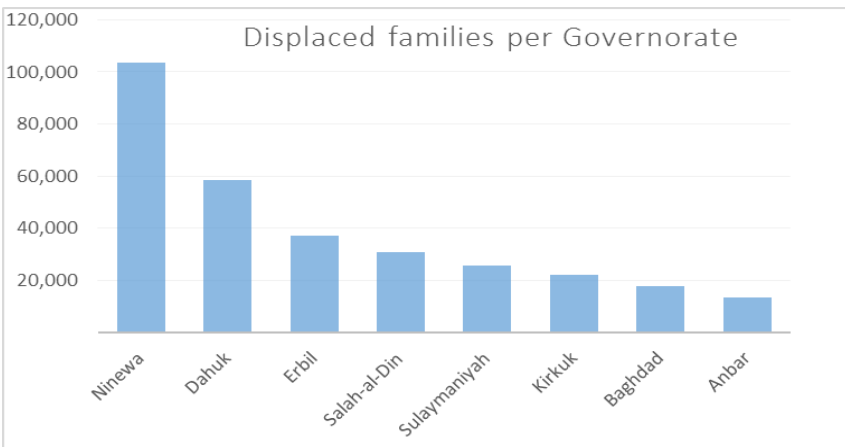


PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS:

- IDPs voted in the Council of Representatives election, although the National Protection Cluster recorded 64 suspected election-related protection incidents.
- Camp management and partners recorded over 1,112 families (over 5,658 individuals) who returned to areas of origin from camps in Anbar, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates.
- Authorities in Kirkuk city reportedly continue to evict IDPs in urban areas and encamp them over perceived links with extremists while courts have ordered IDPs to leave private properties and residential complexes in Salah al-Din.
- Collective punishment continues to be reported, principally in Anbar where thousands of IDP families are reportedly prevented from returning to their areas of origin.

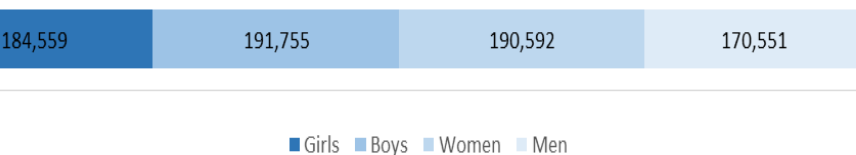
Affected Population

3.8 million IDPs have returned to their places of origin while
2 million are still displaced in Center-South areas



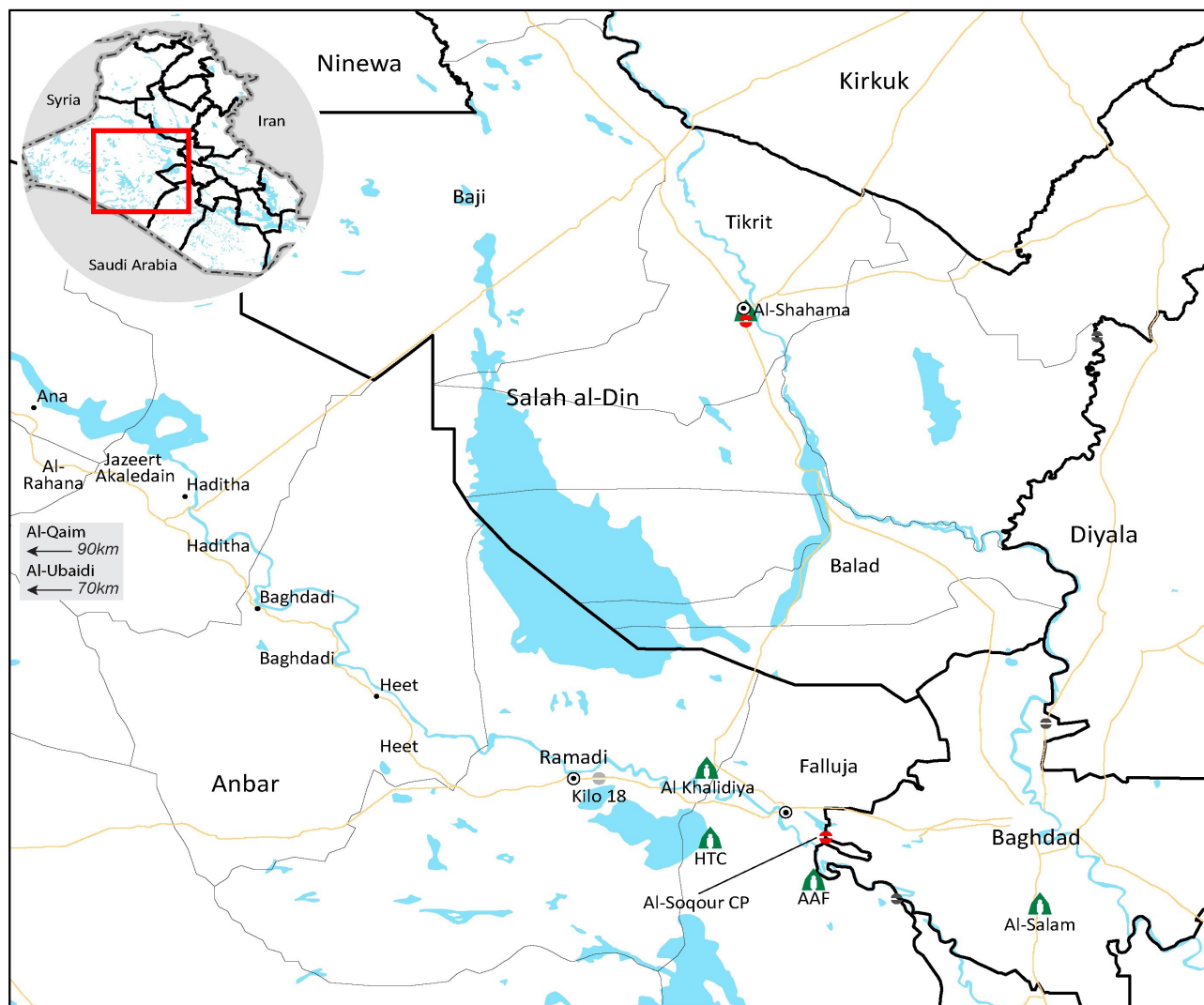
Protection Monitoring*

151,236 families reached **737,457** individuals reached



38% of families with no income
3,206 unaccompanied or separated children
21% of families missing civil documentation

* The data reflects people displaced in Centre-South governorates after March 2016 .



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

Security developments

Despite improvements in security across the country, increasing asymmetric attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs), gunmen, and suicide bombings continue to raise serious concerns in northern, central and western Iraq. Ongoing presence of armed actors inside the Jeddah camps in Ninewa have been reported. Families from Zummar in Ninewa reported that their places of origin remain unsafe for their return due to ongoing disputes between security forces in the area. There is a significant increase in security incidents in the Kirkuk governorate, especially in Hawiga, Dibis and Kirkuk city. In May, there were two reported suicide-bombing attacks in Baghdad, resulting in numerous casualties.

Elections

During the reporting period, elections for the Council of Representatives took place across Iraq. Following the establishment of polling stations in camps and special procedures, IDPs had the possibility to participate. The national Protection and Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters developed guidance documents in English and Arabic to inform IDPs and authorities on humanitarian principles during the election. The Protection Cluster recorded 64 suspected election-related protection incidents, including participation of humanitarian personnel in political campaigns, alleged threats and intimidation of displaced persons, and attacks on polling stations. All alleged incidents were reported to the Independent High Electoral Commission. Other issues reported by IDPs included long queues, insufficient ballot papers, and challenges in understanding the special voting procedures for IDPs.

Returns and new displacement

Mixed patterns of displacement and return continue across several governorates. Camp management and partners recorded over 1,112 families (over 5,658 individuals) who voluntarily returned to areas of origin from camps in Anbar, Erbil, Dohuk, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. In general, people perceive that their areas of origin are now safe and they want to return to rebuild their homes and lives, especially in locations where basic services have become available. Others found conditions in the camps unmanageable, particularly with rising temperatures.

Approximately 391 families (1,749 individuals) reportedly arrived to the camps, most of whom have been re-displaced from their areas of origin, citing damaged homes, financial constraints, the security situation and lack of employment opportunities and services as reasons for their movement back to the camps.

- **Anbar Governorate:** During May, at least 218 families reportedly departed Baghdad and the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KR-I), voluntarily returning to areas of origin in the district of Al Qa'im and Khalidiya Island. Iraqi Security Forces estimate that an aver-

age of 15 families have been returning to Al Qa'im district each day. While voluntary return movements have been recorded, at least 48 families (245 individuals) moved into or returned to the Ameriyat al Falluja and Habaniya Tourist City camps from Baghdad, Al Qa'im and the KR-I due to damaged homes, financial constraints, and lack of employment opportunities.

- **Salah al-Din Governorate:** At least 185 families voluntarily returned from Baghdad, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din to their areas of origin in Salah al-Din. A reported 61 families (351 individuals) residing in Salah al-Din and Kirkuk were re-displaced to Bustan, Al-Alam and Al-Karama camps. Over 63 families accessed their area of origin in Aziz Balad in Salah al-Din in order to verify the condition of their houses and services in the area. All families returned back to camps in Baghdad and Salah al-Din due to severe destruction and lack of basic services. On 2 May, the authorities of Salah al-Din announced plans to close Al-Alam 3 camp and relocate the families to other camps. At the end of May, Al-Alam 3 camp remained open, hosting 303 families (1,709 individuals), with the other two camps in Al-Alam not having sufficient space to host this population. The Salah al-Din Operations Command allowed at least 17 families to depart Al-Shahama camp through the sponsorship scheme. Al-Shahama camp currently hosts 129 families (497 individuals), of whom 90 families have been barred from returning to their areas of origin and another ten families have not been able to find a sponsor.
- **Ninewa Governorate:** Between 29 April and 28 May, 275 families (1,300 individuals) departed camps established during the Mosul emergency to return home or to join relatives residing in out-of-camp settings, look after livestock seek treatment of chronic diseases, enrol children in school and a lack of livelihood opportunities in the camps. While for a number of IDP families, return to their places of origin was possible, a reported 142 families (458 individuals) arrived at the Hammam al-Alil transit site seeking places in the IDP camps. Most families were from Ninewa and cited a lack of services and livelihood opportunities, destruction of homes and insufficient funds to cover rental costs.
- A total of 333 families (1,653 individuals) departed from the **Debaga camps** in Erbil Governorate and the **camps in Erbil city** between 30 April and 27 May. During the first two weeks of May, at least 65 families (322 individuals) departed Hasansham, Khazer and Chamakor camps in Ninewa to areas of origin within the Governorate, citing pressure to secure a job and accommodation, and to begin repairs of damaged homes. While departures from camps have been recorded, a total of 143 families (763 individuals) arrived to these camps during the reporting period. Among the new arrivals interviewed, 24 were female headed households who are divorced, widowed or have spouses that have been detained. The women decided to move to the camps as a last resort because they had no source of income and to live close to relatives already in the camps.

- A reported 73 families (372 individuals) returned from the camps near **Dohuk** to their areas of origin. A reported 37 families (176 individuals) voluntarily returned from Garmawa camp to their places of origin within Ninewa after being granted permission by the *Asayish*, the Kurdish security agency. During the reporting period, a reported 124 families (407 individuals) arrived to camps in Dohuk (principally to Bersive 2, Shariya and Mam Rashan).
- In **Kirkuk**, between 1 and 27 May, 41 families (255 individuals) left the camps to return to their areas of origin, primarily to Hawiga. While voluntary return movements were recorded during the reporting period, a total of 33 families (164 individuals) arrived to Nazrawa, Daquq, Laylan 1 and Laylan 2 camps, with a large proportion coming directly from Hawija and its surrounding villages. Among the new arrivals, at least two families had been in the camps before, but decided to return citing fragile economic conditions in their place of origin.

Restrictions on Freedom of Movement

- Since the end of April, the authorities in **Kirkuk** have conducted evictions from urban areas and relocation into camps of IDP families who have perceived affiliations with extremists. The IDPs had been residing in Kirkuk city without obtaining security clearance or approvals for return to their areas of origin. Since the practice began at the end of April, 50 IDP families (255 individuals) were reported to have been evicted from accommodation in Kirkuk city and relocated to Laylan 1 and 2, Nazrawa, and Daquq camps - 16 families (84 individuals) in April and 34 families (171 individuals) in May. During protection interviews, the families reported use of force and intimidation by security forces, including confiscation of documents. UNHCR has been advocating with authorities to halt these evictions and secure freedom of movement from the camps to Kirkuk city; particularly so children of evicted families can attend their school exams.
- On 14 May, security forces reportedly stopped nine families trying to return to their areas of origin in **Anbar** at the entrance to Tikrit city due to perceived links with extremists, and returned them back to the Hamam Al Alil Transit Site in Ninewa. On 15 May, members of Anbar Province Council stated that tribes had been preventing thousands of IDP families from returning home because they were perceived to be affiliated with extremists.
- In Rutba district, Anbar, 150 returnee families are reportedly facing discrimination based on their perceived affiliation with extremists. Security forces issued them with red security coupons to mark them whenever they move or approach government offices to access services. The families are at risk of reprisal attacks or expulsion and

have been subjected to verbal abuse. UNHCR and partners are monitoring this issue closely and following up with security actors.

- Through a Court injunction, IDPs were instructed to leave a residential compound of Al-Diom in **Salah al-Din**. Humanitarian partners have advocated with the owner and the authorities to postpone the eviction until the end of Ramadan and the school year. The IDPs were ordered to leave the complex by 1 June. IDPs living in similar private residential complexes are being requested to vacate by the end of June.

Other protection concerns

- IDPs in the Jeddah camps in Ninewa report a constant presence of armed actors inside the camps, as well as verbal abuse of women and families and acts of assault and temporary detention perpetrated by armed actors.
- In early May, UNHCR's partner conducted protection assessments in Aghwat neighbourhood in west Mosul and Alzahraa neighbourhood in east Mosul. Respondents reported that women and girls face harassment by male residents and local police officers. Child labour is also a serious concern. Approximately 40 families with alleged extremist affiliation are living in vulnerable conditions in one of the unfinished school buildings in the Alzahraa neighbourhood. Children and women residing in that building are reportedly at a high risk of abuse, exploitation and violence from other residents in the building and adjacent areas. Most children are deprived of their basic rights and are engaged in dangerous labour to support their families. It is reported that approximately 500 children with disabilities are also living in the area.
- Family separation was reported as an issue in connection with the return of widows from the Haj Ali camp in Ninewa. These widows are reportedly unable to bring their children with them as the children's fathers are suspected extremists. UNHCR is closely following up to ensure that best interests of these children and the principle of family unity are upheld.