

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 March 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 434 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

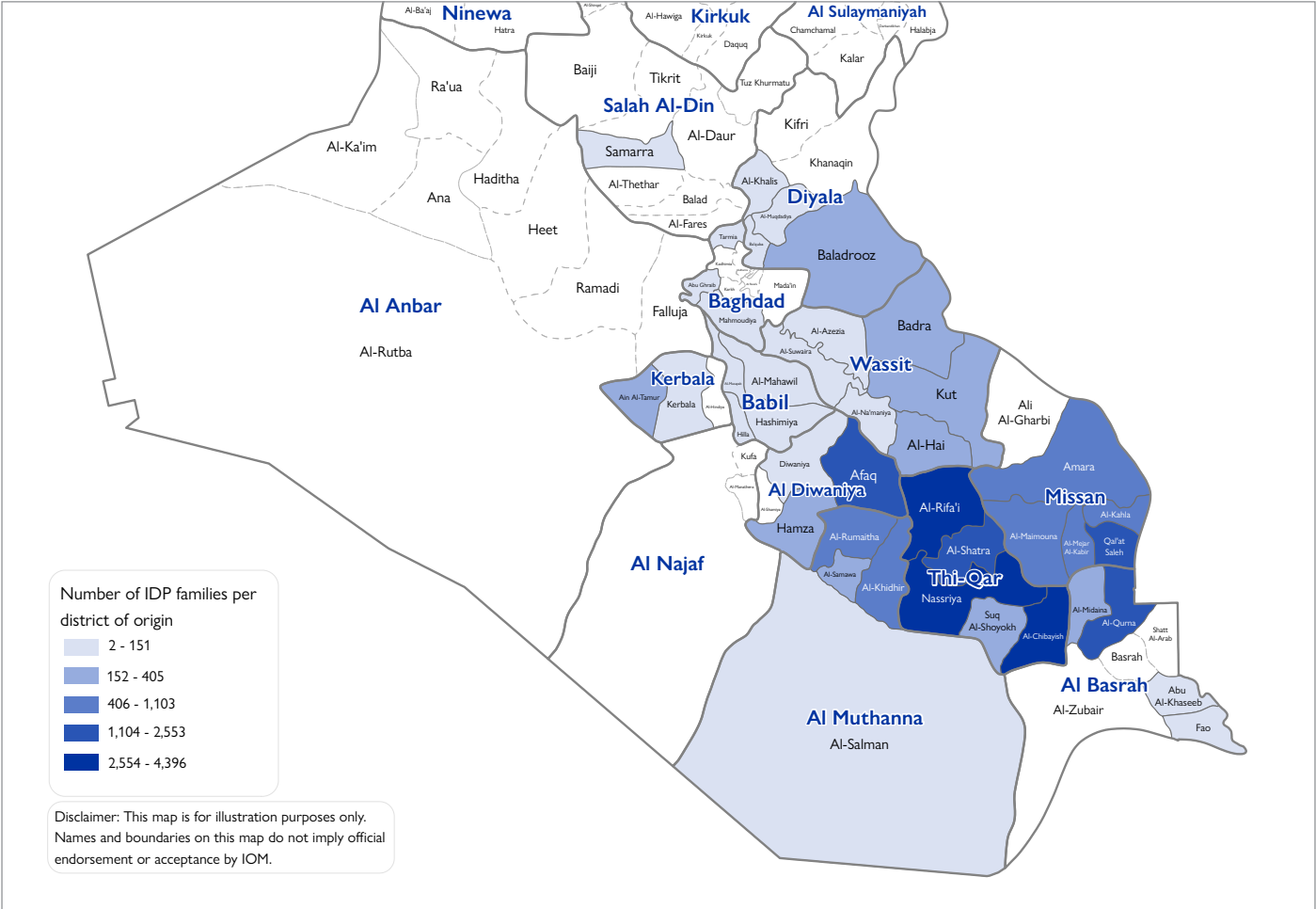
EXTENT OF DISPLACEMENT



As of March 2025, **28,701 families** (172,206 individuals) remain displaced because of climatic factors across 12 governorates. The displaced families are dispersed across 475 locations. Of these, around half of families displaced within their district of origin (54%). Additionally, three in five families displaced to urban locations.

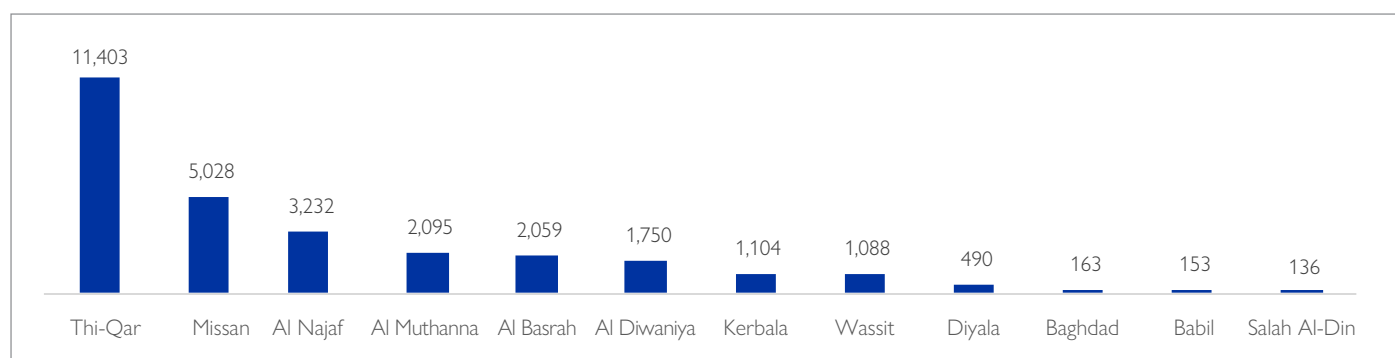
Half of families were displaced from **Thi-Qar** (49%, 14,136 families), followed by **Missan** (19%, 5,318) and **Al Diwaniya** (10%, 2,987). At the district level, Al-Rifa'i in Thi-Qar Governorate has the largest number of families displaced by climatic factors (4,396). Other districts with significant climate-induced displacement include **Al-Chibayish** (3,698 families) and **Nassriya** (3,586), both in **Thi-Qar** Governorate, as well as **Afaq** (2,553 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



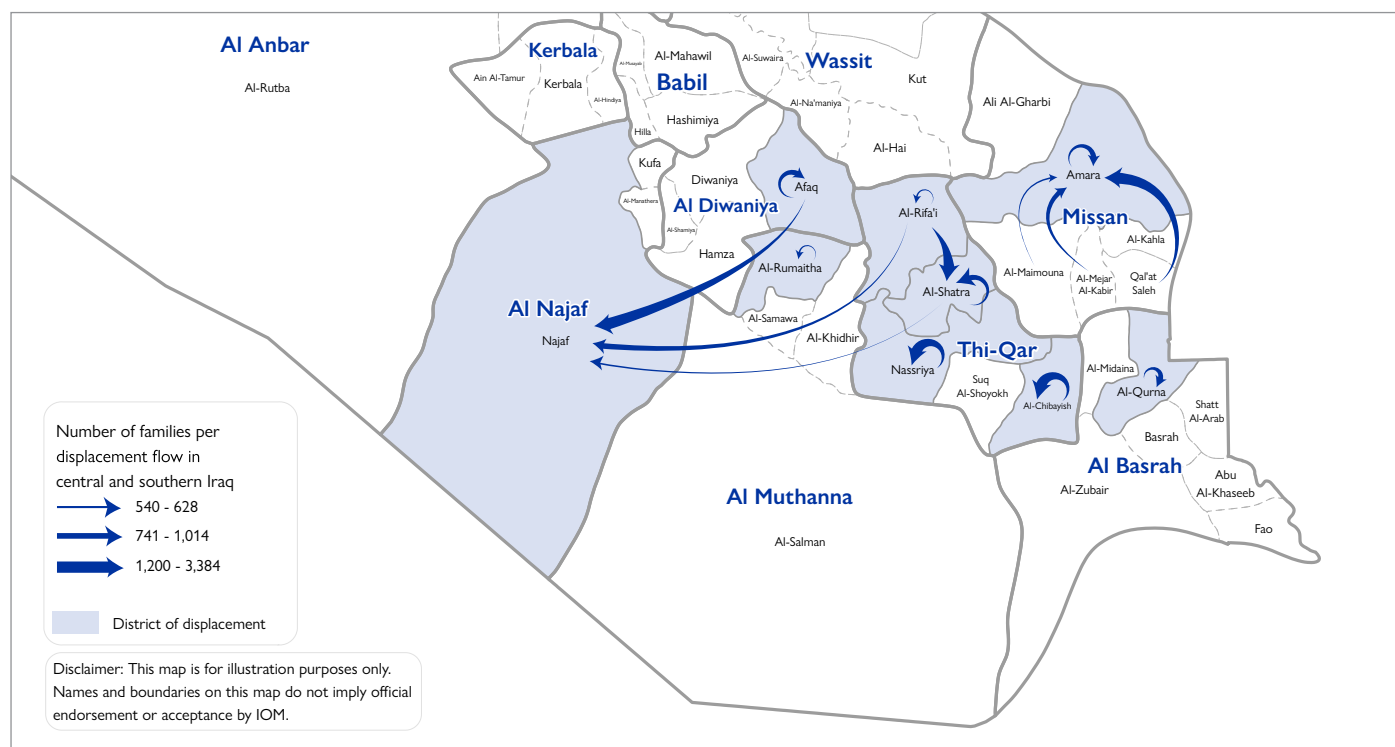
This round, three new locations were assessed in Al Diwaniya and Al Basrah governorates, while one location in Baghdad Governorate was not assessed due to the departure of displaced families. The inclusion of the new locations contributed to an increase in the number of displaced families recorded. The number of assessed locations and climate-induced 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 March 2025, just under half of families displaced in two years: 2022 (22%) and 2023 (23%). 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. Among those displaced in 2024, two thirds came from Al Diwaniya Governorate, especially Afaq District.

Two fifths of families displaced to **Thi-Qar**, while just under one fifth displaced to **Missan** and a tenth to **Al Najaf**. In terms of flows, 40 per cent of all displacements took place within Thi-Qar Governorate. This includes intra-district displacement within Nassriya (3,384 families, 12% of flows) and Al-Chibayish (3,375 families, 12% of flows), as well as movements between Al-Rifa'i and Al-Shatra (2,555 families, 9%). A further 17 per cent of flows occurred within Missan Governorate, notably between Qal'at Saleh and Amara districts (1,248 families, 4% of flows).

Regarding location type, three in five families displaced to urban locations (60%), with the remaining share relocating 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.