IRAQ

New displacement in the first half of 2017 totalled over 922,000, of which more than 885,000 are due to the operations in Mosul, while approximately 37,000 are due to clashes in Hawija district, in Kirkuk governorate. This area is still under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Clashes with the army intensified in the summer of 2016, but stalled with the beginning of the Mosul operations in October of the same year.

On 9 July 2017, nearly nine months after the launch of military operations to retake Mosul city, the Iraqi Prime Minister announced the liberation of Mosul. The operation has destroyed nearly 500 buildings and damaged thousands more in the historic Old City, 17 July district, and areas around the airport. The damage is far greater than expected and likely to require billions of dollars to rehabilitate. For Iraqis displaced from the city, the extensive damage is likely to keep them from returning for many months to come. Some will no longer have homes to return to, and basic services - water, electricity, schools, hospitals - will need to be rebuilt or repaired. In addition, before the area can be declared safe for return it will need to be cleared of mines and explosive remnants, a process that will require time.