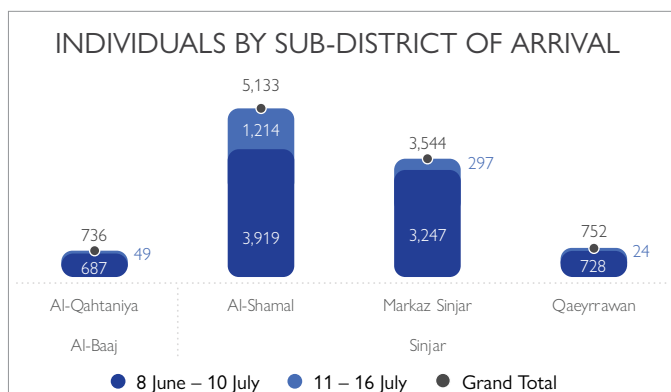
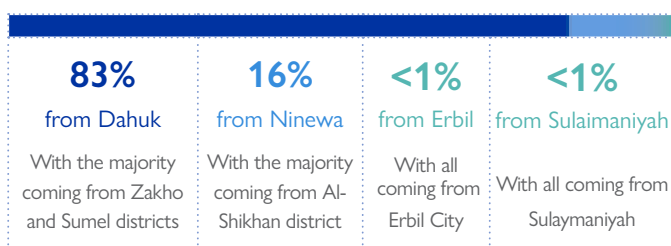
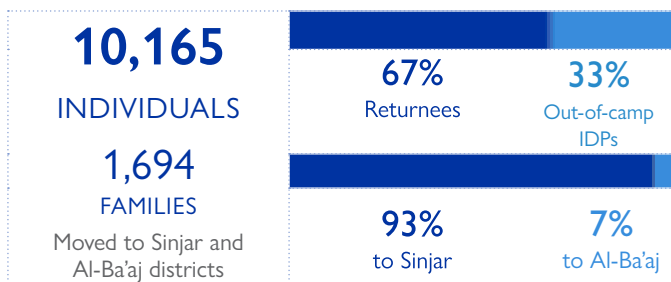


# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:  
11 – 16 JULY 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 16 July 2020, inclusively



Between 11-16 July, a total of 1,339 individuals were recorded as having departed from Dahuk governorate (85%)—down from the 90% of individuals that came from there in the previous period (4-10 July). As with all previous rounds, between 11 and 16 July, almost all individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (53% of all individuals) and Zakho (31% of all individuals) districts. Only 15 individuals were recorded as coming from Amedi (1% of all individuals), with no people coming from Dahuk city.

A further 237 individuals were recorded as having come from Ninewa governorate (15%), from two districts: Al-Shikhan (232 individuals, 15%) and Tilkaif (5 individuals, <1%). Additionally, 8 people (from three

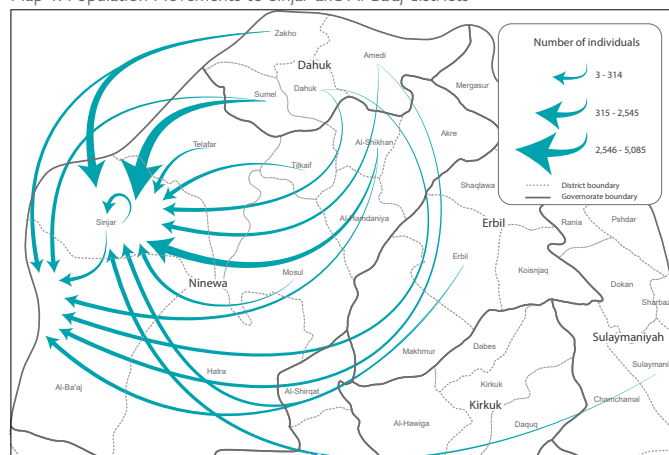
Between 11 June and 16 July 2020, DTM tracked 1,584 individuals (264 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This represents a decrease in the number of individuals that took this route between 4-10 July (2,169 individuals), and brings the total number of individuals having taken it to 10,165 (1,694 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals who moved back between 11 and 16 July, a total of 1,535 were recorded in Sinjar (97%) and 49 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (3%)—broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

By far, the most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,214 individuals (77%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 297 individuals (19%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 85% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals identified between 11 and 16 July, 1,165 were recorded as returnees (74%), while 419 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (26%). This contrasts with the overall proportion of individuals been identified as returnees (67%) and IDPs (33%) since 8 June.

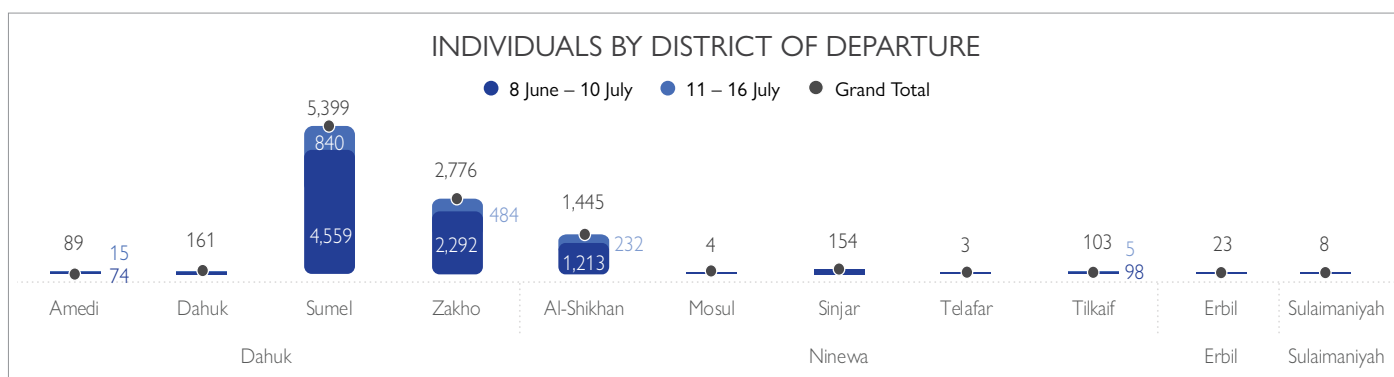
Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts



separate families) were recorded as coming from Sulaymaniyah governorate (Sulaymaniyah district), amounting to 1% of all individuals that departed from there between 11 and 16 June. This is the first account of any individuals reported as having come from Sulaymaniyah since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (53%), Zakho (27%), and Al-Shikhan districts (14%).

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 recorded 1,416 individuals returning to Sinjar (1,224 as returnees and 192 as IDPs) and 96 to Al-Ba'aj (66 as returnees and 30 as IDPs).

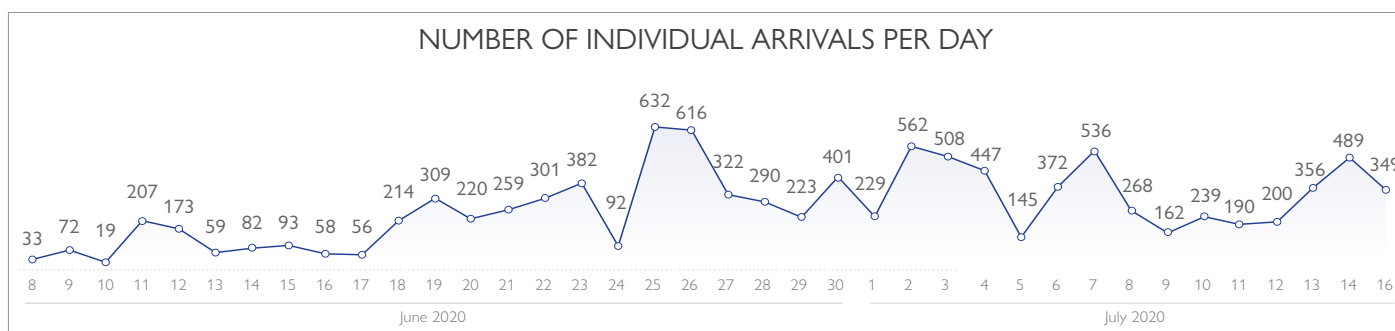
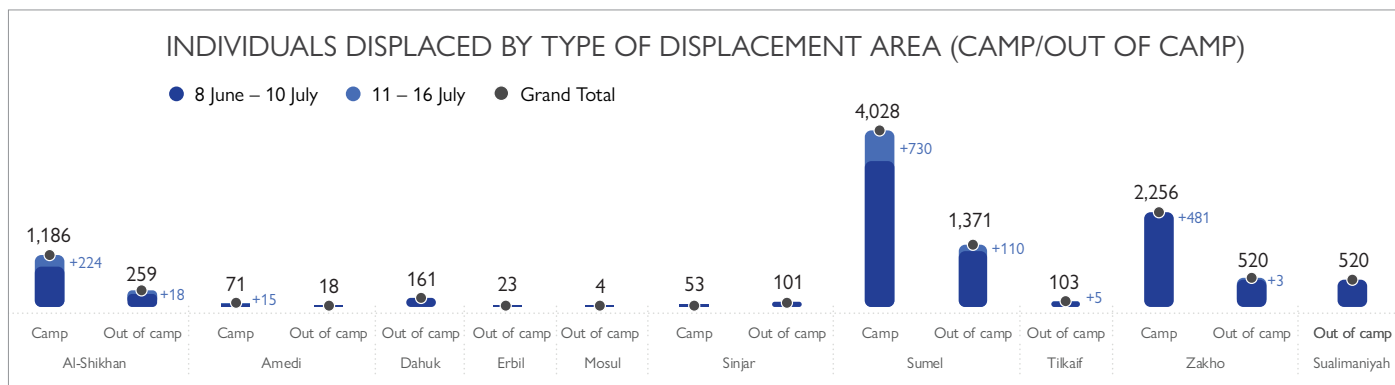


Between 11 and 16 July, of the 1,535 individuals that arrived to Sinjar, 1,290 individuals came from Dahuk governorate (84%), while 237 came from within Ninewa governorate (15%) and 1% came from Sulaymaniyah governorate. Additionally, all of the 49 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj came from Dahuk governorate.

In addition, a total of 1,440 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (91%), while the remaining 144 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (9%). This represents a shift in the overall rates of individuals coming from different settings: since 8 June, a total of 7,594 individuals have arrived from camp settings (75%), while 2,571 have arrived from out-of-camp settings (25%).

In the sub-districts that most individuals came from, the number of people coming from camp settings jumped significantly between 11 and 16 July, bringing Sumel district's total number to 4,028 (up from 3,298), Zakho's to 2,256 (up from 1,775), and Al-Shikhan's to 1,186 (up from 972).

Smaller increases in the number of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings have been recorded, with Sumel's total at 1,371 (up from 1,261), Zakho's total at 520 (up from 517), and Al-Shikhan's total at 259 (up from 241). This represents a significant drop in the rate of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings compared with the month of June.



## 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.

### Shelter situation

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

### Border crossings

- On 1 July, the Suhaila bridge crossing between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Ninewa governorate opened after an extended closure, and will remain open until further notice. The bridge is open from 8am to 4pm daily for people traveling out of KRI to Ninewa only, and is expected to influence continued returns of people to Al-Ba'aj and Sinjar districts.

### 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.