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The Battle for Mosul
Doctors of the World calls for the protection of civilians

(*New York, 28th October 2016*) **The operation to retake the city of Mosul from the jihadist group Islamic State (IS) was launched Monday, 17th October. Doctors of the World calls for international humanitarian law to be respected to ensure both the protection of civilians and access to the populations by NGOs.**

Nearly 1.5 million people live in Mosul and this battle represents a major threat for their safety. They could find themselves trapped by the fighting or forced to flee. Doctors of the World expresses its concern about the care of these populations and the treatment that awaits them.

Doctors of the World – already present in the governorates of Dohuk, Ninewa and Kirkuk among already displaced populations – has mobile clinics near Mosul, ready to respond to the needs of any civilians.

The situation in Iraq is extremely worrying: there are currently 3.3 million IDPs and 35% of the country's doctors have fled the fighting.

People are preparing themselves for difficult times ahead. *"The intense media coverage of the battle of Mosul seems to give reason for hoping that the armed forces, including those supported by the international coalition, will be particularly concerned about civilians. We remind all parties of the need to respect international humanitarian law guaranteeing the protection of the populations and of absolutely unfettered NGO intervention"* said Dr Jean-François Corty, Director of International Operations of Doctors of the World.

Doctors of the World is calling for the protection of the civilian population to prevent them from being taken hostage or becoming victims of military strategies.

Doctors of the World in Iraq
Doctors of the World works in the camps in the Dohuk region of Iraqi Kurdistan. In the Dawodia and Chamisko camps, medical teams offer displaced and extremely vulnerable people primary healthcare, sexual and reproductive healthcare, child care, psychosocial support, nutritional screening and health education sessions. In 2015, further south in the Kirkuk governorate, Doctors of the World has set up three mobile clinics to meet the major influx of new IDPs and the needs of the host populations. They are offered primary healthcare (including sexual and reproductive healthcare) and psychosocial support. Since September 2016, Doctors of the World has also set up a mobile clinic in the governorate of Ninewa.

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