

IOM IRAQ

INFORMAL SITES ASSESSMENT 2020-2021

A comparative analysis of informal sites in Iraq from Integrated
Location Assessment Rounds 5 and 6

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ACRONYMS

CCCM Camp Coordination and Camp Management

FHH Female-Headed Household

HLP Housing, Land and Property

ICCG Inter-Cluster Coordination Group

IDP Internally Displaced Person

ILA Integrated Location Assessment

ISIL Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

IOM-DTM International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix

RART Rapid Assessment and Response Teams

WASH Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides a detailed overview of the conditions faced by IDP and returnee families residing in informal sites at the time of data collection of the Integrated Location Assessment 6 (ILA 6, May-July 2021), as well as a summary of trends since the ILA 5 (July-August 2020). The ILA informal sites assessment was conducted in two parts. First, the location, population and shelter type of all informal sites was collected nationwide. Second, if the informal site contained 15 or more families, a full assessment of the location was conducted using a longer form designed in partnership with the Cluster members of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). In this report, data attributed to “fully assessed sites” refers only to sites with 15 or more families.

As of July 2021, ILA 6 recorded a total of 418 informal sites. IDP families were present in 389 informal sites and returnee families were present in 31 sites. Dahuk Governorate contains 38 per cent of the informal sites nationwide (160), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din accounting for a further 18 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively (76 and 52 sites). Overall, 13,533 families were recorded as residing in informal sites in ILA 6 (12,490 IDP families and 1,043 returnee families). The largest share of this population is in Anbar Governorate (28%), followed by Dahuk (24%) and Salah al-Din (14%).

Between ILA 5 and ILA 6, the number of families residing in informal sites decreased by four per cent, from 14,067 to 13,533. In the same period, the number of informal sites decreased by 15 per cent, from 490 to 418 sites. The number of informal sites fell significantly in Dahuk Governorate, where there were 41 fewer sites recorded in ILA 6. This decline is attributed to returns, predominantly to Sinjar district in Ninewa Governorate, as well as families entering camps to receive assistance, and families moving to non-critical shelters which, in a limited number of cases, was their rehabilitated residence of origin. Other governorates where the number of informal sites declined included Salah al-Din which recorded 25 fewer sites, and Kirkuk Governorate, with 19 fewer sites. Baghdad Governorate, however, recorded 11 new informal sites in ILA 6, with eight of these located in the district of Mahmoudiya.

Over a quarter of fully assessed informal sites witnessed new arrivals in the 12 months between ILA 5 and ILA 6 (26%, 57 sites). Arrivals from camps were recorded in 13 per cent of fully assessed informal sites (27 sites). Arrivals from camps were most common in the districts of Hatra, Al-Ba'aj, and Sinjar in Ninewa Governorate, and Mahmoudiya in Baghdad Governorate.

The number of sites in which the majority of families are unable to meet basic needs nearly doubled between the ILA 5 and ILA 6 assessments, from 41 per cent to 81 per cent (93 to 176 sites). Dahuk Governorate exhibited the most significant rise, from 12 per cent (11 sites) in which less than half of families can meet their basic needs in ILA 5 to 92 per cent of sites (57) in ILA 6. Despite the vulnerability of those residing in informal sites, 29 per cent of fully assessed informal sites reported having received assistance in the past 3 months, predominantly from humanitarian organisations (19%) and government authorities (10%).

The majority of IDPs in 84 per cent of informal sites intend to stay in their current location in the short term (202 sites). Of the nine per cent of informal sites where the majority of IDP families intend to return in the 6 months following the assessment (19 sites), two thirds of them are in Samarra district (12). If they were to receive the assistance necessary to return, most or all families would return in 45 per cent of sites (83). This is notably higher than the 25 per cent of sites that provided the same answer in ILA 5 (54). The majority of families were undecided about their intentions beyond six months after the assessment (56%, 114 sites). The majority of families had the long-term intention to return in only 18 per cent of sites (37). This intention was most common in Samarra, Kirkuk, Al-Musayab, and Ramadi districts.

The report concludes that the need for further research and concerted programming to effectively support those who are displaced in or have returned to informal sites is clear, as is the increased vulnerability of those populations in the data collected for ILA 5 and ILA 6. Targeted interventions will be required to curb these trends of deteriorating conditions in the areas highlighted in this report.

INTRODUCTION

Displaced and returnee families residing in informal sites are vulnerable and face significant challenges in achieving a durable solution to displacement or reintegration. Conditions in informal sites can be highly dynamic, with access to basic services, agreements on land ownership and livelihood opportunities liable to change at short notice. With the latest wave of closures and consolidation of camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), which began in August 2019, there has been a growing concern that the number of families unable to access adequate shelter, either in new areas of displacement or in their areas of origin, would increase. While the share of families that reside in informal sites has remained low (6% of IDPs and 0.1% of returnees), targeted research and programming is required to support this highly vulnerable population.

This report provides a detailed overview of the conditions faced by IDP and returnee families residing in informal sites at the time of data collection of the Integrated Location Assessment 6 (ILA 6, May-July 2021), as well as a summary of trends since the ILA 5 (July-August 2020). The report covers changes in the population and number of informal sites, including an analysis of those sites that have received arrivals from camps in the year from August 2020 to July 2021. The report also provides a thematic analysis structured around livelihoods, housing, land and property (HLP), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and protection, as well as the intentions of displaced families in informal sites. Where possible, districts that exhibit concerning trends or dynamics are highlighted to support further research and targeted programming.

METHODOLOGY AND COVERAGE

The International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM-DTM) assesses all informal sites in Iraq as part of the yearly [Integrated Location Assessment \(ILA\)](#). ILA 6, conducted from May to July 2021, covered 3,757 locations, reaching 4,876,170 returnees and 1,154,462 IDPs (99% and 97% of the returnee and IDP population, respectively). The ILA is conducted by IOM's Rapid Assessment Response Teams (RARTs) through a survey of key informants and direct observation at the aggregate level, that is, on the majority of IDPs or returnees living in the site (not on individual households).

In the ILA, informal sites are defined by the following criteria provided by the Iraq Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster: (1) areas not built to accommodate displaced and returnee families but serving that purpose; (2) authorities are not responsible for management or administration; (3) services and assistance may be absent or provided irregularly; (4) there are at least five households in the site.¹

The ILA also identifies whether the informal site contains: (1) families displaced from their neighbourhood or village of origin as a result of Iraq's war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), who are defined as IDPs; (2) families that have been displaced and subsequently returned to an informal site in their neighbourhood or village of origin, who are

defined as returnees; or (3) both IDPs and returnees.

There are some discrepancies between the informal site and population data published in this report and those published by the CCCM Cluster. While IOM-DTM works closely with the cluster to coordinate and align data collection, there are some key methodological differences to explain these discrepancies, namely: (1) IOM-DTM conduct bimonthly data collection of the total number of displaced and returnee families across Iraq, and calculate the number of individuals by multiplying the number of families reported in a site by 6, the average family size in Iraq; and (2) the IOM-DTM caseload includes only those who were displaced as a result of the war with ISIL in 2014 and its aftermath, the host community and those displaced before 2014 are not included in these assessments.

The informal sites assessment was conducted in two parts. First, the location, population and shelter type of all informal sites was collected nationwide. Second, if the informal site contained 15 or more families, a full assessment of the location was conducted using a longer form designed in partnership with the Cluster members of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). In this report, data attributed to "fully assessed sites" refers only to sites with 15 or more families.

Figure 1: Total and fully assessed sites and populations for ILA 5 and ILA 6

	ILA 5 (JULY – AUGUST 2020)	ILA 6 (MAY – JULY 2021)
Total no. identified informal sites	490	418
Families in informal sites	14,067	13,533
Fully assessed informal sites (15+ families)	229	216
Families in fully assessed informal sites	11,867	11,887

¹ Technical Guidance on Informal Site Definition. CCCM Cluster Iraq (V.2 Sept 2020). Note that the distinction between displaced and returnee families is not specified in the original site definition but is used in the ILA.

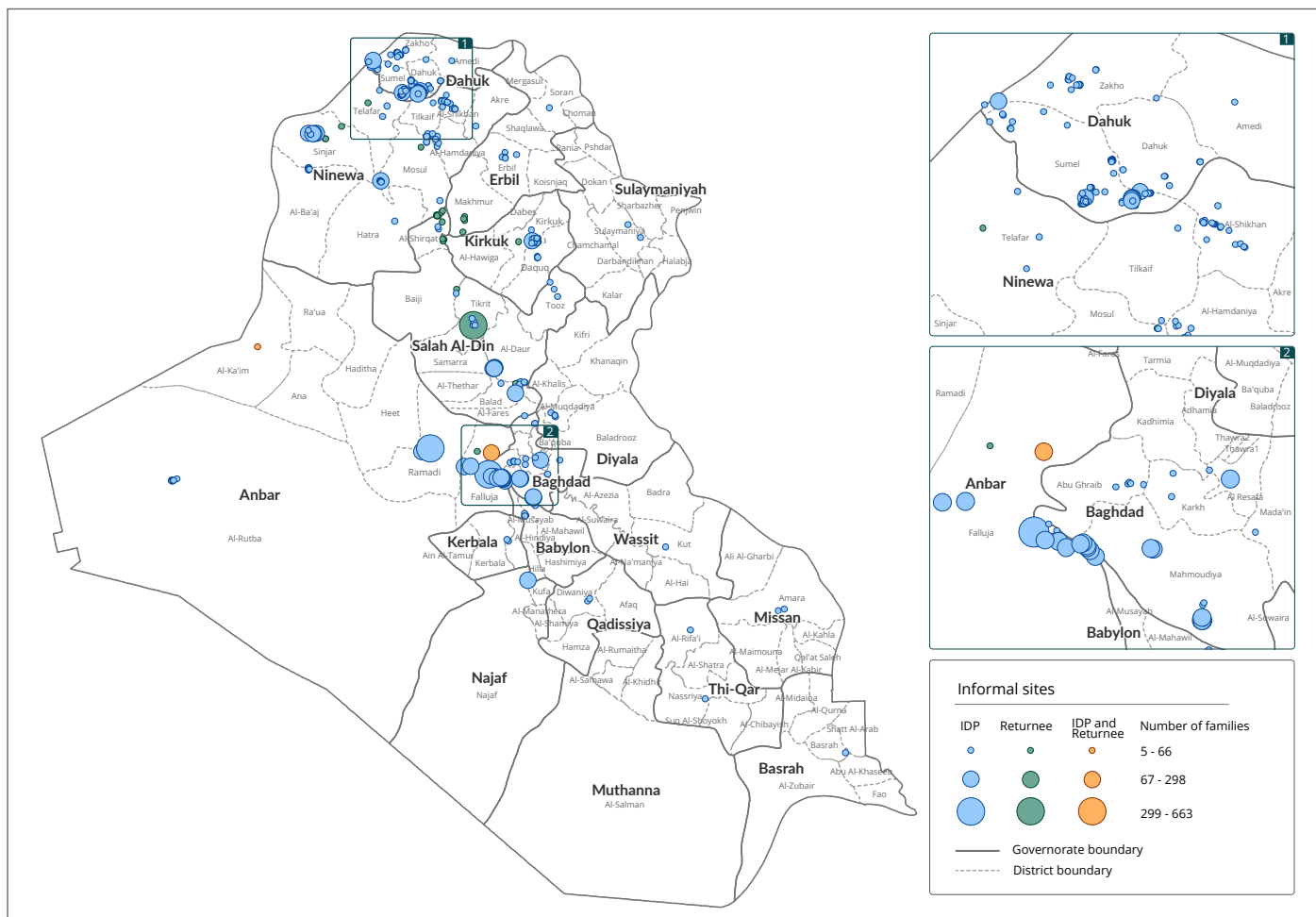
INFORMAL SITES: FIGURES AND TRENDS

As of July 2021, ILA 6 recorded a total of 418 informal sites. IDP families were present in 389 informal sites and returnee families were present in 31 sites.² Dahuk Governorate contains 38 per cent of the informal sites nationwide (160), with Ninewa and Salah al-Din accounting for a further 18 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively (76 and 52 sites). At the district level, Sumel accounts for 30 per cent of all informal sites (128), with Kirkuk district containing 7 per cent of Iraq's informal sites

(31), followed by Zakho district (6%, 24 sites) and Falluja district (5%, 20 sites).

Overall, 13,533 families were recorded as residing in informal sites in ILA 6 (12,490 IDP families and 1,043 returnee families). The largest share of this population is in Anbar Governorate (28%), followed by Dahuk (24%) and Salah al-Din (14%).

Map 1: All informal sites by type and population³



Between ILA 5 and ILA 6, the total number of informal sites decreased by 15 per cent, from 490 to 418 sites. The number of informal sites fell significantly in Dahuk Governorate, where there were 20 fewer sites in Zakho district and 19 fewer sites in Sumel recorded in ILA 6. This decline is attributed to returns, predominantly to Sinjar district in Ninewa Governorate, as well as families entering camps to receive assistance, and families moving to non-critical shelters which, in a limited number of cases, was their rehabilitated residence of origin.⁴ Other governorates where the number of informal sites declined included Salah al-Din which recorded 25 fewer sites, with 17 fewer sites in Tikrit district alone. In Kirkuk Governorate, Kirkuk district recorded 11 fewer sites and Daquq district recorded 8 fewer sites. Baghdad Governorate recorded 11 new informal sites in ILA 6,

with eight of these located in the district of Mahmoudiya. Across Ninewa Governorate, three fewer informal sites were recorded. However, there were 14 newly recorded informal sites in Hatra district and 13 fewer informal sites in Al-Shikhan in ILA 6.⁵

Between ILA 5 and ILA 6, the number of families residing in informal sites decreased by four per cent, from 14,067 to 13,533. Dahuk Governorate recorded 1,317 fewer families in ILA 6, Salah al-Din recorded 515 fewer families and Najaf recorded 132 fewer families. However, the number of families in informal sites increased in Baghdad Governorate (663), Anbar (576) and Ninewa (268). Other governorates saw relative stability in the number of families with fluctuations of less than one hundred families.

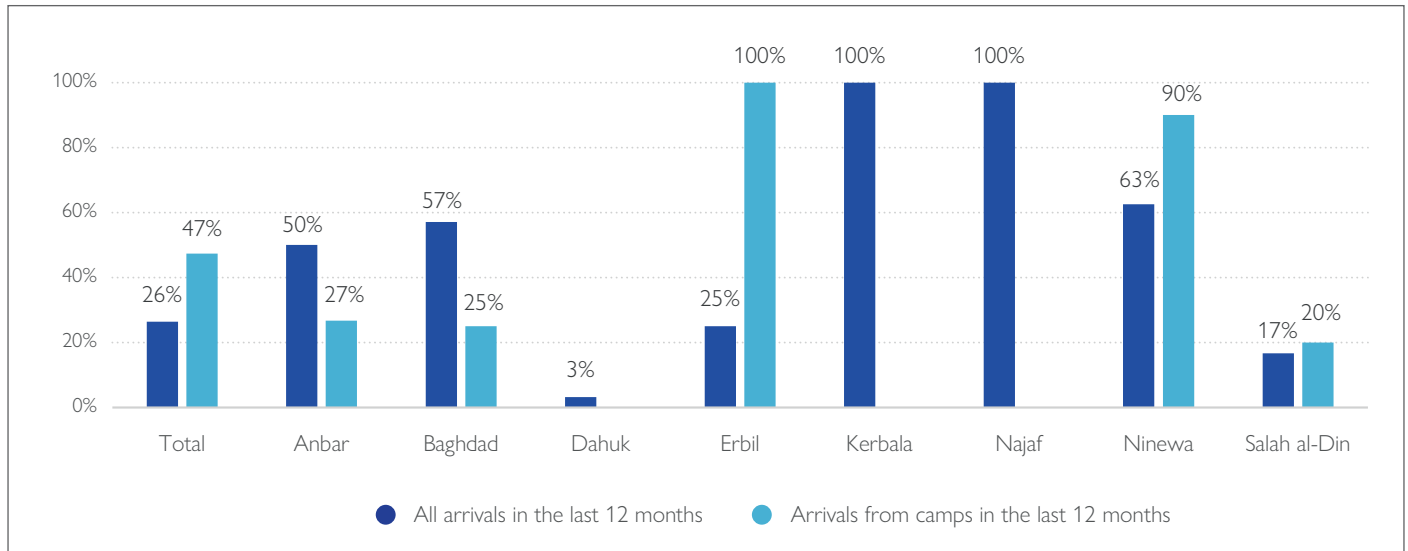
² There are two rural sites in Al-Ka'im and Falluja districts, Anbar Governorate, where both are present, with the majority being returnees.
³ An interactive version of this map can be found at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ILA6/InformalSites>
⁴ Information provided by IOM-DTM RARTs who conducted the ILA.
⁵ The informal sites in Hatra district were not recorded in ILA 5, but were recorded in ILA 6 following a joint mission with CCCM cluster partners.

NEW ARRIVALS

New arrivals to informal sites, including families departing camps, may place additional pressures on access to services, availability of shelter and relationships with host or stayee communities in and around informal sites.⁶ Over a quarter of fully assessed informal sites witnessed new arrivals in the 12 months between ILA 5 and ILA 6

(26%, 57 sites). New arrivals to informal sites were most prevalent in Ninewa (63%, 20 sites) and Anbar Governorates (50%, 15 sites). Sites with new arrivals were concentrated in Falluja (55%, 11 sites) and Mahmoudiya districts (73%, 11 sites), as well as in Hatra district (70%, 7 sites).

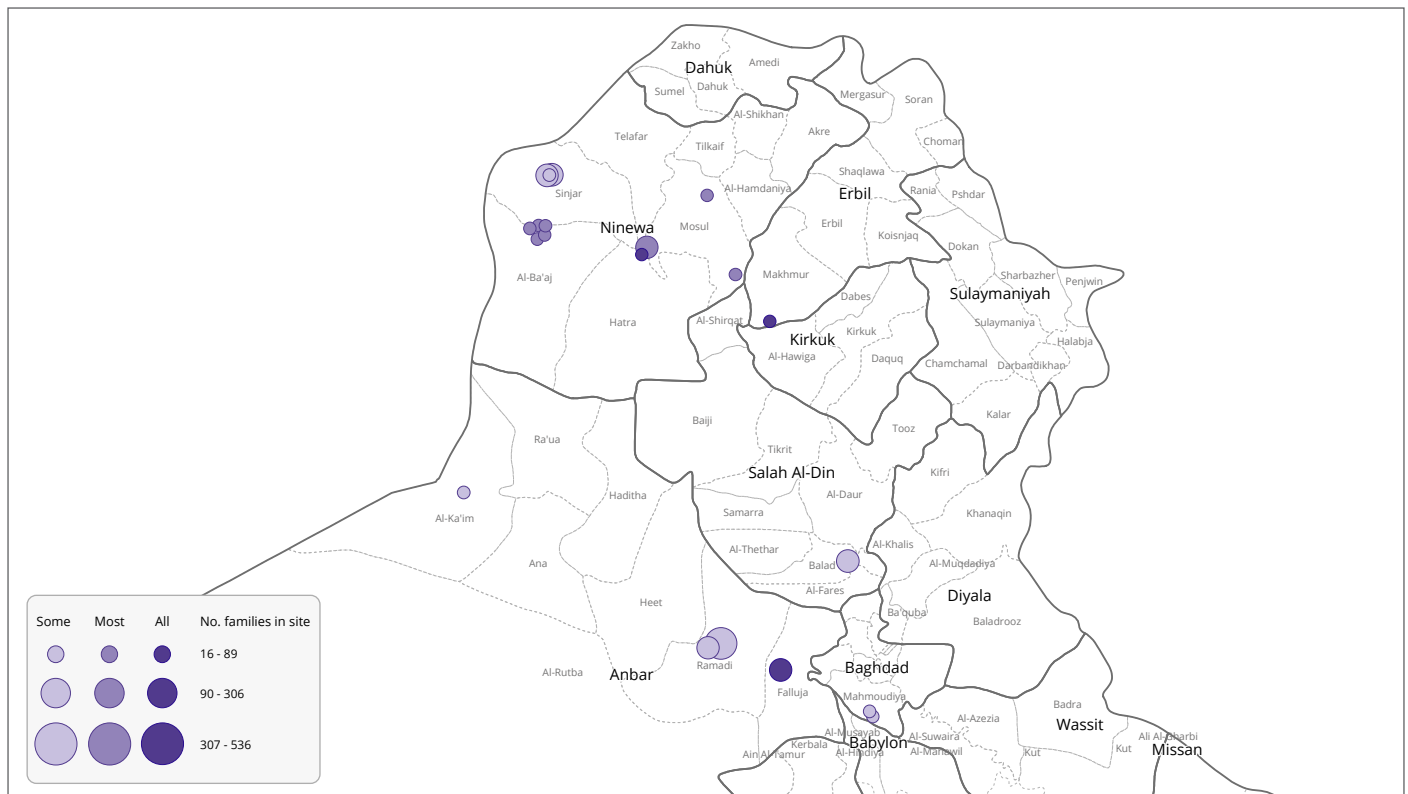
Figure 2: Percentage of informal sites witnessing arrivals in the last 12 months, and arrivals from camps by governorate



Arrivals from camps were recorded in 13 per cent of fully assessed informal sites (27 sites). Arrivals from camps were most common in Hatra district (70%, 7 sites), Al-Ba'aj district (83%, 5 sites) and Sinjar district (40%, 4 sites) in Ninewa Governorate, and Mahmoudiya district in Baghdad Governorate (20%, 3 sites). Key informants for fully assessed

informal sites were asked if none, some, most or all new arrivals were from camps. It is notable that 'all' new arrivals in the past 12 months were from camps for one site each in the districts of Falluja, Makhmur and Hatra (see Map 2, below).

Map 2: Informal sites with new arrivals from camps



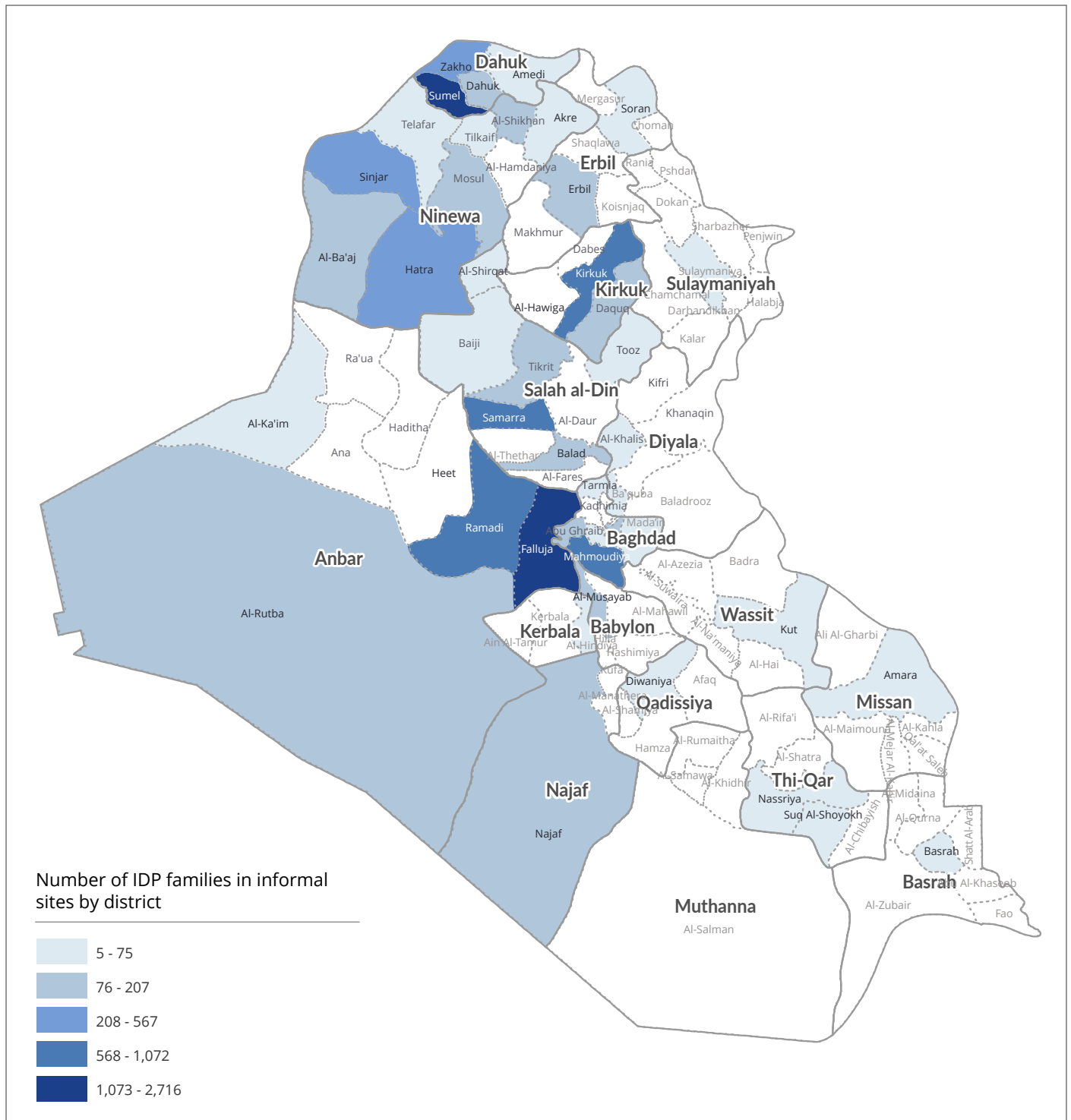
⁶ Stayee communities are defined here as families residing in their area of origin that were not displaced as a result of Iraq's conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or its aftermath.

IDP POPULATION IN INFORMAL SITES

A total of 12,490 displaced families residing in informal sites were recorded in ILA 6. Over three quarters of these families were located in Anbar (28%, 3,442 families), Dahuk (26%, 3,233), Ninewa (13%, 1,640) and Salah al-Din (11%, 1,347). Districts with the highest IDP

population in informal sites include Sumel and Falluja, which account for 22 per cent and 21 per cent respectively (2,716 and 2,589 families). Kirkuk district accounts for a further 9 per cent, with 1,072 families.

Map 3: IDP families in informal sites by district, ILA 6

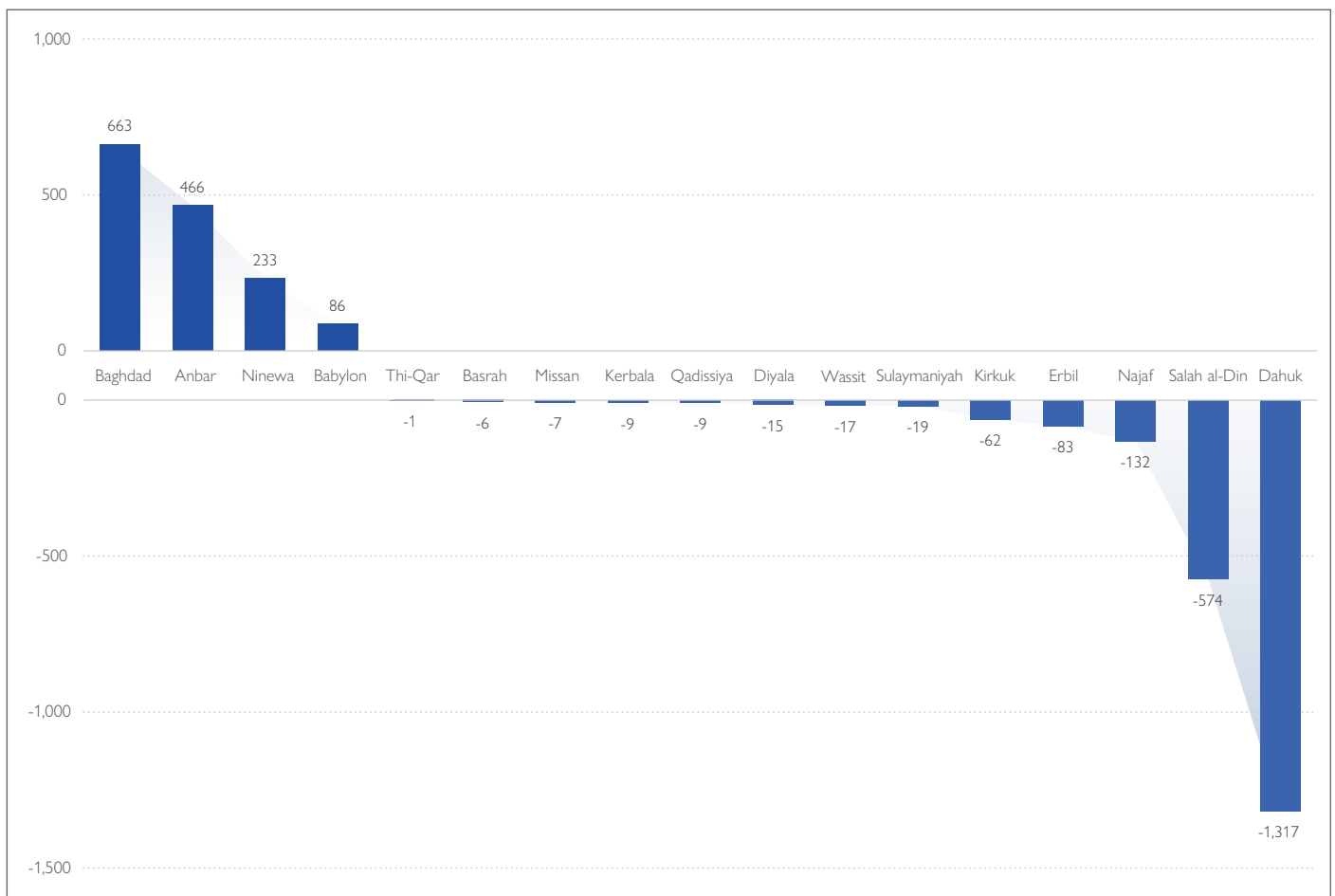


Between the assessments, there was a moderate decline in the overall IDP population in informal sites, which decreased by 6 per cent, from 13,293 to 12,490 families. The largest variation between assessments was recorded in Dahuk Governorate, where Sumel district recorded a decline of 1,049 families between assessments, and Zakho district recorded 269 fewer families.

The number of displaced families in informal sites also declined in Salah al-Din, with Tikrit district recording 563 fewer families and Samarra recording 132 fewer families in ILA 6. In Tikrit, this reduction in displaced families was counterbalanced by an increase of 405 families who returned to informal sites in the district, predominantly from Kirkuk district.

The largest increase in the number of displaced families in informal sites was recorded in Baghdad Governorate, with an additional 626 families recorded in Mahmoudiya district. This large increase is attributed to the reclassification of Latifiya camp as an informal site. In addition, some IDP families previously renting accommodation or residing with host families in Mahmoudiya, originally from Babylon Governorate, received approval from landowners to construct informal sites there, with some paying a fee or rent to do so. Anbar Governorate also saw a notable increase in IDP families in informal sites, with Falluja and Ramadi gaining 413 and 115 families, respectively.

Figure 3: Change in number of IDP families in informal sites between ILA 5 and ILA 6 by governorate



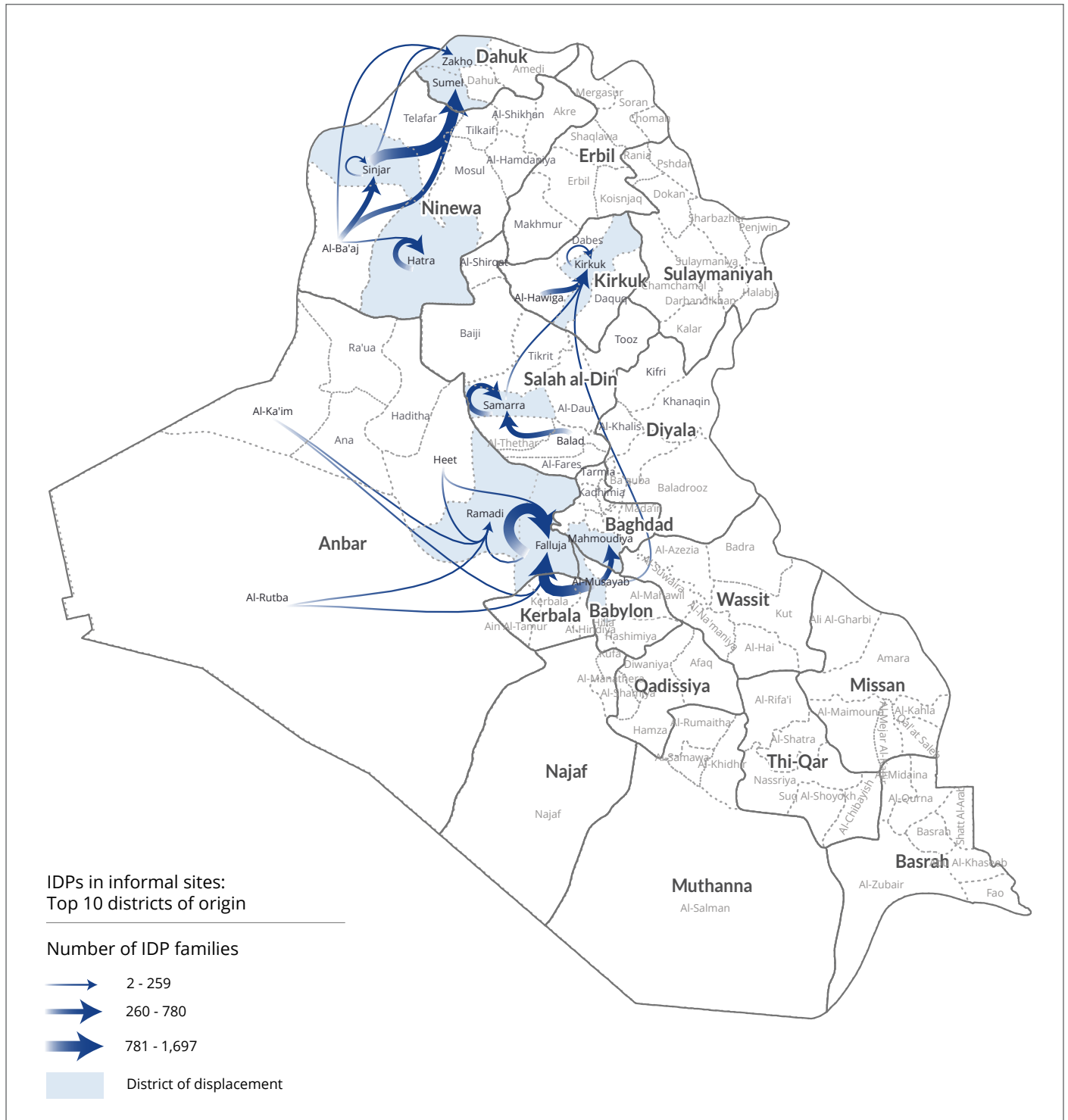
IDPS' DISTRICTS OF ORIGIN

In each of the 216 fully assessed IDP sites, key informants were asked how many families originated from each district. Notably, 27 per cent of IDPs are displaced within their district of origin (2,906 families). Intra-district displacement is most common in Falluja, Samarra, Hatra and Kirkuk districts.

Falluja district has the largest caseload of IDPs in informal sites, with the primary districts of origin being Al-Musayab, Babylon Governorate and

Falluja itself. In Sumel district, Dahuk Governorate, most displaced families in informal sites originate from Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj in Ninewa Governorate. In Samarra district, nearly all displaced families in informal sites originate from either Samarra itself (411 families) or neighbouring Balad district (511).

Map 4: IDPs in informal sites: Top 10 districts of origin



PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT

Data on the period of first displacement for IDP families was only collected for 'fully assessed' informal sites with 15 families or more. In at least 96 per cent of informal sites, the majority of families were displaced before June 2017, suggesting they have been in protracted displacement for more than three years at the time of the ILA 6. In

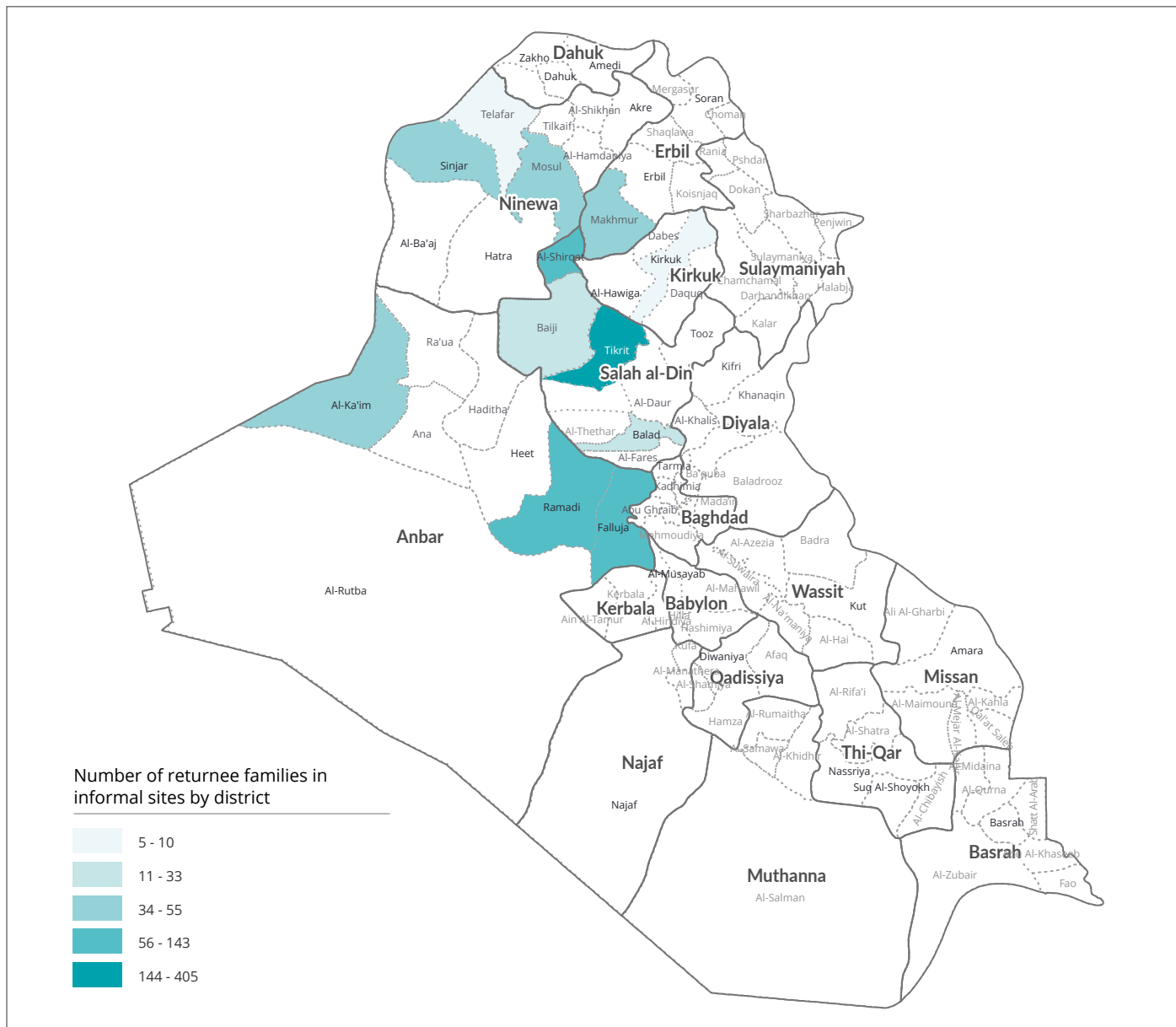
Ninewa Governorate, 50 per cent of displaced families in informal sites were displaced between October 2016 and July 2017, while in Erbil Governorate, 46 per cent of IDP families in informal sites were displaced between July 2017 and December 2018.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN INFORMAL SITES

As of July 2021, there were 1,043 returnee families residing in informal sites. Over half of the returnee population in informal sites reside in Salah al-Din, with 39 per cent in Tikrit district alone (405 families). A further 27 per cent of returnee families in informal sites reside

in Anbar Governorate, many of whom returned from intra-district displacement in Al-Ka'im, Falluja and Ramadi. Ninewa Governorate contains 11 per cent of the returnee population in informal sites, split between Mosul (55 families), Sinjar (53) and Telafar districts (5).

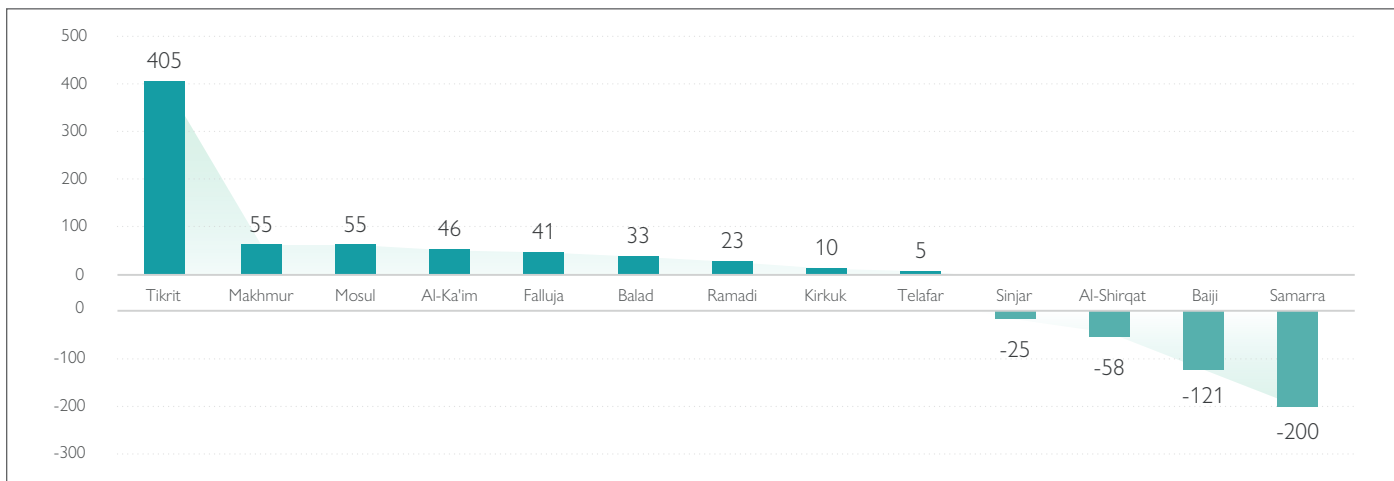
Map 5: Number of returnee families in informal sites by district, ILA 6



The number of returnee families in informal sites increased by 35 per cent between ILA 5 and ILA 6, from 774 to 1,043 families. Salah al-Din Governorate has the largest returnee population in informal sites, with 580 families recorded in ILA 6. Between assessments there was notable fluidity in the returnee population in informal sites in Salah al-Din. As noted above, there were 405 returnee families in informal sites recorded in Tikrit district in ILA 6, where none had been recorded previously. There were also 200 fewer returnee families in informal sites in Samarra district in ILA 6, 121 fewer families recorded in Baiji and 58 fewer families in Al-Shirqat.

In Anbar Governorate, ILA 6 recorded an additional 110 returnee families, with 285 returnee families in informal sites in total. In Erbil Governorate, 55 returnee families were recorded in informal sites in Makhmur district in ILA 6, where in the previous year there had been none. Ninewa Governorate recorded a moderate increase of 45 families between assessments, bringing the total to 113 families.

Figure 4: Change in returnee families in informal sites between ILA 5 and ILA 6 by district

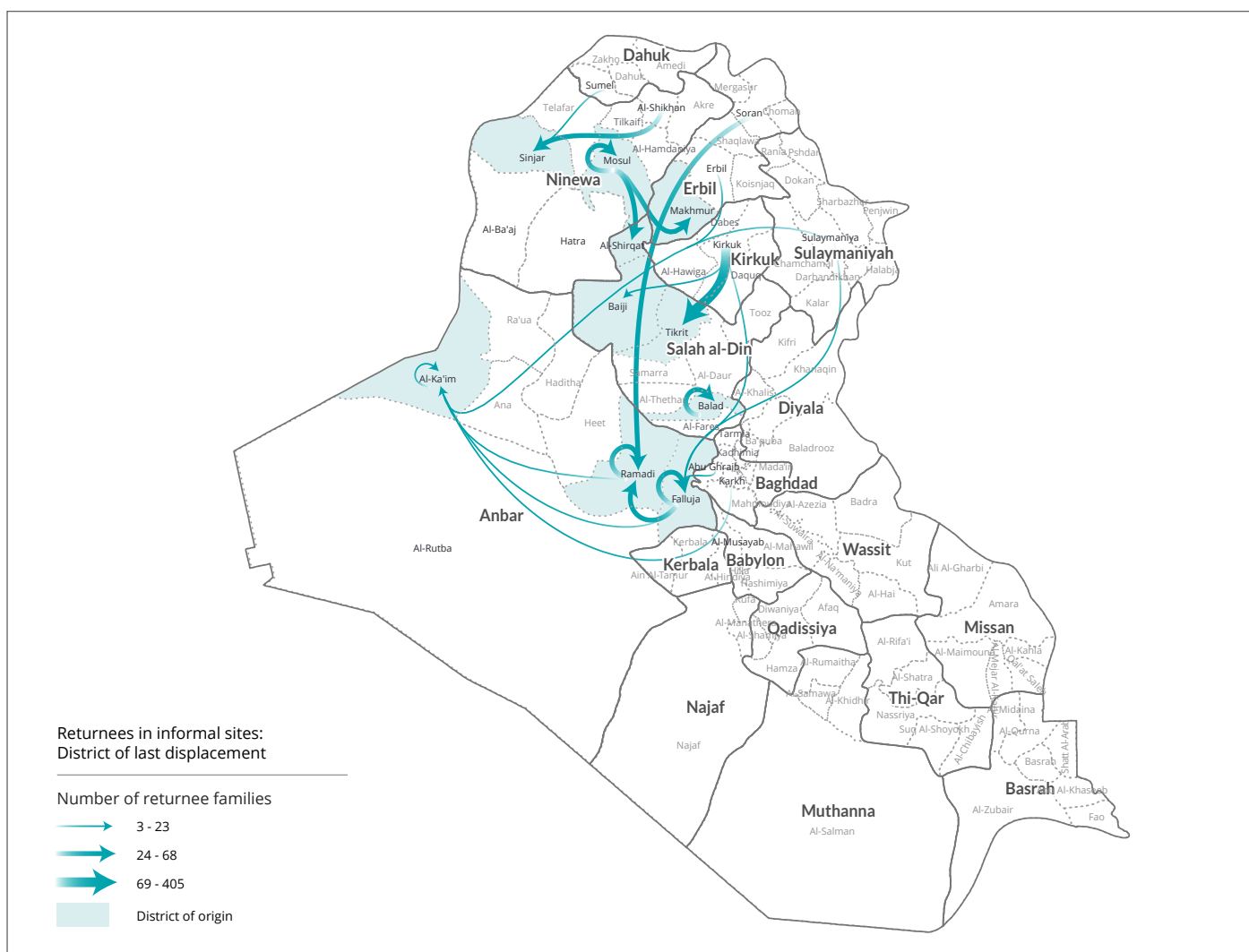


RETURNEES' DISTRICT OF LAST DISPLACEMENT

Of the 1,043 returnee families currently in informal sites, 449 returned from Kirkuk district. Most of them returned to Tikrit district in Salah al-Din Governorate (405 families). Of the 143 returnee families that reported their district of last displacement was Mosul, most returned to Al-Shirqat and Makhmur districts, or returned to their area of origin within Mosul district.

Falluja and Ramadi districts were also significant districts of last displacement for returnees in informal sites (85 and 54 families respectively). A significant proportion of these returns occurred between or within these districts. Intra-district returns to informal sites were also notable in Balad (Map 6).

Map 6: Returnees in informal sites: district of last displacement, ILA 6



LIVELIHOODS AND NEEDS

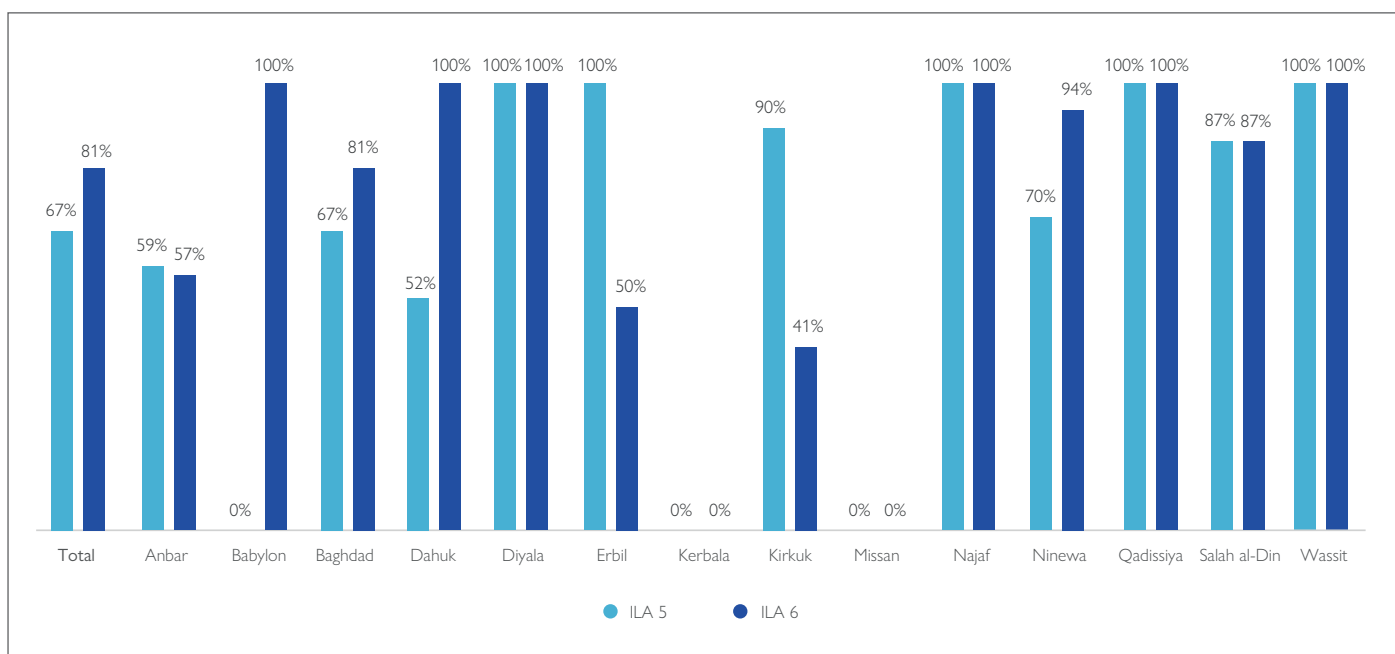
The ILA collects information on livelihoods and main needs in informal sites, as well as assistance from humanitarian, government, or other charitable local actors, in sites hosting 15 families or more.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

The majority of families in 81 per cent of the sites were not economically active, a figure that has risen from 67 per cent of sites recorded in ILA 5 (174 sites in ILA 6, 153 in ILA 5). Dahuk Governorate showed the most concerning trend between assessments, with the majority of families not economically active in 52 per cent of sites in ILA 5 (47

sites), which rose to 100 per cent of sites (62) in ILA 6. As the population in informal sites decreased in Dahuk, the proportion unable to find employment or other livelihood activities has increased. Ninewa Governorate also saw an increase in the number and proportion of sites where the majority of families were not economically active. In ILA 5, 70 per cent of sites in Ninewa recorded that the majority of families were not economically active, which rose to 94 per cent of sites in ILA 6 (30). Kirkuk Governorate showed a notable improvement in the number of sites in which the majority of families are economically inactive, from 90 per cent of sites in ILA 5 to 41 per cent of sites in ILA 6.

Figure 5: Variation in the proportion of sites in which the majority of families are not economically active, per governorate



MEETING BASIC NEEDS

Relatedly, the number of sites in which less than half of families can meet their basic needs doubled between the ILA 5 and ILA 6 assessments, from 41 per cent to 81 per cent (93 to 176 sites). Dahuk again exhibited the most significant rise, from 12 per cent (11 sites) in which less than half of families can meet their basic needs in ILA 5 to 92 per cent of sites (57) in ILA 6. Sumel district alone contains 46 informal sites where less than half of families can meet their basic needs (out of 50 sites in the district).

In Mahmoudiya district, Baghdad Governorate, less than half of families can meet their basic needs in 93 per cent of sites (14), compared with 75 per cent sites reported in ILA 5 (3). Salah al-Din Governorate also recorded a deterioration, with 93 per cent of sites reporting that less than half of families can meet basic needs (28), compared with 34 per cent of sites recorded in ILA 5 (13).

RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

Despite the vulnerability of those residing in informal sites, 29 per cent of fully assessed informal sites reported having received assistance in the past 3 months, predominantly from humanitarian organisations (19%) and government authorities (10%).

The highest concentration of informal sites receiving assistance from humanitarian organisations was in Ninewa Governorate, with 75 per cent of sites in Sinjar (6 sites), 60 per cent of sites in Mosul (3) and all sites in Telafar (2) receiving some form of assistance in the three months prior to ILA 6. Assistance also appears to be concentrated in Anbar Governorate. The two districts with the highest caseload of IDPs in informal sites also recorded a relatively high proportion of informal sites receiving assistance from humanitarian organisations in the past three months, with 50 per cent of sites in Falluja (10 sites) and 75 per cent of those in Ramadi (3) receiving assistance. Ramadi district, which has a high volume of intra-district displacement, also had three sites that received charity from the host community.

Government assistance was received in only 10 per cent of fully assessed informal sites. It was most concentrated in Falluja (75%, 10 sites). Only one of these sites also receives assistance from humanitarian organisations. All four sites in Ramadi received government assistance in the 3 months prior to the ILA 6. Government assistance was also provided to one site each in Erbil and Makhmur districts. In the south, the single informal site in Kut district, in Wasit Governorate and the site in Diwaniya district in Qaddisiya Governorate also received government assistance.

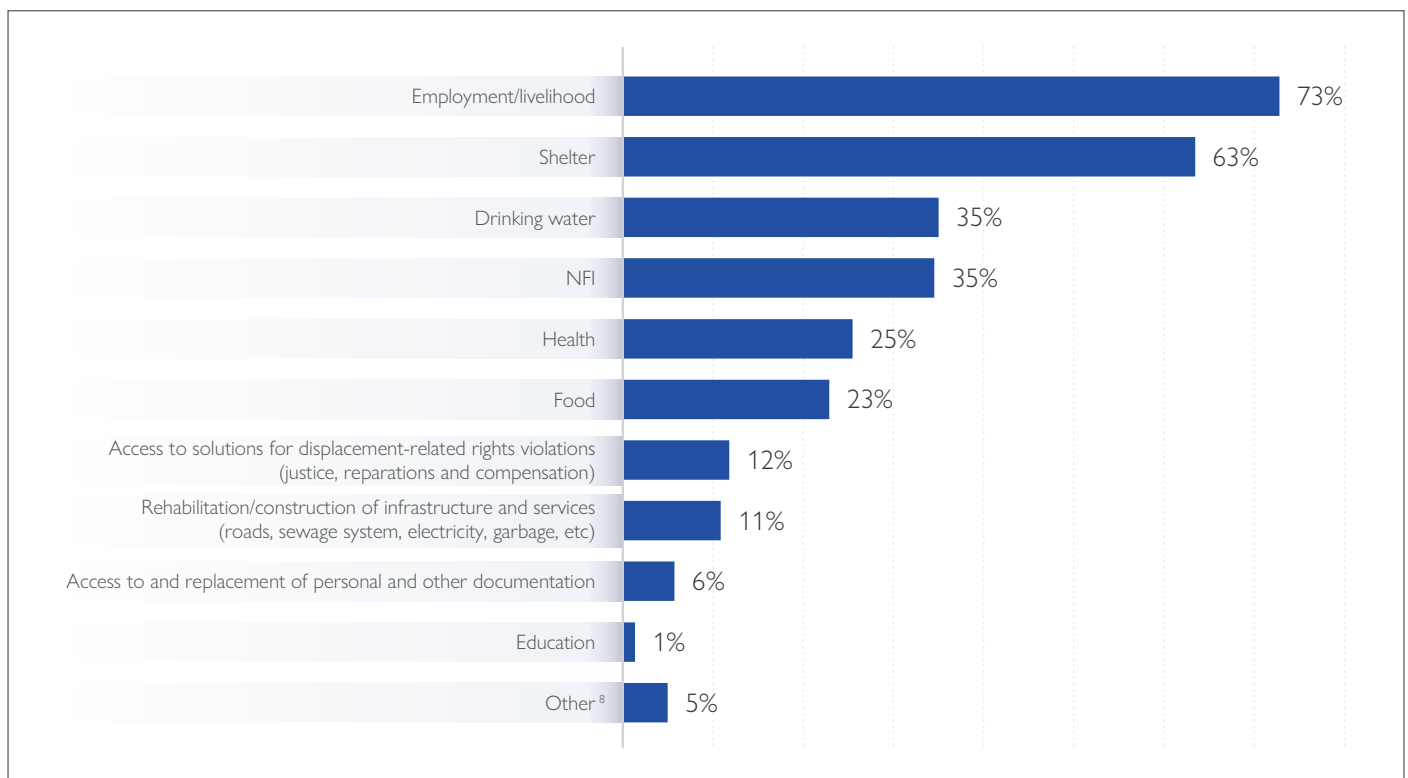
Although assistance from charities in the host community was less common, received in only 7 per cent of sites (15), those residing in informal sites in Mahmoudiya were most assisted by charities with 60 per cent of sites in the district receiving assistance in the 3 months prior to the assessment (9).

UNMET NEEDS

Key informants were asked to identify three unmet needs in each informal site. Weighted by the number of IDP and returnee families in those sites, employment and livelihood opportunities was the most reported (73%), followed by shelter (63%), along with drinking water (35%) and non-food items (35%).⁷ Drinking water was identified as the primary need for those in informal sites in Anbar (69%) and Erbil (63%).

Informal sites in Baghdad Governorate reported that employment (85%), non-food items (71%) and access to and replacement of personal and other documentation (58%), were three important unmet needs. Shelter and housing were the most reported unmet need in Salah al-Din (92%) and Kirkuk (77%), in both governorates most families in informal sites reside in mud or block shelters that may need repair after years of inhabitation.

Figure 6: Unmet needs in informal sites



⁷ The unmet needs were weighted against the IDP and returnee population in the site to present the data as a percentage of all those in informal sites.

⁸ The category of 'other' was specified by the respondent. In all instances when this option was recorded, cash grants were the specified need.

HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY

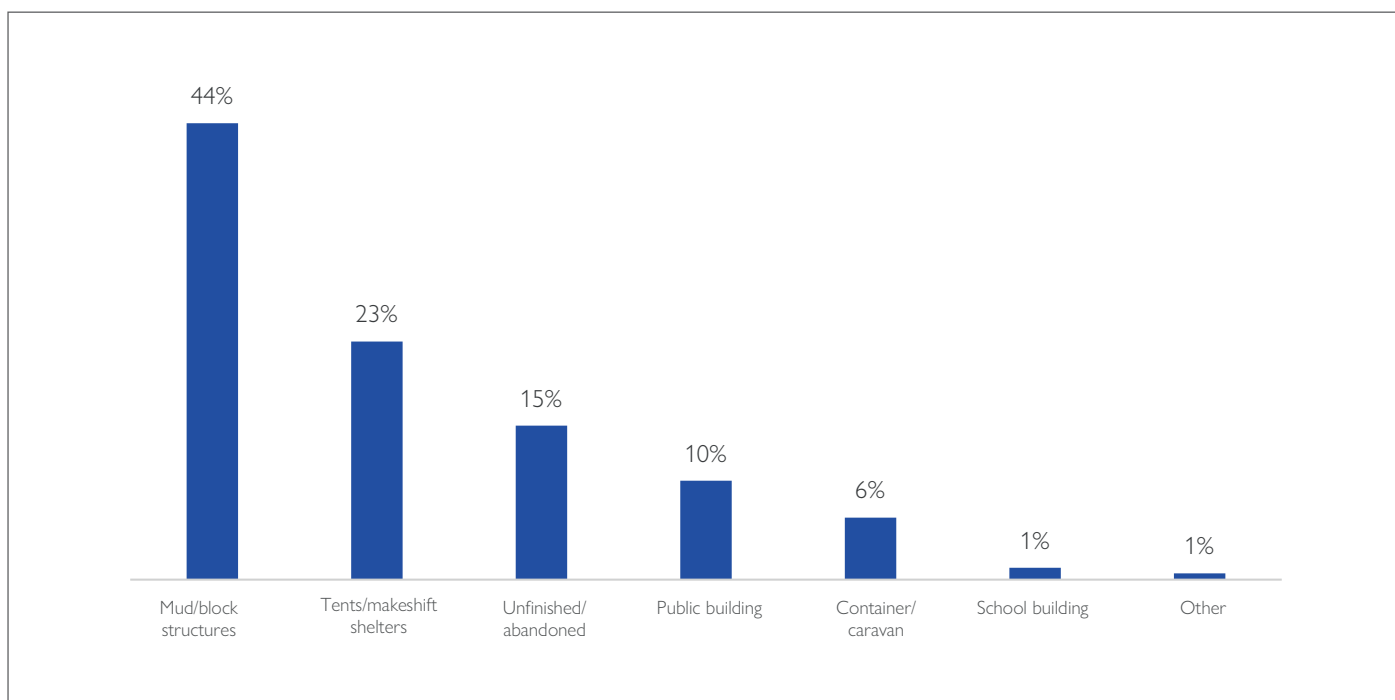
The ILA also aims to better understand the state of housing, land and property within informal sites, including shelter types, agreements on land use and the prevalence of evictions and rent-paying.

SHELTER TYPE⁹

The ILA collects the number of families per shelter type for fully assessed informal sites. ILA 6 recorded 44 per cent of families residing in mud or block houses (5,269). Tents or makeshift shelters accounted

for 23 per cent of families (2,748), unfinished or abandoned buildings for 15 per cent of families (1,776) and containers or caravans for six per cent of families (716).

Figure 7: Percentage of families in informal sites by shelter type



At the governorate level, mud or block structures provide shelter for the majority of families in Kirkuk (100%), Baghdad (84%), Salah al-Din (70%), and Babylon (68%). Anbar has a diverse range of structure types, including 28 per cent of families who reside in tents or makeshift shelters and 29 per cent in public buildings, all of which reside in Markaz Falluja subdistrict. Those in informal sites in Erbil Governorate reside in unfinished buildings (55%), public buildings (28%) or mud and block structures (17%). In Ninewa, the predominant shelter types are mud and block structures (44%) and tents/makeshift shelters (41%).¹⁰

AGREEMENTS ON LAND & EVICTIONS

A narrow majority of fully assessed sites had formal or informal agreements in place that allow families to reside there (53%, 114 sites). Governorates with a high prevalence of such agreements include

Dahuk with 84 per cent of sites (52) and Baghdad with 86 per cent sites (18). Around three quarters of informal sites do not have an agreement on land usage in Kirkuk (74%), Anbar (73%), Salah al-Din (73%) and Ninewa (69%) Governorates.

Districts where few if any sites have land usage agreements include Falluja where all 20 sites lack an agreement, Samarra where all 15 sites lack an agreement and Kirkuk district with 20 sites lacking an agreement. Of the sites without an agreement, four sites in Samarra and two sites in Falluja reported evictions or fear of evictions in the three months prior to the ILA 6, all of which were attributed to pressure from authorities. In Kirkuk district, two sites reported evictions or fear of evictions in the past three months attributing them to a landlord's decision to reclaim privately owned land.

⁹ Significant definitional changes were made to the classification of shelter types for ILA 6 in alignment with the categories used for data collection by the CCCM cluster partners. As a result, this section presents data from the ILA 6 assessment only.

¹⁰ More granular data of shelter types can be found at the governorate and district level on the ILA 6 informal sites dashboard and map, [here](#).

PAYING RENT

In one third of informal sites, at least some families are paying rent (32%, 69 sites). Key informants were asked if some, most or all families were paying rent. 'All' families are paying rent in the two informal sites in Al-Musayab district, Babylon Governorate and the one site in Diwaniya district, Qadisiya Governorate. There are four sites in Sumel district, Dahuk Governorate, and nine sites in Hatra district, Ninewa Governorate where it was recorded that 'most' families were paying rent.

In most governorates, between 30 and 40 per cent of sites have at least 'some' families paying rent. However, Salah al-Din is a notable exception in which no families pay rent in 29 out of 30 sites, with most families paying rent in a single site in Tikrit district.

OWNING PROPERTY IN THE AREA OF ORIGIN

In 63 per cent of fully assessed sites, the majority of families owned property in their area of origin. The proportion of sites where the majority of families owned property in their area of origin was higher than the average in districts with high intra-district displacement, such as Hatra (90%), Falluja (85%) and Samarra (80%). A better understanding of the barriers to return for those who were displaced intra-district – such as residential destruction at the area of origin, or insufficient livelihood activities in the area of displacement – could inform programming aimed at reducing the extent of protracted displacement in Iraq.

The same opportunity arises in instances where the families in an informal site originate from a single area of origin. For example, Mahmoudiya, in Baghdad Governorate, is the district with the fifth highest caseload of IDPs in informal sites, and 'most' or 'all' of the families in 14 out of 15 sites own property in their area of origin, which is in Al-Musayab district in Babylon Governorate.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The ILA aims to assess the proportion of families in each fully assessed informal site who have access to adequate water for drinking and domestic needs, as well as soap for handwashing, latrines and waste collection. The survey also asks if any families in each informal site have reported issues with the taste, appearance or smell of drinking water in the month prior to the assessment. The analysis that follows highlights the sites in which the majority of families lack access to essential water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and services.

ACCESS TO WATER FOR DRINKING AND DOMESTIC PURPOSES

In 25 per cent of fully assessed informal sites, over half of the resident families lack sufficient access to water for drinking and domestic purposes (55). Whereas, in ILA 5, 21 per cent of sites recorded similar difficulties accessing water (47).¹¹ Access to water is a concern in Diyala Governorate, where over half of all resident families lack sufficient access to water in all three informal sites. In Falluja district, Anbar Governorate, 40 per cent of sites recorded that over half of all resident families lack sufficient access to water (8).

In Ninewa, issues with access to water are concentrated in Al-Ba'aj district, affecting over half of families in all six fully assessed informal sites. Sinjar district also has four sites in which around half of families lack sufficient access. In Salah al-Din, access to water is comparatively good, with half of the families unable to access sufficient water in 22 per cent of fully assessed sites (6). In Balad district, however, 75 per cent of sites reported that around half of the resident families could not access sufficient water for drinking and domestic needs (3).

WATER QUALITY

Families reported issues relating to the taste, appearance or smell of drinking water in the month prior to the assessment in 38 per cent of fully assessed informal sites (83). This represented a moderate increase from ILA 5, in which 32 per cent reported the same issues (74). In Salah al-Din Governorate, all 15 sites in Samarra and all five sites in Tikrit reported water quality issues. Similarly, all three informal sites in Diyala Governorate reported the same issues. Other districts of concern include Falluja (95%, 19 sites), Mahmoudiya (100%, 15) and Al-Ba'aj (100%, 6).

ACCESS TO SOAP, LATRINES AND WASTE COLLECTION

Access to soap posed a challenge for around half of the families in 13 per cent of informal sites assessed in ILA 6 (28). Twenty of these sites were concentrated in Salah al-Din. Around half of families do not have access to soap for handwashing in 60 per cent of sites in Samarra district (9) and all five sites located in Tikrit district.

Only four informal sites were found to have insufficient access to private or communal latrines. These were located in Kirkuk district (2), Mosul (1) and Telefar (1). In ILA 5, there were 11 sites that reported insufficient access to latrines. Between assessments, the most notable improvement was in Samarra and Balad districts, which together, hosted seven sites with insufficient access in ILA 5 and no sites without access in ILA 6.

¹¹ The comparison between ILA 5 and ILA 6 is not a perfect one, as in ILA 6 the category 'Around half' was used to denote 41-60 per cent of families in an informal site lack access to water, whereas in ILA 5 'Less than half' was the equivalent category (25-49%).

Access to waste collection or communal garbage bins was reported as an issue in 44 per cent of informal sites (94). Overall, access to waste collection services has not improved between assessments, with 39 per cent of sites reporting insufficient access in ILA 5 (90).

VULNERABILITIES

The ILA also collects data on the presence of vulnerable populations in informal sites. The assessment asks for the proportion of female-headed households within each site, as well as the presence of any unaccompanied minors or persons with disabilities, functional difficulties, or special needs.

FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

In ILA 6, 76 per cent of fully assessed informal sites had female-headed households present (FHH) (164). There has been no notable change between assessments: 75 per cent of fully assessed informal sites had FHH in ILA 5 (172). Key informants were asked if each fully assessed site contained 'few' (0-9%), 'some' (10-20%) or 'many' (over 20%) FHHs. Only one site, located in Balad district, Salah al-Din Governorate reported that over 20 per cent of households were female-headed in ILA 6. In Mahmoudiya, 64 per cent of fully assessed sites there were 'some' FHHs present, that is, between 10 and 20 per cent (9).

Districts of concern include Kirkuk district where 83 per cent of fully assessed sites lack sufficient access (20), along with Falluja (90%, 18), Mahmoudiya (73%, 11) and Samarra district (67%, 10).

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Unaccompanied minors were present in only two per cent of fully assessed informal sites (5). In ILA 5, six sites were recorded with three sites located in Sumel district, two in Samarra and one in Al-Khalis district. In ILA 6, there was one informal site with unaccompanied minors in each of Mahmoudiya, Kirkuk, Mosul, Tikrit and Samarra districts. Notably, the one site in Samarra is the same as reported in ILA 5.

DISABILITIES

The number of informal sites with people with disabilities, functional difficulties, or other individuals with special needs due to old age, chronic medical conditions or other vulnerabilities increased from 82 per cent in ILA 5 to 88 per cent in ILA 6 (from 187 of sites to 190). One informal site in Al-Hindiya district, Kerbala Governorate and one in Daquq district, Kirkuk Governorate reported over 20 per cent of households have a member with at least one disability.

INTENTIONS (IDP SITES ONLY)

The ILA aims to ascertain the short term (within 6 months) and long term (beyond 6 month) intentions of the majority of displaced families within each fully assessed informal site. Key informants were also asked what proportion of households would return if they were provided with assistance to do so.

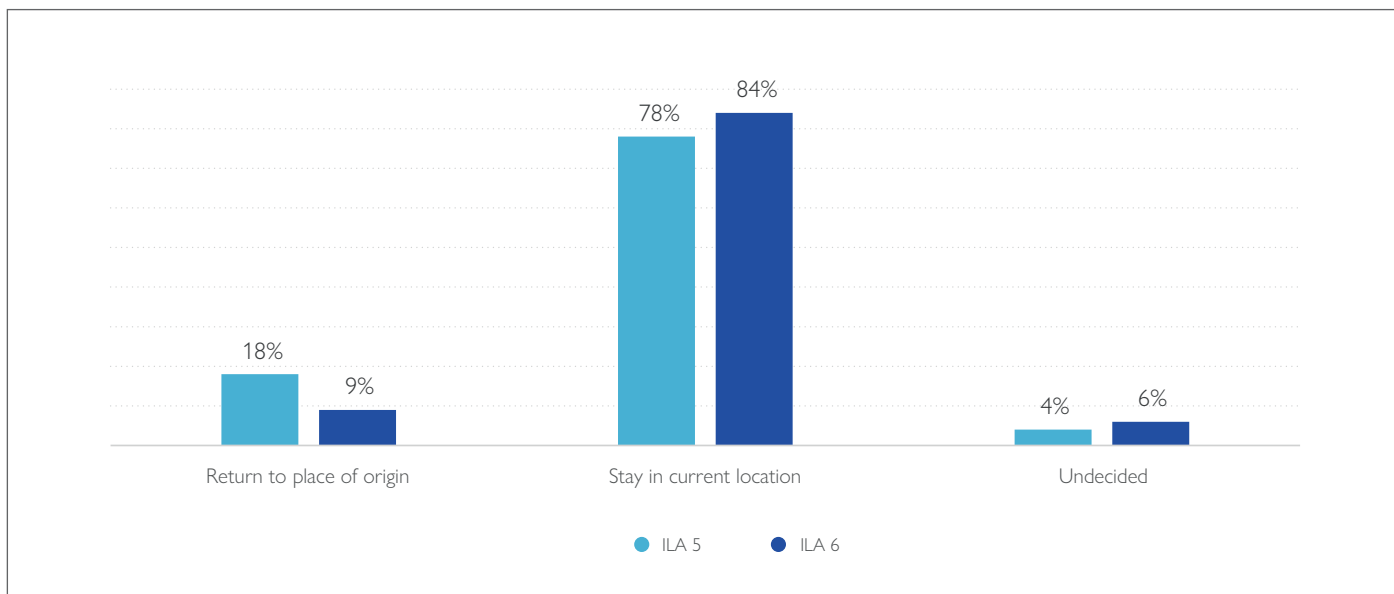
SHORT TERM INTENTIONS

The majority of IDPs in 84 per cent of informal sites intend to stay in their current location in the short term (202 sites). Of the nine per cent of informal sites where the majority of IDP families intend to return (19 sites), two thirds of them are in Samarra district (12). As noted above, the high intention to return may be driven by the fact

that there are no informal sites in Samarra with a formal or informal agreement on land usage, and four sites in Markaz Samarra sub-district reported evictions or fear of evictions in the three months prior to the assessment. Most IDPs displaced in informal sites in Samarra originate from within the district or from neighbouring Balad district.

In Diyala Governorate, the majority of IDP families in all three informal sites were reportedly undecided about short term intentions, as were the majority of families in four of the six sites in Al-Ba'aj district, Ninewa Governorate. Local integration, that is staying within the area but not in an informal site, was a short-term intention of the majority of IDPs in only one site located in Markaz Tikrit sub-district.

Figure 8: Short term intentions for IDPs in informal sites



ASSISTANCE TO RETURN

If they were to receive the assistance necessary to return, most or all families would return in 45 per cent of sites (83). This is notably higher than the 25 per cent of sites that provided the same answer in ILA 5 (54). The proportion of sites where most or all families would return with assistance was highest in Mahmoudiya (100%), and Falluja (89%). Some or most families would return if they received assistance in 94 per cent of sites in Sumel district (47).

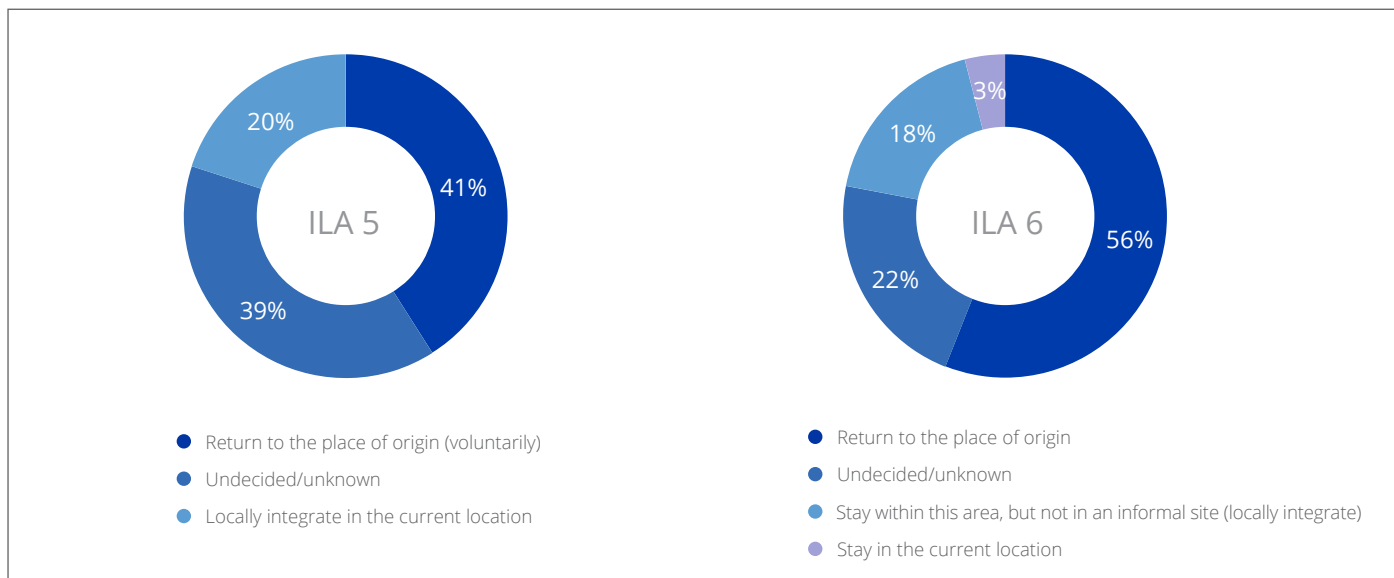
In 12 per cent of sites, the majority would still not return if provided with the necessary assistance (27). Of these, 11 are in Kirkuk district and three sites in Sumel, Tikrit and Samarra districts each providing the same answer. The decision to remain, despite assistance, does not appear to be related to livelihoods in the area of displacement, with 18 of these 27 sites reporting that less than half of families can meet their basic needs.

LONG-TERM INTENTIONS

In over half of all fully assessed informal sites, the majority of families were undecided about their intentions beyond the six months after the assessment (56%, 114 sites). The majority of families reportedly intend to return in only 18 per cent of sites (37). This intention was most common in Samarra (80%, 12 sites), Kirkuk district (25%, 6), Al-Musayab (100%, 3) and Ramadi (100%, 4).

The majority of families in all six of the informal sites in Al-Ba'aj district, Ninewa Governorate, intend to locally integrate in formal housing within their current location. Kirkuk district was notable in that the majority of families in 75 per cent of sites intend to stay in their current location (18). The same was reported for half of the sites in Falluja district, Anbar Governorate (10).

Figure 9: Long term intentions (beyond 6 months) for IDPs in informal sites



CONCLUSION

Drawing upon data from ILA 5 and ILA 6, this report has provided an overview of conditions for IDP and returnee families in informal sites, and highlighted governorates and districts where specific dynamics and trends warrant further investigation and, potentially, programmatic intervention.

Areas with dynamic population numbers were highlighted to analyse the possible push and pull factors that were influencing families in informal sites. For example, the declining IDP population in informal sites in Dahuk Governorate was attributed to returns, families entering camps for assistance and moving to non-critical shelters. Understanding where and why families are making these decisions to move is crucial to an effective programmatic response. Similarly, the large increase in the displaced population in informal sites in Falluja and Mahmoudiya suggest that returns and secondary displacement into informal sites are most pressing in these districts. Tikrit district was also highlighted for its fluidity in terms of the IDP and returnee population in informal sites.

In terms of vulnerability, the latest round of data collection (ILA 6) found that residents of informal sites are less economically active than they were a year ago (ILA 5), and less able to meet basic needs. Dahuk Governorate showed the most significant deterioration in

these indicators which, given the population decrease recorded in the same period, suggests that those who remained in informal sites are more vulnerable. Findings also indicated a relationship between formal and informal agreements on land use and instances of eviction, highlighting incidences in Samarra, Falluja and Kirkuk districts.

The majority of families in informal sites were undecided about their long-term intentions. However, there were notable exceptions requiring specific responses, such as Samarra district where the vast majority of families intend to return in either the short or long-term; and in Al-Ba'aj district where the majority of families in all informal sites stated the long term intention to locally integrate in non-critical shelters in their area of displacement. In several districts with high caseloads of displaced families in informal sites - specifically Sumel, Falluja and Mahmoudiya – most or all families would return if they received assistance to do so.

The need for further research and concerted programming to effectively support those who are displaced in or have returned to informal sites is clear, as is the increased vulnerability of those populations in the data collected for ILA 5 and ILA 6. Targeted interventions will be required to curb these trends of deteriorating conditions in the areas highlighted in this report.

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