

CLIMATE-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT – CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN IRAQ

Data collection period: December 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.

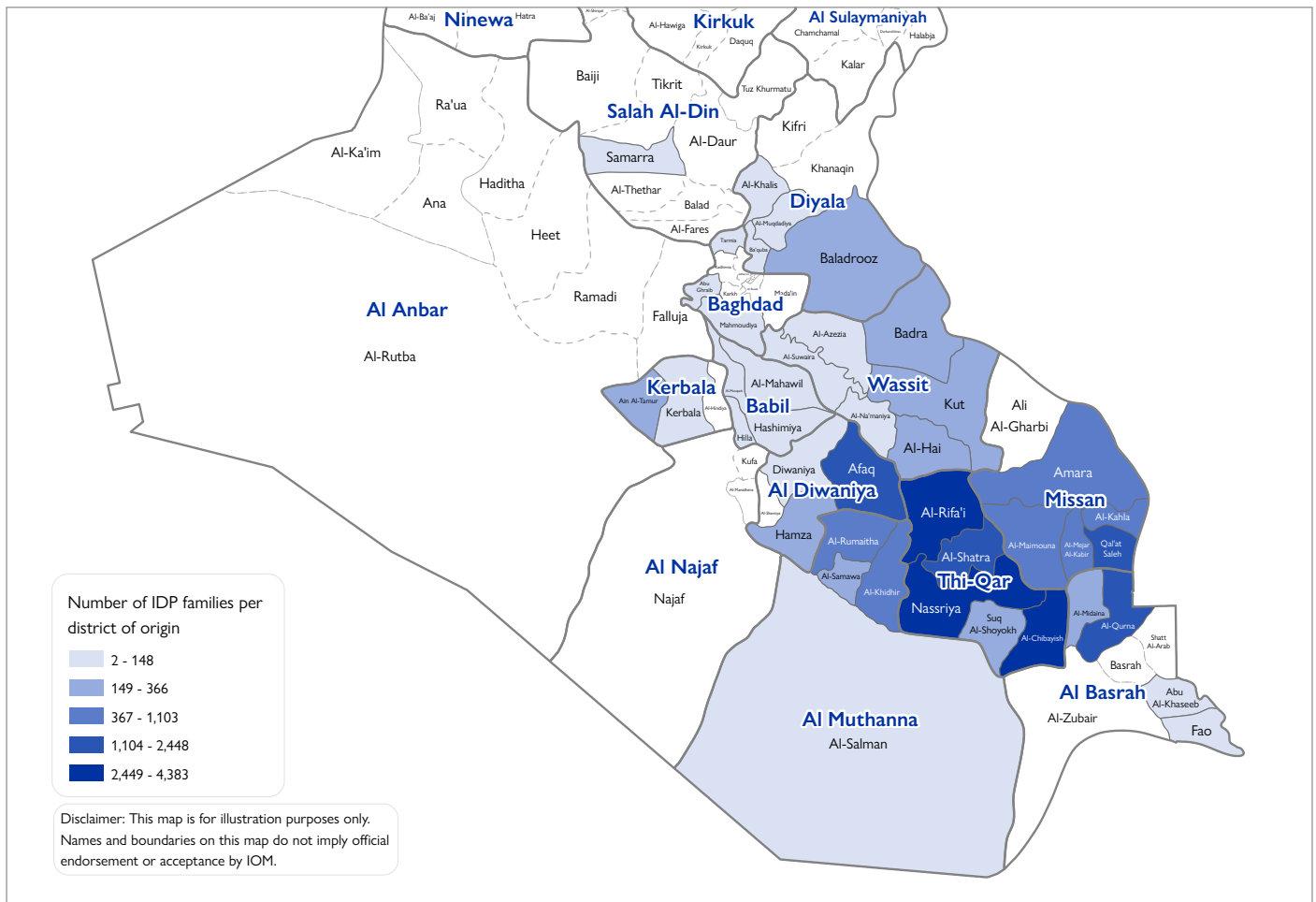
Data collection for this update took place in December 2024. Data are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), who are deployed across Iraq (18% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilizing a large, well-established network of over 636 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT



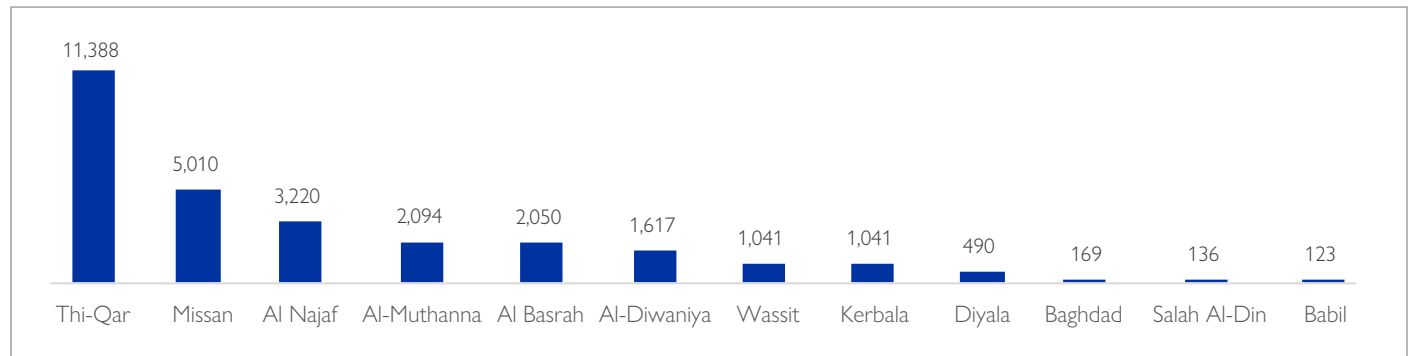
As of 31 December 2024, **28,379 families** (170,274 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across 12 governorates. The displaced families are dispersed across 473 locations. Of these, around half of families displaced within their district of origin (54%). Additionally, around three in five families displaced to urban locations. Half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (50%, 14,082 families), followed by **Missan** (19%, 5,300) and **Al-Diwaniya** (10%, 2,856). At the district level, **Al-Rifa'i** in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by climatic factors (4,383). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include **Al-Chibayish** (3,672 families) and **Nassriya** (3,571), both in Thi-Qar Governorate, as well as **Afaq** (2,448 families) in Al-Diwaniya 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

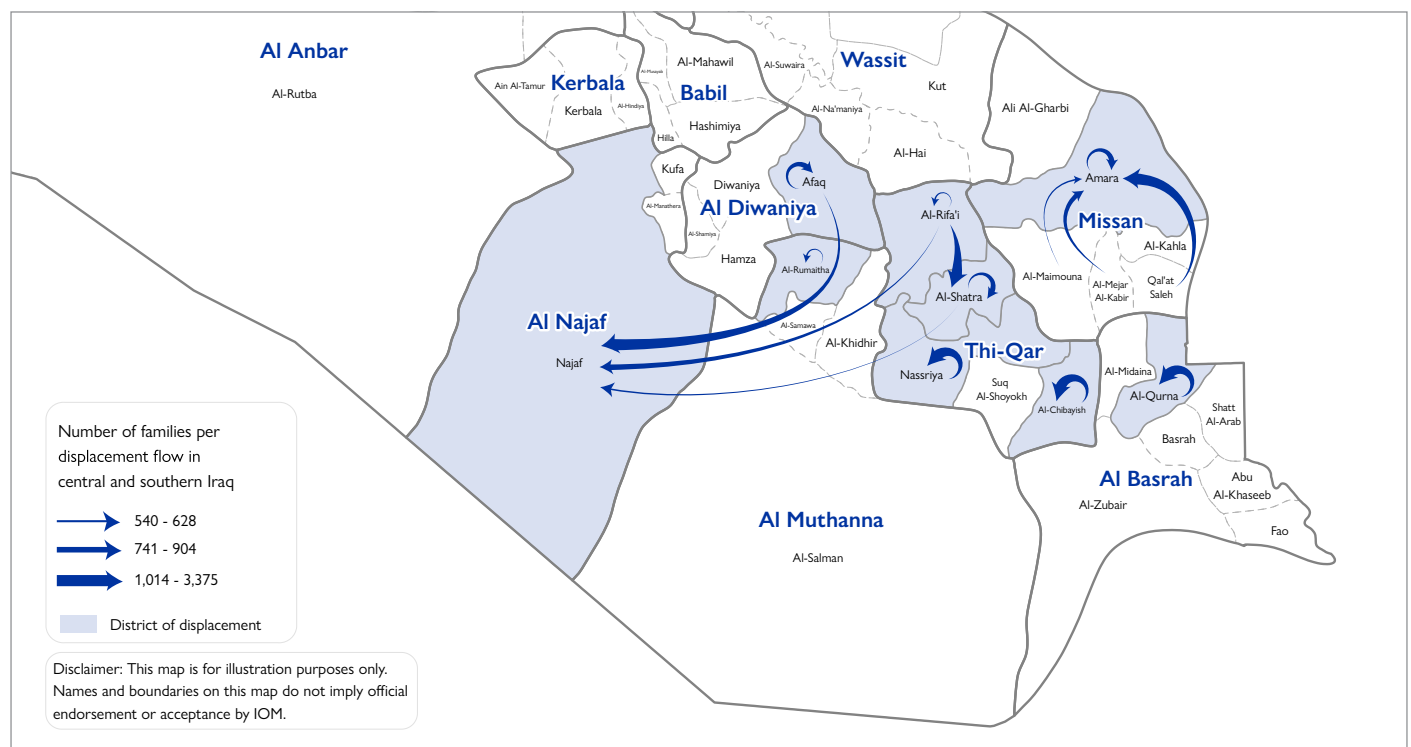


The number of locations assessed this round (473) is consistent with the previous reporting period.

As of December 2024, just under half of families displaced in two years: 2022 (22%) and 2023 (24%). Between 2016 and 2021, the shares displaced each year fluctuated, 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. However, displacement from Qadissiya Governorate increased in 2024, especially from Afaq, Diwaniya and Hamza districts.

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 (3,360 families, 12% of flows), as well as movements between Al-Rifa'i and Al-Shatra (2,555 families, 9%). A further 19 per cent of flows occurred within Missan Governorate, notably between Qal'at Saleh and Amara District (1,230 families, 4% of flows). Regarding location type, around three in five families displaced to urban locations (61%), with the remaining share moving to rural or peri-urban locations. Many of those moving to rural areas go to Najaf, Al-Chibayish and Nassriya districts, while key districts for urban displacement include Al-Shatra, Amara and Nassriya.

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.