

RETURN DYNAMICS IN ANBAR GOVERNORATE

JUNE 2020

The Return Index Governorate Profiling provides singular analysis and insights at the governorate level, with a comparison of figures and severity of living conditions over the course of 2019 and early 2020.

This report focuses on return dynamics in Anbar Governorate, the governorate with the second largest number of returnees. The report features an evaluation of severity conditions in areas of return across the governorate in early 2020, provides insights on new arrivals due to camp closures in the last six months, and analyses drivers of severity across geographical hotspots in the governorate.

KEY FINDINGS

- Anbar Governorate hosts 1.48 million returnees out of 4.66 million across Iraq (32%), that is, the second largest returnee population after Ninewa Governorate. Seven per cent of these returnees are currently living in locations ranked as having high severity conditions, while 44 per cent are living in medium severity locations, and 49 per cent in low severity conditions.
- The districts of Falluja and Ramadi have the largest number of individuals who returned to high severity conditions, both concentrating almost 94 per cent of the total returnees in high severity (97,000 returnees out of 103,000 in the total of Anbar).
- Up to 31,000 returnees are living in critical shelters (2 per cent of Anbar's returnee population), spread across 121 locations. Almost half of these returnees are concentrated in Al-Ka'im District.
- Between September 2019 and February 2020, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tracked about 1,700 individuals (279 households) who left camps for other non-camp settings in Anbar Governorate due to camp closures. All returned to their districts of origin, although 90 per cent settled in locations classified as medium severity (the rest were distributed among high and low severity locations). The district of Al-Ka'im hosts 67 per cent of these 1,700 new arrivals from camps.
- Finally, five subdistricts in Anbar Governorate are classified as hotspots of severity: Al-Saqlawiya, Markaz Al-Ka'im, Markaz Al-Rutba, Al-Garma, and Kubaisa. These subdistricts host the majority of returnees in high severity areas. Common drivers of severity across hotspots consist of safety issues (mainly concerns about further violence and non-state armed groups), blocked returns and lack of livelihoods. Widespread house destruction is the main driver of severity in Al-Garma subdistrict.

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return. The Return Index is built from a list of indicators developed in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders to reflect the displacement context in Iraq (Table 1). It is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: Scale 1, on livelihoods and basic services, and Scale 2, centred around social cohesion and safety perceptions. The overall index ranges 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. More details on the methodology are available on the portal of DTM Iraq at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/> and in the report “Building Blocks of the Return Index in Iraq”.¹

Multiple data sources are used for this report: (i) the Return Index Round 8 collected January–February 2020 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 1,850 locations in Iraq, (ii) the Master List for Round 114 (collected January–February 2020), Round 113 (collected November–December 2019) and Round 112 (collected from September – October 2019). Return Index Round 8 is used in this report for sections 2 and 3 to classify return locations by category of severity and in section 4 to analyse the underlying drivers of severity. The Master List data is used in section 2 to define the total returnee and IDP populations in each location and figures on arrivals from camps during the second half of 2019 and early 2020.

Table 1: Indicator list for each scale

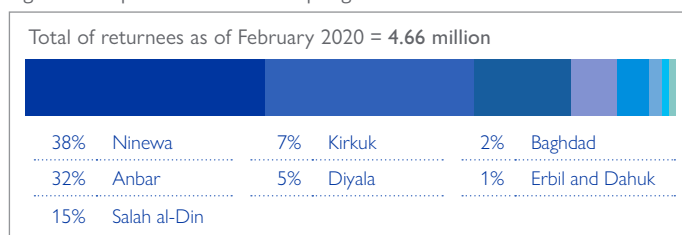
SCALE 1: LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES	SCALE 2: SAFETY AND SOCIAL COHESION
Residential destruction	Community reconciliation
Employment access	Multiple security actors
Water sufficiency	Blocked returns
Recovery of agriculture	Checkpoints controlled by other security actors
Electricity sufficiency	Daily public life
Recovery of businesses	Illegal occupation of private residences
Access to basic services	Mines
Provision of government services	Sources of violence
SCALE 1 SCORE = 100	SCALE 2 SCORE = 100
OVERALL SEVERITY INDEX = AVERAGE OF SCALE 1 AND SCALE 2 SCORES	

¹ Available at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ReturnIndex>

CATEGORIZING CONDITIONS IN AREAS OF RETURN

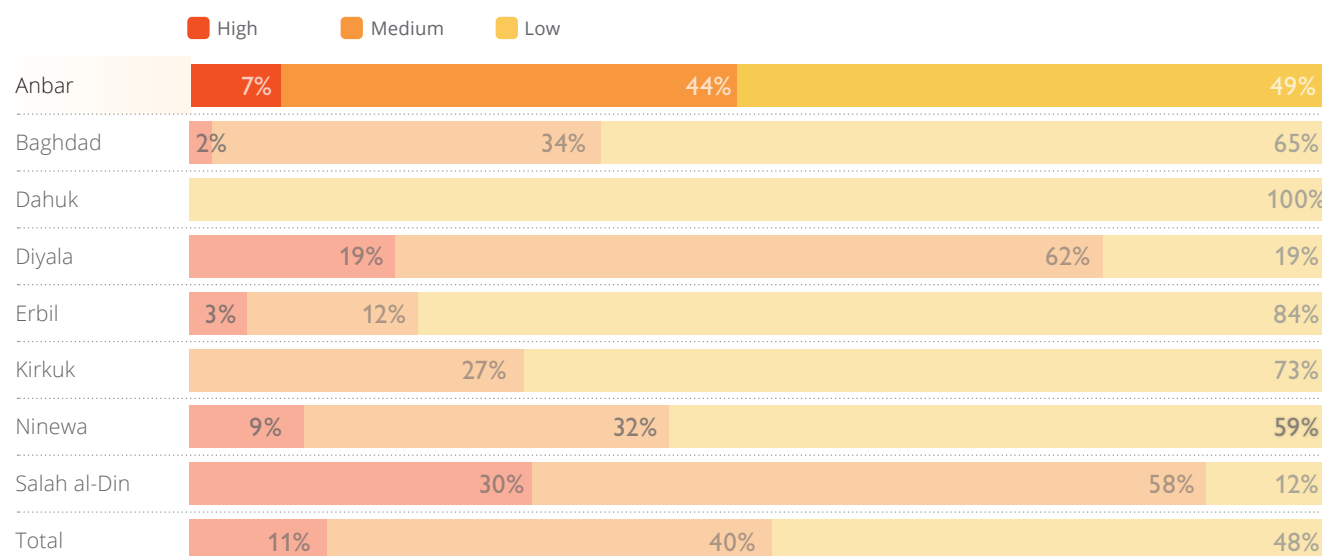
Thirty-two per cent of the returns in Iraq are located in Anbar Governorate, making it the second largest in terms of returnee population size after Ninewa. As of February 2020, the total number of returnees in the governorate was 1.48 million individuals out of 4.66 million in Iraq (Figure 1). Over the course of one year, between February 2019 and 2020, the returnee population has increased by nearly 190,000 individuals, from the 1.29 million returnees at the beginning of 2019. A significant portion of this increase has taken place during the first two months of 2020.

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees per governorate



In terms of severity conditions, Anbar Governorate hosts the third largest number of returnees living in high severity conditions, with 102,750 individuals (only surpassed by Salah al-Din and Ninewa governorates). This means that 7 per cent of the returnee population in Anbar have returned to locations classified as high severity, followed by 44 per cent to medium severity locations, and 49 per cent to low severity locations. This distribution of returnees per severity category is slightly below the country average, where the proportion of individuals in high severity locations is 11 per cent (Figure 2).

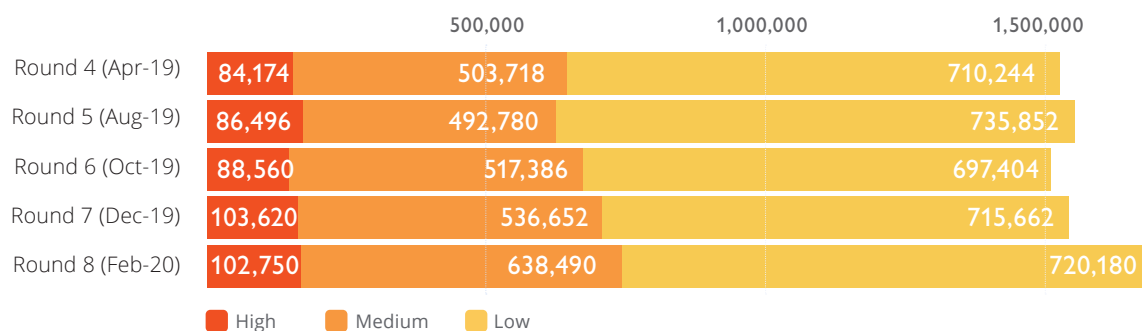
Figure 2. Proportion of returnees by category of severity per governorate in February 2020



Note: percentages may not add to 100% due to the rounding applied.

Over the course of 2019, the total number of returnees living in high severity locations steadily increased, with an acute jump in December 2019 (Figure 3). Between April 2019 and February 2020, the figure was around 20,000 individuals, with marginal variation in the last round of data collection. However, an additional 135,000 returnees live in medium severity locations by February 2020, which relates to an increased returnee population in Anbar Governorate during this period.

Figure 3. Yearly trend of returnees by category of severity in Anbar Governorate



The two most populous districts in Anbar Governorate (Falluja and Ramadi) host the majority of returnees living in high severity locations. Around three quarters of returnees living in high severity locations are in Falluja (with 78,108 individuals), followed by 18 per cent in Ramadi (with 18,582 individuals). Additionally of concern, all returnees in Al-Ka'im, Al-Rutba, and Ra'ua districts live in high or medium severity conditions.

Table 2: Number of returnees per district and category of severity in Anbar Governorate

DISTRICT	HIGH SEVERITY LOCATIONS		MEDIUM SEVERITY LOCATIONS		LOW SEVERITY LOCATIONS		LOCATIONS NOT CATEGORIZED		TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEE INDIVIDUALS	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Al-Ka'im	762	1%	93,912	99%	0	0%	0	0%	94,674	100%
Al-Rutba	3,120	11%	24,348	89%	0	0%	0	0%	27,468	100%
Ana	0	0%	3,924	27%	10,860	73%	0	0%	14,784	100%
Falluja	78,108	14%	174,492	32%	283,488	53%	2,700	1%	538,788	100%
Haditha	2,178	8%	6,570	24%	18,402	68%	0	0%	27,150	100%
Heet	0	0%	123,780	71%	51,738	29%	0	0%	175,518	100%
Ra'ua	0	0%	14,682	100%	0	0%	0	0%	571,056	100%
Ramadi	18,582	3%	196,782	34%	355,692	61%	15,600	2%	586,656	100%
Anbar Total	102,750	7%	638,490	44%	720,180	49%	18,300	1%	1,479,720	100%

In terms of the shelter situation upon return, 30,810 returnees live in critical shelters, spread across 121 locations – 2 per cent of the total returnee population in the governorate. Al Ka'im district currently hosts around 40 per cent of individuals living in critical shelters, with high proportions also recorded in Falluja (25%) and Ramadi (24%).

Anbar Governorate also currently hosts 36,384 IDPs, 3 per cent of the total IDP population of Iraq. Three quarters of these IDPs live outside of camps. The majority of IDPs in Anbar are clustered in Ramadi and Falluja – especially Falluja, as the district hosts the entire population of in-camp IDPs in Anbar (concentrated in the Al-Amirya subdistrict).

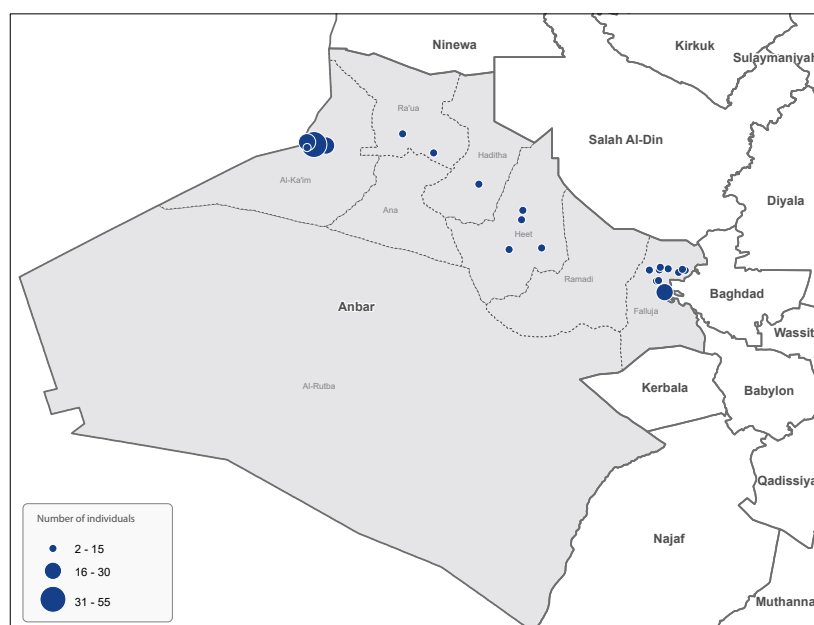
Table 3: Number of returnees and IDPs per district in Anbar Governorate

DISTRICT	AVERAGE DISTRICT SEVERITY	TOTAL RETURNEES (INDIVIDUALS)	TOTAL NON-CAMP IDPs (INDIVIDUALS)	TOTAL CAMP IDPs (INDIVIDUALS)
Al-Ka'im	Medium	94,674	0	0
Al-Rutba	Medium	27,468	3,096	0
Ana	Low	14,784	552	0
Falluja	Medium	538,788	13,734	9,288
Haditha	Low	27,150	1,230	0
Heet	Medium	175,518	1,494	0
Ra'ua	Medium	14,682	0	0
Ramadi	Low	586,656	6,990	0
Anbar Total	Medium	1,479,720	27,096	9,288

NEW ARRIVALS FROM CAMPS AND CORRELATION WITH CONDITIONS OF SEVERITY

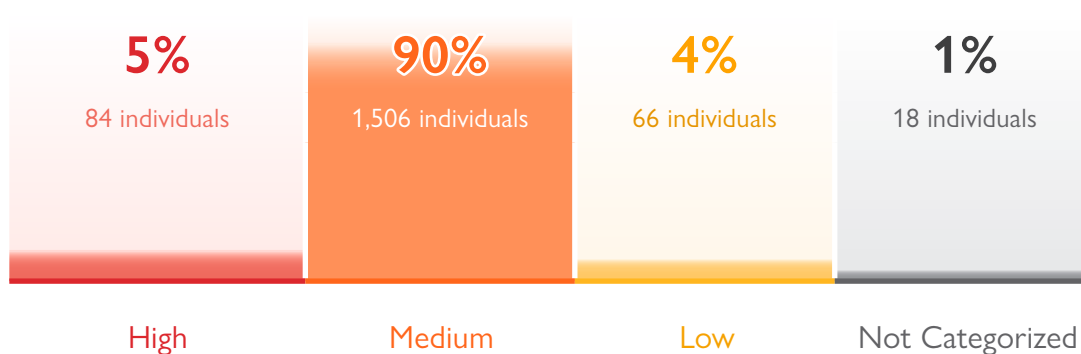
Between September 2019 and February 2020, DTM tracked 1,674 individuals (279 families) who left camps for other non-camp settings in Anbar Governorate. All of them returned to their districts of origin. Two thirds of the new arrivals settled back in Al-Ka'im District (in Al-Rummaneh subdistrict in particular), followed by 22 per cent of them in Falluja and the remaining 11 per cent are spread across the districts of Heet, Ana and Haditha.

Map 1. Locations in Anbar having recorded new arrivals from camps by number of individuals, between September 2019 and February 2020



Ninety per cent of the new arrivals to Anbar Governorate from camps returned to medium severity locations, while 5 per cent returned to high severity locations and 4 per cent to low severity locations (Figure 3). One location is not categorized in terms of severity, due to the lack of information on conditions.


Figure 4. Distribution of new arrivals from camps to Anbar Governorate by location's category of severity


















DRIVERS OF SEVERITY IN GEOGRAPHICAL HOTSPOTS

Five subdistricts in Anbar Governorate are classified as severity hotspots. These clusters of severity concentrate the majority of the 103,000 returnees in the governorate living in locations with high severity. Overall, they present the less optimal conditions in comparison with the remaining subdistricts in Anbar.²

The tables below identify and highlight these hotspots and their drivers of high severity to better inform interventions on the ground.

<p>AL-SAQLAWIYAH (Falluja District)</p> <p>Number of returnees: 68,808 individuals in 15 locations.</p> <p>Number of IDPs: None.</p> <p>New arrivals from camps: 96 individuals in 3 locations since September 2019.</p>	 <p>Housing destruction</p>	 <p>Livelihoods</p>	 <p>Essential Services</p>	 <p>Social cohesion</p>	 <p>Safety and Security</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al-Saqlawiyah is the subdistrict with the most severe conditions in Anbar. Safety and security are the main drivers of severity in the subdistrict, especially regarding concerns of the returnee population about unexploded ordnances as well as further violence in the area. The presence of non-state armed groups was also a security-related concern. Two other major drivers of severity are linked to issues with social cohesion and the lack of livelihood opportunities. The presence of blocked returns and tensions in daily life are highlighted as social cohesion concerns, while high levels of disruption are observed in agriculture and in the business environment. 					
<p>AL-GARMA (Falluja District)</p> <p>Number of returnees: 119,322 individuals in 19 locations.</p> <p>Number of IDPs: None.</p> <p>New arrivals from camps: 126 individuals in 4 locations since September 2019.</p>	 <p>Housing destruction</p>	 <p>Livelihoods</p>	 <p>Essential Services</p>	 <p>Social cohesion</p>	 <p>Safety and Security</p>

² 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. For more information, consult the corresponding Return Index report: http://iraqdtm.iom.int/images/ReturnIndex/20203193148705_IOM%20dtm%20return%20index_round_8_March_2020.pdf

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Al-Garma subdistrict, house destruction is the main driver of severity. In four locations, half of the residences are reportedly destroyed, while in the remaining locations there is a lower level of destruction – less than half of the houses are destroyed. Other drivers of severity in the subdistrict that play a secondary role are, by order of significance: extended blocked returns in most locations, the presence of non-state armed groups and, to a lesser extent, limited employment opportunities. 					
<p>MARKAZ AL-RUTBA (Al-Rutba District)</p> <p>Number of returnees: 27,468 individuals in 9 locations.</p> <p>Number of IDPs: 3,096 individuals in 9 locations.</p> <p>New arrivals from camps: None.</p>	 Housing destruction	 Livelihoods	 Essential Services	 Social cohesion	 Safety and Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markaz Al-Rutba is the only subdistrict in Anbar Governorate that identified the absence of essential services as a driver of severity – in particular, insufficient water supply. Safety and security are also drivers of severity, especially regarding residents' concerns about further violence taking place in the subdistrict and, to a lesser extent, the presence of non-state armed groups. Overall, social cohesion does not rank as an important severity factor in Markaz Al-Rutba; however, high levels of blocked returns also significantly impact the severity score in the subdistrict. 					
<p>MARKAZ AL-KA'IM (Al Ka'im District)</p> <p>Number of returnees: 65,430 individuals in 28 locations.</p> <p>Number of IDPs: None.</p> <p>New arrivals from camps: 30 individuals in 1 location since September 2019.</p>	 Housing destruction	 Livelihoods	 Essential Services	 Social cohesion	 Safety and Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main driver of severity in Markaz al-Ka'im is safety and security. In line with the other hotspots in Anbar, there are also widespread concerns among returnees regarding further violence in the area, in addition to the presence of non-state security groups. Issues with livelihoods also play a significant role in driving high severity. Several locations in the subdistrict do not have sufficient employment opportunities, and most businesses remain non-operational. 					
<p>KUBAISA (Heet District)</p> <p>Number of returnees: 21,060 individuals in 10 locations.</p> <p>Number of IDPs: 96 individuals in 4 locations.</p> <p>New arrivals from camps: 18 individuals in 1 location since September 2019.</p>	 Housing destruction	 Livelihoods	 Essential Services	 Social cohesion	 Safety and Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most significant driver affecting Kubaisa's returnee population is safety and security. Similar to the situation found in Markaz Al-Ka'im and Markaz Al-Rutba, there are concerns regarding further violence and the presence of non-state armed groups – these two indicators are generating most of the severity score. In addition, this subdistrict also presents blocked returns in all locations. 					

ANNEX. DISAGGREGATED DATA ON POPULATION RETURNS, DISPLACEMENT, AND SEVERITY


District	Subdistrict	Number of returnees	Number of IDPs	Scale 1 Severity	Scale 2 Severity	Overall severity
Al-Ka'im	Al-Rummaneh	13,656	0	Medium	Medium	Medium
Al-Ka'im	Markaz Al-Ka'im	65,430	0	Low	Medium	Medium
Al-Ka'im	Al-Obiadi	15,588	0	Medium	Medium	Medium
Al-Rutba	Markaz Al-Rutba	27,468	3,096	Medium	Medium	Medium
Ana	Markaz Ana	14,784	552	Low	Low	Low
Falluja	Al-Garma	119,340	0	Medium	Medium	Medium
Falluja	Al-Saqlawiyah	68,808	0	Medium	High	High
Falluja	Al-Amirya	16,230	23,022	Medium	Medium	Medium
Falluja	Markaz Falluja	334,410	0	Low	Low	Low
Haditha	Al-Haqlaniya	8,370	342	Low	Medium	Medium
Haditha	Barwana	14,508	252	Low	Low	Low
Haditha	Markaz Haditha	4,272	636	Low	Low	Low
Heet	Al-Baghdady	19,986	192	Medium	Medium	Medium
Heet	Al-Forat	25,410	0	Medium	Medium	Medium
Heet	Kubaisa	21,060	96	Low	Medium	Medium
Heet	Markaz Heet	109,062	1,206	Low	Medium	Low
Ramadi	Al-Habbaniya	25,494	552	Low	Medium	Medium
Ramadi	Al-Khaldiya	9,078	660	Low	Medium	Medium
Ramadi	Husaibah Al-Sharqiah	57,888	0	Medium	Medium	Medium
Ramadi	Markaz Ramadi	485,796	5,778	Low	Low	Low
Ra'ua	Markaz Ra'ua	14,682	0	Low	Medium	Medium

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