

CONTEXT

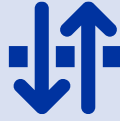
Due to an increasing number of evictions announced for families in informal settlements, the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched a tracking tool in September 2023 to understand the number of affected people and their main characteristics.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT RISK OF EVICTION



TOTAL OF FAMILIES

12,471

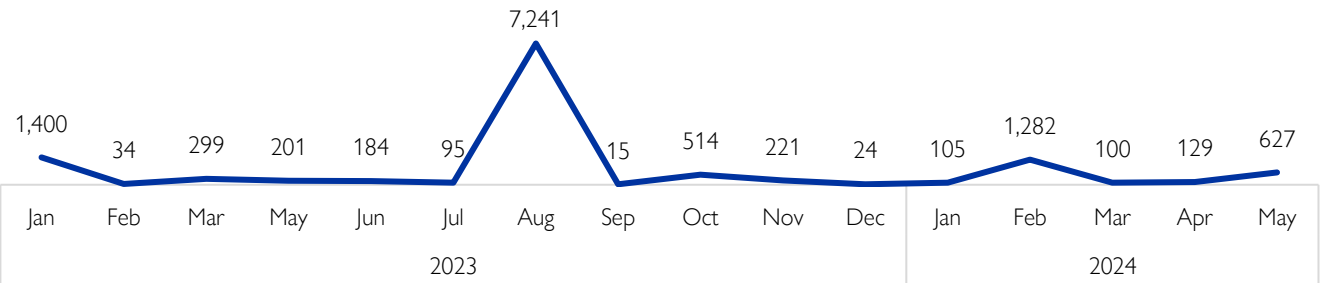


IDPs
RETURNEES
STAYEES

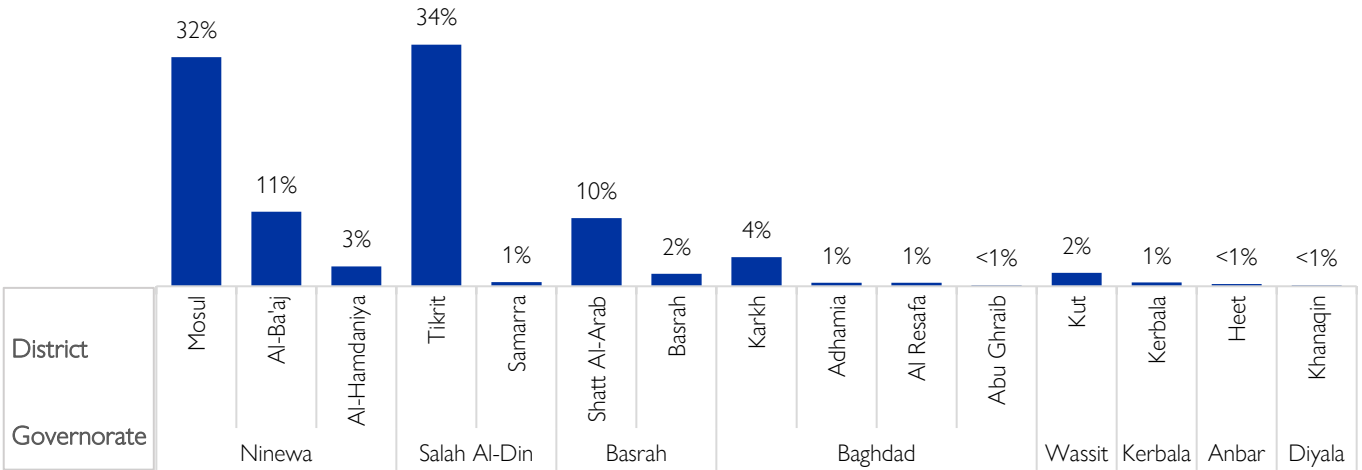
7%
15%
77%

As of May 2024, DTM recorded 12,471 families whose eviction has been announced by local authorities. During this round of data collection, DTM identified an additional 2,243 families at risk of eviction since the round collected in January 2024. Out of all families at risk of eviction, seven per cent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), 15 per cent had returned to the place where they used to reside before the 2014-2017 crisis forced them to flee (returnees) and 77 per cent of people who did not flee their homes due to the 2014-2017 crisis (stayees).

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT RISK BY MONTH OF EVICTION ANNOUNCEMENT



GOVERNORATES AND DISTRICTS OF FAMILIES AT RISK OF EVICTION



Around half of families (46%) at risk of eviction are in Ninewa Governorate, specifically Mosul and Al-Ba'aj districts. A further 35 per cent are in Salah Al-Din Governorate, mainly Tikrit District. A small portion are in Basrah, Baghdad, Wassit, Kerbala, Anbar and Diyala governorates.

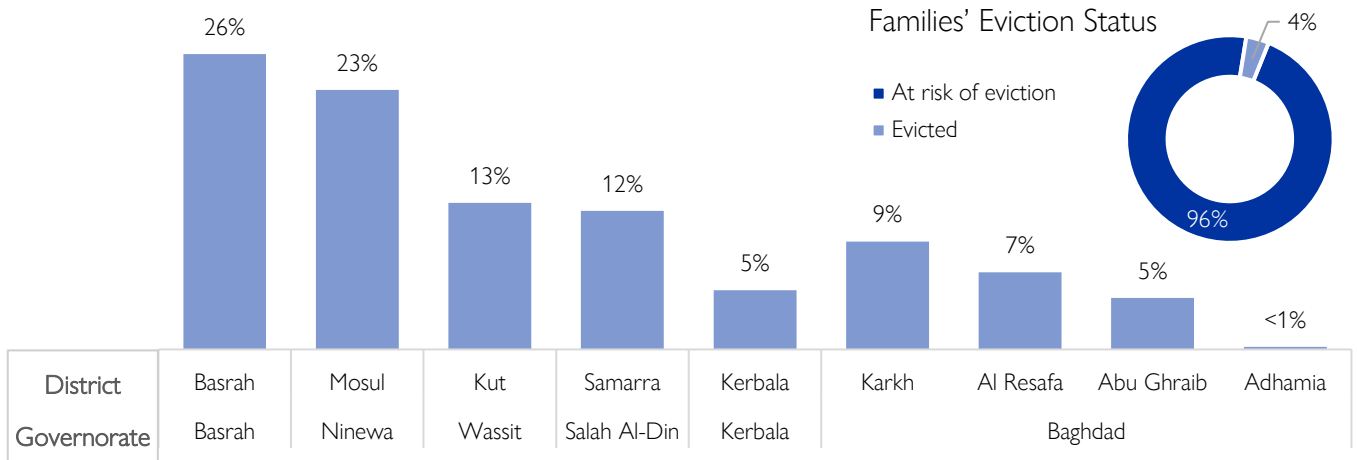
REASONS FOR EVICTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The majority of these lands are owned by government entities, such as district municipalities and ministries (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior). In some cases, the Directorates of Municipalities of these areas want to recover these pieces of land to build a facility like a school or a road. In other cases, the basis for eviction comes from the irregular nature of the informal settlements.

In February 2024, Municipality of Shatt Al-Arab District in Basrah Governorate announced the eviction of 3 locations affecting 1,200 families living in informal settlements in these land that belongs to the Municipality of Basrah and sunni endowment to establish The Shalamchek-Basra Railway project.

The site with the largest number of affected families is Al-Furasn in Tikrit District, Salah Al-Din Governorate (4,000 families affected, 32% of total). The settlement was established on land owned by the Agriculture and Finance Ministry after the 2014-2017 conflict. In August, the Government issued notices to vacate the settlement as the land is designated for agriculture, rather than residence, and due to conflicts over ownership lodged by other citizens; however, the eviction has not yet commenced. This resulted in the large increase in affected families observed in August.

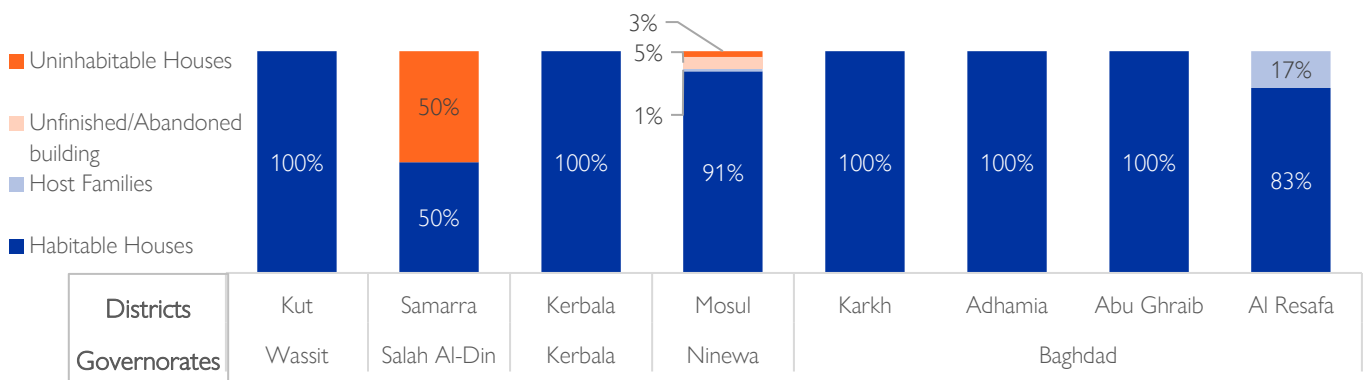
GOVERNORATES AND DISTRICTS OF EVICTED FAMILIES



Only 4 per cent of affected families have been evicted (443 families) with an additional 208 families evicted since the previous round. Twenty-six per cent were evicted from Basrah District in Basrah Governorate, while 23 per cent were evicted from Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate. In Baghdad Governorate 21 per cent of total affected families were evicted mostly from Karkh and Al Resafa districts (16%). Additionally, fewer families were evicted from Kut District in Wassit Governorate (13%), Samarra District in Salah al-Din Governorate (12%) and Kerbala District in Kerbala Governorate (5%).

The rest of the affected families (96%) are still at risk of eviction and were notified through various methods. In two sites, the police took the families' IDs and made them sign a written document to vacate. In other areas like Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate families were notified officially with a document from the area's District Commission. Elsewhere, some families were notified verbally or without a deadline to vacate; in the latter case, the government indicated it would find replacement locations for these families.

SHELTER TYPE BY GOVERNORATE AND DISTRICT OF ARRIVAL



The DTM team tracked the arrival of 401 families out of the 443 evicted. Most evicted families relocated within the same subdistrict and only changed their location.

In Hay Al-Muthana, Samarra District in Salah Al-Din Governorate, 36 families (50% of the total arrivals in Salah Al-Din Governorate) had to leave their informal settlements and move to different houses within the same subdistrict; for all 36 families, they reportedly do not own the house, or it is not suitable to live in. The other 50 per cent of the families have arrived to houses that they also didn't own; however, these houses were reported as habitable. Similarly, all the families who moved to Kerbala and Wassit Governorates were reported to be in habitable shelters.

In Baghdad Governorate, all arriving families in Karkh, Adhamia, and Abu Ghraib Districts are living in habitable shelters. Additionally, 83 per cent of families arriving in Al Rusafa District are in habitable shelters, while the remaining 17 per cent are being hosted by other family members.

In Mosul District, Ninewa Governorate, 91 per cent moved to habitable houses. For the remaining families (9%), they are located in unfinished or abandoned buildings, houses they did not own or in shelters with unsuitable living conditions.

METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched a tracking tool in September 2023 to understand the number of people in the movement and their main characteristics. Data are collected by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs) and Durable Solution Team through key informants who include local police and the Municipality Directorate.