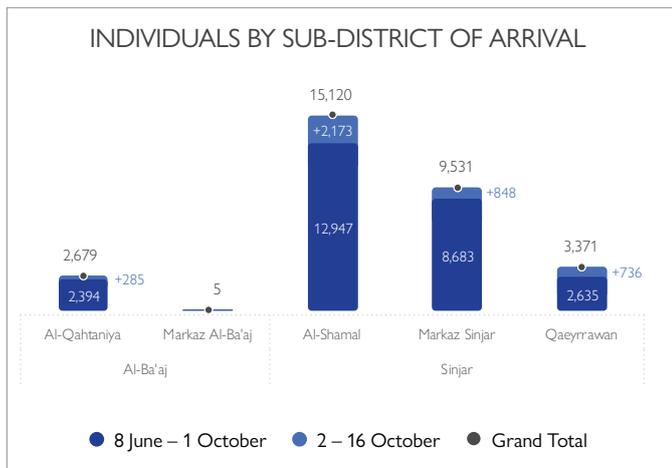
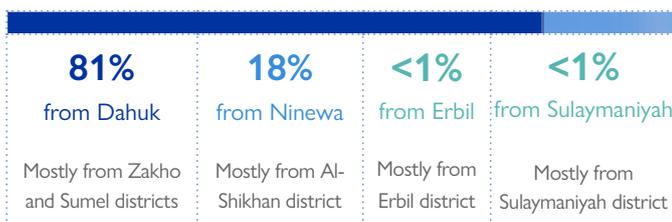
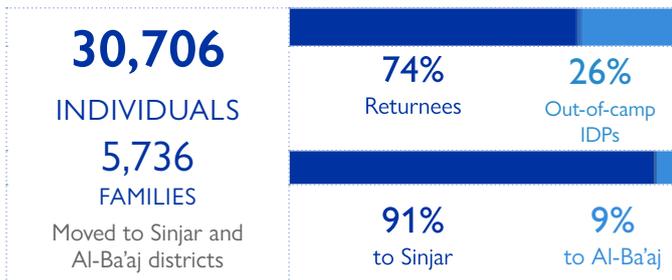


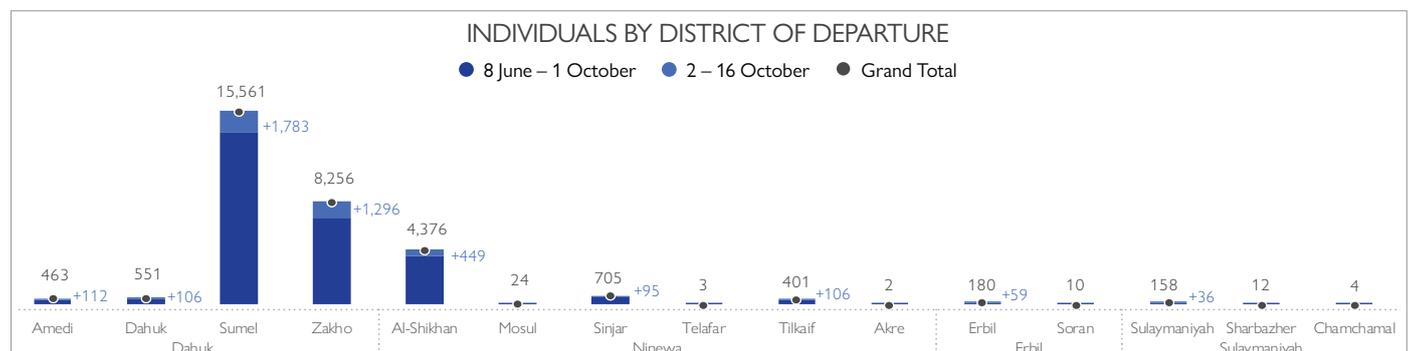
DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:
2 – 16 OCTOBER 2020

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 16 October.



Additionally, between 2 and 16 October, a total of 3,297 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (82%) – which is similar to the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (81%). As with all previous rounds, between 2 and 16 October, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (44% of all individuals) and Zakho (32%). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Dahuk (3%) and Amedi (3%). Additionally, between 2 and 16 October, a further 650 individuals were recorded as having come from within Ninewa (16%), mainly from two districts:



Between 2 and 16 October 2020, DTM tracked 4,042 individuals (752 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate. This brings the total number of individuals who have taken this route to 30,706 (5,736 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June 2020.

In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 19 to Al-Ba'aj and 250 to Sinjar. While in this period the daily average number of arrivals to Al-Ba'aj is consistent with the overall daily average since 8 June (21), the daily average number of arrivals to Sinjar is higher than the overall daily average since 8 June (217).

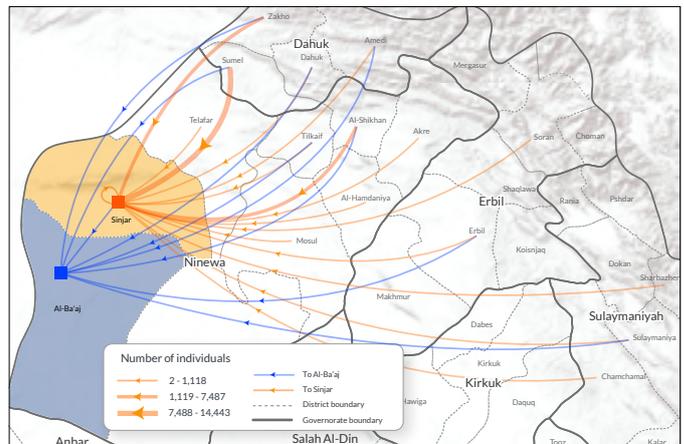
This increase in arrivals can be explained by more assistance being provided to IDPs in returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj, as well as reports of greater employment opportunities these districts compared with the locations where they had been displaced.

Of those individuals who returned between 2 and 16 October, a total of 3,757 were recorded in Sinjar (93%) and 285 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (7%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 2,173 individuals (54%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 848 individuals (21%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 80 per cent of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June. Elsewhere, 736 individuals arrived to the sub-district of Qaeyrrawan (18%) and 285 arrived to Al-Qahtaniya (7%).

Of those individuals identified as returning between 2 and 16 October, 3,405 were recorded as returnees (84%), while the remaining 673 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (16%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (74%) and out-of-camp IDPs (26%) since 8 June.

Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



Al-Shikhan (11%) and Tilkaif (3%). This proportion (16%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 2 and 16 October is broadly consistent with the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (18%). Otherwise, 59 individuals were recorded as arriving from Erbil Governorate (1%), while 36 individuals arrived from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (1%).

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (51%), Zakho (27%), and Al-Shikhan districts (14%).

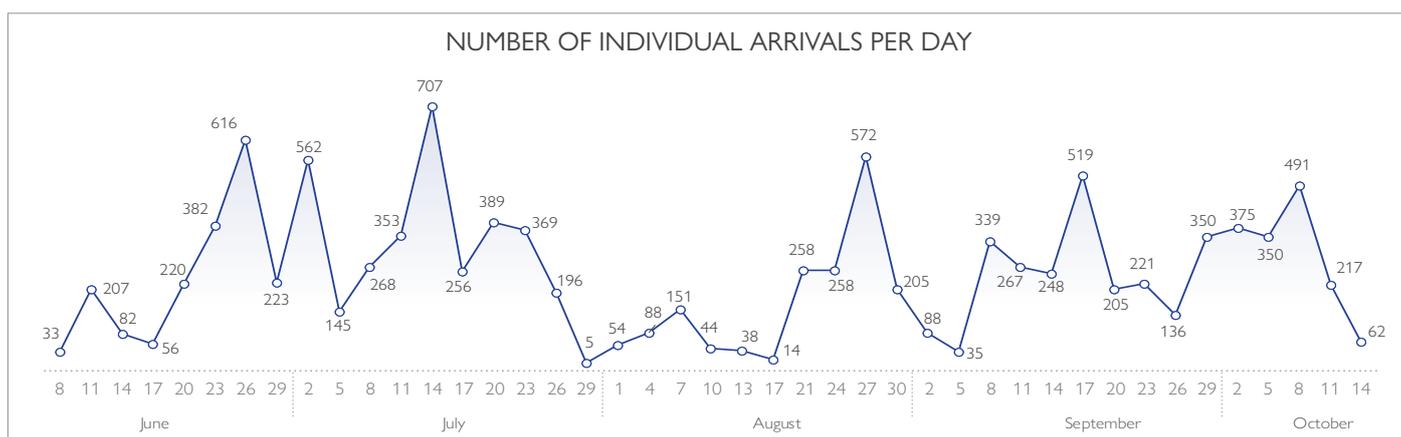
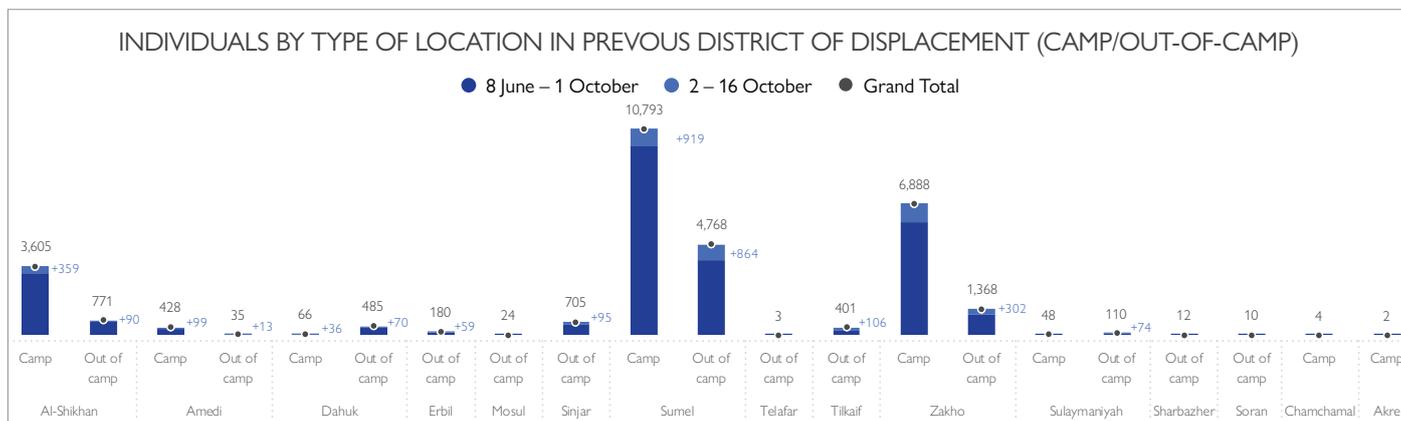
Between 2 and 16 October, of the 3,757 individuals who arrived to Sinjar District, 3,217 came from Dahuk Governorate (83%), while 541 came from within Ninewa (15%); 53 came from Erbil (1%), and 36 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%). Additionally, of the 285 individuals who arrived to Al-Ba'aj District, 170 came from Dahuk (60%), 109 came from within Ninewa (38%), and six came from Erbil (2%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 2,407 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (60%), while the remaining 1,635 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (40%). This differs from the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 21,834 individuals have arrived

from camp settings (71%) compared with 8,872 individuals who have arrived from out-of-camp settings (29%).

Between 2 and 16 October, increases were recorded in the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. The total number of individuals now in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 10,793 (up from 9,874), while Zakho's is 6,888 (up from 5,894), and Al-Shikhan's is 3,605 (up from 3,246).

In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals who have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 4,768 (up from 3,904), while Zakho's is now 1,368 (up from 1,066), and Al-Shikhan's is 771 (up from 681).



ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs returning to Sinjar include their desire to go home, as well as the improved security situation in their areas of origin, while Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home. Threats of housing eviction in locations of displacement is also a factor for those IDPs returning to Sinjar. Otherwise, the main reason for IDPs returning to Al-Ba'aj also relates to their desire to go home, while the availability of services (such as education and health) in their areas of origin is also central to the decision.
- One of the push factors has been the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, as some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

Assistance and registration

- Reportedly, that the Directorate of National Security in Sinjar has established a feedback/ complaint/response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to difficulties at checkpoints, as well as on reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large-scale destruction in Sinjar.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as health care, markets, water and electricity and not having received assistance. Some of these locations had not previously witnessed returns.