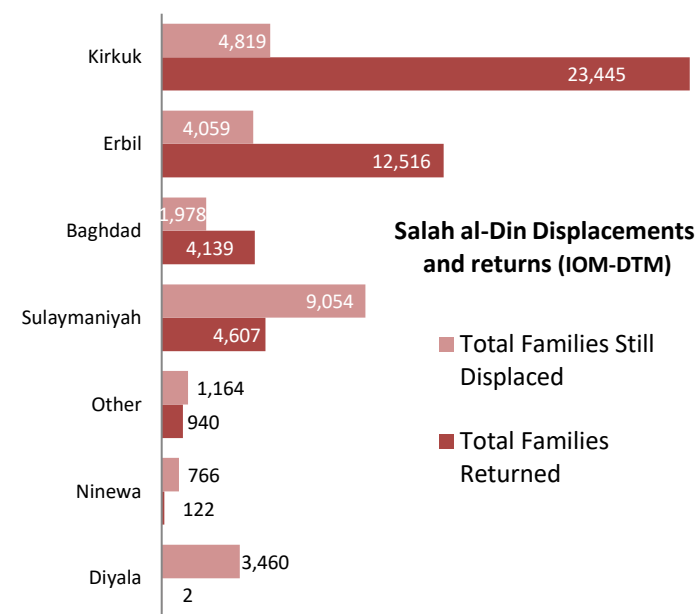


Iraq Protection Cluster: Salah al-Din Returnees Profile - January 2018

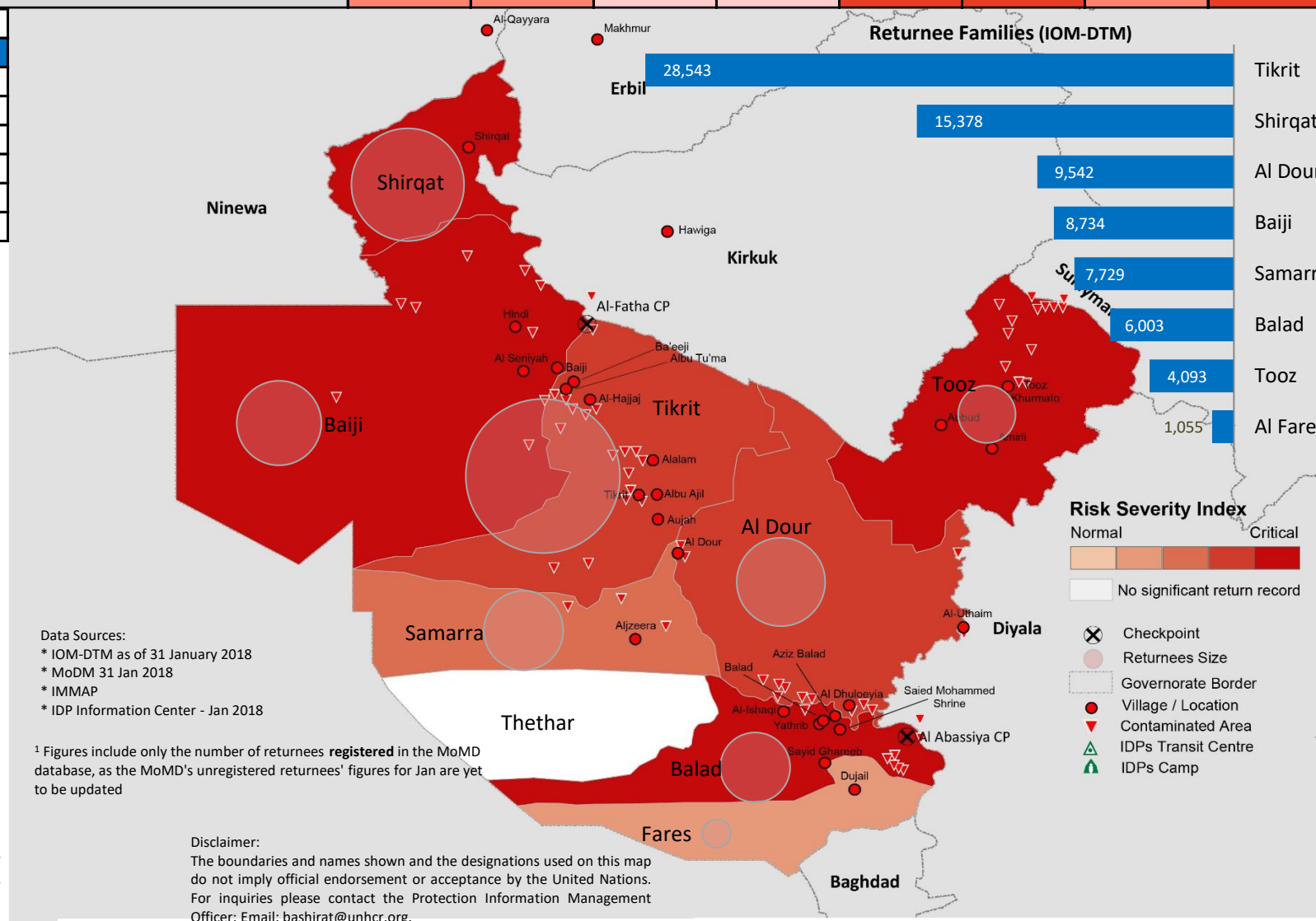
Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns							
	Medium	Baiji	Tikrit	Al-Daur	Samarra	Balad	Tooz	Dujail	Shirqat
	Low	Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return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

MODM Returnees' Figures¹

District	Families
Tikrit	4,740
Samarra	4,294
Al Dour	1,900
Baiji	685
Shirqat	0
Balad	3,505



IDP Information Center: 2% of 2,385 calls received from returnees were from Salah Al-Din. The flagged issues were about cash assistance, WASH and health issues.



SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

Per the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), approximately 81,077 families returned to Salah al-Din by January 2018. During the reporting period, there was continued instability due to security incidents, including abductions in Yathrib sub-district and destruction of farms and properties in Farhatiyah sub-district and Shirqat district resulting in many casualties, including returnees.

There was significant re-displacement of Hawiga residents to Al-Alam camps in Tikrit district, with around 95 families were re-displaced to Al-Alam camps in January. IDPs from Hawiga began returning to their place of origin from Al-Alam camps on 6 November 2107 to villages in Riyadh district, approximately 50 kilometers away from the camps. These families remained in Hawiga for about a month before they began re-displacing due to attacks by armed groups in and around their villages. Attacks increased in early December, with an attack in early December reportedly killing seven individuals who were recent returnees from Salah al-Din. The figures for those who have re-displaced are difficult to track in out-of-camp areas but there are ongoing re-displacements back to Salah al-Din and Kirkuk City of the IDPs from Hawiga due to the unstable security situation in Hawija.

Barred/prevented returns, for persons/families perceived to have affiliations but without due process, continues to be a major problem. 12 families confined in Al-Shahama Camp, Tikrit district were allowed to return to their areas of origin (AoOs) following high-level interventions by protection/humanitarian actors, while 175 families are still confined in the camp. In a bid to resolve the issue of returning families perceived to have affiliations, two separate tribe-led community reconciliation meetings were held in January in Shirqat, to discuss the possibility of returns of families with alleged (but not proven) extremist links. Both meetings ended without final agreements. If these efforts are successful, they will directly and indirectly impact thousands of IDP families, many of whom face challenging living conditions, including many vulnerable female headed-households.

Efforts are continuing to support reintegration and rehabilitation efforts to facilitate the safe and sustainable return of displaced people. Among other projects, over 70,000 people in Yathrib sub-district will benefit from a new pedestrian bridge that opened in mid-January. The bridge, built by UNHCR and its partners, is an essential crossing point for the Tigris River, connecting the east and west of Yathrib City. Since the old bridge, was destroyed local inhabitants had to make long detours to cross the river. The new bridge makes a huge difference to people going about their daily lives, and aims to benefit cohesion in formerly displaced communities, and feed into longer-term recovery programmers. Other quick impact projects including a vehicular bridge, shelter, electricity and water rehabilitation projects have been completed or are underway.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

Returns to Shirqat are ongoing and hundreds of families have applied for security clearance for this purpose. Per the DTM, 15,378 families returned to the district by January. According to the local authorities of Shirqat, in January over 242 families returned to both sides of Shirqat district (112 families to 15 villages in the west bank and 130 families to 29 villages in the east bank). However, some of these returns might be premature, as some of

they could not afford housing in their area of origin.

The security situation remains unstable in Shirqat with continued incidents of collective punishments against families perceived to have affiliations, including destruction of homes and other punitive measures without any due process or judicial scrutiny of these punitive measures. In January, two homes were reportedly destroyed in Al-Huria village located in north of Shirqat.

Returns to Telol Al-Baj sub-district started for the first time in December 2017. According to protection partners, 148 families returned to their AoOs in the sub-district in January bringing the total number of returnee families to Telol Al-Baj to over 555 families. The level of basic services in Telol Al-Baj is reportedly still very low and damage to properties is extensive. Newly returned families have reported that there is a significant lack of services provided, especially water and electricity. Other needs relate to rehabilitation of schools and medical facilities, and clearing of explosive hazards.

BAIJI DISTRICT

According to the DTM, by January, around 8,734 families returned to the district. However, returns to Baiji district are still limited for various reasons, mainly relating to inter-communal disputes which are yet to be resolved and also unstable security situation, the complexity of the return approval process, extensive contamination with explosive hazards, lack of basic services, the high level of destruction, and un cleaned rubble/debris in the streets and neighbourhoods.

According to local authorities and protection partners, the returns to City Center of Baiji district are still limited to few areas - Hay al-Asry, Hay al-Muhandseen, and Albo Jewary. There were few returns (25 families) to a new area in western Baiji (Hay Al-Resala), but a day later, several returned to their areas of displacement in Tikrit, due to lack of services and the extensive destruction in the area. An estimated 3,500 families who submitted their requests to return to different areas in Baiji City Center are reportedly still awaiting security approvals.

Thus far, there have also been returns to other areas outside of Baiji City Center in Al-Zewiya sub-district (1,800 families) - Shewaish village (250 families), Al-Hanshi village (80 families), Al-Namil village (190 families) and Mashaq village (570 families). New areas witnessed returns for the first time in January: Makhool sub-district, where around 100 families returned and Shaik Ali village, with 80 families. Al-Fatha village has been opened for returns; the number of its residents is estimated at hundred families but no returns have been recorded so far.

BALAD DISTRICT

Returns to Balad continue. As per the DTM, 6,003 families returned to the district by January

AZIZ BALAD SUB-DISTRICT

The return issue to Aziz Balad is still contentious and several political meetings were held in December and January led by the Salah al-Din Governor, including community leaders and pro-government armed groups present in the area, to resolve underlying disputes hindering returns.

Over 3,247 families have been prevented from returning since their areas were retaken at end of 2014.

There was continued discussion on issues of financial compensation to families of victims, new security to protect sensitive religious sites and re-alignment of administrative borders. Credible reports indicate that during one of the meetings, additional demands for compensation to victims' families, prior to returns, were submitted including increased compensation amounts for families that lost family members at the hands of the extremists in addition to other conditions which are still under discussions. Aziz Balad suffered extensive destruction of properties, farms and critical infrastructure and will require extensive rehabilitation and restoration of services to ensure returns will be sustainable.

TOOZ DISTRICT

Per the DTM, 4,093 families returned to the district by January. Tension in Tuz Khurmatu has persisted since the referendum for independence in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) and disputed areas in September 2017. On 8 January, Turkmen neighbourhoods in Tuz Khurmatu were reportedly hit by mortar shelling that resulted in the injury of eight civilians. On 9 and 12 December 2017, two similar incidents had been reported in another part of the city.

Since 13 January, around 20 percent of the IDP families from Tuz Khurmatu that fled during the re-assertion of federal control in mid-October were said to have returned to the town. The authorities are reportedly enforcing additional security measures to secure returns, including opening of a new police station in Jumhoria and re-activation of Sulaiman Beg police station. As a result, large numbers of Kurdish displaced families returned to their homes in Jumhoria and few families to Jameela as well.

Reportedly, some of the individuals feared otherwise losing their jobs or that their property might be looted. Some of the returnees expressed concerns about a possible withdrawal of ISF once these operations conclude, leaving the city under the control of government-affiliated armed groups. The Iraqi parliament has reportedly voted to set up a committee to investigate "possible war crimes" in the multi-ethnic town, which is home to Turkmen, Arabs and Kurds.

SULAIMAN BEG SUB-DISTRICT

There has been multiple negotiations in the last two years involving communities and local authorities in a bid to resolve the contentious return issue to villages of this sub-district, but there was no agreement. Although Sulaiman Beg was retaken from extremists in August 2014, returns had not been authorized since that time as local tribes were accused of support to extremists. There has now been a breakthrough after further community reconciliation efforts led by the Governor and tribal and religious leaders.

The first group of around 250 IDP families returned on 22 January and the returns will continue with a condition that returnee family has no perceived affiliations. The returnee families are living in dire conditions as all key service infrastructure are heavily damaged and dysfunctional as well as widespread destruction of private properties has been reported. Most of the remaining IDP families (estimated at 1,200 families) are living in areas within Tuz and the surrounding areas/governorates.