From 31 December 2017 to 31 January 2018:

- As of 31 January 2018, the DTM has identified 2,470,974 internally displaced persons (411,829 families) displaced after January 2014, dispersed across 97 districts and 3,702 locations in Iraq. For the same period, DTM has also identified 3,346,704 returnees (557,784 families).

- Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 6% (145,014 individuals). Decreases were recorded across all of Iraq’s 18 governorates.

- The returnee population increased by 4% (126,342 individuals) during the month of January, reflecting a continuous trend of increasing return movements observed in Iraq.

Considering the available information and the DTM methodology, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has revised the planning figures for the humanitarian response at 2.5 million internally displaced persons and 3.3 million returnees.
IDPs

50% Private settings
1,261,230 IDPs

26% Camps
650,988 IDPs

11% Critical shelters
278,142 IDPs

12% Unknown
280,614 IDPs

Returnees

96% Habitual residence
3,214,230 IDPs

3% Private settings
89,340 IDPs

1% Critical shelters
42,414 IDPs

>1% Unknown
720 IDPs

Figure 1. IDPs displacement timeline: monthly updates

Figure 2. Presence of IDPs by governorate of displacement

Figure 3. Returnees displacement timeline: monthly updates

Figure 4. Presence of returnees by governorate of return

JANUARY 2018 OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

IDPs

Returnees
The IOM DTM Iraq started recording returnees in April 2015.

Since December’s milestone, when DTM recorded more returnees than IDPs for the first time in the current Iraq conflict, return movements have continued across the country. Returnees are now 3.3 million while IDPs have dropped to 2.5 million individuals.

A total of 98% of the 126,342 new returnees identified by DTM during this monitoring period were concentrated in four governorates: Nineawa, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk and Anbar. Nineawa Governorate alone accounts for two-thirds (83,814) of the newly identified returnees, of who 53,514 went back to Mosul district. However, reports from the field indicate that not all returnees to Mosul city are staying, with approximately 600 families returning to displacement in Haj Ali camp due to lack of services and livelihood opportunities in west Mosul city. DTM is continuing to conduct a joint validation exercise with local authorities in east and west Mosul to confirm returnee numbers, with an increase in the figures expected next month once new data is received for east Mosul.

In Salah al-Din, where a total of 27,276 new returnees were identified across the governorate, many headed back to the retaken Al-Shirqat district (6,420 individuals) and Baiji districts (6,576). While return movements from the disputed areas crisis have largely slowed overall, the exception was the return of 13,920 people to the Salah al-Din district of Tooz as per the Emergency Tracking of 29 January 2018. This return movement was prompted by improvements in the security situation in this area.

In Kirkuk, approximately 7,044 new returnees were identified, 6,780 of them to the retaken district of Hawija as security and services improve. A number of areas in Markaz Hawija sub-district reportedly have not yet been cleared for return by the ISF. In Anbar, most of the governorate’s 5,982 returnees identified during January 2018 are in the recently retaken districts of west Anbar: Al-Ka’im (3,852 returnees), Ana (576) and Ru’a (576). Return movements to Ru’a were lower as of the end of January; DTM Emergency Tracking indicates that approximately 12,000 of those displaced during last year’s offensive against ISIL in west Anbar have returned, but about 60,000 remain displaced.

During January 2018, the three governorates reporting the biggest decreases in IDP numbers were Ninewa (-48,540 individuals or -6%), Baghdad (-22,806 or -12%) and Anbar (-18,864 or -17%). Together, they account for almost two-thirds of the nationwide decrease of 145,014 IDPs (or -6%). In addition to improving security and services in their locations of origin, government policies to encourage return movements from Baghdad city and from camps in Anbar contributed to this decrease in IDP numbers.

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As of 31 January 2018, eight governorates host 89% (2,207,274 individuals) of the total identified IDP population: Ninewa hosts 31% (758,784), Dahuk 15% (362,640), Erbil 10% (243,570), Salah al-Din 9% (231,990), Sulaymaniyah 8% (185,784), Kirkuk 7% (171,618), Baghdad 7% (160,710) and Anbar 4% (92,178).

From a regional perspective, Central North Iraq hosts 64% of the IDPs (1,593,522 individuals), the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 32% (791,994) and South Iraq 3% (85,458).

Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 6% (-145,014 individuals) to reach 2,470,974. Decreases were recorded across all of Iraq’s 18 governorates.

Continuous return trends to Mosul City from camps and other areas contributed to an overall decrease of 6% (-48,540 individuals) in Ninewa Governorate. However, not all returnees going back to Mosul city are staying: due to lack of services and livelihood opportunities in west Mosul city, approximately 600 families have gone back to displacement in Haj Ali camp.

Anbar Governorate recorded a decrease of 17% (-18,864 individuals) as returns continue to the recently retaken areas of west Anbar (Ka’im, Ana and Ru’a.).

There was a 6% decrease (-15,372 individuals) in Salah al-Din Governorate, as IDPs continued to return to the retaken Al-Shirqat and Baiji districts, as well as to Hawija.

In Kirkuk, there was a 5% drop (-9,240), following last month’s big decrease of 18% (-40,230 individuals). While return movements from the disputed areas crisis to Kirkuk slowed down during January 2018, significant return movements are continuing to the retaken Hawija district.

There was also a decrease of 12% (-22,806) of IDPs in Baghdad Governorate, as authorities there pursue a policy of encouraging returns to retaken areas.

No governorate reported an increase in the number of IDPs. The smallest decrease, less than 1% (-618), was reported in Dahuk.

**Table 1. Distribution of IDP families and individuals by governorate of displacement**
As of 31 January 2018, the total IDP population of 2.5 million comes from eight of Iraq’s 18 governorates, but more than half (57% or 1,406,448 individuals) are from Ninewa. Anbar is the second most common governorate of origin for IDPs with 14% (355,020), followed by Salah al-Din with 14% (339,072).

Largely due to ongoing return movements to Mosul district, the number of IDPs originally from Ninewa Governorate has decreased by 5% (-73,830 individuals) to reach 1,406,448 individuals.

The return movements to west Anbar as well as other retaken areas of the governorate has led to a decrease in the number of IDPs from Anbar by 11% (-44,190 individuals) to reach 355,020 individuals.

During the reporting period, the number of IDPs from Kirkuk Governorate dropped by 5% (-10,914 individuals) to reach 216,042. As return movements to Kirkuk from the disputed areas crisis have slowed down, this decrease was largely due to continued returns to the retaken Hawija district as security conditions and services improve.

Map 2. IDP families by governorate of origin
The map shows IDPs’ movements from their governorate of origin to their current districts of displacement

The number of IDPs from Salah al-Din Governorate decreased by 4% (-15,504) to reach 339,072. Ongoing return movements to the retaken districts of Al-Shirqat and Baiji accounted for much of this increase, in addition to return movements to Tooz district due to improved security conditions in the centre of this major flashpoint of the disputed areas crisis.

### Table 2. Distribution of IDPs by governorate of displacement and governorate of origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate of displacement</th>
<th>Anbar</th>
<th>Babylon</th>
<th>Baghdad</th>
<th>Diyala</th>
<th>Erbil</th>
<th>Kirkuk</th>
<th>Ninewa</th>
<th>Salah al-Din</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anbar</td>
<td>87,936</td>
<td>3,066</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>92,178</td>
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<td>516</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13,674</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>31,170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>101,892</td>
<td>6,078</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>3,066</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>35,616</td>
<td>11,868</td>
<td>160,710</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basrah</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>3,192</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dahuk</td>
<td>828</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>311,100</td>
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<td>362,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diyala</td>
<td>1,968</td>
<td>456</td>
<td>366</td>
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<td>708</td>
<td>642</td>
<td>20,760</td>
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<td>Erbil</td>
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<td>1,404</td>
<td>7,614</td>
<td>35,112</td>
<td>87,660</td>
<td>24,354</td>
<td>243,570</td>
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<td>Kerbala</td>
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<td>168</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>46,944</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>49,530</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirkuk</td>
<td>10,914</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>2,508</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>105,666</td>
<td>22,782</td>
<td>28,914</td>
<td>171,618</td>
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<td>Missan</td>
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<td>162</td>
<td>96</td>
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<td>1,962</td>
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<tr>
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<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>114</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>45,948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ninewa</td>
<td>1,866</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>13,800</td>
<td>737,796</td>
<td>4,596</td>
<td>758,784</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qadissiya</td>
<td>1,698</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,944</td>
<td>12,480</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>16,908</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salah al-Din</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>1,734</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35,682</td>
<td>6,012</td>
<td>187,272</td>
<td>231,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulaymaniyah</td>
<td>53,922</td>
<td>5,658</td>
<td>18,330</td>
<td>20,382</td>
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<td>18,276</td>
<td>14,892</td>
<td>54,324</td>
<td>185,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thi-Qar</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>3,648</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>5,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wissit</td>
<td>1,458</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>9,954</td>
<td>1,842</td>
<td>15,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>355,020</td>
<td>31,440</td>
<td>26,418</td>
<td>88,122</td>
<td>8,412</td>
<td>216,042</td>
<td>1,406,448</td>
<td>339,072</td>
<td>2,470,974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dynamics of return and displacement are tracked through independent but complementary systems, meaning that the number of returnees and of IDPs can increase at the same time during a reporting period although overall trends will realign in longer observation intervals.

As of 31 January 2018, a total of 3,346,704 individuals reportedly returned to their location of origin, meaning that the number of returnees in Iraq has increased by 4% (126,342 individuals) during the monitoring period.

Nineawa Governorate recorded an overall increase of 9% (83,814 individuals) to reach 1,058,676 returnees. These figures primarily reflect continuing return movements during January 2018 to Mosul district, in addition to Telafar. Nineawa’s returnee population is mainly concentrated in Mosul district (564,120 individuals), Telafar (179,838) and Al-Hamdaniya (103,596).

The governorate hosting the largest returnee population is Anbar with a total of 36% (1,219,458 individuals) – almost all concentrated in the districts of Fallujah (15% or 517,668 individuals), Ramadi (14% or 457,494) and Heet (5% or 179,466).

The governorate hosting the third largest returnee population is Salah al-Din, with 15% (486,462 individuals), primarily concentrated in Tikrit and Al-Shirqat districts.
Of Iraq's 3.3 million returnees, 22% (733,530 individuals) were last displaced to Ninewa, 17% (578,328) to Anbar, 12% (398,952) to Erbil, 11% (370,260) to Baghdad and 11% (383,694) to Kirkuk.

A total of 52% (66,066) of the 126,342 new returnees identified during January 2018 had last displaced to Ninewa Governorate; 12% (15,228) had last displaced to Salah al-Din while 8% (10,506) had last displaced to Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Almost 100% (577,818 individuals) of the 578,328 returnees last displaced in Anbar were internally displaced within the governorate. Similarly, 99% (729,408) of returnees last displaced in Ninewa and 91% (211,836) of those last displaced in Salah al-Din were internally displaced within their own governorates.

In the case of the 398,952 individuals who returned from Erbil Governorate, 40% (161,166 individuals) returned to Anbar Governorate, 25% (99,246) to Ninewa and 19% (75,096) to Salah al-Din.

This month, the number of individuals returning from Kerbala Governorate to their location of origin increased by 20% (3,696 individuals). All were returning to Ninewa amid improving security conditions in the governorate.
Just over half (51% or 1,261,230 individuals) of Iraq’s 2.5 million IDPs are reportedly housed in private settings, including 40% (991,026) in rented housing and 11% (266,460) with host families. Less than 1% (3,744) of IDPs reported living in hotels/motels.

A total of 278,142 IDPs (or 11%) report living in critical shelters, including 6% (137,226) who live in unfinished buildings, 3% (70,608) in informal settlements, 2% (57,090) in religious buildings and less than 1% (6,678) in school buildings.

A total of 30% (83,226) of the IDPs living in critical shelters in Iraq are concentrated in Salah al-Din Governorate, 22% (60,570) are in Dahuk and 12% are in Nineveh (32,466). The southern governorates of Najaf (23,412) and Kerbala (21,066) have the next highest concentrations of IDPs living in critical shelter.

A total of 650,988 individuals (or 26% of Iraq’s IDPs) live in camps. Almost half of this population (323,334 individuals) are concentrated in Nineveh, reflecting the largely camp-based nature of the Mosul crisis response, while almost a quarter (151,260) are in Dahuk.

A total of 3,214,230 individuals (or 96% of Iraq’s 3.3 million returnees) reportedly live in their habitual residence, while 3% (89,340 individuals) are in private settings and 1% (42,414) are in critical shelters.

Returnees living in critical shelters are concentrated in four governorates – Diyala (21,552 individuals), Salah al-Din (12,492), Nineveh (7,542) and Kirkuk (828). Diyala has the biggest share, with 51% (21,552 returnees) reporting to be living in critical shelters. DTM identified returnees in critical shelters in Kirkuk Governorate for the first time during this monitoring period, with 828 individuals living in informal settlements in the districts of Kirkuk and Daquq.
IOM’s DTM aims to monitor displacement and provide accurate data about the IDP and returnee population in Iraq. Data is collected through IOM’s Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of 123 staff members deployed across Iraq.

Data from the IDP Master List and Returnee Master List is gathered through a well-established large network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces. Additional information is gathered from government registration data and partner agencies.

IOM RARTs collect Master List data continuously and report it biweekly. However, limited access as a result of security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods may be due to influencing factors such as the increased accuracy of displacement tracking, continuous identification of previously displaced groups, and the inclusion of data on secondary displacements within Iraq.

The displaced populations are identified through a process of collection, verification, triangulation and validation of data. IOM continues to closely coordinate with federal, regional and local authorities to maintain a shared and accurate understanding of displacement across Iraq.

**DEFINITION**

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of families by six, the average size of an Iraqi family.

The DTM considers as returnees all those individuals previously displaced who return to their sub-district of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The DTM’s definition of returnees is unrelated to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, or to a defined strategy for a durable solution. DTM only records the estimated number of those who fled their locations of origin since January 2014 and have now returned; as such, it focuses on permanent return and does not capture “go-and-see” visits. The Returnee Master List is not designed to assess the conditions of the returnees’ houses. It provides an initial indication of whether the families moved back to the residence of origin (referred to as habitual residence) or had to settle in alternative shelter arrangements after returning to their sub-district of origin (corresponding to one of the ten categories of shelter types). Targeted shelter assessments should be carried out to assess the damages caused by the conflict.

Location is defined as an area that corresponds either to a sub-district (i.e. fourth official administrative division), a village for rural areas, and a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fifth official administrative division).

To facilitate analysis, this report divides Iraq in three regions: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) includes Dahuk, Sulaymaniya and Erbil Governorates; the South includes Basrah, Missan, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Qadissiya and Muthana Governorates; the Central North includes Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wassit Governorates.

Private settings: include rented houses, hotels/motels and host families.

Critical shelters: include informal settlements, religious buildings, schools, and unfinished or abandoned buildings.

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