

RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND FIVE – IRAQ

OCTOBER 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- **Round 5 (October 2019):** Out of the 1,634 return locations assessed, 276 present severe conditions hosting 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 495,798 individuals.
- **At the national level:** Ninewa and Salah al-Din are the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 196,644 and 154,674 individuals respectively.
- **At the governorate level:** Salah al-Din (31%) and Diyala (20%) host the highest proportion of returnees living in severe conditions.
- **New locations:** 73 locations assessed for the first time during Round 5 host a total of 56,754 returnees, 21,018 of who are living in severe conditions.
- **Variation since Round 4:** A decrease of 39,864 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the last round collected in March-April 2019. The largest decreases were recorded in Ninewa (-26,094) and Diyala (-7,722) governorates. Conversely, Salah al-Din Governorate witnessed an increase in the number of returnees living in severe conditions (2,418 individuals).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Forty-three locations hosting 38,448 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round, a slight increase compared to Round 4 (33,234 individuals across 42 locations with the most severe return conditions).
- The top four of these locations remain in Tooz District in Salah al-Din Governorate, home to 1,320 returnees.

GOVERNORATE HOTSPOTS OF SEVERITY

- Subdistricts are classified as ‘hotspots’ if they score highly in terms of severity on at least one of the scales (either livelihoods and basic services, or safety and social cohesion) or they score medium in terms of severity but also host relatively large numbers of returnees. Thirty-one hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round.
- Some notable variations include the addition of one hotspot in Kubaisa (Heet District, Anbar) given its worsening conditions. On the other hand, Al-Latifiya (Mahmoudiya District, Baghdad) and Al-Abbassy (Hawiga District, Kirkuk) do not currently classify as hotspots and have therefore been dropped.

NINEWA

- Markaz Sinjar
- Qaeyrrawan
- Al-Shamal
- Markaz Telafar
- Zummar
- Hamam al-Aleel
- Al-Shura
- Al-Qahtaniya
- Markaz Al-Ba’aj
- Markaz Hatra
- Ayadiya

SALAH AL-DIN

- Yathreb
- Markaz Tooz
- Al-Amerli
- Suleiman Beg
- Markaz Baiji
- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Markaz Tikrit

ANBAR

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

DIYALA

- Markaz Al-Muqdadiya
- Jalula
- As-Saadiya

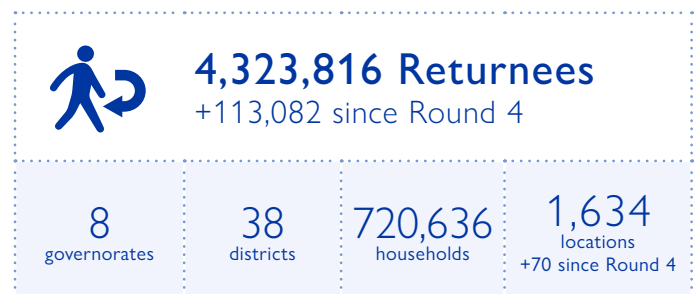
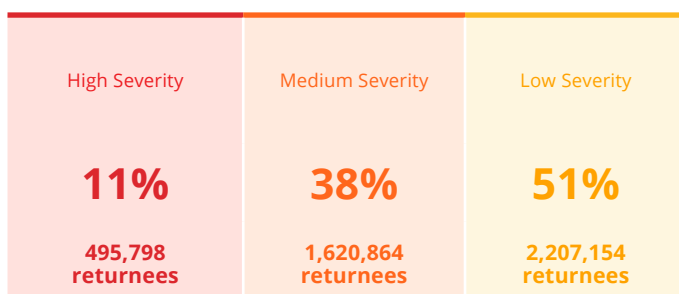
KIRKUK

- Al-Riyad

BAGHDAD

- Al-Nasir Walsalam
- Meshahda

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity



Data collected July - August 2019

INTRODUCTION

Data collection for the Return Index Round 5 took place during the months of July and August 2019 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 1,634 locations in Iraq. Since the previous round (collected in March–April 2019), the number of returnees has continued to increase and as of 31 August 2019, an additional 113,082 returnees were identified, reaching a total of 4,323,816 returnees (720,636 families). During Round 5, an additional 73 locations of return were assessed.¹

This report presents a comparative analysis between rounds 4 and 5, and focuses on changes in:

1. the number of returnees living in severe conditions at governorate levels – on the overall severity index;
2. the list of locations with the most severe conditions of return;
3. the list of hotspots identified at subdistrict level for each governorate.

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is built on a list of indicators developed in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders to reflect the displacement context in Iraq. To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, 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 are back to normal is to have returns compared to a location where they are. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

The index goes 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).²

Table 1: Indicator list for each scale

SCALE 1: LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES	SCALE 2: SAFETY AND SOCIAL COHESION
Residential destruction	Community reconciliation
Employment access	Multiple security actors
Water sufficiency	Blocked returns
Recovery of agriculture	Checkpoints controlled by other security actors
Electricity sufficiency	Daily public life
Recovery of businesses	Illegal occupation of private residences
Access to basic services	Mines
Provision of government services	Sources of violence
SCALE 1 SCORE = 100	SCALE 2 SCORE = 100
OVERALL SEVERITY INDEX = AVERAGE OF SCALE 1 AND SCALE 2 SCORES	

¹ Please note that 3 locations previously assessed were not accessible for this round, hence the variation of only 70 locations since Round 4.

² Please refer to the Round 1 and Round 3 reports for more details on the methodology.

CATEGORIZING QUALITY OF RETURNS

OVERALL SEVERITY

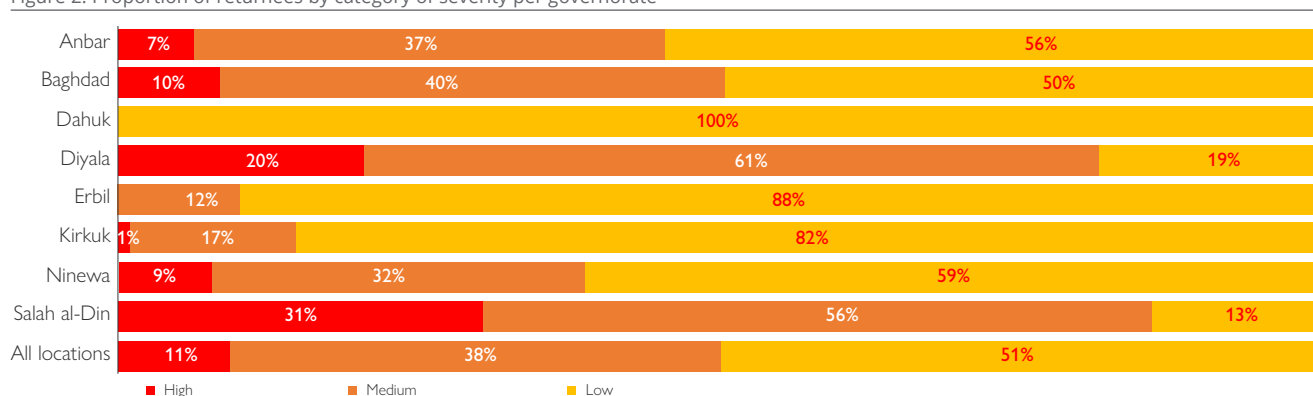
Out of the 1,634 return locations assessed, 276 present severe conditions – and host 11 per cent of the returnee population or 495,798 individuals.³ As in the previous round, Salah al-Din and Ninewa remain the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 196,644 and 154,674 individuals respectively.

Regarding the intra-governorate percentage of returnees living in severe conditions, Salah al-Din and Diyala occupy the top positions, with 31 per cent (196,644 individuals) and 20 per cent (44,922 individuals) respectively. This finding is significant because although the number of returnees is lower than in other governorates, the proportion of returnees living in poor conditions is significantly higher.

Table 2: 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	86,496	23	492,780	116	735,852	104	1,315,128	243
Baghdad	8,532	10	35,232	52	44,496	53	88,260	115
Dahuk	0	0	0	0	780	1	780	1
Diyala	44,922	38	137,076	107	43,830	66	225,828	211
Erbil	0	0	5,142	4	36,078	16	41,220	20
Kirkuk	4,530	5	56,232	64	271,332	129	332,094	198
Ninewa	154,674	145	533,124	273	992,016	233	1,679,814	651
Salah al-Din	196,644	55	361,278	110	82,770	30	640,692	195
Total	495,798	276	1,620,864	726	2,207,154	632	4,323,816	1,634

Figure 2: Proportion of returnees by category of severity per governorate



A comparison of locations assessed in rounds 4 and 5 reveal a decrease of 39,864 returnees living in severe conditions. The largest decreases were observed in Ninewa (-26,094) and Diyala (-7,722) governorates. This is mainly due to decreases in the districts of Telafar in Ninewa (due to improved water supply and reconstruction efforts), Mosul in Ninewa, especially east Mosul (due to improvements in almost all indicators) and Khanaqin in Diyala (due to improved electricity and water supply).

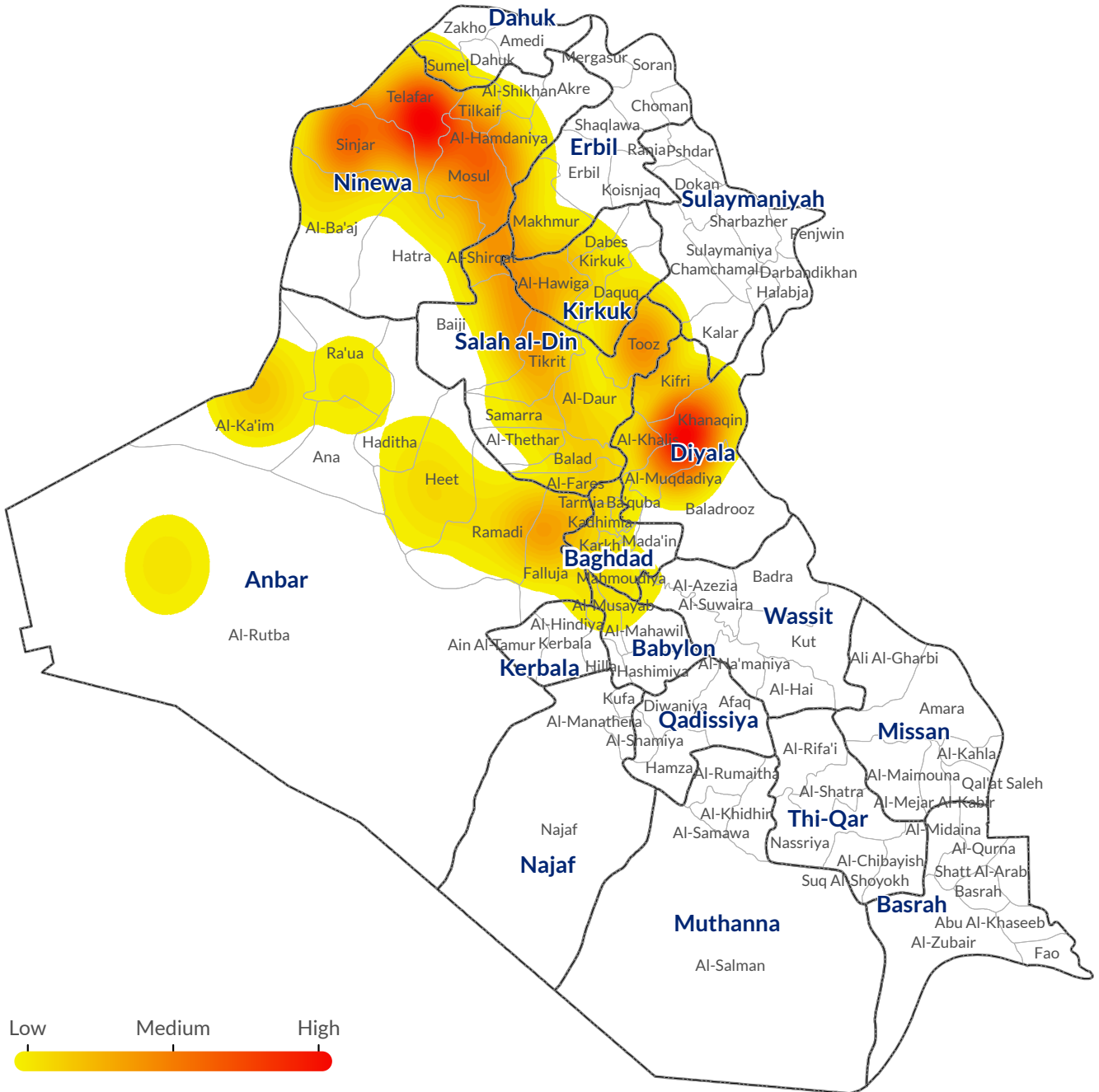
Conversely, Salah al-Din Governorate witnessed an increase in the number of returnees living in severe conditions (2,418 individuals). This was mainly observed in the districts of Balad and Tooz, caused by an increase of returnees to locations with severe conditions.

In Round 5, 73 new locations that were previously inaccessible were assessed for the first time. Most of them were located in Ninewa, mainly Mosul, and Kirkuk, mostly in Al-Hawiga. Combined, these locations host a total of 56,754 returnees. Around half of this population (29,382 individuals) is living in locations of 'medium' category of severity, while 21,018 returnees are living in severe conditions with the highest number in Salah al-Din (8,724 individuals), Anbar (4,554) and Kirkuk (4,380).

³ In this fourth round of the Return Index, the rounding of the percentages was applied to sum up to 100 per cent.

The map below 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.

Map 1: Density map of all index scores



LOCATIONS WITH VERY HIGH SEVERITY

Forty-three locations in Iraq hosting 38,448 returnees, or 1% of the total returnee population, have the most severe conditions when all indicators are combined (see Annex 1 for full list). This proportion is comparable to Round 4, in which the figure was 33,234 returnees across 42 locations.

Locations with the most severe conditions are distributed over only four governorates and the top four of these locations can be found in Salah al-Din Governorate, specifically in Tooz District. In the current round, eight new locations with the most severe conditions were identified: four in Ninewa (Al-Asraj Al-Sharqiyah village in Hatra, Hatimiya in Sinjar, Barzan and Qabak village in Telafar), two in Diyala (Albo

Hnayhen village in Al-Khalis and Dhiban village in Khanaqin) and two in Kirkuk (Albu Mahammad village in Daquq and Maktab Khaled village in Al-Multaqa).

Seven locations were removed from the list of the highest severity due to slight improvements: four in Ninewa Governorate (Al Aziziya in Telafar and Hardan Sager, Hazeel Alwasti village and Um Amar village in Sinjar), one in Kirkuk Governorate (Al Sharifiyah village in Al-Muqdadiya) and two in Diyala Governorate (Al Teneraa village and Baheza village in Khanaqin). A summary of the districts in which these locations are found, as well as the number of returnees living in these locations, is presented in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Districts hosting returnees with the most severe conditions of return ('very high')

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	NO. OF RETURNÉES
Diyala	Al-Khalis	636 individuals in one location
	Al-Muqdadiya	6,900 individuals across 5 locations
	Khanaqin	240 individuals across 3 locations
Kirkuk	Daquq	108 individuals in one location
	Kirkuk	72 individuals in one location
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	444 individuals across 3 locations
	Hatra	426 individuals across 2 locations
	Sinjar	7,560 individuals across 13 locations
	Telafar	8,022 individuals across 7 locations
Salah al-Din	Balad	3,132 individuals in one location
	Samarra	1,800 individuals in one location
	Tooz	9,108 individuals across 5 locations
Total number of returnees in locations with the most severe conditions		38,448 individuals across 43 locations

HOTSPOTS PER GOVERNORATES

Thirty-one subdistricts across six governorates have been classified as hotspots based on their high score on at least one of the aforementioned scales and high number of families living in the area.

In the current round, a new hotspot of Kubaisa in Heet District in Anbar has been identified due to worsening conditions (see table 4 for full list). In addition, worsening conditions were also registered in three hotspots in Ninewa (Hamam al-Aleel in Mosul District, Qaeyrawan in Sinjar District, and Ayadiya

in Telafar District) and three in Salah al-Din (Yathreb in Balad District, Al-Amerli and Suleiman Beg in Tooz District).

Two hotspots were removed from the list: Al-Latifiya in Mahmoudiya District, Baghdad and Al-Abbassy in Hawiga District, Kirkuk. No additional improvement of conditions in hotspots has been identified in this round. Further details on the situation in these hotspots can be found in the Reports of Round 3 and Round 4.

Table 4. Severity hotspots per governorates

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	NO. OF RETURNEES	NO. OF LOCATIONS	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	OVERALL SEVERITY
Anbar	Al-Ka'im	Al-Rummaneh	7,122	7	Medium	High	Medium
Anbar	Al-Ka'im	Markaz Al-Ka'im	27,066	18	Low	Medium	Medium
Anbar	Al-Rutba	Markaz Al-Rutba	27,408	9	Medium	Medium	Medium
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Garma	119,184	19	Medium	Medium	Medium
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Saqlawiyah	67,152	13	Medium	High	High
Anbar	Heet	Kubaisa	46,512	9	Medium	Medium	Medium
Baghdad	Abu Ghraib	Al-Nasir Walsalam	6,234	7	High	Low	Medium
Baghdad	Tarmia	Meshahda	8,838	25	Medium	Medium	Medium
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	54,750	56	Medium	High	High
Diyala	Khanaqin	As-Saadia	20,928	16	Medium	Medium	Medium
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	75,030	49	Medium	Medium	Medium
Kirkuk	Al-Hawiga	Al-Riyad	11,334	12	Medium	Medium	Medium
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Al-Qahtaniya	870	5	High	Medium	High
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	9,786	8	Medium	High	High
Ninewa	Hatra	Markaz Hatra	5,112	15	High	Medium	High
Ninewa	Mosul	Al-Shura	46,914	25	Medium	Medium	Medium
Ninewa	Mosul	Hamam al Aleel	50,304	37	Low	High	Medium
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	46,638	39	Medium	High	High
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	10,602	11	High	High	High
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrwan	4,278	8	High	High	High
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	25,086	23	Medium	High	High
Ninewa	Telafar	Markaz Telafar	161,034	40	Medium	High	Medium
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	89,502	46	Low	High	Medium
Salah al-Din	Al-Shirqat	Markaz Al-Shirqat	144,444	50	Low	Medium	Medium
Salah al-Din	Baiji	Markaz Baiji	86,490	32	Medium	High	Medium
Salah al-Din	Balad	Yathreb	31,884	1	High	High	High
Salah al-Din	Samarra	Markaz Samarra	29,178	5	Medium	High	High
Salah al-Din	Tikrit	Markaz Tikrit	129,492	38	Medium	Medium	Medium
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	5,814	5	Low	High	High
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	27,906	11	Low	High	High
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Suleiman Beg	9,228	2	Medium	High	High

ANNEX 1

Locations hosting returnees with the most severe conditions of return ('very high') ranked by overall severity index

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	LOCATION	RETURNEES INDIVIDUALS	OVERALL SEVERITY INDEX ⁴
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Al-Salam Village	300	91
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Sagher Village	414	91
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Kaber Village	240	83
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Yangija Village	366	83
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qabak Village	42	68
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Sayer	672	68
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasabat Ayadiya	3,900	68
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Alsalihiyah	840	67
Diyala	Al-Muqdadaya	Markaz Al-Muqdadaya	Sinsil Al Wasat Village	294	66
Diyala	Al-Muqdadaya	Markaz Al-Muqdadaya	Shak Al Rak Village	5,328	65
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasbat Al Raei Village	480	65
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Alshuhada	1,308	64
Diyala	Al-Muqdadaya	Markaz Al-Muqdadaya	Al Igaidat Village	336	64
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Al Naser	510	64
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Barbaroj	450	64
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Hatimiya	120	63
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Suleiman Beg	Sulayman Beg Sub District Center	7,788	63
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Khazoga	1,110	62
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Cheri	156	62
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Tuluh bash Village	510	61
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Sibaya (um Aldanabk)	372	60
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Shekh Village	90	60
Kirkuk	Daquq	Markaz Daquq	Albu Mahammad Village	108	59
Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Eshaqi	Al_Farhateya Village	3,132	59
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Al Nsireya	900	58
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Bisan	54	57
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Albo Geaid Vellage	90	57
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Karakafir Village	1,200	57
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Azadi	732	57
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Yarmok	1,050	57
Diyala	Al-Khalis	Al A'dheem	Albo Hnayhen Village	636	56
Salah al-Din	Samarra	Al-Moatassem	Banat Al-hassan Village	1,800	56
Diyala	Al-Muqdadaya	Markaz Al-Muqdadaya	Al Derwish Village	558	55
Diyala	Al-Muqdadaya	Markaz Al-Muqdadaya	Arab Dhaher Village	384	55
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Al-Sahrej	204	55
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Rajm Al-botha	150	53
Ninewa	Hatra	Altal	Al-Asraj Al-Sharqiyah Village	72	53
Ninewa	Hatra	Altal	Khwetla Village	354	53
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Dhiban Village	60	53
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Barzan	1,050	53
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Tall Alabtah	126	53
Kirkuk	Kirkuk	Al-Multaqa	Maktab Khaled Village	72	53
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Abu-Rasen	90	53
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Hazeel Alwasti Village	102	53
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Tall Alabtah	126	53


⁴ The scores of the overall severity index vary from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met).

RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND 5 – IRAQ

OCTOBER 2019

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