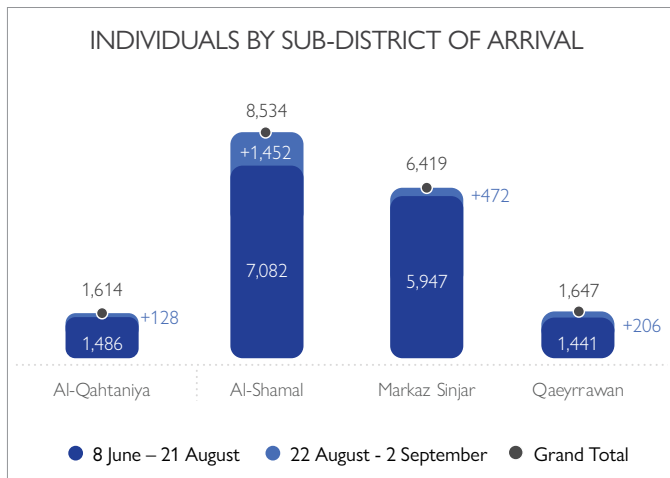
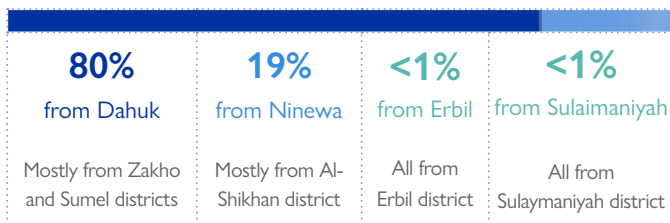
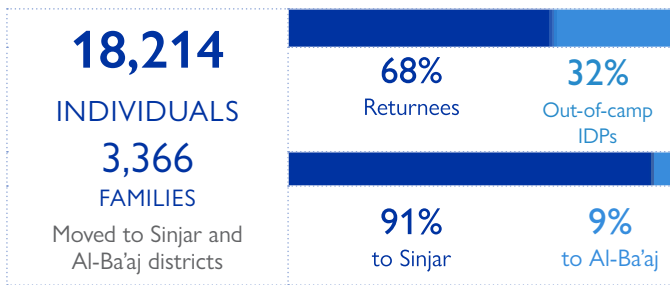


DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:
8 JUNE – 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 2 September 2020, inclusively



Additionally, between 22 August and 2 September, a total of 1,879 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (83%) – which is similar with the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (80%). As with all previous rounds, between 22 August and 2 September, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (56% of all individuals) and Zakho (25% of all individuals). The remaining individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Amedi (1% of all individuals) and Dahuk (1% of all individuals). Additionally, between 22 August and 2 September, a further 369 individuals were

Between 22 August and 2 September 2020, DTM tracked 2,258 individuals (431 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have taken this route to 18,214 (3,366 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

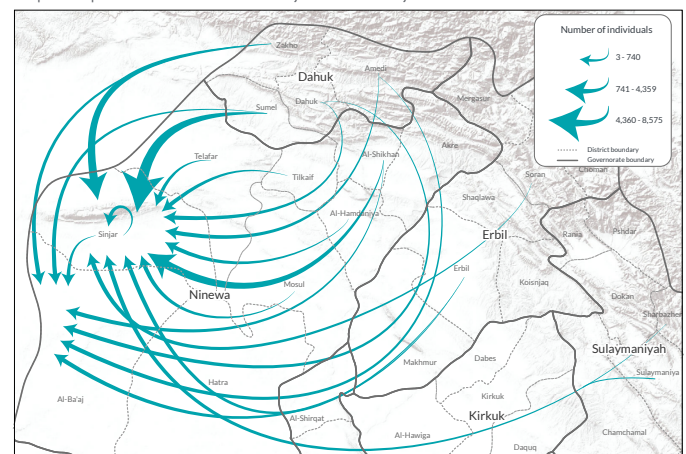
In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 178 to Sinjar and 26 to Al-Ba'aj. This is broadly consistent with the overall daily average number of arrivals since 8 June; however, it is significantly higher than the daily averages recorded in the previous reporting period (48 to Sinjar and 7 to Al-Ba'aj). This increase was due to a significant number of individuals arriving in this period rather than taking their planned journey in August, due to temporary movement restrictions introduced in their displacement camp in Sumel District following an outbreak of Coronavirus.

Of those individuals who returned between 22 August and 2 September, a total of 2,130 were recorded in Sinjar (94%) and 128 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (6%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,452 individuals (64%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 472 individuals (21%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 82% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

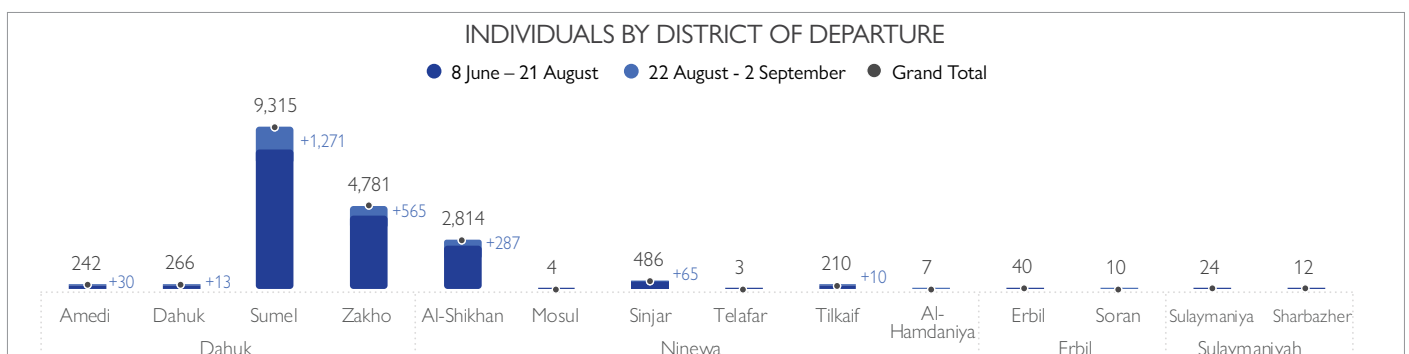
Of those individuals identified as returning between 22 August and 2 September, 1,837 were recorded as returnees (81%), while the remaining 421 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (19%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (68%) and IDPs (32%) since 8 June.

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



recorded as having come from within Ninewa (16%), mainly from two districts: Al-Shikhan (13% of all individuals) and Sinjar (3% of all individuals). This proportion (16%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 22 August and 2 September is slightly lower than the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (19%). Otherwise, 10 individuals reported arriving from Erbil Governorate's Soran District (<1% of all individuals), while unlike previous rounds no individuals came from Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (51%), Zakho (26%), and Al-Shikhan districts (15%).



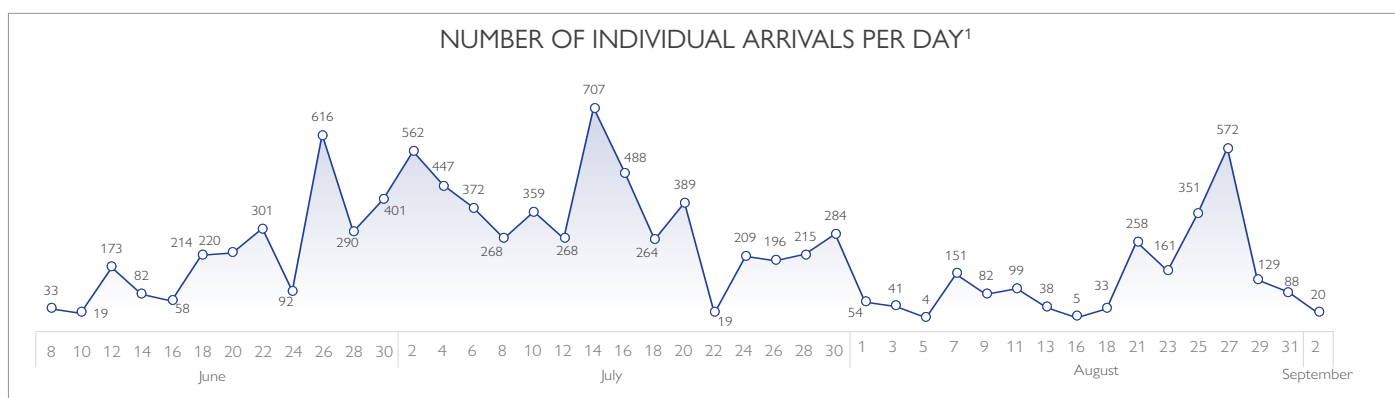
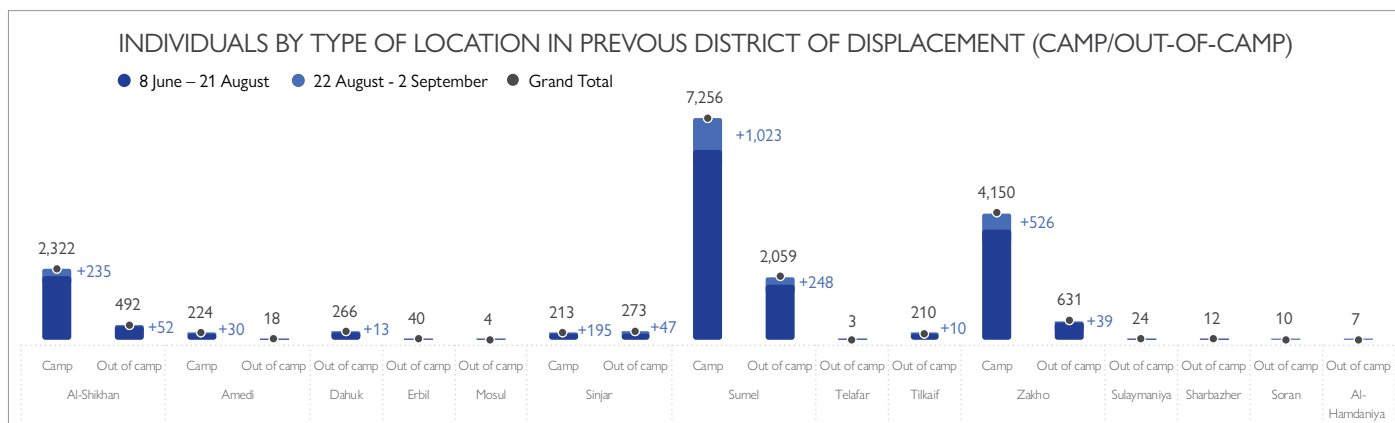
Between 22 August and 2 September, of the 2,130 individuals that arrived to Sinjar, 1,807 individuals came from Dahuk Governorate (85%), while 313 came from Erbil (15%), and 10 came from within Ninewa (<1%). Additionally, of the 128 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj, 72 came from Dahuk (56%) and 56 came from Ninewa (44%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 1,832 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (81%), while the remaining 426 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (19%). This is generally consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 14,165 individuals have arrived from camp settings (78%) compared

with 4,049 that have arrived from out-of-camp settings (22%).

Between 22 August and 2 September, increases were recorded to the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. The total number of individuals in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 7,256 (up from 6,233), while Zakho's is 4,150 (up from 3,264), and Al-Shikhan's is 2,322 (up from 2,087).

In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals that have come from out-of-camp settings in Sumel is now 2,059 (up from 1,811).



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-19, in that some families who had a member working in the area of origin and moving back and forth between Sinjar and an 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.

Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large-scale destruction that was witnessed in Sinjar.
- 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.

1 Please note that the high rates of individuals that arrived from 25 to 27 August are in part due to a delay in receiving the list of returnees from authorities. This means that some of the returnees that arrived in that period may have arrived on previous days.