

Note: In each location the number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households by six, the average size of an Iraqi household as per governmental statistics, for all out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. Since the July-August 2020 period (Round 117), the number of individuals for in-camp IDPs has been calculated by multiplying the number of households by five, which is the average household size consistent with data from the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster since 2018. In all rounds prior to July-August 2020, the number of in-camp IDPs was calculated by multiplying the number of households by six. Since the calculation methodology is consistent between Rounds 117 to 119, comparative analysis between these three datasets will not be affected. However, it should be noted that comparing the number of in-camp IDPs between Rounds 117, 118 or 119 with any previous rounds will be affected by the change in the revised calculation methodology

## HIGHLIGHTS

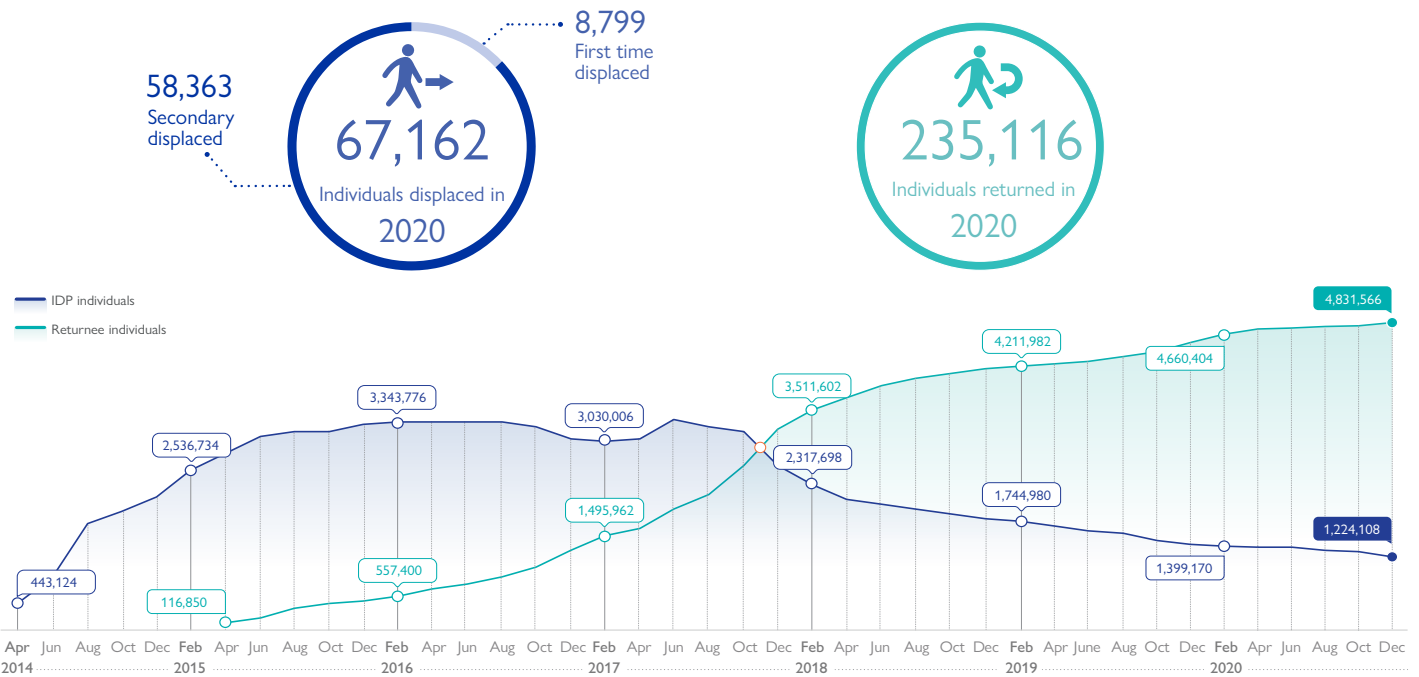


Figure 1. Number of IDPs and returnees over time

Data collection for Round 119 took place in November and December 2020. As of 31 December 2020, DTM identified 4,831,566 returnees (805,261 households), dispersed across eight governorates, 38 districts, and 2,121 locations in Iraq. A higher number of new returnees were recorded in Round 119 (49,152) compared with the number recorded in Round 118 (38,364). The most common governorates that individuals returned to between November and December 2020 include Ninewa (where 31,932 individuals were recorded), Anbar (5,574), and Salah al-Din (4,530). During the same period, DTM also identified 1,224,108 IDPs (210,863 households), dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,937 locations in Iraq (two fewer locations than the last round). This represents an overall decrease of 54,756 IDPs since the previous round. Regarding IDPs' area of origin, consistent with the previous round, 58 per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate, especially from Mosul (258,405 individuals), Sinjar (209,675), and Al-Ba'aj (101,645). The next highest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates, which feature 12 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

As this is the final report for 2020, some of the changes and trends in IDP and returnee figures recorded throughout the year are presented.<sup>1</sup> Between December 2019 and December 2020, DTM recorded a decrease of 190,524 IDPs (-13%) compared with the previous 12 months. However, despite this overall decrease, a total of 67,162 IDPs re-displaced or became displaced for the first time during 2020. The majority were re-displaced, either between locations of displacement (53,997) or after failing to return (4,366), and 8,799 were displaced for the first time. Additionally, in 2020, DTM identified a total of 235,116 additional returnees across the country. This is significantly lower than the increases reported in 2019 (431,130) and 2018 (944,958). Governorates with the highest numbers of overall returnees include Ninewa (1,889,154 with 122,820 new returnees in 2020), Anbar (1,504,632 with 50,928 new returnees) and Salah al-Din (708,744 with 33,552 new returnees).

### IDPs

- 1,224,108 Individuals
- 210,863 Households
- 18 Governorates
- 105 Districts
- 2,937 Locations

### Returnees

- 4,831,566 Individuals
- 805,261 Households
- 8 Governorates
- 38 Districts
- 2,121 Locations

<sup>1</sup> The Master List reports are produced on a bi-monthly basis. In the annual summaries included within this report, comparative analysis between the years of 2020 and 2019 refers to up-to-date data as at 31 December in both years

# DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

## DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW FOR ROUND 119

During November and December 2020, DTM identified 1,224,108 IDPs (210,863 households) dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,937 locations in Iraq. This represents a decrease of 54,756 IDP individuals from the number counted in the September–October 2020 period, with the most significant decrease taking place in Ninewa (-25,177; -8%), Dahuk (-11,141; -4%), and Kirkuk (-5,852; -6%).

Despite the overall decrease in the numbers of IDPs since the last round, 25,236 individuals arrived in assessed locations of displacement during November and December 2020. Most of the new arrivals (22,927 individuals) came from other locations of displacement, while 1,853 were displaced for the first time, and 456 were re-displaced after failing to return to their area of origin. Additionally, amongst this group, a total of 10,338 IDPs arrived from camp settings, with the majority recorded in Ninewa (5,004), Kirkuk (2,982), and Diyala (1,236).<sup>2</sup>

**IDPs’ areas of origin:** Fifty-eight per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate (705,370), especially from Mosul (258,405), Sinjar (209,675), and Al-Ba’aj (101,645). The second and third largest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din and Anbar Governorates, which host respectively 12 per cent and 11 per cent of all IDPs. The top districts of origin in Anbar Governorate are Ramadi (64,574), Falluja (46,824), and Al-Ka’im (9,248), while in Salah Al-Din Governorate they are Tuz Khumatu (39,294), Balad (29,807), and Baiji (28,138).

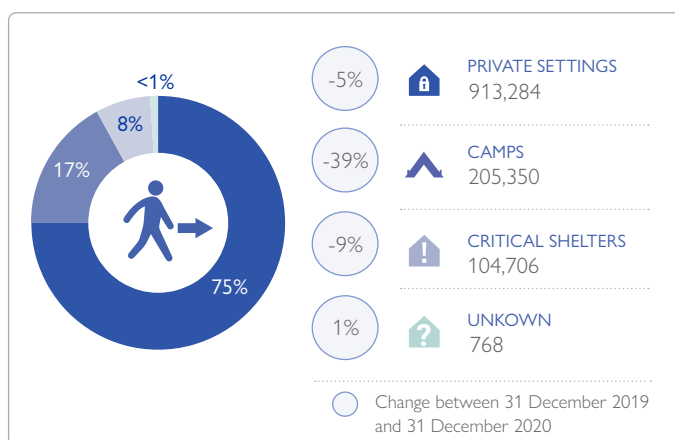
**Shelter types:** Across the country, 74 per cent of IDP individuals are living in private settings (913,284 individuals), 17 per cent are in camps (205,350), nine per cent (104,706) are in critical shelters, and less than one per cent (768) are living in unknown shelter types. A decrease in the number of IDPs (-47,400) residing in camps was recorded in this round compared with the last round (September–October 2020) – which is a higher decrease compared with the last round (-10,605). At the district

## DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW FOR 2020

Throughout 2020, DTM recorded 190,524 fewer IDPs than the number recorded the year of 2019, amounting to a 13 per cent decrease. This is a significantly lower decrease in the number of IDPs than what was recorded between the years of 2019 and 2018 (388,200). The largest decreases were recorded in Ninewa (-61,732; -18% of the total Ninewa IDP population), followed by Dahuk (-56,929; -18%), Salah al-Din (-17,562; -22%) and Baghdad (-14,405; -35%). Despite the overall decrease in the number of IDPs between January and December 2020, a total of 67,162 individuals arrived in new locations of displacement. Among this group, 53,997 individuals were re-displaced from another location of displacement, with most arriving to Ninewa’s district of Sinjar, Sulaymaniyah’s district of Sulaymaniyah, and Kirkuk’s district of Kirkuk. A further 4,366 individuals were re-displaced after attempting to return to their location of origin, with many of this group originating from Ninewa’s districts of Telafar and Mosul, as well as Anbar’s districts of Ramadi and Al-Ka’im. The remaining 8,799 individuals were displaced from their area of origin for the first time, with most of this group originating from Baghdad, Ninewa, Anbar and Diyala, with no particular districts within these governorates outweighing others as locations of origin. The main reasons for each of these new

level, the greatest decrease in the number of IDPs living in camp settings was recorded in Ninewa Governorate’s Mosul District (-23,850); this decrease is significantly higher than that recorded in the September–October 2020 period (-1,460). Additionally, no IDPs in camps are currently residing in Kirkuk’s Governorate’s Daquq District, with all 8,330 recorded in that governorate in the previous round having moved elsewhere following the closure and re-classification of camps in the November–December 2020 period. In addition, there are no IDPs in camps in Salah al-Din’s Tikrit District, after all 860 relocated to other locations following the closure of camps there in the November–December 2020 period. Otherwise, a significant decrease in the number of IDPs residing in camps was recorded in Diyala Governorate’s Khanaqin District (-3,280) in the November–December 2020 period.

Figure 2. IDP shelter types



displacements include the worsening security situation as well as poor opportunities for employment and access to services.

**Shelter types for 2020:** Throughout 2020, DTM recorded a decrease of 9 per cent of IDPs (10,914 IDPs) living in critical shelters. This decrease was noted across all governorates of displacement except Anbar, Najaf, Kirkuk Babylon, Diyala, Thi-Qar and Baghdad. Notably, significant increases in the number of IDPs living in critical shelters were recorded in Anbar (4,326, bringing the total to 20,448) as well as Najaf 762, bringing the total to 1,086) and Kirkuk (516 bringing the total to 9,114). These increases in Anbar and Baghdad can be partly attributed to one camp in each governorate being re-classified as informal settlements during the year. As of 31 December 2020, a total of 205,350 IDPs are living in camps across the country, representing a decrease of 131,340 (-39%) since 31 December 2019. The largest decreases took place in Ninewa (-57,142; -48%) and Dahuk (-38,743; -26%). In addition, there are no longer any IDPs in camps in Kirkuk, Salah al-Din, Kerbala or Najaf, with a total of 14,502 IDPs recorded as having moved elsewhere following the closure or re-classification of camps in these governorates in 2020, especially between October and December.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In 2020, DTM Iraq implemented multiple rounds of Emergency Tracking assessments, producing information on two separate movements of IDPs. The first relates to movements of IDPs from Dahuk, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil to Ninewa’s Sinjar and Al-Ba’aj districts (between June and December), with products available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IldpMovements#Sinjar>. The second relates to movements of IDPs from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Kerbala and Baghdad (between September and December), with products available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IldpMovements#Camp>

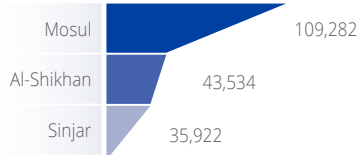
<sup>3</sup> Between September and December 2020, DTM implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise which tracked the movements of IDPs from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps. Products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/IldpMovements#Camp>

# DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of IDPs in all governorates of displacement, (2) the number of IDPs in each main district as well as (3) the proportion of IDPs per governorate of origin for each governorate of displacement.

## Ninewa 273,056 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

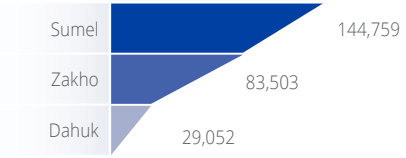


### Governorates of origin



## Dahuk 262,655 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

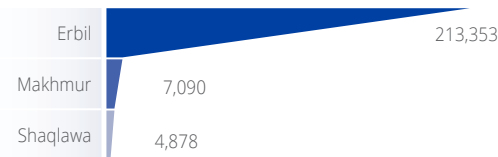


### Governorates of origin

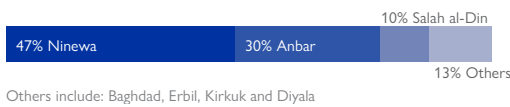


## Erbil 230,469 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

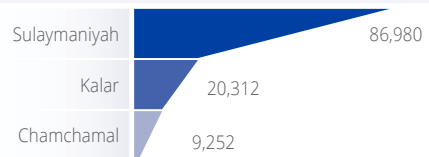


### Governorates of origin



## Sulaymaniyah 136,026 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

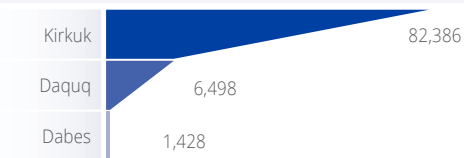


### Governorates of origin

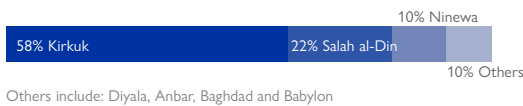


## Kirkuk 90,846 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

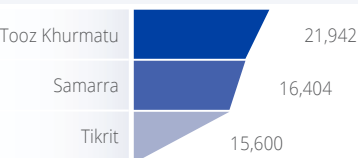


### Governorates of origin



## Salah al-Din 62,232 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

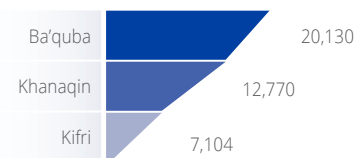


### Governorates of origin



## Diyala 45,926 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

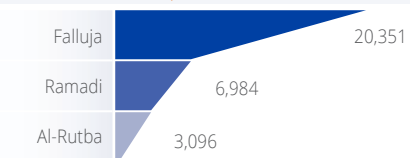


### Governorates of origin

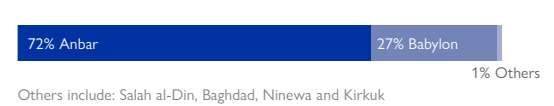


## Anbar 33,563 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement

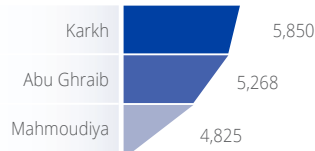


### Governorates of origin



## Baghdad 26,173 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



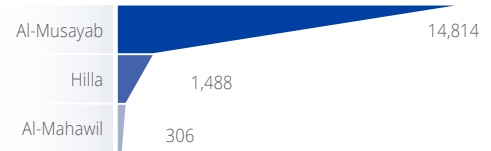
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad and Kirkuk

## Babylon 16,878 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



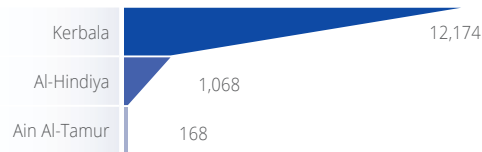
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk

## Kerbala 13,410 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



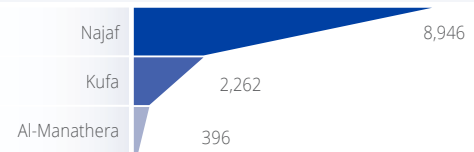
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah al-Din and Baghdad

## Najaf 11,604 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



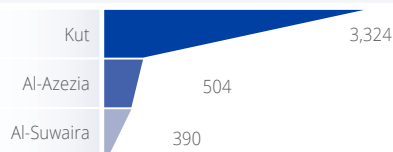
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Salah al-Din and Anbar

## Wassit 5,046 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



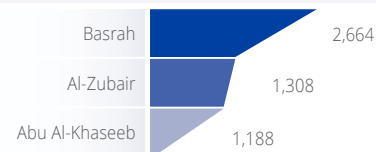
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Salah al-Din and Anbar

## Basrah 6,150 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



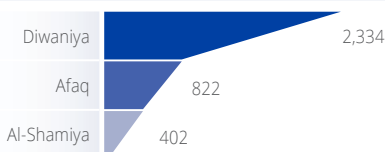
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Baghdad and Babylon

## Qadissiya 3,732 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



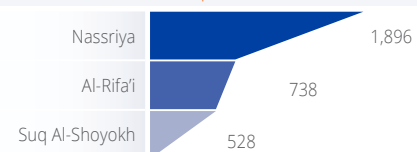
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Baghdad and Salah al-Din

## Thi-Qar 3,336 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



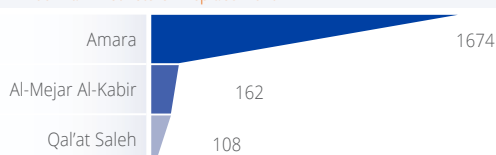
### Governorates of origin



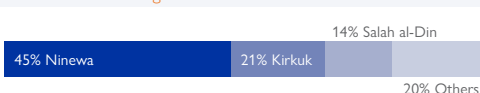
Others include: Baghdad, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Babylon

## Missan 2,064 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



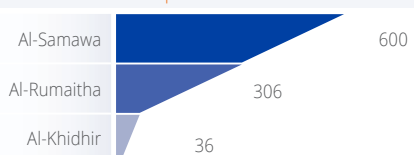
### Governorates of origin



Others include: Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala and Babylon

## Muthanna 942 IDPs

### Three main districts of displacement



### Governorates of origin



Others include: Salah al-Din, Kirkuk and Diyala

# RETURNS OVERVIEW

## RETURNEE OVERVIEW FOR ROUND 119

Between November and December 2020, a total of 4,831,566 returnees (805,261 households) were identified across eight governorates, 38 districts, and 2,121 locations in Iraq. The number of new returnees overall has increased progressively in each of the past four rounds in 2020, rising by: 12,948 in May-June, 25,920 in July-August, 38,364 in September-October, and 49,152 in November-December. The higher return rate in late 2020 can partially be explained by a significant number of returns taking place following the closure or re-classification of a number of IDP camps in several governorates between October and December 2020.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, lower return rates prior to September 2020 can be partially attributed to movement restrictions imposed across the country between early March and September, in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

Governorates with the highest numbers of overall returnees include Ninewa (1,889,154 with 31,932 new returnees since the last round), Anbar (1,504,632 with 5,574 new returnees) and Salah al-Din (708,744 with 4,530 new returnees). During the November-December period, DTM recorded a total of 31,422 returnee individuals who arrived from camps, representing a significant increase from the number recorded in the September-October period (12,198). This increase can be partly attributed to a significant number of returns taking place following the closure of IDP camps in several governorates between October and December. The majority of those who came from camp settings returned to Ninewa Governorate (22,242 individuals), with significant numbers also recorded in Salah al-Din (2,694), Diyala (2,634), and Kirkuk (2,364). Furthermore, between November-December, returns took place to seven locations in the governorates of Ninewa, Kirkuk and Diyala that had previously witnessed no returns. The main reason for these returns include the improving security situation, and some returnees are reported as having commenced rebuilding their houses in their area of origin.

**Shelter types:** In the November-December period, 36,864 individuals returned to habitual residences that are in good condition (bringing the

## RETURN OVERVIEW FOR 2020

Throughout 2020, an additional 235,116 returnees were recorded, which is significantly lower than the numbers recorded in 2019 (431,130) and 2018 (944,958). By far, Ninewa received the highest number of returnees during the year (122,820, bringing its total number to 1,889,154), with the next highest number recorded in Anbar (50,928, bringing its total number to 1,504,632), followed by Erbil (9,378, bringing its total number to 54,336). A significant proportion of these returns took place as part of the large-scale movements of IDPs from Dahuk, Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil to Ninewa's Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts between June and December 2020. Significant movements of IDPs also took place following the closure and re-classification of camps in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Anbar, Kerbala and Baghdad.<sup>6</sup>

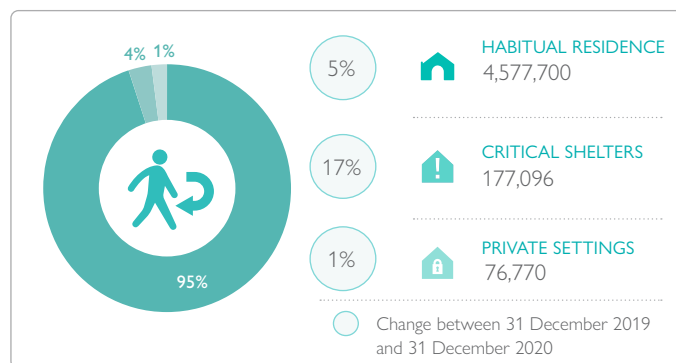
Dahuk is the only governorate where a decrease in returnees was recorded throughout the year (-12, taking its total number to 768). Additionally, as of 31 December 2020, Dahuk is the only governorate with a 100 per cent return rate – that is, the proportion of returnees

total number to 4,577,700; 95%), while 3,510 individuals returned to private settings (bringing the total number to 76,770; 2%). Additionally, 8,778 individuals arrived to shelters in critical condition (bringing the total number to 177,096; 3%).

The highest number of returnee individuals living in shelters in critical condition are in Ninewa Governorate (56,670), especially in the districts of Mosul (32,556), Sinjar (7,878) and Telafar (7,278). A high number of returnee individuals living in critical shelters was also recorded in Anbar Governorate (44,496), with this group mainly located in the districts of Falluja (15,216) and Al-Ka'im (10,104). In addition, a further 42,540 returnee individuals live in critical shelters in Salah Al-Din Governorate, with most of this group spread across three districts: Baiji (12,888), Tikrit (9,444), and Al-Shirqat (9,228).

Overall, as of 31 December 2020, there are 10 locations where all returnees are living in shelters in critical condition, hosting a total of 4,896 individuals (up from 4,458 in the September-October period). All returnees are living in shelters in critical condition in two locations in Anbar Governorate (where 3,126 individuals are residing), four locations in Ninewa (594 individuals), two locations in Salah al-Din (954), and one in each of Kirkuk (132 individuals) and Diyala (90 individuals).

Figure 4. Returnee shelter types



that have returned home. Anbar has the next highest return rate (92%), followed by Erbil (85%), Salah al-Din (83%) and Kirkuk (82%), while the remaining governorates' return rates are lower: Diyala (76%), Ninewa (73%) and Baghdad (69%).

**Shelter types for 2020:** Throughout 2020, there was a 17 per cent increase in returnees living in critical shelters, with the number jumping by 25,326 to 177,096. The most significant increase in the number of returnees living in critical shelters was in Anbar, where an additional 16,128 individuals raised the total number to 44,496. Significant increases in the number of individuals living in critical shelters were also recorded in Salah al-Din, where an additional 6,798 individuals raised the total to 42,540, as well as in Ninewa, where an additional 3,432 individuals raised the total to 56,670. Otherwise, the number of returnees living in critical shelters in Baghdad fell by 1,458 to 4,476, while the number of returnees in critical shelters in Kirkuk fell by 702 to 5,004.

<sup>4</sup> Since March 2020, DTM Iraq has produced multiple COVID-19 Mobility Restrictions reports, covering the impact of restrictions and public health measures on Iraqi citizens and migrants across the country, including at Points of Entry with neighbouring countries (Syria, Turkey and Iran). All products are available at the following link: [http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions\\_HealthMeasures](http://iraqdtm.iom.int/COVID19/MovementRestrictions_HealthMeasures)

<sup>5</sup> Between September and December 2020, DTM implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise which tracked the movements of IDPs from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps. Products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ldpMovements#Camp>

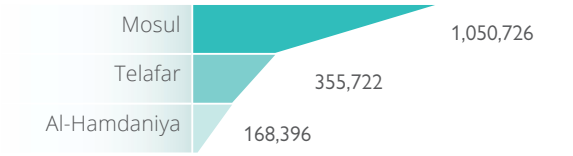
<sup>6</sup> Between June and December 2020, DTM implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise which tracked the movements of IDPs from Dahuk, Ninewa and Sulaymaniyah to Ninewa. Products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ldpMovements#Sinjar>. Links to products related to the Emergency Tracking exercise which tracked the movements of IDPs following the closure or re-classification of camps between September and December 2020 are available at the above footnote.

# RETURNS OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of returnees in all governorates of origin, (2) the number of returnees in each main district and (3) the proportion of returnees per governorate of last displacement for each governorate of origin.

## Ninewa 1,889,154 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



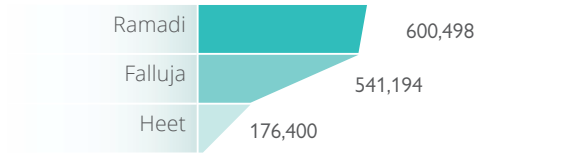
### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



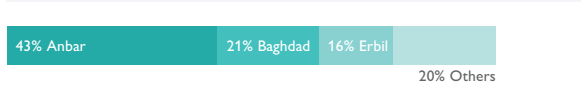
Others: Najaf, Kerbala, Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Basrah, Missan, Qadissiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna, Diyala and Anbar

## Anbar 1,504,632 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



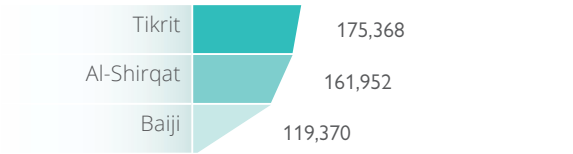
### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



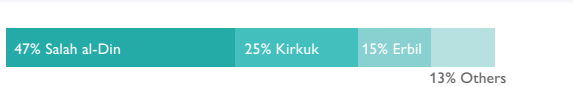
Others: Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Salah al-Din, Dahuk, Kerbala, Ninewa and Diyala

## Salah al-Din 708,744 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



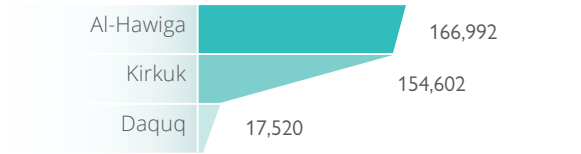
### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



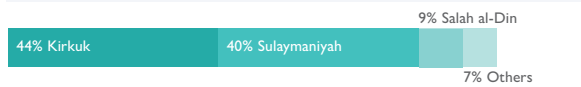
Others: Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad, Dahuk, Basrah, Kerbala, Najaf, Diyala, Missan, Babylon, Thi-Qar and Wassit

## Kirkuk 346,350 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



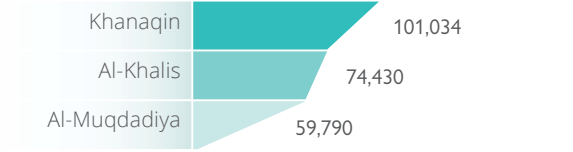
### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Erbil, Ninewa, Baghdad and Babylon

## Diyala 236,574 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



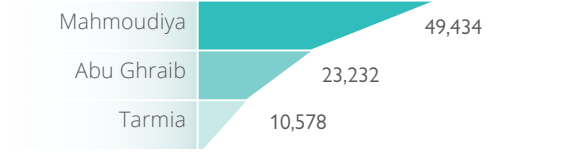
### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



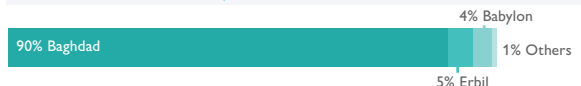
Others: Baghdad, Erbil and Kerbala

## Baghdad 91,008 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Sulaymaniyah, Kerbala and Missan

## Erbil 54,336 Returnees

### ▶ Three main districts of return



### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



1% Salah al-Din

## Dahuk 768 Returnees

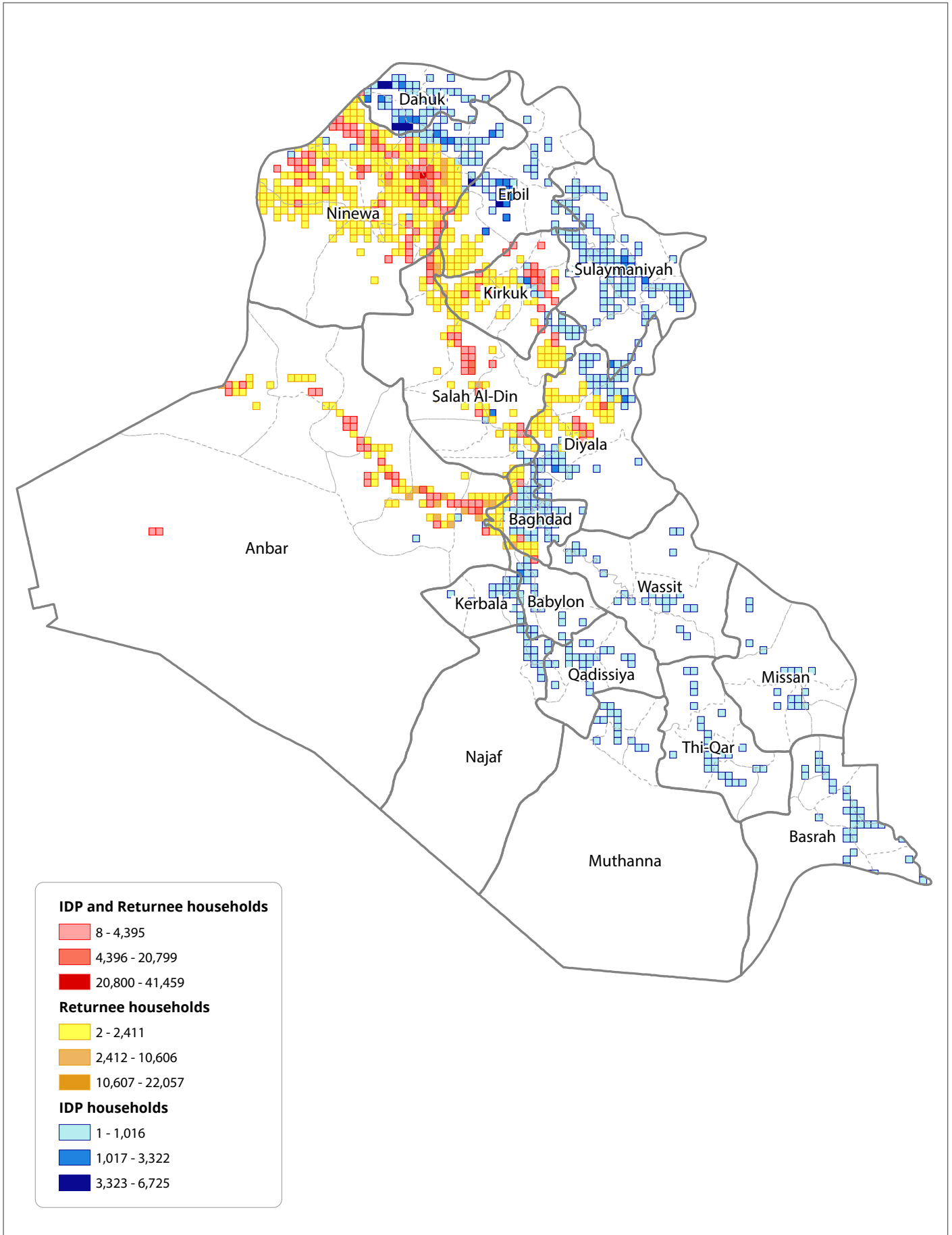
### ▶ Three main districts of return



### ▶ Governorates of last displacement



Map 1. Presence of IDPs and returnees by area





## METHODOLOGY

IOM's DTM aims to monitor displacement and provide accurate data about the IDP and returnee populations in Iraq. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 100 staff members deployed across Iraq. Data collection for Round 119 took place during the months of November and December 2020 across 18 governorates.

Data from the IDP Master List and Returnee Master List is gathered through a well-established large network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces. Additional information is gathered from government registration data and partner agencies.

IOM RARTs collect Master List data continuously and report it bi-monthly. However, limited access due to security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods, in addition to true variation of the population figures, may be influenced by other factors such as the continuous identification of previously displaced groups and the inclusion of data on secondary displacements within Iraq.

The displaced populations are identified through a process of collection, verification, triangulation and validation of data. IOM continues to closely coordinate with federal, regional and local authorities to maintain a shared and accurate understanding of displacement across Iraq.

To facilitate analysis, this report divides Iraq into three regions: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) includes Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil Governorates; the South includes Basrah, Missan, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Qadissiya and Muthana Governorates; and the Central North includes Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wassit Governorates.

### Calculations used to determine the number of individuals:

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households by six, the average size of an Iraqi household as per governmental statistics, for all out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. Since the July-August 2020 period (Round 117), the number of individuals for in-camp IDPs has been calculated by multiplying the number of households by five, which is the average household size consistent with data from the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster since 2018. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on out-of-camp IDPs, please refer to the [CCCM Cluster website](#).

In all Master List rounds prior to July-August 2020, the number of in-camp IDPs was calculated by multiplying the number of households by six. In this report, comparisons in the number of in-camp IDPs are mostly made between this round (November-December 2020) and the previous two rounds (September-October and July-August 2020). Since the calculation methodology is consistent between these two rounds, comparative analysis between these two datasets will not be affected. However, it should be noted that comparing the number of in-camp IDPs between the September-October 2020 or July-August 2020 periods with any previous rounds will be affected by the change in calculation methodology.

### The methodology uses the following definitions:

The DTM considers as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment.

The DTM considers as returnees all those displaced since January 2014 who have returned to their location of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The definition of returnees is not related to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, nor with a defined durable solutions strategy.

The location is defined as an area that corresponds either to a village for rural areas or a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fourth official administrative division).

Habitual residence is the same residence prior to displacement.

Private settings include owned property, rented houses, hotels/motels and host families.

Critical shelters include informal settlements, religious buildings, schools and unfinished or abandoned buildings. For returnees, it also includes habitual residences that are severely damaged or destroyed and for IDPs, long-term rental accommodations that are unfit for habitation (having characteristics of unfinished or severely damaged buildings).

*For more information, visit [iraqdtm.iom.int](http://iraqdtm.iom.int) or contact the team at [iraqdtm@iom](mailto:iraqdtm@iom).*

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IOM Iraq thanks the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) for its continued support. IOM Iraq also expresses its gratitude to IOM Iraq's Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) members for their work in collecting the data, often in very difficult circumstances; their tireless efforts are the groundwork of this report.

