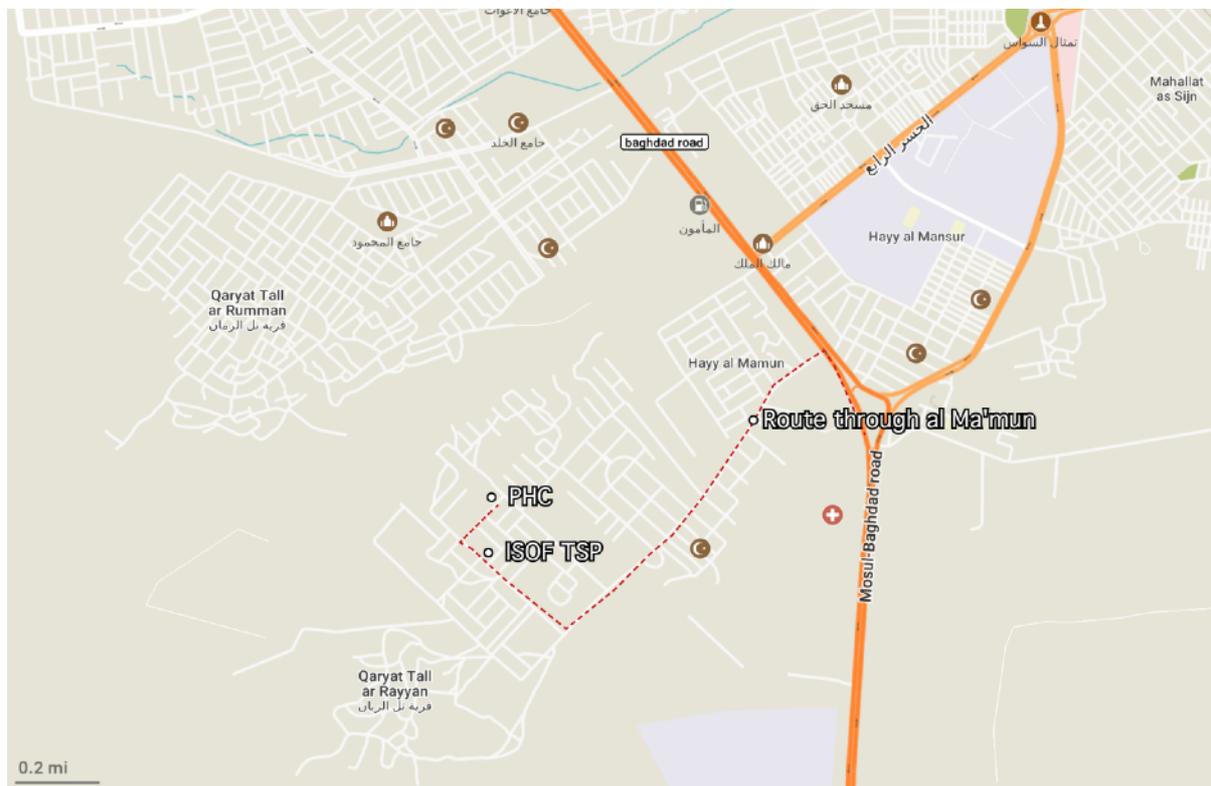


Al Ma'mun, West Mosul, 16 March

On 16 March Rise conducted a brief assessment of the district of al Ma'mun in south-west Mosul. The security situation in al Ma'mun is still volatile and Rise will attempt a more complete assessment when possible.

Access

Access into west Mosul via Highway 1 was complicated by new CTS access procedures. Reportedly, a NGO recently attempted to smuggle key ISIS figures out of the city. Given this, access via Highway 1 now requires approval from CTS. This is gained by visiting their base at Scorpion Junction at 36° 14'53.68"N 43° 06'32.29"E. Copies of JCCC and JCMC letters are required which are then stamped to approve access. It was suggested that a spare copy of these letters may be required by CTS. This procedure had only been introduced on the 16th and there was much confusion over its implementation. Rise were held at scorpion junction for 3 hours and were eventually let through without the stamp. Rise were told it would be required in the future but the process should be much faster. Rise drove up the Mosul-Baghdad Road (Highway 1), taking the first left and then a right to the TSP run by ISOF and international volunteers.



Security

ISOF are still present in al Ma'mun as are local Hashd Forces, Hashd Nineveh. This organisation is not the same as the militia Haras Nineveh, created by former Nineveh governor Atheel Nujaifi, who are sometimes referred to as Hashd Nineveh. ISOF have good relations with these Hashd forces but unspecified concerns were raised by an ISOF Major about how Hashd Nineveh may respond to an international presence.

Al Ma'mun is now several kilometres from the frontline. However, the area is still receiving sporadic mortar fire. After Rise left the area, the TSP staffed by a team of international volunteers (36° 18'20.58"N 43° 05'55.03"E) was involved in an incident involving direct fire. The details of the incident are unclear, but it appears that there was at least one sniper active in the district, though ISOF quickly responded to the threat.

Population

An ISOF Major at the TSP estimated that 500-600 families are currently residing in Al Ma'mun, with 400-500 families in neighbouring al Mansour. These populations include a unknown number of IDPs from other Mosul districts who are now residing in empty houses.

ISOF have begun a voluntary process of helping bring remaining residents to and from Scorpion Junction for screening. Residents are then provided with a document to show that they have been screened by ISOF. Given that this is voluntary and the ISOF screening at the site is done from a limited list of suspects for military intelligence gathering, it appears that more formal screening will be done in the future.



Residents returning to other districts after collecting family food packages in al Ma'mun

Supplies

Distributions of aid has recently begun in al Ma'mun. This is primarily provided by MOMD who are conducting a couple of deliveries per day of family food packages, blankets and kerosene heaters. Details on these deliveries are unclear however. The distributions are not well managed, with some individuals taking much greater portions of supplies. Small arms fire has been used as a crowd control device, but so far no incidents of distributions being targeted by ISIS have been reported. It appears that these distributions are also being conducted in other neighbouring districts by MOMD and Hashd forces. However, residents from nearby districts are also walking to al Ma'mun for these deliveries.

Civilians and soldiers Rise spoke to all claimed that no deliveries of water are arriving in al Ma'mun or nearby districts and that people are relying primarily on rain water to drink. Though a local NGO is conducting a limited amount of bottled water delivery to the area, much more support is required. Most houses are intact and have functional water storage tanks on their roofs that could receive water. A small shop has also opened in the district though it appears to have very limited supplies.

Health

A PHC providing primary health care has opened in the district at 36° 18'27.68"N 43° 05'55.88"E. The PHC was functional during ISIS control and the staff have all been screened by ISOF. The PHC opened on 17 March after supplies arrived from the Iraqi Ministry of Health. It has already received 1000 patients coming from all across west Mosul. The PHC is a large site, with one doctor and 60 other staff who are a mix of medics, pharmacists and nurses. The site also includes a dentist's office. Currently a lot of people are suffering common illnesses such infections, diarrhoea and dehydration. Many of these people are going to ISOF trauma stabilisation points for aid, which are not equipped to help them. It is unclear how regular medical supplies for the PHC will be, and NGO aid was requested as soon as possible. Please contact Rise for contact details for the PHC. Security at the site is expected to be provided by the ISOF forces.



The PHC in al Ma'mun