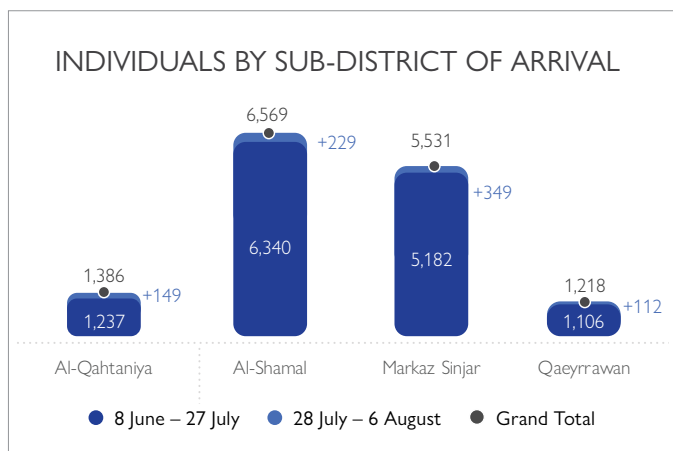
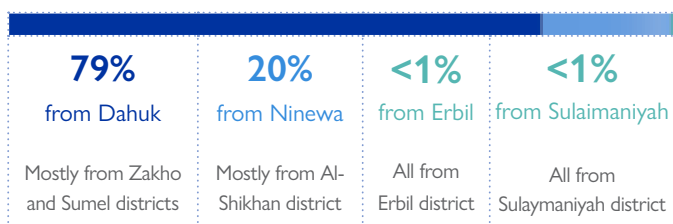
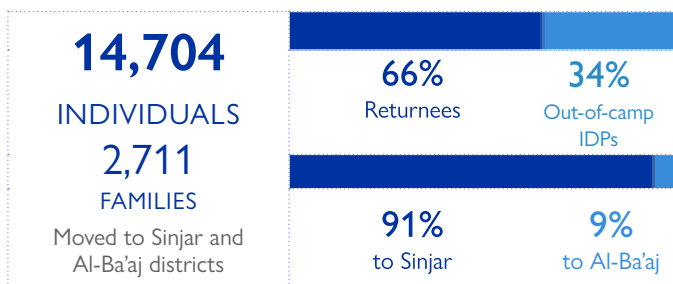


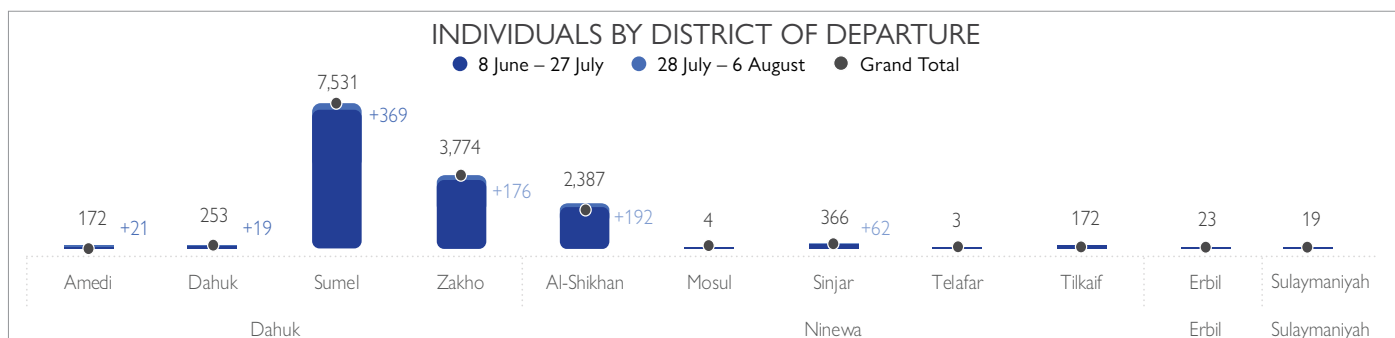
# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:  
8 JUNE - 6 AUGUST 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 6 August 2020 (inclusively)



Between 28 July and 6 August, a total of 585 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk governorate (70%) – which is slightly under the overall rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (80%). As with all previous rounds, between 28 July and 6 August, almost all individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from Sumel (44% of all individuals) and Zakho (21% of all individuals) districts. The remaining individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from Amedi and Dahuk districts (respectively 3% and 2% of all individuals that arrived between 28 July and 6 August).



Between 28 July and 6 August 2020, DTM tracked 839 individuals (160 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate. This brings the total number of individuals who have taken this route to 14,704 (2,711 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

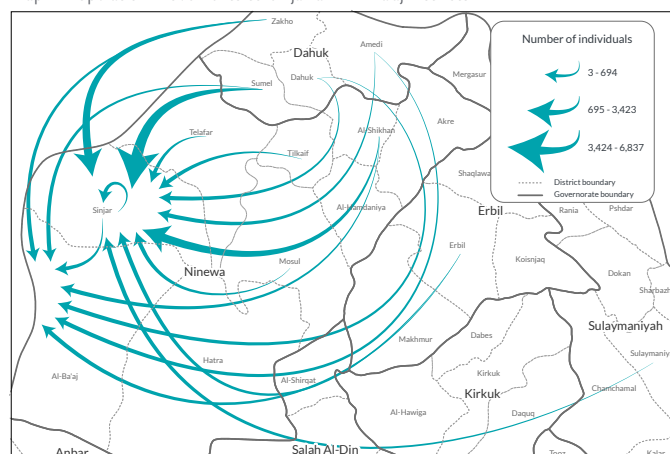
Of those individuals who returned between 28 July and 6 August, a total of 690 were recorded in Sinjar (82%) and 149 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (18%). This figure is broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

During the period between 28 July and 6 August, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 69 to Sinjar and 17 to Al-Ba'aj. This is significantly lower than the overall daily average number of individual arrivals since 8 June to Sinjar (222 individuals) and Al-Ba'aj (23).

The most common sub-district of arrival was Markaz Sinjar with 349 individuals (42%), followed by Al-Shamal with 229 individuals (27%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 82% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals identified between 28 July and 6 August, 584 were recorded as returnees (70%), while the remaining 255 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (30%). This is consistent with the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (66%) and out-of-camp IDPs (34%) since 8 June.

Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



Additionally, between 28 July and 6 August, a further 254 individuals were recorded as having come from within Ninewa (30%), from two districts: Al-Shikhan (192 individuals, 23% of all individuals) and Sinjar (62 individuals, 7% of all individuals). This is slightly higher than the rates of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa since data collection commenced on 8 June (20%). Unlike previous rounds of data collection, no individuals were recorded as coming from the governorates of Erbil and Ninewa in this round.

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from the districts of Sumel (51%), Zakho (26%), and Al-Shikhan (16%).

To provide an element of comparison and better understand the scale of these returns, note that for the reporting period of May–June 2019, DTM recorded 1,416 individuals returning to Sinjar (1,224 as returnees and 192 as IDPs) and 96 to Al-Ba'aj (66 as returnees and 30 as IDPs).

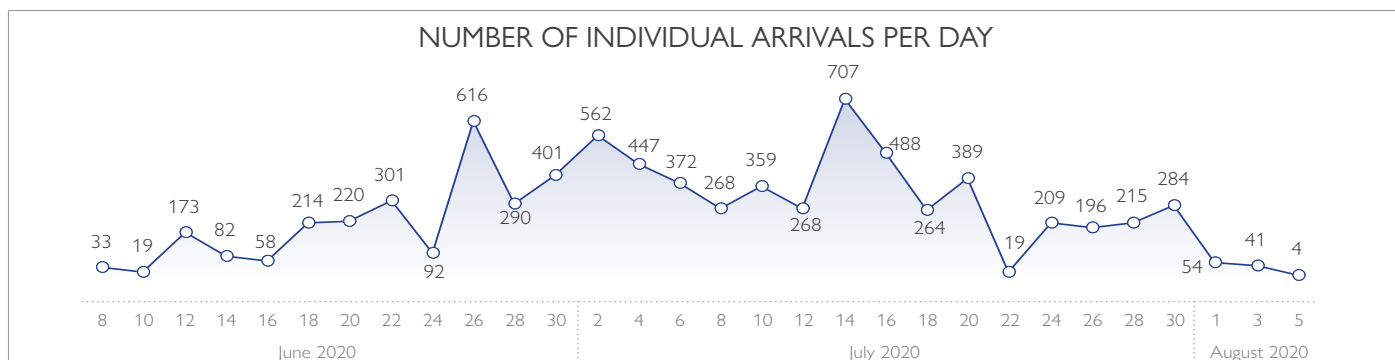
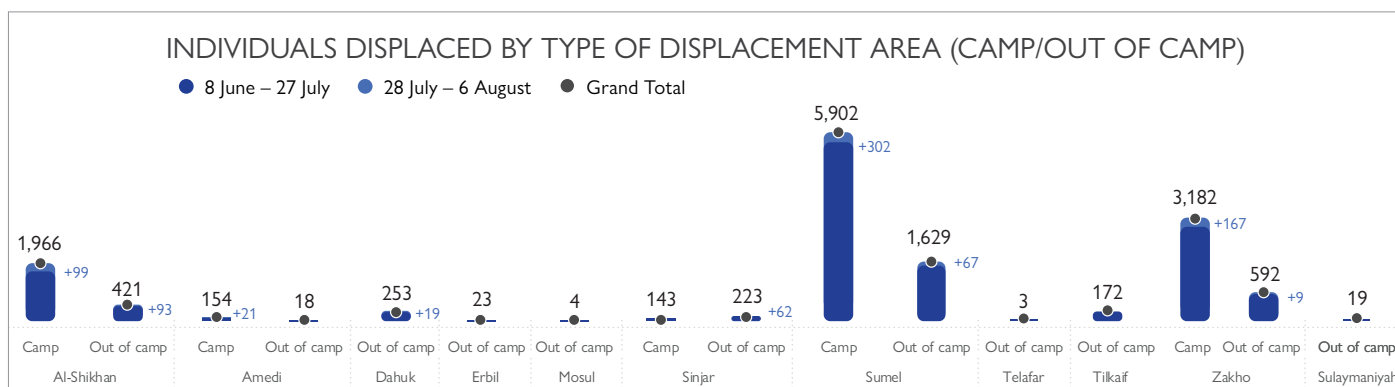
Between 28 July and 6 August, of the 690 individuals who arrived to Sinjar, 477 individuals came from Dahuk Governorate (69%), while 213 came from within Ninewa Governorate (31%). Additionally, of the 149 individuals who arrived to Al-Ba'aj, 108 came from Dahuk (72%) and 41 from Ninewa (28%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 589 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (70%), while the remaining

250 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (30%). This is generally consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 11,347 individuals have arrived from camp settings (77%) compared with 3,357 who have arrived from out-of-camp settings (23%).

Between 28 July and 6 August, increases were reported in the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. The total number of individuals in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 5,902 (up from 5,600), while Zakho's is 3,182 (up from 3,015), and Al-Shikhan's is 1,966 (up from 1,867).

Additionally, the total number of individuals in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel now sits at 1,629 (up from 1,562), while Zakho's is 592 (up marginally from 583), and Al-Shikhan's is 421 (up from 328).



## ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

### Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs going home to Sinjar include the improved security situation, the clearing of mines/improvised explosive devices, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure. Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home.
- One of the push factors has been COVID-19, in that some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an area of displacement could no longer move easily due to the movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

### Assistance and registration

- Reportedly that the Directorate of national security in Sinjar has established a feedback/ complaint/response mechanism in the form

of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to checkpoint related difficulties, as well as reports of irregular occupation of buildings by newly returned individuals.

### Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large-scale destruction in Sinjar.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as health care, markets, water, and electricity. Some of these locations had not witnessed any returns before.