

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 9 took place during the months of May and June 2020 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 2,013 locations in Iraq. During Round 9, an additional 163 locations of return were assessed.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 2,013 return locations assessed, 487 present severe conditions - and host 14 per cent of the returnee population, or 659,082 individuals.
- An increase of 142,530 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the previous round collected in January – February 2020, when 11 per cent of the returnee population (516,552 individuals) were in severe conditions.
- The largest increases in number of returnees living in severe conditions were recorded in Ninewa (108,558), Diyala (33,546) and Anbar (19,506) governorates. In Ninewa, the largest increases were recorded in Telafar, Mosul and Al-Ba’aj due to increasing concern about different sources of violence such as ISIL attacks, acts of revenge, clashes between security forces, or ethno-religious-tribal tensions, worsening of the employment situation and changes in daily public life because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak and ensuing lockdown. In Diyala, the largest increase was in Al-Muqdadia, where due to the outbreak and lockdown, the worsening of condition for businesses, employment and daily public life was observed. In Anbar, the largest increase was observed in Falluja, also due to the lockdown, which affected the provision of basic social services, concern about different sources of violence and daily public life.
- Salah al-Din and Ninewa are the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 273,036 and

173,628 individuals respectively.

- Diyala and Salah al-Din host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (34% and 25% respectively).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Fifty-five locations hosting 53,268 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round. The top five of these locations remain in Tuz Khurmatu District in Salah al-Din Governorate (535 returnees) and in Telafar District in Ninewa (4,572 returnees).
- An additional 10 locations were observed with the most severe return conditions since the previous round collected in January – February 2020, when 45,594 individuals were living across 45 locations with the most severe return conditions.

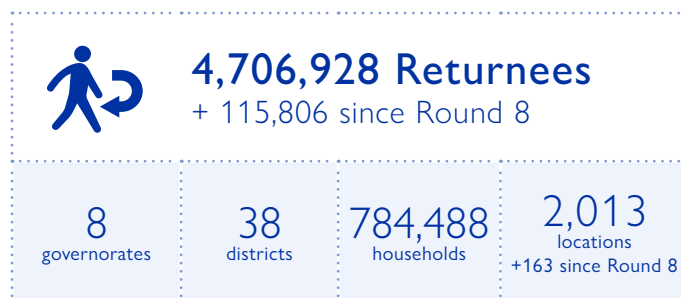
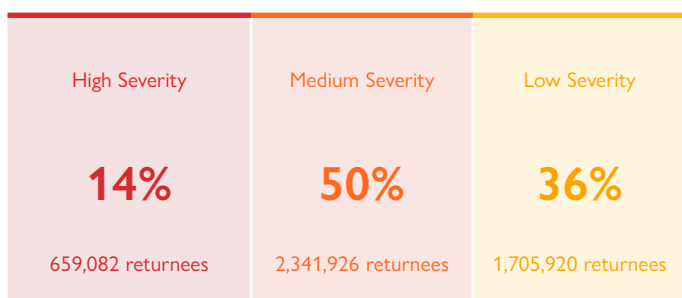
METHODOLOGY

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 the two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities have restarted is to have returns compared to a location where they have restarted. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

The 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. The scores of the severity index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes very high).

Please refer to the report “[Methodological Overview](#)” for more details on the methodology.

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity



Data collected May - June 2020

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	122,256	30	709,146	199	665,718	90	1,497,120	319
Baghdad	9,552	15	53,136	73	27,540	34	90,228	122
Dahuk	0	0	0	0	768	1	768	1
Diyala	77,274	78	138,414	133	14,556	8	230,244	219
Erbil	2,430	13	5,472	22	45,102	32	53,004	67
Kirkuk	906	4	104,622	79	234,552	120	340,080	203
Ninewa	273,036	296	952,332	390	580,272	183	1,805,640	869
Salah al-Din	173,628	51	378,804	118	137,412	44	689,844	213
Total	659,082	487	2,341,926	1,014	1,705,920	512	4,706,928	2,013

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. In this round, the criteria for selecting hotspots was revised and set to at least 60,000 returnees for a subdistrict in medium category to be considered highly populated and to be included to the list of hotspots. Thirty-seven hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round.

SALAH AL-DIN: 586,272 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Amerli
- Al-Eshaqi
- Al-Moatassem
- Al-Siniya
- Markaz Al-Balad
- Markaz Al-Daur
- Al-Shirqat
- Markaz Baiji
- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Tikrit
- Markaz Tuz Khurmatu
- Suleiman Beg
- Yathreb

NINEWA: 1,213,812 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Muhlabiya
- Al-Qahtaniya
- Al-Shamal
- Ayadiya
- Hamam al Aleel
- Markaz Al-Ba'aj
- Markaz Hatra
- Markaz Mosul
- Markaz Sinjar
- Markaz Telfara
- Qaeyrrawan
- Zummar

ANBAR: 435,456 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Amirya
- Al-Garma
- Al-Saqlawiyah
- Husaibah
- Al-Sharqiah
- Markaz Al-Ka'im
- Markaz Heet

DIYALA: 134,694 returnees in hotspots

- Abo Sayda
- Jalula
- Markaz Al-Muqdadiya
- Qara Tabe

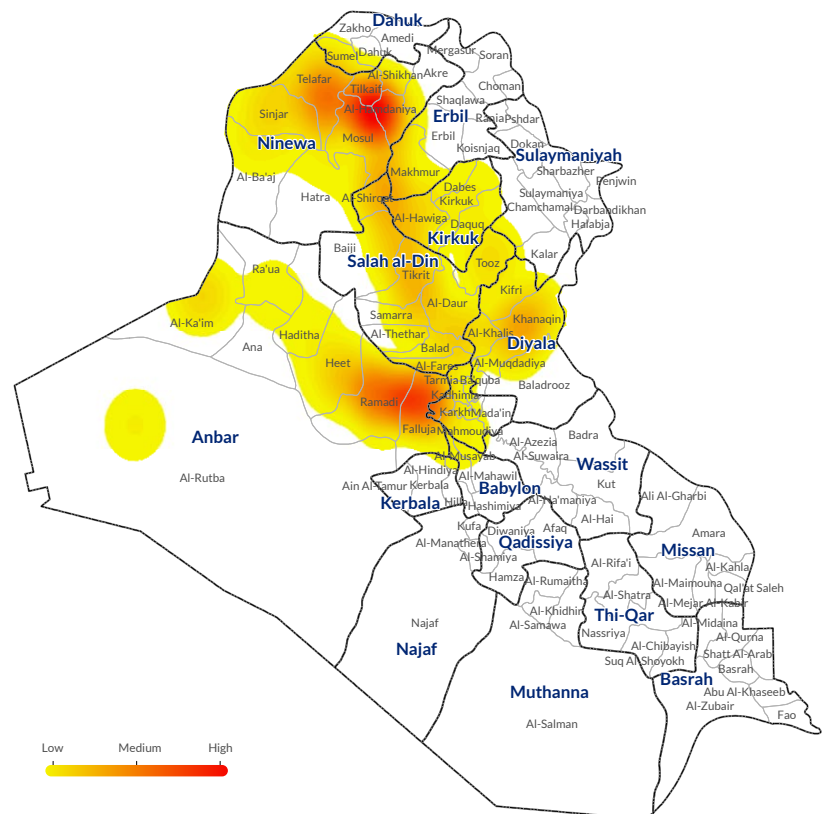
KIRKUK: 4,680 returnees in hotspots

- Taza Khurmatu

BAGHDAD: 6,246 returnees in hotspots

- 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.

DISCLAIMER

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