

Note: The previous Master List round (122) covered a three-month period between May and July 2021. This round (123) covered the two months between August and September 2021. As such, comparative analysis related to data from this round and the previous rounds should be observed bearing in mind the different lengths of reporting periods.

HIGHLIGHTS

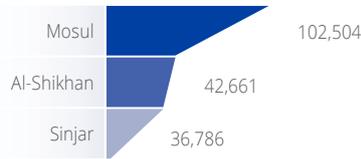


DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

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 256,034 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

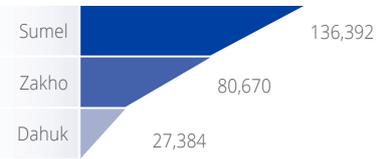


▶ Governorates of origin



Dahuk 249,513 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Erbil 231,638 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

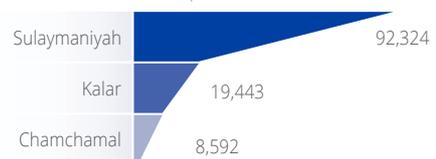


▶ Governorates of origin

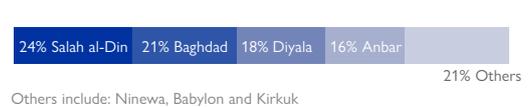


Sulaymaniyah 140,237 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Kirkuk 90,582 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

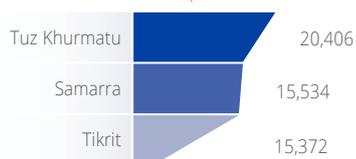


▶ Governorates of origin



Salah al-Din 58,578 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

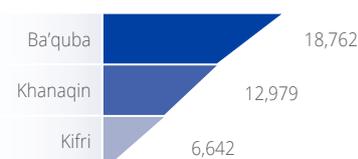


▶ Governorates of origin



Diyala 43,963 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement

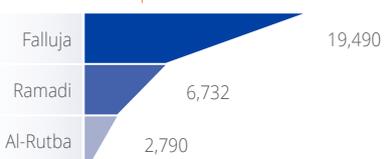


▶ Governorates of origin



Anbar 35,312 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



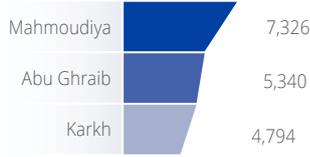
▶ Governorates of origin



DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Baghdad 26,610 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Salah al-Din, Diyala, Baghdad and Kirkuk

Babylon 16,938 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



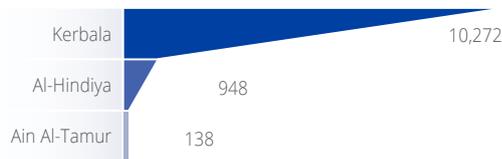
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala and Salah al-Din

Kerbala 11,358 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



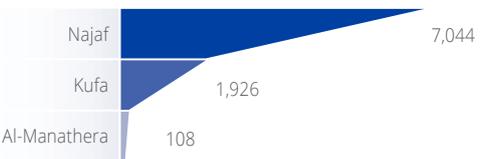
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Anbar, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah al-Din and Baghdad

Najaf 9,078 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



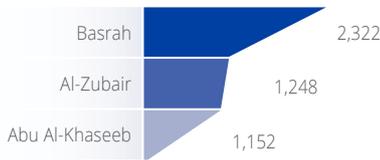
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Salah al-Din and Anbar

Basrah 5,616 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



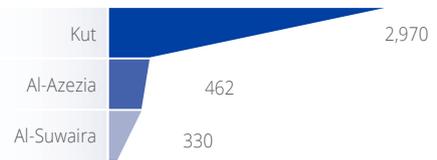
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Baghdad and Babylon

Wassit 4,512 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



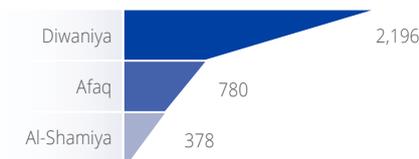
▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Diyala, Salah al-Din and Anbar

Qadisiya 3,516 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



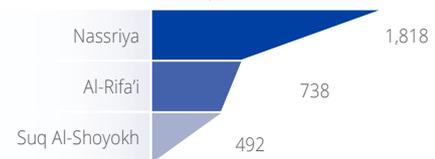
▶ Governorates of origin



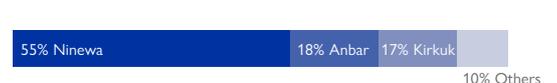
Others include: Baghdad and Salah al-Din

Thi-Qar 3,222 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



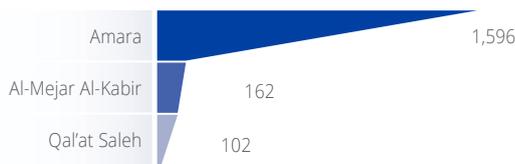
Others include: Baghdad, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Babylon

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Missan

1,974 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin

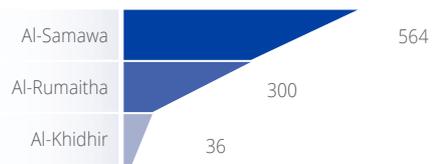


Others include: Baghdad, Anbar, Diyala and Babylon

Muthanna

900 IDPs

▶ Three main districts of displacement



▶ Governorates of origin



Others include: Salah al-Din, Kirkuk and Diyala

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP) SITUATION UPDATE

Overall IDP figures: During the August-September 2021 period, DTM identified 1,189,581 IDPs (204,344 households) dispersed across 18 governorates, 105 districts, and 2,842 locations in Iraq. This represents a decrease of 1,889 IDP individuals from the number counted in the May-July 2021 period. The most significant decreases in the number of IDPs were recorded in the governorates of Ninewa (-1,555), Dahuk (-924), and Diyala (-454). Additionally, an increase of 2,179 IDPs (+2%) was recorded in the governorate of Sulaymaniyah.

Recent IDP movements: Despite the overall decrease in the total caseload of IDPs across the country, a total of 9,866 IDP individuals arrived to assessed locations in the August-September 2021 period. Amongst this group, a total of 2,446 individuals became displaced for the first time, 6,302 individuals arrived from other locations of displacement, while the remaining 1,118 individuals became re-displaced again. By far, the highest number of these IDPs arrived to Sulaymaniyah governorate (4,241). Most of this group (2,244 individuals) became displaced for the first time, 1,781 individuals became displaced from another location of displacement, and 216 individuals became displaced from the locations to which they had previously returned. These IDPs in Sulaymaniyah mainly arrived from Baghdad, Salah al-Din or Anbar due to rising security issues there, while some of these individuals moved in search of work opportunities. Additionally, a significant number of secondary displacements occurred in Erbil (1,318), while the highest number of individuals were recorded as becoming re-displaced from return locations in Ninewa (627). Furthermore, a total of 1,118 individuals failed to return to their governorate of origin and have had to re-displace again. Most of these individuals originate from the governorate of Salah al-Din (567), and the remaining are from Ninewa (329), Anbar (132), Baghdad (66) and Diyala (24).

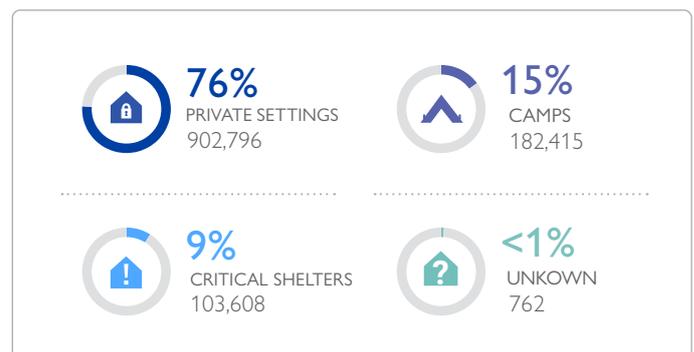
IDP areas of origin: Fifty-six per cent of the current caseload of IDPs come from Ninewa Governorate (669,133) especially from Mosul (248,603), Sinjar (194,214), and Al-Ba'aj (92,957). The second and third largest shares of IDPs come from the governorates of Salah al-Din (140,058; 12%) and Anbar (134,686; 11%). The top districts of origin within Salah al-Din governorate are Tuz Khurmatu (36,897), Balad (28,501) and Baiji (26,972), while within Anbar the top districts of origin include Ramadi (63,604), Falluja (46,415), Al-Ka'im (10,025), and Al-Rutba (5,523).

Shelter types: Across the country, 76 per cent of IDP individuals are living in private settings (902,796), 15 per cent are in camps (182,415), and 9 per cent (103,608) are in critical shelters. In the August-September 2020 period, a significant decrease in the number of IDPs in private settings was recorded (-3,300). Additionally, a increase of 175 IDPs living in camps was

recorded in this round, with 160 of this group recorded in Erbil governorate. This overall increase in the number of IDPs living in camps contrasts with the decreases that were recorded in the previous three rounds in 2021: May-July (-1,440), March-April 2021 (-3,875), and January-February (-17,795). The small change in the number of IDPs living in camps recorded in this round can be attributed to several camps being closed or consolidated in late 2020 and early 2021, which pushed significant numbers of IDPs to return or become displaced in different locations.

Furthermore, in August-September 2021, a total of 103,608 IDPs were recorded as living in critical shelters, amounting to nine per cent of the nation's caseload. This amounts to an increase of 1,236 IDPs living in shelters in critical condition since the previous round (May-July 2021). At governorate level, the highest number of IDPs living in shelters in critical condition is in Dahuk with 21,276, representing a decrease (-312) in the number recorded in the previous May-July 2021 period. Significant numbers of IDPs also reside in critical shelters in Anbar with 21,138 (318 more than the last round), Ninewa with 19,956 (84 fewer than the last round), Salah al-Din with 17,382 (1,032 more than the last round), as well as Kirkuk with 9,168 (6 fewer than the last round). Districts hosting the highest number of IDPs living in shelters in critical condition include Sumel (17,274) in Dahuk - despite a decrease since May-July 2021 (-276). Significant numbers of IDPs in critical shelters are also in Kirkuk district (8,304) in Kirkuk governorate, as well as Samarra district (7,230) in Salah al-Din governorate. Additionally, across the country, there is a total of 85 locations where all IDPs are living in critical shelters, with the highest number of locations in Falluja district (16) in Anbar governorate, where 13,878 IDPs reside. In a further three locations in Anbar's Ramadi district, all 4,350 IDPs are living in shelters in critical condition. High numbers of locations where all IDPs are living in critical shelters are also in the districts of Erbil (5) and Al-Shikhan (4), in Erbil and Ninewa governorates respectively.

Figure 2. IDP shelter types

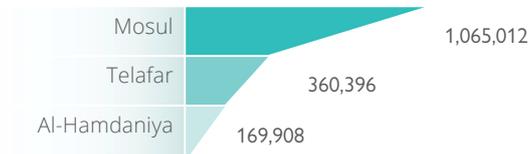


RETURNS OVERVIEW

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 1,922,496 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



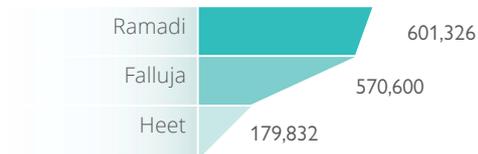
▶ Governorates of last displacement



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

Anbar 1,541,466 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 731,820 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



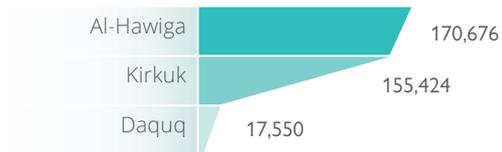
▶ Governorates of last displacement



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

Kirkuk 350,886 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Erbil, Ninewa, Baghdad and Babylon

Diyala 239,310 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



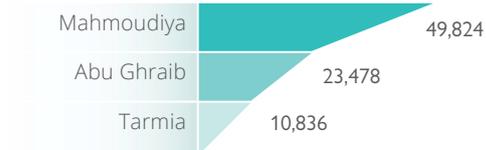
▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Baghdad, Erbil and Kerbala

Baghdad 91,902 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Sulaymaniyah, Kerbala and Missan

Erbil 60,432 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



Others: Salah al-Din

Dahuk 762 Returnees

▶ Three main districts of return



▶ Governorates of last displacement



RETURNS OVERVIEW

RETURNEE SITUATION UPDATE

Overall return figures: Between August and September 2021, DTM identified a total of 4,939,074 returnees (823,179 households) across 8 governorates, 38 districts, and 2,171 locations across the country. A total of 54,462 new returnee individuals were recorded in the period between August and September 2021, which is significantly higher than the number of new returnees that were recorded in the previous round between May and July 2021 (17,562). It is also higher than what was recorded in the three rounds preceding this: March-April 2021 (15,234), January-February 2021 (20,250), and November-December 2020 (49,152).^{1,2} However, the higher number of new returnees in this round is due to a number of new returnees in Anbar governorate being counted in this round following the DTM teams accessing a number of locations there that had previously been inaccessible due to security issues.

Governorates with the highest number of overall returnees include Ninewa (1,922,496 with 2,136 new returnees since the last round), Anbar (1,541,466 with 29,808 new since the last round), and Salah al-Din (731,820 with 16,110 new since the last round). During the August-September 2021 period, DTM recorded a total of 1,008 IDP individuals who arrived from camps, which is significantly lower than the number recorded in the May-July 2021 period (6,186). Most of this group arrived to Ninewa governorate's districts of Sinjar (396), Al-Ba'aj (132) and Mosul (24), while the rest arrived in Erbil governorate's Makhmur district (210) as well as Salah al-Din governorate's districts of Baiji (126) and Al-Shirqat (120).

Furthermore, between August and September 2021, returns took place to two locations that had previously witnessed no returns. One of these locations is in Ninewa governorate's Hatra district and the other is in Erbil governorate's Makhmur district. Additionally, in this round, one additional location in Hatra district was identified as having received no returnees to date. The reason for this relates to there being a lack of available basic services as well as a poor security situation there.

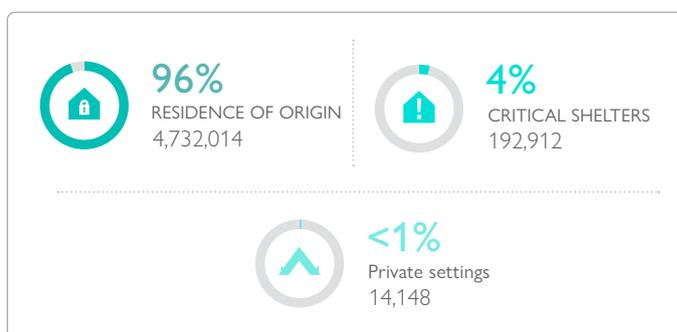
District level figures: As with previous rounds, Mosul in Ninewa governorate remains the district with the highest number of returnees with 1,065,012 individuals (22% of the total caseload), of whom 1,752 were recorded as arriving in this round. Additionally, Ramadi district in Anbar governorate has the second highest number of returnees (601,326; 12%), of whom 294 were recorded as arriving in this round. The third highest number of returnees is recorded in Falluja district in Anbar governorate (570,600; 12%), of whom 28,686 were newly recorded in this round – noting that a significant number of these returnees are in locations that had previously been unassessed.³ Otherwise, a significant number of returnees have also returned to the district of Telafar in Ninewa governorate (360,396; 7%), of whom 480 arrived in this round. Additionally, in the August-September 2021 period, high numbers of new returnees were recorded in the district of Tikrit (14,394) in Salah al-Din governorate, along with Makhmur district (5,430) in Erbil governorate.

Shelter types: In the August-September 2021 period, the majority of newly recorded returnees (46,314) were identified as arriving to their residence of origin, bringing the overall number in this shelter type to 4,732,014 (96% of all returnees). Additionally, 8,544 returnees arrived to shelters in critical condition, taking the total number residing in them to 192,912 (4% of all returnees). Otherwise, a decrease of 396 returnees living in private settings was recorded in this round compared with the previous round, with the total national number now at 14,148 (less than 1% of all returnees).

The highest number of returnee individuals living in critical shelters is in Salah al-Din governorate (61,356), amounting to 32 per cent of all returnees living in them across the country. Most of this group are spread across three districts: Tikrit (22,458), Baiji (15,432) and Al-Shirqat (8,850). In addition, a further 55,866 returnees live in critical shelters in the governorate of Ninewa (29% of all returnees in this shelter type), with most of this group in Mosul district (31,962), followed by Sinjar (8,112) and Al-Ba'aj (5,376). A high number of returnees living in critical shelters was also recorded in Anbar governorate (42,354; 22%), with this group mainly located in the districts of Ramadi (14,064), Falluja (13,554) and Al-Ka'im (9,630).

Overall, in the August-September 2021 period, eight locations were identified where all returnees (totaling 2,556 individuals) are residing in shelters in critical condition. This represents a minor decrease from the number recorded in the May-July 2021 period (2,592). Two of these locations are in Anbar governorate, including one in the district of Ramadi (hosting 858 returnees) and one in the district of Al-Ka'im (294 returnees). A further two locations where all returnees live in critical shelters are in Salah al-Din governorate, with one in Tikrit district (780 returnees) and the other in Tuz Khurmatu (18 returnees). Additionally, all returnees live in critical shelters in one location in each of Ninewa governorate's districts of Mosul (276 returnees) and Al-Ba'aj (48 returnees). The same applies to all returnees residing in a location in Kirkuk governorate's Kirkuk district (180 returnees) as well as Diyala governorate's Khanaqin district (102 returnees).

Figure 3. Returnee shelter types

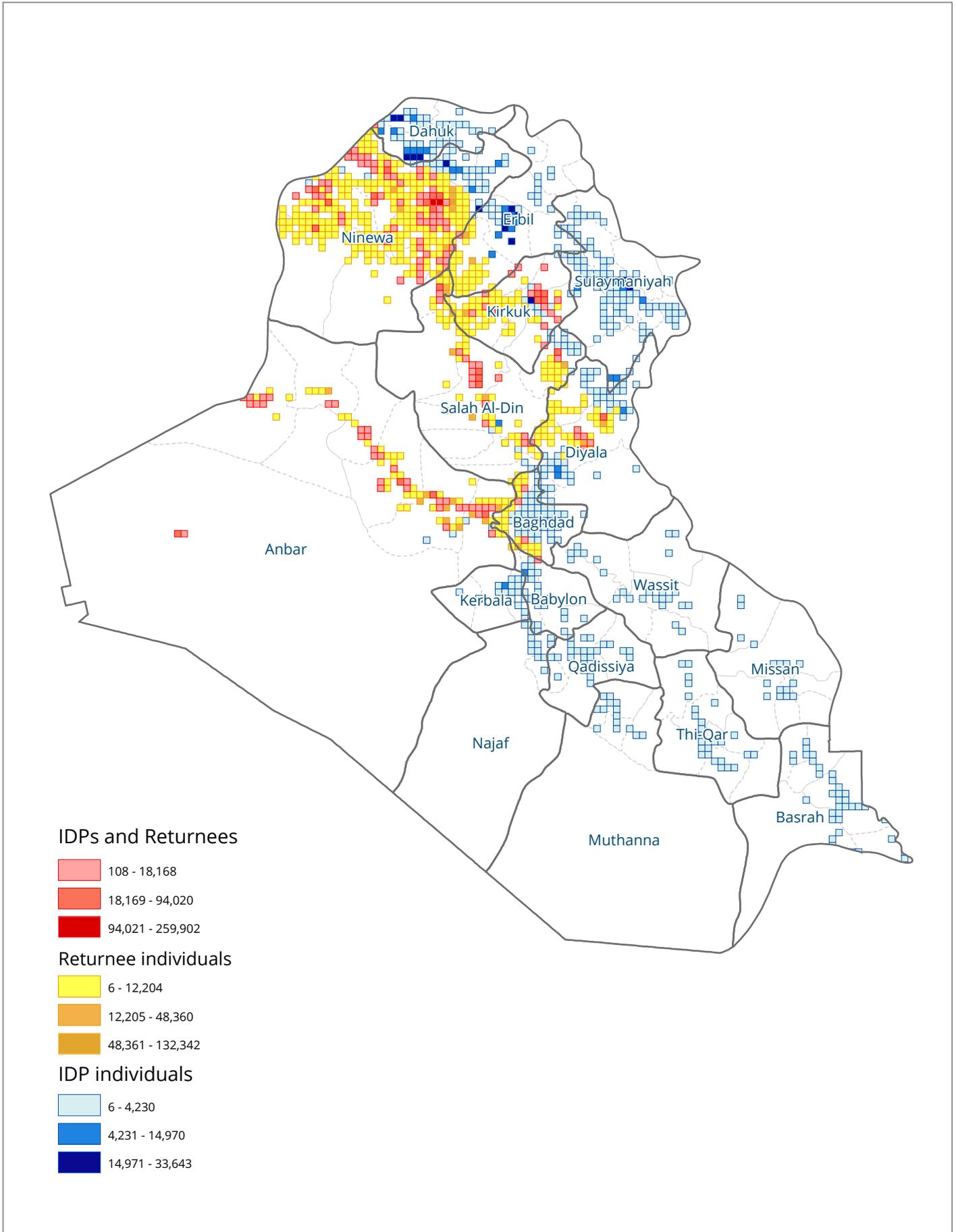


¹ The high return rate in November-December 2020 is partially attributable to the closure and consolidation of camps that mainly took place between October 2020 and January 2021, and the subsequent increase in returns during that time. Between September 2020 and February 2021, DTM implemented an Emergency 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>

² In January 2020, IOM Iraq published a report: *Protracted Displacement in Iraq: Revisiting Categories of Return Barriers*. The report draws on a range of secondary data sources to inform a categorization framework highlighting the different types of barriers that IDPs face in returning home. The report is available at this link: <https://iraq.iom.int/publications/protracted-displacement-iraq-revisiting-categories-return-barriers>

³ Refer to the first paragraph in the Returnee section for more information about the locations in Anbar governorate that had previously been unassessed.

Map 1. Presence of IDPs and returnees



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 123 took place during the months of August and September 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 123, 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 123 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).

Changes to shelter terminology in the Master List Round 122:

In the previous round (122), which covered from May to July 2021, changes were made to the terminology of shelter types that IDPs and returnees reside in. These changes are reflected in all products related to the Master List Rounds 122 and 123. Changes include adjustments to provide clarity on terminologies for critical shelter types as distinct from displacement site types, ensuring alignment with the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster Technical Note on Informal Sites Definition for Iraq (September 2020).

Changes to shelter types in which IDPs and returnees reside include:

- “Informal settlements” have been replaced with “Tents/caravans/makeshift shelters/mud or block house”
- “Non-residential structures” have been replaced with “Other critical shelters”
- “Collective shelters” have been replaced with “Public buildings or collective shelters”

Changes to shelter types in which returnees only reside include:

- “Habitual residence” has been replaced with “Residence of origin”
- “Rental” has been removed

Change to a shelter type in which IDPs only reside include:

- “Rental” has been replaced with “Apartment/house (not owned)”

The following is a summary of the shelter types referred to in this report: Residences of origin are the same residences in which returnees lived prior to displacement. Shelters in critical condition, for returnees, include residences of origin (uninhabitable), tents/caravans/makeshift shelters/mud or brick houses, unfinished/abandoned buildings, public buildings or collective shelters, religious buildings, or school buildings. For IDPs, shelters in critical condition include those listed above for returnees except for residences of origin, as well as apartment/houses that are not owned or are uninhabitable.

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IOM Iraq thanks the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) for its continued support. IOM Iraq also expresses its gratitude to IOM Iraq’s Rapid Assessment and Response Team (RART) members for their work in collecting the data, often in very difficult circumstances; their tireless efforts are the groundwork of this report.

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