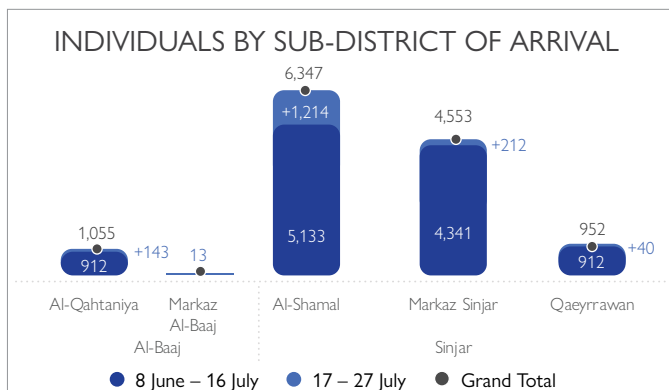
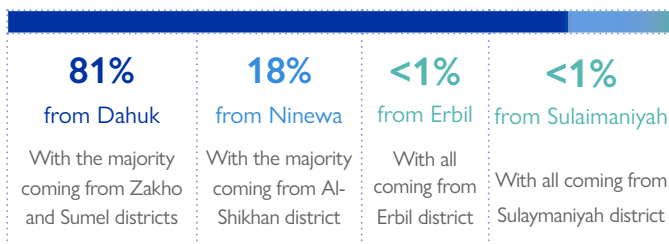
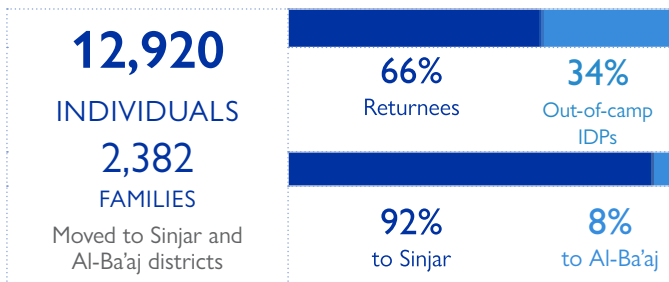


DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

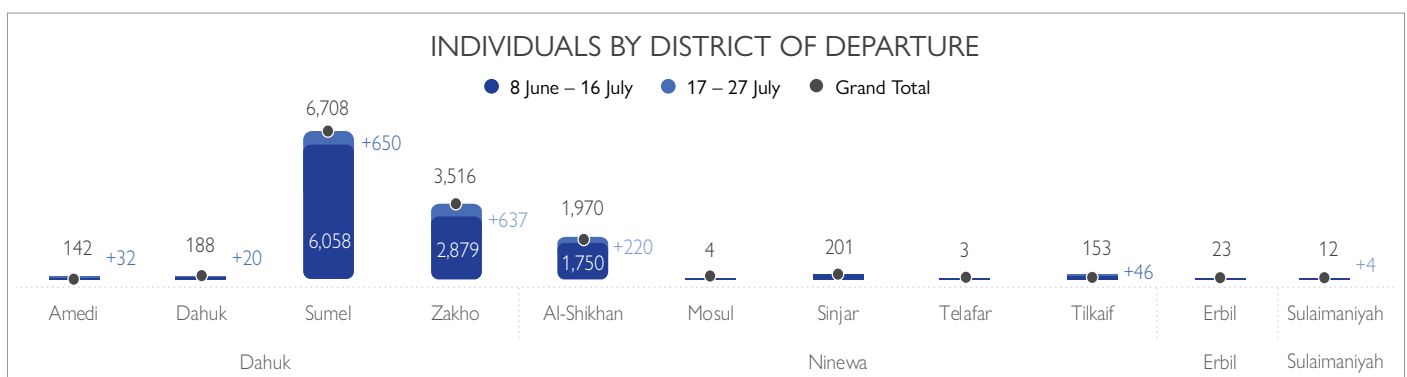
PERIOD COVERED:
8 JUNE - 27 JULY 2020

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 27 July 2020, inclusively



Between 27 and 27 July, a total of 1,339 individuals were recorded as having departed from Dahuk governorate (83%) — consistent with the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (82%). As with all previous rounds, between 17 and 27 July, almost all individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from Sumel (40% of all individuals) and Zakho (23% of all individuals) districts. The remaining individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from Amedi and Dahuk districts (respectively 2% and 1% of all individuals that arrived between 17 and 27 July).

A further 266 individuals were recorded as having come from Ninewa governorate (17%), from two districts: Al-Shikhan (220 individuals, 14% of all individuals) and Tilkaif (46 individuals, 3%). This is broadly in line with the



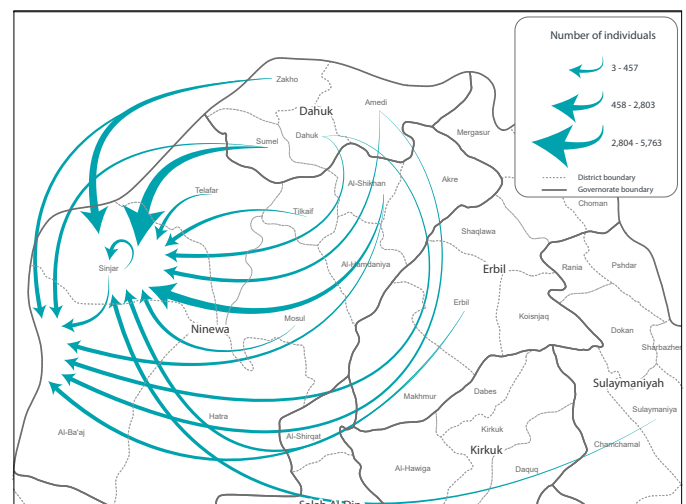
Between 17 and 27 July 2020, DTM tracked 1,609 individuals (308 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have taken this route to 12,920 (2,382 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals who returned between 17 and 27 July, a total of 1,466 were recorded in Sinjar (91%) and 143 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (9%)—broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

By far, the most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,214 individuals (75%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 212 individuals (13%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 84% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals identified between 17 and 27 July, 1,263 were recorded as returnees (78%), while 346 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (22%). This represents a minor contrast with the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (66%) and IDPs (34%) since 8 June

Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa since data collection commenced on 8 June (18%). Additionally, only 4 individuals (<1%) were recorded as coming from Sulaymaniyah governorate in this round, while none were recorded as coming from Erbil.

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (52%), Zakho (27%), and Al-Shikhan districts (15%).

To provide an element of comparison and better understand the scale of these returns, note that for the reporting period of May-June 2019, DTM recorded 1,416 individuals returning to Sinjar (1,224 as returnees and 192 as IDPs) and 96 to Al-Ba'aj (66 as returnees and 30 as IDPs).

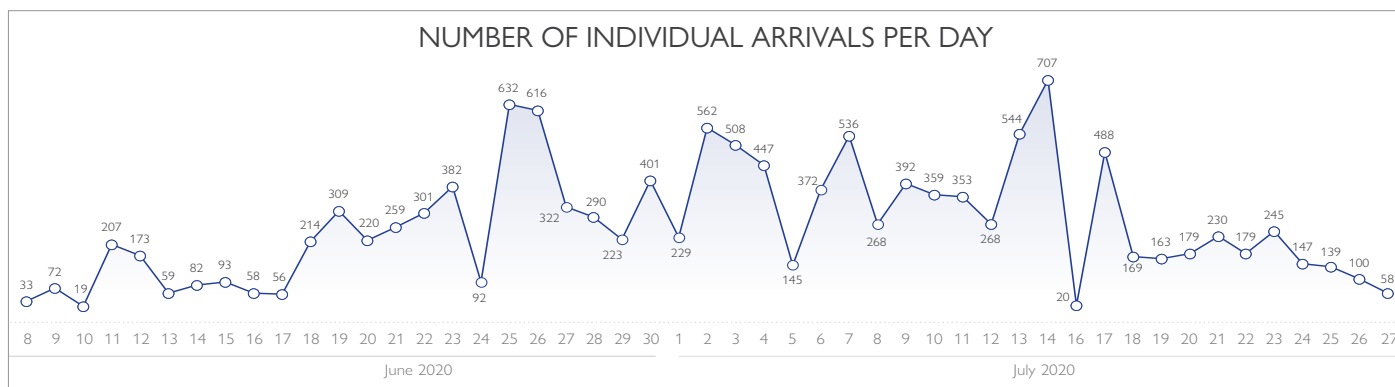
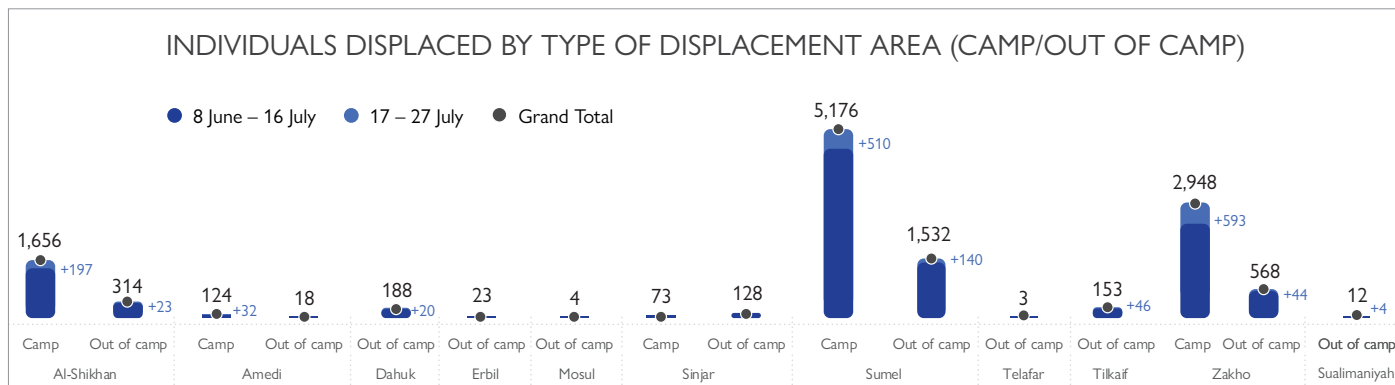
Between 17 and 27 July, of the 1,466 individuals that arrived to Sinjar, 1,196 individuals came from Dahuk governorate (80%), while 266 came from within Ninewa governorate (18%) and 4 individuals (<1%) came from Sulaymaniyah governorate. Additionally, all of the 143 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj came from Dahuk governorate.

Furthermore, in the 17-27 July period, a total of 1,332 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (83%), while the remaining 277 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (17%). This is generally consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June: 9,977 individuals have arrived from camp settings (77%), while

2,943 have arrived from out-of-camp settings (23%).

In the sub-districts that most individuals came from, the number of people coming from camp settings jumped significantly between 17 and 27 July, bringing Sumel district's total number to 5,176 (up from 4,666), Zakho's to 2,948 (up from 2,355), and Al-Shikhan's to 1,656 (up from 1,459).

Smaller increases in the number of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings have been recorded, with Sumel's total at 1,532 (up from 1,392), Zakho's total at 568 (up marginally from 524), and Al-Shikhan's total at 314 (up from 291). This represents a significant drop in the rate of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings compared with the month of June.



ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs going home to Sinjar include the improved security situation, the clearing of mines/IEDs, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure. Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home.
- One of the push factors has been COVID-19, in that some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to the movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

Assistance and registration

- It was reported that the Directorate of national security in Sinjar has established a feedback/ complaint/response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable the authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to checkpoint related difficulties, as well as reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

Shelter situation

- Many of the families that have returned to Shamal sub-district live in rented accommodation or with host families.

Border crossings

- On 1 July, the Suhaila bridge crossing between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Ninewa governorate opened after an extended closure, and will remain open until further notice. The bridge is open from 8am to 4pm daily for people traveling out of KRI to Ninewa only, and is expected to influence continued returns of people to Al-Ba'aj and Sinjar districts.

Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large scale destruction that was witnessed in Sinjar.
- MOMD have been providing transportation to return in some cases, but this only includes transportation of the IDPs themselves and not their belongings. As a result the IDPs have to hire a car to transport their belongings.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as healthcare, markets, water, and electricity and having not received assistance. Some of these locations had not witnessed any returns before.