

# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:  
8 – 26 JUNE 2020

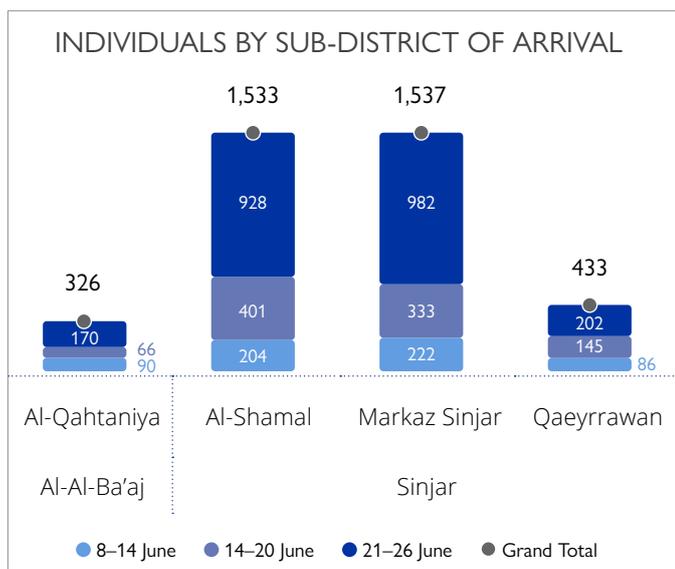
\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8-26 June, inclusively



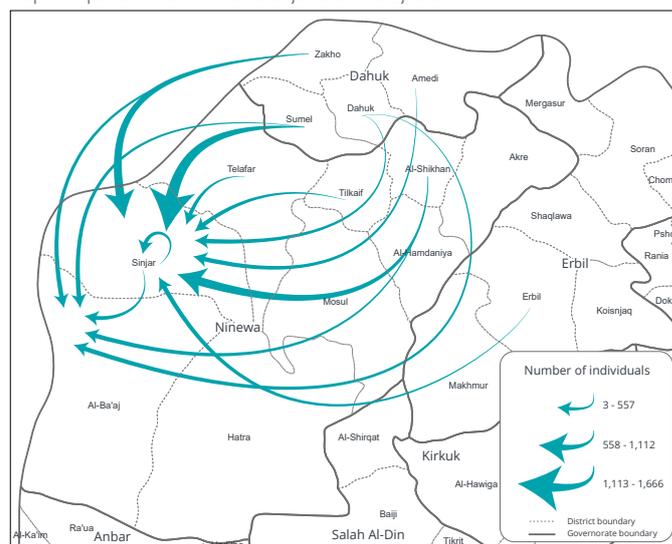
Between 21 and 26 June 2020, DTM tracked 2,282 individuals (415 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have returned to these districts to 3,829 (687 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those who moved back between 21 and 26 June, 1,482 were recorded as returnees, having returned to their location of origin (65%), while 800 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (35%). 2,112 were recorded in Sinjar (93%) and 170 in Al-Ba'aj (7%).

The most common sub-district of arrival was Markaz Sinjar with 982 individuals (43%)—almost triple the number that arrived there in the previous period. Additionally, 928 individuals arrived to Al-Shamal sub-district (41%)—more than double the previous period. Together, these two sub-districts comprise 80% of all individuals that arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

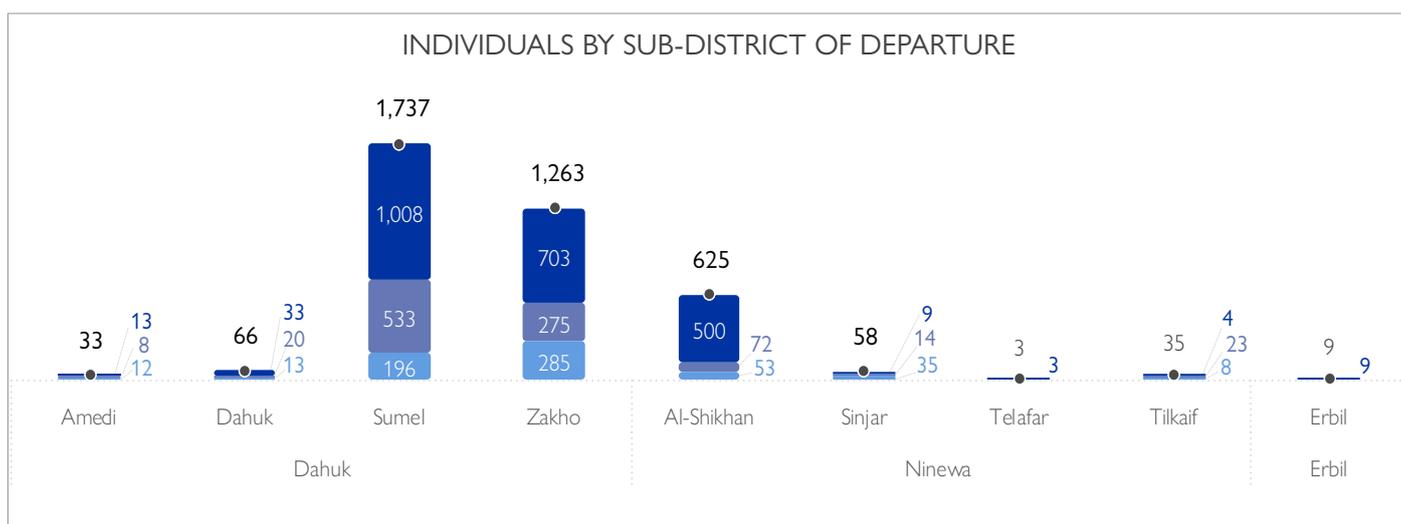


Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



Between 21 and 26 June, a total of 1,757 individuals departed from Dahuk governorate (77%), especially from Sumel and Zakho districts. In addition, around one in four individuals departed from Ninewa, while a small number departed from Erbil. Since 8 June, most returnees have departed from Sumel (45%), Zakho (33%), and Al-Shikhan (16%) sub-districts.

To provide an element of comparison and better understand the scale of these returns, note that for the reporting period of May-June 2019, DTM had recorded 236 families having returned to Sinjar (204 as returnees and 32 as IDPs) and 16 to Baaj (11 as returnees and 5 as IDPs).



Between 21-26 June, of the 2,112 individuals that returned to Sinjar, 1,611 came from Dahuk, 492 came from Ninewa, and 9 came from Erbil. Additionally, of those individuals that returned to Al-Ba'aj, 146 came from Dahuk and 24 came from Ninewa.

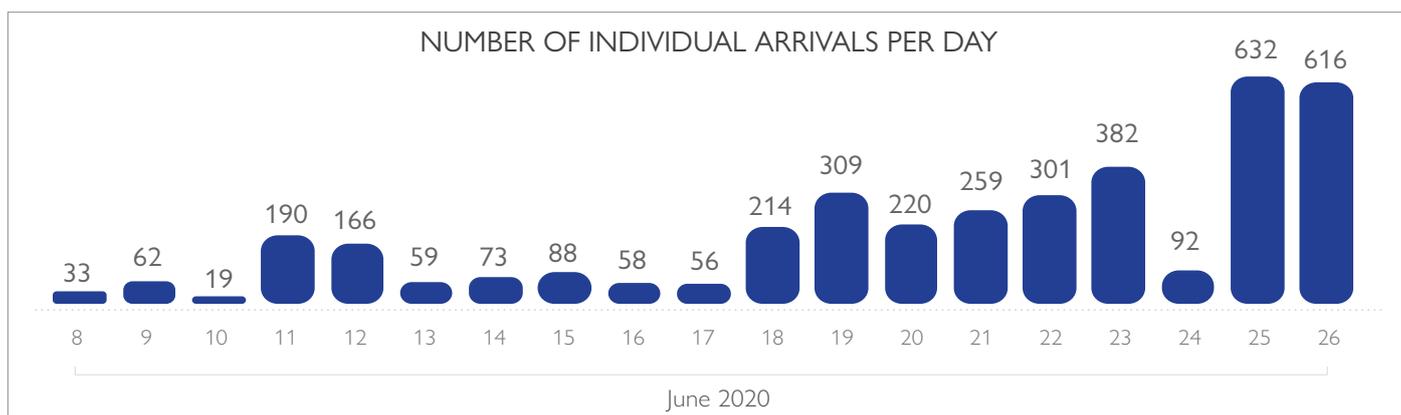
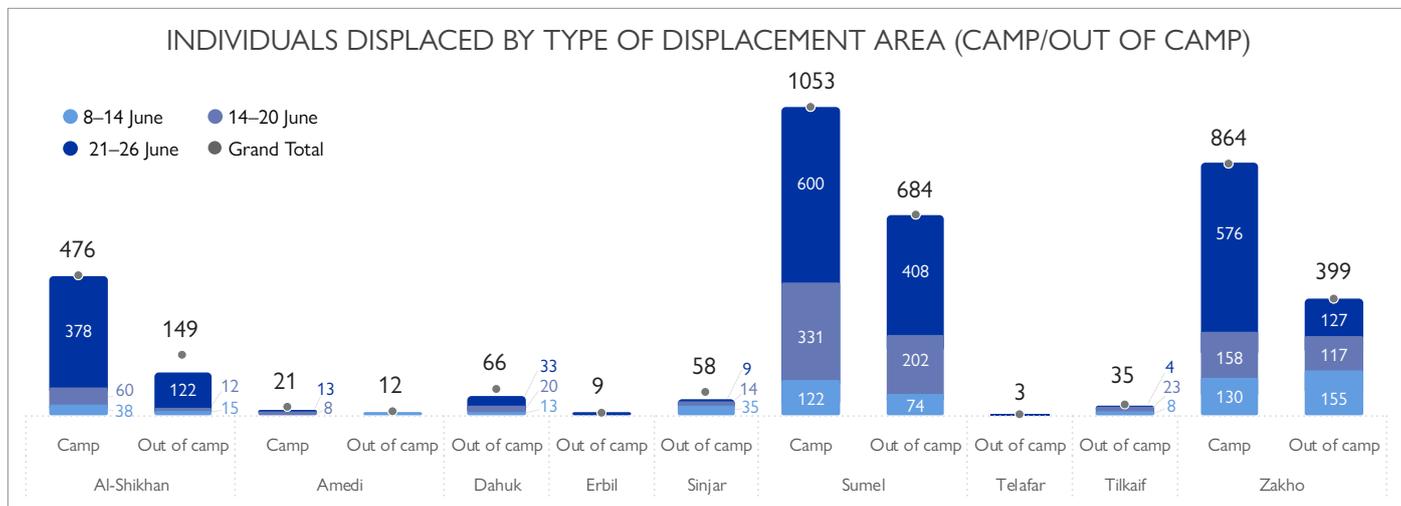
In addition, 1,567 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (69%), while 715 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (31%).

In the sub-districts having received the most individuals, the number of people coming from camp settings rose significantly in the 21-26 June

period, bringing Sumel's total number to 1,053 (up from 453), Zakho's to 864 (up from 288), and Al-Shikhan's to 476 (up from 98).

The rise in the number of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings was also significant, especially in Sumel (684 up from 276) and Al-Shikhan (149 up from 27).

Since 8 June, a total of 2,414 individuals have arrived from camp settings (63%), while 1,415 have arrived from out-of-camp settings (37%).



## ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

### Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs going home to Sinjar include the improved security situation, the clearing of mines/IEDs, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure. Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home.
- One of the push factors has been COVID related, in that some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and area of displacement could no longer move easily due to the movement restrictions, which then pushed the IDPs to return.

### Assistance and registration

- It was reported that the Directorate of national security in Sinjar has established a feedback/ complaint /response mechanism in the form of a hotline to be used by the new returnees or IDPs willing to return to their areas of origin in Sinjar. The main purpose of the system is to enable the authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to checkpoint related difficulties, as well as

reports that some of the newly returned individuals occupy buildings that do not belong to them.

### Shelter situation

- Many of the families that have returned to Shamal sub-district live in rented accommodations or host families.

### Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large scale destruction that was witnessed in Sinjar.
- MOMD have been providing transportation to return in some cases, but this only includes transportation of the IDPs themselves and not their belongings. As a result the IDPs have to hire a car to transport their belongings.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as healthcare, markets, water, and electricity and having not received assistance. Some of these locations had not witnessed any returns before.