Arrivals in Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj Districts

DTM IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 April – 1 October 2023

CONTEXT

Due to an observed increase in inflows to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts that was driven in part by challenges related to protracted displacement, social tensions between Yazidis and other residents and family reunification, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched an emergency tracking tool in April 2023 to understand the number of people in movement and their main characteristics.

ARRIVALS BETWEEN 1 APRIL AND 26 SEPTEMBER 2023

TOTAL ARRIVALS **5,294**

IDPs **1,152**
RETURNEES **4,142**

Between 1 April and 26 September 2023, DTM recorded the arrival of 5,294 individuals to Sinjar and Al-Ba'aj districts. Nine in ten arrivals are Yazidis, while the remaining share are either Shiite or Sunni Kurds. Out of these individuals, 243 have arrived since the previous reporting period.

CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER 2023

| 30-Apr-23	15-May-23	31-May-23	15-Jun-23	30-Jun-23	15-Jul-23	31-Jul-23	14-Aug-23	25-Aug-23	07-Sep-23	26-Sep-23
218	436	1,517	3,121	3,452	3,765	4,018	4,302	4,525	5,051	5,294
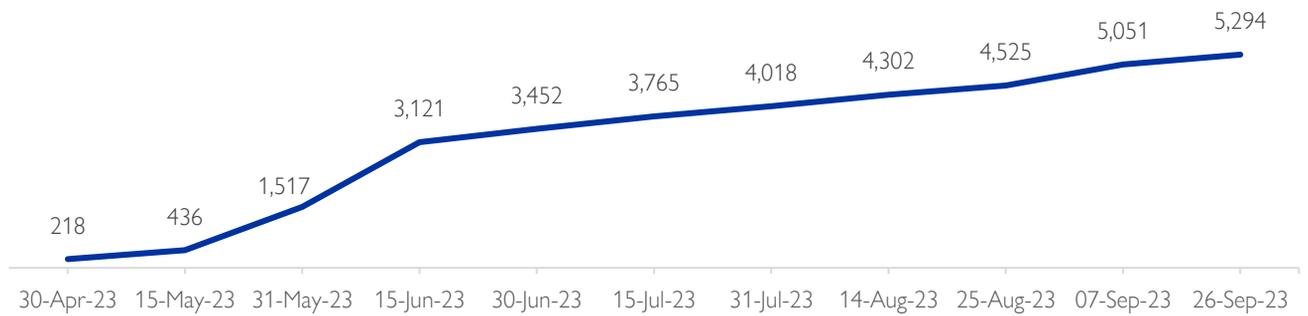
Around two thirds of people arrived in Sinjar District and one third arrived in Al-Ba'aj District. The main subdistricts of arrival were Markaz Sinjar and Al-Shamal in Sinjar, followed by Al-Qahtaniya in Al-Ba'aj.

DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS OF ARRIVALS

Sinjar:
- Markaz Sinjar: 1,914
- Al-Shamal: 1,763
- Qaeyrrawan: 105

Al-Ba'aj:
- Al-Qahtaniya: 1,512

Sinjar 71% / Al-Ba'aj 29%
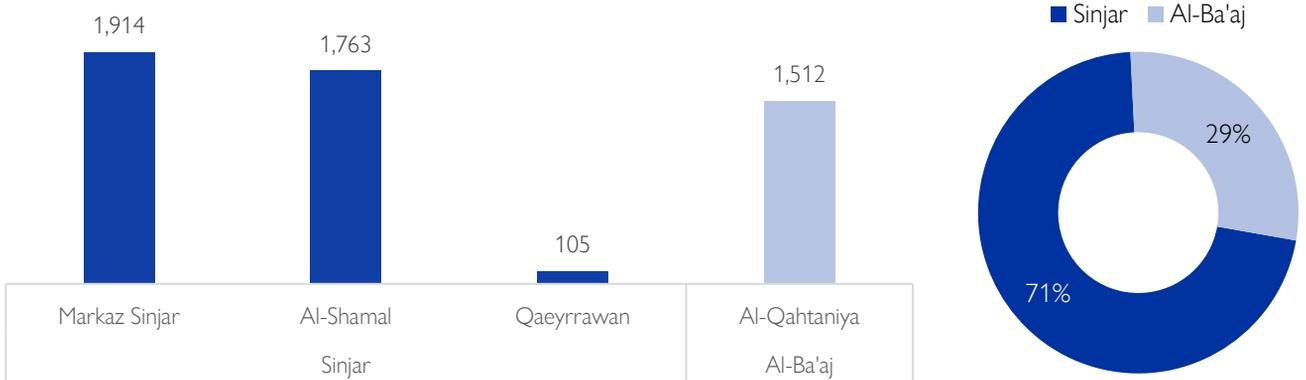
Out of these 5,294 individuals, 78 per cent have returned to the place where they used to reside before the 2014-2017 crisis forced them to flee, making them returnees, and 22 per cent of people are internally displaced persons (IDPs) who re-displaced to another location. The subdistrict with the largest number of IDPs is Markaz Sinjar (1,030 IDPs), followed by Al-Shamal (118 IDPs).

DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS OF ARRIVALS BY DISPLACEMENT STATUS
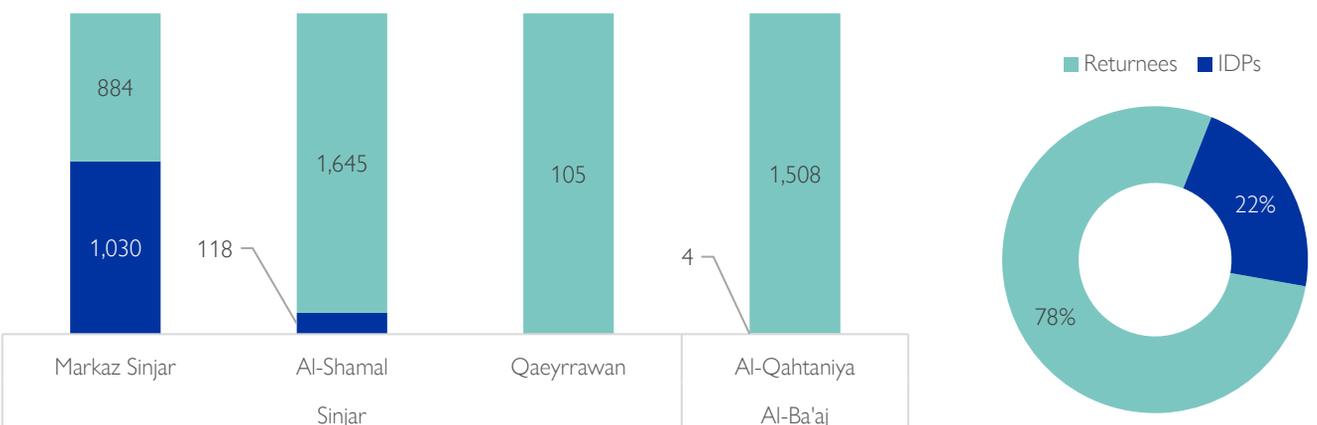
Returnees / IDPs

Sinjar:
- Markaz Sinjar: Returnees 884, IDPs 1,030
- Al-Shamal: Returnees 1,645, IDPs 118
- Qaeyrrawan: Returnees 105

Al-Ba'aj:
- Al-Qahtaniya: Returnees 1,508, IDPs 4

Returnees 78% / IDPs 22%

MAIN REASONS FOR MOVEMENT

As these movements took place in a context of social tension and heightened social media disinformation, including the circulation of videos clips calling for armed attacks against the Yazidi community in camps, the main mentioned reasons for departure were: i) the impact of hate speech targeting the Yazidi community, ii) the challenges associated with protracted displacement and iii) a desire to reunite with their relatives and friends. Most people (79%) left from camps, with only 21 per cent leaving from non-camp settings. The highest number of departures were from camps in Sumel and Zakho districts in Dahuk Governorate, with a smaller portion leaving from camps in Al-Shikhan District and out of camp locations in Sinjar District in Ninewa Governorate.

DEPARTURES BY GOVERNORATE, DISTRICT AND TYPE OF LOCATION
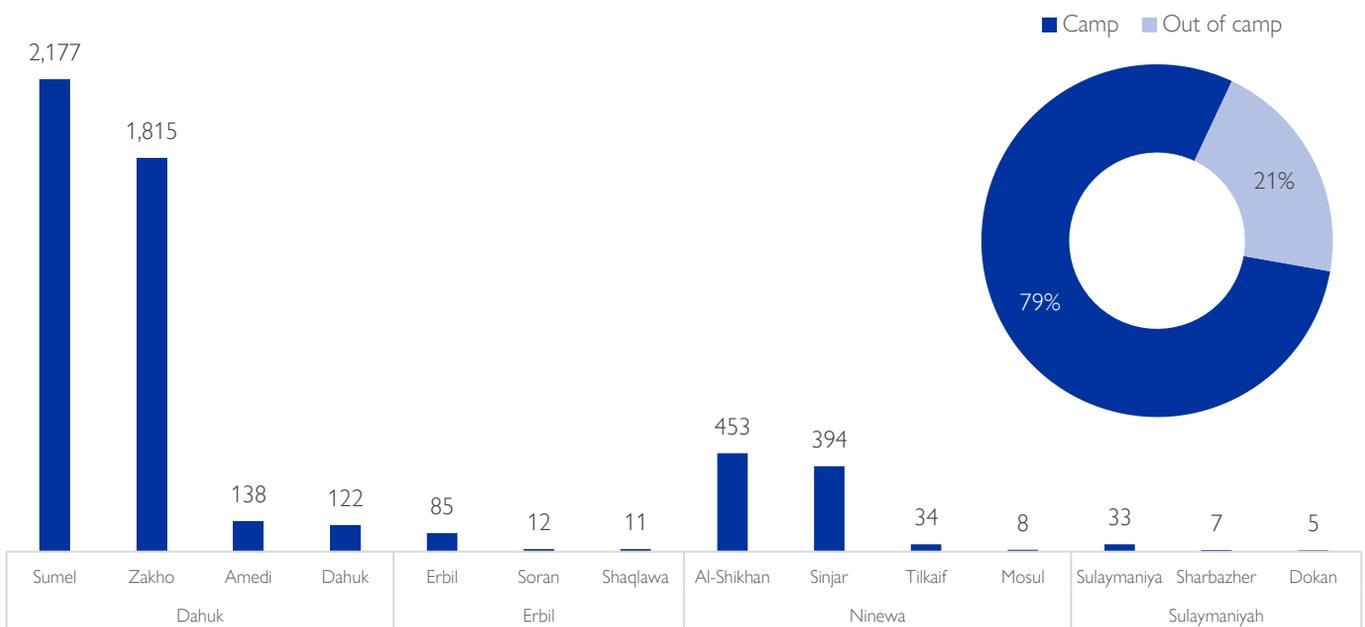
GOVERNORATES AND DISTRICTS OF DEPARTURE BY TYPE OF LOCATION
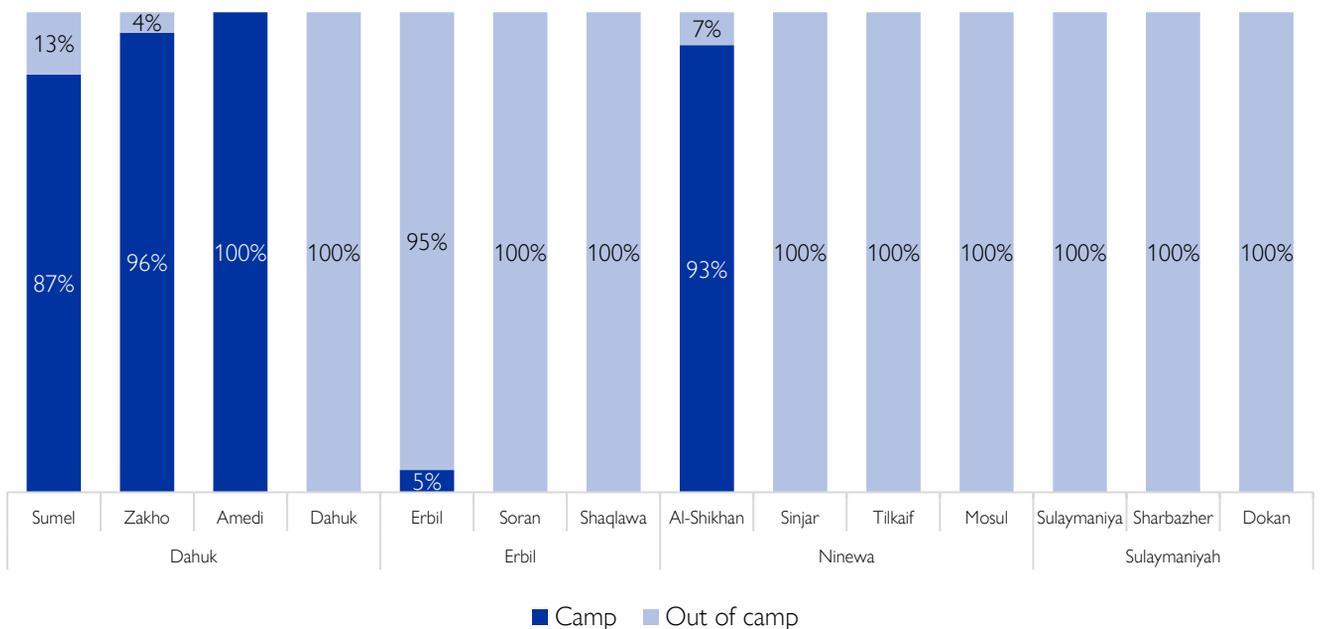
METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched an emergency tracking tool in April 2023 to understand the number of people in the movement and their main characteristics. Data are collected by IOM's Rapid Assessment and Response Teams (RARTs) and Durable Solution Team through key informants that includes local police. Data are gathered continuously and reported every two weeks.

IOM Iraq thanks the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) for its continued support.