

# CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ

Data collection period: 1-30 September 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 1–30 September 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 444 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

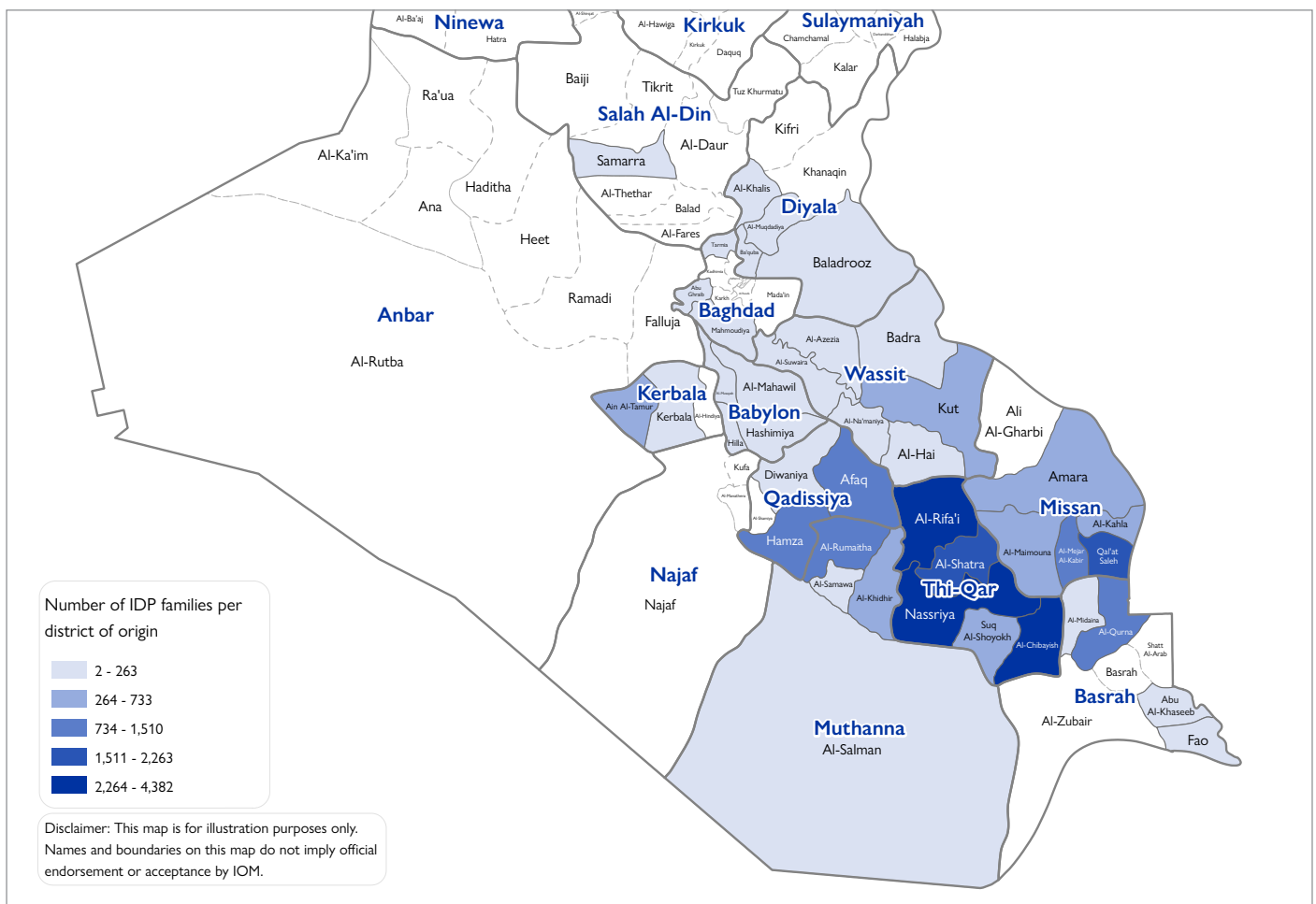
### EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT



As of 30 Sep 2024, **28,116 families** (168,696 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across 12 governorates. The displaced families are dispersed across 473 locations. Of these, around half of families displaced within their district of origin (52%). Additionally, just under two thirds displaced to urban locations.

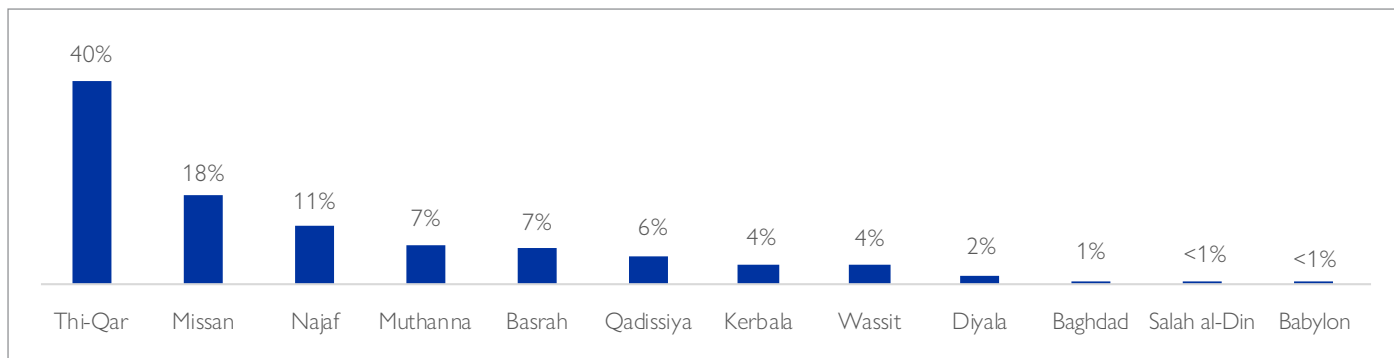
Half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (50%, 14,052 families), followed by **Missan** (19%, 5,247), **Qadisiya** (10%, 2,816 families) and **Muthanna** (7%, 2,013 families). At the district level, **Al-Rifa'i** in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by climatic factors (4,382). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include **Al-Chibayish** (3,672 families) and **Nassriya** (3,490), both in Thi-Qar Governorate, as well as **Qal'at Saleh** (2,263 families) in Missan 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

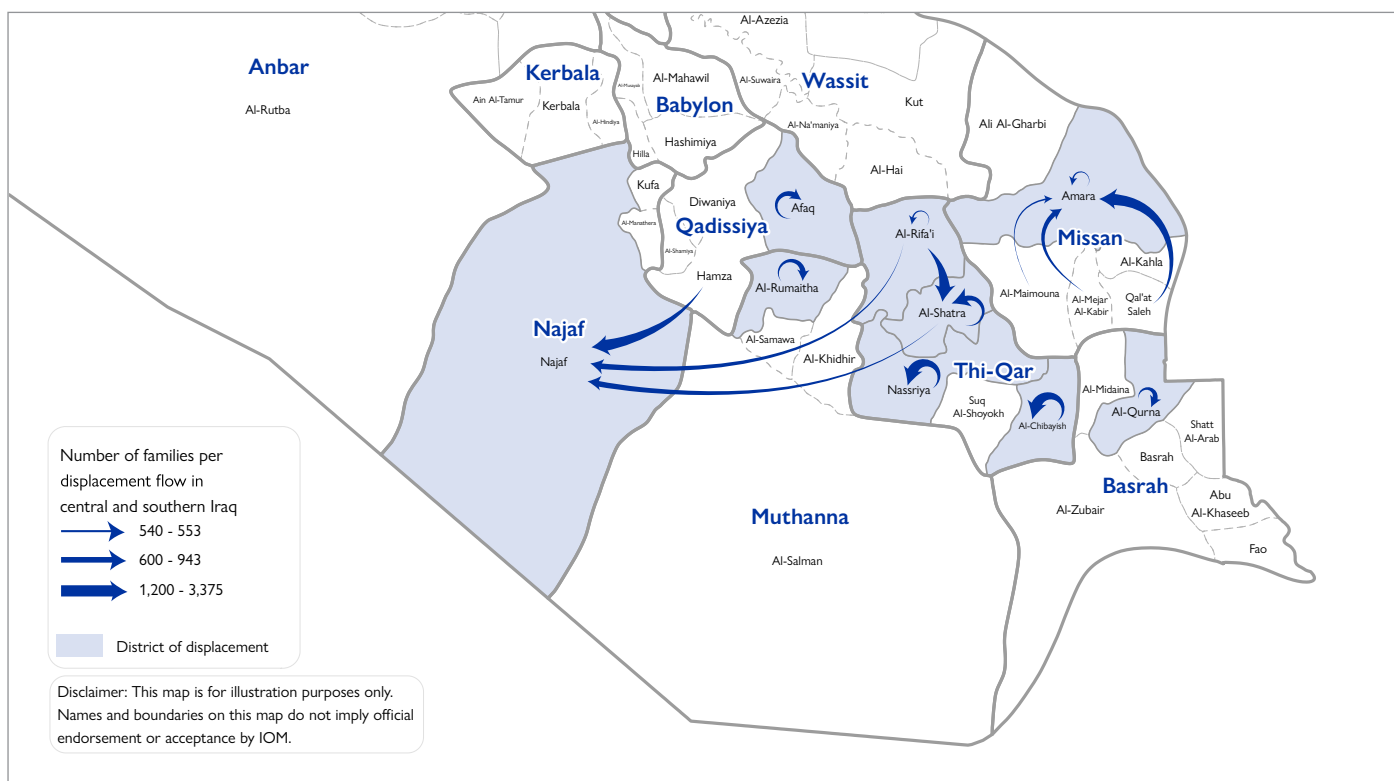


The number of families in climate-induced displacement expanded in this round as key informants referred RART teams to previously unassessed locations of displacement. This round, 56 new locations were added, particularly in Thi-Qar, while 24 locations were not assessed due to the departure of displaced families. 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 suggests such movements are permanent, rather than temporary.

As of September 2024, just under half of families displaced in two years: 2022 (22%) and 2023 (24%). Between 2016 and 2021, the shares displaced each year fluctuate, with peaks in 2016 and 2021. The number of families displaced in 2024 fell considerably compared to the previous year. This trend is consistent across governorates, with the exception of Qadissiya.

Two fifths of families displaced to **Thi-Qar**, while just under one fifth displaced to **Missan** and a tenth to **Najaf**. With respect to flows, 40 per cent of all displacements took place within Thi-Qar Governorate. This includes intra-district displacement within Al-Chibayish (3,375 families, 12% of flows) and Nassriya (3,450 families, 12% of flows), as well as movements between Al-Rifa'i and Al-Shatra (2,555 families, 9%). A further 18 per cent of flows occurred within Missan Governorate, notably between Qal'at Saleh and Amara District (1,548 families, 6% of flows). Regarding location type, just under two thirds of families displaced to urban locations (64%), with the remaining share relocating to rural or peri-urban locations. Many of those moving to rural areas go to Najaf, Nassriya and Al-Qurna districts, while key districts for urban displacement include Al-Shatra, Al-Chibayish and Amara.

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.