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.1

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 Nineveh 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governorate</th>
<th>HIGH</th>
<th>MEDIUM</th>
<th>LOW</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of returnees</td>
<td>No. of locations</td>
<td>No. of returnees</td>
<td>No. of locations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>102,750</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>638,490</td>
<td>174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baghdad</td>
<td>1,608</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>30,282</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahuk</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diyala</td>
<td>43,728</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>140,910</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erbil</td>
<td>1,422</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5,520</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkuk</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>90,354</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineveh</td>
<td>164,478</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>550,320</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salah al-Din</td>
<td>202,218</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>396,564</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>516,552</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>1,852,440</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity

Table: 4,591,122 Returnees + 112,050 since Round 7

### Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Severity Level</th>
<th>11%</th>
<th>40%</th>
<th>49%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Severity</td>
<td>516,522 returnees</td>
<td>1,852,440 returnees</td>
<td>2,222,130 returnees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data collected January - February 2020

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1 Please note that two locations previously assessed were not accessible for this round, hence the variation of only 96 locations since Round 7.
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
- Aitil
- Markaz Hatra
- Markaz Al-Ba’aj
- Al-Shura
- Hamam al Aleel
- Al-Shamal
- Markaz Sinjar
- Qaeiryawan
- Ayadiya
- Markaz Telafar
- Zummar

SALAH AL-DIN
- Markaz Al-Daur
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Al-Sinya
- Markaz Baiji
- Yathreb
- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Tikrit
- Al-Amerli
- Markaz Tuz Khurmatu
- Suleiman Beg

ANBAR
- Markaz Al-Ka’im
- Markaz Al-Rutba
- Al-Garma
- Al-Saqlawiyah
- Kubaisa

DIYALA
- Al-Mansouriyah
- Markaz Al-Muqaddasia
- As-Sadia
- Jalula

KIRKUK
- Al-Riyad

BAGHDAD
- Al-Nasir Walalam

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.

DISCLAIMER

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