RETURN INDEX

FINDINGS ROUND SIXTEEN – IRAQ

OCTOBER 2022

CONTEXT

The Return Index is a tool designed to measure the severity of conditions in locations of return. Data collection for the Return Index Round 16 took place during the months of July, August and September 2022 across eight governorates, 38 districts and 2,191 locations in Iraq. During Round 16, an additional 26 locations of return were assessed.

RETURNEE POPULATION IN SEVERE CONDITIONS

- Out of the 2,191 return locations assessed, 468 present severe conditions hosting 12 per cent of the returnee population, or 598,578 individuals.
- An increase of 17,466 returnees living in severe or poor conditions has been observed since the round collected in January – March 2022, when also 12 per cent of the returnee population (581,112 individuals) were in severe conditions.
- The largest increases were recorded in Anbar (12,906), while the largest decrease was observed in Ninewa (3,672). In Anbar, the largest increases were observed in Kubaisa subdistrict, Heet district, driven by the worsening of public water supply related to poor infrastructure. Key informants reported that only some of the residents have enough water in all ten locations in the subdistrict. In Ninewa, the largest decrease was in Telafar district. In Rubiya subdistrict, residents observed an improvement in employment access and in Zummar subdistrict, an improvement was driven by reconciliation efforts.
- Ninewa and Salah al-Din remain the governorates hosting the highest number of returnees living in severe conditions, with 256,584 and 210,822 individuals respectively.
- Salah al-Din and Diyala host the highest proportions of returnees living in severe conditions (28% and 16% respectively).

MOST SEVERE LOCATIONS OF RETURN

- Seventy-one locations hosting 99,108 returnees were identified as having the most severe return conditions in this round. The top three of these locations are in Tuz Khurmatu, Baiji and Al-Fares districts in Salah al-Din Governorate.
- Three more locations were observed with the most severe return conditions since the round collected in January – March 2022, when 77,418 individuals were living in 68 locations with the most severe conditions.

METHODOLOGY

The Return Index is based on 16 indicators divided into two scales: Scale 1, on livelihoods and basic services, and Scale 2, centered around 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 two scales. For example, the model tests how much less likely a location where no agricultural activities have recovered is to have returns compared to a location where they have recovered. To compute an overall severity index, the scores of the two scales are combined.

The index ranges from 0 (all essential conditions for return are met) to 100 (no essential conditions for return are met). Higher scores denote more severe living conditions for returnees. The scores of the severity index are grouped into three categories: low, medium and high (which also includes very high).

Refer to the report "Methodological Overview" for more details on the methodology.

Figure 1. Proportion of returnees by category of severity

High Severity	Medium Severity	Low Severity
12%	40%	48%
598,578 returnees	1,968,336 returnees	2,409,372 returnees

4,976,286 Returnees
+20,700
since Round 15 (January – March 2022)

8	38	829,381	2,191
governorates	districts	households	locations +26 since Round 15

Data collected: **July – September 2022**

Table 1. Number of locations and returnees per governorate by category of severity

Governorate	HIGH		MEDIUM		LOW		TOTAL	
	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations	No. of returnees	No. of locations
Anbar	84,810	24	714,738	198	746,244	109	1,545,792	331
Baghdad	1,986	7	33,492	33	57,768	82	93,246	122
Dahuk					744	1	744	1
Diyala	38,034	41	177,858	131	24,552	50	240,444	222
Erbil	4,476	15	11,754	29	44,988	23	61,218	67
Kirkuk	1,866	9	73,494	65	278,022	160	353,382	234
Ninewa	256,584	289	621,486	436	1,059,636	252	1,937,706	977
Salah al-Din	210,822	83	335,514	99	197,418	55	743,754	237
Total	598,578	468	1,968,336	991	2,409,372	732	4,976,286	2,191

GOVERNORATE HOTSPOTS OF SEVERITY

Subdistricts are classified as 'hotspots' if they score highly in terms of severity on at least one of the two scales (either livelihoods and basic services, or safety and social cohesion) or if they score medium in terms of severity but also host relatively large numbers of returnees, at least 60,000 returnees in a subdistrict.

Thirty hotspots were identified across four governorates in this round. Compared to the round collected in January – March 2022, one subdistrict was added to the list, Markaz Tikrit (Tikrit District) in Salah al-Din Governorate. The subdistrict was classified as a 'hotspot' due to a drastic worsening of provision of water and electricity in the area.

SALAH AL-DIN: 636,636 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Amerli
- Al-Eshaqi
- Al-Moatassem
- Al-Siniya
- Markaz Al-Balad
- Markaz Al-Daur
- Markaz Al-Shirqat
- Markaz Baiji
- Markaz Samarra
- Markaz Tuz Khurmatu
- Suleiman Beg
- Yathreb
- Markaz Tikrit

NINEWA: 540,810 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Qahtaniya
- Al-Shamal
- Ayadiya
- Hamam al Aleel
- Markaz Al-Ba'aj
- Markaz Sinjar
- Markaz Telafar
- Qaeyrrawan
- Zummar

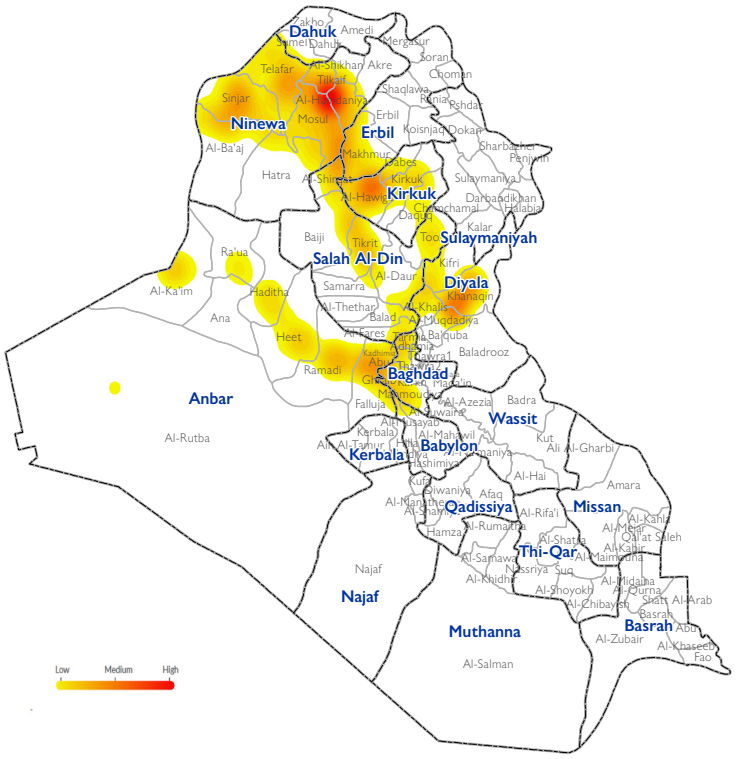
ANBAR: 399,954 returnees in hotspots

- Al-Amirya
- Al-Forat
- Al-Garma
- Husaibah Al-Sharqiah
- Markaz Al-Ka'im
- Markaz Heet

DIYALA: 83,256 returnees in hotspots

- Jalula
- Qara Tabe

Map 1. Returnee population density by overall severity score



This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

The map shows conditions of severity based on population size and severity score of each assessed location. The darker colours indicate a larger concentration of families living in severe conditions of return, while the brighter colours indicate lower severity conditions or areas with low levels of returns.

DISCLAIMER

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