

Eviction From Informal Settlements

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 JANUARY – 15 JANUARY 2024

CONTEXT

Due to an increasing number of evictions announced for families in informal settlements, the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched an emergency tracking tool in September 2023 to understand the number of affected people and their main characteristics.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT RISK OF EVICTION



TOTAL OF FAMILIES

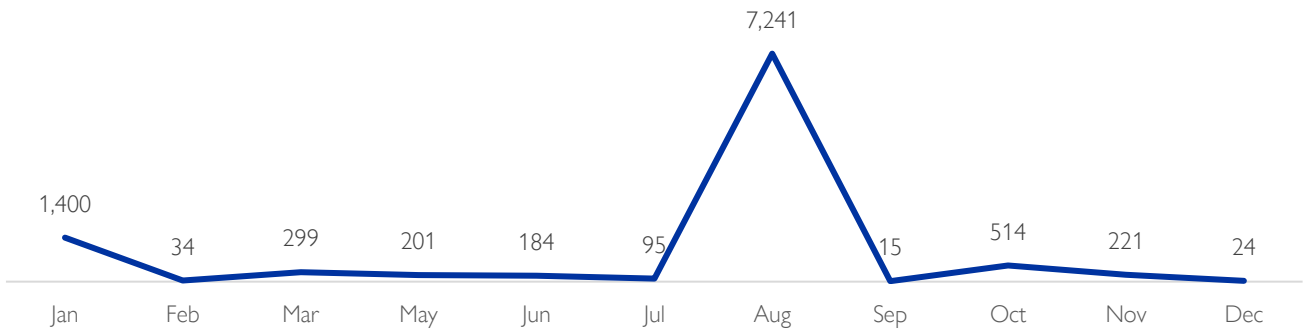
10,228



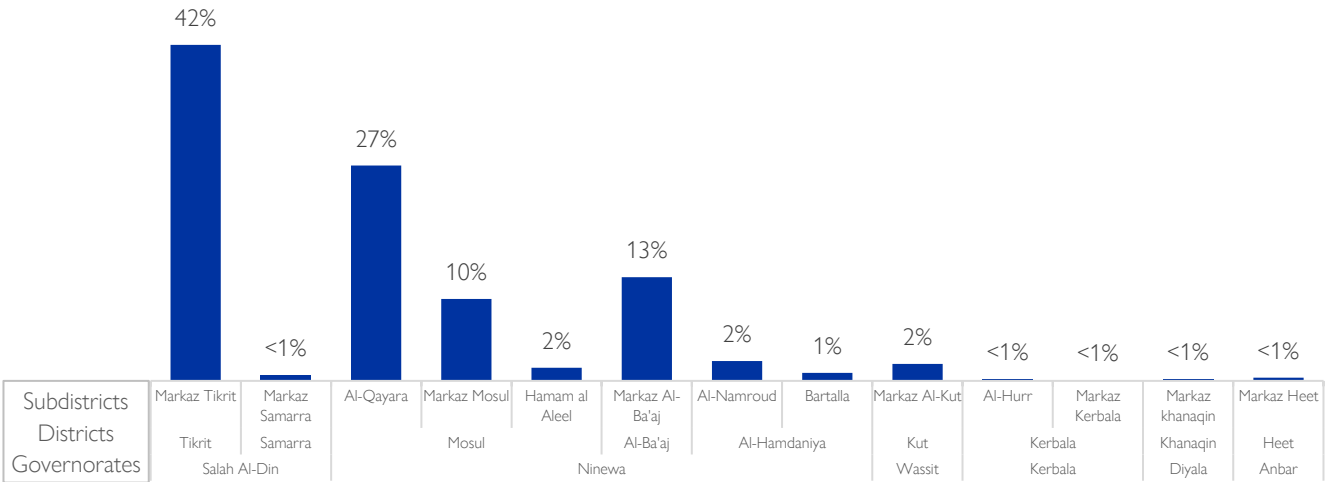
IDPs	8%
RETURNEES	18%
STAYEES	74%

As of January 2024, DTM recorded 10,228 families whose eviction has been announced by local authorities. During this round of data collection, DTM identified an additional 30 families who had their eviction announced in December and November 2023. Out of these families, eight per cent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), 18 per cent have returned to the place where they used to reside before the 2014-2017 crisis forced them to flee (returnees) and 74 per cent of people did not flee their homes due to the 2014-2017 crisis (stayees).

NUMBER OF FAMILIES AT RISK BY MONTH OF EVICTION ANNOUNCEMENT



GOVERNORATES, DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS OF FAMILIES AT RISK OF EVICTION



More than half of families (55%) at risk of eviction are in Ninewa Governorate, specifically Mosul and Al-Ba’aj districts. A further 42 per cent are in Salah Al-Din Governorate, mainly Tikrit District. A small portion are in Wassit, Kerbala, Diyala and Anbar governorates.

REASONS FOR EVICTION ANNOUNCEMENT

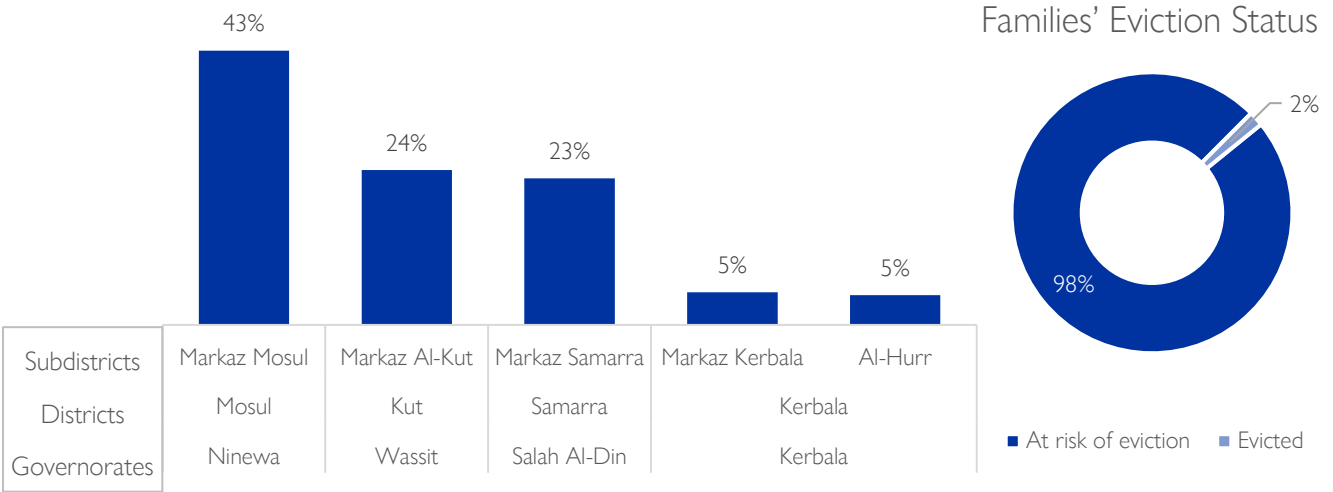
The majority of these lands are owned by government entities, such as ministries (e.g. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Interior) and district municipalities. In some cases, the Directorates of Municipalities of these areas want to recover these pieces of land to build a facility like a school or a road. In other cases, the basis for eviction comes from the irregular nature of the informal settlements.

The site with the largest number of affected families is Al-Furasn in Tikrit District, Salah Al-Din Governorate (4,000 families affected, 40% of total). The settlement was established on land owned by the Agriculture and Finance Ministry after the 2014-2017 conflict. In August, the Government issued notices to vacate the settlement as the land is designated for agriculture, rather than residence, and due to conflicts over ownership lodged by other citizens. This resulted in the large increase in affected families observed in August.

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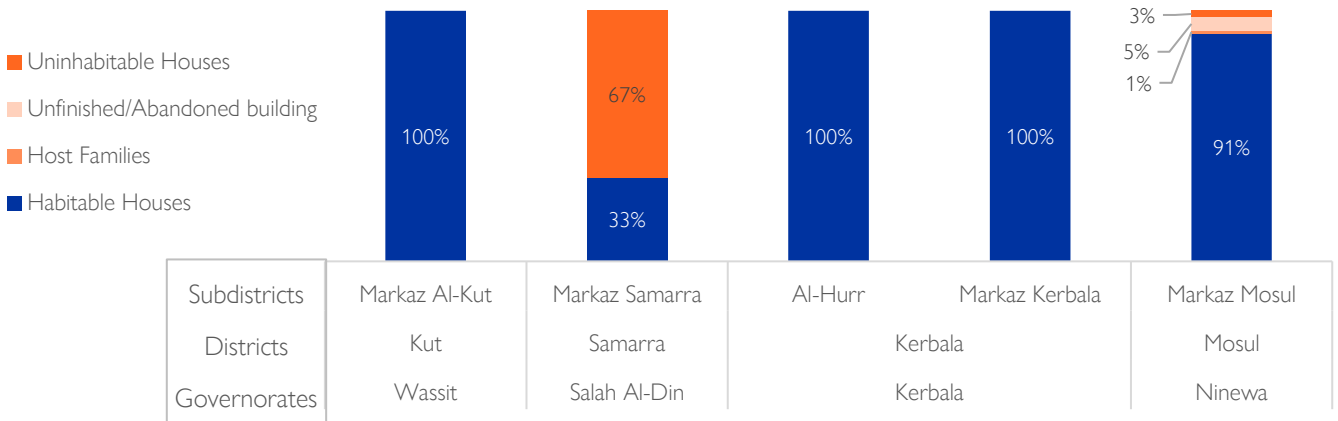
GOVERNORATES, DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS OF EVICTED FAMILIES



Only 2 per cent of affected families have been evicted (235 families) with an additional 13 families evicted since last round. Forty-three per cent were evicted from Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate, while 24 per cent were evicted from Kut District in Wassit Governorate, 23 per cent from Samarra District in Salah Al-Din Governorate and 10 per cent from Kerbala District in Kerbala Governorate.

Families at risk of eviction (98%) were notified through various methods. In two sites, the police took the families' IDs and made them sign a written document to vacate. In other areas like Mosul District, families were notified officially with a document from the area's District Commission. Elsewhere, some families were notified verbally or without a deadline to vacate; in the latter case, the government indicated it would find replacement locations for these families.

SHELTER TYPE BY GOVERNORATE, DISTRICT AND SUBDISTRICT OF ARRIVAL



The DTM team tracked the arrival of 211 families out of the 235 evicted. Most evicted families relocated within the same subdistrict and only changed their location.

In Hay Al-Muthana, Samarra District in Salah Al-Din Governorate, 36 families (67% of the total arrivals in Salah Al-Din Governorate) had to leave their informal settlements and move to different houses within the same subdistrict; for all 36 families, they reportedly do not own the house, or it is not suitable to live in. The remaining 33 per cent of families moved within the same subdistrict, also to houses that they didn't own; however, these houses were reported as habitable. Similarly, all the families who moved to Kerbala and Wassit Governorates were reported to be in habitable shelters.

In Mosul District, Ninewa Governorate, 91 per cent moved to habitable houses. For the remaining 7 families, they are located in unfinished or abandoned buildings, houses they did not own or in shelters with unsuitable living conditions. DTM is currently monitoring the arrivals of the remaining 24 families that evicted from Arbajiyah, Markaz Mosul Subdistrict, Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate.

METHODOLOGY

The International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Iraq launched an emergency tracking tool in September 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 who include local police and the Municipality Directorate.