

ASSESSING WATER SHORTAGE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN QADISSIYA, NAJAF, BABYLON, WASSIT AND KERBALA

The following assessment analyses locations identified as affected by water scarcity as well as drought-induced displacement in five central governorates of Iraq: Qadissiya, Najaf, Babylon, Wassit and Kerbala.¹

GENERAL FIGURES

LOCATIONS²

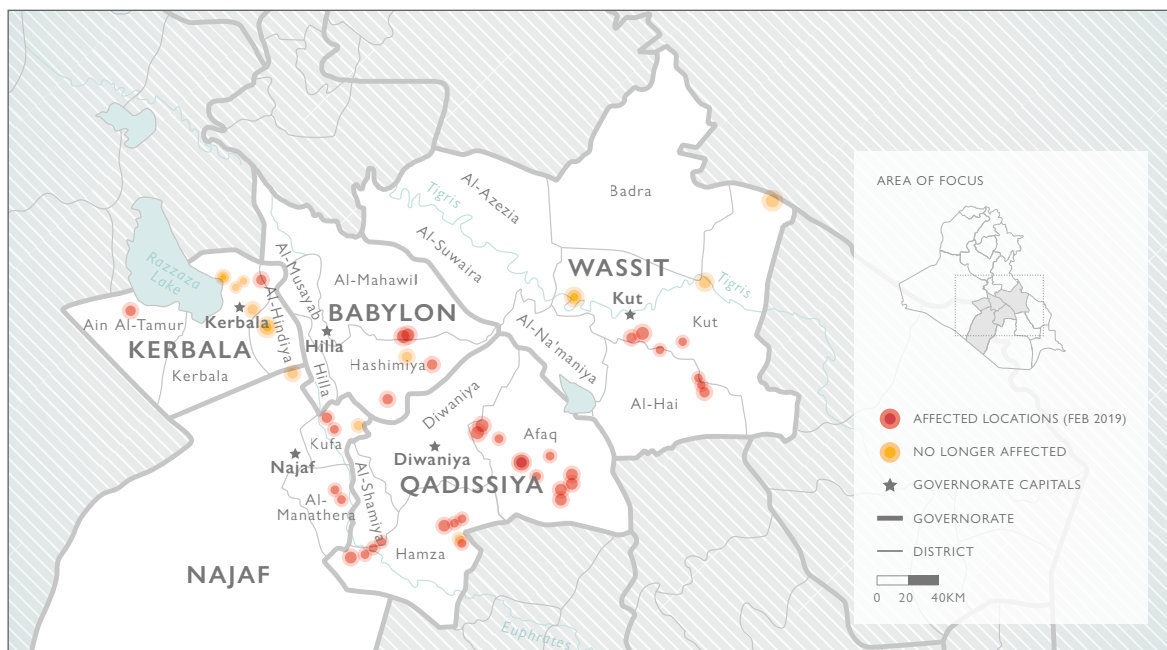
As per February 2019, 45 locations were identified as facing drought and/or water scarcity. There are 23 locations in Qadissiya Governorate, nine in Wassit, six in Babylon, five in Najaf and two in Kerbala. One location is urban and 44 are rural.

Affected locations in Qadissiya Governorate are in Afaq district (14 locations) and Hamza district (9 locations). In Wassit Governorate, all nine affected locations are located in Kut district. In Babylon Governorate, all six affected locations are in Hashimiya district. In Najaf Governorate, there are three locations in Kufa district and two in Al-Manathera. In

Kerbala Governorate, there is one location in Kerbala district and one in Ain Al-Tamur that are affected by water shortage.

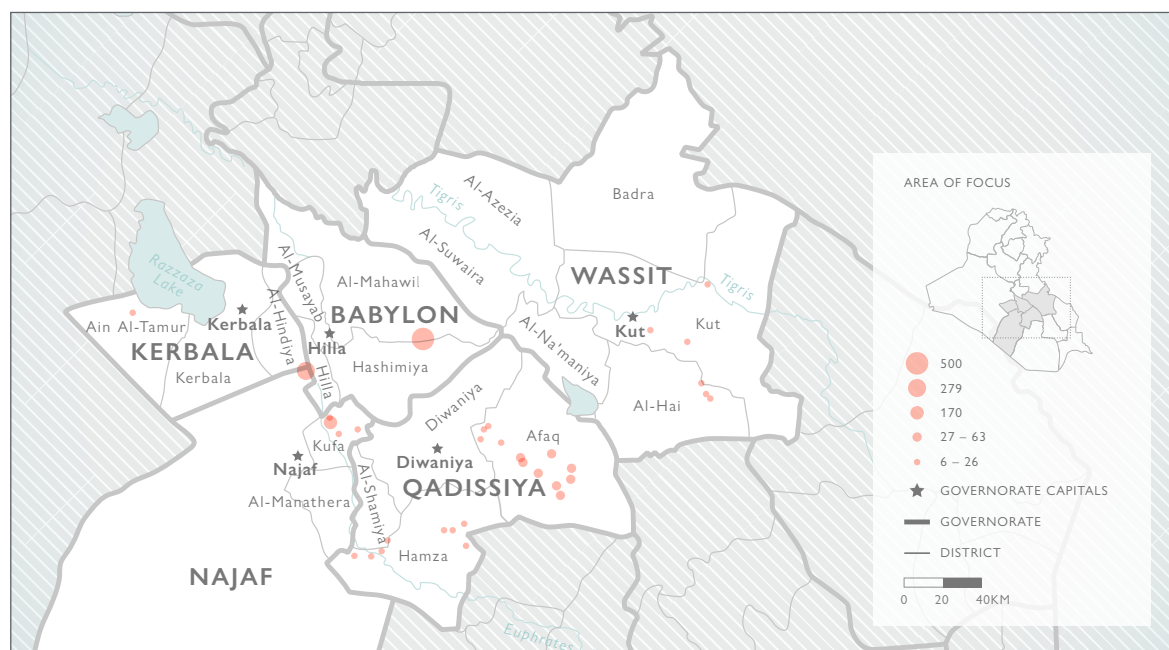
Comparison data from August 2018 to February 2019 shows a 26% decrease (16 locations) in the number of affected locations. Locations no longer experiencing drought are in Qadissiya (1), Wassit (5), Babylon (1), Najaf (2) and Kerbala (7), likely due to winter floodwater. However, those locations are expected to experience water shortages again in the summer because of the temporary nature of floodwater in Iraq. On the other hand, there are four new drought locations: two locations in Wassit, one in Kerbala and one in Najaf.

Map 1. Water crisis by locations in five governorates



1 The data in this report come from DTM analysis on families in Iraq displaced due to water scarcity and drought during the period of April 2018 to February 2019. The data also come from a categorization of locations affected by water scarcity at two points in time, in October 2018 and updated in January 2019, conducted using various sources such as Local Councils, local mukhtars, field visit reports and official records from the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources.
 2 Categorization of locations affected by water scarcity by the IOM Iraq Rapid's Assessment and Response Team (RART) and Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) in 2018.

Map 2. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in five governorates



GOVERNORATE DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY WATER SHORTAGE		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	FEBRUARY 2019	AUGUST 2018
Babylon	6	7
Hashimiya	6	7
Kerbala	2	9
Ain Al-Tamur	1	1
Markaz Kerbala	1	8
Najaf	5	7
Al-Manathera	2	2
Kufa	3	4
Markaz Najaf	-	1
Qadissiya	23	24
Afaq	14	14
Hamza	9	10
Wassit	9	14
Badra	-	3
Kut	9	11
<i>Total</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>61</i>

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

As of February 2019, 1,727 families originally from the governorates of Qadissiya, Wassit, Najaf, Babylon and Kerbala were displaced due to water shortage in their locations. IOM Iraq's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is tracking 987 of these families.³

Qadissiya Governorate is the most affected by water-induced displacement: 63 per cent of IDPs are from this governorate (622 families), followed by Najaf (21%, 205 families), Wassit (12%, 119 families), Babylon (2%, 22 families) and Kerbala (2%, 19 families).

Qadissiya also hosts the largest share of the water-induced displaced population from central governorates (62%, 615

families), followed by Najaf (21%, 209 families), Wassit (12%, 116 families) and Kerbala (5%, 47 families). Babylon does not host any families displaced due to water shortage.

All IDPs from Kerbala and Najaf are displaced within their respective governorates. Most IDPs originally from Wassit Governorate are displaced to other districts within Wassit (97%, 116 families) but a small number are also displaced to Kerbala Governorate (3%, 3 families). The large majority of IDPs originally from Qadissiya are displaced to other districts within Qadissiya Governorate (99% 615 families) but some are also displaced to Kerbala (1%, 4 families) and Najaf (1%, 3 families) governorates.

TOTAL DISPLACEMENT BY GOVERNORATE OF ORIGIN AND DISPLACEMENT					
GOV. OF ORIGIN	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%	GOV. OF DISPLACEMENT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Qadissiya	622	63.0%	Qadissiya	615	63.0%
			Najaf	4	<1%
			Kerbala	3	<1%
Najaf	205	20.8%	Najaf	205	20.8%
Wassit	119	12.0%	Wassit	113	11.8%
			Kerbala	3	<1%
Babylon	22	2.2%	Kerbala	22	2.2%
Kerbala	19	1.9%	Kerbala	12	1.9%
<i>Total</i>	<i>987</i>	<i>100%</i>		<i>987</i>	<i>100%</i>

³ DTM Emergency Tracking. Seven rounds conducted from April 2018 to January 2019.

QADISSIYA

LOCATIONS

Qadissiya is the central governorate with the largest number of locations affected by water shortage, with 23 affected locations. Of these locations, 14 are in Afaq district (9 locations in Al-Bdair sub-district and 5 in Nuffar sub-district), and nine in Hamza district (5 in Al-Shinafiya sub-district, 3 in Markaz Hamza sub-district and 1 in Al-Sudair sub-district). All affected locations are rural areas.

The population in the affected locations depends mostly on crops such as rice, wheat, barley, cotton and breeding cattle for income. Villages located in Hamza district (in Al-Shinafiya sub-district) are not able to access water due to the remoteness of their locations from rivers and irrigation canals. The government recently banned growing rice in areas located in Al-Shamiya district to reserve water, as the crop requires large quantities of water.⁴ Many families in the areas have abandoned the villages and moved to urban areas to find alternative sources of income.

Families who remained in the area now depend on tankers to transfer water after well water became saline throughout summer 2018.

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

A total of 622 families, 63 per cent of the total water-induced displaced population in central Iraq, are originally from Qadissiya: 604 families (97%) are from Afaq district (in Al-Bdair sub-district and Sumer sub-district, 500 and 104 families respectively), 15 families (2.4%) are from Hamza district (in Markaz Al-Hamza sub-district) and three families (less than 1%) are from Diwaniya district (Al-Saniya subdistrict).

The vast majority of IDP families originally from Qadissiya are displaced to three districts within the governorate: 550 families (88%) to Afaq district, 50 families (8%) to Diwaniya district and 15 families (2%) to Hamza district. Only a few families are displaced to other governorates: Najaf and Kerbala (4 and 3 families respectively).

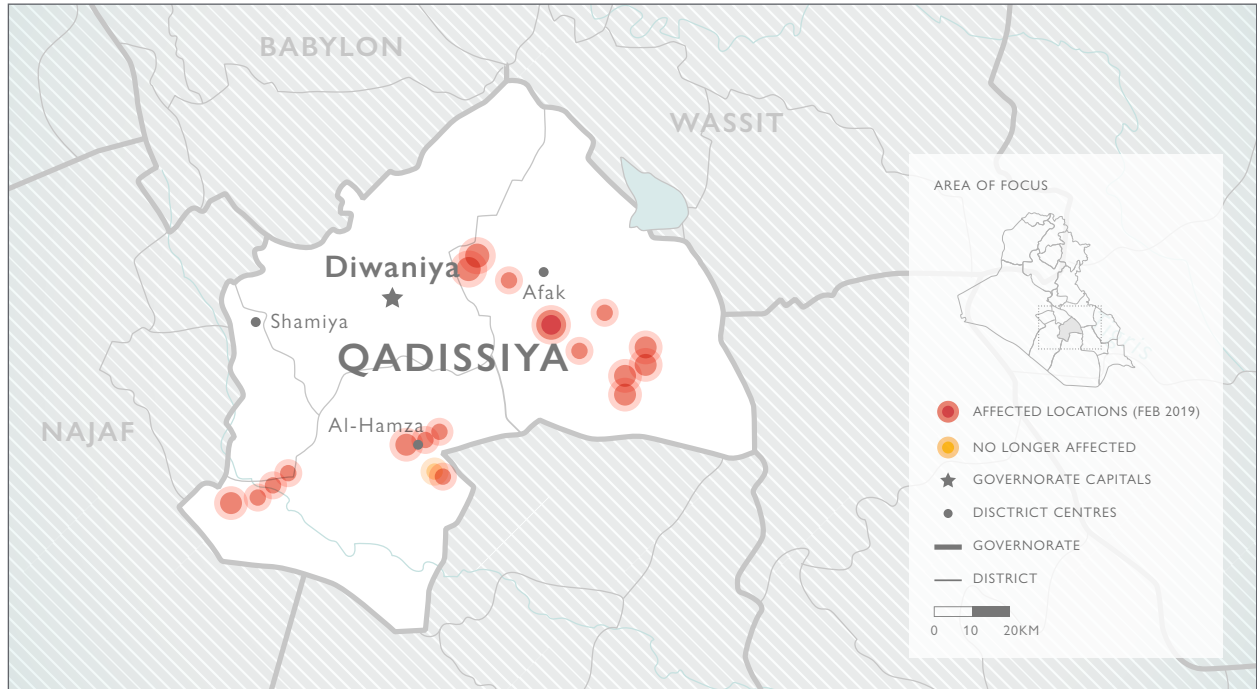
QADISSIYA IDPs PER DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT OF ORIGIN		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Afaq	604	97.1%
Al-Bdair	500	80.4%
Sumer	104	16.7%
Hamza	15	2.4%
Markaz Al-Hamza	15	2.4%
Diwaniya	3	<1%
Al-Saniya	3	<1%

QADISSIYA IDPs PER GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT		
GOVERNORATE/ DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Qadissiya	615	98.9%
Afaq	550	88.4%
Diwaniya	50	8.0%
Hamza	15	2.4%
Najaf	4	<1%
Najaf	4	<1%
Kerbala	3	<1%
Al-Hindiya	3	<1%

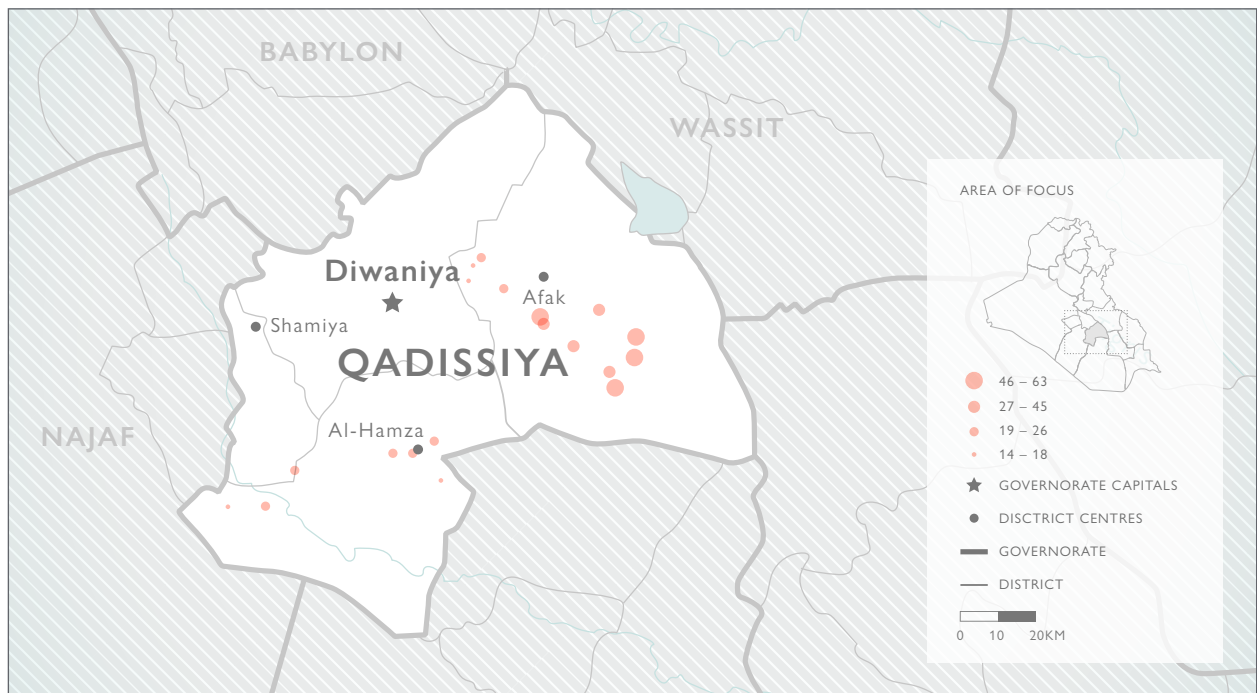
⁴ Official statement by Ministry of Agriculture in June 18, 2018 states that the agricultural plan for the summer was modified because the quantities of water needed are not available and cultivating rice and corn are banned.

As mentioned, most of the families are originally from rural locations, yet the majority (92%, 575 families) are displaced to urban areas and only a minority to rural areas (8%, 47 families).

Map 3. Water crisis by locations in Qadissiya



Map 4. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in Qadissiya



NAJAF

LOCATIONS

There are five locations affected by water shortage in Najaf. Affected areas are located in Al-Manathera district (in Markaz Al-Manathera sub-district, 2 locations) and Kufa district (in Al-Abbasiya sub-district, 3 locations). All affected locations are rural.

River water levels dropped in Al-Manathera district and the irrigation system is partially damaged. In Kufa district (in sub-districts of Al-Abbasiya and Al-Huriya), the water level that normally reaches the canals near the river is very low. In Markaz Najaf district (in Al-Haydariya sub-district), villages located far from the rivers do not get enough water for farming.

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

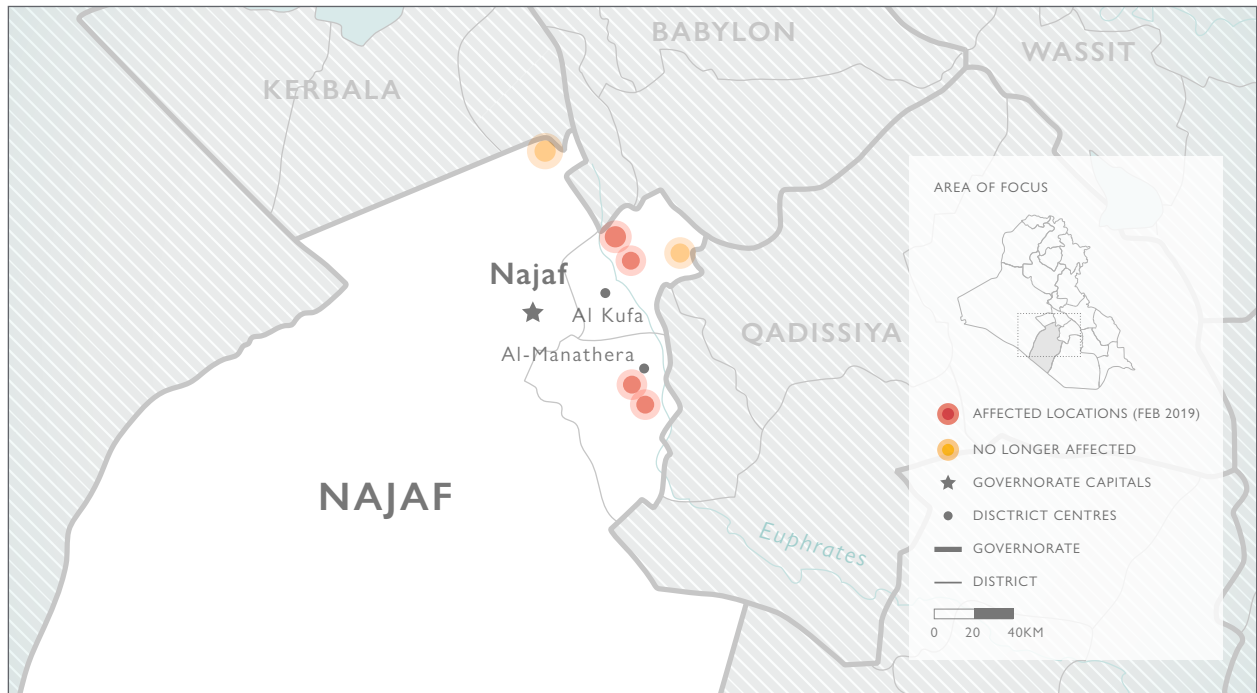
A total of 205 families, 21 per cent of the total water-induced displaced population in study area, are displaced from Al-Abbasiya sub-district (in Kufa district).

Most of the families (198, 97%) are displaced within the same district (Kufa district) and a small number (7 families, 3%) to Markaz Najaf district; all to urban locations.

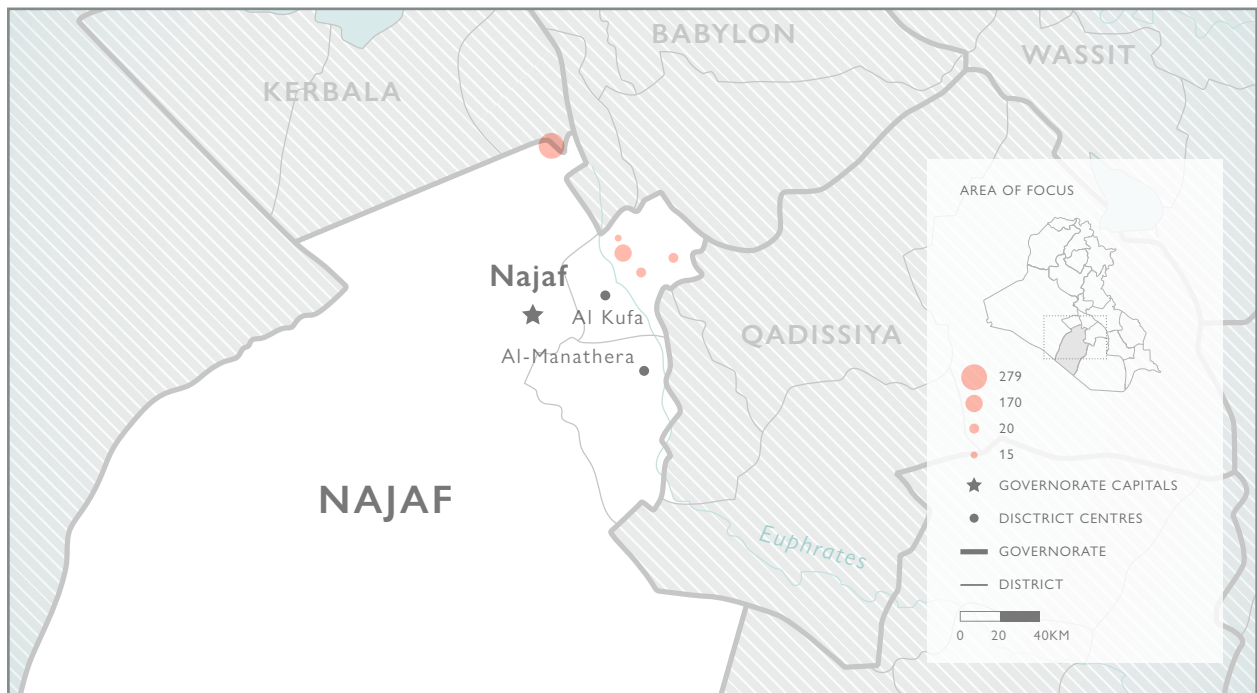
NAJAF IDPs PER DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT OF ORIGIN		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Kufa	205	100%
Al-Abbasiya	205	100%

NAJAF IDPs PER GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT		
GOVERNORATE/ DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Najaf	205	100%
Kufa	198	96.6%
Markaz Najaf	7	3.4%

Map 5. Water crisis by locations in Najaf



Map 6. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in Najaf



BABYLON

LOCATIONS

There are six locations affected by water shortage in Babylon Governorate. All of the locations are rural and located in Hashimiya district (4 in Al-Madhatiya sub-district, 1 in Al-Shomaly sub-district and 1 in Al-Talee'a sub-district), where villagers depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

The water levels of Al-Zabbar River and Khamisiya River have dramatically reduced since summer 2018.

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

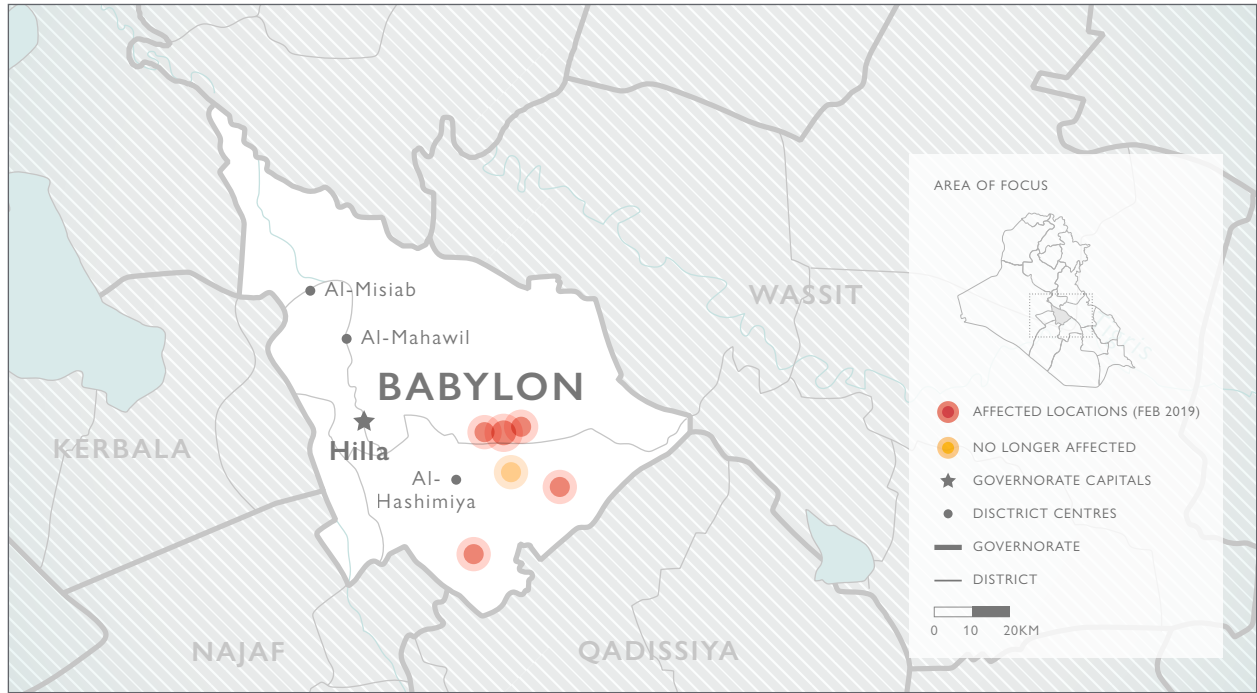
A total of 22 families, two per cent of the total water-induced IDP population in the study area, are from Babylon. All of them are from Hashimiya district (in Al-Shomaly sub-district).

All of the IDPs are displaced to Kerbala Governorate: 18 families to Markaz Kerbala district and four families to Al-Hindiya. All are displaced to rural areas.

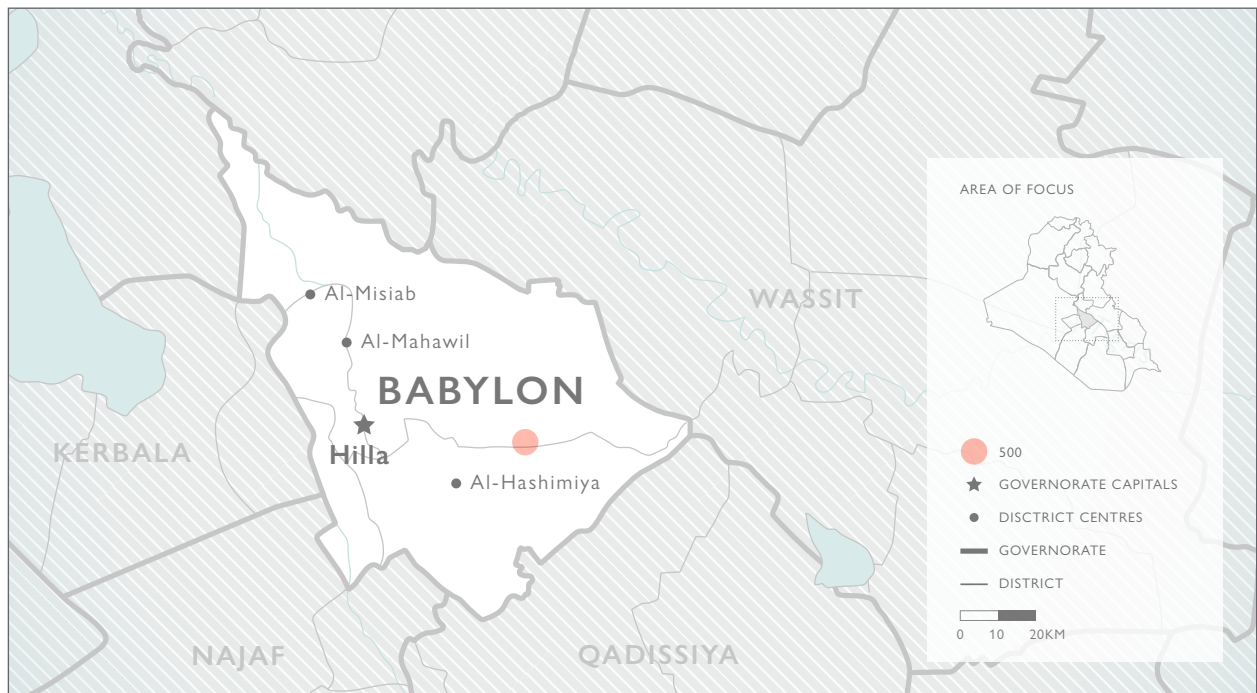
BABYLON IDPs PER DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT OF ORIGIN		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Hashimiya	22	100%
Al-Shomaly	22	100%

BABYLON IDPs PER GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT		
GOVERNORATE/ DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Kerbala	22	100%
Markaz Kerbala	18	81.8%
Al-Hindiya	4	18.2%

Map 7. Water crisis by locations in Babylon



Map 8. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in Babylon



WASSIT

LOCATIONS

A total of nine locations are affected by water shortage, all of which are in Kut district (8 in Wassit sub-district and 1 in Sheikh Saad sub-district). Most of the locations (8 out of 9) are rural.

In areas of Kut district (in Wassit sub-district), villagers are displaced due to insufficient water for agriculture. In Badra district (in Markaz Al-Badra sub-district), there is a shortage of drinking water.

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

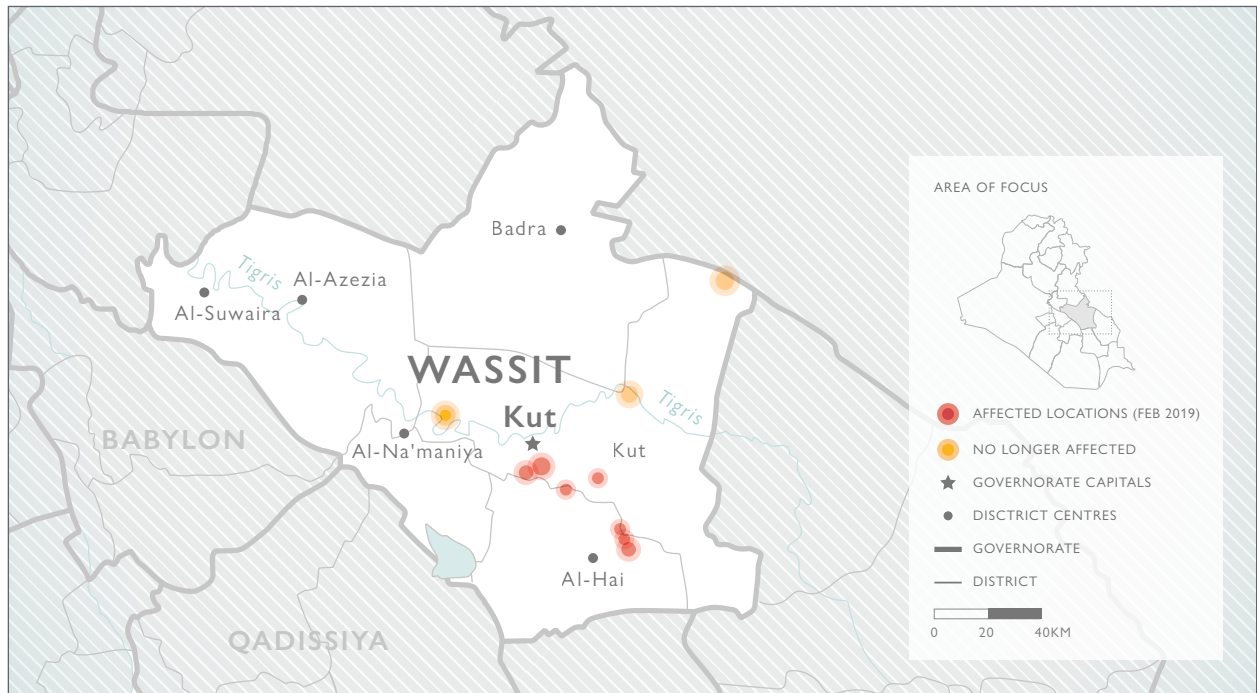
There are in total 119 displaced families originally from Wassit Governorate (12% of the total water-induced displaced population of central Iraq). IDP families from Wassit are from Al-Hai district (67%, 80 families), Kut district (22%, 26 families) and Al-Azezia district (11%, 13 families).

The vast majority of displaced families from Wassit are displaced to Kut district in the same governorate (98%, 116 families) and the minority to Al-Hindiya district in Kerbala Governorate (3%, 3 families). Of those families, around two thirds (72%, 86) are displaced to urban areas and the remaining third (27%, 33) to rural areas.

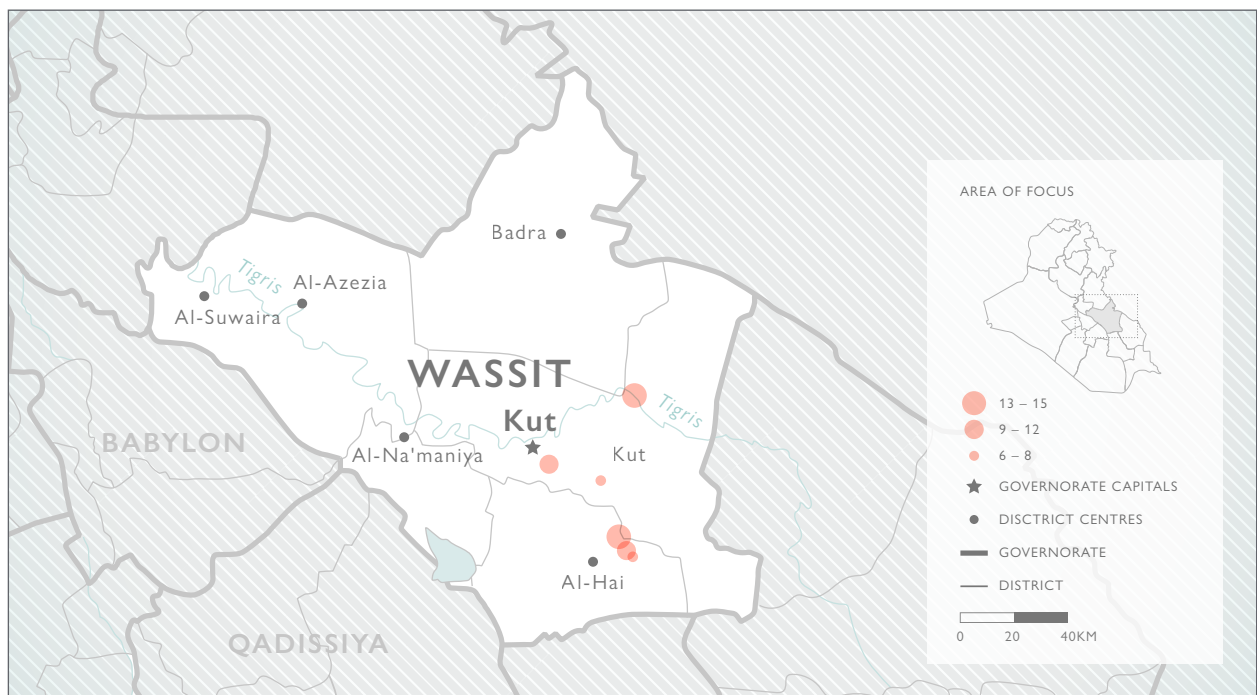
WASSIT IDPs PER DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT OF ORIGIN		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Al-Hai	80	67.2%
Al-Mowafaqiya	80	67.2%
Kut	26	21.9%
Markaz Al-Kut	14	11.8%
Wassit Sub District	12	10.1%
Al-Azezia	13	10.9%
Markaz Al-Azezia	10	8.4%
Debooni	3	2.5%

WASSIT IDPs PER GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT		
GOVERNORATE/ DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Wassit	116	97.5%
Kut	116	97.5%
Kerbala	3	2.5%
Al-Hindiya	3	2.5%

Map 9. Water crisis by locations in Wassit



Map 10. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in Wassit



KERBALA

LOCATIONS

There are two locations affected by water shortage in Kerbala. There is one location in Markaz Kerbala district (in Al-Hassainya sub-district) and one location in Ain Al-Tamur district (in Markaz Ain Al-Tamur sub-district), all rural locations.

Affected locations in Markaz Kerbala are far from the city center of Kerbala. In these locations well water is not drinkable due to the presence of sulfur. Also, water networks and irrigation systems in areas located in Kerbala district (Al-Hurr sub-district) are damaged or need maintenance. In Al-Hassainya sub-district, water from Al-Hussenia River does not reach the villages.⁵

WATER-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

There are 19 displaced families originally from Kerbala (2% of the total water-induced displaced population in the study area). All of these families are from Ain Al-Tamur district (in Markaz Ain Al-Tamur sub-district).

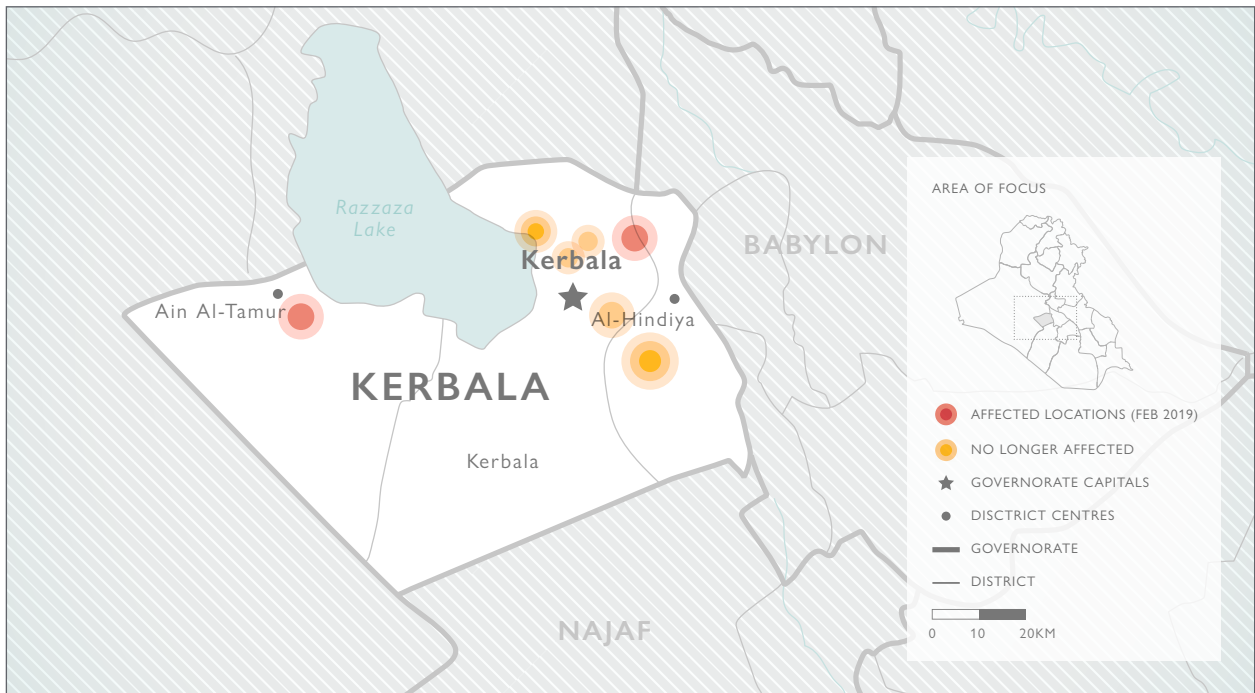
All IDPs from Kerbala Governorate are displaced to Kerbala district. Around two thirds (13 families, 68%) are displaced to urban areas and the remaining third (6 families, 32%) to rural areas.

WASSIT IDPs PER DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT OF ORIGIN		
DISTRICT / SUB-DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Ain Al-Tamur	19	100%
Markaz Ain Al-Tamur	19	100%

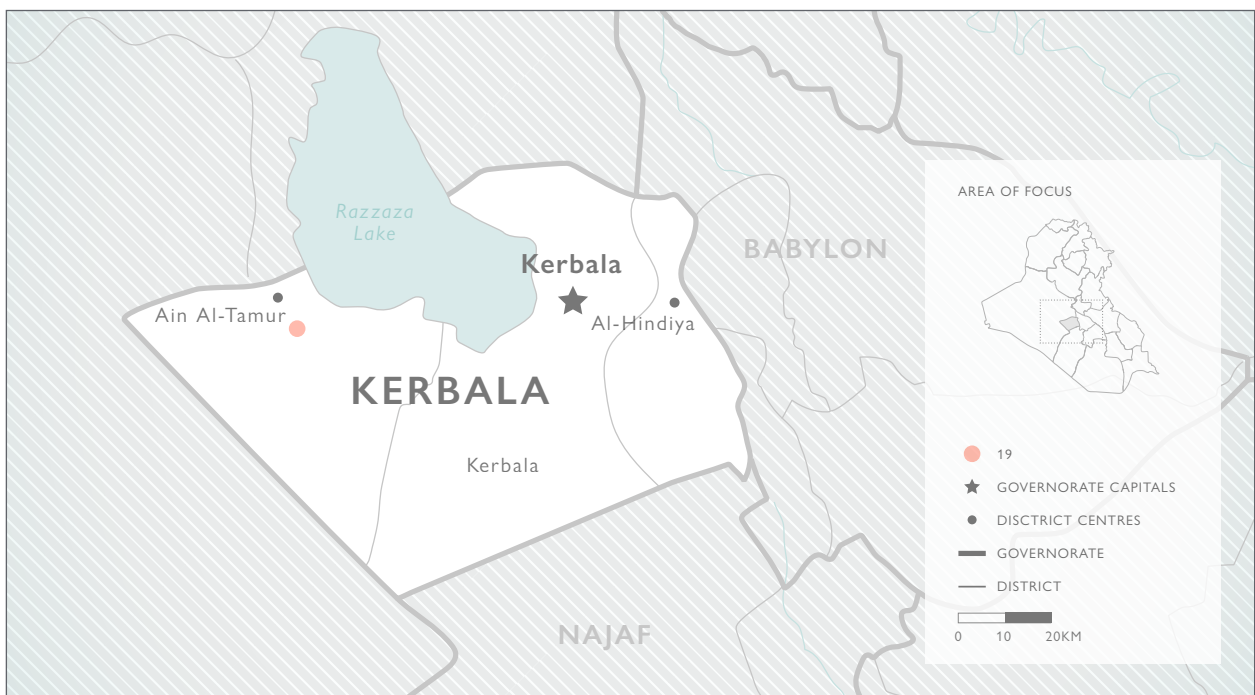
WASSIT IDPs PER GOVERNORATE OF DISPLACEMENT		
GOVERNORATE/ DISTRICT	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	%
Kerbala	19	100%
Markaz Kerbala	19	100%

⁵ IOM Iraq Rapid's Assessment and Response Team field reports.

Map 9. Water crisis by locations in Kerbala




Map 10. Affected districts by the number of IDP families in Kerbala



ASSESSING WATER SHORTAGE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN QADISSIYA, NAJAF, BABYLON, WASSIT AND KERBALA


IOM IRAQ

 International Organization for Migration
The UN Migration Agency - Iraq Mission
Main Office in Baghdad
UNAMI Compound (Diwan 2)
International Zone, Baghdad, Iraq

 + 3908 3105 2600

 www.iomiraq.net

 iomiraq@iom.int / iraqdtm@iom.int

 More information on:
iraqdtm.iom.int
iraqdtm.iom.int/EmergencyTracking.aspx

    @IOMIraq



© 2019 International Organization for Migration (IOM)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the publisher.