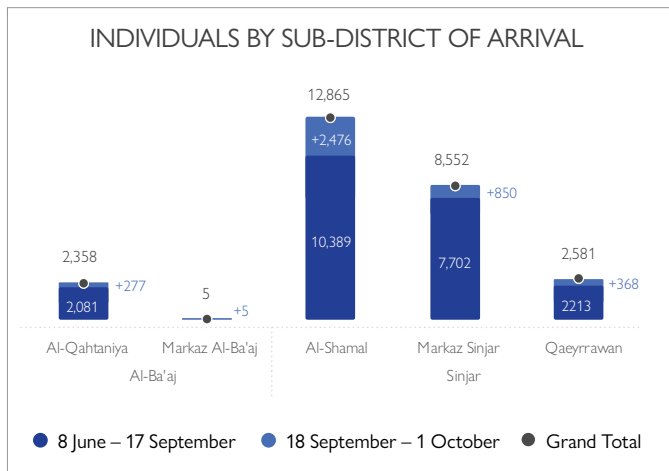
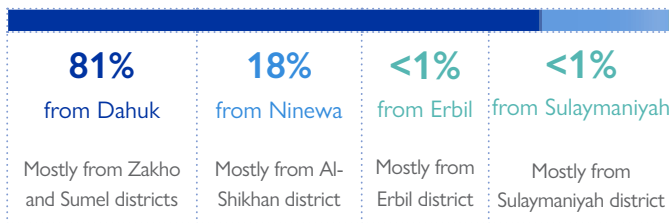
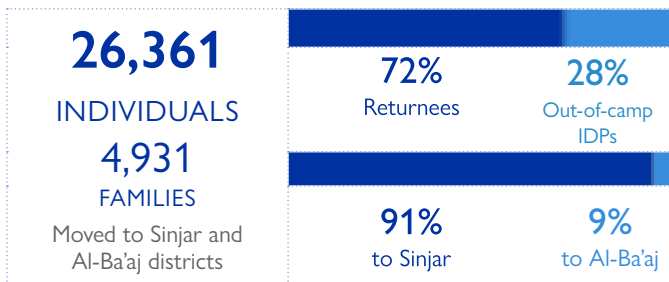


DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:

18 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER 2020

*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 1 October 2020, inclusively



Additionally, between 18 September and 1 October, a total of 3,356 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (85%) – which is similar with the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (81%). As with all previous rounds, between 18 September and 1 October, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (52% of all individuals) and Zakho (25% of all individuals). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Dahuk (2% of all individuals) and Amedi (1% of all individuals). Additionally, between 18 September and 1 October, a further 535 individuals were

Between 18 September and 1 October 2020, DTM tracked 3,976 individuals (753 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 26,361 (4,931 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

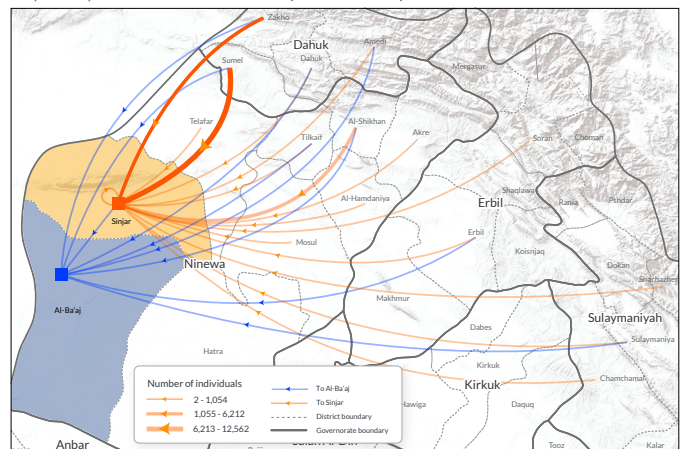
In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 22 to Al-Ba'aj and 306 to Sinjar. While the daily average number of arrivals to Al-Ba'aj is consistent with the overall daily number of arrivals there since 8 June (21), the daily average number of arrivals to Sinjar is significantly higher than the overall daily number of arrivals since 8 June (212).

This increase in arrivals can be explained by increased assistance being provided to IDPs in returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj, as well as reports of greater employment opportunities in these districts compared with the locations in which they had been displaced.

Of those individuals who returned between 18 September and 1 October, a total of 3,694 were recorded in Sinjar (93%) and 282 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (7%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

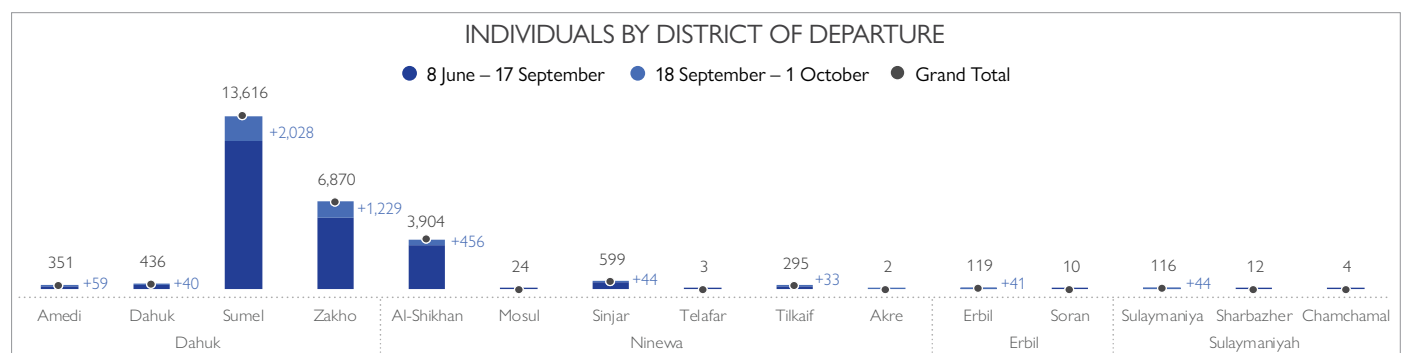
The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 2,476 individuals (62%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 850 individuals (21%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 81% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June. Otherwise, for the first time since 8 June, a small number of individuals (5) were recorded as arriving to Markaz Al-Ba'aj. Of those individuals identified as returning between 18 September and 1 October, 3,217 were recorded as returnees (81%), while the remaining 759 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (19%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (72%) and out-of-camp IDPs (28%) since 8 June.

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



recorded as having come from within Ninewa (13%), mainly from two districts: Al-Shikhan (11% of all individuals) and Sinjar (1% of all individuals). This proportion (13%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 18 September and 1 October is slightly lower than the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (18%). Otherwise, 44 individuals were recorded arriving from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (1% of all individuals), while 41 individuals arrived from Erbil Governorate (1% of all individuals).

Since 8 June, almost all individuals have been recorded as having departed from Sumel (52%), Zakho (24%), and Al-Shikhan districts (15%).



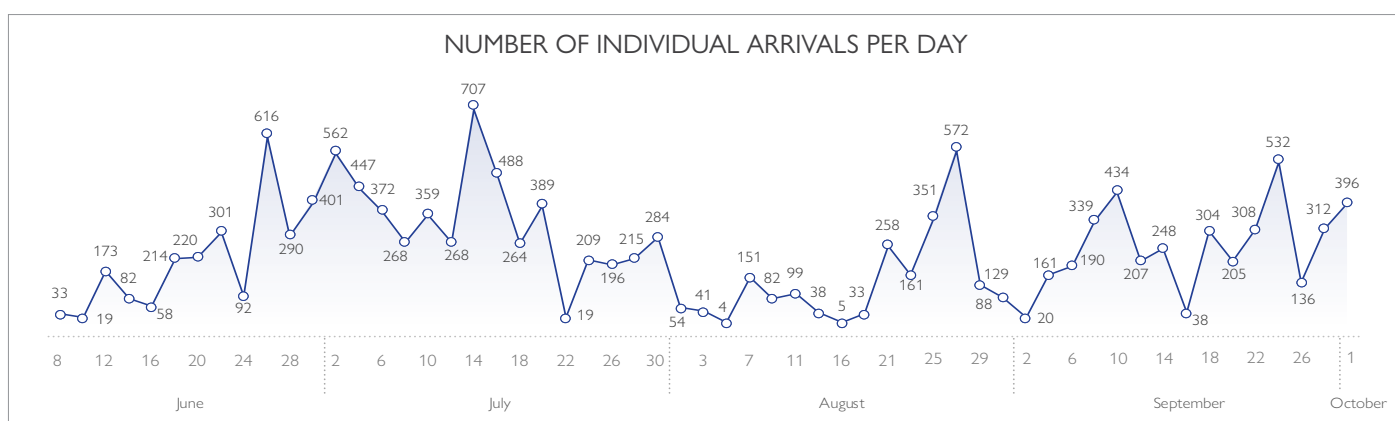
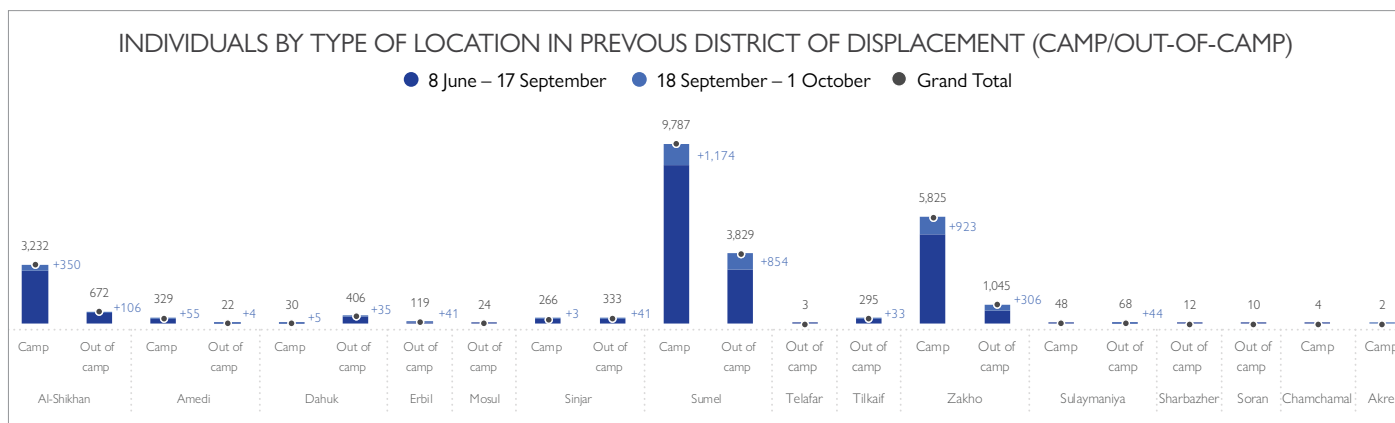
Between 18 September and 1 October, of the 3,694 individuals that arrived to Sinjar District, 3,132 individuals came from Dahuk Governorate (85%), while 485 came from within Ninewa (13%), 44 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%), and 33 came from Erbil (1%). Additionally, of the 282 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj District, 224 came from Dahuk (79%), 50 came from within Ninewa (18%), and eight came from Erbil (3%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 2,512 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (63%), while the remaining 1,464 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (37%). This differs from the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 19,523 individuals have arrived from camp

settings (74%) compared with 6,838 that have arrived from out-of-camp settings (26%).

Between 18 September and 1 October, 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 now in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj who have come from camp settings within Sumel is now 9,787 (up from 8,613), while Zakho's is 5,825 (up from 4,902), and Al-Shikhan's is 3,232 (up from 2,882).

In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals that have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 3,829 (up from 2,975), while the total that have come from this setting within Zakho is now 1,045 (up from 739).



ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs returning to Sinjar include their emotional 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 facing 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 emotional desire to go home, while the availability of services (i.e. education and health) in their areas of origin is also central to the decision.
- 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.