

# CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ

Data collection period: 1 – 30 June 2024

## CONTEXT

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 30 June 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.

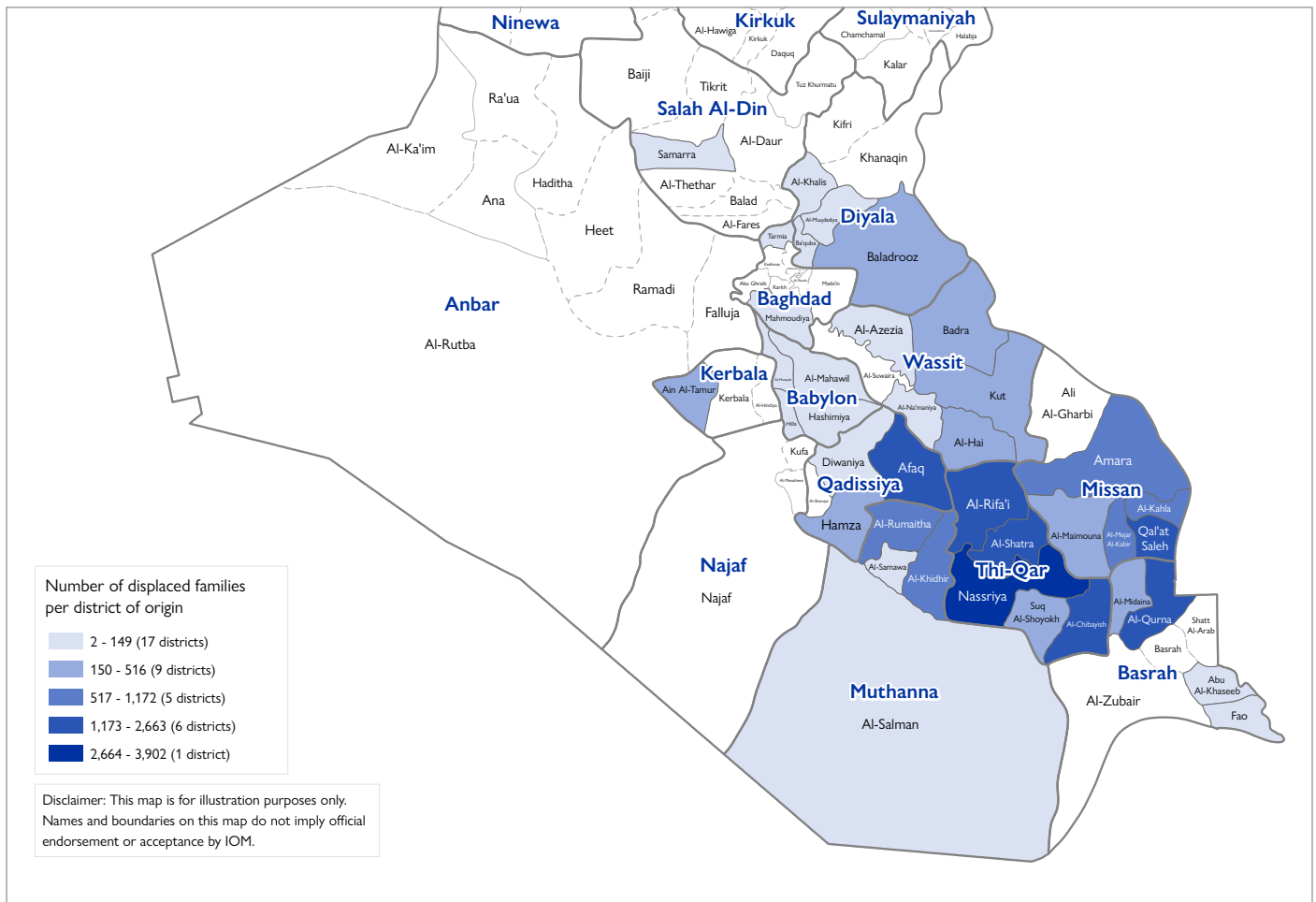
### EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT



As of 30 June 2024, **24,500 families** (147,000 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across 12 governorates. The displaced families are dispersed across 440 locations. Of these, just under half of families displaced within their district of origin (48%). Slightly more than half of families displaced to urban locations.

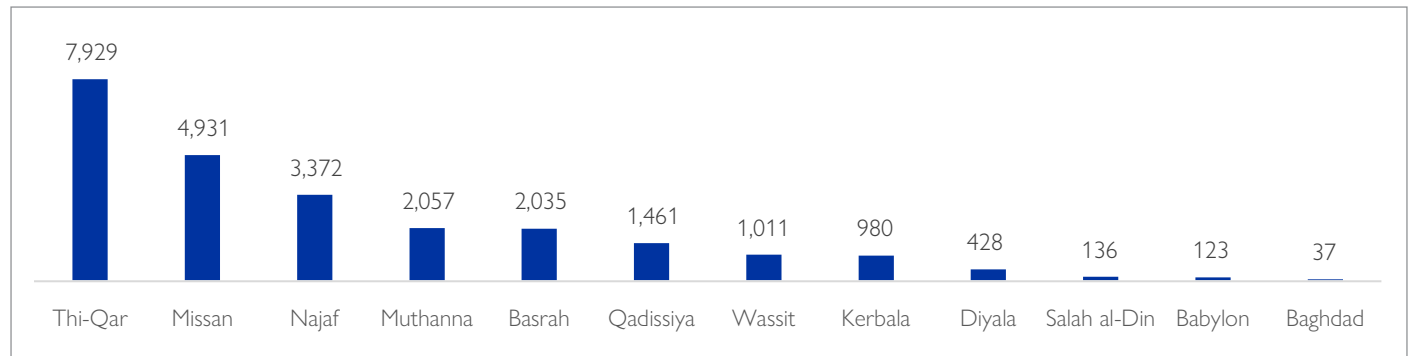
Nearly half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (43%, 10,440 families), followed by **Missan** (22%, 5,363), **Muthanna** (10%, 2,485 families) and **Qadissiya** (9%, 2,269) governorates. At the district level, **Nassriya** in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by climatic factors (3,902). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include **Qal'at Saleh** in Missan Governorate (2,663 families) and **Al-Shatra** (2,513) and **Al-Rifa'i** (2,085), 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

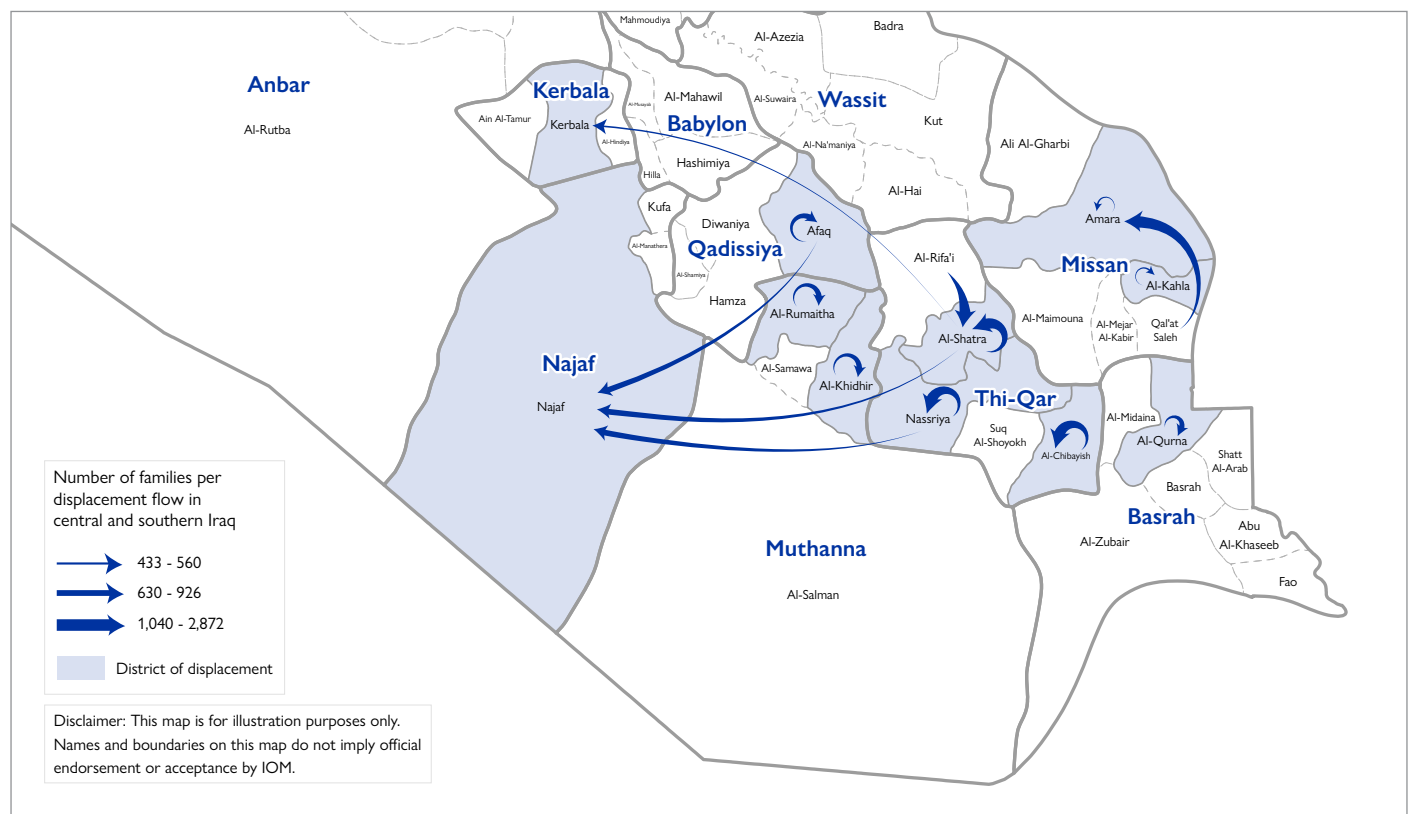
Figure 1: Number of families displaced due to climactic factors by governorate of displacement



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, 15 new locations were added this round, particularly in Muthanna, Basrah and Qadissiya. 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. As of June 2024, around half of families displaced in just two years: 2022 (23%) and 2023 (26%). Roughly equal shares displaced each year between 2016 and 2021, although figures decreased in 2019 (944 families, 4% of total) and increased slightly in 2021 (1,801 families, 12% of total).

Just over one third of families displaced to **Thi-Qar**, while a fifth displaced to **Missan** and a seventh to **Najaf**. Around one third of flows (32%) occurred within Thi-Qar. This includes intra-district displacement within **Nassriya** (2,872 families, 12% of flows), **Al-Chibayish** (1,290, 5%) and **Al-Shatra** (1,040, 4%) districts. A further 20% of flows took place within Missan Governorate, mostly notably between **Qal'at Saleh District** and **Amara District** (2,310 families, 9% of all flows). Regarding location type, just over half of families displaced to urban locations (56%), with the remaining share relocating to rural locations. Many of those moving to rural areas go to Najaf, Nassriya and Al-Shatra districts, while key districts for urban displacement include Amara, Al-Shatra and Al-Chibayish.

Map 2: Top 15 climate-induced displacement flows in central and southern Iraq<sup>1</sup>



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.