RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND TEN – IRAQ

NOVEMBER 2020

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 10 took place during the months of September and October 2020 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 2,055 locations in Iraq. During Round 10, an additional 42 locations of return were assessed.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 2,055 return locations assessed, 432 present severe conditions and host 11 per cent of the returnee population, or 531,918 individuals.
- A decrease of 127,164 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the previous round collected in May–June 2020, when 14 per cent of the returnee population (659,082 individuals) were in severe conditions.
- The largest decreases were recorded in Ninewa (47,832), Anbar (47,448) and Diyala (28,266) governorates. In Ninewa, the largest decreases were recorded in Telafar and Mosul, where the employment situation and daily public life stabilized after the lockdown measures were lifted. However, a worsening was observed in Qaeyrrawan (Sinjar District), as key informants in the newly assessed locations pointed to the need for and absence of reconciliation processes and tense public life. In Anbar, the largest decrease was observed in Falluja, also due to the lifted lockdown measures, which positively affected the provision of government services and daily public life. In addition, a slight improvement of the situation in relation to residential destruction was observed in Al-Garma and Markaz Falluja as well as a decreased concern about mines in Al-Saqlawiyah. At the same time, a growing concern about mines was reported in Heet. In Diyala, the largest decrease was in Al-Muqdadiya, also mainly due to improvement of daily public life.
- Ninewa and Salah al-Din are the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 225,204 and 178,644 individuals respectively.
- Salah al-Din and Diyala host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (25% and 21% respectively).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Sixty-six locations hosting 71,544 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 (828 returnees) and in Sinjar District in Ninewa (840 returnees).
- An additional 11 locations with the most severe return conditions were observed since the previous round collected in May–June 2020, when 53,268 individuals were living across 55 locations with the most severe return conditions.

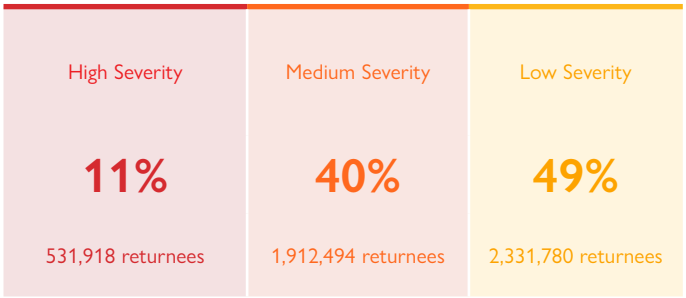
METHODOLOGY

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 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



4,776,192 Returnees
+ 69,264 since Round 9

8	38	796,032	2,055
governorates	districts	households	locations +42 since Round 9

Data collected September – October 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	74,808	24	648,042	188	776,208	113	1,499,058	325
Baghdad	3,030	8	40,674	59	46,974	55	90,678	122
Dahuk	0	0	0	0	768	1	768	1
Diyala	49,008	50	153,690	130	30,672	42	233,370	222
Erbil	1,050	11	4,062	22	48,864	34	53,976	67
Kirkuk	174	2	71,238	67	269,622	134	341,034	203
Ninewa	225,204	279	608,820	375	1,021,206	239	1,855,230	893
Salah al-Din	178,644	58	385,968	120	137,466	44	702,078	222
Total	531,918	432	1,912,494	961	2,331,780	662	4,776,192	2,055

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-five hotspots were identified across six governorates in this round. Compared to the previous round collected in May–June 2020, two subdistricts were added to the list, Al-Baghdady and Al-Forat, while four subdistricts were removed, Al- Muhalabiya, Markaz Hatra, Markaz Mosul, and Markaz Tikrit. Al-Baghdady and Al-Forat (Heet District, Anbar) were classified as 'hotspots' due to worsening of safety conditions. In Ninewa, Markaz Hatra (Hatra District) was removed due to a slight improvement in relation to residential destruction, employment, daily public life, and water provision, Al-Muhalabiya and Markaz Mosul (Mosul District) were removed due to stabilization of daily public life and to less extent employment. Markaz Tikrit (Tikrit District, Salah al-Din) was removed due to a slight improvement of the situation with residential destruction, although there are still concerns about different sources of violence such as ISIL attacks, acts of revenge, clashes between security forces or ethno-religious-tribal tensions and blocked returns.

SALAH AL-DIN: 467,964 returnees in hotspots

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

NINEWA: 490,230 returnees in hotspots

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

ANBAR: 439,086 returnees in hotspots

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

DIYALA: 137,580 returnees in hotspots

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

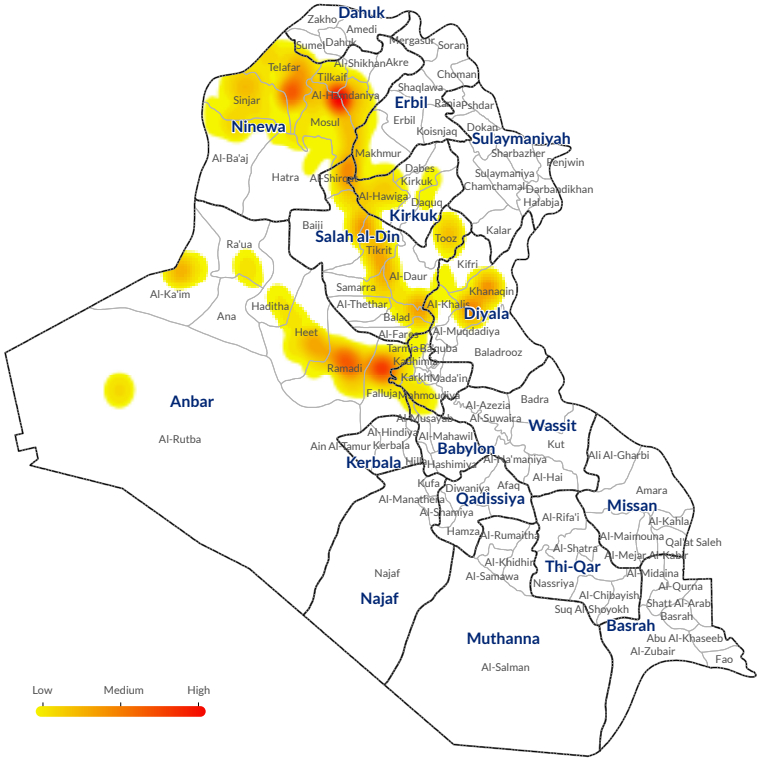
KIRKUK: 4,740 returnees in hotspots

- 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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