

100,000 displaced as Iraqi forces poise for mosul battle: UN

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The UN refugee agency has claimed that more than 1 lakh people have been displaced as Iraqi forces prepare to take on the Islamic State (IS) in Mosul.

Mosul is presently under IS control and people have moved out of city fearing fierce battle between the two sides.

Iraqi leaders have repeatedly promised that Mosul in IS hands for more than two years will be retaken from the militant group this year, though US officials have said that timeline is unrealistic.

Now, aid groups worry that a million more could be displaced from in and around Mosul as the operation moves forward.

The UNHCR said this week that about 43,000 people have been displaced from the Mosul area since March and 66,600 people from the nearby Shirkat area since June.

Available camps for the displaced are already overflowing from the influx, leaving thousands without shelter.

- (With AP inputs)