

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2025

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 in September 2025. Data are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), who are deployed across Iraq (8% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilizing a large, well-established network of more than 636 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT



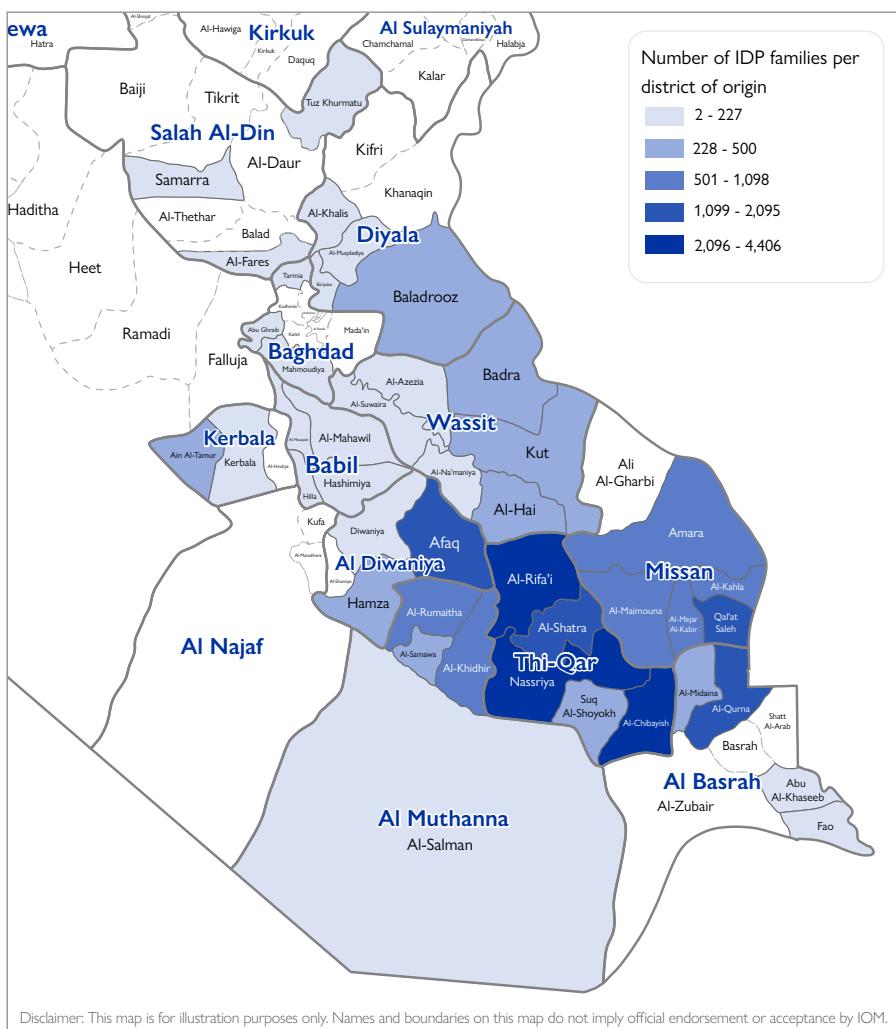
As of September 2025, **31,001 families** (186,006 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across **12 governorates**. The displaced families are dispersed across **497 locations**. This round recorded an increase in the number of assessed locations, with a net addition of 22 sites compared to the previous round. The rise was due to the expanded network of key informants established through DTM's recent Mapping of Subdistricts at Risk of Climate-Induced Displacement study.

Among the 31,001 displaced families, **83 per cent were displaced within the same governorate** and **54 per cent remained within their district of origin**. Moreover, three in five displaced families moved to urban areas.

Around half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (46%, 14,276 families), followed by **Missan** (17%, 5,338) and **Al Diwaniya** (12%, 3,676).

At the district level, **Al-Rifa'i** in Thi-Qar Governorate reports the highest share of climate-induced displacement, accounting for **14 per cent** of all displaced families (4,406). This is followed by **Al-Chibayish** (12%, 3,738 families) and **Nassriya** (12%, 3,586 families), also in Thi-Qar. **Afaq** follows, contributing **10 per cent** of the total displaced population (3,110 families) in Al Diwaniya Governorate.

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



As of September 2025, just under half of families displaced in two years: 2022 (21%) and 2023 (21%). Between 2016 and 2021, the shares displaced each year varied, with peaks in 2016 and 2021. The number of families displaced in 2024 fell considerably compared to the previous year due to increased rainfall, improved water management and restrictions on water-intensive crops and activities. In 2025, 1,639 family displaced so far, mostly from Hashimiya district in Babil Governorate (520 families) and Afaq district in Al Diwaniya Governorate (507 families).

Figure 1: Number of Displaced Families By Year of Displacement

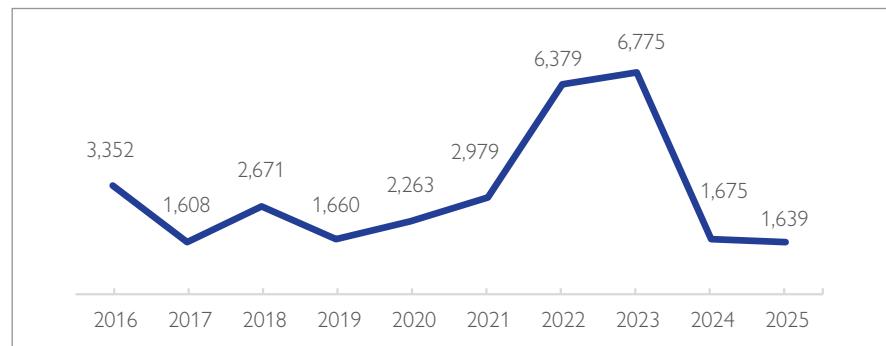
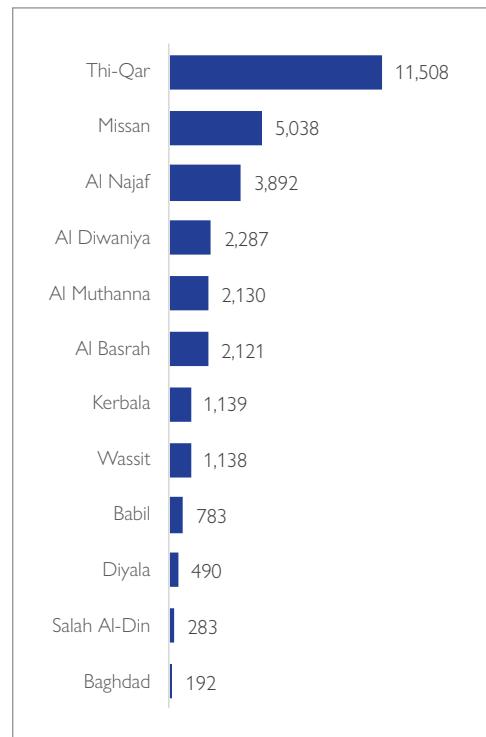
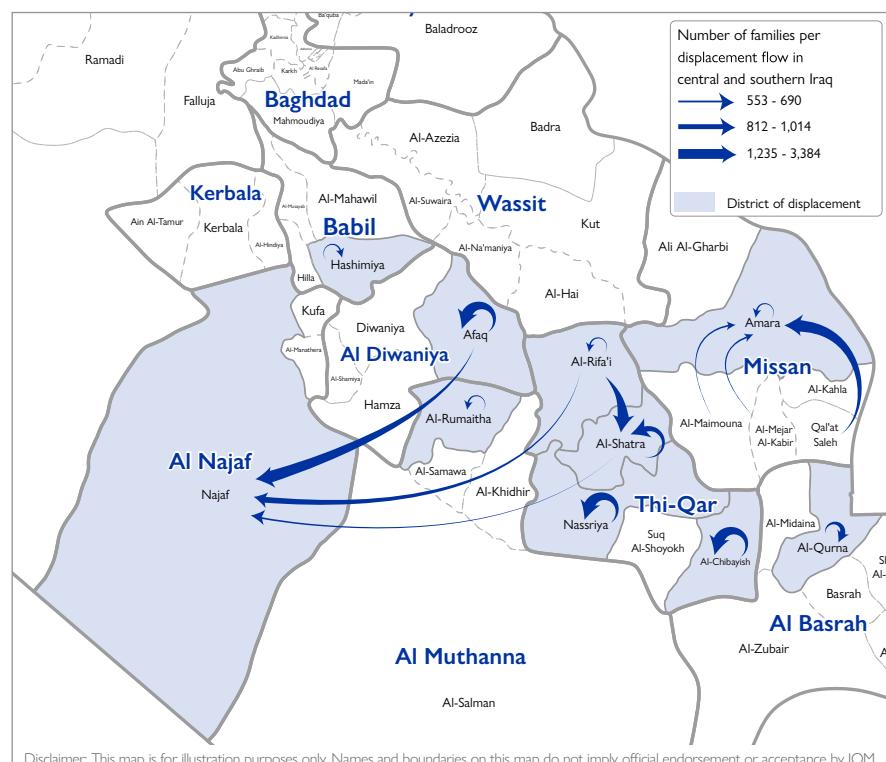


Figure 2: Number of Climate-Induced Displaced Families by Governorate of Displacement

Map 2: Top 15 climate-induced displacement flows in central and southern Iraq¹

Around two fifths of displaced families displaced to Thi-Qar (37%), while just under one fifth moved to Missan (16%), and a further 13 per cent settled in Al-Najaf.

In terms of flows, **37 per cent** of all displacements took place within **Thi-Qar Governorate**. This includes intra-district displacement within Nassriya (3,384 families, 11% of flows) and Al-Chibayish (3,375 families, 11% of flows), as well as movements from Al-Rifa'i to Al-Shatra (2,565 families, 8%). A further 16 per cent of flows occurred within Missan Governorate, notably from Qal'at Saleh to Amara districts (1,597 families, 5% of flows). In 2025, most displacement flows were **intra-district movements within Hashimiya** district in Babil Governorate, accounting for **32 per cent** of all 2025 flows.



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.