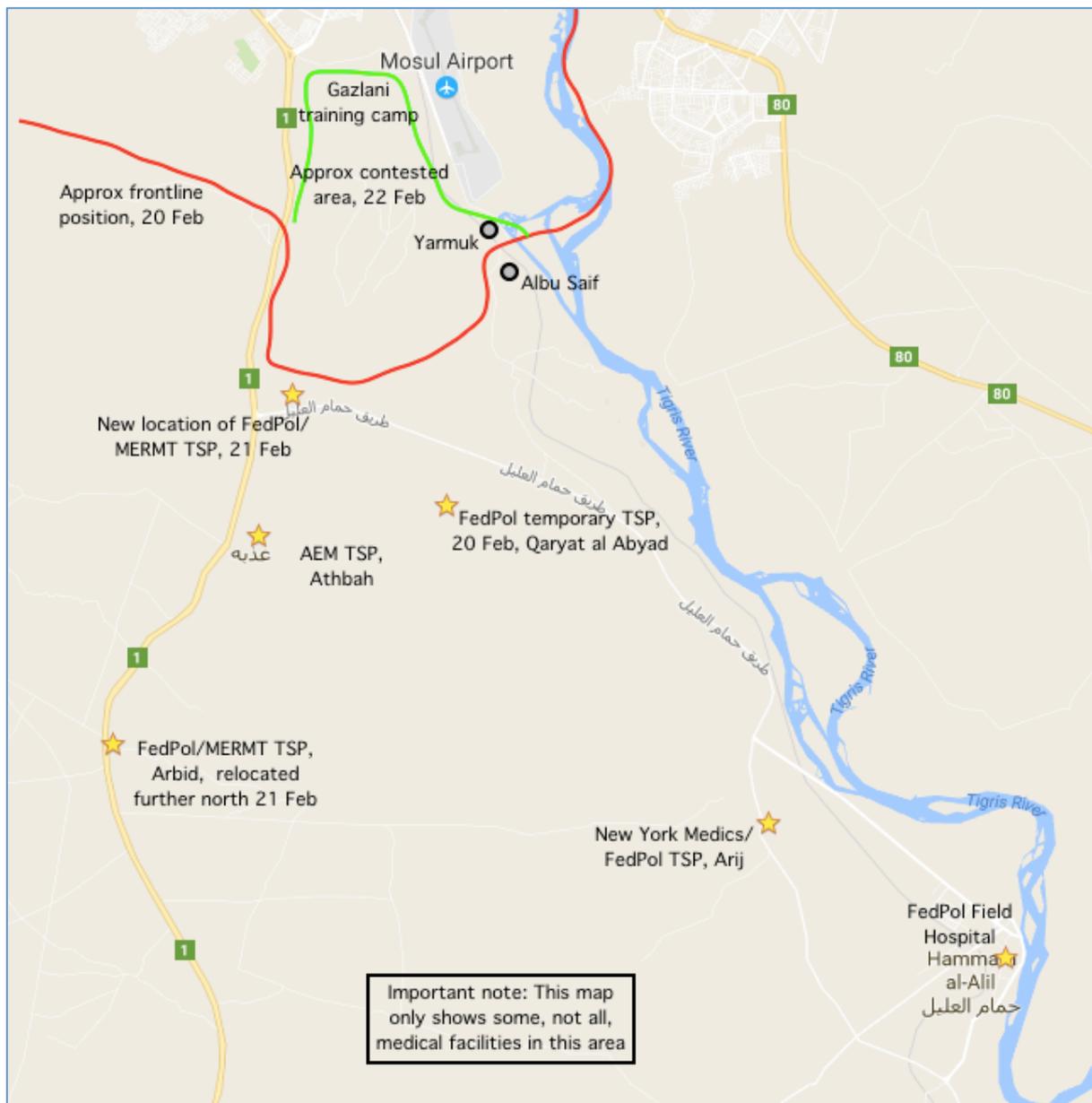


Updates on screening sites and TSPs south of Mosul, 20 & 22 February

On 21 February Albu Saif was brought under Federal Police/Emergency Response Unit (FedPol/ERU) control, although the village is still threatened by mortar fire and drone attack. No civilians were in the village, although on 21 February around 150 IDP families from West Mosul (or possibly Yarmuk village) were seen coming from Yarmuk to Albu Saif where they were picked up by security forces. From Albu Saif they were taken in buses south to Qayyarah Airstrip for screening. They were then reportedly transported back to the camp in Hamam al Alil, although this is unconfirmed. A screening site will be opened in Hamam al Alil near the camp within the next few days, but until then any new IDP arrivals will be taken to Qayyarah for screening. Further screening sites are also reportedly planned to be established next to the TSP in Arij and, at a later date, in Gazlani training camp.

Update on selected TSPs south of Mosul

It is planned for TSPs to move forward with the advance from the south on three trajectories – the Al Muhalabiyah road, Highway 1, and the Mosul Airport/Albu Saif road.



In late January FedPol medics in Arbid said they aimed to give all IDPs from West Mosul coming through the frontlines a medical checkup before passing them on to security screening. This was mainly in response to high levels of Leishmaniasis in IDPs from West Mosul. This is apparently still the intention – confirmed also at the FedPol field hospital in Hamam al Alil – but only as long as capacity allows. However, regarding the IDPs that came through Albu Saif on 21 February, no reports indicate that they were taken to a medical facility en route to Qayyarah. Regardless of intentions, when large numbers of IDPs start coming through the frontlines south of Mosul it will be beyond the capacity of medical personnel to perform a standard health check on all IDPs.

FedPol Field Hospital in Hamam al Alil

The FedPol field hospital (36°09'43.84"N 43°15'37.2"E) is currently serving a small number of residents in Hamam al Alil with minor health complaints but is expected to be fully functioning and ready to accept trauma cases by the end of the week/beginning of next week. The facility will accept military and civilian casualties for trauma stabilization before onward transport to hospital in Qayyarah, and continue to accept patients for treatment of non-life-threatening conditions. By the end of the week the total staff will consist of 2 military doctors and 15 assistants with 20 beds. Civilian doctors have also been requested via the governor's office. The staff are expecting around 75-100 patients to be receiving or waiting for treatment at the facility at any one time (not all of these are expected to be severe trauma cases requiring urgent attention) and around 200-300 casualties/patients to arrive daily once the West Mosul operation starts in earnest.

Medical supplies are short at the facility and the government usually only delivers less than a quarter of the medicines and equipment ordered. Trauma bandages and tourniquets are high on the list of shortages. Further needs include kerosene heaters, beds, and blankets for IDPs staying at the facility for longer periods. A 40kv generator is another important need. The field hospital is currently connected to a nearby signal tower which provides enough power for lighting, but more is needed to power equipment such as monitors, ECG, defibrillator and nebulizer – all of which the Fedpol currently have at this facility, except for the defibrillator.

There is a FedPol TSP in Arij, just north of Hamam al Alil, supported by New York Medics. This is reportedly a semi-permanent facility although another TSP may be established further north towards Mosul along this route. There are reportedly 35 civilian ambulances stationed at this TSP. Referrals will be taken the short distance to one of the field hospitals in Hamam al Alil (there is also an MSF field hospital in the town). Please consult the health cluster for further information on medical facilities in and around Hamam al Alil.



FedPol field hospital in Hamam al Alil.

Facilities along Highway 1

The FedPol TSP in Arbid moved forward to a new location on 21 February (see map). MERMT (Multinational Emergency Response Medical Team) had set up alongside FedPol in the Arbid facility and have moved forward with FedPol to the new location. No IDPs have come through the frontlines in this area for around a week, although large numbers are expected once the advance reaches inhabited areas on the southern outskirts of West Mosul (the villages retaken since 19 February were empty). Medicines and medical equipment are still in short supply.

AEM have set up with ISOF in Athbah. This location may also soon change depending on ISOF movements towards Mosul.

After stabilization, trauma cases at TSPs along Highway 1 will be taken to one of the two field hospitals in Hamam al Alil and from there to Qayyarah. If capacity in Hamam al Alil is reached, emergency cases will be taken to the Samaritan's Purse facility in Bartella.

There is reportedly an ISF 9th Div. CCP south of Arbid on Highway 1. On 20 February we witnessed a number of ambulances carrying military casualties driving south along Highway 1 extremely fast, possibly to this CCP. It is thought that this facility is reserved for military casualties.

Forward FedPol temporary TSP, Qaryat al Abyad (36°14'12.5"N 43°08'49.3"E)

FedPol have temporary TSPs on frontline positions. They are primarily for military casualties but they will also accept civilian casualties. There are reportedly 22 ambulances (including 2 armoured) attached to the FedPol and ready for use along the frontline between Highway 1 and Abu Saif.

A new FedPol TSP serving military and civilian casualties is reportedly to be established in Gazlani training camp, although this raises concerns regarding vulnerability to mortar fire. It will apparently be located near to a planned screening site.



Fedpol armoured ambulance in Qaryat al Abyad. FedPol ambulances will reportedly take civilian casualties caught in frontline areas. FedPol has two armoured ambulances in this area, although one is currently undergoing repairs.

Munayrah bridge screening site – update

On 13 January Rise reported an urgent need for latrines at the Munayrah bridge screening site (N 36°05.619' E 043°17.870') which has not yet been met. The lack of latrines at this site has been a constant source of complaint for IDPs, particularly women.

IDPs passing through Munayrah bridge

Up to this point, IDP traffic at Munayrah bridge has mainly consisted of people travelling from East Mosul to camps or relatives in the Qayyarah sub-district or further south to Tikrit or Baghdad. With the beginning of operations targeting West Mosul, most IDP traffic at Munayrah bridge is expected to change direction, with people coming out of the city through Gazlani/Mosul Airport, and then travelling via the bridge to East Mosul, villages in Nimrud, and Khazir and Hasansham camps. When displacement begins from West Mosul, around 300-400 people are reportedly expected to be at the screening site at any one time all day. The period of waiting is still expected to be around an hour, although this will increase with greater numbers. Other bridges across the Tigris may yet be built providing a shorter route of displacement to East Mosul and thus reducing numbers crossing at Munayrah bridge. There have been unverified reports of a bridge being built from East Mosul across to Mosul Airport, but this is unlikely to happen until Mosul Airport is under full ISF control.



Munayrah bridge. The screening site is just to the left of this picture. Further information about Munayrah bridge screening site can be found in the Rise report sent out on 13 January.

The screening process

The Munayrah bridge screening site is under ISF control (the Iraqi Police control the western side of the bridge). It is open from 6am to 6pm each day, and open for emergency crossings throughout the night. There are 6 personnel from the NSS, INIS, IP intelligence and ISF military intelligence conducting screening at the site using laptops and a shared database. This number can be increased to manage greater numbers of IDPs when necessary. Travelling east to west, IDPs crossing the bridge have usually already passed through 1-3 rounds of screening, initially by security forces within East Mosul and then either at the screening site at the Hamdaniyah junction or at the ISF base just south of Sumer neighbourhood. According to intelligence personnel at Munayrah bridge, IDPs travelling from west to east will initially be expected to have passed through screening either once or not at all, depending on which security force they are picked up by. It is more likely that all IDPs

travelling south from West Mosul will be screened in Hamam al Alil when the site opens – and before that Qayyarah, as has been reported. Reportedly there are also plans to establish screening sites next to the TSP in Arij and in Gazlani training camp. The latter potential site may be mobile, at least initially, to reduce the threat of mortar/UAV attack. Either way, the majority of IDPs travelling south will be funnelled through one or more screening sites before onward travel further south or east of the river. This will not mean that screening will stop at Munayrah bridge or that it will not be established at a new bridge, if one is constructed. Multiple screenings exist to limit the ability of ISIS suspects to bypass security. Freedom of movement after screening for IDPs coming from West Mosul is not yet fully understood. Please contact Rise for more information on screening.

Priority needs

There have been no humanitarian preparations at the Munayrah bridge screening site for IDPs from West Mosul. A rubhall tent to provide shelter in bad weather and ready-to-eat food supplies and bottled water have been identified as important needs (ISF and intelligence personnel sometimes share their own food and water, but there are no other supplies). A mobile clinic with stocks of basic medicines will also be of great benefit to IDPs. Latrines, however, are the priority. Notwithstanding the valid reasons for humanitarian partners wishing to avoid installing semi-permanent structures at screening sites, the lack of latrines at Munayrah bridge adds to discomfort and tension at the site, degrades hygiene and sanitation, invites further protection concerns, and lowers standards of dignity for IDPs.



Space for a rubhall tent near Munayrah bridge.