

Climate-Induced Displacement – Southern Iraq

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 – 15 JUNE 2023

DISPLACED FAMILIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN GOVERNORATES

Extent of Displacement

13,920 Families
83,520 Individuals

10 Governorates of displacement

389 Locations of displacement

77% Locations of displacement are urban

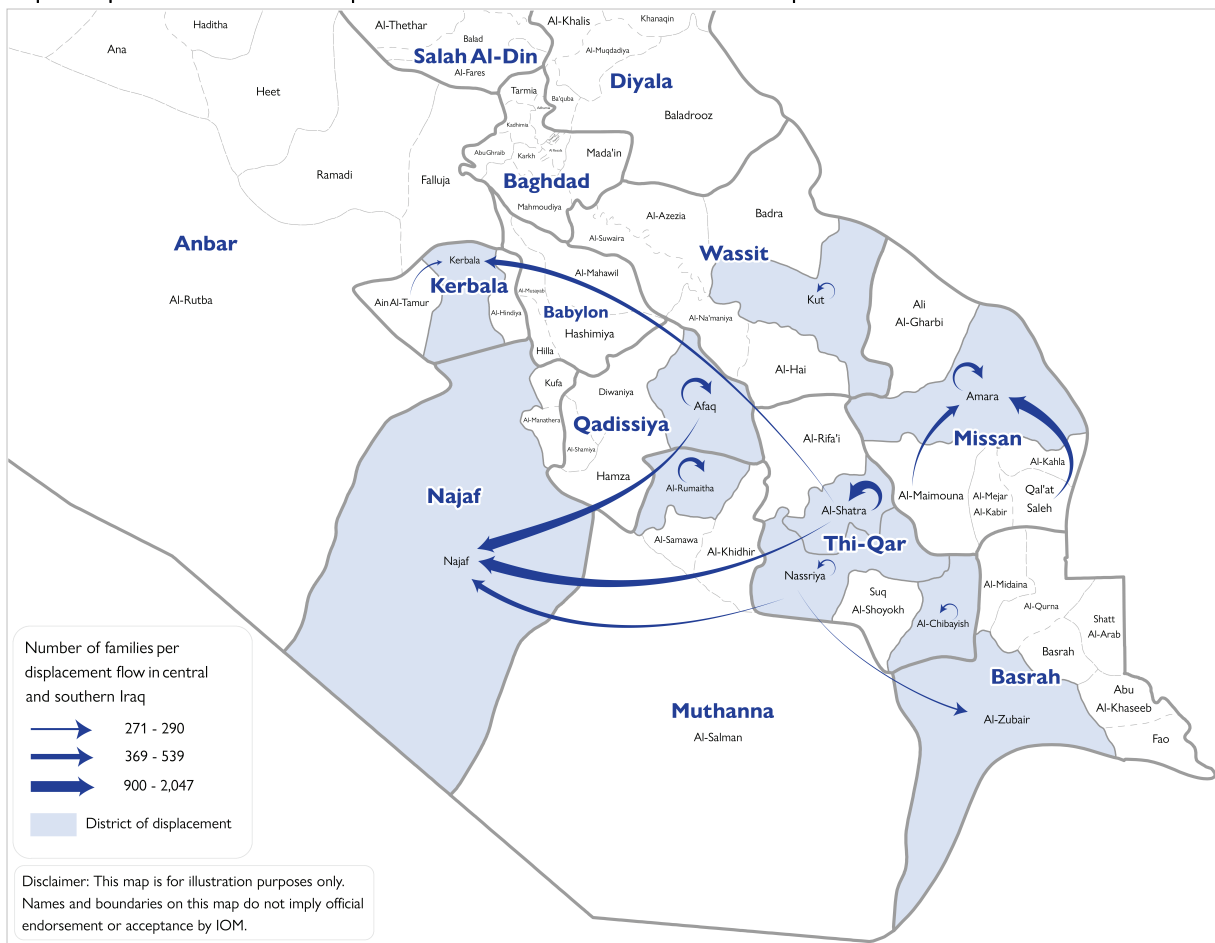
DTM has been tracking climate-induced displacement across the central and southern regions of Iraq since June 2018. Drought, land degradation and increased salinity in important rivers and tributaries continue to place a strain on the agriculture, livestock herding and fishing industries, with many families 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 June 2023. Data are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), who are deployed across Iraq (21% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilizing a large, well-established network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

As of 15 June 2023, 13,920 families (83,520 individuals) remain displaced because of drought conditions across ten governorates. Of these, 5,169 families are displaced within their district of origin (37%). The displaced families are dispersed across 389 locations, with the majority (77%) being urban locations.

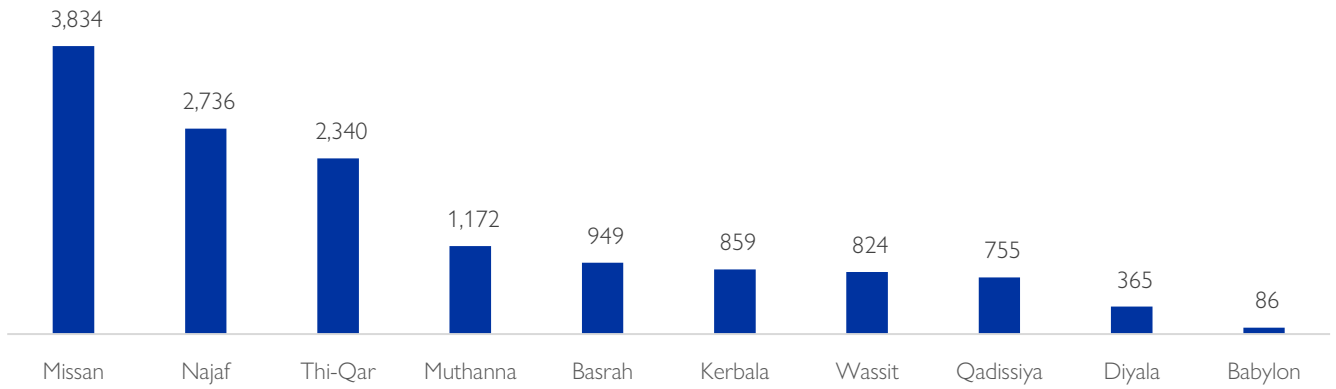
The top governorates of origin are consistent with those observed in the previous round (March 2023), namely Thi-Qar (4,420 families), Missan (4,150), Qadissiya (1,622) and Muthanna (1,478). At the district level, Qal'at Saleh in Missan governorate has the largest number of families displaced by water scarcity (2,355). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include Al-Shatra district in Thi-Qar governorate (2,345 families), Afaq in Qadissiya governorate (1,507 families) and Nassriya in Thi-Qar governorate (1,020 families). Many of those displaced reportedly worked in agriculture, livestock rearing and fishing livelihoods.

Map 1: Top 15 climate-induced displacement flows in central and southern Iraq¹



¹ 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.

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 33 and 26 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.

Missan governorate hosts the largest number of families experiencing climate-induced displacement (3,834), followed by Najaf (2,736) and Thi-Qar governorates (2,340). In Missan governorate, districts hosting high numbers of displaced families include Amara district, which hosts 2,988 families, primarily originating from Qal'at Saleh (69%). In Najaf governorate, most families are in Najaf district (2,716). In Thi-Qar Governorate, Al-Shatra district hosts 990 families, all of whom were displaced within their district of origin. This round, RARTs reported that in Qadissiya Governorate, families were living in informal settlements without access to services.

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

