

CONTEXT

- The Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return. Data collection for the Return Index Round 6 took place during the months of September and October 2019 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 1,674 locations in Iraq. During Round 6, an additional 41 locations of return were assessed.¹
- A comparison of locations assessed in Rounds 5 and 6 reveals a decrease of 2,316 returnees living in severe conditions. The largest decreases were observed in Salah al-Din Governorate, mainly in the districts of Baiji in Salah al-Din due to improvements in employment. Conversely, Ninewa Governorate witnessed an increase in the number of returnees living in severe conditions, mainly in the districts of Al-Ba'aj, Sinjar and Mosul.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 1,674 return locations assessed, 272 present severe conditions, hosting 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 492,258 individuals.
- Ninewa and Salah al-Din are the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 167,676 and 189,780 individuals respectively.
- Salah al-Din (29%) and Diyala (17%) host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions.

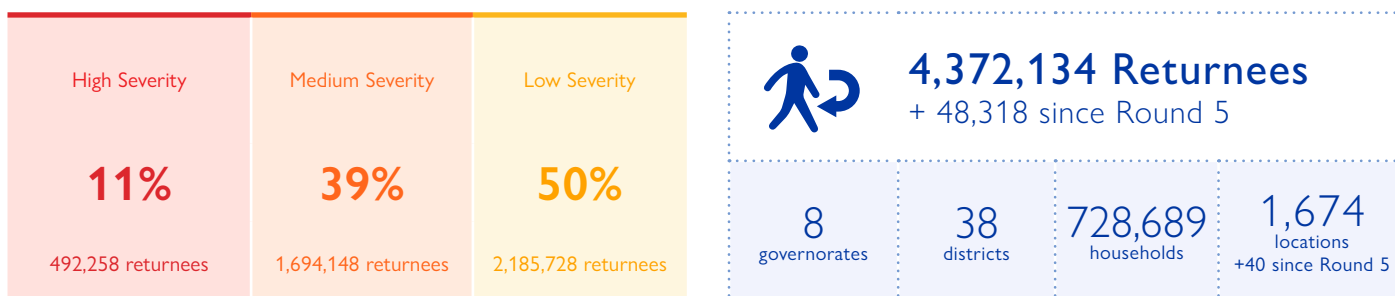
MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Forty-four locations hosting 45,978 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round, an increase compared to Round 5. The top three of these locations remain in Tooz District in Salah al-Din Governorate, home to 966 returnees.

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

| Governorate | HIGH | | MEDIUM | | LOW | | TOTAL | |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | No. of returnees | No. of locations | No. of returnees | No. of locations | No. of returnees | No. of locations | No. of returnees | No. of locations |
| Anbar | 88,560 | 24 | 517,386 | 128 | 697,404 | 97 | 1,303,350 | 249 |
| Baghdad | 4,194 | 7 | 36,564 | 53 | 48,246 | 60 | 89,004 | 120 |
| Dahuk | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 780 | 1 | 780 | 1 |
| Diyala | 37,542 | 36 | 137,292 | 108 | 44,346 | 66 | 219,180 | 210 |
| Erbil | 0 | 0 | 6,510 | 6 | 34,782 | 14 | 41,292 | 20 |
| Kirkuk | 4,506 | 5 | 53,016 | 58 | 275,784 | 135 | 333,306 | 198 |
| Ninewa | 167,676 | 151 | 552,972 | 282 | 1,004,826 | 244 | 1,725,474 | 677 |
| Salah al-Din | 189,780 | 49 | 390,408 | 121 | 79,560 | 29 | 659,748 | 199 |
| Total | 492,258 | 272 | 1,694,148 | 756 | 2,185,728 | 646 | 4,372,134 | 1,674 |

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity



Data collected September - October 2019

¹ Please note that one location previously assessed was not accessible for this round, hence the variation of only 40 locations since Round 5.

GOVERNORATE HOTSPOTS OF SEVERITY

Subdistricts are classified as ‘hotspots’ if they score highly in terms of severity on at least one of the two scales (either livelihoods and basic services, or safety and social cohesion) or if they score medium in terms of severity but also host relatively large numbers of returnees. Thirty hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round.

NINEWA

- Markaz Sinjar
- Qaeyrrawan
- Al-Shamal
- Markaz Telafar
- Ayadiya
- Zummar
- Hamam al-Aleel
- Al-Shura
- Markaz Al-Ba’aj
- Markaz Hatra

ANBAR

- Markaz Al-Ka’im
- Markaz Al-Rutba
- Al-Saqlawiyah
- Al-Garma
- Kubaisa

SALAH AL-DIN

- Yathreb
- Markaz Tooz
- Al-Amerli
- Suleiman Beg
- Markaz Baiji
- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Markaz Tikrit
- Markaz Al-Daur (new)
- Al-Siniya (new)

DIYALA

- Markaz Al-Muqdadiya
- Jalula
- As-Saadiya

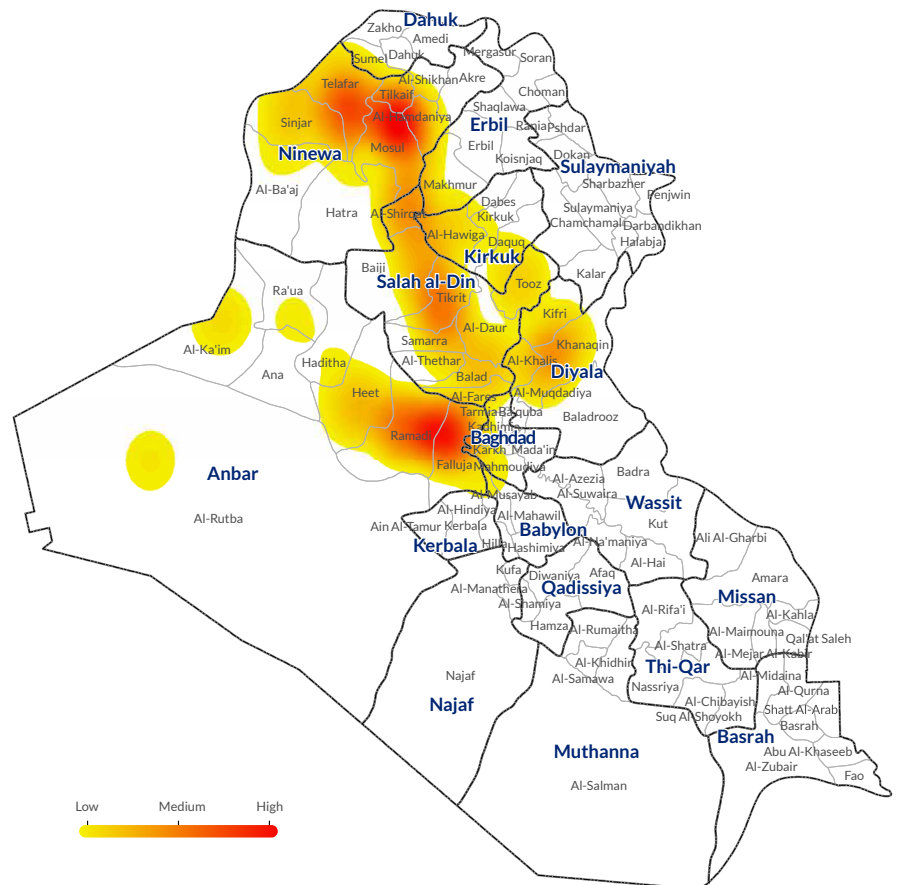
KIRKUK

- Al-Riyad

BAGHDAD

- Al-Nasir Walsalam

Map 1: Returnee population density by overall severity score



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

The map shows conditions of severity based on population size and severity score of each assessed location. The darker colours indicate a larger concentration of families living in severe conditions of return, while the brighter colours indicate lower severity conditions or areas with low levels of returns.

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is based on 16 indicators divided into two scales: Scale 1, on livelihoods and basic services, and Scale 2, centered around social cohesion and safety perceptions. A regression model is used to assess the impact of each of the indicators in facilitating or preventing returns and to calculate scores for two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities are back to normal is to have returns compared to a location where they are. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

The index goes from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes very high).

Please refer to the Round 1 and Round 3 reports for more details on the methodology.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout the report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries.

IOM Iraq thanks the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and USAID for its continued support.

