

CONTEXT

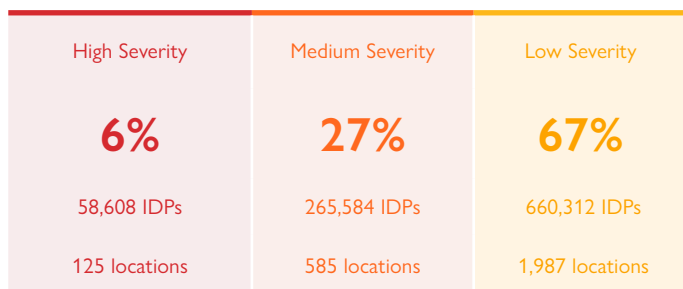
With the end of the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), protracted displacement has come to characterize the post-conflict environment in Iraq. Around 1.17 million people remain internally displaced, nearly all of whom fled their areas of origin more than five years ago.^{1,2} In light of the above, it is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq through improving the living conditions that will enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to voluntarily take steps towards return, local integration, or settlement in new locations. The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Three rounds of data spanning a one-year period from October 2021 to September 2022 are presented in this report. Data collection for DI Round 2 took place between October-December 2021, for Round 3 between January-March 2022 and for Round 4 between July-September 2022. The latest round of this assessment covered a total of 2,697 locations across 18 governorates and 103 districts of Iraq.

METHODOLOGY

The DI is based on 22 indicators across five domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security, and (5) social inclusiveness. Factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between these domains and their indicators and to capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. In line with the previous studies, (1) livelihoods and (2) housing are domains with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs. Domains with the second highest impact are (3) services and (4) security, followed by (5) social inclusiveness. The scores of each domain and overall index are grouped into three categories: low, medium, and high severity of living conditions. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the last page of this report.

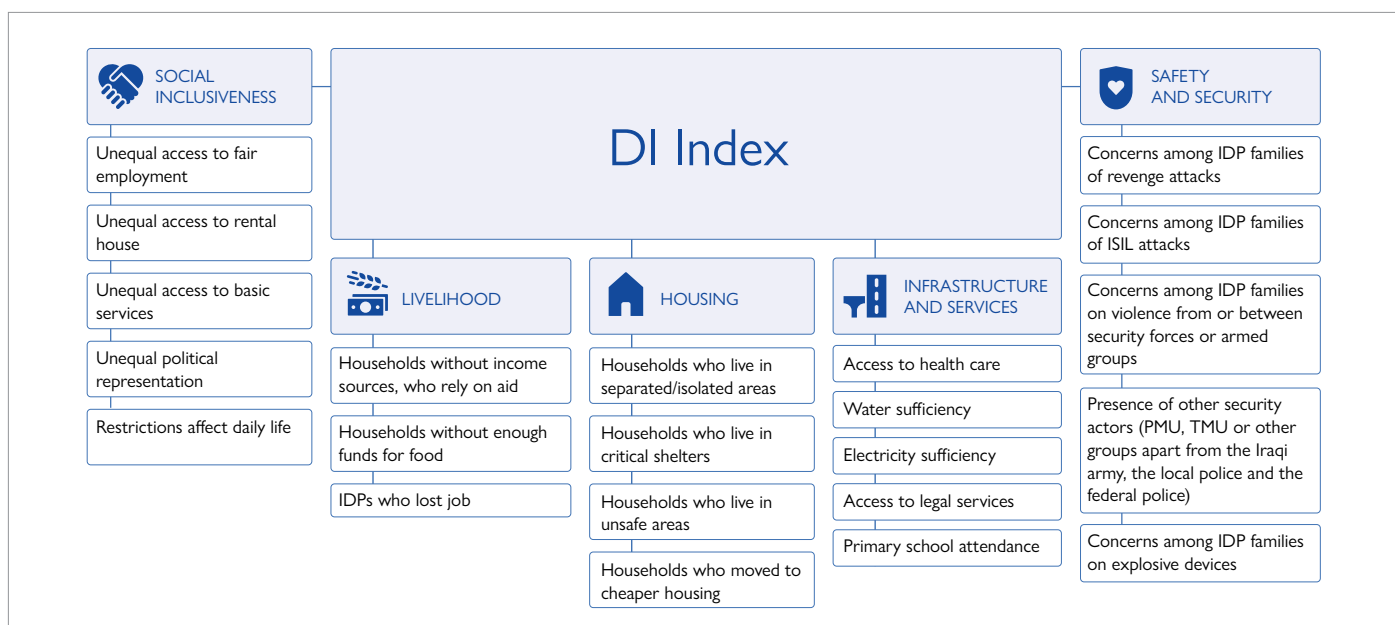
After Round 1 of the DI, collected between March-April 2021, changes to the methodology were implemented to improve the overall quality of the index. As a result, the findings for Round 1 are not comparable to the subsequent rounds and therefore are not included in this report.³

Figure 1. Proportion of IDPs by category of severity



Data collected July-September 2022

Figure 2. Displacement Index domains and indicators



1 IOM DTM Master List Round 127, available from: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/MasterList>

2 ILA VII found that 97% of IDPs are in protracted displacement (more than three years) and 92% have been displaced for more than five years. More information available from: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA7>

3 All data sets are available on the DTM website, available from: <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/DisplacementIndex#Datasets>

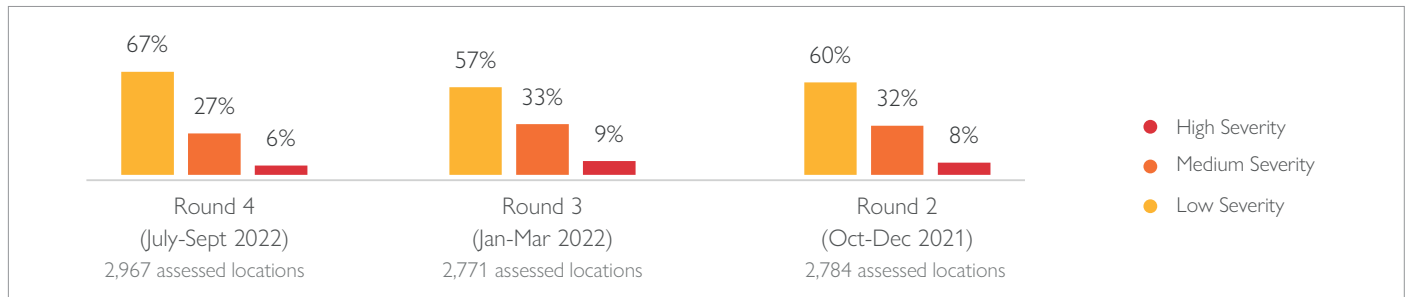
OVERALL SEVERITY

- Of the 2,697 locations assessed in Round 4, 125 present severe conditions. These locations host six per cent of the IDP population, or 58,608 individuals. A further 585 locations are classified as medium severity and host 27 per cent of the IDP population (265,584 individuals) and 1,987 locations show low severity conditions with 67 per cent of the IDP population (660,312 individuals).
- Over the one-year period from October 2021 to September 2022, the proportion of IDPs living in severe conditions slightly reduced with

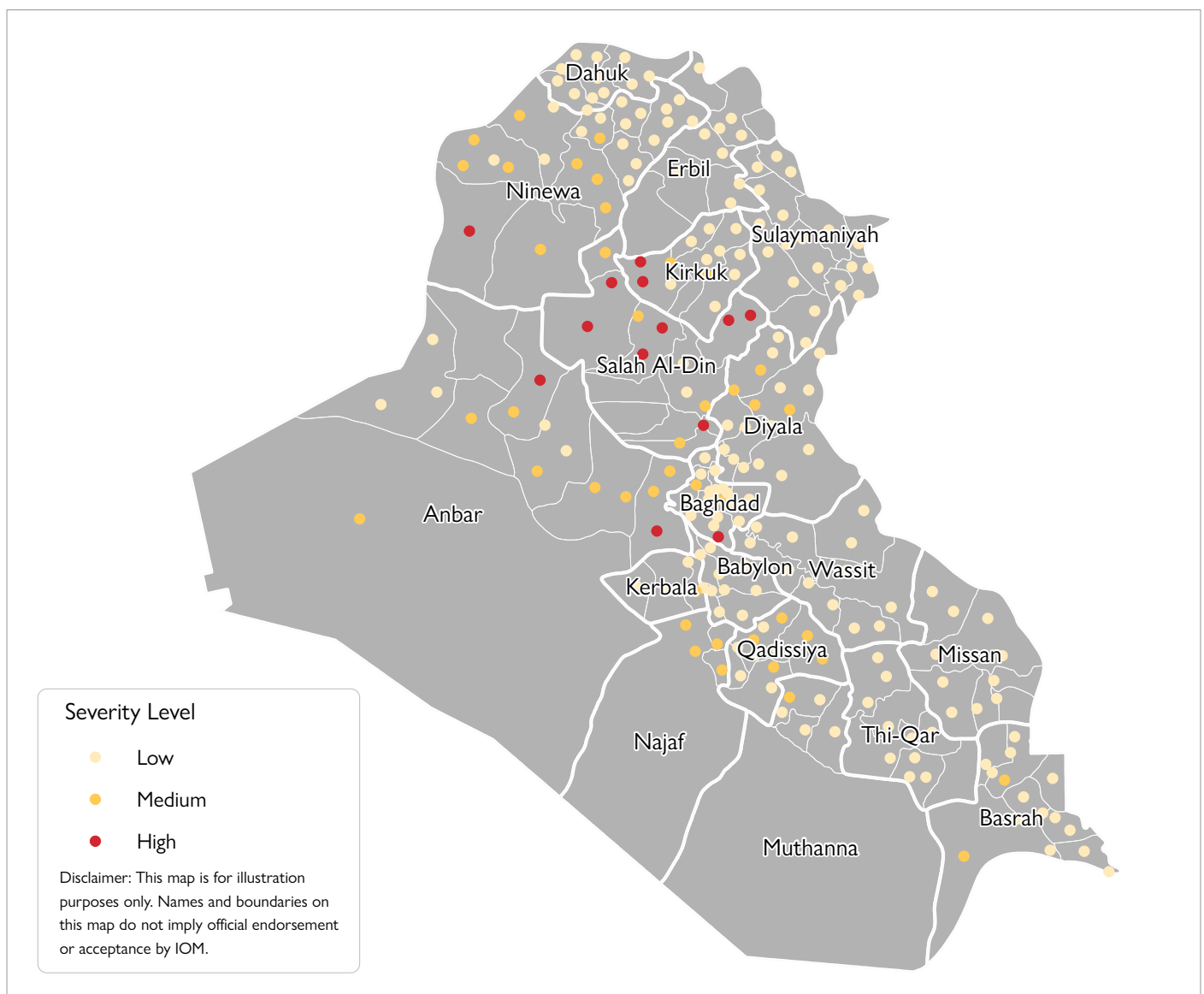
Round 2 finding eight per cent (76,368 individuals) in high severity conditions, Round 3 finding nine per cent (93,144 individuals) in high severity conditions and Round 4 finding six per cent in high severity conditions.

- Salah al-Din, Anbar and Ninewa are the governorates hosting the highest number of IDPs living in severe conditions, with 20,484 individuals, 16,962 and 10,512 respectively.

Figure 3: Proportion of IDPs by category of severity per rounds



Map 1: IDP locations by category of severity



Between October 2021 and September 2022, the largest decrease in the number of IDPs in severe condition was recorded in Salah al-Din (-9,402 individuals), followed by Kirkuk (-2,568) and Najaf (-2,118).

The decrease in Salah al-Din was mainly observed in Samarra, Tikrit, Tuz Khurmatu, and Balad districts due to improvements in the livelihood domain across all indicators: the proportion of households without income sources, who rely on aid, households without enough funds for food, and those who recently lost jobs.

The reduction in Kirkuk was recorded across all districts: Al-Hawiga, Dabes, and Kirkuk which was driven by the improvement in the social inclusiveness domain. Specifically, it was reported fewer cases of discrimination or unfair treatment due to IDP status when it comes to access to fair employment and rental houses.

In Najaf, the largest decrease occurred between Round 4 and Round 3 with locations in Najaf district moved from 'high' to 'medium' category of severity. This improvement is related to the housing domain with fewer IDP households having to move to cheaper accommodation due to financial situation. Despite this improvement, the

living conditions in most locations of the governorate are classified as medium severity and no locations have low severity. The main drivers of severity in the governorate are services and social inclusiveness with most locations having poor attendance in primary schools, insufficient water supply, and poor access to legal services together with frequent cases of discrimination or unfair treatment due to IDP status when it comes to political representation. This relates to IDPs not having someone to talk on their behalf and feeling they cannot access support from the authorities.

In addition, Babylon witnessed drastic changes between Round 4 and Round 3 with most locations moved from 'medium' to 'low' category of severity. The improvement was observed in the livelihoods, housing, and safety domains due to fewer IDPs losing their job, closing their business, or suffering significant reductions in earnings since Round 3, which reflected in fewer families moving to cheaper housing. Also, fewer concerns regarding revenge attacks were reported with the IDP population believing that local police can control the situation.

Table 1: Number of IDPs and locations per governorate by category of severity

	High		Medium		Low		TOTAL	
	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations
Anbar	16,962	26	12,036	41	5,790	52	34,788	119
Babylon			492	2	15,792	92	16,284	94
Baghdad	9,246	16	5,178	69	12,300	319	26,724	404
Basrah	114	3	414	21	4,716	162	5,244	186
Dahuk			21,726	3	116,712	154	138,438	157
Diyala	210	2	19,176	60	24,342	119	43,728	181
Erbil	84	1	30,630	16	188,298	144	219,012	161
Kerbala			5,004	15	5,646	75	10,650	90
Kirkuk	420	3	35,124	17	56,634	59	92,178	79
Missan					1,806	76	1,806	76
Muthanna	36	2	36	5	750	42	822	49
Najaf	540	1	7,404	58			7,944	59
Ninewa	10,512	19	65,586	83	121,482	174	197,580	276
Qadissiya			2,232	42	726	19	2,958	61
Salah al-Din	20,484	52	27,186	48	3,270	17	50,940	117
Sulaymaniyah			32,808	102	95,556	340	128,364	442
Thi-Qar			96	1	2,664	68	2,760	69
Wassit			456	2	3,828	75	4,284	77
Total	58,608	125	265,584	585	660,312	1,987	984,504	2,697

Figure 4: Proportion of IDPs per category of severity by governorate of displacement per rounds



HOTSPOTS

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of the overall severity and have at least 1,000 IDPs residing in the subdistrict. In Round 4, six hotspots were identified across four

governorates. The top three hotspots based on the highest number of IDP residents are **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu** and **Markaz Tikrit** in Salah al-Din, and **Al-Amiryah** in Anbar governorate.

Table 2: Hotspots of severity in Round 4

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	NO. OF LOCATIONS	NO. OF IDPS
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Amiryah	21	16,134
Baghdad	Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	9	6,384
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	9	7,404
Salah al-Din	Tikrit	Al-Alam	11	3,708
Salah al-Din	Tikrit	Markaz Tikrit	26	9,480
Salah al-Din	Tuz Khurmatu	Markaz Tuz Khurmatu	13	16,230

Markaz Tuz Khurmatu has 16,230 IDPs settled in the subdistrict. Of the 13 locations assessed, 6 score high and 7 score medium severity. The most critical domains are (1) Livelihood, where IDPs are experiencing problems covering rent and basic needs and (2) Infrastructure and Services, where provision of electricity is of particular concern.

Al-Amiryah has 16,134 IDPs settled in the subdistrict. Of the 21 locations assessed, 19 show severe conditions. The most critical domain is Livelihoods with 18 locations showing severe conditions due to many IDP households not having enough resources for food and other basic needs, and relying on aid/assistance. The second critical domain is Infrastructure and Services, with legal services being largely unavailable, as well as issues accessing healthcare, and in some areas poor provision of water and electricity. Thirdly, the Housing domain shows poor conditions due to a large number of IDPs living in critical shelters across the subdistrict, and many IDPs living in separated/isolated areas.

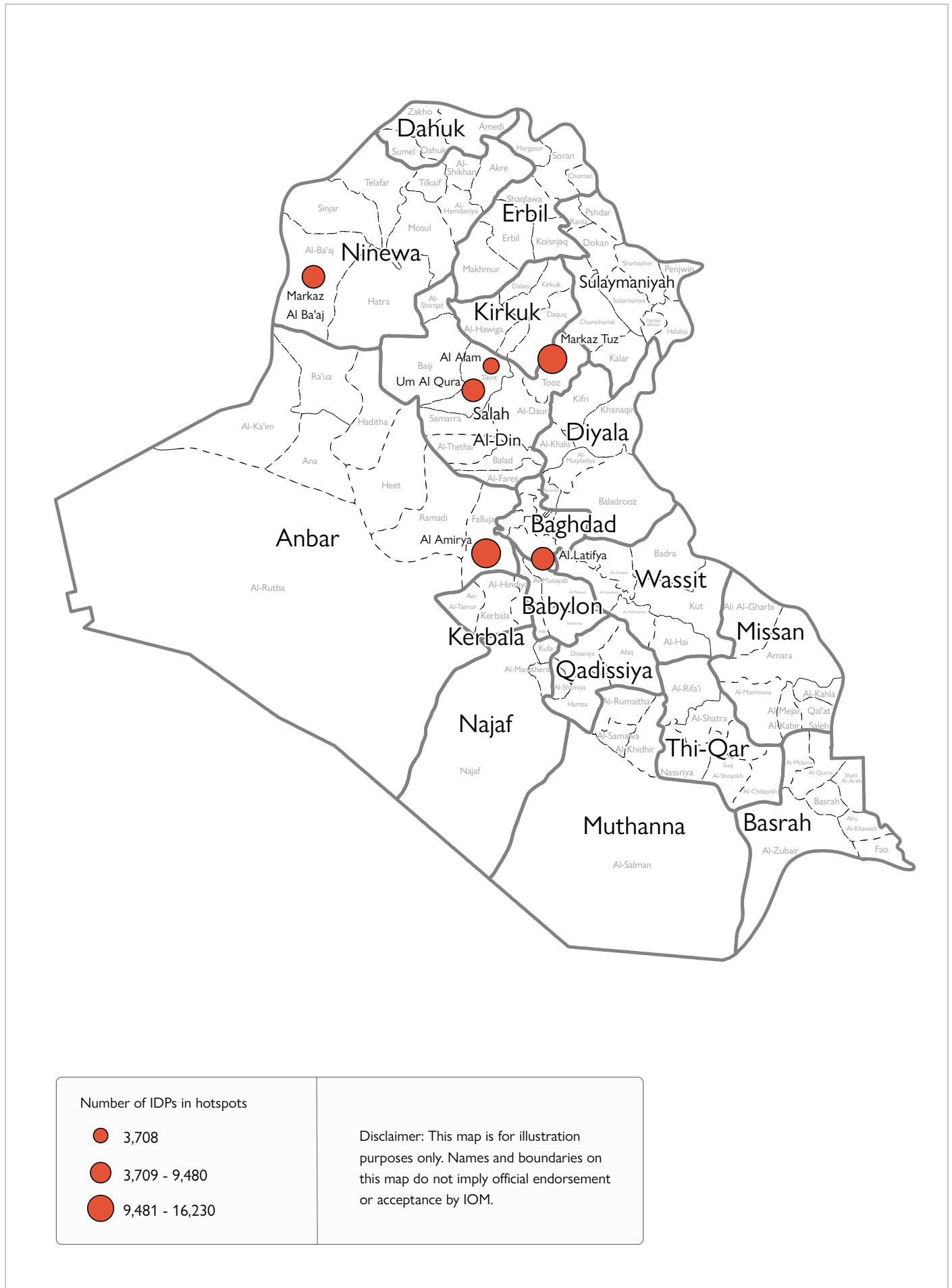
Markaz Tikrit has 9,480 IDPs settled in the subdistrict. Of the 26 locations assessed, 16 show high severity conditions and 10 show medium severity conditions. The Infrastructure and Services domain is the main driver of severe conditions in the subdistrict. Electricity and water provision is exceptionally poor, with all but one location showing severe conditions. Access to healthcare is also sporadic, with severe conditions in six locations. The presence of critical shelters is also of concern, with six locations showing high severity conditions.

Whilst the hotspots have remained largely consistent over reporting period, some variations have occurred. Markaz Balad and Al-Duloeyah in Salah al Din Governorate fell out of the list of hotspots over the three rounds. Markaz Balad saw the number of IDPs living in the location fall below 1,000 and therefore is no longer considered a hotspot despite still having high severity conditions, while Al-Duloeyah saw a slight improvement in the safety and security domain, bringing the overall severity to medium.

Table 3: Removed from the list of the hotspots

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	NO. OF LOCATIONS	NO. OF IDPS
Salah al-Din	Balad	Markaz Al-Balad	2	1,062
Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Duloeyah	7	2,718

Map 2: Hotspots of severity



METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Data collection for the DI takes place across 18 governorates, around 100 districts and 2,700 locations of displacement in Iraq. The unit of the analysis is the location, which can be a town, village or neighbourhood in a city. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 80 staff members deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through structured interviews with key informants (KIs) using a large, well-established network of over 2,000 KIs (5% are female) that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

The data of the DI is collected through KI interviews in each location with IDPs. This methodology has the advantage of allowing extensive coverage over a short period of time but relies on few individuals conveying the views of a large and mixed community, which might lead to limited representation for smaller groups with distinct characteristics, anomalies in the data due to misinterpretation of the question by the KI, or discrepancies caused by a biased perception of the situation, particularly with regard to the domain of social inclusiveness.

The DI is based on 22 indicators across five domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security, and (5) social inclusiveness. The indicators were selected

upon consultation with stakeholders, descriptive and exploratory statistical analysis using DTM datasets, including Integrated Location Assessments and Master Lists, and pilot rounds of data collection. Confirmatory factor analysis was used to examine the relationship between these observed indicators and their domains and to capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. In line with the previous studies, (1) livelihoods and (2) housing are domains with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs. Domains with the second highest impact are (3) services and (4) security, followed by (5) social inclusiveness.

Rounds 2, 3 and 4 of the Displacement Index analyzed in this report use the same methodology, and therefore the findings between these rounds are directly comparable. Following Round 1, changes to the model were implemented, including changes to the list of indicators in some domains, changes to the weighting of each indicator, intervals were applied at the domain level and the 'very high' category of severity was merged with 'high'. As a result, the comparison cannot be made between Round 1 and all subsequent rounds.

For more details on the overall approach, indicators, statistical model and score calculation, please refer to the "[Methodological Overview](#)" on the DTM website.

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