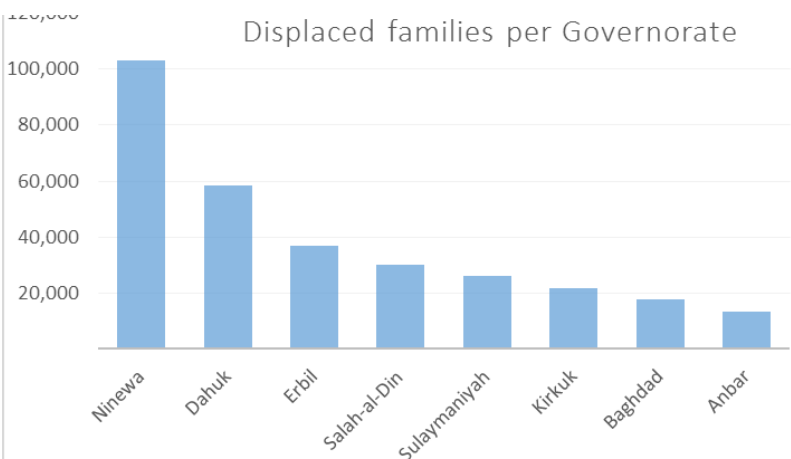


### PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- At least 2,258 families departed camps and informal settlements for their areas of origin and other locations. Many returns continue to be premature with many families who had tried to return home or relocate, returning to camps because they were unable to cope.
- Denial of return of families with perceived affiliations with extremists continue to be reported in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. In addition, some facilitated returns left families in secondary displacement due to insufficient coordination with local security actors in the IDPs' area of origin.
- Threats of forced evictions and relocations were reported in several camps and three informal settlements in Salah al-Din. Confiscation of legal documents to pressure families to return has also been reported on several occasions.

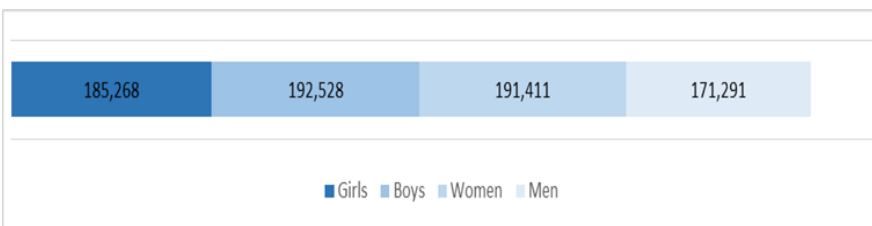
### Affected Population

**3.8 million** IDPs have returned to their places of origin while **2 million** are still displaced in Center-South areas.



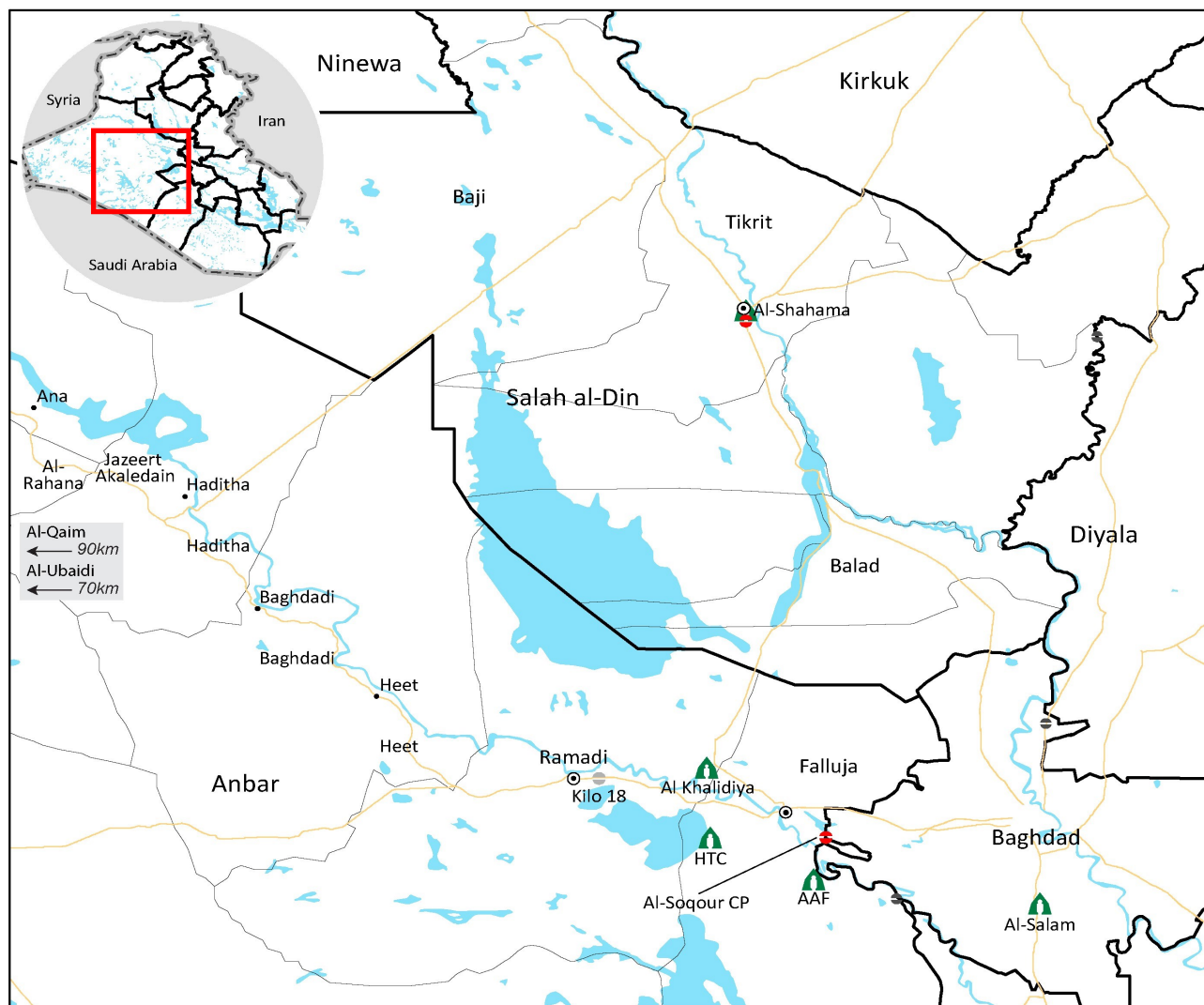
### Protection Monitoring\*

**151,847** families reached **740,498** individuals reached



- 38%** of families with no income
- 3,225** unaccompanied or separated children
- 21%** of families missing civil documentation

\* The data reflects people displaced in Centre-South governorates after March 2016.



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## Security developments and displacement

During the reporting period, numerous security incidents including clashes between extremist and military or government-affiliated armed groups were reported in Ninewa and different parts of the Centre/South of Iraq. Between 30 May and 9 June alone, six deadly blasts took place in Baghdad, Diyala and Kirkuk resulting in at least 26 deaths and 123 injured. Four additional incidents were reported in Kirkuk between 1-2 July. Similarly, at least seven civilians were killed by extremists in two incidents in Salah al-Din. Extremist elements also attacked Zanger village in Daquq District, Kirkuk Governorate on 11 June, kidnapping six people. Sixty families fled as a result of the incident. The village is located about 15 km south of Daquq district and mostly populated by Kakaie, one of the minority groups in Kirkuk. The newly displaced families were hosted by Kakaie communities in Kirkuk and Daquq cities or have moved to camps in the governorate.

At least 1,278 families arrived in camps across Iraq during the month of June, nearly half (658 families) in Ninewa and including a high number of female headed households. Most new arrivals continue to report that they came to camps, unable to cope with living conditions in their areas of return or secondary locations. The volatile security situation, economic conditions and a lack of services are key factors that continue to lead to widespread re-displacement of returnees. A lack of livelihood opportunities and shelter due to destruction of homes, families' inability to pay rent as well as disputes with relatives who previously hosted IDPs remain among the reasons that continue to be cited by families returning to camps in recent months. In a number of cases, the lack of progress in clearing areas of explosive hazards was also a factor.

Ongoing activities of the Turkish Air Force along the Turkey-Iraq border has resulted in waves of displacement for families from villages around Sedakan in Soran District, Erbil Governorate. Most families have reported receiving temporary shelter in schools, mosques and public buildings in Sedakan and some with relatives in Soran. Most of those displaced tend to return after a few hours or days after the military activity has ceased. Many residents of the affected villages have reportedly prepared themselves to be able to move at a moment's notice, packing their vehicles to cover their most basic needs.

## Protecting the civilian character of camps

On 3 June, national security forces withdrew from Jeddah camps in Ninewa Governorate, leaving local police in charge of enforcing security in the camps. Some IDPs do not believe the local police have the capacity needed to protect the camps while other families reported that they were pleased to see the withdrawal of the forces. In June, IDP women and families with perceived affiliation to extremists reported an increase in security incidents including harassment by fellow residents, and felt these incidents were not being addressed by the police. Incidents of local-government-affiliated armed groups entering camps to pressure some groups of IDPs to return to their areas of origin, harassment of women and arrest operations were also reported.

The presence of armed actors has been a long-standing problem in Jeddah camps. In coordination Protection Cluster partners, UNHCR will continue to advocate for the civilian and humanitarian character of camps with the military and armed security actors on the ground, and moni-

tor the implementation of the Prime Minister's Office directive on "Maintaining the civilian character of camps" from April 2017.

Conversely, according to protection partners and camp management, authorities have removed weapons, uniforms and military vehicles from Debaga camp, Erbil Governorate after seven months of advocacy. In October 2017, armed and uniformed army personnel and their families were displaced from Makhmour to Debaga camps in Erbil and had brought their equipment with them.

## Challenging living conditions in camps

The Salah al-Din Operations Command has added further requirements to access the sponsorship scheme for IDPs to leave Al-Shahama camp. The camp currently houses 127 families (487 individuals). In June, only seven families were allowed to leave Al-Shahama camp; five returned to areas of origin and two relocated to camps in Ninewa. However, security forces brought least two families with alleged extremist affiliations from Tikrit to the camp. The living conditions in Al-Shahama continue to be extremely challenging, particularly with the increasing temperatures and continued severe restrictions on freedom of movement. Services in the camp are limited, leaving the IDPs, predominantly female headed households, with access to electricity for only two hours per day.

Insufficient water distribution and gaps in summer assistance has been reported in camps across Iraq. IDPs require additional water for drinking, washing and to run water coolers (where distributed). Negative coping mechanisms have been observed in some camps in Ninewa and Anbar such as IDPs resorting to using river water or other unsafe sources to get water for cooking and washing. During the reporting period, a young boy and a man were reported to have drowned in a river next to a camp in Ninewa. Protection partners are conducting awareness raising among IDPs to mitigate these risks. In some camps the distribution of water for families has been increased following advocacy through clusters. However, considerable gaps remain.

## Returns

Despite persistent issues in conflict affected areas, there have been improvements in security, access and livelihood opportunities in some areas. Overall, conditions in the camps continue to act as push factors for premature returns. In June, UNHCR monitored the return of 2,258 families from camps and informal settings to their areas of origin and other locations. Most returns were to areas that became accessible during late 2017 and 2018 in Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din Governorates.

In recent months, 477 families have received security clearance to return to the Aziz Balad sub-district in Salah al-Din Governorate. Many of the families have reservations about the limited services and extensive damage to houses and infrastructure but are conducting visits to the area to prepare for a possible return. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, 230 families had returned to Aziz Balad by the end of June. Similarly, the first 25 families of 270 families who authorities approved to return to Riyadh sub-district in Hawiga, Kirkuk, moved back on 22 June. Preliminary reports indicate that basic services, including water and electricity have resumed and more families are expected to return in the coming weeks.

Returns of families to Al-Qa'im in Anbar Governorate, which had been ongoing since December, slowed during June due to security concerns along the Syrian border, burdensome security procedures and power shortages. Many families are not able to afford private electricity or fuel to run generators. In late June, authorities agreed to rehabilitate destroyed infrastructure and that additional fuel would be allocated for power generators to address power shortages.

In June, UNHCR partners conducted several protection monitoring assessments and identified a number of concerns in Sinuni and Sinjar city. Remaining contamination of Sinjar city centre and surrounding areas with explosive hazards, limited government services and challenging procedures for approval to return, especially for IDPs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, continue to hamper returns while high levels of child labour and early marriage were also reported. The assessments included Bir Jary village in Sinuni, Sinjar, where 100 Arab families (approximately 600 individuals) have returned from areas within Iraq and Syria since October 2017. The village has only partially been cleared from explosive hazards, and there have been reports of two recent deaths as a result. A key concern for residents is the limited freedom of movement beyond the village due to the presence of government-affiliated armed groups controlling the area, reportedly preventing residents from accessing Sinuni. Without access to food, health and education services, none of which are available inside the village, families are forced to travel to Syria. The freedom of movement restrictions also bar families from accessing government services to acquire or replace documentation. Access to water is also a concern as wells in the village were destroyed during the conflict and residents struggle to purchase water instead.

**Discriminatory and premature returns**

Denial of return for families with perceived affiliation with extremists continues to be reported across Iraq. UNHCR has spoken to many IDPs returning to camps after having been denied access by government-affiliated armed groups at checkpoints or having been forced to leave their areas of origin due to threats from the community. These families originate from Anbar (Al Qa'im), Kirkuk (Hawiga), Ninewa (Rabea, Qayarra, Beiji, Sinjar, Badush, Al-Hawija, Telafar, parts of Mosul city) and Salah al-Din (Shirqat, Baiji). Some families also reported relatives being arrested while trying to return. Three families in Ninewa said their property had been burned by community members or was being used by security actors. Others said that due to fear over arbitrary arrest or acts of revenge they did not plan to return in the foreseeable future.

On 27 May, facilitated returns from camps in Anbar to different parts of the governorate resulted in the re-displacement of 52 families. Due to a lack of coordination with local security actors in three districts of Anbar, these families were not able to return but instead were taken to another IDP camp. On 27 June, clearance for some of the families was issued including seven families from Al-Baghdadi sub-district in western Heet. These were the first reported returns to the sub-district. The families from Al-Baghdadi had been in displacement for four years. Through retaken in early 2015, returns had not been approved. Also in late June, tribal fighters in Jazeera Al-Khalidya reportedly prevented seven families from returning. Twelve returnee families are also currently stranded at a school in Garma, in Baghdad Governorate, while they await security approval from the East Anbar Operations Command and Baghdad Operations Command to return to their area of origin. Some of the families reported that their houses are still occupied by armed forces. UNHCR continues to monitor these incidents and engage in ad-

vocacy with authorities and armed actors to ensure that all returns are voluntary, non-discriminatory and sustainable.

**Forced evictions and relocations**

Threats of forced evictions including by security actors were reported in Al-Karama and informal settlements in Salah al-Din, particularly targeting families originating from Hay Al Tameem and Tal Abu Jarad villages in Baiji, Salah al-Din. On 22 June, IDP families from these villages living in the Dream City complex in Tikrit were reportedly given an eviction notice of 48 hours. The following day police officers confiscated the IDs of more than 50 families to intensify the pressure on them to depart. Also in late June, police exerted pressure on IDPs from Tal Abu Jarad living in Al-Karama camp to sign a formal agreement that they would depart the camp to return to their village within two days. Eleven families reportedly left the camp on 23 June and are now in secondary displacement in Tikrit and Baiji. Parts of Tal Abu Jarad are also believed to be contaminated with explosive hazards.

Following a court decision ordering the eviction of IDPs from Al-Diom complex in Tikrit, at least 112 families relocated to other informal settlements; 50 families decided to remain but now live in fear of forced displacement. On 18 June, IDPs in Shaqlawa Complex in Tikrit were told by police they would have to leave the complex after the Eid holiday although this was not enforced.

In west Shirqat, Salah al-Din, local police informed IDPs they would be evicted to areas of origin in east Shirqat. Authorities confiscated IDs from 150 families to force their return although about half of the ID documents were reportedly later returned to the IDPs. Many families do not want to return, in particular those who have children in school. UNHCR and partners are following this issue up with the Governor's Office.

Salah al-Din and Ninewa Operations Commands evicted 20 families living in Al-Ramadhaniyah village along the main road between Baghdad and Ninewa due to allegations that they provided logistic support to extremists. The families relocated to Al-Khudhraniyah village south of Shirqat.

Local authorities in Anbar reportedly continue to discuss camp closure and consolidation outside the framework of the Government Return Committee (GRC). The GRC is a governorate level structure composed of government, UN and NGO representatives tasked with principled returns, and camp closure and consolidation planning. Authorities in Anbar and the Joint Coordination Monitoring Centre have decided to relocate all families from Al-Khalidiya (AK) camps (currently hosting 520 families) to Habaniya Tourist City (HTC) camps, and the government will close all AK camps. The Emergency cell in HTC reported that they have received instructions to prepare space for some 300 families that will be relocated from AK camps by 15 July. Families that UNHCR and partners spoke to said that they are unwilling to relocate due to concerns about a lack of services in HTC.

According to reports, authorities in Baghdad informed camp management in Al-Jamia'a camp in late June that 48 IDP families will be relocated to Jeddah camp, Ninewa. The affected families expressed that they neither want to move Jeddah camp, nor return to their area of origin due to concerns over safety and access to services.