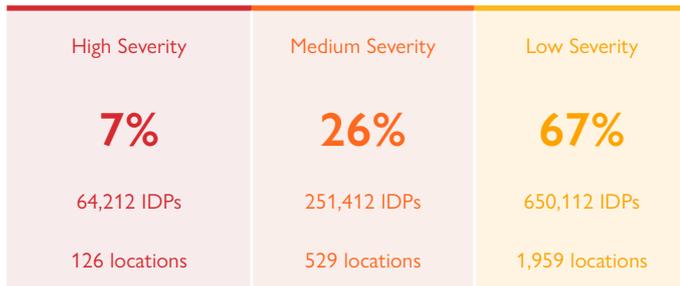


CONTEXT

With the end of the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), protracted displacement has come to characterize the post-conflict environment in Iraq. Around 1.14 million people remain internally displaced, nearly all of whom fled their areas of origin more than five years ago. In light of the above, it is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq by improving living conditions to enable internally displaced persons (IDPs) to voluntarily take steps towards return, local integration or settlement in new locations. The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Data collection for DI Round 7 took place between May and August 2023 across 18 governorates, 103 districts and 2,614 locations of Iraq. During this round, 24 fewer locations of displacement were assessed, compared to the previous round collected in January – April 2023, when 2,638 locations were assessed, as IDPs either returned to their areas of origin or moved to another location of displacement.

Figure 1: Proportion of IDPs by category of severity



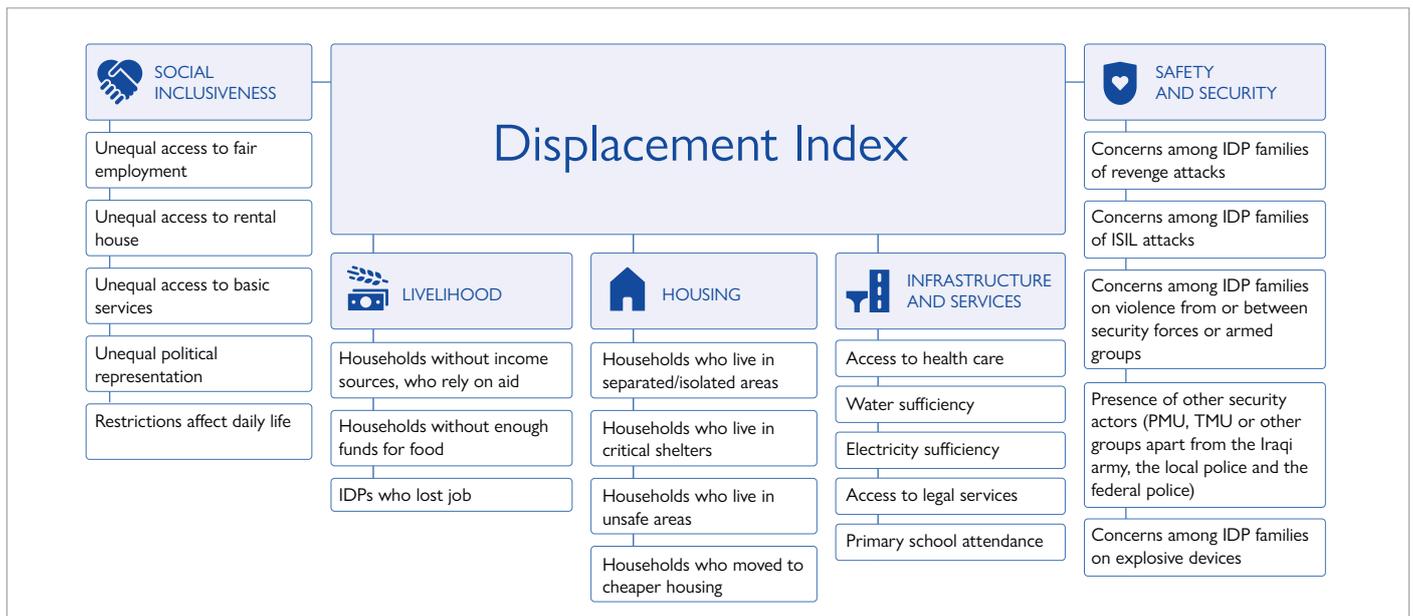
METHODOLOGY

The DI is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in the locations of displacement. The DI is based on 20 indicators across 5 domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security and (5) social inclusiveness. Factor analysis is used to examine the relationship between the domains and their indicators and obtain scores that capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. The scores of each domain and overall index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high severity of living conditions. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the last page of this report.



Data collected: May - August 2023

Figure 2: Displacement Index domains and indicators



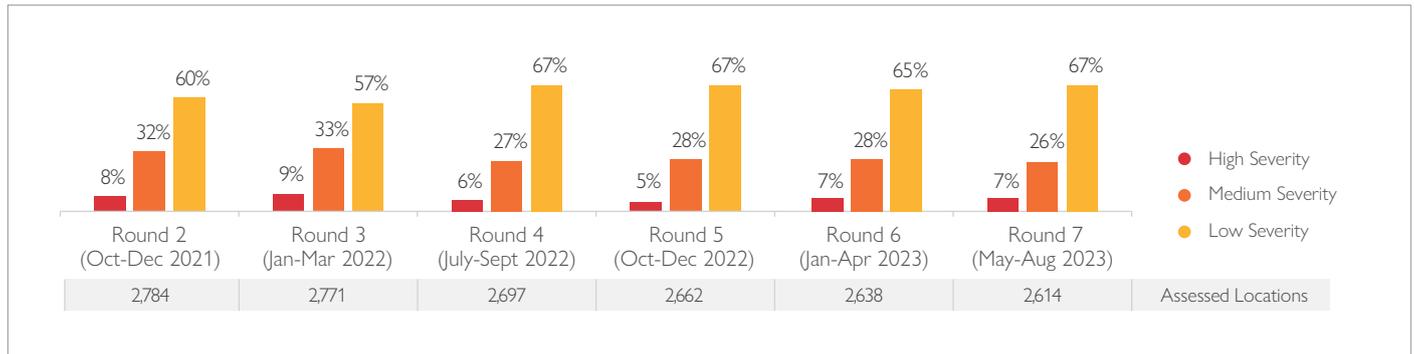
OVERALL SEVERITY

- Out of the 2,614 locations assessed in Round 7, 126 locations present severe conditions. These locations host 7 per cent of the IDP population, or 64,212 individuals. A further 529 locations are classified as medium severity and host 26 per cent of the IDP population (251,412 individuals) and 1,959 locations show low severity conditions with 67 per cent of the IDP population (650,112 individuals).
- A decrease of 1,326 IDPs living in severe conditions has been observed since the previous round in January – April 2023 (Round 6), when

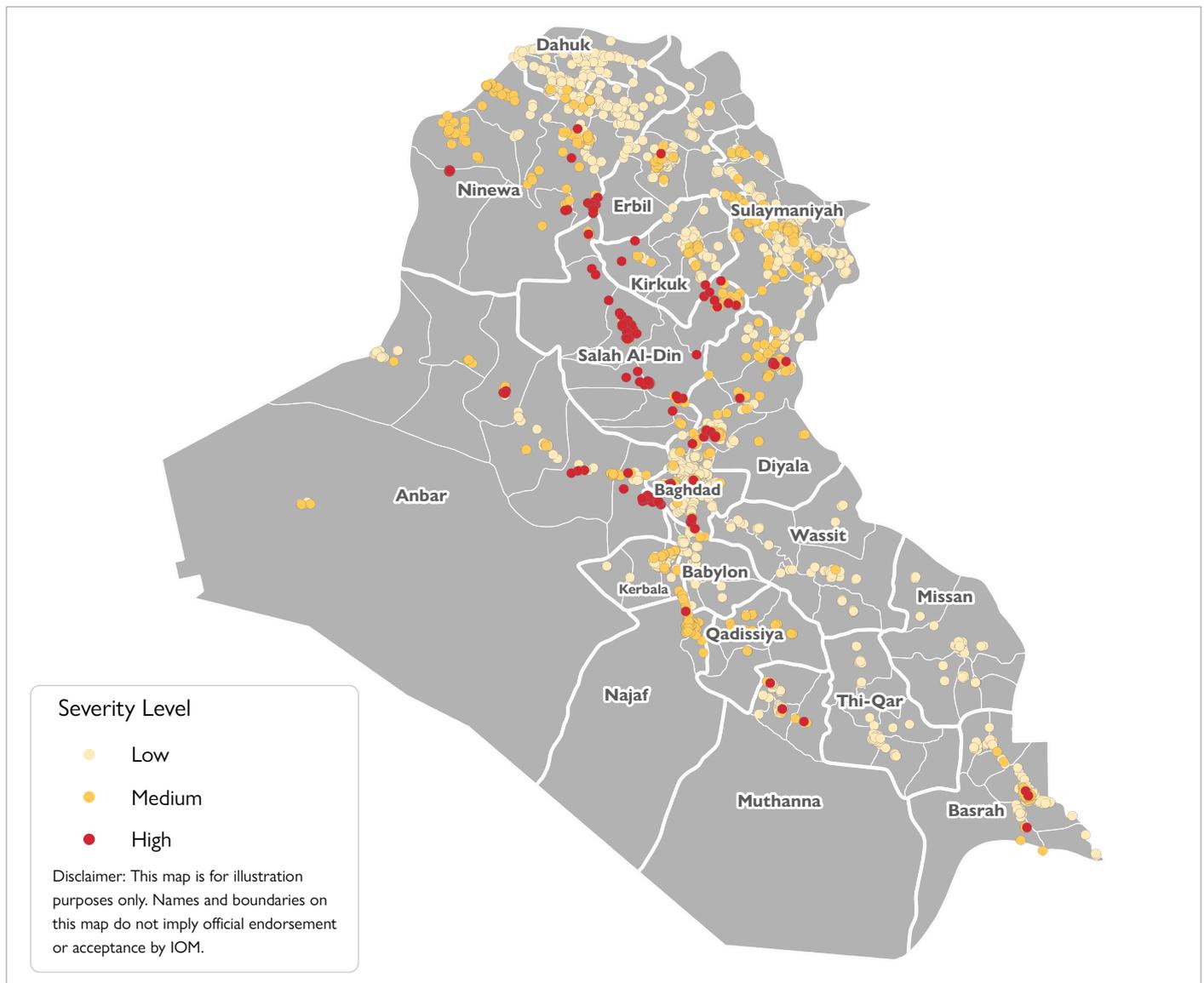
7 per cent of the IDP population (65,538 individuals) were living in severe conditions.

- **Salah al-Din, Anbar and Ninewa** are the governorates hosting the highest number of IDPs living in severe conditions, with 20,328, 16,530 and 11,592 individuals, respectively.

Figure 3: Proportion of IDPs by category of severity per round



Map 1: IDP locations by category of severity

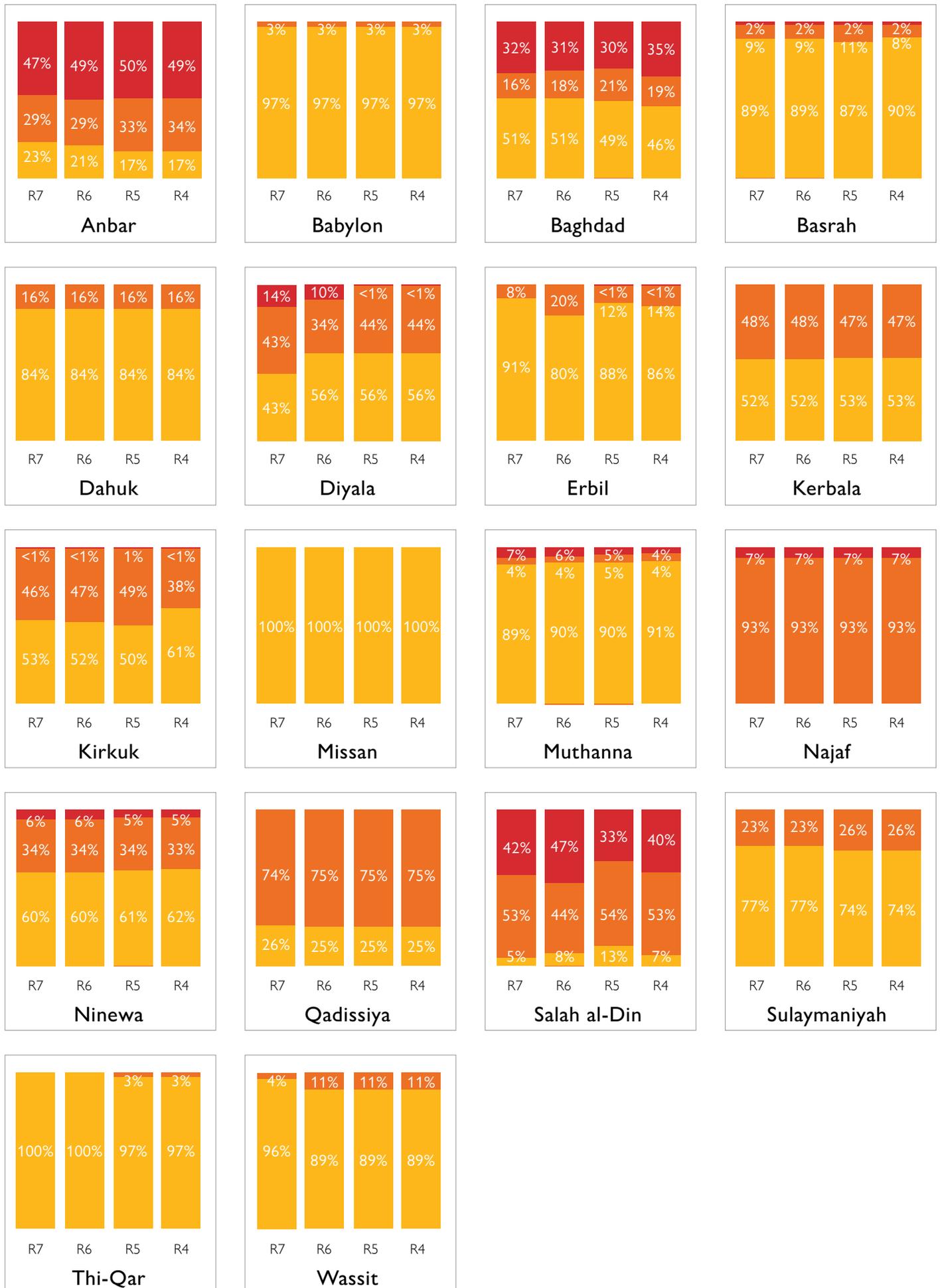


- Between Round 6 (January – April 2023) and Round 7 (May – August 2023), the largest increase in the number of IDPs in severe conditions was recorded in **Diyala** (1,650 individuals), followed by **Ninewa** (432 individuals) and **Baghdad** (366 individuals). A noticeable decrease in the number of IDPs in severe conditions occurred in **Salah al-Din** with 2,868 fewer IDPs and in **Anbar** with 906 fewer IDPs compared to the last round.
- The increase in **Diyala** was notably observed in both **Al-Khalis** district, with the recording of 966 new individuals, and **Ba'quba** district with an additional 684 individuals, compared to the previous round. This increase in both districts was driven by reduced provision of electricity related to problems in the transmission line and water scarcity.
- An increase was also observed in **Ninewa**, where the number of IDPs has gone up by 432 individuals compared to the previous round. **Al-Qayara** subdistrict in **Mosul** district has recorded a significant increase that was the result of the growing numbers of IDP households living in critical shelters. Similar to the previous round, this subdistrict has a large number of families without income sources who rely on aid and reported cases of discrimination or unfair treatment due to IDP status when it comes to access to basic services, employment, rental houses and political representation. In addition, key informants reported that restrictions on movement (requirement of a special permit from police, army, etc.) affected the daily life of IDPs.
- In **Baghdad**, a reduction in the electricity supply and job opportunities in **Tarmia** district and **Abu Ghraib** district increased the number of IDPs in severe conditions. During the reporting period, the number of hours of national electricity supplied to the region decreased. Additionally, the end of the school year and high temperatures contributed to a decline in self-employment and a corresponding drop in income. As a result, fewer families in the district are able to meet their basic needs.
- The decrease in severe living conditions in **Salah al-Din** was recorded in four districts of the governorate, with **Tuz Khurmatu** district and more specifically **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu** subdistrict recording the highest decrease compared to the previous round (3,672 IDPs). This decrease is due to families showing less concern regarding violence from or caused by tensions among security forces or armed groups, revenge attacks, ISIL attacks and the presence of other security actors (Popular Mobilization Units, Tribal Mobilization Units or other groups apart from the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police), compared to the previous round. The improvements of the economic situation in the area, with increasing availability of jobs in agriculture and service projects set by the government, also positively affected the situation in Markaz Tuz Khurmatu subdistrict.
- In **Anbar** governorate, and more specifically in **Al-Garma** subdistrict of **Falluja** district, the water network reaching the area has been maintained and improved which caused an increase in IDP families who have enough water for their drinking and domestic needs.

Table 1: Number of IDPs and locations per governorate by category of severity

	High		Medium		Low		TOTAL	
	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations	No. of IDPs	No. of locations
Anbar	16,530	26	10,224	32	8,214	62	34,968	120
Babylon			492	2	15,756	82	16,248	84
Baghdad	8,562	11	4,362	30	13,710	368	26,634	409
Basrah	102	3	426	24	4,326	147	4,854	174
Dahuk			21,018	2	113,262	155	134,280	157
Diyala	6,108	11	18,948	76	18,708	97	43,764	184
Erbil	84	1	18,330	12	198,000	143	216,414	156
Kerbala			4,956	14	5,274	66	10,230	80
Kirkuk	348	2	42,948	18	49,368	60	92,664	80
Missan					1,266	62	1,266	62
Muthanna	48	3	30	4	642	40	720	47
Najaf	510	1	6,984	45			7,494	46
Ninewa	11,592	21	66,936	90	118,326	170	196,854	281
Qadissiya			1,830	34	642	15	2,472	49
Salah al-Din	20,328	47	25,662	53	2,412	13	48,402	113
Sulaymaniyah			28,098	92	94,014	339	122,112	431
Thi-Qar					2,094	67	2,094	67
Wassit			168	1	4,098	73	4,266	74
Total	64,212	126	251,412	529	650,112	1,959	965,736	2,614

Figure 4: Proportion of IDPs per category of severity by governorate of displacement per round



HOTSPOTS

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of overall severity and have at least 1,000 IDPs residing in the subdistrict. Starting from Round 5, the list also includes subdistricts with medium overall severity and a high score at least on one of the five domains

Thirteen hotspots were identified across five governorates. The top three hotspots based on the highest number of IDP residents are **Markaz Sinjar** in Ninewa, **Markaz Samarra** in Salah al-Din and **Al-Amirya** in Anbar governorate. This round, **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu** in Salah al-Din was removed from the list of hotspots.

Table 2: Hotspots of severity

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	NO. OF LOCATIONS	NO. OF IDPS
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Amirya	20	14,940
		Markaz Falluja	6	1,746
Baghdad	Abu Ghraib	Markaz Abu Ghraib	19	3,558
	Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	10	6,738
Najaf	Kufa	Markaz Al-Kufa	15	1,512
	Najaf	Al-Haydariya	7	2,256
		Markaz Al-Najaf	20	2,838
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	9	7,488
	Mosul	Al-Qayara	14	3,450
	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	15	19,494
Salah al-Din	Samarra	Markaz Samarra	25	15,702
	Tikrit	Al-Alam	10	2,478
		Markaz Tikrit	24	9,096

Markaz Sinjar has 19,494 IDPs settled across 15 locations. The most critical domain is safety and security, with locations showing high concern among IDPs regarding violence from or caused by tensions among security forces or armed groups, revenge attacks, ISIL attacks and the presence of other security actors.

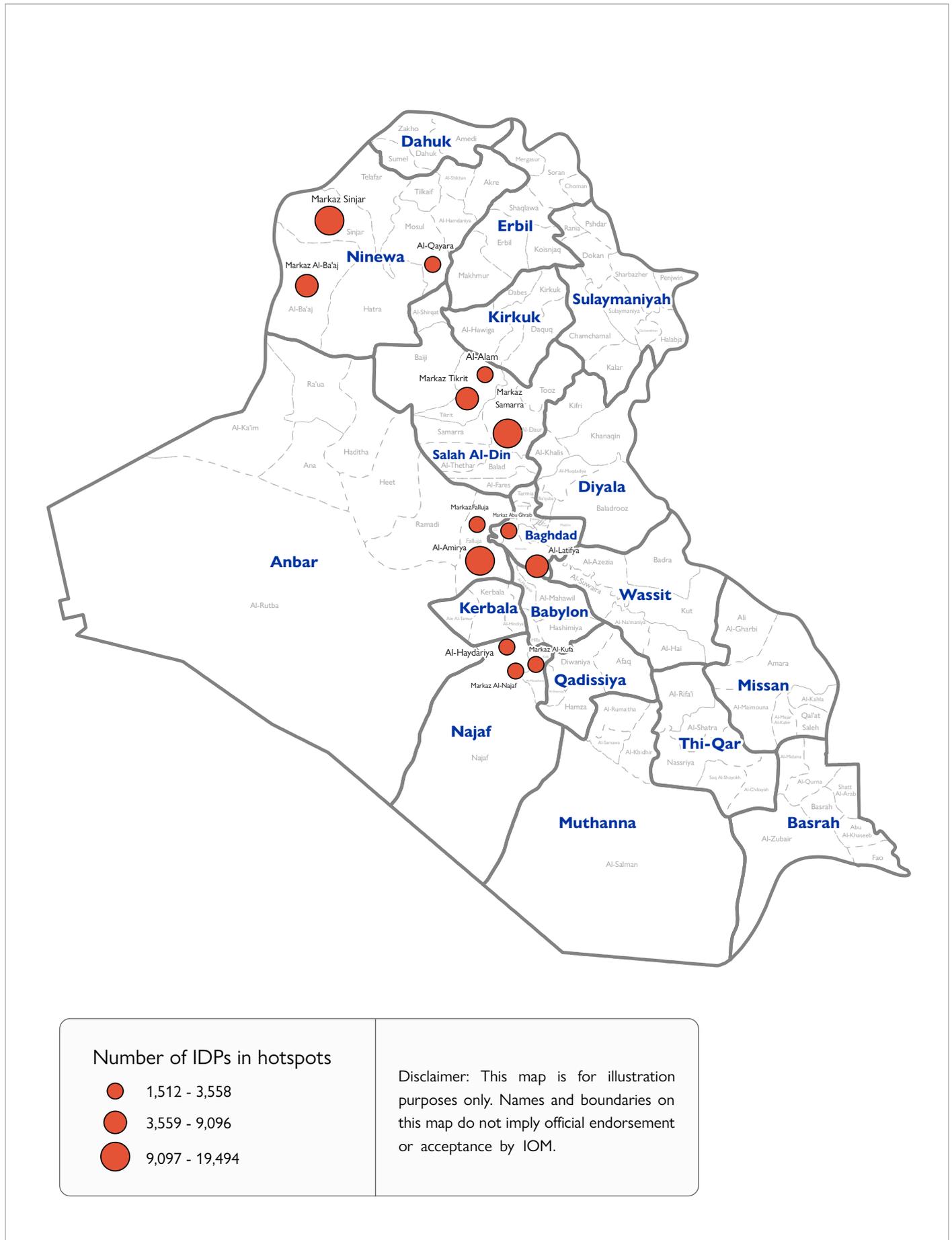
Markaz Samarra has 15,702 IDPs settled across 25 locations in the subdistrict. The most critical domain in the subdistrict is livelihoods as many IDPs have lost their jobs and rely mainly on aid and assistance to meet their basic needs. Other challenges, such as residence in critical shelters and movements restrictions impacting daily life, were also reported.

Al-Amirya has 14,940 IDPs settled across 20 locations in the subdistrict. The most critical domains are infrastructure and livelihoods, followed by housing, with many IDPs in this subdistrict struggling to access water, electricity, health care and legal services. Additionally, IDP

households in the subdistrict have no or limited resources for food, mostly relying on aid/assistance for their basic needs, and are living in critical shelters and in separated/isolated areas. Notably, low water levels in the Euphrates River are increasing the salinity of water and impacting the functioning of water stations.

Only 13 hotspots were reported in this round compared to the 14 reported in the previous round, with **Markaz Tuz Khurmatu** subdistrict in Salah al-Din Governorate removed from the list of hotspots. This subdistrict witnessed an improvement in the livelihoods situation this round, driven by increased work opportunities, mainly in the field of agriculture, and due to the initiation of several services projects by the Government. Additionally, a decrease in concerns among IDPs regarding ISIL and revenge attacks resulted in improved living conditions during the reporting period.

Map 2: Hotspots of severity



METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Index (DI) is a tool designed to measure and monitor the living conditions of IDPs. Data collection for the DI takes place across 18 governorates, 103 districts and 2,614 locations of displacement in Iraq. The unit of the analysis is the location, which can be a town, village or neighbourhood in a city. Data are collected through IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs), composed of over 73 staff members deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). IOM's RARTs collect data through structured interviews with key informants (KIs) using a large, well-established network of over 2,000 KIs (2% are female) that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces.

The data of the DI are collected through KI interviews in each location with IDPs. This methodology has the advantage of allowing extensive coverage over a short period of time but relies on few individuals conveying the views of a large and mixed community, which might lead to limited representation for smaller groups with distinct characteristics, anomalies in the data due to misinterpretation of the question by the KI or discrepancies caused by a biased perception of the situation, particularly with regard to the domain of social inclusiveness.

The DI is based on 20 indicators across 5 domains: (1) livelihoods, (2) housing, (3) infrastructure and services, (4) safety and security and (5) social inclusiveness. The indicators were selected upon consultation with stakeholders, descriptive and exploratory statistical analysis using

DTM datasets, including Integrated Location Assessments and Master Lists, and pilot rounds of data collection. Confirmatory factor analysis was used to examine the relationship between these observed indicators and their domains and to capture both the relevance of each indicator for a certain domain and the importance of each domain for the overall index. In line with the previous studies, (1) livelihoods and (2) housing are domains with the highest impact on the overall living conditions of IDPs. Domains with the second highest impact are (3) services and (4) security, followed by (5) social inclusiveness.

After Round 1 of the DI, collected between March-April 2021, changes to the methodology were implemented to improve the overall quality of the index. As a result, the findings for Round 1 are not comparable to the subsequent rounds.

Starting in Round 5 (October–December 2022), adjustment of weighting to each domain and indicator on subdistrict level is implemented to take into account both the severity and number of IDPs residing in the area. In addition, the list of hotspots also includes subdistricts with medium overall severity and high score at least on one of the five domains.

For more details on the overall approach, indicators, statistical model and score calculation, please refer to the '[Methodological Overview](#)' on the DTM website.

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