

## RETURNS FROM SYRIA TO AL-BA'AJ DISTRICT

**Arrivals as of  
6 March 2022**



**150**  
Households

**855**  
Individuals

Between Thursday 3 March and Sunday 6 March, 150 Iraqi families (855 individuals)\* have arrived to several locations in Al-Ba'aj district in Ninewa governorate from Syria's north-eastern governorate of Al-Hasakeh. Amongst the 150 families who have arrived, the highest number have arrived to Um Jurais (40), followed by Chaier Khifas (39) and Maisaloun (35). Smaller numbers have arrived to Raqabt Alfaras (10), Al-Ayaine (10), Al-Thawrah (8) and Beer Alhaloo (2). A further six families are reportedly stuck at the border due to not possessing the required documentation in order to cross. These families are reportedly returning to their area of origin in Al-Ba'aj due to the deteriorating economic situation in Syria as well as perceived better living conditions in Iraq. Many of the returning families arrived with private cars along with livestock and personal items. In addition, community leaders report that some of the families have returned to their residence of origin, while others are staying with relatives because their houses are damaged or destroyed. Early reports indicate that the returning families may be in need of shelter, food, water and non-food items. However, this information is yet to be confirmed and is recommended to be investigated further before planning response activities.

All families who have arrived to Al-Ba'aj crossed from Syria into Iraq via the informal border point of Rabia. Additionally, security actors have conducted security checks of the families prior to allowing them to enter Al-Ba'aj.

Some of these families originally went from Iraq to Syria during the Iraq War (2003-2011), while others fled to Syria during the ISIL crisis in Iraq (2014-2017). The families returning from Syria will reportedly be able to return to their area of origin within Ninewa governorate. In addition, Sheikh Mitni El Sadeed had been advocating to the government for these movements to take place. El Sadeed is a well-known figure in Al-Ba'aj and is the sheikh of the Shamar tribe.

In the coming days, hundreds of more families who are residing in north-east Syria are expected to arrive to Al-Ba'aj district, with some also expected to arrive to Tel Afar district. DTM will continue to monitor the movements closely and will provide updates as further information becomes available.

Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of staff members deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). The RARTs collect data through interviews with key informants utilizing a large, well-established network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

\*Note that some minor changes were made to the number of returned families from the version that was circulated earlier on 6 March 2022 following verification by DTM field teams.

Map: Movements from Al-Hasakeh governorate in Syria to Al-Ba'aj district in Ninewa

