

Hamam Al Alil, 11 November

Hamam Al Alil sub-district stretches from Safiyah village in the south to Abu Saif in the north, just south of Mosul. A 2013 census reported 78,000 people living in the sub-district, although it's likely that there are more. For Hamam Al Alil town, we have received population estimates ranging from 12,000 to 30,000 individuals – the real total is likely to be around 20,000. Added to this is a current IDP population of up to 10,000 individuals – mostly from villages to the north of the town, but some also from the south. Some of the original inhabitants will have gone north with ISIS to Mosul and Tel Afar, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. There have also been some recent returns from Mosul: around 60 families managed to cross the river near to Abu Saif and walk down the east bank to Hamam Al Alil where they recrossed. The east bank in this area is apparently forested and the trees provide cover for escapees.

The frontline on the west bank is currently just north of Al Karamah village. All the retaken villages north of Hamam Al Alil are empty of civilians. As they did with villages south of Hamam Al Alil, ISIS has been forcibly moving entire village populations north to Mosul and Tel Afar to act as human shields. In Hamam Al Alil we heard that ISIS attempted to take all the civilians from the town to Mosul, but ISF arrived in time to stop them.

There is a very strong presence of Hashd al Shaabi in the town and further north towards the frontline, particularly a Sistani-linked militia called Fourqat Imam Ali. In their presence, civilians told us that the Hashd had been supportive, providing medical care, food and water.

Needs, services and support in Hamam Al Alil

Water, food and electricity are the priority needs. Family stockpiles of food are expended or very low, particularly as the host community has had to support many IDP families from surrounding villages. A food distribution by the Iraqi Red Crescent was in progress when we were in the town. Including this, there have been a total of 5 distributions so far (3 by MOMD and 2 by ICRC).



ICRC distribution.



People collect water in jerry cans from the river and drink it without any purification. The water treatment plant (36.16410 43.26356) was built in 1964, although some of its components have been updated. It is currently not functioning. Broken components include the filtration system, the generator and the submersible pump. When operational, the generator reportedly requires 200 litres of diesel per hour to run. The mayor of Hamam Al Alil stated that a new water project is required for the town in a new location. The current location is very close to a natural sulphur spring which causes health problems.

Screening and freedom of movement

The usual two-stage screening process has taken place in Hamam Al Alil. The community identified ISIS collaborators and then each civilian was checked against a database of ISIS suspects. There is now reportedly freedom of movement which will hopefully speed up the rehabilitation of markets. Some markets are already starting up again.

There are reportedly only few IEDs in the town.



Local people carrying ICRC supplies back to their homes.