From 31 January to 28 February 2018:

- As of 28 February 2018, the DTM has identified 2,317,698 internally displaced persons (386,283 families) displaced after January 2014, dispersed across 97 districts and 3,680 locations in Iraq. For the same period, DTM has also identified 3,511,602 returnees (585,267 families).
- Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 6% (-153,276 individuals). Decreases were recorded across all of Iraq’s 18 governorates.
- The returnee population increased by 5% (164,898 individuals) during the month of February, reflecting a continuous trend of increasing return movements.

Considering the available information and the DTM methodology, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has revised the planning figures for the humanitarian response at 2.3 million internally displaced persons and 3.5 million returnees.
IDPs

57% Private settings
1,306,788 IDPs

27% Camps
631,320 IDPs

11% Critical shelters
265,722 IDPs

5% Unknown
113,868 IDPs

Figure 1. IDPs displacement timeline: monthly updates

Returnees

97% Habitual residence
3,383,568 IDPs

2% Private settings
85,104 IDPs

1% Critical shelters
42,930 IDPs

0% Unknown
0 IDPs

Figure 3. Returnees displacement timeline: monthly updates

Figure 2. Presence of IDPs by governorate of displacement

Figure 4. Presence of returnees by governorate of return
A total of 84% of the 164,898 returnees identified by DTM during this monitoring period were concentrated in four governorates: Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din. Ninewa Governorate alone accounts for two-thirds (96,158) of the newly identified returnees, of who 86,376 went back to Mosul district. This increase is due to the joint validation exercise conducted by DTM with local authorities in east and west Mosul to confirm returnee numbers. A new increase is expected next month once data is received for east Mosul.

In Salah al-Din, where a total of 14,772 new returnees were identified across the governorate, many headed back to the retaken Al-Shirqat (9,678 individuals) and Baiji districts (1,722).

In Kirkuk, approximately 20,952 new returnees were identified, 11,490 of them to the retaken district of Hawija as security and services improve. Several areas in Markaz Hawija sub-district reportedly have not yet been cleared for return by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). In Anbar, most of the governorate’s 6,528 returnees identified during February 2018 are in the recently retaken districts of west Anbar. DTM Emergency Tracking indicates that approximately 21,000 of those displaced during last year’s offensive against ISIL in west Anbar have returned, but about 54,000 remain displaced.

During February 2018, the three governorates reporting the biggest decreases in IDP numbers were Ninewa (-60,820 individuals or -8%), Kirkuk (-18,228 or -11%) and Baghdad (-16,806 or -10%). Together, they account for almost two-thirds of the nationwide decrease of 153,276 IDPs (or -6%).
As of 28 February 2018, eight governorates host 89% (2,072,658 individuals) of the total identified IDP population: Ninewa hosts 30% (697,974), Dahuk 15% (355,530), Erbil 10% (234,846), Salah al-Din 9% (215,400), Sulaymaniyah 8% (181,302), Kirkuk 7% (153,390), Baghdad 6% (143,904) and Anbar 4% (90,312).

From a regional perspective, Central North Iraq hosts 63% of the IDPs (1,467,738 individuals), the Kurdistan Region of Iraq 33% (771,6678) and South Iraq 3% (78,282).

Overall, the total number of identified IDPs decreased by approximately 6% (-153,276 individuals) to reach 2,317,698. 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 8% (-60,810 individuals) in Ninewa Governorate.

There was a 7% decrease (-16,590 individuals) in Salah al-Din Governorate, as IDPs continued to return to the retaken Al-Shirqat and Baiji districts, as well as to Hawija.

There was also a decrease of 10% (-16,806) 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% (-48), was reported in Thi-Qar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate of displacement</th>
<th>Families</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anbar</td>
<td>15,052</td>
<td>90,312</td>
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<td>Babylon</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sulaymaniyah</td>
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<td>Thi-Qar</td>
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<td>5,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wassit</td>
<td>2,367</td>
<td>14,202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|       | 386,283 | 2,317,698 |

Figure 7. Variation in the number of IDPs by governorate of displacement

The figure reports the governorates of displacement that witnessed the highest variation in the IDP population, compared to the last report.

Table 1. Distribution of IDP families and individuals by governorate of displacement
As of 28 February 2018, the total IDP population of 2.3 million comes from eight of Iraq’s 18 governorates, but more than half (57% or 1,317,312 individuals) are from Ninewa. Anbar is the second most common governorate of origin for IDPs with 14% (323,760), followed by Salah al-Din with 14% (320,574).

Largely due to ongoing return movements to Mosul district, the number of IDPs originally from Ninewa Governorate has decreased by 6% (-89,136 individuals) to reach 1,317,312 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 9% (-31,260 individuals) to reach 323,760 individuals.

During the reporting period, the number of IDPs from Kirkuk Governorate dropped by 9% (-19,560 individuals) to reach 196,482. 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.

The number of IDPs from Salah al-Din Governorate decreased by 5% (-18,498) to reach 320,574. Ongoing return movements to the retaken districts of Al-Shirqat and Baiji accounted for much of this increase.

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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 28 February 2018, a total of 3,511,602 individuals reportedly returned to their location of origin, meaning that the number of returnees in Iraq has increased by 5% (164,898 individuals) during the monitoring period.

Ninewa Governorate recorded an overall increase of 11% (113,772 individuals) to reach 1,172,448 returnees. These figures primarily reflect continuing return movements during February 2018 to Mosul district, in addition to Telafar. In addition, this increase is due to the joint validation exercise conducted by DTM with local authorities in east and west Mosul to confirm returnee numbers. A new increase in the figures is expected next month once new data is received for east Mosul. Ninewa’s returnee population is mainly concentrated in Mosul district (20% or 708,192 individuals), Telafar (6% or 212,562) and Al-Hamdaniya (3% or 114,864).

The governorate hosting the largest returnee population is Anbar with a total of 35% (1,228,368 individuals) – almost all concentrated in the districts of Fallujah (15% or 191,468 individuals), Ramadi (13% or 457,494) and Heet (5% or 179,778).

The governorate hosting the third largest returnee population is Salah al-Din, with 14% (506,856 individuals), primarily concentrated in Tikrit (5% or 171,258) and Al-Shirqat (3% or 101,946) districts.

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The governorate hosting the third largest returnee population is Salah al-Din, with 14% (506,856 individuals), primarily concentrated in Tikrit (5% or 171,258) and Al-Shirqat (3% or 101,946) districts.
Of Iraq’s 3.5 million returnees, 24% (829,686 individuals) were last displaced to Ninewa, 17% (584,856) to Anbar, 12% (405,138) to Erbil, 12% (404,646) to Kirkuk and 11% (374,082) to Baghdad.

Almost 100% (584,346 individuals) of the 584,856 returnees last displaced in Anbar were internally displaced within the governorate. Similarly, 99% (825,174) of returnees last displaced in Ninewa and 91% (224,340) of those last displaced in Salah al-Din were internally displaced within their own governorates.

In the case of the 405,138 individuals who returned from Erbil Governorate, 40% (162,252 individuals) returned to Anbar Governorate, 25% (102,096) to Ninewa and 19% (76,926) to Salah al-Din.

This month, the number of individuals returning from Kerbala Governorate to their location of origin increased by 15% (3,414 individuals). All were returning to Ninewa amid improving security conditions in the governorate.

The figure reports the highest variation in the returnee population by governorate of last displacement, compared to the last report.

Map 4. Returnee families by last governorate of displacement
The map shows returnees’ movements from their governorate of last displacement to their current districts of return.

Figure 10. Variation in the number of returnees by last governorate of displacement
The figure reports the highest variation in the returnee population by governorate of last displacement, compared to the last report.

Table 4. Distribution of returnees by governorate of return and last governorate of displacement
Table 5. IDP individuals by shelter category and governorate of displacement

Table 6. Returnees by shelter category and governorate of return

Just over half (56% or 1,306,788 individuals) of Iraq’s 2.3 million IDPs are reportedly housed in private settings, including 43% (999,390) in rented housing and 13% (303,918) with host families. Less than 1% (3,480) of IDPs reported living in hotels/motels.

A total of 265,722 IDPs (or 11%) report living in critical shelters, including 6% (133,974) who live in unfinished buildings, 3% (68,196) in informal settlements, 2% (50,934) in religious buildings and less than 1% (6,450) in school buildings.

A total of 29% (76,062 individuals) of the IDPs living in critical shelters in Iraq are concentrated in Salah al-Din Governorate, 22% (59,544) are in Dahuk and 14% are in Ninea (38,208). The southern governorates of Najaf (19,920) and Kerbala (18,870) have the next highest concentrations of IDPs living in critical shelters.

A total of 631,320 individuals (or 27% of Iraq’s IDPs) live in camps. Almost half of this population (315,036 individuals) are concentrated in Ninea, reflecting the largely camp-based nature of the Mosul crisis response, while almost a quarter (151,278) are in Dahuk.

A total of 3,383,568 returnees (or 96% of Iraq’s 3.5 million returnees) reportedly live in their habitual residence, while 2% (85,104 individuals) are in private settings and 1% (42,930) are in critical shelters.

Returnees living in critical shelters are concentrated in four governorates – Diya (21,552 individuals), Salah al-Din (12,996), Ninea (7,722) and Kirkuk (660). Diya has the biggest share, with 50% (21,552 returnees) reporting to be living in critical shelters. For the first time, DTM identified returnees in critical shelters in Kirkuk Governorate in January 2018. During this monitoring period, 660 individuals living in informal settlements in the districts of Kirkuk and Daquq were located.
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, Sulaymaniyah 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, Nineva, Salah al-Din and Wasit 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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