

# Climate-Induced Displacement – Southern Iraq

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 – 15 SEPTEMBER 2023

## DISPLACED FAMILIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES

### Extent of Displacement

21,798 Families  
130,788 Individuals

12 Governorates of displacement

471 Locations of displacement

74% Locations of displacement are urban

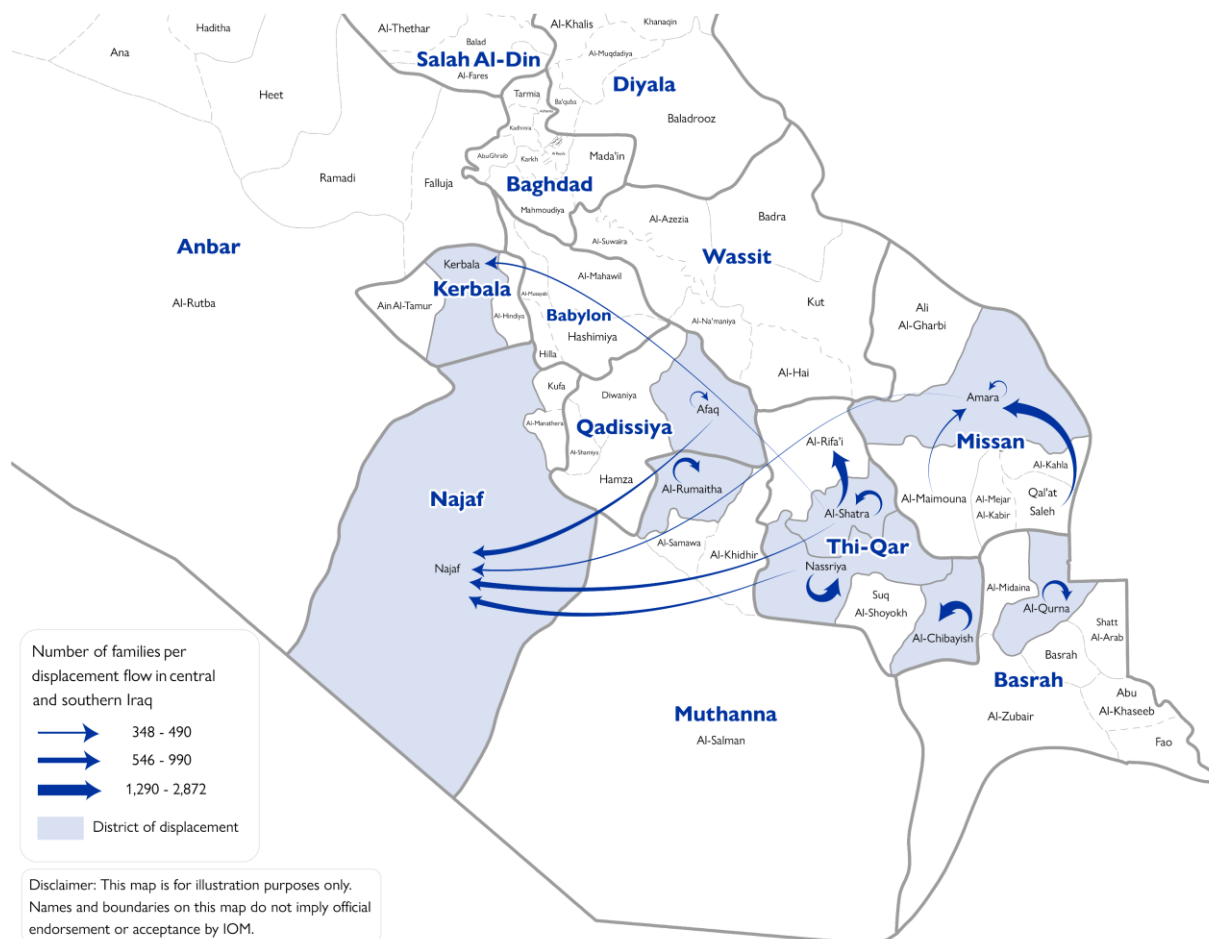
DTM has been tracking climate-induced displacement across the central and southern regions of Iraq since June 2018. Drought, land degradation and increased salinity in important rivers and tributaries continue to place a strain on the agriculture, livestock herding and fishing industries, with many families unable to guarantee sufficient and sustainable livelihoods in rural areas. DTM's tracking of climate-induced displacement aims to provide data on the number and location of vulnerable families forced to displace due to climatic and environmental factors.

Data collection for this update took place between 1 and 15 September 2023. Data are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), who are deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilizing a large, well-established network of over 2,000 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

As of 15 September 2023, 21,798 families (130,788 individuals) remain displaced because of drought conditions across 12 governorates. Of these, 9,934 families are displaced within their district of origin (46%). The displaced families are dispersed across 471 locations, with the majority (74%) being urban locations.

Nearly half of families (47%) were displaced from Thi-Qar (10,269 families), followed by Missan (22%, 4,852), Muthanna (8%, 1,689) and Qadissiya (8%, 1,650). At the district level, Nassriya in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by water scarcity (3,880). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include Qal'at Saleh in Missan Governorate (2,537 families) and Al-Shatra (2,384) and Al-Rifa'i (2,065), both in Thi-Qar Governorate. Many of those displaced reportedly worked in agriculture, livestock rearing and fishing.

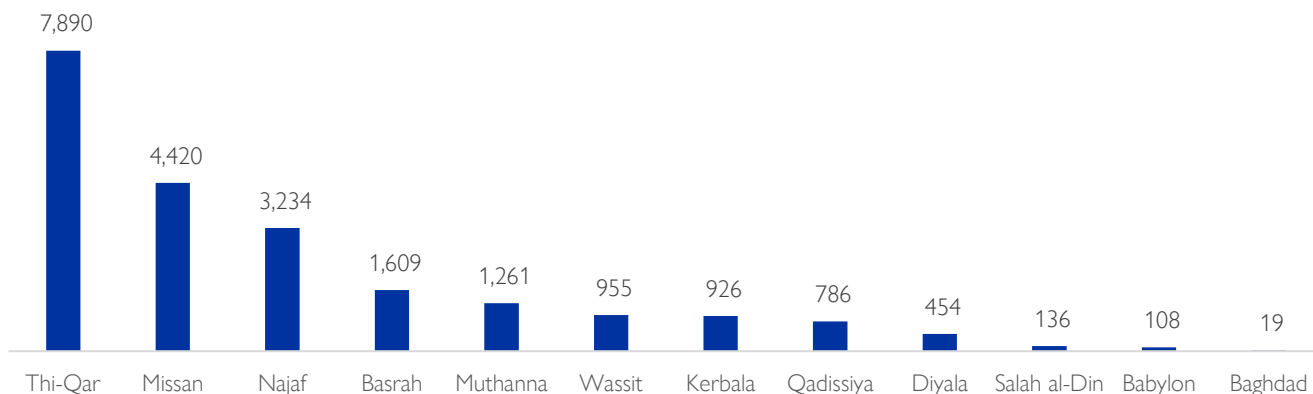
Map 1: Top 15 climate-induced displacement flows in central and southern Iraq<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The map depicts the top 15 flows from their district of origin to their district of displacement. Intradistrict displacement is shown as a circular arrow.

# DISPLACED FAMILIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES

Figure 1: Number of families displaced due to drought by governorate of displacement



The number of families in climate-induced displacement expanded in this round as key informants referred RART teams to previously unassessed locations of displacement. This was most notable in Muthanna and Missan governorates, where 41 and 29 new locations were assessed, respectively. The number of locations and climate-displaced families is expected to increase each round as the network of key informants expands. However, the continual increase in families also suggests such movements are permanent, rather than temporary.

Just over one third of families displaced to Thi-Qar (36%, 7,890 families), while a fifth displaced to Missan (20%, 4,420) and 15 per cent to Najaf (3,234). In Thi-Qar Governorate, districts hosting high numbers of displaced families include Nassriya District, which hosts 3,212 families, primarily originating from Nassriya (89%). In Missan Governorate, most families are in Amara District (3,359). In Najaf Governorate, Najaf District hosts 3,214 families, many of whom were displaced from Afaq, Al-Shatra and Nassriya. This round, RARTs reported that in Qadissiya, Basra and Salah al-Din governorates, families were living in critical or irregular shelters.

Map 2: Districts hosting families affected by climate-induced displacement

