

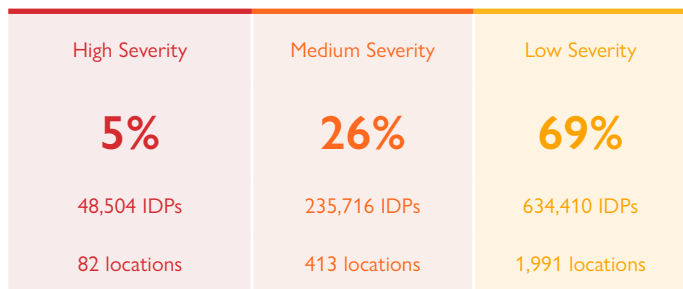
CONTEXT

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 1.03 million people remain internally displaced, nearly all of whom fled their areas of origin more than seven years ago. In light of the above, it is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq by 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. Data collection for DI Round 11 took place between September and December 2024 across 18 governorates, 101 districts and 2,486 locations of Iraq. As Round 11 is the last report of 2024, the analysis compares findings from the last trimester of 2024 to the same period in 2023 (corresponding to Round 8). This approach helps identify evolutions in displacement trends over the course of 2024.

METHODOLOGY

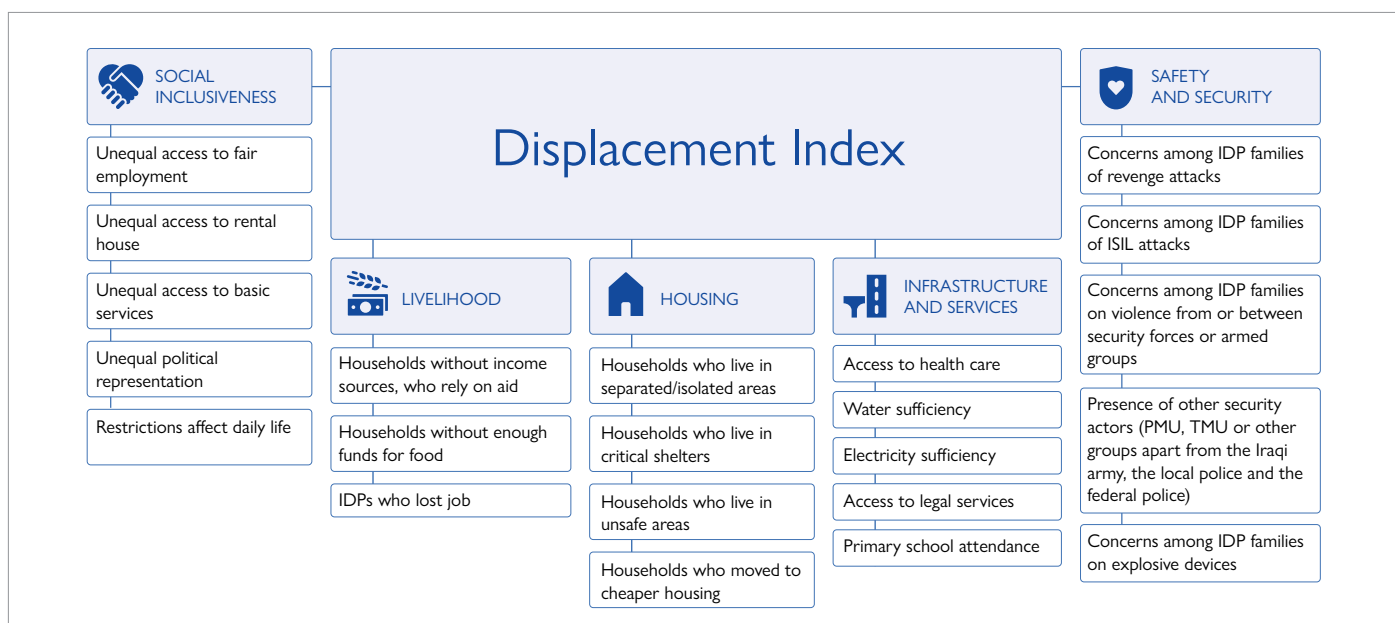
The DI is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of displacement. The DI is based on 20 indicators across 5 domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security and (5) social inclusiveness. Factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between the domains and their indicators and obtain scores that capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. 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.

Figure 1: Proportion and number of IDPs by category of severity as of December 2024



Data collected: September – December 2024

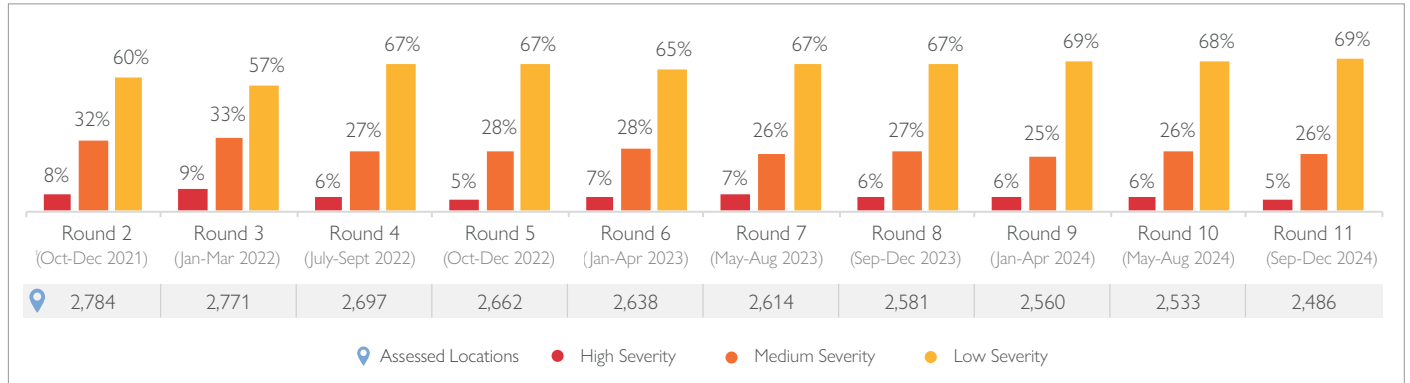
Figure 2: Displacement Index domains and indicators



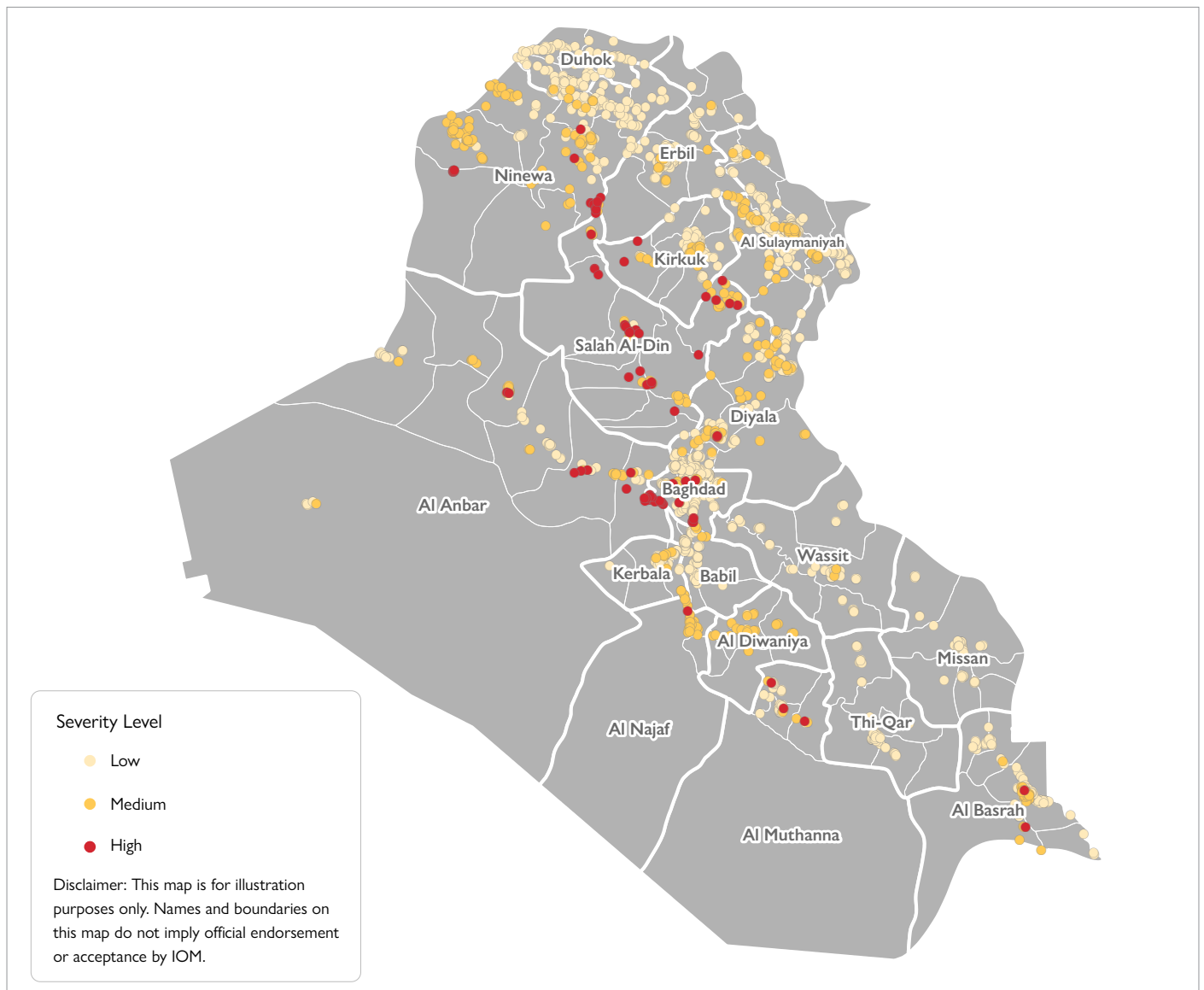
OVERALL SEVERITY

- Out of the 2,486 displacement locations assessed in Round 11, 82 present severe conditions. These locations host 5 per cent of the IDP population or 48,504 individuals. A further 413 locations are classified as medium severity and host roughly one quarter (26%) of the IDP population (235,716 individuals) and 1,991 locations show low severity conditions with around two thirds (69%) of the IDP population (634,410 individuals).
- A decrease of 7,746 IDPs living in severe conditions has been observed since September – December 2023 (Round 8), when 6 per cent of the IDP population (56,250 individuals) were living in severe conditions.
- **Al Anbar** and **Ninewa** are hosting the highest number of IDPs living in severe conditions with 15,162 and 11,388 individuals, respectively.

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



Map 1: IDP locations by category of severity

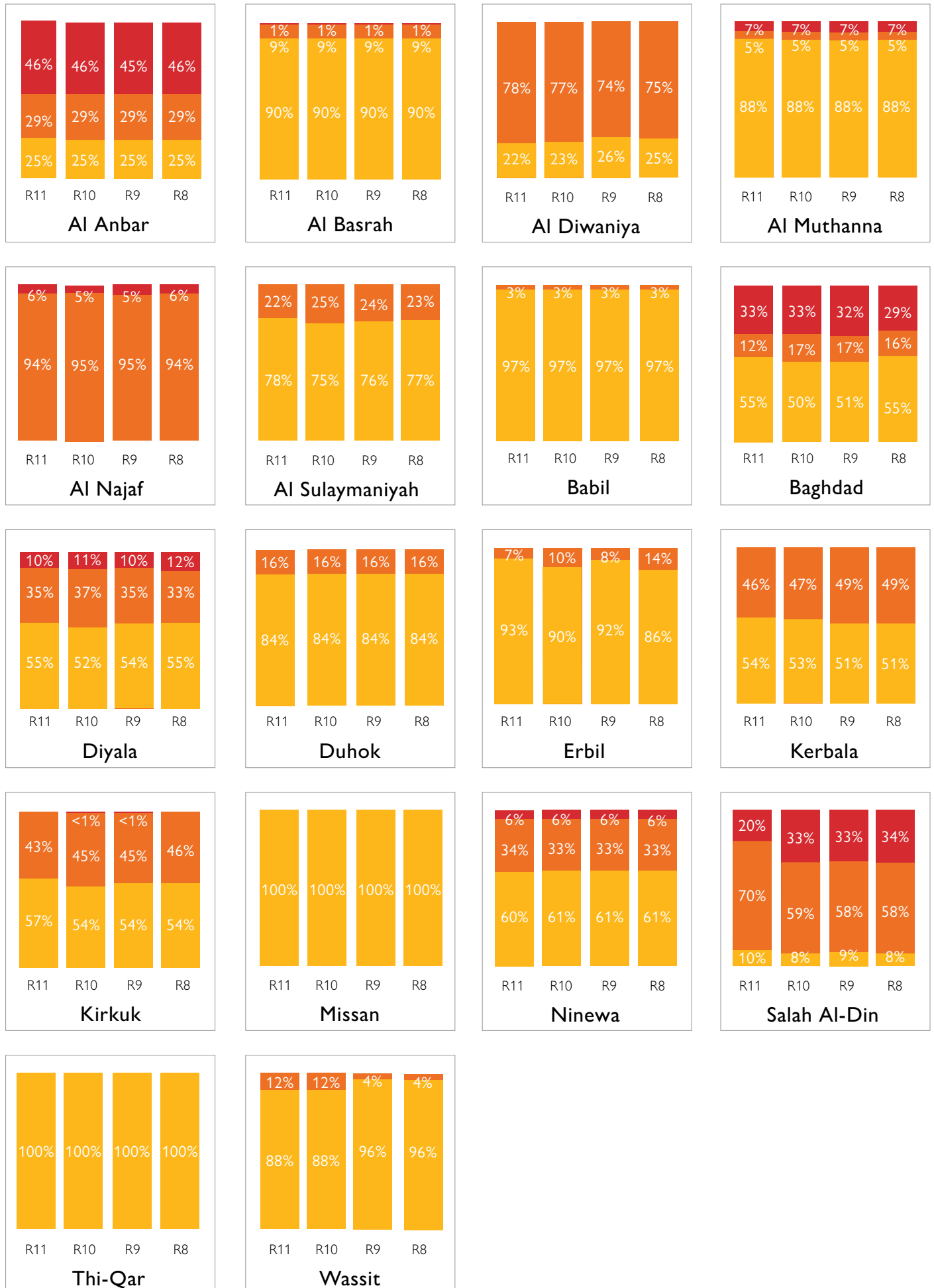


- Between Round 8 (September – December 2023) and Round 11 (September – December 2024), the largest increase in the number of IDPs in severe conditions was recorded in **Baghdad** (774 individuals). On the other hand, a noticeable decrease in the number of IDPs in severe conditions occurred in **Salah Al-Din** with 6,984 fewer IDPs. A similar drop in IDPs living in severe conditions was observed in **Diyala** (-1,050 IDPs), albeit to a lesser extent.
- The increase in the number of IDPs in severe conditions in **Baghdad** was notably observed in **Al-Yousifya subdistrict** in Mahmoudiya District, with an increase of 642 IDPs living in high severity conditions compared to the same period in 2023. This heightened severity was driven by job loss among IDPs and a growing share unable to meet their basic food needs.
- The decrease in IDPs living in severe conditions in **Salah Al-Din** is largely attributable to changes in **Markaz Tikrit subdistrict** (-4,206) in Tikrit District. Additionally, notable reductions can be seen in **Al-Alam subdistrict** (-1,092), also in Tikrit District, as well as **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu subdistrict** (-906) in Tuz Khurmatu District. In Markaz Tikrit, this change was primarily driven by an improvement in the livelihoods situation, namely a reduction in the share of IDPs who lost their jobs and improved ability to meet food needs. Similar factors contributed to the decrease observed in Al-Alam, including a declining share of IDPs who lost their job, who do not have enough money for food and who rely on aid. Additionally, IDPs in this subdistrict have greater access to legal services in Round 11 compared to Round 8. Lastly, in Markaz Tuz Khurmatu, slight improvements in the livelihoods situation, security conditions and provision of services resulted in a drop in the number of IDPs in severe conditions. Over the course of 2024, concerns over ISIL attacks diminished, while a reduction in job loss and reliance on aid reflected better economic conditions for IDPs. Finally, the supply of electricity increased during the reporting period.
- In Diyala, **Ba'quba Centre** subdistrict saw the largest decrease in the number of IDPs in severe conditions (-798 IDPs). This is mainly attributable to the return of IDPs from Ba'quba Centre to their locations of origin after receiving security clearance and rebuilding their houses.

Table 1: Number of IDPs and locations per governorate by category of severity as of December 2024

	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
Al Anbar	15,162	25	9,546	30	8,412	61	33,120	116
Al Basrah	24	2	396	24	3,822	145	4,242	171
Al Diwaniya			1,686	32	480	12	2,166	44
Al Muthanna	48	3	30	4	564	37	642	44
Al Najaf	366	1	6,012	26			6,378	27
Al Sulaymaniyah			24,954	60	87,756	356	112,710	416
Babil			492	2	15,420	75	15,912	77
Baghdad	8,508	8	3,186	19	14,004	374	25,698	401
Diyala	4,188	2	13,950	40	22,446	122	40,584	164
Duhok			20,082	2	106,926	156	127,008	158
Erbil			13,980	10	185,520	139	199,500	149
Kerbala			4,554	8	5,322	60	9,876	68
Kirkuk	342	2	39,912	15	52,662	63	92,916	80
Missan					1,230	60	1,230	60
Ninewa	11,388	18	66,990	88	120,198	179	198,576	285
Salah Al-Din	8,478	21	29,442	51	4,158	18	42,078	90
Thi-Qar					1,890	64	1,890	64
Wassit			504	2	3,600	70	4,104	72
Total	48,504	82	235,716	413	634,410	1,991	918,630	2,486

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



HOTSPOTS

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of overall severity and have at least 1,000 IDPs residing in the subdistrict. Starting from Round 5, the list also includes subdistricts with medium overall severity and a high score at least on one of the five domains.

Since Round 8 (September – December 2023), ten hotspots were identified across five governorates. The top three hotspots based on the highest number of IDP residents are Markaz Sinjar in Ninewa, Markaz Samarra in Salah Al-Din and Al-Amirya in Al Anbar. Both Al-Alam and Markaz Tikrit subdistricts were removed from the list of hotspots this round due to the improvements in living conditions described earlier.

Table 2: Hotspots of severity as of December 2024

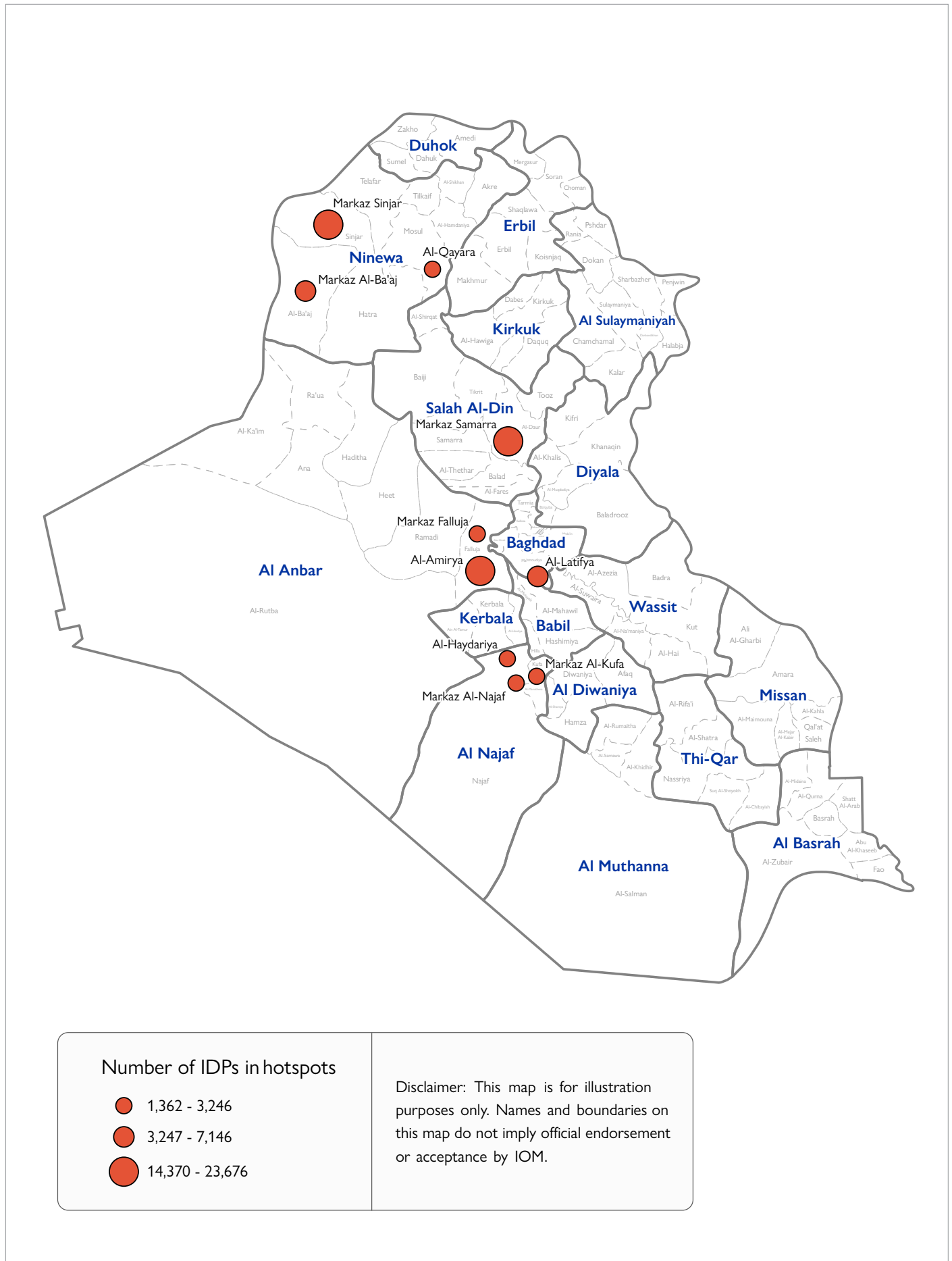
GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	LOCATIONS	INDIVIDUALS
Al Anbar	Falluja	Al-Amirya	20	14,370
		Markaz Falluja	5	1,704
Al Najaf	Kufa	Markaz Al-Kufa	8	1,362
	Najaf	Al-Haydariya	6	2,016
		Markaz Al-Najaf	12	2,274
Baghdad	Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	10	6,906
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	9	7,146
	Mosul	Al-Qayara	13	3,246
	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	20	23,676
Salah Al-Din	Samarra	Markaz Samarra	24	15,186

Markaz Sinjar has 23,676 IDPs residing across 20 locations in the subdistrict. The most critical domain is safety, driven by concerns over ISIL attacks, violence between armed groups and revenge attacks, along with a higher number of security actors in these locations. Beyond this, some challenges related to access to electricity and water for drinking and domestic use were reported.

Markaz Samarra has 15,186 IDPs residing in 24 locations in the subdistrict. The high severity scores in this subdistrict reflect a challenging livelihoods situation, with IDPs losing their jobs, relying on aid and lacking money for food. Beyond livelihoods, some IDPs reside in critical shelters, while others face movement restrictions which affect their daily life.

Al-Amirya has 14,370 IDPs residing in 20 locations in the subdistrict. Severe living conditions in this subdistrict are primarily attributable to livelihoods, services and, to a lesser extent, housing. In the livelihoods domain, some IDPs struggle to afford food and rely on aid. Moreover, they face challenges obtaining water for drinking and domestic use, electricity, health care and legal services. Lastly, high shares of IDPs reside in critical shelters, with some living in unsafe or separated areas.

Map 2: Hotspots of severity as of December 2024



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, 101 districts and 2,486 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 are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 58 staff members deployed across Iraq (18% 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 (2% are female) that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

The data of the DI are 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 20 indicators across 5 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.

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.

Starting in Round 5 (October–December 2022), adjustment of weighting to each domain and indicator on subdistrict level is implemented to take into account both the severity and number of IDPs residing in the area. In addition, the list of hotspots also includes subdistricts with medium overall severity and a high score at least on one of the five domains.

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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