

Affected Population

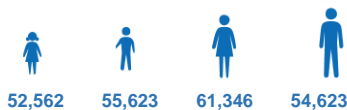
Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 1,866,594

Number of Returnees: 4,113,624



Protection Monitoring**

47,992 families reached*



*The disaggregated figures indicate the number of households containing individuals from each age and gender group – including enrolment.

30% of families do not have access to a regular source of income
11% of families are missing civil documentation

** The data reflects the number of households assessed from 1 January to 31 October, 2018

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Highlights

- Although over 3,000 families departed camps across Iraq in October, over 2,000 families arrived in camps – nearly half had previously been displaced.
- Attacks in Kirkuk Governorate have resulted in new displacement.
- IDPs lacking legal documents have been reluctant to return home over fears of arbitrary arrest in their areas of origin or while transiting.

Displacement

Based on data provided by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, 3,121 families departed camps across Iraq during October, but 2,384 families arrived in the camps. Of these, 883 families were in secondary displacement. A total of 1,302 families had arrived to Mosul camps, of which the vast majority (53%) reported displacement due to financial/economic reasons, such as a lack of livelihood opportunities and the overall inability to pay rent. Some 15 per cent reported destruction and damaged houses as the reason for displacement, while four per cent cited safety concerns in their areas of origin or previous location of displacement.

Ongoing insecurity and attacks by extremists in Kirkuk Governorate have resulted in new displacement. During the second week of October, 200 families from Ghuraib Ulia village in Hawiga fled to Al Abassi city and surrounding villages. Similarly, on 4 October, 110 families were displaced from Al-Nida village in Baladroz district; 40 families fled to Kannan in Baquba, where they are staying with relatives while the rest have been dispersed in Mindili, and a few to Muqdadiya district. Protection partners are monitoring the situation and have assessed the needs of the IDPs, which include legal assistance and psychosocial support (PSS).

There have been reports in Anbar and Ninewa governorates of security actors harassing females at checkpoints while exiting or entering camps or inside the camps. Protection partners in Jeddah camps in Ninewa Governorate also continue to report the presence of armed actors in the camp, particularly members of government-affiliated armed groups after many humanitarian actors depart at the end of each day. IDPs said they are reluctant to report these incidents as they fear they might be forced to leave the camps.

In some camps in Anbar and Kirkuk, it is mandatory for IDPs to leave their identification documents at checkpoints before departing the camps while in other locations, such as Jeddah camps, some IDPs reported that they cannot leave the camp without documentation as they fear arbitrary arrest. Aside from procedures to control the day-to-day movement of IDPs in and out of camps, IDPs in Kilo 18 and Amriyat Al Fallujah (AAF) camps in Anbar continue to report restrictions of

movement. IDPs without legal documentation are particularly affected. This continues to be a key push factor for IDPs departing camps.

During mid-October, security actors relocated 11 IDPs families from Bzebiz camp in Baghdad Governorate to AAF camps. They also confiscated the identity documents of all family members after the relocation and denied them camp resident cards (security cards). The reason for the evictions allegedly were the link of those families to perpetrators of the terrorist attacks in Fallujah on 6 October. Security actors had arrested male family members in Bzebiz camp on the same day of the relocation.

Returns

Some IDPs reported the lack of legal documentation and fear of arbitrary arrest in their areas of origin or while transiting as factors behind their reluctance to return. Other families reported returning to areas of origin despite partially damaged houses and being hosted by relatives, including in areas different from their areas of origin, in the hope of finding jobs. In eastern Ninewa camps, UNHCR interviews found that among departing IDPs, more than half of the families were planning to live with relatives upon their departure. Family reunification and stability in the areas of origin and the upcoming school year were cited as additional push factors for returns, in addition to information about planned food cuts, which later were not implemented. In Anbar, it was reported that the Ministry of Education is pressuring employees of the education sector originally from Anbar working elsewhere to resume their work in areas of origin. Many of those employees are reluctant to return due to damage of many educational facilities in addition to shortage of essential services.

During the last week in October, UNHCR partners conducted a protection assessment in Yabisat neighbourhood in west Mosul, Ninewa. Returnee families reported they have received limited humanitarian assistance. Needs related to legal assistance to replace missing documents, including birth certificates for children, and psychosocial support were particularly prominent. A number of vulnerable families reportedly receive assistance from other families in the host community or through the local mosques.

Collective Punishment

Incidents of collective punishment of families with perceived affiliation to extremists, including denied returns continue to be reported, particularly in Anbar and Ninewa. UNHCR received reports from at least 33 families from Telafar, Baaj and Mosul district in Ninewa, Hawiga in Kirkuk, Shirqat in Salah al-Din and Al Qa'im in Anbar that government-affiliated armed groups and community leaders had denied their return. This included a number of female-headed households. A female IDP from Qayyarah in Mosul district, Ninewa reported having been forced to leave her children with a relative following a tribal decision that only she could return due to the perceived affiliation of her husband. Two females in Haj Ali camp in Ninewa also reported that security actors had prevented them from departing the camp as they suspected that the women would contact their husbands who have alleged extremist links. Another family from Mosul district also reported that their property had been burned due to the alleged affiliation of their son. In Heet district, Anbar, the houses of 14 returnee families were vandalized with writing accusing them of having links with extremists. Six families in Heet and Ramadi, Anbar also became the victims of hand grenade attacks believed to be linked to their perceived profile.

Returns from Syria and Turkey

During October, the Ministry for Migration and Displacement (MoMD) organized four convoys transporting 1,442 Iraqis from Syria back to Iraq. Most families reportedly returned to their areas of origin in Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. At least 71 families moved directly to IDP camps in Ninewa. Most IDPs returned from Al-Hol camp in Syria due to freedom of movement restrictions and limited humanitarian services. At least one man was arrested during one of the multiple

security screenings that families underwent. At least 38 individuals were in need of medical care after the long and strenuous journey and were transferred to a hospital.

On 24 October, 212 Iraqis who had been residing in Akda and Ahdallah camps in Turkey arrived in Mosul following a three day journey. MoMD had provided eight busses to facilitate the movement. They reported returning due to a lack of jobs and challenges when renewing their residency permits. Most had fled to Turkey between 2014 and 2016. The returnees originate from Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din. Most expressed their intent to return to their areas of origin, although over a half-dozen families moved to different camps in Ninewa.

Camp Closures, Eviction Threats and Forced Relocations

Anbar

- Anbar Operations Command (AOC) began the screening of all IDPs in Kilo 18 camp in Ramadi district in an effort to encourage return. During the screening process, IDPs in the camp were verbally notified that the camp would be closed before the end of November. Nearly one third of the camp population departed the camp (172 families) during October. Some 370 families who are unable to return expressed their concern about the impending closure of the camp. Though many of the tents in Kilo 18 are old and the camp has some WASH-related issues during rains, IDPs prefer to remain in the camp rather than being relocated to other camps in Anbar which are either remote or have severe freedom of movement restrictions.

Baghdad

- On 9 October, the MoMD announced Al Wahda Camp would be closed within one week. The camp management informed the 32 families (134 individuals) in the camp that they could either return to their areas of origin (Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din) or relocate to Al-Ahel camp in Abu Ghraib. Around 28 families from Al Qa'im reported they were afraid to return to their area of origin or to relocate to camps in Abu Ghraib. In addition, many reported they do not have shelter options in their area of origin. Children living in the camp are enrolled in local schools and their parents are also concerned that a relocation before February would interrupt their education. Al-Ahel camp has limited space and could only accommodate 17 households. Many IDPs were interested in integrating locally but that would involve a lengthy process requiring recommendation letters from Mukhtars in the areas of displacement and the area of origin as well as from local security actors in order to rent accommodation in Baghdad. Following extensive advocacy, protection partners received informal feedback that the evictions would be postponed until the end of the school year in February.

Salah al-Din

- On 17 October, 15 families (102 individuals) living in Al Qadissiyah Kindergarten – a government owned building located in Tikrit - were informed by the local police and intelligence units that they would have to leave the site within three days. Five IDP families also had their IDs confiscated, although these were returned two days later following advocacy by humanitarian actors. On 19 October, most IDPs departed the building and either moved to other locations in Tikrit or returned to their area of origin in Baiji district. In addition, protection partners reported the confiscation of IDs of at least 30 additional families from Baiji living in Tikrit in order to pressure them to return.
- The planned camp closure of Al Shahama camp in Tikrit district announced in late July continued to slowly progress. On 9 October, camp management noted that the relocation of 93 IDP families to camps in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates is expected in the immediate future. These camps include AAF camps in Anbar and Jeddah camps in Ninewa. In Jeddah, incidents of collective punishment of IDPs with perceived affiliation to extremists, including by security actors, have been reported in the past. The planned relocation of IDPs to

AAF raises serious concerns due to the freedom of movement restrictions in the camps. IDPs have been requested to organize their own transportation to other camps and had been told they would depart in mid-October. As a result, many IDPs have been forced to sell food rations and furniture to buy fuel for their vehicles or hire transportation. As the relocations did not proceed within the expected time line, a number of families have reportedly been left without food and subject to severe movement restrictions.

On 18 October, 18 families were relocated from Al Shahama to Al Karama camp, and two families returned to Anbar. On 23 October, four additional families (eight individuals) were forced to relocate to Al Shahama by the security actors after three male family members were arrested by Tikrit police due to alleged affiliation with extremists. The families originate from Fallujah, Anbar, and had been living in a rented house inside Tikrit city.