

West Mosul update, 04 July

Despite some celebrations being held after the capture of the al Nuri Mosque and the declaration of the end of ISIS' Caliphate, fighting continues in Mosul al Qadima. Complete displacement has occurred in retaken areas due to the intensity of the fighting and a dire lack of food and water over recent months. In recent days medical teams have treated hundreds if not thousands of civilian casualties. The destruction to the neighbourhood has been catastrophic. NGOs and ISF have been able to drive IDPs through some cleared routes to the muster points, despite the risks of suicide bombers hiding in crowds. In other areas vehicle access has not been possible and people have had to flee on foot.



Many buildings have been entirely levelled and the most streets are blocked with rubble.

Security in the rest of west Mosul is beginning to settle after last week's major sleeper cell attack in al Yarmuk. Many new checkpoints have been established along Baghdad Road as well as the northern road from Hawa al Kanisaa. Haras Nineveh is increasingly present as a security actor in these northern areas. There is currently little information on the specifics of this deployment. More information on Haras Nineveh can be found in Rise's recent Context Analysis report on post-ISIS Mosul. A newly identified militia was also seen to the south, near al Ma'mun. This militia is reportedly working for the current Governor of Mosul, Nofal Hammadi. It is concerning that the civilian leader of Nineveh has established a militia given the number of armed groups already in Mosul and the tensions they have caused.

Markets

Nonetheless west Mosul continues to recover from the battle. Markets and small shops have been quick to reopen across the city. Especially busy market streets can

be found on the road between al Risalah and al Amil, and between al Rabi and al Aslah / al Zira'i.

Shop owners are primarily buying their goods wholesale from larger stores in Mosul al Jadida and al Amil. Some owners are buying from Gogjali in east Mosul where prices are cheaper. However, it is still difficult to access east Mosul from the west. Prices across the city are fairly consistent, regardless of how long the area has been liberated for. It was common for stores to sell their goods at around a 20%-30% increase on wholesale prices. A table showing compared prices of water, flour and eggs is attached at the end of the report.

Whilst the markets are often extremely well stocked with a variety of goods, having enough money to purchase anything is a key issue for many. Military actors, with at least some income, are the main customers for stores in areas nearer to the frontline or where troops are stationed. It is likely that this has been a key incentive for their reestablishment. At least one hawala for money transfers has been reestablished in the west, in al Jadida. This allows some families to receive income from family in the east or outside the city. Currently the majority of people in northern neighbourhoods are struggling to buy bottled water and are relying on poor quality water from boreholes and private water trucked from the Tigris. This in turn is creating health issues and putting greater strain on overstretched PHCs. Given the increasing summer temperatures, it is imperative that regular water trucking is initiated until water projects and infrastructure is rehabilitated.

Mashirfa 1 and al Hamara,

In Harama neighbourhood it was estimated that about 80% of people have now returned. People are still relying on NGO support however infrequent it may be. Some are starting to find jobs, especially in reconstruction work. Reportedly the PDS has yet to restart nor is there a Mukhtar to administer the area. Shops have begun to reopen but their main source of income continues to be military actors stationed in the neighbourhoods and the large numbers of people moving through the main road north to the new bridge. People are mainly drinking borehole water and water that locals were trucking from the Tigris to sell.

Locals claimed to be referring any ISIS suspects to the ISF. They complained that many of these suspects are being detained and then rapidly released. The reasons behind such releases are of course unclear, but appeared to be creating some distrust of the ISF with locals. Those interviewed did claim that they were in contact with their Sheikhs who were helping resolve any social issues that arose between tribal members.

17 Tammuz

Families are returning to 17 Tammuz every day. A local suggested that lots of IDPs in the east are waiting for one of the main bridges to reopen before they move back, this is likely a factor for many returns across west Mosul. They claimed that the pontoon bridge in the north was regularly closed to civilians and this made the journey back and forth too precarious. People are afraid of being denied access or getting stranded on the wrong side.



17 Tammuz was a key ISIS stronghold

The fighting across the northern neighbourhoods was especially destructive. 17 Tammuz has yet to be properly back-cleared for UXO and IEDs. The main streets are clear but locals listed booby-trapped houses as a concern. There is also a cache of ordnance and possibly a chemical weapons substance in a side street next to a former ISIS munitions factory. The ISF have been notified of it by locals but have yet to send an EOD team. Accordingly, another organisation has been contacted to help with disposal.



Aside from this, people in 17 Tammuz reported feeling very secure and claimed no problems with the military. There has not been official house to house screening yet, the ISF are relying on locals to inform them of any ISIS affiliates. One man interviewed claimed that he would kill any ISIS members they found and would not even bother notifying the ISF. Whilst it is hard to ascertain the validity of such claims, it does highlight the major issue of revenge violence in the city that risks targeting innocent people.

Very few people in 17 Tammuz have any money. At least one well stocked shop has reopened. There has been no PDS so far and most families are relying on NGO aid. However, aid has been very limited and infrequent. As with Mashirfa and al Hamara, people are commonly relying on poor quality water from the Tigris and boreholes unless they can afford bottled water.

Al Aslah / al Zira'i

Rise conducted a brief assessment on the street between al Rabi and al Aslah / al Zira'i. It is a very busy street and there are many functioning shops selling basic food items as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. A main reason for this is that the street is currently a key access route across the city, due to the destruction of primary roads. Reportedly most people were still relying on NGO assistance in the neighbourhoods, though this was inadequate to meet needs. The PDS has not restarted here due to the appointed agents not returning to the area since being displaced. This is likely a common issue delaying PDS reactivation. The shopkeeper interviewed said he felt very secure in the area now, though felt that there were 'too many' soldiers about.



A shop in Al Aslah / al Zira'i

Al Ma'mun

The situation in al Ma'mun is much better in comparison to northern neighbourhoods. The district has now been secure for several months. Regular water distributions from an NGO are occurring. People are still washing from bore hole water and this is causing skin problems for some. Though there is a PHC nearby it is extremely over stretched with daily queues of hundreds of people. A complaint was also raised that paracetamol is being given as treatment for any issue and that the PHC is not properly stocked.

Al Shifaa, al Sahaa and al Zinjili (Update from 20 June)

The neighbourhoods of al Shifaa, and al Zinjili remain empty of residents. It was reported on 05 July that some residents had begun to return to al Sahaa, though perhaps less than a dozen. The districts are still highly contaminated with UXO and IEDs.

IDPs are returning to these neighbourhoods briefly to collect any necessary items that were left behind when they fled or to check that their house is ok. Families were seen walking into these neighbourhoods unaccompanied on 20 June. It was claimed by ISF on 05 June that this is still occurring. The families are entering unaccompanied but upon entering the neighbourhood are reportedly warned if the route to their house is safe. These families then return back to other accommodation either in west or east Mosul. Taking buses to the east requires screening each way.

Al Rifa'i (Update from 20 June)

Large numbers of families have returned to al Rifa'i neighbourhood and are continuing to do so. Many houses were extensively damaged during the fighting, at least 10% of houses have been entirely destroyed.

Residents reported feeling very safe in the area. An ISF EOD team is present in the area to clear remaining UXOs and some booby-trapped houses. As of 20 July it seems that some booby-trapped houses remain. Residents claimed to be very happy with the Federal Police and ERU presence in the area. Though it must always be considered that people are afraid to speak badly of such forces. The troops are currently residing in empty civilian houses. However, civilians claimed that they are moved on as soon as a family wishes to return to their home. On 20 June residents were primarily relying on their savings to support themselves through local markets. Supplies of food and water provided by the military were also crucial. Boreholes are being used for non-drinkable water for cleaning. There has been a limited amount of NGO aid but this has been sporadic and has not met needs.

A lack of hospitals for primary health care was cited as a major concern. A family interviewed had travelled to Mosul al Jadida to visit private doctors. These doctors are charging a small amount for medications and treatment, though this is a significant cost for families living off their remaining savings.

Screening has not happened inside the neighbourhood. Locals are notifying the ISF of any known or suspected ISIS members who remained in the area, or who are

moving in as displaced persons. This appears normal for west Mosul operations, it seems that very little formal screening has been done in retaken neighbourhoods. The practice of relying on locals to inform ISF of ISIS members raises the risk of allowing individuals to resolve personal grievances by falsely labelling others to get them arrested.

Market Prices

During the assessment Rise visited a shop in each of the districts listed. The table below shows the prices that the store was buying for at wholesale and the price goods were being sold on for. Prices are in Iraqi Dinar.

Neighbourhood	Buying Water 17L	Selling Water 17L	Buying Water 12 x 500ml	Selling Water 12 x 500ml
Mashirfa 1	1500	1750	750	1000
Al Hamara	1500	1750	750	1000
17 Tammuz				1500
Al Rabi	1500	1750	750	1000
Al Amil	1500	1750	800	1000
Al Ma'mun	1000	1750	750	1000

Neighbourhood	Buying Flour	Selling Flour
Mashirfa 1	25kg - 10250	25kg - 12000
Al Hamara	1kg - 750	1kg - 1000
17 Tamuz	Couldn't afford flour	
Al Rabi	1kg 800	1kg - 1000
Al Amil	25kg - 11000	25kg - 11500
Al Ma'mun	25kg - 10,000	25kg - 11000