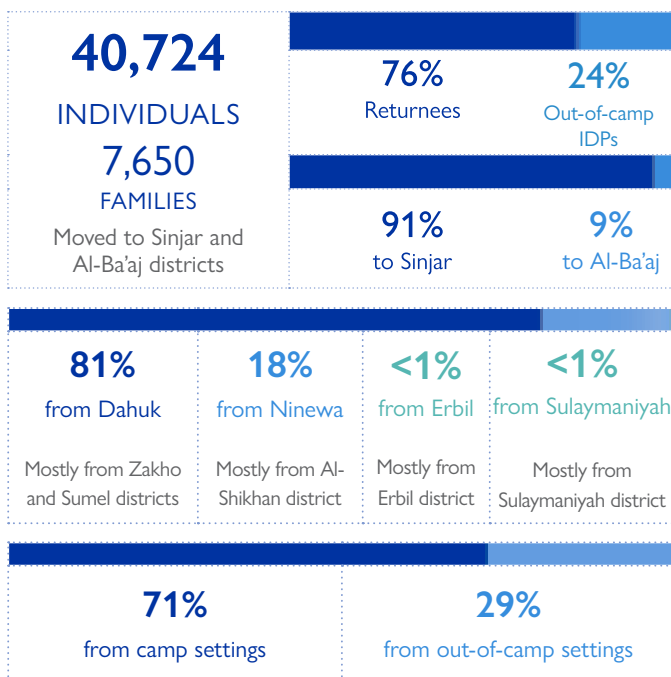


# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:  
30 OCTOBER TO 21 NOVEMBER 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 21 November 2020.



Between 30 October and 21 November, DTM tracked 6,287 individuals (1,191 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa Governorate. This brings the total number of individuals who have taken this route to 40,724 (7,650 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June 2020.

In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 258 to Sinjar and 16 to Al-Ba'aj. In this period, the daily number of arrivals to Sinjar is higher than the overall daily average since 8 June (226), while the daily average number of arrivals to Al-Ba'aj is consistent with overall average since 8 June (21).

Of those individuals who returned between 30 October and 21 November, a total of 5,925 were recorded in Sinjar (94%) and 362 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (6%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June (91% to Sinjar and 9% to Al-Ba'aj). In almost all assessed locations, all individuals were identified as Yazidis, with this group composing 97 per cent of all individuals that have returned to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since 8 June. Additionally, three per cent of all individuals have been identified as Kurd Sunni Muslims, and less than one per cent have been identified as Kurd Shia Muslims or Arab Sunni Muslims. The majority of these latter three groups were recorded as arriving to Sinjar District's sub-districts of Markaz Sinjar and Qaeyrrawan, and Al-Ba'aj District's sub-district of Al-Qahtaniya.

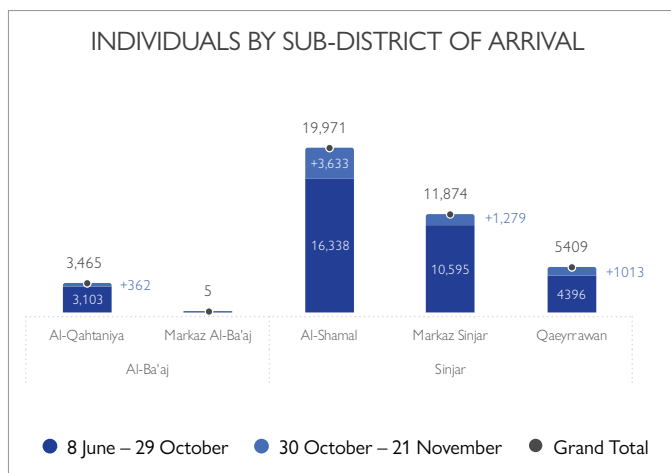
The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 3,633 individuals (58%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 1,279 individuals (20%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 78 per cent of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June. Otherwise, 1,013 individuals arrived to the sub-district of Qaeyrrawan (16%) and 362 arrived to Al-Qahtaniya (6%).

Of those individuals identified as returning between 30 October and 21 November, 5,345 were recorded as returnees (85%), while the remaining 942 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (15%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (76%) and out-of-camp IDPs (24%) since 8 June.

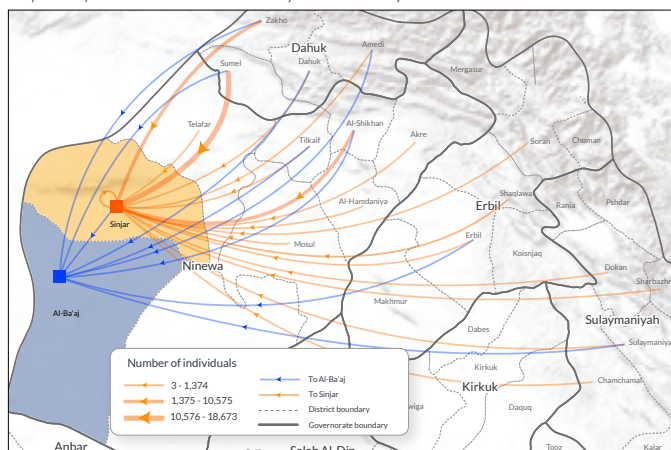
Additionally, between 30 October and 21 November, a total of 5,272 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (84%) – which is similar to the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (81%). As with all previous rounds, between 30 October and 21 November, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (47% of all individuals) and Zakho (33%). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Amedi (2% of all individuals) and Dahuk (2% of all individuals).

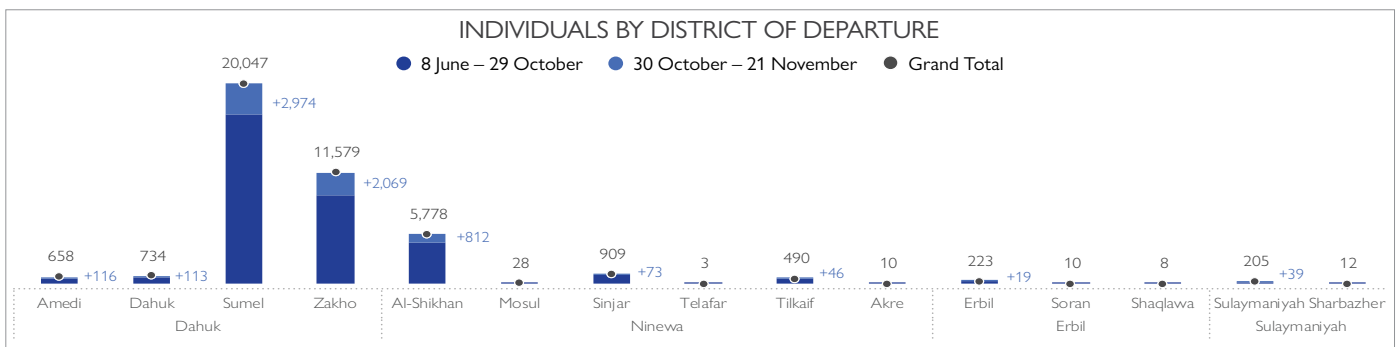
Additionally, between 30 October and 21 November, a further 931 individuals were recorded as having come from within Ninewa (15%), mainly from Al-Shikhan (13% of all individuals), and the rest came from and Sinjar and Tilkaif (both 1%). This proportion (15%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 30 October and 21 November is broadly consistent with the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (18%). Otherwise, 65 individuals arrived from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (1%), while 19 individuals were recorded as arriving from Erbil Governorate (<1% of all individuals).

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (49% of all individuals), Zakho (28%), and Al-Shikhan districts (14%).



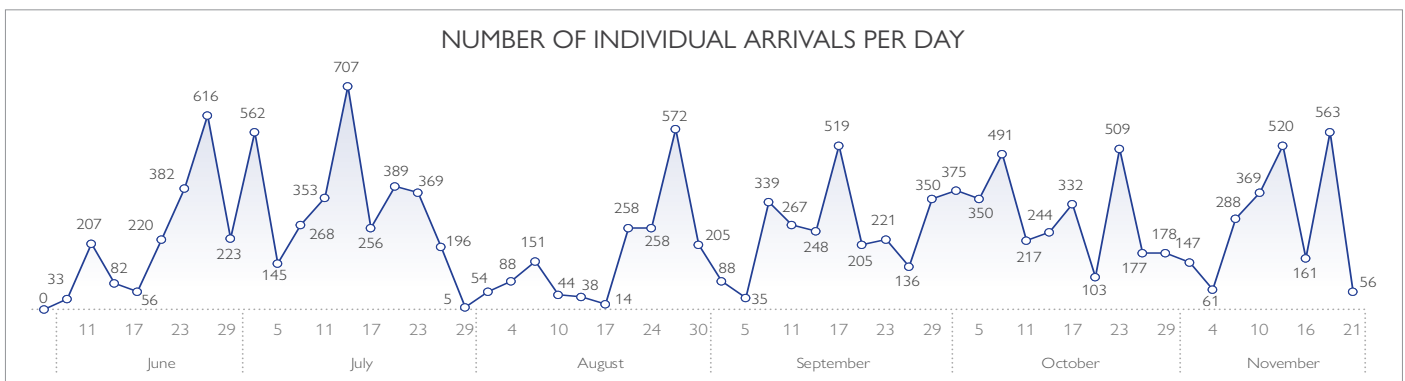
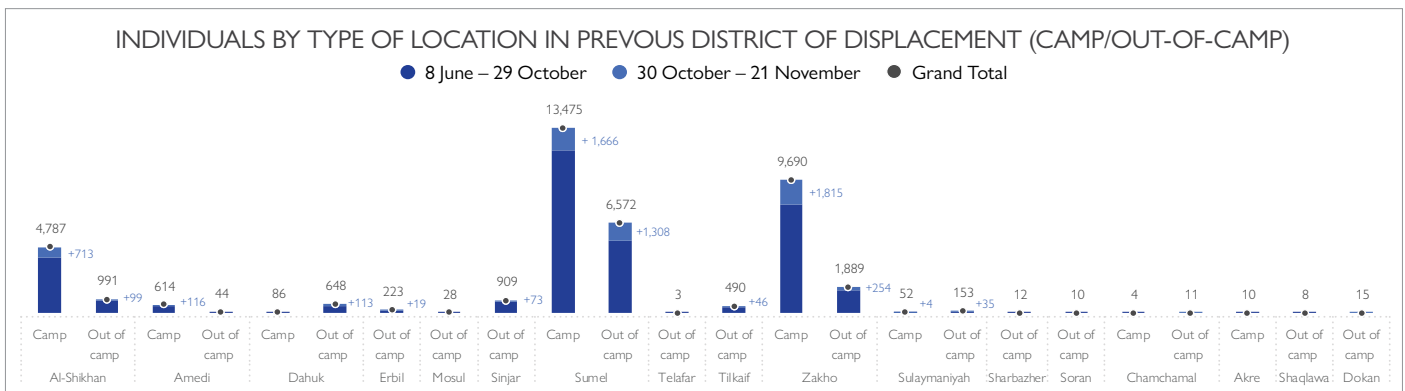
Map 1. Population Movements to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts





Between 30 October and 21 November, of the 5,925 individuals who arrived to Sinjar District, 4,990 came from Dahuk Governorate (84%), while 851 came from within Ninewa (14%), 65 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%), and 19 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%). Additionally, of the 362 individuals who arrived to Al-Ba'aj District, 282 came from Dahuk (78%) and 98 came from within Ninewa (22%). Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 4,314 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (69%), while the remaining 1,973 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (31%). This is broadly consistent with the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 28,718 individuals have arrived from camp settings (71%) while 12,006 individuals have arrived from out-of-camp settings (29%).

Between 30 October and 21 November, increases were recorded in the number of individuals who had been living in camp settings in their previous districts of displacement. The total number of individuals now in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 13,475 (up from 11,809), while Zakho's is 9,690 (up from 7,875), and Al-Shikhan's is 4,787 (up from 4,074). In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals who have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 6,572 (up from 5,264), while Zakho's is now 1,889 (up from 1,635), and Al-Shikhan's is 991 (up from 892).



## ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

### Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs returning to Sinjar include their desire to go home, as well as the improved security situation in their areas of origin, while Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home. Threats of housing eviction in locations of displacement is also a factor for those IDPs returning to Sinjar. Otherwise, the main reason for IDPs returning to Al-Ba'aj also relates to their desire to go home, while the availability of services (such as education and health) in their areas of origin is also central to the decision.

### Assistance and registration

- Reportedly, 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 authorities to follow up on emerging issues/complaints, including but not limited to difficulties at checkpoints, as well as on 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 in Sinjar.
- There are reports of individuals having returned to areas with limited basic services such as health care, markets, water and electricity and not having received assistance. Some of these locations had not previously witnessed returns.