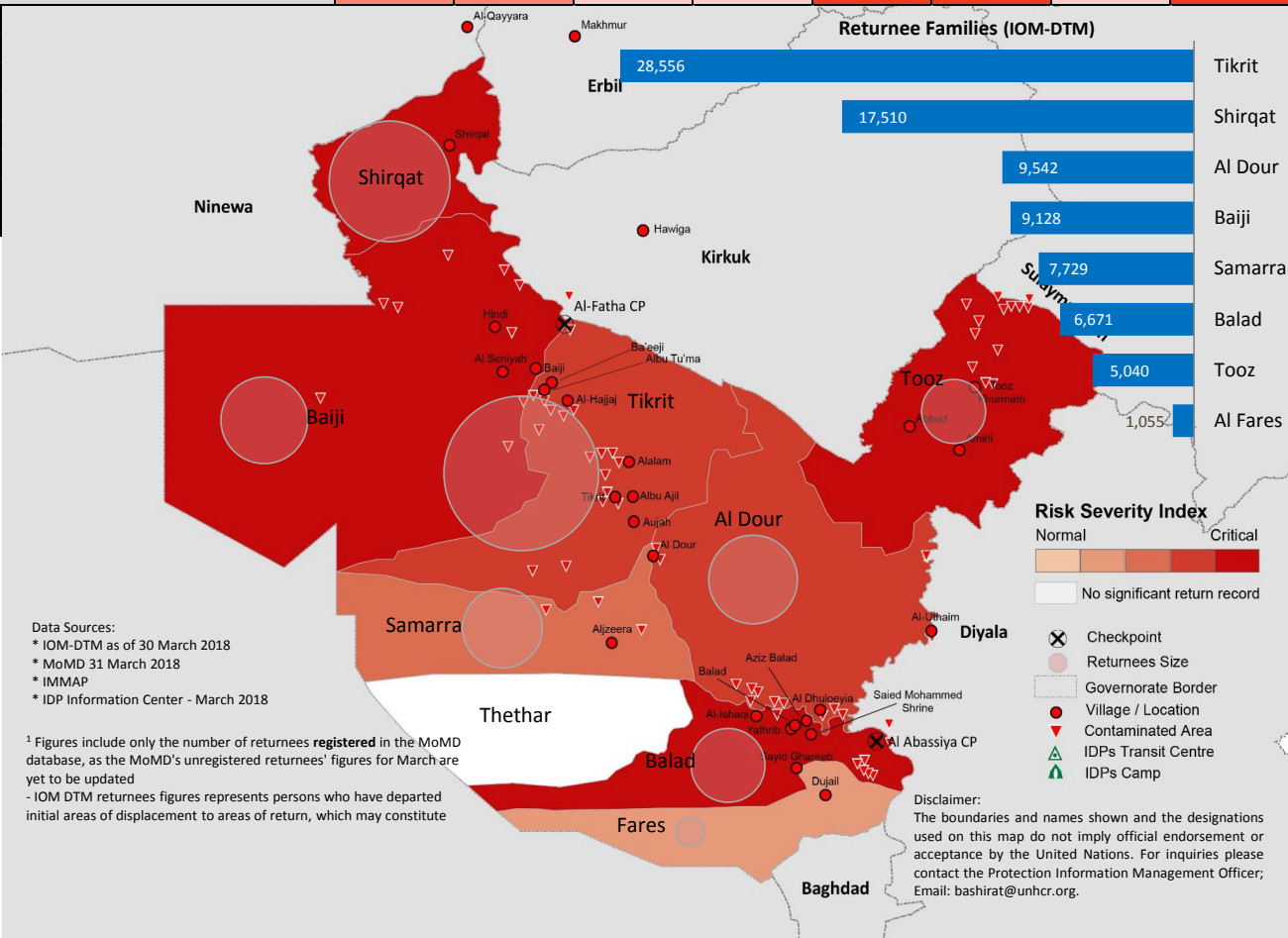
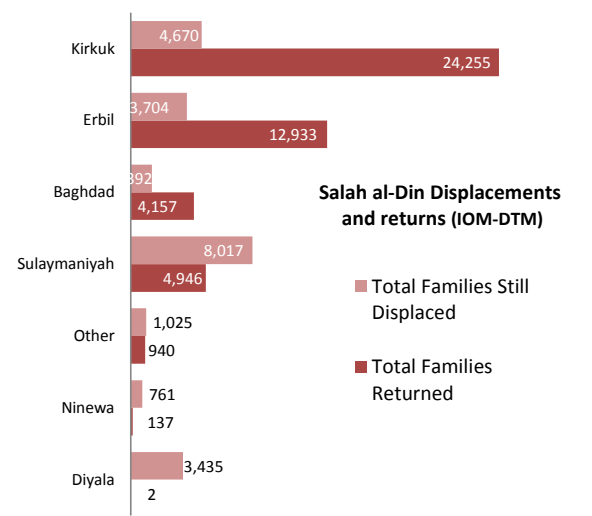




Iraq Protection Cluster: Salah al-Din Returnees Profile - March 2018

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
	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								

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



IDP Information Center: 3% of 1,529 calls handled from returnees were from Salah al-Din. The majority of the flagged issues were about cash assistance, WASH and health issues.

¹ Figures include only the number of returnees registered in the MoMD database, as the MoMD's unregistered returnees' figures for March 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

SALAH AL-DIN GOVERNORATE - GENERAL CONTEXT

In March, returns to the various areas of Salah al-Din continued with limited returns authorized to Balad and Baiji districts. As per the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of IOM, approximately 85,231 families (511,386 individuals) had returned to Salah al-Din by the end of March, an increase of 755 families (4,530 individuals) during the month of March. Shirqat district witnessed the highest number of returnees, while a significant decrease in the number of returnees to Tooz district was reported in comparison to February. Tikrit district experienced the return of 13 families in March, the first returns recorded since October 2017. Search operations have continued in Al-Jazera areas west of Al-Seniya and the Makhool sub-districts of the Baiji district with the objective of clearing the area of the remaining extremist cells. These operations continued to jeopardize the safety of civilians, hampered returns and delayed rehabilitation projects and access of humanitarian actors.

Forced returns and evictions remain a serious challenge, in many cases leading to secondary displacement and unsustainable returns. In February, four IDP families from Baiji district left an unfinished school in Al Qadissiya neighbourhood in Tikrit City after extensive pressure from a local Mukhtar (neighbourhood leader) and the Tikrit Police. This reportedly included the confiscation of identification documents of families and the removal of water tanks and heaters that the families were using. Seventy-one families originating from Baiji were evicted from informal settlements in Tikrit City, resulting in the return of four families to their areas of origin with the remaining families moving to other informal settlements within the city. A total of 537 IDP families in the Shaqlawa complex in Tikrit City and approximately 100 IDP families in unfinished schools have reportedly received eviction notices and are being pressured to leave. Following extensive advocacy efforts by UNHCR and partners, the authorities have reportedly suspended the forced evictions from Shaqlawa complex.

The Salah al-Din Governor is reported to have organized a number of meetings to discuss services and the security situation in areas of return, as well as the engagement of the local community in efforts to restore essential services.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

According to the figures as presented in the DTM, Tikrit district recorded the first returns since October 2017, with 13 families returning to a village in Tikrit, bringing the total number of returnees in Tikrit to 28,556 families (171,336 individuals).

Alleged affiliation with extremist groups resulted in denial of returns for some IDPs. IDPs in Al Shahama Camp live in challenging conditions due to significant restrictions on movement, the significant presence of armed actors, and limited access to services. During the reporting period, 17 families in the camp were approved for departure through sponsorship by family members. Three additional families are in the process of having their files reviewed by the security actors. By the end of March, the camp reportedly hosted approximately 157 extremely vulnerable, predominantly female-headed households (634 individuals) whose movements are

significantly restricted due to security restrictions linked to their alleged affiliations with extremist groups. Most of the families originate from east Shirqat district and were involuntarily transferred from informal settlements including from Tikrit and Al Alam camps.

SHIRQAT DISTRICT

As per the DTM figures, 519 families (3,114 individuals) returned to Shirqat in March, bringing the total number of returnee families to 17,510 (105,060 individuals). A significant increase in returns to Sudayrah Sufia Village, south-east of Shirqat was reported, with 165 families returning in March - 10 families returned to the eastern side and 43 families to the western. The security situation in a number of the retaken areas of Shirqat remains precarious, including as a result of mortar attacks by extremist groups. Returnees continue to report extensive property destructions, limited access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, all of which is exacerbated by the high number of IDPs seeking safety in Shirqat.

BAIJI DISTRICT

Returns to Baiji district continue in limited numbers because of a lack of adequate living conditions and extensive damage of infrastructure and homes. According to the DTM, approximately 107 families (522 individuals) returned to Al Mushhaq north of Baiji, Al Mazraa south of Baiji, and Hay Al Tameem village in Baiji City Centre, bringing the total number of returnee families to Baiji district to 9,128 (54,768 individuals). Local authorities estimate that during the reporting period, approximately 170 families returned to Baiji City, 27 families to Al Fatha, Al Sada, and Al Salman villages north-east of Baiji, and 20 families to Mohammed Mosa and Shaik Ali villages north of Baiji.

BALAD DISTRICT

Limited return movements to Balad have been observed as a result of the significant presence of armed groups, the lack of available basic services and assistance, the high level of destruction, and the relatively complex return approval process. According to local authorities, in March, more than 79 families returned to Albu Hishma Village, 40 families to Yathrib sub-district, and 680 families to the villages of Jwezerat, Sinjaar, and Om Shaeefa. The DTM estimates that 37 families (228 individuals) returned to Beshakan and Sinjaar villages in March, bringing the total number of returnee families to 6,671 (40,026 individuals).

No returns to the village of Al-Refaat have been authorized by Government-affiliated armed groups controlling the area. The number of families that expressed a desire to return to this village is estimated to be around 800 families. This number includes the approximately 56 families who have found shelter in the abandoned houses and tents next to Balad Train Station since February of 2018. UNHCR and protection partners continue to advocate for the facilitated return of these families.

Access by humanitarian actors to Balad district remained a challenge. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) reported that approximately 2,000 female-headed households in Balad district are in need of assistance

to strengthen their economic self-reliance through income-generation and livelihood activities. Livelihood support is needed to meet the families' basic needs and gradually reduce dependency on support from third parties.

TOOZ DISTRICT

The security situation in Tuz Khurmatu City is reportedly relatively stable. Local authorities attribute this to the presence of the Federal Rapid Emergency Forces who replaced Government-affiliated armed groups. According to local sources, approximately seventy-five per cent of IDP families have returned to Jimhoria neighborhood, which has a significant Kurdish population. They also report that twenty-five percent of IDP families have returned to Jamila neighborhood, a neighborhood characterized by a mixed ethnic population.

The presence of humanitarian actors in the city is relatively limited. A local volunteer organization provides assistance by raising funds for the rehabilitation of burned houses. Of the 230 houses in these two neighborhoods, 20 houses have been completely rehabilitated and another 30 are currently being reconstructed. The volunteer organization also engages in reconciliation efforts between the different ethnic communities. UNHCR continues to provide legal assistance and undertakes protection assessments through its protection partners.

In March, local authorities undertook efforts to support the gradual return of IDPs to the villages of Amirly sub-district, namely Maftul Sagheer and Maftul Kabeer. Police stations in both villages resumed their duties to facilitate the return process for IDPs, but due to a number of security incidents in the area, return to these areas remains a challenge.

SULAIMAN BEG SUB-DISTRICT

Since return movements to the sub-district began in January 2018, approximately 2,600 IDP families have received the required approval to return. However, only approximately 100 families have reportedly returned. Electricity has reportedly been restored for those who have permanently returned.

Persons who are barred to return to their areas of origin remain a concern. Approximately 40 return requests have been rejected by the return committee, reportedly due to suspicion of affiliation to extremist groups.

Efforts are ongoing to restore services and to ensure access to education. Of the five schools in the sub-district, three schools have been rehabilitated, including two primary and one secondary school. However, these rehabilitated schools are reportedly not yet operational due to administrative challenges.