

Note: In this report, data relating to the district of origin of in-camp IDPs has been harmonized with the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster population figures. This means that the figures for the district of origin of in-camp IDPs have been for some districts. Since this harmonization is taking place for the first time in this round of the Master List, this will affect district-level comparative analysis between this round (121) and the previous round (120) that is presented in this report.<sup>1</sup>

## HIGHLIGHTS

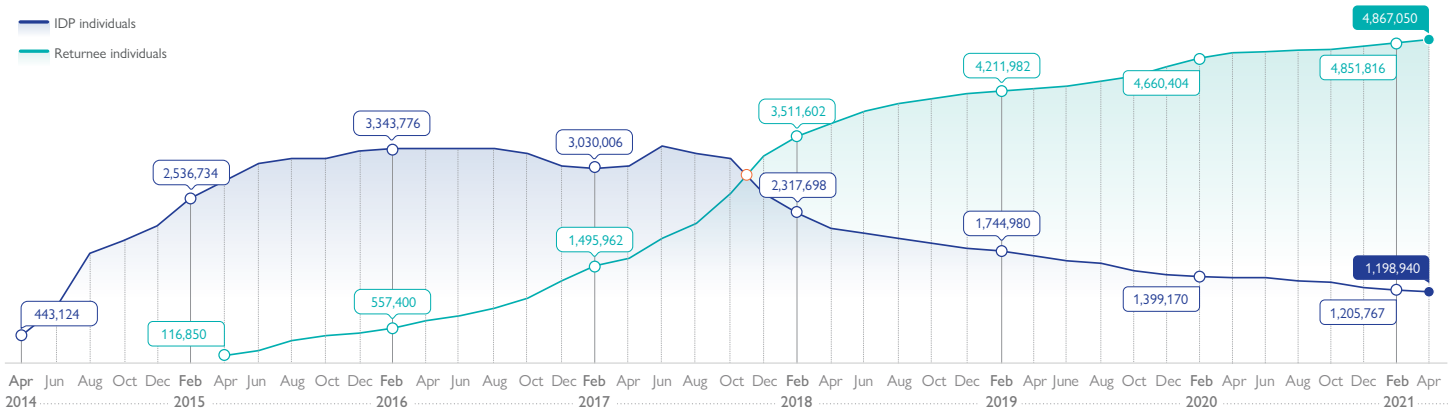


Figure 1. Number of IDPs and returnees over time

Data collection for Round 121 took place in March and April 2021. As of 30 April 2021, DTM identified 4,867,050 returnees (811,175 households), dispersed across 8 governorates, 38 districts, and 2,156 locations in Iraq. A total of 15,234 new returnees were recorded in the March-April 2021 period. This is lower than the number of new returnees recorded in the January-February 2021 period (20,250), and is one of the lowest return rates since 2015. This low return rate in March-April 2021 compared to previous rounds may be partially attributable to the closure and consolidation of camps that mainly took place between September and December 2020 and the subsequent increase in returns during that time. Additionally, the low return rate may be explained by movement restrictions imposed across the country, to curb the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) between February and April 2021. The most common governorates that individuals returned to between March

and April 2021 include Ninewa (where 7,056 new individuals were recorded), Anbar (4,584), Kirkuk (1,524), Salah al-Din (1,518), and Diyala (468).

During the same period, DTM also identified 1,198,940 IDPs (205,946 households), dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,864 locations. This represents an overall decrease of 6,827 IDPs since the March-April 2021 period. This is a smaller decrease than what was recorded between the periods of January-February 2021 and November-December 2020 (18,341). Regarding IDPs' area of origin, consistent with the previous round, 57 per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa governorate (678,512), especially from the districts of Mosul (251,691 individuals), Sinjar (198,852), and Al-Ba'aj (91,723). The next highest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din (141,628), Anbar (134,965), Kirkuk (77,530), and Diyala (72,102).

### IDPs

- 1,198,940 Individuals
- 205,946 Households
- 18 Governorates
- 105 Districts
- 2,864 Locations

### Returnees

- 4,867,050 Individuals
- 811,175 Households
- 8 Governorates
- 38 Districts
- 2,156 Locations

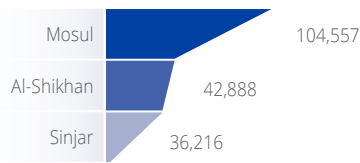
<sup>1</sup> All CCCM Cluster data, including in-camp IDP population numbers, is available at this link: <https://cccmcluster.org/operations/iraq>

# DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of IDPs in all governorates of displacement, (2) the number of IDPs in each main district as well as (3) the proportion of IDPs per governorate of origin for each governorate of displacement.

## Ninewa 257,071 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

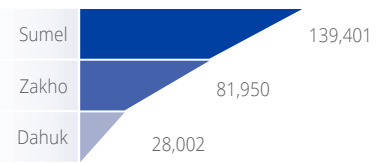


▶ Governorates of origin

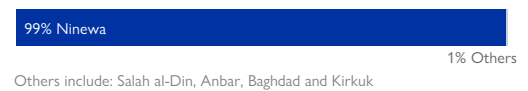


## Dahuk 254,536 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

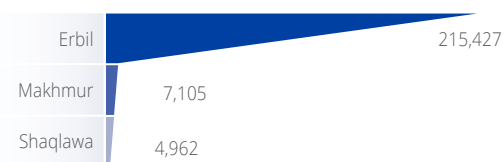


▶ Governorates of origin



## Erbil 232,474 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

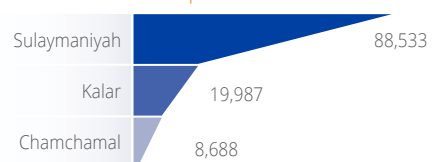


▶ Governorates of origin



## Sulaymaniyah 136,522 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

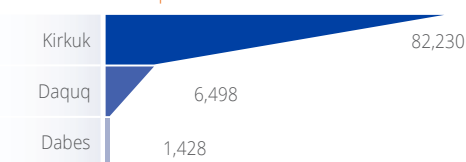


▶ Governorates of origin

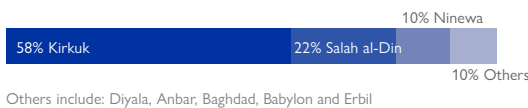


## Kirkuk 90,756 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

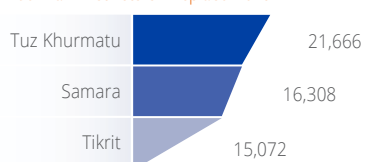


▶ Governorates of origin



## Salah al-Din 61,260 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

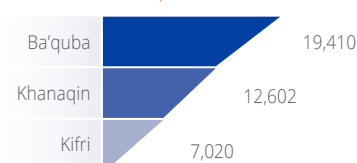


▶ Governorates of origin



## Diyala 44,762 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

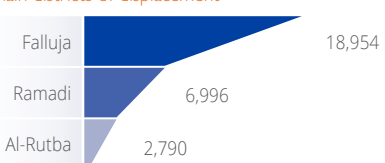


▶ Governorates of origin



## Anbar 34,896 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



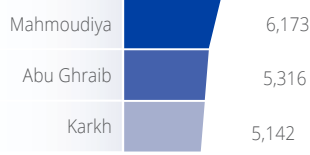
▶ Governorates of origin



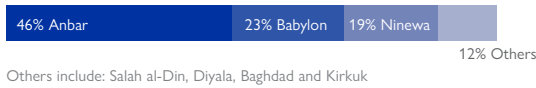
# DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

## Baghdad 25,943 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



## Babylon 17,124 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

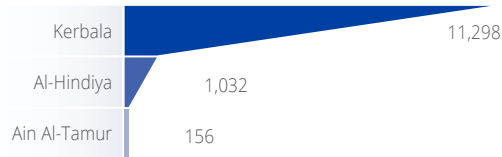


▶ Governorates of origin



## Kerbala 12,486 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

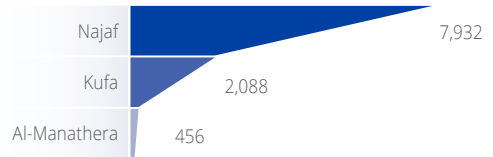


▶ Governorates of origin



## Najaf 10,476 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

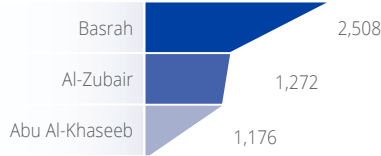


▶ Governorates of origin

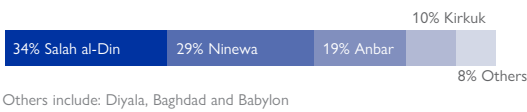


## Basrah 5,904 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

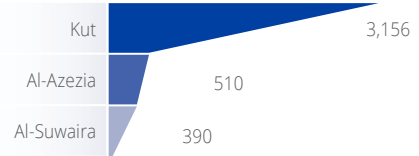


▶ Governorates of origin



## Wassit 4,836 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

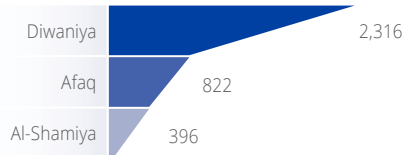


▶ Governorates of origin



## Qadisiya 3,702 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

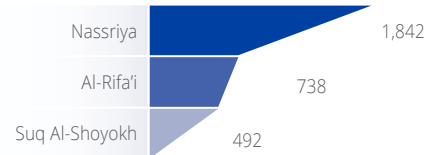


▶ Governorates of origin

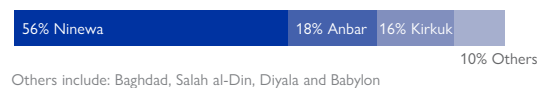


## Thi-Qar 3,246 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin

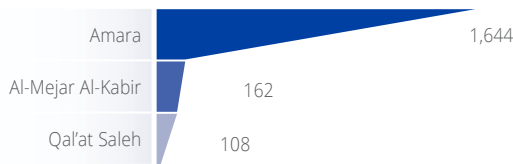


# DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

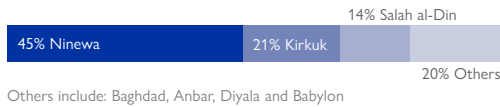
## Missan

2,028 IDPs

► Three main districts of displacement



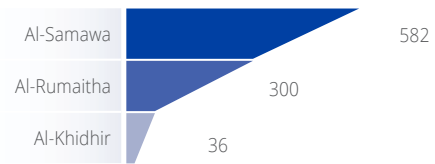
► Governorates of origin



## Muthanna

918 IDPs

► Three main districts of displacement



► Governorates of origin



## IDP SITUATION UPDATE

**Overall IDP figures:** During March and April 2021, DTM identified 1,198,940 IDPs (205,946 households) dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,864 locations in Iraq. This represents a decrease of 6,827 IDP individuals from the number counted in the January-February 2021 period. By far, the most significant decrease took place in Dahuk (-4,097; -2%), followed by Ninewa (-3,147; -1%) and Diyala (-455; -1%). Otherwise, increases in the number of IDP individuals were recorded in certain governorates, mainly Anbar (1,128; 3%) and Erbil (780; <1%).

**Recent IDP movements:** Despite the overall decrease in the total caseload of IDPs across the country, 8,134 IDP individuals arrived in assessed location during March and April 2021. The majority of these new arrivals came from other locations of displacement (6,463; 79%), representing a decrease in secondarily displaced individuals from the number counted in the January-February 2021 period (13,547). The highest number of secondary displacements were recorded in the governorates of Erbil (1,422), Salah al-Din (1,086), Sulaymaniyah (1,086), and Anbar (990). Additionally, in the March-April 2021 period, a total of 1,188 individuals were recorded as having become displaced from their area of origin for the first time, with almost all of this group in Sulaymaniyah (1,092), while very small numbers were recorded in Diyala (66) and Dahuk (30). Most of these IDPs fled from Baghdad (534), Salah al-Din (204), Diyala (168), Ninewa (132), and Anbar (132). Additionally, a total of 483 individuals reportedly failed to return to their governorates of origin and have had to re-displace again. As with previous rounds, most individuals who failed to return had intended to return to their area of origin in Ninewa governorate (219), to the districts of Sinjar (195) and Mosul (24). Smaller numbers of individuals also failed to return to their area of origin in Anbar (150), Salah al-Din (72), Diyala (24), and Baghdad (18). The main reported reasons for failed returns to Ninewa relate to a lack of public services as well as ongoing safety and security issues as the conflict continues. In addition, failed returns to Anbar mainly occurred due to a significant number of evictions by armed security forces, while the reasons for failed returns to Salah al-Din, Diyala and Baghdad were related to ongoing safety and security concerns.

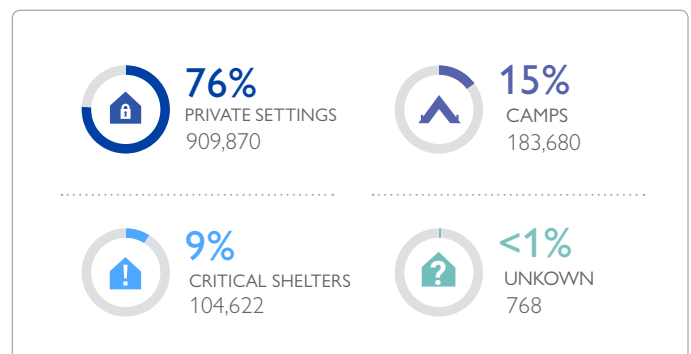
**IDP areas of origin:** 57 per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate (678,512), especially from Mosul (251,691), Sinjar (198,852), and Al-Ba'aj (91,723). The second and third largest shares of IDPs come from Salah al-Din and Anbar governorates, which host respectively 12 per cent and 11 per cent of the total caseload. The top

districts of origin in Salah Al-Din Governorate are Tuz Khurmatu (40,227), Balad (30,382) and Baiji (26,750), while in Anbar they are Ramadi (64,041), Falluja (45,897) and Al-Ka'im (10,148).

**Shelter types:** Across the country, 76 per cent of IDP individuals are living in private settings (909,870), 15 per cent are in camps (183,680), and 9 per cent (104,622) are in critical shelters. A decrease in the number of IDPs residing in camps was recorded in this round (-3,875). This is significantly lower than the decrease recorded in the previous two rounds throughout the period of camps being closed or consolidated (17,795 fewer in-camp IDPs were recorded in January-February 2020, and 47,400 fewer in-camp IDPs were recorded in November-December 2020). By far, the most significant decrease in the number of IDPs residing in camps was recorded in Dahuk governorate's Sumel district (-2,170), followed by Ninewa governorate's Mosul district.

Furthermore, in March-April 2021, a total of 104,622 IDPs were recorded as living in critical shelters, representing a decrease of 588 from the January-February 2021 period. At governorate level, the highest number of IDPs living in critical shelters is in Dahuk with 26,052 (594 fewer than the last round), followed by Anbar with 20,514 (114 fewer than the last round), Ninewa with 19,632 (24 more than the last round), and Salah Al-Din with 16,998 (18 fewer than the last round). Districts hosting the highest numbers of IDPs living in critical shelters include Sumel (21,048), Falluja (15,300), Samarra (8,058), Kirkuk (7,344), and Mosul (7,212). Additionally, there are 88 locations where all IDPs are living in critical shelters, with the highest numbers recorded in the districts of Falluja (15 locations), Erbil (5), and Al-Shikhan (5).

Figure 2. IDP shelter types

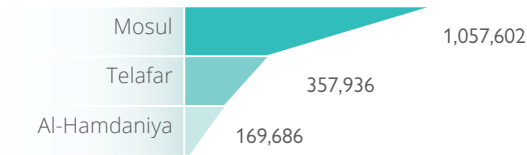


# RETURNS OVERVIEW

The below graphs show (1) the number of returnees in all governorates of origin, (2) the number of returnees in each main district and (3) the proportion of returnees per governorate of last displacement for each governorate of origin.

## Ninewa 1,911,414 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



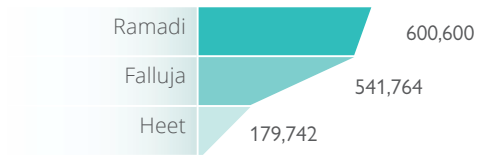
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Najaf, Kerbala, Baghdad, Babylon, Kirkuk, Wassit, Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din, Basrah, Missan, Qadisiya, Thi-Qar, Muthanna, Diyala and Anbar

## Anbar 1,509,996 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



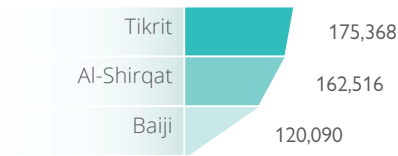
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Babylon, Salah al-Din, Dahuk, Kerbala, Ninewa and Diyala

## Salah al-Din 711,516 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



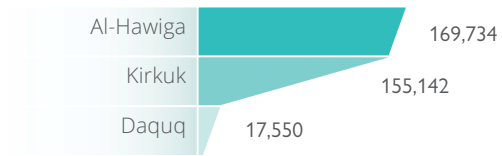
▶ Governorates of last displacement



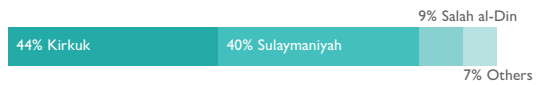
Others: Ninewa, Sulaymaniyah, Baghdad, Dahuk, Basrah, Kerbala, Najaf, Diyala, Missan, Babylon, Thi-Qar and Wassit

## Kirkuk 349,662 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



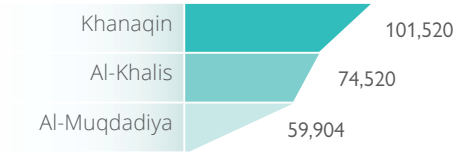
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Erbil, Ninewa, Baghdad and Babylon

## Diyala 237,264 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



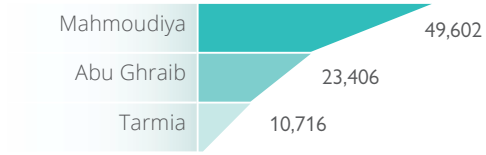
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Baghdad, Erbil and Kerbala

## Baghdad 91,488 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Sulaymaniyah, Kerbala and Missan

## Erbil 54,942 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



## Dahuk 768 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



# RETURNS OVERVIEW

## RETURNEE SITUATION UPDATE

**Overall return figures:** DTM identified a total of 4,867,050 returnees (811,175 households) across 8 governorates, 38 districts, and 2,156 locations in Iraq. A total of 15,234 returnees were recorded in the January-February 2021 period. This is lower than the number of new returnees recorded in the previous three periods: January-February 2021 (20,250), November-December 2020 (49,152), September-October 2020 (38,364). It is also one of the lowest bi-monthly return rates recorded since 2015. This low return rate compared to previous rounds may be partially attributable to the closure and consolidation of camps that mainly took place between September and December 2020, and the subsequent increase in returns during that time.<sup>2</sup>

Governorates with the highest numbers of overall returnees include Ninewa (1,911,414 with 7,056 new returnees since the last round), Anbar (1,509,996 with 4,584 new returnees), and Salah al-Din (711,516 with 1,518 new returnees). During the March-April 2021 period, DTM recorded a total of 2,136 returnees coming from camps.

This follows higher numbers of returnees arriving from camps during January-February 2021 (10,902), as well as November-December 2020 (31,422), and September-October 2020 (12,198).

Almost all of those who came from camp settings returned to Ninewa governorate (2,130), especially to the districts of Sinjar (966), Mosul (642), Telafar (324), and Al-Ba'aj (168). Additionally, six individuals arrived to Anbar governorate's Al-Ka'im district. Furthermore, between March and April 2021, returns took place to one location in Kirkuk governorate's Kirkuk district that had previously witnessed no returns.

**District level figures:** As with the last two rounds, Mosul in Ninewa governorate remains the district with the highest number of returnees with 1,057,602 individuals (22% of the total caseload), of whom 2,538 were recorded as arriving in this round. Additionally, Ramadi district in Anbar governorate has the second highest number of returnees (600,600; 12%), of whom only 60 were recorded as arriving in this round, while Falluja in the same governorate also has received a high number (541,764; 11%), of whom 192 arrived in this round. Otherwise, a significant number of returnees have also returned to the district of Telafar in Ninewa governorate (357,936; 7%), of whom 894 arrived in this round. Additionally, while a relatively small number of individuals have returned to Sinjar in Ninewa overall (118,386; 2%), a significant number arrived there between March and April 2021 (1,596) – making it the third most common district of return in this round. A further 3,336 returnees arrived to Heet district in Anbar governorate in this round, bringing its total number of arrivals to 179,742 (4%), while an additional 1,032 returnees arrived to Al-Hawiga district in Kirkuk governorate, bringing its total number to 169,734 (3%).

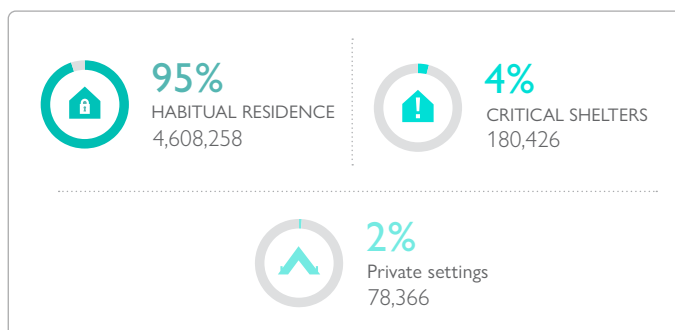
**Shelter types:** In the March-April 2021 period, the majority of new

returnees (14,334) were identified as having arrived to their residence of origin, bringing the overall number in this shelter type to 4,608,258 (95% of all returnees). Additionally, 684 returnees arrived to shelters in critical condition, taking the total number residing in them to 180,426 (4% of all returnees). The remaining 216 new returnees in this round arrived to private settings, with the total number of those residing in this shelter type now 78,366 (1% of all returnees).

The highest number of returnee individuals living in shelters in critical condition are in Ninewa governorate (57,474, amounting to 32% of all returnees residing in this shelter type), especially in the districts of Mosul (32,352), Sinjar (8,010), and Telafar (7,176). A high number of returnee individuals living in critical shelters was also recorded in Anbar governorate (44,772; 25%), with this group mainly located in the districts of Falluja (15,480), Ramadi (13,926), and Al-Ka'im (10,062). In addition, a further 43,896 returnee individuals live in critical shelters in Salah al-Din governorate (24%), with most of this group spread across three districts: Baiji (13,308), Al-Shirqat (9,612), and Tikrit (9,444).

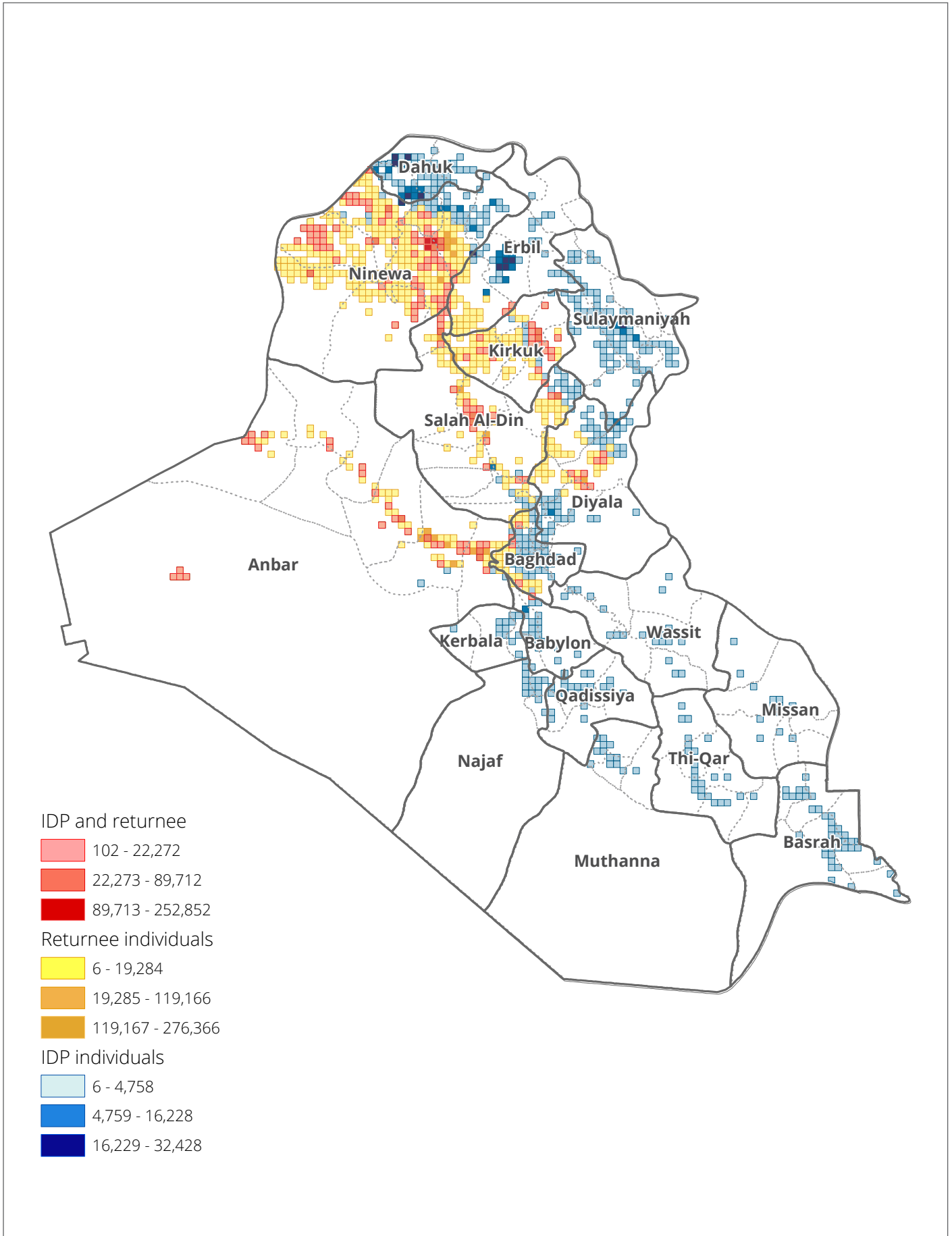
Overall, in the March-April 2021 period, there were 11 locations where all returnees are living in shelters in critical condition, where a total of 5,136 individuals arrived (up marginally from 4,914 in the January-February 2021 period, and 4,896 in the November-December 2020 period). All returnees are living in shelters in critical condition in three locations in Anbar governorate (where 3,402 individuals are residing) – especially in the districts of Falluja (2,406) and Ramadi (720). Additionally, all returnees are living in shelters in critical condition in Salah al-Din (888), with almost all in the district of Tikrit (780). Moreover, all returnees are living in shelters in critical condition in four locations in Ninewa (hosting 612 individuals), and one in each of Kirkuk (132 individuals) and Diyala (hosting 102 individuals).

Figure 3. Returnee shelter types



<sup>2</sup> Between September 2020 and February 2021, DTM implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise that tracked the movements of IDPs from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps. Products are available at this link: <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ldpMovements#Camp>

Map 1. Presence of IDPs and returnees by area



## METHODOLOGY

IOM's DTM aims to monitor displacement and provide accurate data about the IDP and returnee populations in Iraq. Data is collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 100 staff members deployed across Iraq. Data collection for Round 121 took place during the months of March and April 2021 across 18 governorates.

Data from the IDP Master List and Returnee Master List is gathered through a well-established large network of over 9,500 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces. Additional information is gathered from government registration data and partner agencies.

IOM RARTs collect Master List data continuously and report it bi-monthly. However, limited access due to security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods, in addition to true variation of the population figures, may be influenced by other factors such as the continuous identification of previously displaced groups and the inclusion of data on secondary displacements within Iraq.

The displaced populations are identified through a process of collection, verification, triangulation and validation of data. IOM continues to closely coordinate with federal, regional and local authorities to maintain a shared and accurate understanding of displacement across Iraq.

To facilitate analysis, this report divides Iraq into three regions: the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) includes Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil Governorates; the South includes Basrah, Missan, Najaf, Thi-Qar, Qadissiya and Muthana Governorates; and the Central North includes Anbar, Babylon, Baghdad, Diyala, Kerbala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Wassit Governorates.

### Calculations used to determine the number of individuals:

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households by six, the average size of an Iraqi household as per governmental statistics, for all out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. Since the July-August 2020 period (Round 117), the number of individuals for in-camp IDPs has been calculated by multiplying the number of households by five, which is the average household size consistent with data from the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster since 2018. For the most accurate and up-to-date information on out-of-camp IDPs, please refer to the [CCCM Cluster website](#).

In all Master List rounds prior to Round 117 (July-August 2020), the number of in-camp IDPs was calculated by multiplying the number of households by six. Since the calculation methodology is consistent between Rounds 117 to 120, comparative analysis between these four datasets will not be affected. However, it should be noted that comparing the number of in-camp IDPs between Rounds 117 to 120 with any previous rounds will be affected by the change in the revised calculation methodology.

### The methodology uses the following definitions:

The DTM considers as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment.

The DTM considers as returnees all those displaced since January 2014 who have returned to their location of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The definition of returnees is not related to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, nor with a defined durable solutions strategy.

The location is defined as an area that corresponds either to a village for rural areas or a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fourth official administrative division).

Residence of origin is the same residence in which returnees lived prior to displacement.

Private settings include owned property, rented houses, hotels/motels and host families.

Critical shelters include collective shelters (such as religious buildings, schools, or other public buildings), unfinished or abandoned buildings, tents, caravans, and other temporary, sub-standard or makeshift shelters. For IDPs, it also includes long-term rental accommodation that is unfinished or severely damaged. Additionally, for returnees, it includes residences of origin that are severely damaged or destroyed.

*For more information, visit [iraqdtm.iom.int](http://iraqdtm.iom.int) or contact the team at [iraqdtm@iom](mailto:iraqdtm@iom).*

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