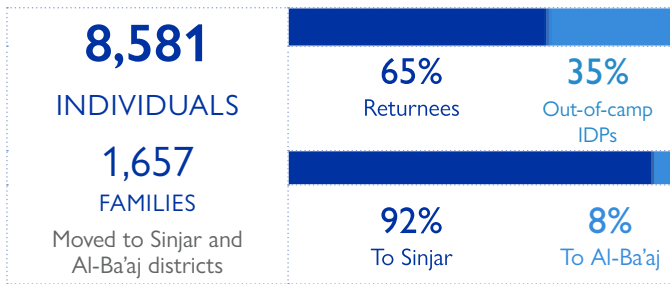


# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

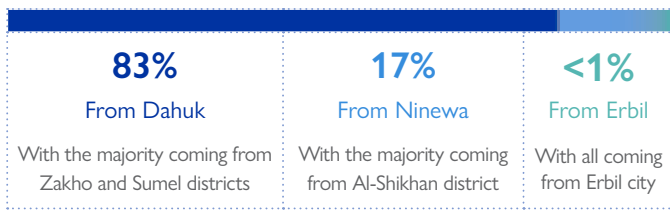
PERIOD COVERED:  
8 JUNE – 10 JULY 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 10 July 2020, inclusively



Between 4 June and 10 July 2020, DTM tracked 2,169 individuals (542 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have returned to these districts to 8,581 (1,567 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals who moved back between 4 and 10 July, a total of 1,963 were recorded in Sinjar (91%) and 206 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (9%)—broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

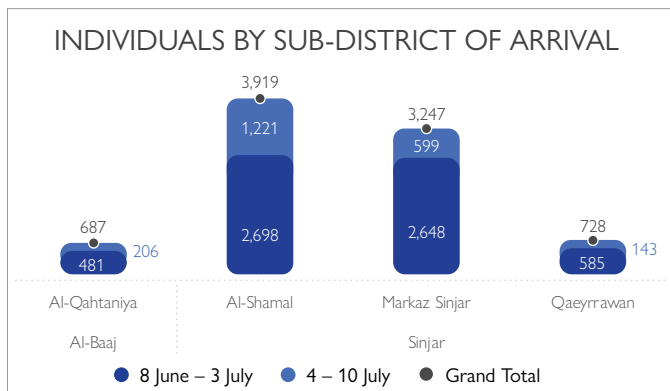
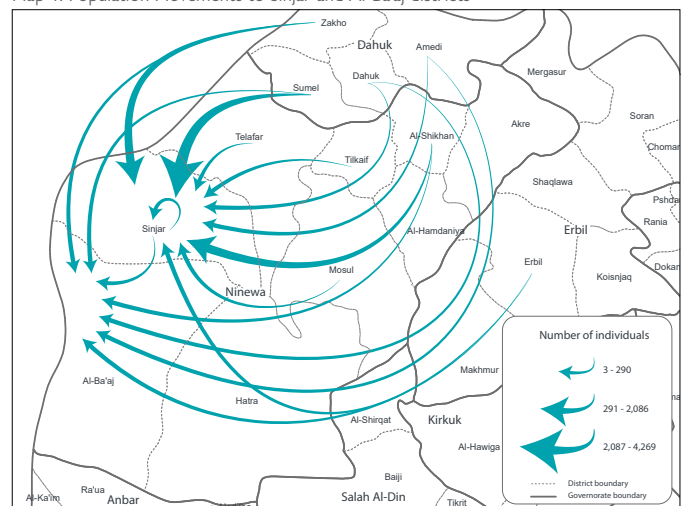


The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,221 individuals (56%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 599 individuals (28%). Together, these two sub-districts comprise 84% of all individuals recorded as having arrived to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj since data collection commenced on 8 June.

Of those individuals identified between 4 and 10 July, 1,462 were recorded as returnees (67%), while 707 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (33%).



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



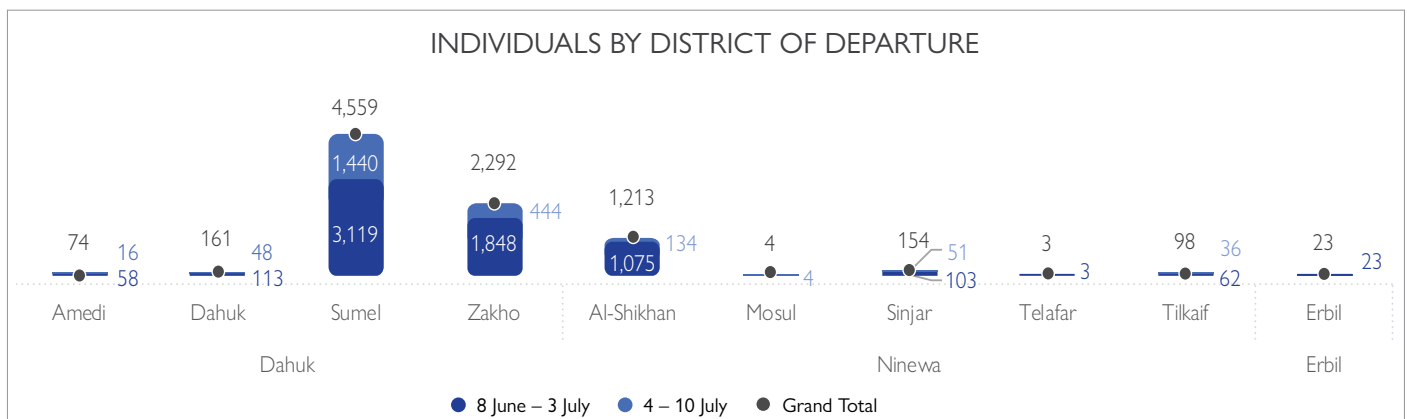
Between 4 and 10 July, a total of 1,948 individuals were recorded as having departed from Dahuk governorate (90%)—representing a 9% increase to the proportion of individuals that came from there in the previous period (27 June – 3 July). As with all previous rounds, between 4 and 10 July, almost all individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from from Sumel (74%) and Zakho (23%) districts.

individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa since data collection commenced on 8 June (25%). No individuals were recorded as having come from Erbil in this round.

Since 8 June, the majority of individuals have departed from Sumel (53%) and Zakho (27%).

Further, only 221 individuals were recorded as having come from Ninewa governorate (10%)—mainly from Al-Shikhan (134 individuals) and Sinjar (51 individuals). This is significantly lower than the overall proportion of

To provide an element of comparison and better understand the scale of these returns, note that for the reporting period of May-June 2019, DTM recorded 1,416 individuals returning to Sinjar (1,224 as returnees and 192 as IDPs) and 96 to Al-Ba'aj (66 as returnees and 30 as IDPs).

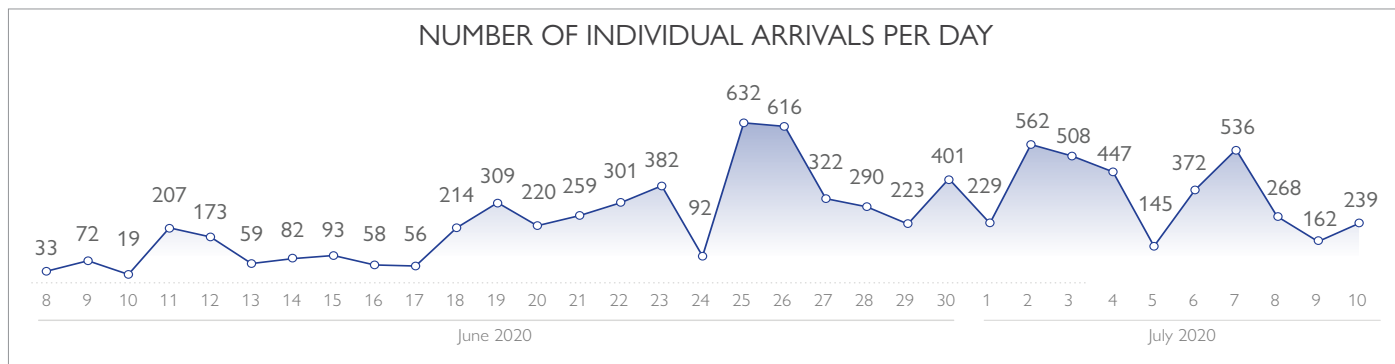
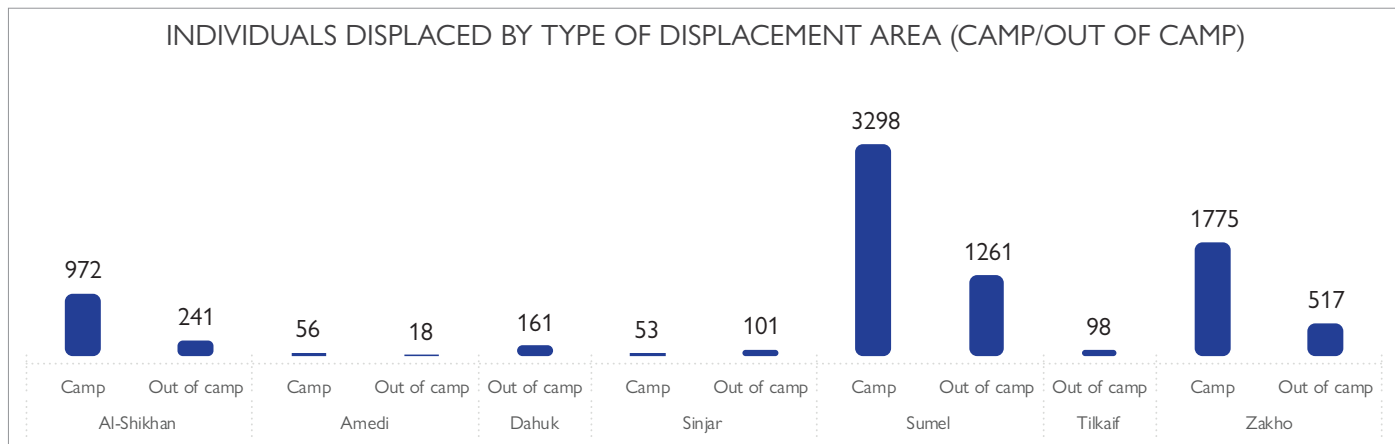


Between 4 and 10 July, of the 1,963 individuals that arrived to Sinjar, 1,776 individuals came from Dahuk (90%), while 187 came from within Ninewa (10%). Additionally, of the 206 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj, 172 individuals came from Dahuk and 34 came from Ninewa.

In addition, a total of 1,694 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (78%), while 455 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (22%). This represents a shift in the overall rates of individuals coming from different settings: since 8 June, a total of 6,154 individuals have arrived from camp settings (72%), while 2,427 have arrived from

out-of-camp settings (28%).

In the sub-districts that most individuals came from, the number of people coming from camp settings jumped significantly between 4 and 10 July, bringing Sumel district's total number to 3,298 (up from 2,130), Zakho's to 1,775 (up from 1,405), and Al-Shikhan's to 972 (up from 848). Significant numbers of individuals coming from out-of-camp settings have also been recorded, with Sumel's total at 1,261 (up from 989), and Zakho's total at 517 (up from 443).



## ADDITIONAL ANECDOTAL NARRATIVE

### Reasons for returns

- Reasons for IDPs going home to Sinjar include the improved security situation, the clearing of mines/IEDs, and the rehabilitation of public infrastructure. Mukhtars, local NGOs and returnees have also encouraged IDPs to return home.
- 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.

### Shelter situation

- Many of the families that have returned to Shamal sub-district live in rented accommodation or with host families.

### Border crossings

- On 1 July, the Suhaila bridge crossing between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Ninewa governorate opened after an extended closure, and will remain open until further notice. The bridge is open from 8am to 4pm daily for people traveling out of KRI to Ninewa only, and is expected to influence continued returns of people to Al-Ba'aj and Sinjar districts.

### Challenges faced by returnees

- Debris removal has been noted as an obstacle to return, given the large scale destruction that was witnessed in Sinjar.
- MOMD have been providing transportation to return in some cases, but this only includes transportation of the IDPs themselves and not their belongings. As a result the IDPs have to hire a car to transport their belongings.
- 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.