmour. Many of the villages of origin are just over the Makhoul Mountains bordering Baiji district in Salah al-din. IDPs fled Hawija on two main paths, either through the mountains or a long journey north to Erbil governorate. Due to landmine contamination in the mountains, along with the harsh physical path, many IDPs fled towards Erbil governorate to reach safety. The IDPs travelled for about 16 hours by foot from Hawija to Debaga in Erbil governorate. Upon arrival in Debaga, families were transported to Makhmour by Kurdish security forces (Peshmerga). Families were not allowed to stay in Erbil governorate at the first point of safety. Instead, families were transported through a long journey taking 3 days from Debaga to Al Alam 1 Camp in Salah al-din. According to conversations with IDPs, families were not given an option to stay in Debaga, Makhmour, or Jeda’ah upon arrival.

The families were transported from Makhmour to Jeda’ah IDP Camp in Qayyarah district of Ninewa governorate. The majority of families were transported by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoDM) to Jameela village in Shirqat district of Salah al-din. The families underwent security screenings in an abandoned banquet hall. Following screening, families were transported to Al Alam 1 Camp. Al Alam 1 is now at capacity. An extension of Al Alam 2 is planned to provide additional shelter.

The IDPs coming directly over the risky Hamarin Mountains have not been allowed to stay in Al Alam except for about 80 families who were allowed to move into Al Alam 1 & 2 following special approvals. Many families arrived prior to the opening of the Al Alam IDP camps and will require a more sustainable option for shelter as some families are without shelter or staying in unfinished buildings.

The displaced families fled their place of origin which are under IS control. The families were transported to Jada’ah with no other options given, and then moved to Al Alam after being told the camps in Jada’ah and Qayyarah are for IDPs from Mosul only.

The RPA found family separation, GBV and child protection concerns, lack of access to basic services, risks to dignity, legal protection concerns, and barriers to accessing adequate shelter.

Level of Alert

1 2 3 4 5

Lower Higher
### Protection Cluster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection Theme</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Shelter</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>There is an urgent need for additional shelter in Al Alam. There are plans to open an extension but there is already limited shelter available in the area.</td>
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<td>Displacement from Hawija increased following the beginning of the Mosul military operations in October 2016. Approximately 12,458 families (74,748 individuals(^1)) from Hawija are currently displaced in Salah al-din. The UNHCR camp (Al Alam 1) was reportedly created to provide emergency shelter for IDPs arriving daily to Al Alam. Prior to the completion of the camp construction, many IDPs arrived in Al Alam and Tikrit without options for shelter. Many of these families settled with host communities and in unfinished buildings due to the lack of other options. Once the camps (Al Alam 1 and 2) opened, there were restrictions on which IDPs would be allowed to move into the camps. The government authorities agreed to only receive IDPs transported by MoDM from Jeda’ah Camp in Ninewa and from Shirqat in Salah al-din. This decision has limited the access to shelter and support for the IDPs crossing the Hamarin mountains or other paths taken to escape Hawija. The families coming via the mountains are mostly settled in unfinished buildings in Al Alam. Only a few families from these areas have received special permission to enter the IDP camps.</td>
<td>Protection Cluster:</td>
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<td>• Advocacy with MoDM and UNHCR to allow IDPs from Hawija temporarily hosted with local community members to be given the option to move into the Al Alam camp extensions to access adequate shelter and services.</td>
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<td>• Transparency is required in the process for letting in IDPs not transported from MoDM. Any IDP requiring shelter should be given an available space in an IDP camp;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Protection of Women and Children</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Risks to Dignity</strong></td>
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<td>Women and girls face particular risks to their safety and dignity inside the camp. The latrines lack separation and sufficient lighting to ensure access to the facilities are not limited due to safety concerns. The camp has limited electricity and it is only provided for a short period (usually</td>
<td>Protection Cluster:</td>
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<td>• Continued advocacy for separation of armed groups from camps and sites where IDPs reside to ensure the humanitarian nature of the camp is maintained, including during nighttime;</td>
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\(^1\) IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, Emergency Tracking – Al Hawija. Internally displaced from Hawija district in Kirkuk as of January 11, 2017. [http://iraqdtm.iom.int](http://iraqdtm.iom.int)
## GBV

- About 2 hours) per night. Women stated that lack of lighting by WASH facilities limited their access to these facilities. Women noted that they don’t use the latrines after dark unless they are accompanied by a male family member.

- There are currently no activities for children, including lack of educational facilities. A child-friendly space for activities has been allocated and planned but the activities have not yet started.

- Supportive devices, particularly accessible latrines, are required for people with disabilities and elderly. Although communities are supporting members by accompanying them to the latrines, structural support is required to maintain dignity.

- Although there are limited armed actors in the camp during the daytime, reports of armed actors at night time threatens the humanitarian nature of the IDP camp.

- Families also noted that they are in need of additional blankets and clothing for children due to the cold weather.

- There are approximately 500 women in the camp, including many female-headed households. IDPs reported feeling safe in the current location but were worried about the security situation, including incidents of bombings and nearby military activity, in and around Al Alam.

- Mothers reported that children are suffering from a variety of illnesses and require medications and medical care.

## Family Separation

- Family separations occurred prior to and during flight. Some IDPs were separated due to the financial cost to leave Hawija. Families paid smugglers to leave IS-controlled areas and some family members were unable to flee due to lack of resources to cover the costs for all family members.

## Protection Cluster

- Cases of family separation should be referred to ICRC for reunification and tracing;

## WASH:

- Accessible latrines are required and should be standardized in all IDP Camps to ensure access for all people to WASH facilities;

## Shelter/NFI:

- Additional distributions of blankets and clothing is required;

- Lighting for the current WASH facilities is inadequate and require additional lighting to ensure dignity is maintained and the risk for abuse is minimized;

## Education:

- Preparation for education should be prioritized, including supporting capacities within the IDP community to ensure children have access to education during displacement;

## CCCM:

- Increase of communications about services are required to ensure IDPs are aware of available services and the complaint mechanisms;
Additionally, IDPs shared that elderly family members were left behind since they considered it too difficult for them to endure the hardship of the flight path.

Other family members were separated prior to the most recent military operation around the villages and families expressed their hope that they would be reunited. IDPs shared that additional stress was put on female-headed households as a result of separation.

**Lack of Access to Basic Services**

- There are limited medical services available on-site. The mobile medical services are limited and IDPs reported they do not cover their needs in the camp.

  - Some IDPs were not aware there were medical services in the camp. One of the main concerns expressed was the lack of an ambulance or easily accessible hospital with full services in the near the camp. IDPs were concerned about the lack of emergency services, particularly pregnant women in the camp. The closest hospital (Al Alam surgery hospital) is about 20 minutes from the camp and the hospital also has a medical staff shortage. The most urgent cases are transferred by security vehicles to Tikrit General Hospital where the police patrol have to accompany the ambulance and facilitate passage through the checkpoints.

  - The IDPs experienced severe physical risks during flight. The escape paths contained significant contamination of landmines and those fleeing were at risk of being captured by IS. The conditions during flight, including lack of food and water, added to the difficulties during the long trip to reach safe areas.

  - While on-site, the RPA team was told the pipes used to transfer water to the camp were broken, impacting the access to water for camp residents. There were pools of water inside the camp, including tents that were flooded as a result.

**Protection Cluster:**

- Humanitarian actors should increase activities and planning to cover these areas in Salah al-Din in light of expected continued influx from Al-Shirqat and Hawija, and throughout the Mosul Corridor;
- Mine risk education and awareness should be made available to IDPs;

**Health:**

- Increased medical services, including pre-natal care, are required inside the camp, including an ambulance to ensure urgent medical care is available for critical cases;

**WASH:**

- A review of the current WASH facilities is required, including assessing the flooding and water structures supplying urgently needed water;
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<tr>
<th>Legal Protections</th>
<th>Protection Cluster:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freedom of Movement</td>
<td>• All confiscated identification should be returned; this restricts their freedom of</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID Confiscation</td>
<td>movement and may create additional vulnerabilities. Advocacy with local authorities</td>
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<td>Documentation</td>
<td>is required;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Increase in legal advice and representation is needed to replace or create</td>
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<td>identification documents and birth certificates for newly born babies, and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>registration of marriages;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Awareness is required for sponsorship procedures, including ensuring IDPs are</td>
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<td>aware of the processes and are supported to access the option.</td>
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In order to leave the camp, IDPs are required to leave an ID with camp security. There was a system of tokens used to move in and out of the camp but the lack of a systematized process has led to confusion and mixing confiscation of IDs instead of tokens. The risks to restrictions on freedom of movement are high when an individual does not have identification documentation.

There is also a sponsorship in place that would allow IDPs to move about freely. A sponsorship can be obtained by someone in the host community. The process typically takes about 3 days to finish and civil documentation for both the IDP and sponsor are required.

Many IDPs do not have identification documents, including civil IDs, marriage certificates, and birth certificates.