

## CONTEXT

The Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return. Data collection for the Return Index Round 8 took place during the months of January and February 2020 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 1,850 locations in Iraq. During Round 8, an additional 98 locations of return were assessed.<sup>1</sup>

## RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 1,850 return locations assessed, 327 present severe conditions hosting 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 516,552 individuals.
- Salah al-Din and Ninewa are the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 202,218 and 164,478 individuals respectively.
- Salah al-Din and Diyala host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (30% and 19% respectively).
- A comparison of locations assessed in Rounds 7 and 8 reveals an increase of 1,926 returnees living in severe conditions. The largest increases were observed in Salah al-Din Governorate, mainly in Balad District and in Diyala Governorate, mainly in Al-Muqdadiya District.

## MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Forty-three locations hosting 45,594 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round. The top three of these locations remain in Tuz District in Salah al-Din Governorate, home to 426 returnees.

## METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is based on 16 indicators divided into two scales: Scale 1, on livelihoods and basic services, and Scale 2, centered around social cohesion and safety perceptions. A regression model is used to assess the impact of each of the indicators in facilitating or preventing returns and to calculate scores for two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities have recovered is to have returns compared to a location where they have recovered. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

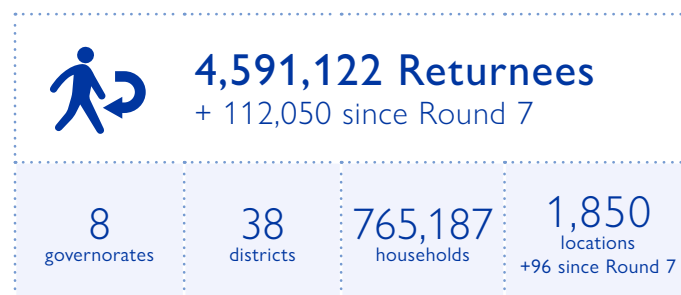
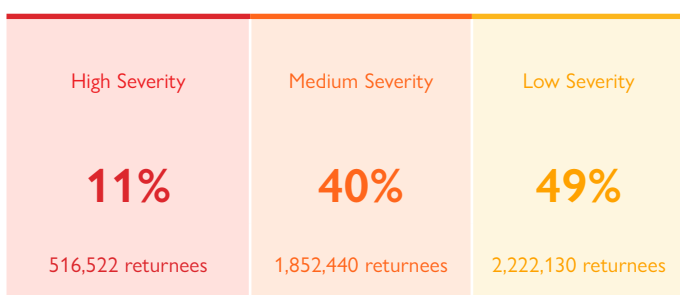
The index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes very high).

Please refer to Round 1 and Round 3 reports for more details on the methodology.

Table 1. Number of locations and returnees per governorate by category of severity

Governorate	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		TOTAL	
	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations
Anbar	102,750	26	638,490	174	720,180	117	1,461,420	317
Baghdad	1,608	4	30,282	39	58,182	79	90,072	122
Dahuk	0	0	0	0	768	1	768	1
Diyala	43,728	42	140,910	111	44,454	64	229,092	217
Erbil	1,422	2	5,520	4	37,830	21	44,772	27
Kirkuk	348	4	90,354	74	248,364	125	339,066	203
Ninewa	164,478	198	550,320	303	1,032,126	253	1,746,924	754
Salah al-Din	202,218	51	396,564	129	80,226	29	679,008	209
Total	516,552	327	1,852,440	834	2,222,130	689	4,591,122	1,850

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity



Data collected January - February 2020

## GOVERNORATE HOTSPOTS OF SEVERITY

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of severity on at least one of the two scales (either livelihoods and basic services, or safety and social cohesion) or if they score medium in terms of severity but also host relatively large numbers of returnees. Thirty-three hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round.

### NINEWA

- Al-Qahtaniya
- Al-Shura
- Qaeyrrawan
- Altal
- Hamam al Aeel
- Ayadiya
- Markaz Hatra
- Al-Shamal
- Markaz Telafar
- Markaz Al-Ba'aj
- Markaz Sinjar
- Zummar

### SALAH AL-DIN

- Markaz Al-Daur
- Markaz Baiji
- Al-Amerli
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Yathreb
- Markaz Tuz Khurmatu
- Al-Siniya
- Markaz Samarra
- Suleiman Beg
- Markaz Tikrit

### ANBAR

- Markaz Al-Ka'im
- Al-Garma
- Kubaisa
- Markaz Al-Rutba
- Al-Saqlawiyah

### DIYALA

- Al-Mansouriyah
- As-Saadia
- Markaz Al-Muqdadia
- Jalula

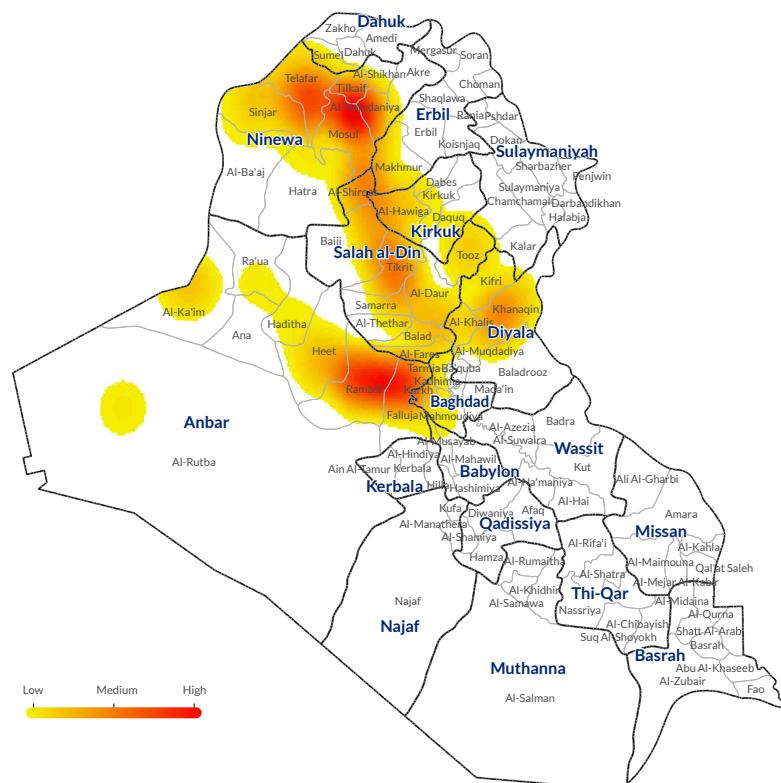
### KIRKUK

- Al-Riyad

### BAGHDAD

- Al-Nasir Walsalam

Map 1. Returnee population density by overall severity score



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

The map shows conditions of severity based on population size and severity score of each assessed location. The darker colours indicate a larger concentration of families living in severe conditions of return, while the brighter colours indicate lower severity conditions or areas with low levels of returns.

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