FINDINGS ROUND THREE – IRAQ
MARCH 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- The model used to calculate the return index has been revised to reflect both new and updated indicators developed in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders. The model follows the same structure as the original design and is based on two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions.

- Of the assessed returnee population, 11 per cent (472,350 individuals) are living in high severity conditions across 279 locations. Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates host the highest number of returnees living in these conditions with 213, 372 and 187,812 individuals, respectively. This proportion is relatively similar to the previous rounds published in September and January 2019, which had respectively 11% and 10% of returnees in this category.

- The locations of return located in Al-Ba'aj District in Ninewa present the highest severity scores: there are very severe conditions in all of these locations, which host 10,722 returnees followed by Tooz District in Salah al-Din and Sinjar District in Ninewa, which are hosting 28,542 individuals (73%) in eight locations and 43,476 individuals (73%) in 40 locations, respectively.

4,188,780 Returnees

8 governorates	38 districts	689,130 families	1,547 locations

Data collected January – February 2019

In this round, DTM sought to highlight the hotspots for each governorate. Using a combination of score severity at least on one of the scales as well as the number of families living in the area, 28 hotspots were identified across 6 governorates.

NINEWA

- Markaz Sinjar
- Qaeyrrawan
- Al-Shamal
- Markaz Telafar
- Ayadiya

- Zummar
- Hamam al-Aleel
- Al-Shura
- Al-Ba'aj District
- Markaz Hatra

SALAH AL-DIN

- Yathreb
- Tooz District
- Markaz Baiji

- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Markaz Tikrit

ANBAR

- Al-Rummaneh
- Markaz Al-Ka'im
- Markaz Al-Rutba

- Al-Saqlawiyah
- Al-Garma

DIYALA

- Markaz Al-Muqdadiya
- Jalula

- As-Saadia

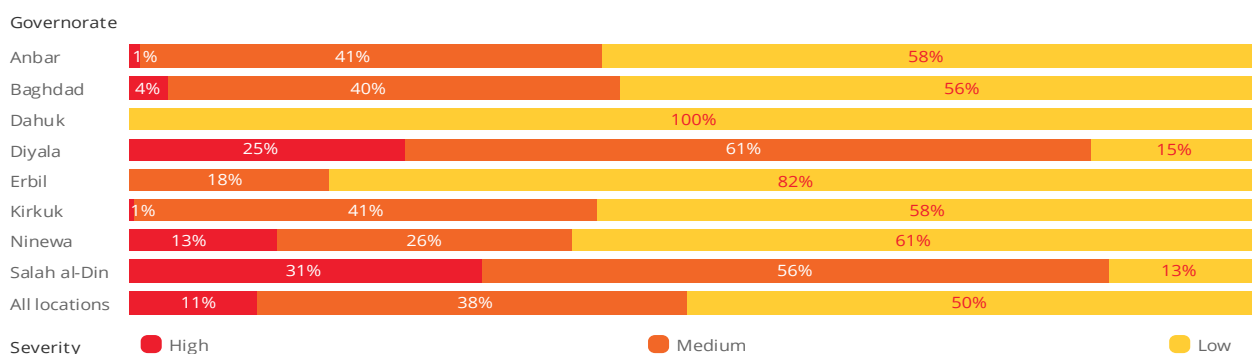### KIRKUK

- Al-Riyad

- Al-Abassy

BAGHDAD

- Al-Nasir Walsalam

- Al-Latifya

Figure 1: Proportion of returnees by category of severity per governorate

Governorate			
Anbar	1%	41%	58%
Baghdad	4%	40%	56%
Dahuk			100%
Diyala	25%	61%	15%
Erbil	18%	82%	
Kirkuk	1%	41%	58%
Ninewa	13%	26%	61%
Salah al-Din	31%	56%	13%
All locations	11%	38%	50%

Severity: ● High   ● Medium   ● Low

INTRODUCTION

This third round of the Return Index consists of a new baseline measurement of the severity of living conditions for the returnee population in Iraq. The data[1] for this report was collected during the months of January and February 2019 in 8 governorates, 38 districts and 1,547 locations across Iraq. Since the previous round, collected in October 2018 (Round 2), the number of returnees has continued to increase and as of 28 February 2019, an additional 108,162 returnees were identified, making a total of 4,188,780 returnees (698,130 families).

This round the Return Index is built on a revised list of indicators developed in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders to better reflect the changing displacement context. To measure the severity of conditions in each location of return, the Return Index is based on 16 indicators grouped into two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions. A regression model is used to assess the impact of each of the indicators in facilitating or preventing returns and to calculate scores for the two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities are back to normal has returns compared to a location where this is not the case. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of two scales are combined and grouped into three categories: 'low' severity conditions, 'medium', and 'high' (which also includes the identified 'very high' locations).

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index correlates data available on returnee population figures with 16 different indicators, grouped in two scales that measure living conditions in areas of return: 1) livelihoods and basic services, and 2) social cohesion and safety perceptions. The Return Index uses a logistic regression model to assess the impact of each of indicators on the likelihood of returns, testing how likely a location is to have full returns if a certain condition applies, for instance the recovery of agricultural activities.

This tool was developed by IOM DTM, the Returns Working Group and Social Inquiry. It is built upon the following key methodological principles:

- The main assumption used to build the analytical model is to consider that the severity of living conditions for returnees (i.e., the likelihood or sustainability of returns) can be measured by whether the pre-conflict population has fully returned or not. This means that locations where all residents have returned are likely to have good conditions for return. Locations where not all of the population have returned are likely to have issues with livelihoods, services, social cohesion or safety. This measurement has limitations, given that the presence of full returns in a location may not be due to good conditions, but to pushed returns from places of displacement.

- The 16 indicators used to build the Return Index help define living conditions in locations of return. These indicators represent a set of minimum or critical living conditions that are necessary to make a place conducive to returns. They are thus expected to be statistically representative to explain the likelihood of a population group returns. In practical terms, the model responds to the following question: are there conditions on the ground that explain why a location is more likely to have partial returns as opposed to full returns?

- These indicators were formulated into a survey format and collected bi-monthly through key informants in each location with population returns. The advantage of using key informants is that many locations can be covered in a short period of time. However, its key limitation is that it relies on one representative reporting on the views of a potentially large and diverse set of returnees. The unit of analysis is the location, which can be a town, village, or even a neighborhood in a city.

- The scoring is derived from a logistical model with the state of returns in a location as the outcome to be explained (dependent variable) through the 16 indicators (explanatory variables). This model generates an odds ratio for each statistically significant indicator, which measures how less likely a location is to have full returns if the condition described in the table above applies. These ratios are used to know the relative impact of each indicator on returns. The reason for using this type of analysis is the assumption that not all indicators have the same likelihood of inducing or sustaining returns.

1 The full dataset is available on the DTM website iraqdtm.iom.int

The final result is that every indicator has a value associated with it so that it is possible to calculate a "livelihoods and services score" and a "social cohesion and safety perceptions score". These two scores are then combined to create an overall severity index. The index goes from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met).

The combination of these indicators provides an index score for every location with population returns. Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. These indicators are ranked from a higher individual score to a lower. Indicators at the top of the list add more scores to the final index and indicators added for the first time in Round 3 are found below in boxes.

Table 1: Indicator list for each scale

SCALE 1	CONDITION EVALUATED IN EACH LOCATION	SCALE 2	CONDITION EVALUATED IN EACH LOCATION
Residential destruction	Existence of destroyed houses, combined with presence of recon-struction efforts.	Community reconciliation	Need for a reconciliation process that is not currently taking place.
Employment access	Part of the population unable to find employment.	Multiple security actors	Presence of at least four different armed groups in control of security provision.
Water sufficiency	Part of the population with insufficient public water supply.	Blocked returns	Part of the pre-conflict population not allowed to return.
Recovery of agriculture	Agricultural activities not taking place as before.	Checkpoints controlled by other security actors	Presence of PMU, TMU or other groups in control of checkpoints apart from the Iraqi army, the local police and the federal police, combined with concerns over harassment.
Electricity sufficiency	Part of the population with insufficient electricity supply.	Daily public life	Existence of tensions among residents and preference to not leave the house unless necessary.
Recovery of small businesses	Existence of small businesses that have not been restarted.	Illegal occupation of private residences	Presence of private residences illegally occupied by others (residents, armed groups, etc.).
Access to basic services	Existence of access difficulties to primary education or primary health provision.	Mines	Existence of concerns among the population about explosive devices in houses.
Reincorporation of civil servants	Lack of local civil servants returning to their posts.	Sources of violence	Existence of concerns among the population about violence in the area (ISIL attacks, acts of revenge, clashes between security forces, or ethno-religious-tribal tensions).
SCALE 1 SCORE = 100		SCALE 2 SCORE = 100	
TOTAL SCORE = AVERAGE OF SCALE 1 AND SCALE 2 SCORES			

OVERVIEW OF THE REVISED MODEL

In this round, the regression model used to calculate the return index has been revised to reflect both new and updated indicators developed in consultation with relevant partners and stakeholders. While the results have not changed drastically and the earlier findings are still relevant, assumptions about improvement or deterioration of the return situation should not be drawn due to the fact that a different questionnaire and weighting were used. The model follows the same structure as the original design and is based on two scales: (i) livelihoods and basic services, and (ii) social cohesion and safety perceptions.

SCALE 1: LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES SCALE

In line with the previous model, housing destruction is the indicator with the highest impact on the livelihoods and basic services scale. In this round, some level of house destruction is reported in 78 per cent of locations. The impact on returns differs depending on whether housing reconstruction is taking place: locations with no reconstruction are half as likely to have returns than locations with reconstruction activities. Across Iraq, no reconstruction was taking place in 25 per cent of locations. Analysis at a district level shows that no reconstruction was taking place in all locations in Al-Ba'aj District and in more than half of locations in Sinjar (66%), Al-Hawiga (56%) and Hatra (52%) districts.

The indicator with the second highest impact on Scale 1 is access to employment. In a little over half of locations (55%), less than half of residents can find employment and in 13 per cent none of the residents can find employment. Some districts are particularly affected by this issue. In Al-Ba'aj, in as many as 92 per cent of locations none of the residents can find employment and in Hatra this is the case in 74% of locations. Similarly, in Baiji District, in Salah al-Din, in 94 per cent of locations key informants reported that none of the residents can find employment.

The impact of indicators such as water sufficiency, recovery of agriculture, electricity sufficiency, recovery of small businesses, reincorporation of civil servants and access to primary essential services is lower. However, they all have a relatively equal impact.

SCALE 2: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFETY PERCEPTIONS SCALE

Although limited to specific areas, community reconciliation is the indicator with the highest impact on the social cohesion and safety perceptions scale. In 18 per cent of locations there is reportedly a need for reconciliation between ethno-religious and/or tribal communities to achieve a peaceful co-existence and prevent further violence. However, in more than half of these locations (55%) this is not taking place. This is reported most frequently in Balad (reconciliation is needed in 100% of locations), Tooz (94%) and Baiji (70%) in Salah al-Din Governorate, in Sinjar (84%) and Telafar (62%) in Ninewa Governorate as well as in Mahmoudiya (58%) in Baghdad Governorate. Analysis on related indicators shows that residents are concerned about ethno-religious and/or tribal tensions in 11 per cent of locations (168 locations). The top three are in Telafar District (67 locations, 109,878 individuals) and Sinjar District (36 locations, 52,902 individuals) in Ninewa and Al-Muqdadiya District (19 locations, 25,356 individuals) in Diyala.

The indicator with the second highest impact on the social cohesion and safety perceptions scale is the presence of different security actors: locations with either none or more than four actors were less likely to have full returns. In most locations (87%) key informants report the presence of one to three different security actors and in 13 per cent of locations there are four to six security actors. There are also four locations in Hatra District in Ninewa where no security actors are present, another indication of severe insecurity.

Key informants report that residents are concerned about the presence of different security actors in nine per cent of locations (135 locations). Of these, residents are very concerned in 16 locations: 12 locations in Hatra District (2,898 individuals) and one in Al-Ba'aj District (510 individuals) in Ninewa, two in Samarra District in Salah al-Din (8,550 individuals), and one in Al-Muqdadiya District in Diyala (48 individuals). The top three districts where residents are moderately concerned about the presence of different security actors are all in Diyala Governorate: Al-Khalis (39 locations, 49,374 individuals), Al-Muqdadiya (37 locations, 43,854 individuals) and Khanaqin (10 locations, 2,634 individuals).

The remaining indicators all have a negative impact on returns with a relatively equal strength. These are: security situations at checkpoints, blocked returns, tense daily public life, illegal occupation of private residences, presence of mines, risks of violence such as ISIL attacks, revenge acts, clashes between security forces and ethno-religious tensions.

CATEGORIZING QUALITY OF RETURNS

OVERALL SEVERITY

Of the assessed returnee population, 11 per cent (472,350 individuals) are living in high severity conditions across 279 locations. Ninewa and Salah al-Din Governorates host the highest number of returnees living in these conditions, with 213,372 and 187,812 individuals respectively.

Table 2: Number of locations and returnees per governorate by category of severity

Governorate	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		TOTAL	
	# of returnees	# of locations	# of returnees	# of locations	# of returnees	# of locations	# of returnees	# of locations
Anbar	11,718	14	532,944	114	749,394	109	1,294,056	237
Baghdad	3,000	6	34,194	42	47,994	55	85,188	103
Dahuk	0	0	0	0	780	1	780	1
Diyala	54,762	44	136,092	110	32,472	57	223,326	211
Erbil	0	0	7,308	7	33,852	13	41,160	20
Kirkuk	1,686	7	130,428	110	185,652	65	317,766	182
Ninewa	213,372	155	427,344	218	987,654	233	1,628,370	606
Salah al-Din	187,812	53	333,324	102	76,998	32	598,134	187
Total	472,350	279	1,601,634	703	2,114,796	565	4,188,780	1547

LOCATIONS WITH VERY HIGH SEVERITY

There are 44 locations in Iraq, hosting 35,748 returnees (1% of the total returnee population), that have the most severe conditions ("very high") when all indicators are combined (table 3). These 44 l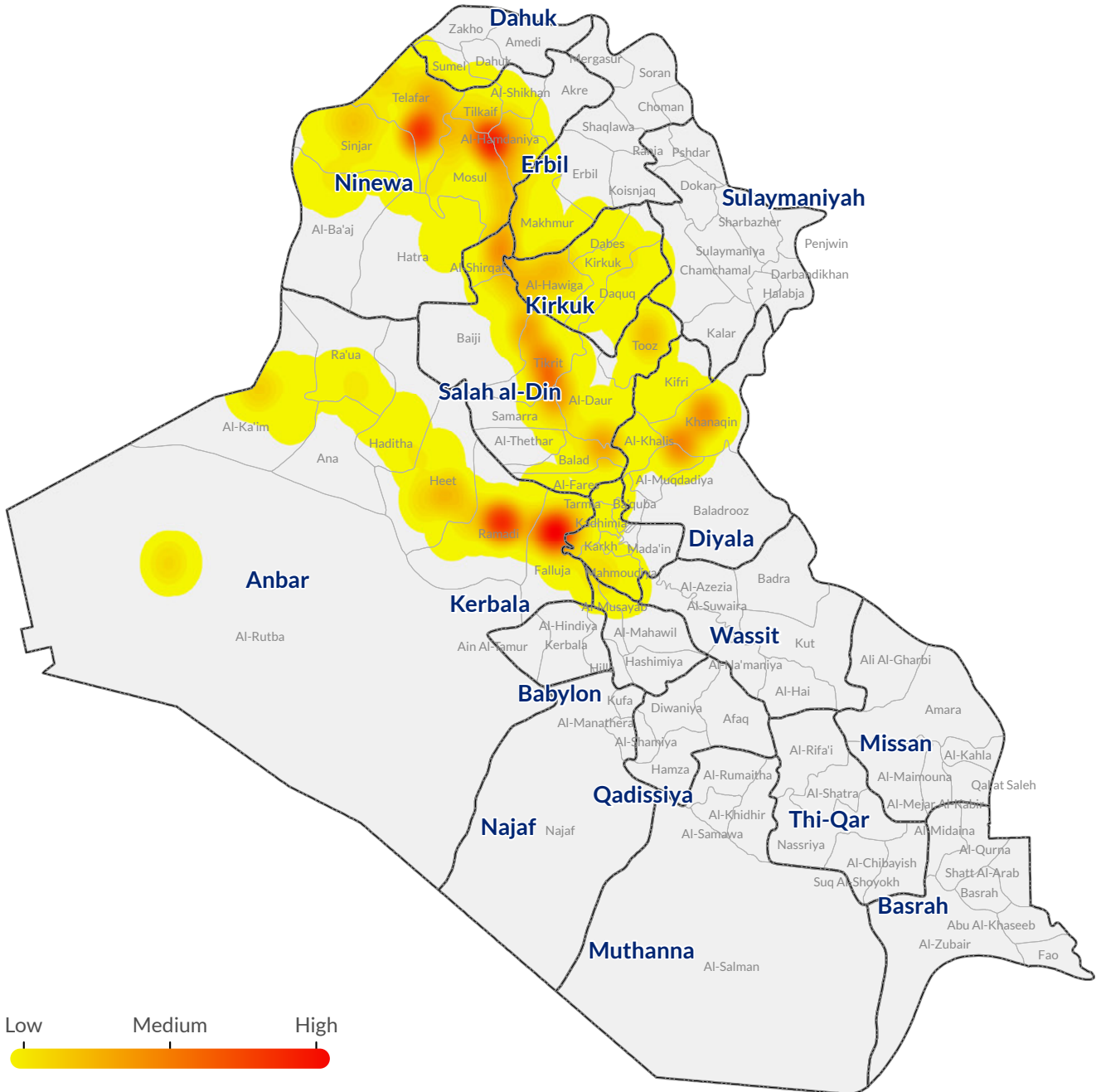ocations are spread over only four governorates. The top five locations with the most severe conditions are found in Salah al-Din Governorate. All locations can be found in the table in Annex 1.

Table 3: Districts hosting returnees with the most severe conditions of return ("very high")

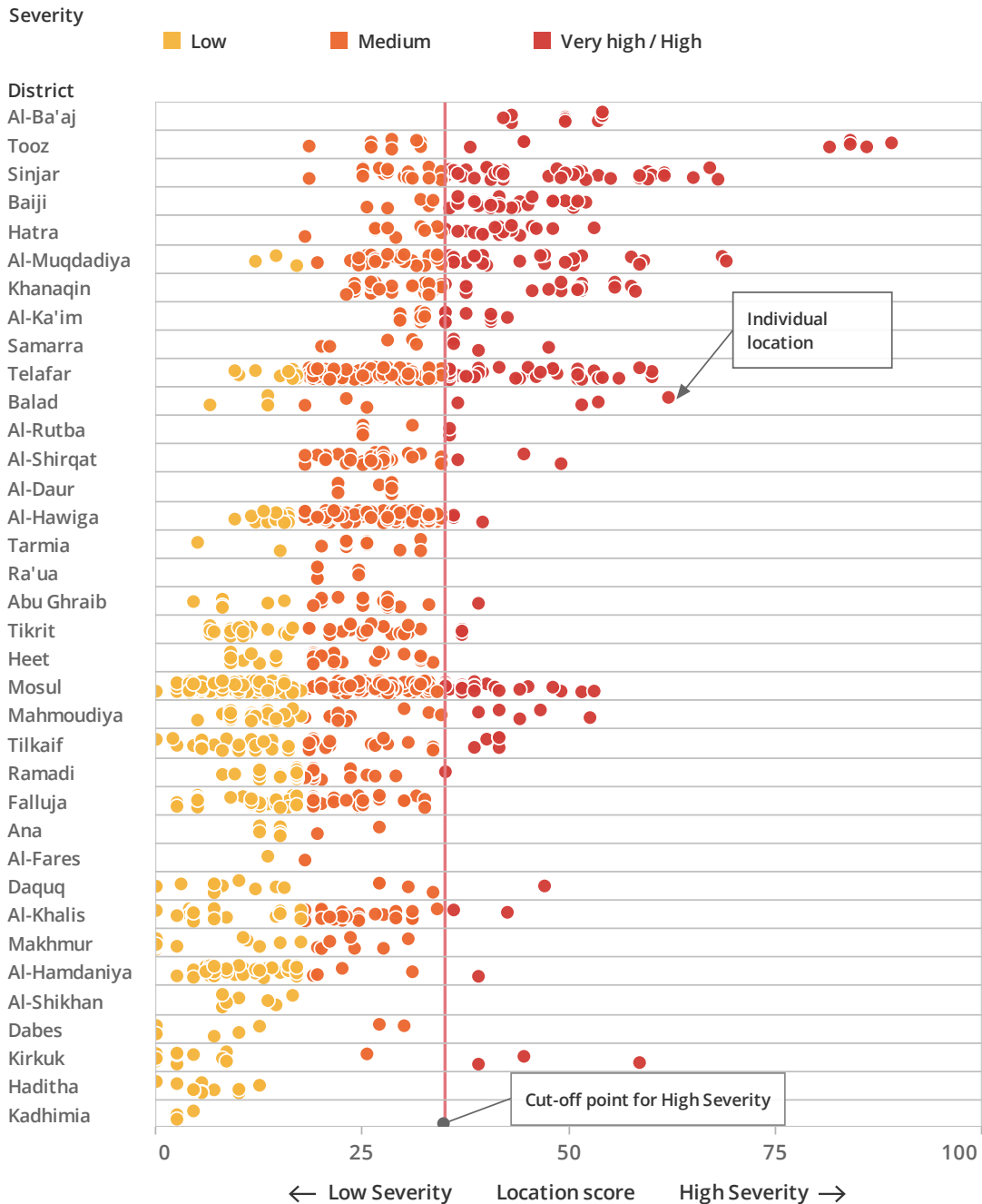| GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	7,734 individuals across 5 locations
	Khanaqin	1,044 individuals across 4 locations
Kirkuk	Kirkuk	48 individuals in one location
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	918 individuals across 5 locations
	Hatra	354 individuals in one location
	Mosul	300 individuals in one location
	Sinjar	7,530 individuals across 13 locations
	Telafar	6,828 individuals across 7 locations
Salah al-Din	Tooz	5,466 individuals across 5 locations
	Balad	5,526 individuals across 2 locations

The map below shows the conditions of severity based on the population size and severity score of each assessed location. The darker colours point to a larger concentration of families living in severe conditions of return, while the brighter colours indicate lower severity conditions or relatively uninhabited areas.

Map 1: Density map of all index scores

Low   Medium   High

The visualization below illustrates each location's score at district level, showing significant variation within districts.[2] Al-Ba'aj District has the highest severity score: there are very severe conditions in all of the 12 locations hosting 10,722 returnees. This is followed by Tooz and Sinjar Districts, which are hosting 28,542 individuals (73%) in eight locations and 43,476 individuals (73%) in 40 locations, respectively. The districts that host the largest number of returnees living in very severe conditions are Telafar (102,762 individuals, 32% in 42 locations) and Mosul (48,630 individuals, 5% in 34 locations) in Ninewa Governorate and Baiji (58,254 individuals, 71% in 31 locations) in Salah al-Din Governorate.

Figure 2: Severity ranking of return locations per district

2   The figure shows the results of the Return Index by district, where every dot is a location in that district, ordered from most (high scores) to least (low scores) severe conditions based on the district mean value

SEVERITY SCALE ONE: LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC SERVICES

There are 331,818 returnees (8%) living in locations with very severe conditions based on scale one. The top three governorates with the highest proportion of returnees living in very severe conditions in terms of livelihoods and basic services are Ninewa (118,830 individuals, 36%), Anbar (84,270, 25%) and Salah al-Din (75,894, 23%). Some areas only have very severe conditions on scale one. For example, although

Al-Nasir Walsalam Subdistrict (Abu Ghraib, Baghdad), which hosts 1,037 returnees in 17 locations, has medium severity of conditions based on the overall index, it has high severity of conditions in terms of livelihoods and basic services and a low severity score based on the social cohesion and safety scale.

Table 4: Absolute number of returnees per governorate & category of severity for scale one

GOVERNORATE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Anbar	84,270	499,584	710,202	1,294,056
Baghdad	13,008	25,026	47,154	85,188
Dahuk	0	0	780	780
Diyala	25,332	161,328	36,666	223,326
Erbil	1,134	25,920	14,106	41,160
Kirkuk	13,350	120,546	183,870	317,766
Ninewa	118,830	387,762	1,121,778	1,628,370
Salah al-Din	75,894	252,696	269,544	598,134
Total number of individuals	331,818	1,472,862	2,384,100	4,188,780

SEVERITY SCALE TWO: SAFETY AND SOCIAL COHESION

Based on scale two, 683,142 returnees (16%) are living in the locations with very severe conditions. The governorates with the highest number of returnees living in very severe conditions in terms of social cohesion and safety perceptions are Ninewa (326,370 individuals, 48%) and Salah al-Din (299,196, 44%). Again, some areas have high severity conditions for the social cohesion and safety perceptions, low severity for the livelihoods and medium severity score for the overall

index. Specific subdistricts include Zummar (Telafar District, Ninewa, 47 locations, 14,663 individuals), Markaz Al-Daur (Al-Daur District, Salah al-Din, 11 locations, 9,983 individuals), Markaz Tooz (Tooz District, Salah al-Din, 10 locations, 4,599 individuals), Al-Amerli (Tooz District, Salah al-Din, 5 locations, 961 individuals), Al-Moatassem (Samarra District, Salah al-Din, 3 locations, 914 individuals).

Table 5. Absolute number of returnees per governorate & category of severity for scale two

GOVERNORATE	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Anbar	2,496	381,684	909,876	1,294,056
Baghdad	1,158	26,142	57,888	85,188
Dahuk	0	0	780	780
Diyala	53,874	141,582	27,870	223,326
Erbil	0	3,486	37,674	41,160
Kirkuk	48	97,140	220,578	317,766
Ninewa	326,370	249,474	1,052,526	1,628,370
Salah al-Din	299,196	235,326	63,612	598,134
Total number of individuals	683,142	1,134,834	2,370,804	4,188,780

HOTSPOTS PER GOVERNORATES

The hotspots presented in the next section have been selected for each of governorate based on their high score on at least on one of the scales as well as the number of families living in the area. Further analysis is conducted for hotspots in each governorate.
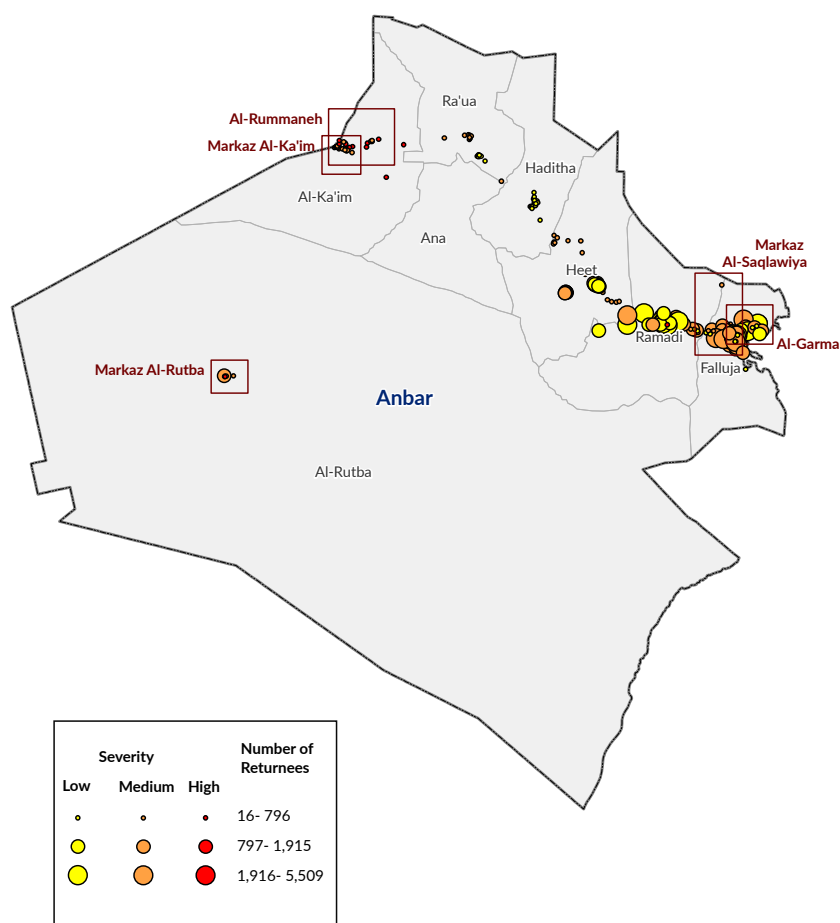
ANBAR GOVERNORATE

Most of the population displaced since 2014 have reportedly returned in 71 per cent of locations in Anbar Governorate. Overall, six per cent of locations in Anbar, hosting a total of 11,718 individuals, have very severe return conditions. DTM has identified five hotspots in Anbar Governorate: two in Al-Ka'im District, one in Al-Rutba District and the other two in Falluja District.

Table 6. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Anbar Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Al-Ka'im	Al-Rummaneh	5,832	7	High	Medium	High	76%
	Markaz Al-Ka'im	23,952	18	Medium	Medium	Medium	0%
Al-Rutba	Markaz Al-Rutba	27,840	10	Medium	Medium	Medium	10%
Falluja	Al-Saqlawiyah	65,514	15	Medium	Low	Medium	0%
	Al-Garma	117,264	18	Medium	Medium	Low	0%

All hotspots in Anbar are affected by house destruction, although reconstruction is taking place. Residents also have major issues accessing employment, with the exception of Al-Saqlawiyah, where around half of returnees can find work. In most locations within these hotspots, only some of the small businesses have reopened. This is particularly an issue in Al-Rummaneh and Al-Saqlawiyah, where in more than 80 per cent of locations there has been a slow recovery of agricultural activities and small businesses. Electricity and water supplies are also reportedly insufficient in all locations in Al-Rummaneh, Markaz Al Ka'im and Markaz Al-Rutba subdistricts.

There are also many locations with tense daily public life and streets that are sparsely populated, particularly in Al-Saqlaqiyah (50%). Other security actors are reportedly present in all locations in the hotspots except Al-Garma. There are concerns about violence in all locations in Al-Rummaneh and Markaz Al-Ka'im, specifically about ISIL attacks, revenge acts and clashes between security forces. There are also reports in all hotspot locations that some families have been blocked from returning home.

BAGHDAD GOVERNORATE

In nearly all assessed locations in Baghdad (92%) most of the pre-conflict population have returned. In total, six per cent of locations (3,000 individuals) in Baghdad have high severity conditions, most of them in rural areas. Baghdad Governorate has two hotspots of severity, one in Abu Ghraib District and the other in the southern district of Mahmoudiya.
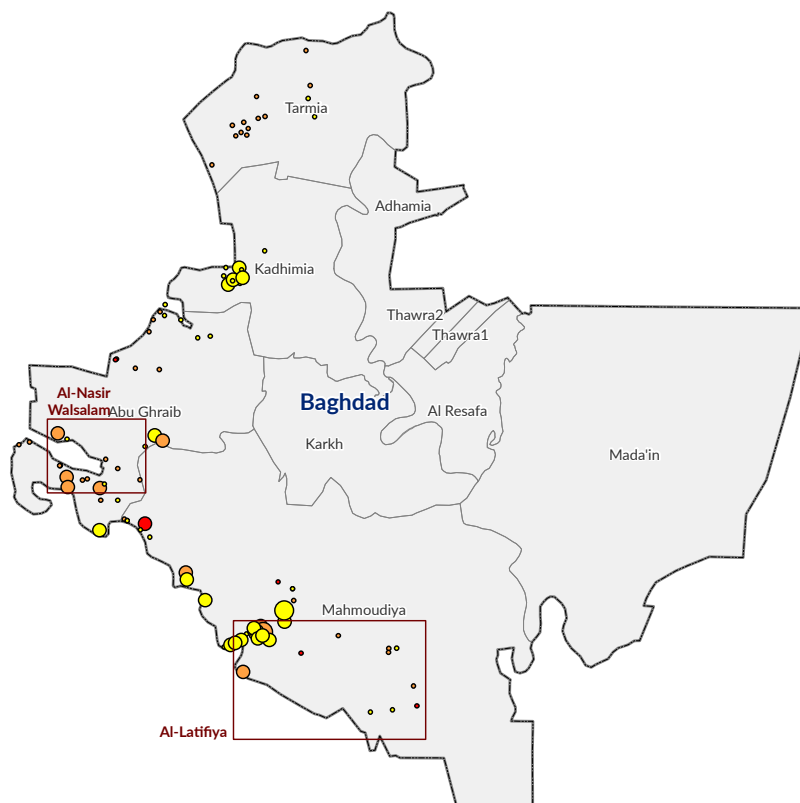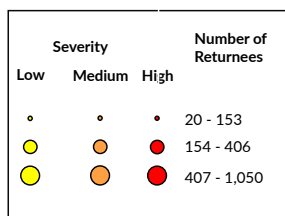
Table 7. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Baghdad Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Abu Ghraib	Al-Nasir Walsalam	6,222	7	Medium	High	Low	5%
Mahmoudiya	Al-Latifya	9,564	11	Medium	Medium	Medium	9%

In Al-Nasir Walsalam, residents are facing more severe issues with livelihoods and basic services than with social cohesion and safety perceptions. About half of the houses have been destroyed and only a few of them reconstructed. There has been little restoration of agricultural activities and none of small businesses. Moreover, residents have limited access to primary schools and healthcare.

In Al-Latifiya, less than half of the houses are destroyed and

reconstruction is taking place. However, there are still issues with the recovery of agricultural activities and businesses as well as access to primary essential services. Key informants also report that in nearly 40 per cent of locations there is a need for reconciliation (compared to a national average of 18% of locations). Daily public life is reportedly tense as residents only leave their homes when necessary and streets are sparsely populated. In addition, in 45 per cent of locations some families are blocked from returning.
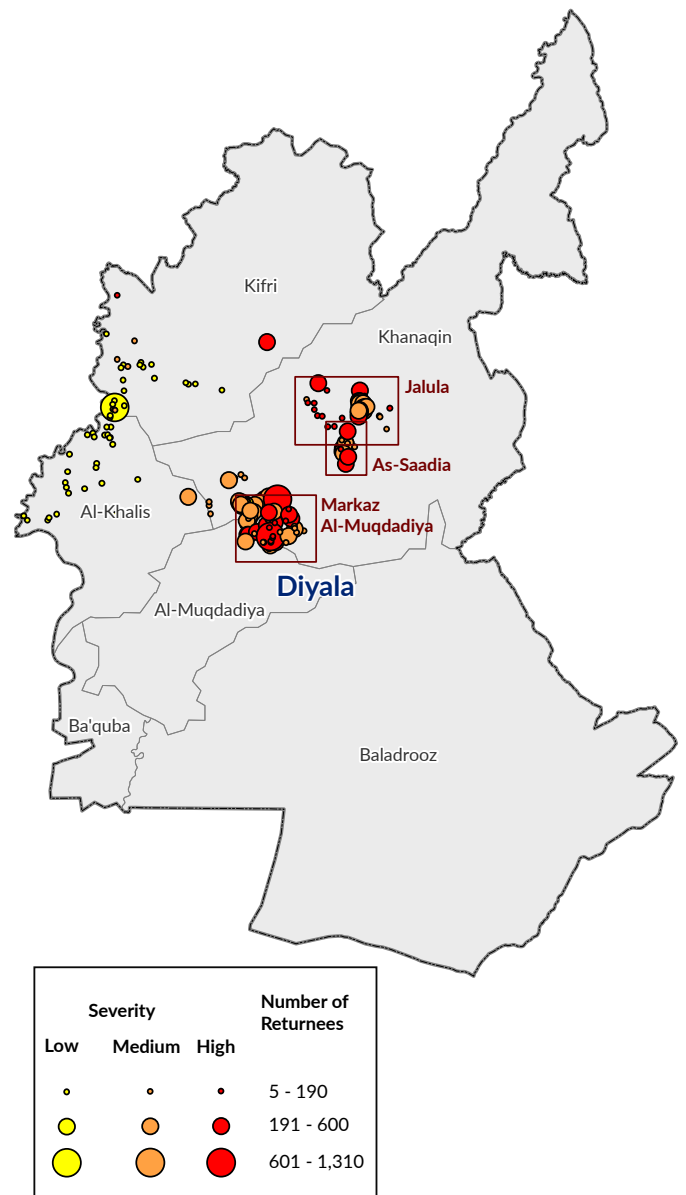
DIYALA GOVERNORATE

In Diyala Governorate, in as many as 38 per cent of locations key informants report that all of the pre-conflict population have returned, the highest rate across governorates. In 48 per cent of locations, most of the pre-conflict population have reportedly returned. At the same time, 21 per cent of locations have very severe conditions. There are three hotspots in Diyala, in the districts of Al-Muqdadiya and Khanaqin.

Table 8. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Diyala Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	53,166	56	High	Medium	High	59%
Khanaqin	Jalula	74,442	49	Medium	Medium	Medium	11%
	As-Saadia	20,928	16	Medium	Medium	Medium	28%

Compared to other subdistricts in Diyala, Markaz Al-Muqdadiya has relatively less housing destruction. Key informants in 30 per cent of locations report that none of the houses are destroyed and that in 69 per cent of locations with house destruction reconstruction is taking place. However, in nearly 80 per cent of locations less than half of residents can find employment and in 89 per cent of locations only some or no small businesses have re-opened. In terms of safety perception, residents in more than 90 per cent of locations are concerned about the presence of large numbers of security actors in the area. There are also concerns about potential clashes between armed groups (68%), ISIL attacks (61%), the presence of UXOs (40%) and religious tensions between population groups (33%).

The sources of severity are relatively similar in Jalula and As-Saadia. In both hotspots, reportedly less than half of residents can find employment. Residents in all locations of As-Saadia and in nearly all of the ones in Jalula do not have enough water. House destruction is also an issue: in Jalula, 93 per cent of locations have some level of house destruction and in twelve locations more than half of the houses are reportedly destroyed. However, while reconstruction efforts are taking place in Jalula, none are reported in As-Saadia where there is house destruction in all locations. In both districts other security actors are reportedly present in almost all locations and residents are concerned about ISIL attacks in more than half of locations.
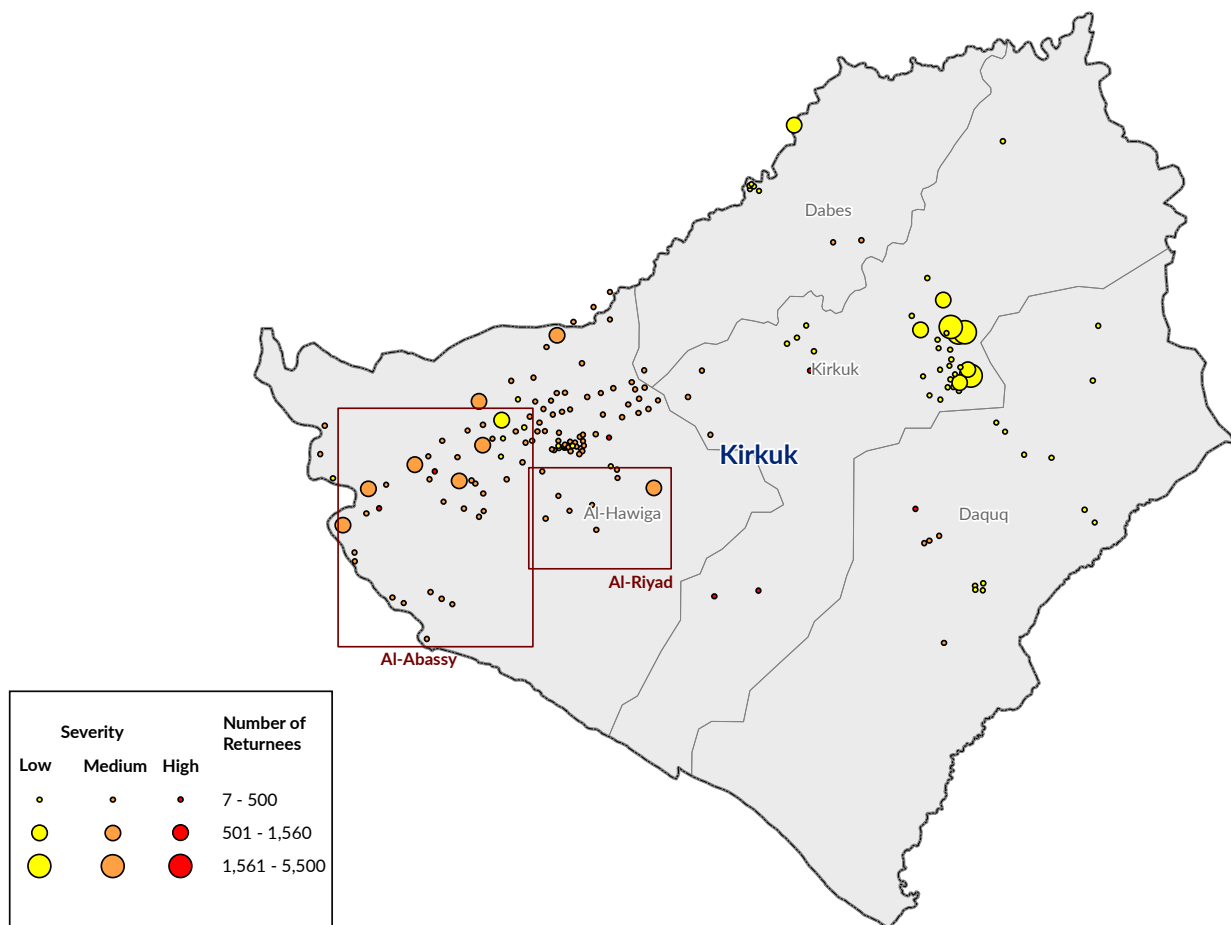
KIRKUK GOVERNORATE

In 80 per cent of locations in Kirkuk Governorate, key informants report the return of most of families displaced since 2014. Four per cent (1,686 individuals) of return locations in Kirkuk have very severe conditions and two hotspots have been identified in Al-Hawiga District.

Table 9. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Diyala Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Al-Hawiga	Al-Riyad	10,482	7	Medium	Medium	Medium	0%
	Al-Abassy	37,602	27	Medium	Medium	Medium	1%

The sources of severity are relatively similar across both subdistricts. These locations are mostly rural and agricultural activities has not been fully restored in any locations. There are difficulties finding work in all locations and while there is a good access to education, residents in around half of the locations face difficulties in accessing healthcare.

There are also issues in terms of social cohesion and safety perceptions. In all locations some families are blocked from returning, in Al-Riyad there are other security actors in 86 per cent of locations and in Al-Abbassy they are present in all locations. In more than half of locations residents are also concerned about ISIL attacks.

NINEWA GOVERNORATE

Most of the population displaced since 2014 have reportedly returned in 71 per cent of locations in Ninewa Governorate. Very severe return conditions have been found in 26 per cent of locations (213,372 individuals). Ten hotspots are identified in Ninewa, in the districts of Sinjar, Telafar, Mosul, Al-Ba'aj and Hatra. A common characteristic for many of these hotspots, namely Qaeyrrawan, Markaz Hatra, Markaz Telafar, Ayadhiya subdistricts and Al-Ba'aj District, is that they are among the last territories in Ninewa retaken from ISIL in 2017.

Table 10. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Ninewa Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	10,584	11	High	High	High	96%
	Qaeyrrawan	3,702	7	High	High	High	100%
	Al-Shamal	44,928	38	High	Medium	High	66%
Telafar	Markaz Telafar	156,336	40	High	Medium	High	58%
	Ayadiya	23,340	22	High	Medium	High	30%
	Zummar	87,978	47	Medium	Low	High	6%
Mosul	Hamam al-Aleel	49,140	23	High	Medium	High	42%
	Al-Shura	47,238	25	Medium	Medium	Medium	18%
Al-Ba'aj		10,722	12	High	Medium	High	100%
Hatra	Markaz Hatra	4,554	16	High	High	Medium	58%

Sinjar District: For most locations in Markaz Sinjar, Qaeyrrawan and Al-Shamal, nearly all indicators show very severe conditions. Both small businesses and agricultural activity in rural locations have not fully recovered. In Markaz Sinjar, in 82 per cent of locations no businesses are open and residents have issues finding employment in more than 90 per cent of locations. Basic service provision is also insufficient. In more than 70 per cent of locations, residents reportedly cannot access basic healthcare and there is insufficient water supply in Qaeyrrawan and Al-Shamal (100% and 81% of locations respectively). More than half of houses are destroyed in seven locations within Markaz Sinjar Subdistrict as well as in six locations among the Arab populated villages in Al-Shamal Subdistrict. In terms of social cohesion perception, there is a need for community reconciliation in 91 per cent of locations in Markaz Sinjar and 74 per cent in Al-Shamal. Security concerns are widespread across hotspots. Residents are concerned about the presence of other security actors in more than 70 per cent of locations, they fear ISIL attacks in more than 90 per cent and in 100 per cent of locations in Markaz Sinjar residents are concerned about revenge acts. In addition, illegal occupation of private residences is reported in eight locations in Markaz Sinjar.
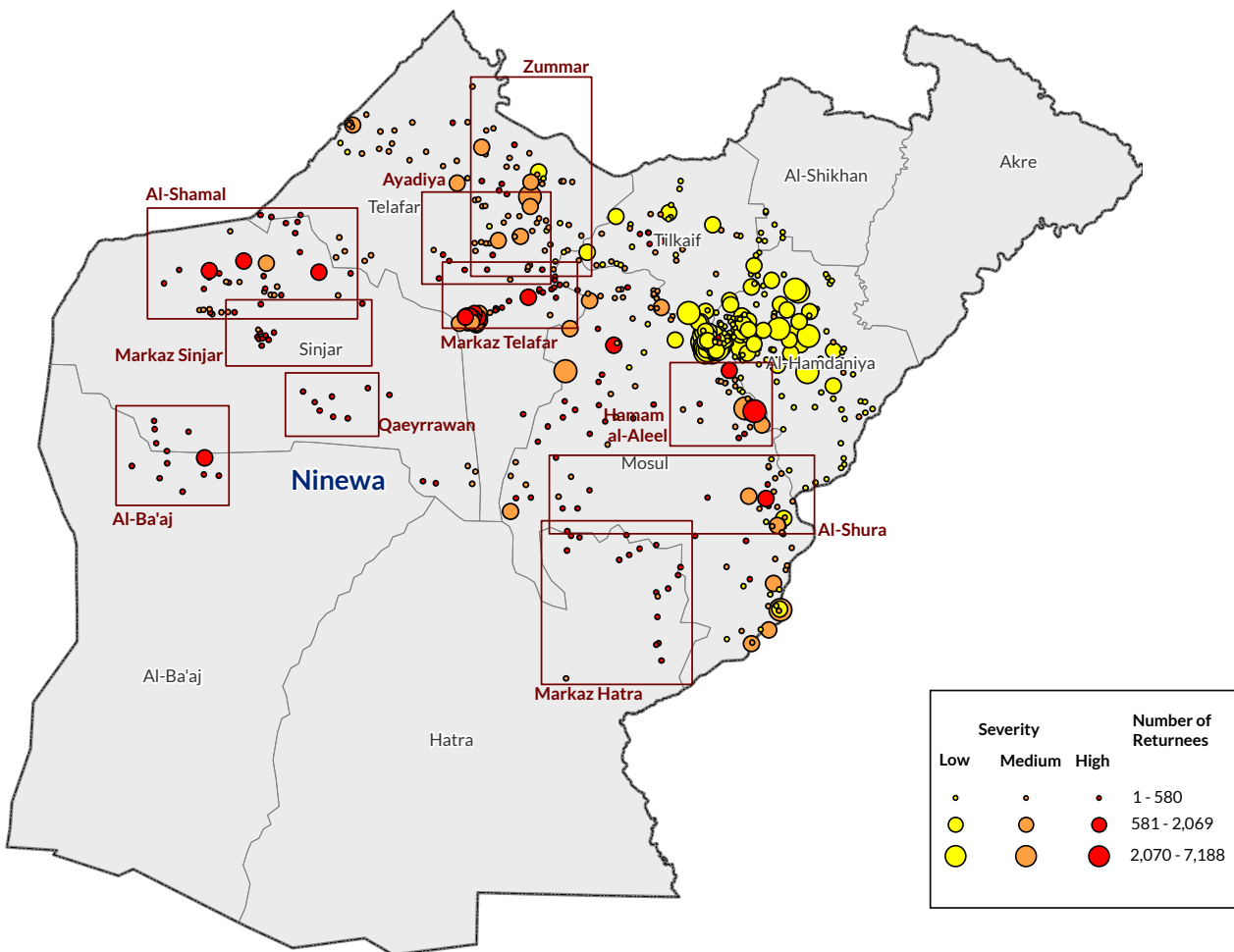
Telafar District: In Markaz Telafar, Ayadiya and Zummar subdistricts in Telafar, the main issues that contributed to the severity of conditions are related to social cohesion and safety perceptions. In more than 98 per cent of locations, residents are concerned about different sources of violence and in Ayadiya and Zummar more than 90 per cent of locations need community reconciliation. Moreover, some families are reportedly blocked from returning in 90 per cent of locations in Markaz Telafar. In terms of livelihood conditions, in four locations in Ayadiya and four locations in Zummar more than half of the houses are reportedly destroyed and, despite the presence of house destruction in all locations in Markaz Telafar, there are no reconstruction activities.

Mosul District: In all locations in Al-Shura and Hamam al Aleel subdistricts in Mosul there are only some or no local civil servants in their posts and daily public life is tense in more than 88 per cent of locations. In Al-Shura, agricultural activity is only recovering slowly (96% of locations) and there are reportedly other security actors in all locations. Although house destruction has affected 96 per cent of locations no reconstruction is taking place. In Hamam al Aleel, however,

there is house destruction in all locations but there is also reconstruction taking place. Other widespread problems in this hotspot are access to basic services and concern about different sources of violence.

Al-Ba'aj and Hatra districts: In Al-Ba'aj District and Markaz Hatra Subdistrict, the indicators of high severity conditions are the same. There is housing destruction in all locations, although reconstruction is reportedly taking place. Unemployment is an acute problem: in as many as 92 per cent of locations in Al-Ba'aj, in 88 per cent of locations in Markaz Hatra none of the residents can find work

and agricultural activity is only slowly recovering in more than 88 per cent of locations in both hotspots. There are major issues with basic services as nearly all locations do not have sufficient water or electricity supplies. In terms of safety perceptions, in all locations in Al-Ba'aj residents are concerned about ISIL attacks and about ethno-religious tensions in more than 60 per cent of locations. Some residents have reportedly been blocked from returning in 75 per cent of locations. In Markaz Hatra, in 75 per cent of locations residents are very concerned about clashes between armed groups and the streets remain sparsely populated in all areas of return.
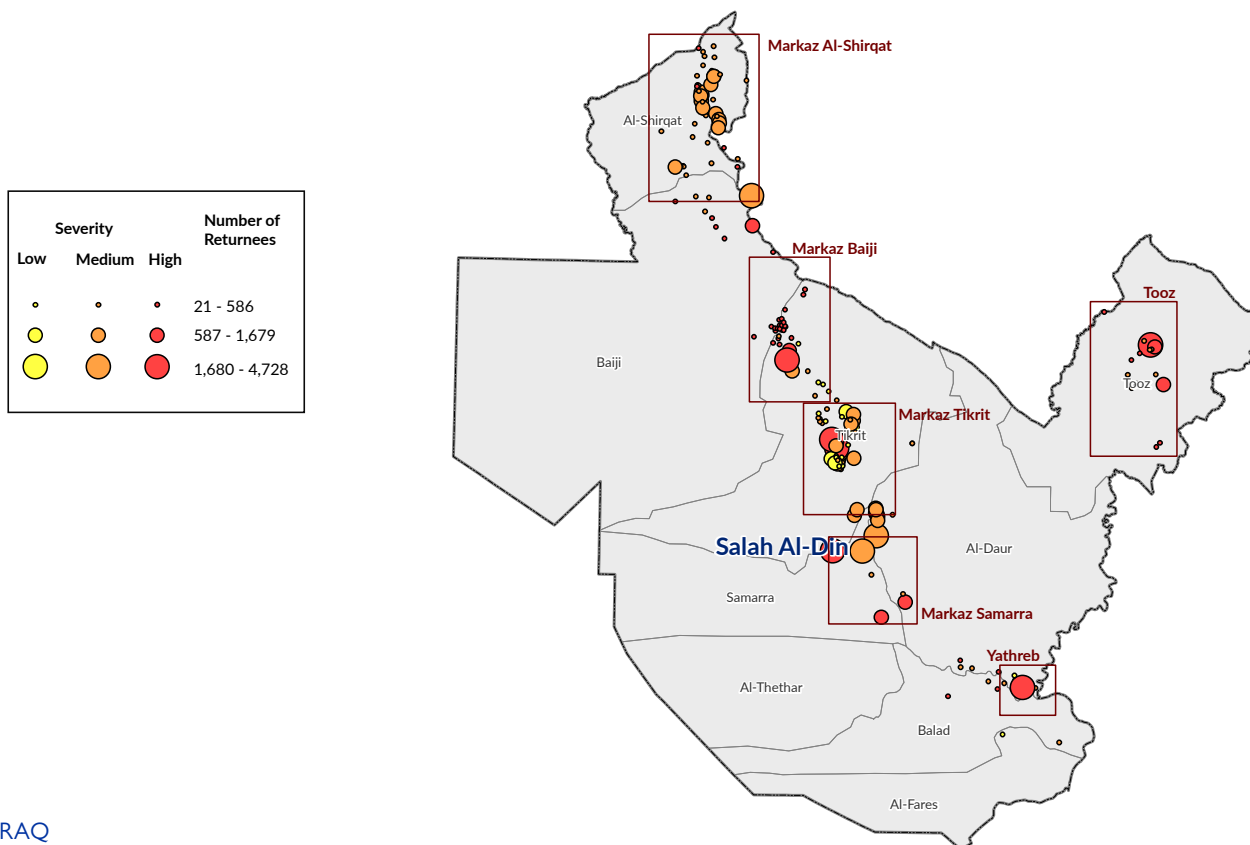
SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE

Key informants report that most of the pre-conflict population has returned only in 67 per cent of locations in Salah al-Din Governorate. The governorate has the highest proportion of locations ranked as having high severity – 28 per cent of locations. DTM has identified six hotspots in Salah al-Din. Yathreb in Balad District; Tooz District, Markaz Baiji in Baiji District, Markaz Samarra in Samarra District, Markaz Al-Shirqat in Al-Shirqat District and Markaz Tikrit in Tikrit District.

Table 11. Geographical clusters of severity hotspots in Salah al-Din Governorate

DISTRICT	SUBDISTRICT	# OF RETURNEES	# OF LOCATIONS	OVERALL SEVERITY	SCALE 1 SEVERITY	SCALE 2 SEVERITY	% OF RETURNEES IN HIGH SEVERITY
Balad	Yathreb	28,368	1	High	High	High	100%
Tooz	Tooz District	39,690	17	High	Medium	High	73%
Baiji	Markaz Baiji	78,720	31	High	Medium	High	70%
Samarra	Markaz Samarra	27,906	5	High	Medium	High	79%
Al-Shirqat	Markaz Al-Shirqat	131,466	47	Medium	Low	Medium	4%
Tikrit	Markaz Tikrit	129,492	38	Medium	Medium	Medium	28%

Access to employment is an issue in Salah al-Din. In Markaz Baiji Subdistrict, in as many as 97 per cent of locations no residents can find work. In Markaz Samarra and Markaz Al-Shirqat, in 80 and 75 per cent of locations respectively, less than half of residents can find work. Slow recovery of small business affects Yathreb, more than 60 per cent in Markaz Al-Shirqat, Markaz Baiji, and Markaz Samarra and one third of locations in Markaz Tikrit and Tooz. Concerns about the presence of other security actors are identified across Salah al-Din. In Yathreb, residents report this as an issue, in Markaz Baiji (90%) and 60 per cent of locations in

Markaz Samarra. The situation is better in Markaz Tikrit, as 71 per cent of locations report that none of other security actors is present. A particular issue in Tooz is the need for community reconciliation (94% of locations). In Markaz Samarra, daily public life is tense in 80 per cent of locations: streets remain sparsely populated and residents only leave their homes when necessary. The issue of blocked returns is also reported in more than 80 per cent of locations in all hotspots apart from Tooz where, nevertheless, some families are reportedly blocked from returning in 41 per cent of locations.

ANNEX 1

Locations hosting returnees with the most severe conditions of return ("very high") ranked by severity index

GOVERNORATE	DISTRICT	SUB-DISTRICT	LOCATION	RETURNEES INDIVIDUALS	OVERALL SEVERITY INDEX[3]
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Al-Salam Village	300	89
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Markaz Tooz	Yangija Village	270	86
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Suleiman Beg	Sulayman Beg Center	4290	84
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Kaber Village	240	84
Salah al-Din	Tooz	Al-Amerli	Maftol Al Sagher Village	366	82
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Sinsil Al Wasat Village	294	69
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Al Igaidat Village	336	69
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Khazoga	990	68
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay barbaroj	450	67
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Sayer	630	65
Salah al-Din	Balad	Al-Eshaqi	Al_Farhateya village	2520	62
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Al Naser	510	62
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Alshuhada	1290	62
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Cheri	132	62
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Al Nsireya	900	60
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasbat Al Raei Village	288	60
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Qasabat Ayadiya	3240	60
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Azadi	732	60
Ninewa	Sinjar	Markaz Sinjar	Hay Yarmok	1050	60
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Shak Al Rak Village	5328	59
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Al Derwish Village	558	59
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Al Sibaya (um Aldanabk)	360	59
Ninewa	Sinjar	Al-Shamal	Bisan	54	59
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Al Aziziya	210	59
Kirkuk	Kirkuk	Al-Multaqa	Al Sharifiyah village	48	59
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Baheza Village	660	58
Diyala	Al-Muqdadiya	Markaz Al-Muqdadiya	Hembes Village	1218	58
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Shekh Village	90	58
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Tuluh bash Village	300	56
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Al Teneraa Village	210	56
Diyala	Khanaqin	Jalula	Albo Geaid Vellage	84	56
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Tall Alabtah	126	55
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Abu-Rasen	162	54
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Al-Swejen	228	54
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Al-Sahrej	204	54
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Markaz Al-Ba'aj	Rajm Al-botha	264	54
Ninewa	Telafar	Ayadiya	Alsalihiyah	780	54
Ninewa	Al-Ba'aj	Al-Qahtaniya	Jwar-Algharbiya	60	54
Ninewa	Sinjar	Qaeyrrawan	Um amar Village	306	54
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Karakafir Village	1200	54
Salah al-Din	Balad	Markaz Al-Balad	Aziz Balad	3006	54
Ninewa	Hatra	Altal	khwetla village	354	53
Ninewa	Mosul	Al- Muhalabiya	Om ahjaraa Aulea village	300	53
Ninewa	Telafar	Zummar	Al-Jazera Village	810	53

3   The scores of the overall severity index vary from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met).

RETURN INDEX
FINDINGS ROUND 3 – IRAQ
MARCH 2019

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