

IDPs in Hajj Ali – Update, 12 August

New arrivals

- Around 500 more civilians (majority children) were brought by the Iraqi Army to the schools run by RNIDPO last night, bringing the total to around 1000 individuals at the site.
- The Iraqi Army brought them despite RNIDPO saying they were at capacity and could not accept more.
- As with the first arrivals, there are some among the new arrivals who want to go to Debaga to be reunited with their families. This option is open to all and as soon as transport (provided by the Iraqi Army) is available they are taken there.
- Those who choose to remain in the schools are very strongly against being sent to Debaga (they have heard of conditions there), despite Hajj Ali being close to the fighting.

Military situation

- Fighting in Ijhalla and surrounding villages on the west side of the Tigris intensified at 6pm last night and is ongoing. Multiple explosions, gunfire, airstrikes. In Hajj Ali the land shakes from the explosions. Families are afraid of ISIS coming.
- The situation for civilians remaining in Ijhalla is still very bad with continued overcrowding, lack of basic supplies, and further civilian casualties reported.

Security situation

- The security situation has been much improved in the schools. The local sheikh is being cooperative and has supplied 2 good Hashd members who are working hard as volunteers, helping with fetching ice and water etc. and helping with security. A police major has also been sent and is keeping good order.

The schools

- RNIDPO has opened School 3 and relocated the women and children to schools 2 and 3. This is because they are cleaner than school 1.
- The men are better organized than the women/children and have been moved to school 1 to clean it and try to unblock the toilets. The men also do the majority of the cooking for themselves and for the women.
- Toilets in school 3 are in good condition, but overall the toilet situation is very bad. Danger of the spread of disease if the situation continues.
- School 1 has limited electricity but schools 2 and 3 are without electricity.

Political situation in Hajj Ali

- The local sheikh is being cooperative now and is helping with the supply of water. Electricity is still limited and it is unclear whether this is fully under his control or not.
- The mayor of Mosul (head of the committee for the relief of the IDPs) denied access to a stockpile of mattresses (part of the items supplied in the 11 trucks sent by MOMD on 8 August) which were needed for the new arrivals of IDPs. Arguments continued until the sub-mayor (of Qayyarah) managed to intervene and take the mattresses for the IDPs in the night.
- There is no one from MOMD at the site.

RNIDPO

- There are 6 staff, all are very tired and in danger of becoming exhausted. The director of the organization, Dr Orfan, is paying each day for the water tanker, for ice, and for vegetables. His personal funds will not last.
- RNIDPO has recruited 6 well-educated volunteers from the IDPs (teachers, managers) – 3 women and 3 men – who are helping with the running of the schools.
- RNIDPO has managed to organize the schools but support is desperately needed.

Urgent needs

- Mobile toilets. The men are attempting to unblock the toilets in school 1 but toilets remain a major issue. Health issues will undoubtedly increase if no support is given. Delivery and installation of mobile toilets is required.
- Electricity. Generators are required – there is limited electricity in school 1, while schools 2 and 3 don't have electricity.
- Mobile health clinic. Ideally a mobile health clinic should visit the schools on a daily basis.
- Funding. Some funds are required for food, ice, water and medicine.