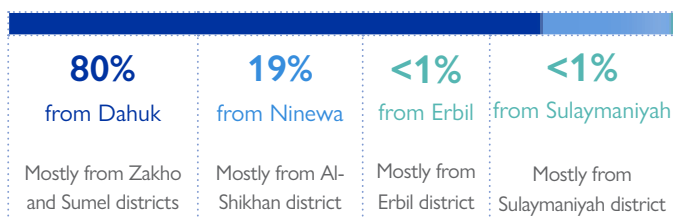
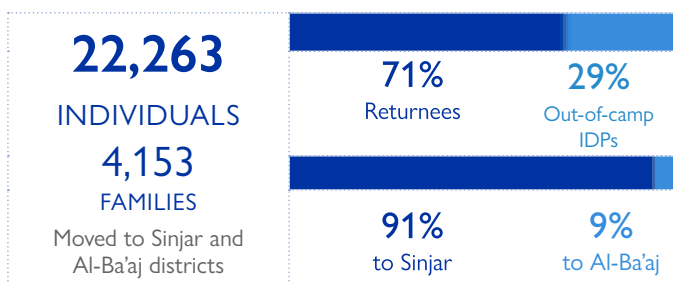


# DISPLACEMENT AND RETURNS TO SINJAR AND AL-BA'AJ DISTRICTS

PERIOD COVERED:

8 JUNE – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

\*All charts/graphs in this document show total figures for the period of 8 June to 17 September 2020, inclusively



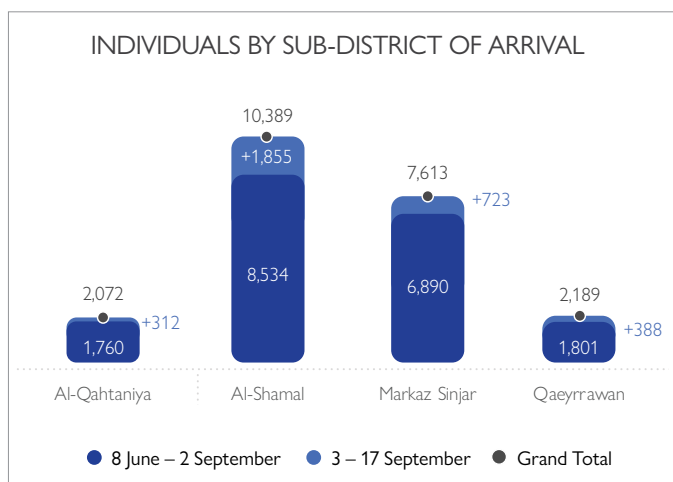
Between 22 August and 2 September 2020, DTM tracked 3,278 individuals (644 families) returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts in Iraq's Ninewa governorate. This brings the total number of individuals that have taken this route to 22,263 (4,153 families) since data collection commenced on 8 June.

In this reporting period, the average number of daily individual arrivals was 198 to Sinjar and 21 to Al-Ba'aj. This is consistent with the overall daily average number of arrivals since 8 June; however, it is significantly higher than the daily averages recorded in the month of August (133 to Sinjar and 13 to Al-Ba'aj). The higher number of arrivals in September can be explained by increased assistance that is being provided to IDPs in returning to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts.

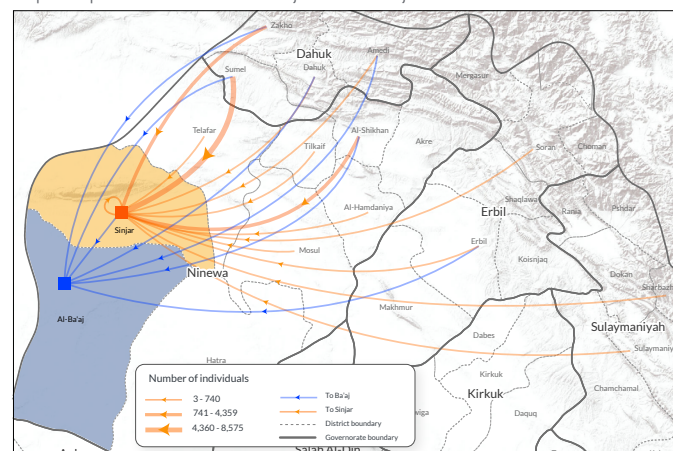
Of those individuals who returned between 3 and 17 September, a total of 2,966 were recorded in Sinjar (90%) and 312 were recorded in Al-Ba'aj (10%) – broadly consistent with the rates of individuals' districts of arrival since 8 June.

The most common sub-district of arrival was Al-Shamal with 1,855 individuals (57%), followed by Markaz Sinjar with 723 individuals (22%). 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.

Of those individuals identified as returning between 3 and 17 September, 2,892 were recorded as returnees (88%), while the remaining 386 were recorded as out-of-camp IDPs (12%). This represents a deviation from the overall proportion of individuals having been identified as returnees (71%) and out-of-camp IDPs (29%) since 8 June.



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

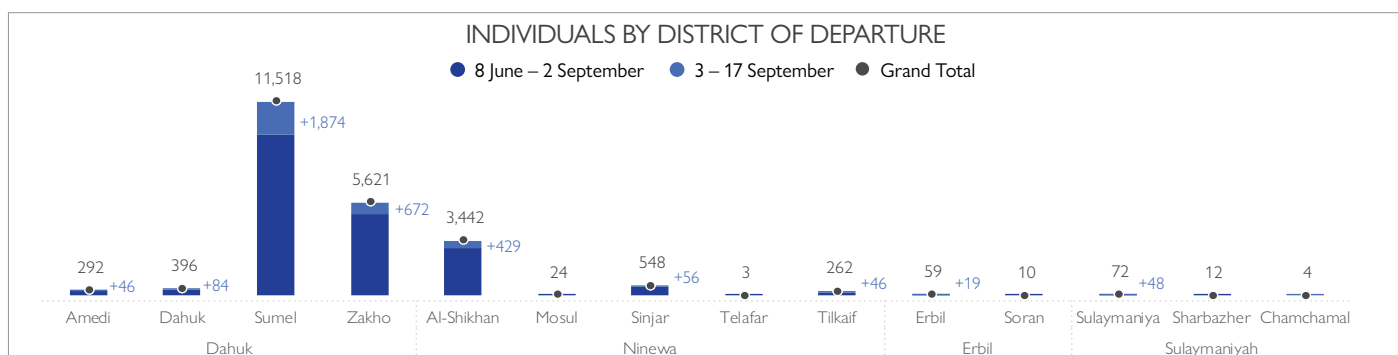


Additionally, between 3 and 17 September, a total of 2,676 individuals were recorded as departing from Dahuk Governorate (81%) – which is similar with the rates of individuals having departed from there since 8 June (80%). As with all previous rounds, between 3 and 17 September, the majority of individuals from Dahuk were recorded as coming from the districts of Sumel (57% of all individuals) and Zakho (21% of all individuals). The remaining individuals from Dahuk Governorate were recorded as coming from the districts of Dahuk (3% of all individuals) and Amedi (1% of all individuals).

Additionally, between 22 August and 2 September, a further 531 individuals were

recorded as having come from within Ninewa (16%), mainly from two districts: Al-Shikhan (13% of all individuals) and Sinjar (2% of all individuals). This proportion (16%) of individuals recorded as having come from Ninewa between 3 and 17 September is slightly lower than the overall proportion of individuals recorded as having come from there since 8 June (19%). Otherwise, 52 individuals were recorded arriving from Sulaymaniyah Governorate (2% of all individuals), while 19 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 (25%), and Al-Shikhan districts (15%).



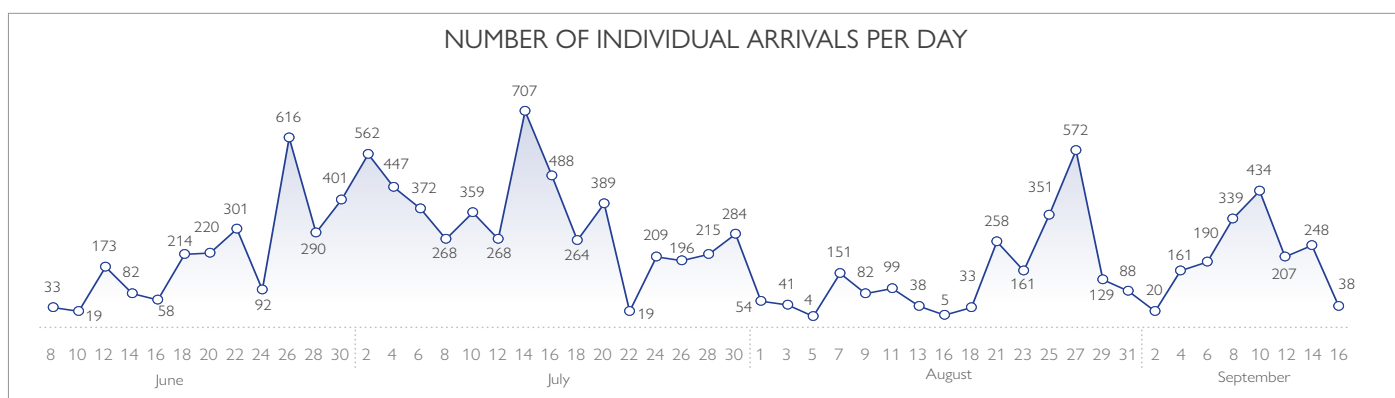
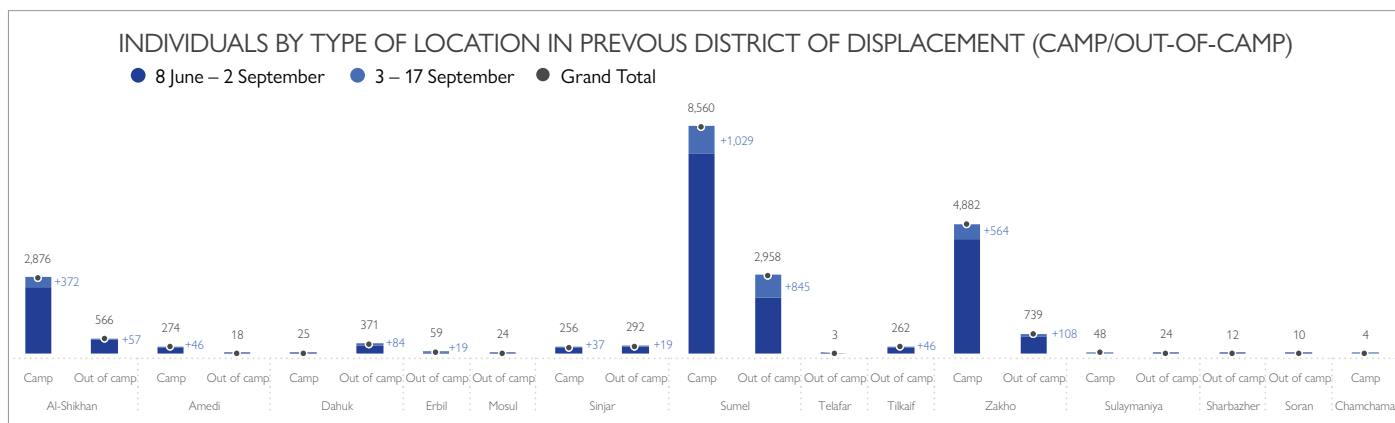
Between 3 and 17 September, of the 2,966 individuals that arrived to Sinjar, 2,434 individuals came from Dahuk Governorate (82%), while 472 came from within Ninewa (16%), 41 came from Sulaymaniyah (1%), and 19 came from Erbil (1%). Additionally, of the 312 individuals that arrived to Al-Ba'aj, 242 came from Dahuk (78%), 59 came from within Ninewa (19%), and 11 came from Sulaymaniyah (3%).

Furthermore, during the same period, a total of 2,100 individuals were recorded as coming from camp settings (64%), while the remaining 1,178 individuals came from out-of-camp settings (36%). This differs from the rates of individuals coming from different settings since 8 June, as follows: 16,925 individuals have arrived

from camp settings (76%) compared with 5,338 that have arrived from out-of-camp settings (24%).

Between 22 August and 2 September, 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 8,560 (up from 7,531), while Zakho's is 4,882 (up from 4,318), and Al-Shikhan's is 2,876 (up from 2,504).

In addition, since 8 June, the total number of individuals that have come from out-of-camp settings within Sumel is now 2,958 (up from 2,113), while the total that have come from this setting within Zakho is now 739 (up from 631).



## 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.

### 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.