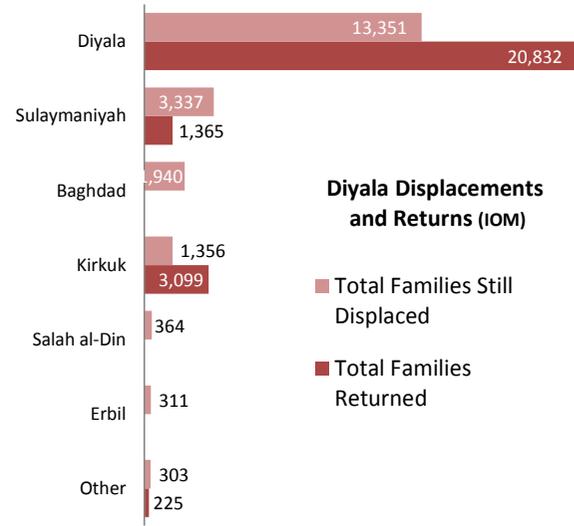


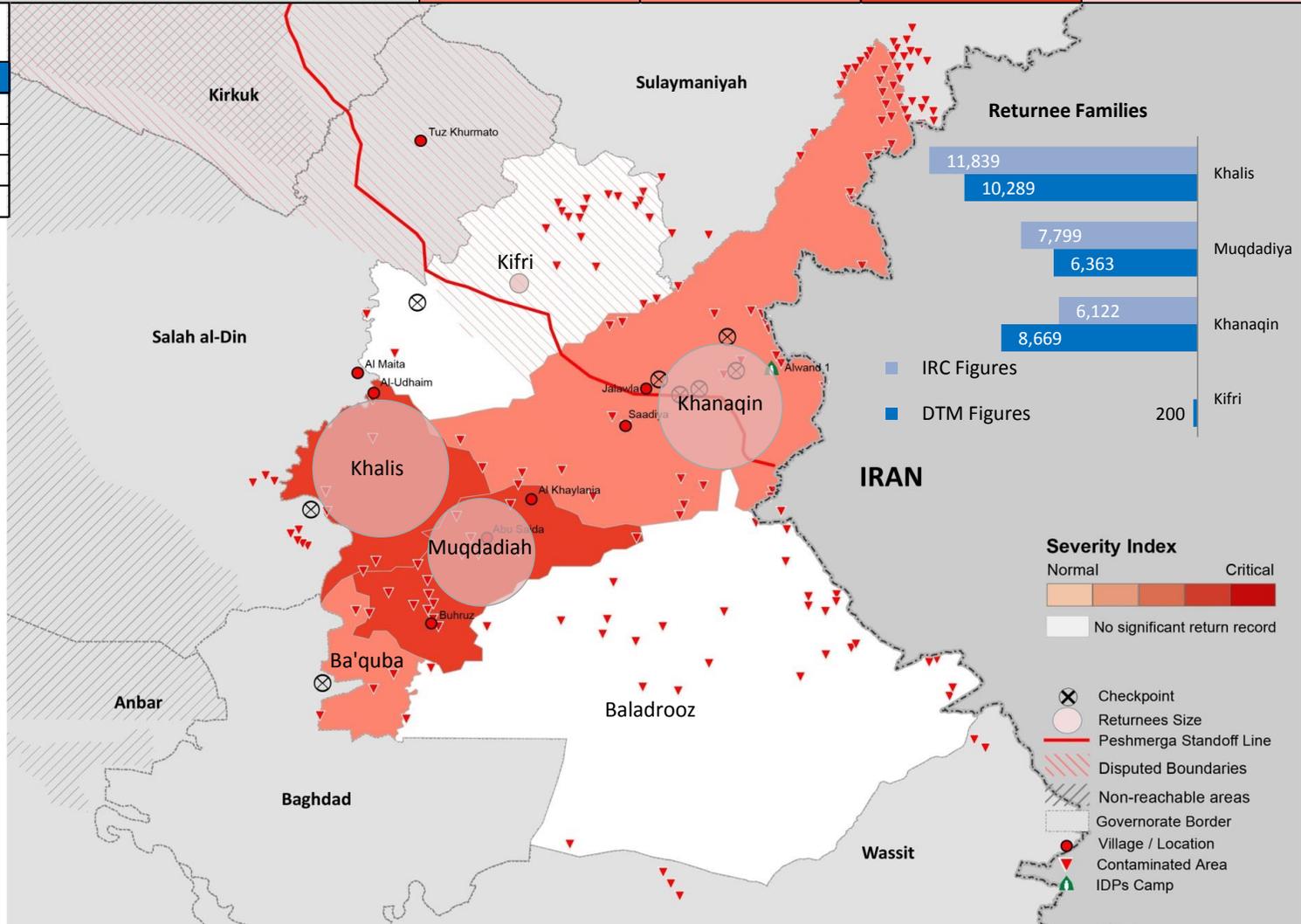
Protection Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Khanaqin	Khalis	Muqdadia	Ba'quba
	Medium	Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)	High	High	High	Medium
	Low	Security incidents resulting in death/injury in return area (including assault, murder, conflict-related casualties)	High	High	High	High
	Low	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Low	Rights violations by state or non-state military/security actors (including abduction, arbitrary arrest/detention, disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement)	Medium	High	High	Medium
Low	Concerns relating to inter-communal relations and social cohesion	Medium	High	High	Medium	

MODM Returnee Figures (Registered and non-registered)	
District	Families
Khanaqeen	33,617
Muqdadia	5,724
Khalis	4,824
Baladrooz	130



Data Sources:
 * IOM-DTM as of 03 July 2016
 * IRC Returnees Report 30 June 2016
 * MoDM 13 July 2016
 * IMMAP
 * Joint Analysis Unit (IAU)

Disclaimer:
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GENERAL CONTEXT

Despite the unstable security and political situation which in some areas continues to deteriorate, returns to Diyala Governorate recorded an increase in June 2016. The month recorded IDP returns to areas where returns had been on hold for several months such as Saadiya Sub-District. Authorities in Diyala are reported to be offering undetermined incentive packages to displaced governmental employees to encourage their returns so as to serve the returnee communities.

Despite increased returns to Diyala, voluntariness of returns remains a serious protection concern. As previously noted, a statement attributed to Mr. Hadi Al-Amiri, the Secretary General of Bader Organization asserted that “the Diyala displacement file will be closed soon” casting a shadow on voluntariness of returns. As detailed below, more families returned to Jalawla, Al Udham and other areas within the governorate. However, sustainability of returns to Diyala is hindered by the unstable security situation, heavy presence of militias in control of significant parts of the governorate and compounded by the lack of basic essential services including severe water and food shortages which is made worse by the extreme summer heat. By way of example, since early June 2016, Al Udham Sub-District has suffered severe water shortages with the attendant risks to the health and wellbeing of residents including returnees while villages to the north of Muqadiyah District are at risk of starvation due to food shortages.

The precarious security situation has led the Ministry of Interior to extend the mission of the special troops deployed in some parts of Diyala but this has not prevented ISIL from infiltrating some villages in Baaquba in addition to using new tactics such as motorbikes roving in the areas threatening families and kidnapping some and also expanding their presence by adopting a new strategy of recruiting females to carry out attacks. ISIL has claimed responsibility for the on-going unrest that includes assassinations against pro-government security personnel and civilians (including returnees) and explosions in Diyala governorate. ISIL continues to remotely recruit sympathizers/attackers through family ties of its members in safe and recaptured areas. During June 2016, three families approached the special committee formed to monitor families of ISIL leaders and members in order to report members who recently joined ISIL and who had committed or about to commit suicide attacks in retaken areas of Diyala.

MUQDADIYA DISTRICT:

The head of Muqadiyah Local Council stated that ISIL is implementing a starvation policy against all retaken villages to the north of the district that received returnees. Practices such as planting mines and IEDs in farms and main roads/streets in addition to regular raids on villages where the majority of residents are farmers is not only affecting the sustainability of returns but hindering farming and consequently food supply. About 80% of the population in Muqadiyah are farmers who are now scared to go to their fields. This has led to food shortages in the district and affected all residents including returnees.

Mortar shells, suspected to have been launched by ISIL, fell on Laheeb Village (a village of IDP returnees) without causing human casualties or material damages. The continued security instability in Al Muqadiyah District has led the authorities to temporarily close all cafes and places for public gathering because of fears of ISIL attacks similar to the ones recorded in late May 2016.

KHANAQEEEN DISTRICT:

Jalawla Sub-District:

The sub-district continued to receive more returnees during June with more than 2,000 families returning, according to the MoMD statistics. According to the Deputy Mayor of Jalawla, 6,527 families have so far returned to Jalawla; around 3,600 of them came back from displacement within Khanaqeen. All families have returned to areas in Hay Al Jamaheer and Al Shuhadaa, in the center of Jalawla, according to the Mayor. The Mayor also stated that more families are scheduled to return to Jalawla in coming days/weeks.

Information about how many of these returned families are actually staying in Jalawla differs widely. There is still limited infrastructure and basic services in Jalawla, in particular in the fields of electricity, garbage collection, education and health. According to the Deputy Mayor of Jalawla, the return process is expected to be completed by the end of August. While there have been rumors of a “blacklist” or persons who are reportedly not allowed to return to their places of origin, as well as presumptions that specific tribes may be prevented from returning to Jalawla, none of these allegations have so far been confirmed.

Saadiya Sub-District:

IDP returns have resumed to Saadiya Sub-District after more than two months of suspension. Some 390 displaced families, in two groups, have returned to the center of Saadiya after two years of displacement in Khanaqeen, Kirkuk and KR-I bringing the total number of IDP returnees to 2,350 families. IDPs were hesitant to return due to the unstable security situation and incidents of apparently random killings by unknown perpetrators. In addition, displaced families with school-age children have been delaying their return until the children have completed their final exams. The 390 families represent the ninth and tenth groups of scheduled returns. More returns are anticipated to Saadiya in coming days/weeks with authorities and PMF having expressed their intentions to close the Diyala displacement file.

Some IDP families from Saadiya, residing in Alwand 1 IDP camp in Khanaqeen, have reported that they had been called by the Mukhtars of their places of origin and recommended to return otherwise their houses might be taken over by militias. UNHCR is currently following up on these reports and is increasing its advocacy efforts with local authorities in Khanaqeen district and Diyala governorate to prevent forced or induced returns.

Regardless, the sustainability of returns is still being hindered by the unstable security situation and the severe lack of basic services. Information available suggests that only around 50% of returnees are

currently still staying in Saadiya while the others have either moved to other areas in Diyala or returned to previous areas of displacement.

KHALIS DISTRICT:

Al-Udhaim Sub-District:

Despite the overall instability and frequent attacks against IDP returnees, more than 400 families have returned to Al-Udhaim Sub-District during June 2016. The head of Al-Udhaim local council stated that return of families is in coordination with the Dijlah Operations and returning families are usually escorted by ISF and PMF.

In addition to the political rivalry and tensions, security concerns and the series of attacks against returnees in Al Uthaim center and surrounding villages, severe water shortages in this area is threatening lives of more than 2,300 families, majority of whom are returnees. Local authorities stated that the severe water shortage is due to the repeated breakdowns in the main water plant that has been stopped for several weeks. According to the mayor of Al Uthaim, more than 500 families among the recently returned started packing for permanent departure mainly to other areas within the governorate.

BAAQUBA DISTRICT

Despite on-going searches in the orchard areas of Baaquba by the Iraqi forces and the “Sons of Iraq”, who are formed from tribe fighters, has not prevented ISIL from infiltrating the orchards of the Shaikhi village NE Baaquba. This has spread fear that there are ISIL sleeper cells active in many areas of Diyala and caused the overall instability in the governorate and thereby negatively impacting sustainability of returns.

Against this background, it is noteworthy that the intelligence department of the Diyala Police announced that they had arrested about 75 persons and charged them with terrorism offences in mid-June. Of particular concern is the claim that some of the suspects are recent returnees, as confirmed by sources in Diyala Police.

Return to Diyala can be classified as:

Voluntary return: families returning to areas of origin after stabilization of the security situation and restoration of services, following successful screening procedures.

Spontaneous return: families returning due to factors such as economic pressure and fatigue from being displaced, following successful screening procedures.

Forced return: mainly IDP families in Kirkuk, where authorities employed various coercive measures to encourage displaced families from Diyala to return, including evictions, confiscation of documents, harassment, and arbitrary arrest/detention.

No or limited return: due to security concerns, especially in Muqadiyah in light of the sectarian conflict and unstable security situation; families rejected for return by the authorities/security committees; destroyed property and lack of services in certain areas preventing return for the time being; in addition to fears of demographic change with returns being allowed to families based on sectarian affiliation