

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 14 took place during the months of October, November and December 2021 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 2,165 locations in Iraq. During Round 14, an additional 8 locations of return were assessed.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 2,165 return locations assessed, 459 present severe conditions hosting 12 per cent of the returnee population, or 601,914 individuals.
- An increase of 8,982 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the round collected in August – September 2021, when 12 per cent of the returnee population (592,932 individuals) were in severe conditions.
- The largest increases were recorded in Salah al-Din (4,794) and Ninewa (3,270), while the largest decrease was observed in Diyala (1,878). In Salah al-Din, the largest increases were observed in Tuz Khurmatu and Al-Fares districts. The increase in high severity in Tuz Khurmatu was related to returns to Al-Amerli subdistrict, where the provision of electricity remains poor and concerns related to safety and security are high. The increase in Al-Fares district was due to returns to Al-Dujeel Centre subdistrict, where poor access to employment and blocked returns continue. In Ninewa, the largest increase was recorded in Hatra, with returns in locations that suffer from the poor provision of government services and access to water, pervasive concerns about ISIL attacks and high levels of residential destruction. In Diyala, the largest decrease was in Al-Khalis, where residents observed a drastic improvement in access to essential services such as water and electricity.
- Ninewa and Salah al-Din remain the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 260,070 and 207,114 individuals respectively.
- Salah al-Din and Diyala host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (28% and 18% respectively).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Sixty-nine locations hosting 75,540 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round. The top five of these locations are in Al-Fares, Tuz Khurmatu and Baiji districts in Salah al-Din Governorate, as well as one in Telafar district, Ninewa Governorate.
- Seven fewer locations were observed with the most severe return conditions since the round collected in August – September 2021, when 78,390 individuals were living in 76 locations with the most severe conditions.

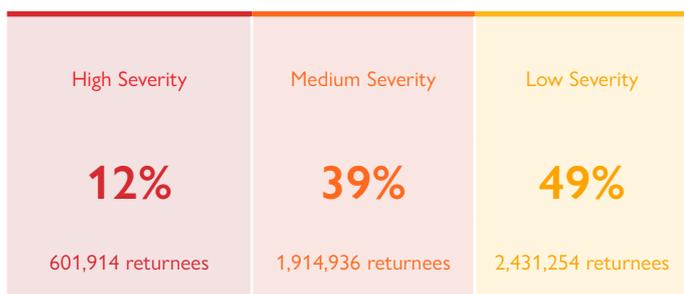
METHODOLOGY

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 two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities have recovered is to have returns compared to a location where they have recovered. 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).

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

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity



4,948,104 Returnees
+13,158
since Round 13 (August – September 2021)

8 governorates	38 districts	824,684 households	2,165 locations +8 since Round 13
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Data collected October – December 2021

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

Governorate	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		TOTAL	
	No. of returnees	No. of locations						
Anbar	84,684	24	715,710	199	742,098	107	1,542,492	330
Baghdad	744	2	11,700	23	79,848	97	92,292	122
Dahuk					756	1	756	1
Diyala	43,080	43	162,936	130	32,148	48	238,164	221
Erbil	4,398	16	10,986	29	45,318	24	60,702	69
Kirkuk	1,824	7	81,468	74	267,240	145	350,532	226
Ninewa	260,070	283	604,728	424	1,062,600	254	1,927,398	961
Salah al-Din	207,114	84	327,408	96	201,246	55	735,768	235
Total	601,914	459	1,914,936	975	2,431,254	731	4,948,104	2,165

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, at least 60,000 returnees in a subdistrict.

Thirty hotspots were identified across four governorates in this round. Compared to the round collected in August – September 2021, one subdistrict was removed from the list, Al-Dujeel Centre (Al-Fares District) in Salah al-Din Governorate. The subdistrict was not declassified as a 'hotspot' due to an improvement in the recovery of small businesses and daily public life and reduced concerns related to checkpoints controlled by armed actors.

SALAH AL-DIN: 485,568 returnees in hotspots

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

NINEWA: 536,016 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Qahtaniya
- Al-Shamal
- Ayadiya
- Hamam al Aleel
- Markaz Al-Ba'aj
- Markaz Sinjar
- Markaz Telafar
- Qaeyrrawn
- Zummar

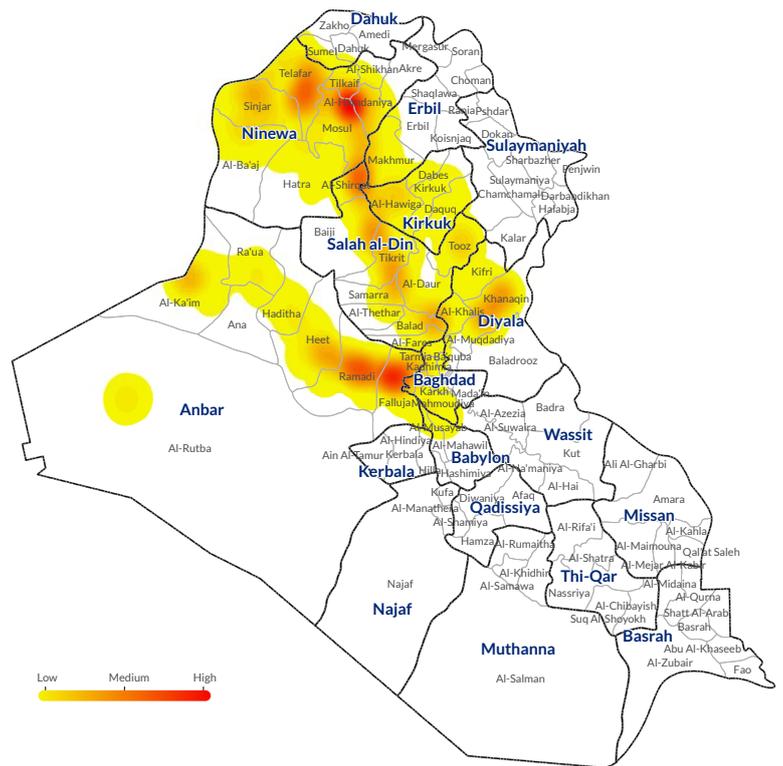
ANBAR: 398,118 returnees in hotspots

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

DIYALA: 140,466 returnees in hotspots

- Jalula
- Markaz Al-Muqdadiya
- Qara Tabe

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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