

Mosul Neighborhood Snapshot: Al Sakar

March 18th, 2017



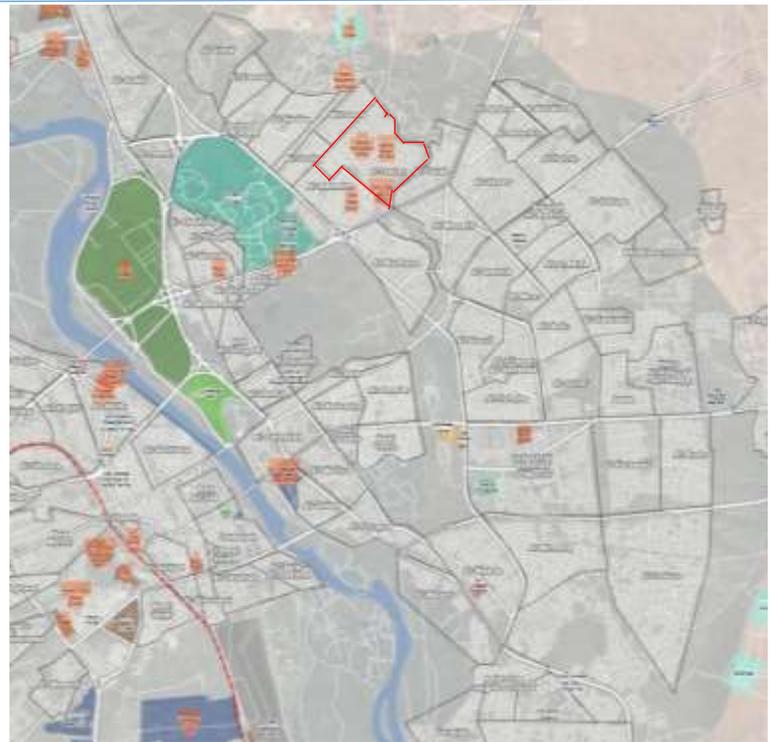
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This report was written by ACTED's AME Unit to provide a snapshot of humanitarian needs and conditions in neighborhoods around Mosul. Data was collected via Key Informant and Observational tools by PIN on Feb 22th

Highlights

- **WASH** needs are deemed the top priority need by informants, a reflection of the limited access to clean drinking water for the neighborhood's residents.
- While markets and shops are functional, due to a lack of cash in households, high unemployment, and a lack of available jobs, **food** is reported as a top community need along with **cash** and **jobs**.
- Informants note that access to **electricity** is one of the top priorities, with the current electrical network destroyed.
- Informants report that some food, and hygiene items are being provided by the MoDM and UNICEF. However, these services are only covering a few of the needs of about three quarters of the residents.



Map of Eastern Mosul City, Al Sakar Neighborhood
Courtesy of REACH

Situation Overview

The city of Mosul in northern Iraq has been under ISIS control since June 2014, this period has been characterized by repression and human rights abuses. As the last remaining ISIS stronghold in Iraq, the battle to retake Mosul began in October 2016 and Iraqi Security Forces and their allies have now successfully regained control of the section of the city east of the Tigris River. While military operations to regain control of the western portion of the city continue, humanitarian space in the eastern part of Mosul city is now opening up and there is access to provide humanitarian relief. With much of the city's inhabitants having remained in the city during the battle or now returning, the provision of key services is vital to maintaining living standards, preventing the outbreak of disease and assisting on the path to recovery.

With active conflict continuing only 6km to the west, there is still a fear of a resurgence of armed conflict within the neighborhood. The neighborhood has been reported to be decontaminated from UXOs and IEDs.

Neighborhood Needs Snapshot



Local Leadership: Most informants say there is no local leadership structure, but those that do identify one, state the Iraqi Army fills that role. This system is described as functional but not representative of the neighborhood. At the time of data collection, informants reported that there was no Mukhtar in the neighborhood.

Demographics, Migration and Intentions

The neighborhood of Al Sakar is made up of around 28,000 residents, with the large majority (80%) being Host Community members who stayed throughout IS control. The remaining 20% is composed of about 2% returnees who began arriving in mid February 2017, 11% of new IDPs who arrived beginning in late October 2016 from other neighborhoods throughout Mosul City, and 7% of Old IDPs who arrived before East Mosul was retaken. The make-up of the residents of this neighborhood is primarily Sunni Arab, Sunni Turkmen, Sunni Kurd and Sunni Shabaks.

Informants report that those who travel from their area of origin to this neighborhood generally travel via private car or by foot, and travel through a checkpoint managed by the Iraqi Army at the entrance to the neighborhood.

Short and long term stay intentions for both the Host Community and Returnees is to stay in the neighborhood, as although they somewhat fear a resurgence of the conflict, they also feel relatively safe in their homes. For new IDPs, their short term intention is to stay in Al Sakar, their longer term intention is to move back to their original area. Most old IDPs short term intention is to stay in Al Sakar and return to their area of origin at a later time.

Humanitarian Needs

Shelter

- Host Community/Stayees and returnees are residing in their own houses, renting houses and living in unfinished buildings despite these structures experiencing significant structural damage. They are sharing these spaces with other Host community and returnee families.
- Old IDPs are residing in rented houses or their own homes as well as warehouses, unfinished buildings or being hosted by host community members. They are reported to be sharing their shelter with other families.
- New IDPs are residing in rented houses, tents, unfinished buildings, schools, a mosque, warehouses and being hosted by other community members, with most new IDP families sharing shelter with other families.

Early Recovery

- It was reported by informants that around 8% of houses/buildings in the neighborhood had been destroyed, 12% more sustained heavy damage, with the rest, 80%, having received minor damage or no damage.
- Specific damage reported to houses: broken windows (90%), broken doors (30%), plumbing damage (55%), cracked walls/floors (20%), and destroyed roofs (10%).

Neighborhood Needs Snapshot

- It was additionally reported that about 35% of households would require a great deal of outside help to assist with repairs and rebuilding.

NFI Non-Food Items

- There is a lack of available and sufficient NFIs within the neighborhood such as cooking sets, cooking gas/kerosene, stoves, household items, clothes etc. especially among IDPs.
- There is a lack of available winterization NFIs such as heating fuel, blankets, insulation materials etc.
- The majority of households are reported to have access to fuel and/or kerosene.

Food Security

- Informants reported that all families and households' access to staple foods is very limited due to poor purchasing power.
- Household food stocks were said to be able to last, on average, **9 days**.

9 days
Household food stocks will last
in Al Sakar

Health

- It is reported that a significant portion of neighborhood residents have serious medical conditions or diseases, in addition to those who have been physically injured or wounded during the battle or during displacement/return. Furthermore there is a high prevalence of people suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress).
- Informants report that there is limited access to healthcare for residents of Al Sakar and the health clinic in the neighborhood is described as being completely destroyed.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

- There is limited access to clean water with the primary water sources being **unprotected boreholes** and **sealed bottles** for those who can afford them.
- There is a sewage system in place and no evidence of open defecation or black water.
- There is no solid waste management system, but no garbage is evident in the street.
- The majority of residents have access to bathing facilities, which do offer privacy and safety for women, however there is insufficient access to basic hygiene products (soap, toothbrush, washing powder).
- A high prevalence of water borne diseases (e.g. diarrhea) was reported by informants.

Protection

- The neighborhood is host to particularly vulnerable people including: Female-headed households, Persons with serious medical conditions, Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly.
- Informants reported that there is some evidence of unaccompanied and separated children within the neighborhood and there is violence against children in the form of physical abuse, child marriage and child labor.
- There are no safe spaces for children and youth to learn and play (CFS/YFS).
- Reports stated that there are a large number of children who are suffering from trauma (signs of psychological distress), with no access to psychological support and case management services.

Neighborhood Needs Snapshot

Education

- For the approximately 3,700 school aged children (6-13yrs) in the neighborhood, it is reported that 90%+ are either attending school or registered to attend one of the 3 primary schools in the neighborhood, all of which are functioning.
- There are 2 school shifts in each primary school and approximately 200 teachers in each school.
- Stationary is the primary need in schools, followed by drinking water, electricity and school renovation.
- There are 3 secondary schools in the neighborhood which operate in 2 shifts and have about 110 teachers each.
- Stationary supplies and drinking water are listing as the top secondary school needs followed by school renovations.



Emergency Telecommunications

- The electricity network within the neighborhood was destroyed.
- Informants noted that all residents have access to mobile phones, as well as TVs, radios and the Internet.



Livelihoods

- Residents have no cash or savings with them in their homes but have access to formal Hawala/money agents as well as access to informal money transfer systems.
- Respondents consider the purchasing power within the neighborhood as being **low/poor** or **normal**.
- There are a variety of shops and markets open (General grocers, Veg/Fruit stalls, Butcher, Bakery, fast food, tailor, hair dresser, medicine shop, Mobile shop, tool shop, kerosene shops, clothing shops, household items, water shop) and they are described as sufficient to meet the basic needs of the community.
- Unemployment is high throughout, around 40%, due to a lack of job opportunities, with only around 60% of the neighborhood employed.
- The average wage for manual labor in the market or in the construction sector was reported as being around 6,000 dinars per day. The average wage for skilled labor (e.g. plumber or bricklayer) was reported as being around 15,000 dinars per day.
- The current coping strategies by residents, as well as future coping strategies, to garner some source of income for their household includes: the sale of non-productive assets, such as TVs, furniture, personal belongings etc., searching for a job, having children leave school, limiting adult food consumption, borrowing money from family, friends or a money lender, relying on humanitarian aid, and relying on remittances.

40%
Unemployment rate within
Al Sakar