

Climate-Induced Displacement – Central and Southern Iraq

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 – 15 MARCH 2024

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.

CONTEXT

Data collection for this update took place between 1 and 15 March 2024. 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.

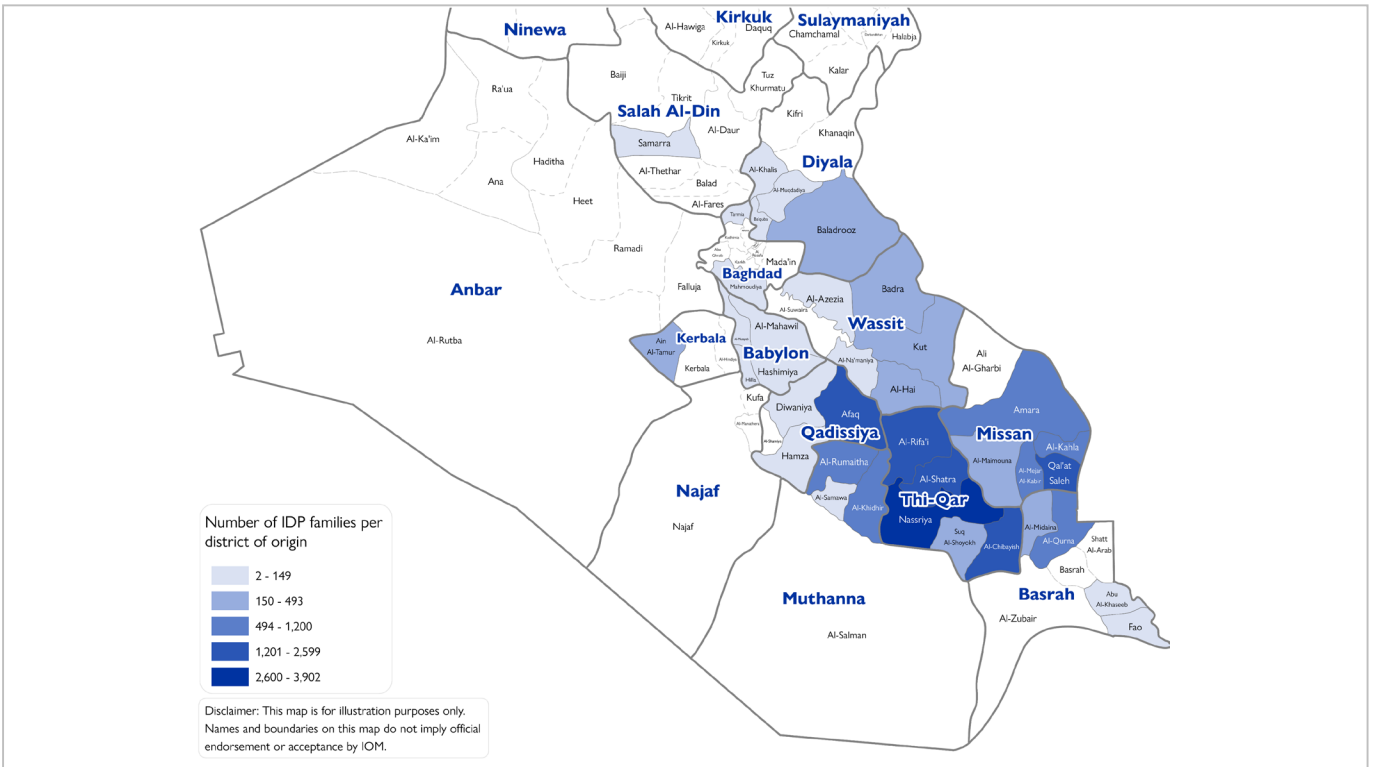
EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---|-------|
| | Families Individuals | 23,364 140,184 | | Families displaced within their governorate of origin | 81% |
| | Families displaced to urban locations | 55% | | Families displaced in critical shelters | 1,003 |

As of 15 March 2024, **23,364 families** (140,184 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across 12 governorates. The displaced families are dispersed across 497 locations. Of these, just under half of families displaced within their district of origin (47%). Slightly more than half of families displaced to urban locations.

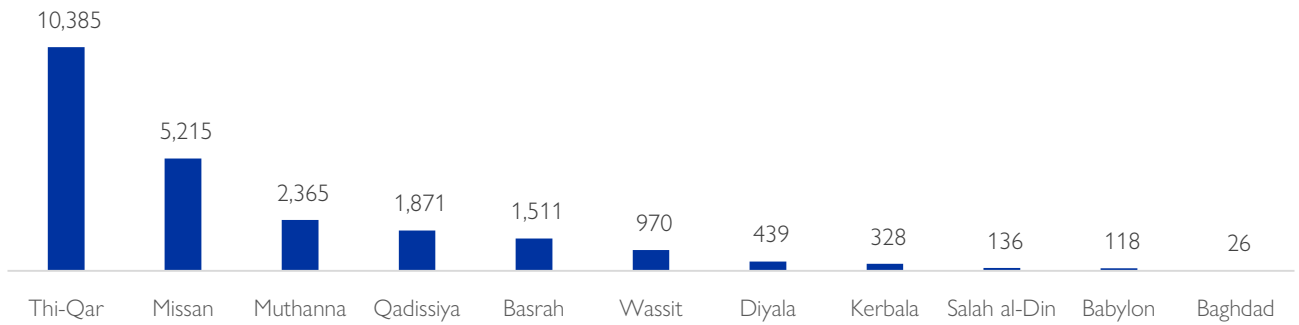
Nearly half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (44%, 10,385 families), followed by **Missan** (22%, 5,215), **Muthanna** (10%, 2,365 families) and **Qadisiya** (8%, 1,871). At the district level, **Nassriya** in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by climatic factors (3,902). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include **Qal'at Saleh** in Missan Governorate (2,599 families) and **Al-Shatra** (2,461) and **Al-Rifa'i** (2,082), both in Thi-Qar Governorate.

Map 1: Districts of origin for families displaced by climate change and environmental degradation



DISPLACED FAMILIES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ

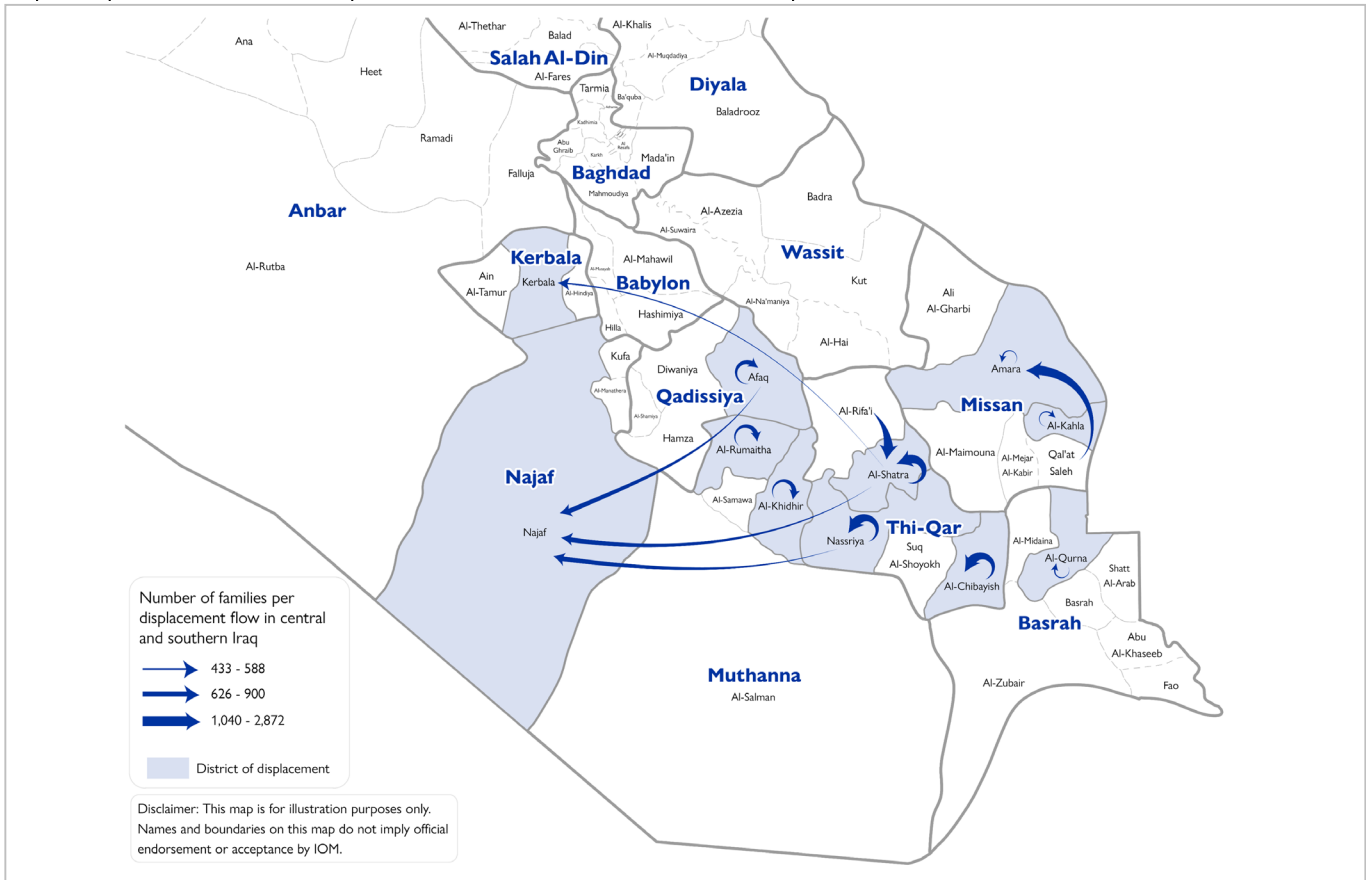
Figure 1: Number of families displaced due to climatic factors by governorate of displacement



The number of families in climate-induced displacement expanded in this round as key informants referred RART teams to previously unassessed locations of displacement. In total, 34 new locations were added this round, particularly in Muthanna. The number of locations and climate-displaced families are 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**, while a fifth displaced to **Missan** and a seventh to **Najaf**. Districts hosting high numbers of displaced families include **Amara** (Missan), **Najaf** (Najaf) and **Nassriya** (Thi-Qar). Around four fifths of families displaced within their governorates of origin and just under half within their district of origin. Most families who displaced to Thi-Qar and Missan came from elsewhere in the governorate. By contrast, all families coming to Najaf originate from outside the governorate, especially Thi-Qar and Qadissiya. Moreover, nearly all families who displaced to Najaf are in rural areas, running counter to the general trend of rural-to-urban movements.

Map 2: 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.