

Eviction From Informal Settlements

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD: 1 September – 14 September 2023

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

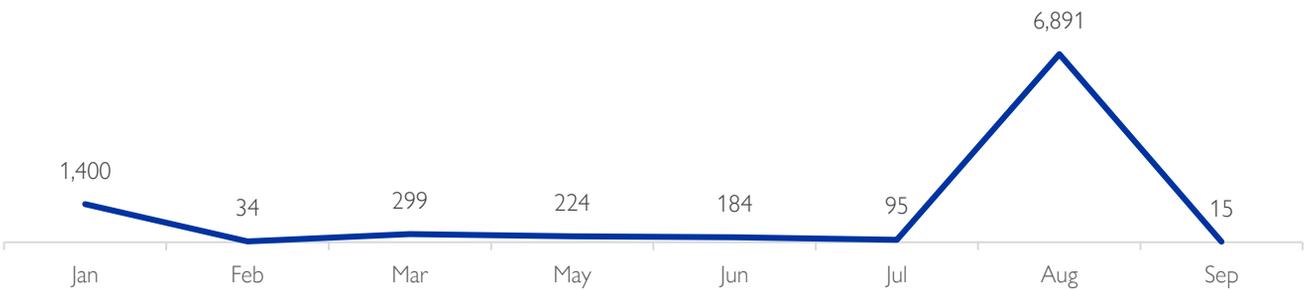
9,142



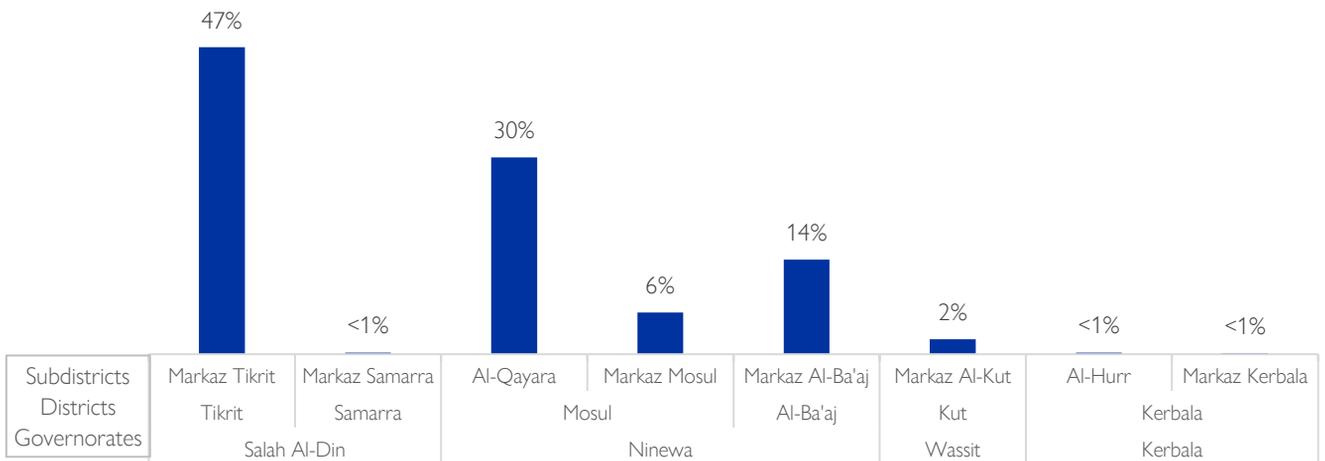
IDPs	10%
RETURNEES	13%
STAYEES	77%

Between 1 and 14 September 2023, DTM recorded 9,142 families whose eviction has been announced by local authorities. Out of these families, 10 per cent are internally displaced persons (IDPs), 13 per cent have returned to the place where they used to reside before the 2014-2017 crisis forced them to flee (returnees) and 77 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



Around half of families at risk of eviction are in Ninewa Governorate, specifically Mosul and Al-Ba'aj districts, and the other half are in Salah Al-Din Governorate, mainly Tikrit District, with a very small portion in Wassit and Kerbala governorates.

REASONS FOR EVICTION ANNOUNCEMENT

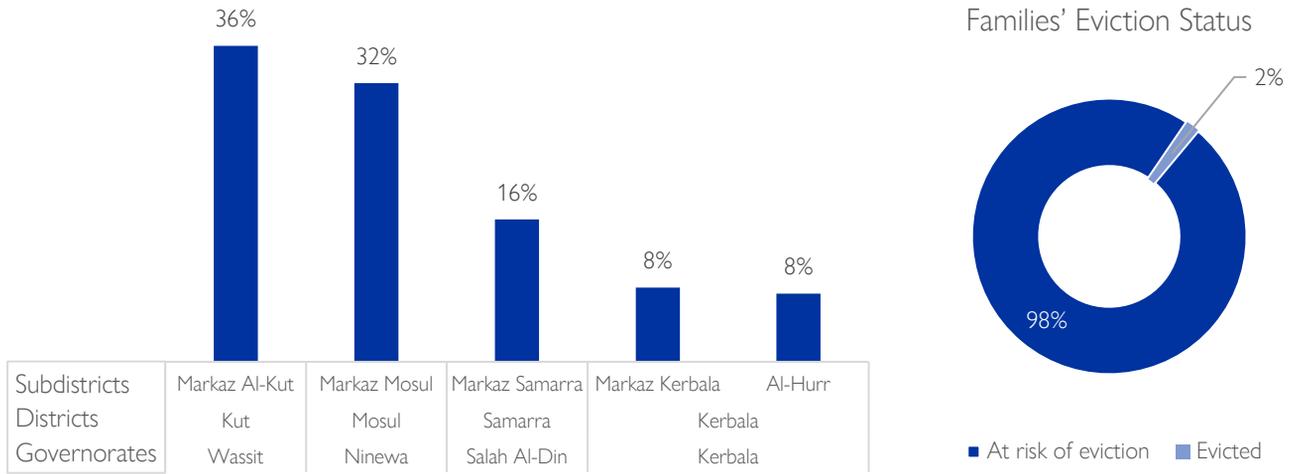
The majority of these lands are owned by government entities, such as ministries (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Electricity, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior) and district municipalities. In some cases, the Directorates of Municipalities of these areas want to recover these pieces 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, 44% 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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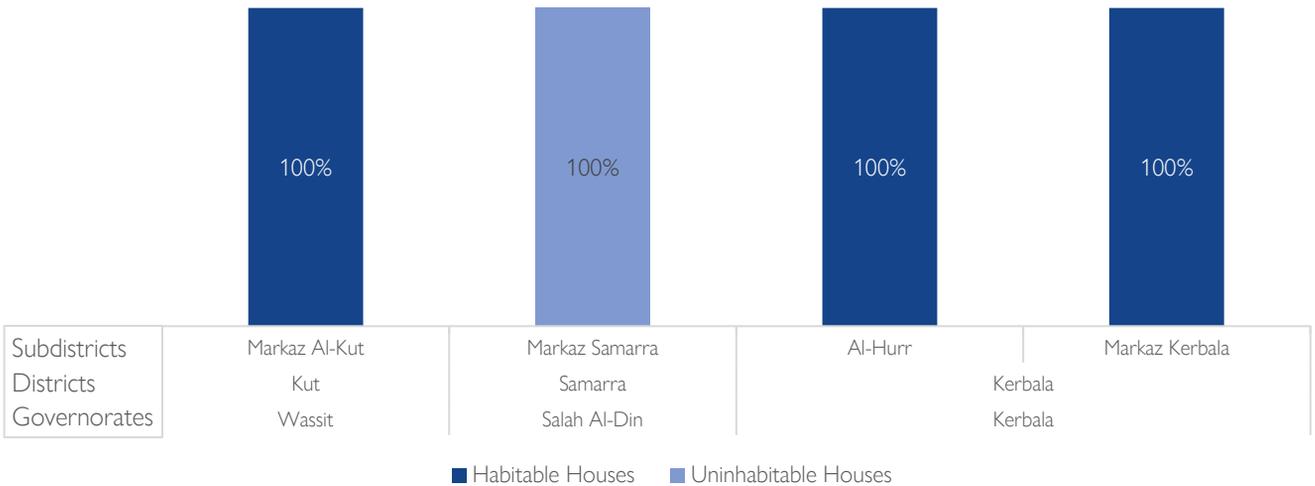
GOVERNORATES, DISTRICTS AND SUBDISTRICTS OF EVICTED FAMILIES



Only 2 per cent of affected families have been evicted (142 families). Just over one third (36%) of the families were evicted from Kut District in Wassit Governorate, a further third (32%) from Mosul District in Ninewa Governorate and 16 per cent in Samarra District in Salah Al-Din Governorate.

The remaining families (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 district commission of the area. 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 97 families out of the 142 evicted, and most evicted families relocated within the same subdistrict and only changed their location.

In Hay Al-Muthana, Samarra District in Salah Al-Din Governorate, 23 families (24% of the total arrivals) had to leave their informal houses and moved to different houses within the same subdistrict. These houses were not owned or suitable to live in. The remaining 76 per cent arrived in Kerbala and Kut districts. The families did not own the houses they moved into but unlike families in Samarra District, their houses were habitable.

DTM is currently monitoring the arrivals of the remaining 45 evicted families, who are from 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.