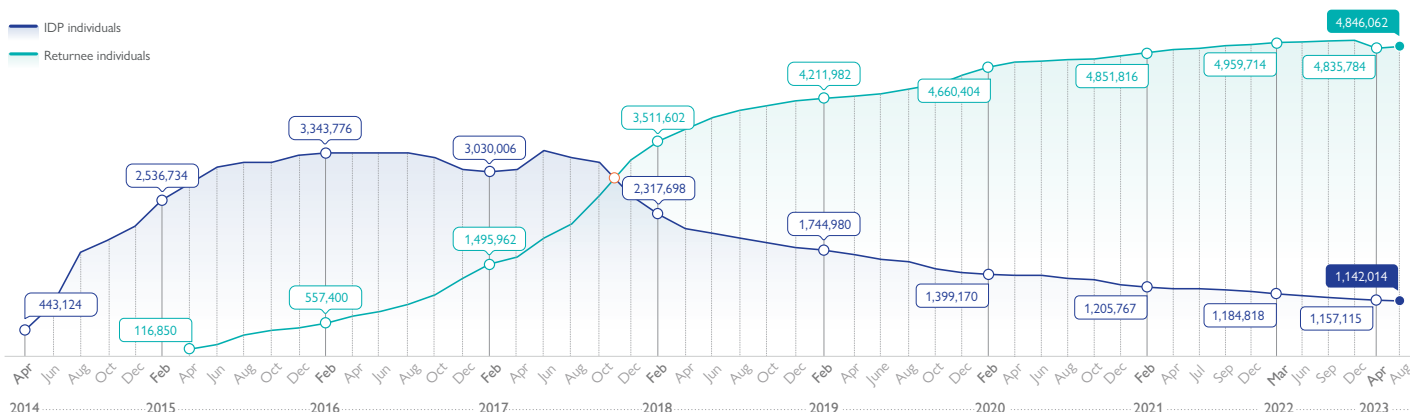


HIGHLIGHTS

Figure 1: Number of IDPs and returnees over time







Since 2014, the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit in Iraq has collected information on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees using a network of key informants across the country.¹ Data for this round were collected from 1 May to 31 August 2023.

➔ **IDPs** 1,142,014

▼ -15,101

- As of 31 August 2023, DTM identified 1,142,014 individual IDPs (195,880 households).
- Decrease of **15,101** IDPs since the previous round (-1%).
- Sumel** and **Zakho districts** in Dahuk Governorate and **Erbil District** in Erbil Governorate had the largest decreases in IDPs. Some of those displaced in these districts returned home, while others engaged in internal movements or went abroad. Additionally, some families left Debaga Camp 1 in Erbil District for Makhmour District.
- Samarra District** in Salah al-Din Governorate, **Sinjar District** in Ninewa Governorate and **Mahmoudiya District** in Baghdad Governorate saw the largest increase in IDP figures since the previous round. In Samarra District, drought and desertification in Al Jazera caused some returnees families to redisplace, while economic conditions contributed to secondary displacement of IDPs. Additionally, some families arrived in Sinjar District as IDPs due to hate speech against the Yazidi community. In Mahmoudiya District, internal movement of IDP families from other districts was also recorded.
- The number of IDPs living in critical shelters fell by **-2,166** compared to the previous round (-2.1%).





| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>195,880 Households ▼ -2,773</p> |  <p>2,645 Locations ▼ -24</p> |
|  <p>18 Governorates</p> |  <p>104 Districts</p> |

▼▲ Change since the last round

➔ **Returnees** 4,846,062

▲ +10,278

- As of 31 August 2023, DTM identified 4,846,062 individual returnees (807,677 households).
- Increase of **10,278** returnees since previous round (0.2%).
- Sinjar, Al-Ba’aj** and **Mosul districts** in Ninewa Governorate saw the largest increase in the number of returnees since the previous round. Returns to Sinjar District were driven by hate speech against the Yazidi community in locations of displacement, as well as an improved security situation in locations of origin. In Al-Ba’aj District, families returned from Jeddah 1 and 5 camps, with the latter formally closed in April 2023. Additionally, some Yazidi families opted to return to Al-Ba’aj due to challenges associated with protracted displacement. Increased returns in Mosul District reflect camp closures, a lack of financial means to remain in the area of displacement and access to new locations this round.
- Samarra District** in Salah al-Din Governorate, **Hatra District** in Ninewa Governorate and **Al-Rutba District** in Anbar Governorate saw a slight decrease in returnees due to failed returns. In Samarra District, failed returns were driven by drought and desertification, while in Hatra District, a lack of public services and job opportunities were the primary triggers.
- The number of returnees residing in critical shelters increased by **2,184** compared to the previous round (1.1%).

| | |
|---|--|
|  <p>807,677 Households ▲ +1,713</p> |  <p>2,172 Locations ▲ +5</p> |
|  <p>9 Governorates</p> |  <p>39 Districts</p> |

▼▲ Change since the last round

1. For more information on the Master List methodology, please refer to the Methodology at the end of this report.
2. For more information on the rate of change in the IDP and returnee caseloads, please refer to the Methodology.

DISPLACEMENT OVERVIEW

Figure 2: IDP shelter types



OVERALL TRENDS

During Round 130, DTM identified 1,142,014 IDPs (195,880 households). This is a decrease of 15,101 individuals compared to the January-April 2023 period (-1%). The slow decline in IDPs compared to Round 129 may be related to the large share living in protracted displacement (98%).

The most significant **decreases** in IDPs were recorded in the districts of **Sumel** (-3,517 individuals), **Zakho** (-2,999) in Dahuk Governorate and **Erbil** (-1,444) in Erbil Governorate. The slight decline in IDPs in these districts partially reflects new returns, internal movements and movements abroad. In Erbil District, some families left Debag Camp 1 for Makhmour District. In contrast, the most significant **increases** in IDPs were observed in **Samarra District**, Salah al-Din Governorate (+816 individuals); followed by **Sinjar**, Ninewa Governorate (+744) and **Mahmoudiya**, Baghdad Governorate (+150). The increased number of IDPs in Samarra reflects failed returns linked to drought and desertification, as well as secondary displacement driven by economic conditions. Additionally, challenges associated with protracted displacement, along with hate speech against the Yazidi community, prompted some IDPs to relocate to Sinjar District.

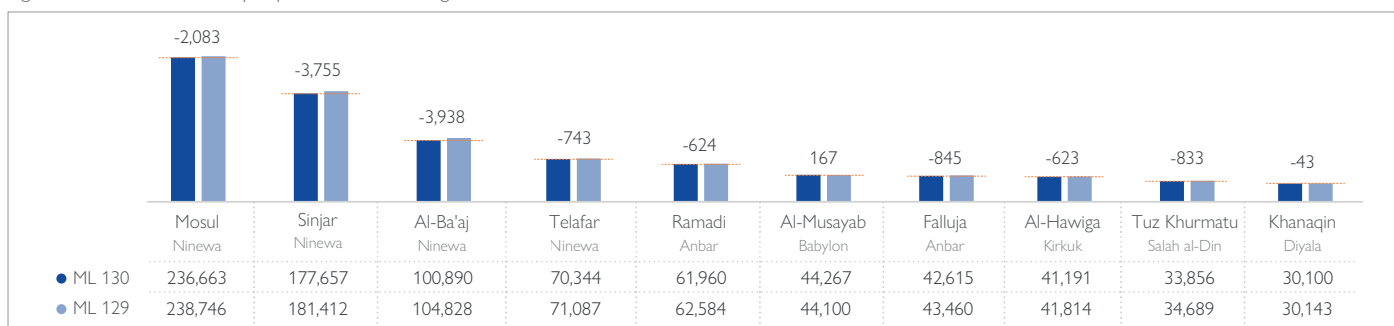
RECENT IDP MOVEMENTS

Despite the overall decrease in IDPs across the country, 10,467 new IDP movements were observed during Round 130 (1% of caseload). Most of these movements involve IDPs pushed into secondary displacement (87%). Additionally, 1,303 failed returns were recorded this round. Among those displaced after returning to their area of origin, drought and water scarcity, security issues and lack of public services were the primary triggers.

Table 1: Top three districts recording recent movement

| District, Governorate | Displaced for the first time | Secondary displacement | Failed returns |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Sulaymaniyah, Sulaymaniyah | 36 | 3,348 | 258 |
| Sinjar, Ninewa | 0 | 1,092 | 0 |
| Samarra, Salah al-Din | 0 | 18 | 816 |

Figure 4: Number of IDPs by top 10 districts of origin



3. DTM collects data on the number of families per location. For camps, it estimates the number of individuals by multiplying the number of households by five (the average size of camp households in Iraq).

4. For IDPs, critical shelters may include uninhabitable apartments or houses; tents, caravans, makeshift shelters, mud or brick houses; unfinished or abandoned buildings; public buildings or collective shelters; religious buildings or school buildings.

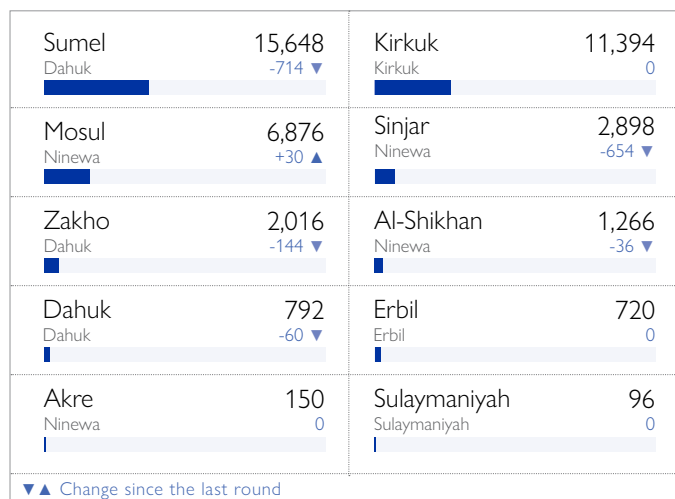
SHELTER TYPES

Consistent with the previous round, just over three quarters of IDPs reside in private settings (77%; 874,644 individuals), followed by 15 per cent in camps (166,330) and 9 per cent in critical shelters (100,278). In Round 130, the number of IDPs living in camps decreased slightly (-7,685), followed by those in private settings (-5,250).

Critical Shelters⁴

IDPs living in critical shelters may face challenges such as limited access to livelihoods and basic services. Since the previous round, the number of IDPs residing in critical shelters has decreased in districts such as Sumel (-714 individuals), Sinjar (-654) and Kut (-336). On the other hand, the population residing in critical shelters increased in Tuz Khurmatu (+354 individuals), Samarra (+216), Mahmoudiya (+90) and Mosul (+30).

Figure 3: Number of IDPs in critical shelters by top 10 districts of displacement



IDP AREAS OF ORIGIN

Slightly more than half (56%) of IDPs originate from Ninewa Governorate, in particular Mosul (21%), Sinjar (16%), Al-Ba'aj (9%) and Telefar (6%) districts. A further 22 per cent of IDPs originate from Anbar or Salah al-Din governorates (11% each).

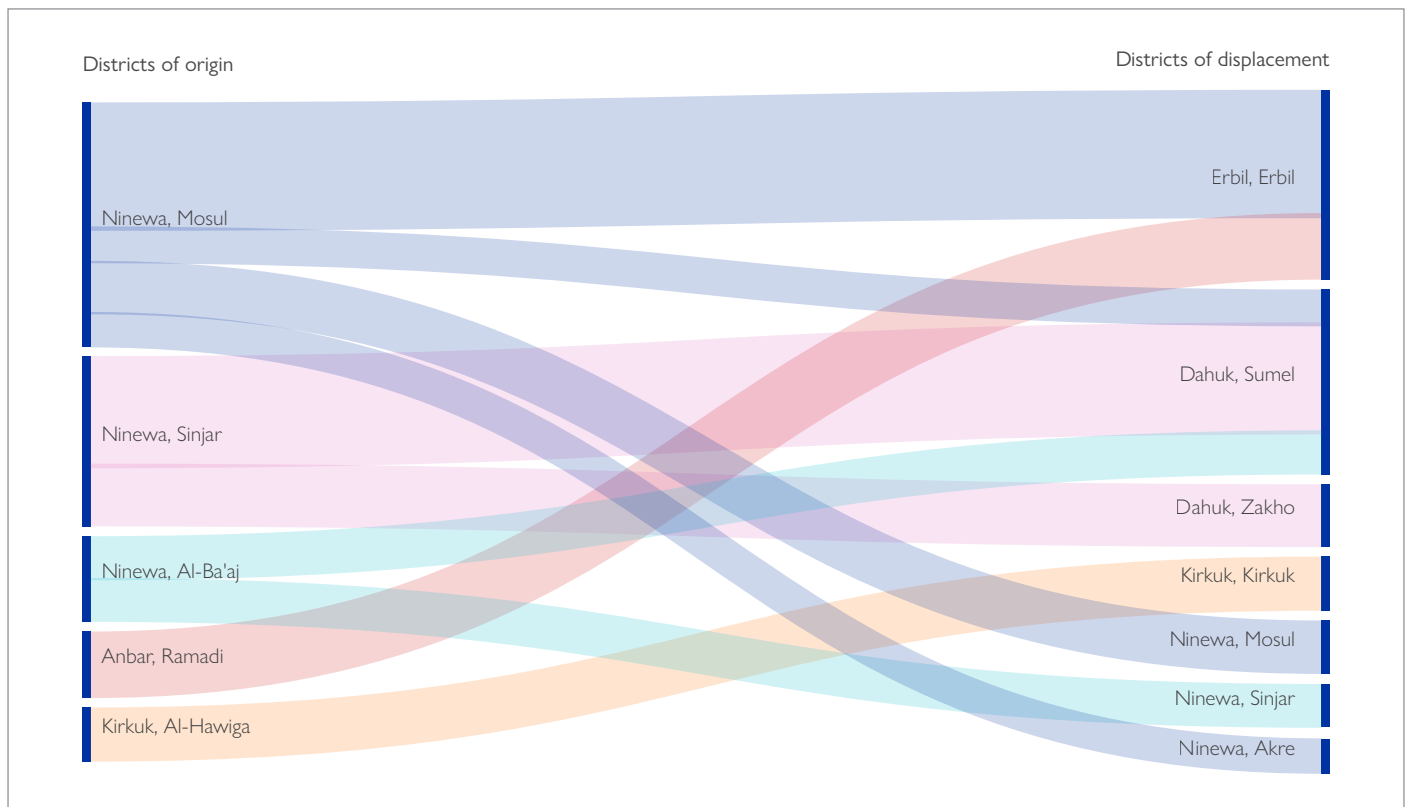
The graphs below show the eight governorates hosting the largest numbers of IDPs. They also indicate change in the number of IDPs since the last round, key districts where IDPs reside and top governorates of origin. For an overview of districts of displacement and returns across Iraq, please see the IDP Background Map.

Figure 5: Top governorates of displacement, corresponding districts of displacement and governorates of origin

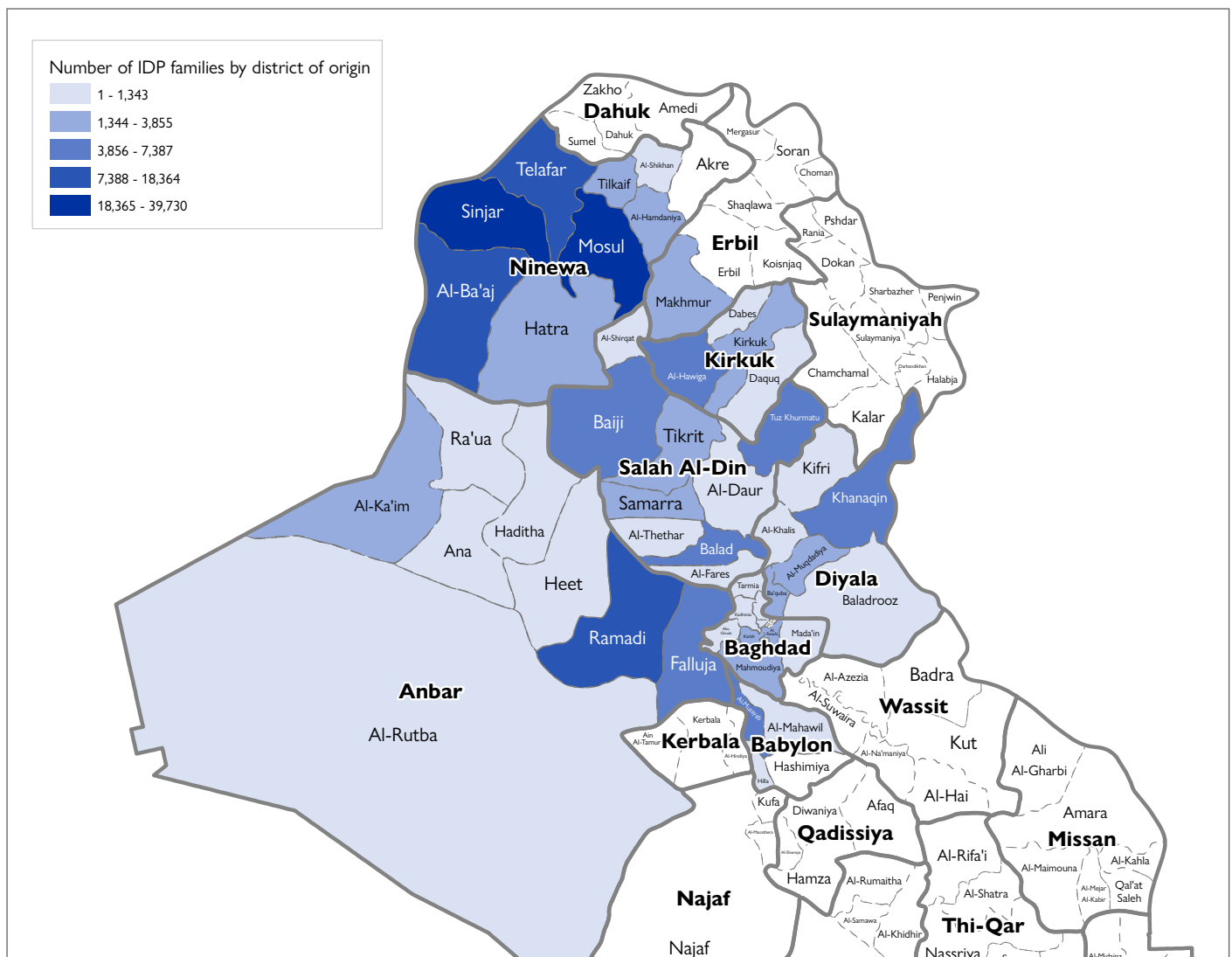


▼ ▲ Change since the last round

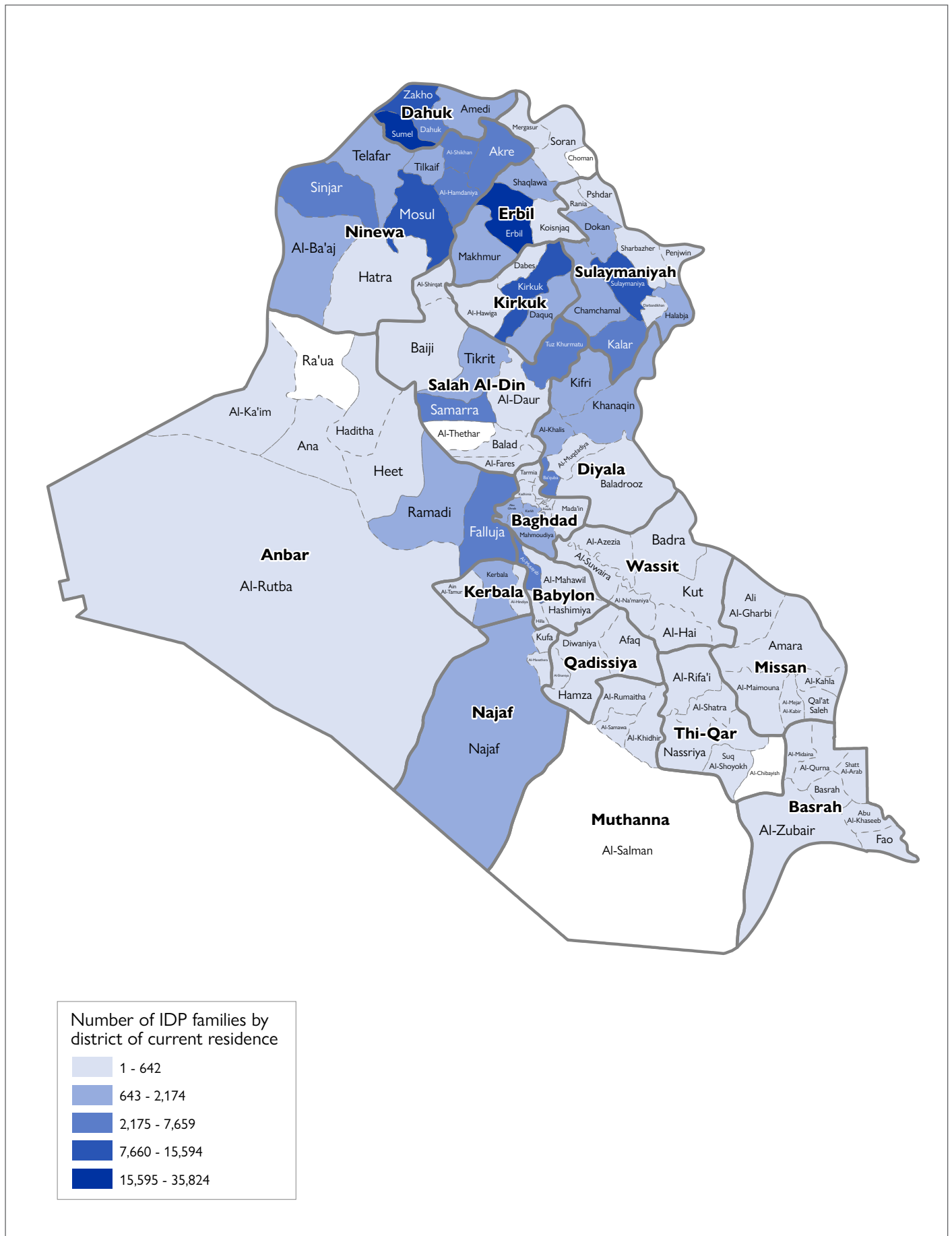
Figure 6: Top districts of origin and corresponding districts of displacement



Map 1: Districts of origin of current IDP population

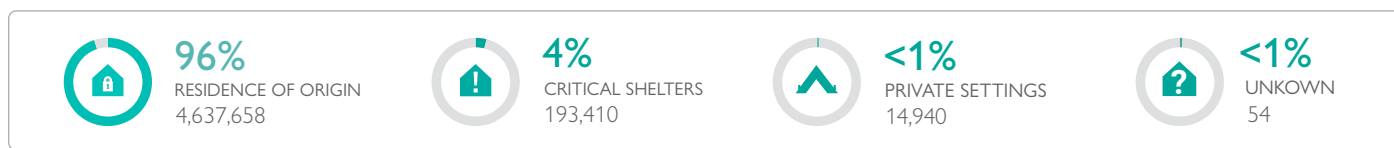


Map 2: Districts of displacement of current IDP population



RETURN OVERVIEW

Figure 7: Returnee shelter types



OVERALL TRENDS

During Round 130, DTM identified 4,846,062 returnees (807,677 households). This is an increase of 10,278 individuals compared to January – April 2023 period (+0.2%). The slow return rate can be explained by a lack of livelihood opportunities and housing in areas of origin, as well as better safety and security in areas of displacement.⁵ The country-wide rate of return⁶ stands at 81 per cent, down 1 percentage point from previous round.

RECENT RETURN MOVEMENTS

At the district level, **Sinjar** (+2,664 individuals), **Al-Ba'aj** (+1,824) and **Mosul** (+1,602) districts reported the highest increase in returnees compared to the previous round, fueled by push factors such as hate speech against the Yazidi community, closure of camps, a lack of financial means to remain in the area of displacement and other challenges associated with protracted displacement. An improved security situation in Sinjar District also motivated some families to return. At the same time, the number of returnees decreased in Samarra (-816 individuals), Hatra (-138) and Al-Rutba (-72) districts, owing to failed returns due to drought and desertification and a lack of public services and job opportunities.

Arrivals from camps

The number of returnees who arrived from camps during Round 130 increased compared to Round 129 (5,466 individuals vs. 2,112). Key districts reporting arrivals from camps include Sinjar (1,812 individuals), Al-Ba'aj (1,272) and Mosul (1,134) districts in Ninewa Governorate related to the closure of Jeddah 5 camp within the governorate between April and May 2023. Some families also arrived in Al-Ba'aj and Mosul from Jeddah 1 camp after receiving security clearance.

Locations of no return

In Round 130, DTM identified 320 locations which have not experienced any lasting returns. This includes eight newly accessible locations in Ninewa

Governorate. Factors driving the lack of returns to these locations include security concerns, stemming largely from attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the blocking of returns by Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) and the Peshmerga and tribal or ethno-religious tensions.

Between May and August 2023, families returned to one location in Mosul District, Ninewa Governorate and two locations in Al-Hawiga District, Kirkuk Governorate after they received security clearance. Prior to these movements, the locations had not witnessed any enduring returns.

Failed returns

A sharp increase in failed returns occurred between Round 130 and 129 (1,303 individuals vs. 299, respectively). Just under two thirds of failed returns (63%) occurred in Samarra district, Salah al-Din Governorate, followed by Al-Ba'aj (12%) and Sinjar (10%) districts. In contrast to prior rounds, failed returns were largely caused by drought and water scarcity, along with insecurity linked to ongoing conflict, unexploded ordnances, landmines and militias.

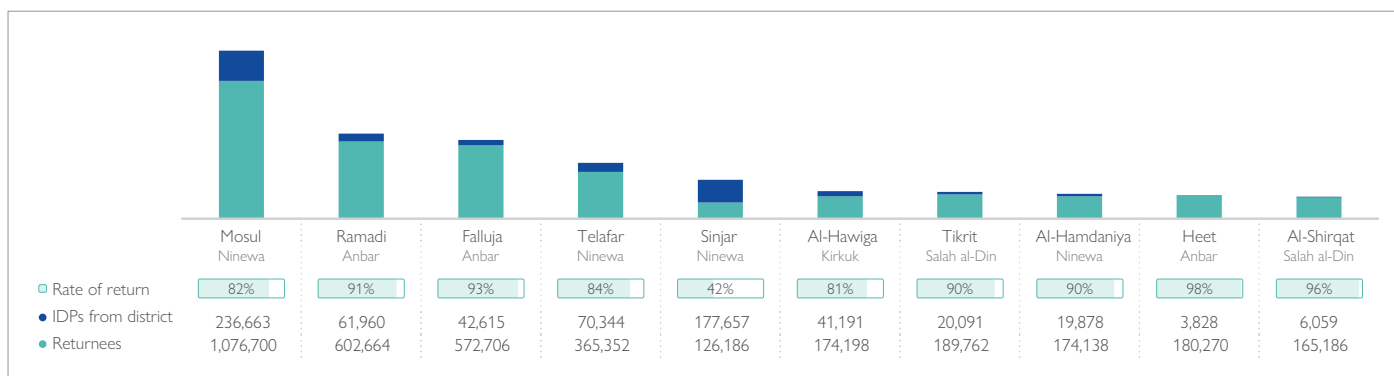
SHELTER TYPES

Most returnees (96%) reside in their residence of origin, while roughly 4 per cent live in critical shelters. Compared to the previous round, 2,184 more returnees live in critical shelters (+1.1%).

Critical shelters⁷

Across governorates, Salah al-Din reported the highest net increase in returnees living in critical shelters since the previous round (+1,410 individuals), largely within Al-Fares, Tuz Khurmatu and Baiji districts. Ninewa Governorate reported the second highest net increase in returnees in critical shelters (+1,068), concentrated in Mosul (+984) and Al-Ba'aj (+174). On the other hand, the number of returnees in critical shelters fell in the districts of Heet (-198 individuals), Al-Ka'im (-78), Al-Rutba (-42) and Ra'ua (-24) in Anbar Governorate, as well as Telefar District (-174) in Ninewa Governorate.

Figure 8: Rate of return in top 10 districts of origin



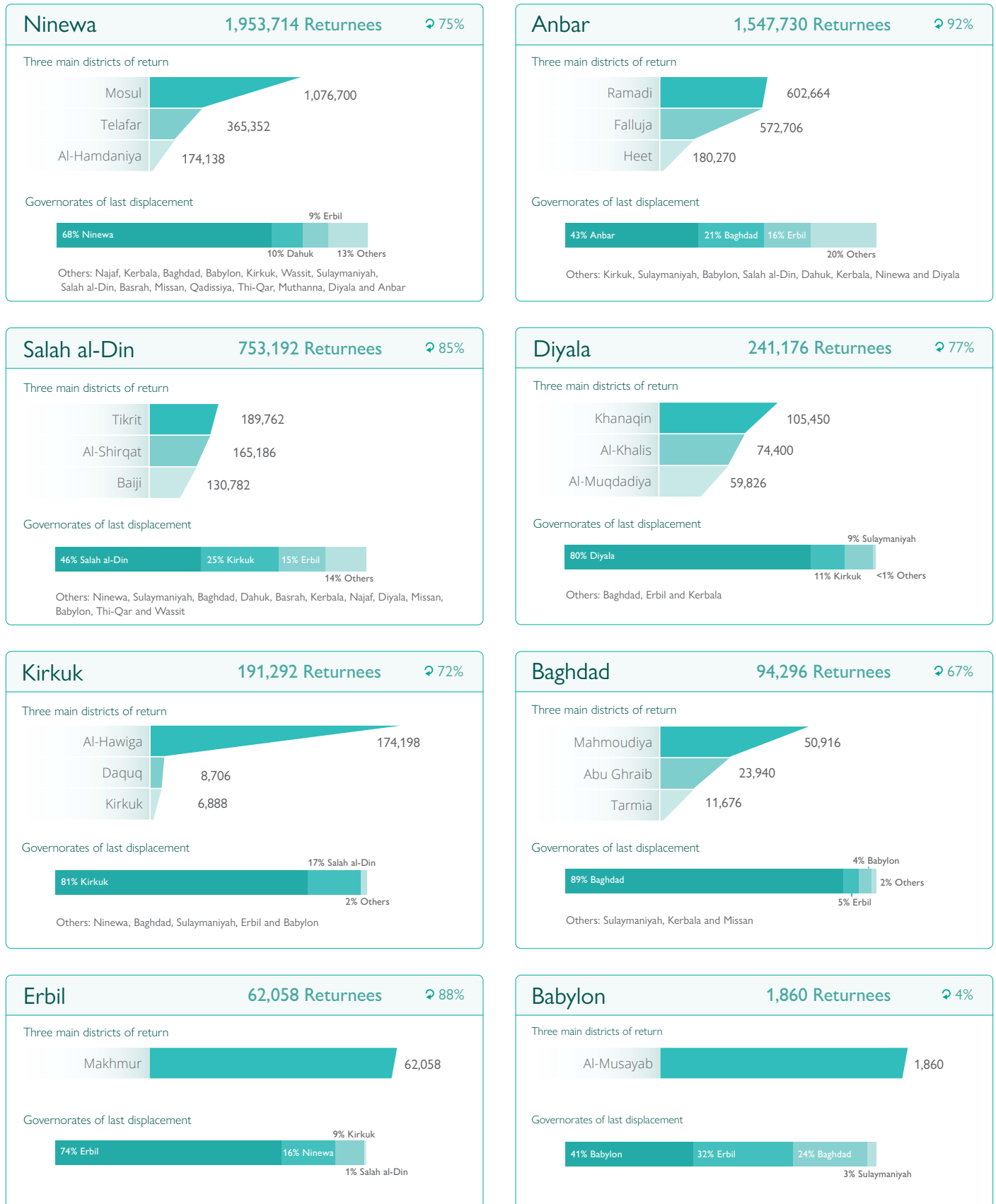
5. IOM, Iraq – DTM Integrated Location Assessment VII Dataset (Baghdad, July 2022).

6. The rate of return divides the number of returnees per governorate by the total number of returnees and IDPs originating from that governorate.

7. For returnees, critical shelters include uninhabitable residences of origin; tents, caravans, makeshift shelters, mud or brick houses; unfinished or abandoned buildings; public buildings or collective shelters; religious buildings or school buildings.

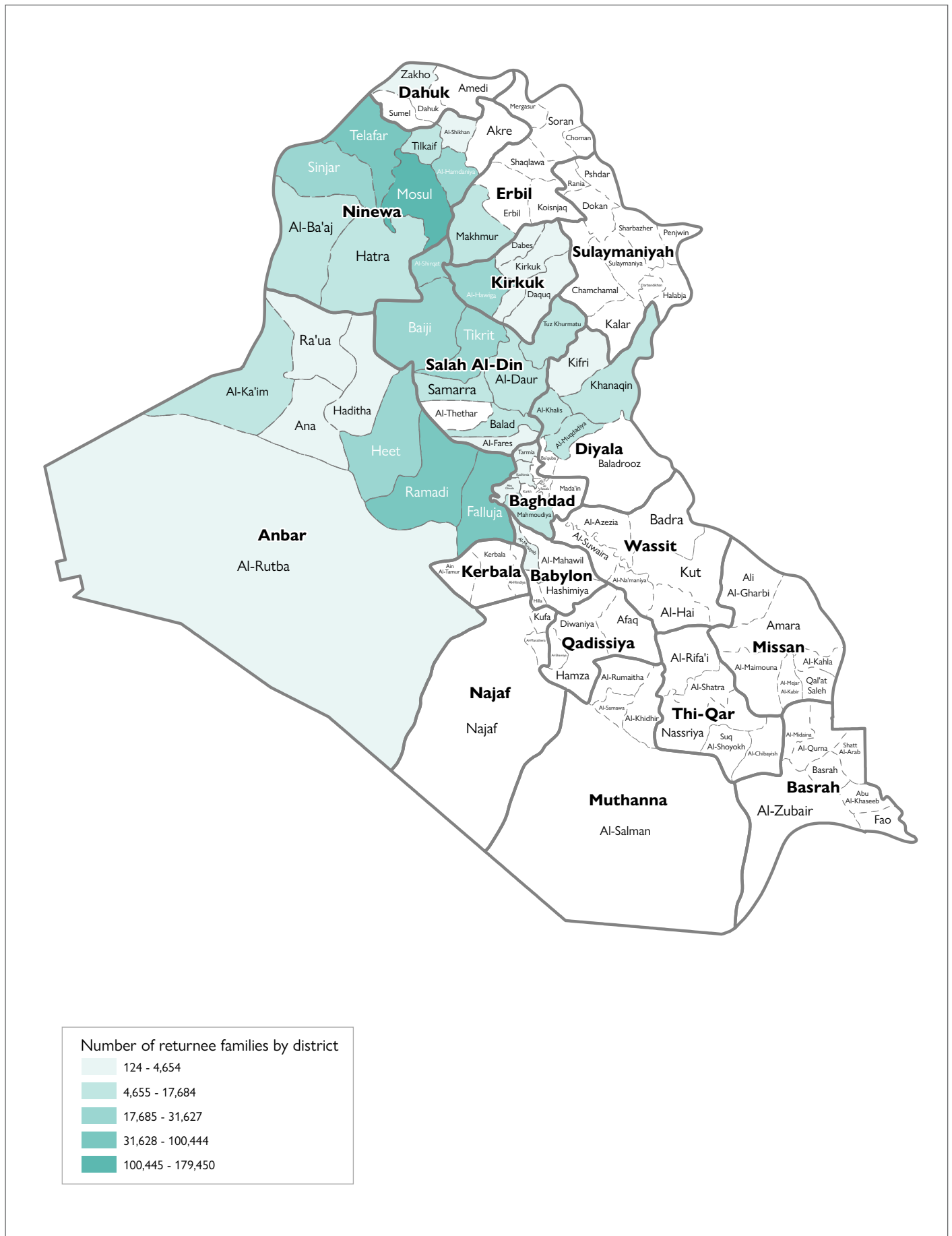
The graphs below show: 1) the number of returnees in all governorates, 2) the main districts where returnees reside, 3) the rate of return per governorate and 4) the governorates where returnees were last displaced. For an overview of districts of returns across Iraq, please see the [Returnee Background Map](#).

Figure 9: Top governorates of return, corresponding districts of return and governorates of last displacement

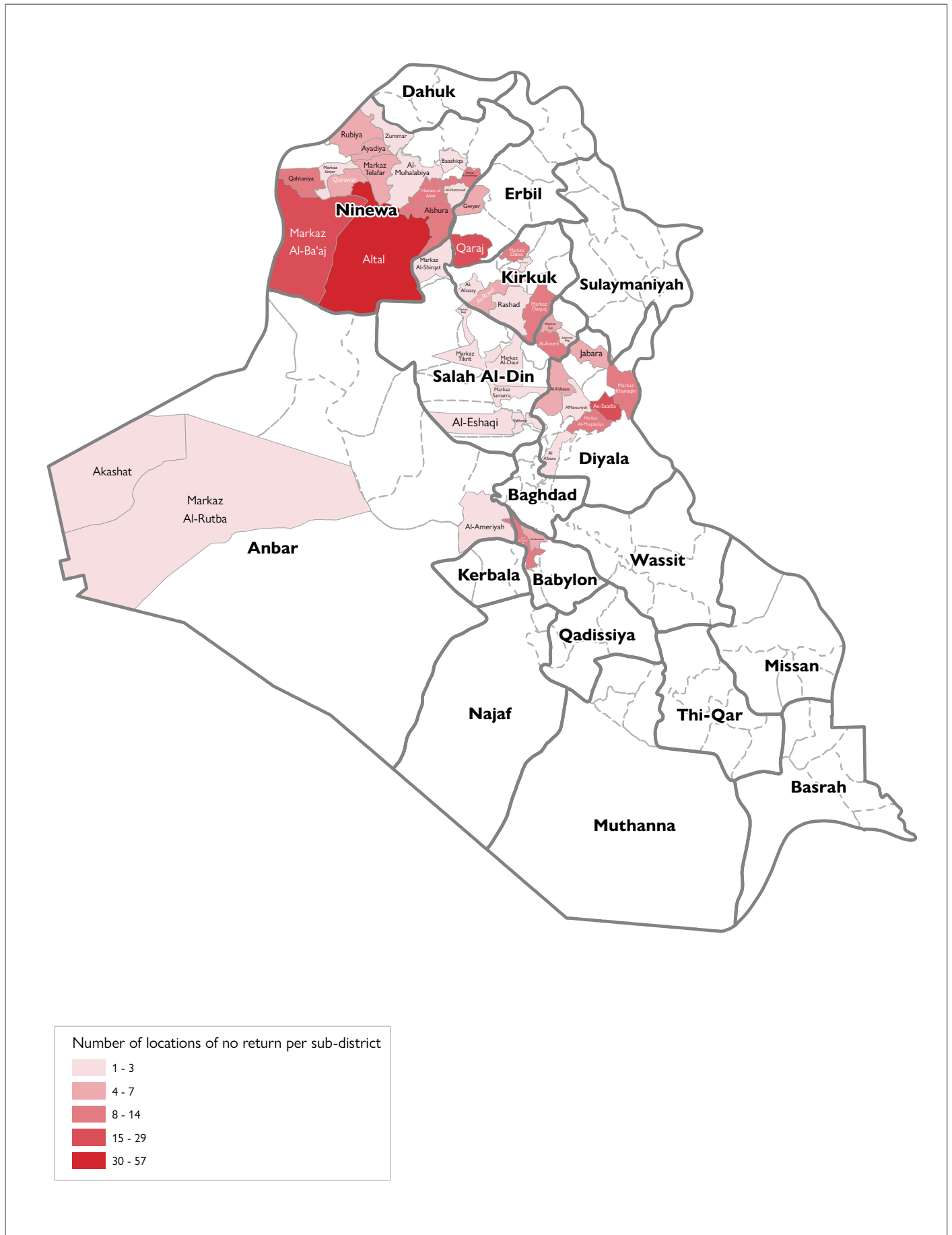


📍 Rate of return

Map 3: Districts of return



Map 4: Areas of no return



METHODOLOGY

IOM's DTM monitors displacement and provides information on the IDP and returnee populations in Iraq. Data are collected through IOM's RARTs, composed of over 73 staff members deployed across Iraq (20% of enumerators are female). Data collection for Round 130 took place between May and August 2023 across 18 governorates.

Data from the IDP Master List and Returnee Master List are gathered through a well-established large network of over 2,000 key informants that includes community leaders, mukhtars, local authorities and security forces. Additional information is gathered from government registration data and partner agencies.

IOM RARTs collect Master List data continuously and report it every four months. However, limited access due to security issues and other operational constraints can affect information-gathering activities. The variation in displacement figures observed between different reporting periods, in addition to true variation of the population figures, may be influenced by other factors such as the continuous identification of previously displaced groups and the inclusion of data on secondary displacements within Iraq.

The displaced populations are identified through a process of collection, verification, triangulation and validation of data. IOM continues to closely coordinate with federal, regional and local authorities to maintain a shared and accurate understanding of displacement across Iraq.

CALCULATIONS USED TO DETERMINE THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS

The number of individuals is calculated by multiplying the number of households by six, the average size of an Iraqi household as per governmental statistics, for all out-of-camp IDPs and returnees. Since the July-August 2020 period (Round 117), the number of individuals for in-camp IDPs has been calculated by multiplying the number of

households by five,⁸ which is the average camp household size according to the Iraq CCCM Cluster since 2018.

RATE OF CHANGE BETWEEN IDP AND RETURNEE CASELOADS

The rate of change of the IDP caseload and that of the returnee caseload may differ due to several factors. Firstly, DTM continues to record families who are displaced for the first time, families arriving from other locations of displacement (secondary displacement) and families who become displaced after returning (failed returns). Additionally, because DTM counts IDPs and returnees at the family level, marriage and other changes within the family can influence the size of the caseload. Furthermore, some families may be counted in both caseloads if: a) part of the family remains displaced while others have returned or b) families may move back and forth between their area of displacement and return. Finally, IDPs living in inaccessible areas may not be counted due to security concerns; upon their return, however, they may be included in the returnee caseload.

DIFFERING LENGTHS OF REPORTING PERIODS

The Master List is produced on a tri-annual basis. Previous reports were published on a quarterly basis. Additionally, since January 2021, three reports (120, 121 and 123) covered a two-month period. The changing length of the reporting period may impact comparison between rounds.

CHANGES TO SHELTER TERMINOLOGY

Since Round 122, DTM made changes to the shelter terminology to align with the Iraq CCCM Cluster's *Technical Note on Informal Sites Definition for Iraq* (September 2020). Please find shelter definitions in the glossary below.

8. Prior to Round 117, DTM calculated the number of in-camp IDPs by multiplying the number of families by six.

GLOSSARY

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Critical shelter | <p>For returnees, critical shelters includes the following shelter types: residences of origin (uninhabitable), tents/caravans/makeshift shelters/mud or brick houses, unfinished/abandoned buildings, public buildings or collective shelters, religious buildings or school buildings.</p> <p>For IDPs, critical shelters include those listed above for returnees except residences of origin, as well as apartments/houses that are not owned or are uninhabitable.</p> |
| Failed return | Individuals arriving from their area of origin after a failed attempt at return. |
| Internally displaced persons (IDPs) | For the purposes of the DTM assessments, all Iraqis who were forced to flee from 1 January 2014 onwards and are still displaced within national borders at the moment of the assessment. |
| Location | An area that corresponds either to a village for rural areas or a neighbourhood for urban areas (i.e. fourth official administrative division). |
| Location of no return | A location that recorded displacement during or since the 2014-2017 conflict with ISIL but has either not recorded any returns or have subsequently recorded that all returnees have redisplaced. |
| Private settings | For returnees and IDPs, includes hotels/motels, houses of host families or apartments/houses that are not owned. For IDPs, it also includes their own property. |
| Protracted displacement | Displacement that has lasted for longer than three years. As displacement data are collected in 'waves' of displacement that cover a period of several months, displacement that occurred before January 2020 is considered to be protracted. ⁹ |
| Rate of return | Used to estimate the proportion of returns in a district of origin and computed as the ratio of returnees to a district to the total number of returnees and IDPs originally from the same district. |
| Residence of origin | For returnees only, refers to their residence prior to displacement. |
| Returnees | For the purposes of the DTM assessments, all those displaced since January 2014 who have returned to their location of origin, irrespective of whether they have returned to their former residence or to another shelter type. The definition of returnees is not related to the criteria of returning in safety and dignity, nor with a defined strategy for ensuring durable solutions. |
| Secondary displacement | Individuals displaced more than one time and arriving from another location of displacement. |

9. Since the beginning of the crisis, IOM DTM has been collecting data on displacement based on 'waves' of movement that occurred in response to significant events. Wave 9 covers the period January–December 2019; therefore, all IDPs that were displaced between January 2014 and December 2019 are considered to be in protracted displacement for the purpose of this report. However, the actual number will be higher, as some IDPs who were displaced during Wave 10 covering the period January–December 2020 are also in protracted displacement.

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