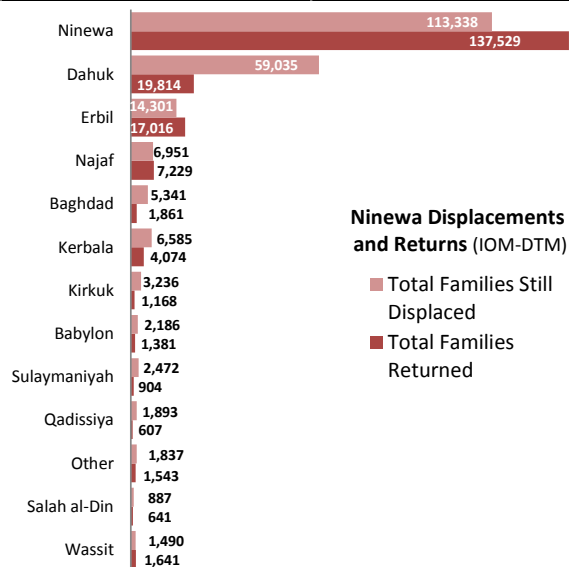


Iraq Protection Cluster: Ninewa Returnees Profile - February 2018

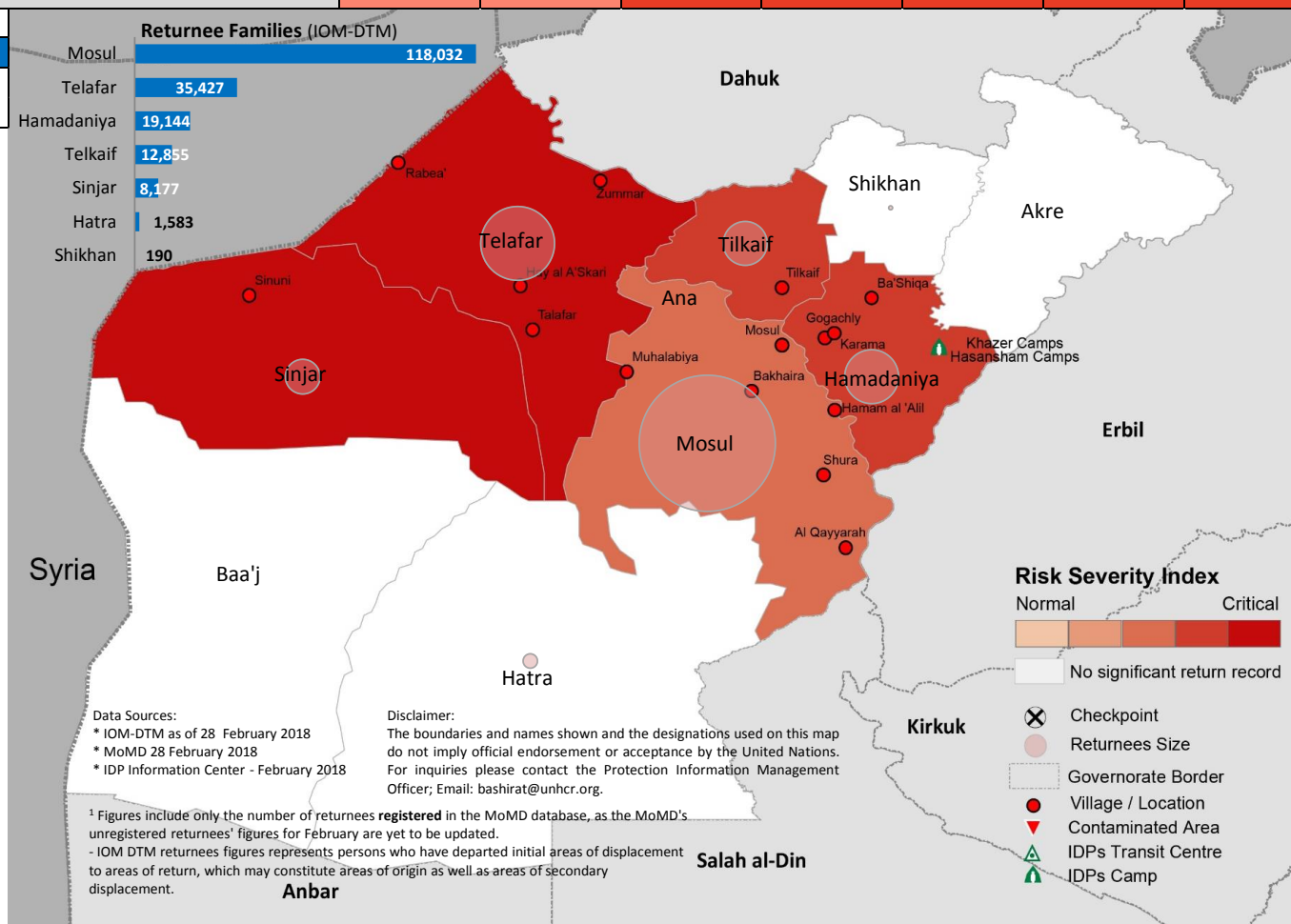
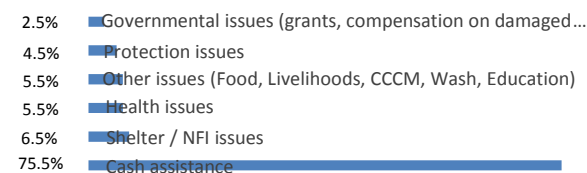
Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns	Sinjar	Hamdaniya	Telafar	Mosul	Telkaif	Ba'aj	Hatra
		Reported Violations of principles relating to return movements (including non-discrimination in the right of return, as well as voluntariness, safety and dignity of return movements)							
	Medium	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							
	Low	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							

MoMD Returnee Figures¹

District	Families
Mosul, Telkaif and Hamdaniya	48,700



IDP Information Center: 89% of 2,047 calls handed from returnees were from Ninewa. The majority of the flagged issues were:



NINEWA GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

During February, IDPs have continued to return to their places of origin in Ninewa Governorate. As per the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of IOM, 18,962 families (113,772 individuals) returned in February. Although the general security situation remained stable in Ninewa Governorate, however, security forces conducted regular operations to search for the persons affiliated to extremist groups. Returning on a voluntary basis in safety and dignity remains a challenge as multiple areas of return are significantly contaminated with explosive hazards. The presence of armed groups affects the security situation. A significant number of the returning families indicated that the desire to reunite with family members, reoccupy their homes, resume work, as well as the challenging camp conditions are the main reasons for their return.

The situation in the disputed areas in the north remains complex. Conditions in the area are generally not conducive to ensure a safe and dignified return. Safety and security are pointed out as the main concern for the returning families. Lack of basic services and poor infrastructure remains a primary concern as well. The ongoing negotiations between the central authorities and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) has reportedly contributed to a rise in crime and in extra-judicial killings and the increased presence of local militias.

While the majority of the returns are reported to be voluntary, the protection monitoring reports indicate that the returning families were not sufficiently aware of the conditions in the areas of return, which possibly partly explains the continued returns to camps. While IDPs return back to some places of origin, IDPs, including those who attempted to return, continue to arrive to the camps. In February, 462 families (2,048 individuals) from several parts of Ninewa, including Mosul, arrived at the Hammam al-Alil (HAA) transit site. A lack of services, a lack of livelihood opportunities, the destruction of homes and insufficient resources to cover rental costs continues to be among the key reasons for secondary displacement. A number of IDP returnees interviewed at the transit site, of which the majority are Sunni Arabs from Sinjar, Telafar and Qayyarah districts, reported to have left due to threats by the local community due to alleged affiliations with extremist groups.

Assistance and support in the return areas is being provided by humanitarian and Government partners. However, most of the needs are still unmet. Primary needs include shelter and housing support, food and non-food items (NFIs), water, electricity, access to documentation, health and education services. In general, economic vulnerability and limited livelihood opportunities and the lack of basic services remain a concern for families returning to their places of origin.

MOSUL DISTRICT

Families continued to return to Mosul, primarily to the western part of the city. According to the DTM, 118,032 families returned to Mosul by February, a significant increase of 15,093 families were recorded compared to the previous month. The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) office of east Mosul reported that 347 families have registered to return to the Al-Baladyat, Al-Wehda, Filsteen, Al-Sukar, Al-Araby, Al-Ba'ath

and Al-Muthana neighbourhoods during February. These families originated from the central and southern governorates (Basrah, Qadisiyah, Muthanna, Baghdad, Najaf and Babel) and from the KR-I. In addition, the same MoMD office reported the registration of 7,220 IDP families who returned from Nergelia and Qaymawa camps in Dahok Governorate to the neighbourhoods of Sada Baweza, Rashedyah, Guba and Sherekhan and the MoMD office of west Mosul reported that 2,220 families have registered to return to the western neighbourhoods (Zenjily, Al-Shifaa, Al-Meshahda, Bab Jadeed, Ras Al-Jada, Bab Ligish, Al-Farooq, 17 Tamoz, Al-Najar, and Al-Siha). Out of this group, 420 families returned from the central and southern governorates of Basrah, Qadisiyah, Muthanna, Baghdad, Najaf and Babel and 347 refugee families returned from Turkey and Syria.

Mosul's MoMD office and Mayor reported that most of the new arrivals to the west Mosul were the IDPs moving from the east of Mosul, particularly to the old part of Mosul City. In the Mosul Old City, work to remove rubble is ongoing, allowing returnees to access their homes. Opening of schools and the resumption of water and electricity supply has encouraged returns.

HAMDANIYA DISTRICT

The security situation remains relatively stable and electricity and water services have resumed. Schools have re-opened and so has the University of Hamdaniya.

According to the MoMD office in Hamdania district, approximately 619 IDP families returned from Erbil, Dahok, Najaf and Baghdad to Hamdania district during February, to the City Centre (263 families), Bartella sub-district (195 families), Bashiqa sub-district (113 families), and Nimrud sub-district (48 families). The DTM reported the return of 610 families in February.

BASHIQA SUB-DISTRICT

The general security situation is relatively calm. However, the presence of mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) is highlighted as a primary concern impeding for instance farmers to resume their livelihood activities. As reported by the Mayor of Bashiqa, 4,500 displaced families returned to Bashiqa. This represents 85 to 90 per cent of the entire population. The majority of the returned families are Yazidis, however the returns also include Christian, Shabak and Arabs. Out of the 52 villages in the sub-district, two Arab villages are still reported to be empty (Hisar and Qupan) due to the complete destruction and/or location near the Kurdistan Region Forces frontline. This is believed to prevent the potential return of the families.

TELAFAR DISTRICT

As per the DTM, approximately 2,828 families returned to Telefar in February bringing the total number of returned families to 35,427 since the district was retaken in August 2017, the majority are Shia Turkmen. As per the MoMD office, a total of 980 families registered to return to Telafar in February. The explosive hazards and the significant presence of armed groups are reportedly preventing families from leaving camps. At the same time, families with alleged extremist affiliations are reportedly being denied permission to return and IDPs indicated that receiving the necessary clearances is dependent on approval by the Federal Police. Many of the houses (reportedly more than

70 per cent) and public buildings in the centre of Telafar have been severely damaged or destroyed and contamination by explosive hazards remains a challenge. The market shops are open and provide a range of goods and services. The Court in Telafar has re-opened and is currently issuing civil and other legal documentation.

RABEA' SUB-DISTRICT

The situation in the Rabea' City Center is reportedly relatively stable with no significant incidents reported. During the month of February, as reported by the protection monitoring actors in Rabea', approximately 20 families returned to Rabea' town from Syria and approximately 45 families returned to Rabea' sub-district from Mosul. Most persons who left the villages of Awainat Tal Al-Hawa, Abu Hashab, Samir, Beer Lafi, Al-Saudiya, Al- Mahmudiyah, Cairo and Rabiaa around 2014, have reportedly returned.

ZUMMAR SUB-DISTRICT

The situation is improving with the Federal Police and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) controlling the area. Continued restrictions on freedom of movement are reported in and around areas with a significant military presence, including Bardiya, Hamad Agha and Gzronya villages. Local authorities in Zummar report relatively large numbers of returned Arab families from Mosul City, camps as well as other parts of Zummar and Rabea' sub-districts. According to the last registration updates by the Mayor's Office of Zummar, the total number of returnees as of February reached 6,880 families (34,000 individuals).

SINJAR DISTRICT

According to the DTM, 8,177 families returned to Sinjar district by the end of February, indicating that 25 families (150 individuals) returned this month. As reported by the Deputy Mayor of Sinjar, an estimated 4,130 families have returned to parts of Sinjar since the liberation of Sinjar. These primarily related to Yazidi families originating from Sinone and Sinjar. Assessments in Sinjar City presented that an indicative number of 3,000 families have returned to the city. However, the majority of those families reportedly find themselves in their second situation of displacement, having returned to the district of origin and not yet to their homes as many homes have been destroyed. Improved security was mentioned as a pull factor for return while the significant presence of armed groups in the area is believed to be one of the factors why more families have not returned.

In general, security and physical safety are voiced as the primary reason for displacement. In spite of the continuous (small scale) returns, people are reportedly generally afraid for their safety and security, which impedes the return process. The population of Sinjar district is reportedly particularly concerned about the current situation along the Turkish-Syrian border and the impact the related developments might have on their security. This is also reflected in the fact that numerous families (estimated 2,000 families) continue to live in the Sinjar Mountains where people found relative safety from extremists groups in the past.

BA'AJ DISTRICT

Returns to Ba'aj district increase since the district recently became accessible. According to the head of Ba'aj district, by end of February 1,100 families returned to Ba'aj City Centre and 2,560 families returned to the villages near the city. A total of 305 families reportedly returned to the district in February.