

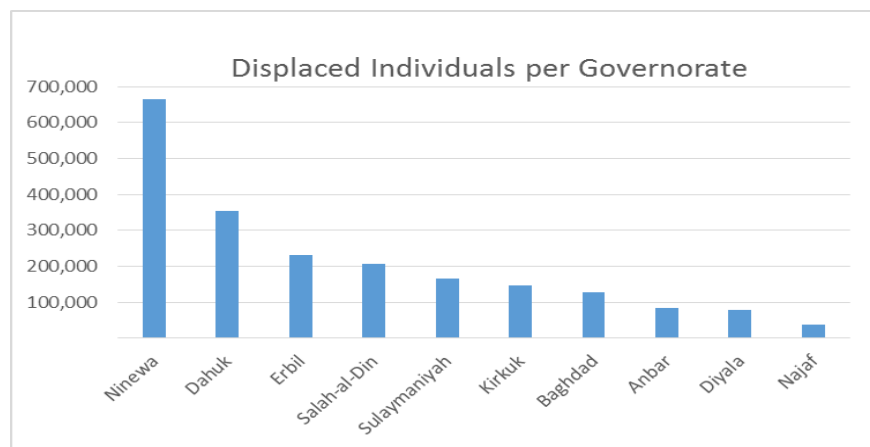
HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Continued arrival of people to IDP camps during the reporting period linked to protection challenges in areas of origin.** There was a sharp increase in attacks recorded in Kirkuk Governorate and an increase of crime in certain neighbourhoods in Mosul.
- **Return to areas of origin continued despite ongoing challenges to sustainable return.** Substandard conditions, health risks and the lack of adequate services inside the camps or settlements are cited as push factors to move out of the camps.
- **Families continued to be evicted or threatened with eviction,** including from informal settlements by local authorities. Documentation, security considerations and the related security clearance processes continue to hamper return and the free movement of persons.

Affected Population

3.6 million IDPs have returned to their places of origin while

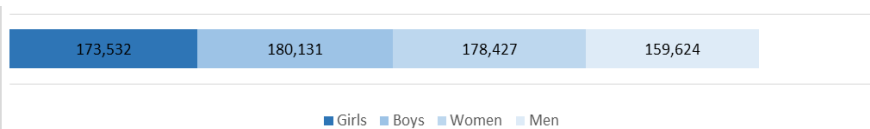
2.2 million are still displaced in Center-South areas.



Protection Monitoring*

142,289 families reached

691,714 individuals reached

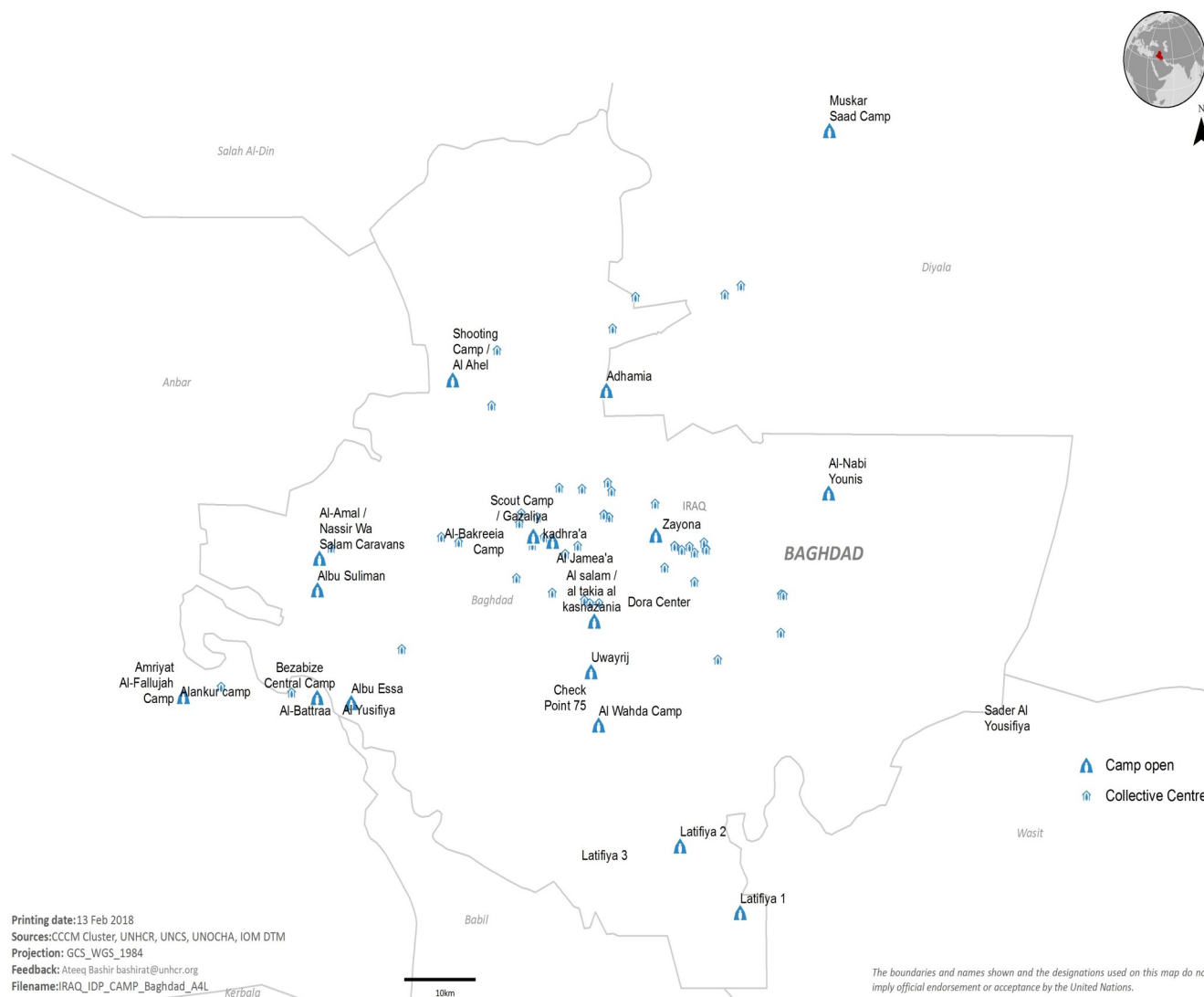


39% of families with no income

2,287 unaccompanied or separated children

21% of families missing civil documentation

- Checkpoint
 City
 Governorate boundaries
 Screening point/center
 Village
 District boundaries
 Transit Center, closed
 IDP Camp
 Water body
 Primary routes
 International boundaries



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

Displacement

During the reporting period, families from Mosul City displaced in Erbil, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates informed UNHCR and partners that the reasons for their displacement was due to insufficient shelter, high rent prices and a lack of basic services. In addition, many houses have been destroyed. In Mosul, 156 families (693 individuals) arrived to UNHCR's Hamman Al-Alil (HAA) Transit Site during the reporting period. Families from Ba'aj (Ninewa Governorate) have been displaced multiple times, having recently returned to Iraq from Al-Hol camp in Syria only to seek shelter in Haji Ali camp in Ninewa due to the lack of services and presence of armed militias in the area.

Sharp increases in crime and attacks by extremist groups targeting security forces and civilians has resulted in new displacement in Kirkuk City and Hawiga, Daquq and Dibis districts in Kirkuk.

Families living in some of the disputed areas within north Ninewa continue to report fear of a possible military operation, including cross-border, creating anxiety among the population and impacting upon the process of stabilization.

During the reporting period, IDP families from neighbourhoods in Mosul as well as other surrounding areas continued to arrive to Hasansham U2 and U3, and Khazir M1 camps in Hamdaniyah district, Ninewa Governorate. Hasansham U2 camp reached its maximum capacity and new arrivals have been referred to Khazer M1 and Hasasham U3 camps. Protection teams interviewed over 58 families, the majority of whom reported they were in their second or third instance of displacement in Mosul. Almost all the interviewed families had returned to east Mosul at least once before and indicated that they principally relied on *ad hoc* donations and daily labour. Over 10 families were headed by a female member who stated they were unable to provide for the basic needs of their children. The rising cost of living, especially high rental fees, often obliged them to return to the camps. UNHCR and partner staff interviewed multiple families in the Khazer M1 camp who originated from Samara City in Salah al-Din Governorate and arrived to the camps fearing armed groups operating in the area. In Ninewa, over 429 families newly arrived in the camps.

In Debaga in Erbil Governorate, a protection partner conducted interviews with newly arrived families from Makhmur and other urban areas of Erbil who cited insecurity as the main reason for their displacement. Several families from Erbil reported that they were no longer able to afford rent and expressed the desire to reunite with their families residing in Debaga camp.

Returns

During the reporting period, over 108 families departed HAA 1 camp to return to Telafar (Mosul district), Ba'aj and to areas in Kirkuk and Anbar governorates. Families cited reunification with relatives, seeking health treatment for chronic illnesses or enrolling their children in schools as the main reasons for return. Access to specialized health care services for chronic illnesses inside camps remains a challenge in certain areas, in a reported instance triggering the return to neighbourhoods in Mosul from HAA1. Complaints have been received in relation to scabies infection in Yahyawa camp, Kirkuk Governorate.

The majority of the assessed 85 returnees to Hamdaniya City east of Mosul City reported that they willingly returned after obtaining information about the improved security situation. All had been displaced in out-of-camp locations. To support decision-making, UNHCR facilitated the access of IDPs to information to allow them to make an informed choice about return through the implementation of mass information campaigns. Significant challenges identified by most returnees included damaged or burned houses and the lack of services in their areas of origin.

Access to education reportedly remains a primary concern for families with children. Partners facilitated a project to compile a list of children who were unable to take the placement test as a result of the lack of documents. This is to ensure access to placement tests and education opportunities for IDP children in the camps in Hamdaniyah district, Ninewa Governorate.

In Al-Mithaq neighbourhood in east Mosul, 650 families resided in the area before extremist groups took control. Some 600 families have since returned to the neighbourhood, while the rest remain displaced in other parts of Mosul. Respondents have not reported any security incident since their return. However, the crime rate has increased rapidly, with daily occurrences of robberies.

Denial of return s and limitations of freedom of movement

In Ninewa Governorate, UNHCR and a partner conducted a series of interviews with IDP families and community leaders in Hasansham U2 and U3 and Khazir M1 camps in Hamdaniyah district. This included organized focus group discussions with local *Mukhtars* (neighbourhood leaders) and *Sheikhs* to assess the return intentions of the community. The IDPs from these villages have not been allowed to return by the Kurdish authorities, who often cited security reasons for not permitting returns. The findings estimated that over 440 IDP families from these villages are currently denied return pending authorization. The

vast majority of the families find themselves in a situation of secondary displacement as they had been displaced to Mosul City before. The findings concluded that approximately 95 per cent of interviewed IDP families intend to return as soon as they are permitted to do so. The remaining five per cent of the households intend to stay in camps for the time being as their houses have been damaged and/or looted.

In late March, police in Daquq district in Kirkuk Governorate began restricting movements of IDPs in Daquq citing security concerns and the need for a clear movement procedure established in consultation with the acting Governor and the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD). The movement of IDPs in and out of camp is now limited only for emergency medical referrals. Many IDPs in need of regular medical check-up and employed in Kirkuk and surrounding areas are not permitted to leave the camp. One family that had visited relatives in the camp was reportedly also prevented from leaving the camp. UNHCR is following with the Daquq police, Governor's office and MoMD to resolve the issue.

Forced evictions

At least five families were transferred by the Ministry of Transportation from the HAA camps in Ninewa to their places of origin in Ramadi, Anbar Governorate. Protection partners were able to verify that these families intended to go back to their places of origin. Local authorities in their area of origin insisted on the security screening of these families before facilitating their return, and the families were consequently transferred to Kilo 18 camp.

Two instances of forced evictions of at least 112 families from the Al-Takia camp in Al-Dora, Baghdad were reported. Those who were evicted came from different areas, with the majority from Al Qa'im in Anbar.

According to UNHCR's protection partner, families in Anbar have reportedly submitted a request to be included in organized returns due to concerns about plans for camp consolidation in Anbar. In Baghdad, interviewed families expressed concerns about return due to lack of shelter, livelihood opportunities to provide for a stable income and basic services in their areas of origin. Families from the Al Qa'im area bordering Syria expressed concern about return due to the volatile security situation, including shelling from areas in Syria that remain under the control of extremist groups.