

HIGHLIGHTS



Figure 1. Number of IDPs and returnees over time

Data collection for Round 120 took place in January and February 2021. As of 28 February 2021, DTM identified 4,851,816 returnees (808,636 households), dispersed across eight governorates, 38 districts, and 2,140 locations in Iraq. A total of 20,250 new returnees were recorded in the January–February 2021 period. This is lower than the number of new returnees recorded in the November–December 2020 period (49,152), and is one of the lowest monthly return rates since 2015.

This low return rate in January–February 2021 compared to previous rounds may be partially attributable to the closure and consolidation of camps that mainly took place between September and December 2020 and the subsequent increase in returns during that time. The low return rate may also be related to the movement restrictions that have been imposed across the country from mid-February 2021, in response to growing case numbers of the Coronavirus.¹ The most common governorates that individuals returned to between January and February 2021 include

Ninewa (where 15,204 new individuals were recorded), Kirkuk (1,788), Salah al-Din (1,254), and Anbar (780).

During the same period, DTM also identified 1,205,767 IDPs (207,213 households), dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,897 locations. This represents an overall decrease of 18,341 IDPs since the November–December 2020 period. This is a smaller decrease than what was recorded between the periods of November–December 2020 and September–October 2020 (54,756). Regarding IDPs' area of origin, consistent with the previous round, 57 per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate (687,875), especially from the districts of Mosul (255,921 individuals), Sinjar (202,231) and Al-Ba'aj (96,939). The next highest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din (141,454), Anbar (133,701), Kirkuk (77,758) and Diyala (72,522).

🚶 Displacement Overview		
As of 28 February 2021		
1,205,767 IDP individuals	207,213 IDP households	
Main Governorates of Displacement		
Ninewa 260,218 IDPs	Dahuk 258,633 IDPs	Erbil 231,694 IDPs
Geographic Distribution		
18 Governorates	105 Districts	2,897 Locations

🚶 Return Overview		
As of 28 February 2021		
4,851,816 Returnee individuals	808,636 Returnee households	
Main Governorates of Return		
Ninewa 1,904,358 Returnees	Anbar 1,505,412 Returnees	Salah al-Din 709,998 Returnees
Geographic Distribution		
8 Governorates	38 Districts	2,140 Locations

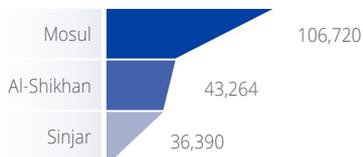
¹ Since March 2020, DTM has produced multiple COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions reports, covering the impacts of restrictions and public health measures on Iraqi citizens and migrants across the country, including at Points of Entry (PoEs) with neighbouring countries (Syria, Turkey and Iran). All products are available at the following link: http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions_HealthMeasures

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of IDPs in all governorates of displacement, (2) the number of IDPs in each main district as well as (3) the proportion of IDPs per governorate of origin for each governorate of displacement.

Ninewa 260,218 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



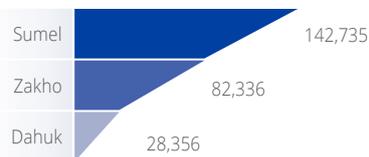
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Erbil, Salah al-Din, Kirkuk, Baghdad, Anbar and Diyala

Dahuk 258,633 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Salah al-Din, Anbar, Baghdad and Kirkuk

Erbil 231,694 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



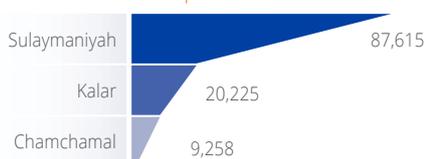
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Baghdad, Kirkuk, Erbil and Diyala

Sulaymaniyah 136,496 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



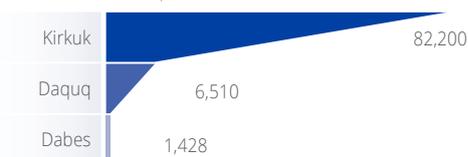
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Ninewa, Babylon and Kirkuk

Kirkuk 90,738 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



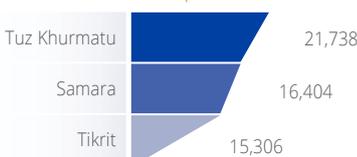
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Anbar, Baghdad, Babylon and Erbil

Salah al-Din 61,674 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



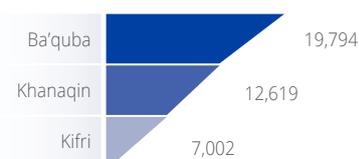
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Ninewa and Anbar

Diyala 45,217 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



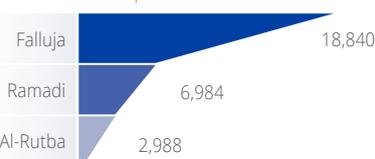
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Ninewa and Kirkuk

Anbar 33,768 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin

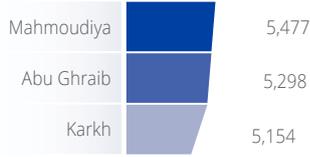


Others include: Salah al-Din, Baghdad, Ninewa, Kirkuk and Diyala

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Baghdad 25,595 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Babylon 17,262 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Kerbala 12,804 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

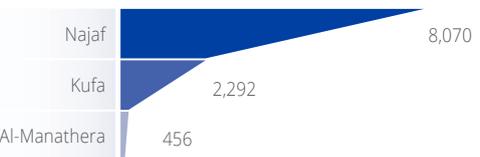


▶ Governorates of origin



Najaf 10,818 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

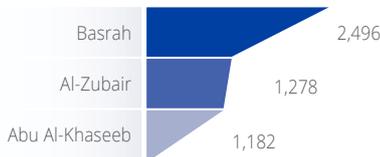


▶ Governorates of origin



Basrah 5,928 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

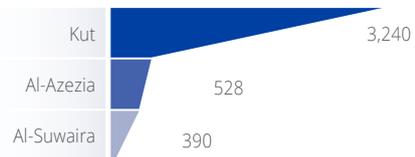


▶ Governorates of origin



Wassit 4,968 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

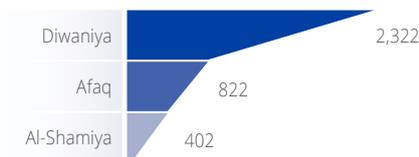


▶ Governorates of origin



Qadisiya 3,714 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

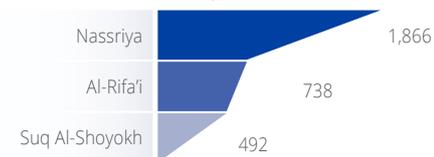


▶ Governorates of origin

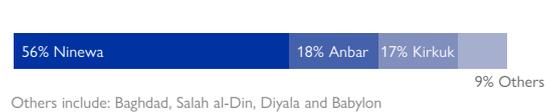


Thi-Qar 3,270 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



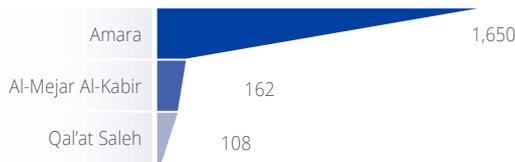
▶ Governorates of origin



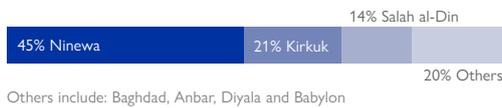
DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Missan 2,040 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

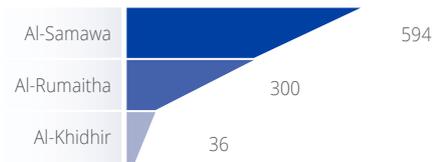


▶ Governorates of origin



Muthanna 930 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



IDP SITUATION UPDATE

Overall IDP figures: During January and February 2021, DTM identified 1,205,767 IDPs (207,213 households) dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,897 locations in Iraq. This represents a decrease of 18,341 IDP individuals from the number counted in the November–December 2020 period. By far, the most significant decrease took place in Ninewa (-12,838; -5%), followed by Dahuk (-4,022; -2%), Najaf (-786; -7%) and Baghdad (-578; -2%). Otherwise, increases in the number of IDP individuals were recorded in certain governorates, mainly Erbil (1,225; 1%) and Sulaymaniyah (470; <1%).

New and secondary displacements: Despite the overall decrease in the total caseload of IDPs across the country, 15,017 IDP individuals arrived in assessed locations during January and February 2021. The majority of these new arrivals arrived from other locations of displacement (13,547; 90%), representing a decrease in secondarily displaced individuals from the number counted in the November–December 2020 period (22,927). Among those who became re-displaced in January–February 2021, a total of 2,706 individuals had previously been displaced in camps in Ninewa (2,676) and Kirkuk (30). The highest number of secondary displacements were recorded in the governorates of Ninewa (3,345), Erbil (2,133), Anbar (2,046), Sulaymaniyah (1,724), and Dahuk (1,524).

Additionally, in the January–February 2021 period, a total of 1,062 individuals were recorded as having become displaced from their area of origin for the first time, with almost all of this group having arrived in Sulaymaniyah (1,032), while very small numbers were recorded in Diyala (24) and Dahuk (6). Most of these IDPs fled from Baghdad (516), Diyala (234), Salah al-Din (108), and Anbar (90). The main reasons for these IDPs becoming displaced for the first time in Sulaymaniyah were related to a lack of access to basic services and employment in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Baghdad and Diyala, while the poor security situation was reported as a major reason in the latter two governorates.

Furthermore, a total of 408 individuals have reportedly failed to return to their governorates of origin and have had to re-displace again. As with previous rounds, most individuals who failed to return had intended to return to their area of origin in Anbar Governorate (276), especially to the districts of Ana (90) and Heet (72). Smaller numbers of individuals also failed to return to their area of origin in Diyala (42), Salah al-Din (42), Kirkuk (30), Ninewa (12), and Baghdad (6). The main reported reasons for failed returns to Anbar relate to a lack of job opportunities and public services there, along with ongoing safety and security issues. In addition, failed returns to Baghdad, Diyala and Salah al-Din were also due to safety and security issues, while the main reason in Kirkuk related to individuals not having the financial means to remain there upon return. Otherwise, the main reason for failed returns to Ninewa was due to IDPs' pre-displacement homes being destroyed or severely damaged.

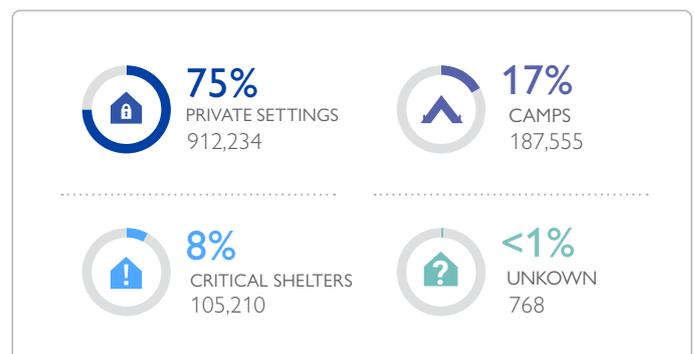
IDP areas of origin: 57 per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate (687,875), especially from Mosul (255,921), Sinjar (202,231),

and Al-Ba'aj (96,939). The second and third largest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates, from where respectively 12 per cent and 11 per cent of the total caseload originate. The top districts of origin in Salah al-Din Governorate are Tuz Khurmatu (38,874), Balad (30,258) and Baiji (26,922), while in Anbar they are Ramadi (63,991), Falluja (45,851) and Al-Ka'im (9,573).

Shelter types: Across the country, 76 per cent of IDP individuals are living in private settings (912,234), 15 per cent are in camps (187,555), and 9 per cent (105,210) are in critical shelters. A decrease in the number of IDPs residing in camps (-17,795) in this round was recorded, following decreases in the previous two rounds (-47,400 in November–December 2020, and -10,605 in September–October 2020) throughout the period of camps being closed or consolidated. The two most significant decreases in the number of IDPs living in camp settings were recorded in the districts of Hamdaniyah (-10,960) and Mosul (-2,490) in Ninewa Governorate,² while smaller decreases were recorded in the district of Falluja (-1,685) in Anbar, as well as the district of Sumel (-1,310) in Dahuk.

Furthermore, in January–February 2021, a total of 105,210 IDPs were recorded as living in critical shelters, representing an increase of 504 from the November–December 2020 period. This increase was attributed to a significant rise in the number of IDPs residing in collective sites (8,508 up from 7,260), with these increases all taking place in Anbar. In addition, increases in the number of IDPs living in uninhabitable rental shelters were recorded in Ninewa (3,978 up from 3,786) as well as Anbar (162 up from 6). At governorate level, the highest number of IDPs living in critical shelters is in Dahuk with 26,646 (582 fewer than the last round), followed by Anbar with 20,628 (180 more than the last round), Ninewa with 19,608 (606 more than the last round), and Salah al-Din with 17,016 (114 fewer than the last round). Districts hosting the highest numbers of IDPs living in critical shelters include Sumel (21,600), Falluja (15,222), Samarra (8,112), Kirkuk (7,344), and Mosul (7,164). Additionally, there are 89 locations where all IDPs are living in critical shelters, with the highest numbers recorded in the districts of Falluja (15 locations), Al-Shikhan (5), Basrah (4) and Erbil (4).

Figure 2. IDP shelter types



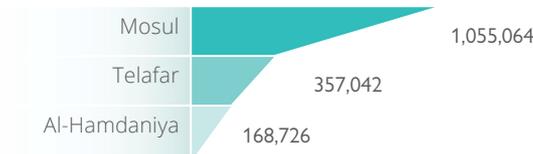
² The camps that IDPs departed from in Al-Hamdaniyah were As Salamyiah (11,015) and Hasansham (30). In addition, all IDPs who departed from camps in Mosul had been in Qayyarah-Jad'ah 5 (2,490).

RETURNS OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of returnees in all governorates of origin, (2) the number of returnees in each main district and (3) the proportion of returnees per governorate of last displacement for each governorate of origin.

Ninewa 1,904,358 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



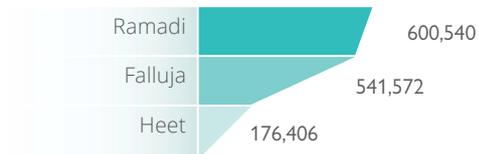
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Najaf, Kerbala, Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Basrah, Missan, Qadissiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna, Diyala and Anbar

Anbar 1,505,412 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Salah al-Din, Dahuk, Kerbala, Ninewa and Diyala

Salah al-Din 709,998 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



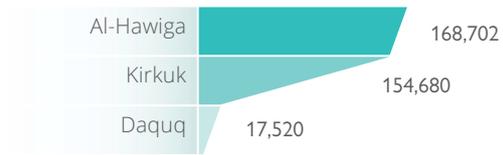
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad, Dahuk, Basrah, Kerbala, Najaf, Diyala, Missan, Babylon, Thi-Qar and Wassit

Kirkuk 348,138 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



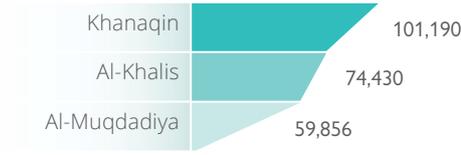
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Erbil, Ninewa, Baghdad and Babylon

Diyala 236,796 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



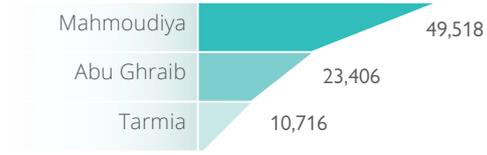
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Baghdad, Erbil and Kerbala

Baghdad 91,404 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Sulaymaniyah, Kerbala and Missan

Erbil 54,942 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Dahuk 768 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



RETURNS OVERVIEW

RETURNEE SITUATION UPDATE

Overall return figures: DTM identified a total of 4,851,816 returnees (808,636 households) across eight governorates, 38 districts, and 2,140 locations in Iraq. A total of 20,250 returnees were recorded in the January–February 2021 period. This is lower than the number of new returnees recorded in the previous three periods in 2020: November–December (49,152), September–October (38,364), and July–August (25,920). It is also one of the lowest monthly return rates recorded since 2015. This low return rate, compared to previous rounds, may be partially attributable to the closure and consolidation of camps that mainly took place between September and December 2020, and the subsequent increase in returns during that time. The low return rate may also be related to the movement restrictions imposed across the country from mid-February 2021, in response to growing cases of COVID-19.³ Additionally, movements of individuals to Ninewa Governorate’s Sinjar district, which took place at significant rates in the second half of 2020, have slowed since December 2020; no arrivals have been recorded since 18 February 2021.⁴

Recent return movements: Governorates with the highest numbers of overall returnees include Ninewa (1,904,358 with 15,204 new returnees since the last round), Anbar (1,505,412 with 780 new returnees), and Salah al-Din (709,998 with 1,254 new returnees). During the January–February 2021 period, DTM recorded a total of 10,902 returnees arriving from camps. This follows higher numbers of returnees arriving from camps during November–December 2020 (31,422) as well as September–October 2020 (12,198).⁵

The majority of those who came from camp settings returned to Ninewa governorate (9,960), especially to the districts of Sinjar (4,194), Al-Ba’aj (2,616) and Mosul (2,298). A further 594 individuals who came from camp settings arrived to Erbil Governorate, with all arriving to the district of Makhmur (594), while 324 arrived to Anbar Governorate, mainly to the districts of Falluja (132) and Al-Ka’im (102). Furthermore, between January and February 2021, returns took place to three locations in the governorate of Ninewa that had previously witnessed no returns. Reasons for these returns included families’ houses being rehabilitated, while others returned following the closure of camps where they were residing.

District-level figures: As with the last two rounds, Mosul in Ninewa Governorate remains the district with the highest number of returnees with 1,055,064 individuals (22% of the total caseload), of whom 4,338 were recorded as arriving in this round. Additionally, Ramadi district in Anbar Governorate has the second highest number of returnees (600,540; 12%), of whom only 42 were recorded as arriving in this round, while Falluja in the same governorate also has received a high number (541,572; 11%), of whom 378 arrived in this round. Otherwise, a significant number of returnees have also returned to the district of Telafar (357,042; 7%),

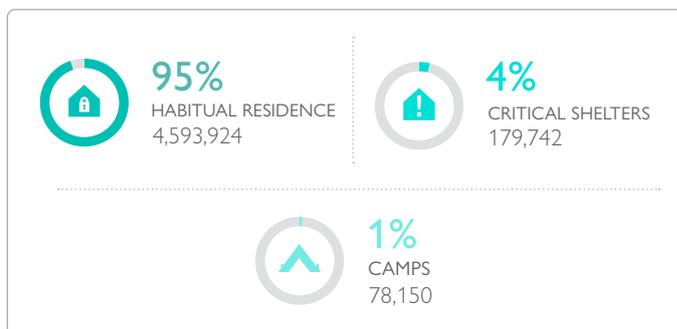
of whom 1,320 arrived in this round. Additionally, while a relatively small number of individuals have returned to Sinjar overall (116,790; 2%), a significant number arrived there between January and February 2021 (5,598), making it the most common district of return in this round. A further 3,000 returnees arrived to Al-Ba’aj in this round, bringing its total number of arrivals to 53,130 (1%), while an additional 1,710 returnees arriving to Al-Hawiga brought its total number to 168,702 (3%).

Shelter types: In the January–February 2021 period, the majority of new returnees (16,224) were identified as having arrived to their habitual residences that are in good condition, bringing the overall number in this shelter type to 4,593,924 (95% of all returnees). Additionally, 2,646 returnees arrived to shelters in critical condition, taking the total number residing in such shelters to 179,742 (4% of all returnees). The remaining 1,380 new returnees in this round arrived to private settings, with the total number of those residing in this shelter type now 78,150 (1% of all returnees).

The highest number of returnee individuals living in shelters in critical condition are in Ninewa Governorate (57,744, amounting to 32% of all returnees residing in this shelter type), especially in the districts of Mosul (32,556), Sinjar (7,986) and Telafar (7,332). A high number of returnee individuals living in critical shelters was also recorded in Anbar Governorate (44,820; 25%), with this group mainly located in the districts of Falluja (15,480), Ramadi (13,926) and Al-Ka’im (10,128). In addition, a further 43,284 returnee individuals live in critical shelters in Salah al-Din Governorate (24%), with most of this group spread across three districts: Baiji (13,086), Al-Shirqat (9,558) and Tikrit (9,444).

Overall, in the January–February 2021 period, there are 10 locations where all returnees are living in shelters in critical condition, where a total of 4,914 individuals have arrived (up marginally from 4,896 in the November–December 2020 period). All returnees are living in shelters in critical condition in four locations in Ninewa Governorate (where 594 individuals are residing), two locations in Anbar Governorate (3,126 individuals), two locations in Salah al-Din (960 individuals), and one in each of Kirkuk (132 individuals) and Diyala (102 individuals).

Figure 3. Returnee shelter types

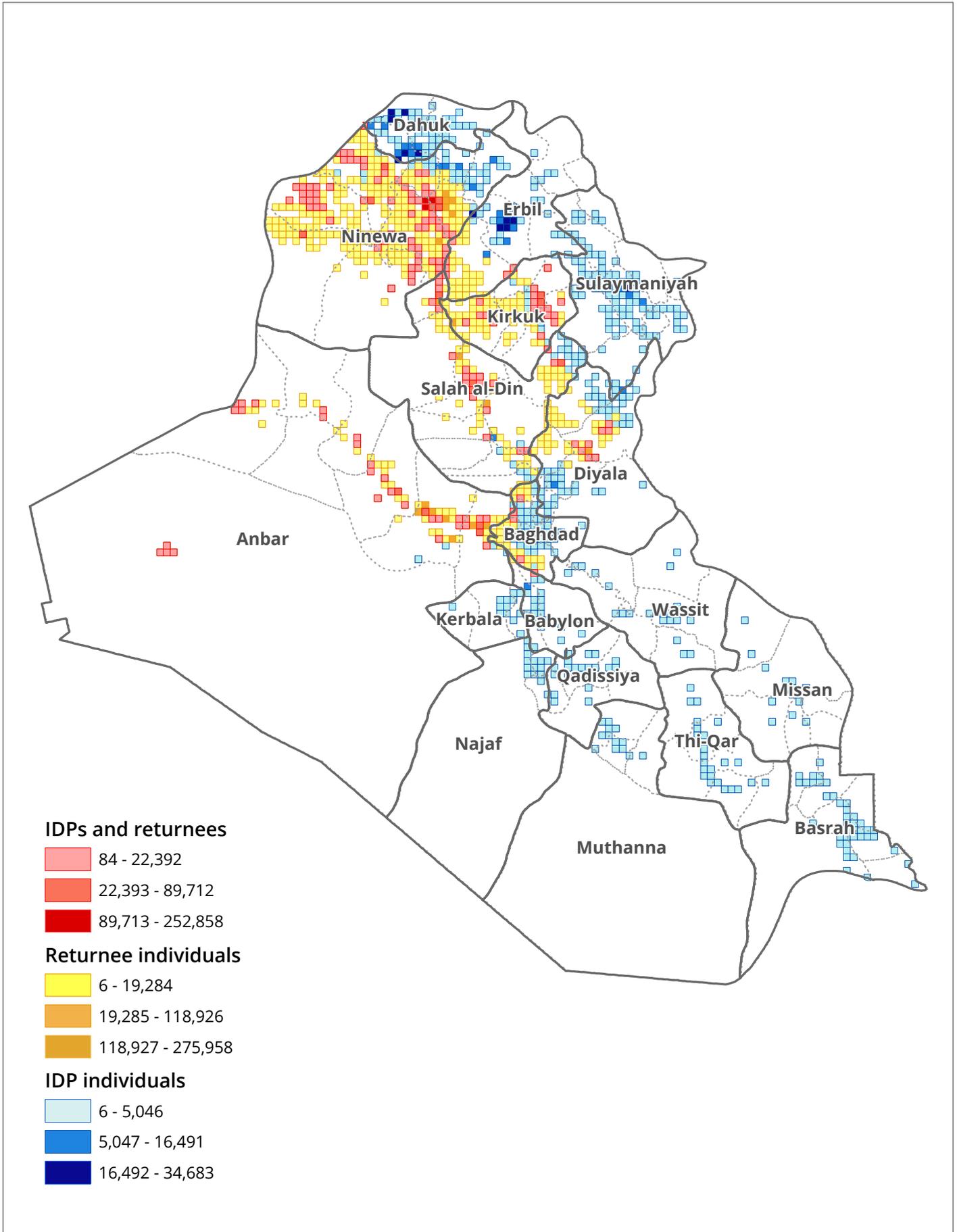


³ Since March 2020, DTM has produced multiple COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions reports, covering the impacts of restrictions and public health measures on Iraqi citizens and migrants across the country, including at Points of Entry (PoEs) with neighbouring countries (Syria, Turkey and Iran). All products are available at the following link: http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions_HealthMeasures

⁴ Between June 2020 and February 2021, DTM Iraq implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise that tracked the movements of individuals returning to Ninewa Governorate’s Sinjar and Al-Ba’aj districts from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq as well as internally from within Nineva. All products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IdpMovements>

⁵ Between September 2020 and February 2021, DTM Iraq implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise that tracked the movements of IDPs departing from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps. Products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IdpMovements#Camp>

Map 1. Presence of IDPs and returnees by area



METHODOLOGY

IOM's DTM aims to monitor displacement and provide accurate data about the IDP and returnee populations in Iraq. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 100 staff members deployed across Iraq. Data collection for Round 120 took place during the months of January and February 2021 across 18 governorates.

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 bi-monthly. However, limited access due to security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods, in addition to true variation of the population figures, may be influenced by other factors such as the 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.

To facilitate analysis, this report divides Iraq into 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; and the Central North includes Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wassit governorates.

Calculations used to determine the number of individuals:

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households by six, the average size of an Iraqi household as per governmental statistics, for all out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. Since the July–August 2020 period (Round 117), the number of individuals for in-camp IDPs has been calculated by multiplying the number of households by five, which is the average household size consistent with data from the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster since 2018. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on out-of-camp IDPs, please refer to the [CCCM Cluster website](#).

In all Master List rounds prior to Round 117 (July–August 2020), the number of in-camp IDPs was calculated by multiplying the number of households by six. Since the calculation methodology is consistent between Rounds 117 to 120, comparative analysis between these four datasets will not be affected. However, it should be noted that comparing the number of in-camp IDPs between Rounds 117 to 120 with any previous rounds will be affected by the change in the revised calculation methodology.

The methodology uses the following definitions:

The DTM considers as internally displaced persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment.

The DTM considers as returnees all those displaced since January 2014 who have returned to their location of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The definition of returnees is not related to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, nor with a defined durable solutions strategy.

The location is defined as an area that corresponds either to a village for rural areas or a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fourth official administrative division).

Habitual residence is the same residence prior to displacement.

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

Critical shelters include collective shelters (such as religious buildings, schools, or other public buildings), unfinished or abandoned buildings, tents, caravans, and other temporary, sub-standard or makeshift shelters. For IDPs, it also includes long-term rental accommodation that is unfinished or severely damaged. Additionally, for returnees, it includes residences of origin that are severely damaged or destroyed.

For more information, visit iraqdtm.iom.int or contact the team at iraqdtm@iom.

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