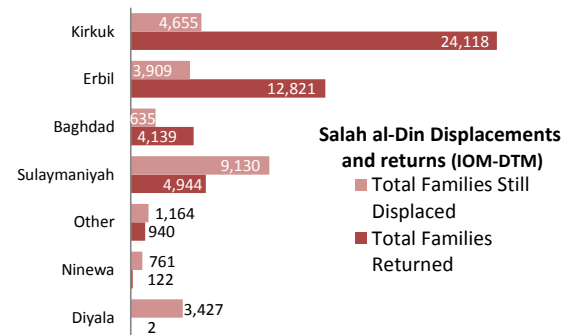


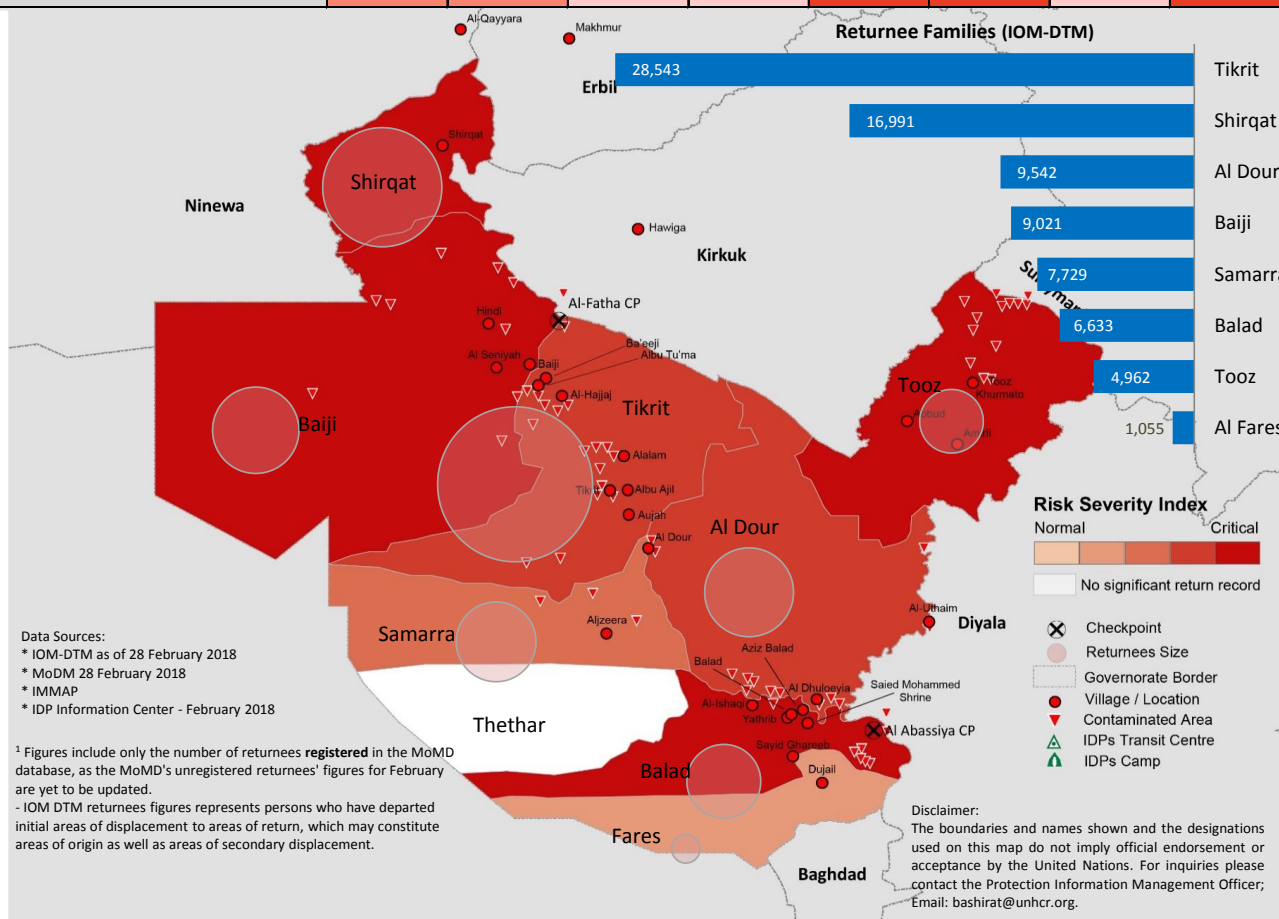
# Iraq Protection Cluster: Salah al-Din Returnees Profile - February 2018

Protection Risk Matrix by District	High	Protection Concerns							
	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)	Baiji	Tikrit	Al-Daur	Samarra	Balad	Tooz	Fares	Shirqat
	Medium	Reported Rights violations by state or non-state military/security actors (including abduction, arbitrary arrest/detention, disproportionate restrictions on freedom of movement)							
	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)/ Improvised Explosive Device (IED) contamination in return area								
	Low	Concerns relating to inter-communal relations and social cohesion							

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



**IDP Information Center:** 10% of 2,047 calls handled from returnees were from Salah al-Din. The majority of the flagged issues were:



<sup>1</sup> Figures include only the number of returnees registered in the MoMD database, as the MoMD's unregistered returnees' figures for February are yet to be updated.  
- IOM DTM returnees figures represents persons who have departed initial areas of displacement to areas of return, which may constitute areas of origin as well as areas of secondary displacement.

## **SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT**

According to the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), approximately 84,476 families (506,856 individuals) had returned to Salah al-Din between mid-2015 and the end of February 2018. This is an increase of 3,399 families (20,394 individuals) in comparison to January. Forced evictions and returns in Salah al-Din have been reported since October 2017 and affected at least 3,134 IDP families in camp and non-camp settings. These were for the most part enforced by the local police upon instructions by authorities. During February, 71 families originating from Baiji were evicted from informal settlements in Tikrit, while more than 600 households who are living in informal settlements remain at risk. Many of these families expressed concerns about returning to their Areas of Origin (AoO) when no basic services are in place and with the continued presence of pro-Government armed groups. Most of them indicated that they do not intend to return, and if forcibly evicted, are likely to end up in secondary displacement.

Ninety-three returnee families have reportedly been re-displaced to camps in Anbar due to collective punishments and insecurity as well as a lack of services or livelihood opportunities. Due to limited livelihood opportunities, a trend in relation to family separations has been observed as returning families are leaving behind male teenagers to continue to work in Tikrit City to support the family. Denial of returns of persons and families suspected of having affiliations with extremists groups also continues to be reported.

### **SHIRQAT DISTRICT**

Returns to Shirqat district are ongoing. According to local authorities 158 families from different parts of the Governorate returned during February. The DTM estimates that 1,613 families (9,678 individuals) have returned to Shirqat in February, bringing the total number of returnee families to 16,991 (101,946 individuals). Motivations to return were reportedly the improved security situation, the efforts to clear explosive hazards in parts of Shirqat as well as in some cases fears over looting of houses. The living conditions in certain camps were also listed to drive the return movements of families in particular.

A recent protection assessment in Shirqat highlighted a number of critical protection concerns. These included the disappearances, different forms of collective punishments, recruitment of children by Government-affiliated armed groups. Meanwhile, the security situation in parts of eastern Shirqat remains volatile. On 5 February, the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) launched several air strikes against extremists in this part of the district. Furthermore, contamination by explosive hazards and the militarization of certain areas are reported, in particular in east Shirqat and in some areas in the west of Shirqat. A series of meetings between tribal leaders to deliberate on returns of

families suspected of having affiliations to extremists groups, took place in February. It was reported that sponsorship programmes with the support of local tribes were proposed.

### **BAIJI DISTRICT**

According to the DTM, 9,021 families had returned to the district by the end of February. This is an increase of 287 families in comparison to January. Eight sub-districts witnessed returns for the first time. Conditions in Baiji continued to be challenging due to the limited basic services that are available.

According to local authorities, the first 50 families returned to Al Resala neighbourhood in the City Centre of Baiji district. A total of 3,500 families remain displaced in various parts of Salah al-Din, particularly in Tikrit district, reportedly partly due to the pending security clearances.

Seventy-one families originating from Baiji were evicted from informal settlements in Tikrit City. Four of these families have returned to their areas of origin while the remaining IDPs have moved to other informal settlements within the city. A total of 537 IDP families in Shaqlawa complex in Tikrit city and around one hundred IDP families in unfinished schools have reportedly received eviction notices and are being pressured to leave. Following extensive advocacy efforts by UNHCR and partners, authorities reportedly suspended the forced evictions from Shaqlawa complex for at least one month.

### **BALAD DISTRICT**

The DTM estimates that 6,633 families have returned to the district, an increase of 630 families compared to the end of January. Some parts of Aziz Balad sub-district (Sinjaar, Jwezerat, Om Shaeefa) witnessed the first returns since the end of the military offensive, a number that varies slightly from the estimated 888 returned families reported by the local authorities. A total of 240 families were reportedly forced to return to their area of origin in Balad district from camps in Baghdad. However, 104 families found themselves in secondary displacement shortly thereafter due to a lack of basic services. In addition, on 8 February, tribal leaders from Balad district in Salah al-Din signed an agreement to allow the return of an estimated 2,000 IDP families to their areas of origin in Aziz Balad and Al-Salam sub-district.

On 23 February, Al-Hardaniya camp in Balad was closed. Following the closure, nine IDP families who could not return to their areas of origin within the governorate, moved to abandoned houses near the camp. Families that are perceived to be affiliated with extremists groups continue to be banned from return.

On 18 February, Balad authorities and security actors endorsed the return of 800 families from the Al-Refeaat village. Despite the above-mentioned tribal agreement, no returns to Al-Refeaat village have been authorized by the Government-affiliated armed groups that are controlling the area. This includes the 56 families who have found informal shelter in the abandoned houses and tents next to Balad Train Station since 12 February. Returns were authorized despite the continued contamination with explosive hazards of large parts of Al-Refeaat village. UNHCR has stressed the importance of addressing issues related to explosive hazards to the authorities prior to facilitating returns.

According to the local sources more than 75 per cent of the houses in Aziz Balad sub-district have destroyed. A significant number of the remaining homes have been partially burned or looted. Local infrastructure has been significantly affected requiring extensive rehabilitation to restore basic services, including water and electricity.

### **TOOZ DISTRICT**

In Tuz Khurmatu, the return of several displaced families from surrounding governorates, including Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Diyala was reported. Local authorities attribute this return to the presence of the Federal Rapid Emergency Forces who replaced Government-affiliated armed groups. These families had been displaced in October 2017 following tensions between the Kurdish Regional Government and the Federal Government in parts of the district. The ISF in Tuz Khurmatu have reportedly appropriated several civilian properties to function as temporary barracks. They have given withdrawal assurances to IDP representatives and Kurdish City Council Members if families returned. The military presence reportedly negatively affects the willingness of some families to return.

The DTM estimates that 869 families (5,214 individuals) returned to Tooz during February bringing the total number of returnee families to 4,962 (29,772 individuals). However, on 7 February, the ISF and Government-affiliated armed groups launched military operations in the east of Tuz Khurmatu to clear the area of extremist's elements. This resulted in the displacement of approximately 500 families from villages east of Tuz to Kalar, Kifri, and Zinana.

### **SULAIMAN BEG SUB-DISTRICT**

At the end of February, 1,900 families received the security clearances to return. However, approximately 15 families returned. Returns to the sub-district are currently limited to Sulaiman City. A significant number of families remain in displacement and visit the area or origin during the day to reconstruct their homes as they have still fear from the security situation. The estimated 400 families that resided in Al-Khasadarly have reportedly returned.