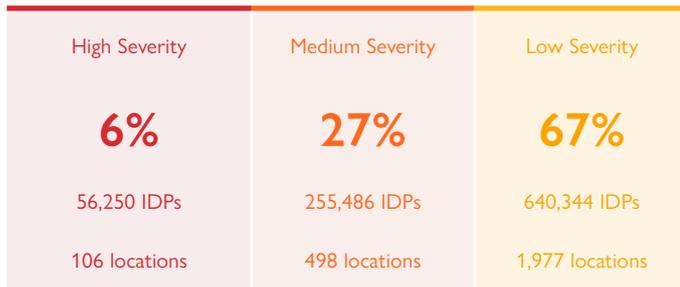


CONTEXT

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. It is essential to advance durable solutions to displacement in Iraq through improving the living conditions that will 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 8 took place between September and December 2023 across 18 governorates, 103 districts and 2,581 locations of Iraq. During this round, 33 fewer locations of displacement were assessed compared to the previous round 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



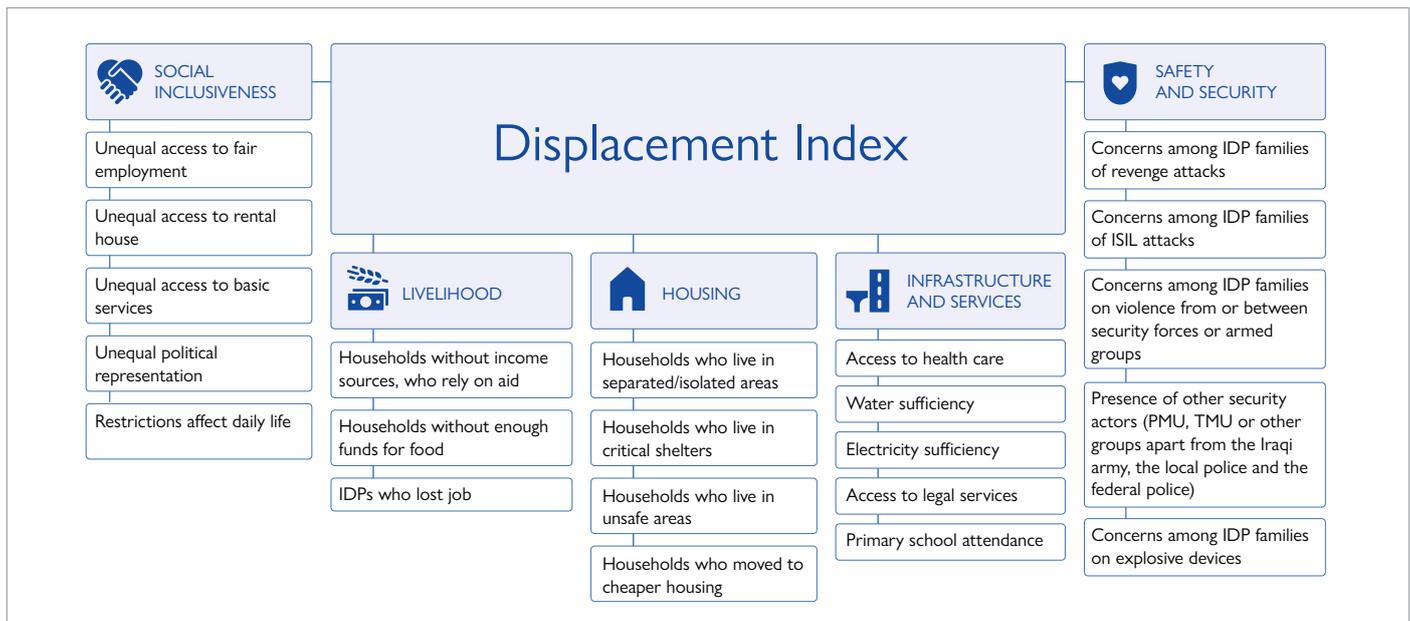
METHODOLOGY

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: September – December 2023

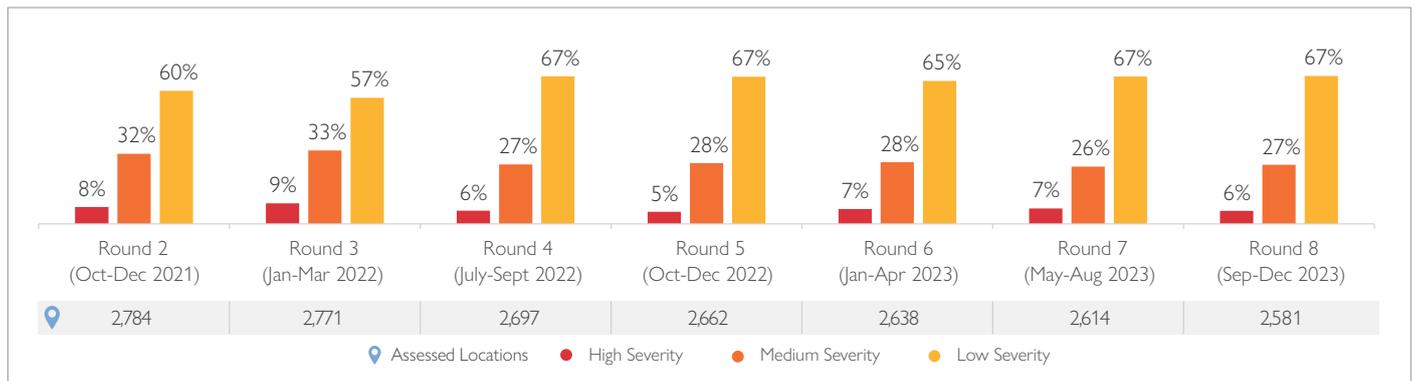
Figure 2: Displacement Index domains and indicators



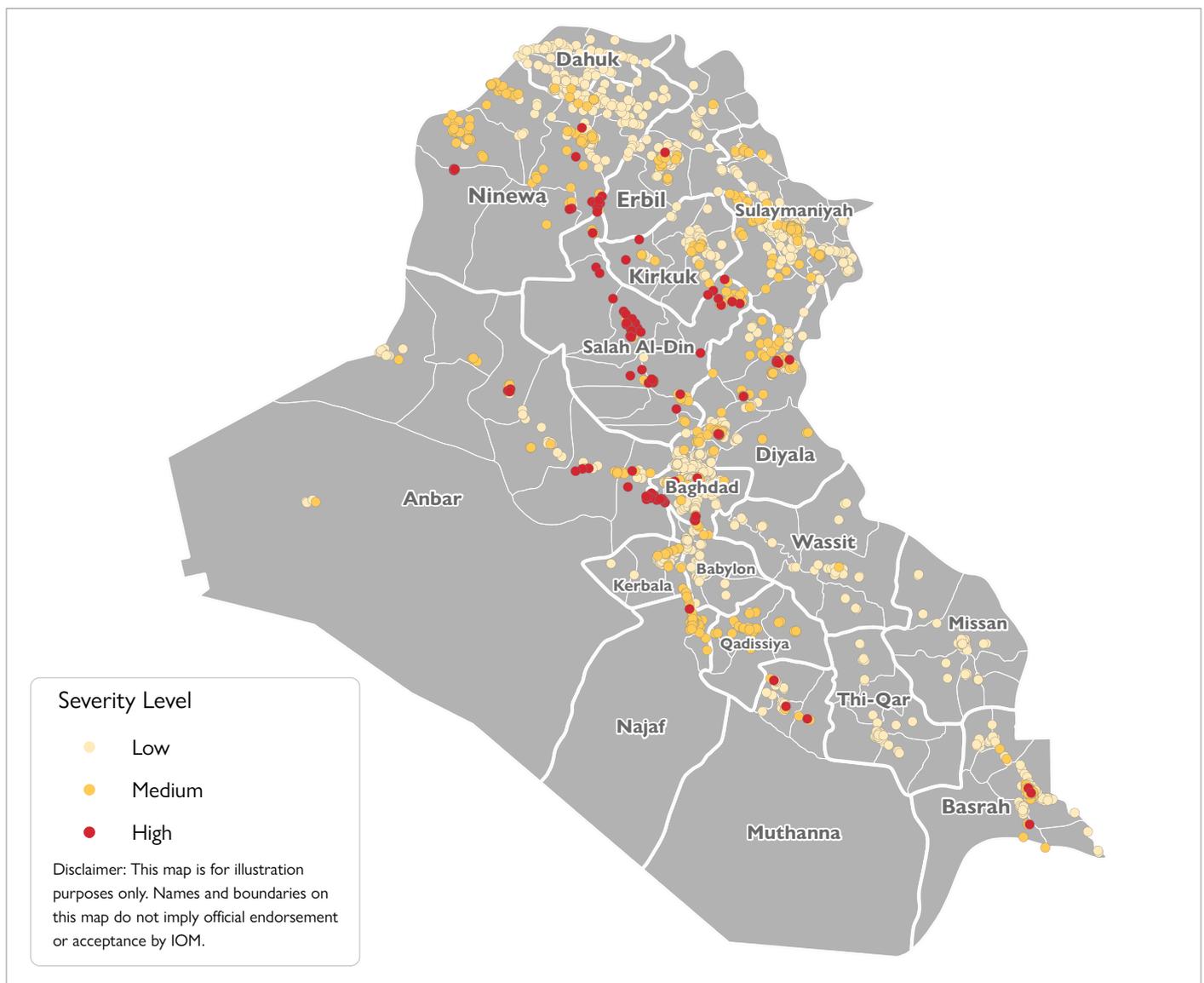
OVERALL SEVERITY

- Out of the 2,581 locations assessed in Round 8, 106 locations present severe conditions. These locations host 6 per cent of the IDP population, or 56,250 individuals. A further 498 locations are classified as medium severity and host 27 per cent of the IDP population (255,486 individuals) and 1,977 locations show low severity conditions with 67 per cent of the IDP population (640,344 individuals).
- A decrease of 7,962 IDPs living in severe conditions has been observed since the previous round in May – August 2023 (Round 7), when 7 per cent of the IDP population (64,212 individuals) were living in severe conditions.
- **Anbar** and **Salah al-Din** host the highest number of IDPs living in severe conditions, with 15,624 and 15,462 individuals respectively.

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



Map 1: IDP locations by category of severity

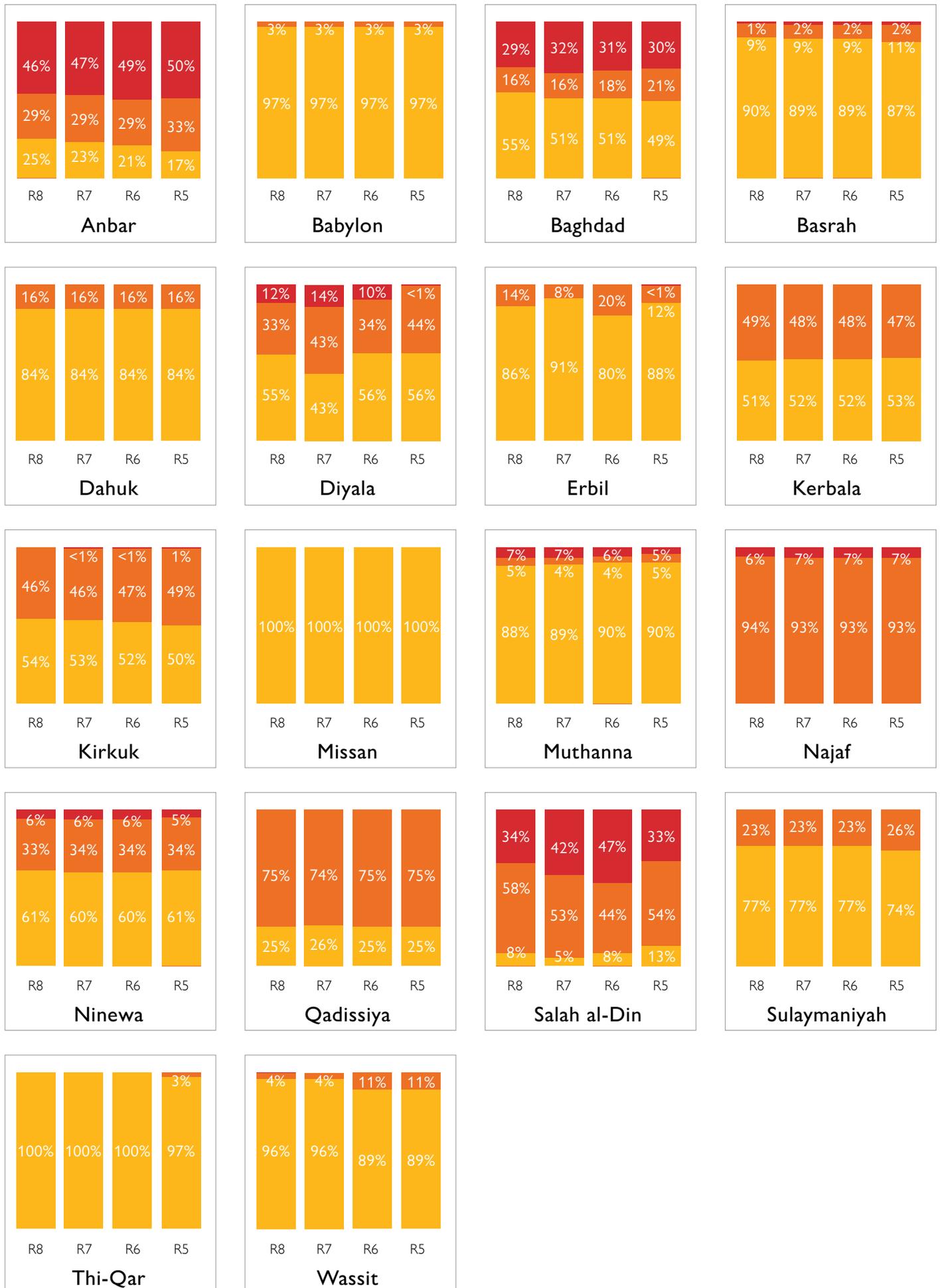


- During this round 8 (September - December 2023) there was a decrease of 7,962 IDPs living in severe conditions. This was due to improved conditions in two governorates, where locations comprising 4,866 IDPs in **Salah Al-Din** and 906 IDPs in **Anbar** were no longer classified as severe.
 - Notably, sub-districts such as **Markaz Al-Tarmia** in Baghdad, **Hibhib** in Diyala, and Al-Duloeyah in Salah al-Din have experienced a complete shift from being classified as severe in terms of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to no longer being categorized as such. The improvement in the economic situation has empowered several displaced families to not only secure their own sustenance but also extend their assistance by purchasing food for others. This positive shift signals a significant revival of financial stability within these communities. Additionally, with the national electricity supply to the region has become more reliable. This reporting period has also seen an increase in the percentage of families able to purchase basic necessities.
 - The decrease in severe living conditions in **Salah al-Din** was recorded in five districts of the governorate, with **Tikrit** district and more specifically **Markaz Tikrit** subdistrict recording the highest decrease compared to the previous round (2,358 IDPs). The improvement in local conditions can be attributed to two main factors: the improvement of the water supply, thanks to extended hours of electricity supply to water projects, and the improvement of electrical current provision. This change was facilitated by the region's lower temperatures. However,
- while services have improved, the situation regarding livelihoods, housing, safety and other issues has remained unchanged from the previous round. Additionally, despite receiving aid, economic challenges persist for many families, as demonstrated by the situation in Awajealah Quarter. Here, some families, who reported being unable to afford rent and were reliant on aid, are opting to return to their original areas of residence. This movement highlights the enduring financial struggles faced by these families, even in the presence of assistance. Additionally, during this round, a significant number of IDP families departed from Tikrit. One contributing factor was the beginning of the new academic year, prompting families to return to their hometowns to ensure their children's education continuity.
- Moreover, another incentive for their departure was the opportunity to renovate their houses. This desire to improve their living conditions and rebuild their homes played a crucial role in their decision to leave Tikrit and return to their areas of origin.
 - **Anbar** governorate, particularly **Markaz Ramadi** subdistrict within the **Ramadi** District, has observed a decrease in the number of IDPs (642 IDPs). This decline reflects the positive impact of IOM's Facilitated Voluntary Movement program, which aids in facilitating the return of IDPs to their areas of origin. Furthermore, it was noted that in addition to the program's assistance, some IDPs had completed the rehabilitation of homes in their areas of origin, further contributing to the increase in returns.

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	15,624	26	9,738	30	8,526	63	33,888	119
Babylon			492	2	15,708	81	16,200	83
Baghdad	7,734	6	4,290	28	14,562	377	26,586	411
Basrah	60	3	408	25	4,074	144	4,542	172
Dahuk			20,808	2	111,138	155	131,946	157
Diyala	5,238	8	14,544	60	23,772	115	43,554	183
Erbil	84	1	30,078	16	182,928	138	213,090	155
Kerbala			4,938	13	5,166	63	10,104	76
Kirkuk	348	2	42,192	17	50,100	61	92,640	80
Missan					1,254	62	1,254	62
Muthanna	48	3	30	4	588	37	666	44
Najaf	420	1	6,588	39			7,008	40
Ninewa	11,232	21	64,548	87	119,856	174	195,636	282
Qadisiya			1,746	33	588	14	2,334	47
Salah al-Din	15,462	35	26,820	52	3,666	21	45,948	108
Sulaymaniyah			28,098	89	92,328	335	120,426	424
Thi-Qar					2,058	66	2,058	66
Wassit			168	1	4,032	71	4,200	72
Total	56,250	106	255,486	498	640,344	1,977	952,080	2,581

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.

Table 2: Hotspots of severity

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	NO. OF LOCATIONS	NO. OF IDPS
Anbar	Falluja	Al-Amirya	20	14,676
		Markaz Falluja	6	1,746
Baghdad	Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	10	6,798
Najaf	Kufa	Markaz Al-Kufa	12	1,446
	Najaf	Al-Haydariya	7	2,052
		Markaz Al-Najaf	17	2,634
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	9	7,296
	Mosul	Al-Qayara	14	3,282
	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	16	19,884
Salah al-Din	Samarra	Markaz Samarra	25	15,660
	Tikrit	Al-Alam	8	1,368
		Markaz Tikrit	23	8,430

Markaz Sinjar has 19,884 IDPs settled in the subdistrict living in 16 locations. The most critical domain is safety and security, particularly regarding violence from or caused by tensions among security forces or armed groups, concerns related to the 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).

Markaz Samarra has 15,660 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 are primarily depending on aid and assistance for their basic necessities. Additionally, living in critical shelters and facing movement restrictions, which significantly impact their day-to-day lives, were reported.

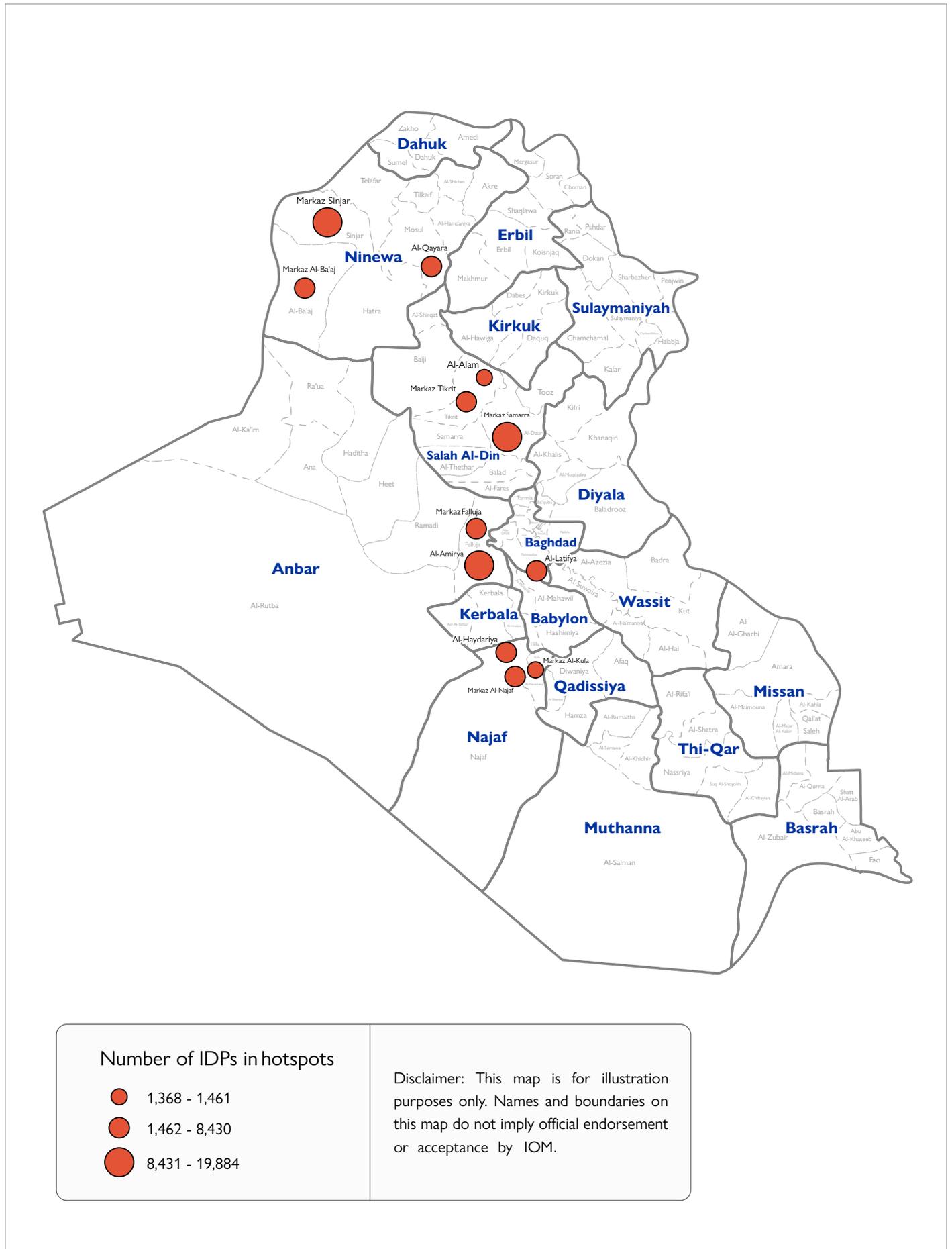
Al-Amirya has 14,676 IDPs settled across 20 locations in the subdistrict. The most critical domains are livelihoods, followed by services, with many IDPs in this subdistrict struggling to access water, electricity, health care and legal services. Additionally, IDP households in the subdistrict have no 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

Twelve 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 Abu Ghraib** in Baghdad was removed from the list of hotspots.

Euphrates River are increasing the salinity of water and impacting the functioning of water stations, which are stopping frequently for ongoing maintenance.

Only 12 hotspots were reported in this round compared to the 13 reported in the previous round, with **Markaz Abu Ghraib** subdistrict in **Baghdad** Governorate removed from the list of hotspots. First, there has been an increase in the number of hours of national electricity supplied to the region, which has significantly enhanced the daily living conditions and operational capabilities of local businesses and services in Markaz Abu Ghraib. Additionally, the economic situation of some displaced families in the subdistrict has shown signs of improvement. This positive change has enabled these families to purchase basic necessities, thereby reducing their dependency on external aid. Furthermore, the subdistrict has witnessed improved access to livelihoods for residents, attributed to the creation of more work opportunities. This increase in employment has not only bolstered the local economy but also contributed to a sense of stability and normalcy among the community, marking a positive shift in the overall quality of life within the area.

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, around 103 districts and 2,581 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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